

PRAISES MISS ANTONE, A TEACHER WHO ENCOURAGED HIM TO STAY IN SCHOOL

Then, about that time, why, I got sick, got hurt in a ball game and never did gain my weight back. So I dropped out of school the last three months. And my 7th year, I had been out so long that I didn't finish up my junior year. I decided that I just wouldn't go back. Long about 10th of September, I had a letter from Miss Antone. She told me if I would come back to school, I could take my senior year, and I would get my grades as a junior, could go ahead and graduate. However, I had set in my head to be valedictorian in my class. She told me that since I didn't take the examination and things that I couldn't be valedictorian, but yet it was alright to come back and graduate. That she would recommend it. I thought quite a bit of her, so I took her at her word, and I went back. And I re-entered school 'bout the middle of September. Sure enough I just begun right where I'd left off. I started in my quartet, debate, and glee club, different activities. The quartet was, as I say the thing that I really enjoyed. We entered several contests and we never did get lower than second. We entered in different places like Winfield, KU, and Oklahoma A&M. And we sang at all kinds of functions, like the HI-Y, we represented school at HI-Y conventions at A & M, Kansas University. And then we sang weekly on radio stations, Ponca City, Arkansas City. Then we had a program once a month. It was a religious program over a station, over in Enid. We did that the entire year. Then we made two special appearances in Bristow, there was a radio station there. And then besides, my academic work I studied the other trades, and I wasn't too interested in athletics, mainly because I'd got my leg hurt a little bit in football, and I didn't care about playing too much. But I did play baseball, and I was on the track team. So my athletic life never did start 'til I went to college. I look back at it now, and I wonder how I ever made a college