"Peace on Earth to Men of Good Will"
The oft-voiced expression, "Oklahomans are such friendly people," is not just an idle phrase used to make meaningless conversation. It is truly a trademark that identifies an Oklahoman wherever he might be—on Main Street in Durant, or on 42nd Street in New York City.

In this atomic world, whose every mood seems to be geared to supersonic speed, it is good to find that Oklahomans still find time to pause and utter a friendly, "Howdy, friend." And, at this time of year, this ever-warm salutation takes on an even warmer glow, as we add to it, a "Merry Christmas!"

Not only are Oklahomans friendly people, but they are also philanthropic. Typical example of this generosity is the state's Santa Claus Commission, a state agency set up by the 1937 session of the legislature. The commission, through the help of thousands of individual citizens provides Christmas gifts for all boys and girls who are charged of state-financed institutions or who are "residents" of state-chartered orphanages. Each Christmas truck-loads of gifts are delivered to these less fortunate youngsters, thus making their holiday season a merrier one.

All of this reflects the kindly, genuine friendliness that prevails in the hearts of Oklahomans. And it points up one more facet of life in Oklahoma, and the desirability of the Sooner State as a pleasant place to live.—J. McW.
The entire staff and editorial board of Oklahoma Today joins the Christian World in extending the Season’s Greetings to the readers of our magazine. A Merry Christmas and A Joyous New Year
Highbrow music, Broadway hits—
from home and abroad—crowd
state's entertainment calendar:

On Stage

IN OKLAHOMA!

By Aline Jean Treanor
Music Critic, The Daily Oklahoman
HE gay picture of Oklahoma's folk arts just now being flaunted to the world in Todd-AO is a brilliant and imaginative abstraction of times past. But with due respect to Broadway-Hollywood talents, "Oh-oh-oh-oh-oklahom-ah!" must surely be a masterpiece of understatement. It is pale even beside the Breughel-like current scene, alive and aloud with its square dancers, folk and gospel song singers, barbershop chorders, "gittar" twangers and country fiddlers.

Even more surprising than this bequest from pioneer days—which musicologists and dance historians will be writing into Ph. D. theses any semester now—is Oklahoma's phenomenal embrace of the performing arts of classic tradition.

Every third person you meet is grooming his talents, or coaching others' for a school or club or community concert—band, orchestra, choral, ballet. And every fourth one is promoting a concert, or a series, of imported talent.

Grand opera is with us, of our own and more Metropolitan staging, in Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Norman. Tulsa is hearing its own Philharmonic orchestra. The Oklahoma City Symphony is playing some 75 concerts at home and in Chickasha, Lawton, and Ponca City. Around 50 world famous soloists are scheduled to sing, play and dance for us. Several major ballet companies will be coming to Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Lawton, and Bartlesville.

Every college has its stage and company of thespians. A half dozen cities and towns have topnotch community theaters. The circuit offers everything but the latest Broadway hits—a gamut from Sophocles to Arthur Miller, including Shakespeare and Shaw.

A rundown of the college, community and professionally sponsored series of plays, concerts, and other entertainment, is perhaps the best index of Oklahoma's absorption in the classic arts. Tickets are available to many single concerts, at low, low price. Some series are sold only by the season, and others are sold out. But there is usually a ticket to be begged, bought or borrowed at the last moment by a stranger or late comer to town.

Although the season is well started, most of its features are still to be seen and heard:


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Tucked away in a heavy steel box in the vaults of the Secretary of State is a bulky parchment document that raised the 46th star to the blue firmament of the American flag. Dogeared and somewhat limp from handling (but not in recent years), and pocked with interlineations and words and lines inked out, it bears the scars of a prolonged running battle that welded the people of two divergent territories into one state—Oklahoma.

It is the Oklahoma constitution, unique and "radical" by some standards in its day, the product of months of deliberation, wire-pulling and strife that sent echo waves throughout the nation.

June 14, 1906, was a gala day for Oklahoma and Indian territories. After years of futile effort to obtain statehood, either as separate states, or as one, the world flashed from Washington that the house of representatives had voted final passage of the Enabling Act. It provided for calling a constitutional convention of 112 members—55 each from Oklahoma and Indian territories, and two from the Osage nation—to draft the fundamental law for admitting the new state to the Union. The bill was packed with limitations and concessions, but for the moment they were overlooked. Joy was universal over the big promise: statehood.

"Bill passed the house 5:23, Shake," read the telegram from Bird S. McGuire, Oklahoma territory's delegate in congress, to Frank Frantz, the appointive governor. Two days later, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the act into law, laying down the procedure for establishing districts to elect the delegates to the convention.

After 17 years of "carpet bag" rule by federal appointees—all but four (Cleveland's second term, 1893-97) under Republican administrations—in Oklahoma territory, territorial politicians took a second look at the bill. The first outcry was over reported "gerrymanders" in carving out the delegate districts. Then they took stock of some of the limitations. These provisions—fixing the capital at Guthrie until 1913, requiring prohibition over the Indian territory and Osage nation for 21 years, granting tax exemptions on certain Indian lands, prescribing a republican form of government (with little "r"), and forbidding discrimination in civil and political rights—would bob up in coming months to fret the convention leaders and raise doubts over the state's admission.

The combined population represented the largest number of inhabitants for any embryo state knocking for

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This is Miss La Donna Kramer, Oklahoma City University junior, music major; most recently known as "Miss Oklahoma of 1956." She's the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Kramer of Loyal, Okla. Her sponsor in the state-wide beauty contest that eventually saw her representing the Sooner State in Atlantic City was the Kingfisher Chamber of Commerce. Miss Kramer, an honorary member of Governor Gary's Semi-Centennial Commission, extended the state's invitation to those attending the Atlantic City "Miss America" contest to come to Oklahoma in 1957, when the Sooner State celebrates its 50th year of statehood.

COLOR PHOTO BY JEFF GRIFFIN JR.
Oklahoma Jaycees spur state school youth to develop state pride, win valuable prizes while they help to

BOOM OKLAHOMA
“Leave Oklahoma? Heck, no! This is the state with a future, and my future is in Oklahoma”.

Oklahoma would be billions richer, in materials and manpower, had all of her high school and college graduates versed those 17 golden words for the past 50 years. She has been exporting her most valuable commodity, “brains” for half a century.

Finally, after 50 years of development, our state is beginning to offer its home-grown talent a future within its borders.

The young people are being challenged from every side to look into the state’s industrial and scientific crystal ball for their future.

In an effort to help high school and junior high school students visualize a “future” in the Sooner State, an essay contest will be launched in the schools November 10, during Oklahoma Week.

Sponsored jointly by the Oklahoma Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Oklahoma Semi-Centennial commission and Oklahoma Today, the essay contest will offer over $10,000 in prizes and awards throughout the 77 counties.

Honorary chairman of the contest’s advisory committee is Gov. Raymond Gary. He will greet state winners at the capitol, and serve as host at a dinner in the governor’s mansion during Oklahoma Week in 1957.

Subject for the essays will be the opportunity for a career and future in Oklahoma, built around the general theme “Onward Oklahoma.”

“If 10,000 high school and junior high school students start thinking and writing about Oklahoma’s potential,” states Pendleton Woods, Oklahoma Jaycee chairman of the project, “they’ll soon convince themselves and others the place to seek their fortune is in Soonerland.”

Seventy-seven county chairmen are being signed for the contest, and goal of the sponsors is to reach every city, town and village in Oklahoma.

First prize in the contest for the junior high and senior high school winners is a $500 savings bond, a plaque and the “royal” reception at the State Capitol and the governor’s mansion. In addition, two second prizes of $300 bonds, plaques, and trips to the capitol are offered.

Faculty sponsors of the four top winners will also be feted at the governor’s mansion, and they will receive engraved desk sets.

Two third prizes of $150 bonds and plaques round out the top prizes in the contest. There are 10 honorable mention prizes for the entrants.

Colorful certificates are being prepared for the county winners, and other prizes will be awarded in each county as announced by the local chairmen.

Cooperation has been pledged from every medium, newspaper, radio and television, to display the talents of these winners to the entire state.

The winning essays will be reprinted, read and used in every way to help “sell Oklahoma to Oklahomans.”

Programs on local and state radio and television stations are being scheduled for the winners, and the honored guests of the governor will appear before outstanding civic groups while in Oklahoma City. Radio and television appearances also are being scheduled for the presentation of awards.

During the entire Semi-Centennial celebration, these young believers in Oklahoma’s future will be invited to appear at expositions and celebrations across the state.

County winners will be feted in their home areas in special festivities on ’89er’s Day, April 22, 1957—the date the county winners will be announced.

Deadline for entries is March 16, 1957. Junior high school students will be allowed a maximum of 500 words while high school students will have 1,000 words.

Some of the suggested titles are “Oklahoma Unlimited,” “Oklahoma’s Opportunities,” “Why My Future is in Oklahoma,” “Oklahoma Opportunity for Industry,” and “Oklahoma—A Good Place to Live.”

Promotion of Oklahoma in the essays is one-half of the contest, and the judges will be asked to slice the other section into two parts for (1) originality of idea and (2) writing skill.

Other details of the contest will be distributed by county chairmen to all state school students in November.

Participating in the distribution and promotion of the contest is the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Patron sponsors for the statewide contest include the state’s leading industries, financial institutions and the like.

Gov. Gary lauded the Jaycees’ effort as “one of the finest ideas to develop state pride in our young Oklahomans. For it will give them a challenging opportunity to find out how much there is to be proud of in our young, progressive state. I sincerely hope that thousands of our young people who plan to help build an even greater Oklahoma of the future will participate in this excellent project.”

Chairman Allard of the Semi-Centennial commission promised “my full support, and that of the (Semi-Centennial) commission, in our wholehearted endorsement of the Junior Jaycees throughout the state in their all-important ‘Onward Oklahoma’ program. I feel that this is a program in which every state citizen has a stake.”

John McWilliams, editor of the co-sponsoring magazine, Oklahoma Today, said the winning essays will be reproduced in this state publication, along with photos of the winning authors.
Remember the old folksong about “Big Rock Candy Mountains?”

If you do and ever have an opportunity to go through the Walter Williams Candy Co., factory in Oklahoma City, you'll probably catch yourself humming that tune.

Now, don't get this wrong. It's not because the sweets plant would remind you of a land that's fair and bright, where the handouts grow on bushes and you sleep out every night . . . as the hobo was pictured singing about the mountains.

No. It's an idea you'll get when you try to imagine what a mountain of candy all of the sweets manufactured in the Williams eight-story factory, in space covering 75,000 square feet, over a year's time would make. Then, too, if you try to imagine how much higher that mountain would be if you piled up all of the candy that’s been put out by Williams during the company's 24-year history—you'd really visualize some mountain air!

Of course, you may not get this same reaction if you go through the plant by yourself, but you're liable to if Walter Williams, the company president, (or his capable, enthusiastic young assistant, Bob McLain) goes along to tell you some of the history and operation of the plant. And, naturally, you'll have to know something about the hobo and his “Big Rock Candy Mountains.”

You'll get an idea of what we’re trying to tell you, when you learn that this candy making establishment, the largest of its kind in the Southwest, makes—and sells—from ten-to-twelve million pounds of candy annually.

And you'll be even more amazed at the success of the company when—in this day of highpowered advertising slogans and big budgets—you are told that Williams Candy Co., has never advertised. “We've preferred to rely upon producing quality candy and rendering honest dependable service to make our company grow,” says modest Walter Williams, a native Oklahoman.

For some months now, Williams' has been busy producing tons of bright-colored Christmas sweets: two floors in the eight-story plant are devoted to the exclusive manufacture of Yuletide candies.

Christmas candymaking starts early at Williams'.

The enormous seasonal hard candy demand requires that many tons be made during the summer months. With all this color and candy around, it's no wonder the factory has a real Christmas-in-July flavor.

The fifth and sixth floors in the plant are ablaze with the bright colors of Christmas candy of all descriptions: from striped candy pillows and candy canes of all sizes to lollipops—fifty million of 'em!—are turned out each season, under direction of affable Auston Daniel, 17-year veteran candymaker with the Williams organization.

“Ever dream of being turned loose in a candy factory when you were a kid?” asks Auston. “Well, you can imagine what a field day you would have had on these two floors—particularly at this time of year.”

With hard candy having to be produced in such quantities, in addition to large daily runs of chocolate and others, storage facilities become as important as the actual making of the candy. Huge cold storage vaults are maintained on the third floor to keep all chocolates at proper preserving temperature. Humidity is the villain for hard candies and jellies, and over half of the basement is utilized as a dry room for these.

The eighth floor is the peanut floor where peanut brittle, peanut squares and peanut-coconut flake are made, in addition to the roasting and preparation of the peanuts. It takes a strong will to resist over-indulgence on this floor. The aroma of a large copper kettle bubbling with candy and peanuts roasting in their own oils is a rare treat.

Down from the top floor, on seven, is the country boy's favorite. Old-fashioned peanut butter molasses “kisses” are the primary activity. The heavy, sweet scent of molasses backed by thick peanut-butter centers make up an autumn best seller. A huge machine with spidery black arms wrestles the taffy fresh from the cooling tables in a giant 100-pound taffypull before the peanut butter is rolled in and the whole batch reduced to individually wrapped kisses. The big robot does the job of 10 men, and is always ready for another pull.

Jellies and cream candies are made on the third floor. The big Mogul jelly machine prints mold impressions in edible starch, fills the mold with the sticky-fresh jelly candy, and stacks each tray on a dolly ready to be pushed into hot curing rooms. The candy cures for 24 hours before it is returned to the Mogul which shakes the candy free from the starch and drops it on a conveyor belt. The belt takes the candy for a steam bath and a sugar sanding process before unloading the finished candy in the packing rooms. Gum drops, spice drops, jelly beans and orange

Continued on page 19
GREETINGS:

Christmas is many things to each of us. To Mrs. Gary and me it is happy grandchildren playing about, closer knit family ties, a warmth of feeling between us and those we love which reaches its peak at the Christmas season. It’s a time for gifts, special foods, and celebration. It’s also much more.

The true spirit of Christmas lies in giving, not receiving. We give more of kindness and understanding to our fellow men. We give more of our hearts to God, in gratitude for the hope and joy brought to our world by Christ, whose birthday we celebrate.

The real spirit of Christmas is a feeling inside. All the gifts, the cards and the celebrating are nothing without it.

Nobody has a corner on this Christmas spirit. It’s available to anyone who bothers to reach out and bring it to himself.

It can abound in the most humble surroundings, where gifts and decorations are scarce. It can be entirely missing from the finest and most decorated mansion.

By the time December 25th arrives, this spirit touches most of us. We search about for people who need help, and give generously.

We smile more, are kinder and more helpful to others. We feel better as a result.

This is a happy time. The happiness comes from thinking of others, instead of just ourselves, and reaching out to them in good fellowship.

Too bad this wonderful Christmas spirit doesn’t remain with us the entire year, but is often discarded with the Christmas tree.

I can think of no finer New Year resolution than to resolve to carry this true spirit of Christmas in our hearts throughout 1957.

Raymond Gary  
Governor
Today's Oklahoma

America's newest year-'round playground

Quartz Mt. State Park Lodge

Western Hills Lodge
Relaxing in the modern manner is the master plan that has been injected into the Sooner State's fabulous new $7 million luxury lodge program.
Dear Santa:
I am 7 years old. I would like skates, school supplies, and a horse. Love, Peggy

Filling orders sent to Santa Claus by underprivileged children in state-operated institutions and orphanages is the job of Santa's main helper in Oklahoma—the Santa Claus Commission. Touching letters from youngsters, such as the one reproduced here, are received by Santa's commission by the thousands, and all-out effort is made to fill the orders.

The Oklahoma Development Council has a new executive director. He's Lyman Bryan, talented young Oklahoman who took the job after resigning as manager of Community Relations for Chrysler Corp., Detroit, recently. Prior to his Detroit post, Bryan was director of information for Independent Petroleum Association of America in Washington, D.C. A native Oklahoman, Bryan also has been with the National Cotton Council, Memphis; Pan American Refining Corp., Texas City, and at one time served as manager of the Lindsay (Okla.) chamber of commerce. He's a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. He is married, and with his wife, Louise, and three children (Lowell, Lisa and Laurel) is making his home in Norman.

A color guard from Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division raised the flag over the new Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co. Riverbank generating station at Muskogee recently, as part of the official dedication of the new plant housing a 177,500-kilowatt generator—the largest ever to be installed in Oklahoma. Some 6,000 persons attended the dedication and three-day open house.
admission. (Nevada had been admitted with some 30,000 citizens.) The two territories covered some 69,839 square miles, with 5,200 miles of mainline railroads. There were 241 national banks.

"No state ever came into the union more qualified in any respect for statehood than does Oklahoma," observed the great Senator Joseph E. Bailey of Texas, "yet Congress has put upon her the badge of incompetency by refusing to let her select her own capital and denying her the right to regulate her own affairs by forcing prohibition. Congressmen forced her not what Oklahoma herself wanted, but what other states wanted her to have."

While Governor Frantz, for Oklahoma territory, and W. H. H. Clayton, senior U. S. judge in Indian territory, and their respective commissions were carving out delegate districts, politicians were priming their oratorical guns for the coming convention campaign. At a Republican rally in Bartlesville on August 4, Frantz asserted, "I am for a Republican constitutional convention. The best men in the new state, we believe will be found in the Republican party."

Democrats had different views. In Indian territory men who had served in the Sequoyah convention at Muskogee the year before set their caps to dominate the new convention. One of the foremost was Charles N. Haskell, 46-year-old native of Ohio, who had come to the territory by way of Arkansas as a railroad promoter. Haskell as vice president was one of the moving lights of the Sequoyah convention which met Aug. 21, 1905, to draft a constitution for the proposed state of Sequoyah. Another was 36-year-old William H. Murray of Tishomingo, farmer-lawyer who had married Alice Hearrell, niece of Gov. Douglas H. Johnston of the Chickasaws. Separate statehood for Sequoyah was doomed by maneuvers in congress for the Enabling Act, but events were to prove that experience at Muskogee would give the Indian territory delegates an edge at Guthrie.

On Aug. 24, 1906, Frantz issued his proclamation for the election November 6, with the convention to open two weeks later. In an era when railroads dominated the politics of many states, a spontaneous event was to have far-reaching effect on selections. Returning from seven months in Washington buttonholing congressmen to support the Enabling Act, Henry Asp was drafted by Guthrie Republicans for delegate. Asp was highly respected by men of both parties, but since 1889 he had been attorney for the Santa Fe railroad in Guthrie and as a Republican candidate for delegate, he stood as a symbol of railroad control that Democrats fanned into a flame of victory.

Republicans were aghast to see the Democrats sweep the election, with 98 delegates and one independent who joined the Democratic causes. Two days after the election, the moderate Oklahoma State Register observed:

"The Democrat landslide . . . is so terrific it has taken the breath of the Republicans. The defeat of the Republican party is due to prohibition, lack of organization and the nomination of Henry Asp . . . Other railroad attorneys were nominated, but none were so conspicuous. None had a reputation for ability, and none struck popular prejudice against railroad domination as he did. He was the issue everywhere—in Indian territory and Oklahoma, and cost the party thousands of votes away from home for the loyalty for him at home."

Years later, Murray was to write, there was no man in the convention in whom he had more confidence in his word than Henry Asp . . . He was honorable, honest, upright, and really a great man. I say that although he was the leading Republican in the convention and, in fact, one of the ablest in the convention."

It was obvious the Democrats would organize the convention. The activity around the Turner hotel in Muskogee was even more portent. With 34 members of the old Sequoyah convention elected, C. H. Haskell held the trump cards. Murray, checking the list, noted an additional 30 members from the Farmers Union. He wrote Haskell:

"You will observe those marked with an 'S' means Sequoyah. Those marked 'F' means Farmers Union—64 in number. Do you know a man in Western Oklahoma that would be fitted for the presidency?"

Summoned to Muskogee by long distance, Murray conferred with Haskell and Robert L. Owen, part Cherokee and brilliant lawyer, destined to be one of Oklahoma's first United States senators. The gaunt lawyer, with handlebar mustache, might be eccentric, but he was a student of constitutional law. He would do for president. Planning aloud, Haskell said he would go to Guthrie a week early, and advised Murray to come later. On his return home, Murray met George A. Henshaw of Madill, a delegate, who volunteered his support.

"You can ruin men," said Henshaw, mindful of the coming battle to fix county lines, "but I trust to your gratitude." His trust would be rewarded in time with the formation of Marshall county with Madill as county seat.

The Royal hotel, still standing as a rooming house, was the political hub of Guthrie. Most of its 75 rooms were taken over by the delegates to the "Con Con," as the convention soon came to be known. Haskell was assigned Room 47. The number became symbolic in street corner discussions.

Guthrie, capital of the territory since the opening of April 22, 1889, was a thriving city of 12,000. It had nine railroads, with 42 passenger trains daily—an indication of the railroads' importance—and two newspapers. In the partisan spirit of a lusty age, the Capital (Republican), edited by Frank Greere, and the Leader (Democrat), edited by Leslie G. Nibble, hurled invectives at each other and touted their partisan claims. The weekly Register, while Republican, followed a more temperate line under the illustrious John Golobie.

Also characteristic of the times was an item from Tishomingo, I. T., appearing in the Leader on Nov. 16, 1906. It reported a resolution by a "Democratic mass meeting" on November 14 indorsing William H. Murray for president of the convention. Murray was described as "a good parliamentarian, an impartial arbiter, a well-prepared constitutional lawyer, a politician too wise and too honorable to barter away his position by political promises, trades or intrigues."

Continued on next page
It was signed by S. C. Treadwell, president, and E. C. Patton, secretary, but any one familiar with Murray’s style could easily discern his modest authorship! That same day, Murray checked in at the Royal and began to greet the other delegates, most of them strangers to him. Haskell continued his conferences in Room 47.

Speculation was rife over the presidency. W. C. Hughes of Oklahoma City was an aspirant. So was Pete Hanraty of McAlester, one of the two foreignborn delegates. Henry S. Johnston of Perry was receptive.

By Monday, November 19, however, Haskell and Murray had their forces organized. In the Democratic caucus, only Murray and Hanraty were placed in nomination. Murray polled 62 votes to 26 for Hanraty, one being Murray’s own vote. Johnston was chosen as caucus chairman. The stage was set—literally—for the formal opening next day in the Brooks opera house.

Shortly after 2 p.m., November 20, Johnston banged the gavel. So keen was the excitement, tickets had been allocated—three to a delegate—and the opera house was jammed. Joseph Francis King of Newkirk was then chosen as temporary chairman, and the convention proceeded to elect permanent officers. Murray won over Philip B. Hopkins of Muskogee, the Republican favorite, 97 to 11, and immediately launched into his inaugural speech.

“We are now united, not as two territories, but as Greater Oklahoma,” he asserted. Then in remarks prophetic of the finished product, he continued:

“First, let us make a constitution without the sting of partisanship, because the conditions of today may be reversed tomorrow and you may thus have to take the same dose yourself that you dosed out to your fellow citizens.

“The provisions of education should be liberal, and as near non-partisan as possible . . . A measure of vast importance will be to provide every possible means to promote home-owning in this country . . . If a few men, and great corporations, are to get control of the lands of the Indian in the Indian territory portion of the state, the removal of restrictions will not mean happiness and prosperity, but rather the reverse . . .

“Now the next evil. We must provide in the constitution that no public service corporation shall own any more land than that which shall be necessary to operate its business.”

Relative to labor, Murray proposed an 8-hour day, with no employe to work more than 16 hours in any one day. Any contract with labor that would hold an employer exempt from damages for death or injury should be declared null and void.

How far the state has progressed in race relations in half a century is revealed in Murray’s suggestions for treating Negroes, for the clamor for “Jim Crow” provisions for separate railroad coach and waiting room facilities was loud among the delegates. After indorsing separate schools and travel accommodations, he added:

“We have no desire to do the Negro an injustice. We shall protect him in his real rights . . . We must provide the means for the advancement of the Negro race and accept him as God gave him to us, and use him for the good of society . . .

“He must be taught in the line of his own sphere, as porters, bootblacks and barbers, and many lines of agriculture, horticulture and mechanics, in which he is adept. But it is an entirely false notion that the Negro can rise to the equal of the white man in the professions, or become an equal citizen to grapple with public questions”

Murray also touched on the free pass evil of the day, suggesting a provision later incorporated in the oath for public office. Referring to passes as “the cheapest form of bribery,” he declared “we should say to every public officer that if he rides a free pass, he will also ride in stripes to the penitentiary.”

He declared for the initiative and referendum—then a “radical” theory, in operation in Switzerland and in the state of Oregon.

“The only argument ever offered against this system is that the people are not conservative, while the history of the optional power is that the people are more conservative than reform leaders,” he asserted.

The opening session closed early, to clear the opera house for the night performance of the musical extravaganza, “It Happened in Norland.”

The delegates held their first business session the next day, November 21, in the city hall quarters by singing “Nearer My God to Thee.” It was President Murray’s 37th birthday, but the anniversary apparently went unnoticed.

The Register reported, “The organization is all in the hands of Indian Territory. C. M. Haskell is the power behind the throne.” Regarding Murray, the paper observed, “he was not known in Guthrie prior to his appearance on the scene of statehood organization, and he gained instant favorable impression.” The paper added, “he delights in the sobriquet, ‘Alfalfa Bill.’” In succeeding months, he also would be dubbed “Cockleburr” and worse epithets, but the name people would remember had come to light. “Alfalfa Bill” was edging into the limelight.

Some time later, the people had a box score on the delegates. They were natives of 17 different states and two foreign countries—Hanraty, from Scotland, and Joseph
J. Curl, Bartlesville, from England. The oldest was "Uncle" Clem Rogers, 68. His son, Will was then known as a globe-trotting cowhand. The youngest was William C. Leidkte, 24, from Eufaula. The average age: 43.

There were 47 farmers, 27 lawyers, 12 merchants, three newspapermen, three teachers (including J. S. Buchanan of the University of Oklahoma history faculty), six preachers, and two doctors. Two listed their occupations as "investments," and among the miscellaneous were a civil engineer, a bookkeeper, and a miners' union official (Hanraty).

Texas was the native state of 17, and 12 came from Missouri, including J. H. Maxey of Shawnee who had served in the Missouri constitutional convention in 1875. A crosscheck showed 75 delegates native to the south, 33 from the north, and two foreign born. The only native son of Virginia was J. H. N. Cobb of Sapulpa, a Republican.

On one occasion, "Uncle Clem" broke the tension of a midnight session on county boundaries by observing, "it would have been a godsend to this convention if they hadn't sent so many lawyers here. If there hadn't been so many lawyers, there wouldn't have been all this cutting up over technicalities!"

The new had hardly worn off before the convention was locked in its first floor fight. When J. A. Baker of Wewoka, to comply with the Enabling Act, proposed the convention adopt the constitution of the United States "as the highest and paramount law of Oklahoma," W. A. Ledbetter of Ardmore objected vehemently.

"There is no county in the new state," Haskell prophesied, "wherein the farmer will prosper more than he will in the county named in my honor." Alfalfa and Major—and sprawling Grerc county was divided, in painful surgery.

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The descriptions were so complicated (comprising nearly 10,000 words in the constitution) that Haskell was impressed as reading clerk. The "empire of Woods county" was carved into three—Woods, Alfalfa and Major—and sprawling Grerc county was divided, in painful surgery.

Day county was dissolved, the delegate, David Hogg, moving to name the new county Ellis for A. H. Ellis, Orlando, second vice president of the convention.

When Haskell reached section 20 of the report, he noticed a difference of opinion over the name. He moved to substitute "Hughes," for W. C. Hughes, "to honor one of the foremost citizens of western Oklahoma." A few minutes later, Boone Williams moved to name Section 22 for Haskell.

"There is no county in the new state," Haskell prophesied, "wherein the farmer will prosper more than he will in the county named in my honor." Alfalfa and Murray were named for Murray, Latimer for Delegate J. S. Latimer, and Bartlesville was changed to Washington, at Curl's suggestion. Coo-weet-coo-wee (as suggested by Clem Rogers) was fortunately changed to Rogers.

In a night session December 21, the convention reached roll call on the Haskell report. "Every Republican voted against us but J. H. N. Cobb of Sapulpa," Murray says in his memoirs. When Cobb voted "aye," he received friendly nod—and thus Sapulpa became county seat instead of Bristow!

Of the 75 counties, Haskell pointed out, 37 were in Indian territory, 35 in Oklahoma territory, and three straddled the line. Still the division left political sores that began to fester. As the weary delegates departed for home and the holidays, the cry of "gerrymander" went up throughout the territories. Half the 60-day pay period under the Enabling Act, for which congress had made appropriations, was gone. With Oklahoma on the threshold of statehood, bitter-end litigation over county divisions would arise to delay the election and threaten submission of the constitution itself.

"Damn it," said Murray, in an aside, "you cannot leave God out of the constitution." he counseled postponement. The next day he brought in a substitute which began, "Invoking the guidance of Almighty God." Lifted bodily from the Sequoyah constitution, it was readily adopted. For years, friends jokingly declared Murray "cussed God into the constitution," but he insisted the word "damn" is not swearing—and cited court decisions in support!

Hurricane clouds were gathering, meantime, over the county boundary committee. Some 300 towns and cities were seeking county seats. Royal J. Allen, Duncan grocer, headed the committee, but when the members bogged down, Murray finally added Haskell to the committee. Hoping to settle the disputes before the Christmas recess, the president plunged into night-long sessions with the committee. Finally, they whipped out a report defining 54 new counties. With 21 from old Oklahoma, that brought the total to 75. Feelings were tense on the convention floor, but Murray ignored delegates seeking to adjourn, and held the convention in session December 18 while Haskell and Allen prepared their report.

The descriptions were so complicated (comprising nearly 10,000 words in the constitution) that Haskell was impressed as reading clerk. The "empire of Woods county" was carved into three—Woods, Alfalfa and Major—and sprawling Grerc county was divided, in painful surgery.

Day county was dissolved, the delegate, David Hogg, moving to name the new county Ellis for A. H. Ellis, Orlando, second vice president of the convention.

When Haskell reached section 20 of the report, he noticed a difference of opinion over the name. He moved to substitute "Hughes," for W. C. Hughes, "to honor one of the foremost citizens of western Oklahoma." A few minutes later, Boone Williams moved to name Section 22 for Haskell.

"There is no county in the new state," Haskell prophesied, "wherein the farmer will prosper more than he will in the county named in my honor." Alfalfa and Murray were named for Murray, Latimer for Delegate J. S. Latimer, and Bartlesville was changed to Washington, at Curl's suggestion. Coo-weet-coo-wee (as suggested by Clem Rogers) was fortunately changed to Rogers.

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(2nd installment next issue)
On Stage

Continued from page 3


Ballet Russe. Municipal auditorium, Oklahoma City, January 14, Mrs. Morris Head.


Community Concerts association, Bartlesville. Grant Bailey, president. October 29, Rishna, pianist; January 11, Arizona Boys Chorus; March 7, violinist Robert Rudie; April 6, Chicago Lyric Hester with Marjorie Tallchief and George Skibine.

Tulsa Opera association, Robert S. Rizley, president. Municipal theater. November 1 and 3, Verdi’s “Aida,” with cast of principals which sang the Cincinnati Summer Opera Production—Herva Nelli as Aida, Clara Mae Turner as Amneris, Cesare Bardelli as Radames, and Valfrido Patachei, Ramfis.


A&M. Popular Series, College Fieldhouse. November 1, the Carabinieri Band of Rome. November 15, Don Cossack Chorus and Dancers. Other attractions to be announced.


Shawnee Community Concerts Association, Shawnee. Miss Irene Fisher, secretary. December 18, Oklahoma City Symphony. Dates not set as of October 8 for Marina Svetlova, dancer; Mildred Miller, mezzo-soprano; and Theodore Lettvin, pianist.
Continued from page 9

slices are made by the ton. The orange slice, incidentally, is the perennial best seller of the candies made by Walter Williams Candy Co.

Chocolate is handled on the second floor. Two large machines enrobe white chocolate drop centers, or other candy, with 91-degree molten milk chocolate before the drops enter a 50-foot refrigerated tunnel that ends in the packing room. Milk chocolate peanut clusters are made with the same machine.

Walter Williams Candy Co., has restricted itself almost entirely to the bulk type candies found in the large glass bins in variety stores and attractively bagged in supermarkets. One notable exception in the last few years is the first candy ever to be marketed under the boss's own name, "Walter Williams Thin Peanut Brittle." Using a formula developed by their own peanut department, this item represents the fine candy effort of the company. The finely balanced flavoring subjects the unsuspecting sampler to a knawing addiction for a second piece, a third, a fourth, and more!

Raw materials used in the manufacture of Walter Williams candy come from all over the world. Over four millions pounds of sugar are used each year from Colorado to California; from Texas and Louisiana.

Corn syrup logically flows from the corn belt, largely from Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, and is used at a four-million-pound annual clip. Tons of Oklahoma peanuts are used each year in addition to quantities from Texas and Georgia. Coconut is purchased from the Phillipine Islands and Ceylon. Chocolate is brought in from Africa, Central and South America. Cashew nuts come from the world's largest producing country, India.

Flavors that are used in the candy are gathered from many of the states and from Asia, Europe and Africa.

Matching the color and flavor of the bright candy he makes, is the career and personality of the man who owns and operates the company, Walter Williams. Williams was born in 1903, eleven years after his parents made the run of 1892 for the settling of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Territory. Their claim was in Custer county. Times were hard for the pioneering family and Walter struck out for Oklahoma City to find work when he was 15.

His first job was sweeping out the Williamson-Hassel-Frazier candy factory, located in the same building which he now owns. For $12 he worked a 54-hour week.

During the first six years with the candy company he held several positions in the factory and office. He exhibited a great deal of confidence in himself at this time by going to the then president, C. H. Ritter, and offering to solve current production problems if he, Walter, would be promoted to plant manager. Some of the factory personnel were surprised at the presumptuousness of the twenty-one year old youngster, but the big surprise came three days later, when Ritter took Walter at his word and made the change.

The choice proved wise and the candy company prospered along with the nation to the peak in 1929. Then General Motors lured Williams away from the candy business by offering him the office manager's position of the GMAC division in Oklahoma City. Shortly after this move the 1929 depression came. The candy company was hit hard.

By 1932, the old Williamson-Hasell-Frazier wholesale grocery company was ready to get out of the candy business; it had nosedived into near bankruptcy under the rigors of the depression. Williams invested his life savings on the terms W-H-F offered and purchased the candy making equipment.

The next 15 years marked a period of growth, movement and prosperity. Williams started with two employees and himself making candy on the fifth floor of his present building. Collins Dietz Morris Co., had purchased the wholesale grocery end of W-H-F and were using the rest of the candy building as a warehouse.

As Walter Williams Candy Co., grew it needed more room than Collins Dietz Morris wanted to let go, so the candy company moved to a building of its own just off Western avenue. In this location the business continued to grow in size and influence for 12 years, at which time the opportunity to purchase the original building presented itself. Needing the space, Williams closed the deal and brought the candy company back to its original home. This was in 1947.

Over a span of 29 years, from 1918 to 1947, Williams rose from floor sweeper to president, and became sole owner of the building he once swept.

Through these years the methods of making and packing candy have changed as radically as the ownership of the company. Corrugated pasteboard boxes replaced the old candy pail. The 100 percent handmade and hand-packed candy of the past evolved to modern machine-making, machinepacking methods.

The market trend today is away from bulk candy displays and sales. Bagged candies, in polyethylene and saran film bags, are more popular. They remove many sanitation problems for the retailer and furnish a convenient package for the consumer.

Although much of the production at the factory in bags is for private labels of wholesale purchasers, Walter Williams Candy Co. markets its own "Jennie Lee" bag line, which has enjoyed wide market acceptance.

This new era of packaging has made candy-making much more complex. For example, one kind of candy, formerly sold in bulk 30-pound case only, may now be packaged in as many as ten different packs. Considering that over 75 different kinds of candy are manufactured, the varied packs require separate records and stocking for 690 different candy items!

The story of Walter Williams Candy Co., would not be complete if it did not include mention of T. L. Owen, secretary and treasurer of the company. Associated with the company since 1936, Owen is the buyer and is responsible for the huge orders of raw materials, pasteboard boxes and other packing material used in the plant.

"The combination of a shrewd buyer and a wonderful person, T. L. Owen, is part of the backbone that has carried the company to its present position of eminence in candy manufacturing," concludes Walter Williams, his own company's ex- janitor, who so far as Oklahoma is concerned will go along with the words from "Big Rock Candy Mountains," and say that it's a "land that's fair and bright..."—J.McW.
ONE of the state's earliest industries, natural gas, continues to grow and expand with Oklahoma through exploration for new reserves, and the development of industrial usages of this native product both as a fuel and as a natural raw material in the petrochemical field.

Fifty years of progress in the natural gas industry is being celebrated this year by Oklahoma Natural Gas Co. The year 1903 was a significant one for the gas industry in Indian Territory, as two Pennsylvania oil men brushed aside the scoffers and laid a two-inch line to bring the first natural gas into Tulsa to a brick plant there. These two Pittsburgh oil men, J. M. Guffey and John Galey, possessed a gambling streak which paid off for them later when Colonel Lucas, whom they had financed, brought in the famous "Spindletop" oil well near Beaumont, Texas.

Having been granted a 25-year franchise in Tulsa in 1904, Guffey and Galey built a distribution plant and connected about 250 customers to their lines. By the following year, they had acquired about 400 customers and organized the Arkansas Valley Oil and Gas Co. At that time, their company was getting gas from three of Oklahoma's first oil fields; one near Bartlesville, another north of Tulsa and one at Red Fork.

The same year that it was organized, the Arkansas Valley company was sold to T. N. Barnsdall, later founder of the Barnsdall Oil Corp., and G. T. Braden. Beset by problems, such as the freezing of their gaslines in 16 degree below zero weather, Guffey and Galey sold out to Bransdall and Braden in 1905 and the Osage and Oklahoma Co., was formed.

At this time, Oklahoma City, with a population of about 32,500, had some 1,500 customers using manufactured gas. Shawnee's population was 11,000 with 800 manufactured gas customers, and Guthrie had a population of 11,650 and 750 customers.

Considering this market and the many-million cubic feet of natural gas being produced in the northern part of Indian Territory, two Oklahoma City lawyers—Dennis T. Flynn and C. B. Ames—contacted Barnsdall and Braden with a proposal for laying approximately 100 miles of 12-inch pipeline from Tulsa to these customers.

A year before statehood, on October 9, 1906, the Oklahoma Natural Gas Co., was formed and its incorporation papers drawn up under the laws of Oklahoma Territory. While the attention of most of the population was focused on the problems of uniting the two territories for statehood, drillers in Indian territory were discovering the Hogshooter field west of Nowata and laying a line to Muskogee to supply Claremore, Pryor, Wagoner and other small towns along the way.

With the production of oil in the Cleveland field, gas (thought to be available for transmission to Oklahoma...
City) was so recklessly wasted that it was said to be unsafe to light a match in that vicinity. The original plans were revised to include the Hogshooter field. About this time the company began to encounter serious financial difficulty. As rumblings of the 1908 financial panic began to be heard, eastern businessmen considered it sheer folly to invest the $2,000,000 necessary for a line to move this elusive fuel across the plains of our turbulent new state.

Despite the continual work stoppages, due to shortage of money to meet pay rolls, the 12-inch line finally reached from Oklahoma City to a point 10 miles north of Sapulpa. By this time the Hogshooter field had failed! Two wells near Sapulpa were connected to the line and on Dec. 28, 1907, natural gas was first turned into the distribution system in Oklahoma City.

When the ONG operating organization was set up, Flynn was named president; Braden, vice president and R. H. Bartlett, a Pittsburgh associate of Barnsdall and Braden, was named secretary and treasurer. Flynn served as president only a short time, being followed by Braden in late 1907. Braden held the post until 1921, when Harry Heasley was elected head of the company. R. C. Sharp was named chief executive in 1926. The company was reorganized under Joseph Bowes in 1936. Bowes served until 1955, when he moved to chairman of the board, and H. A. Eddins became president.

During the early period of gas production in Oklahoma, dozens of companies were formed. Almost as soon as a new oilfield was discovered, a new company would come into being to take the gas. This meant a very small cash outlay for most of the companies, for their distribution systems were usually close to the sources of supply. However, as the fields began to play out, most of the owners of these companies were more than happy to sell out in order to be relieved of the responsibility of finding new gas resources to serve their customers.

As Oklahoma grew agriculturally, industrially and populationwise, ONG kept pace by continuing its search for more and better sources of natural gas. With the depletion of the early wells of the Glenn Pool, Hogshooter field, Cleveland field, Mounds, Cushing and other areas, wells were developed at Oklahoma City, Haskell, Quinton, Cement and finally the valuable Chickasha field was brought into the system.

In 1944, ONG started the first underground gas storage project in the southwest in the Osage field. This was the first of four vast underground systems the company developed as it sought to take advantage of the year-round flow of natural gas. These enabled ONG to store up to 160 billion cubic feet of natural gas during periods of low consumption, to enable it to meet the complete demands of all gas users during the periods to peak demand.

Since its formation in October, 1906, the Oklahoma Natural Gas Co., has grown from 400 Tulsa customers supplied by a 2-inch line from a gas field north of town into an integrated system serving 335,000 customers in 135 Oklahoma communities through more than 6,900 miles of pipelines.

Many people think of natural gas as a fuel primarily to be used for cooking, heating, water heating, generation of steam for power plants, and do not know of its many other uses.

Gas bakes bread, pasteurizes milk, presses clothes, launders, incinerates domestic and industrial waste, forms steel in giant open-hearth furnaces, helps produce china and glass and silverware, fabricates the automobile, makes carbon black for tires, makes steam for atomic energy plants, and has more than 26,000 other industrial and commercial uses.

In Oklahoma today, research and development of these diversified usages has been in progress for several years. In cooperation with associates in the petroleum industry, it has been found that natural gas can be utilized to great advantage in the repressuring of oilfields to increase the production of crude oil.

Natural gas is used in many places for its chemical constituents, such as in the manufacture of ammonia at the Deere and Co. plant in Pryor. In this plant the hydrogen of natural gas is combined with nitrogen from the air to produce ammonia. This ammonia, combined with carbon dioxide produces urea, which is the basic material in the fertilizer produced at the Deere plant.

Some cities are now burning natural gas under water, in combination with air, to produce carbon dioxide used in treatment of water for municipal water systems.

Natural gas has been adapted to special burner equipment to produce a high density of infra-red rays for drying operations in which heat needs to penetrate deeply into material. Natural gas, in partially-burned form is used as a special atmosphere in carburizing furnaces. The carbon present in the incompletely burned mixture, under high temperature, combines with the steel in the furnace to form a hard, tough carburized surface.

In other uses, natural gas is utilized to provide special atmosphere for non-oxidizing furnaces, where it is desired to heat-treat special equipment to finish up with a bright surface, instead of the usual dull, black finish requiring further polishing.

During the last few years, natural gas has been used as a substitute for diesel oil in engines through the replacement of approximately 90 to 95 percent of the fuel requirement with natural gas. The resulting operation is more economical and the useful life of the engine is extended by using natural gas as a portion of its fuel.

Natural gas is also used as fuel in ordinary spark-ignited gasoline engines. In this case, it replaces all of the liquid and the engine runs on straight natural gas. Natural gas engines are used for driving refrigeration compressors, both in the home and industrially, for irrigation engines, municipal water pumping, and many other purposes.

Today, ONG has over 2,000 employees, more than 9,000 stockholders and pays $7,000,000 in taxes annually. Operating wholly within Oklahoma, the company has developed proven reserves of natural gas estimated 1-1/4 trillion cubic feet of gas—enough for the next 10 years—and has continued the enlargement of its transmission and distribution systems to bring a constant supply of an economical fuel and raw material to its natural gas customers throughout the state.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER—JANUARY 15

November 1-3. State Convention, Okla. Federation of Labor, Lawton
November 1-3. Tulsa Opera, "Aida," Tulsa
November 3. Okla. State Square Dance Festival, Okla. City
November (First Week). Foliage Tour, Tahlequah
November 4. Will Rogers Day, Claremore
November 6-10. Shrine Circus, Okla. City
November 11. Veterans' Day, Walters
November 11. Muskogee Kennel Club "Dog Show," Muskogee
November 12. Jose Iturbi, Tulsa
November 12-14. Turkey Show, Enid
November 12-17. Theatre-in-the-Round "Morning's at Seven," Okla. City
November 16-18. 8th National Cage Bird Exposition, Okla. City
November 17-18. National Singing Convention, Tulsa
December 3-4. Okla. Pecan Show, Ardmore
December 4-9. Okla. State Poultry Show, Okla. City
December 15. Santa Claus Day, Alva
Certain state economists and champions of the slogan, "More industry for Oklahoma," contend that if Soonerland is to experience greater industrial progress local financial interests must play an even greater role to bring about such economic growth.

Recently this school of thought was given substantial support by a report prepared by the Fantus Area Research, Inc., New York and Chicago, for the Oklahoma State Department of Commerce and Industry. This report suggested that a new multi-million-dollar corporation be created to help finance the establishment of new, and generally smaller, industries in Oklahoma. The report recommends what types of industries would be located profitably in Oklahoma. The report suggests that a new group of Oklahoma business leaders organized The Oklahoma Corp., whose primary aim, according to its board president, Roy G. Woods, is to help finance new industry locally.

Woods, an Oklahoma City businessman, stresses his organization's objective by quoting an official of the State Department of Commerce and Industry as saying:

"Lack of adequate financing today is our most serious problem in developing new industry within the state, and in attracting new business from out of state."

Woods then goes on to tell why he thinks an organization such as the one he heads is vital to the state's future economic good health, and he also states that it is important to this economy that "Oklahoma money should be kept in Oklahoma for the profit of Oklahomans."

Explains Woods:

"The need for a company such as The Oklahoma Corp., seems obvious. Twenty-six percent (or some $2 1/4 billion) of Oklahoma's total annual income is going out of the state in the form of stock and bond investments, insurance premiums, interest on loans, purchases, etc.

"On the other hand, three of every 10 out-of-state industries willing to move into Oklahoma do not because of the unavailability to them of Oklahoma capital."

According to Woods, "The new group is a holding company for seven new corporations—a factoring company, developing company, mortgage company, security and investment company, fire and casualty company, and a land and minerals company. Investments would be made in oil and gas reserve life insurance companies and in banks and savings and loan associations, to give a completely diversified, balanced earning program to Oklahoma Corp., stockholders.

"The new group, raising its capital through stock sale only to Oklahomans, through its subsidiary companies will provide the services and financing which Oklahoma business and industry is now getting from outside the state," Woods continues.

Woods predicts that Oklahoma will increase its economic wealth "by one-third" through his corporation which, he says, will provide "expansion capital for Oklahoma's small business and industries—a service that will help attract new industries to the state, and thus contribute to higher standard of living."

The new corporation head believes that "the awakening of state pride" makes this the ideal time to launch this program as a statewide effort "to promote Oklahoma."

Summarizing what he thinks would contribute to the luring of new industry to Oklahoma, Woods has this to say:

"Oklahoma has been a colonial state. Our raw products have been shipped out, manufactured and returned. We have created jobs in other states."

"In past decades Oklahoma has lost population because opportunity was lacking."

"If the state slides downhill, we'll all slide downhill. Oklahoma's future growth depends on her economic position. If our young people can find good jobs, they will stay. Industry is the lifeblood of our economy."

"Industrial surveys show that we have raw materials, the available source of energy, the water supply, a willing and efficient labor force and recreation and finance."

"The industrial east is becoming aware of these facts: Oklahoma has 75 percent of the nation's crude oil, 90 percent of the natural gas, ample coal and electric power. More water flows through Oklahoma than any other state in the United States. The annual flow amounts to 11 trillion gallons. We must control the runoff—which we are beginning to do with dams and ponds."

(Authorities point out that within six years some $370 millions will be spent in Oklahoma for new dam construction!)"

Listing strength in all categories which would strengthen Oklahoma, he adds that the state's greatest weakness is in the field of finance.

"We have not had the capital available to attract new business," he says, concluding "We need to industrialize." Our organization can contribute tremendously to this industrialization plan."
What They're Saying About OKLAHOMA TODAY.

Editorial in Sept. 7, 1956, Tulsa World

SMALL SUM, BIG PURPOSE

Call for help is sent out by the editor of Oklahoma Today, an illustrated magazine designed to give the whole State valuable publicity and to enlist the public in an intelligent effort to put the area in a better light. Too much time and money have heretofore been directed to ill purposes or no purpose at all; we have reveled too much in a past that has had many weak spots. This is an effort to play up the better side. The magazine is a genuine success from the editorial and artistic standpoint. The editor's notice mentions certain economies necessary to keep the magazine alive for the rest of the year.

Oklahoma Today, highly creditable all around, seems to have little financial backing. The call now is for an appropriation of $150,000, or enough to guarantee continuity and quality. This should be considered with the fact that the legislature appropriates a vast total for all sorts of affairs—many of doubtful value. This proposed $150,000 appears to be about the best investment the State can make.

Thanks, California!
To me this is the most delightful publication of the age. Thank you.

—Mrs. Lige Roberts
1206 McDivitt Avenue
Compton, Calif.
* * *

It Pays to Advertise
Please add my name to your roster of people who have congratulated you on the fine magazine you are getting out. Each issue seems to be better editorially and pictorially than the previous one. I hope you will gain sufficient circulation so that the influence of the magazine will become broader in making people proud of their state.

—Warren A. Humphrey
Enwin, Wasey Advertising Co.
Oklahoma City

Thanks for the check, Mr. Humphrey—and for the nice compliments, too.

From Georgia
Oklahoma Today, a most distinguished magazine, presenting a lively and realistic account of a great state.

—M. F. Barno
P. O. Box 848
Macon, Georgia

Thank you, Suh!

From Missouri
Compliment to Oklahoma for the very excellent job it's doing on its new magazine, Oklahoma Today. The art work is super, the editorial content is wonderful; in fact, it's as tasty as publication as is being produced anywhere in the nation . . .

—Sunday News-Leader
Springfield, Missouri

Thanks, Mr. Editor.

From Yankeeland!
Thank you for . . . Oklahoma Today. I very much enjoyed reading it . . . The photography and art work are also excellent. You have a truly fine publication! I was surprised to see all the water in Oklahoma, I was of the impression the only liquid available was oil!

—Edward J. Cronin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
State House, Boston, Mass.

We have other surprises, Mr. Cronin!

An "Enchanted" New Mexican
My first copy of Oklahoma Today has been received. It is truly a beautiful magazine. Every detail is a work of art—word choice, color schemes, pictures, type; the entire publication is truly superb . . .

—Ellen McDaniels
549 Quate Place
Santa Fe, New Mexico
* * *

Ah-Se-Quu A-Dah-Ne-Di
. . . Oklahoma Today . . . is a marvelous magazine to help promote Oklahoma. It should have a wide out-of-state free mailing list and a heavy in-state paid mailing list . . . Every issue . . . has been of the quality that Oklahomans could brag about and we have no reason to believe that future issues will drop below the pattern set today. It is deserving of everyone's support. And, we hope you get to see copies of the magazine so you can tell our legislators that you think it should have adequate funds with which to continue its fine work. It is a growing project and it will grow greatly—provided is has support.

—John Lewis Stone
Editor-Columnist
Muskogee Times-Democrat
Muskogee

We appreciate this unselfish support.
November 11 through November 16 is designated as "Pride in Oklahoma" week for the purpose of firing up Oklahomans' enthusiasm in the forthcoming 1957 Semi-Centennial Celebration, and to give added momentum to their state pride.

The zeal with which "Okies" take to this week will in a large measure give the observer a sneak preview of what's to come in the form of local celebrations throughout the coming year. A poll conducted by OKLAHOMA TODAY in the state's principal towns indicates that a majority of them are planning "big things" for '57.

State pride is something new in Oklahoma, but it must also be noted that Oklahoma is a mighty young state. What is it that has made the Sooner State make such rapid strides along the road of progress during the past half-century—and particularly the past 20 years?

In a large measure it is that undying spirit of pioneering, generated by an unmatchable desire for the new.

The romantic and colorful history of Oklahoma is one written by hardy, vigorous people who kept their hopes high and an optimistic eye on the future—despite early-day hardships, setbacks and lack of material comforts.

Modern-day Oklahomans continue to work tirelessly to make their own dreams—and those of their forefathers—materialize, and to contribute laudably to their Oklahoma's welfare and overall advancement.

This unquelled, driving desire for the new is producing results. Yes, formidable results—John Steinbeck notwithstanding!

In fact, Oklahoma's greatest forward moves have come during the 20-odd years since Mr. Steinbeck's infamous "Grapes of Wrath."

As history goes, 50 years is not a very long time. Thus, the story about Oklahoma's accomplishments becomes even more impressive.

Less than a half-century ago, Oklahoma was an Indian commonwealth. The land was assigned to the Five Civilized Tribes—Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole. These nations conducted their own independent governments, carried on diplomatic relations with the United States. Oklahoma was, therefore, necessarily bypassed by settlers moving into the west.

After her admission into the Union, Oklahoma experienced the same governmental and economic growing pains that all other young states have had. Her political history has been hectic, and at times turbulent.

But the new Oklahoma has discarded the knee britches and donned sleek tailored slacks; the prairie schooner has given way to the Jaguar; modernistic homes in town and country have replaced the mud hut; cowtrails have yielded to modern highways and turnpikes; graceful skyscrapers pierce the sky over many cities.

Oklahoma's insatiable desire for the modern today finds her far ahead of many of her older, more "established" sister states, in the drive for new industrial and cultural advancement—thus keeping in step with 20th century tempo.

So, let's go, Oklahomans! Let's all get proud together!—J. McW.