

... HARRY H. ALLEY ... ROBERT DEAN BASS ... JAMES C. BUCHANAN, Jr. ... JOHN FLACK BURTON, Jr. ...

Tribute for All

Individual units of Cross Center were named February 6 for 16 war heroes. The 16 are representatives for others who have lost their lives in the service of their country

Sixteen alumni, who lost their lives in World War II and in the Korean War, were honored February 6 when the University dedicated individual units of Cross Center, men's dormitories, to their memory. The sixteen serve as representatives for the more than 500 alumni who have lost their lives in the two wars. Cross Center's central lounge and dining area was named in honor of three O.U. students who lost their lives in the 1949 BOQ fire. Following are brief biographical sketches of the men who have been memorialized by O.U.

Major Harry Alley, '34ba, '37Law, Norman, was called to active duty in the army in the summer of 1941. After training as an Air Observation Officer, he rose to the rank of major. In the summer of 1942, Major Alley was sent to the European theatre where he served with the Eighth Air

Corps. He was killed in action on November 26, 1944 in Belgium. He is buried in the United States Military cemetery, Henri Chapelle, Belgium.

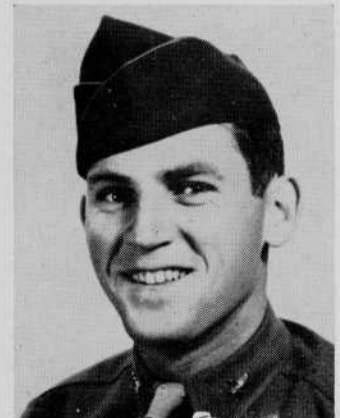
W. Douglas Baker, '42ba, '42Law, Tulsa, entered military service shortly after receiving his bachelor's and law degree from the University in 1942. He was killed in action on February 24, 1945 on Luzon, Philippine Islands. Posthumously, he received the Silver Star, Air Medal, Purple Heart, World War II Victory Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Robert Dean Bass, '39-'43, Enid, studied geology at the University until 1943. He entered the army and was commissioned and assigned to the 324th Combat Engineers attached to the 99th Infantry Division. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge. On February 7, 1945 while the di-

vision was fighting its way through the Siegfried line, Lieutenant Bass was killed in an effort to blow up a pillbox occupied by German troops.

Major James Calloway Buchanan, Jr., '34bs, Muskogee, received an ROTC commission from the University. Major Buchanan was killed on June 15, 1944 at Courbesville, France during the invasion of Normandy, while on a volunteer mission to the front lines with his commanding general. He was awarded posthumously the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the World War II Victory Medal.

John Flack Burton, Jr., '50chem, Oklahoma City, a graduate student in history before entering the service, was killed in action in October of 1952 while serving in Korea.



... ROGER L. MILLS ... ALFRED NAIFEH ... THOMAS W. PRENTICE, Jr. ... EDWARD B. SETLIFF ...



... SIDNEY F. DITMARS, JR. . . SAMUEL E. KELLY, JR. . . GUS KITCHENS, JR. . . ORAN N. MCCAIN . . .

Sidney Francis Ditmars, Jr., '42-'44, Muskogee, enrolled in the engineering school in 1942 and enlisted in the army in 1943. He was with the 96th infantry division and participated in the initial landings on Leyte Island. He was killed in action on Leyte on November 8, 1944. Posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, Ditmars was also awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and World War II Victory Medal.

Samuel Edward Kelly, Jr., '40bs, Altus graduated from O.U. in 1940 with a commission of second lieutenant in the army reserve corps. After completing extensive training in aerial navigation, he was sent to England with the 111th Squadron in 1942. Kelly was killed on a flight that was bound for Algiers December 17, 1942. He received the American Defense Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Bronze Arrowhead and Bronze Service Star, and World War II Victory Medal.

Lt. Gus Kitchens, Jr., '38-'42, Purcell, enlisted in the army air corps while in his senior year at O.U. He was sent to the Pacific immediately after the United States entered the war. His plane was last seen diving towards a Japanese munitions dump on New Guinea. The plane failed to pull out of the dive and was believed to have

crashed after dropping its bomb load. He was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart, posthumously, in a ceremony at Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City, 1944.

Oran N. McCain, '31Law, Nowata, was a practicing attorney in Tulsa when he entered the army in 1940. Assigned to the 45th Division, he obtained the rank of captain. While proceeding to establish a forward observation post, McCain was mortally wounded. He was awarded, posthumously, the Silver Star, Purple Heart, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and American Defense Service Medal.

Capt. Roger Lewis Mills, '41eng, Norman, took part in the invasion of France, during which he was wounded and sent back to a hospital in England. Re-assigned to the 685th Artillery Observation battalion, he was enroute from Zievnhut, Germany to Bastogne, Belgium when he was killed in action December 17, 1944. Captain Mills was awarded the Purple Heart, posthumously, and the World War II Victory Medal and American Defense Medal.

Lt. Alfred Naifeh, '37ba, '40Law, Norman, entered the service in 1941 and died of exposure following enemy action in the Battle of the Solomon Islands. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps

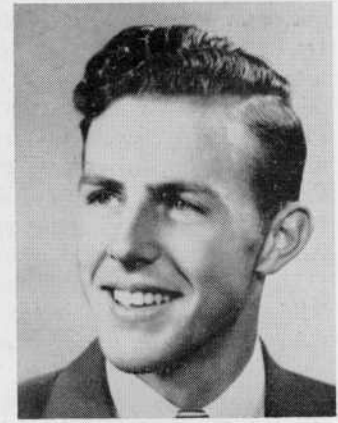
Medal, posthumously, for heroic conduct and devotion to duty in caring for the survivors clinging to life rafts after the sinking of the U. S. S. Meredith. A destroyer escort, the U. S. S. Naifeh, has been named in honor of Lieutenant Naifeh.

Thomas W. Prentice, Jr., '40Law, Ponca City, was attached with American units to the British Royal Air Force. Pilot Officer Prentice was last seen by his comrades as he swept through heavy anti-aircraft fire to dive-bomb axis targets on the Libyan front. He was flying a Kittyhawk bomber and was missing from the group when they returned from the patrol.

Lt. Edward B. Setliff, '40-'43, Madill, studied geology at the University. Entering the army in 1943, he was serving with a bomber group in the Mariana Islands in April of 1945. With well over 100 combat hours to his credit, Lieutenant Setliff was awarded the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster in May of 1945 and was promoted to first lieutenant. He was lost on a mission on June 18, 1945 and officially declared killed in action a year later.

Harrison M. Smith, Jr., '42bus, Oklahoma City, entered service immediately following graduation from the University. He was killed in action in 1944 in the

Continued page 28



... HARRISON M. SMITH, JR. . . LEON R. VANCE, JR. . . WALTER R. YOUNG . . . SAMMY LARUE . . .

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Tribute for All . . .

South Pacific while serving as a Marine Corps pilot.

Leon R. Vance, Jr., '33-'35, Enid, received an appointment to the United States Military Academy after attending the University of Oklahoma for two years. Wounded, on a mission in World War II while serving in the army air corps Vance stuck with his plane to aid a comrade, and crashed the ship into the English Channel. An explosion blew him clear and he was rescued. He was lost at sea a month later when the hospital ship crashed. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously, and the Silver Star, Air Medal and the Purple Heart.

Walter R. "Waddy" Young, '35-'40, Ponca City, O.U. football All-American, won his wings in 1941. He was credited with downing two enemy planes and attacking a Nazi submarine for which he received the Air Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. Shifted to the Pacific Theatre, Captain Young was on a Tokyo bombing raid when his formation was attacked by Japanese fighters. He was reported missing in action January 9, 1945 and was assumed dead a year later.

The Lounge of Cross Center dormitories was named in memory of Maurice Ahern,

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Jr., Killingworth, Connecticut; Sammy LaRue, Clinton; and Price Starks, Oklahoma City, who died in the University dormitory fire in 1949.

Shorty Went Out . . .

of several of their men to attend the University for instruction in statically indeterminate structures. And the results can be seen in the overpass on the new road between Norman and Oklahoma City.

Although still functional in special instances, truss bridges are beginning to fade out and are gradually being replaced by the modern designed arch bridge and rigid frame. The only restraining governor, stopping the contemporary movement, is the lack of professional knowledge concerning these type of structures; Mills' courses are designed to accelerate the dispersal of the needed know-how.

To be able to present this modern trend to students, Mills had to evolve several new courses: Fundamental Theory of Statically Indeterminate Stress, Practical Problems in Highway Bridge Design (The Reinforced Concrete Arch), Advanced Statically Indeterminate Stress, Theoretical Stress Analysis of Building Frames, Practical Problems in Building Frames, and The Skewed Rigid Frame.

Keeping pace with the modern design trend, Joe Keely, '30eng, '46p.c.eng, chairman of the civil engineering department, has developed a graduate course for structural engineering in Soils and Substructure Analysis.

Mills is rated as one of the outstanding men in structural design in the Southwest and his efforts at the University have brought national acclaim.

Not only will O.U. civil engineers refrain from "spoiling good fishing holes with gawky trusses," but they will contribute to the economies of the communities they serve by being prepared to design structures that are easier on the eye, cheaper to build, and more efficiently designed.

Sooner Scene . . .

ron, '32ed, '36m.ed, and Mrs. Blanche Carleton Herron, '34, Blackwell; Dawson Houk, '14ba, '14bs, '21Law, and Mrs. Houk, Fairview; A. B. Imel, '14ba, and Mrs. Hazel Kelly Imel, '15-'16, Cushing, and O. W. Jones, '39m.ed, and Mrs. Cathryn Beckett Jones, '31, Tahlequah.

Also Dr. C. E. Lively, '30pharm, '30bs, '34bs in med, '34med, and Mrs. Lively, McAlester; R. L. March, '14, and Mrs. March, Duncan; Gen. Hal Muldrow, '28bus, and Mrs. Clara Bell Muldrow, '26, Norman; Errett Newby, '07mus, '08ba, and Mrs. Lola North Newby, '14ba, Oklahoma City; Sam W. Noble, '47ba, and Mrs. Mary Jane Cur-

tis Noble, '46bus, Ardmore; Cecil Oakes, '25ba, '37m.ed, and Mrs. Oakes, Okemah; Sam Pangburn, '30, and Mrs. Verona Browning Pangburn, '30ba, Alva; J. R. Sommerfrucht, '34chem.eng, and Mrs. Sommerfrucht, Oklahoma City; Hugh Southwick, '21pharm, and Mrs. Southwick, Garber; Fred Tarman, '10ba, and Mrs. Tarman, Norman; Lee B. Thompson, '25ba, '27Law, and Mrs. Elaine Bizzell Thompson, '24, Oklahoma City; Barth Walker, '40geol, '40Law, and Mrs. Walker, Oklahoma City; T. E. Weirich, '22geol, and Mrs. Lela Smith Weirich, '22mus, Bartlesville, and Jess Wesner, '27Law, and Mrs. Wesner, Cordell.

Dean's Assignment . . .

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There is a slow but steady increase in enrolment of the engineering graduate program which is encouraging. I know many qualified seniors, who desire to do graduate work. However, of this number some have an obligation to fulfill with Uncle Sam, while others who are married or in debt decide it is time to be on their "own" and accept employment in industry.

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