

the NAACP. The group announced an attempt would be made to enroll black students in graduate courses at the University of Oklahoma. After several weeks of consideration, Ada Lois was selected as the plaintiff.

Sipuel v. Oklahoma was tried in Oklahoma District Court in Norman in July, 1946, and Ada Lois lost the case. An appeal to the Oklahoma Supreme Court was heard in March, 1947, and the earlier ruling was upheld. Marshall then petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court, which accepted the petition, and arguments were heard in January, 1948. Four days later in the fastest decision the Supreme Court had ever issued, Oklahoma was ordered to provide a legal education for the petitioner as soon as it would be provided for the applicants of any other racial group. But the Court did not declare Oklahoma's segregation laws unconstitutional. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education continued to resist allowing Ada Lois to attend the University of Oklahoma, instead setting up a Langston University School of Law in the State Capitol Building. Ada Lois was the only student, and it was nicknamed the "Ada Lois School of Law." After two years, Ada Lois found herself back in court. Finally, the students at the University of Oklahoma, approximately 1,000 of them, assembled north of the administration building to protest the denial of admission of black students. The Oklahoma Legislature was encouraged to change the law and did so, and finally, Ada Lois was permitted to attend classes at the University of Oklahoma School of Law in 1949.

Ada Lois graduated in 1951, and passed the state bar examination the same year. She later became the head of the department of social studies at Langston, and was awarded a master's degree in history at the University of Oklahoma in 1968. In April, 1992, more than 45 years after she was denied admission to the law school, Gov. David Walters appointed Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher to the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents.

**ROSEMARY HOGAN --  
(1912-1964) --  
COLONEL, U.S. ARMY,  
WWII NURSE**

One of the first woman heroes of WWII, and one of the first nurses to be awarded a purple heart, Rosemary Hogan of Chattanooga, Oklahoma, was known as one of the "Angels of



Bataan” for her acts of courage and service to others during the war and while she was a Japanese prisoner of war. For a small-town girl who had never been out of Oklahoma, becoming an army nurse and seeing the world was an exciting adventure. She landed on the Philippine Islands in December, 1941, and shortly after her arrival, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Heavy fighting also broke out in the Philippines. Nurse Hogan was sent to Bataan Peninsula to set up a 1,000- bed hospital. On Christmas Eve, 1941, she took 25 U.S. Army nurses and 25 Filipino nurses with her to Bataan. What had in the beginning been beautiful scenery, was now a frightening maze of jungle. The nurses arrived at the site of the first hospital in Limay, and found a huge warehouse with hospital equipment packed for overseas shipment in lieu of an operating hospital. The nurses unpacked, inventoried the supplies, and set up medical stations. Soon the hospital was ordered to move closer to the fighting, to a place called “Little Baguio.” Hogan served as Assistant Chief of Nurses until she was wounded in April, 1942, while she and another nurse were assisting a surgeon in an operating room under attack. They finally took refuge in foxholes. Hogan was badly wounded and the hospital at Bataan was destroyed.

Hogan and the other wounded were taken to Corregidor to recover. As the nurses were being evacuated, their plane was forced to land on Mindanao Island and they were captured by the Japanese. Hogan was imprisoned at Santo Tomas prison in Manila until the liberation by American forces in 1945. After the war, Hogan joined the Air Force Nurse Corps, where she served as Chief Nurse at Boling Air Force Hospital; at Technical Training Air Force Base at Biloxi, Mississippi; and at the Tactical Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, the position from which she retired.

Hogan was among the first four women to attain the rank of full colonel. She married Maj. Arnold Luciano, USAF, and after retirement they made their home in San Antonio, Texas. Col. Rosemary Hogan died in 1964 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



**PERLE MESTA -- (1890-1975) --  
“THE HOSTESS WITH THE  
MOSTESS”**

Perle Mesta combined politics and parties with a zest that was appreciated by ten U.S. presidents. Her warm outgoing personality and flair for diplomacy led to her appointment as minister to Luxembourg by President Harry Truman in 1949. The Broadway musical *Call Me Madam* was based on her life, and she was honored at the 1965 World’s Fair by being named Oklahoma’s Ambassador to the World. Perle became known as “The Hostess with the Mostess” when Irving Berlin’s song of the same name became famous.

Perle was born Pearl Skirvin in 1890, the daughter of wealthy oilman William Balsler Skirvin. He had been on one of the first trains coming into Oklahoma Territory during the Land Run of 1889. When her mother died, Pearl, as the oldest child, assumed the responsibility of caring for the family. In 1910, William Skirvin decided to build a hotel, the finest in the Southwest. By September, 1911, the hotel was finished: it was ten stories high, had two wings, and 300 rooms. It featured running ice water in each room, and a ballroom that could seat 500 people. After boarding school, Pearl moved to Chicago to attend the Sherwood School of Music, and in 1915, moved to New York City to pursue her musical studies. She lived with a great-aunt on Park Avenue, and at a dinner party there, she met George Mesta, a wealthy steel manufacturer who was almost twice Pearl's age. After a short but romantic courtship, in 1917 they were married and made their home in Pittsburgh.

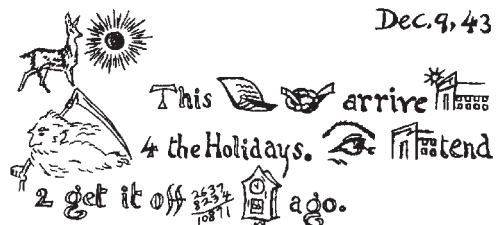
George owned the Mesta Machine Company, a major steel machinery manufacturer. As the U.S. became involved in WWI, the plant began manufacturing naval gun barrels and other war machinery. The Mestas took an apartment in Washington, D.C. and Pearl became intrigued with the way the leading hostesses combined politics with parties. In 1925, George died suddenly of a heart attack, and Pearl took over the company. She became politically active when she joined the national Woman's party and became its Congressional Chairman. The nation's capital soon became her main residence.

In 1944, Pearl made two interesting decisions -- she changed the spelling of her name from Pearl to Perle, and her political affiliation from Republican to Democrat. She began volunteering for the USO Canteen in Washington, and became friends with Evelyn McLean, a leading Washington hostess of the day. She campaigned relentlessly for Harry Truman, and gave parties for him and his wife, Bess. After his election in 1948, Truman asked Perle to take over the arrangements for the Inaugural Ball. Perle, as the hostess, entered the Ball on the President's arm as the band played "Hail to the Chief." Her fame as a hostess grew, and she found often political differences or matters of policy could be agreed upon in a social atmosphere better than in a board room. President Truman asked Perle to accept a diplomatic post as Ambassador to the European Duchy of Luxembourg, ruled by Grand Duchess Charlotte.

Perle was criticized in the press for having no credentials, but when she got to Luxembourg, she discovered it was the sixth largest steel producing country in the world, an industry in which Perle had much experience and understanding. Eleanor Roosevelt wrote an article stating that at first she questioned the appointment, but upon visiting Luxembourg, she saw how Perle's experience made her very useful. Perle's success was recognized shortly before she left Luxembourg in 1953 when the Grand Duchess bestowed on her the Grand Cross of Oak, the country's greatest honor, never before bestowed on a woman. The evening before her departure, the Luxembourgers staged a parade in her honor, and 200 orphans presented a farewell gift to "Madame Minister, Our American Auntie." She was invited by the Soviet Union to inspect their steel mills, and she traveled around the world lecturing, writing, and giving parties. When asked which of her many titles she cherished the most, she answered, "my Indian name, Toyoam Ti Toyah Mah, given to me years ago by the Kiowas. It means 'Woman Ambassador of Good Will Over the World.'"

**AUGUSTA METCALF -- (1881-1971) --  
PAINTER**

With a paintbrush, Augusta Metcalf recorded images of life in the early days of Oklahoma Territory as vividly and accurately as other historians have with

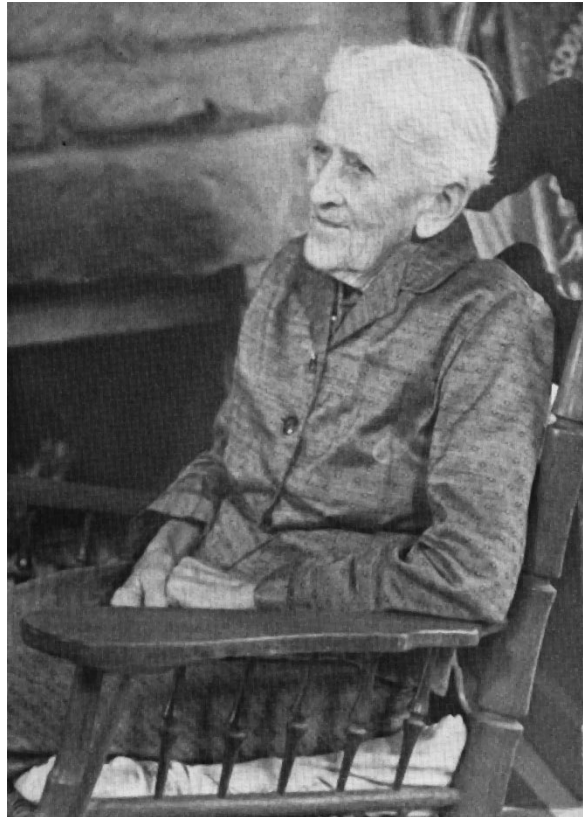


words. She arrived in the Oklahoma panhandle, No Man's Land, in a covered wagon in 1886. She first displayed her talent for drawing on the long wagon trip from Kansas to Durham, Oklahoma. Her mother gave her a pen and paper and told her to draw what she saw. People were amazed at the five year old's remarkable drawing of a horse. Her mother sent samples of Augusta's drawings to her brother, a college professor in California. Through the years, he encouraged Augusta and sent her art supplies and paper. Although Augusta never attended school, she received an excellent education from her mother, a school teacher who tutored her at home.

When Augusta's father died in 1903, Augusta and her mother ran two 160-acre farms alone. Augusta married Jim Metcalf when she was 25 and they had one son, Howard. When

Howard was two, Metcalf deserted the family, leaving, once again, Augusta and her mother to run the farms and households. Augusta's paintings reflected her life -- not the hardships, but the people, animals, and the beauty of the landscape. She began illustrating for Eastern educational magazines, as well as for farming and other regional publications. One of her most unusual paintings was on a grain of corn. The painting depicted a blue sky with a garden scene of a lady sitting in the shade of the trees, listening to the red horn of an Edison phonograph. The miniature was sent to Thomas Edison, and in a letter dated April 23, 1912, he thanked Augusta for the treasure.

By 1911, Augusta was receiving some recognition for her paintings. She won first prize at the Oklahoma State Fair in 1909 and 1910. At the Amarillo Tri-State Fair, her paintings won first place in 1948, 1951, and 1952. In 1950, *Life* magazine contained an article about the 69-year-old "Sage Brush Artist." In 1968, Augusta Metcalf was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Her watercolors hang all over the world, in homes, banks, office buildings, and art galleries.



### **LUCILLE MULHALL -- (1886-1940) -- COWGIRL**

Visiting the Mulhall Ranch in Oklahoma Territory was an experience not to be forgotten by city slickers, who were amazed at the endless acres of rolling ranch land and hundreds of head of cattle, stables of beautiful thoroughbred horses and the fine facilities for training race horses. The sprawling ranch house was beautifully decorated and the hospitality was generously extended. The Mulhalls were a fun loving family who made each guest feel at home. Lucille moved with the family to the ranch when she