Hall of Fame

Two prominent alumni of the University of Oklahoma and one professor emeritus have been named to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

Judge A. P. Murrah, '28Law; Attorney General Mac Q. Williamson, '12Law, and H. H. Herbert, David Ross Boyd professor emeritus of journalism, through their achievements, dedication and service to Oklahoma were listed among the greats on the state's 52nd birthday.

A. P. Murrah, judge for the U. S. Court of Appeals for the 10th judicial circuit, was elevated to this position in 1940 from the U. S. District Court of the State of Oklahoma. When appointed to the District Court in 1937, Murrah was only 32 years old, at that time the youngest judge ever to be named to this post.

Before entering public service, Judge Murrah practiced law in Seminole and Oklahoma City. He holds an honorary doctor of laws degree from Oklahoma City University and has been visiting professor of law both at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Colorado.

Murrah has been active in civic enterprises and professional organizations. For more than 10 years he was commissioner of the Last Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts and chairman of the Oklahoma City United Fund and Red Cross drives for six years.

A member of the American Bar Association, Murrah is past chairman of the judicial section and a member of the board of directors of the American Judicature Society.

Honors and awards are nothing new to Judge Murrah. In 1954 he received a distinguished service citation from the University for outstanding service to the state and nation. Also in 1954, he received the Hatton W. Summers award for outstanding services rendered in the improvement of administration of justice during the preceding years in a five-state area. He was honored in 1957 by the National Conference of Christians and Jews at the sixth brotherhood dinner.

Mac Q. Williamson is Oklahoma's attorney general, a post he has held almost continuously since 1934. He was a member of the first law class to graduate from O.U. and was admitted to the bar in 1913.

Returning to his home in Pauls Valley after World War I, Williamson was elected county attorney of Garvin County for two terms. He served two terms in the State Senate representing Garvin, McClain and Cleveland counties. He had returned to private practice in Pauls Valley before being elected attorney general.

Williamson interrupted his term of office at the capitol in 1943 for a period of active duty with the Army in England, France and Germany in World War II. He was re-elected to the state post in 1946 to supervise the legal affairs of the state and to serve as legal counsel for state agencies and adviser to Oklahoma's 77 county attorneys.

H. H. Herbert retired from the O.U. teaching staff in June, 1959, after 46 years of service to the University. For 28 of those years he was director of the School of Journalism and is recognized as architect and builder of the school. Not inclined toward inactivity even in retirement, Herbert is now teaching part-time at Oklahoma City University.

Herbert holds a BA from the University of Illinois and an MA from the University of Wisconsin. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa scholastic fraternity and Sigma Delta Chi and Kappa Tau Alpha journalism fraternities.

From 1907 to 1913 he was associated with Illinois newspapers, joining the O.U. faculty in 1913. He was named director of the School of Journalism in 1917 and established the Sooner State Press, a weekly newspaper for state editors and newsmen, published by the school.

He has served as an officer in the American Association of Teachers of Journalism, American Association of University Professors, Southwestern Journalism Congress, Press Congress of the World, National Editorial Association and Oklahoma Press Association.

During the summers Herbert has been visiting professor at various schools in the Southwest. He was president of the O.U. Journalism Press for 15 years, chairman of the University publications board for many years and, at one time, part owner of the Norman Transcript.

For his students, who man 89 of Oklahoma's newspapers and hundreds of papers throughout the world, Herbert's lasting impression is that of absolute honesty and truth in reporting and interpreting the news while holding high the principles of freedom of the press.