

Honored Alumnus - Governor Simpson



Governor Milward Simpson, BA '21, Honor Alumnus

Another illustrious alumnus has joined the ranks of Emory S. Land, BA '98, and Dr. S. H. Knight, BA '13, who have won Honor Alumni Awards in the past two years. He is Milward Simpson, BA '21, who received the award at Homecoming this year.

Because of a severe cold which kept him confined to bed and the stormy weather, Governor Simpson was unable to be present to receive the award, but it was accepted for him by George Guy, who took the handsome Sheaffer desk pen set to the Governor.

Governor Simpson has since written the Alumni office that he heard the half-time ceremonies of the game at his home over the radio. He has written, "Never in my life was I so pleasantly surprised when I heard over the radio Saturday, as I sat in my front room listening to the game, that I had been selected for the outstanding Alumni Award. I was simply overcome. It never occurred to me that I would be the recipient of this coveted honor. Will you please communicate to the committee who constitutes the selective board, the heartfelt appreciation I have in receiving this fine award? I only trust that I will prove worthy of the honor conferred upon me."

Simpson's long period of service to

the state and the University leave no doubt that he was a wise choice for the honor. Mr. Simpson is one of the few third generation Wyomingites whose grandparents were early pioneers in the state. His maternal grandfather came to Wyoming in 1865 with the Connor Expedition. John P. Simpson, his paternal grandfather trailed cattle into the Jackson Hole country in 1884. His father, William L. Simpson, was a prominent attorney and practiced in Wyoming for almost fifty years.

Mrs. Simpson, the former Lorna Kooi, is also a member of a prominent Wyoming pioneer family. Her father, Peter Kooi, was a well known mining man and public spirited citizen. The governor graduated from Cody high school in 1916.

Prior to being elected governor of the state last November, Mr. Simpson practiced law in Cody for many years, during which time he became known as a public spirited individual. Always a champion of education on every level, Gov. Simpson served on the Board of Trustees of the University continuously since 1939 until he resigned after he was inaugurated governor. He was president of the board continuously since 1943, and in 1950 was elected president of the Association of Govern-

ing Boards of State Universities and Allied Institutions. At the time he resigned he was a member of the association's executive committee.

Also active in civic affairs, Simpson has been a member of the national education committee of the United States Chamber of Commerce, and on one occasion was appointed the Chamber's representative to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Simpson is a member at large of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America and has served for ten years as vice-president of the Central Wyoming Council of Boy Scouts. He has been active in Rotary International and has served as Potentate of Kalif Temple of the Shrine. He is an active member of the Episcopal Church and has served on the lay council of the church for Wyoming.

In his contacts in public life Simpson has become alert to the dangers of communism. The Wyoming American Legion recently published one of his pamphlets entitled "Americanism, Our Schools, Our Laws." His address as president of the Association of Governing Boards at College Station, Texas, "Fight for the Minds of Our Youth in America Today," brought overwhelming response and requests for publication privileges.

Since becoming governor, Mr. Simpson has worked tirelessly to lead the state and its citizens. His proposal to enable Wyoming to operate concessions in Yellowstone National Park won widespread support in the state. He has represented the state at a number of conferences and has been awarded the highest honor possible in Scouting.

Mr. and Mrs. Simpson are the parents of two sons, Peter Kooi Simpson, BA '53, who is now in naval training, and Alan Kooi Simpson, BS '54, now stationed in Germany with the U. S. army.

Correction

Omitted from the story on the University of Wyoming Speech Clinic in the September-October issue of the *Alumnus* was the fact that the Easter Seal Society has granted several graduate scholarships for summer study at the clinic over the past several years. These scholarships have been of great help, and it is unfortunate that credit for this help was not given in the original article.