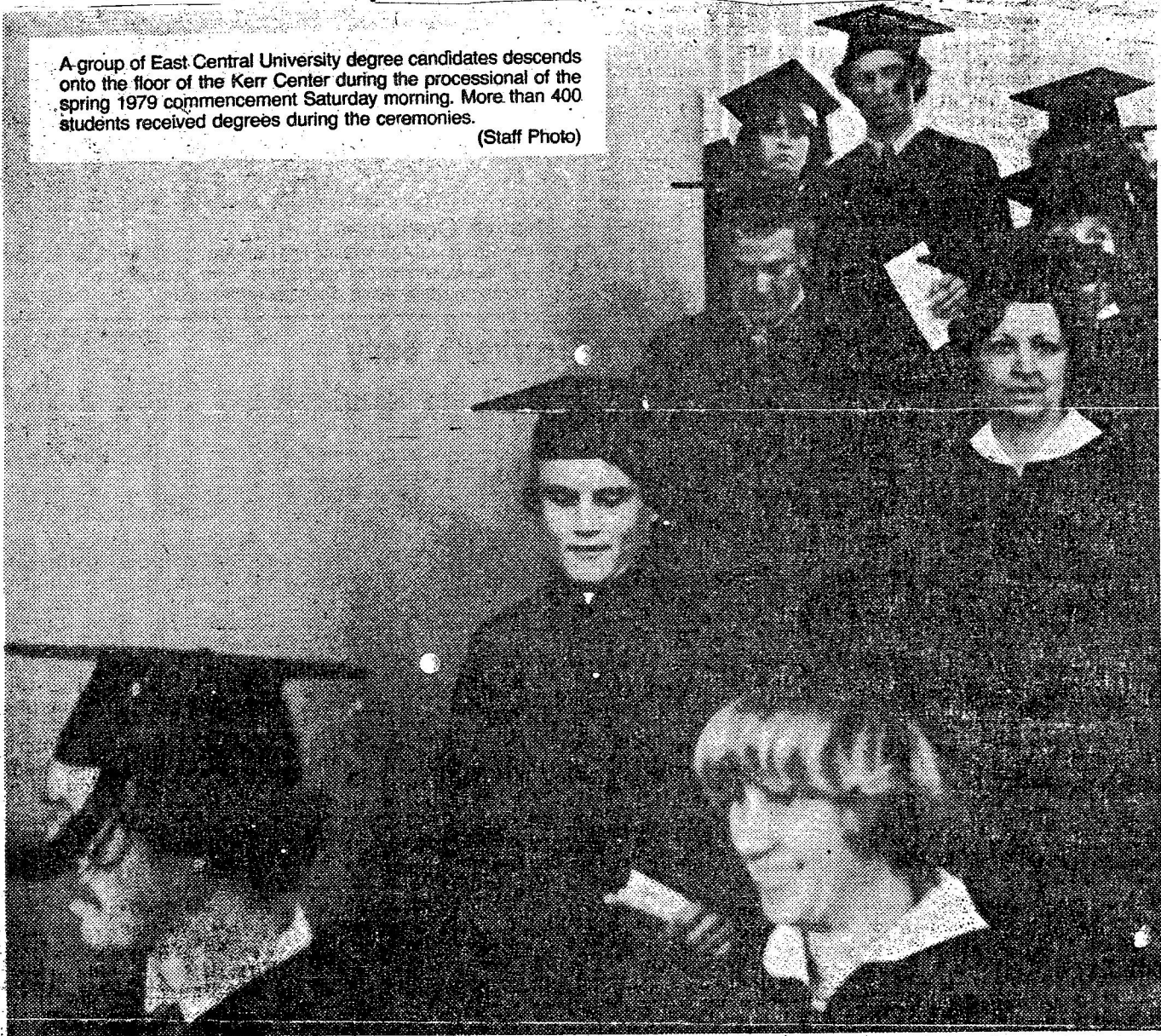


ADA SUNDAY NEWS

ADA, OKLAHOMA, SUNDAY, MAY 20, 1979

A group of East Central University degree candidates descends onto the floor of the Kerr Center during the processional of the spring 1979 commencement Saturday morning. More than 400 students received degrees during the ceremonies.

(Staff Photo)



ECU Grads Hear Deering

Members of the Class of '79 received degrees Saturday morning during commencement exercises at East Central University.

A packed house of relatives and well-wishers looked on as Ferdie Deering, Editorial Director of the Farmer-Stockman Publishing Co. and an ECU alumnus, addressed the more than 400 candidates for degrees in the Kerr Center.

Deering, who graduated from Horace Mann High School on the EC campus in 1928 and later received his degree from the college in 1933, was presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award by ECU president Dr. Stanley Wagner following the commencement address.

Deering opened his remarks by recalling in a humorous vein his first impressions of East Central as a youngster growing up in Ada during the 1920s. He mentioned tuition costs of \$5 per semester and remembered classes he took under Harvey Faust, Frank Spencer and Oscar Parker.

Deering's address, entitled "Editorial Headlines for Success," reflected his life-long involvement in the newspaper business. He listed five headlines, dealing with faith, learning,

ambition, thrift and diligence and followed each with a mini-editorial.

Highlights of those "editorials" included:

"It may be fashionable for some to deny the existence of God. But, in our opinion, a successful person is one who has faith in God, loves his fellow man and is dedicated to a life that is worthwhile..."

"Today's world asks: What can you do that a computer can't do? Man can live without air for a few seconds. He may survive without water for days. He could continue for weeks without food. And some exist for years without a new idea... The most valuable commodity in business, the arts, education, science, entertainment and government is good new ideas. Computers don't have them. Only people have ideas..."

Deering concluded his remarks by encouraging the graduates to find work they would enjoy. He charged them to "aim high and then exceed your highest expectations."

"Whatever you do," he added, "always do right."

Then, ending on a light note, Deering quoted Mark Twain, who said, "This will gratify some people, and astonish the others."