

SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

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NO. 1

The Cover

James J. "Sarge" Dempsey, was at work in August getting the football equipment ready for September use. The colorful Sarge has outfitted many All-Americans since he became equipment manager in 1935. He came by his nickname honestly. He is a retired master sergeant.

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Colonel J. O. Fletcher Reports on Project Icicle

Dear Dr. (William) Schriever:

I feel terribly guilty for delaying this letter so long. I am afraid I will never be the fine correspondent you are. . .

Lynn (Mrs. Fletcher) returned to Bennington, Vermont, last November. At that time I expected to be returning in January. Project Icicle was still unborn. We have a daughter now, Margaret Lynn, age one and one-half, and are expecting a son (?) any day now. I am like all proud fathers and must show you a photograph, just received from Lynn. . . Isn't she a stem-winder? She is a real sourdough, born 15 January 1951. Natures call came at 0200 a. m. when it was -55° F and we had 26 miles to go to the hospital. Lynn and Meg were the only ones who were not excited!

Getting back to the present—I am sure you would enjoy our present activities. I have with me Albert Craig, an old doodle bug (exploration geophysicist) who used to work for National Geophysical. We have a seismic setup and every few miles we toss a charge into the ocean. We get excellent reflections from both bottom sediment and the underlying base structure.

We started the rig going about 88° where we got bottom at 12,500 ft. with many reflections from sediment and a big reflection from the base. As we moved north the depth increased, but the base structure was coming up. At $88^{\circ} 50'$ North 160° W the sediment pinched out altogether and the base structure emerged with a 15° southerly

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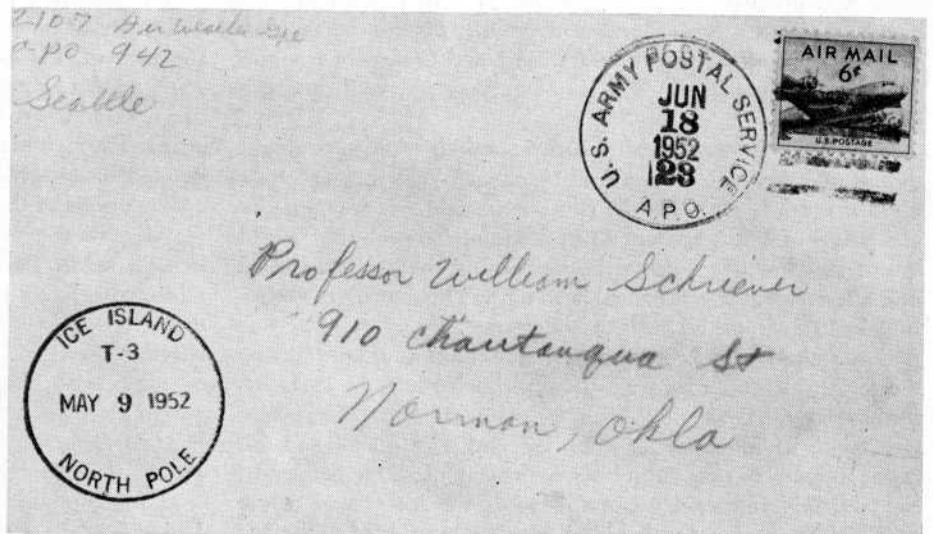
Officers: Dudley Culp, Wewoka, President; Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, Oklahoma City, vice president; Boyd Gunning, Norman, executive secretary, and Herbert L. Branan, immediate past president.

Executive Board Members: Dr. Dan Procter, Chickasha; Granville Norris, Muskogee; Richard Virtue, Oklahoma City; Herbert L. Branan, Oklahoma City; Norman McNabb, Norman; Omar 'Bud' Browning, Bartlesville, and Preston J. Moore, Stillwater—all members-at-large.

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1951-52 Representatives on the O.U. Athletic Council: Mart Brown, Oklahoma City; Frank Crider, Ada, and Bill Martin, Bartlesville.

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ENVELOPE BEARING Colonel Fletcher's letter. Note special North Pole postmark, lower left.

odist girls sorority, and PEO Sisterhood. Billingsley is affiliated with Acacia, social fraternity, and Phi Chi, medical fraternity. The couple is living in Oklahoma City, where Billingsley is a sophomore in medical school.

LYNN-ESKRIDGE: Miss Barbara Jean Lynn, '52mus.ed, Medford, and Edward Allen Eskridge, '51bus, Oklahoma City, were married June 22 in the Methodist Church in Medford. At the University, Mrs. Eskridge was a member of Alpha Chi Omega, social sorority. Eskridge served as president of Kappa Sigma, social fraternity. The couple is living in Oklahoma City.

GOODMAN-LANGSAM: Miss Dorothy Goodman, '48-'52, Oklahoma City, and Herbert Langsam, '52pharm, New York City, were married recently in Emanuel synagogue in Oklahoma City.

GREEN-DURRETT: Miss Barbara Jean Green, '52ed, Seminole, and William E. Durrett, '52bus, Oklahoma City, were married June 12 in the First Methodist Church in Seminole. At the University, Mrs. Durrett was a member of Alpha Chi Omega, social sorority, varsity cheerleader, and Kappa Delta Pi, honorary educational fraternity. Durrett was a member of Kappa Sigma, social fraternity.

PECKENPAUGH-ALEXANDER: Miss Rosalie Carter Peckenpugh, '52ba, Muskogee, and Lindsay Lee Alexander, '52ba, Guyman, were married June 14 in Grace Episcopal Church in Muskogee. At the University, Mrs. Alexander was a member of Pi Beta Phi, social sorority. Alexander was affiliated with Sigma Alpha Epsilon, social fraternity. The



Radio's Menace in 1932

Freshmen information for the school year 1932-33 included: The freshman uniform this year will be red cap, red sweater and white trousers. Freshmen are supposed to wear these uniforms to football games. The entire uniform costs \$4.35.

No one dreamed of a TV ruckus in football. Radio was the enemy of the gate 20 years ago. The *Sooner Magazine* noted the controversy: "Big Six football games will be broadcast this year as in the past, although there was some opposition to doing so at a meeting of the various athletic directors in Kansas City. . ."

The *Sooner* for October, 1932, had words of praise of the football team. "One of the most outstanding and colorful players ever to grace Oklahoma's gridiron is Paul Young, Norman. Fans who have watched the University's pig-skin heroes for years have rated Young as one of the greatest centers of all time, along with Roy Campbell, '08, Roy Spears, '11, Dow Ham, '23, and Pollack "Polly" Wallace, '26."

A marriage of note took place October 4, 1932. Miss Margaret Monroney, '31ba, and Dr. Frank Harbison were married in Oklahoma City.

Parking was no problem for students in the depression year. Auto permits were granted to 72 students by the members of the University car committee that year.

Project Icicle . . .

dip, the depth decreasing to 11,500. The last couple of days the wind has been NW and we are backing off again. We are most anxious to know what we are coming upon. We took a sounding at the pole and got 14,000. We are starting now to lay out detectors the length of the island (about 10 miles) for some refraction shots. A plane from Alaska will come out and drop 500 lb. bombs for us when we are ready. We necessarily started out on a shoestring but fortunately we had meteorological equipment, current measuring equipment, surveying equipment, some oceanographic gear and seismic equipment. I am coming out in June to get a marine biologist, oceanographer and cryologist. Yesterday Craig and I made a trip around the perimeter (31 miles). On the east end we found a line of boulders two miles long, some of which weigh tons. It looks to me like New England granite—like they put on the front of a bank. Thin layers of dirt lie every few feet in the ice for as deep as we have cored (about 25 ft.). The general elevation above sea level is 30' to 35'. We have a Frost gravity meter which indicates a bobbing period of about 40 sec. From that you can make your own guess about the thickness. I suspect that numerous fresh water lakes are trapped in the ice. One such lake near the camp we use for a water supply. It is 11' deep and lies under 8' of ice.

We are all having great fun now that the temperatures are comfortable. We have seen bear tracks twice and fox signs twice but no living thing. I am planning to go sit by a lead one day soon and try to find a seal.

Please give my best to our mutual friends. . .

Cordially yours, Joe
(Lt. Col. J. O. Fletcher, '41bs)

In a letter to President G. L. Cross, Dr. Schriever gives a thumbnail sketch of Lt. Col. J. O. Fletcher, '41bs.

Dear President Cross:

I am sure you often wish for interesting news concerning graduates of O.U. I have a letter from the North Pole which, I believe, will be of interest to you. . . He (Colonel Fletcher) completed A.F. meteorology training and then fighter pilot training. He served in meteorological research for the A.F. during and since the war. In January 1950 he visited in my home with his bride; he was on his way to Fairbanks, Alaska, to command the squadron which flies to the North Pole and back and to Tokyo and back, every few days.

These men located the floating ice islands in the Arctic Ocean on their flights. The largest is T-3 (about 9 x 7 miles); Joe got the A.F. to approve his expedition. He and two other men flew from Greenland to T-3 and landed on it and set up housekeeping and observations last spring—it was 55° below zero F. at that time. At least three different stories in *Life*, with pictures, have appeared since last January; two concerned T-3.

The weather station on T-3 is Joe's idea and he deserves a lot of credit for getting the Air Force to provide the necessary men and equipment.

Needless to say I am proud of Joe. Sincerely yours, William Schriever.

(Ed's Note: Dr. Schriever is chairman of the Physics Department.)

couple is living in Petersburg, Virginia, where Alexander is stationed at Fort Lee.

MARSHALL-WALKINGSTICK: Miss Jerry Marshall, '52ed, Chandler, and Benjamin Thacker Walkingstick, '52bus, Tulsa, were married June 10 in the Manvel Avenue Christian Church in Chandler.

HESSE-CUNNINGHAM: Miss Angelyn Frances Hesse, Purcell, and Joseph Alfred Cunningham, '52 ed, Norman, were married May 2 in Henrietta, Texas. Cunningham was a member of Delta Epsilon and the "O" Club at the University.

BULLARD-GOERKE: Miss Melba Bullard, Edmond, and Earl R. Goerke, '52Law, Watonga, were married recently in the Y Chapel of Song in Edmond. At the University, Goerke was affiliated with Phi Alpha Delta, legal fraternity. The couple has established a home in Louisville, Kentucky.

JOHNSON-STAUFFER: Miss Joan Johnson, '52 ba, and Dale Eugene Stauffer, '52eng, both of Chickasha, were married June 7 in the First Baptist

Church in Chickasha. At the University, Mrs. Stauffer was a member of Chi Omega, social sorority. Stauffer is affiliated with Delta Tau Delta, social fraternity, Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Tau, Pi Tau Sigma, and Scabbard and Blade.

Dick Mayes, '52bus, has been named assistant manager of the Oklahoma City Safety council.

KING-BOECKMAN: Miss Mary Linn King, '50-'51, Norman and Charles Henry Boeckman, '52 geol, Okeene, were married June 7 in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Norman. At the University, Mrs. Boeckman was a member of Gamma Phi Beta, social sorority, and the Newman club. Boeckman was affiliated with Theta Kappa Phi, social fraternity. The couple is living in Okeene.

Howard G. Wilshire, '52ba, Oklahoma City, recently sailed from New York City for a five-month tour of Europe.

PATRICK-HANDY: Miss Deirdre Cathleen Patrick, '52ba, Shawnee, and William John Handy, '47ba, '49ma, formerly of Springfield, Massa-