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Editor

PAUL GALLOWAY

Executive Editor

R. BOYD GUNNING

Associate Editor

CHARLES LONG

Photographer

LARRY McDADE

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THE COVER: Winsome Michele "Mike" Riggs, a sophomore from Tulsa, jerks, swims, monkeys and watusis across this month's cover and on pages 7-9 demonstrates the intricacies of the modern dance floor maneuvers for Oklahoma's eager alumni.

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Remember how hard it was to study just before finals?

sooner scene: alumni accomplishments

I read with surprise that Dr. J. Rud Nielsen, Research professor of physics at OU, will reach the age of compulsory retirement, 70 years, this spring. The surprise comes from seeing Nielsen every few days for so many years and his apparent unchanging, tireless routine of teaching and research. Over the past 40 years Nielsen has become recognized as an international leader in his field. No OU professor has exerted greater influence over so many outstanding students as has Nielsen in working with the physicists. It will not surprise his friends if he continues his important research on the campus. In the meantime, I understand the Niensens intend to travel.

*

If you are my age, you were nurtured on the Horatio Alger theme that hardwork, perseverance and integrity will always triumph, and the benefactor will live happily ever after. It's all a part of the American dream, as old as the Statue of Liberty, Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln. And sometimes the story is repeated even today. Robert V. Anderson, '25-eng, now living in Dallas, developed the Mark IV automobile air conditioner while in his 20's, just out of OU, sold out at the age of 30 to the John E. Mitchell Company of Dallas. Now 40, Anderson still receives a royalty on each Mark IV sold. He has organized the Anderson Service Co. of Dallas, a contract service network which covers all makes of automobile air conditioners. He now has 350 service centers handling 2,000 contracts in more than 30 states and the number is expanding rapidly. The service contracts are with new car franchise agencies and guarantee the individual car owner complete service without cost on his air conditioner for so long as he keeps his car or his unit.

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Another success story has still another Oklahoma alumnus as its leading character. Millard K. Neptune, '34eng, '37Law, has been elected president of Apco Oil Corp. Neptune has been senior vice president of Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. at Hous-

ton. There he was responsible for conversion of the World War II "Little Big Inch" gas transmission pipeline to use for liquid petroleum products. Neptune was born in Washington, D.C., and graduated from high school in Bartlesville. He joined the Oklahoma City-based Apco firm May 15.

*

When Joseph Benton, '20ba, '21fa, '41ma, tucked his diploma under his arm, swinging his Phi Beta Kappa key from a new watch chain, and departed for Italy, his aim was to conquer the operatic world. It was no surprise to those who know him best that he was soon hailed as one of the best tenors singing in opera. His fame was established at La Scala and other European opera houses. He returned to this country and was the leading tenor in the first series of radio shows to broadcast opera in English in 1934. He appeared in many well-known operas, co-starring with other opera greats of the day, including Elizabeth Rothberg, Lucrezia Bori, Greta Stuckgold and Robert Weede. He also performed a series of duets with Grace Moore, Nadine Conner and Miss Bori. These performances are now available on conventional 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm records. The re-recording was accomplished through the efforts of John Ardoin, '56mus, associate editor of *Musical America Magazine* in New York City. The first series of four recordings is entitled "The Golden Age of Opera."

*

Several OU music graduates have made it big in Europe. The latest of these is Roberta Knie, '60mus. Miss Knie is in the first year of a two-year contract with the Hagen Opera House, in West Germany, a Ruhr Valley city of 200,000. She is the leading dramatic soprano of the opera house and has appeared in *Tannhauser*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Il Travatore*, *Die Walkure* and several other operas.

