How good are Oklahoma's schools?
The Quarterhorse
Cherokee Country
Will Rogers' Best First Cowboy Band
AN ARCHITECTURAL TRIUMPH for drama, beauty and utility: Tulsa's First National Bank and Trust Company's new Autobank. See page 14 for more of the story.

COVER PAINTING
Our cover is quite unique. Painted earlier this year by Orren Mixer for Perry rancher and breeder Bud Warren, it shows Warren's 1948 colts by Leo and Sugar Bars, featuring Sugar Bars with mares in the foreground. It's Mixer's largest painting to date—a
ter authentic portraits of top breeding stock by America's top "horse portraitists." For a brief taste of the amazing story of Orren Mixer (shown to the right here), see page 35. For a wonderful free print offer, see subscription card enclosed with this issue.

Quarter horse enthusiasts familiar with Bud Warren's famous stock can identify favorites from this chart keyed to Orren Mixer's cover painting.
1. MILADY LEO 9. FLIT 17. SHADY LENA
2. RAVEN'S LADY 10. FLIT FLITE 18. LENA LEO
3. JULIE 11. RIO LEO 89er 19. SONRREL SUE
4. JULIE W 12. 89er 20. DELLA KING
5. YELLOW LOU 13. TIGER LEO 21. SOUTH PACIFIC
6. SUGAR BAR 14. CONNIE TB 22. SWAMP ANGEL
7. BETTY WARREN 15. LENA HORN 23. SHELA MAY
8. SUGAR BAU 16. ROSA LEO 24. MERRY TIME

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS...
Southwestern Aristocrats
IN OKLAHOMA, a stand-by of the pioneer has become a modern sensation.

The Quarter Horse—descendant in great measure of the animals Indian Territory settlers rode and drove into their new land—has hit the popularity trail.

In the early days of the development of the Southwest, they carried the settler over the prairies after his cattle, pulled the wagons—and on Saturday afternoon won races.

He was Mr. Everything and Mr. Necessary then.

Today, with a few refinements of intensive breeding programs, he is Mr. Aristocrat.

Southwestern Aristocrat, if you please.

You'll find few of the frills of a Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm on the average Quarter Horse breeding establishment. But in their barns you will find the sleek, powerfully built horse that has captured the spotlight.

He sets track records for short distances—440 yards and less.

He carries a cowhand working cattle.

He thrills a rodeo crowd with his agility, power, speed—and intelligence—in the cutting contest.

He looks like a million in a show ring being led past a judge.

He is by nature quiet and good-natured enough that after the race, the cutting contest, the show or all three, he might take the three-year-old daughter for a safe ride.

These are the qualities that made some 3,000 Oklahomans buy and raise them. By American Quarter Horse Association statistics, there are more than 11,000 of the horses registered in the state.

As an example of their value, a three-month-old colt on the Gosselin Farm near Oklahoma City sold this spring for a reported $10,000.

In a recent Oklahoma auction—at the Earl Mayes Ranch near Miami—a 20-year-old mare cost the high bidder $4,100.

The popularity of the Quarter Horse has spread from his native Southwest into every state of the nation. The north and northwest, the South and Pacific Coast states share in a majority of the big boom.

And Oklahoma, where the Quarter Horse has had a good home since before statehood,
HOW GOOD ARE OKLAHOMA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

BY BILL BURCHARDT

The evaluation of a public school system is a highly subjective matter, involving many intangibles. It is not our purpose here to claim, or to attempt to prove, that Oklahoma has the very best public school system of any state in the nation.

There are factors, however, which may indicate that an industry coming into Oklahoma may be bringing the children of its employees into an area of unusually challenging educational progress. Consider these facts:

Oklahoma now stands first in the nation in teacher training and preparation. 99.6% of Oklahoma's public school teachers hold at least one college degree. The United States as a whole lags far behind this rating. 75.3% of all U. S. public school teachers hold a college degree. (See Table I, page 30)

The National Teacher of the Year for 1959 is an Oklahoma teacher, Edna Donley of Alva. Miss Donley, a former president of the Oklahoma Education Association was honored with a trip to Washington, D. C., where she visited with President Eisenhower and other officials interested in education, and appeared on national television programs. (See Oklahoma Today, Summer, '59.)

Will Rogers High School and Central High in Tulsa were listed in Time magazine (Oct. 21, '57) as two of the 38 outstanding high schools in the United States. In the two years studied, these high schools had placed more than twenty finalists each in the National Merit Scholarship race.
A third grade class, Andrew Carnegie Elementary School, Tulsa.
Orville Wright Jr. High School. The round shape achieves maximum space and cost economy. Sun control by vertical metal louvres.

Television, the most powerful means of communication yet devised by man, can be of use to education. Oklahoma is one of 12 states selected by the Ford Foundation to explore its use. KETA-TV telecasts advanced mathematics and science, conversational French and Spanish for elementary schools, and enrichment programs. Very large classes have been successfully taught by TV, plus teacher supervision to discuss and extend the TV presentation.

The principal of Northwest Classen High in Oklahoma City has in his files a letter from the Dean of Admissions at Yale University stating that Yale will accept, without the usual required entrance examinations, any student Northwest recommends. The reason for this becomes obvious when it is noted that Yale’s top ranking freshman student this past year was a Northwest Classen graduate. Harvard’s top graduating senior this past year was also a Northwest Classen graduate.

Oklahoma ranks third among all states in the Union in the number of high school graduates who enter college. 76% of Oklahoma’s 17-year-old youths graduate from high school, compared to only 60% for the U. S. as a whole, as reported by the National School Board Journal. Oklahoma was one of six states (Oklahoma, Massachusetts, Michigan, Delaware, Utah, and Vermont) to win the top awards in Drivers’ Education last year.

F. D. Moon, principal of Douglass High School in Oklahoma City, received a special citation in the nationwide “Principal of the Year” contest. DeWitt Waller, Enid Superintendent of Schools, was honored by the American Association of School Administrators as one of three outstanding educators in the nation for distinguished service in public school administration.

The national champion in the AAA Safety Poster contest comes from Washington school in Alva. A winner in the National Employ the Handicapped essay contest comes from Milburn High School. The outstanding 4-H Club student in the nation comes from Alfalfa High School in Caddo County. For the past several years, Oklahoma youngsters have dominated the national contests of the Future Farmers of America.

The Vocational Training Program in home economics, agriculture, trade and industrial education, and distributive education, headquartered at Oklahoma State University, has been nationally recognized for its excellence. Oklahoma has consistently received a smaller percentage of advisements of deficiencies than any other state in the North Central Association of Secondary Schools, which accredits 3,400 schools.

When the new Norman High School was completed, School Executive magazine called it America’s Best Secondary School. This impressive contemporary high school was featured on the cover of the Architectural Record and written up in numerous other architectural publications, including Italy’s Vitrum: Lastre de vetro e cristallo.

The British Ministry of Education sent their architects to study Norman High School, as well as the new contemporary Norman Junior High school which will be opened to students this autumn. The British educators expressed high enthusiasm over the practical and functional design of these schools, as well as their inviting beauty.

In contrast to other states, Oklahoma’s progress in the integration of Negro and white schools has been smooth and trouble free. (See The South can Integrate its Schools, Look magazine, March 31, ’59). Oklahoma, by constitutional provision, formerly levied separate

Continued on page 30
A Spanish-American War Hero,  
A Caravan of Cadillacs  
A monkey, and a shepherd dog, were only the beginning for the

DADDY OF THE COWBOY BANDS

BY GLENN SHIRLEY

WHILE westerns in the past four years have boomed until each week eight of the top ten shows on TV are westerns and consume twenty-two percent of all TV air time, western music has dropped to an all-time low in popularity. Big name bands in the field are still making pretty good money, but instead of sawing out truly western tunes, they are “pickin’ on Charlie Brown” and “hangin’ Tom Dooley”, because our youth want rock ‘n’ roll.

A new word has been inserted—rockabilly—music that is a combination of hillbilly and rock ‘n’ roll.

“Most western band leaders want to fight if you accuse them of playing ‘rockabilly’,” says Otto Gray, of Stillwater, Oklahoma. “‘Rockabilly’ is just another word the kids have dreamed up.”

Otto Gray, who put the first all-string cowboy band on stage, radio and records, is the acknowledged “daddy of ‘em all.” He lives in a comfortable, ranch-style suburban home, and although he doesn’t have all the million he made as a traveling entertainer, he is no candidate
for an old age pension at 73.

I asked Otto his opinion of the slump.

"For one thing," he said, "there hasn't been a typi-
cally western song written in years. Of course, with TV
and a wider choice of entertainment, kids are no longer
the steady western dance customers their parents were.
But I think they're still hungry for the old-time fun and
melodies."

OTTO GRAY AND HIS OKLAHOMA COW-
BOYS. The name was once as well known as Paul White-
man's, Wayne King's or Benny Goodman's, and as well
respected in concert circles. It appeared on song books
and sheet music and theater marquees from Stillwater
to the Roxy in New York. For twelve years, from 1924
to 1936, that the Cowboys toured the country, they were
"the most widely advertised attraction in the show busi-
ness, receiving instantaneous applause and publicity"
and "breaking box office records at almost every appear-
ance." I wanted to know why.

Otto stretched his long legs, eyed his colorful cow-
boy dress boots and scratched his head thoughtfully.

"Maybe it was the novelty of it that appealed to so
many. But I believe what kept us at the top to the
end was that we were authentic."

They were real cowboys. And they looked the part—
tall, lean, bronzed, with their two-gallon Stetsons, high-
heeled boots and Angora chaps. They were recruited from
Otto's 2500-acre "Flying Pan" ranch in the Osage near
Wynona, when he and an old cowboy friend, Billy
McGinty, got the idea of developing a group of actual
cowpunchers dedicated to acquainting a new generation
with the foltunes and ballads of the early West.

"McGinty fronted for the organization," Otto re-
called. "He wasn't a musician, but he was famous. He
was one of Teddy Roosevelt's heroes at San Juan Hill,
you know—won a medal and all that—had traveled with
Buffalo Bill's Wild West for years, and was one of the
first bronc-riding champions of the world. We called our-
ourselves 'McGinty's Oklahoma Cowboy Band.'"

McGinty, now 89 and retired, lives at Ripley, Okla-
howa, surrounded by mementoes of a busy and eventful
life, and is permanent President of the National Rough
Riders' Association.

Otto himself had a reputation throughout the United
States, Mexico and Canada. First a stockman, then a
cowboy on the ranges of Wyoming and South Dakota,
he had married the daughter of a rancher, and together
they launched a career as trick and fancy ropers.

"In 1918, I started ranching on my own," said Otto.
"Then we got the idea for the band. We actually started
as a fiddlin', singin' and dancin' unit for local gatherings
and programs in nearby towns."

But their fame spread quickly and their reputation
as entertainers soon brought them to the attention of
radio station managers. It was over KFRU, a small
broadcasting station in Bristow, that they made their
debut.

"It was the first radio station in Oklahoma. There
wasn't any time limit; we just played until we got tired.
And at that time there were no commercials."

The Cowboys played over Tulsa's KVOO; over KFJF
in Oklahoma City, that later became WKY. Fan mail
started to pour in. Then an impromptu appearance at a
Hominy theater which netted them more than $200 made
them realize they had something. They staked everything
on a shoestring trip to Kansas City for a fifteen minute
date over WHB, but were kept on the air two hours.

"The phones just rang off the walls," Otto recalled.
"Seemed like people hadn't heard anything like us."

McGinty was appointed postmaster at Ripley and
left the band. With Otto in charge, the group, now known
as "Otto Gray and His Oklahoma Cowboys," entered the
big broadcasting studios of the Middle West.

Continued on page 29
Not just Bud and the Big Red, but All Oklahoma benefits from the nationally televised BUD WILKINSON.
The Bud Wilkinson Show, sponsored by the U. S. National Guard, will be seen on virtually every television station in the United States this year, and here and yonder all over the world. The story behind this production is as amazing as its starring personality.

It started some three years ago when Bud, along with Ned Hockman, Director of Film Production at O. U., and Howard Newman, Lowe-Runkle Advertising, combined their talents. The success of their spare time operation proves that you don't have to go to New York or Hollywood to achieve success.

"We rented the Little Theatre in Oklahoma City's Municipal Auditorium", Hockman relates. "All three of us had a month's vacation that summer, and for that month we worked, ate, and slept on the set we had constructed in the Little Theatre, producing the first series of shows. When we got too tired to work, we slept on the set for a few hours, then went back to work."

They took their idea east, where case-hardened TV producers were amazed at the quality of the production. Meadow Gold Milk immediately bought the series Sports for the Family, for commercial showing on 55 TV stations from Pittsburgh to Los Angeles. Sports for the Family was aimed at youngsters; intimate behind-the-scenes facts on football training, techniques, and equipment, avoiding highly technical details. At the end of the year, they bought the prints back and sold them for individual showings to TV stations all over the country.

Last year's series was titled INSIDE FOOTBALL with Bud Wilkinson. Since it was sponsored by the National Guard, the adult approach was used, emphasizing fundamentals of the game — blocking, kicking, running, passing—and demonstrating complicated plays off the single wing, double wing, and T formations. The series featured interviews with outstanding coaches across the country, demonstrating their style of play.

Ned Hockman says their greatest problem with Bud is the well-known Wilkinson modesty. Partnership policy will not permit any of the films to be sponsored by a liquor, beer or cigarette advertiser.

The National Guard sponsored show is aimed at stimulating recruiting and national interest in the Guard. Oklahomans are largely unaware of what a national TV personality Bud Wilkinson has become. None of the films have ever been shown in Oklahoma, to avoid competition with Bud's Oklahoma football TV show sponsored by Kerr-McGee Oil.

During the filming of last summer's series, a too crowded schedule at O. U. made it necessary for Bud to fly to Hollywood to film commercials. The Hollywood crowd was dismayed at the prospect of trying to work with a football coach.

Their fears quickly turned to admiration of the speed and razor-honed perfection with which Bud works. He memorizes lines at a glance, and creates the inspirational endings of each show extemporaneously, right on the set. The shows themselves are not even shot from a script. All Bud needs is an outline, and he creates his own lines while he is "on camera."

"He beats anything we've ever seen," says Hollywood. "His memory, acting skill, and projection of personality is superior to most of the big names we work with."

This year's series will be titled INSIDE SPORTS with Bud Wilkinson, and will feature everything but football. The guest stars are all big names: Bob Hope, Gene Littler, Patty Berg, Allie Reynolds, Barbara Ann Scott, Dale Mitchell, Doak Walker, and the Minneapolis Lakers and Phillips 66 basketball teams, among others.

Partner Howard Newman is a pilot, and shooting the series with these guest stars involved much flying time. Ned Hockman emphasizes that the series has no connection with his University film chores; it is a separate venture not shot on University time, and using no University equipment.

Football-minded Oklahomans need not worry either. TV is not distracting Bud from his football chores. The entire series is shot during his four-week vacation each summer. Nothing, Bud insists, must interfere with the football fortunes of the Big Red.

Football-minded Oklahomans need not worry either. TV is not distracting Bud from his football chores. The entire series is shot during his four-week vacation each summer. Nothing, Bud insists, must interfere with the football fortunes of the Big Red. He wants nothing on his mind during football season but O. U. football.
ALL foliage tours in the Cookson Hills of Northeastern Oklahoma are becoming quite famous—and rightly so. Few spots in the U.S. explode with such a riotous play of color following the first frost.

But before you succumb to the sincere press-agentry of the thousands who have made these tours, there is something you should know. It is only fair to warn you this is a land from which no traveler has ever yet returned.

Oh, you will make it back in person all right. The days when the James boys and the Dalton gang ran rampant in these hills are long gone. But you will find that you have left a part of your heart behind—in a glimpse caught of the majesty of Lake Tenkiller, or the charm of anything touched by the magic of the Cherokees. And then you must return again and again, and you never will reclaim your heart.

No matter where you start out from, the logical place to begin your journey is with the town of Tahlequah. For here, more than 100 years ago, an amazing people created the civilization that shaped this area. Here the Cherokees founded the Capitol of their great Nation in 1839. In a square in the center of town, nearly hidden by a huge green mass of ancient oaks, the old Capitol still stands, in use now as the courthouse for Cherokee County.

Though to the casual traveler the rest of the downtown area today may appear much like any other town, when you drive out among the residences, or stop to chat with someone on the streets, you begin to sense why Tahlequah has been called the “Athens of Oklahoma”.

It comes across most powerfully on the campus of Northeastern State College, at the north edge of town. Stand among the beauty of the elms and maples upon its wide lawns, gazing up at the carved stone and the ivy-covered towers of the old Administration Building, and you could imagine yourself at Cambridge or Oxford.

Then stop and realize this was originally an Indian school, built by Indians for Indians! This is the kind of the flavor the Cherokees imparted to the wild beauty of this natural paradise that awaited them at the end of the Trail of Tears.

Within a mile of here, in the old Supreme Court building, more than 60 years before statehood the Cherokees published the first newspaper in Oklahoma, in 1843. edited by a Princeton grad. You will find copies of the very entertaining Cherokee Advocate in the museum in Northeastern State’s new library building.

Continued on page 34

CABIN IN THE WOODS

In Devil’s Canyon, near Hinton, this cabin is part of the Methoist Church Camp. Red Rock Canyon State Park is nearby. The depth of these canyons gives them a unique climate, entirely different from that of the general area in which they are found, and they sustain the flora of the eastern United States.
Gnarled Cedar and Rocket

In the pristine beauty of the Wichita Mountains, this gnarled old timer was here when Medicine Buff and Medicine Creek were the land of the Kiowa and the Comanche. There is much to see near here; Fort Sill, the Missile Center Museums and the Old Corral; Mt. Scott and the Wichita Mt. Wildlife Refuge; Anadarko, and the Southern Plains Museum, Indian Hall of Fame, and Indian City.

In contrast to the scenic splendor of the Wichitas which everyone can see, you aren't likely to see this fellow. He is a newcomer to the area, and somewhat secretive in his activities. His name is Honest John, and his mission is to protect you and your home from enemy attack. He lives at Fort Sill, but he can take off for distant parts in a hurry, as is evidenced here. America's enemies would be well advised not to fool with him... he is a more dangerous warrior than the Kiwas and Comanches were in their wildest days.
GOLD OF MAN AND NATURE

Dale Amstutz says he was glad he had his camera handy when he saw this scene for "the evening sun seemed to set the trees and grass afire!" You can find this spot in Tulsa's huge and beautiful Mohawk Park, along with a fine zoo, housing a wide variety of animals, an 18-hole golf course, Mohawk Lake, where you may fish or go boating, or just enjoy walking along paths lined with lovely Autumn scenery.

In contrast to the gold nature has created here is the spectacular fountain in Tulsa's new First National Bank and Trust Co. Autobank. In the center of an airy, modernistic park, the fountain is constructed of hollow masses of metal which resemble golden leaves and segments of spheres climbing vanelike on three tall metal tubes. Water is projected in streams, some of which rise vertically while others twist and clash. At night, the fountain is bathed in multi-colored light. Landscaped trees and shrubbery adorn the park, and closed-circuit television is provided to conduct business with the parent bank two blocks away.
OKLAHOMA TODAY

A STUDY IN CONTRAST

BOATING WAYS

In mountainous eastern Oklahoma, where the streams are so lush that its reflection colors the water. This is Peal Creek, near Clayton, between the Kiamichi River and Clay Lake. Autumn scenic tours are popular throughout this area. Lodges and motels are readily available, and moderate in price. You'll find the sound of running water and the wind through the trees the finest background music ever created for your fishing or hunting trip, or just plain restful ease.

In contrast to the pastoral beauty of Peal Creek you'll find exciting action on Oklahoma's big lakes, in the activities of a new sports interest—power boat clubs. A recent issue of Life magazine (June 1, '50) contains a full page color picture of a street in Wichita, Kansas, jammed bumper to bumper with new cars, towing new boats on their way to a weekend at Lake Tenkiller. The Kansas Spraymaker's Boat Club is only one of many making use of the recreation resources of our big lakes. Our picture here is the Indian Territory Outboard Club of Tulsa on a cruise from Blackberry Island to the Pocescola Dam, on Grand Lake. This steadily increasing interest in water sports has created a boat building industry in Oklahoma. The Dept. of Commerce and Industry lists seventeen boat building firms, along with numerous custom builders of boats. Three of the largest firms are the Blue Mfg. Company (Blue Star Boats) at Miami and Newman Mfg. (Esquire Line) at Commerce, both near Grand Lake, and Sooner Craft at Eldorado, near Lake Altus.
TIMBER—THE SPAN OF TIME

Just a few miles north of Wilburton, in eastern Oklahoma’s timberland, lies Robbers Cave State Park. As R. G. Miller has pointed out, “Tourists driving clear across the state, north-south on U. S. 77, 81, or 183, or east-west on U. S. 60, 64, and 66, might never know that Oklahoma is noted for merchantable timberlands . . . about 910,000 acres of commercial tree land. There are 300 sawmills in operation in the state, including two of the nation’s largest. Sixteen million fence posts are harvested annually, in addition to all types of lumber, and no telling how many power poles."

This is the land that feared the Indian’s cry,
These hills scanned wagon trains slow creeping west.
And here the scouts and mountain men roamed by
To greet each morning with a wanderer’s zest.
And still beside scarred trails the cowboys ride,
While far away the sentinel mountains loom . . .
The cattle wander safely, far and wide,
Where solitude abides and there is room.
This is the home of mountain and of glade,
The flight of eagle and the call of dove,
The friendly farm, and rangy mountain’s shade,
With sky of hazy blue outstretched above.

I thought I had forgotten all this space
So many eagle-winged years lie between . . .
But its shy stillness and its leafy grace
Still clothe the valley in an emerald sheen.
It is as youthful as it used to be!
I listen and it seems to me I hear
Remembered laughing voices, and I see
The past emerging, bright and picture clear.
Then suddenly I catch the pungent scent
Of mustard pickles and of fresh-baked bread,
And all the days that long ago were spent
Are mine again and I am warmed and fed.

... from the poetry of Georgia Moore Eberling.
TWO CHIEFTAINS

George Moses Harragarra, hereditary Chief of the Otoe Indians. The Otoes, near relatives of the Winnebagos and the Iowas, were first encountered in the northern Great Lakes region. By 1650, they had migrated to the vicinity of the Des Moines River. Two later moves brought them to their present location near Red Rock, in 1883. Chief Harragarra here wears the ancestral costume of his people, adorned with the furred, feathered, and beaded objects that are so meaningful in Indian custom and ceremonial. The silver medallion he wears was presented to his grandfather by United States President Buchanan, fifty years before Oklahoma became a state. Chief Harragarra is 79-years-old, very active, and a skilled horseman. He has been made an honorary Colonel on the staff of every Oklahoma Governor in recent history.

William Wayne Keeler, Principal Chief of the Cherokees from 1949-57, is Executive Vice President of the Phillips Petroleum Company, headquartered in Bartlesville. Phillips is 32nd in size among all U.S. Corporations, and is noted for its scientific advances both in petroleum and in plastics. Mr. Keeler has been director of petroleum refining for the Administration of Defense, Washington, D.C., and is now Chairman of the Military Petroleum Advisory Board. His civic activities in Bartlesville are numerous, and he is active in many national organizations, including the National Petroleum Council and the American Petroleum Institute. He is currently serving on the Commission on the Rights, Liberties, and Responsibilities of the American Indian, and received the 1957 All-American Indian Award.
A STUDY IN CONTRAST

FLYING FARMERS' HIGHWAY

People have always been drawn to the West by the element of space—free, open, and infinite space, with a big sky made intriguing by ever changing cloud patterns—where a man may grow as tall as his soul will permit. Here is a field of harvested wheat, in the high plains country between Watonga and Woodward. The diminutive squares against this towering horizon are bales of straw, destined to become clean bedding in horse stalls, feed lots, and corrals. In this country where there are many cattle, and where the horse is still a favorite.

But today, the flying farmer uses this same sky for a highway, inspecting fences, watching herds, hunting coyotes, or flying to town for machinery repair parts during the break-neck drive of the harvest, when every minute counts. In 1944, twenty-six Oklahoma farmers flew their planes into Stillwater, to organize something that seemed like a good idea. They called it the Flying Farmers. The idea caught on nationally, and in 1945 the National Flying Farmers Association was formed. Today there are 150 Flying Farmers in Oklahoma; nearly 7,000 throughout the rest of the U.S. and Canada. In August of this year, 1,400 flew in to Fort Collins, Colorado, for their 14th Annual National Convention. Next year, this amazing affair will be held in Oklahoma City.

PHOTO—FARMER STOCKMAN
TWO PIONEERS

Picturesque Pistol Pete, gun-slingin' mascot of Oklahoma State University's Cowboys. This hard livin', hard bitten old timer resides on the same campus that obtained the first University-wide "Electronic Brain" computing center in the nation. While Pistol Pete is hanging out around Lewis Field this Autumn, spurring his cowpokes on to football victories, the "Electronic Brain" will be digesting 10-digit numbers 24 hours per day and spewing out answers for scientific research faster than Pete's pistol can spew bullets.

In its air-conditioned quarters in the Home Economics building (three rooms full of computer and auxiliary equipment) the O.S.U. computing center is serving progress in modern Oklahoma by providing in minutes calculations that would take weeks of human effort to achieve.

In contrast to the frontier past which Pistol Pete recalls, here is Oklahoma University's new Nuclear Reactor, which recently arrived during the 50th Anniversary of O.U.'s renowned College of Engineering. At a cost of $96,950, this atomic wonder is installed in a new laboratory constructed in the former journalism building. 800 grams of uranium-235, on loan from the Atomic Energy Commission, are enclosed in graphite blocks which are submerged in 1000 gallons of distilled water. 121,500 pounds of concrete blocks surround the 8 ft. deep aluminum tank which acts as a radiation shield. Dr. Robert A. Howard, Professor of Physics, is preparing courses on the operation of the reactor and the study of irradiated materials.
the best
of
WILL
ROGERS

• There's the one thing no Nation can ever accuse us of and that is Secret Diplomacy. Our Foreign dealings are an Open Book, generally a Check Book.
• New York: That City from which no weary Traveler returns without drawing again on the Home Town Bank.
• If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma, wait a minute and it will change.
• 'This thing of being a hero, about the main thing to do is to know when to die. Prolonged life has ruined more men than it ever made.
• Wouldn't it be great if Mexico started electing by the ballot instead of by the bullet, and us election by the ballot instead of by the bullion.
• It will take America two more wars to learn the words to our National anthem.
• You can kid about the old rubes that sat around the cracker barrel, spit in the stove, and fixed the nation, but they were doing their own thinking. They didn't have their minds made up by some propagandist speaker at the "Get Nowhere" Luncheon Club. Yours for more small town rubes.
• Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.
• We have got more tooth paste on the market, and more misery in our Courts than at any time in our existence.
• Live your life so that whenever you lose, you are ahead.
• A difference of opinion is what makes horse racing and Missionaries.

Selection courtesy of Paula Love, Curator, Will Rogers Memorial and Museum, Claremore.

The museum at Claremore is huge, and through it stream more than a million people every year. But because it's been some time now since the man himself was among us, some people ask, "Was he really that great?"
He was.
For nearly 20 years he was America to a world that still keeps looking this way for more like him.
Go to Claremore and you'll see them—still streaming in from all the corners of this earth to see the statue, the meaningful bits of this man they heard about, or their father knew.
- We can think of the most things that would benefit the patient, but we never think of 'em till we see the hearse going by.
- A conservative is a man who has plenty of money and don't see any reason why he shouldn't always have plenty of money.
- Everybody is ignorant only on different things.
- More people should work for their dinner instead of dressing for it.
- Give an American a one-piece bathing suit, a hamburger, and five gallons of gas, and they are just as tickled as a movie star with a new divorce.
- The South is dry and will vote dry. That is everybody that is sober enough to stagger to the polls will.
- One revolution is just like one cocktail, it just gets you organized to get ready for the next.
- There ain't nothing that breaks up homes, country, and nations like somebody publishing their memoirs.
- We are always saying let the law take its course, but what we mean is “Let the law take our course”.
- If we pulled together as much to put over a siege of peace as we do a spell of war, we would be sitting pretty. But we can't hardly wait for a war to end to start taking it out on each other. Peace is kinder like prosperity, there is mighty few nations that can stand it.
- Russia is a country that is burying their troubles. Your criticism is your epitaph. You simply say your say and then you are through.
- A lot of folks object to me because I said 'ain't'. Well, I can tell you one thing. A lot of those guys that wouldn't say 'ain't' ain't eating.
- You look at all Wars and you will find that there is more new deeds for land signed at these Peace Conferences than there is good will.
- Everybody likes to make a dollar his way, but if he finds he is not allowed to make it his way, why he is not going to overlook the chance of making it your way.
- When I die my epitaph, or whatever you call those signs on gravestones is going to read: 'I joked about every prominent man of my time, but I NEVER MET A MAN I DIDN'T LIKE'. I am so proud of that I can hardly wait to die so it can be carved. And when you come around to my grave, you'll find me sitting there, proudly reading it.

- I am heading down into the wilds of Old Mexico and will be out of touch with what we humorously call civilization. They don't even have a daily lecture on pyorrhea or know what cigarette will raise or lower your Adam's apple; so primitive they have never tasted wood alcohol or known the joys of buying on credit. They are evidently just a lot of heathens that are happy.
- The Russians are studying up some devilment to pull on the rest of the world. A Russian just loves misery and he wants to share it among friends as well as foes.
- It's great to be great but it's greater to be human.
Southwestern Aristocrats Continued from page 3

seems to have a halo over its share of the production.

Typical of the men who have been dedicated to the improvement of the breed through the years is Walter Merrick of Crawford. Since 1937, he has been running his horses on recognized tracks. Before that, he matched them where he found a challenger.

He raised Gray Badger, an undefeated quarter running horse while Merrick handled him. Steel Bars, celebrated stallion now owned by the Phillips Ranch of Frisco, Texas, was raised by Merrick. Steel Bars, in 1957, was the World's Champion halter show stallion.

The immortal Three Bars, a Thoroughbred stallion whose blood has been crossed into many Quarter Horse breeding programs, got his big start toward fame while at Merricks.

Three Bars, now in California, is the sire and grandsire of some of the nation's most expensive and best horses. One of his sons, Bob's Folly, the only horse to run the quarter-mile five times under 22 seconds, electrically timed from a standing start, is one of the top young sires in Oklahoma. He is at Merricks.

Another Three Bars son is probably Oklahoma's leading celebrity of the day. He is Mr. Bar None — for two years the nation's champion running quarter horse — owned by Oscar Jeffers of Wagoner.

Retired from the track, Mr. Bar None is kept on Mr. Jeffers' ranch which he named for the champion.

An entire family of the breed has sprung from a ranch on a stretch of rolling grassland near Perry. Here, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Warren keep their fabulous old stallion, Leo.

The bright sorrel, blaze-faced horse has produced one of the nation's most important racing strains.

In front of the brick Warren home is a large pasture where the mares who are brought to the court of Leo and the famous Sugar Bars — another son of Three Bars — are kept. They come from Texas, Utah, the Dakotas, Kansas, Arkansas, California and they are some of the finest mares of the breed — many champions of the show ring and winners on the track.

Leo had a remarkable racing career himself. And around the walls of the Warren home hang the picture proof that his offspring are as good and oftentimes better. The roster of his winning produce would read like a Who's Who of Quarter Racing.

The "number two" stallion at Warren's, Sugar Bars, covered the track in times fast enough to qualify him for AAA rating by the American Quarter Horse Association — the top rank of its kind.

His offspring are sold all over the country — for cutting horses, race horses and to show.

The list of the top ten leading sires of quarter race horses for the entire breed reads like a tribute to Oklahoma.

Leo is number one. Three Bars is number two. Number three is Joe Reed II, the sire of Leo. And seventh of the Top Ten is Vandy, owned by Dee Garrett of Pawhuska.

For the third consecutive year, a daughter of Vandy, Vanetta Dee, was named champion mare for the breed in 1957.

From the horses Oklahomans breed have come the world's champion cutting horses. With almost a casualness, they produce the horses that carry the leaders in the rodeo world, and the men who still need horses in their business of producing beef.

One of the men who knows the most about rodeoing — World's Champion Jim Shoulders — raises Quarter Horses on his ranch near Henneyatta. And TV star Dale Robertson is producing running Quarter Horses on his Haymaker Farm near Yukon.

Wherever Quarter Horses are contested — on the race tracks of California, Florida, Colorado or New Mexico, in the rodeo arenas of Texas, Louisiana or Oregon, in the show rings of Kansas, Iowa, or New York — Oklahoma will have produced its share of the winners.

A new Sugar Bars colt departing for the home ranch
Within three years they were famous from coast-to-coast. They were heard over 130 radio stations and were a regular feature on the Red and Blue Networks of NBC.

“We used only fretted instruments at first. Out where there were no orchestras for accompaniment in the early days, it was natural that people should appreciate the full possibilities of the mandolin, guitar, banjo and violin as the foundation for vocal harmonies. Later, we added a piano and ‘cello.”

There was nothing synthetic in their performance. “We acted like we were in the bunkhouse back at the ranch. We had an all round good time and played the songs that appealed to the heart.”

Radio rodeos were not exactly new, but songs of the plains virtually dripping with sentiment, ballads that had their origin in the dim past and had been handed down from one generation of cowboys to the next, were the band’s repertoire. Mrs. Gray, nicknamed “Mommie”, drew upon her storehouse of unusual songs she had learned from the cowboys who rode for her father when the West was still a country of cattle kings.

“Your Sweetheart Waits For You, Jack,” “The Baggage Coach Ahead,” and “A Picture From Life’s Other Side” still hold a tear for many. The evils of strong ‘likker’ were emphasized in such gems as “The Drunkard’s Lone Child” and “The Drunken Fool”, and in a mother’s unanswered question, rendered by Mommie herself, “Oh, Where Is My Wandering Boy Tonight?”

They made old “breakdowns” sound as they never had before, and there was an almost human German shepherd dog, “Rex”, who had a solo part in the opening and closing numbers, with “Pip”, a tiny monkey, squealing and screaming an obligato.

“There were only three rhythms to the real songs of the range—not the distorted versions you hear today,” Otto pointed out. “They came from the gait of the cowboy’s horse—the walk, the trot and the lope.

“For instance, the rollicking ‘Chisholm Trail’ fit the cowpony’s broken trot, the songs like ‘Streets of Laredo’ swung along with the lope. Based on the horse’s walk were the lullaby tunes like ‘The Dying Cowboy’ and ‘Barbara Allen.’

“That’s why the cowboy song is different than any other spontaneous song product in America—its characteristic rhythm and the freedom of expression of the singers.

“The cowboy used different songs by day and by night. At sun-up, the herd was on the move and he kept it stirred with tunes punctuated by staccato yells—like: ‘Come a ti-yi-yippee yippee yay yippee yay!’ At night, when the cattle were bedded down, the songs were sweet and low, even mournful—like: ‘O bury me not on the lone prairie.’

“We gave our audiences this kind of reality. We were no western swing band, but much of our music was the foot-tapping, body-swaying variety that brought broad grins of appreciation.”

For a real thrill the public heard “Bugger” Fields, the cowboy guitarist, going on some special numbers worked out himself from unwritten melodies.

Fred Wilson, Rube Tronson, Bill Crane and Owen Gray, strapping six-feet-four-inch son of Mommie and Otto, made a big hit with their novelty musical act, playing four instruments, fingerling one and picking the other.

There were instrumentals by the banjo and ‘cello kings, “Zeke” and “Hy” Allen, and the half-breed Chero-kee violinist, Chief Sanders; rope tricks by Otto and Mommie; and a knife act in which Jack Edwards was the thrower and his wife and dog, Altus, the targets. Jack Webb and his partner from the 101 Ranch did some fancy rifle shooting.

As the money rolled in, Otto acquired a fleet of Cadillacs, colorfully decorated. One was specially designed for the comfort of the members of his company, and from its radiator extended a highly polished set of “longhorns”. Often, upon entering towns, their fancy cars brought traffic to a standstill.

In Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, they “stopped the show.” At Goebel’s Park in Covington, Kentucky, the crowd was so large and anxious the police and fire departments couldn’t hold it back. In 1932, the Cowboys set a new “family party” record at En-Joie Health Park in Endicott, New York, where over 50,000 expressed their appreciation with applause that “rang through the Valley of the Southern Tier like thunder.”

Their radio programs were disliked only by two classes of working folk—telephone operators and mail men. The first week after opening at WGY, Schenectady, phones rang almost continuously and they broke all existing records by receiving over sixteen thousand telegrams and letters.

It was the same on KMOX, St. Louis; WLS, Chicago; WLC, Cincinnati; WSYR, Syracuse; WHAM, Rochester, KDKA, Pittsburg, and QUAN, Scranton. They recorded for Gennett at Richmond, Indiana, for Pathe, Paramount, Vocalion, Columbia, Brunswick, and Okeh, the General Phonograph Corporation of New York.

Violin, banjo, guitar, mandolin, ‘cello and piano; solos, duets and quartets, interspersed by gutteral or string imitations of birds, trains, wind and wild Indians. “Capering in an exhibition of prairie dancing.” “A riot of fast-moving entertainment from the first number.” “A variety that no other aggregation can imitate.”

And THE BILLBOARD reprinted this piece of publicity in a colorful advertising folder that went all over the world: “They can broadcast for eighteen hours, or thirty-six half-hour periods, without repeating and without looking at a sheet of music or referring to memo- randa for their dialogue.”

Otto never planned a program in advance, depending entirely upon “ad libbing” to put them over.

They became as much a part of America’s lore as Pochahontas. “We got mighty close to the hearts of men, women and children,” Otto concluded. “Western music may be in for a long siege, but it can be shortened with a little native showmanship and American naturalness.”
taxes for Negro and white schools. In April, 1955, voters were given an opportunity, through the Better Schools Amendment, to vote for or against integrated schools. The advantages of doing away with the uneconomic Negro schools were pointed out by state leaders, and the amendment carried by a 3-1 margin.

The first school to integrate was Poteau in "Little Dixie", next to the Arkansas border. There was no trouble. The state Department of Education advised other districts of the financial gains that could be made with integration. Integration came without sensational publicity or serious difficulty.

For the past seven years, Oklahoma's population has been increasing. One indication of this growth is that public school population has increased by 43,320 students since 1952. The continuing influx of new industry into the state accounts for a large percentage of this population growth.

To gain an insight into the reaction of these new Oklahomans to our public schools, an executive of Western Electric's new multi-million dollar Oklahoma installation was interviewed. I. J. Schneider came to Oklahoma from Duluth, Minn., one year ago, and selected Putnam City High School for his son.

He had visited Putnam and talked with the superintendent and principal there. He then set about to study the school system itself, investigating its accrediting. He observed the conduct of students in classes and in the halls. He visited sports contests to observe the sportsmanship of Putnam students at athletic events.

He talked with teachers, with Putnam graduates now attending the University of Oklahoma, and with a young Western Electric engineer who was a graduate of Putnam. Being in a scientific field, he was interested in the curriculum in math and science, and was much impressed with the high record Putnam has achieved in scholastic competitions. Since music was also a family interest, he listened to Putnam's fine high school band.

The result of his investigations was an overall impression of a well organized and successful school, with a disciplined and purposeful student body. "My son has now completed a full year there," Mr. Schneider reports "and the homework he brought home during the school year was well assigned." He states that his good impressions were accurate, and that he is pleased with the school he chose.

Perhaps the most important thing that can be said about the Oklahoma public schools is that they are not complacent. Educators are determinedly aggressive in searching for weak spots, and diligent in their efforts to correct them. They have been materially aided by the Frontiers of Science Foundation.

In 1957, as a tribute to Oklahoma education and the Frontiers of Science Foundation, President Dwight Eisenhower chose Oklahoma City for his first major address on education and the national defense. Quoting President Eisenhower, "Right here in Oklahoma you have established a superb mechanism for the mobilization of needed resources to strengthen our pursuit of basic scientific knowledge . . . I hope other states will follow your example."

One of the early projects of the Frontiers of Science Foundation was to assist in a statewide testing program to evaluate the results of public education in Oklahoma. The Iowa Tests of Educational Development were given to the 67,000 students in Oklahoma high schools, in the first testing program of this type in the United States. The results of the tests indicated that Oklahoma schools were above national norms in some areas, and below in others. To raise standards in the areas of below level achievement, the Oklahoma Curriculum Improvement Commission was formed.

Each school, with the aid of the Curriculum Improvement Commission, set about to solve its individual problems. Three years have now elapsed since this statewide testing program. Individual schools have administered subsequent tests to keep track of progress. A spot check was made of the Midwest City Schools, and new tests administered there this past year have established that they are now above the national norms in every area.

The National Defense Education Act, which will provide matching funds to increase school counseling and guidance programs in elementary schools as well as secondary schools, will further implement and strengthen this growth, and will aid in the search for students who should be placed in accelerated classes.

| TABLE I |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| TWENTY STATES ARE ABOVE THE U. S. AVERAGE IN TEACHER PREPARATION. OKLAHOMA IS IN FIRST PLACE. |
|---------|---------|---------|
| OKLAHOMA | 99.6    | ARIZONA | 99.4 |
| FLORIDA | 97.8    | NEW MEXICO | 96.0 |
| TEXAS | 95.6    | NORTH CAROLINA | 92.5 |
| UTAH | 91.8    | CALIFORNIA | 90.9 |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | 86.9 | ALASKA | 86.4 |
| LOUISIANA | 85.8 | COLORADO | 84.0 |
| CONNECTICUT | 83.9 | WASHINGTON | 83.2 |
| ALABAMA | 82.6 | OREGON | 81.2 |
| DELAWARE | 80.9 | MISSOURI | 79.1 |
| HAWAII | 77.3    | UNITED STATES | 75.2 |

*Nearly all states require a degree to teach in high schools. For this reason, qualifications of teachers in the various states are made on the basis of elementary teachers. 33.2% of the elementary teachers in Oklahoma also hold a master's degree. This is the highest in the nation except for Oregon.
A creative program for the gifted student is being developed, with strong public support, as another result of the work of the Frontiers of Science Foundation. Dr. James Harlow, Executive Vice-President of the Frontiers of Science and Dean of Education at Oklahoma University, states that the principal contribution of Frontiers of Science has been to increase public recognition of the high place of education in public affairs. Oklahoma’s interest in education is strong, and productive of support for its achievement.

Recent studies by Dr. James B. Conant of Harvard, published in Life magazine, have indicated that one of the great problems in American education today is that of the high school too small to offer a broad curriculum and advanced studies which should be available to gifted secondary school students.

This problem exists in Oklahoma as it does in other states. The disappearance of the small farm, the consistent shifting of population to urban areas, has resulted in steadily decreasing enrollments for these small schools. The answer, a process of redistricting to bring all students within the range of a large high school, is in progress all across the nation.

In Oklahoma the point has now been reached where no family lives more than 1 1/2 miles from a high school or a school bus route that provides transportation to a high school. It is in this area of making larger high schools, with their attendant advantages of more subjects, more advanced courses, and more educational equipment available to all students, that concentrated effort is now being expended.

America has the best system of public education in the world. Dorothy Thompson, reporting on her recent world tour in an article in the Ladies Home Journal, states that every country she visited has a “crisis in education”. Comparatively speaking, she feels that in America ours is more a “concern for education” than a “crisis”.

Frederick Mayer, speaking at the University of Southern California, states that America’s greatest contribution to mankind is our system of public education; greater than our technology, our high standard of living, or even our system of democracy. “We are the first nation in history to make any significant success of mass education,” says Dr. Mayer. “Even Russia admits that less than 50% of the children in their schools assimilate the information presented to them.

“Our system of education is superior to Russia’s, if for no other reason than that it is democratic in concept instead of totalitarian. There is a rigidity in Russian education which tends to brainwash, and which makes no provision for the individual differences of students. Their system of education is no more superior to ours than their system of government is superior to ours.”

Current studies are now underway to provide adequate comparisons between Russian and American education. Dr. W. D. Carr, superintendent of schools in Cushing, is one of a committee of 35 U. S. educators touring Soviet Russia this summer to make an intensive study of their educational system. Dr. Carr was chairman of the Charter Committee, composed of members of this group, which made preliminary studies in this field last summer, the results of which were published in the New York Times.

Recognized basic commitments in education;
1. The best trained and qualified teacher possible in every classroom;
2. The most favorable educational environment possible for every student;
3. Regular evaluation of the educational results of the program;

are being met in Oklahoma by;
1. Becoming first in the nation in teacher preparation;
2. Constructing contemporary schools that are receiving international recognition;
3. Being first in the nation to administer standardized statewide testing to all students to guide future educational planning.
AD CLUB RATES HIGH

Most Americans find it great sport to beef about “the commercials.” But the fact remains that the quality of advertising in any area is a pretty good gauge of the general level of creativity thereabouts. Which is why we think it significant that the Oklahoma City Advertising Club was the only club in the U.S. to win two top awards at the Ad Men’s National convention in Minneapolis. Another intriguing item along this line was the recent acquisition of the Dunhill International account by an Oklahoma City ad firm. This is the kind of old-line, world-wide account traditionally handled by large Madison avenue firms. Dunhill’s stated logic in added for frosting, won high acclaim in the Oklahoma competition and is expected to attract equal attention at Atlantic City.

Sondra Osborne of Oklahoma City, Miss Oklahoma candidate in the Miss Universe Pageant, presented the mayor of Long Beach, California, with a colorful war bonnet from Indian City, Anadarko. Miss Japan became Miss Universe, but Sondra has been offered a movie contract by John Wayne for his next production, Alamo, and she is currently appearing in the Zsa Zsa Gabor Review at the Tropicana, in Las Vegas, Nevada. It appears that show business will be occupying her time for a good while.

OKLAHOMA SCRAPBOOK

making the switch was simply this. Madison avenue has no monopoly on creative brainpower. So why stay lumped up with all the other big ones, when your account can be something really special to a good creative firm “off Broadway.”

SCENIC BEAUTY

Malinda Berry of Stillwater, 1959 Maid of Cotton, has just returned from 57,842 miles of international travel. This lovely goodwill ambassador to the world for the American Cotton Industry toured the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. From photos taken of her in Pakistan, Hawaii, Bermuda, etc., it was difficult to choose which one to use. She will re-enter O. S. U. this autumn, where she is working toward a degree in English and History, to become a secondary school teacher.

Mary Ann Hazelton of Tulsa, Miss Oklahoma candidate in the Miss America Pageant, has completed two years at the University of Tulsa. She is an accomplished pianist, and was soloist with the Tulsa Philharmonic when she was thirteen-years-old. Her playing of a Tchaikovsky piano concerto, with Almost Like Being in Love and Dizzy Fingers

THIRTY-TWO OKLAHOMA TODAY

OKLAHOMA TODAY
Mary Fern Van Pool of Miami, is Oklahoma’s sparkling new Dairy Princess. She is an honest-to-goodness dairy princess, having grown up on her parents twelve-hundred acre farm in Ottawa County. Mary Fern will be a Junior at O. S. U. this autumn, majoring in Home Economics, and she will represent all Oklahoma’s dairy industry at the National Dairy Princess competition in Phoenix, Arizona, in October.

Gloria Herring, of Altus, is Miss Amvet, U. S. A. She won the Oklahoma competition in July, and the National Contest in Grand Rapids, Michigan, one month later. Gloria is a Sophomore music major at O. S. U. Her talents include ballet and all forms of modern dance, the piano and clarinet, baton twirling, water skiing, swimming, sewing, and archery, and a 3.82 university grade average.

SOONER AVIATION ZOOMS

This sure has been some summer for aviation in Oklahoma. Most flamboyant new development: Brantley Helicopter, whose main plant is at Frederick, is getting set to put in a branch factory in the British Isles! Swansea, Wales, no less.

But of far greater, and quite staggering significance, was the dedication June 18 of American Airlines’ new $20 millions jet service center in Tulsa. This is the first center of its kind — geared to the needs of jet age in commercial transport — to be opened anywhere in the world!

The center will bring American’s investment in Tulsa to $30 millions, with 5,000 employees. Also in prospect for Tulsa: an $8 millions expansion of the Municipal Airport; and Douglas Aircraft’s Tulsa plant has been awarded a $24 millions contract for engineering, fabrication and assembly of the Delta missile.

At the same time, in Oklahoma City construction began on the last stage of the current $19 millions expansion at Tinker Field. (Figures released in July showed that Tinker contributed a whopping $172 millions to the economy of the whole state for fiscal 1959!).

FIRST OIL WELL CLAIM BOLSTERED

The committee in charge of Salina’s HISTORICAL DAY (Oct. 10) intends this year to establish claim to “the first flowing commercial oil well in the nation.” New historical evidence has been uncovered since Oklahoma Today’s first report on the well in our Spring Issue.

Pennsylvania has long laid claim to the “first commercial well,” drilled by Col. Edwin Drake, and completed Aug. 27, 1859, at 69.5 ft. Drake’s well did not flow, but produced 10-12 barrels of oil per day by pumping.

The Salina well was completed early in July, 1859, more than a month before the Drake well, and flowed 10 barrels of oil per day for more than two years! C. E. Chouteau of Muskogee, a great-grandson of Jean Pierre Chouteau who founded Salina, has gone back into old family archives for evidence to champion the cause of the Salina well.

In a letter written in July, 1859, Frederick Chouteau, who lived in Salina at that time, mentions “the deep well we have just finished drilling.” He states that “if it will continue to flow oil as it is doing at the present time, it will pay for itself in a very short time as they come from miles around to buy oil to light their houses.”

The well was drilled on property owned by Lewis Ross, brother of John Ross who was then Principal Chief of the Cherokees, but Frederick’s letters indicate that he had an interest in the well. In another letter about the well, Chouteau relates that he has just read that “a fellow by the name of Blondin about three weeks ago walked a tight rope across Niagara Falls.” Blondin’s feat was performed June 30, 1859.

Promoters of the Drake Oil Centennial in Pennsylvania dispute the advocates of the Salina well on the basis that Drake’s well “was the first oil well to be drilled . . . for the specific purpose of obtaining petroleum.” Their claim is that the Salina well was drilled for the purpose of obtaining salt. Salina historians say no; in that area it was never necessary to drill to such a depth to find a salt vein. There were oil seeps in the area, and on the strength of these the Salina well was meant to be an oil well at the outset.

But whatever it may have been meant to be, they insist, it turned out to be an oil well. One that flowed oil and did not have to be pumped—the first in the United States—and the first time oil was tapped at its source and produced for commercial purposes.

MORE SCHOOL HONORS

Since writing our article on the public schools, we have learned that Supt. George Ham of the
Continued from preceding page
Ardmore schools is a member of the National Educational Policies Commission (of which President Eisenhower is also a member), and that Inez Gingerich of Enid is a member of the National Education Association Policies Commission. If you know of other people who have won high honors in education, or are in positions of national responsibility, we would be mighty happy to hear from you.

OUR COVER ARTIST
About ten years ago, a young Oklahoma rodeo hand saw a painting of a horse with an oversize rump and a pin head. Then he saw the price tag for this artistic triumph. $50,000.

"I figured if that type of thing could bring that kind of money," says Orren Mixon of the revelation that got him off the saddle and behind an easel, "then surely I had something to offer in the way of horse portraiture."

Today, at 39, Orren is one of the top specialists in the U. S. in this exacting field. He has painted much of the nation's championship stock, from Texas to Tennessee and Washington State, from California to Boston. His work has appeared frequently on the covers of Western Horseman, Horse Lovers, Quarter Horse Journal, Cattleman, Hoofs and Horns; and his equine artistry is so sought after by eager owners, he's stockpiled well into the future with commissions at $500 up.

A graduate of Oklahoma City's Central High School and the Kansas City Art Institute, Orren lives on a ranch near Edmond. Here, while the rest of humanity seems to drag back and forth to the office, he enjoys life with his wife Evelyn and four young sons; in a big house with studio attached; painting, riding or fishing, as the mood hits.

OUR NEW CONTRIBUTORS
John Criswell (Southwestern Aristocrats) is a native Oklahoman from Stigler who went to Texas as Asst. Managing Editor of the Houston Press, and returned to Oklahoma to become press secretary for Governor Edmondson. He is a quarterhorse authority of long standing, and owns six quarterhorses in partnership with his father.

Jim Newlin (Cedar and Rocket) is employed at Tinker Air Force Base, with photography and scout work, Explorer Scout Post 47 in Oklahoma City, as hobbies. He is also organist at Southminster Presbyterian Church.

Dale Amstutz (Gold of Man and Nature) is an Oklahoma Baptist University graduate in psychology. He lives in Tulsa. Rock collecting, astronomy, bird-spotting, hiking, telescope making and woodworking are among his hobbies, the latest of which is photography.

Cherokee Country

By now, you'll be well on your way along a journey into the past that could consume your whole lifetime.

Tales of the Cherokee Stan Watie, last of the generals of the Confederacy to surrender. Of the Russian Prince Dolgorouki, descendant of the founder of Moscow and student of Rubenstein, who became piano teacher to the Cherokee elite in the 1880's. Of the Chiefs, from old John Ross in 1839 to W. W. Keeler, Exec. Vice-President of the Phillips Petroleum Company, today. Of Sam Candy who killed fifty men in one way or another during a colorful but rather checkered career . . .

Such is the lure of the journey into the past this land offers. But also, by now you will begin to sense another fascinating route of travel.

This is the journey into the future—into the sudden flowering of the white man's civilization in this area. For nearly a half-century, it lay sleeping in the shadow of the Cherokee's proud monument to destiny. Now it has come into its own, and with spectacular results.

For instance . . .

Drive south from Tahlequah about 7 miles along Highway 10 and you will find the most memorable bit of the Cherokee past. This is the Murrell Home, a beautifully preserved old Southern Mansion, complete with slave quarters. It harks back to the days when Chief John Ross and the other aristocracy built themselves a whole community of such fine homes here in the wilderness.

Drive farther south along Highway 10 and suddenly, in a breathtaking explosion of long, blue, snaking grandeur, you are confronted with the future. Lake Tenkiller. Over one million acre feet of water that filled in this Illinois river valley practically overnight, it seems—just since 1953—following the white man vision that sized up the implications of a dam near Gore.

And yet Tenkiller is just one of six man-made lakes which have transformed the old Cherokee country into a potential giant among this nation's recreation centers. West from Tahlequah about 20 miles lies Fort Gibson reservoir, still larger; and still larger yet, to the north 60 miles, Lake of the Cherokees spreads out its might against the cliffs carved by old Grand River.

Also in this area are Greenleaf and the Upper and Lower Spavinaw lakes; and yet to come are Oologah and Markham Ferry, two more swelling reservoirs each again much larger than Tenkiller.

And steadily in from the East, through Arkansas, comes inching the canal that will connect this region with the Mississippi, the Gulf and the St. Lawrence Seaway—due to reach Muskogee (just east of Fort Gibson reservoir) in only seven years!

The rush of people from Oklahoma and all surrounding states into this new (and in some respects, still somewhat raw) Garden of Eden has built up quite a head of steam. The fishermen were first, and still remain the largest in numbers. But fast mounting are the droves of boating and water sports enthusiasts. The National Snipe Regatta was held on Fort Gibson Reservoir in August,

Continued
Continued from preceding page

and skin-divers from four states came pouring in to Tenkiller for the Southwest Spearfishing Derby in June of this year.

Resulting benefits for the traveler are no end to the number of things to do and see, and plenty of good accomodations in all price ranges.

The Oklahoma Planning & Resources Board has invested millions in extremely fine cabins in major state parks at both Tenkiller and Fort Gibson. Western Hills Lodge in Sequoyah State Park has few rivals anywhere in the U. S. for up-to-date resort accommodations. In addition, there are literally hundreds of private resorts along the lakeshore ranging from the simplest sort of fishing cabins at $4.00 a night, to the swing rusticity of Snug Harbor resort on Ft. Gibson, which boasts the largest floating fishing dock in the U. S.

Of course, for many, the most pleasant aspect to travel is the kind of people you meet. It’s no exaggeration to say that the friendliness for which Oklahoma is noted seems to reach an extreme here. Stop for road information and you may wind up parting from some friendly soul you feel like you’ve known for years after just ten minutes of conversational give and take.

But most intriguing are the dreamers behind the visions, large or small, that build or color this area.

People like Ed Wright, the crusty ex-Tulsa tire merchant and rancher who sold off everything he had and sunk it all in Snug Harbor. The resort business has not been easy. Forced to diversify, he branched off into building boat houses and developing lakeside real estate. He is now one of the notable pioneers in the U. S. in all three fields.

Or the urbane and witty Bryce Roby, Chairman of the Board for Western Hills Lodge, whose free-wheeling optimism reaches out from this resort to influence progress in this area wherever a good word or two will do the trick.

And in or near Tahlequah: Dale Gaston, brilliant young editor who came in from Okmulgee two years ago to stake his future in the weekly Tahlequah Times.

Levi Haddock, proprietor of a one-man operation making chairs in the old-time craft tradition. The door to his small one-room stone Tahlequah Chair Factory is always open, so you can watch him saw and sand, and weave the seats from a roll of stripping.

The Ozark Nursery, built by J. E. Davis and Alvin Dickerson into the third largest grower in the U. S. Really quite amazing—their fields and orchards are scattered over so much of the countryside they use two-way radio to keep in touch with the workers afield.

The Thomas Cannery, where the very charming Mrs. E. L. Thomas makes jellies from wild fruits hand-gathered by the Cherokees to gift package for shipment all over the world. And the Sequoyah Weavers, where you can watch gracious Cherokee girls weave gorgeous rugs on hand looms.

These last two lie east of Tahlequah. Still farther east, back eventually over winding gravel roads into the wild charming heart of the Cookson Hills—and well worth the trip—is the Bidding Springs Mill. Built in 1838, the old water mill is in full swing today grinding out Golda’s stone-ground corn meal for fine food stores all over the Southwest.

Golda herself, a former Muskogee school teacher, now lives nearby the mill, and is loaded with tales of the old mill’s unique history.

See an authentic Cookson Hills moonshine still in the Sequoyah Park Museum, and by all means, see the Fort Gibson Stockade. This is a very impressive reconstruction of the fort built in 1824 to protect the peaceful Indians from the warlike northern tribes. It was manned by both Zachary Taylor and Jefferson Davis. Sam Houston also kept a trading post nearby. His Cherokee wife, Tiana Rogers, lies buried in the beautiful national cemetery three miles east of the fort.

And so our journey nears its end with still, most regretfully, much unseen. There remain two vital places to round out the visit, two shrines that with each passing year carry even greater meaning, not merely to Oklahoma or to the United States, but to an entire world hungering beneath the threat of atomic war for an honorable peace, and understanding.

The Will Rogers Memorial and Museum in Claremore, visited by millions yearly, is quite rightly the better known. But the shrine south of Stilwell that encloses the log cabin of Sequoyah, who in all the history of mankind gave his people the only written language ever worked up from scratch by one lone persecuted visionary, deserves to be better known.

It is fitting that both men should represent the finest flowering of the Cherokee race, with which the magic of this area began—but does not end.
The Cherokee Advocate

TAHLEQUAH, OCT. 8, 1844.

AGRICULTURE.

Bees when newly placed, may be caught by a silk or woolen cord. It is the custom to use candles or other articles of fire, to drive the bees from the hive. The beekeeper should be careful not to wound the bees with the cord, as they are easily killed by this means.

Terms of Advertising.

The Cherokee Advocate is published every Thursday morning, at the Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, for three dollars per annum. Subscriptions are payable in advance.

W. M. Ross, Editor.

J. D. Wofford, Secretary.

Tahlequah, Oct. 8, 1844.

The Cherokee Nation is a community of American Indians who were forced to leave their homes in the southeastern United States and relocate to the Indian Territory in the 19th century. The Cherokee language was spoken by this group, and the Advocate was an important source of news and information for the Cherokee people.

The image shows a waterfall and a wooden structure, possibly a mill or a water-powered machine, set against a natural backdrop. This hints at the agricultural and industrial aspects of life in the Cherokee Nation, emphasizing the importance of water and natural resources in their economy. The presence of rocking chairs and other rustic elements suggests a leisurely, communal atmosphere typical of the Cherokee lifestyle.
# Calendar of Events

## Month of September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Stephens County Fair</td>
<td>Duncan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 45</td>
<td>Bandana Club Rodeo</td>
<td>Tailgahp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 49</td>
<td>Sandlot Rodeo Tournament</td>
<td>Cowhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Cherokee National Holiday</td>
<td>Tailgahp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 57</td>
<td>Southern Senior Tournament</td>
<td>Sperry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 57</td>
<td>National High School Rodeo Association Show</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Oklahoma Girls Swim</td>
<td>Sulphur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>Labor Day Celebration</td>
<td>Henryetta</td>
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<td>Sept. 7-8</td>
<td>Davenport-Brookside Community Fair</td>
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<td>Sept. 8-10</td>
<td>Woodward County Fair</td>
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<td>Sept. 8-11</td>
<td>Annual Pillsbury County Fair</td>
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<td>Sept. 8-14</td>
<td>Panehola State Fair</td>
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<td>Sept. 9-12</td>
<td>RCA Prose Radio</td>
<td>McPherson</td>
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<td>Sept. 10-14</td>
<td>Oklahome State Fair</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 12-15</td>
<td>Cherokee Strip Celebration</td>
<td>Cherokee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>Oklahome Strip Fair</td>
<td>Cherokee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15-17</td>
<td>American Quarter Horse Show</td>
<td>Olathe</td>
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<td>Sept. 19-23</td>
<td>Logan County Fair</td>
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<td>Sept. 29-30</td>
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<td>Oct. 1-2</td>
<td>Scottish Rite Reunion</td>
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<td>Oct. 3-5</td>
<td>Oklahoma Co. Fair &amp; Horse Race Reunion</td>
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