

PARTICIPATING IN THE 7TH ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT DAY program were President George L. Cross, Judge Royce Savage, '25ba, '27Law, president of the Alumni Association, and distinguished honorees Judge Alfred P. Murrah, '28Law, Maj. Gen. F. S. Borum, W. G. Skelly, Mrs. Edyth Thomas Wallace.

The Sooner Salutes

MAJ. GEN. F. S. BORUM
 DR. ROY TEMPLE HOUSE
 JUDGE ALFRED P. MURRAH
 W. G. SKELLY
 MRS. EDYTH WALLACE THOMPSON

Five distinguished Oklahomans, who have given much of their lives to helping to build Oklahoma and to improve the opportunities of its people, received the University's highest honor April 8 at the seventh annual Achievement Day dinner.

President George L. Cross presented Distinguished Service Citations to Maj. Gen. F. S. Borum, commanding general of Tinker Air Force Base; Dr. Roy Temple House, Norman, founder and long-time editor of *Books Abroad*, international literary quarterly; Judge Alfred P. Murrah, '28Law, of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Oklahoma City; W. G. Skelly, Tulsa oil company executive, and to Mrs. Edyth Thomas Wallace, Oklahoma City newspaper columnist and authority on parent education.

Selection of the five outstanding Oklahomans was made by a secret committee on the basis of their achievements in advancing a "better contemporary society and for their efforts to make Oklahoma a better-known state."

General Borum was born in Winchester, Illinois, shortly before the turn of the century, but moved to Muskogee before Oklahoma became a state. After graduation from high school, he went to work for an automobile firm, later changing to the more active oil industry. Then he entered the construction business, and with his partner, installed the first sewage system in Dewey.

In 1917 he enlisted in the Aviation Sec-

tion of the old Army Signal Corps, and after ground training at the University of Texas and flight instruction at Kelly Field, San Antonio, he was commissioned a second lieutenant. He served as an instructor at various flying schools during World War I.

Following the armistice, Gen. Borum was placed in charge of flying at Love Field, Dallas, and later at Ellington Field, near Houston. In 1919 he became commanding officer of the 20th Squadron of the First Day Bombardment Group, where he served until he was assigned to the Industrial Procurement Planning Office in Washington, D.C.

In 1923 he was sent to Buffalo, New York as representative of the Industrial War Plans Division, where he had the job of helping survey plants to determine their production potentials. From here General Borum served in various commands, until World War II, when he organized and trained the first Troop Carrier Command at Stout Field, Indianapolis—a command that was to participate in the first paratroop drop during the Normandy invasion of 1944. He had the added responsibility of training all flight nurses in evacuation methods.

Several other important military assignments followed during the next few years and he was promoted to brigadier general. Then in 1945 he was given command of the Oklahoma City Material Area at Tinker

Field, where he has become well known to most Oklahomans.

As Dr. Cross stated at the banquet, "His administrative brilliance has been largely responsible for this largest and newest industrial giant in Oklahoma. After taking command in July, 1945, he started to build and develop the base through the introduction of brilliantly conceived production techniques . . . and through his genius and energy, he developed the largest, most productive Air Force overhaul and maintenance installation in the country." He established the production-line maintenance system now used universally by Air Force installations.

Dr. House did not come to stay in Oklahoma until 1905, after he had received his Ph.D at the University of Chicago, and had been a secondary school administrator in Ohio for five years. His first post in Oklahoma was as head of the Modern Language Department at Southwestern State Normal School.

After some years there, he devoted the academic period of 1910-1911 to teaching in Germany on an exchange basis, and at the end of that time he came to the University of Oklahoma as Professor of German.

Here he served as head of the Modern Languages Department from 1918 to 1942 and as a Professor of Modern Languages from 1942 to 1949. In the spring of that year he was named Professor Emeritus.

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The Sooner Salutes . . .

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Said Dr. Cross in making the presentation to Dr. House:

"During his long career in education, perhaps his most outstanding characteristic was his interest in the cultural efforts of others. The greatest expression of this interest may have occurred in 1926 when the idea of an international journal of literary review was conceived which led, in 1927, to the first issue of *Books Abroad*.

"Very few of his colleagues of that year realized the tremendous importance of this new periodical," Dr. Cross continued, "although many were willing to help with the venture . . . The great success of *Books Abroad* and the part that our honoree

played in achieving this success are well known to all of us. . . .

"His eminence as a scholar and a linguist has been recognized both at home and abroad."

Dr. House, who was too ill to attend the banquet, is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and numerous linguistic organizations. In 1948 he was endorsed by the South Central Modern Languages Association for the Nobel Peace Prize. The same year he was inducted into Oklahoma's Hall of Fame.

Judge Murrah's start would not have pointed to his present position in Oklahoma. His mother died when he was very young, and his father when he was 12 years old. He and his brother, who had been taken to Alabama by their father, returned to Oklahoma by riding freight cars.

Having only six years of school behind him, he took examinations and entered high school, completing the four-year course in three years, while earning his own expenses. In spite of a busy schedule he did well enough in school to graduate as valedictorian and class orator.

He entered the University of Oklahoma in 1922 and received the LL.B. degree in 1928. Although again earning his way through school, he was a member of a number of organizations and was president of the freshman law class.

After passing the bar, he practiced until 1932, when he was assigned the job of U.S. District Judge—making him the youngest district judge ever to be appointed. He was 32 years of age. In 1940 he was elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Judicial Circuit.

NATIONAL CONCERN, WITH PLANTS IN EIGHT CITIES, DESIRES:

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In spite of his quick rise and busy life, he has been a commissioner of the Last Frontier Council of Boy Scouts for more than 12 years. He served as chairman of the Red Cross drive in Oklahoma City for five years, and as campaign chairman of the United Fund drive for two years. He has taught a Sunday school class for more than 15 years. Judge Murrah is chairman of the National Committee for Traffic Safety, and has been chairman of the Pre-Trial Committee of the National Judicial Conference since 1948—a group appointed by the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court—and even filled in as a professor at the University one year when two resignations left the law faculty short.

William Skelley's rise has been equally fabulous. He was born in 1878 in Erie, Pennsylvania, where he attended public schools and a business college. Later he went to work for an oil company and stayed until 1898 when he joined the Army for service in the Spanish-American War.

In 1903, after being employed for a time by a gas company, he started his career as an independent oil operator, moving to Tulsa in 1912. From this beginning he has moved upward until he was in a position to serve at one time either as president or as a director of 12 corporations, most of which are not involved directly with the oil industry, although that is his primary field.

In addition he has been a director of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce since 1923 and twice was elected president of that group, in addition to a directorship of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

He has held posts on more than 20 important boards involved with the development of Oklahoma and the Southwest. Also, he has been active in religious work, acting since 1939 as a director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Skelley has headed Brotherhood Week for the state and has been active in more than 30 groups involved in community welfare. He is a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, besides receiving numerous other honors.

Mrs. Edyth Thomas Wallace, a transplanted Iowan, did not start on her road to success in Oklahoma until she had passed 40 years of age. Her husband had died, in 1923, leaving the family practically destitute. There were three children.

Mrs. Wallace worked for a time in a YWCA and then opened a small cafeteria. It was during this time, perhaps because of her own problems of parenthood that she became interested in parent education, and took a position with Ardmore schools as a "mothercraft teacher." This was 1927.

Because of the extreme success of her

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new venture, she was given the territory of southeastern Oklahoma and the title of Parent Education Teacher. The fact that she had only a high school education did not seem much of a handicap, but she took courses at the University of Iowa and at Teachers College of Columbia.

Her work continuing to receive favorable attention, she was invited to Oklahoma A&M to teach summer sessions in adult education. After five years, she joined the staff of the Oklahoma Publishing Co. with the title of home counselor, writing daily columns entitled "Our Homes" for the *Oklahoman* and articles on family relations for the *Farmer-Stockman*. Her newspaper column is now syndicated and appears in some 60 newspapers six times each week.

Her work has included lectures, teaching at O.U. and national tours in parent education and child guidance work. Three years ago she gave the keynote address at the Vocational Conference held at the University of Iowa.

In addition to other organizations she is a member of the board of directors of the Oklahoma State Council of Family Relations, the Oklahoma City Community Guidance Center and is president of the Oklahoma City Altrusa Club. In the April issue of *Woman's Home Companion*, she is named as one of the 10 who received honorable mention as outstanding club-women of the year.

To these five people who have done so much for Oklahoma and for Oklahomans, the *Sooner Magazine* offers its heartiest Salute.

Up Front . . .

A role the College of Education accepts as a logical one is that of counselor for administrators and teachers not enrolled. If a high school administrator wishes information on one of a hundred subjects he is apt to find it available to him through the College. A teacher can find helpful material for testing, curriculum building or audio visual teaching. The problem of teacher education is a continuing one and is so treated by the College.

In the University catalog, the brief description of the College reads: "The College of Education is organized to give guidance and instruction to students who intend to enter the field of professional education as teachers, supervisors, administrators, or other educational workers; to conduct research and special studies in education; and to co-operate with the public schools and other agencies in the promotion of a strong system of public education."

To meet these varied assignments, the College of Education has a new home, a



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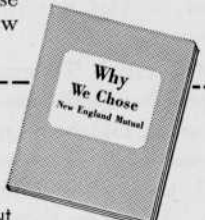
While Keith A. Yoder, Elkhart, Ind., worked his way through the University of Michigan, he had no pin-pointed plans for the future.

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