

Five native or adopted Oklahomans were singled out for special recognition by the University and the Alumni Association in April. At a dinner in the Union Ballroom, the five received citations for what Dr. Cross stated was

# In the Finest Sense: Achievement

Five Oklahomans, either native or adopted, received the highest honor the University and the Alumni Association can bestow at the Fifth Annual Achievement Day banquet April 8.

Held in the Union ballroom, the five were paid the respects due men and women who have honored the State and University by service devoted to their betterment by being awarded Distinguished Service Citations.

The five were William E. Baker, pioneer Cimarron County agent; Miss Lulu B. Beckington, Tulsa Central highschool teacher; Dr. E. E. Dale, '11ba, research professor of history; John T. Easley, publisher of the *Daily Ardmoreite*, and George C. McGhee, '33ba, ambassador to Turkey. (Mrs. George C. McGhee, Sr., received the award on behalf of her son who is currently in Turkey.)

Dr. Oscar White, '21bs, president of the University Regents, presided. He introduced Herbert L. Branan, '32ba, '38Law, president of the Alumni Association, who made the welcoming address. Following the welcome and a short program by the O.U. men's glee club, University President George L. Cross was introduced and presented the Distinguished Service Citations.

*Given in an abridged form are the remarks made by Dr. Cross, in presenting the achievement certificates, and the responses by those honored.*

## Dr. Cross

"When representatives of the University of Oklahoma and the University Association met a few years ago to consider ways by which distinguished citizens might be honored, it was inevitable that achievement should be selected as a criterion for such honor, because achievement is the basis upon which all honors are given. . . .

"The recipients of Achievement Awards each year are chosen by an anonymous committee. On each committee have been representatives from the University of Oklahoma and from the University Association. They have selected the recipients on the basis of unselfish, sustained and successful service to others. This is achievement in the finest sense of the word. . . .

"The first to be honored is a native of the State of Illinois. She was born at Belvidere and graduated from Belvidere High-school. She attended Northwestern University where, after three years, she received a BA Degree and a Phi Beta Kappa key. . . .

"Fortunately for the State of Oklahoma, she moved to Tulsa and joined the school system there—the faculty of Central High-school. . . .

"Her efforts to serve others have been so



GEORGE C. MCGHEE, JR.

. . . I regret . . . not to be with you

unselfish and so effective that the mention of her name where she is known inevitably brings forth almost unbelievable praise and acclaim. She was selected for this award because of her most outstanding contribution to the development of Oklahoma's most valued resource, the young people of our State. She has not accumulated wealth, political prestige, or power, but the Selections Committee believes that she has been Oklahoma's greatest teacher in the secondary schools for most of the past quarter century.

"I am happy to present Miss Lulu B. Beckington, teacher of English at Central Highschool in Tulsa, this certificate (the Distinguished Service Citation.)"

## Miss Beckington's Response

"Mr. Toastmaster, Dr. Cross, Ladies and Gentlemen: . . .

"To find words adequately to express my appreciation to Dr. Cross and the committee for even allowing my name to be considered, to say nothing of actually being chosen, is truly difficult. . . .

"The exhortions of an old English manuscript might well be the pattern for achievement and success. Each is prefaced by the plea "Take Time" and, if followed, would contribute in no small way to complete living.

"'Take time to work—it is the price of success.' That there is no real achievement without work, and that it takes consistent, preserving, and wearisome labor to accomplish worthwhile tasks goes without saying. . . .

"'Take time to play—it is the secret of perpetual youth.' If one is a genius such as Edison, he has little time for play. In fact, play would probably have interfered with Edison's success, but the average person is not expected to discover or to invent something new. Hobbies and avocations bring relaxation and promote fuller living.

"'Take time to read—it is the foundation of wisdom.' Thoughtful reading, investigating, learning cannot cease if one is to advance in his chosen work. In the profession of teaching, which I have enjoyed for 10, these many years, one must keep well ahead of the students or be in one uncomfortable spot after the other. . . .

"'Take time to dream—it is hitching your wagon to a star.' A goal that is constantly advancing is necessary and keeps one's interest at a peak. As Browning says, 'A man's reach must exceed his grasp or what's a heaven for?'

"'Take time to love and be loved—it is the privilege of the gods.' A genuine interest in and affection for those about one takes the bitterness out and puts joy into everyday perplexities that otherwise would annoy and stunt accomplishments. . . ."

## Dr. Cross

"... It is most appropriate that we should honor this evening one who devoted effectively many years of his life to the im-



Recipients of Distinguished Service Citations pose with President G. L. Cross prior to the Achievement Day dinner. From left to right they are John T. Easley, publisher of *Daily Ardmoreite*; Mrs. George C. McGhee, Sr., who received the award on behalf of her son; Miss Lulu B. Beckington, Tulsa highschool teacher; Dr. Cross; Dr. E. E. Dale, '11ba, research professor of history, and William E. Baker, pioneer Cimarron County agent. The activities are sponsored by the University and by the Alumni Association.

provement of Oklahoma agriculture. Our second honoree was born near Sheridan, Indiana, in 1877, but his father and mother migrated with him to Wichita, Kansas, in the fall of 1880. They made the trip by covered wagon and it took them six weeks. In 1882 the family moved to homestead in Oklahoma, seven miles west of Guthrie. . . .

"In 1922 the Extension Division of Oklahoma A.&M. College asked him to take the position of County Agent in Cimarron County—the last pioneer county in Oklahoma. In this post he served with great distinction for 25 successive years. When he arrived in Cimarron County, there was not a graded road in the entire area and only one bridge. . . Today the county has 100 miles of paved roads, numerous bridges and good graded roads over the entire county. . . .

"The Selection Committee believes that no man has been more effective in the development of western Oklahoma than this man. His influence has been great and will be lasting.

"I am pleased to present to Mr. William E. 'Uncle Bill' Baker this certificate (Distinguished Service Citation)."

**Mr. Baker**

"Words fail me in expressing my appreciation for the respect being shown me tonight, an honor which I cannot feel that I rightly deserve.

"Sixty-two years ago this March past as we slowly traveled down the old Chisholm Trail to Oklahoma, I could not visualize or dream of the grandeur and human achievement to be seen from this old route today. Where the longhorn and the coyote then held sway and the antelope and rattlesnake passed the day unmolested, now beautiful homesteads and herds of livestock, second to none in the United States, dot the countryside. . . .

"Tonight, our gathering here . . . has been made possible only by those who have gone before. Tonight, I look back and live again the sure but sturdy growth of our great state as I have seen it. A tree must first be planted, nourished and cared for before others may enjoy the partaking of its fruit. I witnessed the labors of those sturdy pioneers in planting and caring for these trees of human progress, the fruits of which we so richly enjoy here tonight. . . .

"Most of them now rest beneath the sod. And to them with bared head I pay homage. And to them I pass on and dedicate the honor that you have conferred upon me tonight."

**Dr. Cross**

"The next individual to be honored this evening is one of the greatest community builders Oklahoma has ever known, and, in the words of one of his associates, 'one of the kindest men that ever lived.' . . . His formal education was limited, and in June

of 1897 he decided to leave the roll of school and cast his lot with the field of journalism. He took a job with the *Daily Ardmoreite*. He swept the front office and wrote occasional editorials for a salary of \$25 a month. . . .

"His greatest talent lay in his ability to bring people together and have them work harmoniously. He demonstrated this with his magnificent work with the Ardmore Chamber of Commerce. . . .

"He is one of Oklahoma's most beloved citizens, not only because of what he has done, but because of the way in which he has lived—with kindly willingness to serve the people whenever and wherever he could.

"I take great pleasure in presenting to John T. Easley this certificate (Distinguished Service Citation).

**Mr. Easley**

". . . It gives me great humility to receive honors here tonight that I never dreamed would be mine. But it awakens in me a greater love and regard for our state, and a deeper devotion to this institution of learning, and the men who guide its destinies. . . .

"As far as I have information, my achievement of ownership of one of Oklahoma's daily papers is unique in this state. A group of business men who owned the stock of the paper placed me in the edito-

**Continued page 24**

## Association . . .

out your income tax—both a matter of integrity.

Following the luncheon the Sooners held a short business meeting and elected the following officers: George A. Souris, '47ba, president; John L. Craig, '33bs, vice-president; and Gerald A. Talbert, '47ba, '50 Law, secretary-treasurer.

**President Cross** addressed the Denver, Colorado, Chapter of the University of Oklahoma Association, held in Denver March 14. During his speech he outlined the University's progress and activities in current years.

An election of officers was held at the meeting. Robert McWilliams, '40ba, was elected president of the Colorado group. Other officers chosen were Dr. Robert E. McCurdy, '44bs, '46med, vice president; Wilburta G. Congdon, '44bs, secretary; and Robert Seymour, '36-'41, treasurer. Retiring officers are Harry B. Kniseley, '26ba, '29ma, president; John H. Tippitt, '38ba, '40Law vice president; and Keith Bennett, '49bs, secretary-treasurer.

**The Los Angeles Club** held a dinner March 21. Following the meal Charles Forbes, '22ba, '25ma, conducted an informal question and answer session on the prevailing conditions in Soonerland. Thirty-three alumni attended the meeting.

**Some Sooner Texans** down Border way have grounds for two legitimate brags. They influenced Bud Wilkinson to visit Texas without the protection of "Bid Red" and were correct in estimating the size head it took to consistently produce winning teams. Bud was presented a "Stetson" as a token of the appreciation of his coach-

ing record by the North Plains Chapter and it was a perfect fit.

Bud addressed the group April 14 giving a short talk on his opinions of the real facts behind the present collegiate athletic demerit and athletic subsidization problems. Following his talk Bud narrated accounts of the recent O.U. Varsity-Alumni football tussel while showing the group a film of the game.

**The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Club** honored Dr. John E. Fellows, dean of admissions and registrar at the University, and Mrs. Fellows at a meeting April 26. The group met at a buffet supper given by Dr. Elden Magaw, '28ba, '31Law, and Mrs. Mildred Hilloway Magaw, '35ba, in their home in Lansdowne.

The buffet featured Oklahoma dishes and was climaxed with Oklahoma pecan pie.

Following the supper Dean Fellows told the group of the new developments on the campus and described some of the work being done by other alumni clubs throughout the country.

The club has planned a family picnic on the last Sunday in June to be held in the Phoenixville home of Paul Barton, '19bs, and Mrs. Rosetta Briegel Barton, '15ba, '16ma.

### Help!

The magazine needs alumni help. A news item concerning a birth, marriage or change of address tells 10,000 alumni the event in one mailing. All stories should be mailed to the Roll Call editor, *Sooner Magazine*, University of Oklahoma, Norman.

## Achievement . . .

rial and business control, with the privilege of using the net earnings to purchase the stock. In appreciation of the generosity of these men, I have always felt that the paper belongs to the community. I have been able to separate myself from ownership, and to devote its columns to the interests of Oklahoma, and, more particularly, to Ardmore and Southern Oklahoma. . . .

"With great sincerity of affection and reverence for the University of Oklahoma, its president, and for the University of Oklahoma Association and its president, I shall ever be grateful for your kind consideration of me and for statewide honors you have bestowed upon me."

**Dr. Cross**

"The next recipient of the highest honor which the University of Oklahoma and the University Association can confer has had a most extraordinary career. He was a cowboy and rancher from 1896 until 1901. He taught in rural schools in Oklahoma from 1901 until 1905. . . . He has been with the University since 1914 with the exception of a brief period spent at Harvard working for the Ph.D. Degree which was conferred on him in 1922.

"He was always able to charm his students, and he married one of them, Rosalie Gilkey, '17ba, in 1919. . . .

"His first love has always been American history, particularly the history of Oklahoma. His scholarly works are numerous—too numerous to be mentioned at this time. But in the minds of many, his greatest talent has been his ability to make history available and meaningful to non-historians. . . .

"But far more important than his academic and professional accomplishments is the manner in which he lives. His kindly attitude toward all of his fellow men, his geniality, his ready wit, but above all his gracious willingness and ability to do practically anything for anyone at any time were doubtless uppermost in the minds of the committee which selected him for this award.

"I am very happy to present to Research Professor Edward Everett Dale, '11ba, this certificate (Distinguished Service Citation)."

**Dr. Dale**

". . . My philosophy of achievement can be expressed very briefly since it contains nothing new. It is simply true achievement comes only from hard work devoted primarily to unselfish service to others. Perhaps the need for unselfishness and consideration for other people is no greater today than in the past, but it seems greater in the complex society of the densely popu-



Borger, Texas, alumni heard Coach Bud Wilkinson as principal speaker at their spring meeting. Shown with Bud are Sam Naifeh, '39eng, '49eng, Larry Keaton, '45eng.

lated areas in which most of us now live than it did in the more simple life of a generation ago. . . .

"It is obvious that one can render the maximum service only by sustained effort for so long as he lives. This thought comes to me with peculiar force just now because within a few weeks I am retiring from the University which I have been privileged to serve for 38 years. I look forward to retirement as the graduating student looks forward to Commencement—not as an end but a beginning. . . .

"Regardless of whether or not he ever attains wealth or fame, the man who devotes to the last his energies to unselfish service will never be afraid of life—or death. Because, as the shadows lengthen toward the east, until the time comes when he realizes that the final Great Commencement is at hand, he can look back without regret and forward with faith that this too is not an end but a beginning. The beginning of something finer and more beautiful than this world could ever give."

#### Dr. Cross

"It is not unusual for a graduate of the University of Oklahoma to become prominent in international affairs, but such recognition is not usually attained before the age of 40. Our final citation this evening goes to an alumnus who has had an amazing record in the diplomatic service well in advance of the age of 40. . . .

"He studied physics and geology at the University of Oklahoma, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1933. . . . He held membership in Phi Beta Kappa and was elected Rhodes Scholar from Oklahoma in 1933. . . .

"It was in 1941 that he began his distinguished career in public service. . . . World War II interrupted his career and he served as a naval lieutenant. After the war he returned to Washington where he accepted an appointment with the State Department serving as Co-ordinator for Aid to Greece and Turkey. . . . As he demonstrated his ability, his responsibilities increased, and in December, 1951, he was named Ambassador to Turkey. It gives me great pleasure to present this certificate to George C. McGhee."

#### Mr. McGhee

" . . . I regret exceedingly not to be with you in person to receive this award. Were it not for the serious problems facing both our country and Turkey at this critical juncture, and the great distance involved, you can be assured that I would have arranged to be present. I greatly appreciate the courtesy of the University in asking my mother to receive the award in my behalf and to make this statement for me."

"I have a genuine affection for the University, and a keen appreciation for the contribution it made toward my own development. I have on this occasion given particular thought to the principle ways in which I feel that the University has influenced me in a constructive way. . . .

"First, the University gave me excellent training in a practical subject which was related to the environment of our great southwest and to the problems which I was to face later in life. . . .

"Secondly, the University gave me a very real sense of democracy, at its best, as we know it in America. In no other place have I encountered such democratic relationships among students from all walks of life, and between the students and their professors, as we have in the University of Oklahoma. . . .

"Third, there was inculcated in me in the University a conviction that public service, service to the state or to the people as a whole, is the highest calling to which a man can aspire. . . .

"I want to express again my sincere appreciation to the University of Oklahoma and for the values for which it stands, values for which I am sure it will continue to stand in the future."

In closing Dr. Cross said (the award winners) "have demonstrated to their fellow Oklahomans what can be done if one is willing to serve society with energy and devotion. May their achievements provide inspiration for others, especially the young men and women who are about to begin their lives of service."

## Sports . . .

It is much too soon to size up O.U.'s 1952 football offering but a good guess is it will be slightly stronger than last year's squad, even with the loss of All-American Jim Weatherall and line-backer Bert Clark.

**There was no** guessing about the effect of the University Regent's action in offering Bud Wilkinson a 10-year pact to stay at Oklahoma. It was an extremely popular move.

The terms of the contract provide that Wilkinson will remain as athletic director and coach and that anytime he wishes to retire from coaching he may retain the athletic directorship and name his successor. In addition the contract forbids Wilkinson's ever leaving Oklahoma to coach at any other school during the 10-year period.

**Just at press time** it was learned that the University of Oklahoma was consciously violating a Big Seven ruling concerning the recruiting of athletes.

President George L. Cross reported that

at the Big Seven's spring meeting the representatives of other conference members were notified that O.U. was not conducting its business on the conference standard.

The violation occurred over a rule that forbids coaches to initiate contact with highschool athletes but permits alumni to do whatever they like toward recruitment with minor reservations.

Since other conferences and independents in the area were not bound by a similar rule, O.U. decided to break it.

The violation will last only until September when even stricter regulations of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary schools will go into effect.

Dr. Cross pointed out that under the Big Seven ruling O.U. was being penalized but under the North Central regulation all schools in Oklahoma and the surrounding states would be operating under the same plan.

**Oklahoma's two** national wrestling champions, Billy Borders and Tommy Evans have qualified for the Olympic wrestling team. A third Sooner, Jack Blubaugh, a member of last year's NCAA tourney team, also qualified in the Olympic trials.

Borders was the only first place winner but Evans and Blubaugh took runnerup honors. All three will report to Annapolis for preliminary skirmishes before sailing to Helsinki, Finland. No one knows yet which of the Olympic qualifiers will get to face actual competition. The U.S. representative in each weight will be determined by a best two out of three bouts between the winner and runnerup in each weight. Since Borders and Blubaugh are in the same class, O.U. will be represented by at least one representative. Evans must take his opponent two out of three times to get the starting berth.

## Covering the Campus . . .

island just 103 miles from the north pole to establish a weather station.

The idea for the station was originated by Fletcher when the island was discovered by a weather flight several months ago. It will serve as the first continuous source of information on polar weather, which is necessary for accurate forecasting in the northern hemisphere.

Fletcher, now 31 years old, has been engaged in meteorological research for the Air Force since 1941 when he received his B.S. in engineering physics from the University. He took basic flight training at Westheimer field before the war.

The island on which Fletcher and his party are working has been officially named Fletcher's ice island. It is nine miles long and is drifting in a circular pattern at the rate of one mile a day.