

Dr. Henry Bennett, Aggie Educator, Killed in Crash

A short way out of Tehran, Iran, an Egyptian airplane carrying several American passengers was diverted from landing by a snowstorm. Aboard were Dr. Henry G. Bennett, '24ma, president of Oklahoma A. & M. and director of President Tru-

man's Point Four program, and Mrs. Bennett.

Word went out from the Tehran airport for the plane to turn back to Baghdad, if possible, or to land at Basra, Iraq. When the plane had not been heard from the fol-

lowing morning, U.S. Ambassador Loy Henderson ordered an investigation that brought tragic news.

At the base of a steep granite range a short distance north of Tehran, the wreckage of the plane was discovered. All aboard were dead.

With only three days to go before Christmas, the Bennetts were on an official visit to discuss U.S. technical aid with Iranian officials. Dr. Bennett had been appointed Point Four chief in 1950 and received a leave from his duties as President of A. & M. to help put the "aid to backward areas" idea into effect.

Dr. Bennett had served as president of A. & M. for 24 years at the time of his death. Years that had seen the development of the college to its present high level. Certainly his record of achievement was enough for most men of 63. Yet he took the Point Four job and later described it as "my joy and my delight," and a chance for "helping people find a door into the 20th Century where they will find economic progress and social justice." Such was his vision.

Dr. Bennett was born in Nevada County, Arkansas, December 14, 1886. His education included a B.A. from Quachita College, Arkansas, a M.A. at O.U. and a Ph.D. from Columbia. He began his Oklahoma school work as superintendent of several small school systems and moved to Durant in 1919 where he became president of Southeastern State College. Nine years later in 1928, the presidency at Stillwater was offered and he accepted. He had served as president ever since. He took no official time off for his Point Four job. The A. & M. regents would not grant him an official leave but told him to take the necessary time to complete his assignment.

An author of many books, Dr. Bennett has been in the forefront of agricultural development for many years. He was the only American agricultural college president selected to attend the International Foods and Agricultural Organization that met in Quebec, Canada, at the close of World War II to plan food rehabilitation of Europe. He served as an adviser to the office of the military government for Germany in 1949.

The Bennetts' death brought messages from top government circles. President Truman said, "In the death of Henry Garland Bennett, administrator of the Point Four program, I have lost a friend and the American people have lost a great teacher of the simple ideas of co-operation and brotherhood. . . ."

Oklahoma's two senators paid Dr. Bennett the highest compliments. Said Mike Monroney, '24ba, "He will be most difficult to replace. His down-to-earth philosophy, reflected in his Oklahoma work and trans-



DR. HENRY GARLAND BENNETT
... Death on a Granite ridge in Iran

posed to the greater international field, made him one of the great men of our time."

Said Senior Senator Robert S. Kerr, '16, "... He was one of Oklahoma's outstanding educators, agricultural leaders and Christian laymen . . . Oklahomans will long remember and always be grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Bennett. . . ."

January 11, many days after the accident, the bodies of Dr. Henry G. Bennett and his wife, Vera, were flown back to the A. & M. campus for final memorial services. In Gallagher Hall, one of the many buildings he had helped bring to the A. & M. campus, 7,500 Oklahomans paid their last respects to Dr. Henry and Mrs. Bennett. Representatives of the President of the U.S. and of the state department were there. So were college freshmen who will inherit the institution he built to greatness.

The following day, the Bennetts were committed to the earth in Durant's Highland Park cemetery—not far from another college he helped to build.

Few men in education ever left so much after them. Oklahoma A. & M. and Dr. Bennett will be associated in the minds of all who followed education during his tenure of office. He built something for the young of Oklahoma and, as is usually the case, fashioned a memorial at the same time.

New Practice Court

Lawyers Like It. The venerable arena, where for 38 years student lawyers have made their first practice appearances before the bar of justice, is on the way out. A new model courtroom at the University will replace the veteran battleground where many verbal skirmishes were fought.

The Oklahoma Bar Foundation, headed by President Claude Monnet, '20ba, '22 Law, of Oklahoma City, reported enthusiastic response to a drive for funds to remodel O.U.'s old practice courtroom.

"There should be in our state a centrally located courtroom where everyone interested in such facilities—county commissioners, architects, contractors and lawyers—could examine a model place for the administration of justice," said Chief Justice Ben Arnold, '20ba, '25Law, of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, as he made the first contribution to the drive.

Plans for the new practice courtroom, designed to add new dignity and effectiveness to the training of Sooner lawyers, have been completed by Richard N. Kuhlman, University Architect, and Richard J. Cavaness of Kuhlman's staff.

"Dignified and adequate surroundings are essential for the best administration of justice," declared Judge Alfred P. Murrah, '28Law, of the U. S. Court of Appeals,

Tenth Circuit, as he contributed to the drive and urged the legal profession to support establishment of a new practice courtroom which will truly portray "the progressive spirit and competence of the lawyers of Oklahoma."

John H. Halley, '40ba, '41Law, Oklahoma City, is vice president of the Oklahoma Bar Foundation. Kenneth Harris, '39ba, '49Law, Oklahoma City, is secretary. Foundation trustees in addition to Monnet, Halley and Harris include Thurman S. Hurst, '12Law, and Gerald B. Klein, Tulsa; T. R. Benedum, '28Law, Norman and C. D. Cund, Duncan.

Patients Unlimited

For Medical Missionary. When you are a missionary physician in a backward country where a low standard of living is as common as a comfortable one in the United States, you don't have to worry about patients. They surround you.

That's how it is with Dr. Jack D. Bal-



Bud Baer, '47journal, has been named scientific editor for Office of Scientific Research at Headquarters, Air Research and Development Command, Baltimore.

lard, '44med, and his medical practice in Lahore, Pakistan. "One frustration facing a physician out there," said Dr. Ballard, "is the likelihood that a patient, restored to health in the hospital, may return home to contract a similar illness again."

Taking leave of his duties in Pakistan, Dr. Ballard and his wife and five children recently spent their furlough with Dr. Ballard's parents, Dr. Ray H. Ballard, '32 ed, '39med, and Mrs. Ballard, Seattle. Dr. Ballard joined his father, who had established a clinic in Seattle, in 1946. There,

father and son practiced medicine until the younger doctor joined the staff of the United Christian Hospital of Lahore in 1949.

"Poverty and illness has resulted in a state of depression throughout Pakistan," Dr. Ballard said. "This and a fatalistic philosophy greatly retard progress. If anything is to be accomplished medically, it must be integrated with better farming, education, sanitation and a higher economic level. Because of the philosophical concept of predestination and the interplay of poverty and disease, the people have not been able to grasp the Christian ideas of a loving Father. To them, man is a puppet in the hands of a tyrannical God.

"Illustrating to what degree the fatalistic concept grips the people, take the mother of a small child whose only ailment was lack of nourishment. The woman was told how to prepare a diet, but shook her head. 'It is the will of God,' she wailed. 'The child is meant to die.' It did."

The Christian program of teaching, healing and leading the people to economic self-support is the answer, says Dr. Ballard, but he believes the process must be greatly accelerated.

They Have the Knack

Slick Artist. When Lowell Hess, '38-'42, New York magazine illustrator, was a small boy in Anadarko, he was forever sketching pictures on his tablets, on the kitchen calendar, on his books and on his desk—much to the dismay of his teachers.

People said he sure had a knack for drawing, might even be an artist someday and make some money at it. Hess, now 30, is successfully living up to their passive predictions. His signature frequently appears on work in *Collier's*, *Woman's Home Companion*, the *American* and other big slick magazines.

Only One. Los toros, in the bull fighting sport down Juarez way, are getting some feminine brickbats and bouquets tossed at them besides the regular dose of torador tormentors. Panning or praising the bulls and fighters for the *El Paso Times* is Mary Evelyn Smith Thurber, '46ba, who probably is the only woman bullfight critic in the world. At least it's for certain she is the only one in Texas.

A journalism major while at the University, she was a former editor of the *Oklahoma Daily*, student newspaper.

The esteem in which Mrs. Thurber is held by matadors was verified when Fermín Rivera, one of Mexico's best matadors, sent her the mounted head of a bull he had killed in the ring. *Newsweek* reported such a gesture was as good as a Pulitzer prize to a "Cronista de Toros" (Critic of Bulls).