COMMENTARIES

("Thumb Nail Sketches of 100 Educators and Louisiana Politicians of the Twentieth Century")

By

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207 L.S.U. Avenue
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Dedicated to:

Dr. Murphy P. Rogers
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Because of their training, many of these students have become teachers and strong supporters of the public education system in our state. Thus, the teachers have affected eternity and their influence lives on.

Commonwealth is a unique, delightful and interesting collection of history and personal anecdotes as recalled by R. E. "Tex" Roberts, admiringly referred to by his friends as "Mr. Education of Louisiana." Its dedication to this state certainly affects the future of generations to come.

W. W. McDougall
Vice President Vocational Administration
Louisiana State University System
Foreword

Henry Brooks Adams wrote "A teacher affects eternity, he can never tell when his influence stops."

The educators and politicians "sketched" in this book have affected eternity for Louisiana. They have been strong advocates of the public education system and many of them have devoted their entire adult lives to making this system better for future generations. They championed causes that were unpopular in their time but have since become the firm foundation on which to build a progressive program of education. They have not only fought for necessary legislation and taught the basic fundamentals - they also have instilled in students an appreciation of the past, an awareness of the present and an eager anticipation of the future.

Because of their training, many of these students have become teachers, and strong supporters of the public education system in our State. Thus, the teachers have affected eternity and their influence lives on.

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W. W. McDougall
Vice President for Administration
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"Commentaries" is the result of the following note of December 11, 1984 from my friend, athletic team mate, and professional associate, Dr. Murphy P. Rogers, of Grand Cane, Louisiana:

Dr. Ted:
"I enjoy "Dear Folks." I hope you will keep me on your mailing list. It's good to know what you are thinking about. And it's good to hear about some of our old friends. Why don't you get out a special edition of Commentaries on some of them?"

Consequently, I have written a number of Commentaries or "Thumb Nail Sketches of Educators and Louisiana Politicians of the Twentieth Century."

I decided to be guided by the hope that:
The good that men do lives after them.
The evil is interred with their bones.

No research was conducted by me. I have entrusted to my memory the responsibility for all of the Commentaries.

E. B. (Ted) Robert
October 17, 1898

Commentaries

1. J. B. ASWELL

J. B. Aswell was a noted speaker and campaigner for public education. He was at one time President of the State Normal School, State Superintendent of Education and later U.S. Congressman from the 8th. Congressional District. He was a Peabody scholar and beneficiary of one of the Peabody scholarships.

2. C. L. BARROW

Dr. C. L. Barrow was a member of one of the pioneer families of Louisiana. He was highly successful in the promotion of education for Negroes, particularly Grambling College. Also a successful parish Superintendent of Schools in Tensas and East Baton Rouge Parishes; as a college President at Southeastern, and member of the State Department of Education. He was one of the most famous owners of fighting roosters in the United States.

3. J. W. BATEMAN

J. W. Bateman was a unique character from Washington Parish. His success ranged from head of a college department of agriculture, to Parish Superintendent, to State Department member, to Director of Agricultural Extension at LSU, to supervisor of a large plantation in Tensas parish, to traveling salesman. His sense of humor was a never-failing virtue.

4. NICHOLAS BAUER

Famous Superintendent of New Orleans public schools. Left to be Superintendent of San Francisco School System. Great supporter of teachers' retirement system and sound curriculum. Favorable separate schools for boys and girls. Was a leader among Louisiana superintendents; a man of stature and elegant appearance.
5. REX BEARD

A sound financial administrator who served Tensas Parish as treasurer, State Department of Education as Finance officer, East Baton Rouge as parish Superintendent of Schools. Husband of Louise Beard, Commerce teacher in LSU Lab School and father of Tommy Beard, Head of Economics Department, LSU, and Randy Beard, Phi Beta Kappa graduate student at Vanderbilt University.

6. H. L. BOURGEOIS

A French gentleman of culture and refinement. Superintendent of Terrebonne Parish, staunch friend of LSU and entertainer of LSU commencement speakers for Terrebonne High Schools each year. Retirement income supplemented by his board upon retirement. Sound philosophy of public education.

7. LIONEL BOURGEOIS


8. T. D. BOYD

A Virginia gentleman, President of LSU. Man of tremendous influence with the legislature and the people. A President who governed the University and commanded respect.

9. J. W. BROUILLETTE

An Avoyelles Parish educator who served from the principalship of a three-room school to Director of Extension at LSU. An early graduate of Peabody College. A parish and state supervisor of schools of superior performance; a father who educated three children — one a physicist with General Electric at Syracuse, NY. President of National Association of Directors of Extension; a writer of rare accomplishment.

10. LILLIAN FATHEREE (MRS. WILL BUCK)

A red-headed English and Latin teacher during my high school career. An accomplished musician and participant in school and community affairs. Wife of a physician and mother of three successful children. Lived to be 84 years of age, active and highly respected throughout her long life. Teacher, counselor, friend.

11. B. C. CALDWELL

A former institute conductor from Illinois who came to Louisiana and became President of the State Normal School. Caldwell Hall at Northwestern State University bears his name.

12. MIRIAM CARVER


13. J. P. CAUSEY

One of the leaders of progressive education who operated a sound program of education as school principal and influenced educational practice as a state supervisor of elementary education. A student of Prescott of Maryland and Kilpatrick of Columbia. Now a resident of the State of Washington.

14. LOUIS CAYER

An individual who was an outstanding high-school and college athlete. A parish superintendent of superior performance. A leader of workshops and conferences sponsored by the N.E.A. Prominent in the affairs of the Louisiana School Boards Association.
15. FELTON CLARK

Phi Beta Kappa of Columbia University, son of J. S. Clark, President of Southern University. Served as President of Southern University. Leader in Southern Association for equal representation for minorities. Promoted sound academic and athletic programs at Southern. A man with national recognition for ability and performance.

16. RODNEY CLINE

Member of a pioneer Louisiana family. Highly successful as College instructor and author of educational studies. Served as high-school principal, college professor and Dean at several institutions. Retired from LSU. A musician of note and a Christian in ethics and practice.

17. MAJOR J. P. COLE

A veteran of Chateau Thierry with injury to leg. Major in U.S. Army. Mathematician of note. Leader of high quality. Friend and associate without a peer. Father of large family all of whom are successful contributors to society. Hobbies — raising quail — playing draw poker.

18. JOHN R. CONNIFF

A Latin scholar who was principal of Fortier High School in New Orleans. Member of State Department of Education and President of Tech University at Ruston. He always won the argument with John E. Cox. until Cox gave him a test of 10 words that were spelling demons that he failed.

19. RALPH W. CORDIER


20. C. C. COTTINGHAM

Former President of Louisiana College and Tech University. Prominent in 8th-District politics; ran for congress. Man of outstanding personality.

21. JOHN E. COXE

Former Superintendent of Livingston Parish, Assistant State High School Supervisor, and State Superintendent of Education. Fired by Superintendent Harris and later defeated Harris for State Superintendent. A man who enforced standards for certification of teachers and steered clear of political control of his office.

22. MS. JOHN E. COXE

Wife of State Superintendent of Education, John E. Cox. Supervisor of Home Economics in State Department of Education. Member of East Baton Rouge Parish and President of School Board. A dynamic leader beyond political or other influence.

23. A. L. CRABB

My major professor at Peabody for the Ph.D. in 1935. A superior teacher, novelist, poet, lecturer, and religious leader. Author of 7 novels and numerous poems, essays and studies. His greatest asset was his love of people and his enjoyment of history.

24. E. M. CULVER

The founder of the Louisiana State Library and the leader in the establishment of parish libraries throughout Louisiana. A woman of dynamic influence with the Legislature and the public.
25. GÉRÔME H. DEER

Came to Baton Rouge from Alabama as Principal of the Laboratory School. Served as Professor of Education and Dean of the Junior Division at LSU. One of the best teachers employed by me as Dean of Education. Outstanding producer of educational studies and a successful teacher of many extension courses.

26. W. J. DODD

I sent Bill Dodd to Oakdale as a teacher of speech. He succeeded there. Also as a candidate for state representative. He has held 4 state elective offices, including State Superintendent of Education. Bill Dodd has a sense of humor and loyalty that have never failed.

27. JOHN J. DOLES, SR.

John J. Doles was Chairman of Bossier Parish School Board, Chairman of LSU Board of Supervisors, and Chairman of Louisiana School Boards Association. He conducted a highly successful workshop for more than 600 School Board members. His influence was good in every area in which he served, including the banking business.

28. W. J. DUNN

W. J. Dunn, left Evergreen High School as principal when I was in the fourth grade. He went to Tangipahoa as principal at Amite. He became Parish Superintendent of Tangipahoa. He was a stern disciplinarian and a very successful administrator.

29. LUTHER H. DYSON

Dr. Luther Dyson is the last and the best Ph.D. candidate I have had. He was a very successful parish supervisor, a member of a college faculty, and was the President for many years of Southeastern State University. He has a record of remarkable achievement in public education.

30. MARTHA FELTUS

Miss Martha Feltus, a native of Baton Rouge, was a superior teacher of history, particularly Louisiana History, for many years at Northwestern State University. She returned to Baton Rouge upon retirement and built several apartments for rent.

31. JOEL L. FLETCHER

Dr. Joel Lafayette Fletcher, President of the University of Southwestern Louisiana was the greatest friend that students ever had. He was instrumental in seeing that students had an opportunity at USL to earn an education.

He was rationally recognized in agriculture, particularly rice. USL experienced a period of tremendous growth and development under his administration.

32. IRVING P. FOOTE

Dr. Irving P. Foote was a successful professor especially in the field of elementary education. He was Dean of Education at USL and Professor of Education at LSU. He guided hundreds of students for masters' and doctors' degrees at LSU. His office was always open to students.

33. JOHN M. FOOTE

Dr. John M. Foote was the author of most of the plans for financing public education during the time of Superintendent Harris and later. He was also the leader in standardized testing in the early years. Dr. Foote and Dean Ives brought the Red Rose organization to LSU. He was a frequent guest instructor here and elsewhere, particularly in the summer session.

34. L. M. FRAZIER

Lethar Frazier never faced a problem that he thought he could not solve. He worked his way thru USL. He served as principal of DeRidder and also as Dean of John McNeese State University. He was Lt. Governor at one time. He never aban-
doned politics and he never met a problem to which he did not apply political formulae.

35. A. A. FREDERICKS

Mr. Fredericks took great pride in his boyhood experiences in Goldonna, La. He was happiest when he was doing something for somebody. He was Head of the Department of Agriculture at Northwestern State University. He was responsible for the farm, the dairy, and all related activities.

He became State Senator from his district. He was the personal friend and Secretary of Governor Earl Long. He completed work for the masters’ degree before he became a college president. He was instrumental in providing a college education for many deserving students. He added millions of dollars in building, equipment and landscaping to the college through his influence with the state administration.

36. WILLIAM FRESHWATER

Mr. William Freshwater was a 100 pound polio victim who served as principal of Evergreen High School and Denham Springs for many years. He was a native of Illinois. His greatest asset was helping his students thru high school and college. He was also a very successful businessman, especially in real estate.

37. FRED C. FREY

Major Fred C. Frey has been called the “Noblest Tiger of them All” — from Track Coach to Acting President. His love was cadets of the ole war skule. He knew more graduates than any person connected with LSU. His principal contribution to LSU was as Dean of Academic Affairs. His service touched every aspect of LSU life and improved it.

38. L. L. FULMER

Dean L. L. Fulmer has had a career as Lt. Col. in the Air Force, as educator, and as a worker for active and retired teachers. He has been President of the Louisiana Teachers Association, and is a Trustee on the Board of the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana. He is a former Dean of Education at LSU and also a past President of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association. He is now President of the LSU Retirees’ Club.

39. LLOYD V. FUNCHESS

Dr. Funchess was a talented person. He was State Supervisor of Music. He was Director of the State School for the Blind and planned the new facility for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind in South Baton Rouge.

He was Superintendent of East Baton Rouge Parish Schools. He owned and operated his own airplane. He was a follower of many sports and a lover of the outdoors.

40. P. H. GRIFFITH

Mr. P. H. Griffith was Director of the General Extension Division of LSU. He had served as Assistant Superintendent of East Baton Rouge Parish and as Principal of Eunice High School. For many years he was Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Teachers Association. He is largely responsible for the laws granting tenure and providing a retirement system for teachers of Louisiana.

41. NOEL B. HACKETT

Mr. Noel B. Hackett served as Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Teachers Association and also as Executive Secretary of the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana. He was a successful high school principal and supervisor. He is now retired and makes his residence at Denham Springs, Louisiana.

42. T. H. HARRIS

The Honorable T. H. Harris is the ranking educator of Louisiana of all times. His service as State Superintendent of Education for 28 years established the course of public education for
the century. He was not only a leader among educators but he was perhaps the most powerful politician of our time, using his influence for the promotion of public education.

The basis of Mr. Harris' education was laid at the old Normal School at Natchitoches and completed years later with the masters' degree at LSU.

He respected learning and scholarship, but he never wavered in his practice of common sense in all human relations.

43. L. M. HARRISON

Dr. L. M. (Pat) Harrison was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Washington and Lee, and high school science teacher in Birmingham, Ala. He was also a supervisor of Science in the LSU Laboratory School and a Professor of Education at LSU. He is perhaps the best educated and the most competent teacher LSU has had.

He was highly successful in relating his teaching to the world in which we live. Audio-visual education was one of the media that he developed and used most.

He made a great deal of the equipment and the teaching materials that he used. The loyalty of his students showed the extent of his influence.

44. W. B. HATCHER

Dr. W. B. Hatcher was a strong administrator as Superintendent of East Baton Rouge Parish and as President of LSU. He was loyal to his friends. He was above political influence. His personal honor was his greatest asset and pride. He was a steady, guiding influence for LSU during World War II and afterward.

45. T. P. HEARD

It is said that no one ever doubted the word or the promise of T. P. (Red) Heard. He advanced from water boy to Director of Athletics at LSU. He built a substantial physical plant with federal and self-generated funds. He controlled most of the facilities including the gymnasium and swimming pool. He employed coaches loyal to him and to LSU. He was a supreme politician and used his influence to promote athletics at LSU.

46. C. W. HILTON

Dr. C. W. (Wince) Hilton was not only a supervisor of music but he was also a major in commerce and business. He was Director of Research and also Director of Graduate Studies in Education. He produced studies of great value to school boards and educators. He was responsible for a tremendous teaching and research load. Friends believe his devotion to duty hastened his untimely death.

47. HOMER L. HITT

Dr. Homer Hitt was a sociologist with a practical turn of mind. His greatest achievement was the building of a great urban university (The University of New Orleans) from the ruins of an old naval air station on Lake Ponchartrain. His relationship with the teaching staff, the legislature, and the public left nothing to be desired. He retired with honor and distinction.

48. GENERAL C. B. HODGES

General Hodges was a military man of stature. As a university president he relied chiefly upon the Dean of Academic Affairs for guidance and advice. He was a shrewd judge of human nature. All of his cards were face up on top of the table. He was open and frank in all of his dealings. He did not hesitate to make decisions. He was irked by details and formality. Economy was a religion for him.

No message should be too long to be written on the back of an envelope. The reply should be on the reverse side. His term as president was without scandal, gossip, or ill will. It restored confidence in university leadership. He was beyond all factionalism or political influence.

49. A. M. HOPPER

No man lived who could work longer or harder than A. M. Hopper. He would begin at 7:00 a.m. where he stopped at 2:00
a.m. the night before. As State Supervisor of Elementary Education, he left home on Sunday, visited schools until Friday p.m.; returned to the office on Saturday morning and prepared a written report for the State Superintendent and the Parish Superintendent. Next Sunday he began the same schedule in another parish.

He believed that supervision had one purpose — the improvement of instruction. He was an expert on the evaluation of teaching and in suggesting remedial measures. The several courses that he and I conducted for prospective supervisors were greatly improved by his thorough preparation of syllabi, assignments, and examinations. He was a tireless worker, a good teacher, and an excellent supervisor of instruction.

50. JOHN A. HUNTER

Dr. John Hunter was ambitious. He knew what he wanted and he worked for it. He majored in educational administration for the Ph.D. because he expected to be President of LSU.

He advanced from coach, teacher, registrar, director of research, and dean to the presidency of LSU in less than 10 years. He was also President of the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges and of the National Order of the Moose. He retired as he had planned. He became a ham radio operator after years of trying to pass the examination. He traveled thousands of miles throughout the world and offered the services of LSU in many fields and in many foreign countries. Perhaps he knew more foreign rulers and dignitaries than any man of his time. He died prematurely with cancer after his voluntary retirement.

51. C. A. IVES

Dean Ives loved Greek and he also loved Kiwanis, the Red Rose, Kappa Delta, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He was the chief official of all of these groups at one time or another. He loved the association of good friends.

The Dean was very helpful in the transition to his successor as Dean in 1940. He was very economical and did not push for more adequate facilities for the College and Laboratory School.

However, he was very cooperative with those who believed LSU should make adequate provision for teacher education.

The Dean was a teller of great stories and was helpful in the publication of his autobiography by the Bureau of Educational Research of the College.

He had an enviable record as State Supervisor of High Schools and as a high school principal before he joined LSU in 1923. He retired at the age of 70 in 1940.

52. SHELBY M. JACKSON

Superintendent Tom Harris said, "All Shelby wants to do is to hold a banquet and make a speech." Shelby did hold many banquets and make many speeches. He was a master teacher of Agriculture and devoted advocate of FFA clubs in high schools.

He was fired by Superintendent Coxe but returned to defeat him for State Superintendent of Education.

Shelby Jackson was re-elected State Superintendent and led all state candidates in getting votes. He became ambitious and ran for governor. He was defeated, thus ending a long and distinguished career in education.

Unfortunately Shelby could not tolerate opposition or competition and he failed to leave anyone trained to succeed him.

53. RALPH WALDO EMERSON JONES

Ralph Jones is the most unique character in the history of Louisiana education. He was at home paddling the boat while Superintendent Harris was fishing, coaching the baseball team during his entire tenure as President of Grambling College, or persuading the Governor and Legislature to make up a deficit of $500,000.

During the heat of the fight for equal rights and integration, Ralph Jones called on the President of Tech University — only three miles from Grambling, and said, "If any negroes show up here, you call me and we'll take care of them all!" And he did. He produced more football players for professional teams than any college in America. He ran a fine institution, with a fine sense of humor, and a personal relationship unparalleled in Louisiana history of education.
54. SAM JONES

Sam Jones won the Governorship of Louisiana in the late 1930's following the great scandals growing out of the Huey Long rule of the State. Later he was defeated in a landslide by Earl, the younger brother of Huey.

Jones was a brilliant, well educated lawyer and politician, an eloquent speaker and a former Commander of the American Legion. He believed that everything was wrong and had a ready-made solution. One of his first acts was to fire the entire Board of Supervisors of LSU. Every department of government was re-organized with the view of saving money and promoting efficiency.

His reforms soon fell apart. He made the statement that he never found one man who did not have his hand out for profit. He would not repeat the reform errors but was through with politics.

55. J. W. KISTLER

Dr. Kistler was a professionally educated person in health, physical, and recreation education. He became Head of the LSU Department in 1940 and remained until age 70 at the time he retired.

At the beginning he had a two-year contract. Four tenured faculty members indicated that they would run the Department and Dr. Kistler would have little or no influence. Dr. Kistler reported to me as his Dean. We saw the President. He accepted my recommendation to accord Dr. Kistler permanent tenure and to place the four dissenting members on probation. At the end of the first semester, two were notified that they would be terminated in May. For the next thirty years, Dr. Kistler had no further trouble.

During his tenure he obtained complete facilities for the department and initiated a doctoral program. All areas of the Department were strengthened.

56. C. E. LABORDE

Cliff Laborde served as high-school principal, parish superintendent of schools, and member of the State Department of Education. At Vinton he was a successful principal. At Marksville he consolidated about 29 schools of Avoyelles and developed large central high schools. These reforms led to his retirement as Superintendent of Avoyelles Parish. In the State Department of Education, he assisted in the planning of hundreds of school buildings and other facilities.

57. W. A. LAWRENCE

Dr. W. A. Lawrence, retired Director of Teacher Training at LSU, began teaching in a one-room school with a first-grade teachers' certificate and advanced thru the high-school principalship, with a Ph.D. degree, to professor of Education at LSU. The annual Phi Delta Kappa lecture is named for Dr. Lawrence, long an adviser of the fraternity.

Dr. Lawrence is a mathematician of note. He has two sons — one in insurance and the other in geology.

58. E. A. LEE

Ed Lee, Superintendent of Natchitoches Parish Schools, was regarded by State Superintendent Harris as one of the best in Louisiana. Superintendent Lee developed a splendid school system in one of the largest parishes of the State. He extended full cooperation to Northwestern State University in the program of teacher education.

Natchitoches Parish was noted for its attention to basic education and supervision of instruction.

59. J. G. LEE

Judge, as he was affectionately called by friends, was Dean of the LSU College of Agriculture, including experiment stations and county and home agents in the 64 Louisiana Parishes.

After his recovery from a stroke, he was the most influential man in LSU history with the farmers and the Legislature. He told me that a friend in Arkansas cured his stroke by having him take a strong drink of whiskey upon retiring each night, reading the Bible until he fell asleep, and then playing at least 9 holes of golf each day. He did recover.
The LSU branch at Alexandria was originally named the Dean Lee College. He was Chairman of the LSU Committee on Scholarships and Student Aid and also the powerful Athletic Committee.

No man contributed more to LSU through the services of his College, appropriations from the Legislature, Federal Grants, and loyalty of friends and alumni than J. G. Lee.

60. EARL K. LONG

Earl K. Long was perhaps the most unique and picturesque Governor Louisiana has ever had. His inhibitions were few. His exhibitions were many. He was a fascinating politician and some say a better vote getter than his brother Huey.

He provided a single salary schedule for white and negro teachers in 1948. He had a mental lapse and was sent to Texas for treatment. However, he escaped and came home. He also later escaped from Mandeville where he was sent and resumed his duties as Governor.

He and “Miss” Blanche, as he called his wife, were never reconciled. Earl Long was never involved in any of the Louisiana scandals. He kept faith with Louisiana throughout his life.

61. HUEY P. LONG

Huey — the advocate of “share the wealth” and “every man a king”. Louisiana Governor and United States Senator. Father of free textbooks for children. Builder of Louisiana State Capital. Great builder of roads and bridges. Absolute dictator, particularly after he escaped impeachment as Louisiana Governor. Adopted LSU and the football team. Built the LSU Medical School in New Orleans. Used state employees and facilities to promote his program. Founded newspaper for political use. Assassinated because of slander of prominent Louisiana judge. Scandals broke after his death.

62. W. W. MCDougALL

W. W. McDougall, now Vice President of LSU System for Administration, former Director of State Department of Civil Service, Commissioner of Administration, and Vice Chancellor of LSU School of Medicine, Chairman, State Employees Retirement System and Group Benefits Insurance Program, former employee of Federal Civil Service System.

Adviser to Governor and legislature on matters affecting Civil service, insurance, and related matters. Competent, industrious, dependable, patriotic.

63. A. C. MADDOX

A. C. Maddox — professional educator and noted teacher of mathematics — the best college teacher I ever had. Closed career as President of Northwestern State University. Native of Arkansas. Father of celebrated Director of Athletics of LSU and Mississippi State College and a mathematics professor of Southeastern State University. Devoted Christian and practitioner of his faith.

64. CARL MADDOX

Son of A. C. Maddox, President of Northwestern State University. Backfield coach, LSU football National Champions 1958. Director of Athletics at LSU and at Mississippi State University. Builder of Bernie Moore Stadium and Field House of LSU and expansion of stadia at LSU and Mississippi State University. Promoter of athletics for high school and college youth. Highest ethical and professional standards.

65. ROBERT E. MAY

May was a successful high school principal at Abbeville. Director of Secondary Education in the State Department of Education. Dean of the University of Southwestern Louisiana Graduate School. Professor of Education at LSU. President of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association and Executive Director of same. Leader in accreditation for Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. Outstanding Rotarian. Son, a professor at USL; daughter, a professor at LSU.
66. T. H. MIDDLETON

Middleton rose to the rank of General from the ranks. Teacher education graduate of Mississippi State College about 1908. Never foresook ambition to be President of LSU while he was Commandant of Cadets or Comptroller. His opportunity came in 1950 when Harold Stoke was fired as LSU President. Made a reputation as investigator of the scandals following flight of Dr. J. M. Smith to Canada in 1939. Always catered to wishes of conservative friends. Spent most of his time and effort with matters dealing with the physical plant and administration. Little attention to academic affairs or faculty welfare and research.

Middleton is remembered for his genial approach, his friendly contacts, and his honesty and integrity in all of his dealings.

67. B. F. MITCHELL

Dr. Ben Mitchell is remembered for his rare sense of humor, his pipe and tobacco, and the friends he made and helped along the way. He was a personal friend of Superintendent Harris and is believed to have made J. M. Smith President of LSU.

He earned his Ph.D. from Peabody and advanced from high school principal at Delhi and Welsh to Professor of Education at USL to Dean of the Junior Division at LSU; to Head of the Department of Education and Director of Graduate Studies at LSU.

B. F. Mitchell is a former President of the Louisiana Teachers Association and an influential member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

His son has a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Wisconsin and is a Marine veteran of Iwo Jima.

68. AUGUSTA NELKEN

Miss Nelken came up during a period when women neither sought nor were selected for administrative positions. She was equipped by training and personality to be the Secretary of the Louisiana Teachers Association or the President of the State Normal School. She was often mentioned — but never a candidate — never appointed.

She made her career as Supervisor of the Seventh Grade of the Northwestern Laboratory School and as a leader in the work of the PTA and other educational and civic groups. She held the masters' degree from Columbia University and was a patron of music and the arts. She was without an equal as a classroom teacher, a supervisor and a civic worker.

69. H. A. NORTON

Superintendent Norton was recently honored by the Calcasieu Parish School Board and BESE with the title of Superintendent — emeritus for 29 years of distinguished service as Superintendent of the Calcasieu Parish School System. He will be honored soon with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

Norton was a superintendent distinguished for financial skill and attention and results in the improvement of instruction.

70. L. D. OWEN

L. D. Owen was a man of great mental and physical stature. He was a super salesman, a business manager and a politician. His philosophy was that he would determine where he went, how he traveled, whom he saw and how he did business. All he asked was that the publishers pay him for the business that he obtained for them. He had friends who never knew that he was selling anything. He enjoyed fishing and all other types of outdoor recreation. I have seen him bet $25 that he would sink a 20 foot putt in golf or that he would catch the first or the biggest bass. He never worried about money, but he was never lacking in ample funds for housing, insurance, liquor, fine foods, and the best automobiles. He was a real optimist and entrepreneur.

71. CARLETON C. PAGE

Carleton C. Page is a Ph.D. in business administration. He knows money and the investment of large funds. He knows the value of stocks and bonds. He understands the language of finance. He has no fear of politicians or of audits or investiga-
tions. He can disarm a hostile committee with a frank and open statement to any question. He manages a billion-dollar retirement fund as well or better than I handle my personal income. He knows human nature. He trusts his employees but does not leave them without supervision.

He is at ease with one individual or a group of one thousand. He is President of the National Association of State Directors of Retirement Systems and also Director of the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana.

72. JOHN M. PARKER

My first vote for Governor of Louisiana was for John M. Parker. He was the father of the Greater Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College. He was responsible for moving the institution from downtown Baton Rouge to the immense plantation site south of the city on Highland Road. He was a cotton broker of the city of New Orleans and not a professional politician. He was satisfied with one term as Governor of Louisiana. He wrote an enviable record for attention to duty and for efficiency in State government.

73. BRUCE R. PAYNE

Dr. Payne was the ideal selection for President when George Peabody College for Teachers was created and endowed as the super Normal School of the South. He raised the endowment, built the institution, and assembled the greatest faculty of educators yet brought together in America. He gave teaching a professional status at the common school, college and university levels which would not have been achieved without his vision, intelligence, and industry.

74. SHELTON PHELPS

Shelton Phelps was Director of Graduate Studies of George Peabody College for Teachers for many years. Under his supervision leaders were provided for colleges and universities and for the public schools. Peabody had graduates who were college and university presidents, deans, professors, registrars, county and state superintendents, supervisors, and teachers throughout the country: Peabody was indeed the source of leadership in professional education.

Dr. Phelps was an excellent scholar in his own right and a director of research by others. For many years he served without pay as the Secretary of the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. He was a student of higher education. He closed his career as President of Winthrop College in South Carolina. He was a man of noble character and profound scholarship.

75. WILLIAM PITCHER

William Pitcher was Superintendent of St. Tammany Parish Schools, and a member of the LSU Board of Supervisors. Former LSU football great. Follower of LSU sports and advocate of vigorous athletic program in high schools. A Superintendent content to employ good personnel in supervision and administration and to reserve the public relations field to himself.

76. LLOYD PORTER

Lloyd Porter was Superintendent of Iberia Parish Schools for 39 years. No teacher was ever penalized for a day of sickness during that time. Mr. Porter was a member of a distinguished Louisiana family. He was known as a skilled financier and good school administrator.

He obtained the support of taxpayers for an excellent school system in Iberia Parish.

77. H. LEE PRATHER

Mr. Prather was a graduate of law from the University of Missouri. He came to the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1913 as football coach. President Roy of Northwestern State University invited him to Northwestern in 1914, and he went there, coached football, baseball, basketball, track, and tennis, and finally retired as President. He retired and took up residence on Lake Bruin in Tensas Parish.
78. JAMES D. PRESCOTT

Mr. Jimmy Prescott was a successful teacher and member of the Central staff in the East Baton Rouge Parish school system. He has completed all work except the dissertation for the Ph.D. in education at LSU.

Since about 1950 he has been the Executive Secretary of the Louisiana School Boards Association. The Association includes all parish school systems of Louisiana. It has tremendous influence on the promotion of public education.

79. W. B. PRESCOTT

W. B. Prescott was a member of LSU's first football team. He was Principal of Opelousas High School and for many years Superintendent of St. Landry Parish. This parish was selected by the State Department of Education as the best supervised in the State. Mr. Prescott was President of the Louisiana Teachers Association. He was one of the most influential supporters of Superintendent Harris and of the financing of public education.

St. Landry was among the first of the parishes to provide parish-wide supervision of schools. All of the high schools were accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. St. Landry had a most successful parish teachers organization and a monthly educational publication. It was the first parish in the state to offer college extension courses to white and to black teachers. St. Landry carried on a continuous program of standardized testing and evaluation of instruction.

80. E. S. RICHARDSON

E. S. Richardson moved from high school Principal to Parish Superintendent to College President. Webster Parish, where he was Superintendent, was selected by the State Department of Education as the best administered school system in Louisiana and the most consolidated.

Superintendent Richardson had an exhibit of Webster Parish education that attracted nation-wide attention. E. S. Richardson was a most effective promoter in gaining support for education.

81. HORACE C. ROBINSON

Horace C. Robinson made his major contribution to Louisiana education as Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Teachers Association. He served before and during the transition to the Louisiana Association of Educators and was a harmonious worker in race relationship. Many of the improvements in teachers' salaries and educational conditions are due to the leadership of the Louisiana Teachers Association and Horace C. Robinson. Mr. Robinson retired early and now lives at 9743 Molly Lea Dr. in Baton Rouge, La.

82. H. G. ROBINSON

H. G. Robinson is remembered best for his tenure as principal of Homer High School in Clarborne Parish and as Executive Secretary of the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana. He was a sound administrator and a professional educator.

83. J. B. ROBERTSON

J. B. Robertson, a versatile person in engineering, education, art, poetry, philosophy, and religion. Former high school principal and state supervisor of instruction. Member of National Camping Association, resident of retirement community of Village Woods in Baton Rouge, La. Maintains a studio in his home. An avid student of history, particularly the South.

84. M. S. ROBERTSON

Dr. M. S. Robertson was among the first Louisianians to earn the Ph.D. at George Peabody College for Teachers. After successful years as high school principal in Natchitoches and Lefourche parishes, he did graduate work and joined the State Department of Education. He made a number of valuable studies of school transportation.

He closed his career as Professor and Director of Research at LSU. His most important work was a History of Education in Louisiana since 1898.
85. DR. MURPHY P. ROGERS

Dr. Murphy Rogers is a doctoral graduate of Columbia University. He was a superior college athlete in several major sports. He was a member of the State Department of Education and a highly respected friend of Superintendent Harris. He was Director of Teacher Education at Northwestern State University and also at LSU. He retired from LSU and returned to the family farm at Grand Cane where his major interest has been cattle raising and farming. He enjoys fishing in Colorado every summer. He is responsible for my undertaking the pleasurable task of writing about people that he and I have known through the years.

86. PAT ROGERS

Many people wanted to know Pat Rogers' real name. He always said, "My name is Pat Rogers." Pat Rogers was perhaps the most astute business man in education in his time. My first job was with him when he was Principal of Patterson High School. He was also Principal of Homer High School. He was Supervisor of Secondary Education in the State Department of Education. He was principal creator of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and the first Executive Secretary. He was a founder of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association and its President for many years. He sponsored many bills in the Legislature to improve living standards of retired teachers. He died on his way to a retired teachers district meeting with the Legislative program for the year grasped in his hand.

87. R. L. ROPP

Ralph Ropp of a small village in Ohio came to the State Normal College at Natchitoches as a teacher of speech. One of his best students was William J. Dodd later Lt. Governor of Louisiana and State Superintendent of Education.

When a vacancy occurred in the Presidency of Louisiana Tech University, Bill Dodd was able to present Professor Ropp as the successful candidate. Ropp became one of the most popular Presidents who ever served Louisiana Tech.

88. VICTOR L. ROY

Mr. Roy's experience ranged from County Agent, Superintendent of schools of Lafayette and Avoyelles at the same time, President of Southern University, President of the State Normal College, employee at LSU, retiree. Mr. Roy was one of the keenest intellectuals of his time. He was conversant with the great men and the problems of his day. He was perhaps the greatest inspirer of good teaching in Louisiana.

89. L. A. SIMS

Mr. L. A. Sims was far more than the run of the mill school man. He was Principal at Cheneyville High School. He was the founder and the first President of Southeastern University at Hammond. He was Business Manager at Northwestern State University. He ran for State Superintendent of Education. His son was District Attorney in Tangipahoa Parish. The Library at Southeastern is the Linus A. Sims Library.

90. JAMES MONROE SMITH

No one can speak truthfully about James Monroe Smith unless he knew the man. Beyond all the scandals and disgrace, Jim Smith spent much of his life helping his fellowmen. He was never happier than he was when he was able to do something for a friend or even an acquaintance. I know. Not only I but many others have been beneficiaries of his kindness and generosity when he was able to be of help.

Dr. Smith served as high school Principal at Vinton, Louisiana. He also served as Dean of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, and President of LSU. He held the Ph.D. from Columbia University.

He became involved in the scandals of Louisiana in the 1930's and sold faked bonds and robbed the State and the University. He fled to Canada. He finally returned and was sent to federal prison in Atlanta. He promised to tell his friends how and why he became involved, but he never did. He spent some time at Angola Prison and worked in the Library there and in researching records of prisoners long ago forgotten.
He returned to Baton Rouge and lived his last days with his
daughter Marjorie and children.

91. E. L. STEPHENS

Dr. E. L. Stephens was the sharpest wit among college presidents of Louisiana. He was a Latin scholar. He was President of the University of Southwestern Louisiana for about 30 years. He formed a society of Louisiana live oak trees. He was a lover of nature. He developed the institution from a two-year college into a fine four-year institution.

92. L. P. TERREBONNE

Dr. Terrebonne was a very successful principal at Sunset and at Ville Platte. He was the supervisor who conducted the General Education Board study in supervision in Ascension and Assumption Parishes. He was Superintendent of Iberville Parish for many years. He was an educational advisor and minister in Haiti. He was one Superintendent who placed instruction at the top of all educational priorities.

93. FRED G. THATCHER

Mr. Thatcher was at one time registrar, teacher of commerce, President of the Ouachita Parish School Board, and Secretary of the Louisiana School Boards Association. He became full-time Secretary of the Association and moved headquarters to Baton Rouge at LSU. He developed a strong association. One of his sons was an engineer, one was a physician, and his daughter was a musician. Mr. Thatcher held an honorary doctor's degree from Northwestern State University.

94. W. W. TISON

Mr. Tison was high school Principal at Melville and Marksville and chemistry professor at Northwestern State University and later at LSU. He was also President of Northwestern State University. He was Secretary of Northwestern Alumni Association. He was a man of firm conviction and impeccable habits.

95. CHAS. F. TRUDEAU

Mr. Trudeau was indeed a gentleman of the old school. He was Superintendent of Pointe Coupee Parish Schools, and was for most of his career Supervisor of High Schools in the State Department of Education. He was an orator without equal and a speaker in great demand at teachers' workshops and institutes.

96. DEAN VARNADO

Dean was her name and she was also Dean of Women at Northwestern State University and professor of history. She was a gentle lady with tremendous influence with the girls and on the faculty of the College. Her counsel was sought by the many presidents under whom she served.

97. JOE D. WAGGONNER

Joe Waggonner was an honor graduate of Louisiana Tech University. He was a very successful business man and banker. He was President of the Bossier Parish School Board and also President of the Louisiana School Board Association. He was a member of Congress but retired voluntarily to return to his business interests. Many people wanted him to run for Governor.

98. GEORGE T. WALKER

George Walker was one who was highly qualified to become a college president. He was Dean of Administration at Northwestern State University and also Supervisor of Commercial Education in the State Department of Education. He held the Ph.D. in Business Administration from LSU. As President of Northeast State University, he developed one of the best four-year colleges in the country.

99. KIRBY P. WALKER

Kirby P. Walker is the Superintendent-Emeritus of the Jackson, Mississippi Public School System where he served.
many years and built a tremendous system of public education. His influence in the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges is still felt in all of the eleven southern states. He is enjoying a well-deserved rest at Jackson, Mississippi.

100. FREMONT P. WIRTH

Dr. F. P. Wirth, Professor of History, was my minor professor for the Ph.D. at Peabody. He was the best college lecturer I ever knew. He was the author of a History of the United States, one of the best. After retirement, he spent some time in Russia and returned to America for a series of lectures on his experiences. He was a historian, a scholar, and a superior college teacher.