

KANSAS  
MASTER TEACHER  
AWARD

1958

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1958  
KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE  
EMPORIA, KANSAS

The Kansas Master Teacher Award is presented annually to seven teachers, chosen by the Selection Committee, who have served the profession long and well and who typify the good qualities of the vast body of earnest and conscientious teachers. Members of the Selection Committee are: Mrs. Muriel Gessner, Baldwin, Kansas, Past President of the Kansas Division of the American Association of University Women; Mrs. Walter A. Myers, Merriam, Kansas, President of the Kansas Division of the American Association of University Women; C. O. Wright, Executive Secretary of the Kansas State Teachers Association; Adel F. Throckmorton, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and F. L. Schlagle, Superintendent of Schools, Kansas City, Kansas. The local committee is composed of President John E. King, Dr. Orville L. Eaton, Dr. Everett Rich, Dr. Alex Daughtry, Mr. Alvin Morris, and Dr. Don Davis, Chairman.

# Seven Kansas Master Teachers



Mrs. Elsie N. Parrish

A special-education teacher at the junior high school in Concordia, Mrs. Elsie N. Parrish has served Kansas education for forty-one years. She is completing her twenty-ninth year in the Concordia schools.

Her present assignment began in 1951, when Concordia established its special-education program under the administration of Dr. Carl James, now superintendent of schools at Emporia. Mrs. Parrish joined the Concordia staff in 1929 and spent her first twenty-two years there as an elementary teacher and principal. Earlier, she had taught in schools in Woodson, Coffey, and Osage Counties.

Mrs. Parrish received her B.S. in Education degree from Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia in 1940 and her M.S. in Education degree from the same school in 1954. Her undergraduate major was primary education and her graduate major, special education.

In 1953 Mrs. Parrish was named "Woman of the Year" by four civic clubs in Concordia. She belongs to several honorary and professional organizations.



Miss Maude Thompson

This year marks the forty-second year of service to Kansas education for Miss Maude Thompson, principal and teacher in the Bown-Corby School at Marion. She started her career in Sedgwick County, where she taught three years at Valley Center Elementary School and four years in a rural school before moving to Marion. Her service in Marion includes seventeen years at Hill Grade School, three at the high school, and fifteen at Bown-Corby.

A native of Valley Center and a 1917 graduate of the high school there, Miss Thompson holds a B.S. degree, *magna cum laude*, from Wichita University and an M.S. degree from Columbia University.

Like all Master Teachers, Miss Thompson has been active in many professional and community groups. She has held offices in a number of the professional and honorary organizations to which she belongs.



## Miss Myrrl Houck

In her 45-year career in Kansas education, Miss Myrrl Houck, Eldorado Senior High School librarian, has established an excellent reputation not only as a librarian but also as a sponsor of class reunions, an aide to students seeking college scholarships, and an authority on the transition from high school to college. This year is her thirty-eighth in the Eldorado school system.

Miss Houck taught for seven years in her native Greenwood County: one year in a rural school, three years in Eureka, and three in Reece. She joined the Eldorado faculty in 1919 as a teacher of history and civics, but went into library work in 1922.

Miss Houck earned an A.B. degree at the University of Kansas in 1928 and an M.A. degree at Wichita University in 1937. She also has done graduate work at Columbia University, University of Colorado, and Friends University. In 1956 she was invited to attend the College Entrance Examination Board's fourth Colloquium on College Admissions, in New York. Radio Station KANS, Wichita, honored her in 1955 for meritorious service to others.



## Julian A. Johnson

One of two native Missourians receiving Master Teacher Awards this year is Julian A. Johnson, a vocational-agriculture teacher for thirty-one years, twenty-two of them at Buhler Rural High School. At Buhler he also teaches adult evening classes and veterans' classes, and serves as advisor for the Future Farmers of America and sponsor of the Junior Class.

Before taking his present job Mr. Johnson spent nine years at Kiowa High School. There he taught vocational agriculture, industrial arts, and adult evening classes, and also coached the track team.

Mr. Johnson received his diploma from New London (Mo.) High School in 1922. He received a B.S. in Agriculture degree from the University of Missouri in 1926, and an M.S. in Vocational Agricultural Education degree from Kansas State College in 1940. He has done additional work at Kansas State College.

Active in church and civic affairs, as well as in professional work, Mr. Johnson was a member of the Buhler City Council for six years. He belongs to a large number of honorary and professional groups and has held offices in many of them.



## Edward D. Kroesch

Excluding a year in military service during World War I and a year as superintendent of schools at Barnard, Edward D. Kroesch has been associated with the Hoisington public schools ever since he embarked on his career forty-two years ago. He has served as superintendent of schools there since 1925 and was principal for the preceding five years.

Mr. Kroesch, a native Missourian, is a 1911 graduate of Lorraine High School. He received an A.B. degree from Ottawa University in 1915 and an A.M. degree from the University of Kansas a year later. He also has attended the University of Chicago and the University of Colorado.

Mr. Kroesch has earned numerous honors, among them a Senior Fellowship from Ottawa University to the University of Kansas in 1915-16 and a Junior Chamber of Commerce Certificate of Recognition in 1949.



## Miss Mildred Cunningham

For twenty-five years Miss Mildred Cunningham has taught social science in Kansas schools. She is completing her eleventh year on the faculty at Parsons Junior College, where she serves also as Chairman of the Guidance Committee, Foreign Student Advisor, and Student Christian Association Advisor.

Miss Cunningham started teaching at Edna High School in 1932. Nine years later she returned to her home town, Parsons, and spent the next nine years teaching mathematics and social science at West High School. She joined the junior-college staff in 1946.

A graduate of Parsons High School and Junior College, Miss Cunningham received her A.B. degree from Baker University in 1931 and her M.A. degree from Northwestern University in 1940. Since then she has done additional graduate work at American University, Michigan State College, and Kansas State Teachers College of Pittsburg.

Besides her professional activities, Miss Cunningham takes part in church and civic work and is a member of a Parsons bowling team. She holds memberships in many professional and honorary organizations.



## Miss Minnie M. Miller

Dr. Minnie M. Miller, Chairman, Department of Foreign Languages at Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia since 1929, has been a teacher and administrator for thirty-eight years. She has traveled extensively and has been twice decorated by the French government for distinction in the teaching of French.

Miss Miller, a native of Olpe and a graduate of Council Grove High School, holds a B.S. in Education degree from Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago. She also has studied at the University of Paris, France, the University of Grenoble in Paris, and Centro de Estudios Historicos in Madrid, Spain.

Before accepting her present post, Miss Miller had taught at Gardner High School, Rosedale (Kansas City) High School, Upper Iowa University, and Southwestern College. At the Emporia school, she has served as Chairman of the Foreign Students Committee and as a member of the Endowment Association and the Scholarship Committee.

The Emporia linguist was named a "Kansan of the Year" in 1956 by the Topeka *Daily Capital*. She belongs to a number of honorary and professional groups.

# PROGRAM

---

PRESIDENT JOHN E. KING, PRESIDING

- 9:30 a.m. All-School Convocation, Albert Taylor Hall  
"Marks of an Educated Teacher"  
Dr. Henry H. Hill  
President, George Peabody College for Teachers  
Nashville, Tennessee
- 2:00 p.m. Forum for Student Teachers  
Room 203, Student Union Building  
Panel consisting of seven Master Teachers
- 3:00 p.m. Tea given by the Student NEA and Kappa Delta Pi  
for Master Teachers, guests and visitors
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner, Colonial Room, Student Union  
"Character in Action"  
President Henry H. Hill

Presentation of Awards

## THE GARDENER OF SOULS

WHO IS THE MASTER TEACHER? He  
Who from despair and fear sets free  
The restless, sullen soul of youth  
To range the harsh terrain of truth,  
And from the blind abyss of folly,  
The blackest pits of melancholy  
To climb, to fall, to cling, to grope  
Up the grim Everest of hope  
Until above himself he stands,  
A new strength in his bleeding hands,  
And knows that by his faith he won  
The shining summits of the sun.  
WHO IS THE MASTER TEACHER? He  
Who shows that to be truly free  
No pain can be too much, no price  
In discipline and sacrifice  
Too great; that freedom is a pledge,  
A promise and a privilege,  
A glory earned, a grace to cherish,  
Or, lightly held, as lightly perish.  
HE IS THE TEACHER who gives vision,  
And courage to outface derision;  
Who in an angry time can teach  
A tolerance in thought and speech  
Which stones may strike, but never reach.  
HE IS THE PLOWMAN who plows deep  
The stubborn soil where passions sleep,  
Each one for good or ill a seed,  
And plucks the nettle and the weed,  
Laboring hour upon hour  
To bring the best in men to flower,  
And finds in labor for the Lord  
His recompense and his reward,  
Toiling as his great Teacher toils,  
Who is the Gardener of Souls.

—JOSEPH AUSLANDER.

(Reprinted by special permission of the Saturday Evening Post. Copyright 1944 by the Curtis Publishing Company)