

Correspondence . . .

(Ed's Note: During the years of the war, the Alumni Office has received hundreds of letters from men overseas describing their work, their surroundings, their friends, their feelings about the war and things in general. The longest and most detailed of these came recently from Lt. Truman Pouncey, '42, assistant professor of journalism on leave for service with the Civil Affairs division of the Army. Partly in honor of all the Sooners who have written us letters, and partly because this is such a good one, we here print some excerpts from Lieutenant Pouncey's letter.)

It's BEEN a long time since we heard from one another, hasn't it? Things certainly are not what they used to be, what with war and 5,000 miles between you and me. Just a few more Friday the 13's though, and maybe I can be standing there grinning some happier day when you look up.

The grin you know will not have changed very much. There hasn't been a great deal of wear on it since you saw it last, and, thank God, no tear. There sure were a lot of times when I was afraid my last birthday anniversary had been celebrated, though. But then so did everyone fear who landed on Omaha Beach a year ago last June and came on through northern France and the German campaigns.

I came across the Channel as a Pfc. interpreter for a Civil Affairs "D" detachment (two British officers, two American officers and six American enlisted men) on D plus 18. . . . When we arrived at our bivouac area, a lovely muddy meadow between two apple orchards, with the mines cleared ONLY from under the trees, we were just starting to unpack when there was an awful bangety boom plunk. Nobody had to tell us what to do! There was a convenient ditch (muddy, of course) near me, and the ten of us jumped for such places of concealment exactly as frogs do off a log. After a while we cautiously peered over the edges of our ready-made foxholes. Odd! The mechanics at the motor pool "next door" were going about their business, whistling, unworried. We were brave too, so we crawled out, combing the mud from our hair and retrieving our tin hats. . . . It was then we began to learn how to tell the outgoing mail from the incoming. A good lesson that was, too, for Detachment D10B1, 1st E.C.A. Regt., was destined to live in the valley of the shadow of artillery all the rest of its existence. . . .

That first Norman chateau we lived in was near Pont Hebert, a burg near St. Jean de Day and St. Lo. The name means bridge; that's what the bombs were after. The place was a pipeline to our front, then building up for the big breakthrough at St. Lo. The town was rubble. We were practicing Civil Affairs on it, as we had practiced on the control of civilians in the Castilly area and at Lison. When the kraut headquarters were pushed slightly more than the requisite seven kilometers southwest of St. Lo during the breakthrough, we were enabled to move into the town for which we had been pinpointed, Canisy.

That big breakthrough! Remember the aerial bombing-marker that drifted back toward our lines, impelled by a gentle breeze the fliers didn't notice, on July 25 and caused the bombs to hit our own men, including General McNair? Well, I was just one kilometer from the General when that happened—and sure heaved a big old sigh of relief when they tossed out some new markers instead of going by that one which was coming directly at me. You've read all the words that mean anything about the sensations of tremendous bombing operations, so I won't bore you with any more. But pardon me while I exclaim some more about what a feeling! I think the

thing that got me the most was seeing the birds falling dead out of the sky all around me! The same thing was happening to them that happens when you throw a grenade into a creek and the fish pop up belly-first. I was awfully happy to be a rear echelon paper-pusher that day. . . .

Next day half our detachment moved forward with the 30th Infantry division rear echelons, while half remained at the Pont Hebert chateau, and I saw the area. . . . War means dead people. Remember that next time you hear a band go blaring martial music down the street. It's 40 miles back to the nearest bugle that could blow taps when most guys die.

For me, July 27 will forever be known as Life and Death Day. The krauts came back strong that night. At the chateau we had left, the huge clothes closet what had stood between the 155mm shell-hole in the wall and my bed was lifted high and slammed down exactly where I had been sleeping, along with part of the roof. . . . A few kilometers away near St. Lo, waiting for Canisy to be cleared, we were extensively bombed that same night in bivouac. They could hardly miss, for the whole countryside was jammed to the hedgerows with men and materiel waiting to exploit the breakthrough.

WANTED: MINING OR PETROLEUM ENGINEERS by Major Oil Company. Recent graduates or with some experience, for Exploitation and Production Engineering work. Training course if inexperienced. Write *Sooner Magazine*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

Good old hedgerows! I'm permanently attached to the very thought of them!

Canisy was still on fire when we moved in. . . . Miraculously we found a whole house to live in, that of the Widow Briard; it only had the glass blown out of it. For our office, we found another similar house. We put up signs and braced ourselves. We needed to! Boy! Those people had troubles, real troubles. As "acting" top-kick, chief clerk, interpreter and front-door man, I was the first American to whom nine-tenths of them had ever spoken. . . . being a sympathetic soul, a day-long succession of crying civilians, crying because they had every reason in the world to cry, almost got me down. . . . Sixteen hours a day we worked there for exactly a month. By then the people had food and shelter, adequate utilities and government; civilian traffic was under control and no longer a problem to the Army. We were done working there. We moved forward.

With the rear echelons of the XIX Corps, First Army, we bivouacked through northern France. For a week we ran Mantes-Gassicourt, near Paris, then hurried on into Belgium, crossing the border near Valenciennes. Always we were just far enough behind the first fighters for the people to have time to put on their best clothes and join

the masses that lined the streets to greet successive waves of the liberators. Something always seemed to go wrong with the leading car at every friendly crossroads, and the happy people would descend upon us. . . . Most vivid among my memories is Valenciennes. They loved all of us there, and I most thoroughly enjoyed it.

. . . D10B1 stayed exactly a month in Belgium. Through a fluke in orders we were moved into the town of Hasselt on September 11, even ahead of our own tanks. There was nothing between us and the enemy but one 30-man patrol of riflemen. During the day we moved our office into a swank half-glass townhouse, which, as usual, had been the local German headquarters, evacuated in such a hurry that the cigars in the ashtrays still smelled. . . . We enlisted men moved into the former collaborationist-mayor's house, which wasn't bad, either. . . . But that miraculously spared little city was yet to know some death. Next morning a lone swastika-bearing plane, trailing anti-aircraft bursts like a comet, made one quick pass and the bomb which whistled down before our transfixed eyes neatly removed one house and wrecked two more just 50 yards from the church. . . .

Having been unhurt by the war, Hasselt had slight need of us. What a change from the corpse of Canisy and the others! There was a lot we could do, of course, and we did it. But the process of thinning out Civil Affairs teams was not long in causing us to be shunted on forward.

One of the main things Belgium had brought to me, personally, was leisure once more to enjoy the company of civilians who were not crying. In Hasselt there was ice cream and singing and laughing and dancing. . . . Sooner or later, half the town came to our front desk, which had yours truly behind it, to transact business with the United States government. . . . That way I met the Schouterdens, Morays, Coolens, Collets, Swartenbroekxs, Hages and Peturkennes, among many others, and accepted invitations to their homes. . . . The people of Hasselt are just like you, and the friends I made are just like you. The evening before we were ordered forward I spent most pleasantly in a cheerful gathering at the home of a grand old doctor who happened also to be mayor.

. . . A few days before we left Hasselt notification finally arrived that as of October 5 three more stripes had been assigned to my slot on Uncle Sam's payroll. . . . Our next stop was the longest: Heerlen, in southern Limburg, Holland, four months and four days. A perfectly fabulous place, Heerlen had electricity, water, gas, sewerage and practically no war damage. . . . We occupied, as usual, the home of a collaborator. This one was a genteelly shabby old barn. . . . The former occupants had departed at double-quick time, leaving their umbrellas and extra shoes and food in place, even their letters and passports. . . . As Hitler's darlings, they had traveled much, eaten all they could hold, and lived very well indeed. All Holland was hungry and shivering, but in their basement was enough coal to keep the place boiling until summer. . . .

Holland, like all the other countries through which the krauts had robbed their way, was hungry, cold and in a governmental maelstrom. By that time Civil Affairs had helped re-establish civil life along a 600-mile trail of tears through Europe, and the symptoms were familiar, the treatment routine. It would have done your heart good to see all those long trains of food you did without come in to feed those who had none. . . .

As in every other country, I was not long in finding a circle of friends. The very first night we were in Holland a kindly neighbor made coffee for us and told us all we wanted to know about Holland while we sat in a beautiful, warm room in a friendly home. . . . The Van Zwietsens were about the best ambassadors of good will that Holland could have chosen for Detachment

D10B1's enlisted men! I would no more think of going through Holland again without dropping by to see that family than I would of going through your town without seeing you! . . .

When D10B1 finished its job at Heerlen, it went back to the home division at Troyes, France, for redistribution of the individuals. I happened to be at the right place at the right time to fill out the right form and be given a direct commission in Civil Affairs-Military Government because of experience and stuff.

. . . While waiting for the mill to grind out my bars I served as interpreter on another "D" team far down in southern France at Limoges. This one supervised the running of Displaced Persons Camps (mostly containing Russians) located in seven French departments. There were only two of us who spoke French in an area that contained 1,300,000 people! . . .

After being commissioned in a class on Friday, April 13, I went to Military Government school two weeks. My diploma was a very choice assignment to this place, the Military Government Section, headquarters of the 15th Army. My job has been to receive the reports (exactly like those I used to write) of some 65 M.G. detachments, choose what was important, make English out of it and print it, seven days a week and summarized once a month. . . .

Soon I'm leaving for a job that promises to be the most interesting yet: in the information branch of the Military Government section of headquarters United States Forces European Theater, at Frankfurt-am-Main. . . . Simply enough, what I'll be doing will be visiting the larger M.G. detachments throughout the American zone, gathering information. Like what I'm leaving, it will be familiar work that I can do and that I love to do. The man who has a job like that in the Army is fortunate.

It's a good thing I'm as happy over here as I can be anywhere short of Home, for my points number exactly 53. I'll be seeing you in about a year. You will accept my invitation to have a coke with me at 2 o'clock 1946, I hope. . . . That's good. So long.

Truman Pouncey

Bay City "Andy" In Civies Again!

Dear Ted:

How is everything goin'? And when did you leave the Army Air Corps to return to Norman and the good work you have been doing for so many years?

I did my stint for Uncle Sam, too . . . in the Navy, 21½ months, 18 months at the U. S. Naval Academy as Audio-Visual Training Officer. Two wars in one lifetime is about two too many, don't you think? For if I remember correctly, you had a brief look-in at the first one, as I did, 'way back there in . . . well, any way, it doesn't seem that long.

I haven't been in Oklahoma—and never do I visit the state, however briefly, without getting down to Norman—in going on five years now, and that is much too long to stay away from your Range Country; in fact, its getting to where I can't hear "Home On the Range" these days without becoming all worked up inside like the bird that swallowed a wooly worm.

I've been in Michigan well on to fifteen years, and the state has been very kind to me in many ways, yet I still dream of Oklahoma, its red hills, hot winds, its magnificent distances, its waterless rivers, its "catfish hole" creeks, its oil wells and sweet smell of crude oil—all these things and more still add up to only one thing—yep, that's right, it's "Home." So you see why "Home On the Range" gets me?

My best personal wishes to you, Ted, and lots of good luck.

Sincerely,
Olson "Andy" Anderson, '25ba,
Bay City, Michigan

Recently life member (Governor) Bob Kerr in welcoming the Hon. Tom Warren of London, England (at Alva) onto Oklahoma soil stated in part, "Why, sir, in welcoming you to Oklahoma—the fairest daughter of the West—I want you to know that three long years ago I promised the people of Oklahoma if they would elect me as their governor, I would stay with them for the four years of the governor's term. I want you to know, sir, that I have kept that promise. Indeed, on four occasions I have been forced to travel to California to keep up with them!"

Governor Bob's point seems to be well taken even by life member Bob Craig, '44bs, who writes from his Los Angeles address to Catherine Robinson as follows:

October 9, 1945

Dear Miss Robinson,

In response to your request, I am sending all readily available information regarding the "Oklahoma Day Picnic" held September 3 in Pasadena.

I cannot tell you when the first "Oklahoma Day Picnic" was held, but I do know that they were in existence as far back as 1921. They are sponsored by Oklahomans residing in California, especially the Los Angeles area. Anyone registering at one of these picnics automatically becomes a member of the Oklahoma Society and it is this society which nominates committee members for the purpose of planning and executing these annual Labor Day picnics.

The purpose of these picnics is merely for the renewal of friendships and acquaintances made back in the home state along with the expression of the "Sooner spirit" common to all Oklahomans residing here.

In order to give you a picture of the picnic held this past Labor Day, I will relate the events in a descriptive manner rather than just list facts.

Ordinarily southern California has a mild climate with moderate temperatures, but Labor Day brought us a typical "Oklahoma-Mid-July day." There wasn't a cloud in the sky and the sun shone so brightly that the mercury hit an all-year high. This just made us feel at home.

Had it not been so warm, anyone passing near Sycamore Grove Park in Pasadena might well have mistaken the park for the Rose Bowl which stands just a few blocks away. There were enough cars and people (some 6,000 were present) to make you think it was just about time for the New Year's Rosebowl football game to begin.

Almost every Oklahoman entering the park bought a ribbon boldly stamped "Oklahoma" which he wore on his lapel throughout the affair. These ribbons cost fifteen cents each and the proceeds went toward defraying expenses of the picnic.

At one end of the park were located tables bearing registration blanks for each of the seventy-seven counties. These were arranged alphabetically. At the first table all former residents of Adair County registered; at the second all former residents of Alfalfa County registered, etc. Besides the regular county registrations, there were blanks for all graduates and former students of the various Oklahoma schools. There were some fifteen or twenty O. U. grads who registered.

Almost everyone brought his own lunch which he would spread with some group. Some were so busy looking for acquaintances that they were content to go by the park canteen and pick up a hot-dog and travel on.

Most of the afternoon was spent in some form of entertainment. There were several speakers. One I recall was Al Jennings, a reformed desperado who once roamed Oklahoma in early days. He now resides near Los Angeles.

The Indians stole the whole show with their war chants and dances. They were dressed in typical Indian fashion with their feathers, blankets, braids and war paint. Almost every tribe found in Oklahoma was represented. One old Indian who had been pushed from the eastern seaboard to Oklahoma said that Oklahoma was the best home the Indians, as a group, ever had.

At the close of the program, a prize was given to the couple which was married in Oklahoma and had been married the longest time. The particular couple which won had been married some fifty years.

By this time most of these former Oklahomans were leaving the park with addresses and telephone numbers written all over their social security cards or whatever else they may have had on which such could be written.

This is all the information I have at the present time, so I hope it will be sufficient.

Sincerely,
R. E. Craig

Beating Back—After 28 Years!

Field Director,
44th Bomb Group,
Great Bend Army Air Field
Great Bend, Kansas

Dear Sir:

For the first time since 1917 it seems there is a possibility of my seeing a football game in which Oklahoma is a participant. To-wit; the Texas-Oklahoma game at Dallas which I am informed is on October 13. About two months ago I returned from England after 16 months service, and am now slated for overseas duty again with the 44th Group. I have checked with our CO this morning and he tells me that although our movement is close, he thinks I will be safe in going to Dallas for the game on that date.

I am planning to bring with me on that date my wife, who has just been discharged after three years in the army, the last eighteen months of which was spent in overseas duty, my daughter, who is still in service after three years. Naturally, I want to take them on the Oklahoma side.

Can you reserve three good seats on the Oklahoma side on that date? Is there an Oklahoma official hotel at Dallas and do you make reservations there too? Do you want the check for these seats now or can they be picked up on the day of the game?

I have a tentative reservation on a plane out of Wichita on the morning of the 13th but everything will be held in status quo until I hear from you. Please notify me immediately.

Very truly yours,
L. W. Thomason, '18law
File Director 44th Bomb Group

Iwo Jima

Dear Sir:

While reading the *Sooner Magazine* which one of my buddies had received from your University I noticed a group of pages concerning former students with the Armed Forces. There was an article asking for information concerning former students which had once been enrolled in your University; and what they had done since being in service. Since my buddy had once been enrolled in your University I thought you might be interested in where he has been since leaving there for Uncle Sam's Navy.

His name is William K. Swatek, '40, Edmond, and is stationed with the 31st United States Naval Construction Battalion (on Iwo Jima) with the rate of GM 3/c. He has been in service for three years, and spent one of those years in Bermuda before coming out to the Pacific. While out in the Pacific he spent four months in Hilo Hawaii taking training with the Fifth Marine Division before his Battalion left there to participate in the battle of Iwo Jima. While stationed with the Marines he was assigned to the beach party; and landed with the tenth wave on the first day they went ashore. Since then he has been stationed on Iwo Jima helping to build air-strips etc.

Hoping this information may help you,

I remain
Very truly yours,
E. C. Cagle, USN

The U. S. Army Captain (Former Union-Counter-Hop Captain) Vernon Bone, '40 Says From Japan Way:

Dear Ted:

This time last year I left Matagorda for Kearns, Utah. Today I'm well on my way to Tokyo, and will be stationed nearby. I'm glad that it only took a year to get there—I thought the road would be much longer. It would have been except for the Atomic Bomb.

We don't know what to expect in Tokyo. Rumors have it that we'll have regular barracks, but I'll bet they're like the barracks we've had every place else—tent, pyranidal w/pole. I won't mind if they give us decent food but this Aussie Lend Lease Bully Beef flavored with mutton fat was too much to fight a war and let alone sweat out going home on.

Most of the E.M. have spent their entire time in service, overseas. You can imagine what trouble we're going to have getting them used to "State-side chicken" as they call it. Clean uniforms, fresh shaves and saluting are going to be as foreign to them as reveille was to me some five years ago. But I guess we'll make it go with the help of the Articles of War.

We've aboard an L.S.T. "Large Show Tub" and eating pretty good chow now but they found our voyage rations yesterday so anything can happen in the way of Bully Beef from now on. I thought they outlawed that stuff in the last war as being detrimental to the digestive tract, but from the stack piles, I guess I'm wrong. I'm going to see what I can do about it in the future though. Reckon dog food manufacturers would have any use for what's left over?

Our group, as usual, has been given the honor of being the first fighter group in Japan. One squadron, the 9th went in two weeks ago. It's the leading squadron with 276 planes in the war. Bong got quite a few of that number if you remember.

It doesn't seem like we're heading for a place 38 above the equator because the sun's just as hot and the krud in my ears in just as bad as it was in the Philippines. However, I hear that their winters get quite cold. I hope to spend mine by a stateside fireside though.

Guess I don't know too much so I'll stop until I can give you the "Ungarbled Word" from Tokyo.

Yours,
"Red."

Several weeks before the official declaration of world peace, a woman graduate of the University of Oklahoma advanced to the Alumni Association her personal check for \$220.00 and stated, "Select 110 non-commissioned overseas service men and supply them *Sooner Magazine* and grant them all the privileges of memberships in our Association." The letter below is one of the dozens this anonymous contributor has received via Alumni Headquarters since that date:

Dear "Madame X" and Mr. Beard:

About a week ago I received three copies of the *Sooner Magazine* and the pleasantness of the most welcome surprise was bounded only by my curiosity as to how I came to receive them. Yesterday I received your letter and the explanation of my good luck. Before I go any further I wish to thank you, truly thank you, for being so kind and generous to those of us that have had to leave the campus in the past few years. I have read each copy several times and it seems that each time I enjoy it more and more. It's really news from home. I want you to know that here's one fellow that honestly appreciates your thoughtfulness.

I am deeply flattered to know that I am one of the hundred odd to be included in your offer. To me this is another example of real *Sooner* hospitality. You see, I was an out of state student, in fact, my home is in Rhode Island but Oklahoma accepted me as one of her own. Now I boast to all my friends that I am an "Okie." My days at Norman were nothing but enjoyable and I can hardly

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Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

Big news of the month was the surprising announcement that Dewey "Snorter" Luster, Oklahoma football coach for the past five years, would retire after the present season because of ill health.

"Mr. Luster has done a fine job. Twice before he has tried to retire, in 1943, after he had won his first Big Six championship, and again last year after he won his second conference title. Each time he was dissuaded. We will certainly take plenty of time before engaging a new coach," said President George Cross, who announced Luster's decision.

President Cross said Luster would become a member of the expanded intramural department but that Bennie Owen, intramural director, would continue to be its head.

"It is due to current rumor and gossip that I have decided to put an end to conjecture and make my position clear at this time." Luster said, "I guess I've got football 'battle fatigue.' I've been coaching 24 years now. I tried to retire twice because coaching impaired my health but at the insistence of President Brandt and later President Cross, I stayed on."

The retiring Sooner coach, who played at Chickasha high school, captained the undefeated Oklahoma team of 1920 that won the Missouri Valley conference championship, served as line coach here from 1929 through 1931, and as backfield coach here from 1937 through 1939, praised the cooperation of the Sooner staff, the campus navy unit, the

ATTENTION

In 1941 the Big Six Conference passed a rule stating that all lettermen in the Big Six be given life-time passes in the sports in which they lettered. Mr. Haskell, the Oklahoma athletic director, promptly wrote to all Sooner lettermen whose addresses were known and who had acquired tickets to athletic contests in the past to the effect their letter cards were good only in the sports in which they lettered. This is a Big Six rule and must be obeyed by all member schools. We are always glad to see former students and athletes and we invite them to visit the athletic office any time.

Dale Arbuckle,
Athletic Director.

Correspondence (Continued)

wait until I am discharged from the Navy to return to school. And you can rest assured it will be O. U.; no other place will do! (To be quite frank, I've fallen completely in love with the place.)

My only wish is that when I return I may meet you personally and once again tell you how much I appreciate your kindness. It's an awfully nice feeling to know that those of you at O. U. haven't forgotten us.

Sincerely,
Henry L. Munde ('42-'44)
RT3/c NAB Navy 961
Communications Division
FPO San Francisco

It seems that Bill Christian, '40-'42, Broken Bow, is suffering the same humiliation that Sooners throughout the world are experiencing wherever a Texas Aggie appears in the now stilled war theaters. Even last week from Saipan the Range Rider's former adjutant, four hours after a B-29 crash from his hospital bed on the "Rock" sent in this curt note, "Yea, Texas Aggies—where were those Sooners when the pigskin moved."

T. M. B.

(Continued On Page 18)

press, President Cross and above all "the fine attitude and loyalty of the boys who played for me."

Luster has been Oklahoma's most successful coach in Big Six play. To date, his Oklahoma teams have won 18, lost 4, tied 3 Big Six games for the high percentage of .818. They have three more games to go, meeting Iowa State at Norman November 10 (Homecoming), Missouri at Columbia November 17 and Oklahoma A. and M. at Norman November 24.

Scores of Oklahoma's games so far this season are:

Oklahoma 21, Hondo Fliers 6.
Oklahoma 20, Nebraska 0.
Oklahoma 14, Texas Aggies 19.
Oklahoma 7, Texas 12
Oklahoma 39, Kansas 7.
Oklahoma 41, Kansas State 13.
Oklahoma 7, Texas Christian 13.

Only in the Texas Christian game was Oklahoma outplayed. The Sooners contended very evenly with Homer Norton's Texas Aggies and deserved to lead Dana Bible's Texas Steers two touchdowns going into the fourth quarter had it not been for fatal Sooner mistakes, a back falling down in the end zone while covering a Texas touchdown pass, an Oklahoma pass thrown on second down from the Texas three-yard mark being intercepted for a touchback by Byron Gillory, Texas back.

BASKETBALL

Oklahoma will meet Coach Adolph Rupp's strong University of Kentucky basketball team in Louisville December 19 and Coach Nat Holman's City College of New York five in Madison Square Garden December 21, Athletic Director Dale Ar-

buckle announced in releasing the Sooners' 20-game 1945 basketball schedule.

Coach Bruce Drake's Sooners will also play in the Oklahoma City Tournament December 26, 27 and 28 and engage in December non-conference battles Southern Methodist and Bradley Tech, Arbuckle said.

The two battles with Hank Iba's Oklahoma Aggies, national collegiate champs, have been set for March 6 at Stillwater and March 13 at Norman, closing Oklahoma's season.

The Oklahoma schedule:

Dec. 7 Southern Methodist here.
Dec. 10 Will Rogers Field here.
Dec. 15 Bradley Tech at Peoria.
Dec. 19 CCNY at Madison Square Garden
Dec. 21 Kentucky at Louisville.
Dec. 26-27-28 Oklahoma City All-College tournament

*Jan. 7 Nebraska at Norman.
*Jan. 12 Kansas State at Norman
*Jan. 18 Kansas at Lawrence.
*Jan. 26 Missouri at Columbia.
*Feb. 2 Iowa State at Norman.
*Feb. 11 Nebraska at Lincoln.
*Feb. 12 Kansas State at Manhattan.
*Feb. 23 Iowa State at Ames.
*Feb. 28 Kansas at Norman.
*Mar. 2 Missouri at Norman.
Mar. 6 Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.
Mar. 13 Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.

*Big Six Conference games.

Hal Muldrow, Jr.

'28

Insurance of all Kinds
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Security National Bank Bldg.

Norman

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Sooner of the Month



HARRINGTON WIMBERLY

Sooner Federal Power Commissioner

By MATTY WILSON WILLIAMS, '25bs, Altus

In selection of Harrington Wimberly, Altus, to be a member of the federal power commission, President Truman chose one of Oklahoma's most active civic workers.

State democratic party chairman until his resignation following his appointment, Wimberly has been actively connected with democratic activities of the state for the past several years, and in his work as publisher of the *Altus Times-Democrat* in Altus for the past about twenty years has been identified editorially and otherwise with progressive movements of the state and his home town and county.

Since appointment by President Truman, Wimberly likewise has resigned from the Board of Regents of the University, from which institution he was graduated in 1924. Wimberly served on that board from 1940 to 1943 and was re-appointed last March by Governor Kerr for a seven year term.

Perhaps no one activity has been given more personal attention by Wimberly than that of the Oklahoma Society for Crippled Children, with which he has been identified for many years. He started work with this society in 1931, when he was named director and for the past ten years has served as president of the organization.

In serving as president of the Oklahoma Society for Crippled Children, he did not depend on his fellow workers to give the personal attention to individual cases which needed attention, but those most closely associated with him have long been conscious of his ever alertness in seeking out needy cases and seeing that they were cared for. This in many cases has required not only his personal financing the individual on many trips to and from the hospital, but he has spent much time

in personally traveling to and from the hospital, in Oklahoma City, taking such patients and members of their families. One time alone through public subscription in his newspaper, Wimberly raised a sum of a few hundred dollars to make possible new limbs for a less fortunate individual who was brought to his attention.

Wimberly entered newspaper business immediately upon graduation from the University in 1924, first as advertising manager of the *Times-Democrat*. Later he edited the *Cordell Beacon* in Cordell, for a brief time, and it was there that he met and married Myrth McCurley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McCurley of Cordell. Later, in 1928, he returned to Altus and since 1929 has been publisher of the *Times-Democrat*.

He served as a member of the board of directors of the Oklahoma Press Association for five years and was president in 1937-38. He likewise served as a member of the board of directors of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association in 1940-41-42.

Wimberly has been serving for sometime as a member of the board of directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, serving the states of Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma. His duties in this connection were as public interest director for the State of Oklahoma.

Wimberly became democratic state chairman in February, 1944, having served in that capacity until the time of his resignation in September, 1945.

He has been especially active in promotion of the Altus irrigation project which is due early in 1946 to place water on approximately 6,000 acres of land, the first of the 70,000 acre tract to be served. It was ten years ago that a group of Altus men, including Wimberly, H. T. Kimbell, Elmer Garnett, W. B. Gover, J. A. Walker and W. C. Austin, met and determined to carry through a program to get government officials interested in the project which will furnish water for the vast Altus-Lugert irrigation district. He has been very active at all times when problems arose in connection with forwarding of this agricultural development.

Locally he has long been identified with all civic improvement projects. He has served numerous terms as a director of the Altus Chamber of Commerce, which body he headed for one year, and likewise was president of the Rotary club one year, having been active in Rotary for years.

Mr. and Mrs. Wimberly are parents of two daughters, Janis and Mary Margaret, Altus school pupils.

Retirement Fund Prexy

Late last month as was reported, the Pittsburg County Alumni organized in McAlester and elected among their other officers Denver D. Kirkland, superintendent of the McAlester city schools, as their president. This organization is now well underway in completing several business items that were outlined and discussed by President George L. Cross and Alumni Executive Secretary-Manager Ted Baird.



DENVER D. KIRKLAND

Recently Mr. Kirkland has appointed special committees for the completion of the preliminary organization details of this Alumni Club.

In July, Mr. Kirkland was re-elected for the third consecutive year as president of the Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System.

Ned Shepler to Succeed Wimberly As O. U. Regent

The name of Ned Shepler, '18, Lawton, has been added to the list of editors who are willing to take time out from the typewriter to serve as regent of their state university. Shepler, editor-publisher-owner of the *Lawton Constitution*, and son of the late John N. Shepler who preceded him as publisher, will be appointed a member of the Board of Regents to succeed Harrington Wimberly, '24ba, Altus, Governor Kerr has announced.

Wimberly, *Altus Times-Democrat* editor and publisher, resigned his regent post recently when he was appointed a member of the Federal Power Commission. Wimberly was then serving his second term as a regent, and another editor, Joe W. McBride, '28 bus, Anadarko, *Anadarko Daily News* is now on the Board of Regents.

Shepler was managing editor of the *Oklahoma Daily* but left school in 1918 to serve in World War I. When the war ended he took charge of the city desk on the *Constitution*. When his father died in 1919, he and his brother Fred became publishers. Fred died in 1942, and Ned became sole publisher.

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Now president of the Oklahoma Associated Press Editorial Association, Shepler served as president of the Oklahoma Press Association in the year 1931-32.

Since he was a small schoolboy and began as apprentice on the *Pawnee Courier-Dispatch*, edited by his father, Shepler has been intrigued by newspaper work. He edited the yearbook in Lawton High School, from which he was graduated in 1915. In high school he spent his spare time in the *Constitution* backshop, feeding presses, sweeping out and melting metal.

Shepler married Mrs. May B. Terwilliger in 1922, and they have one daughter, Mrs. Bill F. Bentley, who has a son, Donald Shepler, 5 months old.

Although he has never held public office, Shepler has always been active in civic affairs. He has served 20 years as director of the Lawton Chamber of Commerce and is chairman of its military affairs committee. He is a Mason, a Methodist, member of Kiwanis club, American Legion, Sigma Delta Chi journalism fraternity and Sigma Chi social fraternity.

Correspondence (Continued)

From all of the high seas early in October, Lt. David C. Mathews, USNR, writes:

... Just to give you the "scoop" and ask a couple of questions. We are on our way to Sasebo, Kyushu, where this will be mailed. Aboard is another Sooner, Second Lt. Robert S. Rizley. He went to O. U. in '42 and plans to study law there. Homer Simmons follows us and is going into Nagasaki. They plan on sending us to Zomboanga after we unload. I'm hoping to get off before then as I have 52 points. Forty-nine is the necessary number "Navy style."

... I think I shall be home at least by Christmas. If you hear of any thing let me know. I doubt if there are any vacancies at mid-term so I might as well take this next semester of "Education" as I lack 21 hours for a "lifetime." I'd like to get squared away soon, though, as I hate to be idle. May run for the legislature but doubt it. There is certainly no future there.

(Continued on page 15)

Those receiving the rank of private first class include: John B. Kennedy, '34, Muskogee; Clay T. McCleskey, '26-'27, Lipan, Texas; Robert V. Lowry, '27-'29, Pawhuska; Dewey W. Eubanks, '43, Grady, who was injured on Iwo Jima; Franklin J. Moskowitz, '42-'43, Tulsa, radio operator in a fighter control unit in the Philippines.

Advanced to the rank of commander in the Navy were Harold Abernethy, '39med, Altus, stationed on Saipan; Wylie G. Chestnut, '23, Miami, on duty at the U. S. Naval Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Those promoted to lieutenant junior grade include: William David King, '40-'42, Weleetka; Edward H. Judson, '43eng; George L. Knapp, Jr., '37ba, Fort Worth, Texas; Jack C. Felber, '41-'44, Tulsa; William L. Hixon, III, '42eng; Robert E. Faulds, Jr., '42ba, Tulsa, Naval Medical Corps at Baylor University school of dentistry, who was transferred to the New Orleans Naval Repair Base; Raymond Barnett, '43eng, Watonga, engineer on a LCI in the Southwest Pacific for the last 14 months.

Leo A. Markley, '40-'43, Ada, has been promoted to the rank of ensign.

Discharged

Maj. James O. Hood, '31med, Norman, has received his discharge from the Army at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, and is now on terminal leave. Major Hood, a surgeon with the 45th Infantry division, was overseas 27 months. He served in the Italian campaigns before going to France with the Invasion forces, and later to Germany. He wears the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with cluster, and the Combat Medic's badge. Major Hood is a former physician and mayor of Norman, and former director of the Cleveland County Health department.

► Capt. Tom Campbell, '37eng, Hennessey, has received a discharge from the Army. Captain Campbell served with the 3rd Corps Artillery overseas, before he was separated from the service at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas.

► S/Sgt. Alonzo Z. Mentzer, '28ba, '30fa, Pawnee, was honorably discharged from the Army Air Forces at the Randolph Field Separation Center at Randolph Field Texas. He served as a weather forecaster in the AAF Weather Service and was last assigned to the 3rd Weather Region, which has headquarters at Kelly Field, Texas.

Upon his release from the Weather Service, Sgt. Mentzer received the commendation of his Commanding Officer, Col. Oscar A. Heinlein, Regional Control Officer of the 3rd Weather Region for "contributing to the outstanding achievements made by the AAF Weather Service throughout the world."

Col. Heinlein added that, "Sgt. Mentzer performed highly specialized work in the field of weather for which there was little individual glory. However, his work and that of other Army weathermen played an important role in enabling the Army Air Forces to achieve a splendid record during the war. By making possible accurate weather forecasts, a maximum number of successful missions with a minimum loss of personnel and equipment resulted."

► Lieut. Comdr. Elmer D. Dixon, '33eng, has been placed on the inactive list at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans, Louisiana after almost three years of service. Formerly an electrical engineer with the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company at Enid, he served 17 months overseas as executive repair officer aboard the USS Maui. He plans to return to his former work.

Liberated

Col. James V. Collier, '34ba, Oklahoma City, who was taken prisoner of the Japanese on Bataan, has recently been freed. Colonel Collier is a former R.O.T.C. staff instructor at the University. The information received of his release was the first in two years.

► Lt. Richard L. Duckwall, '34-'40, Tuttle, has been released from a Japanese prison camp. Lieutenant Duckwall was captured on Bataan and was taken to Cabanatuan camp in the Philippines. He was moved to Japan last year.

► Lt. Col. Ralph W. Hubbard, '32med, Oklahoma City, was released February 1 from Cabanatuan prison camp in the Philippines. He has been selected to serve on the national Veterans of Foreign Wars rehabilitation committee.

► Maj. Carlos E. McAfee, '28law, Oklahoma City, was released from a Japanese prison camp recently. Major McAfee was taken prisoner at the fall of Bataan in April, 1942 and was transferred to Osaka late that year. He remained there until September, 1943, when he was sent to Zentsuji.

► Maj. George M. Hohl, '24bus, Sand Springs, has been liberated from the internment camp at Zentsuji, Japan.

Decorations

Captain Joe T. Glover, '40eng, Amarillo, Texas, as group engineering officer for the 27th Fighter Group overseas, has been awarded the Legion of Merit medal. Having served 34 months overseas in the Mediterranean and European theatres of war, Captain Glover has eight campaign stars and five Presidential Unit Citations, also.

► Cpl. Henry G. Samuelson, Jr., '40-'41, Oklahoma City, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Unit wreath, European Theater of Operations ribbon, three Bronze Campaign Participation Stars to the E.T.O. Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

► Lt. Col. Charles S. Standley, '34-'35, Noble, has been awarded the Bronze Star medal for service against the enemy at Hollandia and Toem, Dutch New Guinea, and Morotai, Netherlands East Indies.

► Lt. Col. Stephen D. Holloway, '30law, Oklahoma City, has received the Bronze Star for action against the enemy in France, Luxembourg and Germany. Colonel Holloway has been overseas since April, 1944.

► Lt. Col. Stewart E. Meyers, '24-'27, Oklahoma City, was awarded the Bronze Star Oak Leaf Cluster. Colonel Meyers is the owner of two Battle Stars, which he wears on an Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, and the Combat Infantry Badge. He had previously been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for the defense of Emirau Island in the Bismark Archipelago.

► Lt. (jg) Jack Van Doren Hough, '44med, Shattuck, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for duty while serving as a battalion surgeon with the 23rd Marine Regiment at Iwo Jima. Lieutenant Hough also attended Southeastern State College, Durant.

► Capt. George V. Stein, '41law, Miami, Oklahoma, wears five battle stars on his European Theater of Operations ribbon as well as the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

► Lt. Col. Webster Wilder, '33law, Cherokee, has been awarded two Bronze Stars on his Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon in addition to the Chinese Service Medal.

► Capt. William M. Sammons, '38-'42, Oklahoma City, has been awarded the Air Medal with two clusters, the Purple Heart and the European Theater of Operations ribbon.

► Pfc. Oscar Randall Braman, '44, Norman, was presented the Bronze Star Medal August 14 at Fellbach, Germany.

► Staff Sgt. Jerry J. James, '39, Miami, recently was awarded the Air Medal. Sergeant James has been in the Army since October, 1942.

► Lt. (jg) Wayne L. McGann, '42eng, Kansas City, Missouri, has been awarded the Bronze Star, Letter of Commendation, Submarine Combat Insignia with four stars, the Asiatic-Pacific theater ribbon, American theater ribbon and the Philippine Liberation ribbon.

► Lt. John Allen Moore, '42eng, Oklahoma City, received the Bronze Star Medal for duty at a peninsular base headquarters, Leghorn, Italy.

► Sgt. Wedekind Ward, '41med, Erick, has been commended for outstanding duty with the 1st AACS Group, somewhere in the Pacific war area. Sergeant Ward has completed 14 months of overseas duty with the Army Air Corps.

Medical School

Capping exercises for the University of Oklahoma School of Nursing were held in the medical school auditorium October 1, 1945. Twenty nurses received their caps, which were presented by Miss Kathlyn Krammes, Director of the School of Nursing.

Dr. Patrick S. Nagle, Associate in Surgery, has received a year's leave of absence from October 1, 1945 to October 1, 1946.

Extension of leave of absence was granted Dr. Donald B. McMullen, Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Public Health to go with the Army of Occupation in Japan for a survey of schistosomiasis, for a period of about six weeks, starting October 15.

Dr. John W. Cavanaugh, Assistant Professor of Surgery, has resigned from the faculty of the School of Medicine, effective October 31.

Recent visitors at the School of Medicine: Dr. E. Curtis Yearly, '39med, has been discharged from the Army after having been on active duty since 1941. Dr. Yearly spent several months in a German prison camp.

Captain Ray M. Wadsworth, '42med, has been stationed at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

Dr. Harold B. Witten, '36med, who recently received a discharge from the Army, has accepted a residency at the Valley View Hospital, Ada, Oklahoma.

Dr. J. William Campbell, '39med, has been discharged from the Army and is serving a residency in ophthalmology at the University of Virginia Hospital, Richmond, Virginia.

Dr. James D. Huskins, '38med, has been discharged from the Army, after having been on active duty since 1941, and will enter private practice in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Dr. Homer C. Wheeler, '38med, has received an honorable discharge from the Army, and at present is in Sallisaw, Oklahoma.

Captain George E. Dodson, '40med, is on terminal Army leave until December 21, and at present is residing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Correspondence (Continued)

Dear Mr. Beard: Guam

Since I last heard from you I have traveled from sunny North Carolina across thousands of miles of land and water to this quaint old Island of Guam. . . .

Guam really fascinated me at first but it is gradually wearing off day by day. The largest city, Agana, is still a mass of rubble. Some of the ancient structures are still partly standing but were riddled by naval gunfire. A great portion of the city was destroyed by Jap demolitions. The villages have all been rebuilt by our Government. The houses are a frame structure painted various pastel colors but still have the thatched roof. As far as the military is concerned the Island is a mass of supply sources and we are one of the largest. The B-29 bases are really a sight, literally hundreds of planes lined up as far as the eye can reach.

Our function is to supply all Marine units operating on or from the Island. Right now with units being disbanded and other units occupying various Islands and two mainlands we really have our hands full. I really have a wonderful job. I am the Administrative Assistant to the Depot Commander and his Supply Officer, both Colonels. It is all paper work and never a dull moment, for example tonight we had a rush order for tents due to a hurricane destroying some 10,000 on Okinawa.

Since I am the Staff Duty Officer tonight I suppose I had better make a short tour. I say short because if I made a long tour I would undoubtedly get soaked. It rains intermittently night and day. . . .

Very truly yours,
Ken Farris, '43bus
1st Lt. USMCR