

NECROLOGY

ADOLPH LINSCHIED

1879-1949

TRIBUTE TO A GREAT TEACHER

Adolph Linschied was born near Mannheim, Germany, December 24, 1879, the son of Philipp and Elizabeth (Ewy) Linschied. When he was two years old, the family moved to Minnesota. In 1896, he became a rural school teacher there and three years later, he entered Springfield State Normal school, Springfield, Missouri. He graduated in 1903 and received his bachelor of science degree in 1912 from Fremont, Nebraska, college; his master of arts degree in 1920 from the University of Oklahoma; and his Ph.D. degree in 1928 from Columbia University.

In 1906, he married Hazel Audrey Thompson and they had two sons, Stewart Philip, who is a member of the faculty of East Central State College, Ada, Oklahoma, and Billy Adolph, who is a teacher in Compton, California.

Dr. Linschied was superintendent of schools at Prague, Oklahoma from 1903-1908, at Okemah during 1909-1910, and at Bristow from 1910-1911. He was professor of English at Southeastern State Normal School, Durant, from 1912-1919. In 1920, Dr. Linschied was appointed president of East Central State College, Ada, Oklahoma. He was largely instrumental in having the school changed from a two-building, two-year teacher's college to East Central State College with a four-year course. The school, with seven buildings, now grants five different degrees. A modern library was completed on the campus in 1949 and was given Linschied's name in spite of his preference that it be named after the first librarian.

From 1925 to 1931, Dr. Linschied was a member of the Oklahoma textbook commission and served as chairman the last two years. He was a member of the American Association of Teachers Colleges, and from 1929-1931 served as chairman of the Oklahoma council of Presidents of Teachers Colleges. He was president of the Oklahoma Education Association in 1931-1932.

Dr. Linschied was active in religious work and taught a large mens' Bible class in the Christian church continuously from 1920-1945. He believed this to be his richest experience and that you gain much for yourself when you seek to help others. His character was greatly influenced by his study of two great Americans who appealed especially to him—Lee and Lincoln. Like Lee in his scholarly, polished, gentle manner, Dr. Linschied possessed an innate kindness and humility that was Lincolnesque. These qualities, above all else, are the things for which thousands of people loved him. He was a thirty-second degree Mason and in 1946 received a Medal of Liberation from the king of Denmark for his "contribution to Denmark's cause during the years of nazi occupation."

The dean of teacher college chiefs, who served the nation's longest tenure as a teachers' college president, died at Ada on December 28, 1949, and is survived by his wife and two sons.

Education in Oklahoma has been deeply enriched and uplifted through the contributions of Dr. A. Linschied, the master teacher. Completely unselfish, and for many years almost completely tireless, he contributed his

services generously, training future teachers, addressing rural schools or huge national conventions, service clubs, P.T.A.'s, church groups, and many others. His addresses were challenging, full of meaning, and he kept them refreshingly new. Audiences knew that when they were to hear Dr. Linscheid they would not hear the same speech he had given many times before. He could talk equally well on a variety of subjects—literature, philosophy, history, business, world affairs, or current legislation. Many of his closest friends have often wondered how he was able to accumulate and retain such a wealth of useful information. Probably no other person in Oklahoma taught so many people for so long a time as this great teacher. His influence for good in this state will be felt by untold generations to come.

By O. W. Davison

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