

Educators Convene for

Was it all readin', writin' and 'rithmetic at the 58th annual meeting of the Oklahoma Education Association? Decidedly, no! The alumni school teachers in many instances had "unfinished business plus business that has finished" to take care of during the business sessions of the various assemblies.

Take the experience of Mrs. Sam A. Coggins, teacher (and now grandmother) of the Poteau public schools. Well, Mrs. Coggins registered at the teachers convention in regular order, produced all the credentials and had *hoped* to be able to enjoy the benefit from the many instructional conclaves. But, the records show that she did not show up for many of the meetings. Teacher Coggins had a good reason!

The stork beat grandmother-teacher Coggins to Oklahoma City by two and a half days. But it was not Grandmother Coggins of the Poteau schoolroom that the old bird was worrying about.

The records disclose that the storks' wings could be heard flapping in the very near distance when Dr. Farris W. Coggins, '47med, and Mrs. Coggins, the former Mary Frances Lauer, '47nurse, left their Granite, Oklahoma, home and headed for Oklahoma City.

In route from Granite they came by Lone Wolf and picked up Mrs. Coggins' mother, Mrs. Hallie Lauer, for the exciting trip to Oklahoma City. That helped some—but back to the school 'marms!

Young Mrs. Coggins was checked in at the University hospital nearly an hour before Sandra Dianne arrived at 2:18 a.m. Tuesday, February 15.

Why should this young University of Oklahoma alumni couple drive half way across Oklahoma to meet the stork in Oklahoma City? Well, the feature writers say—sentiment, dear reader, sentiment!

Farris W. Coggins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam A. Coggins, Poteau, graduated from the University of Oklahoma Medical School in June, 1947. On September 12 of the same year Mary Frances Lauer was graduated from the O.U. School of Nursing in Oklahoma City.

On September 13 young Farris and Mary Frances were married. That is the next day, you will note. The reason—there is a rule against nurses marrying while in training!

Oddly enough, Farris and Mary Frances did not meet in their hospital rounds while in training. They met at a young people's meeting in the First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City. She had never dated a medical student; he had never dated a nurse.

Well, where else could Sandra Dianne have been born but in the University Hospital? And when else to mark a significant date should Sandra Dianne have been born except at the height of the Oklahoma school 'marms' state session. Yes, any other place and time was indeed unthinkable!

(1) Sandra Dianne Coggins; Mrs. Farris W. Coggins, Granite (the mother) and Mrs. Sam A. Coggins, Poteau, the grandmother-teacher.

(2) There were moments when the 'fessers attending the Oklahoma Education Association convention had a breathing spell. Above, on the Municipal Auditorium steps in Oklahoma City. T. T. Hopper, '48m.ed, (left) Purcell High School principal, and Jim Smalling, '46, junior high school athletic coach at Mangum, discuss "curricular and extra-curricular activities."

(3) Hours of business accompanied by hours of pleasure greeted the thousands of teachers as they streamed in the Capitol City. Mrs. Sarah Caldwell (left) a teacher of Akron, Ohio, and president of the Department of Classroom Teachers of the National Education Association, chats at a special tea given by the Oklahoma Classroom Teachers with Mrs. Charlotte Wall Seren, '41m.ed, of Ardmore. O.U. alumna Seren was, a few hours before, re-elected as the president of



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for Annual Conclave

the Oklahoma Classroom Teachers.

(4) More extra-curricular activities of the O.E.A. in the state meeting enjoyed by thousands of University of Oklahoma alumni. Charles H. Dunn, '40ba, Norman, chats with Paul Fisher, '40m.ed, Chetopa, Kansas, Superintendent of Schools, while Jesse W. Martin, "the Aggie of the crew," Superintendent of Schools at Nowata, chats with Mrs. Charles Dunn (Mavis Rose McLean, '39-'41) on events past and future for the school teacher sessions.

(5) O.U.'s genial 'fesser William B. Ragan, '22ba, '28ma, (second from left) joins with alumnus Jim H. Hodges, '29m.ed, '31d.ed, Principal of the Kendall school in Tulsa, to chat with a number of alumni teachers over the coming O.U. curriculum workshop scheduled for the O.U. campus for the summer session of 1949. Reading from left to right, Mrs. W. B. Ragan, (Faye Hartman, '37ed), Ragan, Mrs. Howard D. Chaney, (Patricia Shiner Chaney, '48m.ed) of the Britton public schools, Hodges, Thelma Talla, '46m.ed, coordinator of elementary education, Lawton, and Mrs. James H. Hodges (Lucile Parsons, '40m.ed), Tulsa.

(6) Reading from left to right, H. Grady Ryan, '35ed, rural teacher of Cleveland County, Norman; Flossie Beckett, '48, rural teacher of Seminole County; Kathryn Brown, '48, music teacher in elementary schools, Chickasha; Mildred Fisher, '48, junior high school teacher, Anadarko; Louise Bouher, '48m.ed, art teacher, Clinton; Lillian Marshall, '40ba, '48m.ed, elementary school teacher, Lee School, Oklahoma City; Gladys Gayle, '48, teacher in training school, Central State College, Edmond; Lila Sturdevant, '48m.ed, music teacher, Ardmore, and W. R. Riddle, '37m.ed, high school-elementary principal, Jenks.

(7) Alumnus (and Oklahoma Aggie dean) Roy W. Jones, '37 d.ed, Stillwater (extreme right, with hat on) has just arrived at the O.E.A. session from the Aggie campus and makes a hasty check with alumnus A. D. Buck, '39, head of the science department of the Northern Oklahoma Junior College, Tonkawa, to determine "what's cooking." In the background Ruth Freeny, teacher of Nashoba, Mary Hill, '47, Wewoka, and Fern Hill, '47, both teachers of the Wewoka city system, listen in for a tip on where activities are taking place.

(8) Awaiting the kick-off for the big evening session of the O.E.A. and relaxing momentarily in the Huckins Hotel headquarters, are three identified 'marms, one jovial 'fesser, plus two unidentified (presumably) superintendents of Oklahoma public schools. Reading from left to right, Nina Gardner, '48m.ed, Shawnee public schools, Elizabeth McKinney, O.U. curricular workshop, '48, S. E. State College, Durant, Lucy Masters, '48m.ed, McAlester public schools, and standing immediately back of the 'marms, Ralph A. Myers, '22ba, Superintendent of Schools, Yukon.

(9) Checking for the next events on the O.E.A. schedule are (left to right) alumna Mary L. Shipman, '48, special music teacher of Tulsa, Guy Waid, '47m.ed, principal of the University High School, Norman, Fern Anderson, '48, Wewoka, and Everett Harvell, '47ba, '48m.ed, University High School, Norman.

(10) During the Oklahoma Education Association meet three prominent Oklahoma school men met in Oklahoma City at the breakfast meeting of the elementary principals section. Left to right, Dr. W. B. Ragan, '22ba, '28ma, staff member of the University of Oklahoma; George Hooper, Tulsa, and Dr. Guy Lackey, '18ba, Oklahoma A&M staff member, Stillwater. In this particular business session, Ragan and Lackey were participants in the elementary school principals general meeting, while Hooper was chairman of a symposium on "A Plan of Action for the Department of Elementary School Principals of Oklahoma."

