



For his unswerving loyalty and devotion to the ideals of Somerset Schools, for his service to community and church, and for his interest in the welfare of all teachers and students, the 1976 Memories is dedicated to our Superintendent, Mr. O'Leary Meece.

Superintendent's History

O'Leary Melrose Meece, superintendent of Somerset Independent Schools from 1954-1976, is a native of Pulaski County, Kentucky. He is the son of the late George Linville Meece and Eva E. Silvers Meece. In 1930 he graduated from Somerset High School where he had been a four-letter man in both football and basketball. He was captain of the basketball team in his senior year.

He attended Centre College and was graduated from Western Kentucky University. His Masters Degree in Administration was granted by the University of Kentucky. He also completed academic requirements for the doctorate degree but lacked residence requirements, choosing instead to accept superintendency of the Somerset Schools.

Meece has served at many levels of education beginning with three years at Cundiff School, Pulaski County, from 1933-1935. He was principal of Columbia Elementary School from 1936-1939; a teacher at Somerset High School from 1939-1942 and from 1946-1950; Supervisor of Instruction for Somerset Schools from 1951-1954; and Superintendent of Somerset Schools 1954-1976.

During World War II, Meece was in the United States Air Force, 10th Weather Squadron, serving in India and China. He was awarded the bronze star with two oak leaf clusters.

He served Middle Cumberland District Education Association as its secretary-treasurer for 18 years; served two terms as Director of K.E.A.; V. President of Kentucky P.T.A.; Legislative Chairman, Ky. P.T.A.; Secretary, Middle Cumberland School Boards Association; Board of Directors, Kentucky Association of School Administrators; County Chairman, Kentucky Civil War Commission; Advisory Council of Programs for Exceptional Children; Board of Directors, Y.M.C.A.; President, Somerset Rotary Club; Chairman of the Board of Stewards, First United Methodist Church; and was a member of the original Founder's Committee for the establishment of a Community College, U.K., at Somerset.

Presently he is serving on the Advisory Committee for Kentucky Educational Television; the Steering Committee, Somerset State Vocational-Technical School; Advisory Board, Somerset Community College; Chairman, Board of Directors ESEA Region V; Chairman, Board of Directors, EDD Region 14; GED Advisory Committee. He has been awarded a Life Membership by the Kentucky Congress of Parents and Teachers, and is a member of Phi Delta Kappa. He has contributed articles to professional journals and his book *A CIVIL WAR SKETCHBOOK* is ready for publication.

His wife, the former Marjorie Sears, is also an educator as is their daughter Anne Louise, (Mrs. Charles Bennett Farris). His hobbies include a lifetime study of history with emphasis on research on the Civil War Period, which he did long before it became a fad. He also is a Bible student. He is often found in his workshop where he makes and refinishes furniture and clocks. He is a sports enthusiast and golfs in his spare time.

During his term as superintendent, Parker Elementary School, Hopkins Elementary School, Memorial Elementary School, Somerset High School, and the O'Leary M. Meece Middle School have been constructed.