

# Sooners at Home and Abroad

Joan Carroll (below), daughter of two O. U. alumni, is the "talent surprise" of the current Broadway hit, "Panama Hattie"



WITH the annual reorganization of the State Supreme Court this month, a former student of the University becomes chief justice, and seven of the nine positions on the court are filled by graduates or former students of O. U.

Justice Earl Welch, '11, becomes chief justice this month. He has been a member of the court since 1933 and vice chief justice for the last two years.

The other six Sooners on the court are Fletcher Riley, '17ba, oldest member of the court in point of service; Monroe Osborn, '04; Wayne Bayless, '20law; Thurman S. Hurst, '12law; Denver N. Davison, '15law, and Ben Arnold, '20ba, '25law. Judge Arnold, former district judge in Oklahoma County, is a new member of the State Supreme Court.

Justice Welch, of Chickasaw descent, is the first enrolled member of an Indian tribe to sit on the court. He was born near Wister, was educated in the public schools of Poteau and Talihina, attended Harley Institute at Tishomingo, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Oklahoma.

Admitted to the bar in 1911, he engaged in practice at Antlers until 1927, when he became district judge. He also served as mayor of Antlers, member of the board of education and director of the Antlers Chamber of Commerce before being elected to the Supreme Court.

## Broadway Hit

Joan Carroll, the film-actress daughter of two University of Oklahoma alumni, is making a big hit in this season's successful Broadway show *Panama Hattie*, at the 46th Street Theatre.

In a cast that includes such luminaries as Ethel Merman, James Dunn, and Phyllis Brooks, eight-year-old Joan was called the "talent surprise of the evening" in a review by *Stage* magazine.

Joan is the daughter of Wright L. Felt, '16eng, and Mrs. Felt (Freda Brown, '18). Within the last few years the youngster blossomed into important roles in moving pictures, and last fall was invited into the cast of the Broadway show.

*Panama Hattie* is a musical produced by Buddy DeSylva, with songs by Cole Porter. The story deals with frustrated love and the sinister doings of the fifth columnists in the Panama Canal area.

Although already a success by the best Broadway and Hollywood yardsticks, at the tender age of eight, Joan talks of her past "disappointments" with the philosophy of a veteran.

"I just never did think I'd ever get started," she confessed to an interviewer between scenes back stage. "Hollywood is just filled with children like myself and when we'd get to talking in the casting offices almost everyone had the same story to tell, though we did go out and play marbles or skip rope when the waiting for executives to see us got too monotonous.

"When we finally did get our first contract—that is, mommy and me," she continued, "I thought I'd be in almost every scene for it seemed to me I was acting before the camera all the time. That was only in the beginning, though. Before I got to know much about the way editors cut the films. I guess I couldn't have been much good because almost all of me was cut out. I didn't understand it at first and Mommy used to say 'don't worry, Joan, there'll be more of you in the next picture.' And when there wasn't, it was my turn to cheer her up."

Joan first gave evidence of her acting ability when she was about three years old, reports her mother, who is her constant companion. She used to combine dancing and acting out fairy tales in a make-believe theatre of her own in Washington, D. C., where Mr. Felt worked for the government. In time the child entertained at some of the better social soirees at which political bigwigs were in attendance. Their urging that Joan be taken to Hollywood, plus the fabulous stories about the success of Shirley Temple, then in her prime, prompted the family to make the trip West.

Here Joan was just another child, one of veritable hundreds who came from every section of the country with the same high hopes for a screen career. Except that Joan was more fortunate in meeting up with Marjorie Gateson who thought her cute and pretty. The actress in turn brought the child to Mary Pickford through whom she came to the attention of B. P. Shulberg. He thought she had possibilities, signed her to a contract and then promptly left the Paramount lot. This left Joan without any prospects whatsoever.

There began then the usual round of visits to the studios in the vain hope of winning an interview with a casting director. Seldom, however, did she get past the office gate. Since age is an element in a budding starlet, the mother began to despair of ever having her in a picture when she was still young enough to be cute. Meantime, she continued studying dancing, singing, acting, roller skating, ice skating—she figure skates beautifully—and all the other necessary adjuncts to a rounded histrionic career demanded from juvenile players.

An agent, Gene Mann, interceded at this juncture—he also had considerable to do with Shirley Temple's early start—and Joan finally got her first opportunity with, of all firms, 20th Century-Fox, little Miss Temple's employers. As already noted, she acted a lot, but little got to the screen until about a year ago when under RKO sponsorship she appeared in the screen version of *Primrose Path*. The critics and public liked her and thereupon she was given another role in *Anne of Windy Poplars*. A third, *Laddie*, has just been released. It's her first featured plot.

*Panama Hattie*, however, did more for Joan Carroll than any of the films she was in. Given assignments only in "B" pictures up to now, RKO is planning a series of "A" films for her when she winds up her stage career in the Cole Porter musical sometime in the distant future.

"Strange," mused Joan's mother the other day, "how it takes Broadway recognition to get you really going in Hollywood."

## Guard Officers

A check of the Oklahoma National Guard roster of commissioned officers as the 45th Division went into active duty in the United States Army at Fort Sill reveals eighty-two graduates of the University serving as officers. Some of those in the following list have probably received promotions in rank since induction into federal service.

The list of Sooner graduates serving as officers in the 45th Division includes:

Capt. Lee B. Thompson, '25ba, '27law, Oklahoma City.  
 First Lieut. Clark M. Cunningham, '16ba, '30ms.ed, Oklahoma City.  
 Lieut. Col. Joe J. Miller, '22ma, Chickasha.  
 First Lieut. William E. Harrison, '37law, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. Ira T. Bond, '27med, Norman.  
 First Lieut. John A. Pennington, '40m.ed, Waynoka.  
 Second Lieut. Paul D. Cummings, '39law, Alva.  
 Capt. Bertrus Kemmerer, '25, Guthrie.  
 Second Lieut. Nevelle E. McKinney, '40pharm, Guthrie.  
 Brig. Gen. Louis A. Ledbetter, '12law, Oklahoma City.  
 Col. Murray F. Gibbons, '15, Oklahoma City.  
 Major Patrick H. Lawson, '29med, Marietta.  
 Capt. Elton W. LeHew, '30med, Pawnee.  
 Capt. James O. Hood, '29med, Norman.  
 Capt. Lester P. Smith, '29med, Marlow.  
 Major Edward F. Stephenson, '40m.ed, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. Mace Spangler, '27ba, '37m.ed, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. Quentin M. Spradling, '28ba, '32bus, '40m.bus, Norman.  
 First Lieut. Harry W. Hughes, '29ba, Norman.  
 Lieut. Col. Joseph D. Garrison, '29bs, '36m.ed, Norman.  
 Capt. Curtis L. Williams, '36law, Stillwater.  
 Capt. O. H. Douglass, '25ba, Okmulgee.  
 Capt. Albert E. Bonnell, Jr., '25, Muskogee.  
 Capt. Carson L. Oglesbee, '37med, Muskogee.  
 Second Lieut. Robert G. Cates, '39pharm, Coalgate.  
 First Lieut. Hezzie S. Bates, '31ms.ed, Durant.  
 Second Lieut. Raymond S. McLain, Jr., '36bs, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. Hugh A. Neal, '27bs, Bartlesville.  
 First Lieut. William B. McFadyen, '33ba, '35law, Anadarko.  
 Howard A. Way, '32ed, Lawton.  
 First Lieut. Bryan L. Rakestraw, '33ba, '35law, Oklahoma City.  
 First Lieut. John C. Niehaus, '30bus, Chickasha.  
 First Lieut. William O. Breedlove, Jr., '38law, Kingfisher.  
 Second Lieut. William G. Riddle, '36ba, Kingfisher.  
 Capt. John E. Weiler, '32eng, Duncan.  
 First Lieut. Paul E. Scheefers, '33eng, Duncan.  
 Second Lieut. James T. Wilcoxson, '35bus, Duncan.  
 Capt. James C. Todd, '31law, Tulsa.  
 First Lieut. Oran N. McCain, '31law, Tulsa.  
 First Lieut. Joseph R. Boosa, '29ba, Wewoka.



*O. U. alumni serving on the State Supreme Court: left to right, standing, Ben Arnold (just beginning his first term), Wayne Bayless, Sam Neff (just completing a term he was appointed to fill out), and Fletcher Riley. Sitting, left to right, Denver Davison, Monroe Osborn, Earl Welch and Thurman Hurst*

Capt. Walter J. Arnote, '28ba, '28law, McAlester.  
 Second Lieut. William G. Johnson, '30bus, McAlester.  
 Major Lanson D. Mitchell, '19ba, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. Raymond W. Washam, '35ba, Tulsa.  
 First Lieut. John T. Cooper, Jr., '36ba, Wewoka.  
 Capt. John Embry, '27law, Chandler.  
 Second Lieut. Albert R. Brown, '38law, Chandler.  
 Capt. Boylston B. Bass, '28bus, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. Clarence G. Brown, '23ba, Norman.  
 Capt. William G. Dunnington, '32med, Cherokee.  
 Lieut. Col. Paul B. Bell, '37ms.ed, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. Wesley H. Jones, '31, Oklahoma City.  
 First Lieut. Charles W. Cleverdon, '33bus, Oklahoma City.  
 Second Lieut. Joseph D. Anderson, '34ba, '34law, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. Henry G. White, '16ba, Chickasha.  
 Second Lieut. Victor H. Powers, Jr., '40bus, Chickasha.  
 Lieut. Col. Allan Falkenstine, '17, Watonga.  
 First Lieut. Webster Wilder, Jr., '33ba, '33law, Cherokee.  
 First Lieut. George W. Slemmer, '32ba, '39ms, Blackwell.  
 First Lieut. Carl J. Sallee, '30, Cherokee.  
 First Lieut. Howard P. Rice, '40m.ed, Roff.  
 Capt. Owen Black, '17, Muskogee.  
 Major Richard H. Cloyd, '19ba, '28law, Norman.  
 Capt. William C. Lindstrom, '32bs, '34med, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. Harlan E. Chase, '27eng, Ponca City.  
 Col. Rex G. Bolend, '08, Oklahoma City.  
 Major Nesbitt L. Miller, '25bs, '27med, Oklahoma City.  
 Major Wallace N. Davidson, '19med, Cushing.  
 Capt. Francis P. Mulky, '20ba, Oklahoma City.  
 Major Daniel L. Perry, '24bs, '26med, Cushing.  
 Major Walter H. Miles, '16bs, '18med, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. Glen W. McDonald, '32bs, '34med, Ada.  
 Capt. Orville H. Tackett, '37bs, '39med, Oklahoma City.  
 Major Fenton A. Sanger, '24bs, '26med, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. James H. Hammond, '37med, Tulsa.  
 Capt. Gilbert W. Tracy, '37bs, '38med, Erick.

Capt. Lewis C. Taylor, '35ba, '36bs, '38med, Oklahoma City.  
 First Lieut. William H. Webster, '33ba, Ada.  
 Major James E. Ensey, '28bs, '28med, Altus.  
 Capt. Milam F. McKinney, '34med, Oklahoma City.  
 Capt. Wayne A. Starkey, '34med, Altus.  
 Capt. Joe A. Stamper, '33ba, '35law, Antlers.

## Heads Society

Petroleum geologist J. Roy Seitz, '23 geol, of the firm of Seitz, Comegys and Seitz, Inc., of Wichita Falls, Texas, has been elected president of the North Texas Geological Society.

Mr. Seitz, who has been in the oil business for more than fifteen years, formerly was associated with the Fain-McGaha Oil Corporation in Wichita Falls.

## Insurance Branch Manager

Charles A. Fair, '24ba, has been made manager of the Empire State Branch of the Travelers Insurance Company, with offices in the Empire State Building, New York City. He was with the company in Dallas and in Dayton, Ohio, before being sent to New York to build up that division.

Although his branch is one of the youngest and has comparatively few agents, it ranked fifteenth in the company's Leap Year accident insurance campaign.

## Advertising Manager

The Oklahoma Natural Gas Company has announced appointment of Alden Coffey, Jr., '32, as merchandise sales and advertising manager of the firm. He and Mrs. Coffey (Ann Lynn Cook, '31ba) moved to Tulsa last month from Plainview, Texas, where Mr. Coffey has been sales promotion and advertising manager for the Texas-New Mexico Utilities Company.