



Examining a notebook from the "Y" files are these active members of that organization. Left to right—Libby Ledeen; Bill McGehee, president of YMCA; Anne Darrough, president of YWCA, and Ted Ledeen.

The 'Y' Means Success at O.U.

BY PAUL McCLUNG

THE "Y" is a vital cog in the machinery of campus life. Multiple "Y" activities are under the direction of the Ted Ledeens and Mrs. Herb Polson. Everybody calls them "Ted," "Libby," and "Carol."

Officially, they are Theodore J. Ledeen, secretary of the University Y.M.C.A.; his wife, Elizabeth C. Ledeen, and Mrs. Herb Polson, who are active directors of the Y.W.C.A.

They sponsor worship, play and discussion groups. The "Y" also is responsible for ten radio programs a month over WNAD. Both the "Cavalcade of Youth" program at 2:15 p.m. every Friday and the Chapel radio programs each day during the fourth week of each month are done by students.

An average of 30 students each month take part in the programs. Script writing, acting and research for the programs—all are done by students.

Seeds of the present fertile blossoming of the "Y" were planted in 1898, when the organization first came to the new campus. By 1906-07 it had grown to include in its membership over half the men of the student body.

"There is so much to be done," Libby says. "Y" philosophy is to find out what needs urgent doing on the campus. The "Y" starts activities until some other organization takes them, then the "Y" moves on to open up new fields.

It formed an employment bureau in 1911 and maintained it until a present employment service was started. *The Juggler of Notre Dame*, popular Orchesis play, was started by the "Y." It is now an annual project of the gymnasium dance group.

In 1944 the "Y" sponsored the Constructive University Critics to encourage the reorganization of student government following the apathy of the war years. Out of that move grew the present University Student Senate.

One of the brightest gems in the star-studded "Y" history is donation of insurance to the building fund of the Memorial Union Building. That

donation is said to be the first received for the all-Sooner hangout.

The old Y.M.C.A. hut was located on a vacant lot next to what is now Whitehand Hall, men's dormitory. Fire destroyed the hut February 17, 1923.

Eugene Faulkner in 1922 had originated the idea for building a college activity center for all students. He was elected first president of the Oklahoma Student Union.

B. S. "Cheebie" Graham, Y.M.C.A. secretary from 1921-25, recalled in conversation with Ted that, after the fire, the Y.M.C.A., received approximately \$6,000 insurance. A committee of 25 met in the home of the president. They were to vote either to build a new Y.M.C.A. building with the Hut insurance or put the money into the proposed Student Union. They decided to turn the money over to the Union funds drive.

Architects Sorey and Vahlberg completed plans for the new structure in 1924. By 1944 the last bonds on the building were retired. After completion of the Union, the Y.M.C.A. moved in.

The Y.W.C.A., however, carried on from the Women's Building until 1939. In 1938 the Union invited the Y.W.C.A. to move in. It took the young women a year to make up their minds. Since 1939, though, they have existed side-by-side with their big brothers. Both organizations have been located since then in their quarters on the second floor of the Union.

"We have observed an outstanding correlation between past student-leaders in the "Y" and present civic and religious leaders in the state," say the Ledeens.

Past presidents of the "Y" are among Oklahoma's most distinguished citizens. Errett R. Newby, '08ba, was a Y.M.C.A. president. He is now an Oklahoma City civic leader.

Frank M. Long, '09ma, another "Y" leader, formerly was a Y.M.C.A. secretary in Brazil. He now lives in Roanoke, Virginia. His daughter, Edith Long, is a freshman in the University

and a member of the "Y" freshman council. Lewis Long, his son, is a graduate student and staff-member of Wesley Foundation.

W. L. Eagleton, '19law, headed the "Y" in '12-'13. A Tulsa attorney, he is prominent in Presbyterian Church life. His daughter, Pauline Eagleton, belongs to the "Y" freshman club.

Paul Darrough, '15law, followed Eagleton as president in '13-'14. Mrs. Paul Darrough (Margaret Archdeacon, '18ba) was president of the Y.W.C.A. in '17-'18. Their daughter, Anne, following in her parents' footsteps, was elected president of the Y.W.C.A. this year. Mrs. Darrough is a member of the Oklahoma City Y.W.C.A. board and her husband is on the Y.M.C.A. board.

A. N. Boatman, '16law, next "Y" prexy, now an Okmulgee attorney, is president of the Oklahoma Memorial Union Board of Governors.

Forrest Darrough, '23law, brother of Paul, was "Y" president in '19-'20. He is a Tulsa attorney and chairman of the Y.M.C.A. board in that city.

Dave McKown, '21geol, was next president. He lives in Oklahoma City. He married Florence Monnet, '22ba, who was Y.W.C.A. president in '21-'22. She is Anne Darrough's aunt!

Dr. Ben K. Parks, '24bs, president in '21-'22, is a physician in Long Beach, California.

The Rev. Donald E. Schooler, '24ba, president in '22-'23, presides over his Epworth Methodist flock in Chickasha.

District Judge B. T. Williams, '33law, prexy in '31-'32, lives in Paul's Valley. Jack Luttrell, '41law, Rhodes scholar, was chosen vice-president of the "Y" in '36-'37. He is now president of the Norman Chamber of Commerce.

Alvan Muldrow, '33law, was "Y" president in '29. He is now an attorney in Brownfield, Texas. Sid Cockrell, Jr., '38bus, is a citizen of Dallas and member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews staff. He headed the "Y" in '37-'38.

Harry Nunn, '41ma, was president in '38-'39. He is now on the political science faculty at NYU. The voice of Kenneth Lowe, '36-'40, is heard every morning over radio station WKY. He was vice-president in '38-'39.

Charles Riddle, '41soc.wk., was '38-'39 secretary. He now is a missionary to China.

Dorothy Murdock, '40soc.wk., was president of the Y.W.C.A. in '39-'40. She was assistant minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Norman.

The Ledeens have noted the concern of post-war students to accept responsibilities of citizenship and attitudes of a mature religion in a democracy.

Thirteen leaders were brought to the campus through "Y" and Inter-religious Council sponsorship for Religious Emphasis week in February. The discussions, headed by national authorities, drew a total estimated attendance of 8,522.

"One change I note on the campus is the number of married students and the new emphasis on serious study," Ted says.

Marriage is taking the University "Y" by storm. Hilary Fry, president last year, left the University to marry Amelia "Chita" Roberts, '47ba, who is an English instructor at the University of Illinois.

Joan Arrington, last year's Y.W.C.A. leader, married George Gentry, senior. Christie Dougherty and Howard Furlow, both "Y" cabinet members, were recently married.

The Ledeens heartily favor college marriages. "I think it's healthier to get married in college. Veterans have set the pattern," Ted points out.

The Ledeens themselves were married in 1941. They had gone to the University of Texas, he as assistant secretary of the Y.M.C.A., she as secretary of the Y.W.C.A.

While Ted worked with the USO during the war, Libby took over the University Y.M.C.A. In the Fall of 1944 she was named one of the few woman directors of Y.M.C.A. Ted took over the Y.M.C.A. in 1945. Last Fall Libby rejoined the "Y" staff.

"I suppose we should get tired but this is part of our life," Ted says.

"I love to work with people," Libby adds. "Another thing about this—We're always uncovering people we know all over the country," says Ted. "It's just as though there is one big happy O. U. family. It's good to have friends."