

Five Distinguished Sooners



LYNN RIGGS, '23

SIXTY years of exemplary service on the part of the University of Oklahoma faculty have produced nearly 100,000 alumni, now scattered throughout the world. These alums represent practically every profession and business in the book. Many have reached a high degree of attainment in their field.

It is for these outstanding alums and other outstanding Oklahomans that the annual Achievement Day was created this spring. Sponsored jointly by the University and the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association, an Achievement Day banquet was held in the Ballroom of the Oklahoma Memorial Union on April 27. At this event five Oklahomans were honored, three of them University alumni.

To more nearly assure unbiased selection, appointments to the seven-man selection committee which chose the honored five were made by three different sources. The University president appointed three. The president of the Association also chose three, and the final appointment was made by the president of the Dads' Association. This committee remains anonymous.



GEN. W. S. KEY

The Oklahomans who received Distinguished Service Citations were Everett L. DeGolyer, '11ba, consulting geologist; Almer S. (Mike) Monroney, '24ba, congressman; Lynn Riggs, '23, playwright; Raymond S. McLain, Army lieutenant general, and William S. Key, Army major general. Lynn Riggs and General Key were unable to attend the presentation, but a friend of Riggs who was in Oklahoma City at the time, Mrs. Dot Lemon, New York, accepted the award and responded for him. Lee Thompson, '25ba, '27law, accepted the award for General Key, and gave an appropriate response. The other three award recipients were present and responded briefly.

The five citations, presented by President Cross, were signed by the presidents and secretaries of the University of Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma Association.

Presented to DeGolyer was a citation



GEN. RAYMOND S. McLAIN

which read as follows: "The University of Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma Association have conferred this Distinguished Service Citation on Everett Lee DeGolyer in recognition of his contributions to the science of Geology, his pioneering work in introducing geophysics into oil exploration, his diplomatic and scientific services to the nation, and his efforts to preserve the historical and literary heritage of the Southwest."

All of the citations contained the statement, "Given under the seals of the University of Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma Association at Norman, Oklahoma, on this first annual Achievement Day, the 27th of April, 1948."

Monroney's citation read: "The University of Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma Association have conferred this Distinguished Service Citation on Almer Stillwell (Mike) Monroney in recognition of his profound understanding of the duties



MIKE MONRONEY, '24BA

and responsibilities of a representative of the people, his courage in the promotion of reforms and the correction of abuses, and his contributions to the science of government through his efforts to effectuate congressional reorganization."

With the same general introduction, the citation to Lynn Riggs read: "... in recognition of his substantial contribution to the field of creative literature, his vivid embodiment of the daring spirit of the pioneer in all his work, and his dynamic promotion of the state through the distinctive American musical *Oklahoma!*"

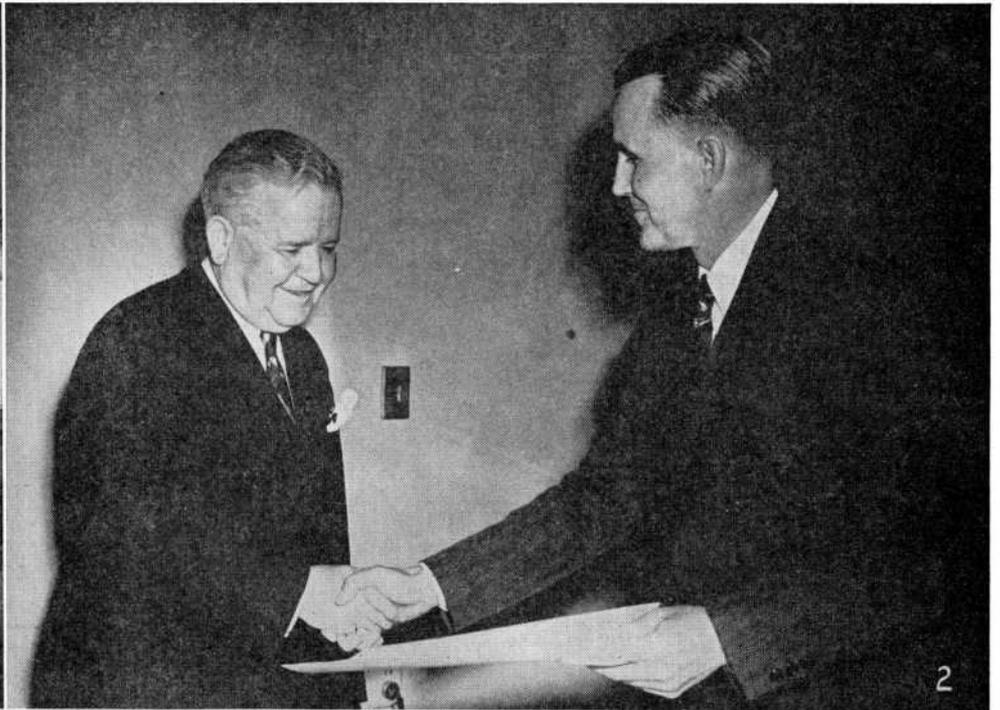
To General McLain went the citation reading: "... in recognition of his exceptionally meritorious military service, his sound planning and indomitable leadership in the highest tradition of the armed forces, and his active interest in civic affairs and community development."

The citation presented in absentia to General Key read: "... in recognition of his distinguished career of public service, his aggressive leadership and indefatigable energy in promoting civic progress, and his brilliant record as one of Oklahoma's most

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EVERETTE L. DEGOLYER, '11BA



The University's Achievement Day banquet was a happy event, as one can see by these smiles recorded by *Sooner* photographer Ned Hockman.

1. Mrs. Dot Lemon responds for Lynn Riggs, who was unable to leave New York to receive his award.

2. President Cross (right) congratulates Everette DeGolyer and hands him his citation.

3. "Good goin', Mike," exclaims Ted Beard to Mike Monroney as he grabs the Oklahoma congressman by the arm. In the background are Kenneth Harris and Lee Thompson.

4. Lloyd Noble, past president of the University Regents, was master of ceremonies.

5. Left to right—President Cross, DeGolyer, General Raymond McLain, Monroney, and Noble. The middle three men were achievement citation recipients.



Distinguished Sooners

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exemplary military leaders."

Serving as master of ceremonies for the Achievement Day occasion was Lloyd Noble, '21, Ardmore, past president of the University Regents. Reverend O. L. Fontaine, '25ba, Oklahoma City, pronounced the invocation, and Hal Muldrow, Jr., '28 bus, president of the University of Oklahoma Association, delivered the address of welcome. Musical entertainment was furnished by the University glee club under the direction of Chester L. Francis.

As a gesture of appreciation to their alma mater, the banquet guests closed the occasion by singing the "Oklahoma Chant."

Cobeans Visit Campus

Easygoing Sam Cobean, '37, cartoonist for the *New Yorker* and other national magazines, and his wife, Anne (Anne McCool, '36ba), last month were back on the campus visiting friends.

R. M. McCool '31, Anne's father, is former city manager of Norman. The McCool residence was telephoned and a smooth feminine voice answered, "Surely, we'd be glad to talk to you."

The voice belongs to Anne. Husband Sam is a quiet, rosy-checked fellow in a sleeveless shirt and faded old khakis. He drives a sleek, low-slung convertible.

In ten years he has skyrocketed from studying law and journalism at the University through Hollywood and the Army to cartooning for the country's leading publications.

He stretched out on the McCool couch. He'd been working on some ads that had to be in the mail. When he finished them he browsed around the Art School. He hadn't eaten lunch. Would Anne mind making a cheese sandwich? He chatted between munches.

Sam was born in Pennsylvania, but after his parents died he moved to Tulsa, then attended the University of Oklahoma. He served two hitchhikes in 1936-37 as editor of the *Covered Wagon*, campus humor magazine. He earned a reputation for packing the sheet with cartoons. He left the University to do some artful pencil pushing through "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" for Walt Disney.

On leaving the Disney studios he worked for Universal and Columbia. Meanwhile, his Sooner classmate, Anne McCool, worked in the offices of Boyd Gunning, '37law, director of the Extension Division. Then she secretaried her way out to the west coast. Sam and Anne were married.

The McCool clan forms a sizeable alumni "Who's Who." Lieut. R. M. McCool, Jr., '41ba, joined the naval science faculty in mid-April. A brother of Anne, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroic action in 1945. He remained aboard his ship, although he was wounded, so that the ship could be salvaged for further use. He saved his comrades aboard another ship sunk by suicide planes off Okinawa. At the age of 19 he was graduated from the University. He majored in government. In '43 he was graduated from the United States Naval Academy.

His wife, Mrs. R. M. McCool, Jr. (Elaine Larecy '42ba), was graduated in journalism. She edited the 1945 *Sooner Magazine*.

Anne's older sister is Mrs. John W. Corrigan (Elizabeth McCool '34ba, '35ma). The Corrigan lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"Baby" alumna of the McCool family is Mrs. Charles Terry (Frances McCool '46ba). Her husband, Charles Terry, '41, is meteorologist at MacDill Field, Florida.

After Anne and cartoonist Sam were married,

he joined the Army and was a private in the Signal Corps, drawing animated training films.

Saturday Evening Post and *Collier's* began to buy his gently sardonic drawings while Sam was still in the Army. He now does art work for *Collier's*, *Mademoiselle*, *Living* and others, but the *New Yorker* gets first crack at most of his stuff.

A Cobean-drawn bride picture appears on the June cover of *Esquire*. Still chewing on his cheese sandwich, Sam said booming Oklahoma is "A fertile breeding ground for new talent."



Sam Cobean, '37, and Ann McCool Cobean, '36ba, relax during a recent visit at the home of Ann's parents, the R. M. McCools of Norman.

Hefleys Recall the 'Run'

BY BARBARA PIPES
O.U. Journalism Junior

Even before the Sooners and Boomers came to Norman, the Hefley family was living here, running the section house for the Santa Fe railroad!

In a recent interview with three of the Hefley brothers, all of Norman and all who were students in the first class of the University in 1892, a colorful story evolved of a family living on the scene in the early days of American history.

John T. Hefley, received the B.A. in 1901 and the Doctorate in education in '35. He taught for many years in the state and was a professor of education at the University. J. L. Hefley got his B.A. degree in 1899. He later became a Methodist minister and lived most of his life away from Norman. Henry M. "Hank" became a farmer and has resided in Norman since 1888. It was Hank who remembered most clearly the first furious days of the little town on the Canadian.

"Well," began Hank, "this is the way the story goes. My father, Jefferson L. Hefley, my mother and eight children came to what was, even then, called Norman back in 1888. The name was borrowed from Abner E. Norman, a government surveyor who operated from Fort Arbuckle to Oklahoma City was back in 1871. When the Santa Fe came through in 1887, it set up a telegraph station and called it Norman. The name stuck."

Jefferson Hefley's job was to run the section house for the railroad. There were usually 20 or 30 men to be fed and housed every day. For a year the only three structures in town were the section house, telegraph station and a little depot. All the Hefley boys worked with the section gangs for \$1.25 a day. The whole family worked for the railroad.

Came the day of April 21, 1889. Excitement ran high. The "run" was about to begin. Work was suspended and the Hefley family sat on their stoop

Biggest change here since his sleepy student days, he said, is "The New York rush between classes. Campus corner is just like Times Square—everybody in a hurry and you wonder where they're all going."

Sam Cobean is cosmopolitan, but he's in no hurry. He and Anne alternate between living in their New York City apartment and on their farm at Seneca Lake, New York.

Sam does much of his drawing while they are at the farm. "Spasmodic" is the word he uses to describe his work habits. "I work very hard for awhile then I don't work," he says.

He works hard enough to keep the "bank" behind his *New Yorker* desk filled with pictures for future use. He also peppers the pages of many magazines with his advertisement cartoons.

On their Seneca Lake farm the Cobeans have two horses, a colt, a dog and two hamsters (Rat-like little creatures minus tails).

It was almost time for the Cobeans to go to a party at the home of a University faculty member. Anne, always polished looking as one of Sam's *Esquire* drawings, didn't need to get ready for the party. Sam didn't.

They stepped into the convertible. Sam sat in careless ease behind the steering wheel, cruising around Norman. He didn't know exactly where the party was to be given. But that didn't bother him. Nothing perturbed Sam.

And, eventually, he found the house. At the party the wives congregated around Anne. Suit-clad University artists clustered near Sam. Sam was still wearing his battered suntans and his sleeveless shirt.

But the people didn't notice. They were too interested in the man, Sam. His title on the *New Yorker*?

His deeply suntanned face beamed good naturedly. "They just call me Sam," he said.

and watched the crowd collecting across the Canadian River. That was Chickasha Indian territory over there, and it was from there the "run" would start. The air was tense. Songs floated across the river from the many groups around the campfires and there was little sleep that night; especially for the Sooners who were busy infiltrating across the river and driving a midnight stake or two.

Came noon next day, April 22, and the gun went off. A wave of humanity, cattle and wagons surged across the river. Screams, cursing and shouts rent the sultry air. On they came. Thousands rushed through Norman on their way to Oklahoma City, which had a post office. Simultaneously, the train steamed into the town from Purcell, loaded with more wild, hollering settlers.

They jumped from the train before it stopped and raced to the nearest farm or town site and drove a stake. The train began dumping lumber and supplies all over the depot. And was Mr. Hefley standing calmly by all this time? No. He had waited for the gun, then raced to his chosen spot near the tracks, driven his stake, pitched a tent and started digging a cellar. He was tired of working for the railroad and was going into the hotel business.

J. L. Hefley, Jr., rode off to find a farm. He found it and started to settle when up stalked a big Sooner and said it was "his'n." Seems like he had gotten there first and when J. L. later found a tent and fire nearby, he realized the man had jumped the gun. Being a peace-loving man, J. L. dropped the matter.

Soldiers were everywhere to keep order, but there was a minimum of squabbling. It was first come, first served. Arkansas laws prevailed in the Territory until it became a state. D. L. Larsh and T. R. Waggoner, the first Cleveland County repre-