

# SOONER SPOTLIGHT ● THE CORRS

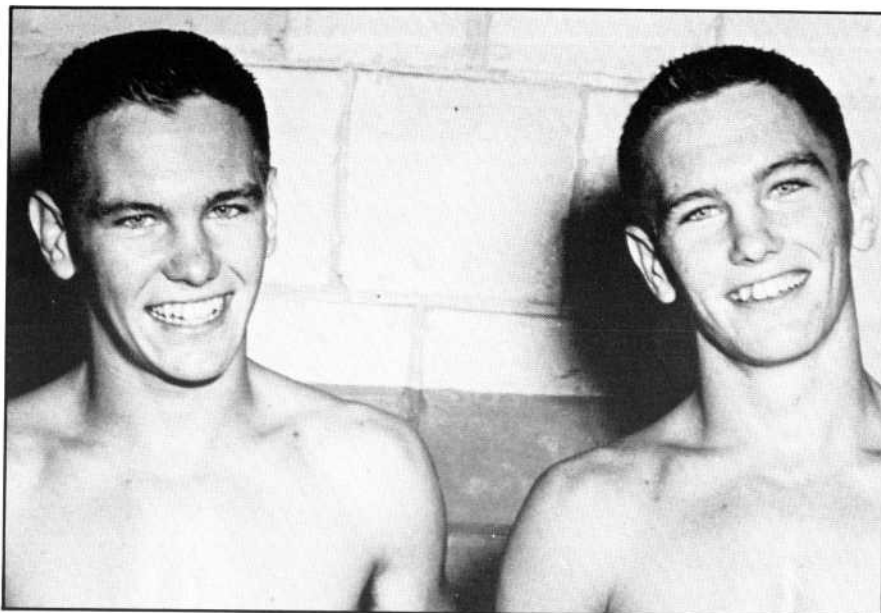
That's Junior on the left and Ed on the right . . .

Edwin G. Corr is not the stereotypical diplomat of movie and musical comedy fame. More at home in pull-over sweaters or jogging suits than striped pants and top hat, Ed Corr is a serious, hard working career man, who has spent the past 21 years in seven different countries in a variety of foreign service assignments. He has dined with heads of state, been kidnapped by would-be terrorists and had his home bombed. Yet through it all, he has retained the boyish grin and quiet humor of the skinny kid from Perry who came with his identical twin, Bert Corr, Jr., to wrestle for the University of Oklahoma.

From 1952 to 1956, Ed and Junior wrestled 123 pounds on the cream of Port Robertson's championship teams. Junior started as a sophomore, Ed as a junior, both losing the regular starting spot as seniors to Navy veteran Dick Delgado, who would be AAU and NCAA champ and go to the Olympics. At that, Delgado often had more trouble beating Ed in team trials than he had with opponents from other schools. When the Corr boys weren't wrestling, they each boxed to an intramural title.

"We weren't star wrestlers," Bert Corr, Jr., claims in retrospect. "Considering our physical make-up, we were fortunate to do as well as we did. We're grateful to have been on the OU teams with so many great wrestlers." Most were Oklahomans, a number from Perry. Dan Hodge, Gordon Roesler, Don Studebaker, Don Hart, Bobby Lyons — but the name both Corrs revere is Port Robertson, as Ed says, "the greatest influence on my life."

Both Ed and Junior had NROTC scholarships, and after receiving B.S. degrees in social studies from the OU College of Education, they became Marine officers, where they continued



"We looked so young and thin as freshmen," Bert Corr says. "Each of us put on size as we endured Port's tough workouts and ate training table food."

. . . or is it Ed on the left?

their winning wrestling ways, both earning all-Marine titles. They returned to OU for master's degrees in 1961, Ed in history and Bert, Jr., in education. Both married Norman girls. Susanne Springer, daughter of OU math Professor and Mrs. Eugene Springer, married Ed; Jere Claxton became Mrs. Bert, Jr. Bert stayed with education, was principal of Norman High School and now is superintendent of schools at Poteau.

Ed went into the foreign service, taking time out to be a Peace Corps director in Colombia from 1966 to 1968, for post graduate work at the Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas in 1968-69, and in 1971 to help establish the Inter-American Foundation, a development organization working with the private sector in Latin America. His diplomatic assignments included Mexico, Thailand and Ecuador; he was deputy as-

sistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters, then ambassador to Peru and Bolivia.

Ed and Susanne, who is credited by her husband with a large share in their success in foreign lands, have sent two of their three daughters to OU, both seniors, Michelle in zoology and Jennifer in music, to be followed by Phoebe next year. Bert and Jere, meanwhile, have had to bite the bullet as daughter, Cindy, and son, Ed, chose Oklahoma State University.

Colleagues scoffed when Ed Corr insisted from the day he entered the foreign service — that eventually he would return to Oklahoma to begin a second career. Today he feels that his diplomatic career still has a few more years to run, but nothing in that life, exciting and rewarding as it has been, has caused him to change his mind about coming home.