



The Oklahoma Hanson family who have migrated to California in ones and twos are pictured above. Standing are Mrs. Tom Hanson, Dr. Paul Hanson, '34bs, '36med; Helen Hanson, '28ba, '28med; Mrs. Dan Hanson, Mrs. Harry W. Hanson, Harry W. Hanson and grandchildren Rose Mary and Paul, children of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hanson. Seated: are Mrs. Paul Hanson, Mrs. O. H. Hanson, Louise Hanson, Tom, '36Law, and Dan, '26-'35. Dr. Paul is the family physician of the Fiscus family of San Marion, California, whose daughter, Kathy, suffocated in an abandoned well casing in early April. Dr. Hanson made the announcement of Kathy's death a short time after drillers had reached her.

The Hansons Like California

BY ROY STEWART, '31BA

It's a good thing that a couple of the O.U. Sooner Hanson boys went to San Gabriel before the countryside got all cluttered up with houses and people, so that the rest of the family had space to live in when they got there, because by now the family has more than doubled in size.

The big white house on south Rock Island in El Reno, the Hanson home for many years, was never a quiet place. If the four big sons were not teasing the two daughters, or arguing with Harry W. Hanson, their father, they were entertaining other fellows who liked to sample the Hanson hospitality and eat Mrs. Hanson's cooking.

The University of Oklahoma had from one to three Hansons from the mid-1920's to about 1936. All four sons, O. H. "Bill," Dan, Tom and Paul, were there, three at a time. When O. H. got out of medical school there was young Paul ready to start, so the continuity was kept up. In between times, sister Helen got her degree from O.U. All the boys were members of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

Now the whole family is in California except for the family of Tom and Patsy Hanson. Tom recently was made head of the Oklahoma City secret service office and moved back near his native habitat, following some 12 years of secret service work, broken by a tour as a naval intelligence officer.

O. H. and Paul both are doctors with an excellent practice in San Marino, which for the uninitiated is the suburban Los Angeles city that separates San Gabriel from Pasadena. Dan has become quite a house builder and puts them up on a commercial basis when the continuously expanding family will let him take a breather from increasing the size and numbers of their own houses. Harry W., a retired Rock Island conductor, has more fun than anyone poking around flower beds. Helen is a supervisor in the Arcadia school system.

Tom was first to get married, then at long last it seemed like the bachelors got the idea and Paul, Dan and Orsina were married. Paul to the former Elizabeth Gibbons of New York; Dan to the former Nancy Ann Hamilton of Pasadena (south Pasadena that is) and O. H. to the former Zora Kocer of Los Angeles. Dan and Nancy recently had a daughter and the Paul Hansons (*if you can keep*

a secret) are going to have a son and/or daughter sometime soon.

Orsina went from the University of Oklahoma medical school to Los Angeles County General hospital for his interne's work. They liked him there so well he became a staff physician and surgeon for a time. In the early 1930's he joined an older doctor in practice in San Marino and later took over the practice. That was the firm Paul joined about 10 years later after he too, finished the O.U. school and did his internship. Now they have three other doctors on their private clinical staff.

When Orsina moved over to San Marino his eyes liked a spot of a few acres in adjoining San Gabriel. He bought it and Dan, who had decided on the eve of entering medical school that he did not want to be a doctor, went out and joined him while the rest of the family still were in El Reno. For several years, while O. H. was a doctor and Dan was night sergeant of the San Marino police force, they spent all their odd time fixing up the acreage until it became one of the area's garden spots. It is one of the places visited annually on the Southern California Council of Garden Clubs tours. The rose garden, one of Dr. O. H. Hanson's first en-

thusians, is one of the sights. A seemingly natural pond, into which water tumbles from a rock spring, sends water on down into a lower pool where large boulders, covered with moss, give the impression of a pool hidden deep in some primeval forest. But it is all man—or men—made.

The first house, in which Orsina and Dan lived, has grown to more than double its original size. Another house by a swimming pool and outdoor barbecue pit was built for O. H. and his wife, Zora; the house in which Paul lived as a bachelor on the end of the "L" shaped acreage now has expanded to be the home for Paul and "Liz." It is a good thing the Hansons like visitors because they get plenty of them. All ex-patriated Okies in the Los Angeles area visit often—like the John Ainsworths, '40bus and Ed Hunnicutts. So do visiting Oklahomans.

During the war it was a peaceful weekend haven for Oklahomans stationed in that area or who were passing through on leave. Even for "unusual" California it is really unusual in setting and the family which made it so adds to enjoyment of visiting the place.

O.U. Family Hold Homecoming

The date of April 12 marked a homecoming for an O.U. family of Norman. The occasion was the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Hal Muldrow, Sr., of Norman.

Their children gathered here from various sections of the country. Gen. Hal Muldrow, Jr., '28bus, was unable to attend the family reunion due to being on active Army duty at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. However, Alvan Muldrow, '30Law and family of Brownfield, Texas, as well as Mrs. Mattie Muldrow Reistle, '22, Houston, Texas, Fisher Muldrow, '22, Seminole, and families, all visited with their parents on this anniversary day.

Hal Muldrow, Sr., has been prominent in University of Oklahoma affairs for more than a quarter of a century. He was a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma from 1919 to 1924 and served as president of the Board of Regents in 1921-22-23.

Britton Authors Geography Text

Robert L. Britton, '29ba, is co-author of a recent book, *Geography of West Virginia*. He is now a member of the geography department at Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia.

Britton was commissioned by Rand, McNally and Company to write the book as one of a series to be used in elementary schools. His collaborator was Dr. Leslie M. Davis, also of the Marshall College geography department.

After graduation from the University, he received a M. S. degree from the University of Chicago in 1930. He has also done graduate work at Ohio State University. He joined the Marshall College faculty in 1930.

Geography of West Virginia includes a general introduction, "Getting Acquainted with West Virginia." Other sections deal with West Virginia's fuels, manufacturing, agricultural industries, forests and conservation programs.

Roy Heffner Dies

Roy Heffner, '18ba, '19eng, long-time Norman resident and member of the engineering faculty at the University, died recently in Ethiopia. Cause of death was a cerebral hemorrhage. He was 54.

Heffner was a member of the 13 Oklahoma instructors who volunteered for teaching assignments in the African kingdom last September. At the time of his death he was instructing in Haile Selassie's public schools.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Edna Spencer Heffner, '47ba, who was with her husband in Ethiopia, his father, one brother, and one sister.

The Noble Foundation: A Success Story

When Lloyd Noble, '23, was a boy living near Berwyn in the northeast part of Carter county, that section of Oklahoma was a land of plenty for its inhabitants.

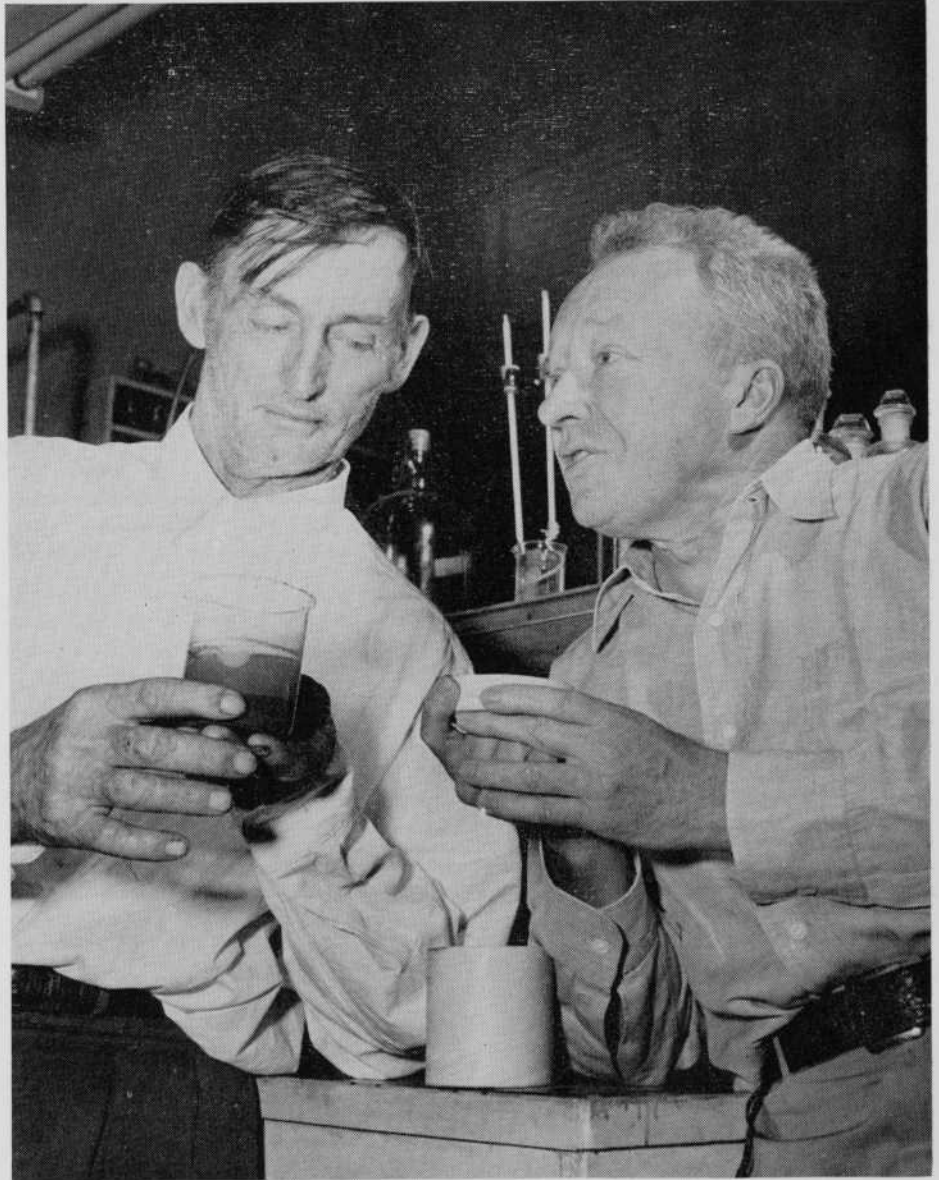
The bluestem grass grew knee-high in the pastures; some corn crops in the Washita bottomland made 100 bushels to the acre; the cotton on the first uplands was big-bolled and fleecy; the farmers were secure and independent.

Then as Noble grew older and began to

and ultimately caused him to fail in business, the elder Noble blamed a "drought" for it, not single cropping or erosion.

While Lloyd Noble was building up his very successful business as a oil well drilling contractor, working rigs from the Arctic circles to the Gulf of Mexico; from Montana to England, land conditions in his native county and adjoining Love county were worsening steadily.

As the land went so did the people.



Richard Simmons, left, and Lloyd Noble, '23, who created the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, study some soil samples which Foundation technicians have tested for crop-growing properties. Simmons is rebuilding the soil on his farm near Wilson.

teach at a country school, he saw production declining. The yields were not as heavy as before.

People talked it over, worried about it, but they didn't know why crops failed more frequently or why yields went down steadily. They blamed "nature." When Samuel Noble's customers could not pay accounts

Through misuse and erosion, farm land fertility continually dropped and as crops failed owners became laborers or some of the tenants who till 65 percent of Carter county land.

Decline in land fertility had its reaction in decreased physical and moral standards of the people. Some of them joined the west-

ern migration to California and others remained, trying to scratch a living out of marginal farm land.

Noble was disturbed by this disintegration of his native region and of its once prosperous farmers. He decided to put some of the money his oil enterprises had earned into the setting up of a foundation for farmers to draw upon—not to lean upon—in their quest for personal betterment.

So three years ago the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, named for Noble's father, was established.

A complete soils laboratory was equipped at Ardmore. Graduate specialists in chemistry, zoology, botany, horticulture and animal husbandry were employed for work among test tubes, and in the still greater laboratory, the farms and fields. The foundation has so far concentrated on the soil but it can go into medical or other research under its charter.

But Noble feels that the foundation's technical services alone are not the complete answer to stopping the drain on natural resources, or to inspire corrective measures which will restore them to their old place.

So, to arouse interest through competitive actions, he set up \$7,700 in prizes for gardens, crops and pastures in Carter and Love counties which follow a recommended improvement pattern, because experience has shown the premium method best to arouse interest. The contest itself then does the preaching visually.

Noble believes that this rebuilding of the land and farms will have a meritorious effect on the people as well.

"It seems to me that for the past 15 or 20 years there has been a quickening of fear in the hearts of our people—the fear of their own future," the husky blond oilman said recently.

"There are two great groups that have the greatest freedom from that fear," he continued. "There is the man who can do more than one thing and make a livelihood. For that reason he can leave something which puzzles him. Then there are the men and women who really know and understand the land. They know its needs, its strength and its weaknesses. They know that it is alive and can bring forth living things, but only so long as it is nurtured and its essential elements replenished."

"These are the most independent folk we have on the earth," Noble said, "and it was to increase the number of people in this group that the foundation was established. Of course, the extreme conditions of erosion and man's neglect of the remaining soil also gave me a desire to improve our area economically, but that was only secondary."

"So we're trying to help. We give every

technical assistance that a land owner requests. We tell him what his land needs to restore its fertility, how to rebuild that which he has lost and how to keep from losing what he has left. We help him plan it and there we stop. We offer recommendations but we do not make his decisions. Too many decisions made for a person will one day undermine his moral character and his faith in his own judgment," Noble concluded.

In addition to Noble himself, and his mother, Mrs. Samuel R. Noble, the foundation trustees are P. G. Rawdon, Oklahoma City; C. C. Forbes and Jerome Westheimer, Ardmore; A. A. Kemnitz, Hobbs, New Mexico; and Francis J. Wilson, Ardmore, the director.

Wilson is a former colonel in the U. S. Army corps of engineers. A graduate in the upper 10 percent of the West Point class of 1922, he was the army district engineer at Tulsa when retired for disability in 1946 after 24 years service. He heads the staff and handles administrative affairs.

How has the plan worked? What actually has the Samuel Robert Noble Foundation done in the overall conservation picture?

In the laboratory the foundation makes tests on soil samples, determining what crops it will support and what it needs to grow more. In the field it gives technical assistance on the farm.

It has operated various contests for the past two years which focus attention to its routine services. Here is the only place where people must follow rules and the only place where they must keep accurate record books of improvement. They sign formal agreements to set aside plots for specific contests in the same field, using one with no benefit of fertilization or extra care, fertilizing and handling the other according to foundation plans.

Contestants in these contests have increased in two years from none to 537 entries and the scope from the original two counties to four with the addition of Marshall and Johnson counties, in all except the upland and bottomland crop contests.

And the effect of these contests? The Brannon brothers of Marietta, winners of the first pasture improvement contest, exemplified the results of better pasture.

At the Herford Heaven feeder cattle sale in Ardmore this summer, the Brannon entry of 30 steers, just under two years old, won first place and sold for 30 cents a pound. With an average weight of 797 pounds, they brought the brothers \$7,413.

Results like these have justified Lloyd Noble's faith in the land and the people of Oklahoma.

Faculty Briefs . . .

▶ John E. Fellows, dean of admissions to the University, left late in April for Columbus, Ohio, to attend the annual meeting of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars. Dean Fellows is associate editor and chairman of the committee on the *Registrar Handbook*. He returned April 29.

▶ Dorothy Friend, director of forensics, attended the Missouri Valley Forensic tournament March 23-27. Four University students competed.

▶ Elmer Staten Wynne, assistant professor of plant sciences, will go to Cincinnati, Ohio, to attend the national meeting of the Society of American Bacteriologists May 15-22. He will present a paper entitled "Studies on the Effects of Unsaturated Fatty Acids on Growth and Respiration of *Micrococcus Pyogenic* var. *auruc*."

▶ Joe Glander, swimming coach, attended the NCAA Swimming meet March 21-28 at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He was a finish and diving judge.

▶ Charles Price Green, '25ba, professor of speech, attended the Annual Convention of Southern States Speech Association April 6-17 at Waco, Texas. Professor Green presented a paper entitled "Graduate Research in Interpretative Speech", at a general session April 8.

▶ Four University speech department members are attending the Central States Speech meeting in Omaha, Nebraska. The four are Jack Douglas, '19ba, assistant professor of speech; John Keltner, assistant professor of speech; Perrill Munch Brown, '14ba, '38ma, assistant professor of speech, and Wilma Grimes, instructor of speech.

▶ William R. Fulton, acting director of the audiovisual education department, attended the Adult Education Conference and regional meeting of Teaching Films Custodians Inc. March 23-25 in Lawrence, Kansas.

▶ V. E. Monnett, '12ba, director of the geology department, attended the St. Louis meeting of the A. A. P. G. March 13-17. Associate Professor Carl A. Moore also attended the meeting.

▶ Dr. Alice Sowers, director of the Family Life Institute; Thurman White, '41ms, acting director of the Extension Division; O. W. Davison, assistant director adult Education; John Keltner, assistant professor of speech, and Kenneth Harris, '39ba, assistant director of short courses and public relations were in attendance at the Missouri Valley Adult Education Conference March 22-26 at Lawrence, Kansas. Dr. Sowers is vice president of the 4-state region. She gave a summary at the end of the meeting and the rest of the group participated in discussions.

▶ Dr. Carl Coke Rister, research professor in history, attended the Mississippi Valley History Association's spring meeting at Madison, Wisconsin, April 13-17. He is a member of the executive committee.

▶ Cortez A. M. Ewing, research professor in government attended the Regional Conference on social sciences as the official representative of the University early in March. The meeting was held in New Orleans.

▶ John Keltner, assistant professor of speech, accompanied student Delta Sigma Rho delegates to the National Congress March 29-April 3 in Chicago.

▶ Bud Wilkinson, athletic director, attended a Douglas, Arizona, high school banquet March 7 and 8.

▶ Stewart Harral, '36ma, director of public relations, appeared on the program at the Southwestern Public Relations Institute March 31 to April 2 in Fort Worth, Texas. He discussed "Are People Predictable?" at a luncheon session.