



DR. GRIFFIN, McBRIDE



MISS MARRIOTT, CURTIS



McBRIDE, REV. ABERNATHY

A Word of Many Meanings

"... When we lose gold, we lose a chance; but when we miss God, we miss our destiny. . ." The Rev. Phil Deschner, pastor of the McFarlin Memorial church of Norman, intoned the invocation.

A distinguished group of citizen had gathered April 19 to single out five outstanding Oklahomans and to honor them on the occasion of the third annual Achievement Day.

"... When silver outweighs the soul, a nation becomes impoverished, but when manhood outvalues money, the people thrive. . . Hear us in our Prayer, O Lord. . ."

Then came dinner.

"There will be recorded here tonight, in brief, the life history and labor of five distinguished sons and daughter of our great state of Oklahoma. . .", Joe Curtis, '20ba, '22Law, president of the executive board of the Alumni Association, began his welcome.

The men's glee club under the direction of Chester Francis filled the Union lounge with their voices.

"In the past several years I have learned to respect and appreciate the many fine qualities of the next speaker. . .", Joe McBride, '28bus, Anadarko, president of University Board of Regents and toastmaster, said as he introduced President George L. Cross.

"... However, I did not realize that he is also a celebrity until I read in the morn-

ing paper that he—a non-Texan—had been elected vice president of the Texas State Fair."

Then, quietly Dr. Cross began the introductions. "What do we mean by achievement? Perhaps no two of us would define it in the same way, and the reason is simple enough. Achievement is a word of several meanings—including devotion, a sure sense of direction, integrity, good taste, work, a regard for others, and the capacity to create and respond to values," he said.

One by one Dr. Cross introduced the award winners.

"Our first citation tonight goes to one whose unselfish and devoted service is woven through almost the entire pattern of Oklahoma's history. . ."

The Rev. John R. Abernathy, associate minister of St. Luke's Methodist Church of Oklahoma City, received the first citation.

In commenting on his philosophy of achievement, the Reverend Abernathy said:

"True success as well as true greatness was well defined by a quiet Teacher who walked the dusty roads of Palestine: 'He that would be the greatest among you let him become the servant of all'."

Dr. Cross continued: "Our second citation tonight is made to a native Oklahoman who holds an enviable place in the state's history, because of his powerful influence upon the formation of the state's educational system and his exceptional ability as a public speaker. He has many times

been called one of the truly great Oklahoma orators."

Judge O. H. P. Brewer, district court judge of Muskogee, could not attend in person to receive his award due to illness, but Dr. Leonard Logan, '14ba, long-time friend of Judge Brewer read his response. Judge Brewer wrote:

"... In the light of the astounding record of things done by the founding fathers, whose philosophy of life in practice has been a revelation to students of government and profound statesmen in every section of the globe, we, as representatives of a later generation, anxious to comport ourselves in keeping with their exemplary lives and principles, sustained by the organized opinion of mankind, may truly serve our homeland and posterity with credit by resolving to pursue the same rule of conduct and to readopt, and make our very own, the identical philosophy of life and achievement which has brought this nation to world renown. . ."

A Norman resident was the next recipient and Dr. Cross said by way of introduction:

"During the half-century past, our mentally ill have been brought out of hushed, barred asylums into the light of modern wards and hospitals which are fully equipped for medical and psychiatric attention.

"Prominent in the front line of the fight for this improvement has been the man who receives our next citation tonight."

He was Dr. D. W. Griffin, superintendent

dent of Central State Hospital. Said he, ". . . Little did I realize when I came to Oklahoma over fifty years ago, when the University itself was but a small organization providing education for the new Oklahomans, that I would one day come across town from my own institution to be so highly honored. . . ."

". . . As for my own achievements—and for anyone who would attain success in any field of endeavor—I can say only that good training and continued study are most essential. . . ."

When Dr. Cross commented, "Our next citation goes to a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, an author and ethnologist whose books have done much to center sympathetic attention on the life of the Southwestern Indian," he introduced the only woman recipient of an award for 1950.

Miss Alice Marriott, '35ba, Oklahoma City, speaking of her own achievement said:

"I stand appalled by the multitude of things still to be done. I will not list them. No one would be interested in my individual soul searching. Only I hope that I am granted world enough and time to finish a few of the tasks that lie ahead and to report to the University in years to come that I have accomplished one or two more."

The last recipient was the late Lloyd Noble, '23, Ardmore oil-man and philanthropist. Mr. Noble's two sons accepted the citation in honor of their father.

Dr. Cross said:

"His, (Noble's) philosophy is elaborated beautifully in his will where he states, 'My hope is that when this instrument becomes operative and into other hands are placed

the responsibility for the management of our mutually built enterprises, those in command will not lose sight of the fact that no individual builds anything worthwhile by his effort alone. . . .'

". . . Mr. Noble cannot be here in person to make his response, but he was here two years ago when these awards were given for the first time. He presided at that first meeting when the entire program was recorded. A few of the remarks that he made that evening reveal, I believe, the philosophy by which he lived. They will be presented to you now by transcription."

Then words which had been spoken two years before came tumbling out of the loud-speaker as prophetic and as fresh as at the time when they were spoken.

"At this hour, when a degree of fear invades every home and fireside throughout the world, the United States finds itself a bulwark of free men. At no place in our union are the reasons for its defense as evident as they are in the hearts and minds of the people of our late frontiers.

At what point can we better rally our forces than at an institution that is surrounded by frontiersmen or their sons or daughters, grandsons or granddaughters, who realize that the only true security rests not only in security for yourself, but security for your neighbor; that the only true happiness must come from not only understanding your own needs, but an understanding and willingness to secure the same things for your fellowman? Where better than an institution in an area where fewer people really believe the songs of the philosophers of despair who have told us that we have reached the end of

our economic opportunities when we see on every hand the scientific reaching ever new horizons?"

The third annual Achievement Day ended when Dr. Cross said, "I hope that the attainments of those being honored will provide others with the courage, devotion and inspiration which make achievement possible."

Five outstanding Oklahomans had been honored by the University Board of Regents and Alumni Association, who presented the awards and the day jointly.

Archives Seek Contributions

The next time you clean out your attic, Alice Marriott, '35ba, would like for you to send her any papers relating to Oklahoma or Indian Territory history.

Miss Marriott wants these papers for the University Archives. From a hodgepodge of old handbills, old account books, theater programs and advertisements the University researchers can patch together a complete history of early Oklahoma. She's interested in your father's or grandfather's ledgers, old pictures, business correspondence and perhaps a diary.

What happens to donations to the Archives? They are received by Dr. Gaston Litton, '34ba, '40ma, who is in charge of the University Archives. Then the material is registered in a record group according to origin. This record group is then described according to form such as accounts, ledgers, day books, photographs and other types. This arrangement enables a researcher to know what dates, quantity and type of material he will find available.

The state does not have funds to pay for this material but it does insure safe storage for these valuable items. At the University the items can be placed in a fireproof building. There they are made available for needs of scholarship and under restrictions the donors specify.

Judge C. Ross Hume, '98ba, '00ma, of Anadarko, has helped fill in many of the gaps in University history by his contributions. He has given such items as early photographs, a partial file of alumni magazines and a floor plan of the first University building.

From similar contributions a detailed history of early life in Oklahoma can be written and preserved for the future.

Enrolment Requirements Lowered

The University will relax its entrance requirements for highschool graduates. Instead of requiring specific highschool subjects, the University will accept all graduates of state highschools accredited by the state board of education.

This new system follows a national trend away from rigid entrance requirements. Dr. J. E. Fellows, dean of admissions, said this means "the University will no longer attempt to dictate to the highschool" the subjects it will require. Instead, it will be the highschool's task to do a job of guidance and preparation for the student's future, college or otherwise.

The new admission rules will be given a three year tryout. And at the end of that period a faculty committee will measure results and set up a permanent plan of admission.



After the speeches were finished, the three happy recipients who were present pose with Dr. Cross. From left to right they are Dr. D. W. Griffin, Miss Alice Marriott, '35ba, Dr. Cross, and the Rev. John R. Abernathy.