

J-Student's Paper Wins Highest Prize

"Just about everything" is Volney Meece's description of his duties as editor of *The Maverick*, Northern Oklahoma Junior College (Tonkawa) student paper. Meece, now a University student, was staff head of the publication which won first place recently in the 24th annual contest of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, Columbia University, New York City.

Editing, reporting, head writing, type setting—all were included in Meece's domain. Copies of *The Maverick* which were submitted in the contest dated from April, 1947, to January, 1948, all except two of them being published under his guidance. The 4-page, bi-weekly editions were judged on makeup technique and content of stories, advertising and the general value of the paper in representing news of the college and community in which it was issued.

Sports writing is Meece's main field of interest. Experience plus ability merited him a position on the *Oklahoma Daily* staff as assistant sports writer. He has a technical knowledge of sports gained from lettering in football and basketball at NOJC and participating in track events at Tonkawa High School, from which he was graduated in 1943.

"I really like the University School of Journalism," Meece said. "From it you gain practical experience which is not available at a smaller school. The *Daily* is run on a larger scale, with the printing offices and advertising and editorial departments under separate administration."

"It's fine!" he emphasized.

Meece blushed when he added that he entered journalism because he "thought it would be an easy course." Now he's staying in it because he likes it.

While a student at NOJC, Meece was correspondent for the *Daily Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City), the *Ponca City News* and the *Blackwell Journal Tribune*.

The only complaint he has to make about the University is the number of required courses he's found himself taking. "I'm enrolled in everything but journalism," he lamented.

During the war, Meece served in the Army Air Force. He was stationed at Shepherd Field, Amarillo, Texas, and Chanute Field, Illinois.

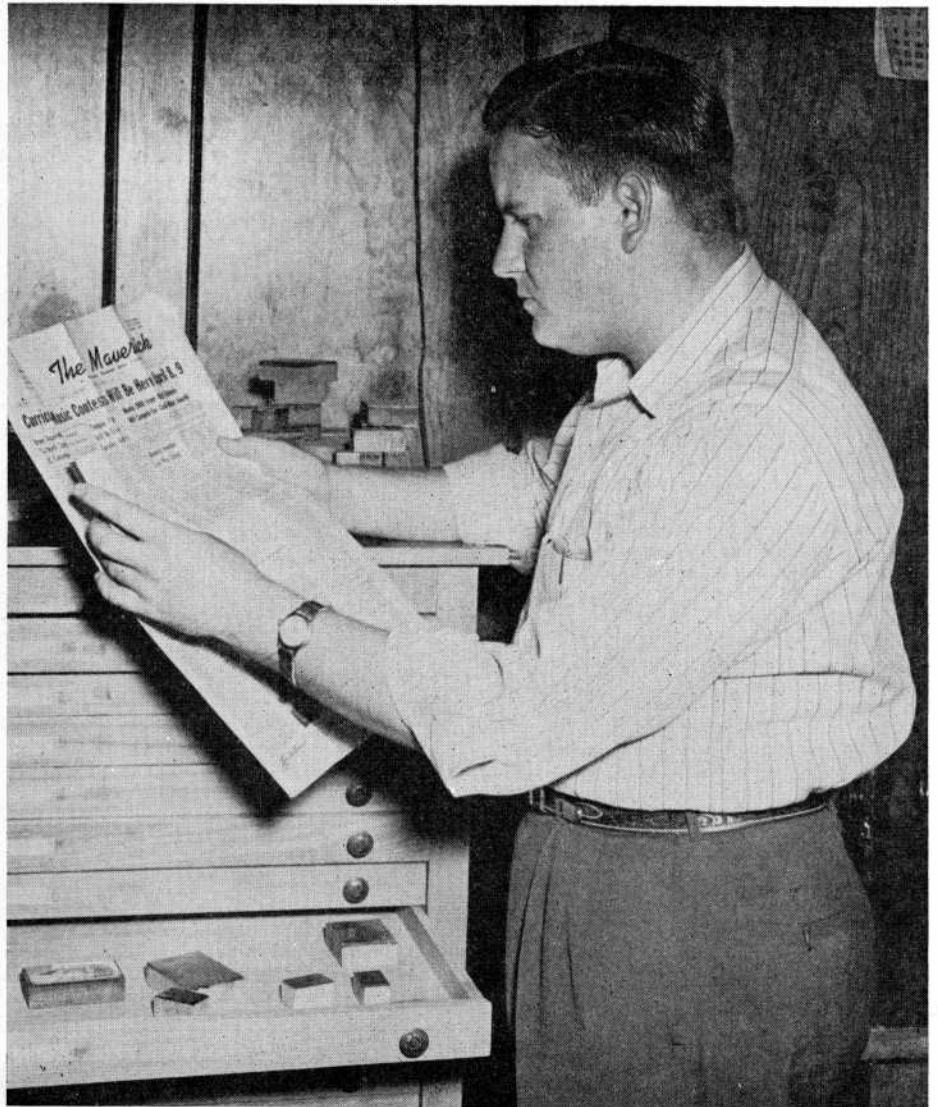
Enrollment Facts, Figures

When will the veteran enrollment fall off at O.U.? Maybe this is a hint. There are approximately 500 less veterans enrolled in the University for the Spring semester than were here in the fall. However, even with the drop, this semester enrollment is 400 more than it was at this time last year.

The official veteran enrollment for this semester is 6,519, of which 90 are coeds. Such a huge enrollment brings in quite a payroll to the City of Norman. With the raise in Veteran pay checks effective April 1, the minimum subsistence total for one month is \$612,895. It is estimated that from September of 1947 to August, 1948, Norman takes in between \$6 and \$7 millions from veteran subsistence checks alone.

Of course most of these veteran-students at O.U. are Oklahomans. As a matter of fact, 5,185 of them are. But 44 of the other 47 states are also represented. Only Nevada, Vermont and Delaware lack representation. Texas leads the out-of-staters with 374, and New York is next with 126. Veterans also come to O.U. from the District of Columbia, Territory of Hawaii, Canal Zone, Phillipine Islands, Puerto Rico, Canada and Mexico.

The age bracket includes those from 18 to 58. The median falls around the 25-year-old group. Forty-five percent of the veteran-students are married. This group of 2,923 has a total of 1,432 children. Without a doubt, even more married veterans would enrol at O.U. if housing were available.



Volney Meece, journalism junior from Tonkawa, muses over a copy of the *Maverick*, Northern Oklahoma Junior College paper which, under his editorship, merited first place award in the recent 24th annual contest of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

New Slant on Segregation

Editor's Note: We quote below an editorial from the Norman Transcript, April 5, 1948. This editorial gives something of the local point of view on the subject of Oklahoma's segregation law that has stimulated comment on the part of readers of Sooner Magazine throughout the world.

It should be mentioned that the Committee of College Deans was appointed some weeks ago by the State Board of Regents of Higher Education. The committee selected was as follows: Chancellor M. A. Nash of the Regents of Higher Education, chairman, while the three deans selected from the University of Oklahoma were Laurence H. Snyder, Arnold E. Joyal, and E. D. Meacham. The three deans selected from Oklahoma A. & M. College were D. C. McIntosh, graduate dean; Schiller Scroggs, College of Arts and Sciences, and N. Conger, dean of education.

The editorial below, entitled "Oklahoma's Segregation Law," deals with the report of this Dean's Commission of seven men assigned to this work.

"One month ago the general feeling among Oklahoma citizens was that as long as the Oklahoma Constitution calls for segregation, the state has no choice except to provide graduate work and courses in law, engineering, etc., for Negroes at Langston University.

"But the issue appears to have a new slant since the Committee of College Deans made its report stating that development of such schools and de-

partments at Langston is not at all feasible and suggesting that statutes of the state be changed to permit advanced Negro students to enroll in the University and at Oklahoma A. and M. College for such work.

"The report immediately raised the question, does the Constitution absolutely forbid mixed schools, and the answer is not clear. It has been pointed out that Article XIII charges the Legislature with responsibility for setting up separate schools, but Article XIII-A, entitled Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, makes no mention of segregation.

"Admittedly it would be extremely difficult to amend the Constitution, but if the Legislature has power to amend the statutes and permit Negroes to take graduate work, law, engineering, etc., in the University and A. and M. College, the report of the Deans will take on added significance.

"The Deans believe that no racial difficulties would follow such action. They apparently hold that both whites and Negroes who are ready for such training have been thoroughly screened as to character, intelligence and good sense, and that they could study and attend classes together without friction.

"We all recognize the state owes full educational opportunity to Negroes, including graduate work to those who are able to take advantage of it. If it cannot be provided at Langston, we must find other ways and means to supply it. The report of the Deans will take on added significance."