

# Sooner Portraits

"Every man owes a portion of his time . . ."



DAVID P. JOHNSON  
... Airplanes and Headlines

## A Good Combination

"Flying Farmer Johnson" is the nickname attached to this successful young Nowata newspaperman who has combined his chief interests—journalism and flying.

Editor and publisher of the *Nowata Daily Star* and *Nowata Weekly Star-Times*, David P. Johnson, '38ma, believes that a "newspaper exists primarily for the purpose of rendering service to the community." And to go along with this belief, the slogan "A Community Newspaper" is printed atop the *Daily Star* masthead.

A native Oklahoman, Johnson attended elementary schools in Stillwater and later was graduated from Oklahoma A.&M. College. He received the MA degree in journalism from the University in 1938 where he was a member of Kappa Kappa Psi band fraternity, the University band, Acacia social fraternity and served as an *Oklahoma Daily* staff member.

Following graduation, he held editorial positions on Stillwater, Perry and Vinita newspapers before serving four years in the navy during World War II. While stationed in the Hawaiian Islands, he married Charlotte Sorenson of Honolulu, a graduate of Vassar. They have two daughters, Patty and Barbara.

In January, 1946, Johnson assumed his duties as editor and publisher of the *Star*. Since then he has become business manager of the *National Flying Farmer Magazine*, which the *Star* published for sometime, a member of the Rotary Club, a past president of the Nowata Chamber of Commerce

and is on the Board of Directors of the Nowata Hospital Inc. In addition, he has been named an honorary Junior Master Farmer and a lifetime member of the Oklahoma 4-H Club for his outstanding work in agriculture. He is also a Lay Conservationist and recently received an award from the State Soil Conservation Service.

He by no means possesses a Polyanna personality, yet Johnson is never too busy to use his single-engined plane for purposes benefitting either particular individuals or the community as a whole.

In 1949, when a young member of the Future Farmers of America from Clinton was unable to get his show barrow to Oklahoma City in time to join the truckload of hogs headed for the National Barrow show in Austin, Minnesota, Johnson flew the youth and his prize pig to Austin for the show.

Only more recently, last year the *Star* launched a campaign to raise funds to provide medical care for a destitute Nowata youth who had suffered a broken back in a timber-falling accident. The boy was flown to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, for several months of treatment. Back home the *Star* thumped the tub for \$2,000 to pay the injured youth's medical bill. With the fund raised and the injured youth well along the road to recovery, Johnson flew the youth back to Nowata in his plane.

## Honors and Magnets

James D. Fellers, '36ba, '36Law, attracts honors like a magnet attracts iron filings. And there's a reason why his associates and various organizations see fit to point him out for recognition: he has an amazing store of energy and isn't reluctant to use it.

Explanation of the drive behind his energetic participation in public and professional affairs is best revealed in the 37-year-old Oklahoma City attorney's own words:

"When I first entered O.U. in 1931, my Dad reminded me that every man owes a portion of his time to the upbuilding of the community and the profession to which he belongs. This inspired me to participate in campus activities which formed the foundation for continuing interest in good government and the improvement of administration of justice. I have tried never to forget that democracy has two sides—privilege and responsibility . . . we should not be blind to the duties and obligations of citizenship."

Through myriad activities in both Oklahoma City civic affairs and professional law organizations he has more than toed the mark set by his father. When the Junior Chamber of Commerce looked around for the Outstanding Young Man of 1948 in Oklahoma City, they didn't have to look far. Young Fellers was a natural; he topped a list of 22 candidates for the honor.

Sooner born and bred, Fellers was named head of the national Junior Bar Association when he was



JAMES D. FELLERS  
... Service to the Community

only 34 years old. He's a success in the community, too. People like him and respect him—an enviable combination in anyone's book.

He transferred to the University in 1931 after a year at Oklahoma City University and began a whirlwind of activities which included membership in Bombardiers, Scabbard and Blade, Phi Kappa Psi, Skelton Key and the *Sooner Yearbook* staff. In 1936 he was named to *Who's Who*.

Pocketing both a BA degree and a Law degree in 1936, he passed the state bar examination and joined a law firm in Oklahoma City. He's remained in Oklahoma City with the exception of time out (1941-45) with the Army Airforce. He left the service in 1945 as a lieutenant colonel after serving through eight European and Mediterranean theatre campaigns as an airforce intelligence officer.

Since then, he has become a member of almost every organization of attorneys in the southwest in addition to working with civic and social groups in Oklahoma City. He is a past state director of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and past national chairman of the Junior Bar Conference.

In 1939 he married the former Margaret Ellen Randerson, a former University student. They now have three children: Kay Lynn, 9; Lou Ann, 8; and James Davison, Jr., 2.

This year he is continuing as a director of the Oklahoma County Bar Association and of the Oklahoma City Community Chest. At the annual meeting of the American Bar Association at Washington, D. C., in September, he was re-elected as one of five delegates representing the 40,000 members of the Association in its house of delegates for a 3-year term.

## Signs of the Times

Frank Hamilton, '38ba, '40Law, is a major in the regular army, and is stationed in Stuttgart, Germany, with the Judge Advocate section. Commissioned in the field artillery, he fought in the European theater in four major campaigns during World War II.

Maurice Donchin, '49bs, has been recalled to active duty in the Navy.

Navy orders made short work of Dr. H. Griffin Fuller's, '49med, residency at Veterans' Administration Hospital in Oklahoma City. He took up his new duties there late in July, and two weeks later a letter invited him to volunteer for duty in the Navy. Early in September he left for San Francisco for duty with a destroyer escort.

Frank Talley, '50journal, is now serving with a 20-man writing team covering Korea and Japan for the Air Force. Talley served as editor of the *Oklahoma Daily*, University newspaper, during the fall semester of 1949. He is now a lieutenant with the U. S. Air Force Public Information Office in Washington, D. C.

Lt. Col. William Robert Clark has been transferred from U. S. Army Headquarters in Alaska to duty in Washington, D. C.

Capt. Sam Magoffin, '48bs, is serving with the 120th Engineers in the 45th Division.

Lt. Thomas A. Cavanaugh, '44-'48, was wounded in action in Korea September 11. He wrote his mother in Norman that he was hit by a hand grenade and received shrapnel wounds in his left shoulder and left side. Cavanaugh joined the Army two years ago after attending the University for two years.

Hugh D. Jordan, '36, has completed the reserve officers' budget and fiscal course at Lowry Airforce Base, Denver, Colorado, with a superior rating. Captain Jordan is a member of the comptroller's staff of the 323rd Bombardment Wing of Oklahoma's tactical Airforce Reserve.

Charles W. Knott, University student, has reported to duty as a storekeeper second class, USNR, at the Eighth Naval District Headquarters in New Orleans.

Lt. Col. Frank G. Ratliff, '39Law, has assumed command of the 70th U. S. Constabulary Field Artillery Battalion at Fuessen, Bavaria. Fuessen is a mountain outpost in Bavaria where his 105 mm. howitzer battalion is centered. Mrs. Ann McKenzie Ratliff, his wife, and his 3-year-old son are with him in Germany.

O.U.'s honorary football captain of 1939 and two other former Sooners have returned to the campus in military capacities. On the Army ROTC staff are Lt. Col. William J. Stover and Major Norval M. Locke, the latter an O.U. football letterman in 1936, 1938 and 1939 and honorary captain of the Sooner team that year. Stover attended O.U. from 1929 to 1933. The third former Sooner among the new men on the staff is M-Sgt. Leroy Kemmedy who attended O.U. from 1936 to 1940.

Don L. Wells, '49bus, has reported for active duty at Eighth Naval District Headquarters in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is a yeoman first class.

Capt. Glenn Cole, '46-'47, has joined an organized marine air reserve squadron at the Naval Air Station in Dallas, Texas.

Lt. Samuel E. Hoover, '45-'47, was presented the Bronze Star while in an army hospital recovering from the loss of an arm in Korea. The Bronze Star went to Lt. Hoover for heroic achievement on August 6 when he braved enemy fire to reach a wounded soldier and was seriously wounded himself. He enlisted in the Army in 1948, and went to Japan in 1949 with the 13th field artillery battalion of the 24th infantry.

Lt. Don R. Boyer, '50bs, has completed the

artillery officer basic course at Fort Sill. He ranked tenth in his class. Boyer holds a fellowship in Tulane University where he plans to work on a master's degree in zoology.

Cpl. Richard Gann, '49-'50, is training at the Quantico, Virginia, Marine base. Gann is a student in pharmacy at the University. During World War II, he served aboard the USS Missouri.

(The *Sooner Magazine* is attempting to gather a complete file on all former students and graduates who are on active duty with the armed forces. Alumni are encouraged to submit any changes of addresses or news items concerning any Sooner serviceman.)



**KENNETH FARRIS**  
... Who, me?

## The Author Was Puzzled

When Kenneth Farris, '43bus, new business manager of athletics, recently began to receive letters from schools all over the nation congratulating him on his article on inventory control in the magazine *College and University Business*, he was puzzled.

He hadn't sent the magazine such an article or had correspondence of any kind with it. When he investigated, he discovered the magazine had reprinted, without asking his permission, a paper he had delivered on inventory methods at the regional meeting of the National Association of Educational Buyers at Fort Worth last year.

At that time Farris was the University's supervisor of warehousing, inventory, receiving and hauling. The article on inventory was mostly a description of the system he had originated at the University when he accepted the job.

Equal to the situation, Farris sent sample inventory forms and a more complete description of the job to all schools which asked about installing the Oklahoma system.

## Leavitt Authors Book

John A. Leavitt, '36bus, is the author of *Personal Finance* published in August by the McGraw-Hill Book Company. It was written in collaboration with Carl O. Hanson of Ohio University.

Dr. Leavitt is at present associate professor of finance at Ohio University. He has previously been

employed as statistician and economist by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; a lecturer in economics at City College, New York; economist for the Office of Price Administration; and economist with the State Department assigned to New Delhi, India.

The new book is intended for students who have had little or no previous work in commerce or business administration.

## Mosquitoes and Goldsmith

"You have to engineer mosquitoes out of existence," Dr. J. B. Goldsmith, '27ma, believes.

During a recent tour of duty in Alaska in a joint operation of the Army and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, he worked out the technical end of a fog thrower which disperses insecticide through the exhaust stack of a jeep.

The doctor went to Alaska to study insect control. Mosquitoes aren't bothered by cold temperatures, and in areas where research was conducted they were plenty thick, he reported.

Dr. Goldsmith is a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve and professor of preventative medicine at the University Medical School.

## Cupid Played the Drum

Big drums in the University band must have sounded like they were beating out the Wedding March. At least they didn't frighten Dan Cupid away. Romance blossomed last year for four couples in the band and burst into full bloom with their marriages during August and early September.

The four couples who are now "Mr. and Mrs." are the Dwight Dyers, the Jim Snodgrasses, the Eugene McPhersons and the Ray Jenkinsons. Mrs. Dyer is the former Juanita Pannell, '50ed, Mrs. Snodgrass, the former Mary Fay Edmondson; Mrs. McPherson, the former Doris Fitzwater, and Mrs. Jenkins, the former Donna Johnson.

## Shirk Knows His Postmarks

George H. Shirk, '35ba, '36Law, is top man on the totem pole when it comes to Indian Territory postmarks. It's a hobby he started while he was in high school in Oklahoma City, which he continued as a student at the University, and which eventually won him a directorship with the Oklahoma State Historical Society.

Now an Oklahoma City attorney, Shirk estimates he has 2,500 covers postmarked by Indian Territory postmasters, representing about two-thirds of the Territory's early-day postoffices. Two years ago he assembled a book of the information he had gleaned about these offices.

## Names Needed

The Distinguished Service Citations Selections Committee is now considering the names of nominees for the Distinguished Service Citations to be presented at the Achievement Day ceremonies in mid-April 1951.

Alumni are urged to submit names of outstanding men and women for consideration by the committee. Names of any former students or graduates of the University of Oklahoma will be considered as will the names of any legal resident of the state whether he or she is a former student of the University or not.