

SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

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VOL. XXIII

SEPTEMBER, 1950

NO. 1

The Cover

The distinguished looking man and young lady on the cover are R. L. Downing, '28, and his daughter Lelia Ann of Roswell, New Mexico. Lelia Ann has enrolled as a freshman so that would qualify the Downings for a place in the second generation story (No Time for Raccoon Coats, page 5) but she qualifies for a spot in the scholarship yarn also (The Future Looks Brighter, page 9).

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Sooner Magazine is published on the fifth day of each month by the University of Oklahoma Association, Union Building, Norman, Okla. Entered as second-class matter Oct. 13, 1928, at the post office in Norman, Okla., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Subscription \$3.00 per year, of which \$2.00 is for the magazine and \$1.00 for Alumni Dues. Foreign, \$4.00. Life, \$80. Single copies 25 cents. Opinions expressed are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent official action of the Alumni Executive Board. Member of American Alumni Council.

On The Sooner Scene

The University's ROTC unit has set an enviable tradition on the campus. The effectiveness of the program has been realized in two world wars and is being manifested in the Korean fighting. The author relates some of the ROTC's history and accomplishments of men who have helped keep America's armed forces prepared.

By Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law

The crack of the polo balls, the thunder of hoofs and the rattle of caissons, so familiar on the Sooner scene during the 1920's and early 30's have made way for student dormitories, and the horses have been replaced by tanks and trucks. Few if any of the 9,000 students on the campus this fall know that Coach Jerome Water's polo team at O.U. was once one of the greatest in the land. In the intercollegiate finals of 1931 they were defeated only by the Academy at West Point.

There are other surprising facts about the contribution the University of Oklahoma has made in providing trained leadership for the military forces of the United States. For instance, O.U. has trained more field artillery officers than any other institution in the nation including West Point. Every regular army officers who ever commanded the University ROTC unit has become a General officer in the Army. More than 27,000 Sooners have received training through the University ROTC program, 8,200 alumni served in the armed forces during the recent war. Three of these received the nation's highest recognition for bravery, the Congressional Medal of Honor, and hundreds of others were awarded decorations for outstanding and meritorius service. Five hundred and three paid the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country.

Military training began at O.U. entirely through local initiative and imagination. In April, 1917, there was no reserve program, no plan or directive from Washington, but there was a war that had to be won. Sensitive to the obvious needs of the time, Professor Guy Y. Williams, '06ba, '10ma, and Dean S. W. Reaves formed a regiment of student volunteers and organ-

ized a training program with wooden rifles which they had shaped themselves. In the summer of 1917, five University faculty members received special training at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and that fall they became the instructors in the Student Army Training Corps (SATC) on the campus.

In January, 1919, the Reserve Officers Training Corps was established at the University, for the purpose of conducting instruction in the infantry branch of the armed forces. The same year a field artillery unit was established, and in 1927 the infantry unit was withdrawn. In recent years units have been added for advanced training in Ordnance, Engineering, and Quartermaster. In spite of their recent appearance on the campus, the reserve programs of both the Navy and Air Force have made impressive records.

You will remember some of these fine officers who have commanded the University ROTC unit: C. A. Boehr, W. R. Gruber, C. L. Clark, Edwin P. Parker, Harry J. Malony, Reese Howell, Paul V. Kane, Charles H. Brammell and Jerome J. Waters, Jr., all of whom served as generals in the war years. Colonel J. Don Garrison, '29bs, '36m.ed, Norman reserve officer, was in command of the unit during the war.

Major General Parker distinguished himself as a Division Commander during the war and is now the Provost Marshall General of the Army. The officer having the longest tenure with the University, and a real Sooner in every sense of the word, is Colonel Jerome J. Waters, present commandant. Colonel Waters has been at the University ten years, 1929-34 and 1946-50. His five years as polo coach is a bright spot

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Sooner Scene . . .

in the history of University athletics. Some of his players who deserve to be counted in O.U.'s athletic hall of fame are Clyde Watts, '31ba, '31Law, Oklahoma City, Joe Barnhill, '34ba, '34Law, Oklahoma City, Bob Hert, '34ba, '34Law, Stillwater, Williams "Kay" Garnett, '36bus, '37Law, Oklahoma City, and then the greatest of them all, the late Brack McKinley, '33bus.

Colonel Waters is a graduate of Texas A.&M. College and was honored by that institution with an LL.D. degree. In 1942-44, as a Brigadier General, he organized and commanded the Chinese Field Artillery Training Center at Kunming, China. He was decorated with a Purple Heart Medal, a Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the French Fourragere, and by China with the Yun Whei Cloud and Banner. When the tornado struck the North Campus in May, 1949, he had all his trucks and men helping students out of the wreckage within an hour after the storm. In Norman Colonel Waters has been active in the Chamber of Commerce, the Cleveland County Sportsmen's Club, the Red Cross and is vice president of the Lions Club.

Of the 27,041 students who received basic training and the 2,890 who were commissioned in the reserves in the 30-year period 1920-1950, many have served their country well.

In glancing through the records in the Alumni Office, I find the names of these graduates who distinguished themselves in combat—most of them are products of the ROTC program, but of course not all.

Hal Muldrow, '28bus, Norman, Brigadier General, Commander of the Division Artillery of the 45th Division, has just returned to active duty. Among the several hundred alumni in this famous fighting division are Lt. Col. James O. Hood, '29bs, '31med, on leave as director of Student Health at the University; Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, '29ba, '48m.ed, Enid, Executive Board member of the Association; Captain Menter Baker, '42bus, Norman; and Lt. Denny Garrison, '45, Norman.

At least three Sooners have served as Major Generals—Raymond O. Barton, '07, commanded the Fourth Division; W. M. Robertson, '07, commanded the Second Division; and William P. T. Hill, '32ba, held various command positions in the U. S. Marines.

More than 40 alumni have attained the rank of Colonel. Some of these you may know are Earl Sneed, Jr., '34ba, '37Law, Norman, George Shirk, '35ba, '36Law, Oklahoma City, Ralph Rockwood, '33eng, San Francisco, Clint T. Johnson, '19ba, Oklahoma City, Q. M. Spradling, '28ba, '32bus, '40m.bus, Norman, Jess Larson, '22-'33, Washington, D.C., William H. Ampsacher, '36bs, '36med, Houston, Reuben G. Lewis, '12pharm, Dallas, Bert E. Johnson, '24ba, '29Law, Arlington, Virginia, Frank Cleckler, '21ba, Oklahoma City, Richard "Dick" Cloyd, '19ba, '28Law, Oklahoma City, William L. Lockett, '41ba, Norman, John H. Kuhlman, '30-'34, Norman, and E. H. "Bud" Larecy, '26, Arlington, Virginia. There were more than 200 Lt. Cols., 600 Majors, 1200 Captains, etc., to say nothing of the ranks held in

the Navy and Coast Guard.

The highest recognition that members of the armed forces can achieve is the Congressional Medal of Honor. Alumni who attained this honor in the recent war were Lt. Richard M. McCool, Jr., '41ba, Norman, also a graduate of Annapolis and a regular Navy officer; Lt. Col. John L. Smith, '36bus, Lexington, a Marine pilot and a veteran of Guadalcanal; Lt. Col. Leon Robert Vance, Jr., '35, Enid, also a graduate of West Point, a pilot who was injured while on a bomber mission over Germany and lost his life when his hospital ship was sunk in the Atlantic. The Vance Air Force Base of Enid is named in his memory.

Even though the military training program at O.U. has been impressive both in terms of the number of men trained and the quality of service rendered by those in combat, military courses are optional, except for basic work required of all physically fit men students under the age of 21, who have not had previous military training. As a matter of fact, the competition for admission to the advanced unit is difficult to meet.

In times of crisis the University has always cooperated to the fullest extent to serve the national interest. The University is prepared today to provide greater service than ever before to the national defense, should this become necessary. Evidence of this preparedness can be found in the recent appointment of Mr. Verne H. Schnee as vice president in charge of development. Mr. Schnee will continue as director of the Research Institute and will represent the University in its relationship with the government in developing research and training programs.

The University of Oklahoma is definitely a first-line institution and will maintain its position of leadership whatever the future may bring.

No Raccoon Coats . . .

The new admission rules will be given a three-year tryout. At the end of that period a faculty committee will measure results and set up a permanent plan of admissions.

Not all of the changes that have been made since mother was a freshman have been recorded here. The change in teaching personnel, administrative setup and physical plant will require another story. The changed attitudes of students who face a Korean war is another element that has not been touched upon. The innovations and progress that has been made and is presented helps to show how the University is keeping pace with the times. A second generation will have nothing but the best.

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