

Alumni in the News



Magician Bill Weldon and some of his equipment.

"Houdini" Weldon Back at O.U.

If students at the University see a herd of elephants "charging" the campus, they won't be too surprised. Anything might happen now that the "magic man" Bill Weldon, '38-'41, is back as a student.

Hailing from McAlester, Mr. Weldon, who has been practicing the magic art for 14 years, can fool even the best pair of eyes with his tricks. Lacking only 12 hours' work on a degree in marketing, Weldon plans to do graduate work in advertising.

One thing is certain, Mr. Weldon isn't out of practice as far as his magic work is concerned. Overseas for 26 months, he gave 600 sleight-of-hand shows for 180,000 men stationed in 7 different countries in the European theater.

Master of ceremonies of a special service company for the last six months he was overseas, Mr. Weldon and his outfit gave shows wherever soldiers could gather—under trees, in barns or in bombed houses. Often the unit would give from three to five shows a day.

Before the war Mr. Weldon earned all of his spending money and paid part of his living ex-

penses by making personal appearances on various programs. "It wasn't really a case of 'working' my way through college—it was too much fun to be included in that bracket," he states.

There's never a dull moment around "Magician Bill." If he isn't doing sleight-of-hand tricks, he's entertaining audiences as a ventriloquist. Then, just in case his Charlie McCarthy type of characters need a rest, he might try a little hypnotism on willing volunteers.

Showen Returns to Wright Field

Lee Showen, '38phys.eng, '40ms, is again stationed at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio as a research specialist.

Mr. Showen early in 1942 left his position with the Martin Aircraft Company (plastics department) to become assistant physicist, aircraft radio laboratory at Wright Field and was there until late in 1943. He was then transferred to Washington, D. C. where he was Army representative on the Army-Navy cable co-ordinating committee dealing with cables and accessories for radio and radar signals.

Recently Mr. Showen was transferred back to Wright Field for a special assignment of research

on radio and radar wave propagation at high altitudes. It is reported that this special study should give valuable information concerning the ionosphere, the Knelley-Heaviside layer of electrically charged ions which reflects ordinary signals back to the earth. In this special work, captured German V-2 rockets will be used to attain the high altitudes.

Bob Martin Enters O.U.

Robert G. Martin, jr., '42, has resigned as sports editor of the *Enid Daily Eagle*, to re-enter the University as a graduate student in journalism.

Mr. Martin received a bachelor of arts degree from Phillips University, Enid, in 1940. He worked for a year as news editor of the *Sulphur Daily News*, and in 1942 entered the University of Oklahoma.

Entering the Army in August, 1942, Mr. Martin received basic training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas and attended the adjutant general's enlisted school near Washington, D. C. He joined the 35th Infantry Division headquarters in 1942 and stayed with the Division until his discharge September 16, 1945.

The 35th Division trained in California, Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina, and went to England in May, 1944. The Division landed in France July 6, 1944, and saw duty in Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and Germany.

Chemistry Professor Goes To Ohio State

Lt. Col. Loyd E. Harris, '22pharm, '24ms, Norman, formerly professor of chemistry in the University, has accepted a position as head of the department of pharmaceutical chemistry at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Colonel Harris, a member of the University faculty since 1926, has been on leave of absence from the University since March, 1942, when he was called to active duty with the Army chemical warfare division.

During the war, he made two trips to Europe for special assignments in England and Germany. In Germany he inspected the immense stores of poison gas which Germany had amassed.

In the United States, he was stationed at Bryan, Texas; later at Stanford University, and since 1943 at the Edgewood arsenal near Baltimore, Maryland, where his family has made their home.

Wallace Kidd Takes Charge As Bristow Record Publisher

Wallace Kidd, '37journ, news editor of the *Anadarko Daily News* since 1937, became editor and publisher of the *Bristow Record* recently.

Mr. Kidd said in his column in the first issue under his editorship that he has a one-half interest in the newspaper and that a one-fourth interest each is held by James C. Nance, publisher of the *Purcell Register*, and Joe W. McBride, publisher of the *Anadarko Daily News*.

Announcement of the purchase of the newspaper from Lea M. Nichols was made in January.

In stating the policy under which he will operate the newspaper, Mr. Kidd wrote:

"The publisher will determine the editorial policy of the *Record*. That policy will be established on what we consider to be right, without favor or prejudice. From any government administration, the *Record* will ask only such acts as Bristow deserves. Right to criticize constructively will be maintained. *Record* readers will always find the opportunity for opinion expression in these columns.

"When Abraham Lincoln accepted his responsibilities to form a new administration, he wrote these words: 'I shall try to correct errors where shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views as fast as they shall appear to be true views.' No better pattern could be set for a newspaperman on his first try as a publisher."

Mr. Kidd was succeeded as news editor of the *Anadarko Daily News* by Miss Joy Shockley, a 1944 graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism and former news editor of the *Alva Review-Courier*.