Election by State Committees
1919-1929

After the close of World War I, the American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust announced some very important changes. First of all, to generate more interest in the scholarships, qualifying examinations were abolished and the Oxford Delegacy of Local Examinations was relieved of its screening function. Secondly, on the theory that Oxford graduates were probably best qualified, each state selection committee was to consist of four Rhodes scholars with a fifth member as chairman — all to be appointed by the American Secretary. And thirdly, one of the committeemen was to be state secretary in charge of scholarship publicity, distribution of application blanks, assembling of credentials to be filed by candidates, correspondence involved in the collection of letters of recommendation, preparation for annual committee meetings, and other details.

The new Iowa selection committee started out with President Walter A. Jessup of the State University as chairman, J. G. Walleser, J. H. St. John, President Milton J. Hoffman of Central College (Michigan and Exeter 1910), and Jacob Van der Zee, secretary. At least a dozen other Rhodes men have served on the committee at one time or

another, and the presidents of Grinnell and Iowa State have acted as chairmen. The committee has continued in existence to the present time although its function has changed: for ten years it had full authority to elect Iowa Rhodes scholars, but since 1930 it has exercised only the power to nominate two Iowa candidates for annual district elections.

The first meeting of the committee occurred at Iowa City in October, 1919, to review the applications and credentials of twenty-four candidates from ten colleges. After personal interviews with all and special consideration of a half-dozen superior men, Virgil Melvin Hancher was chosen for the vacant Iowa scholarship of 1918-1921 and Maxwell Haines Herriott for 1919-1922, both to go into residence at Oxford in October, 1920.

Virgil Melvin Hancher

Virgil Hancher was born at Rolfe, September 4, 1896, the son of a farmer and livestock breeder, Melvin P. Hancher, and his wife Priscilla (Hanlon) Hancher. From Rolfe high school he went to the State University where he majored in political science, made the debating team, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and received an A. B. in 1918. After serving in the United States Naval Reserve Forces, Hancher attended the Iowa Law School in 1919-1920. In 1928 he married Susan Jane Cannon by whom he had three children. He is an Episcopalian.

Hancher was a member of Worcester College and for two years read jurisprudence for the B. A. degree. On his return home, he completed the law course at Iowa leading to the degree of Juris Doctor in 1924. The Oxford M. A. was conferred in 1927. He practiced law in Chicago with the firm of Butler, Lamb, Foster, and Pope and later as partner in the firm of Pope and Ballard (1936-1940).

As president of the State University of Iowa since 1940, Hancher has been honored with doctorates from Grinnell, St. Ambrose, Northwestern, Southern California, Coe, Cornell, Beloit, and Florida. He has published a wide range of articles on higher education in the arts, the sciences, and the professions. Along with service on Rhodes scholarship committees and the committees of the American Council of Education, and as secretary-treasurer of the Association of American Universities, Hancher flew to Delhi, India, in 1949 with five other university presidents as delegates to a conference on Indian-American affairs; sailed to Hawaii in 1951 with other guests of the navy on board the *U.S.S. Iowa*; and joined the pilgrimage to the Oxford reunion of 1953. He is a vice-president and a director of the Association of American Rhodes Scholars organized in 1928, since when it has published *The American Oxonian* (a quarterly begun in 1914). Hancher's most recent air activity resulted from his appointment to Sec-

retary Talbott's commission to inspect locations for the proposed Air Force Academy. He was president of the National Association of State Universities in 1952-1953.

Maxwell Haines Herriott

Herriott was born at Des Moines, April 21, 1899, the son of Professor Frank I. Herriott and his wife Mary (Haines) Herriott. From West Des Moines high school he went to Grinnell where he majored in history, made Phi Beta Kappa and received an A. B. in 1920. In 1918 he was in the United States Army at Fort Sheridan. He married Ruth G. Hewitt in 1926. The Herriotts have one daughter. He is a Presbyterian.

As a member of Oriel College (1920-1923), Herriott completed the honor school of jurisprudence, obtaining the B. A. in 1922 and the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law in 1923. The M. A. was conferred in 1925.

Herriott continued the study of law at Wisconsin, receiving his LL. B. in 1925. After being secretary to a Wisconsin Supreme Court justice and teaching in the law school, he began the practice of law in 1927 as a member of the firm of Lines, Spooner and Quarles in Milwaukee. He is the author of miscellaneous law review articles.

Willis Dwight Nutting

Of the scholarship contestants in Iowa in 1920

the number thirteen brought luck to Willis Dwight Nutting. Born March 10, 1900, at Iowa City, the son of Professor Charles C. Nutting and his wife Eloise (Willis) Nutting, he attended Iowa City high school and the State University, where he majored in history, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and received an A. B. in 1921. He married Eileen Barry in 1934, by whom he had three children.

Nutting was admitted to Keble College where only members of the Anglican Church and the Protestant Episcopal Church were eligible for membership. He read theology for the B. A. and B. Litt. degrees and was ordained for the priesthood in 1924. After serving a number of American parishes he became a communicant of the Roman Catholic Church in 1930. Graduate work in history at Iowa led to the Ph. D. in 1933. After teaching at the College of St. Teresa in Minnesota, he transferred to the University of Notre Dame where he has been associate professor of history since 1936. He is the author of two books.

Charles Caldwell Bowie

So great was the flood of scholarship applications in 1921 that the selection committee agreed on eliminating fourteen of the thirty candidates on the basis of their credentials. Of those who were summoned to meet the committee, Charles Caldwell Bowie was judged the best. Bowie was born on February 20, 1898, at Ayr, Scotland, the son

of John S. Bowie and his wife Elizabeth (Cald-well) Bowie. The family emigrated to Cincinnati, Iowa, where the father was a coal miner. Young Bowie attended the State University where he ma-jored in political science, with time out for service in the United States Navy. He received an A. B. in 1921 and attended Harvard Law School for a year. In 1925 he married Leona White in Stoke Poges church near Eton. They have two children. He is a Presbyterian.

At Merton College (1922-1925) Bowie read jurisprudence for the B. A. and received the M. A. in 1931. After a year with Dodge Brothers in London, he hung up his shingle as attorney-at-law in San Benito, Texas, and opened another office at Brownsville in 1946 with the firm name of Bowie and Scanlan. He was Cameron County at-torney from 1933 to 1938. As assistant United States District Attorney (1942-1954) for the Southern District of Texas, Bowie prosecuted cases along the Mexican border.

Carl Walther Strom

Twenty-eight contenders filed for the 1923 scholarship. Fifteen were excused from personal interviews on the basis of their credentials. The others included several of exceptional ability. One candidate, Carl Walther Strom, was especially worthy of attention because he had appeared be-fore the committee on three previous occasions and

had piled up a record of achievement since graduation from college. It is doubtful whether anybody anywhere has equalled his persistent determination to win a Rhodes scholarship.

Carl Strom was born December 22, 1899, at Albert Lea, Minnesota, the son of a Norwegian Lutheran clergyman, Eimar I. Strom, and his wife Helena (Nedrud) Strom. From Watson high school in Minnesota he went to Luther College where he majored in classics, receiving an A. B. in 1919. In 1918 he was a second lieutenant in United States Army. After teaching at Luther from 1919-1923 he received an A. M. at the State University of Iowa in 1924 in mathematics and Greek. He married Camilla Sperati in 1931. They have two children.

At Oxford, Strom was admitted to Queen's College, receiving his B. A. in 1927 in mathematics. The M. A. was conferred in 1950, the same year Luther honored him with the LL. D. He taught mathematics at Luther College, the University of Iowa, and the University of Illinois, where he was elected to Sigma Xi and received the Ph. D. He is the author of articles on higher mathematics.

From academic pursuits Strom shifted to the United States Foreign Service in 1935, being stationed as consul in Vancouver, Zurich, and Mexico City. From 1941 to 1948 he spent most of his time in the State Department at Washington, having a good deal to do with the drafting and ad-

ministration of the new Foreign Service Act. In 1948 he became consul-general and first secretary of the embassy in Mexico. Since 1951 he has been on a three-year tour of duty flying about the world inspecting American consulates and embassies.

Neil Louis Crone

Topping twenty-one contenders in 1924 was Neil Louis Crone. He was born at Marshalltown, May 10, 1903, the son of Charles F. Crone and his wife Agnes M. (Pendleton) Crone. After high school Neil Crone attended Grinnell where he majored in chemistry, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and received an A. B. in 1925. He married Katherine Griswold in 1930. They have three children. Crone is an Episcopalian.

As a member of Merton College (1925-1929), Crone first completed the work in physiology with a B. A. first class in 1927 and then won a senior scholarship at Magdalen College in biochemistry and physiology. He received the D. Phil. in pathology and an M. A. in 1929.

Crone received his M. D. from Harvard medical school in 1931. He then spent six years as intern, resident, and chief resident physician at Massachusetts General Hospital. Besides engaging in private practice he was instructor in medicine at Harvard (1937-1941). During World War II he served overseas in the United States

Medical Corps, and subsequently as chief of medicine in Walter Reed Hospital. He is still a colonel in the reserves and consultant to the Surgeon General in medicine, education, and training. Since 1945 Crone, who is the author of a number of articles in medical journals, has been actively engaged in the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, where his title is Professor and Physician.

Robert Beatty Patrick

Of the twenty-four scholarship applicants in 1926, Robert Beatty Patrick emerged victorious. He was born July 9, 1906, at Nevada, the son of a hardware merchant, Rolfe S. Patrick, and his wife Anna (Beatty) Patrick. From North high school in Des Moines, Patrick went to Drake University where he majored in mathematics, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and received his A. B. in 1926. In 1927 he received an A. M. in mathematics from Columbia University. He married Josephine D. Sikkema in 1932. They have two children. Patrick is a Congregationalist.

Patrick gave his attention to the honor school of mathematics at Exeter College (1927-1930). Upon his return to Des Moines he joined the Bankers Life Company and he is now financial vice-president in charge of investment operations. In recent years Patrick has served as chairman of the financial section of the American Life Conven-

tion, chairman of the investment research committee of the Life Insurance Association of America, member of the technical advisory committee on housing statistics of the Federal Reserve Board, and member of the board of regents of the Life Insurance Seminar which conducts an annual two-week course of instruction. Not long ago he was commuting between Des Moines and Washington, D. C., to serve on the president's advisory committee on housing and home finance. And yet he finds time to be secretary of the Iowa Rhodes scholarship committee.

Allen Walker Read

First choice among twenty applicants in 1927 was Allen Walker Read. He was born June 2, 1906, at Winnebago, Minnesota, son of Professor and Mrs. O. B. Read. His high school and college years were spent at Iowa State Teachers College where he majored in English and received an A. B. degree in 1925. He obtained an A. M. in English at the State University of Iowa in 1926, and taught English at the University of Missouri from 1926 to 1928. In 1953 he married Charlotte Schuchardt. He is a Baptist.

Admitted to St. Edmund Hall, Allen Read devoted his efforts to the research degree of B. Litt. (1928-1931). After resuming his position at Missouri, he became research scholar at the University of Chicago where he held a Guggenheim

fellowship from 1938 to 1941. He had three years of service in the United States Army. Read has been closely identified with *American Speech,* the American Dialect Society, the New York Society for General Semantics, and the American Folklore Society. He has written articles on lexicography and semantics and done editorial work on dictionaries. He is now associate professor of English at Columbia University.

Charles Gordon Siefkin

Charles Gordon Siefkin won over twenty-four competitors in 1929. He was born at Rolfe, January 6, 1908, the son of Dr. Charles W. Siefkin and his wife Hortense (Ratcliffe) Siefkin. After high school he attended the State University, where he majored in political science, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and received an A. B. in 1930. In 1940 he married Roberta Orcutt. He is a Presbyterian.

Siefkin was a member of St. Peter's Hall from 1930 to 1933, and obtained the B. A. in the honor school of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (called P. P. E. or "Modern Greats"). He joined the faculty of Southwestern University at Memphis in 1933, a connection which was interrupted by two years of graduate study in economics at Princeton on a General Education Board fellowship. After four more years at Southwestern, he rose from lieutenant to lieutenant-colonel in the

United States Army Air Force. He served in the office of Air Staff-Training and as head of the economics department of Shrivenham American University in England. He received the commendation medal. M. A. degrees from Oxford and Princeton came to him in 1945. Since 1946 he has been with the School of Business Administration of Emory University in Georgia, first as professor of economics and since 1948 as dean.

JACOB VAN DER ZEE