

2—From news butch to preacher to college president—that's Morehead's Adron Doran

MOREHEAD, Ky., Dec. 5.—His wavy dark hair held partly under control by a uniform cap, the lanky young news butch cried his wares while pacing the littered day-coach aisles.

Persuasively he hawked peanuts, crack-erjack, chewing gum, cigars and cigarettes on the train between Parsons, Kan., and St. Louis.

At that time the new butch, a Western Kentucky boy named Adron Doran, had as his only ambition that of becoming a teacher. And peddling peanuts was one way of earning a little money to help finance his education.

He not only achieved his school-teaching goal but went on to head the Kentucky Education Association and eventually to become a college president.

Almost Anywhere . . .

When not too busy with college administration, Dr. Doran is likely to be found almost anywhere in the mountains. Seldom is he absent from a meeting of the Eastern Kentucky Regional Planning Commission. Often he attends Boy Scout Council sessions throughout the area. He is in constant demand as a high-school commencement speaker. And on most Sundays he can be found preaching in Eastern Kentucky churches.

Known as a captivating public speaker, he is a qualified minister of the Church of Christ, although he never has held a regular pastorate. He became a preacher more or less accidentally while working

his way through Murray State College as a paid Gospel singer.

On one occasion, while taking part in a country revival down in the Purchase, young Doran was drafted into the pulpit when the revivalist suddenly became homesick for Texas and walked out just before the Sunday service. Members of the congregation urged the Gospel singer to fill in. He did.

"And that," he said, "is how I happened to get into the preaching business."

Aside from Dr. Doran's educational and religious work, he has served four terms as a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives. During one of those terms, he was Speaker of the House. He also has been a basketball coach, and once was editor of The Fulton Daily Leader.

Graduate Of Cuba

Born near Boydsville, Dr. Doran was graduated from Cuba High School, where, being 6 feet 2 inches tall, he "jumped center" on the basketball team. It was a pretty fair team, too, winning the district championship in 1928. Like a later Cuba team that won the state championship, Doran's quintet might have gone to the Lexington tournament that year except for one thing!

Parents of the Cuba players refused permission for them to take part in the regional tournament at Lone Oak. Too

far to travel just to take part in a basketball tournament, they agreed. They didn't want their boys traveling 35 miles away from home just to play games.

Dr. Doran attended Freed-Hardeman Junior College in Tennessee and received a bachelor-of-science degree from Murray State College, where he was a member of the basketball team.

It was at Murray that he fell in love with Miss Mignon Louise McClain of Sedalia. She is now Mrs. Adron Doran, the organist who plays between games at the state basketball tournament each year.

Married As Student

They were married while both were students at Murray, where he went on to earn a master-of-arts degree. Then she taught school while he attended the University of Kentucky, earning a doctor-of-education degree.

Dr. Doran served as teacher and principal at Boaz, Sylvan Shade and Wingo High Schools. He also was basketball coach at Boaz and Silver Shade. Later, he became visiting professor of education at the University of Georgia and was director of the Division of Teacher Education and Certification for the Kentucky Department of Education.

He has been president of the Murray

State College Alumni Association three terms, and for 10 years was secretary of the Jackson Purchase Athletic Conference. He had been a member of the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission and a member of the executive committee of the Blue Grass Boy Scouts Council.

At Morehead State College, where he became president in 1954, he was awarded the Lincoln Key for success in integrating Negroes without fanfare or incident.

To 2,104 Now

In the five years that he has been Morehead's president, the enrollment has grown from 698 to 2,104.

Keeping pace with the constant enlargement of the student body has been the college's physical expansion. The Doran Student House has been built during his tenure as has the fieldhouse.

Two large campus projects now are under construction. They are a 201-room dormitory for men and 100 units of apartments for married students.

Plans call for a new classroom building and a maintenance building, for which Dr. Doran will ask an appropriation from the Legislature. He also has applied for federal loans looking forward to the construction of still another men's dormitory to have 100 rooms and a 100-room dormitory for women students.



Staff Photo By Gerald Griffith

Adron Doran, president of Morehead State College, is a busy man. In addition to running the school, he is a much-sought public speaker.