

Walkerville, D. C.

By MALVINA STEPHENSON

Whenever O.U. alumni want to get anything done in the nation's capital, they naturally think first of Paul Walker

AHARD-WORKING and popular University alumnus has gone far in establishing himself as Oklahoma's Good Will Ambassador in the national capital.

Communications Commissioner Paul A. Walker, '12law, who holds down the highest federal administrative job of any Oklahoman in Washington, is also doing double duty in what are known on the college campus as extra-curricular activities.

Mr. Walker is chairman of the O.U. Alumni Advisory Council of Washington and also president of the Oklahoma State Society in the capital. Either one can be counted a heavyweight job, particularly with the recent growth of the Oklahoma colony, and nothing short of Paul Walker's amazing administrative capacity could have marked up a dual success.

Add to this Mr. Walker's warm, personal interest in all things pertaining to the state. No official matter can be of such import that he can't pause, at least briefly, to consider a state interest or hear an Oklahoman's problem. His office in the palatial new Post Office Building has become a veritable Sooner clearing house. Oklahoma newcomers may seek advice and information through his office, and capital residents of long standing likewise have their countless queries.

The state loses its congressman-at-large in 1943 due to a population decrease, but there is consolation in the fact that we still will have Paul Walker who helps look out for "Oklahomans-at-large" in the capital.

The University itself has a real friend in Paul Walker. Aside from the countless personal favors, the visitors he's entertained and the problems he's checked, Mr. Walker has been the guiding hand in the activities of the Washington Council which may be counted one of the most outstanding in the entire Alumni Association.

In 1938, Ted Beard, executive secretary of the Alumni Association, asked Mr.

Walker to organize a council in Washington. The charter group was composed of Roy St. Lewis, '15law; Jack Fischer, '32ba; Lynden Mannen, '27ba, '38ma; and Tully Nettleton, '23ba. When the word got round among alumni, interest immediately was shown, and 126 persons attended the initial banquet on November 11, 1939, in honor of President and Mrs. W. B. Bizzell. Many others who somehow missed this kick off kept an eye out for the next one which drew more than 300 in February, 1941. It was an all-star event with both Dr. Bizzell, the retiring University president, and President-elect Joe Brandt and Mrs. Brandt drawing the banquet spotlight. Alumni from New York and other surrounding states came to Washington for the event.

The 1942 banquet is scheduled March 21 at the New Colonial Hotel. President and Mrs. Brandt again will be the honor guests, and out-of-town alumni are expected. President Emeritus Bizzell and Mrs. Bizzell have been given a special invitation. Of course, there will be many reunions with plenty of reminiscing and story-swapping.

"But I feel that generally a more serious tone should prevail in these times," Mr. Walker explains, in discussing plans. "It must be more than a jollification meeting."

War-time participation will be the general theme, with expressions on what the University can do and what can be expected from the alumni. At the same time, the speakers will pay tribute to the O.U. Alumni in the armed forces of the nation. Uniformed officers serving in the Washington area are expected to attend, bringing the world crisis "close to home."

The O.U. Advisory Council in Washington as it now stands is composed of Mr. Walker, Mr. Mannen, Mr. St. Lewis, and Edward A. Evans, '12, and Lt. Bryce Harlow, '36ba.

In defining the purposes and the opportunities of the Washington alumni group, Mr. Walker observed: "We are trying in every way to promote the interests of the O.U. alumni organization. We want to keep in touch with the University to see whatever service we might render. At the same time, we look out for the welfare of the various alumni in the capital."

MR. WALKER, himself, takes the lead in assuming such responsibilities. One of his position and prominence naturally lends prestige to the University and can make important contributions to its progress and development in a variety of ways. Many O.U. visitors can testify to the fact that they have seen Washington through rose-colored glasses, thanks to the communications commissioner's cordial hospitality.

Mr. Walker operates the State Society on the same order, although obviously wider in scope. It is essentially a "service organization," offering many advantages to Okla-

homans in Washington. The program recently has been enriched to expand the functions of the committees to offer leisure-time activities and to assist newcomers in the capital.

Mr. Walker's office got so many calls about various Oklahomans, that he originated the plan for a Washington directory of state residents. A master list of some 2,500 names was compiled and the first issue was released to all society members attending a meeting Friday, February 13, at the Shoreham Hotel. It is already proving invaluable to the various Oklahoma officers, as well as many individuals who often find it necessary to contact state residents in the capital. The directory will be re-issued annually and the assistance of all Oklahomans is sought in keeping it checked accurately to date.

EVEN before coming to Washington in 1934, Mr. Walker had a reputation for always getting the job done. He first demonstrated on the O.U. campus when there was a movement to get a law building. At a law school smoker attended by the then Congressman Scott Ferris, Mr. Walker was named chairman of the promotion committee.

Despite his teaching duties and a heavy course, Mr. Walker and other committee members divided their time between the campus and the State Capitol in Oklahoma City, keeping up a steady fire at the legislators. Finally, after lengthy sessions and prolonged debate, the bill went through and O.U. got its now famous "law barn." In a long and colorful career, Mr. Walker has scored many achievements, but none of which he was more proud than getting the law building.

Mr. Walker graduated in 1912 and after three years of law practice became associated with the State Corporation Commission. He was either a staff employe or a commission member, except for a brief interval with the Supreme Court, until he came to Washington. With the Corporation Commission, he made a notable record as a utility rate expert and was credited with saving the consuming public millions of dollars. On the Federal Communications Commission, Mr. Walker administered the telephone investigation which ultimately brought estimated total savings of \$45,000,000 annually in telephone rates.

During the telephone inquiry, Mr. Walker was hailed nationally as the "hello man," but those who knew him better thought the label could also be applied because of his record as a mixer and a "good fellow." Walker might be termed an "organization man," because with whatever club or order he's connected, you'll probably find him as the founder, charter member, or the president. He was a charter member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at the University of Chicago and founded the chapter at O.U. He organized the Phi Delta Phi law fraternity

and Delta Sigma Rho, forensic fraternity at O.U. In Washington, he served as president of the Sig Alph Alumni Club in 1939-40, and last December was chairman of the annual dinner of the Sojourners, a Masonic organization. Mr. Walker is a retired lieutenant-colonel of the Oklahoma National Guard and a former judge-advocate general. He is a member of the board of elders of the historic Covenant Presbyterian Church in Washington and regularly attends the monthly board meetings.

The Walker marriage grew out of a campus romance. Mrs. Walker is the former Myra Williams, the sister of retired Circuit Judge Robert L. Williams. There have been five children, with four living. There are two girls, Mrs. Calvin Darlington Lynton and Virginia, and two sons, Paul, jr., and Robert William. The girls attended college in Washington, but the Sooner campus may draw at least one of the sons even though it means a jaunt of 1,500 miles. Someone should carry on the Walker family traditions at O.U.

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Riding the Range

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

EMERSON, '28, Cromwell; HERB WRINKLE, '22ba, '31m.ed, Oklahoma City; E. O. DAVIS, '29ms, Oklahoma City; MAX CHAMBERS, '21ba, '29ms, Okmulgee; ERTIS SASSEEN, '22, Cordell; "DOC" SANDERS, '24, Holdenville; BRUCE MYERS, '22ba, '34m.ed, Chickasha; MEL NASH, '19ba, '27ma, Chickasha; N. L. GEORGE, '26ed, '31m.ed, Oklahoma City; BENNIE McELYEA, '27ba, '36m.ed, Hobart; FRANK HESS, '25ed, Drumright; "RED" McLEAN, '38m.ed, Anadarko; ELBERT COSTNER, '29ba, '34ma, Poteau; J. M. MADDOX, '41m.ed, Altus,—these along with a score more all in there for serious consultation.,

But back to this Friday the 13th when this squib is being dictated—We broke the continuity just now to "cab over" from the Biltmore to Central High for an hour's work. We saw: E. E. BRADLEY, '39m.ed, Goodwell; MARY GRAY THOMPSON, '21fa, Oklahoma City; JOE JACKSON, '34ed, '40m.ed, Bristow; RUBY RUTH VINCENT, '24fa, '25ba, '36ma, Fort Sill; HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma, O.U.; LOWELL BROWN, '37m.ed, Norman; C. E. "POP" GRADY, '30, Oklahoma City; CHARLES GREEN, '25ba, O.U.; CHLOE ARMSTRONG, '41, O.U.—and, well, many, many others with whom we should like to have spent time.

But an O.E.A. rush—well, it's an "onslaught" for this moving Sooner Crew. So back to the Biltmore for the two-hour O.U. Reception in the Mirror Room—reserved exclusively for an O.U. talk and gossip fest! Registration headed by Prexy and Mrs. O. F. MULDROW, '22, Ardmore and the venerable and vulnerable HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma, of O.U., with the Reception Committee headed by MRS. ELAINE JOHNSON TUCKER, '29, Oklahoma City—the Sooners "poured in"—line after line for two hours! From all over, from all classes they came! Greeting faculty members of O.U.—greeting friends not in their picture for months or years before! An interesting and inspiring Friday afternoon the 13th!

Yes! But beneath it all every few minutes some Sooner father of a son with MacArthur—a close relative, a classmate, or intimate friend who experienced Pearl Harbor—indeed the mention of what the immediate future may bring forth for us in these changing trails in the months ahead while Riding the Sooner Range—*THAT* was the question of the hour!

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