Resourceful Oklahoma

Lake Wister State Park near Poteau
Invention Misses Mark

A Shawnee man who has a long list of inventions to his credit has found his latest creation, although apparently a success, has backfired.

Ralph L. Holcombe designed what he intended to be a device to teach spastic or polio patients to relearn to walk.

Instead the gadget caught the fancy of the entertainment world and has been pressed into service as a dance instructing aid. Holcombe's patent applications call the invention a "visual cueing aid for teaching dancing."

The inventor has received queries on the machine from TV men Gary Moore, Herb Shriner and Les Lear, and was scheduled to appear on Walter Cronkite's CBS program with the gadget.

Several film companies have contacted him concerning pictures of it, and dance instructors in Shawnee and Oklahoma City are enthusiastic about its possibilities, Holcombe said.

Swing and Sway

The invention, manufactured by Thomas Industries of Shawnee, is an aluminum framework 8 feet wide, 4 feet long, set on casters so it can be pushed around the dance floor by an instructor.

With toe-tip habit-harnessing arms attached to the toes, the instructor moves his feet in time with the music and electric lights set in the apparatus throw onto the floor images of the correct foot positions. Students are supposed to place their feet on or directly behind the images.

The machine allows the instructor to teach several pupils at the same time— and keeps awkward learners off teacher's toes.

Holcombe said if enough interest is shown in the device he will manufacture it in Shawnee.

One of Holcombe's other inventions, a "walker" to help spastic or polio patients, is being manufactured in Ada. It is also used by older persons crippled or weakened from illness.

"Buzz" Makes Pilots

Much of Holcombe's inventiveness has been directed towards airplanes. He patented a flight training device used by the naval air training command and named the "buzz bonnet." The helmet device works on the principle of impact—audible impulse sent through a vibrator unit operated by batteries. A blind student at Ada was taught to fly with it in 45 minutes instruction. He said he could take a Piper Cub up by himself after 45 minutes instruction. He said he could ride a bicycle but had never flown.

Other inventions include devices enabling handicapped persons to feed themselves, turn on the radio and accomplish other self-help.

Long Service

Holcombe, who grew up in Ada and Los Angeles, has been flying and instructing since 1930. In 1940 he went to Canada and joined the transatlantic ferry service of the British, flying bombers across the Atlantic.

Since then, living in Washington, D.C., he has piloted for American Airlines, North Star, Caribbean-American and other private companies and for the New England Helicopter Co.

He returned to Oklahoma last year and divides his time between Ada, where his father is ill, and Shawnee.

New Plant Slated

Officials of Continental Baking Co., Tulsa, have announced they will build a $1,250,000 plant in the Sheridan Industrial Sites, making the third company to move into the new industrial area.

Plant manager Sam F. Prest said the plant will cover about two acres and should be ready for occupancy early in 1955.

The Continental plant now is located on part of the site of the proposed civic center.

Resourceful Oklahoma

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Cool Air by Remote Control

An Oklahoma City man has developed a booming business on an air-conditioner-heater that has the motor in one location and the coil in another.

Jimmy Harden, 36-year-old native Oklahomaan and sole owner of International Manufacturing Company, sells air-conditioners all over the world, Egypt, Iran, Shanghai, Africa, Spain, Manila. The units are used in the Drake hotel, Chicago; the largest apartment hotel in Havana; the Desert Inn and the Sahara, Las Vegas, and the new Liberty National Bank Building, Oklahoma City.

They will be installed in the Holiday Inn motel now under construction near the Oklahoma City end of the Turner Turnpike, Harden said, and recently went into the new Hacienda motel, Fresno, Calif.

“We've sold some of the biggest construction companies in the world,” Harden said, “Manhattan Construction in Oklahoma and Del Webb.”

He started making coolers in 1947 and has “doubled production every year since. The units have a central system without duct work. Pipes are used instead, thereby cutting down the chances of fire.

Remote Control

Harden said he saw the remote control method—the theory International air-conditioners are based upon—in action when he had an old icebox that was too big to go through the kitchen door. The motor was moved to the basement and the box to the kitchen.

“I figured if it would work on an icebox, it would work on an air-conditioner,” Harden said.

He started working on the unit in 1946 and was ready for production in '47.

“I made one unit and ran an ad in a trade magazine,” Harden said. “We got back 400 orders.”

Building the motor away from the coil has several advantages, Harden pointed out. The unit takes up less space in a room, and noise is reduced to a minimum.

His first office was a $20-a-month building in north Oklahoma City. Then “it burned down with a $50,000 loss. We had $5,000 insurance.”

Building Increases

Harden moved in 1949 to his present location with 4,000 square feet of floor space. “In ‘51 we added another 1,000 feet; in ‘52 another 3,000; 5,000 in ‘53, and we just finished adding 6,000 more this year.”

“We’re close to the market here in Oklahoma,” Harden pointed out: “And there are other good points about the state—nice weather conditions and the labor supply is both intelligent and good.”

International employs about 30 persons. “There’s just one thing wrong,” Harden continued. “This state needs banking facilities for manufacturers. Bankers will loan money on a cow or an oil well and either one could go dry.

“But I can’t get a loan on my machinery, even though there’s several thousand dollars worth. I can’t even get a loan when I receive an order. I have to fill the order and ship the units. Then I can borrow money until I receive payment.”

Company Makes Coil

The company manufactures the complete coil and everything in the unit except the motor which is specially built. Harden added he thinks his company is the only air-conditioner manufacturer that makes everything in the coil between Chicago and Los Angeles.

In addition to making the cooler, Harden designed and built his own machinery to manufacture the air-conditioners.

Ceiling Units Neat

The ceiling units come in 12 sizes and four types, and fit easily into a closet. Harden has a unit in the bathroom adjoining his office and leaves it open—without a cabinet—to show visitors.

The unit is between the ceiling and the top of the door with the vent on the office side of the door. Temperature can be regulated to suit each room.

Harden said as many of the units were sold for their heating as for their cooling abilities. When we put them in an older building, he said, we just use the old boiler and run water through it in the winter.

The units are sold through manufacturers over the nation, and Harden does most of his personal selling by telephone (the transatlantic calls mount up to several hundred dollars each month).

However, the manufacturer has a Beech Bonanza for the various sales trips he has to make around the country. He was a B-24 pilot during World War II and made several missions over Europe while stationed in Africa. He was shot down in 1943.

In addition to air-conditioners for buildings, Harden makes air-conditioners for cars. “We made the first automobile air-conditioner in 1947,” Harden said, “And this year we built more than General Motors.”

He makes the units sold by Frigi-Car, Kold Kar in Abilene and Mobil-Air in Ft. Worth.

Harden adopted as trademark a globe showing the western hemisphere because “we needed something that sounded big.” The company seems to have lived up to its trademark.
Oklahoma

Oklahoma Military Academy stands on a hill just across the highway from the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore. It watches over the land that Will Rogers loved and the place where he lies buried. And the sight of the Memorial is a reminder to each cadet and each instructor of the duty entrusted to the academy.

The stamp of citizenship the academy tries to implant in each boy is Will Rogers' own brand. Will would want the boys to be taught honesty, hard work, courage, cleanliness and friendliness. These character elements made him great; the academy believes these same characteristics will build a stronger America.

Oklahoma Military Academy is one of the few state-owned military schools, and the only state-owned military school with a junior college. Since the time of Will Rogers, the academy has continued to grow until it has 36 buildings and a campus that gives more than enough room for its rumbling armored vehicles to maneuver.

O.M.A. is an Honor R.O.T.C. school, and has been for nearly 25 years. This is a record topped by no military junior college in the U.S. The academy has sent more graduates as officers into the military service than any other military academy boasting a junior college. Army inspectors have never failed to rate it among the very highest in their annual inspections, higher than many four-year military schools.

At this time, administration officials are busy making preparations for the 1954-55 school year that begins in September. Col. Homer Ledbetter, president, is optimistic about the enrollment for the 1954-55 year, and predicts total enrollment will exceed last year's.

Colonel Ledbetter said the federal government has accepted the school's program as one of great value to the country. For the first time, he said, both junior and senior R.O.T.C. programs have been given full recognition by federal authorities. He explained that a young man now can enter O.M.A. and receive his certificate of eligibility for a commission in the reserve corps or the regular army with four years of academic and military achievement.

The very nature of world affairs makes this type of training important to our youth, Ledbetter maintains. "Our America and our way of life is in danger," he said. "With war clouds churning throughout the world and with communism facing us in every facet of our lives, it is important indeed that we choose with care the educational pattern of experience for our young men—the nation's greatest resource."

The new year will offer a reorganized sports program and this phase will be particularly stressed. Four coaches, who will serve also as assistant commandants, will be in charge of the stepped-up sports plan.

The first O.M.A. cadets had to live in tents. Since that time improvements have been made almost every year. Recently, the state legislature authorized construction of what is probably the most modern library-science building in northeastern Oklahoma. Parents gave money that built the new visitors' center, and a year ago the board of regents authorized construction of ten new faculty homes on the campus.

To these physical improvements Colonel Ledbetter has assembled a faculty that no other junior college in the state can beat. Every man has a master's de-
greek in his field, and each is a fulltime, professional teacher trained in handling boys.

The supervision and the military training produce team work and precision that generals have commended. Topping all academy activities are the school's marching band and the famous precision drill team. These units have performed before many dignitaries who have come into the Tulsa area for many years. The drill team was honor guard to men like President Truman and General Van Fleet. It has appeared in parades in many states as well as in most Oklahoma cities. The marching band has long been recognized as Oklahoma's finest and is yearly swamped with invitations from cities holding celebrations.
Medicine Park
Beckons Again

By Harry Ford

The old Queen of Oklahoma’s resort areas is waving away her hustle and shortening her skirts. Straight out of an historic past that began half a century ago, Medicine Park this summer is emerging from a thorough remodeling and modernization. Once a playground of statesmen and sports stars, the park is showing aside an eclipse of the past decade and inviting a new generation of Oklahomans and tourists to visit the banks of Medicine Creek in the Wichita Mountains of southwestern Oklahoma.

Medicine Park is a community of 2,200 citizens nestled in a picturesque valley between two large lakes at the foot of one of the state’s highest mountains. The park was first opened as a resort area by a railroad company, beginning about the time Oklahoma became a state. In 1910 the area was purchased by Elmer Thomas, one of the state’s leading political figures and later U. S. senator. Thomas built his private home on the banks of the creek and Medicine Park flourished as the leading resort park in Oklahoma for many years.

Park Bustled

The Oklahoma Press association made the park its summer headquarters, and excursion trains were run to Lawton with passenger jitneys hauling visitors to the park 12 miles away. Early-day tourists, riding in new-fangled automobiles over dirt roads, thronged to the park by the thousands to swim in the clear waters of Medicine Creek and to partake of Dr. Baird’s health baths. (Dr. Baird is gone now, but Mrs. Baird still lives at the park in the home built in 1922.)

During World War II the tourists began to bypass the park; beer cans began to litter the grass, and the buildings began to show their age. Medicine Park became a “has-been.” Then, about a year ago, a couple of young fellows became interested in reviving the lost glory of the past. They formed the Medicine Park corporation, purchased the park’s 1,000 acres, and a new day began to dawn for the old resort area.

Rejuvenation in Process

Something like $100,000 is being poured into the refurbishing of the park and its facilities. With strong support from the permanent residents of the area, the corporation is remodeling the swimming facilities, cleaning up the once-stately grounds, and in general putting Medicine Park back on her feet.

The park now has 300 cabins, five grocery stores, three filling stations, a large skating rink and swimming pool, boat rides, a post office, a grade school, laundry, telephone office, a 45-bed hotel, and just about everything tourists could ask for. The old Grand Hotel has been renamed the Tomahawk Inn but the well-known cobblestone front has been retained. Cabins, complete with electric refrigerators, kitchen facilities and modern bathrooms, are available by the day, by the week, or by the month.

Many of the cabins and other buildings in the park are constructed of the round stones that came from the bed of Medi-
The waters of Medicine Creek flow from the large dam, that impounds Lake Lawtonka, water supply for the city of Lawton. There are three smaller lakes within the park area, and fishing is free.

**Burros Please Tads**

Youngsters maintain that the park’s best attraction this summer is the string of 18 burros brought direct from Mexico. Curtis Davis, the corporation’s manager at the park, said the burros are just an example of the attractions and facilities being installed for the entertainment of every member of the family. None of the concession operators is permitted to sell intoxicating drinks, and the park is encouraging school and church groups to make the area their summer playground. The large Tomahawk Inn has a recreation room that seats 500, and a dance pavilion where a program of square dances is being planned for the autumn season.

An easy two-hour drive from Oklahoma City, the park is located seven miles west of U. S. Highway 277 north of Lawton. The park is already drawing many visitors from Lawton and from Ft. Sill, the state’s largest military installation.

**Wildlife Near Park**

At the western edge of the park is the 63,000-acre Wichita Mountains wildlife refuge operated by the federal government for the protection of buffalo, deer, and other wildlife. Within the game refuge is the Holy City, site of the internationally-known Easter pageant that draws huge crowds annually. At the eastern edge of the park is the Medicine Park fish hatchery, operated by the state game and fish commission. From this hatchery bluegill, largemouth black bass, crappie, redear, and channel catfish are supplied to 19 southwestern Oklahoma counties for stocking purposes. The hatchery with its 65 culture ponds is open to visitors.

Yes, the sun shines brightly this summer along Medicine Creek, but if you look closely you may be able to see the ghosts of another generation who laughed and played among the trees. The crowds are coming back to Medicine Park again, and the old matriarch is taking her place once more with the best of Oklahoma’s resort areas.
Coffee Time has become a recognized mid-morning institution throughout the nation. And two Oklahoma City men who can take their java with the best of them have developed a brand new twist to the business.

Byron Potter and Tom Grant are the men behind Coffee Time, Inc., a firm organized to bring the morning-saving liquid to deprived persons, in this case employees without a cafe or drugstore in their vicinity.

In addition to delivering coffee to offices, the men have coffee-vending machines complete with sugar and refrigerated cream. The machines come in big sizes and smaller table models.

The two Oklahomans have gone about the operation of brewing coffee scientifically since they feel their business depends on the quality of their coffee.

Coffee Stays Fresh

First, their 100-gallon coffee urn and the vacuum cans in which they transport the coffee are stainless steel, which "won’t be permeated with coffee so it will become rancid."

Next, they use a generous amount of Cain’s coffee, about one pound of coffee to each three gallons.

The water used is run through charcoal filters that remove chlorine and solids. This way, Potter pointed out, the water is always the same, so the coffee is always the same. The urn works automatically and timing is uniform each day.

The coffee goes into the urn inside flannel bags which keep the grounds out of the coffee.

The vacuum cans are washed and sterilized, then sterilized again and pre-heated before the coffee is poured in.

Early to Rise

Coffee Time has two trucks and a station wagon to deliver to thirsting customers. Operations begin about 4 a.m., Potter said. By 5, the cans are pre-heated and the coffee is prepared and started on its way.

“We try to service every office before employees arrive,” Potter explained. Deliveries are completed by 8 a.m.

After that, things slow down because the coffee is delivered only once a day. The vacuum cans are equipped with an electrical “hot stick,” a thermostat-controlled heating rod that keeps the coffee at 170 to 180 degrees.

“This way the coffee is never re-heated and scalded. It stays good and hot,” Potter said. “That’s the reason we use more coffee to the gallon than other companies (in Chicago, Denver and Dallas). If the coffee retains its taste the whole day, it has to have more body.”

The cans range in size from two to ten gallons. Two gal-

ions, 45 to 50 cups, is the minimum delivery. The 10-gal-

lon cans hold about 250 cups, Potter said.

That’s a lot of coffee, but not too much for inveterate java-drinkers. "I drink about 20 cups a day myself,” said Grant. “And we’ve got a customer at Greenleese-Moore Chevrolet company who says he drinks 40 cups a day."

Volume Will Rise in Winter

Coffee Time now services some 18 companies in and near Oklahoma City. "We figure our volume will increase 30 percent this fall when the hot weather is over, and we’re aiming at sales of 500 gallons per day by February,” said Grant.

The men first became interested in the business early this year when they read a story in the Wall Street Journal about similar companies. They visited a coffee-dispensing firm in Chicago to see how things operated.

One Chicago company which was supplied with fresh coffee each day estimated they saved $20,000 per year on man-hours. The company, with 180 employees, started serving coffee in the office at a 15-minute break twice a day. They figured they saved 15 minutes per break per employee, adding up at the end of a year to $20,000.

"Of course, management doesn’t always see it that way,” Potter added. "We had a situation here where the employees organized and assessed themselves for their coffee."

Oklahoma City companies who have taken advantage of hot coffee at the desks include Lee Way Motor Freight, Aero Design and Engineering Co., and Ozmun and Company Wholesale.

Drop A Coin

Vending machines have been placed at Oklahoma City university and the downtown post office. Grant said he hoped to have 50 machines out by the end of the summer.

Delivery price for the steaming coffee is $1 a gallon black, $1.25 with cream, sugar and stirrers. The company also installs stainless steel tables at offices that want them, and each vacuum can has its own tidy drip pan to catch drops of coffee.

Besides operating Coffee Time, Potter is in the oil and real estate business and Grant is connected with plastics. But they both like Coffee Time. It’s an old established cus-
Lynn Riggs - Oklahoma Playwright

One of Oklahoma's greatest playwrights, Lynn Riggs, author of "Green Grow the Lilacs" which became the hit play "Oklahoma," died June 30 in New York Memorial hospital.

Born August 31, 1889 in Claremore, Riggs had a long list of successful plays and poems to his credit. His best-known play "Oklahoma" reportedly changed the entire pattern for musical comedies.

Memorial Planned

A group of Oklahomans now are planning a memorial to the playwright to be known as the Lynn Riggs Memorial. Dr. Noel Kaho, a Claremore resident and a friend of Riggs, is in charge of the movement. He already has obtained many of Riggs' original manuscripts of plays and poems.

Kaho said the memorial will be placed in the Claremore public library, and plans are for miniature stage settings of all Riggs' plays.

Funeral services for the quiet, retiring writer were held in Claremore and presided over by Bishop Angie Smith, Bishop of the Methodist Church in Oklahoma. Joseph Benton, former Metropolitan Opera singer and a friend of Riggs, sang.

The casket was draped with an Oklahoma flag sent by Governor Johnston Murray by his personal representative, Vice-Chief Justice N. B. Johnson. At the end of the ceremony, Johnson and Manes B. Hammett, mayor of Claremore, presented the flag to Riggs' family.

"Cuckoo" First Play

The playwright attended Claremore public schools and wrote his first play while studying at the University of Oklahoma. The play, a farce called "Cuckoo," was produced at Norman.

"Knives From Syria" was his second play, produced at Santa Fe, New Mexico by the Santa Fe players. Riggs had gone to New Mexico for his health. There he met one of the outstanding poets of the day, Winter Byrner, who encouraged and sponsored the young writer. Under his guidance, Riggs began writing poetry and more plays.

The Claremore man's first book of poetry, "The Iron Dish," published in 1930, was made up of poems Riggs had written and sold to various magazines.

The play "Big Lake" was produced by the American Laboratory theatre in 1927 and "Rancor" was done by the Philadelphia Repertory theatre.

Resemblance Intentional

The same year, Riggs was in Claremore and spent part of his time at a downtown domino parlour owned by Morton Harrison, now chairman of the Oklahoma planning and resources board.

Harrison said the playwright stood around the domino tables and talked with the players discussing crops, cattle and life around Claremore. The third day he brought pencil and paper and took notes.

In 1928, "The Domino Parlour" was produced, Riggs' first play in New York. Dialogue in the play was straight from Claremore and characters had thinly veiled names. For instance, Harrison in the play was called "Harris."

Riggs later received a Guggenheim Fellowship for his writing and spent one year in France. In Paris he did two plays.

The first, "Roadside," was produced on Broadway but was a flop. However, the star of the play, Ralph Bellamy, won a Hollywood contract based on his Broadway performance and later became a leading actor.

The second play was "Green Grow the Lilacs," later named "Oklahoma."

Hit Play

The success of the play was phenomenal, keeping it on Broadway probably longer than any production.

Here again Riggs used actual Oklahoma acquaintances for his characters, and actual events for the basis of his play. When the play was on tour and came through Oklahoma, Dr. Kaho held a party at Claremore for the cast and for the persons they portrayed.

The play, first produced in 1930, changed the entire perspective of musical comedies, said Kaho, by integrating the music and ballet into the story.

Whereas play action formerly halted while a dance or a song was given, the dances and music now are a part of the play, making the plot or action dependent upon them, Kaho explained.

Quoting leading Hollywood song writer Ralph Blane, Kaho said: "The old-fashioned type of musical no longer exists. Dancing and music must advance the plot."

The play's title song "Oklahoma OK!" by Rodgers and Hammerstein, last year was made Oklahoma's state song.

The quiet boy from Claremore left more than fame and success behind him. He contributed to the culture that is building and molding Oklahoma, the heritage of future generations.

Norris Reopens Plant in Tulsa

A government contract has caused W. C. Norris Manufacturer, Inc., Tulsa, to reopen and manufacture 75-millimeter projectiles.

Executive vice-president William L. Butler said the plant will employ 75 to 100 workers, all of whom have worked there before, on one shift daily. The plant had been closed for several weeks.

First opened in 1952, the firm made shells for the Korean war. During World War II, Norris manufactured high explosive and trench mortar projectiles.

Instruments, Inc., manufacturers of Gagetron instruments, were his reason for coming to Tulsa. Company president O. W. Graham explained this equipment controls operation of the catalytic cracking unit.

The Tulsa firm sends instruments for measuring the pressure and level of liquids in refinery and chemical plants to all parts of the world.

After spending a week in Tulsa, Baytan visited the Halliburton company, Duncan, for further technical training.

From Turkey to Tulsa

An instrument technician from Turkey visited in Duncan and Tulsa recently to study and buy equipment for a refinery, the first to be built in Turkey.

Mehmet Baytan already had completed a 14-week course at the Brown Instrument school, Philadelphia, where he studied equipment that will be used in the refinery.

Next he went to Augusta, Kan., to visit designers of a special catalytic cracking unit that makes high octane gas out of crude stock taken from the wells.
You Never Miss the Water Till--

The average citizen is uninterested in water supplies until a drought.

Many people talk, but few find answers for the state's lack-of-water problem. However, Francis J. Wilson, consulting engineer for Tulsa, made some suggestions in a recent issue of the Oklahoma Business Bulletin.

First, wrote Wilson, legislation must be passed to enable the state to participate with the federal government and municipalities in the financing and planning of water resource projects. And second is the provision of adequate storage.

Oklahoma's only source of water, Wilson pointed out, is precipitation.

**Savings Plan**

"But there is enough for every reasonable future need if we will just conserve it and use it wisely," the engineer wrote. "It has been estimated that an average of 37,000,000 acre feet of water flows through and out of Oklahoma each year. With sufficient storage, this is more than enough."

The solution to this, Wilson feels, is storage reservoirs. But "potential dam sites are limited, especially in the western half of Oklahoma."

Also, "in many cases, reservoirs are built too small and the best dam sites are preempted for half way use and lost for future development."

Federal reservoir projects may alleviate the storage problem but, Wilson added, "A way must be found and the machinery set up, probably at the state level, to reserve space for municipal and industrial supplies in the federal reservoirs."

Only two Oklahoma cities now have space reserved in federal projects, Altus in the Altus-Lagert project and Enid in the Canton reservoir.

**Government Aid Needed**

Since few cities can assume such expensive and long range obligations as storage requires, Wilson continued, the state probably will have to give the federal government necessary financial assurances.

"Such a policy of financial assistance at the state level will require that suitable legislation be passed to enable the state of Oklahoma to co-operate with federal agencies, local communities, corporations and individuals in the planning and financing of projects for the development and use of the water resources."

The next necessary action, Wilson wrote, is elimination of practices and programs which unnecessarily waste water, and correction of conditions causing present man-made pollution and prevention of new sources of pollution.

For instance, many towns dump insufficiently treated, and in some cases, raw sewage into natural streams, Wilson wrote. This creates "a bad situation when there is insufficient dilution water."

In addition, "Industries must not be permitted to dump more untreated wastes in our streams than can be carried with safety. Sane administration of the pollution laws is essential."

**Laws Govern Building**

As to water waste, water laws based on regulations of the Planning and Resources board, prohibit building of dams higher than 10 feet or which impound more than 40 acre feet of water without approval of the board.

"But the Soil Conservation Service," wrote Wilson, "has caused to be built in the Washita Basin many detention reservoirs that exceed these limits." Some were built without reference to the planning board, Wilson pointed out, and, when questioned, officials of the SCS said the permanent or conservation pools in these detention reservoirs were the sedimentation reserve.

"Regardless of what this may be called," Wilson added, "this water belongs to the state and it cannot be wasted through evaporation."

**States Must Cooperate**

"Fifth," Wilson continued, "negotiation of Interstate Compacts to allocate flows and to control pollution on our interstate streams should be consummated as soon as possible."

Wilson said demands on water usage in both the Red and Arkansas River Basins already have come to the point where Oklahoma should negotiate agreements or compacts with the neighboring states.

"Arkansas and Oklahoma must work out a division of the waters of the Illinois River because both may want to use this water," Wilson added. "Kansas and Oklahoma will have to control pollution and work out an equitable division of the water of the Chikaskia, Grand and Verdigris Rivers as well as the main stem of the Arkansas."

"It may take years," wrote Wilson, "To come up with a document (allowing Interstate compacts) that is satisfactory to all of the states concerned so we are not starting any too soon."

The time to fix the roof, the engineer indicated, is not when it's raining. And the time to store water, is when it is.

**State Parks Draw Throngs**

The Fourth of July weekend was a big one for Oklahoma's 13 state parks and attendance climbed far beyond expectations.

Before the weekend began, Ernest Allen, park director of the Oklahoma planning and resources board, estimated 4,244 persons would visit the parks.

However, electric counters at only six of the parks showed 34,319 cars entered during the 3-day weekend. Figuring 3.5 persons to a car, 120,098 visitors toured those parks. The remaining seven state parks do not have counters.

Allen pointed out his estimate, based on the number of persons who could be given overnight accommodations, was approximately correct.

Largest attendance was at Lake Mur-
Non-Fisherman Builds Fishing Haven

By Rusty Andrews

A Tulsan who has never caught a fish or dangled a hook in the water, and has never been in a boat, has developed an ideal fishing resort on Ft. Gibson lake in Cherokee county.

Snug Harbor, on the south side of Ft. Gibson reservoir, was planned and built by non-fishing Ed Wright. The resort has everything a fisherman needs to make him happy except the fish, and the well-stocked lake supplies them.

Wright bought the land for the resort in 1932 just after Ft. Gibson dam was built. He planned to build just south of the KO&G railroad bridge that spanned the Grand river.

Bridge Holdup

However U. S. Army engineers had decided to tear out the bridge and already had let the contract. The contractor didn’t work fast enough for Wright, eager to build his resort, so Wright bought the bridge from the contractor—who didn’t own it—and prepared to tear out the bridge himself.

Engineers pointed out Wright was not the man for the job since he was not a licensed contractor. So the Tulsan hired a second contractor to tear down the bridge.

By this time, Wright felt attached to the old railroad bridge. Instead of having the whole line torn down, he kept 192 feet at the south end and made it into a fishing pier. Wright proudly asserts his pier is the only one of its kind in the world.

Conveniency Plus

Another unusual thing about Snug Harbor is its facilities for handicapped persons.

Wright said he has friends whose small son uses a wheel chair. The resort owner built his whole park with an eye to making things easy for the child.

Cars can be driven onto the fishing pier to unload passengers who can’t walk. The cabins all have 3-foot doors, wide enough for a wheelchair. Shelving in the cabins is installed on a low level so that persons with heart disease won’t have to stretch. A resuscitator and qualified attendants are available at all times.

But all fishermen, ill or well, enjoy the long fishing pier that juts out over the water. The pier is equipped with 101 rocking chairs, holders built in for fishing poles and a sundeck. The pier is heated in the winter.

Playground equipment is near the cabins which are air-conditioned, as is the cafe. A filling station, trailer court area and grocery store are near the shoreline.

The owner plans to add to his facilities soon.

Wright, the man who doesn’t fish, spends his free time on the pier watching the fishermen’s expressions when they pull up a big one.

“I don’t have time to fish,” the resort owner grins, “But there’s nothing I like better than a fisherman.”

High-Flying “Pirate” Is Tourist Attraction

The yacht that once carried William Randolph Hearst all over the world now stands high and dry at a Madill motel.

The battered “Pirate,” 40 years ago a high-flyer for Hearst who owned a chain of newspapers across the nation, now serves as an attraction for tourists at the motel of O. O. Remington.

The 73-foot yacht was built in 1909 for $150,000. Made entirely of mahogany, the yacht carried Hearst and his friends to most of the major ports in the world. Its decks were the scenes of discussions that helped shape the nation’s policies as well as parties that re-echoed through several nations.

In 1917, Hearst lent the yacht to Frank Buck for an African safari, and the magnificent craft returned loaded with Buck’s very-much-alive trophies.

In both World Wars I and II, the “Pirate” was requisitioned for shore patrol. Hearst died during the second world war, and U. S. engineers came into possession of the craft, then stationed at New Orleans.

Since Lake Texoma was the newest and best lake under U. S. jurisdiction, the “Pirate” was shipped overland to the lake. There it resumed its role as party holder.

The majority of meetings and festivities at a tri-state governor’s meeting—attended by governors of Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas—were held aboard the yacht.

However, by this time the boat was leaking badly. Engineers sold it to resort-owner Floyd Cooper who attempted to re-condition it for excursion trips.

The yacht was too far gone for even short trips so it was docked for six months. Then, at the insistence of engineers to remove it from government property, it was sold to Remington for $500.

Now the “luxury ship,” whose cabins have held royalty and whose hold has held rare African species, is inspected by persons who have never been closer to the ocean than the first row of the balcony. And perhaps it’s just as well.
Heap Big Powwow

For six days beginning August 16 a stranger in Anadarko, Oklahoma, might think himself transposed from the 20th to the 19th century as the 23rd annual American Indian exposition holds sway.

Indians from some 37 tribes from throughout the West will remember the age-old rites of their fathers and perform the dances that have been handed down from generation to generation.

Descendants of chiefs and warriors whose names are familiar to historians and movie-goers will dance to the beat of tom-toms on a cleared arena surrounded by bleachers for visitors.

All Indian Managed

The exposition is incorporated under the laws of Oklahoma, and its board of directors and officers are all Indians, elected by the various tribes. The program is the only all-Indian managed show of its kind in the nation.

Robert Goombi, full-blood Kiowa and president of the exposition, said he expects approximately 60,000 persons at this year's meeting.

At the same time the exposition is in progress, the Indian fair will be held with exhibits of food, clothing, livestock and handicrafts. Rules require that only persons with one-fourth or more Indian blood enter the competition.

Handicrafts Displayed

Indian women will carry on their specialties in the Arts and Crafts center in the Southern Plains Indian museum near the exposition grounds.

Indian relics are shown at the museum and examples of Indian art are exhibited at the Anadarko post office where the walls are covered with murals and paintings.

During the exposition, thousands of Indians camp near the central grounds in teepees, and visitors are free to wander through the Indian Village at will, taking pictures to their hearts' content.