

She Played a Part

When Ella Thomas came to the campus to study, there was practically no campus and very little town. Following her Marriage to Guy Y. Williams shortly after graduation, she stayed on in Norman and helped both the University and the town grow.

By RUTH FOREMAN UPDEGRAFF, '28ba, '40ma

One of Norman's outstanding spring gardens is the one owned by Mrs. Guy Y. Williams of 468 Elm street. Planted the depth of an entire block with daffodils, iris, hemerocallis, roses, flowering shrubs, trees, and well kept lawns, it is a show place.

Fifty years ago, in 1902, at the time Mrs. Williams, then Ella Thomas, '06ba, El Reno, came to enroll in the University, things looked a little different.

The trees Dr. Boyd, the president, had planted were here, but they were small. Most memorable were the elms, a double row down Boulevard avenue.

The north oval had been laid out. The first administration building located north of the chemistry building annex was the only building on the campus. However, the second administration building which burned later was under construction. There was no paving. Just boardwalks.

"You know," Mrs Williams laughed. "I grew up with your brothers, I had never polished a pair of shoes in my life. I had two pairs when I came. The mud was pretty bad. Soon I had six pairs of shoes and no bank account. I decided something had to be done if I were to stay in school, so I polished by own shoes."

The Santa Fe railroad was Norman's only link with the outside world. All the upper class students met the train and took the freshmen to the University dormitory.

The building known as the Arline Home was owned by Ed Johnson. It stood on the present location of McCall's super market and was named for Arline Johnson, '22ba, Ed's youngest daughter. She is now Mrs. LeFlore, Tulsa. Two of her brothers Neill, '15ba, '17Law, and Graham, '19ba, live in Norman.

Ella stayed at the Reeds home on Elm street the first semester.

It was used as the Religion School building until torn down to make way for the Home Economics building being built there now.

Two of the Reeds boys, Chester, '05bs, and Clarence, '05ba, played football against their mother's wishes. They used to come in after practice and get Ella to sew up their football pants before their mother saw them.

Football was hard on the fans in those days. They followed all the plays right on the field, but Mrs. Williams recalls how disgusted she was when rules were introduced to keep spectators off the field. It was north of the present site of Holmberg Hall.

Later, another building was added, the so-called Kraettli Hall. It too was razed two years ago to make way for the south wing of the Union building. Physical education was given under the direction of Miss Katharine McBride who also taught voice.

"We understood Dr. Boyd was much disturbed over an article in the Guthrie paper about the University girls running around in bloomers and middy blouses," Mrs. Williams chuckled. "You should have seen those outfits. Nothing came of it, however. We continued to take gym."

The students made their dates in the back of the room while chapel was being conducted. Social events got all of the students together. Every fall, each church had

a party for them. One of the big events was the April Fool's Day picnic. Students cut classes, packed lunches, hired wagons, and drove to Cram's Grove, about four miles northeast of town.

This holiday was traded in by the students on the first Easter holidays during the spring of 1906. In doing this, the class brought about one of three firsts to the campus. The other two were the publication of the yearbook, *The Mistletoe*, and the leaving of a permanent class memorial, the '06 rock, still to be seen on the North Oval.

Ella majored in sciences. The late Dr. Sardis Roy Hadsell, English professor used to tease her about the "ologies" she was taking. "What will you do when you run out of them Ella?"

In her junior year, she began to take more than a passing interest in a fellow classmate, Guy Y. Williams, '06ba, '10ma, from Enid. They had been in classes together all the time, but it was not until



MRS. ELLA THOMAS WILLIAMS
... Six pairs of shoes, but no bank account

then that the students started calling her "Guy's girl."

Along with her sciences, she took lots of English. Dr. Vernon Parrington she remembers as a most inspiring teacher. Professor Humphries and Dr. Van Vleet were two other teachers she considered very fine.

At the 1906 graduation services, Carter Helm Jones gave the baccalaureate sermon. William Allen White, Emporia, Kansas, gave the commencement address.

In August 1906, after their graduation in June, Ella, Thomas and Guy Y. Williams were married. Guy started teaching at the University that fall. He has been here ever since. They have lived at their present home since their marriage, except for two years Dr. Williams went to Illinois University to study for his doctorate in 1911.

Mrs. Williams stayed alone with their two children while Dr. Williams did ten months army duty on the Mexican border in 1916.

Since 1923, Dr. Williams has been head of the chemistry department, but it was under the title of "Troubleshooter," a job he held under various presidents from 1914 to 1946, that he had some of his most interesting experiences.

Their family life has been very close. Dr. Williams does lots of his studying at home. He has his students in. Their son Dr. Guy H. Williams, '32bs in med, '34ba, '34med, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and their two young granddaughters, occupy much of their time and thoughts.

Mrs. Williams has been active in alumni and civic affairs in Norman. During her term as president of the Norman alumni group, the members were successful in having the University infirmary named in honor of the late Dr. Gayfree Ellison. His portrait was hung there also.

She is a charter member of the Norman Garden Club, the second such club to be organized in Oklahoma. She helped to organize and became the first president of the Norman Garden Club Council, the first organization of its kind in the state. While she was president, the Norman Council issued the call for other garden clubs in the state to meet. The Oklahoma Association of Garden Clubs was organized at this meeting.

Outside her family, her real hobby has been her garden. If you come to Norman during the spring, try to see it. You will realize that the scientific training Ella Thomas acquired in her years at the University has been put to good use.

Houston's Ralph Johnston

From Alabama to the American Royal is a short summary of the dynamic

career of "Ramrod" Ralph Johnston, '25, but an incomplete one.

It omits the part about Ralph A. Johnston who was born on a poor soil cotton farm three miles out of Albertville, Alabama. And how he learned to stick to horseflesh early in life in order to get to school. When he was ten, his father sold the farm and moved the family to the oil boom town of Okemah, Oklahoma.

Getting his first glimpse of the oil business Ralph decided he liked it and made up his mind to be a geologist. He made his first "oil" money at the age of 17 by hauling coal, via mule train, to a wildcat well.

That fall he took his savings, plus \$50 he had borrowed, and started in at the University. He worked all the way, hashing in sorority houses at meal times and stoking furnaces at night.

After his student days he worked for seven years as a geological scout for Empire Gas & Fuel and Sinclair Oil. Then he and his brother William G. Johnston, joined forces and struck out for themselves.

They dove into a maelstrom of fast and heavy trading, leasing, selling and buying. And in two years, they ran their modest investment into the equivalent of 16 producing wells.

Typical of the way he plays his chips close to his vest, today Johnston's greatest activities are in the relatively shallow fields of West Texas and New Mexico.

"When they started drilling 12,000 and

15,000 feet, I went west—that's too deep for a country boy," said Ralph.

This year Johnston served as president of the Houston Fat Stock & Livestock Exposition. His interest in the Stock Show dates back to about 1937. He came up through the Show ranks as a buyer, as a worker on a number of committees, and finally as president.

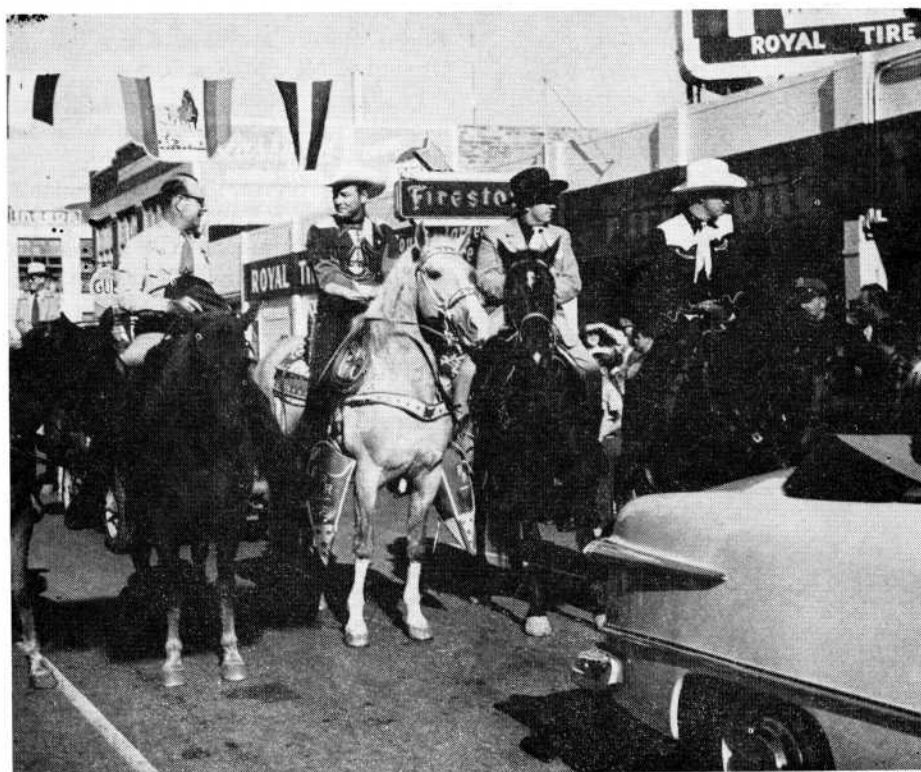
Last year the first Hereford raised by Johnston and his brother won the Grand Championship at the American Royal in Kansas City, the World Series of Hereford breeders.

This is part of the story of the ex-farm boy from a wellworn cotton section in Alabama; of the oil man who gambled his time, talent and services to make himself several times a millionaire; and of the rancher whose goal of breeding the best blue-blooded Herefords is in reach of his lariat.

Signs of the Times

Varley H. Taylor, '31ba, '32Law, Tulsa, attorney in the legal department of Carter Oil Company, is the new commandant of 4165th Organized Reserve Corps school. Varley has been active in the ORC since 1930.

Maj. Emil F. Meis, Jr., '37bus, is now stationed in Yokohama, Japan. Mrs. Meis and their children, Susan Ann, 2½, and Emil, III, 10 months, are living in Lawton



Shown riding in the 1952 Houston Fat Stock Show Parade are on the right Glenn H. McCarthy, owner of the Shamrock Hotel; Ramrod Ralph Johnston, president of the 1952 stock show, "King of the Cowboys," Roy Rogers, mounted on his famous Trigger, and Vernon W. Frost, executive committee member of the Houston Fat Stock Show.



A number of O.U. lawyers posed for this picture in Korea. From left to right they are Lt. Donald Powers, '48Law, Lt. Owen D. Austin, Maj. Neal W. Harris, '47ba, '50Law, and SFC Royce C. McCutchen, '50Law. Standing are Capt. Elmer C. Swank, '39ba, '41Law, Capt. Jimmie K. Glenn, Lt. Tom H. Morford, '49Law, Maj. Tom M. Brett, '40bus, '49Law, W.O. (jg) John M. McPherran, '50Law, Lt. Col. William R. Cook, '32Law, and Maj. Corwin V. Edwards, '37ba, '39Law. All were with the 45th Division when the picture was taken. Many have returned to the United States since.

where they will await port call to join Maj. Meis in Japan.

Maj. L. T. Husted, '40bus, is now stationed at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. Maj. Husted, his wife and their three children recently returned to the United States after living in Japan for two years.

Paul V. Keen, Jr., '50, Norman, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Army Chaplain Service.

Lt. William H. Dysart, '51bus, Tulsa, is on duty with the far eastern command in Yokohama, Japan.

Capt. Robert V. Bolene, '48med, is stationed at Vance Airforce Base, Enid. Capt. and Mrs. Bolene, the former Rosaline Steele, '46bs, have two children, Judith Kay, 20 months, and John Eric, 7 months.

Henry Krueger, '49eng, Oklahoma City, who is serving with the 45th Division in Korea, has been promoted to the rank of captain.

Eff W. Birdsong, Jr., '41-'42, Lawton, who is stationed in Korea with the 45th Division, has been promoted to the rank of major. He is serving as intelligence officer in the 179th Infantry Regiment.

William B. Rayburn, '39, McAlester, has been promoted to the rank of captain while serving with the 45th Division in Korea. He is plans and training officer for the 179th Infantry Regiment.

Lt. Tommye D. Smith, the former Miss Tommye J. Duncan, '43journ, WMSC, is stationed at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas,

where she is establishing an Occupational Therapy Department. Prior to this assignment, she established an Occupational Therapy Department at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Sgt. Carl E. Haskett, '50eng, Norman, was recognized recently for his work on guided missiles at White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico.

Lt. Paul A. Walker, Jr., '47ba, '49Law, is on duty with the Judge Advocate Division in Germany.

Alex K. Adwan, '50journ, Seminole, who is serving in Korea with the 45th Division, has been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. He is tank platoon commander in Company C of the 245th Tank Battalion.

Paul W. Partridge, '29ba, Civilian Transportation Specialist, Headquarters Fourth Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, was attached to the Transportation Section, Headquarters Maneuver Director, Fort Hood, Texas, from April 1-18. He assisted in the return to home stations of Army and Airforce units participating in Exercise Longhorn.

Delter B. Wiseman, '50ed, Moore, on duty with the 45th Division in Korea, has been promoted to the rank of captain. Capt. Wiseman is the commanding officer of the 179th Infantry Regiment's Service Company.

Donald E. Powers, '48Law, Chandler, who is on duty with the 45th Division in Korea, has been promoted to the rank of

captain. Powers is serving as liaison officer in Headquarters, 160th Field Artillery Battalion.

Pvt. Thomas R. Long, '51drama, '51mfa, former Hollywood actor, is stationed at Camp Pickett, Virginia, where he is a trainee at the Medical Replacement Training Center.

David C. Matthews, '38ba, '42Law, Perry, on duty with the army in the far eastern command in Korea, has been promoted to the rank of major.

Capt. Harry D. Pitchford, Jr., '40ba, former Okmulgee attorney, has been assigned to duty as assistant judge advocate of Heidelberg Military Post in the U. S. Zone of Germany. Prior to this assignment, he was appellate defense counsel at the Pentagon in Washington, D. C.

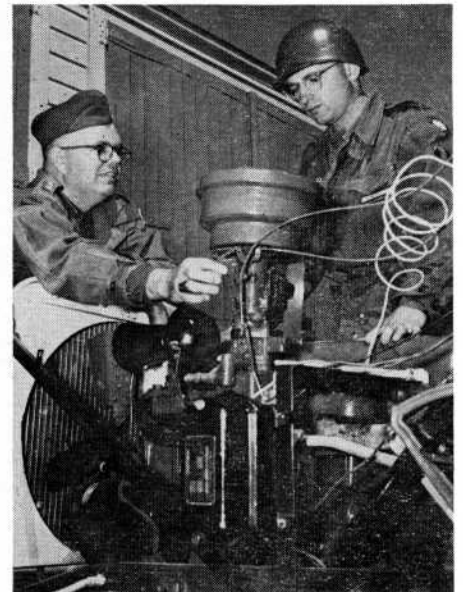
Dana Daniel Simons, '38-'42, Port Angeles, Washington, was recently commissioned with the rank of ensign, U. S. Coast Guard, after successfully completing on intensive four month course at the Coast Guard Academy, Washington, D. C.

John C. Loucks, '51bus, Oklahoma City, arrived home March 2 after serving in the navy in Japan and Korea since last October. He is now attending officers candidate school in Newport, Rhode Island.

Morgan "Bud" Eddleman, '50eng, Norman, has been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. Eddleman is on duty in Korea with the 158th Field Artillery battalion.

Comdr. Leon G. Keys, '34ba, is currently attending the naval justice school at Newport, Rhode Island.

Capt. Pete Hronopoulos, '39-'42, is on duty with the 45th Division in Korea.



Capt. Jack S. Hetherington, '42ba, '48 m.bus.ad, is shown explaining a carburetor to an OCS candidate. Capt. Hetherington is an instructor at Fort Sill.