

EDWARD EVERETT DALE

By Mrs. E. E. Dale

Edward Everett Dale was born on the edge of the Cross Timbers near Keller, Texas, February 8, 1879. When he was twelve years old his father moved

to Greer County, then a part of Texas but which later became a part of Oklahoma by a Supreme Court Decision. During his early manhood he worked at many jobs such as hunting, trapping, and as a cowhand. He also became a deputy sheriff of Greer County and later with his brother went into the cow business. This venture did not last long, however, as high prices forced them out of business. Deciding that picking cotton had little future, he attended at the age of twenty-six a summer Institute from which he received the needed certificate to teach school. For four years he was a rural school teacher. In 1906 he attended Central State Teachers College at Edmond and completed his work there in 1909. In 1910 he became superintendent of schools at Roosevelt, Oklahoma, and from 1912-13 was superintendent at Blair. Also during this period he found time to get his A. B. degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1911.

Living in a fast developing state Edward Everett Dale realized the need for more education so in 1916-1917 he attended Harvard University and received his M. A. degree at the end of that year. When he returned home he was appointed instructor in history at the University of Oklahoma. In 1918 he returned to Harvard to begin work on his Ph.D. degree.

During the summer he married Rosalie Gilkey. The following year they spent in Cambridge while he continued his work in the American West with Professor Frederick Jackson Turner as his major professor. The following year their son, Edward Everett Dale, Jr., was born. Dale enjoyed immensely his courses with such men as Worthington Ford, Charles McIlwain, Homer Haskins, Albert B. Hart and the great Edward Channing. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred upon him in 1922. In Boston he was invited to join the Puddingstone Club and the Boston Author's Association which memberships he retained as long as he lived.

Two years later he was promoted to assistant professor and soon afterward to the head of the department of history of the University of Oklahoma. This position he held for eighteen years at which time he was made the first Research Professor at that school. He held this position until his official retirement in 1952.

In the meantime he published some twenty books and many articles which were published in historical magazines. He was a member of the Oklahoma Historical Society and was one of its editors for the *Chronicles of Oklahoma* as well as a Director of its Board. He served as president of the Agricultural Historical Society from 1925-27 and of the Mississippi Valley Association from 1936-37. He was appointed a research agent for the United States Department of Agriculture and out of this year's work came the manuscript for his book The Range Cattle Industry published in 1930. During the year of 1926-27 he served as a member of the Indian Survey Commission of the United States Institute for Government Research. He visited eighty-five per cent of the reservations and made recommendations to Secretary of the Interior Hubert Work for improvements in living conditions among the Indians.

In 1928 he founded the Frank Phillips Collection, funds for which were donated by Mr. Phillips, which is now known as the Western Historical Collections of which the Phillips Collection, the Hurley Collection, the Edward Everett Dale Collection and other collections are a part.

Some of Dale's favorite books are Cow Country, The Indians of the Southwest, and Cross Timbers. Quoting from Edward Everett Dale: A Biography and a Bibliography by one of his former students, Jimmie Hicks, in referring to Frontier Ways, Professor Robert C. Cotner wrote in his review: "He uses the tools of the scholar and writes with the insight of a poet. Dale writes as a keen observer, for he himself was a participant." Lewis Meriam of the Indian Survey staff described Dale as "that rare and happy combination of scholar, southern gentleman, breezy western cow-puncher, poet, story teller and kindly gentle human being."

Upon his retirement in 1952 he was granted the highest honor that the University of Oklahoma could confer at that time--the Distinguished Service Citation. In 1967 as a crowning recognition the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma named the beautiful new Social Science Building Edward Everett Dale Hall in his honor.

Immediately following his retirement from active teaching at Oklahoma University Edward Everett Dale and his wife sailed on the Aorangi across the Pacific to spend a year in Australia as a Fulbright lecturer in Melbourne and other universities of the continent to lecture on the American West. Upon his return to America he taught two and a half years at the University of Houston where he received a special professorship in history.

Edward Everett Dale never actually retired. Two weeks before he became ill he finished a manuscript dealing with his life after he moved to Oklahoma. He passed away May 28, 1972. An editorial in the Norman Transcript described him as a Legend. It stated: "Last November when Dr. Dale was introduced during the Oklahoma Hall of Fame ceremonies, the huge crowd responded almost as a single individual in giving him a prolonged standing ovation." He loved people and they knew it.