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MAX S. LALE

By Archie P. McDonald

Much of this issue of the *Journal* celebrates the life and contributions – especially to the Association – of Max Sims Lale, past president of the Association (1981-1982), author of sixteen articles and twenty-four book reviews published in the *Journal*, and benefactor of the Georgiana and Max S. Lale Lectures presented in conjunction with the Fall Meeting for the past ten years and continuing.

No matter how extensive are such statistics, they cannot identify the enormous contribution Max made by just being among us. He was born on August 31, 1916, and left this life on April 22, 2006, which is usually presented as 1916–2006. Recently I read a poem by Linda Ellis that reminded me that the whole meaning of a life was represented by that dash. This is especially true for one's mature years.

Max's "dash" began in his beloved Oklahoma, expanded at his even more beloved University of Oklahoma, fleshed out during prewar military service then participation in four of five campaigns in Europe during WWII ("The Big One"), postwar career in journalism, and most of all, was fulfilled when he became Harrison County's favorite keeper of its past.

Max lived a long, generally happy, and most of all, decent life. Shakespeare said it best in *Henry V*, "...this was a man." We who shared Max's "dash" time were blessed beyond our knowing the extent of the blessing then.

Old Soldier and dear friend, we salute you.