This is the big year, the great year, the year we’re out to show the world who we are, where we came from and where we’re going!

That, of course, is the way most of us here in Oklahoma feel about this golden year of ours, 1957. But looking beyond ’57, it also happens to be exactly why we are here—OKLAHOMA TODAY, as a publication.

Just one short year ago we were founded by Governor Gary with the idea that here, in these pages, a good deal of Oklahoma might be captured in print and picture to come to life again in your own home—to thrill you with a fresh look at your own state, if you live here; to show you what sort of people we are, if you live elsewhere among the great 48, or in any other fine spot upon the globe.

Since then, so many of you have written to tell us how much you have enjoyed this new look at a new state, we feel we must surely be on the right track.

For instance, by now we know that nothing else can so swiftly seize your heart as a good color photo, or a really forceful black and white. We know you like good writing, and we want to see more from our state’s finest writers to make these pages fairly ring with the look, the sound, the feel and wonder of things and people uniquely Oklahoman. And we know now we have excellent material for publication in the color of our past; the clean vigor of the present; the very real drama of Oklahoma’s desire to stake out a great place for herself in the future—and in the character of those who personify this boom of vision.

We also feel you might like it if, along the way, we should lighten things (for boosters must guard against too much tub-thumping) with some of that prime, old, tangy Oklahoma ingredient Will Rogers gave so freely to a needy world—a bit of humor here and there.

So there you have a few of our ideas. Now we should greatly appreciate receiving yours. Any comments you may have, pro or con, which might help us tell you our story better during what we hope shall prove the long years of our friendship ahead.

And may we also suggest that if you like this new look at Oklahoma, you might write a thank you note to Governor Raymond Gary, or to your friends in the state legislature if you live here in Soonerland.

We are, of course, a state-supported venture, and these are the gentlemen who make it possible for us to place this choice, bi-monthly bit of Oklahoma in your hands. —D.L.

OUR COVERS
FRONT—Little Face, Cheyenne, who as a nine-year-old in the main Indian camp witnessed Custer’s famous “last stand”; 92 now, living near Canton, looking out of history into history-in-the-making, Oklahoma today.

COLOR PHOTO BY CLIFF KING

BACK—“Winter Sunset.” The Oklahoma fence-row finds its own brand of lonesome majesty in this shot discovered by our roving art director along Northwest Highway near Lake Hefner.

COLOR PHOTO BY PAUL E. LEFEBVRE

PAGE ONE—“The Big Year Opens.” On that epic night of January 8, 1957, no-one was dressed better for the occasion than the old south front of our state capital. Oklahomans know why. We invite friends from out-of-state to look on page 2 for the reason.

COLOR PHOTO BY DAVE LOYE
ARROWS TO ATOMS
High, State-Wide, and Handsome, Here's a Sneak Prevue of Oklahoma's Semi-Centennial Celebration

Cocked, loaded and ready to go off in April, Oklahoma's Golden Jubilee promises to be as breath-taking as an Indian war whoop, and as tender as a cowboy love song.

The state-wide celebration, commemorating 50 lusty years of Oklahoma history, will be triggered at Guthrie April 22 when the once-boistrous belle of the Territory salutes the rugged pioneers who made the run for land in 1889. The Guthrie show, a western-flavored extravaganza, will officially kick off an Oklahoma birthday party that will run for the next six months and feature some 75 different events across the state.

The curtain will fall at last on the golden-year observance November 16, when Oklahoma's Big Red football team clashes with Notre Dame at Norman. In between will be one of the biggest semi-centennial celebrations in history, the first of its kind booked for a long-term run on a stage that will be constantly shifting from city-to-city, and offering a sparkling menu of contrasting events:

For instance, Rattlesnake hunting in the naked hills around Waynoka and Okeene; rodeoing behind the grey walls of McAlester state penitentiary; circus-going under the big top at Hugo; coyote hunting at Frederick, and Indian dancing at Anadarko's Redskin capitol.

Under the general supervision of the Oklahoma Semi-centennial Commission, the celebration is being spread out to encompass a number of different events and cities in order to make every Oklahoman feel a part of the anniversary party.
Expected to attract tourist dollars to the tune of $250 million this year, the show will reach a colorful climax June 14, when the big semi-centennial exposition opens in Oklahoma City and zips through three dazzling weeks at the State Fairgrounds.

Virtually a "World's fair," the show is being produced at a cost well over a million dollars, and will feature such attractions as big-name television stars doing their live programs from the fairgrounds; an "International House" in which more than 21 nations are expected to set up their exhibits; one of the biggest midways that ever rang with a Barker's cry; and commercial and armed forces exhibits, old as the first plane that flew the state's airmail, and new as the earth satellite, which will be previewed as a working model before it is rocketed aloft in space.

Already mighty in proportions—and still growing—the three-week exposition will be dealt with at further length in later issues of "Oklahoma Today," since we're mainly concerned with the state-wide picture here.

Events like:

**Circus City, U.S.A.,** with its setting in Hugo, where winter-quartered big tops are planning a $25,000 exhibit of circus life and animals, with a pre-opening tour of the area before April. There will also be beautiful dogwood tours at Sallisaw and Tahlequah; horse racing at Enid; and the nationally-famous Easter Pageant at Lawton April 21—all a part of the semi-centennial buildup.

And then the grand opener in Guthrie, followed by a six-month round of entertainment which semi-centennial officials estimate will cost a combined $2.5 million.

April will also see the birth of the 1957 Shrine circus in Tulsa, April 22 to 27; All-American City day in Altus, April 23; and the Lions club carnival in Bartlesville, April 26 to 27.

By May, the celebration will approach steam-roller proportions, with an historical pageant in Stillwater the first week; one of the nation's greatest music festivals in Enid, May 1 to 4; the Panhandle Pioneer days in Guymon, May 2 to 5; the colorful Kolache festival in Prague, May 4; and the cowboy-named Johnny Lee Wills stampe in Tulsa, May 7 to 12. Jay will stage its roundup club rodeo May 10 to 11; the cutting quarter-horse show in Watonga is booked for May 13 to 15; and the long-awaited opening of the Will Rogers turnpike will be observed in Claremore, May 16.

Watonga will host the National Roundup Club convention, May 16 to 19; Stilwell will throw its unique Strawberry Festival May 19. There will be a coyote hunt and old settlers' day in Frederick from May 19 to 22, a Charity Horse Show in Tulsa May 21 to 25; and the roundup club rodeo in Tahlequah during the final week of the entertainment-jammed month.

June will open in solemn contrast to the rip-roaring rodeos and horse shows when one of the Old Testament stories will be produced at the Holy City near Lawton June 1. At the same time, a spectacular historical pageant will get underway in the oil capitol at Tulsa and run for an entire week. Other June events will include the Pioneer pow-wow at Okmulgee, June 13 to 15; the Golden Anni-
What makes a city suddenly cut loose, look around in wonder and say, "By Gosh, I've got it and I'm headed for Glory!" Here's why...

MUSKOGEE INDUSTRY MUSHROOMS

By JOHN LEWIS STONE
Muskogee Phoenix and Times-Democrat

There's plenty of dam water in Muskogee.
And, as a result of such a plentiful supply of water in the midst of a bad drouth, Muskogee's industrial seeds are beginning to sprout.

The 1956 crop could probably be called "bumper." But the indication of what's to come in the future would make any crop expert smile.

We are, of course, talking about new industry moving into the Muskogee area, in the heart of Eastern Oklahoma's vast recreational paradise.

Muskogee's industrial growth has been more or less a foregone conclusion for the past decade. But Muskogee's citizens were beginning to wonder just when it would finally break loose.

That "break loose" really came during the past 12 months. And, leading that sudden flood of industrial development has been Muskogee's energetic young mayor, Lyman B. Beard, who doubles in brass as the industrial representative of the Muskogee Chamber of Commerce.

Almost on every hand in Muskogee there is an air of optimism. And, almost everywhere you look you can find building activity in high gear.

Millions upon millions are being spent at this time in construction of new plants, new homes and utilities necessary to serve the growing city.

Housing is currently short in Muskogee, but builders are speeding erection of new housing additions to the city in attempts to keep up with the constantly growing demand. By mid-December, building permits for work inside the city limits were nearing the $4,000,000 mark.

Probably the largest plum to fall in Muskogee's lap during '56 was announcement by the U.S. Navy that Callery Chemical Company of Pennsylvania would construct and operate a $88,000,000 high energy fuel plant at the east edge of Muskogee on the banks of the Arkansas River. Construction will get under way by February on this project, eventually providing employment for some 2,000 persons.

Hard on the heels of the Navy announcement came word from the Fansteel Metallurgical Corporation that its subsidiary, Tantalum Defense Corporation, would build a $6,500,000 plant at Muskogee, also to the east on the Arkansas. Ground has already been broken for this plant and it is expected to be in production by July 1, 1957. Employment at the outset will be around 250, with a steady increase to approximately 500 persons within three years.

Just two miles west, along the north city limits of Muskogee, workmen are rushing construction on Container Corporation of America's new $1,800,000 plant.

Inside the city limits, on Muskogee's bustling and growing east side, a huge $2,500,000 shopping center, providing service for 17 separate businesses, is under construction, scheduled to open March 1, 1957.

A couple of miles south of Muskogee at Davis Field—site of an Air Force training center during World War II—signs of progress are really in the wind.

Just completed are negotiations with the U.S. Air Force for more than $5,000,000 in improvements and construction at Davis Field. These improvements are planned not only for the use of the 713th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, an Air Force Reserve group, but for other commands of the Air Force.

Continued on next page
Just a little to the west, still along the south side of the city, the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company is readying plans for its $400,000 maintenance and operating headquarters division, and Oklahoma Natural Gas Company is ready to build a $400,000 new services building.

Move a little further to the west, and a little north, and you reach the site of Muskogee's new $2,000,000 general hospital, actual construction to start in the early spring of 1957. Funds came from a $1,383,000 bond issue, with the remainder Hill-Burton funds.

A tour all over the city will reveal other millions being spent. For instance, the city's school system—already bulging at the seams—is rapidly expanding its physical properties to the tune of $1,500,000.

Construction crews are busy expanding the city's sewer and water mains and improving streets. Here again the citizens of Muskogee rose to meet necessary expenditures and provided bond issue funds of $1,875,000 for sewer improvements and $2,000,000 for water improvements.

Included in the $2,000,000 water improvements was the city's famed six-mile-long, 48-inch flowline which connects the city's modern water works with the huge Fort Gibson Dam and its constant level supply of Grand River water.

Soon to be constructed, along the south boundary of the huge Navy plant, east of the city, is a modern sewage disposal plant at a cost of $750,000.

Just announced is location of an U.S. Army reserve force armory at the northeast edge of the city, to cost $200,000 and provide an annual payroll of approximately $283,000.

Another feather in Muskogee's cap was announcement by the National Board of Fire Underwriters the city had advanced to a fourth class city in fire protection. The advancement in grade for Muskogee—making it the only fourth class city in the state—came about largely through expenditures of $50,000 in improvements on the central fire station, $50,000 for three new modern fire trucks and expansion, and improvement of the water supply lines of the city.

The city pumped out another $150,000 last year to modernize its three public swimming pools.
A look at the growing Muskogee industrial scene would not be complete without taking into view the roaring new $24,000,000 power generating plant of the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, located on the Arkansas River just east of the city.

Completed and dedicated during 1956, this huge new plant is credited with giving a lion's share of the impetus to Muskogee's sudden boom as an industrial center.

But there are other things which must be considered. Sure, Muskogee has water—lots of it and at attractive rates to industry. This one thing gives the city a strong selling point for any industry. But it also has other attributes—such as a willingness on the part of its citizens to work to secure industry.

Take the Muskogee Industrial Foundation, for instance. Organized on the suggestion of Tams Bixby, Jr., publisher of the city's two modern daily newspapers—the Muskogee Daily Phoenix and the Muskogee Times-Democrat—the group put up a fund of $100,000 with which to assist industry interested in locating in Muskogee.

It is a non-profit, revolving fund operation and its investments have really paid off for Muskogee.

Immediately after the Foundation was organized, it pledged $94,800 to construct a new 25,000-square foot plant for Container Corporation of America. The loan was paid off in nine months and now the same firm is constructing a new and much larger $1,500,000 plant on its own.

The foundation loaned $45,000 to Muskin Manufacturing Company of Walkertown, Indiana, to assist the firm in building a 30,000-square foot plant for a furniture factory in Muskogee. Two years later a second loan of $35,000 was made to Muskin to add another 24,000 square feet to its plant which enabled the company to eventually treble its payroll.

Late in 1956, the Chamber of Commerce and the Foundation raised approximately $80,000 to assist in purchase of the site for the Tantalum Defense Corporation plant.

Other industries have been helped. They've already repaid their loans, and the Foundation has gone ahead and acquired industrial sites for future use by other industries.

Continued on page 23
That compendium of those who achieve, Who’s Who, lists many Oklahomans. Some tend to judge a man’s accomplishments by the length of his biography in Who’s Who.

By that standard alone, Eugene Briggs of Phillips University is an impressive man. But rather than depend upon a column of biographical abbreviations as a measure, let’s step behind the fine print and get acquainted with a hard-working Oklahoma educator,
whose capacity for accomplishment is a latent force beneath a friendly, easygoing personality. Who's Who begins:

B.S., Central College, Fayette, Mo.; B.S. in Education, Univ. of Mo.; M.A., Univ. of Mo.; Ph.D., Columbia University, N. Y.

Add up the years spent in earning those degrees and it is quickly apparent that Dr. Briggs has had a lifelong determination to achieve a thorough personal education. Who's Who continues:

Sci. teacher, Moberly, Mo. 1912-13; Hi. Sch. Prin., Carlton, Slater, Trenton.

Eugene Briggs is an educational administrator whose career has roots in small public schools. There he learned firsthand the problems of working with young people, of firing their ambitions, and guiding them into roads toward accomplishment.

He came to Okmulgee, Oklahoma, in 1919 as science teacher and coach. Within a short time he was high school principal. In 1925, he became superintendent of schools in Okmulgee. Then, says Who's Who:


Oklahoma reclaimed him in 1938, when he assumed the presidency of Phillips University. The amazing growth of Phillips, physically, educationally, and spiritually, since that time, is a tribute to Eugene Briggs that exceeds anything the fine print of Who's Who could convey. Still, let's look at a few more of those items:


A Christian minister says, “Dr. Briggs is one of the strongest lay leaders in the church today.” An Enid business man says, “Dr. Briggs is on the board of directors of our Chamber of Commerce. He has been a civic worker as long as he has been in Enid.”

Eugene Briggs’s service extends beyond civic work, beyond Phillips University, and Oklahoma, into national and international affairs. He is a past president of Lions International. He has traveled the world working for the United Nations Educational and Cultural Organization.

Dr. Briggs says, “We hear some criticism of UNESCO. But we seldom hear, and there is no adequate measure of the great good UNESCO has accomplished; toward alleviating the unbelievable suffering of children in Europe, Asia, and Africa; toward feeding hungry people, healing the sick, and in educational enlightenment.

“The great value of UNESCO,” says Dr. Briggs, “is that it is a people to people movement, not entangled in torturous diplomatic formality.”

This is Oklahoma’s 50th Anniversary Year; it is also Phillips University’s. Dr. Briggs and his faculty proudly point out that, as a matter of fact, Phillips is two months older than Oklahoma. Phillips was chartered on Sept. 17, 1907, and Oklahoma was admitted to statehood on Nov. 16, that year.

A full schedule of pageantry and celebration will occupy the year at Phillips as they join the state in birthday festivities. Another Oklahoma educator adds this comment about Dr. Briggs:

“The thing about Gene, is this; he does the big jobs, but he is never too big to tackle the little jobs that need to be done, too.”

That, perhaps, is the key to his success at Phillips, for he has never allowed the big jobs to crowd aside his consideration for each individual student on Phillips’ campus.

“When Dr. Briggs is invited to some town to make a speech,” says a student, “he usually asks some of us who live in that town to ride over with him. It gives us a chance to go home and visit our folks for an evening that we wouldn’t have had, except for him.”

It also gives Eugene Briggs a chance to get better acquainted with that student, and the student with him. Which is more expressive of Dr. Gene Briggs than anything in Who’s Who. He loves his work, but even more, he loves the people for whom, and with whom, he does that work.
Big events reveal their comic side as delegates to the historic "Con Con" struggle to shape the constitution for the nation's

46th STAR

By Irvin Hurst

PHOTOS COURTESY OKLA. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(THE chairman banged for order, and Haskell took the floor. He quoted liberally from the Bible and pictured his listeners coming home "to find a candidate for county commissioner has taken so much of your wife's time that it really hadn't occurred to her that supper was a part of every day life."

Henry Asp got into the argument. "I don't believe that giving woman the right to vote means that you are going to unsex her," he asserted. There was a gasp from the galleries, but the spectators beamed approval. "The women may not vote, but their right to vote will be held over the heads of nominating conventions in Oklahoma, and they will nominate clean men."

The Hanraty motion was tabled, 57 to 28, with Murray, Haskell and R. L. Williams voting in the ma-
majority. Six weeks later, by a one-vote margin, women were granted the right to vote in school elections only.

Jim Crow still inspired inflammatory speeches so difficult to realize the extent of race prejudice 50 years ago. Left on their own, the delegates would have voted separate school and travel facilities overwhelmingly. But Frantz dropped the hint in a speech that Roosevelt would reject the constitution if racial discrimination features were adopted. Under Haskell's counsel, the convention rejected the separate coach proposition 46 to 31 on February 27. Then it promptly adopted a Haskell resolution recommending that the legislature “do, by law, require the railroads to provide separate but equal coaches,” adding that “we consider this a legislative, rather than a constitutional, question.”

“Statehood,” Haskell added, “is the all-important question.”

With only five opposing, the convention adopted the initiative and referendum March 4. Patterned after the Oregon law, it was offered by Johnston in Article V setting up the legislative department. (Incidentally, the first seven measures submitted to the voters failed; the first adopted, June 11, 1910, moved the capital from Guthrie to Oklahoma City.)

The convention was hurrying to what members hoped would be a close. On March 13, they adopted the Schedule, prepared by Sam W. Haynes of Chickasha, for orderly transition from territorial status to statehood. Passing an ordinance for submitting the constitution to the voters on August 6, the convention went a step farther and created a “supreme election board.” They recessed then, on March 16, for a month to permit Murray and a committee to supervise copying on parchment for final adoption and signatures.

Ten days later, a new storm broke over county divisions. Suit was filed for Greer county to enjoin the supreme election board from holding the August 6 election. Next day, March 27, H. A. Noah of Alva sued to enjoin submission of the constitution dividing Woods county. That same day, Haskell announced for governor.

In an oral opinion, April 9, Chief Justice C. H. Burford of the territorial supreme court, in his individual capacity as district judge, held for the constitution on the issue of dividing counties. That, he said, was a legislative prerogative. But while the Enabling Act called for an election ordinance, Burford ruled the convention went too far in creating a supreme election board. The election commission headed by the governor should function, he said.

When the convention reconvened April 16, Haskell was given an ovation. The day following, the convention—on Haskell’s motion—adopted the mandatory primary provision. On April 18, by unanimous consent, the delegates suspended the rules to repeal the supreme election board feature.

Reading from the sheepskin parchment copy—the one to be “sacredly preserved” by the Secretary of State—Continued on page 17

Dominating the page (above) as in reality it dominated our Constitutional Convention, a view of the gavel used by Wm. H. “Alfalfa Bill” Murray during the Convention. (Below), a rare, early-day panoramic photo of the delegates taken within the old Constitution Hall in Guthrie.
An admirable man, the Reverend Linn Pauahty, Kiowa, and a Methodist minister, speaks of the matter somewhat in this way:

"At first, O-MA-HA was not a town in Nebraska, nor the name of a tribe of Indians. O-MA-HA was a dance, a ceremonial known among the plains Indians. It was performed by men, the O-MA-HA Society, stalwart men, the defenders and hunters of the tribe.

"Only the leader of O-MA-HA and his second in command were permitted to wear tail feathers. These were eagle wings, spread wide, and tipped with the supple white feathers of the swift hawk; symbolic of the eagle's power and strength; the hawk's swiftness and courage. Not eaters of carrion like the vulture and the buzzard; both the eagle and hawk are eaters of clean food. These qualities the men of O-MA-HA admired, and sought to emulate."

The young men dancers of today know that the costumes they wear are rooted in a symbolic and great heritage. This, many white people who may watch the dancers, do not know. To them the songs of the men who sit about the big drum are striking, but meaningless. To many modern Americans, the young men who kick up the dust are impressive simply because of the vivid color and intricate beadwork of their costumes.

It is true that much of the older symbolism is gone, and the Indian dancing costumes of today are made with a careful eye toward decoration. But it is also true that the Indian dancer takes pride in the skill and beadwork and handcraft that goes into the construction of his costume. He knows that its design and devices are part of a valorous past. To him, and to his family and friends who watch and listen, the songs speak of running streams, sighing winds, the wild or plaintive call of animals, of great men who have gone before, and the blackjack scented smoke of fires long dead.

Every part of the Indian's costume once had some use, or meaning. In the old days, the Indian had to earn many of these devices. The insignia he wore indicated his skills, his wit, and his courage in serving his people. Even his name had to be earned.

As a child he was permitted a temporary name which he could use only until, as a young man, he went out to earn his name. Perhaps some vision would come to him as he fasted and prayed alone. This vision would become his "medicine". From it might come his name.

As often, he earned his name from some valiant deed. The eagle feather could be earned only by success in war. By the way it was worn—upright, horizontal, or hanging down—it could be told whether he had counted coup on an enemy, had saved a wounded comrade, or had himself been wounded.

A full war bonnet was a special mark of distinction,
worn only by a chief, and only by consent of the entire tribe. Among the Sac and Fox, the deer tail roach had a similar significance.

The young dancer pictured here is Cowboy Rice, of the Sac and Fox. Sac (originally Sauk) were the “people of the yellow earth”. Fox (originally Meshkwakiwing) were the “people of the red earth”; both living among what are now our north central states.

Mary Helen Deer, pictured here, is a Kiowa princess in the direct line of the great Kiowa chieftans Stumbling Bear and Kicking Bird. Which brings me to a passing digression on why we persist in trying to translate Indian names into English. It is difficult to do so accurately, and apparently those who did the translating made no attempt to be accurate.

Kicking Bird’s name, in Kiowa, is Tome-On-Gope. Which means kicking only in the sense of protesting against something. Kicking Bird’s long protest, upon being forced to leave his old way of life, is symbolic of his personality and his name.

Stumbling Bear’s Kiowa name was Sate-Aim-Keah. Which does not mean stumbling at all. Perhaps charging would be better. But stumbling only in the sense of aggressive forward charging, with complete disregard for any obstacle.

My own name, William Burchardt, translated from the original teutonic, means Iron Hat Iron Beard. I am thankful that I am permitted to use it in its untranslated form. Historians have been shamefully inept in translating Indian names.

It seems to me shameful that these great, first Americans were not accorded the dignity of using their names in the original, untranslated form. Perhaps they would have been hard to pronounce, and difficult to spell. But so is Burchardt.

However, back to Indian costumes. The bead designs on Mary Helen Deer’s costume were early permitted only to the wife and daughters of a chief. These bead designs were originally painted drawings of animals, often with religious significance. By successive conventionalizations, the beaded drawings became pure geometric designs.

Indians wear these costumes now, as they gather at inter-tribal pow wows throughout Oklahoma, all through the year. The principle purpose of these gatherings is social, but the spirit of renewing and preserving some of the lore and traditions of yesterday pervades each meeting.

Our title for this article is in Kiowa; PAST AND PRESENT, as nearly as it can be rendered in English symbols. And, similarly, the old Indian ways can not be brought back in this modern time. But thoughtful Indians are striving to see they are not completely lost. It is good they are doing so.

Ga A-Haw

HARDT

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Anyone trying to ride herd on Oklahoma's booming construction business ought to try bronc-busting for relaxation. We could fill the book with the whole list, so here's how it looks from the standpoint of the big ones only, $1,000,000 or over—and this is still just a sampling. Nonetheless, we think this sample gives a truly amazing picture of one state moving into the future literally by leaps and bounds.

### ON THE BOARDS FOR 1957

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>Robberson Steel Co.—New Plant</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Cain Coffee Company—New Plant</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CAA Center—Expansion</td>
<td>12,000,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>St. Francis Seminary—New Building</td>
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<td>Southwestern Bell Telephone Company—New Office Building</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Federal Building—Expansion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>U. S. Post Office—New Building</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Skirvin Hotel—Expansion</td>
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<td>Kerr-McGee Oil—New Building</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Richards &amp; Conover Hardware—New Building</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Baptist Memorial Hospital—New Plant</td>
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<td>Bethany</td>
<td>Aero Design &amp; Engineering Co.—New Plant</td>
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<td>Tulsa</td>
<td>St. Francis Hospital—New Building</td>
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<td>Hillcrest Medical Center—New Building</td>
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<td>Pryor</td>
<td>Nitro-Guanidine Plant—New Construction</td>
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<td>Clinton</td>
<td>Clinton-Sherman A. F. Base—Expansion</td>
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<td>Stillwater</td>
<td>Oklahoma A&amp;M—Chemistry-Physics Bldg.</td>
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**Total . . . $78,500,000**

One of the state's outstanding photographers, a Life Magazine regular, captures the spirit of Oklahoma on the move in this shot of workmen and Oklahoma City's St. Luke's Methodist Church during construction.

**Photo by A. Y. Owen**
Thursday night, with formal signing set the next day. It required about 18 hours. At 2:30 p.m., April 19, the president called the roll. Eighty-five answered "aye" for adoption, with 27 not voting.

Proudly, President Murray took an alfalfa quill pen to write "Wm. H." at 2:46 p.m. He finished his signature with a pen furnished by William J. Bryan, idol of the Democrats. John B. Harrison of Sayre, waiting to sign, observed the date was the anniversary of the "shot heard 'round the world" at Concord. With Haskell booked to debate Thomas H. Doyle in the governor's race in Oklahoma City that night, some 60 delegates hurried to depart with him by special train. The Muskogee delegates were permitted to sign out of order, accounting for signatures by Haskell and Hopkins on the first page.

Three days later, the convention by resolution accepted the Enabling Act and the delegates took sentimental leave, formally recessing to the day before the election. Murray choked up, in delivering his farewell, and Johnston had to finish the speech for him.

But instead of filing the original parchment copy with Charles H. Filson, territorial secretary of state, "Alfalfa Bill" put it in a strongbox and carried it back to Tishomingo. A howl went up from Republican papers about the "sight unseen" constitution. Governor Frantz refused to sign an election proclamation until the original document was on file. Although Murray later offered a "copy" — one of six on parchment — the governor stood firm against a proclamation without the original.

The impasse had its lighter moments when the witty Walter Ferguson, son of former Territorial Gov. T. B. Ferguson, organized the Squirrel Rifle Brigade to "protect" the constitution. Murray was designated "general" and commander-in-chief. Commissions, bearing a grotesque picture of Murray with cockleburr seal for attests, became prized momentoes.

More serious conflicts were brewing. From a group of Oklahoma Republicans (Asp among them) in Washington for conferences with Roosevelt came rumors that the president was displeased with many features of the constitution. Judge Pancoast of Alva, one of seven district judges making up the territorial supreme court, issued an injunction against Frantz calling the election. Murray, contending a constitutional convention beyond judicial reach, under the division of constitutional powers, chose to ignore Pancoast's orders; but other delegates thought differently. Finally, a committee was formed to seek dissolution of Pancoast's order.

Still another committee—Delegates Ledbetter, Hayes and Charles L. Moore, Enid—was sent to Washington to get Roosevelt's views firsthand. Some delegates were aghast at Murray's next move. Defying the courts, he issued his own proclamation on June 3 calling the election for August 6, and urging citizens of the territories to finance it by contribution.

Murray declared Frantz "has failed and refused, and still fails and refuses, though demanded to do so" to issue his election proclamation. Everywhere he went, "Alfalfa Bill" took with him the metal box containing the con-

A fireplace in the Murrell Mansion near Tahlequah and the capital of the old Cherokee Nation. Built before the Civil War by Major George M. Murrell (he married the daughter of Chief John Ross), the stately old southern mansion is now maintained as a state monument by John Ross's granddaughters. You'll find it 1 mile east off state highway 82, 3 miles south of Tahlequah—and well worth the trip.

COLOR PHOTO BY JESSE A. BREWER

Continued on next page
After Bagging its Limit in Touchdowns, The Season Changes and the State Goes at Basket Hunting

A basketball bounces differently from a football, but they both bounce high for Oklahoma, especially with such stars as All-American Tommy McDonald on the gridiron, and maybe-All-American Hub Reed on the court. Oklahoma’s football record isn’t news to anyone, but the state’s hoop records may be:

- Like the OCU Chiefs being the only team to play five consecutive years in the NCAA tournament—and going for a sixth; like the Oklahoma Aggies leading the nation in defensive play and always in the limelight due to the prestige of coach Hank Iba; like ever-improving Oklahoma University, building rapidly under Doyle Parrack; like Phillips 66ers, edged in the national AAU tournament but going on to win the U.S. Olympic trials and then on to the games and like the two Oklahomans who coach them, Gerald Tucker and Bruce Drake. Like Tulsa’s Golden Hurricane, still trying to regain their heights of a year ago when they won the All-College title. And finally, like OCU coach A. E. “Abe” Lemons, who is moulding 7-foot Hub Reed from Capitol Hill—seen, right, in action—into one of the best in the lanky business. It all proves the ball bounces more than one way for Oklahoma—a state that’s about as good at dunking baskets as crossing goal lines.
During the year of 1956 the economy of Oklahoma along with that of the nation has shown a steady growth. The continued initiative of individuals and organizations within the state in promoting the development of the state's economy industrially has shown results that could not have been achieved without the concerted efforts of everyone involved.

Individual income in the state of Oklahoma increased in the period from 1949-1955 approximately 158%. For the United States during the same period the increase was only 101%. Manufacturing, employment, mining, construction and public utilities have shown a steady increase in growth during the past year. Wages paid have also increased in the industries. During the past five months eight new plants have been announced in the state. The investment in these new plants amounts to $62,750,000 and will result in the creation of 3500 new jobs at the close of the construction period.

With these new developments being undertaken, it is evident the state will enjoy a very good economic atmosphere for the procurement of new and related industries in the coming year.
HOLDENVILLE. Indians have joined the drive for new industry. A resolution calling for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to cooperate with organizations and agencies interested in attracting new industry was adopted at a recent conference of Indian tribes held here.

BLACKWELL. Townspeople are still aglow over the fact the Blackwell High School band led Oklahoma's salute to President Eisenhower when they took his second oath of office in Washington, D.C. last month.

NORMAN. The Sooner football team retired the Father O'Donnell trophy after winning it for the third year; have also won the Grantland Rice award for the second season.

OKLAHOMA CITY. AFL craftsmen are giving the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation Center a brand new chapel. Already more than half complete, the chapel is the contribution of brick layers, roofers, plumbers and other skilled workmen who are donating both work and material for a building that would cost some $22,000 if built by contract.

WEATHERFORD. Southwestern State college student Janice Drady has been named "Miss Teacher of Tomorrow" as the result of a four-state contest concluded at Commerce, Texas. Sponsored by the Teachers of Tomorrow Association, the contest drew 40 entries from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana.

NORMAN. The new Methodist student center has been completed at the University of Oklahoma at a cost of $200,000. Director of the new center, which will serve some 3,700 students, is Rev. James Rodgers.

OKLAHOMA CITY. Hall of Fame


OKLAHOMA ON TOUR

Oklahoma will go on tour this month with a series of exhibits designed by the Planning and Resources Board to spread the word about the state's spectacular development in parks, lodges and recreation centers. Part of the campaign to attract visitors to Oklahoma during its semi-centennial year, the 20-foot-long vacation production includes pictures of five state-owned lodges, parks and points of historical interest as well as the film, "Oklahoma Holiday." Jeff Griffin, director of the tourist division for the board, heads the tour group to appear in:

Kansas City, February 1-10; New York, February 15-24; Chicago, March 8-17.
Here's an example of the sort of response industry is already finding in Oklahoma.

This is what George Hill, publisher of the Coalgate Record Register, did January 10 when one of the world's largest manufacturers of sports and casual wear announced they were going to locate a factory in Coalgate. George simply hauled out the biggest type he could find and let it be known in no uncertain terms that Blue Bell, Inc., thought the world of little Coalgate.

The other part of the story is what Coalgate thinks of Blue Bell—a typical Oklahoma response so open and warm-hearted Blue Bell' has already announced another factory for Ada, with still more in prospect.

(We'd also like to point out that George Hill even went the mighty New York Times one better with his special edition. Headed "News Even Smells Good," George's entire press run was saturated with Cashmere bouquet perfume.)
**Golden Year... Continued from Page 3**

versary Couples program at Holy City, June 5; Sac and Fox Indian pow-wow in Cushing, June 28 to 30, and the frolicking Forest festival in Broken Bow.

July and the Will Rogers freeway will open simultaneously in Claremore, followed by the Will Rogers rodeo in the home town of Oklahoma's favorite son.

Other July highlights will be another dramatization of the Old Testament at Lawton, July 6; the Pioneer Day celebration at Mangum, July 11 to 13; Pawnee's homecoming pow-pow, July 11 to 14; the Semi-centennial rodeo in Chickasha, July 16 to 18, and the Quarterhorse show and races in Enid July 24 to 27.

The shifting stage will swing to Lawton during the first week in August for that army city's birthday celebration, followed by the re-enactment of the Kiowa-Comanche Indian Land drawing at El Reno, August 4 to 6; the all-colored rodeo at Drumright the second week of the month; the fantastic Watermelon Festival in Rush Springs, August 8; the American Indian Exposition at Anadarko, August 11 to 18; and winding up with rodeos at Jay, August 16 to 17; at Madill, August 22 to 23; and Vinita, August 22 to September 1.

Colorful celebration of the Cherokee National Holiday will be held in Tahlequah, September 6 to 7, and the Southwest Little World Series will be played in Cushing, September 6 to 11. Historic opening of the Cherokee Strip will echo through celebrations in Strip cities of Enid, Blackwell, Tonkawa and Ponca City, September 14 to 16. Bartlesville will throw its Fall Festival September 24, and after major fairs in Oklahoma City and Tulsa will come the unusual "Little Juarez day" in Cherokee.

**INDUSTRY MUSHROOMS Continued from page 7**

The Muskogee City Council, under the effervescent leadership of Mayor Beard, has gone down the line to assist industries with new water lines, sewer lines, roads and other commitments.

Muskogee's Retail Merchants Association has provided funds when called upon for contributions to any fund aimed at bettering Muskogee.

And Muskogee financial institutions are expanding to handle bigger needs. For instance, Phoenix Federal Savings and Loan Association's new $250,000 home now underway; the First National Bank and Trust Company's expenditure of $125,000 to completely modernize its facilities. And all three Muskogee banks—the First, Citizens National and Commercial National—have bought downtown property adjacent to their institutions and torn down older buildings to provide parking lots for their customers. All three now operate modern drive-in banking facilities.

Besides all this—and plenty of water, natural gas and power—Oklahoma's third largest city offers advantages in transportation.

Five railroads serve the city itself, with a sixth located at Fort Gibson just across the Arkansas river. Central airlines has several flights daily in all directions. Same for Continental Trailways with its scores of active bus schedules.

Highways are plentiful. U.S. Highways 62, 64 and 69 are as well as state routes 2, 10 and 16 funnel in and out of the city, with bypasses for U.S. 69 on the west side, U.S. 64 along the south side, and U.S. 62 and State 16 along the north side.

No story of Muskogee's growth would be complete without including advantages in recreation. Located in the heart of Eastern Oklahoma's recreational paradise, the city makes much of the location of Fort Gibson Lake and fabulous Western Hills Lodge in Sequoyah State Park right in its back yard, plus Greenleaf Lake, Tenkiller Lake and all the many streams and rivers of Eastern Oklahoma.

Many residents believe a slumbering giant has been awakened—an industrial giant. And looking to the future, they point to the navigation of the Arkansas River, which the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers has announced a certainty for Muskogee by 1973, and sure to bring in even more industrial development.

Yes, many things feed the roots of Muskogee's mushrooming industrial growth, but the predominant factor is abundant water. You'll find that fact proudly proclaimed on the large sign-boards by highways leading in—all bearing pictures of Fort Gibson dam and that fine, old slogan: "There's Plenty of Dam Water in Muskogee!"
What They're Saying About OKLAHOMA TODAY.

For almost a year now, we feel readers of this page have been witnessing a minor miracle. People just don't normally write letters like those which have appeared here unless they've really been moved—and deeply. And they've been coming in from all over the globe, as well as from here at home. Stop and think for a moment. Have you seen anything else done by Oklahoma that has so swiftly opened the eyes—and hearts—of those we wish to reach with our story? Let us hear from you. —The Editor.

Praise From Out-of-State
How much I enjoy Oklahoma Today. Each number gets better and better.
—Maida A. Young
Hamilton, Ill.

Oklahoma Today is really history in the making. The magazine is beautifully done and I've enjoyed it from cover to cover.

I wish you great success in selling a state—which sells itself evidently!
—Mrs. Lowell E. Burnelle
Historian General, N.S.D.A.R.
Washington, D. C.

We received your Oklahoma magazine today, and think it's wonderful.
—Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Scothorn
Sherwood, Texas

Homesick Sooners Write Us
I received my first copy of Oklahoma Today this morning and immediately sat down to read it cover to cover. It's a beautifully produced, interesting magazine that's especially welcome to a Sooner so far from home.

May you continue to grow—and tell the world about Oklahoma!
—Wyndell E. Brogden
1st Lt., Artillery
Dept. of Military Science
Boston College
Chestnut Hill, Mass.

The new magazine is wonderful—I have been hoping someone would put out just such a magazine and I am tremendously pleased with it.

My mother was one of Oklahoma's pioneer teachers, helping to get the schools started in the new territory. She had the vision of what Oklahoma was to be—and she did live to see all her dreams fulfilled in this state. I am happy to see this magazine in its lovely colors go out for we know there is scenic splendor right in our own Oklahoma.
—Mrs. Willa M. Dusch
904 W. California St.
Urbana, Ill.

Today I received my third issue of Oklahoma Today. I look forward to receiving it and know it serves as a long-needed media in bringing before the public the many fine features of our state.

Congratulations and best wishes for the future.
—Joe B. Goodrich
Tokyo, Japan

And Home Folks Say
My usual work comes to a standstill when the latest issue of Oklahoma Today reaches our desk. And we must say each copy shows improvement, and I don't see how it could get much better.

This magazine alone could be Oklahoma's good will ambassador if sent out to the proper places.
—Mrs. Frankie M. Igo
Editor, The Shawnee American
Shawnee

For a long time I have been a reader of "Arizona Highways" and I have often coveted such a magazine for our own state, for I knew we had the beauty and romantic background of factual material. Your magazine is the answer to that desire. I enjoy it very much.

I want to send a gift subscription to some friends in the East who are inclined to think our beautiful state is a wild desert habitat of primitive Indians.
—Mrs. Floyd L. Walters
Vian

Congratulations! This magazine about Oklahoma is fine. It is doing a great job, and will continue to do more. I am sending my subscription for the magazine.
—Jack McGee
Postmaster
Wetumka

Enclosed is a check for a subscription to Oklahoma Today. I want it sent to:
David H. Clark
Box 6
Flagstaff, Arizona

I have read only one issue of Oklahoma Today, and was thrilled to learn of this new boost for Oklahoma.
—Joy Mathis
Fargo
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January — February — March 15

Jan. 14-16  State Convention, Okla. Farmers Union and Soil Conservation Districts, Okla. City
Jan. 19-20  Times Men's Bowling Champs., Okla. City
Jan. 21    Dorothy Woreszkyd, Tulsa Municipal, Tulsa
Jan. 22    Eileen Ferrell, Municipal Auditorium, Oklahoma City
Jan. 24-26  State Convention, Okla. Press Assn., Okla. City
Jan. 26-27  State Convention, Okla. Assn. of Dry Cleaners, Oklahoma City
Jan. 28-29  State Convention, United Drys Assn. of Okla., Oklahoma City
Jan. 29    Zina Francesco, violinist, Okla. City
Feb. 1-2    State Convention, Southwest Regional Conference of N.E.A. Classroom Teachers, Okla. City
Feb. 2    Parade of Quartets, Tulsa Municipal, Tulsa
Feb. 4    Henry Jerome Mackey, Pianist, Tulsa Municipal, Tulsa
Feb. 6-7    State Convention, Okla. Hardware & Implement Dealers Assn., Okla. City
Feb. 8    Okla. City University Band Clinic, Okla. City
Feb. 12    Ferrante & Teicher: Duo-Piano, Tulsa Municipal, Tulsa
Feb. 15-16  Chair Festival, East Central, A&J
Feb. 16-17  State Convention, Okla. Society of Professional Engineers, State Convention, Lawton
Feb. 18    George London, Baritone, Tulsa Municipal, Tulsa
Feb. 21-22  Okla. Bankers Assn., Lawton
Feb. 22    Okla. Live Stock Marketing Assn., Okla. City
Feb. 22-23  Surgical Symposium, Reg., Oklahoma City
Feb. 24-26  Automotive Wholesalers, Okla. City
Mar. 4    Carter County Junior Livestock Show, Ardmore
Mar. 4    Andres Segovia, Guitarist, Tulsa Municipal, Tulsa
Mar. 4, 6, 7, 8  Southern Okla. Junior Livestock Show, Ardmore
Mar. 5-7    Daughters of the American Revolution, State Convention, Lawton
Mar. 7-9    Okla. Plumbing & Heating Contractors, State Convention, Lawton
Mar. 7-9    Okla. State Highschool Basketball Tournament, Section 1, Okla. City
Mar. 7-9    Regional Highschool Basketball Tournament, Section 11, Okla. City
Mar. 7-10  American Quarter Horse Nat'l Assn., Okla. City
Mar. 11-15  Okla. 4-H & FFA Livestock Show, Okla. City
Mar. 14-15  Okla. Education Assn. SW District Convention, Lawton
Mar. 10-17  New Technology Show, Oklahoma City