



RUTH E. ELDER, '34M.ED

Lab School Practitioner

Miss Ruth E. Elder, '34m.ed, handsome, blue-eyed lady-principal of the elementary school of the University Laboratory School, fits into the pattern of things at the North Campus.

She is assistant professor of elementary education in the practical lab for University student teachers. The school is in the spacious, many windowed former North Base Administration Building.

Listen to the kindness in Miss Elder's voice and catch some of her enthusiasm about teaching children. Then you understand one of the reasons there is a 4 to 5 year student waiting list for the lab school.

Both her parents were teachers. Following her master's work at the University, Miss Elder was a special teacher of auditorium work in the Tulsa Elementary Schools, supervisor of county schools, and supervisor of elementary schools of Shawnee. She was supervisor-elect of Tulsa Elementary Schools at the time of her election to the faculty of the College of Education. She has served as member of the State Textbook Commission and on different state curriculum committees.

Miss Elder joined the University staff in 1937. The elementary school was then located in the wooden building just south of the present Union Building. The school later moved to the long wooden building east of Ellison Infirmary. That building now houses the University Employment Service and a classroom.

The North Campus quarters are roomy, modern and 10 degrees cooler than most Main Campus buildings. The school has approximately 10 permanent teachers besides the student teachers. Several hundred pupils enroll annually in the school.

Theoretically, we want children who will go all the way, from kindergarten through senior high school," says Miss Elder. "We like to choose children whose parents are interested and will cooperate."

During the summer session, those children who are ready to attend school are selected to start the fall term.

Four-year-old kindergarten pupils are picked up on the bus by a teacher from the school. The little students soon become independent. They like to get on the bus by themselves. They are proud when they no longer need help.

Miss Elder explains the working of the school as she strides through the airy classrooms, showing you marionettes and theaters which were made by the children. School is informal. Older and younger children have more contact with each other than do those in the average school. "We just have one big family," says Miss Elder.

People are taught in grade groups—the third and fourth grades study together as do the fifth and sixth grade students. Miss Elder and her staff not only teach children, but also teach future teachers. Sometimes there are more teachers and student teachers in class than there are students.

However, Miss Elder is concerned about the shortage of student teachers. "Young people are

Faculty in the News

Briefs . . .

Dr. Lloyd E. Swearingen, '20bs, '21ms, director of Oklahoma University Research Institute, has been appointed a member of the research committee of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. Actual research activities will be formulated and executed through the committee.

Lucille Dora, emeritus professor of French at the University, met King George and Queen Elizabeth July 15 at a royal garden party at Buckingham Palace, London. Miss Dora, who has retired from active teaching at the University, is in England as an exchange professor.

Stewart Harral, '36ma, director of public relations, has been elected vice-president in charge of regions of the American College Public Relations Association, and will serve as one of the members of the national executive committee.

Albert A. Grau, who has taught at four universities, will join the O.U. faculty in September as associate professor of mathematics. He has taught at the University of Michigan, Drake University, University of Kentucky and University of Alabama.

Capt. George L. Milner, El Paso, Texas, has been assigned to the University R.O.T.C. staff as instructor. He saw service in France, Germany and Czechoslovakia as an anti-aircraft artillery officer, and also served with the American military government in Europe.

Dr. Thomas Pyles, professor of English and assistant dean of the Graduate College, has resigned to accept a position at the University of Florida.

History of Oklahoma by Dr. E. E. Dale, '11ba, research professor of history, and Dr. M. L. Wardell, '19ba, professor of history, has been released by Prentice-Hall Incorporated in New York. The book covers the history of Oklahoma from the early Spanish explorations to the Governor Roy Turner administration.

John H. Casey, University journalism professor, spent the summer in Colorado doing real estate work in Denver.

John J. Hanlin, who has been instructor in journalism at the University, will go to the University of London, England, in September, where he expects to spend two years working toward the Doctor's Degree in English.

Dr. Helen B. Burton, professor of home economics, acted as regional counselor and adviser to executive officers at the annual meeting of the American Home Economics Association in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Regents named Lewis S. Salter, former dean of the college of fine arts, dean emeritus in honor of his long service to the University. Salter, who will continue his teaching duties, resigned the deanship in June, 1947, to return to the status of professor. He joined the O.U. faculty as an instructor in 1911 and was named dean in 1936.

going into professions more lucrative," she says. Before the war student teachers at the lab school sometimes numbered 60 a semester. During this summer session there were 20 student teachers, last spring only about 15.

University lab school graduates have made excellent records. Hunter McMurray, '48ba, was among the first students in the school. Miss McMurray was awarded the gold Letzeiser Medal in June as the outstanding senior woman in the University. She has been given a fellowship by the Institute of International Education and will study French for a year at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. She sails September 24. She expects to become an interpreter in the diplomatic service.

Of the little children, Miss Elder says, "They're the cutest things you ever saw. We have the most interesting and intelligent children—and we have lots of fun."

Building Named Kaufman Hall

The University's new classroom building, located on the south oval behind the new Research Building, has been named Kaufman Hall as a memorial to the late Kenneth C. Kaufman, '16ba, '19ma, a member of the modern languages staff for many years, who died in April, 1945.

Kaufman served as chairman of the modern languages department, managing editor of *Books Abroad* and edited and translated many foreign publications. As editor of the book review page in the *Daily Oklahoman* for 12 years, he encouraged students and young writers and gave prominence to southwestern writing.

He was head of the foreign language department of Central High School, Oklahoma City, from 1916 to 1929, and active in the O.U. modern language department until his death.

O.U. Deeded North Campus

The University acquired title to 1,650 additional acres of land August 4. The War Assets Administration delivered to the University a deed for the airport portion of the \$7,096,465 former Norman Air station—better known as the North Campus.

The deed was presented by John Montgomery, W.A.A. official from Dallas, to Erl E. Deacon, Cushing, president of the University Board of Regents, and to President George L. Cross in a luncheon ceremony in the Union Building.

The land was taken over from the Navy in 1946 on a revocable permit. Roscoe Cate, financial vice-president, said that the University is now in process of acquiring title to barracks converted to living quarters by the F.H.P.A.

Pre-Fabs to Be Insulated

Sooner City will boast something newer than its 500 veteran families and newlyweds this September. The pre-fabricated housing area will soon have some insulation improvements.

The installation of a one-inch thickness of insulation is designed to make the houses warmer in winter and cooler in summer. It is estimated that the improvements will reduce the heat requirement in winter 75 percent, thus cutting down on gas bills. Summer temperatures will be reduced by 15 to 20 degrees.

In addition, a plastic-covered wallboard will be installed on the interior walls of the houses. These inner-walls will be washable and require no painting. As well as increasing comfort for residents, the new improvements are expected to lessen maintenance costs.

Crews Speed Dormitory Project

With work crews speeding construction on a \$2,400,000 women's housing project, the University plans to have one dormitory ready for coeds this fall, President George L. Cross announced.

Four dormitories and a dining hall are being constructed to provide housing for 848 women students. Located north of Sooner City, the University's pre-fab city, the dormitories are within walking distance of Main Campus classrooms.

Sixteen living units are included in the four dormitories, with 53 coeds and one graduate counselor assigned to each division. Separate lounges with outside entrances are being constructed for each unit.

Dr. John B. Cheadle, David Ross Boyd professor of law at the University, is named in the 1948-49 volume of "Who's Who in America."

F. Donald Clark, assistant radio professor at the University, once served as director of the Little Theatre in Amarillo, Texas.