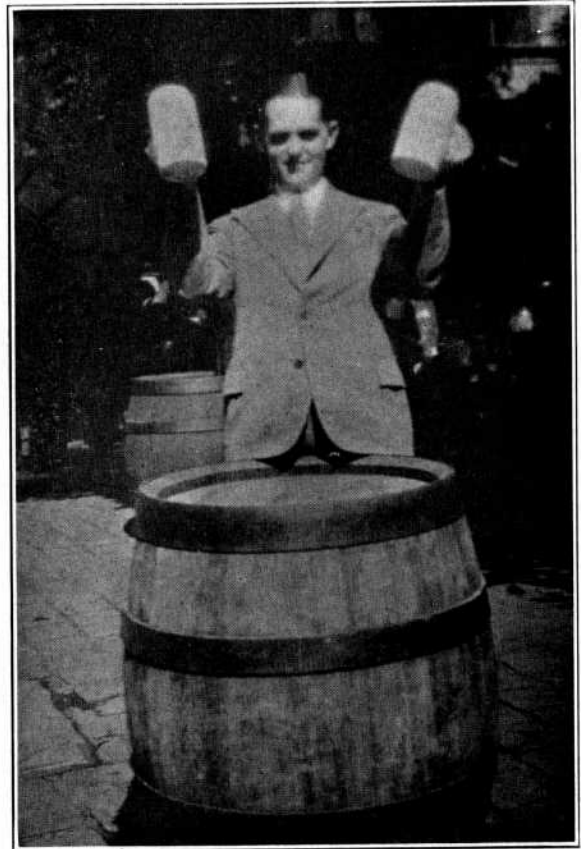


Here is an old photograph of Joe Benton, 20 as of 1910, taken a number of years ago in the beloved Italy which he recently left to continue his operatic work in this country.

## Benton Returns From Europe

By S. DEBORAH HAINES



**T**OOT! Toot! Toot!" The warning whistle of the Savoia! In ten minutes she would leave the shores of Genoa for America. Joseph Bentonnelli was on the dock.

"I was waiting for my trunks," Joe wrote his mother. "The man who had promised to meet me at the baggage room with them was not there. The room was bare, both of men and baggage. The Savoia was whistling its ten-minute-before-sailing warning. I ran to find the manager of the baggage department, but he knew nothing of my trunks. Long ago, I learned that in Italy, he who yells loudest, is always right. So I began to vocalize using no uncertain language. It worked!"

Only two minutes before the boat sailed, Bentonnelli found his valuable trunks, containing his costumes, musical library, and farewell gifts from the friends in Italy. When he saw the trunks go aboard, he ran for a gangplank, but it was swinging away from the ship. He rushed for the next one and reached the ship just as the gangway was drawn up. And incidentally he got away from Italy before threatening war conditions became serious.

He arrived in New York October third, after making a rush trip to Italy to bring back his personal belongings that he had accumulated during his nine years residence there. When he came to

America in 1934 for a visit with his parents and friends, he left his things behind because he expected to return there.

Bentonnelli is now in New York, his American headquarters, and expects to remain there until October 28, at which time he is giving a concert in Chicago. Grand opera season in St. Louis will be opened on October 31 by Bentonnelli and Maria Jeritz in "Turandot." In Chicago, grand opera season opens November 2 and he will sing with the Chicago Opera Company, throughout the fall and early winter. During the later winter and spring, with this group, he will tour the United States.

During his Chicago engagement, the famous tenor and Rosa Raisa will sing the leading roles in "La Fimma" by Respighi. While in Italy, Bentonnelli had the rare privilege of rehearsing with the composer. This great opera has never before been given in America, and Bentonnelli was delighted to learn from the composer, himself, the traditions that surround it. One of the highly prized gifts to Bentonnelli, was a complete score of this opera presented to him by an organization in Italy.

Two of Bentonnelli's costumes for this opera were tailored in Italy during his last short visit there, because he wanted to give fully the exact setting of this musical romance. His interpretations are

inspiring, mainly, on account of the marvelous lyric and dramatic qualities of his voice.

Bentonnelli's success as a grand opera and concert singer are so well known that details of his boyhood are interesting. His name was "Joe Benton" (the "Bentonnelli" was adopted later in Italy to appease the foreigners who were prejudiced against American singers, and since he won his laurels under that name he feels he should retain it.) He lived on a farm near Sayre, Oklahoma, until he was fifteen years old. He helped his father in the field and his mother in the house.

One day, during wheat cutting, Joe hauled in a big load of bundles. After he threw them onto the stack, he noticed that it was eleven o'clock. He hurried to the house to help his mother get the dinner onto the table for harvesters. His mother laughed when she recalled his remarks about helping her with the dinner:

"Mother, I wish I were twins so I could help you in the house and father in the field at the same time."

Norman people give Bentonnelli the reputation for being a "Bear" for hard work. While a student in the University, he earned a large part of his expenses by giving concerts and teaching voice. When the time came for him to go to Europe to study, he had saved up money

to cover tuition and necessities. His being chosen a member of Phi Beta Kappa indicated the quality of his scholarship, in his arts and science work here. William G. Schmidt, professor of voice in the University, directed Bentonnelli's training here.

"Yes, Bentonnelli is a genius," Professor Schmidt remarked in discussing his successes. "He has a genius for hard work. I think that ninety per cent of his success is due to his dogged persistence in doing each task thoroughly and well. Of course his wonderful home background and the influence there made him the fine gentleman that he is and the true friend that I have found him to be."

When saying farewell to Italy which had been his home for nine years, Bentonnelli gave away many things that he thought would be useful to his friends there. To his teacher of German, Frau —, he gave his phonograph. It was an instrument with an especially beautiful tone. She was tearful with joy to receive such a gift.

"Now when I have to go out to give German lessons," she said, "my poor blind husband will not be so lonely." Joseph's mother was very happy that he had remembered this kind old woman.

When asked, if she is glad that her son is again in America, Mrs. Benton beamed with delight,

"Well, what mother wouldn't be?"

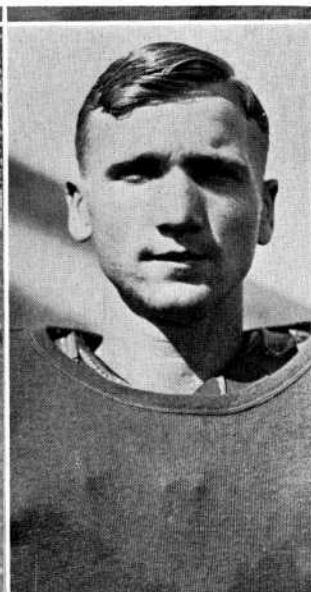
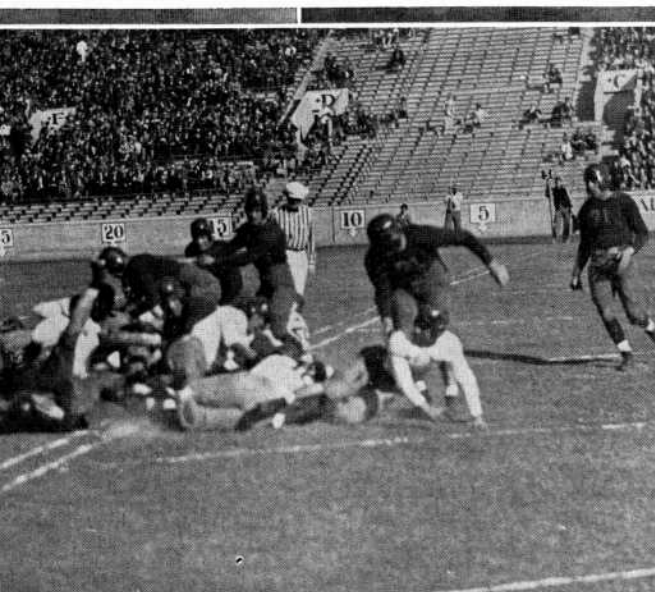
## Sooner Roll Call

### DIRECTORY CHANGES

Oliver C. Appleton, '33bus, Camp SCS-27-T., Madisonville, Texas.  
 Kenneth Knight Baird, '35bus, Box 96, Hugoton, Kansas.  
 Wilbur F. Bohlman, '35bs, 208 Northeast Park, Oklahoma City.  
 Floyd Bohn, '35eng, 604 West Polk, Houston, Texas.  
 Charles Byron Bolar, '35ms, Box 2038, Norman.  
 Howard P. Bonebrake, care Aluminum Company of America, 1601 Allen Building, Dallas, Texas.  
 Sara Elizabeth Boswell, '31as, 1313 South Cherry, Ada.  
 Mrs. Fannie Bowling Sebastian, '26ed, '32M.A., 121 Northeast 13th, Oklahoma City.  
 Fred Boynton, '35eng, Box 166, Drumright.  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Brewer Winn, '29as, Boulder Park Apartments, Tulsa.  
 Royal M. Burke, '35pharm, care Delux Drug Store, Overton, Texas.  
 Joseph Brunson Burkhalter, '35eng, Albany, Tex.

Ethel V. CaLori, '33M.A., 130 West 7th Street, Oklahoma City.  
 Dale Clark, '35as, 449 Elm Street, Norman.  
 Ralph Otis Clark, '35bs, 1706 Southeast 29th Street, Oklahoma City.  
 James M. Cleary, '35as, 1302 South Boulder, Tulsa.  
 Carl E. Cloud, '35gas eng, 820 South Main, Apartment 10, Tulsa.  
 Kenneth Franklin Cook, '35eng, 541 Northwest 30th, Oklahoma City.  
 Raymond W. Dudley, '35eng, Box 384, Wellington, Kansas.  
 Douglas Norton Evans, '35eng, 3614 Fir Street, Harbor, Indiana.  
 Harry B. Fleming, jr., '28as, Barksdale Field, Shreveport, Louisiana.  
 Patrick Edwin Fletcher, '35eng, Longview, Tex.  
 John William Flucke, jr., '34M.A., 7804 Maryland Avenue, Clayton, Missouri.  
 Mrs. Geraldine Gallanher, '35nurse, 916 South Cowley Street, Spokane, Washington.  
 Mrs. Winifred Goodard Edwards, '35bus, 311 First Street, Seminole.

Mrs. Velma Gorton Mouser, '35phys. ed, 422 West 8th Street, Oklahoma City.  
 E. Fred Hollandsworth, '35eng, Geophysical Research Corporation, Tulsa.  
 Mrs. Gladys Jeffers Boynton, '35ed, Box 166, Drumright.  
 Dr. E. Ossop Johnson, '34med, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md.  
 John Alexander Jones, '35eng, Box 896, Hobbs, New Mexico.  
 Russell Gordon Jones, '35as, 764 DeBarr, Norman.  
 Clyde Kernek, '35B.S., 501 West 12th, Oklahoma City.  
 Mrs. Audra Griffith Key, '28ed, Freedom.  
 Harry Harms, '35eng, Hughes Tool Company, Eunice, New Mexico.  
 J. Douglas Lane, '32law, 205 Union National Bank Building, Bartlesville.  
 Frank Edwin Lee, '32chem, 1204 East Broadway, Enid.  
 Mildred Marie Lenrox, '34nurse, Pemberton Hall, Ann Arbor, Michigan.  
 Frank M. Long, '08as, '09M.A., 233 LeMaster Street, Memphis, Tennessee.  
 William A. McCullar, '35eng, 1602 West Main, Enid.  
 Marjorie McKissick, '35phys. ed, 736 East 5th Street, Long Beach, California.  
 Raymond Evandor McPhail, '33geol, The Texas Company, Tulsa.  
 Edgar W. Marshall, '25as, Chandler.  
 Charles LeMear Mount, jr., '35B.S., Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore, Md.  
 Granville T. Norris, '29as, 239 West Washington, McAlester.  
 Charles Leslie Pain, '35law, Southwest Light and Power Company, Chickasha.  
 Deane Raley, '33pharm, 129 West 30th, Apartment 8, Oklahoma City.  
 Howard Ritchie, '35ed, Walters.  
 Joe Adams Robinson, '35bus, Box 327, Y. M. C. A., Oklahoma City.  
 Herschel G. Rowland, '35eng, 7040 Harrisburg, Houston, Texas.  
 V. L. Rowland, '32zoo, Standlin Oil Company, Alvin, Texas.  
 Mary Ann Sale, '35nurse, Route 2, Fort Gibson.  
 Anne Elizabeth Short, '34ed, 106 Waverly Place, New York City.  
 Jesse L. Simon, '35eng, 317 Northwest 8th, Oklahoma City.  
 Agnes D. Smith '35nurse, 800 East 12th, Oklahoma City.  
 Hermoine Stafford, '35nurse, Wewoka Hospital, Wewoka.  
 Mary Frances Stewart, '34lib sci., Hotel Nueches, Corpus Christi, Texas.  
 Mrs. Melba Tharp Dysart, '35bus, 808 East Oklahoma, Ponca City.  
 Albert Hoyle Tonkin, '35eng, Box 427, Wewoka.  
 George Burton Turner, '35eng, 5 Stiles Park Circle, Oklahoma City.  
 Mrs. Nellie Weaver Will, '28as, Lovell, Wy.  
 Ralph F. Will, '29B.S., Lovell, Wyoming.  
 John E. Woodward, '32as, 816 West London, El Reno.  
 Dr. Paul Zeigler, '34med, 207 North Madden, Shamrock, Texas.



Elmo "Bo" Hewes has been converted into a right wingback under the Captain Lawrence "Biff" Jones regime. The change has put Hewes in the role of a ball carrier, and made him one of the Sooners' most important offensive cogs.