

## 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-

sentative to the legislature and author of the bill to establish a university in Norman, reputedly, hauled in the first prefabricated house in the state. They brought in the section by train, put it up in a few hours and moved in by nightfall. There is some slight difference of opinion between the old settlers, but this house is supposed to be still standing at 425 South Santa Fe Avenue, covered now with asbestos siding. Ed Ingle, first editor of the *Transcript*, established in 1889, was here the first day and got his homestead.

So it went all day. By night some 500 happy but tired pioneers sang songs around fires on this side of the river. Where there had been only prairie, now were tents, wagons, shanties and life. And the Hefley's Hotel Norman had a cellar, but fate stepped in. Several weeks after the hotel was finished, with nine sleeping rooms and a huge dining room, the government contested the claim. Hefley had been on this side of the river before the run and was, therefore, ineligible to homestead.

Slightly piqued, but undaunted, the Hefleys picked up their hotel and moved to a legal spot. They took everything, including the lining of the well.

The theater came to town by way of the Franning Opera House, built by Mr. W. Seawell the first summer. Real plays by legitimate artists were presented, as well as operas such as "Carmen." Even then, culture reared its head in the little metropolis. Father Hefley sold the lot, where the City National Bank now reposes, for \$25. The Southern Methodist was the first church to get up a building on the present site of the Central Church of Christ. Reed's was the first drug store. Social life consisted mainly of picnics along the river and the church was the hub of activities.

In 1892, the University opened shop on the site of the present Landsaw furniture building. In 1902, the first elections were held. J. A. Hallum was elected mayor and Norman became a first class city.

And so was born "our town," which now boasts a population of 18,000 residents and approximately 12,000 University students. It has practically no industry, will never be a metropolis, but has cultural and living advantages hard to equal.

With a touch of nostalgia in their voices, the Hefley brothers agreed that "there was less trouble in those pistol-packing days than now. Everybody was out on one big spree, looking for something free, and those were really the good old days. Yes, sirree!"

Dr. Joseph H. Marshburn, professor of English, served as president of Georgia Military College before joining the O.U. faculty in 1920.

## Correspondence . . .

Detroit

Dear Ted:

I don't know much about what is happening to anyone but here are a few items that I have run across.

Amzie Strickland Behrens, '40ba, is the mother of a 15-month-old son, Timothy, and she is one of New York's favorite network actresses. Robert Clarke, '39-'40, spent last year in Hollywood and now is in New York modeling.

L. Hart Wright, '39ba, '41law, is a law instructor at the University of Michigan. Mrs. Wright, the former Phyllis Jean Blanchard, '38ba, '41m.f.a., has been active in the Little Theatre group in Ann Arbor and is directing some plays for them.

David Sureck, '39-'41, is in New York City with a daily newscast on a local station. The last time I heard from them, Lewin Goff, '41fa, '46m.f.a., and Mrs. Goff, the former Jean Anne Erickson, '42ba, were in Cleveland, Ohio, where Lewin is studying at Western Reserve University.

Cordially yours, Minnie Jo Curtis, '41ba.

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Duncan, Oklahoma

Gentlemen:

Thirty-six years after graduating from O.U., I have made up my mind to join the Alumni Association. So, here is my \$3.00 check. And if Bill Cross doesn't fix me up with a pair of good football seats I am going to be sore.

Yours truly, (Dr.) A. M. McMahan, '12bs.

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Los Angeles

Dear Ted:

Much as I would like to, I am afraid it will be impossible for me to attend the conclave of the ole '28ers. It is possible that I may have the opportunity to visit the Sooner campus before that date, however. If so I'll be sure to look you up.

Yep, it has been 20 years since that hot June day when we walked off the platform in the unfinished new gym. I won't forget that gym, particularly the night we opened it against Phog Allen. Bennie Owen and I were helping the carpenters put the finishing touches on the floor at 4 p.m. and the crowd started arriving at six.

I would love to be back to see how kind 20 years have been to some of those slender figures that tramped across the campus—yes, male and female. To see if the others have kept pace with me.

Yes, sir, I haven't quite added two pounds per year over that 20 year stretch and I don't have to wear a hat to keep from yielding to this California sun, but it won't be long.

Enjoyed your comment concerning secretaries and it is just as someone said, we can get along without presidents, but what the heck would we do without secretaries. Of course, I mean alumni secretaries.

Best regards, George Christmas, '28ba.

## Pharmacists to Fete Early Grads

Once in fifty years graduates of the School of Pharmacy are entitled to the type of recognition being doled out this month to four of the school's grads with the class of '98.

On their fiftieth anniversary of graduation, James Lebron Freeman, Tonkawa; William Henry McCutcheon, Oklahoma City; Edmund S. Norris, Pawnee, and Robert Franklin Snapp, Mountainair, New Mexico, are being lauded as members of the third class to graduate from the University.

In the May "Drug Mill," a monthly news release authored by Dr. Ralph Bienfang, professor of pharmacy, the class of '98 is contrasted with the much larger classes of today. The 1,000th graduate of the School of Pharmacy will receive his diploma this spring.

## Where's the University?

The "Press Box" of the *Norman Transcript* recently carried this item:

"Ansel Challenger, '25eng, '33m.eng, of the University College of Engineering staff, says he believes he's recorded one of those 'impossible events' in his books.

"Receiving a call from a Swiss scientist in New Jersey the other day, Challenger was asked by the scientist where the professor lived. Challenger gave him his street address, but the scientist wasn't satisfied. He wanted to know the name of the town.

"Challenger, surprised that the scientist didn't know the name of the town which he had called, learned that the Swiss, a man he met during the war, had placed the call to Ansel Challenger at a university in Oklahoma, not knowing which university or college or town in which Challenger was located.

"The call came through, but Challenger said telephone company officials said they hardly could believe that it was possible since it is the usual procedure that the town must be known first before a call is placed."



The Choctaw County Alumni Association entertained University band members at a banquet when the band made its trip there for the Second Annual Circus Roundup, an all-day celebration given in honor of the city's eight shows which winter in Hugo.

Those who assisted in the plans are, standing left to right, Ennis M. DeWeese, '21ba, Hugo mayor; Robert Firebaugh, '38m.ed; Eddie Miller; Robert H. Warren, '42; John A. Bryan, '11ba; Miss Fannie Glenn, '20ba, '29ma; O. A. Brewer, '17ba, '20law, president of the Choctaw County Club; Miss Maida Lambeth, '45ba; John Conrad, '20ba, '26ma; Lecil Ford, banquet chairman; Mrs. O. A. Brewer (Gladys Mabry, '20); Carlos Webb; Vester Songer, '20ba, '26ma; W. B. Harris, Jr., '47bus, and Joseph W. Brindley, '41bus.

Seated are Mrs. Al Alexander (Ruth McKinney, '36h.ec); Mrs. Stanley Wall; Leonard H. Haug, associate professor of music education and director of the University bands, and Robert W. Ross, assistant professor of music education.