

Alumni in The News



Glen D. Johnson, '31, '39, congressman from the fourth Oklahoma district, addressed the League of Young Democrats at an early October meeting. In speaking to the group he discussed the Taft-Hartley labor bill, and gave reasons why he voted against it.

Alumni Are Cogs in UMT

By CPL. JOHN D. SMITH, '44-'46

Universal military training, indeed, is more than an experimental unit in the hills of Kentucky. The nation willing, UMT is the shape of the Army in the future.

Here at Fort Knox, Kentucky, is the Army Ground Forces experimental battalion of 17, 18 and 19-year-old trainees undergoing the second six months cycle of universal military training.

Until recently there were four former O.U. students in the UMT cadre complement, but Lt. Col. Edwin H. Burba, '33bus, McAlester, formerly the headquarters executive officer and who was working on the *History of Universal Military Training*, was transferred to the joint Naval and Military school in Virginia. However, there are three Sooners still teaching teen-agers the arts of soldiering and leadership.

First Sgt. James L. Quong, '40, Norman, is the ranking non-commissioned officer of the first training company. He makes certain that 166 trainees are properly clothed, fed, housed and trained in every respect.

Sgt. Jim Downing, Jr., '45-'46, Norman, son of James Downing, '21pharm., executes all company administration, training records, and the newly adopted demerit system of the third training company in the position of company clerk.

Cpl. John D. Smith, '44-'46, Clinton, formerly from Oklahoma City, is assigned to the special service section of UMT. He is a staff member of the UMT service club. His duties require the planning, arranging and producing of all types of entertainment for UMT trainees. This type of work constitutes all from master of ceremonies to making classical music recordings.

Even though these men are making small contributions to the universal military training experimental unit at Fort Knox, their efforts along with many others are moulding the Army of the future into an educated and well trained Army.

Beaird Holds High Legion Post

Ted M. Beaird, '21ba, alumni secretary at the University, has been appointed to the membership chairmanship in the Oklahoma department of the American Legion, and Earl Fisher, Norman, to the employment committee, according to an announcement by Brad Risinger, '23ba, state commander from Sand Springs.

Mr. Beaird, a veteran of both World wars, held the post last year.

Max Cook, '39ba, '41law, Clinton, World War II veteran, was appointed department judge advocate. E. S. Dunaway, Bartlesville, is chairman of the vital rehabilitations committee.

Joe J. Miller, '22ma, Chickasha, was chosen to fill the only vacancy on the Americanism committee, and Peter Hoffman, Oklahoma City, was appointed department finance officer.

Alumna Holds High Legal Post

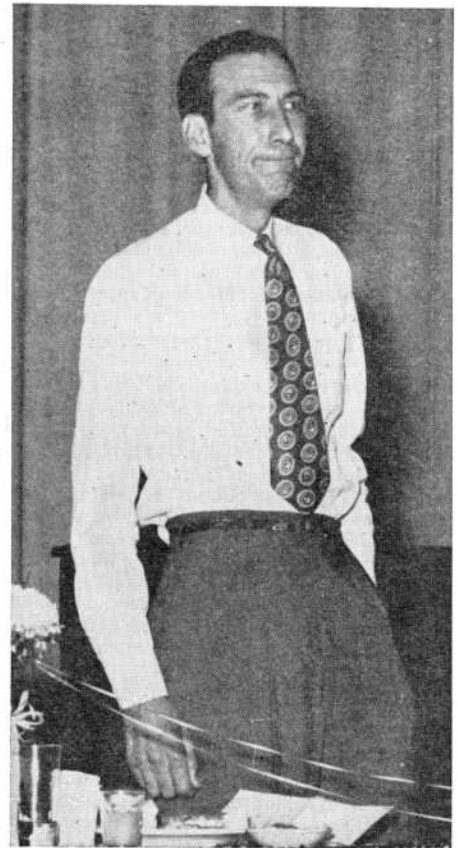
Miss Vivien McConnell, '41law, former law clerk to Judge Bower Broadus of the Federal District Court in Oklahoma City, has become acting attorney general for Guam, the first woman attorney to hold such a high position in any of America's possessions.

Miss McConnell will be chief legal adviser to the Governor and all department heads of the government of Guam. Her office also is charged with the responsibility of all prosecutions in the courts of Guam.

Miss McConnell will be chief legal adviser to the attorney for the land and claims commission, which was charged with settlement of war damage claims caused by the reoccupational activities of the U.S. armed forces. In April, she was appointed condemnation attorney for the commission. In July, she was commissioned by the Governor of Guam as an assistant attorney general.

Miss McConnell is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. McConnell, Stigler, where she attended high-school. She was graduated from the University of Oklahoma law school in 1941 and became associated in the general practice of law with W. G. Stigler, '16, now congressman from the second Oklahoma district. She entered the federal service in 1942 as law clerk for Judge Broadus.

She is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, American Bar Association, Oklahoma Association of Women Lawyers and the Kappa Beta Pi, international legal sorority. Besides being admitted to practice in the state supreme and inferior courts, she also has been admitted to federal district court for eastern Oklahoma, the tenth circuit court of appeals and the United States supreme court.



Congressman Preston E. Peden, '36ba, '39law, Altus, was the principal speaker at the dedication of the W. C. Austin memorial irrigation project in September. The ceremonies were held in the Altus Junior College Auditorium.

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Kenneth Nelms Re-enters Navy

Kenneth Nelms, '42law, young Ardmore attorney and city commissioner, has resigned his post on the board to accept an appointment as a lieutenant senior grade in the U. S. Navy, legal division.

He will report for duty at the eighth Naval district headquarters in New Orleans. He requested that his resignation be made effective immediately. Mr. Nelms, elected to the post at the last election, has been one of the board's active members.

The appointment to the legal division in the Navy was tendered him in August. He served throughout the war in the Navy, mostly in the South Pacific, and was discharged with the rank of lieutenant commander.

School Heads Meet

More than 500 superintendents and principals attended the fall meeting of the Oklahoma Association of School Administrators at the University on October 25.

Events on the day's program included a morning session, a noon luncheon and the Texas Christian-Oklahoma football game in the afternoon.

Officers of the association are Paul B. Allen, '36ma, Pauls Valley, president; H. R. Russell, Stillwater, vice president, and James R. Frazier, '24ba, '32m.ed, Wewoka, secretary-treasurer.



Capt. Byron P. Spears, '41eng, recently was awarded a regular Army Air Corps commission. Captain Spears and his family are now living in Louisville, Kentucky. He is stationed at Godman Field as public information officer and instructor pilot with the 135th AAF Base Unit.

Chapman Faces Lights in N.Y.

Lonny Chapman, '47fa, recently appeared in *Music at Night* and *No Exit* at the National Theater Conference Trout Studio in New York City.

The plays presented were solely a means of affording young actors, who have done outstanding work in schools, colleges and community theaters, the opportunity to be seen by those who can help them to employment and the best use of their talents in the theater world, both in and out of New York.

No attempt was made to make complete productions; the emphasis was completely on the young actor and what he had to offer.

Chapman completed his studies here, under the direction of Rupel Jones, director of the school of drama, after four years in the Marines. He played leading parts throughout his college career.

Robert Lacy Gets Promotion

O.U.'s first Ph.D. in chemistry, Robert M. Lacy, '43Ph.D, has been promoted to assistant engineer in the chemical department of the General Electric laboratories in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Mr. Lacy, with General Electric since 1943 when he received a Ph.D degree from the University, was given the same promotion as a man who had worked 23 years for the company.

A graduate assistant in chemistry while working for his degree, he was one of two chosen out of 100 applicants for positions with General Electric. He worked for a year at Schenectady, New York, and then was transferred to Bridgeport.

Griffin Is Airport Boss

Bennett H. Griffin, '17ba, who gained fame along with Jimmy Mattern in 1932 for making the first non-stop flight from America to Berlin, is today administrator of the Washington National Airport.

Griffin came up through the ranks of the Civil Aeronautics Administration to accept the job as administrator of the only airport operated by CAA. He first joined CAA in 1933 as an aeronautical inspector. At that time CAA was known as the Bureau of Air Commerce.

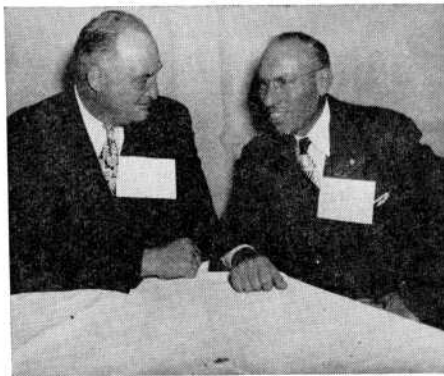
As aeronautical development expert at Indianapolis in 1935, he was in charge of experimental work on the instrument landing system, which is now being put into use at Washington National and other major airports throughout the country. After four years of similar work he became chief of the inspection standards section.

As the air transportation business grew, and larger and more complicated planes were employed, a special aeronautical center devoted to the inspection standards section was established at Houston in 1941 with Griffin in charge. His job was to train new inspectors and standardize old ones in procedures for examining airline personnel which would make for maximum safety. It was to this job he returned in 1946 after three years of service in the Army Air Forces.

While in the army he was assigned to the Air Transport Command. During the latter part of his service he was an air inspector. He holds a command pilot rating, the highest military type, and an airline transport pilot rating, the highest civil license. For achievements in World War II he received a Presidential Citation, the Air Medal, and the Legion of Merit. He was discharged as a colonel.

Griffin has been in aviation since 1917, when he served as a pilot with the U. S. Army Air Corps in France and Italy. Although perhaps best known for his 1932 flight to Berlin, which established a non-stop record as yet unbroken, Griffin's 30-year career has been devoted largely to the unspectacular but essential day-to-day development of aeronautics both as a business and a science.

In his new job he will be managing an airport on which he made the first official landing. This occurred at the ceremony of dedication by President Roosevelt in September, 1944. On that occasion he flew a CAA ship carrying Secretary of Commerce Hopkins and other notables.



Doping out a little football strategy prior to participating in a little sideline coaching at the O.U.-Detroit game are, left to right, Frank A. Balcer, '23ba, '29ma, Detroit, and Raymond O. Courtright, '14ba, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Both are former O.U. football greats.

Mike's Act Aids Congress

Collier's-award-winner Mike Monroney, '24ba, fifth district congressman, saw during the first session of the 80th Congress his Reorganization Act in operation. In a speech before the House, this newspaperman-turned-legislator reported that after seven months' experience with the act, congress had rung up a 50-50 score on performance.

Mike fostered the Reorganization Act from its infancy. He first made the resolution that congress be streamlined while he was seated in the 78th Congress, November, 1944. His resolution was that a bi-partisan joint committee of the House and Senate be set up to study means for streamlining congress and legislative procedure.

The Oklahoma Congressman proposed a study and modernization of the committee system; proper staffing of congress, its committees and its members, and improvement in relationship between congress and government departments.

The committee was set up with young Mike as vice-chairman under Chairman Robert M. LaFollette, Wisconsin senator.

After months of work the act was passed during the 79th Congress, August 2, 1946. Though passed, the bill did not become operative until the 80th Congress convened in January, 1947.

During the first session of this congress, Mike saw only one of the three principal objectives of the act carried out in full. That was the realignment of the sprawling, overlapping, and duplicating committee structure of both houses. The standing committees were reduced from 48 to 19 in the House, and from 33 to 15 in the Senate. The second principal objective, that of furnishing congress with skilled technical service of its own through improved staffing and research facilities, was only partially successful in the first seven months of operation. However, experience through trial and error is expected to improve this situation.

The third objective, strengthening of congress in handling the vast fiscal powers of the federal purse, was virtually ignored and unused. To correct some of the most apparent deficiencies in the historic system of appropriating, the Reorganization Act recommended many reforms designed to tighten and improve fiscal control. Very few were put into force. Failure of the Appropriation Committee of the House to vote itself adequate staff members for the gigantic job of going through the \$35 billion budget with a fine-tooth comb marked another department from the reorganization plan.

Other failures of the act, include the establishment of too many subcommittees under the committee structure. Many will gradually be eliminated, however. Even with the increase in the number of subcommittees there are 31 fewer committees of all types operating now than in the 79th Congress. Attesting to the improvement in efficiency of congress is the number of bills handled. The first session of the 80th Congress passed more

than twice the number of bills passed by either the House or Senate during this year's session.

Despite the fine record, even the strongest proponents of the reorganization have never claimed the act to be perfect. "The act should be changed and improved whenever possible," says Mike.

It was for his "fostering legislation intended to reform the organization and procedure of congress" that won Mike the first annual award given by *Collier's Magazine* to the "most valuable congressman of the year." However, in the April 12 citation, *Collier's* also gave him credit for his valuable work in laboring for American participation in the Bretton Woods plan for world economic rehabilitation and in the United Nations Organization. Also, he was pointed out as a supporter of price controls and all measures designed to curb inflation.

In accepting the award, modest Mike explained, "The judges' decision had to be made on issues and not men, and I greatly appreciate the fact that they considered the issue of reorganization of Congress worthy of their consideration. I happen to be lucky enough to have been connected, along with others, with the issue they considered meritorious."

The \$10,000 check that went along with the silver plaque award immediately was donated by Mike to the Episcopal Diocesan Center west of Britton. The Right Rev. Thomas Casady, bishop of the diocese of Oklahoma, accepted the money in the name of the center. To explain his reason for donating the money to the church, Mike said, "Somehow or other I get the feeling that without the renewed help of religion and its teachings, it will be pretty hard for the world to recover from the latest war or to prevent the next one."

Representative Mike didn't wait until he got to congress to make a name for himself, though. While in the University he was editor of *The Oklahoma Daily* for an entire year in 1923. He was a Phi Beta Kappa; member of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity; member of Phi Gamma Delta social fraternity; a Pe-ct; Check-mate; member of the student council, and winner of the Letzceiser Medal.

After graduation from O.U. he was a reporter and political writer for the *Oklahoma News*, then managed a furniture store before going to Congress in 1938 as a representative of the Oklahoma fifth district.

Alumni Are O.E.A. Workers

A long-time planning committee was set up by D. D. Kirkland, '33m.ed, president of the Oklahoma Education Association, at the last meeting of the association. This committee will do research work and make plans for O.E.A. activities.

Among those appointed to the committee were several University graduates and former students. They are: E. E. Battles, '26ba, '39m.ed, superintendent of schools, Durant, and past president of O.E.A.; Paul Allen, '36ma, superintendent of schools, Pauls Valley, president of the School Administrators Association; John Bender, professor of school administration, University of Oklahoma.

Elbert Costner, '29ba, '34ma, superintendent of schools, Poteau, representing southeastern district; George D. Hann, '36m.ed, superintendent of schools, Ardmore, southeastern district and former O.E.A. president; Elmer Cecil, '39m.ed, superintendent of schools, Weatherford, also representing the interim committee; Roy Spears, '14ba, McAlester, representing the State School Boards Association, and Harry D. Simmons, '24ba, superintendent of schools, Muskogee, past-president of O.E.A.

Navy Cross Awarded Caldwell

Lt. Comdr. Richard Wayland Caldwell, '29ba, Cincinnati, Ohio, has received the citation for the Navy Cross from former Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal acting for the president, the navy has announced.

Lt. Commander Caldwell, who has been released to inactive duty, earned his award serving as commanding officer of a large infantry landing craft during the assault on Sicily. Although his ship was beached and threatening to capsize in the face of

enemy mortar and machinegun fire, he maintained the fire of the ship's guns until ammunition was exhausted and the landing of Army troops was accomplished, the citation read.

The navy man earlier received the Silver Star Medal for his bravery in the action, but the Navy asked him to return the Silver Star and accept the Navy Cross which ranks next to the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Although the citation does not mention it, Mr. Caldwell saved the life of one of the army men aboard his ship during the engagement by performing a surgical operation.

This is the way he recalls the incident: "We were bringing Army troops in for a landing at the time, and when heavy enemy fire began I had to send them below deck because they couldn't leave the ship in face of the heavy fire. We had to have the deck cleared for action. During the course of the battle we were struck amidship by an enemy shell which went on in to the troop compartment. Several Army personnel were killed by it.

"As soon as the battle cleared a little, I went below and found this soldier with a right arm badly mangled. He was lying on a lower bunk smoking a cigarette. I found that he had been given a shot of morphine to deaden the pain, but it didn't seem to be helping much.

"Then, in an even, conversational voice—just like you'd ask for a cigaret—he said, 'Captain, how about getting a pocket knife and cutting the rest of this arm off. I think I'll feel better.'

"I'll never forget how calmly he looked at me with those sharp blue eyes. There wasn't a trace of fear. I'd seen so much blood by then that it didn't bother me much so I got a knife and performed the operation. The kid didn't make a whimper, just winced a couple of times. Then I powdered it with sulfanilamide and bound it up and we sent him on to an evacuation hospital."

It was a few days later just before Caldwell's ship sailed that he received a message from the evacuation hospital. The boy wanted him to come to see him, but since he was receiving sailing instructions, he sent his executive officer. The executive returned with a message of thanks from the soldier for a good job of surgery. His arm was healing and he was having no trouble with it.

It was some time later that Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox came aboard his ship and personally signed a Silver Star citation for Caldwell.

"I hated to swap it even for the Navy Cross, because Mr. Knox personally signed it for me," Caldwell said.

He is now connected with Universal C. I. T. Corp., in Cincinnati.

Alumni Named to State Boards

The Oklahoma legislative council has named 12 committees to study various subjects and make recommendation on proposed legislation to be considered by the twenty-second legislature.

The council as a whole will serve as the committee on constitutional revision. Alumni and O.U. students on the committees include:

Agriculture—Bert Larason, '30ba, Fargo, vice-chairman.

Revenue and taxation—J. A. Rinehart, '23law, El Reno.

Education—Paul Ballinger, '34law, Holdenville. Appropriations—Paul Harkey, Idabel, vice-chairman.

Conservation—John W. Russell, Okmulgee. Judiciary—Lloyd McGuire, '25law, Guthrie, and Streeter Speakman, '12law, Sapulpa.

Labor, commerce and industries—Rinehart and McGuire.

State and local government—Ballinger, chairman and Russell.

Public health and welfare—Harkey. Roads and highways—Rinehart, chairman; Speakman, vice-chairman.

Veterans' affairs—Russell, chairman; Larason and Ballinger.

Thurman J. White, assistant director of the University of Oklahoma Extension Division, was recently given leave of absence to continue work on a Doctor of Philosophy degree in audio-visual material at Chicago University.

Faculty

American Planners Appoint Dr. Leonard Logan to Board

Dr. Leonard Logan, professor of sociology and director of the University Institute of Community Development, has been named to the board of directors of the American Society of Planning Officials.

The society, which has its headquarters in Chicago, is composed of professional planners and includes among its board members Wilson W. Wyatt, former national housing administrator, and Charles H. Bennett, director of the Los Angeles city planning commission.

Dr. Logan, who was appointed for one year, has been chairman of the Norman city planning group for the past two years and recently was nominated by Governor Turner a member of the board of directors of the Southern Planning council. He formerly was executive vice chairman of the Oklahoma State Planning Board.

Dean Gray Resigns

Dr. Jacques P. Gray, dean of the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, has resigned because of the "hopelessness of the financial" situation at the University.

Dr. Gray, who took over the reins of the medical school on September 1, 1946, waged an unsuccessful battle during the last legislature for a sizeable increase in the appropriation for the Medical School. He succeeded in boosting the appropriation \$8,000 over that of last year, but it fell far short of his appeal for funds.

He will become a medical consultant with Parke Davis and Company, pharmaceutical firm. He asked that his resignation become effective November 15.

Medics to Hear Dr. Snyder

Dr. Laurence H. Snyder, dean of the Graduate College at the University of Oklahoma and well-known authority on genetics, has been invited to teach a course in medical genetics at the Army Medical College in Washington, D. C., during the week of February 17.

Lt. Payne S. Harris, representative of the Army medical corps, was in Norman recently to work out details of the course with Dean Snyder.

Dr. Snyder, who serves as special consultant to the surgeon general of the U. S. Army, will give lectures and demonstrations to a selected group of army doctors at the Washington meeting.

O.U. Airport Is Largest

R. W. Babb, of the Oklahoma City district airport engineers, said recently that the University's Max Westheimer field was the largest university airport in the nation.

There had been considerable debate between Joe Coulter, '40ba, field manager, and Babb, who did not believe runway measurements would qualify Coulter's view that the field was the nation's largest.

Final tabulation showed one of the runway lengths to be in excess of 5,525 feet, 25 feet longer than necessary to qualify the field for class V rating. The lengths were obtained from field blueprints mapped by the Navy Department.

Texas A. and M. and the University of Illinois have airfields ranking second to O.U.'s. They both have class IV ratings.

The new plan for processing veterans devised by George P. Haley, University of Oklahoma Veterans Administrations chief, enabled 2,200 to enroll before closing time on the first day of enrolment.

Contract Let for Music Annex

The University Board of Regents has accepted a low bid of \$146,697 submitted by the Builders Construction Company, Oklahoma City, to erect a practice music building as a west wing to Holmberg Hall.

The Regents also announced that agreement was reached with the Norman Board of Education whereby the high school has installed lights for night football this fall at Owen Field for Norman games.

A bid of \$19,302.25 by the Fisher Engineering Company of Norman was accepted for furnishing and installation of air conditioning equipment in the proposed music building.

The building, a three-story brick structure which will harmonize with the architecture of Holmberg Hall, will house practice music room. Work is expected to get underway within a week. The project is being financed by a self-liquidating bond issue of \$175,000. Income from practice room fees will be used to retire the issue.

MacMinn Fills Ricks' Post

Paul V. MacMinn, director of student affairs, will act as counselor of men until a new appointment has been made to fill that position.

Victor Ricks, who was assistant and acting counselor of men, resigned September 4 to accept a position as dean of men and part-time teacher at Evanston, Illinois, Junior College and Township High School.

Mr. MacMinn, also associate professor of psychology, came to the University in October, 1946. From 1937 until his appointment as University director of student affairs, he was counselor of men at Northwestern University, Evanston. During a 4-year interim he held the rank of major in the Army and worked in personnel as a teacher and military psychologist.

He received a BA at Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, attended Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, and was graduated with an MA in psychology from Northwestern University.

Dr. Rister Continues Oil Study On Standard Company's Grant

A supplementary grant of \$15,000 for use in the preparation of a book on the development of the oil industry in the southwest has been received by the University.

President George L. Cross has announced Standard Oil company has provided for a continuation of the study begun a year ago by Dr. C. C. Rister, research professor of history. The original grant of \$15,000 has been used by Dr. Rister to obtain information which will be used in a story of the southwest oil industry. The new grant will be used through next August and the book probably will be published early in 1949.

Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Rister have returned from Boulder, Colorado, where Dr. Rister taught history and gave a series of special lectures during the summer session at the University of Colorado.

School of Flying

The University of Oklahoma will operate its own flying school this year under a plan aimed at reducing instruction costs to students.

Flying started October 1. The University has placed six two-place training planes in operation, according to Joe Coulter, '40ba, chairman of the recently established department of aeronautics. Flight training at O.U.'s Max Westheimer field previously was offered by contract with two private flying schools.

Under the new program, which sets up the aeronautics department as a separate division of the University, training costs are cut to \$7 an hour. This represents a saving of approximately 10 per cent to students as compared with previous rates. Completion of the three-semester course qualifies a student for a private pilot's license.