

Dr. Wilcox Celebrating 25th Year At Youngstown University

by Pete Sloan

One would never imagine that such a busy looking person has been around the world and has had experiences that would fill volumes. Dr. Wilcox was born in Foochow, China, of Methodist missionary parents, and lived there for sixteen years. From China, he came to the United States and received his B.A. degree from Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. The University of Iowa provided his M.A. degree and Columbia University his P.H.D.

Dr. Wilcox then left the United States and worked on some educational surveys in the Philipines. While there, a mystic cable of three words, said, "Come mountain camp." A close friend in Turkey was calling him to the other half of the globe.

It was here that he met his wife. She was a superintendent of nurses. in 1915, a war year, they were married by an American minister. Their honeymoon consisted of short stops and starts from Turkey up the coast to Italy from where they managed to hop a boat going to America.

Coach at Vinton, Iowa

The doctor settled down for the next seven years by coaching and teaching. At Vinton, Iowa, he taught science and coached football, basketball, and baseball, and track. He then accepted a job as principal of a boys school in Silver Boy, New York. His memories of this place are many.

In 1922, he was appointed director of education for the Near East Orphanages. For his work in Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Greece, and Southern Russia, he received the Near East Relief Medal of Honor.

Doctor Wilcox has made numerous

surveys in education in this country and abroad. Several articles have been published by magazines. They are, "America's Part in Near East Education," "Education of the Blind and Deaf in Greece," "Education in Soviet Armenia," and "The Cost of High School Instruction."

Comes to YU in 1933

Upon coming back to the States in 1924, he went to Huron, South Dakota, where he headed the department of education. The next stop was a job as director of student teaching at Heidelberg College. In 1933, he came to Youngstown and settled down for good. This year, 1958, marks his twenty-fifth year at Youngstown University.

Dr. Wilcox started the first education department here in the fall of 1933. He was the lone instructor teaching education courses, which was only for Secondary work. He said that in the beginning classes there were only fifty students in the whole department. He remarked, "There are more students in the education department today than there were in all of Youngstown College in 1933."

While here at the University, he was dean of the College from 1935 through 1949. He headed the department of education for 24 years until Dr. Swartz took over last year.

On May 3rd, the Student Education Association honored Dr. Wilcox with a banquet and a gift. He certainly deserved this for his long service to Youngstown University.