

Sooner Portraits



Senator Ernest W. McFarland, '17ba, was named majority leader for the U. S. Senate early in January. As a school teacher, he once quelled the rowdy students in a school which had "run off" other teachers. Now he has tackled another job equally tough.

The 3rd Man

You might call Senator Ernest W. McFarland Oklahoma's 3rd man. He's one of three men in the U.S. Senate who has attended the University. Two—Robert S. Kerr, '16, and Mike Monroney, '24ba—represent Oklahoma. Senator McFarland was elected from Arizona.

In early January with the reorganization of the 82nd Congress, Senator McFarland was named majority leader for the Senate. His new job is a far cry from the days when he faced a classroom full of pupils in a rural school in Seminole County some thirty-odd years ago. Whether or not he will have more difficulty with 97 senators than with his first teaching assignment remains to be seen.

When McFarland entered his abbreviated career as a teacher he was hired to teach a school that had "run-off" several

former instructors. But McFarland's size and ability seemed to have had a quelling effect on the rowdier element. Anyway he had no particular trouble. There may be a parallel in the new Senate position. Not that the senators "ran-off" former majority leader Scott Lucas, but with a majority to lead of two (and that extremely doubtful with the rift in Democratic thinking) he'll have to use all of his powers of persuasion and diplomacy to handle the Senate's affairs in a time of national emergency.

McFarland's early childhood was spent and most of his education gained in Oklahoma. Born on a farm near Earlsboro in 1894 of W. T. and Keziah McFarland, the family was among the first settlers of the Pottawatomie strip. He received his grammar school education in rural schools and later attended the Earlsboro and Seminole Highschools. He prepared for a teaching role at East Central State Teachers College

at Ada. Then came the teaching position to acquire money for entrance at O.U.

The senator graduated from the University with an A.B. in 1917 and shortly thereafter was called to active duty in World War I. After discharge he enrolled in Stanford University where he received his juris doctor degree in law and master's degree in political science. He holds an honorary doctor of law degree from the University of Arizona. He was admitted to the bar in 1920 and shortly following he began a practice of law in Casa Grande, Arizona. After serving as assistant attorney general of Arizona for two years, he became county attorney of Pinal County, Arizona, and spent six years as judge of the Superior Court of Pinal County.

McFarland was elected to the senate in 1940 and was re-elected in 1946 for the term ending January 3, 1953. All of which makes McFarland a newcomer to the capital scene, comparatively speaking. Cecil Holland, writing in the January 3 Washington, D.C., *Evening Star*, commented on McFarland's qualifications for his new majority leading role:

... "For the most part, Senator McFarland has confined himself to being a persistent and effective advocate of matters affecting his State and region, and to quiet and unspectacular work as member of the Senate Foreign and Interstate and Interior committees.

"He has been an infrequent participant in Senate debates aside from matters that interested his region. As a speaker in the Senate forum he has given observers the impression of a plodding hard-working legislator with no particular oratorical gift. Only when arguing for something like the central Arizona irrigation project has his speaking shown unusual fervor, if not eloquency.

"On the record, therefore, there has been little to judge Senator McFarland's capabilities as leader of the sharply-divided and often partisan Senate. But his friends speak highly of his effectiveness in committee work and his ability to work out compromises.

"In the role of majority leader, the gift of being able to conciliate and compromise often is more effective than an eloquent word.

“Senator McFarland, a bulky individual standing 5 feet 11 inches, and weighing around 200 pounds with a ruddy face and shock of iron-gray hair, has no illusions about the problems confronting him.

“In his opinion, the biggest problem confronting the country is “the international situation that now overshadows all our domestic problems.” As he sees it, a major contribution he could make at this time would be to bring about ‘a more unified effort toward solving those problems.’

“I certainly feel that both parties are composed of loyal and patriotic Americans,” Senator McFarland said. “On international matters we should be able to lay politics aside and work together. Partisan politics should be around domestic and not international issues.”

The new majority leader is married to Edna Eveland McFarland and the couple have one daughter, Jewell.

An Exceptional Woman

Oklahoma University has some outstanding women graduates but few of them can surpass Inez Bever Price, housewife.

She almost enrolled at A.&M. It would have been easy, since she attended prep school there two years. But she saw an O.U. drama school circular, found she could get college credit for a foreign language deficiency, and she chose O.U. Inez Bever was well known and well liked on the campus. She was good looking, of medium height, and had naturally curly brown hair.

But it was her good nature and her personality that attracted people.

She has lost none of those qualities. No one can tell a story like Inez. No one can do or will do the things she does, from frying 50 chickens that she has raised herself for an Alpha Chi party, to taking a dozen young people to New York City.

She is never too tired to listen, nor too busy to advise. If you should get a little weary of waiting for her to keep an engagement, she will make it worth your while, when she does show.

Her father, Fred S. Bever, was working in the Indian Agency at Pawnee when he and Eleanor F. Hill were married in 1895. Their three children, Leo, Hazel, and Inez were born there. Later the family moved to a farm 10 miles from town. Leo and Hazel naturally went to Stillwater to school. Both of them graduated from A.&M.

And when Inez was ready for highschool it was much easier to send her to live with Hazel who had married and was living in Stillwater than it was to have her board with strangers in Pawnee.

So Inez went to prep school until 1919 when her father died.



Mrs. Inez Bever Price, '24bs, is a homemaker and a mother, but like many other O.U. women graduates, she is also an active person in the community in which she lives. She has returned to the University to prepare for a career in social work.

Mrs. Bever decided to take a home demonstration agent's job in Major County. She and Inez moved to Fairview, and Inez graduated there in 1920. Meeting King Price, '25, and playing the lead in the senior class play seemed to be the important things she did in Fairview. She chose a husband and a major subject at the same time.

In September 1920, Inez enrolled in the drama school at O.U. She worked hard, even taking private lessons from Veroqua Sheldon Petty, but transferred later to the education school after deciding to teach a year before she married.

King followed her to O.U. in 1922. He had attended Phillips University, at Enid and played football.

In June 1924, Inez graduated. She took the school teaching job in Britton. She and King were married at Thanksgiving of that year. She continued to teach. King graduated in February, and went into the insurance business in Norman. They moved down that fall.

Until 1942, they lived in Norman, in various apartments, and later moved to a home they built on Macy street. In the spring of 1942, they moved a mile south on Highway 77, to a larger place, designed and built to their plan.

King had definite ideas about how their three sons were to be brought up. These ideas included “room to play,” and work to do as a family.

“And,” said Inez, “In King's family, when he had an idea, we all worked together to carry it out.”

In September 1947, King died. Inez was left to see that the plan was finished. Now that she sees it nearing completion, with Calvin graduating last month, Bill married, and enrolled as a junior in petroleum engineering, and King Graham, Jr., a freshman in the University College, Inez has decided to go back to school.

She has chosen the field of social work, one of her elective subjects while an undergraduate. Every Tuesday and Thursday she works with special classes for exceptional children in the Oklahoma City schools.

If you can believe Inez, it is the most fascinating study ever done. It helps to fill the void in her life, and it adds to the work being done in the interest of exceptional children in Oklahoma.

Perhaps it is only poetic justice that the exceptional children in her class have as their instructor an exceptional woman—Mrs. Inez Bever Price.