



GOOD AND FAITHFUL PUBLIC SERVANT

Joe C. Looney, center, is shown with the two University presidents he served with during a 15-year period, Joseph A. Brandt (left) and W. B. Bizzell

15 Years a Regent

By R. V. PETERSON

A man with multitudinous duties, he still has time for neighborly visiting on street corners in Wewoka

JOSEPH C. LOONEY, '20ba, '22law, has been known as president of the board of regents of the University of Oklahoma to thousands of alumni and undergraduates, but he is known as Joe to his home town folks in Wewoka.

He may seem stern and austere to University folk and to seniors who received their diplomas from him, but we know him as friendly, hospitable, always ready to exchange a story or an experience.

Wewoka people call him Joe. Whether it is the president of the bank, the preacher, the man who works for an oil company, the business man or the tenant farmer in from the country to do his weekly shopping, everyone who has more than a passing acquaintance with Joseph C. Looney knows him as Joe. There is no familiarity in that salutation. It is because Joe is just one of us.

He is never too busy to listen to a story, to swap experiences, to make plans for an Odd Fellows lodge meeting, to attend an American Legion committee meeting, or attend a session of the Board of Stewards of the Methodist church. No man in Wewoka has such varied interests, knows more people and has risen to the top in

more different lines of activity than Joe Looney. In fact, there are few men in Oklahoma who have scaled the heights of esteem by his fellow man in so many different fields as has this man who last month retired from the board of regents with an unparalleled record of 15 years and 2 months continuous service on the board.

Joe Looney is essentially a family man. He is an attorney by profession, has a few farms, is a wide reader and has a score of interests, but his primary concern is his charming family, consisting of Mrs. Looney, the former Miss Edna Fink of Edmond, Joan, 15 years old and Rosene, 13.

Joe is never too busy to go on a Sunday ride with his family, or spend a quiet evening at home reading the newspapers while his daughters do their home work. He always has time to drive his daughters to a little informal party the neighborhood girls are having or to pick them up after a Camp Fire meeting they have attended.

Whenever at all possible the Looney family goes out together. While they are not especially movie fans, when they do go to the picture show they go as a family. Even though the interests of their growing daughters are broadening out, the family spends their happiest times together.

Although Joe Looney has a wide variety of interests, he is not one to talk much about his activities or his achievements. You could talk to him for half a day and he would never volunteer the information

he was on the board of regents of the University. If the subject did come up he would say, "I used to be on the board."

Nothing about the trips he has made at his own expense, nothing about the financial sacrifice he has made, nothing about the hours and hours he has spent on the job, nothing about the problems with which he has wrestled, nothing about the boys and girls he has helped get started on their college education.

Joe Looney's thinking is right. If a problem comes up, his judgment is sound. He is the one man our post of the American Legion depends on more than anyone else.

Joe Looney does the right things. He belongs to a church—Methodist—and has been a member of the board of stewards for many years, having served as chairman one year.

He takes an active part in politics, votes at all the primary and general elections, attends the precinct, county and district party conventions.

He belongs to the Chamber of Commerce as a matter of course. The record he made as chairman of its agriculture committee several years ago is regarded as one of the very best pieces of committee work every performed in Wewoka.

A list of his affiliations and achievements would almost fill an issue of *Sooner Magazine*. In every organization with which he has been affiliated, Joe Looney has rapidly risen to a place of leadership and responsibility.

Take the American Legion as an illustration. When Joe got out of the army following World War I, he organized two American Legion posts, No. 52 at the University of Oklahoma and No. 70 at Konawa. He was the Fifth District's official delegate to the first annual American Legion convention held in Minneapolis. Four different years he has been judge advocate for the Department of Oklahoma, has served as department executive committee man and been Fourth District commander. Few men in Oklahoma are more widely known in American Legion circles than Joe Looney.

HE has recently been elected Grand Master of the Odd Fellow lodge in Oklahoma, a position which requires a good deal of his time.

When he was in the State Senate he was the second youngest man to serve in that body.

He has held responsible, important positions in bar associations. He was elected a delegate to the national convention the second year he was a member of the local Lions club.

But the thing which best characterizes Joe Looney is that he is a member of the Camp Fire Board of Sponsors. It is characteristic that he should be elected to such a position because he always rises to the top of organizations with which he is

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affiliated and because he takes a keen interest in anything and everything his daughters do.

Joan, his oldest daughter, has finished her Camp Fire work; Rosene is now in it. When Joe's oldest daughter graduated from Junior high school two years ago this spring the class voted to ask him to make the commencement address.

It is his intense interest in his daughters that is the outstanding characteristic of this man who is known by as many people in Oklahoma as any other one man.

The Looneys live quietly in a pleasant one-story cottage. Joe frequently walks to and from his office. They entertain informally, play bridge occasionally. The Looneys invariably go to Sunday morning church services; occasionally they go at night. Joe attends a Men's Bible class.

Joe's favorite magazines are *Time* and the *Reader's Digest*. He keeps up with the American Legion Monthly and his bar association journals.

He is what one would call a gentleman farmer. He has two or three tracts of land in Seminole county. He has an 80-acre farm north of Wewoka on which he has a garden and some fruit trees.

Joe is in constant demand as a public speaker, especially for holiday occasions. Never Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Armistice Day pass but what he has from six to a dozen invitations to speak.

Joe Looney has worked for a living ever since he was in the seventh grade. Janitor work, labor on a farm, waiting tables and typing and teaching furnished him money for his degrees from O. U. But even as a working student, he found time to win honors as a scholar in forensic fields. The 1922 *Sooner Yearbook* lists his activities as: Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Delta Phi, Delta Sigma Rho, Athenaeon, Oratorical Council, Render Medal, '16, '20; Varsity Debate, '21; State Old Line Oratorical Contest, '17, '20.

During his more than 15 years of continuous service on the University Board of Regents, Joe never forgot to look at University problems from the viewpoint of the student. They tell a story about the big investigation conducted by the regents when the members of Ruf Neke's pep order were charged with using paddles in an initiation ceremony.

Most of the young men denied it. One clean-cut youngster frankly admitted that he had used a paddle and said, upon being questioned further, that he assumed the regents would do whatever they thought was their duty in disposing of the matter. When the regents went into a huddle later to decide what to do, some wanted to take action immediately against the boy who had admitted using a paddle.

"Wait a minute," said Joe Looney, "I don't agree on that. I think that the boy

who had enough character to tell the truth ought to be given credit for his attitude, and that if anyone is punished, it ought to be the boys who obviously lied to us!"

But that sincere interest in the student as an individual didn't keep him from serving the University notably in affairs of great importance.

President Emeritus W. B. Bizzell, who was president of the University during most of the period that Joe Looney was on the Board of Regents, says, "Never in my long experience as a college president and my association with many men in similar capacities as board members have I served with a man who was more unselfish and who has rendered as high quality of service."

THE former president particularly praises Joe's legal service to the University. He gave legal advice on many difficult questions, and drew numerous legal papers for the University.

"Mr. Looney knows a lot about educational administration," says Mr. Bizzell. "He has been an instructive influence, unselfish and sacrificing. There have been countless times when I called him from Wewoka for a conference and he never failed to drop whatever he was doing to respond. He was jealous about the University having a good name in the state. He wanted to safeguard it from radicalism and any off-color political influences. He was a wise counselor."

The period during which Joe Looney served on the Board of Regents has seen the great developments at the University, and he had a part in all of it. He was one of the mainstays in the effort to get legislative funds for the University Library. He helped to create the Graduate School, which opened up a vast new field of service. In the field of student health, the Infirmary building was erected and a student health service established. The Crippled Children's Hospital was built in Oklahoma City as a great humanitarian project. The University's science program was advanced with the erection of the Biological Sciences Building, and the beginnings of the Research Institute.

Joe recalls with satisfaction that he made an aggressive fight to keep the R. O. T. C. cadet training unit at the University many years ago when there was considerable pressure both from students and from off the campus for elimination of the compulsory training feature. The unit was saved, and Joe believes—as all good citizens will agree—that events have proved he was right.

Joe was first appointed to the Board of Regents January 28, 1927, to fill out an unexpired term. The legislature then

changed the law prescribing the terms, and he was reappointed in March for a one-year term under the new law. He was then appointed for two successive seven-year terms, giving him the record of the longest continuous service on the board.

He served as vice president of the board in 1937-38, president in 1938-39, vice president in 1940-41, and president in 1941-42. He has signed the diplomas of more University of Oklahoma graduates than any other president of the board.

Reports from Norman say that Joe's good-humored talk frequently pepped up meetings of the regents. As a staunch Democrat, he frequently enjoyed exchanging friendly repartee with Lloyd Noble, equally staunch Republican.

Folks in Wewoka know that Joe has done a fine job on the Board of Regents. But frankly, we aren't sorry his term on the board has been completed. He will have more time to visit with us now!



Navy Needs Engineers

Graduates in electrical or radio engineering are needed immediately by the Navy to serve as commissioned officers in the field of RADAR, a new and highly specialized development in electronics engineering, involving the use of ultra high frequency radio for radio locators and sensing devices.

Although graduates in electrical or radio engineering are especially wanted, men who possess degrees in any engineering classification with a mathematical background may be utilized. Individuals who do not possess such a degree but are qualified by professional experience are also urged to apply.

A commission as a reserve officer in the U. S. Naval Reserve under certain classifications will be granted those applicants who are accepted as being professionally and physically qualified. The rank to which applicants are appointed will be commensurate with their age and experience.

Officers selected for this work will be placed on active duty and will receive a five months course of intensive training in preparation for this special work. Upon completion of this course they will be assigned to duty where their services may be required.

Pay and allowances for officers of the Naval Reserve is the same as that of officers of the Regular Navy. Men qualified and who are between the ages of 19 and 50 years are urged to apply immediately to the Director of Naval Reserves, Eighth Naval District, New Federal Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, for application forms.