

Warmin' up and rarin' to do their darndest in the University Union Activities Board-sponsored Diaper Derby for dear old Mommy and Daddy are these frisky future sons and daughters of O. U. Several seem to think it will be a "cinch," some predict a tight race, others prefer to go home.

(See cut, next page). They are, left to right, Kandy Ann Penner, Lowell Leland Bryan, Jimmy Ric Aboud, Michael James McFarland, Douglas Conn, Colleen Sue Cluen, Fred Wesley Simons, Michael Lee Skinner and Jimmy Endicott.

Diaper Derby, Contest Captivate O.U. Audience

Probably the most amusing—certainly the most unusual—activity ever to take place at the University was the Diaper Derby and Baby Contest held August 17 in the Union Ballroom.

The result of an idea suggested by University Union Activities Board members who had nothing else to do—except keep the student body well entertained—the Diaper Derby and Baby Contest promise to be an established tradition at O. U.

Judges of the contest were President George L. Cross, Miss Virginia Reinecke, University counselor of women, and Dr. Gertrude Nielson, state director of maternal and child health.

After several weeks of careful orientation and rigid training, 81 contestants, out of a total of 91 who registered, appeared in the contest to carry on the spirit and tradition of each family represented. The diapered babies revealed some evidences of having had lots of crawling practice at home even though the writer could detect no excessively worn elbows and knees on the frisky little 'fillies.' The parents in general, overlooked one minor detail—that is, to teach their entries to ignore a distracting audience. Some became indifferent to the spectators, others got a big kick out of the show they were putting on and still others wanted to be alone with 'mamma.'

As for the older children, they absorbed their

training much better than their younger 'colleagues.' A successful statesman could be foreseen in the young man in the two to three-year class who shook hands with President Cross. Another showed great possibilities of being a future Mr. America when he expanded his 'mighty' chest before the judges and spectators. After a while his mother, who was with him, started to lead him away, but he maintained his statuesque pose until the judges got a good look at his physique.

A third young gentleman attempted to show his physical prowess by baring a 'bulging' bicep. While one moppet displayed the makings of a future B.W.O.C.—Big Woman on the Campus—in the delightful manner in which she curtsied for the judges.

Winners in the six month to one-year baby contest were Colleen Sue Cluen in the girls' class. Michael Lee Skinner and Paul Upton Fisher, who tied, in the boys' group. In this instance, as in other cases of ties, duplicate prizes were awarded.

In the one to two-year group for girls, Frances Ruth Watts was the winner, while Jesse E. Davis, a handsome little Indian, took top honors in the boys' class in that age group.

Carol Ruth Nordin won the girls' two to three-year age group prize and Fletcher Crowe won top honors in the boys' class.

In the three to five-year age group Susan Elizabeth Harris won the award for the girls' class. Richard Earl Coulson and Ted Richard King tied for top honors in the boys' class.

The Diaper Derby was a fitting climax for the baby show. In the first heat some of the babies shattered the greatest ambitions of their doting trainers. Despite all the encouraging, coaxing, pleading and even gentle glares which, if interpreted, might read volumes and volumes of what was to come later, many of the little babes refused to budge.

One mother, anxious to see her child win the Derby, completely forgot herself and really 'let her hair down' by crawling out on the sheet covered rug on all fours to encourage her offspring. Another baby's aunt bent upon seeing her entry win, likewise crawled out on all fours to assist her protegee in winning.

Several babies were off to a good start when either through fatigue or curiosity they stopped, sat down and gazed at the howling spectators. A few babies refused even to face the goal—they preferred their mothers' arms.

The first race resulted in a tie between Colleen Sue Cluen and Jimmy Ric Aboud, after several 'sitdown strikes' and about faces.

The second heat, in which Jimmy Ric and Colleen



At the starting line, Paul Upton Fisher (extreme left) appears to warn his opponents that anyone who walks ain't playin' fair. Next to him are Kandy, Lowell and Jimmy Ric who don't seem to be worried about the outcome. Michael James and Douglas (center) are ready to get the Derby

started. Colleen looks over some of the prospects and probably wonders who will give her the most competition. Fred is ready to start moving and Mike and Jimmy (extreme right) might be saying, "Enough of this picture taking—let's crawl!"

Comin' down the home stretch, Colleen Sue Cluen (No. 71) and Jimmy Ric Aboud (No. 80) are crawling to a close finish. Jimmy's mother coaxed, cajoled and begged him to 'come to Mamma,' but Jimmy was having more fun watching the crowd make a spectacle of itself. Colleen started out in high gear but midway down her lane she became tired, plopped to a seated position and calmly gazed at the howling audience.

Then Jimmy's mother brandished a tempting bottle of milk. Suddenly both crawlers remembered they were a little hungry and they raced each other toward their incentive. Colleen's mother flourished a rattle to entice her, but Colleen's eye had already caught that bottle of milk and she went out of her lane after it. Thus ended the second, and final, heat of the Diaper Derby, which climaxed the Baby Contest.

In the first heat some of the babies decided not to crawl and others preferred to loll around on the track—much to the chagrin of their doting parents. Colleen and Jimmy Ric, in the same manner as in the final heat, ran a photofinish tie and were pitted against each other again.

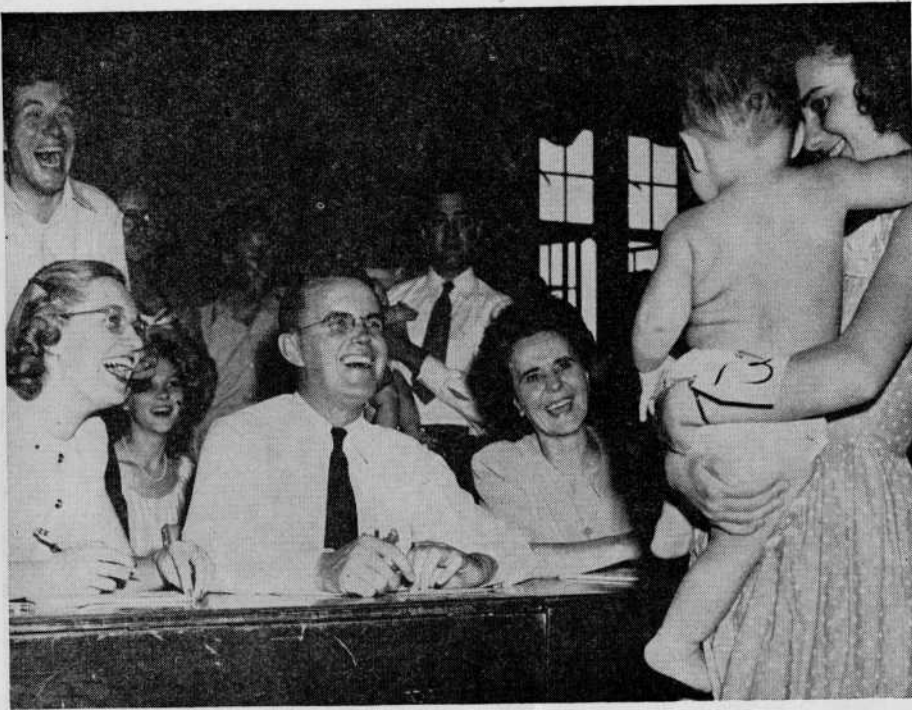
The second race was close enough so that the discreet judges awarded duplicate prizes to Colleen and Jimmy. Said Mrs. Cluen of Colleen, "Whenever she sees a bottle, she always goes after it!"



"It's all over but the crying." Jimmy Ric Aboud (left) apparently still has his eye on that bottle of milk and is somewhat annoyed because the photo hounds are keeping him from it. While Colleen Sue Cluen (behind Jimmy Ric) serene as ever, has an expression which implies, "Gee whiz, what's all the fuss about?"

Fred Wesley Simons (center) wants his mamma and makes no beans about it. "Who got me into this mess, anyway?" he wants to know.

"Hey, Ma, wait for me!" yells Jimmy Endicott, in rear making clean getaway from all the popping flashbulbs. Barbara Jo Weeks (foreground, legs apart) is through with everything and everybody—except her mother. Michael Ryan (extreme right) grimaces as if to say, "For two cents I'd break down and cry!" P. S. He didn't!



"Who is judging whom?" would have been an appropriate title for this picture if the camera had caught Paul Upton Fisher's expression as is reflected in the reactions from Judges Virginia Reinecke, counselor of women; President George L. Cross, and Dr. Gertrude Nielson, state director of maternal and child health. The gentleman with the wide open face in the extreme left background is James Steele, fall president of the University Union Activities Board. Paul, shown here in the arms of his mother, frowned and critically eyed the judges. He tied with Michael Lee Skinner in the boys' six months to one year class. Duplicate prizes were awarded.

raced against each other, was even more amusing than the first. Jimmy's mother brandished a tempting bottle of milk while Colleen's mother waved a rattle. Advancing, stopping and even retreating as in the first race, the two youngsters finally caught sight of that bottle of milk and made a bee-line for it, Colleen completely ignoring her mother's pleas to come to her. The result was so close that the judges awarded duplicate prizes.

Another factor not to be overlooked in the contest was the striking beauty of many of the mothers. As President Cross put it, "At times we didn't know whether we were to judge the babies—or their mothers!"

Because so many gifts were contributed by local business concerns, several prizes were given each winner.

Merchants who contributed gifts to the contest were Uhles' Grocery, a case of baby food; First National Bank, a savings account; Southern Floral, flowers; Jackson Grocery, a case of baby food; Security National Bank, a savings account; Davis Drug, a Johnson's baby kit, T. G. & Y., a rattler ball.

Gilt Edge Dairy, \$5; Lindsay Drug, a food warmer; Woolworth's, a toy racer; McCall's Men's Store, \$1; Keeling Jewelers, a gold baby locket; Betty Barclay, a picture of a baby; Brown's Department Store, a dress; Kerr's, fork and spoon set; Wacker's, wheel barrow and toys, Anthony's, a play suit.

Co-ed Dress Shop, a pair of pants; Johnson's Dairy, two-week supply of milk; Richardson Florists, wooden puzzle; Burr's, a certificate for a

gift; Varsity Book Shop, wooden play blocks; Hale's Department Store, play suit, Massey Drug Store, telephone bank.

Union Book Exchange, eight children's books; Sooner Drug, a box of soap.

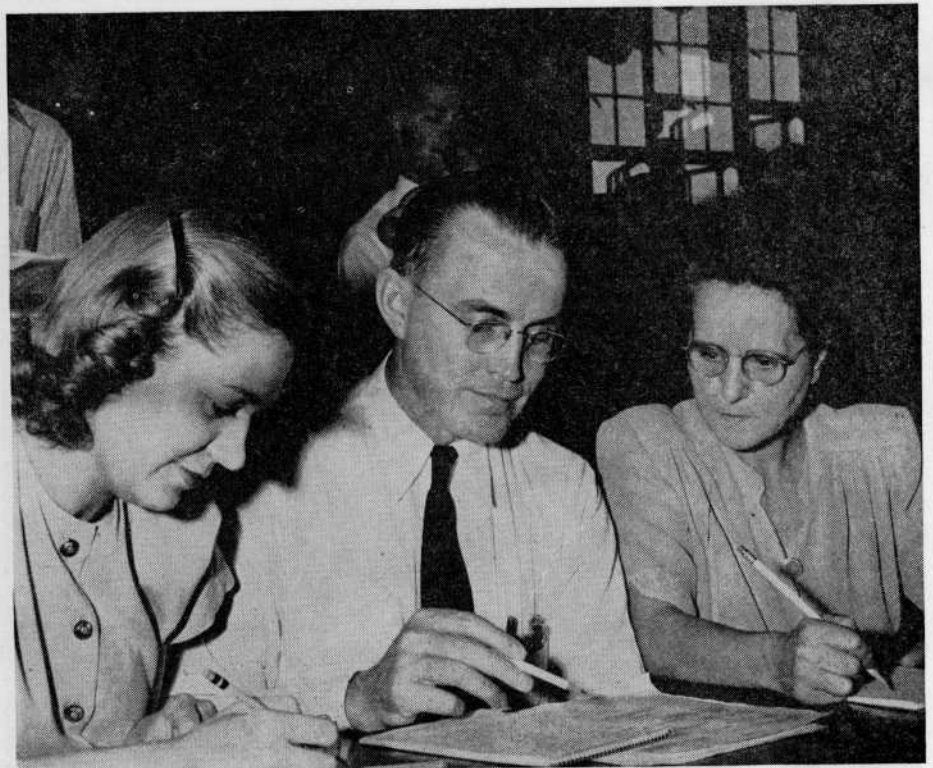
In commenting on the results of the Diaper Derby and Baby Contest, Mary Lou Stubbeman, '45bus, director of Union Activities and sponsor of the U. A. B., attributed its success to Board members Carolyn Cooley, '48, and Warren Morris, '48, who worked industriously on the campaign, and to O. M. Murray, '48, and Howard Moyer, '48, who assisted them.

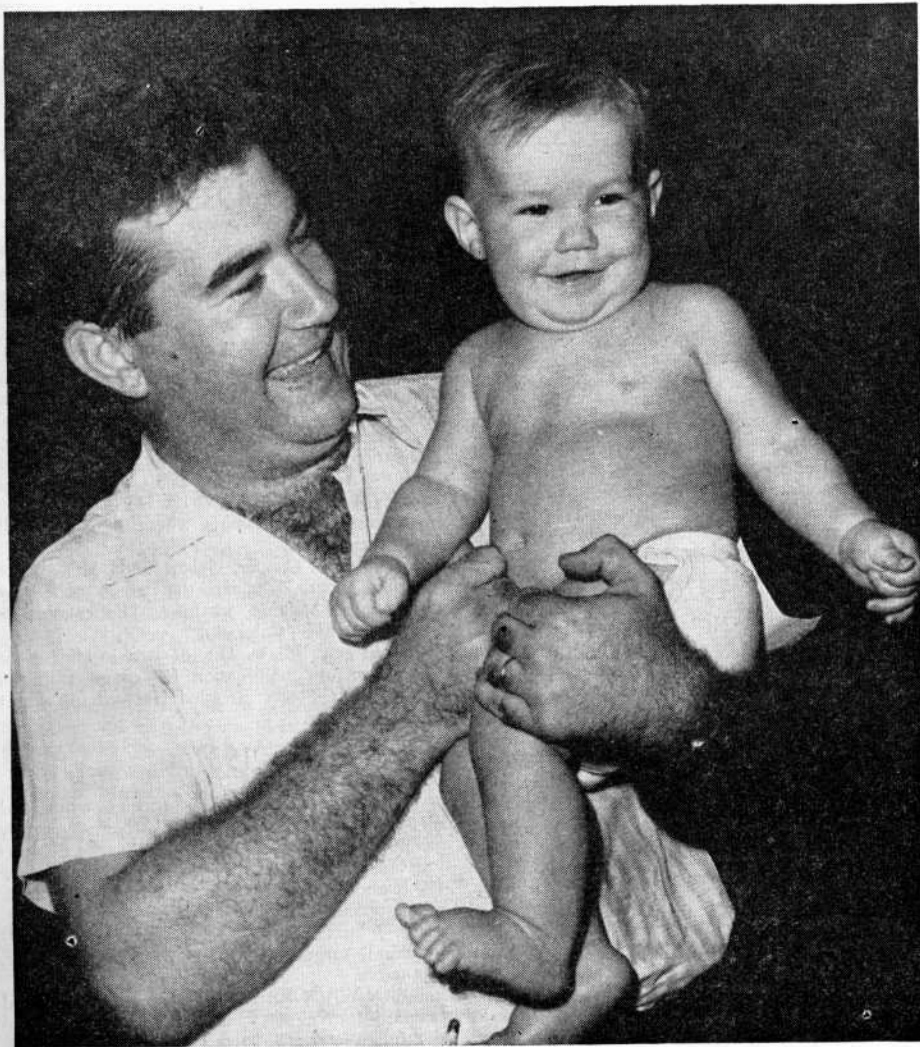
Miss Stubbeman also pointed out that the cooperation of the Norman merchants was one of the main factors in the success of the contest.

—G. S.

The judges think it over carefully. Miss Reinecke, President Cross and Dr. Nielson carefully considered each contestant on a basis of poise, personality and physique. Clothes had no bearing on the selections made.

Several enterprising youngsters amused and impressed both audience and judges by a superb display of the three requisites. One young gentleman displayed the promise of a future diplomat by shaking hands with President Cross. Another struck a Mr. America pose and expanded his 'mighty' chest for the judges and still another bared a 'bulging' bicep. One moppet showed the makings of a future O. U. coed in the delightful manner in which she curtsied before the judges.





Poise and personality effervesce from Michael Lee Skinner (shown here in the arms of his father, Mr. Loyl Skinner) as he passes the judges' stand. His broad smile could be interpreted as meaning, "C'mon, Miss Reinecke, let's have a great big kiss!" "Mikey" tied with Paul Upton Fisher in the boys' six months to one year class and both received duplicate prizes.

"Mikey" was born December 3, 1945, at Sherman, Texas. His mother, the former Jessie Lee Reppond, and father attended the University from 1939-41. Mrs. Skinner was an education major and is not attending college at present. Mr. Skinner, a junior in the School of Chemical Engineering, was a pilot in the Army Air Corps. During his two and a half years in the service, Mr. Skinner flew 73 ground support missions over Africa and Italy.

Mr. Skinner entered the Army in March, 1942, and the following February he received his commission at Brooks Field, Texas. He and Mrs. Skinner were married in September, 1943, in the chapel at Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City, where he was stationed at the time.

Mr. Skinner's hometown is Purcell and Mrs. Skinner is formerly of Whitesboro, Texas. The Skinners now live in their own trailer at the University-operated Sooner Courts.

When asked what he would like "Mikey" to be when he grows up, Mr. Skinner pondered a moment, grinned, and replied, "Oh, just a big old friendly, happy boy, I guess!"

The Winners . . .

President Cross and his "family" of winners appear contented with the outcome of the competition. Susan Elizabeth Harris (extreme left, with bow in hair) won in the girls' three to five-year class. Carol Ruth Nordin (left foreground) took top honors in the girls' two to three-year group, while Fletcher Crowe (standing, left) won in the corresponding boys' class. Colleen Sue Cluen and Michael Lee Skinner (left and right, respectively, in President Cross' lap) won the top honors in the six months to one year categories; Paul Upton Fisher (not pictured) tied with young Skinner. Frances Ruth Watts (center, box in hand) won the girls' one to two-year prize and Jesse E. Davis (right, head not in view) won in the boys' group. Jimmy Ric Aboud (right, in diapers) tied Miss Cluen in the Diaper Derby. Richard Earl Coulson (right, rear) and Ted Richard King (right, foreground) tied in the boys' three to five-year contest.

