

Election by District Committees

1930-1953

As the result of a persistent belief that state boundary lines played too large a part in the election of Rhodes scholars and that the Rhodes Trust might obtain scholars of higher caliber, a bill was introduced in Parliament in 1929 to change the Rhodes will. The Rhodes Trust Act abolished elections by states and substituted elections by eight districts of six states each.

Since 1930 each state committee has nominated its best two candidates to appear before the district committee of Rhodes scholars, who then elect from the twelve nominees so chosen the best four to represent their states as Rhodes scholars at Oxford. Thus, any state might have none or as many as two of its candidates elected each year instead of having two scholars every three years as in the past.

Under this novel arrangement Iowa was grouped with Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Had the old plan of election operated for the years 1931-1954 (omitting 1940-1946 when elections were suspended due to war), Iowa would have sent eleven men to Oxford, while under the new plan Iowa has ac-

tually had thirteen, South Dakota six, Nebraska ten, Kansas twelve, Minnesota thirteen, and Missouri eighteen. Iowa has, therefore, fared slightly better and Missouri much better — at the expense of other states.

Iowa failed to place in the district elections of 1930 and 1931 but succeeded in winning an appointment in 1932. One Rhodes scholar in three years out of a crop of 49 aspirants was rather bitter medicine for a hard-working state committee. Surely state elections had never demanded the labor, futility, and frustration which have accompanied the new plan of selection in some states.

Paul Hamilton Engle

The first Iowa Rhodes scholar under the new system was Paul Hamilton Engle, who was born October 12, 1908, at Cedar Rapids, to Thomas A. and Evelyn (Reinheimer) Engle. After high school Engle went to Coe, where he majored in English and received an A. B. magna cum laude in 1931. At the State University of Iowa he received an A. M. in English in 1932. He also attended Columbia for a year. In 1936 he married Mary N. Nissen. They have two children.

In Merton College (1933-1936) Engle finished "Modern Greats" for the B. A. degree. His M. A. was conferred in 1940.

Since 1937 Engle has been professor of English and head of the creative writing program at the

University of Iowa, a project glowingly described in *The Times* of London. He holds honorary LL. D. degrees from Coe and Monmouth and has been visiting lecturer at Illinois and Louisiana. Besides six published volumes of poetry and numerous poems, articles, and reviews in various periodicals, Engle has had one novel published and two more accepted. In the last two years he has held Ford and Guggenheim fellowships and has become editor of the annual collection of O. Henry prize stories.

Samuel Rhodes Dunlap

Iowa came away empty-handed in the district election of 1933 (twenty-two candidates) but saw one of its nominees elected in 1934 (thirteen candidates). Samuel Rhodes Dunlap was born March 11, 1911, at Bryan, Texas, the son of a building contractor, Samuel H. Dunlap, and his wife Edith (Rhodes) Dunlap. From San Jacinto high school in Houston he went to Rice Institute where he majored in English, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, received the A. B. in 1931 and A. M. in 1932. He did further graduate work at the State University of Iowa. He is unmarried.

As a member of St. Edmund Hall (1935-1938) he pursued graduate study in English literature for the B. Litt. and obtained the D. Phil. in 1939. Except for active duty in the United States Naval Reserve, where he rose from lieutenant to lieuten-

ant-commander, Dunlap has been with the English department at Iowa since 1938, becoming full professor in 1953. Research work has taken him to England and the Folger Library in Washington. Besides writing articles for periodicals, he has edited the poems of Thomas Carew. The warden of Rhodes House at Oxford once praised Dunlap as "the finest amateur pianist" he had ever heard. He was one of the four fortunate Iowans who attended the reunion festivities at Oxford in 1953.

James Rodney Nelson

Two of the twenty-eight Iowa candidates in 1935 had the good fortune to win the district election. One was James Rodney Nelson, who was born June 7, 1915, at Bisbee, North Dakota, the son of a businessman, Edward L. Nelson, and his wife Jessie (Uhl) Nelson. From Newton, Iowa, high school he went to Oberlin College, where he majored in economics, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and received an A. B. in 1936. Nelson married Jane L. Elwell in 1941. They have two children. He is a Congregationalist.

Nelson's superior work at Wadham College in "Modern Greats" brought not only the usual B. A. degree in 1938 but also the George Webb Medley fellowship for graduate work in economics. His teaching career began with instructorships at Harvard and Oberlin. The next three

OXFORD — YESTERDAY AND TODAY

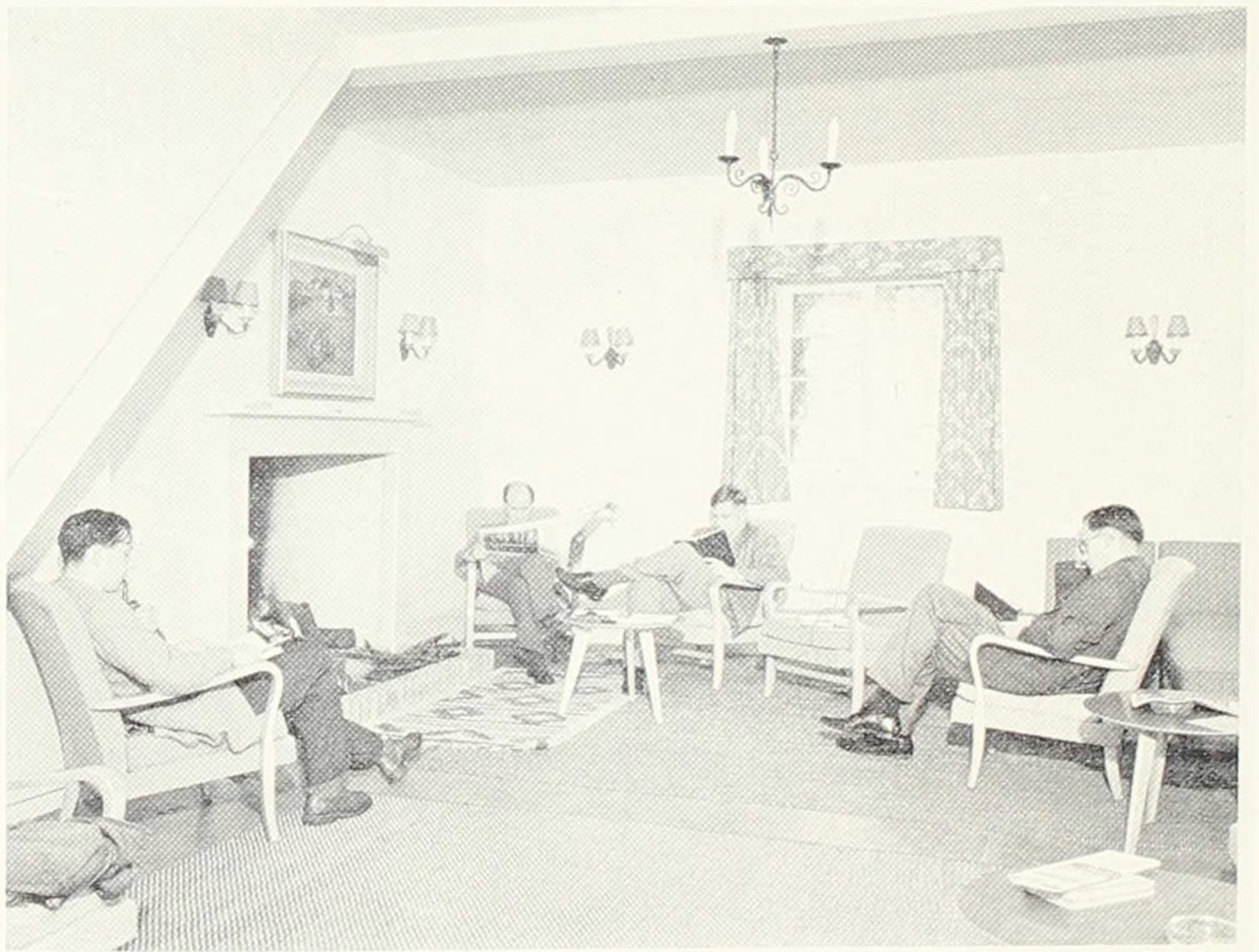


A view down High Street from Queen's College in the Horse-and-Buggy Era



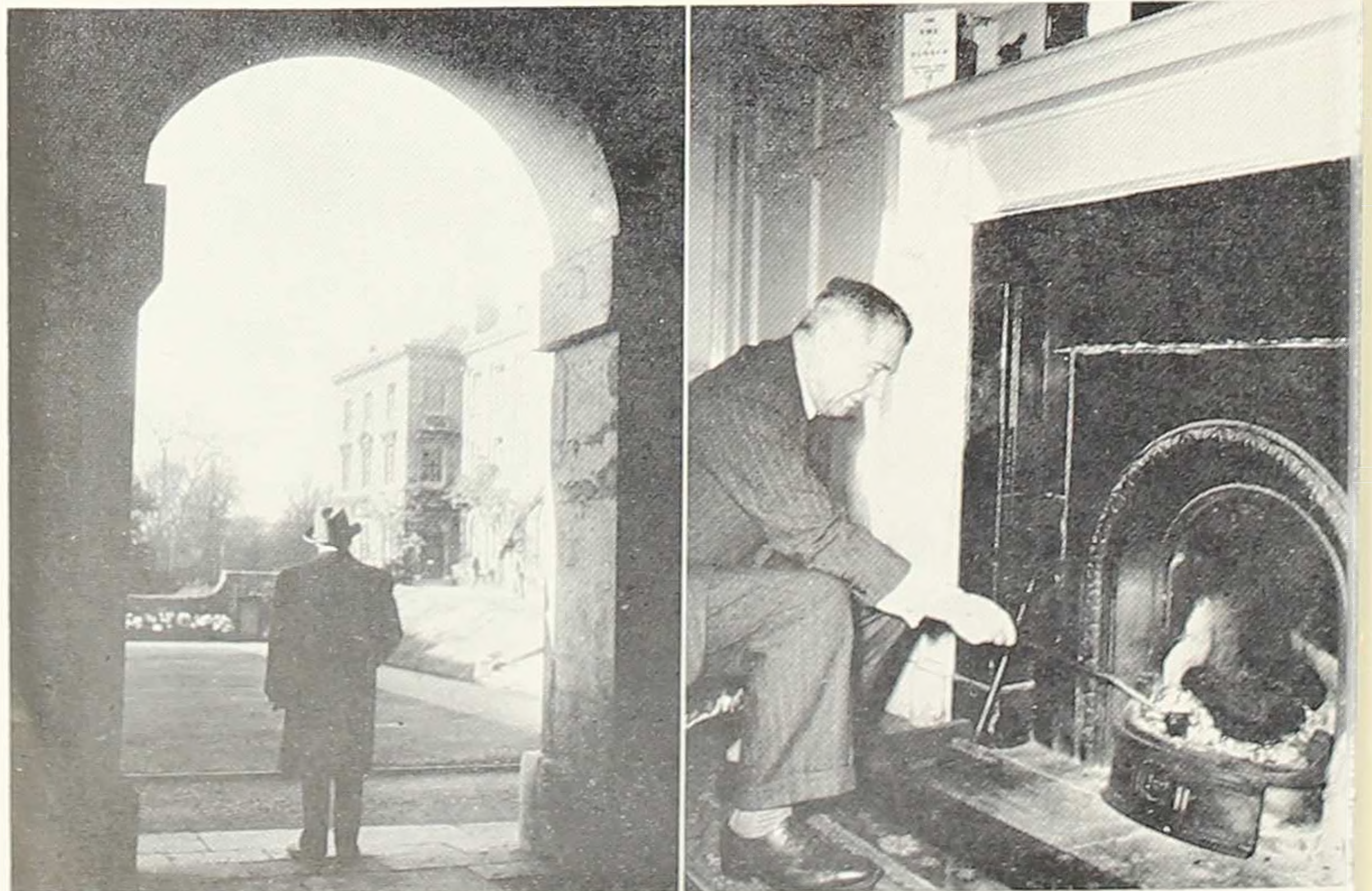
High Street at the present time — "the basic patterns remain"

LIFE AT OXFORD TODAY



Courtesy *The Times* of London

Student Quarters at Oxford. Iowa's Tom Brown is seated at the right.



Virgil M. Hancher revisits Worcester in 1953.

years he was connected with the OPA and the FEA. After employment as economist with Scudder, Stevens and Clark, investment counsel in Boston, he resumed instruction in economics in 1946 first at Amherst, then at Oberlin, and back again in 1950 at Amherst where he has been Merrill Professor of Economics since 1951. Meanwhile Harvard had conferred the Ph. D. in 1948. Nelson is the author of various articles and pamphlets.

Edgar William Timm

The other successful candidate in 1935 was Edgar William Timm, who was born July 11, 1915, at Muscatine, the son of a farmer, Carl M. Timm, and his wife Barbara (Weiss) Timm. From Muscatine high school he went to Iowa State College, where he majored in chemical technology, won numerous honors and awards and received a B. S. in 1936. In 1940 he married Helen T. Waldron. Timm is a Lutheran.

Timm obtained the B. Sc. at Trinity College for research in physical chemistry, biology, and genetics, on the basis of which he collaborated on three papers on reaction kinetics published in the *Journal of the English Chemical Society*. He played lacrosse for Oxford against Cambridge. Timm returned to Ames for graduate work in the genetics department, working especially on bacterial genetics as related to corn. Quoting from *The Ameri-*

can Oxonian: "At this time, when Timm's Ph. D. research was practically complete, he was appointed as full-time Research Assistant on a Rockefeller Foundation project. . . . He was blazing new paths in critical studies of bacterial variation and mutation when without warning he was stricken at the end of a day's work." He died of a cerebral hemorrhage on March 26, 1942.

Courtney Craig Smith

Iowa's nineteen candidates in 1936 failed to produce a winner, but of the eighteen aspirants in 1937 two came out on top in the district competition. One was Courtney Craig Smith who was born December 20, 1916, at Winterset, the son of a lawyer and banker, Samuel C. Smith, and his wife Florence (Dabney) Smith. From Roosevelt high school in Des Moines he went to Harvard where he majored in English, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and received an A. B. in 1938. He married Elizabeth B. Proctor in 1939. They have three children. He is a Presbyterian who attends Quaker meetings.

At Oxford, Smith was admitted to Merton College. The outbreak of World War II interrupted his research for a B. Litt. in English. Returning to the United States, he was teaching fellow, tutor, and graduate student in English at Harvard (1939-1944) leading to A. M. and Ph. D. degrees. War service (1944-1946) saw him rise

from ensign to lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve. Returning to teaching, this time at Princeton, Smith advanced from instructor to assistant professor between 1946 and 1953. On January 1, 1953, Smith was appointed American Secretary to the Rhodes Trust and in April was elected president of Swarthmore College. He attended the Rhodes reunion at Oxford. The author of articles on literary subjects, Smith is also a director of the Association of American Rhodes Scholars, a trustee of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships, and a director of the Markle Foundation.

Edward Ronald Weismiller

The other successful candidate in 1937 was Edward Ronald Weismiller, who was born August 3, 1915, at Monticello, Wisconsin, the son of a farmer, Jacob Weismiller, and his wife Georgia (Wilson) Weismiller. From Appleton high school he went to Swarthmore and later Cornell College where he majored in English, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received an A. B. in 1938. He married Frances M. Power in 1941. They have four children.

War ended his stay at Merton College (1938-1939) but he returned to Oxford to receive the D. Phil. in 1950. Harvard conferred an A. M. while he was a teaching fellow (1940-1943). Thereafter he served as lieutenant in the Marine

Corps Reserves in England, France, and Germany. Guggenheim and Ford Foundation fellowships have enabled him to devote a good deal of time to creative writing since the war. Since 1950 he has taught English at Pomona College.

Edward Charles Freutel

Edward Charles Freutel, one of Iowa's two nominees from nineteen candidates, was successful in the district election of December, 1938. He was born July 22, 1917, at Chicago, the son of a realtor and farmer, Edward C. Freutel, and his wife Kathryn (Scott) Freutel. From Los Angeles high school he went to the State University of Iowa where he majored in history, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received an A. B. in 1939. In 1941 he married Gene M. Baker. They have two children. He is an Episcopalian.

All American Rhodes scholars appointed in 1938 were accepted by the colleges at Oxford, but only one took up residence just after World War II had broken out, staying for one year. Fourteen others saw fit to activate their scholarships after the war, eleven of them getting degrees. Edward C. Freutel (who had been accepted by Oriel) and sixteen others never felt justified in taking advantage of the Oxford opportunity after seven years of interruption. Freutel did, however, complete three years at Harvard Law School for the LL. B. in 1942. Then followed

three years as ensign and lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve, on the *U.S.S. Cleveland* in the South Pacific, and in the office of general counsel of the Navy Department. In 1946 he entered the Los Angeles law firm of O'Melveny and Myers, becoming a partner on January 1, 1954.

Wilfred Martin Kluss

When the election of Rhodes scholars was revived in 1946, after a lapse of seven years, Iowa had thirty-two applicants and, like every other state, was permitted to nominate two for "war scholarships" and one for a regular scholarship. Both of the former were appointed by the district committee.

One of these was Wilfred Martin Kluss, who was born at Waterloo, June 19, 1921, the son of a high school principal, Fred J. Kluss, and his wife Harriet (Slippy) Kluss. After high school in Cedar Rapids he attended Harvard, where he majored in psychology, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and received an A. B. in 1942. During the war he was a lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve with a fast carrier task force in the Pacific. He received a veteran's certificate from the Harvard School of Business Administration in 1947. In 1950 he married Doree H. Congwer, by whom he has one son. Kluss is a Presbyterian.

At New College (1947-1949) Kluss studied

international relations and the economics of underdeveloped societies, receiving the B. A. and the M. A. in 1953. After leaving Oxford, he was employed by the ECA, part of the time in Paris. Later he was with Morgan Stanley and Company, investment bankers in Wall Street. He was operations officer of the Asia-Middle East department of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Washington (1951-1954). At present he is working on problems of Middle East oil for the Socony-Vacuum Overseas Supply Company.

James Bruce Engle

The other recipient of a "war scholarship" was James Bruce Engle, who was born April 16, 1919, at Billings, Montana, the son of a railway machinist, Bruce W. Engle, and his wife Verbeaudah (Morgan) Engle. After attending Burlington high school and junior college he went to the University of Chicago, where he received his A. B. in political science in 1940. He was a State Department liaison officer in Mexico and Central America (1941-1942) and vice-consul at Quito, Ecuador (1942-1944). Entering the navy he became a lieutenant j. g. (1944-1946). Engle was for a time a military government officer in Japan and was vice-consul at Rio de Janeiro in 1947. He married Priscilla J. Wright in 1950. They have two children. He is an Episcopalian.

Engle was a member of Exeter College (1947-1950), receiving the B. A. He then held a Fulbright scholarship in Italy for study with Benedetto Croce and in the University of Naples (1950-1951). He obtained a diploma at the University of Perugia in 1949. He was vice-consul at Naples (1951-1953) and was then transferred to the American Embassy at Rome.

Donald Herschel Rivkin

In 1947 the Iowa committee was again permitted to nominate three of its twenty-six candidates to run the gauntlet of the district committee, and Donald Herschel Rivkin turned out to be one of the six winners. He was born on May 24, 1924, the son of a dry cleaner and Russian-born citizen of Davenport, Samuel W. Rivkin, and his wife Florence (Fryer) Rivkin. After high school in Davenport, Rivkin attended the State University of Iowa for one year. After three years in the United States Army, Rivkin went to Yale, where he majored in economics and minored in English, graduating with Phi Beta Kappa and the A. B. in 1948. He married Lois Berwick Herman in 1953. He is a Hebrew.

Rivkin was the ninth Iowan to become an "old Mertonian": Merton is the only Oxford college which has been partial to the admission of Iowa Rhodes scholars. Its chapel is described as "the oldest part of the oldest college of the oldest uni-

versity in England." Amid such mediæval surroundings (1948-1950) Rivkin applied himself to the study of jurisprudence for the B. A. and then attended Yale's law school, receiving the LL. B. in 1952. He is employed in the law firm of Cravath, Swaine and Moore in New York City.

George Carl Mohr

Of the nineteen Iowa hopefuls in 1948 and seven in 1949 not one of the four nominees was chosen. Better luck attended the nominees from fourteen candidates in 1950: both were elected by the district committee. George Carl Mohr was born on March 27, 1929, to a Cresco salesman, Carl F. Mohr, and his wife Martha (Atzen) Mohr. From Cresco high school he entered Luther College, majored in chemistry and biology, minored in mathematics, and emerged with an A. B. summa cum laude in 1951. He is a Lutheran. At Hertford College he successfully passed examinations in preclinical medicine and finished the honor school of physiology for the B. A. degree.

Robert E. Shepherd

The other successful candidate in 1950 was Robert E. Shepherd, who was born on March 11, 1927, at Garden City, Kansas. His father was a businessman. He completed high school at La Grand, Oregon; spent two years at Eastern Oregon College of Education; and transferred to the

State University of Iowa, where he graduated with an A. B. in history in 1950. Entering St. John's College in 1951, Shepherd began working on a dissertation on trade union problems for the B. Litt. degree, but after five terms he interrupted the scholarship to take a teaching appointment with the University of Maryland extension program for the American Air Force. It is not known whether he will return to Oxford.

Thomas Andrew Brown

During the last three years Iowa's ten candidates in 1951 and eleven in 1953 saw their efforts to reach Oxford doomed to failure, but one of the six candidates in 1952 placed among the victors in the district election. Thomas Andrew Brown was born on July 24, 1932, to an Iowa City theater manager, Charles V. Brown, and his wife Mary (Proestler) Brown. He finished high school and college courses on the campus of the State University of Iowa. He majored in mathematics and minored in philosophy, winning election to Sigma Xi and Phi Beta Kappa. He received the A. B. degree in 1953. He was president of the national congress of Delta Sigma Rho and is affiliated with the Unitarian Church.

At Balliol (generally regarded as Oxford's highbrow college) Brown concentrates on higher mathematics. Of his experience there he writes: "The environment here is not so strange as I ex-

pected, and I feel I'm learning a great deal as well as having a good time. I find the main advantage of the Oxford system is that you are able to go at your own pace, but a great many students here seem to think this means go as slowly as possible."

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How many Rhodes scholars elected to represent other states were born or temporarily reared in Iowa it is impossible to state with certainty, but a number can be mentioned. Arthur H. Marsh (Nebraska '05) was born to English parents who conducted an Episcopalian mission at Calliope in Sioux County in 1883. Marsh was a chaplain when killed in action by German gas in France. Cecil K. Lyans (Oregon '10) once attended Simpson College. Esper W. Fitz (Wyoming '11) graduated from the Guthrie County high school and attended the State University of Iowa for some time. Paul T. Homan (Oregon '14) finished high school at Indianola. Marshall N. Fulton, a graduate of Keokuk high school and Brown University, won the scholarship in Rhode Island for 1919, although he could have stood for election in Iowa as his home was still there. Clyde K. M. Kluckhohn, a citizen of Le Mars until 1932, but educated outside the state, won the 1928 scholarship in Wisconsin. The latter two have made enviable records — the first as a doctor in Providence and the second in anthropology at Harvard.

Robert M. Muir (Wyoming and Lincoln '38) has been teaching in the botany department at the University of Iowa. David T. Nelson (North Dakota and New College '14), professor of English at Luther College since 1921, has served on the Iowa Rhodes scholarship committee for almost thirty years. Robert H. Norton (Prince Edward Island, Canada, and University College '25) has been history professor at Grinnell since 1930. Nicholas V. Riasanovsky (Oregon and St. John's '47) teaches history at the University of Iowa, and Edward N. Roberts (Wyoming and Exeter '10) resides in Des Moines, research chemist for the Standard Oil Company.

Of the thirty-one Iowa Rhodes scholars, eight originally applied for and received advanced degrees; sixteen took the honors school for the B. A. — receiving two first classes, seven seconds, six thirds, and one fourth; six, owing to death, war, or other reasons, obtained no degrees; and one is still in course. Sixteen are now or were at the time of their death engaged in the field of education; five in business; four in the practice of law; one in medicine; two in government service; one died in course; and two others are still students in college. Ten have their names in *Who's Who*. In that connection it is fitting and proper to quote the editorial judgement of England's most famous newspaper: "Some have creditable records but the majority of them — like the majority in any

large group of mortal men, on whatever principle selected — have made honourable but not dazzling careers. It was not Rhodes' intention that these men should achieve more. He would be content with what they have done."

Compare these moderate reflections with the recent fantastic allegations of the "World's Greatest Newspaper": "Many American Rhodes Scholars [about 1,300 living] are working assiduously to make the dream [to return the United States to the British Empire] of their imperialist patron come true."

Cecil Rhodes never expected them to become conspirators and subversives: their sojourn in England, he hoped, would "not withdraw them or their sympathies from the land of their adoption or birth," but Rhodes did see too many walls and not enough bridges in the world of nations.

JACOB VAN DER ZEE