

# Alumni in The News

Helen, his story is slowly told. He spent 22 months overseas. He had malaria. He was awarded the Air Medal with a cluster for his flights into enemy territory. But that isn't all. A member of the 58th Troop Carrier Squadron, 375th Group, Captain Summers participated in the first flight into Tokyo and also in the first flight into Korea.

"Seven pilots in our squadron were from Oklahoma," George says, "more than from any other state, including Texas!"

Once George was forced down in the wilds of New Guinea. He wrote a letter back home to his mother, Mrs. George E. Summers, Tulsa, in which he said, "It was a great experience but one which I could have done without."

While George fought Japs, Helen studied fashion designing at the University. She led cheers and also social-chaired her sorority, Chi Omega. As publicity chairman for the Union Activities Board, she did decorating for dances in the Memorial Student Union.

"Betty Barclay (Betty Ann McGee, '45fa) got me interested in the Union work," says Helen. Mrs. Barclay was then special events chairman for the U.A.B., handling art and publicity for events such as "Frontier Week." Her husband, Ted Barclay, is now a junior in architecture. Betty is staff photographer on *Sooner Magazine*.

During "Frontier Week" the entire campus turned western. "It was one of our big projects," Helen recalls. The western week has since been discontinued.

Helen started to New York after her graduation in '45 to attend Parsons School of Design. She went by New Orleans to see her sister, Dr. Frances Blackert, '44med, who is now Mrs. William D. Crane. (Her husband is a pre-med at the University, and Dr. Crane is a resident physician at Mercy Hospital, Oklahoma City.)

Helen stopped in Houston to visit her sorority sister, Mrs. Dick Stover, the former Mary Ackley, '45bus. Her husband is an O.U. sophomore in geology. A hurricane struck the coast, and the car in which Helen and Mary were riding was blown over two and one-half times. Helen landed on her knees.

The knees were "bruised." But Helen was determined to take her Parsons scholarship. Stubbornly, she continued her trip, without even telling her parents about the accident.

"I was afraid they wouldn't let me go," she confides.

In New York City she was thrilled when they placed her in a class ahead of the other beginners. But her knee grew stiffer. Several weeks afterward doctors told her she had a misplaced cartilage. Her left knee would have to be operated upon. So Helen withdrew from the school of design, and returned to her home.

By December, 1945, Helen was ready to throw her cane away. George came home from the war. "We wanted to be married right away," says Helen, "but we finally waited three weeks. Dad (Franz Blackert, '13-'17) had to get his suit pressed!" Her father's government engineering offices are in Fort Worth, Texas.

Helen's scholarship to Parsons was still good for a year. But George enrolled in geology at the University. Helen took several graduate art courses but before time came to return to Parsons School of Design their daughter, Lynne, was born. Helen never went back.

"But this way," she gestures toward a stack of portraits and carvings, "I can do whatever fits in. Now my family come first, and art is secondary."

"If only I could get started with the art," she exclaims. She isn't doing badly. Justin McCarty in Dallas wants her as a dress designer. "But of course, I'm here."

She designs Christmas cards and sells them. She has sold a flower picture and also two scratchboard drawings to Dan O'Shea, Tulsa interior decorator. Right now she is doing a portrait of the son of J.

C. Mayfield, '28ba, manager of the University Book Exchange in the basement of the Union Building.

In March George accepted a geology position with the Pure Oil Company. So after his graduation in June the Summers family will head for Montana. George, who was president of his freshman class at Tulsa Central High School, is now president of Pick and Hammer, the University geology club. The club has a membership of 200, largest in its history. George is also a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

Years ago, Helen's aunt, the late Ione Blackert, '16ba, '25ma, wanted to attend the University. Helen's grandmother, Helen Elizabeth "Nell" Blackert, moved to Norman and set up a boarding house for boys. The grandmother, a small, cheerful little person, celebrated her 85th birthday March 12. She lives in Oklahoma City, and still paints pictures, raises cocker spaniel puppies and cultivates a rose garden. With her lives Kathryn Blackert, '18ba, '26ma, another of Helen's aunts. She teaches home economics in Capitol Hill Junior High School.

Grandmother Blackert's three sons also attended O.U. Orlo was a student in 1913. Carl is a resident of Norman and is University electrician. Franz, the oldest son, is Helen's father.

Thirty years ago Franz eloped with Dorothea Jarret, another University student. With them were Dorothea's sister, Neola, and Finley McLauri, '16 law. Their transportation was the old Oklahoma City interurban line, which was removed last year. The two couples were married at the same time.

McLauri is former mayor of Snyder. Mary McLauri, '41bus, is their daughter. Their son, Steve, McLauri, '42ba, is a junior in law at the University.

Another aunt, Mrs. Virgil Harris (Roma Buchanan, '29ed) married Virgil Harris, '30eng. He is now district superintendent of Humble Oil Company in New Orleans.

Lynne, the 18-month-old daughter of George and Helen, twinkles her eyes and smiles, no doubt dreaming of her own future glory in O.U.

"I'm not going to let her start to college 'til I get out," says George.

## Dr. Alfred Hocker Dies in N.Y.

Dr. Alfred F. Hocker, '20-'22, died of a heart attack in his home in New York City early in March. Dr. Hocker, 45, was noted for his work in the treatment of thyroid cancer with radioactive iodine.

He was an assistant attending surgeon of the head and neck service at Memorial Hospital, New York City, and established a tumor clinic at the Cornwall (New York) Hospital in 1936. A native of Iowa, he received his medical training at Louisville Medical College. He was affiliated with Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Dr. Hocker is survived by his wife, Margaret; a son Alfred F. Jr.; his mother, Mrs. F. P. Hocker, El Reno, and a brother, Carl, Seattle, Washington.

## Larry Cotton Accepts Radio Position in Oklahoma City

Singer, radio artist and native Oklahoman well-known throughout the state, Larry Cotton, '33, has moved from his New York City home to Oklahoma City and inaugurated a series of radio programs over Station WKY, Oklahoma City. The program, titled "Sooner Selections", had its premier on March 16 (8:15 a.m.).

Cotton returned to Oklahoma with a pre-war background that includes featured spots on many network programs, extensive phonograph recording activity and appearances in several movies. During the war he was a major in the public relations division of the Air forces and returned to civilian life from service in the Philippines during 1946. He recently concluded a concert tour of the southwest and won much critical praise. Oklahoma performances were given in Altus, Clinton, Lawton, Stigler, Muskogee, Seminole, Duncan and on the "Celebrity Series" at the University in Norman.

The new sponsored series features selections picked by Oklahoma listeners.

Cotton is married and has one daughter. He is associated with Erwin, Wasey & Company, advertising agency with offices on the 32nd floor of the First National Building in Oklahoma City.

## Russell Dicks to Join Duke Faculty

The Rev. Russell L. Dicks, '30ba, has been appointed to head the new department of pastoral care at the Duke University Divinity School starting September, 1948. Rev. Dicks is now chaplain of the Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois.

A native of Stillwater, he received his theological training at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, graduating in 1933 and being ordained to the Presbyterian ministry in the same year. In 1941 he transferred to the Methodist ministry.

After taking clinical training in a mental hospital, Rev. Dicks began his work as chaplain in various hospitals in the nation. He has worked in the Massachusetts General Hospital; the Boston Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago, and the Wesley Memorial Hospital. He has served on the faculties of Southern Methodist University, Episcopal Theological Seminary, Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, Harvard Divinity School, Chicago Theological Seminary, Garrett Biblical Institute, McCormick Theological Seminary and the Bethany Biblical Institute.

The author of several religious books, Rev. Dicks has been associated with the department of religion of the Federal Council of Churches and with the Y.M.C.A. and the U.S.O. During the war he traveled as a lecturer on personal counseling, visiting military areas and lecturing to chaplains, civilian ministers, doctors, U.S.O. workers, social workers and teachers.

Rev. Dicks was active in the organization of the Association of Protestant Hospital Chaplains of the American Protestant Hospital Association, serving as first president of the group.



REV. RUSSELL DICKS, '30BA  
To Join Duke Faculty.