



Owen Panner, '49Law, and family sit on the lawn in front of their Bend, Oregon, home. He was named recently Junior First Citizen of his adopted city.

## Bend's First Citizen

*The young law graduate was looking for his best opportunity. He found it in an eastern Oregon town where he established himself as a leading lawyer and "Junior First Citizen."*

By ROBERT TALLEY, '55

**W**HAT happens when a young Oklahoman just out of college transplants himself in another state, sets his suitcase down having met only one person and decides as others did before him, "This is the place"?

The chances are he would become friends with the men at the desks close to his, the filling station attendant, a grocer, druggist and maybe his bank teller, besides other folk he would happen to meet in one way or another. He might even join a church or a club. But as for taking leadership in the community, the odds are he would remain comparatively anonymous.

The odds, however, don't account for Owen Panner.

His place was Bend, Oregon, a paradise compared to the Mormon's barren Utah. Bend thrives in the center of Central Oregon's pine forest and tourist playground, a land of lakes and lava flows and volcanic

craters, where you can stage a snowball fight on any number of mountain tops any day in the summer or, if your energy falls short of that, loaf in the sun until you turn the shade of a baked sweet potato. It is a place where you can go to bed with the temperature at 23 below and wake up at 6 a.m.—depending also on your energy—with the thermometer at 45 above. There, deer leap over your car on the highway and in the hundreds of lakes trout sizzle through the icy water searching for a frying pan . . .

Bend is a bustling, competitive town, but within five years after Panner called his family to him there, the townspeople had honored him as their Junior First Citizen, the outstanding man under 35 in the city.

And Panner is only 30.

How has he done it? There's a killing formula for the type of success Owen achieved, one that breeds heart attacks like

young rabbits, but more than that there is the studious, dark-haired young lawyer-golfer himself.

Panner was born in Chicago, the son of a petroleum engineer, Elmer Panner, and his wife, Irene. When he was two, the family moved to the unlikely place called Whizbang, in Oklahoma's Osage oil fields, and later to Shawnee, where Owen lived through high school, as he said, "very ordinarily."

"Oh," he added musingly, leaning back in his office desk chair, "I was in the honorary society and on the golf team—not much."

His estimate of "not much" includes the day in 1941 that saw him coolly stroke his way to place as runner-up for the Oklahoma State Amateur Golf title. He and his father had already won the Oklahoma City team title together.

At the University where he enrolled in

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medical practice in Tulsa. He interned at Hillcrest Medical Center, Tulsa.

**MARRIAGES:** Miss Maye Marie Rogers, Oklahoma City, and Lieut. Rodger Eugene Burson, '53arch, Corpus Christi, Texas, were married March 12. The couple has established a home at Killeen, Texas, near Fort Hood, where Lieutenant Burson is stationed with the Army.

Miss Myra Vermelle Robberson, '53ba, and James Riley West, '47-'51, both of Oklahoma City, were married March 12. The couple has established a home in Jackson, Mississippi. Mrs. West was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority at O. U., and West was affiliated with Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**BIRTHS:** Lieut. James V. Yarberry, '53bus, and Mrs. Yarberry (the former Jane Burr, '53ba) have selected the name Anne Elizabeth Yarberry for their daughter born November 27. Lieutenant Yarberry is serving in the Army with the 595th Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Lieut. (jg) James Maurice Ealum, '53ba, and Mrs. Ealum (the former Shirley McKinney, '54h.ec), San Francisco, California, have selected the name Sidney Ann Ealum for their daughter born March 8.

Capt. C. M. Terry, '53m.ed, and Mrs. Terry (the former Frances McCool, '46ba), have chosen the name Jean Ellen Terry for their daughter born February 27 in Japan. Captain Terry is stationed with the Air Force at Yokota Air Force Base in Japan. The Terrys have three other children: Carol Ann, Tommy and Johnny.

**DEATH:** Edward L. McCollough, '53bs, '54ms, was killed in an automobile accident February 15.

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Frank R. Silva, Jr., '53eng, 2005 Epperly Drive, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Ulla Dahlgren Knowles, '53ma, 9-3 Liederbacher Strasse, Hoechst-Frankfurt am Main, West Germany; Lieut. Halbert Jerry Hopper, '53bs, 3450th U.S.A.F. Hospital, Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Cheyenne, Wyoming; Robert Sanford Gee, '53ba, and Mrs. Nancy Neil Gee, '53h.ec, 102 F N.W., Miami, Oklahoma; Lieut. Ramon D. Coffin, U.S.N., '53ba, c/o B.O.Q., N.A.S. Miramar (V.F. 122) San Diego, California; Mrs. Mary White Bone, '53m.bus, 624 Canterbury Road, Apt. A,

University City, Missouri; Lieut. (jg) Richard Donald Thoes, U.S.N., '53bus, Box 748, Yorktown, Virginia; Billy D. Richardson, '53pharm, 2426 Burbank Street, Dallas, Texas; Mary Ann Regan, '53bfa, 1811 North Union Street, Shawnee; Billy Wilson Threadgill, '53eng, 2252 South Parkway East, Memphis, Tennessee.

## 1954

Dr. Jerry Frankel, '49bs, '50ms, '54med, who is interning at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, has accepted a fellowship in cardiology there beginning July 1.

Dr. Gene Douthit, '54med, is taking an internship at Harris Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas.

Marine Second Lieut. Edward D. Haley, Norman, has been transferred to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, after being graduated from the first post-graduate administrative course at Quantico, Virginia. Mrs. Haley is the former Lynnabeth Wilkins, '54bus.

Lieut. Donald Lambdin, '54Law, is now with the Air Force stationed at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport with the 514th Air Defense Group. He has recently been appointed assistant staff judge advocate and assistant legal officer at that base.

**MARRIAGES:** Miss Marilee Evans and Charles N. Scott, '54bs, both of Oklahoma City, were married March 12. The couple has established a home in Oklahoma City. Scott was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity at O. U.

Miss Rita Marie Maxwell, Alva, and Lieut. David G. Bahos, '54eng, Tulsa, were married February 28 in the army chapel at Fort Carson, Colorado. Mrs. Bahos was a member of Delta Gamma sorority at the University, and Lieut. Bahos was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Miss Diane Estes, Oklahoma City, and King Poudler Kirchner, '54eng, Perry, were married March 18. Kirchner was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity at O. U.

**BIRTH:** Dale Colbert, '54journal, and Mrs. Colbert, Shattuck, have selected the name Jan Renee Colbert for their daughter born February 3.

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Ensign Joseph T.

Crepps, U.S.N., '54m.bus, 301 Lyons Apartments, 1050 South Lumpkin, Athens, Georgia; Herman Leon Heath, '54ed, 2206 Williams Avenue, Lawton; Ensign Donald D. Davis, U.S.N., '54eng, U.S.S. Yorktown, CVA-10, c/o F.P.O., San Francisco, California; Mrs. Janet Bayliss Farris, '54ba, 27 East Park Street, East Orange, New Jersey; Bob Banks, '54m.ed, 1045 Varnin Drive, Pampa, Texas; Lieut. Howard Leslie Schuster, Jr., U.S.M.C., '54bus, 510 N. W. Syrcle Drive, Warrington, Florida; Lieut. Robert Muldrow IV, '54bus, Fort Hood, Texas; Ensign Robert Mason Beverley, U.S.N., '54bus, Mathis Apts. A-4, Athens, Georgia; Marilyn Janet Sanger, '54journal, Stout Hall, A. & M. College, Stillwater; James D. Acree, '54ed, 513 East 8th Street, Bonham, Texas; Shirley B. Royer, '54bus, 2317 N. W. 54th, Oklahoma City; Lieut. Clifton Caudle Jennings, U.S.A.F., '54eng, 3103 West 11th, Amarillo, Texas; Willie H. Cook, Jr., 805 East Noble, Guthrie.

## Bend's First Citizen . . .

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1941 after graduating from Shawnee High School, he was elected president of his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta, and from 1947-49 he played on the golf team. In his last year of law school, 1949, he helped edit the Oklahoma Law Review and was accepted to membership in COIF, honorary legal fraternity.

His school was interrupted in 1943 when he was drafted. He was placed in the infantry but beat the rap by going to officer candidate school, coming out a second lieutenant in the Transport Service. While at the Port of Embarkation in Los Angeles, he met his wife in a setting considered too unbelievable by most fiction writers. Owen was the injured service man, and Agnes the comforting nurse.

As Panner told it, swinging around in his chair and putting his feet on an open desk drawer, "I went to the hospital with a wisdom tooth broken off in my jaw. They were giving me penicillin shots but I still couldn't talk. My jaw remained swollen shut.

"Everybody acted like I was going to die and I thought I would. There was this nurse there and so I started writing notes cussing the doctors and creating four colors of trouble. They said I was the worst patient ever rolled into that hospital, and I suppose I was. Six weeks after I began firing the notes we were married." That was in February, 1946. In September he and his wife returned to O. U. and Owen enrolled in law school.

In 1949 when graduation seemed close enough, Owen began writing again. This time he sent out 300 letters over the country explaining that he wanted to practice. "What I was trying to get around was serving six years as an apprentice with some law firm before I could begin trying cases."

With some favorable replies, Owen drove



Establishment of an award in medical history honoring the late Lewis J. Moorman was announced at a luncheon March 22 in the Union Building. The award will go to students who show competence in the use of archival material. Friends of the famous "Pioneer Doctor" established the special award. Mrs. L. J. Moorman, center, and Dr. Floyd Moorman, right, widow and nephew of Dr. Lewis J. Moorman, attended the luncheon. At the left is Dr. Gaston Litton, '34ba, '40ma, university archivist. Doctor Moorman died in 1954 after a memorable career in Oklahoma.

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through Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado, and found nothing except a wealthy restaurant owner in Denver. A golf game was suggested and Owen hit the 19th hole with \$400 he didn't have before. His horizon took a broader view.

Oregon had appealed to him once, so he drove up there and happened to land in Bend. Luckily, he figures, he ran into a lawyer named McKay who was looking for a trial attorney. It sounded awfully good, but Owen was going to be sure before settling on Bend. He drove to Portland, to Salem and to The Dalles, but Bend was it.

Here Owen stopped his narrative and commented quickly, "Now don't get me wrong. I like Oklahoma—its people are impossible to beat. They're the finest in the world. But I found Central Oregon offered the best opportunity for an attorney just starting out."

Immediately he phoned his wife, who was staying with her family in the East and asked what she thought of settling in a land of snow-topped craters. "Wonderful," she replied, and Bend it was.

Owen found it would be a year before he could take the Bar exam, so he sold automobiles sweating out the months. As the year passed, Owen's fortune skyrocketed.

He built three houses in succession, sold two and he and his family, including their three children, Sandy, 7, Kathy, 4, and Renee, 2, live in the third—three bedrooms and den, fireplace and two acres of pine and juniper trees. "An irrigation stream runs

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## Freshman Limitation Is Prospect . . .

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would be to the student's advantage, however, to apply for admission as quickly as possible.

The decision to limit enrollment when existing facilities have been depleted does not affect transfer students with a sophomore or higher standing. It affects freshmen only.

That's the story as it is known at press time. The Regents took the step only after exploring every other

educational avenue. Undeniably the step is of historical importance to the University and of personal importance to every alumni parent of a college-age child.

Perhaps the major significance of the announcement was the quality of educational leadership the Regents and President displayed. Some students may be excluded by the limitation policy, but those who come will find their University's standards respected.

through," Owen commented proudly, "and you can see the mountains from there. It has a marvelous view."

His home settled, Owen began devoting himself to civic work, desiring as his kind does, to improve the town, build it and to place its growing circle on the nation's map for everyone to see and flock to.

The list of the activities he entered into reads like a Chamber of Commerce glossary. Incidentally, he is president of the chamber of commerce this year, the youngest president ever elected. His lunchtimes and evenings are taken up by Elks, Eagles, Lions, the Presbyterian church, City Planning Commission, Junior Chamber of Commerce and Boy Scouts.

In 1953, he was president of the Central Oregon Bar Association, and last year, was head of the Bend Golf Club, of which he has been champion four years straight. He helps stage the city's annual water carnival, held each year on the Deschutes River which runs through the town between low rock walls and manicured lawns and willow trees.

And besides these hour-consuming projects, Owen is gaining a reputation, as one Bend citizen suggested, of being "one of the best darned trial lawyers in the state."

Panner has moved from stranger to outstanding citizen—in five years with one out for selling cars.

That's moving.

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