

"Forward to prevent a continuance or recurrence of those conditions.

"It was not an easy job, and it is not easy now.

"Our next legislature will share the responsibility in deciding whether prison conditions will continue to improve, or whether they will slide back to the level which inspired Mr. MacKaye's article.

"If we are to have a good prison, honestly and capably administered, the public is going to have to be on the right side of the fence. Indifference won't get the job done. Our people are going to take an active interest in prison conditions.

"Lack of public interest in what was going on at McAlester was partly responsible for 'The Shame of Oklahoma.' All of us are entitled to a share of the blame for it.

"This should be a lesson to us on the price of public lethargy."

In Purcell, Senator Jim Nance, Speaker Pro-tem of the Oklahoma State Senate, writing in his personal column of the *Purcell Register*, "As the Editor Views the News," commented: "Oklahoma continues to make the headlines. Now it is an article in the *Saturday Evening Post* that attracts nationwide attention. The article is entitled 'The Shame of Oklahoma' and concerns the penitentiary at McAlester.

"It is an article of the sensational type. The careful reader should be quick to see that nowhere in the story does the author infer that it is a true picture of conditions today at McAlester. On the contrary he points out rather obscurely that the prison is now managed as a prison should be and that Warden Burford is a trained prison administrator, with years of experience in federal reformatories.

"But in order to sell the story, this writer had to make ancient history current. He had to color it up. He sold the story. Oklahoma got some more unpleasant publicity.

"During the war help was difficult to obtain. A trained employee was a scarce person in every business. This was also true at McAlester. It was hard for prison authorities to obtain and retain a bare skelton force to handle the establishment.

"There has not been any doubt since the appointment of Mr. Burford that the state at last had a man who knew how to operate a prison. McAlester penitentiary is now operated on the same system as are federal prisons, so far as funds and resources will permit. The whole system has been revamped. Further improvements will be proposed to the next legislature by the interim committee on prisons and prison reform.

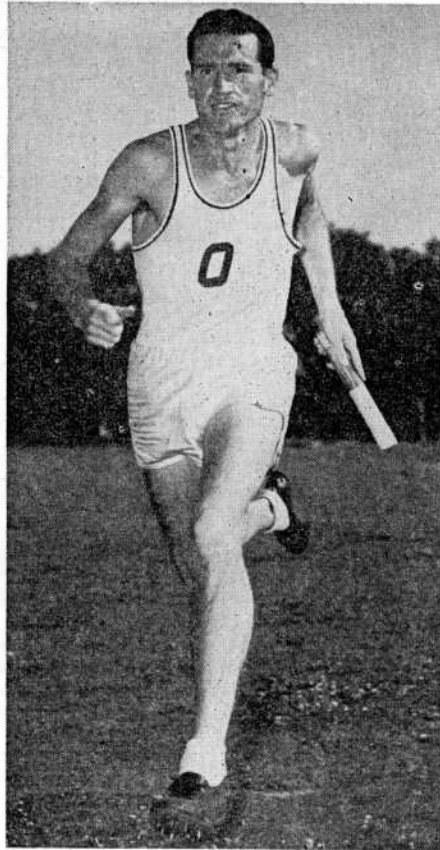
"The author of the *Post* story would have had more material for an article if he had written on 'FFA and 4-H Club Work in Oklahoma,' or, 'Oklahoma's Universities and Colleges,' or, 'Oklahoma as a Place for Industry to Locate With Its High Type People, Excellent Labor, Climate, and Abundance of Natural Resources,' or 'Oklahoma's Clean Cities and Towns,' or, 'Oklahoma's Contribution to the Nation's Economy with Its Agricultural and Mineral Resources,' or 'Oklahoma's Contribution to the War Effort During the Years 1941 to 1945.'

"It is such stories as that story in the *Saturday Evening Post* that made it difficult to convince the effete East that Oklahoma is not inhabited by a people, one-half of whom wear six-shooters in defense of the other half who carry tomahawks.

"Yes, Oklahoma is just as progressive in every way as any other state and more than most; and is inhabited by the best cross-section of people, regardless of what the *Post* or any other 'slick' magazine says."

Dr. Harry E. Hoy, associate geography professor, is a member of the Association of American Geographers. The group, limited to approximately 300 members, chooses membership on the basis of research and publications in that field.

## Sooner Sports



LANDON WESTBROOK—ball of fire

### Final O.U. Race

Landon Westbrook, wiry, freckled little Sooner track man, is scheduled to run his last race for the University in the various Olympic trial meets at Milwaukee and Chicago in July.

Regardless of how he places, Westbrook will go down in University track history as a man who ranks with the late Bill Lyda, '38-'42, as the finest relay anchor man ever developed by John Jacobs, veteran Sooner track coach. His home is at Idabel.

A mediocre performer in the opening 440-yard dash, Westbrook is a venomous ball of fire when he is chasing somebody with a baton clutched in his fist.

"He can't get goin' unless he's tired, mad and 15 yards behind. He's got to have a target. Guess I'm gonna have to equip our track with one of those mechanical rabbits like they use in the dog races," says Coach John Jacobs.

In the Big Seven Conference outdoor meet at Lincoln, Nebraska, the sorrel-haired Westbrook came back after a sound licking in the opening 440, to run a scorching 47.8-second 440-yard anchor lap on the mile relay and pull the badly-outrun Sooner mile relay team from sixth to third place against the best anchors in the league.

Up in front, Missouri and Nebraska were running it out for first place, and 25 yards behind, Westbrook had no chance to catch them. But he ate up the other three anchors ahead of him, swallowing the Colorado man on the first curve, the Kansas man on the back stretch and the Iowa State man on the home stretch as the Nebraska throno roared with awe.

Westbrook ran 47.5 seconds at Norman during the spring while making up 15 yards on Ross Pritchard, Arkansas's 49-second man, and pitching into the twine in a dead heat with the Porker sprinter. He ran 48.5 in March while gaining ten

yards on Bill Adams of North Texas State who had beaten him by a stride in 50.1 in the open quarter. He started six yards behind Art Harndon, Texas A. & M.'s great anchor, in the meet-deciding Big Six-Southwest mile relay at Dallas last year, and barely failed to overhaul Harndon.

"If you'd a started even with me, you'd a beat me," Harndon panted in admiration after that race.

"Naw I wouldn't," contradicted Westbrook, his face screwed with fatigue. "When I start even with anybody, I always lose."

When he's chasing an opponent 15 yards up the track, Westbrook looks up only three times, takes his first look as he gets the baton, then ducks his head and runs the first curve wide open. He takes his second look on the backstretch, and his third and final look in the middle of the final curve so he'll know how much he's got to make up.

"I don't like to look at 'em too much. I might get discouraged," he says, speaking in a tired, nasal twang that is barely audible after so many hard races.

Jacobs, the Sooner coach, says any runner ought to be better his second race, after the first race warms him up and relaxes him. But he doesn't understand that difference of two full seconds in the two 440's Westbrook runs.

Westbrook's season of crosscountry at Norman last fall gave him wonderful staying power for the 440. He doesn't float in the middle, as do so many quarter-milers, but runs wide open all the way. That's what makes his relay legs so fast.

Does a hard race hurt?

"Naw," says Westbrook. "I get a little winded, but I'm too busy runnin' and concentratin' to feel any pain."

#### SEE OKLAHOMA PLAY FOOTBALL 1948

Sept. 25—Santa Clara at San Francisco

Oct. 2—Texas Aggies at Norman

Oct. 9—Texas at Dallas

\*Oct. 16—Kansas State at Norman  
(Dad's Day)

†Oct. 23—Texas Christian at Fort Worth

\*Oct. 30—Iowa State at Ames

\*Nov. 6—Missouri at Norman  
(Homecoming)

\*Nov. 13—Nebraska at Norman

\*Nov. 20—Kansas at Lawrence

Nov. 27—Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater

\* Big Seven Conference games.

† Night game.

### International House Is Formed

Washington Irving House, located in Woodrow Wilson Center, has been designated by the University as the dormitory to be known as International House. The International House will accommodate 65 foreign students and 65 Oklahomans beginning this September.

Purpose of the house will be to introduce foreign students to American ways and customs. The International House program will highlight a general orientation for foreign students, exchange of textbooks and newspapers, and social functions which illustrate cultures of the national groups. An educational program featuring forums and language classes will be scheduled. Tours will be conducted to acquaint foreign students with American community life and industries.

Members of the faculty committee which surveyed needs concerning the program include O. D. Roberts, counselor of men; Ted Baird, '21ba, secretary of the Oklahoma Alumni Association; Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37law, director of the University of Oklahoma Foundation; Paul MacMinn, dean of students; Dr. Stephen Scatori and Dr. W. A. Willibrand, both members of the modern languages department and advisors to foreign students, and Ted Ledeen, Y.M.C.A. secretary.