WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING A...

Young State?

Well, frankly, we can't think of a thing. It's good to be a young state, with a great, big future still wide open and ours to shape to our liking.

It's a good feeling for a fine Spring day, looking ahead to the biggest celebration the nation will see this year—thanks to the vigor of a young state out to let the world know it's come of age.

That's the way we feel about it, and that's the way the young men of our state Junior Chamber of Commerce feel about it, too.

In fact, they believe in Oklahoma, and in Oklahoma Today to such an extent they're currently carrying on a state-wide subscription drive for this magazine.

We invite you to share their enthusiasm for Oklahoma's future—by urging your friends to subscribe when that bright young Jaycee or Jaycee Jane (his wife) comes knocking at the door.

OUR COVERS

FRONT

"Riders to the Sky." What could better capture one of the best bits of that Spring-time feeling than to be horseback atop southern Oklahoma's Arbuckle Mountains! Stretching north of Ardmore, the Arbuckles have a quaint personality all their own—and are known world-wide among geologists for the story of the ancient world's boiling upheaval they lay bare in their unique whorls and strata.

COLOR PHOTO BY JESSE A. BREWER

BACK

"Indian Paint Brush." Both the fresh wonder of the springtime flower and the color of Oklahoma history, our Indian heritage, come to life in this striking nature portrait. And did you know that Oklahoma ranks second in the nation in the number of its wildflowers?

COLOR PHOTO BY J. M. MA~EWS

PAGE ONE

"Spring and the Maiden." Tucked away down the hill from many Oklahoma farms, down there where you see the lush belt of trees, you'll find these spots of enchantment along a Spring-swollen stream. This one's on a small farm near Choctaw.

COLOR PHOTO BY ROGER RIDDLE

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IN THIS ISSUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Osage Spring</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-Centennial Spring Highlights</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar of Events</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why I Like Oklahoma</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Window Into History</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Sands</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Catch—Good Life</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How Good Is The O. U. Team?</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46th Star</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Progress Report</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma—On The Move</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What They Are Saying</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The years go by.
All changes
but the clean, green, fresh
and everlasting beauty
of an...

Osage Spring

By Bill Burchardt

The Osage is a cache of half-told legends. Someday, when the writers of lurid prose have worn the tales of Jesse James and Billy the Kid beyond banality, they will discover Henry Grammer. All man and half outlaw, Grammer rode the Osage in robust violence for a turbulent decade; cowpuncher, squaw man, rancher, and world champion rodeo performer, his fast draw made believers out of such skilled gunmen as Ace Kirby, One-Eye Tex, Jim Berry, Red Jacobs, and Al Spencer. Accused in many a dark conspiracy, Grammer was too elusive to convict, and too tough to arrest very often.

Someday, readers of Western lore will find a new idol in a brush-popper cowhand named Bill Pickett, of the 101 Ranch Wild West Show, who entertained England, Europe, and America with his unique “bite-em-lip” method of bulldogging a steer. Bill was a Negro, the only man ever to bulldog a Mexican fighting bull, in a bloody Mexico City exhibition that almost killed Bill and his spunky horse, Spradley.

Someday, all the tales of the Osage oilfield will be told so well that they will intrigue more readers than have been fascinated by the stories of the Klondike Gold Rush. But that is someday: what about the Osage today? It is there for you to enjoy, today, or next weekend. Spring is colorful in the Osage, a land of peace and roll...
ing, green distances. From the crest of any rise, you can look far out across the heave and swell of the cross timbers, over the succulent graze of real cow country.

Some misled writer once lamented the fate of the Osage Tribe, relegated in 1872 to this million and a half acres purchased from the Cherokees for $9,000,000. That writer was mistaken, for the timbered hills were rich in wild game, much to the Osage's liking. These blood brothers of the Sioux were hunters and fighters. In 1872 the prairies of the Osage Nation were prime grazing land, as they are today.

The bonus wealth of its rich oilfield turned the prairies black for a quarter of a century, but they are green again now, and tinted with the bright colors of wild flowers. For a spring tour of the Osage you might start in Tulsa, driving west on Sandsprings Road, along the north bank of the Arkansaw River.

Start early in the morning while the crows are still talking, while you can hear the songs of the myriad birds that nest along the rocky river bluffs, and see the coveys of white water birds feeding in the river shallows. A few miles beyond Wekiwa the paving ends, but the road is all-weather gravel.

Your map will show several of these graveled roads winding up through the Osage. Try one of them. All were originally Indian trials and you may drive for miles, crossing an occasional cattle guard, rarely seeing a house, and seldom a fence. But you're not lost. Presently you'll emerge on the paved highway to Hominy.

You are likely to pass highway loading chutes where huge, humped Brahma cattle are corralled. Hominy, an Osage sub-agency in 1874, was the trading center of the “Dwellers-of-the-Upland Forest” group of the Osages. Of the other two, the “Dwellers-on-the-Hilltop” settled near Grayhorse, and the “Dwellers-of-the-Thorny-Thicket” near Pawhuska.

There is an Indian Burial Ground near Hominy, and eleven miles north is Wynona, where early day Osages came to study the customs and spiritual rites of their tribe. Pawhuska was named for the Osage Chief Pa-hu-cka (White Hair) who earned his name during revolutionary times when he attempted to scalp a British officer whose white, powdered wig came off amazingly easy at the Chief’s first, surprised grasp.

See the Osage agency and tribal museum in Pawhuska, then drive east on highway 60 to Osage Hills State Park. You may want to camp here for a time, or you can reserve an air-conditioned cabin in advance, and enjoy the swimming, hiking, boating and fishing in Sand Creek or Lake Lookout.

A few traces of the old oilfield can be seen along the way to Barnsdall; an occasional oil-blackened gunbarrel and tank battery, the stripump wells, and spider webs of pumping jacks. The entire Osage is strewn with ghost town names that recall the heavy smell of crude oil and the tang of early day violence: Torpedo, Wildhorse, Pershing, Tallant, and Hogshooter.

Twelve miles south of Bartlesville is perhaps the high point of your drive: Woolaroc Ranch and Museum, open daily, except Monday, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. This fantastically beautiful place has a dramatic impact beyond any museum you have ever seen; lifesize frontier bronzes, Indian and frontier artifacts, wild game trophies, and an invaluable collection of Western art. Without leaving the paved road you'll see herds of Buffalo, longhorns, Brahmas, deer, antelope and elk. Whatever else you may miss, don't miss Woolaroc!

Your spring journey through the Osage may take a day, or as many days as you wish. You may run short of time, but you will not run short of interest, for this brief account does not begin to list all the places worth seeing.

The Osage Nation has produced Indian statesmen of fame: Wah-She-Hah (Bacon Rind), Fred Lookout, and James Bigheart. The Osage cow country has produced "hired men on horseback" like Tom Mix who became topnotch performers in rodeo and Hollywood. The Osage landscape inspired famed Indian author and rancher John Joseph Mathews to write the beautiful descriptive passages in his finest book, "Wah-Kon-Tah."

Spring in the Osage will inspire you, too.
Oklahoma's Semi-Centennial, already primed with a number of curtain-raising events, will open in the next few weeks with the same April "bang" that swept swarms of Boomers pouring into the Territory 68 years ago.

Officially, the golden-year activities won't get underway until April 22—anniversary of the historic race for land. But unofficially, the party has already started.

And what a beginning:

Twenty preliminary events in the month of March, which included an Indian pow-wow and a Boy Scout historical pageant on the Tulsa fairgrounds; and the sawdust-flavored opening of "Circus City, U.S.A." permanent feature in Hugo.

In early April, the scene shifts to Okieene and the Oklahoma-grown sport of snake-hunting, a fantastic celebration that will be repeated in Waynoka, April 28, when that city also stages its 11th annual rattlesnake hunt.

For the less-adventurous, Tulsa will offer a milder form of entertainment April 6, when hundreds of costumed dancers will do-se-do at the 10th annual Square Dance Festival.

The lusty descendants of the working cowboy will take the spotlight next, when Ardmore uncooks its Southern Oklahoma rodeo April 10–13. Almost simultaneously, the annual Alumni game will highlight Oklahoma University's All-Sports Day, April 13, in Norman.

Two contrasting events will get underway April 12 in widely-separated cities when Tahlequah will conduct its 11-day dogwood tours; and Enid opens its 12th annual Thoroughbred Race meet, April 12–17.

On April 16, Stillwater will raise the curtain on the Territorial Dress Review, and two day later, on April 18, the movie industry will premier "The Oklahoman" in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

An added dash of western spice will be stirred into the celebration April 19, when the Cheyenne-Arapaho Pioneer day is staged at Cheyenne; and on April 20, when the Indian ceremonial dances are held at Tulsa's fairgrounds.

The first of two religious pageants will begin April 19, with the Good Friday service at Kenton, "holy city" of the Panhandle.

And on Easter morning, thousands of worshipers will spread their blankets on the rocky hills of the Wichita Mountains, where the midnight-to-dawn production of the life of Christ will be repeated for the 32nd time at the majestic Holy City north of Lawton.

Meanwhile, other thousands will head for Guthrie and the '89ers pioneer parade which will reach a climax April 22, three days after a similar celebration in Midwest City.

And that's only the beginning:

April 22—Opening of a Semi-Centennial history and art exhibition, lasting through 1957 at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa; April 23—The All-American City celebration.

(Continued on page 18)
I like Oklahoma

AND OKLAHOMANS

BY YVONNE CHOUTEAU
HEN I left Oklahoma in the early 40's to dance with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, I said then that Oklahoma would always be my home. While I was only a child at the time, in my early 'teens, this was no empty decision. I was already a seasoned traveler and knew what other states had to offer.

Since then, I have seen much more of our country, and of the rest of the world, and my feelings remain the same. When I end my professional career, I shall return to Oklahoma to settle down and live out my remaining years.

I do not say that every section of this vast land does not have something good to offer. California and Florida offer a delightful, moderate climate. Minnesota and the northern states are cool in the summer. New York offers many cultural advantages. Colorado and the mountain states offer wonderful skiing and winter sports. But each, with its advantages, has disadvantages. Perhaps if one could roll all of the good things in the United States into one package, and have the means and leisure to enjoy them...

But let us be realistic. The most lasting impression of any region is the gentility, the sincerity, the friendliness of its people. And there, my home state occupies the number one spot. There is so little of the pretension and sham that one finds so much in particular sections. I like the good old down-to-earth and honest-to-goodness friendliness of the people of my state—it really seems to come from the heart. The clasp of the hand is firmer, the words more sincere and the smile broader and more lingering.

California and Florida may boast of their temperate climates; the northern states may exploit their cool summer temperatures; for steady fare, I crave neither. Oklahoma's climate seldom goes to extremes either way. For a matter of health, I prefer a few months of warm weather that will open up the pores and permit free perspiring.

And certainly I have no love for below zero weather. In the northern states there are seasons when practically all activity must cease because of deep snow and mercilessly cold weather. I can recall nothing like that during my childhood in Oklahoma where it seldom ever touches zero, and then only for a day or so.

My memory of Oklahoma's more wholesome climate is heavily underlined by ghastly and hazardous experiences in the mountainous country during our midwinter tours. For the past two years, the Ballet Russe has traveled in two large busses with three box-car-size trucks to carry scenery, props, personal baggage, and stage paraphernalia. When the weather behaves itself, fun it is to depart from the beaten paths and view new vistas in the mountain country. But what a sinking palpitation comes over one when the roads are frozen and slick. I shall never vanish from my mind the sight of one huge bus we saw beside a Montana mountain road. It had slipped off and was merely suspended by some obstacle from tumbling to the bottom of the abyss!

While Oklahoma is a relatively new creation as far as statehood is concerned, Yvonne Chouteau is a living reminder of how far back our roots go. World-renowned ballerina (Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo), part-Osage Indian, Yvonne is also the great-great-great granddaughter of Jean Pierre Chouteau, French fur trader and trapper who came to Oklahoma in 1796 to found the town of Salina. That's back when George Washington was President and 'first in the hearts of his countrymen,' which also happens to be one of Miss Chouteau's many virtues. Inducted into Oklahoma's Hall of Fame when she was only 18, more recently the Oklahoma Senate has designated her 'Miss Oklahoma Semi-Centennial.' Since then, Yvonne has personally presented Oklahoma's Semi-Centennial story to more cities over our nation than any other one dedicated individual. Needless to say, Oklahomans like Yvonne Chouteau—tremendously! —Ed.
Only a few men in the entire world can read the history of ancient Egypt as it is recorded in the difficult word-picture language of hieroglyphics.

But practically anyone can SEE much of Oklahoma's history, beginning with our Statehood Day. Oklahoma is so young that many of her most important early-day events have been captured—intact, as they unfolded—on movie film.

This fact—which must seem almost unbelievable to our sister states whose beginnings go back to the 13 colonies—was only recently fully uncovered as one state firm began plans for observing Oklahoma's Semi-Centennial Celebration.

Sponsors since 1950 of a TV program showing scenes of present day life in Oklahoma, Southwestern Bell Telephone reasoned that since movie cameras were in use when Oklahoma gained statehood in 1907, surely there must be film somewhere of these events.

They backed this reasoning with money and manpower.

“Detectives” began their search not knowing what, if anything at all, would be found at the end of the trial. They only knew clues were few and the trail all but obliterated by time and neglect.

One researcher finally got a lead that seemed warm. It led to the town of Chandler and there it got gradually warmer—then turned blisteringly hot. For in a small drugstore, on shelves long unused in the back of the building, he found can after can of precious movie film of early Oklahoma events.

By this time, other researchers were also hitting plenty of pay dirt.

One film shows the huge crowd milling about in feverish excitement at Guthrie on Statehood Day in 1907. Another shows our first Governor, Charles Haskell, as he proudly reviewed the new state militia in 1908.

The national guard is shown leaving for duty on the Mexican border; Sooner "doughboys" en route to World War I; the beginnings and growth of Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Chandler, Pauls Valley, Stillwater, Enid and many other state cities; and many Oklahoma industries are shown in their infancy.

The first planes made by Spartan Aircraft are pictured, as well as a complete story of the "Boom Town" of Cromwell in its "palmiest" days—the wooden sidewalks, the "gushers", the drilling methods of 1920.


Delighted as they have been with their discovery of these old films, all concerned with the big search have one regret.

It seems that one of their "detectives" uncovered tips that led to a veritable treasure of film cached in Tulsa. But when he arrived he found that the precious celluloid he sought—though carefully preserved for years—had been burned only two weeks before!

Even so, anyone interested can be thankful he doesn’t have to read hieroglyphics to study Oklahoma history. He can see it now—on film.

Oklahomans have a particularly warm spot in their hearts for our own native Redbud tree. One of the earliest to bloom in this area, the Redbud's mass of color against the bare, grey trunks of all her forest neighbors never fails to bring that catch to the heart, and the long, second look to fix in mind and carry away this sight for one's own. These Redbuds bloom in Oklahoma City's Will Rogers Park. COLOR PHOTO BY JESSE A. BREWER
This one's an eye-opener.
We guarantee you five chuckles of
pure amazement, and a good
conversation piece.

Golden Sands
OF O K L A H O M A

BY MARCEL LEFEVRE

"What makes Oklahoma tick—and its pocketbooks
so fat and slick?"
When this writer was asked that searching question
a few days ago, the answer was automatic: "McLish Sand!"
You may never have heard of McLish sand. Yet you
are constantly surrounded by it. Your life revolves
around its products. It is present in every room of your
home, be it a mansion or a log cabin.

Whether you glance through your large picture-win-
dow, or watch your favorite television program, you are
looking right through it. Even when you powder your
nose, as all women must, McLish sand is in your mirror
and—yes, in your powder box too.

Whether you are a farmer, doctor, merchant, laborer,
teacher or banker, the golden sand of central Oklahoma
is immeasurably responsible for your present standard of

PHOTOS BY SOONER-SCENICS STUDIO
living. For the colorful sand outcrops of the Arbuckle Mountain region supply the multi-million dollar glass industries of the southwest. They also supply foundries, potteries and smelters of Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas and many other states of the nation.

And the deeper horizons of this same sand—found as deep as five thousand feet below the surface, part of the Simpson Formation—supply most of the Oklahoma crude oil and gas production. A miraculous element, indeed!

However, as Benjamin Franklin once said, “Wealth is not his that has it, but his that enjoys it.”

Who knows how many old sourdoughs digging for gold in the Arbuckle mountains finally spat in contempt on these golden sands and headed west for “Californey”? Even the Spanish Conquistadors, the champion gold diggers of all time, marched and fought their way across this Oklahoma wealth and left again, empty-handed, for Mexico.

Along came the Sooners with that unflagging Oklahoma determination to “make gold of what we have”—and the sands gave up their wealth.

At first, glass making in the young state of Oklahoma was a very precarious venture. Many tried and failed, and those who remained were giving it a last try. Then in 1913, the Oklahoma Geological Survey discovered the beds of fine silica sand in the Sulphur, Mill Creek and Roff area, and the doors were thrown wide open for successful glass manufacturing.

But glass-making cannot be profitable without a cheap source of fuel. But that was here, too—billions of cubic feet of natural gas—and all to be drawn out of the same sands at a lower level!

Oklahomans can certainly feel exceptionally fortunate to be living where once upon a time there was nothing but a wild sea.

The wealth of our golden sands was formed during the Ordovician period—millions of years ago when the world was in the making and mad rivers raced out of the northern wastes to dump countless millions of tons of colorless silica sand into this sea. The sedimentary deposits which formed at the bottom of this Ordovician sea also contained much marine plant and animal life. These, say most of our geologists, slowly decayed to form our present oil and gas pools.

Perhaps you have wondered, “Why the name ‘Black Gold’ for Oil?”

The animal and plant life contained in the shallow deposits did not turn to oil. They merely decomposed. And that is what makes the beautiful rainbow-like colors seen in the walls of the open pits in Pontotoc, Murray and Johnston counties before the sand is washed down.

The old Greek sage, Periander, said “The useful and the beautiful are never separated.” Although spoken about 600 B.C., no better tribute can be paid to the golden sands lying beneath the lush pastures of Oklahoma.

These deposits today cover an area of approximately four hundred square miles. They are from one hundred

Continued on page 18
Are you run-down? Overworked? Edgy as a bear? Then grab up your gear and go fishin' with an expert who promises...

good catch

good life...

By Pinky Rains

EVERYWHERE you look, you see people with the jitters, the whim-whams, the willies, with that far-away look in their eyes. Why?

Yep, you are right. I've got it too—"Spring Fever." Isn't it terrific? Guess it will take at least a dozen or more fishing trips to cure me. How about you?

Well, let's get out those rods, reels and tackle boxes. Look 'em over and be sure to repair or replace everything that needs it. Then let's head for the water.

March, April and May are the finest fishing months
of the whole year—no doubt about it. And Oklahoma has the right places to go!

Here are a few tips from an old hand.

**WHY SPRING FISHING'S GOOD**

March and April begin the spawning season for most game fish and some species still mate until the latter part of June. The fish have been in deep water all during the cold winter months. During March they all “pair-up” or “mate-up” and then they move out of the deep water and into the shallow water along the shoreline to make their “beds” in water from about 16 inches deep down to 4 or 5 feet deep, depending on how clear the water is in that particular body of water.

Now the fish are easy to locate and are also easier to catch than at any other time of the year.

*Continued on next page*
WHY GAME FISH STRIKE

Hunger? Anger? Curiosity?

Naturally, hunger is the main reason for feeding fish to strike your artificial plugs or lures, live minnows, worms, bugs or cut bait.

Anger? Yes—anytime anything invades their home or habitat. They do not like to be disturbed when they are in an inactive or dormant stage or rest period. They are like an ill tempered old dog. If you disturb his sleep or rest, he will bite heck out of you.

Curious? Sure! Anything new, wiggling, wobbling, darting with a crazy, addled, injured, erratic action through the water—they just have to stop it or strike it and see what makes it tick. And it doesn’t have to resemble anything they ever saw or ate before. For instance, freak lures often catch more fish than natural live bait lures.

TYPES OF LURES

There are two types of artificial lures or plugs. First, the natural imitations of forage food that bass or game fish are used to feeding on, such as minnows, perch, frogs, bugs, worms, helminites, etc.

Second, the freak lures that do not resemble a damn thing that any fish ever saw or ate before; yet consistently catch fish and have been doing so for many years.

HOW TO CATCH ’EM

Lunker bass or large game fish do not get big by being stupid or over-anxious to strike your lures. They are smarter than most anglers who fish for them. Use a little common horse sense and stalk your game fish and fishing waters like an Indian would stalk a deer or any animal in the woods. Use stealth and quietness. Do not make a lot of noise or quick movements. Do not disturb the surface of the water you intend to fish. And don’t wear white clothing when fishing clear water for any game fish. Try this and you will catch more fish!

WHERE TO FIND THEM

Some of the finest and hottest fishing lakes in our nation are found right here in Oklahoma—especially the eastern part.

The fabulous Lake Texoma produces more fish per fisherman than any other lake in our nation. Over 7 1/2 million people or fishermen visited this famous southern Oklahoma lake last year.

Grand Lake O’ the Cherokees is another huge and wonderful lake, offering all types of water sports, accommodations galore, and excellent fishing in the north-eastern corner of the state.

A prediction—Lake Wister Reservoir will be the hottest fishing spot in the state in 1957. One trip will convince anyone if he knows anything about fishing. All types of fishing will be good here!

Lake Tenkiller, with its crystal clear waters, nestled in the heart of the famous Cookson Hills, teems with all kinds of game fish and its scenic beauty will linger many years in your memory.

Continued on page 19
I think I can answer that. As individuals the Horsemen, if playing under Wilkinson in 1956, would be as great as was The Big Red's backfield of '56; or the Wilkinson speedsters over the past five years. And if McDonald & Co. had been playing for Rockne, in '25, they would have been as sensational as were the mighty Horsemen.

I am not one who sighs for "the good ole days" in athletics, altho they, in the element of time, were my own salad days. I sincerely feel that not only Oklahoma U. under Wilkinson, but even the Notre Dame team of 1956, would have made a game with "The Rock's" greatest "no contest."

First, the game is not the same. The reason lies not as much on the athletic field itself as it does in the classrooms which encompass O.U.'s stadium—and the college stadia everywhere. From these classrooms, rather than the athletic field, have come the men who have changed the game. The men from the Ag schools who have improved the turf of the gridiron, the cinders of the track and the "skin" of the diamond. From these classrooms have come the men whose knowledge of nutritional needs have brought such "secrets" as perfect coordination to the big man, and have eliminated the "goon" from the athletic scene. From these classrooms, the new equipment in every sport: the track shoe; the modern non-skid football; the basketball of perfect balance; the golf club and it's "matched" ball—all had their birth thru knowledge gained out of books that were "cracked" at the knee of dedicated faculty.

And in a very large measure from these classrooms—for here I hold the athletic field to be a classroom in every sense of the word—has come the better teaching to be found on all levels of athletic competition today.

Here let me say this: While one cannot judge Oklahoma's 1956 football against Notre Dame's 1925 football, or the Irish of the '20s against the Harvards and the Yales of the 1890's, there is one thing all great football teams, of all eras, have shared in common, and that is the character of the man who teaches character upon the football field.

Oh, we make jokes about "character building" in our college athletics. And it is supposed to be "old hat" these days to say that any boy who plays for a certain coach will be a better man for the experience. But among the great coaches of this, and past eras of the great American game of football, this has been a simple truth. And it is true in greatest degree in the histories of the two men we here compare—Rockne and Wilkinson. Had "The Rock" lived he would have moved forward just as the game itself has moved forward. And had Wilkinson coached in 1925 he would have held rank among the nation's greatest, just as he does today.

Football, and our nation, are better because of them—Bud and "The Rock."

(Thank you very much, Mr. Carberry. Next top national sportswriter we'll be hearing from: Ohio's Francis Wallace.—Ed.)
In last issue’s second installment, delegates to Oklahoma’s Constitutional Convention finally hammer out a draft for submission to state voters. On adjournment, however, President “Alfalfa Bill” Murray carries the signed original of this draft home with him in a metal box. Protesting state Republicans send a delegation to see President Teddy Roosevelt. Others file court actions. Democrats counter with William Jennings Bryan, who comes to Oklahoma praising the draft written by “cornfield lawyers”. Murray, meanwhile, wins his court test and with tongue-in-cheek, writes Roosevelt asking for suggestions. The convention has just heard Murray’s letter and Roosevelt’s cold reply—as the narrative resumes.—Ed.)

R. L. Williams moved to recess the convention, and Johnston asked all but Democratic delegates to leave. The Democrats remained in caucus most of the night. The next day, they offered 14 amendments. With unanimous consent to suspend the rules, they hurriedly acted to reconsider the vote by which the document had been adopted April 19. Then Ledbetter arose with typewritten copies of the amendments. “As the proposed changes were read, the chair called for the roll call, and the votes were recorded, no explanation being made,” reported the Capital. Angrily, Hopkins, the Republican leader, arose at one time to denounce the action “without open discussion,” but the Democratic machine rolled on. Rather than lose time recopying the original pages, they decided to enter the changes by interlineations; other words and phrases were inked out, and if the penmanship varies, it is because members and clerks lent a hand.

In four days, some 43 changes were made. One of the major revisions was to modify the article on initiative and referendum. The controversial article on corporations also was overhauled.

On Saturday, July 20, Frantz opened his campaign for governor at Ada. Striking at the Democrats’ secret caucus sessions, the “rough rider” declared that “although they have a majority of 100 to 12 in the convention, they were afraid of the light of day.” The Republican party, he asserted, “was the original statehood party. The Democrats of Oklahoma and Indian territories, as well as in congress, have always been obstructionists...”

The Capital, meantime, had installed a two-color press and featured red headlines. In daily cartoons, the Republican paper was lambasting “Boss” Haskell and Murray. In a cartoon July 23rd, it depicted Washington, Hamilton and Jefferson in statues, towering over Murray and Haskell at a table below. “The Con Con was 240 days doing what our forefathers did in 85 days,” the caption.
Republicans lambast Murray, Democrats fire back with Prohibition—and Oklahoma becomes the nation’s...

**46TH STAR**

Gov. Charles N. Haskell

Murray was now ready to file the original document with Filson. Calling the secretary from his hotel, Murray arranged an appointment. Accompanied by newsmen, and in jocular mood, “Alfalfa Bill” deposited the parchment copy, bound in red leather, with the secretary at 3:46 p.m. It’s the one which the Secretary of State keeps today in the heavy steel box.

“Immediately, citizens began to pour into the secretary’s office to see the parchment over which there has been so much discussion the past few months,” reported the Capital. “Each page of the document was scanned and the interlineations and varied penmanship noted.”

Two days later, July 24, Frantz issued his proclamation setting the election for September 17—to coincide with federal Constitution day. In Chicago, about the same time, Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis in federal court handed down his famous decision on the Standard Oil anti-trust suit, levying a record fine of $29,240,000 against the Rockefeller interests. Teddy’s trust busting efforts were bearing fruit.

But the Oklahoma Republicans were in a quandary. The Democrats had pitched their campaign on the constitution. Meeting in Tulsa, August 1, the Republicans nominated Frantz by acclamation, then straddled on the constitution.

“In the event that this partisan constitution shall become the fundamental law of the state, we pledge the Republican party ... to use every means at their command to secure the speedy elimination of its objectionable features,” read the platform. “On the other hand, if the judgment of the voters ... shall be against this proposed constitution, or it shall be disapproved by the peerless Roosevelt, we assure the people that the Republicans of the two territories ... will exert their power to have the coming congress ... pass a new enabling act ... under which a constitution and state government may be formed free from partisan bias and fair alike to all persons, interests and localities.”

The battle was on. Murray, canvassing the state for the constitution, accused the saloonkeepers of trying to sabotage its adoption. Enlisting the aid of Rev. Dinwiddie and other prohibition leaders, he pledged statewide prohibition if they would work for adoption of the constitution and get their followers to bombard Roosevelt with letters for its approval. The strategy worked, and while the

Continued on page 20
Golden Sands  Continued from page 15

fifty to four hundred feet in thickness. With an annual production of about 350,000 tons, against estimated reserves measureable in several tens of millions of tons, the industries using this sand need have no fear of over-expansion. And much of this sand is 99.83% silicon dioxide, needing little or no refining!

The oil and gas industries are too huge and complicated to evaluate here. And when we fully realize that the McLish sand is but one of five horizons from which most of our gas and oil are produced, we suddenly freeze with horror at the thought of attempting to compile such astronomical figures.

In fact, when you stop to take into consideration all the Oklahoma people engaged in producing, transporting, merchandising, engineering, and all other occupations connected with the products derived from this sand, you wonder where to stop. The impact this silicon element has on the Oklahoma economy is beyond belief.

Perhaps mentioning a few of the things directly derived from these golden sands would be more comprehensible, and certainly more enjoyable. Let's try.

Suppose you take an imaginary trip through south central Oklahoma. And suppose you start from the westernmost outcrop of McLish sand near Gotebo, then travel east. Before leaving, however, the first thing you will want to do, so early in the morning, is eat. Whether you have ham and eggs, or coffee and doughnuts, the dishes you eat from contain McLish sand. The water glass is made of it. When you glance out the window to see what the weather is like, you are looking through McLish sand. You see bright sunshine and everything points to a wonderful day.

You hurriedly pack the family in the car and are ready to go. But wait! Before touching your starter button, look around you. Why, you're surrounded by McLish sand products. Not only the glass, but the gas and oil in your tank and engine come from it. The beautiful upholstering and your tires are products derived from it. The asphalt pavement comes from the same source; and the car is lubricated with grease which also came out of McLish sand. Incredible? Now push the starter and no matter where you go—Oklahoma City, Chickasha, Ada, Atoka, Pauls Valley, Turner Falls, anywhere—you are riding over the golden sands of Oklahoma named McLish.

Back home you have it in your linoleum flooring, electric light bulbs and fixtures, and the gas that cooks your meals also comes out of it. Where about it?

"The gratification of wealth is not found in mere possession or in lavish expenditure, but in its wise application." Saaveda M. de Cervantes spoke those words during the sixteenth century. What a masterful way of answering the question: "What makes Oklahoma tick?"

No matter how much gold might have been found in the Arbuckle Mountains, it would now be buried under Fort Knox. Out of sight and out of reach.

The McLish sands will continue to provide an uninterrupted flow of wealth, happiness and culture to Oklahomans, their children and their children's children, for years to come.
good catch good life... Continued from page 14

Ft. Gibson Reservoir is another beautiful lake with a rugged shoreline, impounded on the Grand River and full of fighting, jumping game fish and clear water. You'll return to this lake often.

Both Upper and Lower Spavinaw Lakes are excellent fishing and have beautiful shorelines and wonderful camping sites. For the anglers or bass fishermen, I would suggest Upper Spavinaw (Lake Eucha) as the best game fishing lake. If you like to camp out and really rough it, you will love both of these lakes.

If, on the other hand, you want to take it easy, you'll find that Oklahoma's tremendous State Park system offers excellent lodging with all the comforts of home near practically every good fishing spot you'll want to try.

Many lakes also have enclosed, heated and air-conditioned fishing docks for the arm-chair fisherman. They are kept well baited underneath so the fellow who likes this type fishing will catch a nice string almost every trip.

You'll find this service on Grand Lake O'the Cherokees, Texoma, Tenkiller and Ft. Gibson Lakes.

Some spots are better than others, sure. But with 16 large man-made lakes in this great state, hundreds of smaller lakes, and untold thousands of ponds; whether you live north, east, south, central or west in Oklahoma, there's water fairly close by that's worth trying your skill and luck with now.

Don't wait. Just chuck it all—and go!

"In this world of trials untold, God gave man fish to rest his soul."

And that I do sincerely believe.
I like Oklahoma  Continued from page 7

Much of whatever success I have attained, I owe to many good friends in Oklahoma. Their encouragement, from the very beginning, has meant so much to me. It has always seemed that everyone was ready and eager to lend a helping hand. My first dance lessons were started at about three years of age. My first major appearance was at four and one-half years, at the Chicago Century of Progress Exposition.

It was on American Indian Day, and I was permitted to perform Indian dances with some of the finest Indian dancers I have ever seen, assembled from every part of the United States. Thereafter, for about eight years, I danced at many large events about the country. At some of these affairs, I represented the Governor.

How well I recall my first such appearance, when I represented Governor Marland at the San Diego Exposition in 1935. He gave me a commission as Honorary Major on his staff. My parents had an officer's uniform tailored for me, complete in every respect.

Governor Marland then invited me to the National Guard encampment at Fort Sill, where he pinned the insignia of a Major on my shoulders. The troops marching by snapped to crisp salute, much to the surprise and enjoyment of my parents. Was I proud!

46th STAR  Continued from page 17

Pen used by President Theodore Roosevelt to sign the Proclamation making Oklahoma the 46th state.

official vote canvass required nearly six weeks, it was obvious by September 18 that the constitution had carried.

The official canvass showed 180,333 for adoption, with 73,059 opposed. Haskell defeated Frantz by a much smaller margin, 134,162 to 106,507, indicating Republicans had joined Democrats in backing the constitution and statehood. And the separate ordinance for statewide prohibition carried by the still smaller margin, 130,361 to 112,258.

On October 25, Frantz took the official canvass report to Washington. Under the Enabling Act, the president was required to act within 20 days. After Frantz' call at the White House, it was reported Roosevelt would issue his proclamation on November 16.

Arrangements proceeded for a gala inaugural ceremony on Saturday, November 16. Thousands thronged the capital city. At 10:15, Washington time, the president entered the cabinet room and a minute later attached his signature. As he looked up, he exclaimed:

"Oklahoma is now a state!"

When the word was flashed to Guthrie, Haskell promptly took the oath as governor about 9:30 a.m., Oklahoma time, in famous room 47, with only his family and a few friends present. At high noon, he stepped forth on a temporary platform on the steps of the Carnegie library. Following a symbolic wedding of the territories—Mrs. Leo Bennett of Muskogee, the "bride," representing Indian territory, and C. G. Jones of Oklahoma City, the "groom," representing Oklahoma territory—Haskell again was sworn in by Leslie G. Niblack, editor of the Leader.

To the thousands of spectators, unaware of the earlier ceremony, that moment marked statehood for Oklahoma. They whooped and yelled.

Then as the crowd dispersed to enjoy barbecue in the Guthrie park, "Alfalfa Bill" called the "Con Con" delegates together on the library steps. About two-thirds of the members were on hand as the president declared the convention adjourned sine die. The "Con Con" had come to an end just four days short of a year since the members first met.

Another unusual scene from that connoisseur of the unusual in natural lighting, the pride of our state photographers, whose artistry has also made him a Life Magazine favorite. The only catch here is that A. Y. can't remember the name of the lake since this was snapped during a hurried trip through the area on another assignment. It's near Lawton, and if any of our readers can identify it, both we and A. Y. would appreciate hearing from you.

COLOR PHOTO BY A. Y. OWEN
Industrial production reached the highest level in the state's history during 1956.

Employment in Oklahoma's non-farm establishments rose to 577,100 in December, a gain of 800 from the previous month. This brought the average for 1956 up to 572,700 compared with 559,800 in 1955.

The state's factories employed an average of 90,800 during 1956, approximately 3,000 more than the average of the previous year, despite the substantial decline in defense production.

A total of $40.9 million in new construction contracts in December raised the total for the year 1956 to $373.2 million. This was a decrease of 14% from the total for 1955, but it was 17% more than in 1954, formerly the second largest year on record.

A decline of 22% in residential building contributed significantly to the overall decline in construction. Manufacturing and commercial building, however, increased over 1955 as the state's business and industrial growth continued. This, of course, reflected the success of the statewide cooperative effort in industrial development.

While retail trade was generally good throughout most of the year, losses during the first quarter kept the annual volume from pulling ahead of 1955. Total retail sales for 1956 were 2.5% less than the previous year. Most lines of retail trade experienced an excellent year in 1956, but declining sales of automobiles and building materials were sufficient to hold back total sales.
The American premiere of a William Saroyan play made Oklahoma theater history when "Slaughter of the Innocents" was staged by the STILLWATER A&M Theater Guild, February 26-27. And how did Guild sponsor Vivian Locke get the rights for an American premiere? "Why, I just wrote Saroyan and asked him."

Prints by two Oklahoma artists, Doel Reed, STILLWATER, and Lorraine Moore, OKLAHOMA CITY, were chosen for hanging in the annual exhibition of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Some 2,100 pieces were entered, but only 259 made the show.

Construction of the new $600,000 Journalism building is well underway on the campus of OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY.

Seven Oklahoma teen-agers have received honorable mention in the national Science Talent Search. Among them: James Mantooth, LINDSAY; David E. Pitts, OKLAHOMA CITY; Claude R. Hipps, PONCA CITY; and from TULSA, Clifford E. Leonard and John R. Wallace — whose project, incidentally, was titled "The metabolism of amino acids, alanine glycine and serine in lactobacillus arabinosis."

Top industrial scientists from both the United States and Europe will converge on OKLAHOMA CITY June 17 for a one-day symposium — secured by Oklahoma's Frontiers of Science Foundation to spotlight, during the Semi-Centennial Exposition, the state's intended major role in tomorrow's world of science.

The Spring semester opened at OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY, hand-in-hand with the school's new Department of Metallurgy. The opening set OU apart as one of the few universities in this part of the country with a metallurgy department.

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, with the aid of some 150 technicians, has completed organization of its new Society of Professional Engineers and Scientists.

Residents of OKLAHOMA CITY are still rather joyfully punch-drunk over the one-two-three slam of recent events. First came the announcement that the CAA would locate their permanent Aeronautical Center here. Ground-breaking for the new $13 million installation was hardly over when one of the nation's 10 largest manufacturers, Western Electric Company, announced they would locate a $35 million plant in the capitol city. Then, almost simultaneously, Governor Gary announced engineering contracts would be let on the $18 million downtown expressway — with the $20 million east bypass expressway in the offing. The CAA Center, to be completed by the early part of next year, will employ more than 2,000 new persons. The Western Electric plant, completion set for 1961, will employ nearly 4,000 more.

Two Oklahoma teachers, Mrs. Nina O. Brunfield of ARDMORE, and Robert Lyon of MIDWEST CITY, were honored by the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers for distinguished service in the teaching fields of mathematics and science.

F. Z. Beanblossom, one-time STILLWATER Oklahoma A&M staff member, has been named "man of the year in Texas agriculture."

Life magazine honored OKLAHOMA CITY's fabulous First Christian "Church of Tomorrow" with a full-page spread in a recent issue.

The distinguished service award of the Oklahoma Junior Chamber of Commerce has been presented to Sidemore Bowlan, OKLAHOMA CITY; Sam W. Bates, STILLWATER, and Warren F. Christiansen, LAWTON. All three previously won the Jaycees accolade of "Man of the Year" for their respective cities.

W. L. Knickmeyer, ADA News Editor, won top honors for his work in promoting soil conservation practices during the recent awards banquet of the Oklahoma Association of Soil Conservation Districts. Other honors went to Mrs. Paul Mungle, ATOKA; Z. K. McKinney, STONEWALL.

Hazel D. Monfort, ALVA, came home from a Chicago convention as a member-at-large of the national executive committee for the National Association of Music Teachers. Like the president, she's starting a four-year term.

Gary Duke, NINNEKAH FFA youth, won the Farmers Union speech contest at Oklahoma City, and with it an expense-paid trip to Washington, D. C., New York and Philadelphia.

Edith Johnson, editorial columnist for the Daily Oklahoman, has won new fame with her writing: The 1957 National Brotherhood award, given her by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

State-wide, school facilities are expanding almost faster than anyone can keep up with them. McALESTER'S planning three new elementary school buildings at a cost of $450,000. PERRY is moving ahead with a $200,000 high school gymnasium. EL RENO has opened the doors of a new music building and a vocational agriculture shop worth $205,000. NEWKIRK has moved into a sparkling $150,000 junior high school plant. ALTUS is showing off $200,000 worth of classroom space in the newly-decorated wing of the high school building. BARTLESVILLE will start construction this spring on its new junior high school. And WAURKA has both a new junior and senior high plant in the mill at $225,000.
Professionals Say

"The January-February issue of your incomparable publication, Oklahoma Today is truly one of the most outstanding pieces of state publication I have ever come across.

I found each article more interesting than the last, even though I intended only to scan the magazine. In short, I found the photos, layout, and writing a thing that a state with Oklahoma's great potential could be truly proud of.

My hat is off to you, Governor, for an outstanding job in promoting a state that certainly bears watching in the field of industrial growth. You may rest assured that our article dealing with Oklahoma will give full attention to your Semi-Centennial Celebration as well as the vacation possibilities for salesmen across the country.

Once again my sincerest thanks for showing me WHY OKLAHOMA WILL LEAD THE NATION."

—Richard E. Monahan
Public Relations Director
Quaker Hill, Inc.
Newark, New York

"The issues of your handsome Oklahoma Today arrived a few days ago, and I have enjoyed dipping into them on my daily shuttle to and from the suburbs. The magazine is full of excellent things . . .

As I believe you know, we are carrying one of the Oklahoma Essay Contest winning submissions in our issue next month. I hope this will be the first of frequent pieces about Oklahoma, and I am sure Oklahoma Today will be excellent source material for us."

—James Parton
Publisher
American Heritage
New York 17, N.Y.

Home Folks Say

"I am a former Oklahoman from Lawton and hope to be able to return soon. Thanks to your fine magazine I have about convinced my wife there is no place like Oklahoma.

Enclosed please find my check for a renewed subscription."

—George Server
San Jose, Calif.

"We surely enjoy your magazine, especially since we aren't living there now—but hope to be Oklahomans again."

—Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Adams
Clayton, New Mexico

"I enjoy Oklahoma Today so much I think everyone in Oklahoma should send it to someone in another state."

—Mildred Ray
Cordell

Homesick Sooners Write

"Enclosed is my check for one year's subscription to your fine magazine. I think it is a fine production job as well as a fine piece of editorial workmanship. I find Oklahoma Today is a fine piece of literature for transplanted Oklahomans to have around the house to keep them sold on Oklahoma. My son, who is an instructor at West Point, says he uses it for those who are skeptical about Oklahoma progress."

—Phil McMullen
Publisher
Guthrie Daily Leader

"We are keeping all issues, for future use of our grandchildren. Why? Well, I'm sure such magazines as this will give our people a better understanding and love for this wonderful home state of mine. Also will show the many opportunities to be found at home."

—Mrs. O. D. Wilson
Haskell

"I have seen only one copy of the magazine, but am very favorably impressed with it, and want my friends to know more about our great state. I know of no better way to accomplish this than through the fine articles and beautiful art in the magazine."

—Mrs. Lois C. Knie
Cordell

"I was pleased and happily surprised when this publication was called to my attention by one of my fellow towns-women. It has been a real joy to look at these familiar scenes, and some not so familiar, and to read the very fine articles. It is also thrilling to realize the progress Oklahoma is making along every line of endeavor.

Congratulations on your outstanding publication and best wishes for continued success."

—Mrs. M. D. Woodworth
Colby, Kansas
ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS

To see the World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wildflower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.

We just couldn't resist quoting this famous bit by the great English poet William Blake, since it so aptly sums up the spirit of this Spring issue.

We are, of course thinking of J. M. Matthews' striking Indian Paint Brush photo on our back cover, and Marcel Lefebvre's sprightly article in the McLish sand, page 10.

Mr. Matthews is an agent for Acacia Mutual Life Insurance Company in Oklahoma City, and Mr. Lefebvre is a glasscutter for Pittsburgh Plate Glass in Okmulgee.

We felt you might be interested in these facts, since they point up the widespread creative activity so many Oklahomans enjoy in their spare time. Jesse Brewer, for instance—who shot two other fine color photos besides our cover for this issue—is a linotype operator for the Leader Press in Oklahoma City. And Pinky Rains, former fishing editor for "Southwest Holiday" and author of the "how-to-do-it" piece on page 12, is sales manager for Arlington Park Memorial Cemetery in Oklahoma City.

Our other contributors this issue are either full-time professionals or already well-known for their work as writers or photographers. Their fine work speaks for itself — and later, with more space at our command—we should like to speak of them also. But this time we wanted to give our new part-time creators their due.

And also to thank once again Yvonne Chouteau and Denver's Jack Carberry for a very generous gift of their time and thought.

It is always refreshing to "see ourselves as others see us." Gives us something to think about—and live up to.

oklahoma's world champ

"World's All-round Cowboy Champion" Jim Shoulders tames a Brahma during last year's Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo—set for Aug. 28-Sept. 1 this year in Vinita. In winning this top cowboy honor for the second time in '56, Jim jolted his way through 80 rodeos, ran up more points than any other cowboy has ever attained in any one year, and helped put Oklahoma again in top place nationally for cowboy honors. Jim's Tulsa-born; lives on his own fine ranch near Henryetta with his wife and two children when he's not riding the circuit.

PHOTO BY PAUL E. LEFEVBRE