Sooner persons and personalities

A judge whose interest is civic progress instead of politics—A charming girl whose “sure intent” is service—A war veteran who carries on in science

Earl Foster

Perhaps the greatest good university graduates may do to the world in which they live is to give unselfishly of their time and service to their communities and states. It requires a real and intense interest in the people who make up our age. A Sooner who has not only given of his time to civic affairs but whose service has been recognized is Earl Foster, ’12 arts-sc., ’13 law.

Mr Foster is a member of the supreme court commission, with offices in the state capitol. Named to this high judicial position in 1927, Judge Foster has been one of the few Oklahomans in high office against whom no complaint or accusation has been voiced in the “clean-up” made of the various state offices.

In the university Mr Foster was the first president of the student council and helped draft the student constitution. He was editor-in-chief of the Umpire, the predecessor of the Oklahoma Daily, and while interested in campus journalism helped secure the Oklahoma chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic fraternity. When he was editor, in 1911-12, the Umpire was a bi-weekly paper.

In addition to his membership in Sigma Delta Chi, Mr Foster was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Phi Delta Phi and Delta Sigma Rho (he debated for the varsity against Missouri), and of the Senate and House of Representatives debating societies.

After leaving the university, he practiced law at Drumright, serving as city attorney. From 1917 to 1920, he was county attorney of Creek county, resigning during his second term to form a law partnership with E. B. Hughes. In 1927 he was appointed to the supreme court commission.

Politics interest Judge Foster, but only in the sense that any avocation interests any normal man. His real interest, apart from law, lies in civic work. Perhaps the basis for that attitude was laid in college, when he went out for football. “I always wanted to play football and went out regularly,” he says, adding with a smile, “but I guess I was just a scrub. But we must have our team of scrubs—I have helped to develop some mighty good football teams in my time.”

It is but a step from that spirit of making a good football team—whether you wear the “O” or whether you have helped make the men who wear it—to making life more livable for your fellowmen. In Creek county, particularly, you hear almost everywhere of Earl Foster’s share in community progress. He served on the board of directors of the Sapulpa chamber of commerce and was president of the chamber one year. During his administration the industrial drive that revived Sapulpa was launched.

Mr Foster served as president of the county humane society, of which at one time Mrs Mabel Bassett was county agent. But Mr Foster’s greatest interest was in Rotary club work. After serving as president of the Sapulpa Rotary club, he was honored by being made the president of the district Rotary club, embracing Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas. There were fifty-four clubs in the district, from great cities like Kansas City to small towns. Part of his pleasant duty was to visit these cities, to counsel with the clubs on their civic work, the basic principle of Rotary. It was a great experience, one that Judge Foster recalls with the greatest pleasure.

He is serving his third term as a member of the University of Oklahoma alumni board. Mrs Foster, a graduate of Epworth university (now Oklahoma City university) is working at the University of Oklahoma on her master’s de-
degree in English. The Fosters have two children, Earl jr., aged 12, and June, 8.

 Grace Browning

"Pretty is as pretty does" is an adage often used in the most feline way. It can however be used in a serious manner when we find beauty that is also accompanied by brains and the "sure intent" made famous by Mr. Kipling.

It is in this connection that we speak of Grace Browning, '25 art-sc., who is not only exceedingly pretty but does things in the finest possible manner.

Her classmates of '25—indeed perhaps most of those who attended the university between 21 and 25—will remember Grace Browning as brown eyed, brown haired, olive skinned, medium in height and personally most attractive.

But since a woman who "does things" is more impressive than one who is merely pretty they will best remember her for her high record of scholarship and leadership during her four years in Norman.

She was one of that small group from her junior class who were elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In the same year she became a member of Mortar Board. She served as a member of the Oratorical council and was during four years a worker in the Y. W. C. A. Part of this four years she was in the Y. W. C. A. cabinet.

These offices with their attendant duties and her necessarily hard course of study could be achieved only by one with a serious outlook on life and the ability for great concentration. This seriousness and this keenness of mentality are perhaps Grace Browning's chief characteristics.

The recognized position which she gained in school would be for the less ambitious a peak to rest upon. For Grace Browning it was a stepping stone to higher goals.

She became a member of the staff of the United Providence association of Oklahoma City after her graduation. As such she was an example of what we expect of the social service worker. We are all familiar with the social service worker ought to be. We are all familiar with the social service worker such she was an example of what the social service worker in the Y.W.C.A. Part of this position which she recognized and these duties were taken for granted and neglected by us.

That these personalities do exist and that the university has produced at least one of them becomes evident when we review the success of Enoch Ferrell.

Mr. Ferrell was born in 1898, graduated from the Sedan (Kansas) high school in 1914 and the following September entered the university. In 1917 when the United States entered the war he did not wait for conscription but withdrew from school on May 2 and entered the officers' training camp at Fort Logan. He was rolled to complete his work. In June, 1920, he received his B. A. degree.

One degree is rarely enough however for the truly ambitious, and he remained to get a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 21. An M. A. degree was his next goal and while doing his research work towards this he worked in the field of the short wave radio under the direction of Dr. William Schriever, professor of physics. Ferrell also taught mathematics while working for his M. A.

He was a brilliant student and the record which he made in the university resulted in his going immediately from graduation to the research department of the Bell Telephone laboratories to work on short wave radio problems.

The best gauge of his work with the Bell company may be found in the August issue of the Bell Laboratories Record, a monthly magazine issued by the research division of the Bell Telephone Co. in New York City.

This publication contains an article by Ferrell on "The Trans-Atlantic Short-Wave Transmitters" and a picture of him with the caption, "One of the engineers associated with the development of transmitters used in trans-Atlantic radio."

The same magazine contains the following: "E. B. Ferrell has had a large part in the development of the transmitters at Lawrenceville."

Helping dollars

How the student loan fund aids education

By Emil R. Kraetli

STUDENT loan funds, or the borrowing of money to finance a student's education, probably date back to the beginning of colleges and universities. Whether the money is loaned by an individual or an organization, the results are the same.

The plan of making loans has a distinct advantage over the direct scholarship; the money is used over and over