



Dr. E. Harold Hinman, director of the School of Public Health at the University, F. R. Garrison, assistant professor of business management, and pilot Kieth W. Lutz, '49bus, prepare to take-off to meet with an off the campus class in adult education.

## Education for Adults

*By plane, car or other available means of transportation, the Adult Education program of the Extension Division is taking the campus of the University to any city in the state that indicates an interest in teaching "Old dogs new tricks."*

By Bill Goodner, '52

One man who doesn't believe in the old adage, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks," is Dr. O. W. Davison, '49d.ed, director of the Department of School and Community Services of the University Extension Division.

Nor does it apply to thousands of adults, including old grads, who eagerly pound the paths leading to the University's Adult Education classrooms throughout the state.

"Adults want to know more about technological advances, so they can make better earnings," Dr. Davison said. "They want extra instruction in vocational skills. But most of all they are seeking knowledge

that will help them meet and cope with the complex problems of the modern world.

"World War II started the adults of the United States clamoring for more education," Davison said. Since the war the need for more work in this field has been increasingly apparent.

Dr. Davison, who is tall and on the slim side, will stop any task in which he happens to be engaged at the mention of his Adult Education program. His eyes flash excitedly as he speaks with enthusiasm of the services rendered by his department.

The Adult Education Department works earnestly to meet all the requests for classes

throughout the state. Everything from the fundamental three R's to advanced graduate courses in engineering is available in this program that served over 7,000 persons last year. The Adult Education set-up takes the University campus to students in every part of the state. There is no need of any Oklahoma community desiring to benefit from the knowledge that harbors in a university to go without it. The Adult Education program is making the entire state a part of the campus of the University of Oklahoma.

In-Service classes for teachers form a section of the program of Dr. Davison's de-



Hope Biggers and Fred Lanter, both former students of the adult education class, "How to Instruct," taught to the supervisory staff of Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City, receive some after-class tips from their instructor Dr. O. W. Davison, '49 d.ed, head of the department of School and Community Services of the University.

partment. Weekly classes have already commenced in seven Oklahoma towns, in addition to the Oklahoma City Graduate Study Center. Members of the College of Education faculty take time from their campus duties to meet students in Anadarko, Ardmore, Bartlesville, Frederick, McAlester, Pauls Valley, Watonga and Wewoka.

A grand total of 2,045 teachers attended the classes last year, increasing their efficiency and value in the positions they held while they learned. The group of teachers picked up 12,000 hours of college credit in the process. Centrally located graduate classes drew enrolment representing 31 counties, and 28 counties had pupils in the under-graduate and non-credit courses.

But teacher training is only one phase of the Adult Education program.

Another part of the varied program is a six-weeks Self-Improvement plan similar to the one held at El Reno last year. Residents of El Reno showed an intense interest in night classes in speech, business management, photography, home economics, history, art and architecture. They also studied vocational advancement, human relations and personality development.

One unique phase of the Adult Education program is its flying faculty services. But it is no fly-by-night affair. Whenever the demand for knowledge springs up in some far away spot in the state, the instructors board a University plane and hurry to an off campus class. In 1948, O.U.'s

first flying faculty taught a public health course to a group of Tulsa Health Department officials. Flying conditions were fine, for not one of the scheduled trips was cancelled. Instructors were flown to Pryor weekly last year for six weeks in what was tabbed "O.U.'s Operation Air Lift."

The Adult Education program met with such widespread enthusiasm last year that the department was expanded this fall to satisfy the growing need. Three new personnel were added to the department.

Dr. R. L. McLean, '38m.ed, former su-

perintendent at Anadarko, will work as an extension specialist in professional services. He will be setting up courses for graduates in the professions who are interested in keeping up with the latest developments in their fields.

Being aware of the ever present demand of teachers throughout the state desiring additional courses, Dr. Loren Brown, '28 ma, '37ph.d, former president of Northern Junior College at Tonkawa, assumed the duties of extension specialist in school services.

In order to tap a relatively untouched field of Adult Education in Oklahoma industry, Dr. W. M. Shanner is working as an extension specialist in industrial services.

For many people, formal education beyond highschool was impossible, and college graduates find they must have further education in specific areas to do their jobs a little better. Self improvement is a continuing thing, and not something that is turned on and off as a certain level of academic achievement is reached. Since it has long been the expressed desire of the administration to make the state the University's campus, the purpose of the Adult Education program and the desires of the people it serves are one.

The Adult Education Department has done a pretty good job of convincing people they're not too old to learn. And in the process they have proved that—Grown-Ups Like to Go to School!



DR. LOREN BROWN  
... School Services



DR. R. L. McLEAN  
... Professional Services