

# Sooner Portraits

**A lady lawyer and a Presbyterian pastor are doing much to lend prestige to the University. They're examples of top Sooner personalities.**



LAWYER MCCONNELL

## A Woman's World

The power of a woman is never underestimated. But imagine what an additional grant of power there is when a woman holds a gavel.

Vivien McConnell, '41Law, is one of those gavel wielding woman who has risen to the top of her chosen profession. In 1947 she became the first woman attorney to become acting attorney general for an American possession. She was named to that post on Guam.

She went to Guam a year before as attorney for the land and claims commission, which was charged with settlement of war damage claims caused by the reoccupational activities of the U. S. armed forces. Then she was appointed condemnation attorney for the commission. And in July of 1947 she was commissioned by the governor of Guam as an assistant attorney general.

Miss McConnell attended highschool in Stigler and was graduated from Draughton's Business College, Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1928. She enrolled in the school of law at the University in 1938 and received her degree in 1941. She participated in many functions while attending the University. She was a member of Kappa Beta Pi, International legal sorority, Blackstone Bar, and dean of Alpha Xi. She was winner of the Inter Bar of law school and was on the staff of the Board of Student Contributors and the Oklahoma Bar Journal.

For ten years she worked as a secretary. For five years she was a legal stenographer and secretary to W. G. Stigler, U. S. attorney for the Choctaw Nation in Stigler. In 1938 she resigned to enter the University. At the University she earned her entire

expenses as secretary to Dean Julien C. Monnet. After graduation she became secretary to Judge Bower Broaddus, United States district judge, and served in this capacity until she transferred her law practice to Guam.

After finishing her stint as advisor to the island chief, she returned to the United States to do graduate work at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and is currently studying at that university.

All the recesses of law practice that were formerly reserved for men have been thrown open to Miss McConnell. She is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, American Bar Association, Oklahoma Association of Women Lawyers and the Kappa Beta Pi legal sorority. Besides being admitted to practice in the state supreme and inferior courts, she also has been admitted to federal district court for eastern Oklahoma, the tenth circuit court of appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

So, the legal profession can look forward to more demonstrations of woman's power when she completes her graduate work at Cornell. This quiet, modest woman, who enjoys reading everything that comes within grasp, will have the males looking to their laurels.

## With This Faith

"This is no time for cynical bewilderment."

That is not only the philosophy but the warning of Frederick B. Speakman, '40Letters, '41Ma, who is pastor of the Third Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Speakman is a theologian who brings his religion down to the practical problems of life. He's interested in what government exists outside the church, and he is vitally interested in the mental attitude of all people.

Speakman, who is a native of Chandler and a graduate of Sapulpa highschool, attended the Presbyterian College, Emporia, Kansas, and was graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1941. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and was president of the junior class.

After receiving his degree from O.U. he attended Harvard and there received a master's degree in history. In 1945 Speakman received his theological degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and was awarded the Newberry Scholarship for graduate study. In addition he was granted an annual fellowship on the basis of scholastic standing and competitive thesis and was awarded the Hugh Davies Homiletics Prize.

But you cannot understand a man by merely enumerating his academic background. It is necessary to probe his beliefs and philosophy. And then you can draw a parallel between his scholastic record and his actual performance. Speakman's beliefs and philosophy are ample proof of the adroit utilization of his academic training. Speakman is one of those rare persons who has definite ideas and can express them without danger of being called opinionated or a pedagogue.



REVEREND SPEAKMAN

The 1949 seniors can attest to the ability of Speakman to put across his social beliefs. When speaking to them, he was concerned with the attitude of futility that many people have today. He told them that to recognize the madness of our time is one thing but to say, so what's the use, that's another. "There's no worse tyrant than the conviction that nothing really matters."

His words to the seniors are applicable to all. He warned them, "We must not forget that for the Bill of Rights we enjoy, there is certainly a correlative bill of duties, including the duty to lean upon our own initiative and not upon the benevolence of benign government."

The congregation of the Central Brick Presbyterian Church of East Orange, New Jersey, were among the first to hear this young man's views. He was their pastor from 1945 until 1949 when he joined the Third Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh. His ability to sway his listeners goes back to 1934 when he won the state oratory contest.

So here is a man whose religion transcends the older conception of what a reverend should expound upon. Here we find the bedrock of his philosophy: "With this faith, courage, and a high resolve to labor diligently, we will build our institutions so that when the storms of destruction beat upon their pillars, they will stand like the Rock of Ages."

► Dr. Harrell E. Garrison, '31, director of the University reading laboratory represented the University chapter of Phi Delta Kappa at the national meeting of the professional education fraternity in Chicago recently.