

1966

Dr. Russell B. Fairgrieve

Class of 1917



Dr. Russell Fairgrieve was born in Aurora, Ill., and attended Grove City High School. Following his Grove City College graduation, Fairgrieve received his commission as a second lieutenant in the infantry, and he emerged from the service with the rank of captain.

Fairgrieve taught high school English and science in Columbus, Ohio, from 1921 to 1927, when he moved with his family to Tucson for health reasons. After tutoring a boy from the East who was in Tucson, also for health reasons, Fairgrieve determined to establish a college preparatory school for boys in similar need. With pioneer fortitude, he built the Southern Arizona School in September 1930. At the time of his award, the Arizona school covered 65 acres, had a student enrollment of approximately 100 with a faculty of 12 and had 19 buildings. Fairgrieve continued to develop the school until 1964, when he retired as headmaster. He settled in a home overlooking the campus and continued to serve the school as chairman of the board of trustees.

Fairgrieve was active in community affairs. He served as director and vice president of the Tucson Chamber of Commerce and was a charter member and first president of the Association of Independent Schools of Southern Arizona.

He passed away.

Additional degrees: Honorary Doctor of Laws degree, 1958