July 1  RCA Professional Rodeo ... Yukon
July 1  Hereford Heaven Stampede ... Sulphur
July 1  Ponies of America Regional Show ... Alva
July 1  Pawnee Indian Homecoming ... Pawnee
July 1  Pokkocer Golf Tournament ... Wewoka
July 1  Grand Prix — Sport Car Races ... Ponca City
July 1  RCA Fred Lowery Memorial Rodeo ... Lenapeh
July 1  Indian Powwow ... Quapaw
July 1  Rodeo ... Wright City
July 1 — 5  Dance Masters of America ... Oklahoma City
July 2  4-H Quarter Horse Show ... Moore
July 2 — 4  Golf Tournament ... Elk City
July 2 — 4  Kiowa Guard Centennial ... Camaguey
July 4  soap Box Derby ... Henryetta
July 4  American Legion Fireworks Celebration ... Vinita
July 4  Kiwanis R.C.A. Rodeo ... Hinton
July 4 — 15  “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” Lyric Theater ... Oklahoma City
July 6  Outdoor Band Concert, OSU ... Stillwater
July 6  Caddo Tribal Dance ... Binger
July 6 — 8  J.R.A. Rodeo ... Antlers
July 6 — 8  All Girl’s Rodeo ... Duncan
July 6 — 8  Elk’s Rodeo ... Muskogee
July 6 — 8  Pioneer Powwow ... Okmulgee
July 6 — 10  Oklahoma Coaches Association ... Oklahoma City
July 7 — 9  Riders vs. Vancouver (baseball) ... Tulsa
July 7 — 9  BSU vs. San Diego (baseball) ... Oklahoma City
July 7 — 9  Sac & Faux Tribal Dance ... Stroud
July 10 — 13  89ers vs. Vancouver (baseball) ... Oklahoma City
July 10 — 14  International Fire Service Training Assoc., OSU ... Stillwater
July 10 — 13  Riders vs. San Diego (baseball) ... Tulsa
July 10 — 12  Golf Tournament ... Waynoka
July 10 — 15  RCA Professional Rodeo ... Broken Bow
July 10 — 13  Outdoor Band Concert, OSU ... Stillwater
July 13  Band Concert, CSC ... Edmond
July 13 — 15  RCA Professional Rodeo ... Enid
July 13 — 15  Roundup Club Rodeo ... Pauls Valley
July 13 — 15  Roundup Rodeo ... Walters
July 13 — 16  Otoe, Missouri Powwow ... Red Rock
July 14 — 15  Miniature Rodeo ... Moore
July 14 — 16  89ers vs. Spokane (baseball) ... Oklahoma City
July 14 — 16  Riders vs. Portland (baseball) ... Tulsa
July 15  Melon Festival ... Terral
July 15  National Brick & Rolling Pin Throwing Finals ... Stroud
July 16 — 18  Farm Bureau Women, OSU ... Stillwater
July 17 — 20  89ers vs. Portland (baseball) ... Oklahoma City
July 17 — 20  Riders vs. Spokane (baseball) ... Tulsa
July 18 — 29  “L T Ahern,” Lyric Theater ... Oklahoma City
July 19  Carol Byrd, Pianist, OSU ... Stillwater
July 20  Outdoor Band Concert, OSU ... Stillwater
July 20 — 22  Great Salt Plains Stampede & Rodeo ... Cherokee
July 20 — 23  Indian Powwow ... Walters
July 21 — 23  Roundup Club Cavalcade ... Pawhuska
July 21 — 23  Riders vs. Phoenix (baseball) ... Tulsa
July 23 — 27  Student Council Conference, CSC ... Edmond
July 23 — 27  Ponies of America Regional Show ... Alva
July 25  Chorus Concert, OSU ... Stillwater
July 25 — 27  89ers vs. Phoenix (baseball) ... Oklahoma City
July 27 — 29  Frontier Rodeo ... Poteau
July 28 — 30  International Roundup Club Cavalcade ... Pawhuska
July 28 — 30  Oklahoma City Powwow ... Oklahoma City
July 28 — 30  Riders vs. 89ers (baseball) ... Tulsa
July 29  Birthday Party ... Ardmore
July 29 — 30  Roundup Club Rodeo ... Clinton
July 31 — Aug. 3  Academic Deans Conference, OSU ... Stillwater
Aug. 1 — 12  89ers vs. Hawaii (baseball) ... Oklahoma City
Aug. 1 — 12  “Once Upon a Mattress,” Lyric Theater ... Oklahoma City
Aug. 3 — 5  Cimarron Rodeo ... Waynoka
Aug. 3 — 5  F.T.A. Rodeo ... Davis
Aug. 3 — 5  Little Britches Rodeo ... Hobart
Aug. 3 — 6  RCA Ranger’s Rodeo & Birthday Celebration ... Lawton
Aug. 3 — 6  Jaycee’s Rodeo ... Broken Bow
Aug. 4 — 6  89ers vs. Denver (baseball) ... Oklahoma City
Aug. 4 — 6  Sac & Fox Veterans Powwow ... Shawnee
Aug. 5  OU Indian Center’s Powwow ... Norman
Aug. 7 — 10  Homemakers Conference, OSU ... Stillwater
Aug. 7 — 10  Oilers vs. Hawaii (baseball) ... Tulsa
Aug. 9 — 11  Rodeo ... Rush Springs
Aug. 11 — 13  89ers vs. Oilers (baseball) ... Oklahoma City
Aug. 11 — 13  Watermelon Festival ... Rush Springs
Aug. 14 — 19  American Indian Exposition ... Anadarko
Aug. 15 — 20  Colt World Series ... Shawnee
Aug. 17 — 19  Classroom Teachers Conference, OSU ... Stillwater
Aug. 17 — 19  OEA/NEA Conference, OSU ... Stillwater
Aug. 18 — 19  Roundup Club Rodeo ... Wagoner
Aug. 18 — 20  Tulsa Powwow ... Tulsa
Aug. 18 — 20  Oilers vs. Phoenix (baseball) ... Tulsa
Aug. 18 — 20  100 Mile Horseback Endurance Ride ... Moore
Aug. 19 — 20  Chisholm Trail Centennial Celebration ... Oklahoma City
Aug. 20  Wranglers Invitational Play Day ... El Reno
Aug. 21 — 24  Oilers vs. San Diego (baseball) ... Tulsa
Aug. 23 — 27  RCA Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo ... Vinita
Aug. 24 — 26  RCA 101 Ranch Rodeo ... Ponca City
Aug. 24 — 26  Rodeo ... Madill
Aug. 24 — 26  Oil Men’s Golf Tournament ... Ardmore
Aug. 24 — 27  Cheyenne-Arapaho Indian Powwow ... Canton
Aug. 24 — 27  Ponca Indian Powwow ... Ponca City
Aug. 25 — 26  Amateur Rodeo ... Cordell
Aug. 25 — 27  89ers vs. San Diego (baseball) ... Oklahoma City
Aug. 25 — 27  Oilers vs. Indianapolis (baseball) ... Tulsa
Aug. 26 — 27  4-H Horse Show ... Stillwater
Aug. 28 — 30  89ers vs. Phoenix (baseball) ... Oklahoma City
Aug. 28 — 31  Payne County Fair Fair ... Stillwater
Aug. 30 — Sept. 2  RCA Professional Rodeo ... Woodward
Aug. 31 — Sept. 2  District Fair Fair ... Hinton
Aug. 31 — Sept. 3  RCA Prison Rodeo ... McAlester
Aug. 31 — Sept. 4  89ers vs. Indianapolis (baseball) ... Oklahoma City
Sept. 1 — 4  Golf Tournament ... Sulphur
Sept. 1 — 4  Golf Tournament ... Duncan
Sept. 3 — 4  Oilers vs. Denver (baseball) ... Tulsa
Sept. 4  Quarter Horse Show ... Shawnee
Sept. 4  Golf Tournament ... Cordell
Sept. 4 — 6  RCA Professional Rodeo ... Elk City
Sept. 6  Cherokee National Holiday ... Tahlequah
Sept. 8 — 9  Cherokee Strip Golf Classic ... Ponca City
Sept. 9  Federation of Square Dance Clubs ... Lake Texoma Lodge
Sept. 9  County Sho-D-O ... Wagoner
Sept. 9 — 10  Reformatory Art Show ... El Reno
Sept. 13  Play Day Finals ... El Reno
Sept. 13  Quarter Horse Show ... Wewoka
Sept. 15  Mexican Fiesta ... Waynoka
Sept. 15 — 17  Ceramic Show ... Assembly Center ... Tulsa
Sept. 15 — 17  Cherokee Strip Celebration ... Cherokee
Sept. 16  OSU vs. Air Force (football) ... Stillwater
Sept. 16  Cherokee Strip Parade & Sho-D-O ... Perry
Sept. 16  Appaloosa Horse Show ... Woodward
Sept. 16 — 20  World Invitational Bass Tournament ... Lake Texoma
Sept. 17  Invitational Golf Tournament ... Elk City
Sept. 17  Golf Tournament ... Perry
Sept. 17 — 19  Quarter Horse Show ... Woodward
Sept. 19  Cheyenne-Arapaho Pioneer Day ... Cheyenne
Sept. 21 — 24  Kiwanis International Assembly Center ... Tulsa
Sept. 23  OU vs. Washington State (football) ... Norman
Sept. 23 — Oct. 1  State Fair of Oklahoma ... Oklahoma City
Sept. 25 — Oct. 1  Art Exhibit ... Elk City
Sept. 28 — Oct. 1  R.C.A. Rodeo ... Oklahoma City
Sept. 29  Daughters of the American Revolution, OSU ... Stillwater
Sept. 29  Tulsa State Fair ... Tulsa
Sept. 30  OU vs. Maryland (football) ... Norman
Sept. 30  High School Yearbook Workshop, CSC ... Edmond
Miss America

War robe is perhaps, for the feminine gender, the most fascinating of all aspects of being Miss America. All those clothes! Variety unlimited! Here is Laverne's Jane Jayroe, our reigning Miss America, in just seven of her multitudinous ensembles. At this three-quarter mark in her year of reign Miss America has just returned from abroad, participating in fashion shows in Rome, Dusseldorf, Zurich, Stuttgart, London, Montreal, and Toronto. Her Joseph Bancroft fashions here were designed—

1—by Wilroy; a swirling, buds a bursting, luxurious tent dress for informal occasions.
2—by Mancini; patch pockets, short puffed sleeves, a "baby smock" with an air of elegance.
3—by Susan Thomas; a jet-about costume. Gold sho buttons marce down the front of her cardigan.
4—by Samuel Parness; a cool-as-lime dress in skimmer shape, with mini-yoke, seams extended to decorate the sleeves.
5—by Adele Martin; polyester knit with hip-hugged insert of white on yellow. A long-torsao costume for travel.
6—by Wilroy; white lines and circles intersected on black. A charming daytime dress, with bat-she neck line and flaring skirt.
Nearly a century has passed since Col. Benjamin Grierson paused on the shoulder of Medicine Bluff, firm in his conclusion that here was the site he would recommend. December 28, 1968, will mark the 100th anniversary of that historic incident.

General Phil Sheridan approved the site eleven days later. "Little Phil" selected his ambulance driver, an Irish enlisted man named Johnny Murphy, for the honor of driving the first stake marking Camp Wichita, soon re-named Fort Sill.

Deep in Comanche country, the Indian wars became the first order of military business. There have been many campaigns since. There are fifty marked historic sites, reminiscent of every American armed conflict since

Along Cannon Walk are captured enemy weapons that thundered over distant battlefields, in Austria, Italy, Korea, Germany, the Japanese held Pacific Islands.
1868, on the military reservation.

It is a sobering yet lifting emotional experience, to see these historic sites, to recall their price in struggle. Too few Americans have paused on Cannon Walk beside the 88mm gun, captured from Rommel’s Afrika Korps. For many, such words as Civil War, Boxer Rebellion, doughboy, have become just words. Or worse, caricatures as meaningless as “mod” humor.

Oklahoma Today urges that during these summer months, without fail, you, your family, must visit Fort Sill; Hamilton Hall with its relics of Colonial times and the American Revolution; McClain Hall with its story of artillery through World War II; the Post Guardhouse where the Apache patriot Geronimo was confined; the Post Corral where the western frontier assumes reality.

All will be open every day, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., including every holiday this summer. They will remind you from whence this nation came.

B.B.
When the sun is shining, the pool is a gem.
But at night, when the coyotes cry from the hills, the pool is something else. It is the H'ant Hole, setting for legend.
The pool is on the old Bar X spread. The legend begins with a drowning. The body was never recovered.
One night each year, the drowning victim returns to the place where he died.
He comes out of the dark woods, riding a gray horse across the waters of the pool, climbs a high hill to the west, and disappears.
Oddly, the rider is headless. There is no sound, no rasp of hoof on stone, no breath-stopping scream; just silence, and the headless rider moving relentlessly to the west.
Charley Thomason, pioneer cowman at nearby Jesse, agrees there was death at the pool. But not one, three. Thomason has his version from a member of the famed Chickasaw Colbert family, who told him three Indians were lost in the pool.
They did not drown.
They were taken by the “tying” snake, and vanished without a trace.
The huge snake is said to live in the H'ant Hole. His den is an underwater cave under the rocky ledge at the head of the pool. He seizes his victims, ties their bodies in knots, and hides them in his cave.
This is limestone country. There is a cave under that ledge, a big one. Nobody knows how big. A few brave swimmers have entered it, gingerly, and to no great distance.
The pool is unquestionably deep. Thomason and a cowboy friend once tied two lariats together with a large stone secured to one end. They had almost 70 feet of rope. They could not reach bottom.
By day it would be hard to find a more perfect swimming hole, and the old stories are just amusing tales.
But when the sun has gone from the hills, when clouds drift across the moon and there are only the night sounds, the laughter does not come so easily.
... color photo by the author.
The Pawnee Veterans' Homecoming, June 29 to July 2, is a patriotic celebration. Its purpose is to honor all veterans, of every race and creed. All veterans who wish to participate are cordially invited.

You are invited. Your presence at the celebration is a visible expression of your belief that all of America's war veterans deserve recognition. Indian people have always especially honored veterans-warriors. There are no draft card burners among Indians. They are our nation's most patriotic people. From ancient times, among Indian people, the greatest honor that could come to a young man was, and is, that he be chosen to go to war. To fight with courage and valor for his people, our people, for you; to prove himself worthy as a warrior was, and is, his strong desire. The flag of the United States is flown at Indian veterans' ceremonials with a special patriotic pride that is rare in twentieth century America.

B.B.
AUGUST 14-19  Indian people enjoy going visiting, much in the tradition of the family reunion and Sunday gatherings of relatives so familiar in an earlier, rural America. At Anadarko’s Exposition each summer you may encounter Aztecs from Mexico, Crows from Wyoming, Sioux from the Dakotas, Pueblo tribesmen from New Mexico, Navajos from Arizona; and our Kiowas, Comanches, Cheyennes, all Oklahoma Indian people return these visits in good time, traveling to enjoy the fellowship of Indian ceremonies throughout the American West. This in part accounts for the great variety of beautiful, and costly, handcrafted Indian costumes you’ll see this August in Anadarko. It accounts for the variety of dance ceremony, Indian games, and for the fact that during the Exposition in Anadarko you can hear more different languages than are spoken on the entire European continent. The television and such activities may grow dull, but Indian fellowship never lacks lustre.  

B.B.
Three Little Words:
But, Oh,
What They Involve...

MAIN BASE CHECK

The huge jet lifted gently from the long runway. Wisps of exhaust formed a trail behind its powerful engines. As it climbed, two men watched from the huge American Airlines Tulsa Maintenance and Engineering Base. The aircraft was an AA Astrojet, leaving the base.

The Tulsa American Airlines Maintenance and Engineering Base is the only one of its type, holding a unique place in the ever-expanding picture of modern aviation. Essentially, the Maintenance Base is keyed to American Airlines planes, although they accept some government contracts and work from other airlines. From the vice-president in charge of the Base to the newest among its 4,600 employees, there is an air of alert competence.

Heading up the operation is George A. Warde, a native of the Chicago area, who says, "I am an Oklahoman now, and I very much appreciate the people of Oklahoma, especially those who work at American. You can't beat them. They have
integrity and, most important, they get the job done.”

All the multi-phases of the Base structure funnel into one basic aim; keep American aircraft in the air, under exacting specifications. The watch-dog of the aviation industry’s air carriers is the Federal Aviation Agency. The FAA sets rigorous standards in every area of passenger carrying and, last year, American received the green light from the FAA in a new concept of maintenance. The FAA certified American to be the first, and as yet today, only Designated Alteration Station.

This means that American can make design modifications and repairs to FAA standards without FAA authorization, which saves untold manhours and paper work in an era when minutes mean dollars to an air carrier.

The Tulsa Base has been in operation for 20 years. It has swelled from a two-hangar maintenance depot to over a million square feet of working area under roof. The Base now has an operating budget of $116 million each year. Its facilities are valued at $30 million. Its 4,600 employees earn an annual payroll of $42 million.

In the 1940’s the durable DC-3 carried American’s passengers and the Tulsa Base maintained Continuous Airworthiness Visits for the twin-engined planes. In modern terminology, a plane’s visit to the Base is a Main Base Check. The Base last year serviced their 200th Boeing jet aircraft.

Last year 69 aircraft went through the Tulsa Base for Main Base Checks; 138 jet engines were overhauled; 706 engines were checked and repaired; contract work for other airlines totaled $8.5 million. American reached a milestone in aviation this past year when they retired the last piston engine aircraft and converted completely to Astrojets. They also began a military airlift to Vietnam on contract, using jet airfreighters, flying intrinsic supplies weekly to southeast Asia.

Since the advent of the jet in commercial aviation the complexity of aircraft has risen 650 percent. When an Astrojet arrives at Tulsa on a Friday evening, full crews go to work on an around-the-clock basis. It is ready to go back into service the following weekend. The silver and red planes come to Tulsa after 7,000 flying hours, about a year and a half of flying.

American has made application to the Civil Aeronautics Board to fly a new route over the Pacific. The Tulsa and Oklahoma City Chambers of Commerce are cooperating in this venture, which would provide one-plane service from the two major Oklahoma cities to the South Pacific and the Orient.

There are futuristic innovations at the Tulsa Base. When an employee finishes a job he goes to a computer type device and records completion of the work. Data fed into the machine facilitates the immensely complicated job of parts accounting. Eventually computer operation, providing instant information, will keep track of all equipment.

Operation and airplanes are costly. Some of today’s jets cost upwards of $7 million. Tomorrow’s Supersonic

BY HUGH W. SCOTT

OKLAHOMA TODAY

FIFTEEN
Transports will cost $35 million. American had a crew in France recently checking on the cockpit configuration and cabin color design of the English-French SST, the Concord. Equally close contact is being kept with the development of the Boeing SST at Seattle.

There is another massive jet in the near future. Boeing is making a plane that will carry 450 passengers. Consider the problems this immense plane may create for ground personnel. What, for example, if such a plane could not reach its termination point because of bad weather there, and had to land at Tulsa? Local airline people would have to provide meals, hotel accommodations, and ground transportation for 450 people.

This 450 passenger plane, the Boeing 747, will have 13 stewardesses, compared to four on today’s jets. Imagine the problems of loading 450 passengers! Tickets may be issued in different colors, with passengers going to the loading area matching the color of their ticket. If each passenger on an arriving 747 was met by two friends, there could be 1350 people moving through the terminal, from just that one flight. Consider the problems of handling that mountain of baggage.

American recently ran an advertisement in a New York City publication, announcing the first 747 flight from New York to Los Angeles, on July 1, 1970. The reservations office was flooded with calls, seeking to book passage both ways. The plane will have a unique “stateroom” on the top deck for private parties. This area was booked for the first flight by a manufacturer who plans to announce a new product on the flight—a product that hasn’t even been created yet.

American Airlines’ SABRE reservation service handles reservations for passengers on a high speed basis. When the wire is quiet during the late night hours, maintenance people take advantage of the lull. A distant station may notify Tulsa of a parts need, and within minutes the part is on its way.

The Tulsa Center is the hub of the company’s Airborne Integrated System (AID). This Buck Rogers device is on all Astrojets. It takes 90 different readings on various parts of the plane while the aircraft is in operation, reporting engine exhaust temperatures, when the pilot lowered the flaps, all aspects of the plane’s performance in flight.

When the trip is terminated a small magnetic tape cartridge, on which all the information is recorded, is taken from the plane. The information is immediately sent by wire to Tulsa’s computer. Within seconds a report shows the complete condition of the aircraft. Any needed repairs are noted. By showing trends in engine operation it can forecast repairs before they are required.

As the cost of individual aircraft rises in millions of dollars, the cost of international travel continues to be reduced. Efficiency of maintenance, of which the Tulsa AA Base is a prime example, is in no small part accountable for this happy circumstance, as it is for the fact that air travel is safe, comfortable, and fast.

Columbus’ first journey to the new world occupied more than eight weeks. Today’s traveler can cross the same ocean in less than eight hours. The fare for Columbus was about $14,000. For today’s traveler, the fare is markedly less, under $300. That’s progress.
The tang of frost was in the air that morning in late October when Claremore raised the money to put a roof over a cherished dream. School was out for state teachers’ meeting; just two days before Halloween.

The trouble was, many a Claremore teenager didn’t know what to do with the holiday. Some were still abed, their transistor radios squeezed up in their fists, even as a stir within urged them to do something big.

Suddenly their interest sparked; 7:45 and, over radio station KWPR, came; “OK — LA — HOMA, where the wind comes sweeping down the plain . . .

“Good morning, and welcome to Sounding Board,” the well-modulated voice of Wayne Rowley began. The music reached its zenith, softened, and he explained the whole deal. Hey! This was big. They were right in the middle of a marathon; money was being raised to build a permanent home for the prized Lynn Riggs Collection.

A donor didn’t have to be rich. If you had even fifty cents to give, you could become a donor.

Teenagers counted their change; even folding money. Billfolds came open. The telephone at KWPR started ringing like crazy. Donors came on the air giving names and pledges. The old spirit, “if he can do it, I can do it!” ran away with itself. Wayne Rowley of KWPR, Paul E. Neely, President of the Claremore Lynn Riggs Memorial Commission, and Stan Thomas, Secretary of the Claremore Chamber of Commerce, took turns at the microphone, while the faithful recording of OKLAHOMA! in the background, played right on.

Sounding Board is a weekday, 7:45 program, which usually lasts fifteen minutes. On this particular day it ran until noon. When they finally announced the results they had raised $2500 in one morning.

Contributions ran from fifty cents to $100; pledges were made by people of all ages. Every donation was appreciated. Without

continued

By Maggie Culver Fry
benefit of one cent from the legislature or any other outside help, Claremore had raised this money on her own.

The idea of using Sounding Board to launch this fund-raising marathon was originated by Paul Neely. Sounding Board itself is an original idea of KWPR's Wayne Rowley and his former partner Bob Brewer. Over Sounding Board, current issues are discussed; anything pertinent, from redistricting to local curfew. Anyone old enough to express a view is encouraged to phone in.

Claremore already had a building site for the Lynn Riggs Memorial. They also had a nest-egg of $250, a gift from Rodgers and Hammerstein donated in 1959 at the solicitation of Bob Fowler, Claremore musician and ardent admirer of Lynn Riggs.

On the famed playwright's sixtieth birthday, August 31, 1959, this check was presented to the Claremore Garden Club. On that day, dignitaries, friends, and relatives overflowed the Will Rogers Library to pay homage to the memory of Lynn Riggs, born near Claremore and educated here through high school.

In 1959, Oklahoma Today asked me to prepare an article on the life of Lynn Riggs. The article ended with a plea for a suitable permanent home for the Lynn Riggs Collection, since Dr. Noel Kaho, first president of the Lynn Riggs Memorial Commission had convinced me of such a need.

When the musical OKLAHOMA! opened in New York in 1947, Dr. Kaho and others had been present at the premiere. OKLAHOMA! is an adaptation of Lynn Riggs' play GREEN GROW THE LILACS. At that time, Dr. Kaho made arrangements to obtain the "Surrey with the Fringe on Top" used in the premiere.

That same year they surveyed the proposed building site on the Will Rogers Library grounds. Shirley Jones, Star of OKLAHOMA!, was present for the groundbreaking ceremony. Then, despite the fact that there were many generous donors, financing grew harder and harder. Something had to be done. That was when Paul Neely came up with his idea. Why not a fund-raising marathon over Radio Station KWPR?

And they did it! They raised the necessary funds in one morning! Volunteer workers rolled up their sleeves then ... dig, pour foundation, carpentry, finishing, painting. Here was Claremore group action . . . for real.

The building is annexed southwest of the Will Rogers Library, and was dedicated December 9, 1966. Pi Kappa Alpha, Lynn's fraternity, had hoped to get the Riggs Collection to display at their national headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee, but Lynn's brother, Edgar, and his sister, Mrs. Mattie Cundiff, preferred to keep the collection in Claremore.

A visit to the Lynn Riggs Memorial is inspiring. There are the original drafts of Lynn's poems and plays. There are many photographs and congratulatory letters from celebrated friends. You'll see a picture of the playwright receiving his Doctorate of Letters from Western Reserve University.

Everything is of interest; his personal library . . . a miniature stage, accurately scaled . . . tom-toms . . . Lynn's guitar . . . many important citations . . . the original "Surrey with the Fringe on Top", beside it a lifesize figure of the dainty girl who starred as "Laurie"; she wears a gray suit and yellow straw bonnet . . .

styles of another day.

Here is the evidence of young Lynn Riggs' impassioned dream. We turn to look at his lifesize portrait. The inscription reads: Lynn Riggs — 1899-1954. Poet-Writer-Dramatist. On the opposite wall hangs the Oklahoma state flag. Suddenly we feel that a great Oklahoman has passed our way.
INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR GUYMON

Recognized as Toastmasters' Town of the Month and featured on the cover of that organization's international magazine, Guymon has joined a distinguished parade of cities which include Hong Kong, Taipei, Kwajelein, Calgary, Cour d'Alene, Sydney, New Orleans, Washington, D.C., and Maracaibo. The Toastmaster magazine comments on the Guymon-Hugoton gas field, world's largest, and the only U.S. field where helium is commercially extractable. "During the past three years," says the magazine, "a local industrial committee has assisted in the location of a $350,000 livestock commission company, a half-million dollar feedlot operation, and a $4 million beef processing plant... under construction is a $23 million reservoir... The Toastmaster salutes Guymon, Oklahoma."

COWBOY KING

(On visiting the National Cowboy Hall of Fame)

Not the man at the bar in old-fashioned saloons
Knew the cowboy best, for he saw
But the smoke and the flame that toed-up the boots
Of the slowest cowpoke to the draw.

But the dust-covered days of cutting the herds,
Of throwing them out on the trail,
Riding point in the teeth of a cyclone sometimes,
Or through north-blown sleet like a gale.

Then to start the herd milling, in case of stampede,
Roused from bed-roll by gunshot and shout,
Or to calm the horned critters, with old cattle-song,
In a storm with chain-lightning about!

Sculptor, mould him in saddle, where most time he lived,
On the top of some hill, looking down,
With the sun in his face and the wind in his hair;
And his ten-gallon hat for a crown!

... Rudolph N. Hill

HERITAGE—CHEROKEE CULTURAL CENTER

Three miles south of Tahlequah on Hwy. 62 you may now leave the 20th century and enter a complex of log houses, earth houses and dome-shaped o-sis, in which Cherokees live as did their ancestors in the southern Appalachians three hundred years ago. The villagers are dressed in 17th century costumes and practice the crafts of their forefathers. Traditional Cherokee dances and Indian stickball games are a part of the village life. Only the Cherokee language is spoken in the village, except by guides, who are modern young Cherokees. Next phase in the development of the Cultural Center will be the construction of an outdoor amphitheater. An epic outdoor drama, telling the story of the Cherokees from the Trail of Tears through the Civil War, will be presented here each summer, beginning in 1968. Phase three will be the Cherokee National Museum. Phase four, the Cherokee National Archives. Oklahoma Today urges you to visit the Cherokee Village, now open, and observe the other phases as they build toward completion.

Fable of the FORTITUDINOUS FROG

Have you heard of the long, misguided jump Of the frog who was surprised to learn He had landed not in a hollow stump, But in an old brown wooden churn?

He struggled and strangled and rose and sank In the deep thick clabber it contained; He lost composure, his mind went blank But as it happened, both were regained

And he knew at once: for a certainty He was not one of a shameful ilk Resigned to perish ignobly, And drown in a vessel of curdled milk!

So kicking he churned for himself a pad Of firm gold butter, perhaps a pound, On which he rested until he had The wit to leap to the solid ground.

... Frances Eleonore Schluneger

OKLAHOMA SCRAPPBOOK
SPECIAL SCHOOL SERVICES IN OSAGE COUNTY

An educational development now in progress in Osage County is attracting national attention. It suggests a way of obtaining broad educational advantages for children living in small communities.

Osage County's Special Services Program operates independently, not a part of any single school system. It is financed with funds from the federal Elementary-Secondary Education Act. It is designed to compliment and enrich the offerings of every school in Osage County. The Special Services professional staff of twenty-two regularly includes a clinical psychologist, an educational psychologist, specialists in counseling and guidance, in speech therapy, social work, and remedial reading.

This staff is augmented during summer months for course offerings to gifted students. Last summer these included: in Hominy-Latin; in Pawhuska—Latin, Dramatics, Music Appreciation and Art, and Humanities; in Fairfax—English Composition; in Barnsdall—Business Economics, Music Appreciation, Arts and Crafts; in Shidler—Art, Creative Writing, and Music Appreciation; in Wynonna—Creative Home Decoration. Students from throughout the county were enrolled in these courses, providing their own transportation, at their own expense, to participate.

Field trips included out-of-town musical programs, visits to historical museums, industrial tours, and art gallery tours. The Gilcrease staff, Tulsa, Oklahoma State University, and Kansas University presented programs in Osage County in connection with the summer courses.

In a small school the program is most apt to be weak at the extremes of the educational spectrum; lack of remedial help for the below average student, and lack of opportunity for the gifted student. Osage County's Special Educational Services Program provides strength in both areas.

Small schools, unable to employ a school psychologist, a counselor, without guidance programs, with youngsters in need of remedial reading or speech therapy, obtain help from Special Services. A materials and research library has been set up in Pawhuska for use by all Osage County teachers. Expanded offerings in science and government are projected future summer courses for gifted students.

Queries regarding the Special Services program have been received in Osage County from Florida, Minnesota, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Montana, Virginia, Pennsylvania, other states, and the Territory of Puerto Rico, indicating a wide interest among people in the problems of living where they want to live while still providing their children with educational advantages.

THE SYMBOL

My mother had a hanging lamp
Suspended from a rafter
One note of prairie elegance
Faith's symbol, and bright laughter.
When Mother pulled the shining chains
Which held the magic light
She put a match to well-trimmed wick
And, suddenly the night
Crested back in dusky corners,
And in the central glow
An angel stood, hand-lifted.
With gentle sigh and slow
She pushed the lamp bowl upward
And watched the golden chain
While crystal prisms twinkled —
Rainbows after rain.
No pain nor hurt could linger there,
No trouble of the day
Could long abide in our small hearts
Where rainbows were at play.
Sometimes when shadows thick and dark
Into my life have drifted
In need of faith, I light her lamp
And see her there, hand-lifted.

(Winner of the Miriam Whitney White award for the poem contributing the most to Americana. Published in "Kaleidograph.")

CHISHOLM TRAIL CENTENNIAL

The Oklahoma Historical Society is devoting its annual tour this year to the Chisholm Trail Centennial. Festivities will commence when the Oklahoma group meets the Texas celebrants at the Red River crossing near Terral on August 19. The four day tour will include overnight stops at Duncan; Oklahoma City; and Enid; with commemorative ceremonies all along the route. It will end at Caldwell, Kansas, where, in company with the Kansas party we'll probably hurrah the town in the grand old tradition of all Chisholm Trail riders after the long trip up the trail. Wh-o-o-ope.

WOMEN WOMEN WOMEN

Eve ate the fruit so long ago
But questions in the gloaming;
Were quickly answered by the man;
He whispered, "Woman. Woman."

He ate half that apple, too,
That started man a-sinnin';
But now, he shouts when things go wrong,
"Women! Women! Women!"

If the television breaks,
It starts his temper spinnin';
If the wiring blows a fuse,
He just shouts, "Women! Women!"
His whistle stops her as she walks
Though dressed in furs or denim;
But let her car stall on the road,
And he shouts, "Women! Women!"

So... half the apple made a peach
The other half a lemon;
But ask the grocer salesman why...
He just says, "Women. Women."
...Opal May Miller

NEW VACATION GUIDE
Travel publications and guides are devoting much deserved space to Oklahoma. A reason: a splendid travel writer—Geary’s Kent Ruth. His Oklahoma coverage in the new Humble Vacation Guide is a joy to read.

WIVES BOOST TOURING
While the legislators were in session, their wives were busy stirring up enthusiasm for seeing Oklahoma. The legislative wives’ annual luncheon featured a style show emphasizing what to wear for a weekend at a state park or lodge. Swim suits modeled by Donna McSpadden and Nancy Bamberg; the prize-winning outfit from Truman Capote’s Black and White Ball modeled by Kay Terrill; the white crepe evening gown worn by Irene Dunn for the Motion Picture Academy Awards was modeled by Ann Bartlett; arrayed in a variety of vacation wear were models Donna Nigh, Mary Jean Massad, Margaret Bradley, Sandra Barr, and Shirley Ann Spearman. Returning to their homes over the state, the ladies aim to imbue others with their enthusiasm—travel and see all of Oklahoma.

NEW BOOKS
THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS by William H. Leckie (Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, $5.95) Oklahoma’s Kiowas and Comanches bestowed the name “buffalo soldiers” on the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry, because those soldiers were black, like the buffalo. These Negro troops served with valor all over the southwestern frontier and border country; in the Indian wars, hunting down horse thieves and outlaws, and on border patrol. Whereupon historians seemed to forget their color. Few have mentioned that these were segregated Negro troops. In a strange way, perhaps that is a distinction. It is good, at last, to see this fine book, which gives full credit, where credit is due.

A MAN COULD GET KILLED THAT WAY by Weldon Hill (David McKay Co., New York, $5.50) Bill Scott, as a spinner of tales, is without peer—whether he is writing under his name or his pen name Weldon Hill. This yarn is about an ordinary fellow who, fired from his job in a town like Tulsa and mildly in trouble for taking a swing at the boss who fired him, decides to disappear for a while, making a float trip down the river in his homemade boat. A beautiful spy hitches a ride. He is hotly pursued by murderous killers. There is not one dull sentence in this tale from first to last. The Chicago Tribune says the book has a message: “Life is a broad mysterious stream; the prizes go to the man who is ready and can act.” If life was always as much fun as Bill Scott can make it, it sure would be great.

THE INDIAN: AMERICA’S UNFINISHED BUSINESS compiled by William A. Brophy and Sophie D. Aberle (University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, $5.95) In these latter years of the 20th century Americans are increasingly troubled by the problems of a conquered people in their midst. The 83rd U.S. Congress, embarking on a program of termination, set in motion the processes which produced the Commission on the Rights, Liberties, and Responsibilities of the American Indian. This book is the Commission’s report and recommendations.

JESSE JAMES WAS HIS NAME by William A. Settle, Jr. (Univ. of Missouri Press, Columbia, $6.00). The University of Tulsa’s Dr. William A. Settle has written the ultimate book on Jesse James. His opening anecdote, involving Mark Twain and Jesse James, is a gem, his biography of America’s most famous bandit is authoritative, his account of the literary and dramatic outgrowths of the Jesse James legend is amazing.

HUENUN ĖAMKU by M. Inez Hilger (Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, $3.95). The Araucanian Indians in the Andes Mountains of Chile, a primitive people, developed an excellent set of systems, social, religious, and economic, for coping with their environment. They are remarkably similar to Oklahoma Indian tribal groups. Rarely has it been possible to complete so excellent a study. Sister M. Inez Hilger and her assistant Margaret Mondloch were able to accomplish this study through interviews with the aged, and articulate, Araucanian, Huenun Namku.

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
In this year’s competition, in which every town that enters is a winner, the following won special recognition; Gold Plaque, Wetumka, Fairview, Alva, El Reno, Muskogee; Silver Plaque, Carnegie, Kingfisher, Broken Arrow, Woodward, McAlester; Certificate of Special Merit, Hartshorne, Mooreland, Texhoma, Yale, Atoka, Broken Bow, Chandler, Guymon, Vinita, Wewoka, Clinton, Durant, Sapulpa, Bartlesville, Enid, and Norman.

KLAHOMA TODAY
TWENTY-ONE
At 7 a.m., a camper wakes to find his clothes securely knotted to the iron legs of his cot.

At 8 his appetite, sharpened by outdoor living, has been assuaged by pancakes and bacon.

At 10, his brow knits as he and seven friends debate a problem of ethics and religion.

After lunch he jolts upright in bed when the enforced quiet of rest period is shattered. Today the distraction is garbage can lids crashing down the dormitory staircase.

At 3 p.m., returning to the campground after a hike through silent woods, he hears the crack of bat on ball, the slap of bare palm on volleyball, the clink of horse-shoes, the shouts of swimmers.

By 5, he and friends have piled 17 mattresses on a counselor's cot. He is hunting more mischief.

But after dinner, his is one of 30—or 80—or 1200 heads bowed at vesper services.

His heart is reached, but his personal commitment puts no ceiling on his exuberance. In the pre-bedtime fellowship period, his is the funniest stunt, the corniest talent, the loudest singing voice.

After lights-out, he fights sleep long enough to outlast his roommates. Their clothes, after all, need knotting.

So ends a typical day at an Oklahoma church camp.

Highway travelers seldom see these camps, for they are tucked deeply into the woods and hills. They nestle against lakes and woodsly streams. The buildings, although substantial, do not intrude on the breath-catching panorama of nature.

In such a setting, there is time for looking inward at the soul. There is time for gazing outward toward the future.

For the purpose of providing young people the opportunity to pause and take stock, and to supplement their religious training, many denominations have established camps within Oklahoma's borders. Many of the camps are in our eastern hills and mountains. The
Oklahoma Council of Churches hopes eventually to provide a large campground in the western part of the state, to be used by denominations in rotation.

Group Camps in Oklahoma State Parks are available with first priority to church groups. These include, in western Oklahoma, Quartz Mountain State Park, Red Rock Canyon, Roman Nose, Boiling Springs, Little Sahara, and Black Mesa. In eastern Oklahoma, Beaver's Bend, Robbers Cave, Sequoyah, Lake Wister, and Greenleaf. Centrally located south, Lake Murray State Park; and north, Osage Hills.

As many as 50,000 Oklahoma teens and pre-teens attend these camps each summer. When they describe camp, they speak first of fun and new friendships. Meanwhile their ministers measure the camp's value in spiritual terms; for them, there is lasting evidence that camp fulfills its purpose.

The fact that almost all sessions are co-educational does not dull their luster one small bit.

Some camps are used year-round for retreats, conventions, and business meetings by both youth and adults. Most camps hire permanent caretakers and cooks as needed. The staff is made up of ministers, ministerial students, college-age leaders, and adult laymen.

Dwight Presbyterian Mission near Vian, currently running ten camp sessions of six days each, was once an Indian Mission school. Also a former Presbyterian Mission Station is the Salvation Army's Heart O' Hills camp at Welling. The Mission was located under huge elms here, surrounding a spring. It is recorded that Sequoyah came to teach once each week in this mission.

Lutherhoma was begun in 1934 as a Lutheran Indian Mission in the Standing Rock Bend of the Illinois river. After the building of Tenkiller dam Lutherhoma cabins and the caretaker's log house were forded across the Illinois river to an area five miles east of Tahlequah.

Also near Tahlequah is Camp Egan, the first and largest Methodist camp in Oklahoma. Two of Camp Egan's 26 housing units are so elegant they provide tile baths and wall-to-wall carpeting.

Eschewing such comfort, junior high youths may choose a two-week "pioneer camp" in a primitive section of Methodist Canyon near Hinton, an area "converted" in more than one sense—it had previously been known as Devil's Canyon. It is a beautiful area; the sub-climate of the canyon sustains the flora and fauna of New England in a western Oklahoma setting.

Here, at Camp Egan, and at Lake Texoma Methodist Camp, are dormitories, cabins, dining halls, recreation areas, outdoor chapels, study centers, infirmary, and canteen. At Lake Texoma Camp, the 20-foot lighted cross beside the lake, and outdoor chapel adjacent to the cross, are favorite areas.

The Oklahoma-Texas Conference of Evangelical United Brethren lease Camp Redlands from Oklahoma State University, and have built Wiens Memorial Cabin, an all-weather, interior finished chapel, on the north shore of Lake Carl Blackwell.

Camp Christian, on Fort Gibson Lake, was established 12 years ago by the Christian Churches of northeast Oklahoma. Texoma Christian Camp, near Kingston in southern Oklahoma, has been in operation since 1956. Central Oklahoma Christian camp near Guthrie was obtained in 1958.

The state's oldest church camp is the Falls Creek Baptist Assembly in the Arbuckle Mountains. Falls Creek observes its 50th Anniversary this year. The first campers were housed in tents. Gradually facilities have been added until the 195 acre camp now can accommodate 10,000 to 12,000 campers simultaneously. The Baptist camping program encompasses all ages.

Many individual Baptist Churches own their own cabins at Falls Creek. Some sleep as many as 100 persons. For smaller groups, dormitories and a cafeteria are provided.

The steel-supported roof of Falls Creek Tabernacle shelters a 150-voice choir area, and bench seating for the entire assembly. On the camp grounds is a bookstore, a music building, a small chapel for classes and special services, a grocery store and ice dock, post office, canteen, and an infirmary staffed by volunteer doctors and nurses.

The general plan of most denominations is to provide teaching in an outdoor atmosphere where learning is heightened by the absence of daily pressures. Emphasis is on a total experience, in which faith is seen as vital, more than on the transmission of facts or data to be memorized or learned.

There are numerous cases of chip-on-shoulder teens who have switched the patterns of their lives after a week at camp. "I came to make trouble," they confess to the camp director, "but after the first day, I changed my mind." Their hometown ministers watch proudly as summertime resolutions take fruit.

Legion are the married couples who first met at camp; a casual summer acquaintance which blossomed into romance during college years. The decision to pursue full time church service careers often is made at camp.

To quote a minister, "Camp is a time of thinking new thoughts, of being challenged, of deepening one's relationship with God. It all happens in a setting of natural beauty, good fellowship, activity, discussion."

A leisurely pace, give and take, good fun, camp leaders and ministers too find camp a stimulating experience. Resourceful and inspired leadership is necessary to cope with high-spirited youth; like the minister who had to cope with the traditional final-night-at-camp robbery of the bell clapper. He climbed the pole next morning and clanged the wake-up signal with a claw-hammer.

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odedos are on the rise, and Henryetta's Jim Shoulders and Elk City's Jiggs Beutler are putting the wild ones on the road and into the chutes at a growing number of the country's arenas.

Producing rodeos, which means you furnish the stock and put on the show, is no venture for drug store cowboys wary of getting their new boots scuffed. It requires a combination of things: working cowboy, businessman, showman, public relations—and sometimes you have to do "a little doctoring."

Such as the day Big Bad John wasn't enjoying his "vittles" at the Shoulders ranch east of Henryetta. He's a Braford—a cross between Brahma and Hereford—and there's a saying that goes: "Big Bad John don't like nobody." Rodeo producers prefer the "Brahma" crosses because they buck better—they're good performers.

A swaggering fellow with a convincing set of horns, Big Bad John has slammed into the National Finals Rodeo and is just the sort of rough customer a veterinarian would rather treat over the telephone.

At this time especially, for adding to Big John's natural techiness was a bothersome tooth. As the rations went into the feed box, he jammed and horned and bluffed other bulls away. Only Mohammed, a Brahma, stood his ground. Then, half-heartedly, John turned to his ample breakfast.

"We'll have to rope him and throw him," Shoulders said, keenly observing every grind of John's jaws. "Have to file that tooth down. He's sure not takin' to his feed today."

Each bucking bull and each bucking horse is an individual, a distinct character. That's further apparent when you "make a little circle" at feeding time in a pickup truck to the bull pasture. Jim Shoulders, and Jon Heindselman, the ranch foreman, start whooping and the bulls begin a slow drift toward the feeding ground.

There is Roto Rooter, another Braford with an awesome sweep of horns, wider than Big Bad John's. He's a star performer at the annual Oklahoma State Prison Rodeo, which is held behind the walls and draws 50,000 spectators. The daring inmate who snatches the little sack off the Rooter's horns wins a canteen prize, no less than a heroic feat.

And also out there are Batman and Robin, Doctor Jekyll and The Bad Guy and Tornado. (*"Kids name

BY FRED GROVE

TWENTY-FOUR
most of 'em.") This Doctor Jekyll eats range pellets out of Shoulders' hand; in a rodeo it's another story. "He's a pro who does his work in the arena," the foreman says.

Most famous of the Shoulders bulls is Tornado, a Braford, ten years old this year, four times picked the best bucking bull in the world. In top condition, he weighs in at 1,700 pounds. He's never had a qualified ride, which means no cowboy has stayed on his back eight seconds. "Bulls don't last as long as bucking horses," Shoulders said this spring. "Somebody will ride Tornado before long. He's getting to that age."

Another "circle" takes you to a pasture among the snuffy bucking horses. Shoulders keeps about 200 head on hand. They come from many places. Some from the auction at North Platte, Nebraska. They range from 900 to 1,600 pounds, with the smaller broncs used for bareback riding.

Again the colorful names. Teacher's Pet is used in the Shoulders Rodeo Riding School and the Prison Rodeo. Cactus Jack has bucked in all the National Finals since they were established in 1959.

It takes other stock, too — roping calves, mostly crossbred, some Brahmas; and Mexican steers for roping and bulldogging. The steers, which "come off hard country," weigh from 500 to 650 pounds.

Shoulders began riding professionally when he was fifteen and has been world's champion bull rider seven times and bareback bronc riding champion four times. But you have to read the large sign outside Henryetta on Interstate 40 to learn that he ever won anything. A trim five-eleven 170-pounder, he still competes and rode in four rodeos last year.

Four times a year eager beginners, mostly boys in their late teens, come to the six-day school sessions for instruction in bull riding, bareback and saddle bronc twisting. Usually more hopefuls apply than can be accepted. They enroll from as far away as Hawaii and Canada. Enrollment is limited to twenty cowboys for each event each session.

"First of the week they think they'll not get enough stock to ride. After a few days, they go to soring up and picking their stock."

One of the school's young cowboys, Ralph Maynard, of Thunder Butte, South Dakota, won the amateur bronc riding at Cheyenne, Wyoming, and in his first professional year made the National Finals in saddle bronc riding.

Jim's wife, Sharron, helps him in many ways, and his

continued
During 1967 Jiggs and his father have 25 rodeos booked in seven states. All stock is trucked. In all, the two Beutler stock companies produce an estimated eight or nine percent of the 550 to 600 rodeos which the Rodeo Cowboys' Association sanctions annually in the U.S. and Canada. “To keep up,” Jiggs never travels under 75,000 miles a year.

“The average four-day rodeo,” he says, “takes 65 to 70 bucking horses, 10 to 12 parade horses, 40 calves, 35 bulldogging steers, and 28 to 30 bulls.”

The Beutlers use numbers instead of names for their bulls, and a tour of the stout corrals at the home of Elra shows the familiar Brahma crosses, including some thick-necked buckers with Charolais breeding. One bull looms massively above the others. He's No. 39, a Brangus, topping 2,100 pounds. Rodeo producers buy virtually all their bulls, mostly from Texas. An exception is one raised on the Beutler ranch “from an old milk cow.”

“That's seldom a bucking bull is a good fighting bull,” Jiggs explains and points out that Henryetta's Tornado is an exception. “You want at least one fighting bull at each performance, though it’s better to have two. The crowd likes to see a bull chase the clown and bang the barrel.”

Talk soon shifts to horses, and “every horse is a personality.” There is Nowata, a 12-year-old, 1,200-pound sorrel, whom Jiggs purchased five years ago off an amateur string in Nebraska. “He's a good bucking horse. Always puts on a good show. Been to the National Finals every year. He’s seen the sights in ‘Frisco, Denver, San Antone, Houston, Oklahoma City, and elsewhere. A good bucking horse gets around.

“See that little black horse? That's Johnnycake. He's 23 years old. Bought him two years ago off Casey Tibbs. . . Johnnycake’s been to Tokyo. World’s Fair, who died this winter, had been to Brussels and Tokyo.”

Bad News, a six-year-old dun, flung up his head and gave us a challenging look as we drove through the pasture. He went to the National Finals last year in Oklahoma City, which again will be the site of rodeo's “world series” in December.

Jiggs buys a lot of horses in the Dakotas, Montana, and Utah. “I'm like a baseball scout, always on the lookout for a good prospect, horse or bull.”

son, Marvin Paul, 16, is handy with a rope. He has three daughters—Jamie, 18; Jana, 10; and Marcie, 5.

It's bluestem grass country where Jim Shoulders feeds and pastures his rodeo stock. North of Elk City, where Jiggs Beutler and his father, Elra, operate, it's short grass country. Native grama and buffalo hold down the sod in the rolling red hills, which show careful land and water management. Jiggs and his father formed a close rodeo stock partnership in 1956.

Contracting rodeo stock is a longtime family following among the Beutlers. Jiggs' uncles, Jake and Lynn, recently sold their stock to a Colorado company, but will remain with the new outfit two years. In 1928 Elra and Jake and Lynn staged the first rodeo in Clinton, “driving the horses over.” About that time they bought their first Brahmas at the dispersal sale of the old 101 Ranch.

An earlier beginning goes back to John Beutler, Jiggs' grandfather, an 89er who homesteaded southwest of Okarche and came to the Elk City area in 1903. He raised crops, traded cattle, and handled a heap of salty horses.

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And like Jiggs, Jim Shoulders is on the phone a good deal when he's home. "A fellow will have a horse that snorts real good and he'll think he's got a bucker, or some fellow wants to sell me a bull. That's part of the game. Replacement is a big item." Some horses, he said, buck hard when an inexperienced rider is aboard. But put an old hand in charge and sometimes the horse, after a few jumps, will quit and go to running. "However, you can figure there's one explosion in every horse."

Critics who think rodeo animals lead hard lives should see stock on the Beutler and Shoulders ranches. Everything is well fed. Horses, for example, besides being grained regularly, get their feet trimmed and draw a day's rest on the road between rodeo appearances. "It's not unusual for a bucking horse to live thirty years," Jim tells you.

After one bunch of Beutler horses has bucked in two or three rodeos, Jiggs and Elra rest those horses and truck out another bunch. Meanwhile, the bunch just off the circuit is put on pasture. "That freshens 'em up faster than anything," Jiggs says. "When we bring the horses off pasture, we grain 'em to make 'em stout. We rotate our bulls, too."

Trucking and feed are the two biggest expenses a rodeo producer has. Transportation costs at least fifty cents a mile. Last year Beutler and Son's feed bill on the road totaled $24,000. Last winter's feeding at the Shoulders' ranch averaged $200 a day.

When does the rodeo season start? Well, Odessa, Texas, staged one last December, and Shoulders supplies stock to a weekly rodeo at Mesquite, Texas, which runs from May through September. "Rodeo is like professional golf, where you don't take home any money if you don't win. In rodeo it's hucklebyuck on your own."

When summer comes, Jiggs Beutler's family goes with him much of the time; his wife, Una; son, Bennie, 18; and daughters, Dollie, 17, and Vickie, 16. Dollie is a professional trick rider, a member of the RCA. There's rodeoing on both sides of the family. Mrs. Beutler's four brothers were all professional riders.

But producing rodeos is more than a business. Jiggs Beutler and Jim Shoulders represent a continuation of the western spirit and western traditions. These native Oklahomans are personable men—generous, friendly, sincere, courteous. Each has a warm sense of humor. And each man is, first, a cowboy.
Ever hear of a police force that protects society without carrying guns?

Well, of course there's Scotland Yard. But even the non-gunbearing agents of Britain's famous Yard wouldn't try to enforce the law with nothing more protective than a handful of safety stickers.

Safety stickers? Somebody must be kidding. It does sound ridiculous, but that's the chief "weapon" carried by members of the Oklahoma Waterways Patrol, a cruising crew that looks after safety and decorum on our state's growing lake area without firing so much as a water pistol.

It may surprise some oldtimers who still think of Oklahoma in dust bowl terms that things have got a lot wetter in these parts since Grapes of Wrath days. Way back there, nobody had any idea this state would ever need a rain gauge, much less a water patrol.

But the fact is that boating and related water activities make up an industry with 250 millions of dollars invested in Oklahoma. More than 90,000 boats—and with that many skippers out for a Sunday drive, somebody has to keep an eye on them... even without sidearms. So the water patrol goes around checking boats to see if they deserve to be given Genuine, Official, Glue-On-The-Back State of Oklahoma Safety Stickers.

C. Ray Wood, boss of the patrol, likes to dwell on Oklahoma's new water-eminence. Once he got on this subject at a national meeting of boating law administrators, and described his force's coverage of 17 lakes and 1500 miles of shoreline.

He also touched on the fact that when 11 more lakes already approved or under construction are finished, Oklahoma will have more shoreline than any inland state.

One disbeliever, from a famous boating and fishing
state, couldn't swallow that. "Why, we've got thousands of lakes," he protested.

Wood was unshaken. "How big are your smallest lakes?" he asked.

"Oh, about five to ten acres."

"Well, we've got a lot of those, too," said Wood, dismissing the claim. "But in Oklahoma we call 'em farm ponds."

Farm ponds aside, the Waterways Patrol has its blue-and-white boats on every major non-municipal lake in the state except three; Grand, Hudson, and Carl Blackwell.

In pursuit of safety, its patrolmen inspect all vessels, check life-protecting and other equipment, referee territorial disputes between skiers and anglers, perform rescue work, keep reckless drivers in line and occasionally arrest an offender.

"We don't have much trouble with people on the water," reports Layton Stich, patrol supervisor on Keystone, Hulah, Heyburn, and Oologah lakes. "Most of them are out for recreation and are very co-operative. Most of our work is educational."

When they find a boating-law infraction, the patrolmen would rather give a warning than a summons. Occasionally a boater refuses to follow their educational advice and has to be taken before the nearest court.

But even that doesn't require the use of guns—not when the water policemen are backed by the county sheriff's office and the state highway patrol.

The water patrolmen are peace-loving men. But the best way to get in trouble with them is to go out in a boat carrying improper life-protectors. Patrolmen have been known to scowl heavily at boaters trying to get by with ski belts instead of inflatable vests, jackets or cushions. The law requires a life-saving device approved by the U.S. Coast Guard—and ski belts are not approved.

"Your head can go below the water with a ski belt on," Stich explains. "People have drowned wearing those belts. A proper life-protector must have two-thirds of its buoyancy in front of the wearer; if you go into the water face down, it will turn you over."

The drowning warning is no mere theory. A three-year-old girl wearing a ski belt drowned at Canton Lake when she fell into the water and couldn't regain her balance.

Ray Wood cites statistics showing 90 percent of all drownings occur within 10 feet of safety. Oklahoma had more than 50 drownings last year, but only nine of them were boat-connected. Considering the rise in boating, the number of drownings involving boats has declined in the state.

"We like to think we're partly responsible for this decline," says Wood. "At least people know we're there, and they're more conscious of water safety."

A young man who almost drowned last summer certainly can thank the patrol that he didn't make the statistics. He had been swimming with two other men at Thunderbird Lake near Norman but had gone under and was pulled from the water unconscious. Ron Sallee, a water patrolmen, saw a crowd gathered around him on the beach and gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until a Norman fire department rescue unit arrived.
All members of the patrol are required to have Senior Red Cross life-saving certificates. The force normally consists of about 20 patrolmen, but is more than doubled in the summer. The average age of patrolmen is slightly under 40. There is no formal age limit, but Wood once had to reject an applicant who stated he was 80 years old.

Dramatic rescues are not everyday occurrences for the patrol, but the unexpected is never far away. A few years ago a patrolman, James Powers, was called out about 11 p.m. to help look for a group of missing boaters. The water was choppy and cold, but Powers kept looking, and after about four miserable hours he found a capsized boat with its four former occupants—thoroughly chilled—hanging onto it. He pulled them into the patrol boat, righted theirs and towed it to shore.

Sometimes the work is just dogged and grim, as in recovering the bodies of drowning victims. The patrol stays on the recovery job until it is completed, no matter how long it takes. In one case at Lake Murray, patrolmen in shifts worked 42 days before finding the body.

Other cases would be almost laughable if they didn’t take so much time and trouble. Typically, a worried wife calls deep in the night to ask for help; her fisherman husband is out on the lake and long overdue. The patrolman tries to find out what part of the lake the husband frequents. Then he goes out on the manhunt, perhaps wondering why he couldn’t have found some normal, routine career like a trainer in a flea circus.

So the lake detective, stabbing the night with his light, peers and probes until he finally finds the missing man—still fighting his battle with rod and reel.

“Your wife is worried about you,” the weary patrolman reports.

The husband is obviously worried, too.

“Shhh!” he says. “They’re biting like mad!”

In spite of such episodes, most of the patrol’s work is rewarding. One new phase has been a series of high school safety talks, started last year. So far, 79 schools have invited patrolmen to put on their water-safety programs, and by the time the off-season series is completed the message will have been presented to 25,000 students. Hopefully, the result will be a generation of future boat-owners pre-sold on the virtues of safe water-driving.

Leaders of the patrol say they don’t have much trouble with reckless drivers; most people are more cautious on water than they are on highways.

Layton Stich on teen-age pilots: “From time to time I have to call down some young fellows who are careless. If they act smart, I let their fathers know what they’re up to, and they straighten the kids out. But I tell the boys, ‘If you get hurt out here you’ll go to the bottom of the lake. If you break an arm in a car wreck you can lie there until somebody picks you up, but out here by the time we can get to you it will be too late!’ When that sinks in, we don’t have any more trouble.”

Stich is among the pioneers of the state water safety program, which began in 1960. Two years earlier Congress had passed the Bonner Act, requiring that all pleasure boats be numbered—but allowing each state to write and administer its own law in conformity with the
Oklahoma passed its law in 1959, placing boat safety under the State Planning and Resources Board. The Waterways Division has never had an appropriation, but has existed on boat and motor license fees.

One night in December, 1959, at his home in Muskogee, Ray Wood received a call from the late Wayne Beard, director of the Planning and Resources Board. Beard wanted him to head the new Waterways Division. 

"I don't know anything about boats," Wood protested. "I'm an accountant."

"Well, it's brand new," said Beard. "Nobody else knows anything about it either."

Wood finally took the job, and has been at it ever since.

He has been recognized by other states and by the U. S. Coast Guard for the job he has done in Oklahoma, and has helped several other states set up their own boat and water safety programs. He is a member of the Advisory Panel to the U. S. Coast Guard, and is president of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

He credits a good state law with much of the success of Oklahoma's boating program. His own job was made easier from the beginning when he hired Robert Pike, a 39-year-old retired Navy man who had taught small-boat handling at Annapolis. Pike later became his assistant.

The Waterways Division is now part of the State Industrial Development and Parks Department. One of its biggest jobs is registering—by mail—all boats and all outboard motors of more than 10 horsepower.

The problem today is that the law requires that boats and motors must be assessed each year before licenses can be issued. About 40 percent of the applications have to be returned for lack of this annual assessment. As a former accountant, Wood has to be appalled by this bookwork, but the patrol's main job is still safety on the lakes. When a license is issued the boat owner receives a little red slip of paper that carries these five requirements:

1. Carry your boat and motor registrations at all times.
2. Have a Coast Guard approved life-saving device for each person on board.
3. Have proper numbers on both bows; colors must be in contrast with the color of the boat so as to be easily read at a distance.
4. Have a rear-view mirror or second person in the boat to observe skier.
5. Driver or passengers must not sit on the deck, gunwales, or transom.

There are other rules of safety that every boat owner should know—and will, if he encounters the Waterways Patrol. But Ray Wood insists there would be no problem if boaters would just use common, ordinary horse-sense. That's one rule that applies to every boat, every boater and every lake in Oklahoma. And the farm ponds, too.
In Lake Texoma—not very far, in fact, from Texoma Lodge—lies a chain of islands. The sandy beaches along the northern portion of the chain are popular with the boating set, swimmers, picnic parties, all manner of summer vacationers seeking a place to play in the sun. Max Eggleston, columnist and outdoor writer, caught the scene in color. Max writes:

"The big boats and cruisers push their bows against the beach, spaced only a few feet apart, lining the shore. Stern anchors are thrown out to hold them in place.

Men, women, and children, all in swim suits, are constantly busy. The kids with life belts are in the water. Lounge chairs under awnings mark the location of older people. You can see tents, but no permanent structures. They aren't allowed. The hot-rod group can be seen and heard as they water-ski behind fast runabouts.

But the person hunting peace and solitude can also find it here. Many of the little coves are too shallow for larger craft. In a small boat, with care, you can escape the crowd. Beach your skiff and get out on the shore. Pick up a handful of clean, big-grained, wind-blown sand.

With an early start, a full day of exploration lies ahead. Surprises await as you walk over each little hummock. You’re startled as a pair of mallards explode from a stand of salt cedars. These unexpected happenings slow your pace. An abrupt stop is made at the next sandy point. There is a sight seldom seen in the daytime—a big gray-whiskered beaver. The wise looking animal sees you, slowly shuffles into the water, and swims from view.

If you're a bird watcher, take your glasses and notebook. You might spot an osprey. Watch closely, for suddenly he'll partially fold his wings and slant in toward his prey, hitting the water with a big splash to bring out a fish in his talons.

In the sky, a fighter escort of two fussy scissor-tails dips and dives at a passing crow. The small belligerent fighters harass the raucous bird all the way across their island domain.

Other birds I've seen here are the red-winged marsh-birds, cardinals, mockingbirds, and kingfishers. You'll be amused at the little shore-runners with legs moving so fast they blur—looks almost as though they're on skates.

Last winter I saw two bald eagles perched in the top of a huge barren tree. In the spring, for just a few days, a large flock of bluebirds lands to rest. You might see them at the same spot for several consecutive years.

Most fascinating of all are the huge flights of gulls and sooty terns soaring off the islands. You can count on them hitting this area about the middle of August. Fishermen watch for their flashing wings and head toward them, for they know that under the screaming, dipping birds, they stand a good chance of finding the sand bass.

If you hear a high strident giggle in the distance, more than likely that'll be a gathering of laughing gulls holding court on the sandy beach.

One day you might spend fishing. You slip into a quiet bay. Here, it's so still that you and your companions find no need for talk.

The only sound is a slight hiss induced by a miniature maestrom as you give the oar a gently persuasive pull that propells the boat toward a row of stumps—stumps out of which through the years several trophy bass have been taken. These stand on the edge of deep water . . ."
When Jake Hamon arrived in New York City in the spring of 1913, he knew what he was looking for. An ingenious man, Hamon soon managed to locate himself in the bar of the old Waldorf Hotel, right in the midst of the greatest financial wizards in America. Here he sought someone with money, to finance his dream.

The famous barroom was patronized by the most illustrious financiers, Otto Kahn, the Vanderbilts and, among the new generation, the young genius Bernard Baruch. Among these men, Hamon hoped to find one with patience to listen, and faith to follow him to southern Oklahoma. Jake Hamon wanted to build a railroad, and he found his man; circus king John Ringling.

Shortline railroads were not unknown to John Ringling. Traveling the rails with the Ringling Brothers' Circus he had become intensely interested in the industry. Jake Hamon had no trouble convincing him of the potential in Oklahoma. Ringling had a knack for recognizing areas which needed spur lines to connect with nearby mainlines.

In 1911, Ringling had financed a 20-mile line connecting White Sulphur Springs, Montana, with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul at Broken Jaw. The White Sulphur Springs & Yellowstone Park Railroad replaced a stagecoach which had been operative in central Montana since goldrush days. That ancient stagecoach is now displayed in the Woolaroc Museum near Bartlesville.

Jake Hamon's dream, and John Ringling's once he had seen the countryside just north of the Red River, was to develop the cattle land west of Ardmore. Six
years earlier, the fertile soil which lay along the Chisholm Trail there had been part of the Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory. Now, in 1913, Hamon and Ringling saw its potential as a location for a railhead and shipping point. Construction began. The new road was given a name as gaudy as any ballyhoo that ever decorated a Ringling Circus poster; the Oklahoma, New Mexico & Pacific Railroad.

The first rails had just been laid when an unexpected bonanza was discovered. J. M. Critchlow of Titusville, Pennsylvania, brought in a gusher on the farm of Wirt Franklin less than ten miles from the railroad right-of-way. The oil boom was on.

Ringling sent his attorney, John M. Kelly, to Oklahoma to buy as much oil property as he could. Kelly, with Jake Hamon's help, managed to purchase some 8,000 acres of oil rich leases. The new oil strike became the “center ring” for John Ringling, and the building of the spurline continued with new vigor—the vigor that follows all “booms” whether there is gold to be mined, or oil to be drilled.

The Ringling railroad carried the roustabouts, roughnecks, and tons of equipment necessary to develop a new oil field as far as the end of the tracks. There they were transferred to freight wagons. As developments were made in railway transportation, Eastern lines began to abandon their wooden coaches. John Ringling purchased many of these from the Hartford & New Haven Railroad and sent them to Oklahoma. These New York Limited coaches, plush and richly-upholstered, were used to transport the roustabouts and roughnecks. Quarters along the work line for section hands and commissary were outdated cars from the Ringling Brothers’ Circus special train equipment.

One of the construction camps along the railroad was named Wilson, in honor of Ringling's secretary, Charles Wilson. Oil field suppliers set up shop at this budding community. Wilson became the principal supply point for the oilrush. The rails continued building westward.

Ringling was negotiating for a townsit to build around the railhead at the end of track. In April, 1914, a land purchase made from Pinkney B. Turner became the terminal point for the railroad and the new town there was named Ringling. Ringling, with its railhead, soon outgrew nearby Cornish after a lively struggle with overtones of frontier violence.

The new oilfield grew to become the largest in the world at that time. Ringling, bustling with activity and bursting with excitement, became an oilboom town. At the height of the oilrush as many as 1500 freight teams operated from Ringling, hauling men and equipment from the railhead to lease locations.

John Ringling sold the railroad to the Santa Fe in 1924, but his oil leases there still contribute to the Ringling estate. Nearly sixty percent of the original leases remain in the hands of the Ringling heirs.

The shortline railroad which Jake Hamon and John Ringling began in the Waldorf Bar in New York and finished in the rolling green hills of Oklahoma prospered beyond their wildest dreams. A record accomplishment, for Hamon the promoter and Ringling the showman were entrepreneurs whose dreams at times resulted in the wildest kind of schemes.  

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EDITORS
BILL BURCHARDT
PAUL E. LEFEBVRE

HUGH W. SCOTT
CIRCULATION AND PROMOTION

ROBERT H. BREEDEN
DIRECTOR

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