Five months before that infamous day at Pearl Harbor, Oklahoma ground was broken in preparation for the conflict ahead. No one at the ground breaking knew that war was certainly to come, or that the air base just being started would become a key part in the program of sending bombers to the far Pacific.

If there were seers present, they were silent. No soothsayer foretold that grief-filled day when a Pawhuskan, Major General Clarence L. Tinker, would lead a mission of B-30 Liberators to his tragic destiny.

His mission followed the American success at Midway and sought to strike at distant Wake Island. But the General's mission was doomed, for fate had decreed that the formation would become scattered in the far Pacific clouds and that General Tinker's own plane would plunge into the sea on the way back to Oahu. Thus a gallant Osage warrior ended his career of service, and his name, with all due honor, was given to the growing complex of air defense he had left behind. Following the General's death, Tinker Field continued to grow and to offer
A city in itself, complete with bus service and a golf course, Tinker draws its workers from all over Oklahoma. More than a hundred employees can be counted from each of seventeen Oklahoma towns and every part of the state is represented in the 23,000 employees working here.

Housing a myriad of services, the base has grown from 960 acres at the time of ground breaking to the present area of more than 3000 acres. Civic minded Oklahomans have been responsible for this growth, donating more than half of the new land.

Tinker's location near the center of America and the fabulous amount of air traffic arriving from all over the nation have caused Tinker to be often termed "The Crossroads of the Nation."

One of the highest paid cities in the nation, the complex here yearly dumps over a hundred and twenty-five million dollars into the state's economy.
massive facilities for air support. It repaired B-24 and B-17 bombers. As the war raged on it expanded its services and fitted the new B-29’s for combat.

One special B-29, The Enola Gay, like General Tinker, had a rendezvous with history. She was processed through the field with hushed secrecy, and flew out known to none but a few trusted officers and technicians. When she reached the time and place of her destiny she dropped the first atomic bomb.

Today the Tinker Complex consists of a great number of organizations and services, whose names and functions would fill more space than this entire magazine has to offer. At the heart of the complex lies OCAMA, the Oklahoma City Air Materiel Area.

OCAMA is one of nine similar areas in the United States. These nine areas report directly to the Headquarters of the Air Force Logistic Command.

The mission of OCAMA today is, that of keeping airplanes flying — its responsibility extends, in OCAMA’s own phrasing, “from the cradle to the grave.” That is, from the time a plane comes off the cradles of the assembly line until it is junked, it is the responsibility of OCAMA to service, repair, supply, and maintain it. OCAMA is thus the mightiest of service stations in existence — servicing far flung Air Force bases in a myriad of ways, serving as a vital link in the chain of air defense. OCAMA buys, supplies, and maintains aerospace and ground equipment used by the Air Force over the world.

The logistic support of OCAMA includes service for the B-52 Stratofortress bomber, the B-27 Strato Jet bomber, the B-50 and the B-29 bombers, for the KC-135 Jet Tanker, for the C-97 and C-137 Cargo planes, and for all sorts of components and related items. Most interesting of all to science-minded Oklahomans are the new services for the GAMS. Once, of course, gams were feminine legs. Now a GAM means a Guided Air Missile. Though philologists make no connection between the terms, our Tinker serviced GAMS are shapely, deceptive and dangerous.

Probably high on the list of any Air Force’s “Dirty Tricks” department is the Green Quail. The Quail is a missile intended to deceive enemy radar. It creates radar blips that resemble those of a bomber, though it is in reality only an unarmed decoy. As an aid to deception, fake attacks and the like, its uses are legion.

The GAM 77, or Hound Dog, is deadly instead of deceptive. The Hound Dog is launched in flight from a plane which holds it like a bird with someone holding its wings. Once released, a 7500 pound thrust jet engine stabs it forward toward its prey. An intricate mechanical marvel, the Hound Dog is guided to its target by an inertia guidance system, so flexible that while still on the mother airplane, the missile’s instructions can be
The Stratofortress being refueled in the center picture is here shown in a state of partial assembly. The monstrous size of this bomber can be estimated by noting the fuselage, across the back of the picture, and by comparing the men with the wing section.

changed as to launch, course and target.

Recently OCAMA became responsible for logistic support for a third missile, the Dynasour, a boost glide missile. Other missiles and space rockets lie ahead, and it is likely that when the first man lands on the moon, he will have had logistic support out of OCAMA.

OCAMA is also in the "junk business", and the OCAMA salvage story is a tale of astronomical saving to the taxpayer. OCAMA does over 300 million dollars worth of salvage operations each year. Hundreds of reconditioned jet engines are stockpiled for shipment to tactical air commands. Others are placed in aircraft at the rate of one engine installed every two hours, twenty-four hours a day.

Shipments out of OCAMA are equally impressive. Twenty-six flights daily leave the terminal under MATS supervision. An average of 350,000 pounds of supplies and materials are flown out each twenty-four hours by MATS and by the Logistic Air (LOGAIR) service, a commercial contract operation. This is the highest shipping rate in the US Air Force.

Both the size of the problems met and the technical advances made by OCAMA are shown in the Jet engine testing program. In 1947, the screech of the engines being tested was so nerve racking that two or three months work sent the tester into noise exhaustion. Muffling equipment was developed from an early pilot model which resembled a huge Maxim Gun Silencer to the 1955 development, a 75 foot long hall, which was lined with acoustical glass, and turned up into a 75 foot tall, chimney-like structure. These test walls must be kept scrupulously clean, for any tools left on the floor would be sucked into the intake. People may not enter the chamber, either, for the same reason.

If OCAMA is the heart of our huge complex, the head must certainly be the 1707th Air Transport Wing, called the "University of MATS." MATS is short for the Military Air Transport Service, and the 1707th provides transitional training for air and ground crews on heavy air transport, weather, and photo reconnaissance aircraft. The 1707th conducts 16 different courses, not all of which involve flying. For instance, two courses are for air traffic personnel who man the MATS cargo and passenger terminals. Since 1951 more than 32,500 students have graduated from schools held by the 1707th.

The 1707th holds two top safety awards—the MATS TROPHY (for outstanding flying safety) and the COMMANDERS TROPHY (for outstanding ground safety).

Another important operational unit of Tinker is the 305th Troop Carrier Squadron. Composed of C124 Globemaster Aircraft and combat ready crews to man them, the 305th provides facilities to transport troops to the scene of any national emergency.

The skill of the 305th was demonstrated in a joint army MATS exercise two years ago. Operation Big Slam involved airlifting 18,000 troops and 12,000 tons of equipment from United States bases to Puerto Rico and return. This was the biggest peace time lift in history and involved over 1,200 landings and takeoffs from Tinker air strips—without mishap.

Another vital installation at Tinker is the 6th Weather Squadron. This provides weather observation on a worldwide basis to special projects of the armed forces and other governmental agencies or departments. It supports the severe weather warning center, and operates a number of other miscellaneous weather services.
Sometimes the Tinker mission involves the disposal of a dangerous bomb. Detachment No. 1,2702d Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron is responsible for such hazards.

Critical communications are provided at Tinker Field also. Here are provided inter-site communications for the USAF Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles program.

Not a part of Tinker Field proper, but certainly part of the Tinker Complex is the Oklahoma City Air Force Station. This houses the 32d NORAD (North American Defense) headquarters, the 32d Air Division (SAGE) headquarters, the 4752d Air Defense Wing, the 4632d Support Squadron (SAGE), the 746th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, and the 32d Weather Squadron.

The 32d Division, (SAGE) is responsible for defense of the southern United States against attack. As the largest Air Division in the country, it provides air defense for thirteen states.

Twenty-nine Radar units in the 13 states scan the skies twenty-four hours a day and report electronically.

Nine fighter-interceptor Squadrons, equipped with F-100's, F-102's, and F-86's are on constant alert. One squadron is manned by Air Force personnel, and the remaining eight squadrons are staffed by Air National Guard personnel.

The emergency identification of a threat that would require use of these squadrons would be made by the SAGE system. SAGE is a system of Semi-Automatic- Ground Environment. It is automated to utilize the speed and accuracy of the electronic computers, but is held to semi-automation to include the needed component of human judgment. SAGE identifies more than 200,000 aircraft flights over the North American Continent every day, and does so in a fraction of the time that was once required.

The division includes a BOMARC missile training wing to supplement the fighter-interceptor power.

Tinker has over 211 miles of runways and roads, enough square yards of pavement in ramps, runways, and taxiways to equal a highway running north and south across Oklahoma from the Kansas border to the Red River.

In growth of the land area, the original tract has grown to more than 3,800 acres, some 54 percent of which was donated by patriotic citizens or communities.

Yet all the millions of dollars worth of cargo, all the assembly lines, all the roar of engines and the buzz of activity is dependent upon the most important ingredient of all, the people who make up the operational personnel of the field.

Tinker's payroll is $125,000,000.00 a year. The base employs over 23,000 persons. Tinker people are proud of the importance and the size of the job they do. Recent polls indicated Tinker Field as one of the two most popular bases in the entire Air Force, and the Air Force became so aware of high morale here that it began studies that might use the Tinker example to improve morale at other bases.

Of Tinker's 23,000 employees some five thousand are women. Over ten thousand are veterans of World War I, World War II, or the Korean conflict. They are typical Americans, ranging from workmen in overalls to top level supervisors. There are bus drivers and scientists, laborers and engineers.

Their know-how and round-the-clock labor keeps our aircraft and missiles flying, and patrolling the canopy of air to keep America free from danger.

THE END
The 101 Ranch and the
Buffalo Bulldogger

By Aleta Lutz

In the 1920's if you wanted a bronc or a Brahma bull stopped, a long-legged ostrich ridden or a buffalo bulldogged, there was one sure place to get your man.

Everybody in Oklahoma knew, and eventually Canada, Mexico, and England, knew. For Guy Shultz, a northern Oklahoma cowboy with a flair for the daring and unexpected, could handle about any critter that could run or buck.

He won his first bronc riding contest at twelve at Bliss, Oklahoma, after having had to get his mother's permission to enter the event. Guy soon became a legend among cowboys.

He won bareback and saddle bronc contests, calf roping and steer roping contests, and took top prizes riding Brahma bulls and bulldogging steers. He was a world champion rodeo contestant in 1921-22-23.

But those who remember Guy's spectacular performances remember him best for being the first man to bulldog a buffalo. Guy explains how it all got started.

"I was working for the Miller Brothers at the 101 Ranch," he recalls. "We put on free rodeos every Sunday afternoon. I rode, and so did Bill Pickett, the famous Negro who originated bulldogging. It was our job to take care of the buffalo herd during the week and to perform on Sundays at the rodeo."

Guy's eyes twinkle as he continues. "At that time, the ranch covered thousands of acres. One day Bill Pickett and I had gone over to the Bar L, a spread located some twenty-five miles to the east of the White House, to check on some stock."

"Coming back," he relates, "we ran across a whiskey still belonging to a friend who didn't particularly want everybody to know where his still was located. To keep us quiet, he gave us a gallon to take back with us."

Bill Pickett tied the jug onto his saddle horn and they resumed their ride across the pasture, taking occasional nips during the ride.

They talked about ranching, rodeoing, and how Tom Mix and the movie company making silent pictures on the ranch were having trouble handling the buffaloes.

"All the time we rode, I kept feeling better," Guy smiles. "As we talked there was the herd of buffaloes, right in front of us, their big bodies shaggy against the green of the pasture."

"Bill, I believe I could bulldog one of those critters," Guy heard himself saying.
Bill turned and grinned at him. "I don't think I heard you right."

Guy squinted, peering at the herd of buffaloes. Suddenly a young bull raised his head.

"Bill, I believe I can," Guy answered, almost as if talking to himself.

They reined up and took the jug from the saddle and set it down on a flat rock. Guy explained how he aimed to go at it.

"Pick out a three-year-old bull and cut him out. Bring him down the fence, even with this cottonwood tree," Guy pointed at a nearby cottonwood, leaves rustling in the summer breeze. "When you get him here, I'll be ready."

Bill frowned and rolled a cigarette. "Mister Guy, a buffalo's got a head different from a steer and his shoulders have a mean hump. It won't be like handling a steer. Are you sure you want to do this?"

Guy nodded, then watched as Bill, a superb horseman, rode slowly toward the herd.

Bill cut out the bull he had chosen and started toward the appointed spot. Guy felt cold perspiration on his hands. He moved into position and turned to glance at the sharp curved horns that could pierce a man's chest or rip an arm apart. He was suddenly aware of his slight build, 145 pounds pitted against twelve hundred pounds of shaggy strength, a powerful animal nothing short of a buffalo gun or a locomotive had ever stopped.

Then Guy was alongside the buffalo with Bill riding close in on the other side of the animal. Guy felt the warmth of the shaggy body against his legs and the warm smell of the animal and the dust rose to his nostrils.

He reached for the horns, swung forward and out of the saddle. He felt sudden resistance as his feet plowed earth, there was a sudden yielding. His grip tightened, wrenching at the horns, twisting, and suddenly, its four feet lifted into the air.

"You done it. You done it," Bill Pickett yelled. "I reckon this is the first time anybody ever bulldogged a buffalo."

Guy and Bill rode back to the ranch. By nightfall, word had spread all over the ranch that Guy had bulldogged a buffalo.

That night Colonel Zack Miller walked up to Guy.

"What's this I hear about you bulldogging a buffalo?"

Guy looked up and grinned. "It's no story, Mister Zack, I did bulldog a buffalo today."

Colonel Zack eyed him suspiciously. "I don't believe anybody can bulldog a buffalo."

Guy's eyes sparkled. "I believe it," he grinned.

"How much do you believe it?"

"Why, about five hundred dollars worth," said Guy.

"It's a bet," Colonel Zack snapped.

Guy didn't have five hundred dollars. He had only sixty dollars coming in pay from the ranch. That night he went out and borrowed enough to cover his bet.

The next morning he was ready to bulldog the buffalo and collect his money, but Colonel Zack was in no hurry.

"There's no use doing it now," the Colonel told him. "I'll be ready in three or four weeks."

"What do you mean?" Guy asked suspiciously.

"You can do it on a Sunday."

Guy suddenly realized Colonel Zack was going to promote a money-making venture.

"I won't do it if we have a crowd," Guy announced. "Guy, you perform in front of crowds all the time. What's wrong with a crowd?"

"Performing in front of a crowd is all right," Guy said firmly, "but not for five hundred dollars. It'll take more than that."

Zack Miller got angry. "Guy, I can get along without you. You're fired. Right now."

Guy walked out. A few days later he met Colonel Joe, Zack's brother, who had just returned from Europe.

"Mister Joe," Guy said, "I'd like to buy a buffalo."

Colonel Joe Miller looked at Guy as if he thought Guy had gone out of his head, but he answered, "Sure, I'll sell you one."

"How much?"

"Two hundred dollars."

Word of Guy's prowess with the buffalo spread quickly and friends were eager to show off his skill. A friend in Ponca City, Mark Freeman, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, promoted a rodeo featuring Guy bulldogging a buffalo. Tickets were sold to an overflow crowd.

The Millers did not attend the rodeo but during the afternoon flew over the arena in a plane, keeping an eye on the performance.

The next day Guy received a long-distance phone call from Tex Austin, a Chicago promoter, asking him to come to Chicago and bulldog a buffalo. Negotiations were made and Guy appeared in Chicago where he delighted the crowds, bulldogging a three-year-old buffalo bull nightly to the tune of $3,000 a performance.

The Millers rehired him.

During the years Guy spent with the 101 Ranch Wild West Show he worked with many other great performers of an exciting era. He appeared with Buffalo Bill. He rode for horse catches for Chet Byars, world champion rope trick artist. He worked with Will Rogers, trained his "high school" horses at the 101 Ranch.

Guy often played roles in silent movies made on the 101 Ranch when Tom Mix brought his company there to make pictures.

Truly a "cowhand's cowhand," perhaps Guy's great ability to work with others was a result of the early training he received at home. His folks had come to Oklahoma in 1896 when Guy was only a year old, the family of nine making the trip in a covered wagon.

Today Guy and his wife live quietly in Marland, only a few miles from where the family originally settled. Guy still possesses a great capacity for enjoying life. He retired from rodeoing in 1924 after having broken his hip in a fall at Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Guy raises and trains race horses and is in partnership with his brother, Walter. They own an impressive string of thoroughbreds, led by Butch K.

Butch K was retired this year, after having won a total of $160,000 in 1960. Mrs. Shultz, also a lover of horses, says, "I keep telling Guy we're retired now, but he still doesn't believe it."

Guy grins. He isn't in any hurry to retire. If he ever does, it won't be very far from the horses he loves. ●
ALABASTER Caverns

CATHEDRAL DOME ... MIRROR CAVE 
... KEYHOLE DOME ... THE SLEEPING 
TURTLE ... GUN BARREL TUNNEL ... 
THE CATACOMBS ... THE WHITE WAY 

BY BILL BURCHARDT

UNDERGROUND SCHEMATIC FROM RESEARCH OF ARTHUR J. MYERS
Two-hundred million years ago nature began preparing the natural wonder we call Alabaster Cavern — the world's largest known gypsum cave. It began during the Permian Age, when heaving seas covered the area; sea water laden with suspended salt and gypsum which deposited itself in thick layer upon layer along the ocean floor, there to remain.

During this prehistoric time of great climatic change and land upheavals, an arm was cut off here from the inland ocean. Over the centuries the water evaporated, leaving layers of beautiful, translucent stone we have come to call Alabaster.

Then a thin trickle of water, through a crack in the gypsum, began the construction of a cavern. In times of ancient deluge the trickle became a torrent, rushing, abrading, wearing, carving subterranean tunnels, passages, and giant rooms, and decorating them with fantastic sculpture.

In Alabaster Cavern State Park, seven miles south of Freedom, you can view this handiwork of ages long past. Take along a wrap, for the temperature inside the Cavern is a constant fifty-six degrees the year around, and during the hour-and-a-half to two-hours taken by the guided tour of the Cavern you are apt to become quite cool.

You will see natural wonders of architecture; the
Cathedral Chamber and Dome, the Catacombs, the Heart Dome, the White Way, the Keyhole Dome, Gun-Barrel Tunnel, and Ship Rock.

Nature's sculptures in the caverns are whimsical and capricious; the Owl's Face, the Sleeping Turtle, the Frog, the Devil's Bathtub. And, irony of all ironies for nature to play on hapless Sooners, there is in this Oklahoma cave a silhouette of the State of Texas.

In serious mood, and convincing evidence that she can create beauty in her timeless art, nature has left a massive Selenite Crystal in the Cavern, its highlights revealed now by especially installed illumination. The whole tour area of the cave is lighted, with colored lighting added for dramatic effect.

And you are treated to a moment of absolute darkness; a deep-in-the-earth absence of light so complete that you cannot see your hand an inch from your eyes, and even your luminous watch dial is blacked out.

If you enjoy these spookier aspects, your guide will point out to you a place where bats hang overhead. Bats, you know, cannot take off from a horizontal surface; thus they sleep hanging head downward, so they can drop into space to take flight. They are blind, guiding their flight with a radar-like technique involving supersonic sound.

Medieval superstition taught that if a bat became entangled in a woman's hair she would suddenly die, that "bat blood applied to the eyes would cure blindness, that human victims of the Vampire bat would themselves become Vampires. Believe it or not, none of these things is true. And, though we dislike to disillusion you further, Alabaster's bats—they are Mexican Freetails that commute back and forth between Alabaster and Carlsbad Cavern in New Mexico—will not disturb you at all during your tour.

After your tour, you'll want to take a walk through the rugged beauty of Cedar Canyon, and take pictures of the natural bridge there. Be sure to take a picnic lunch. There is a shady picnic area at the park.

If you have more than one day to spend on your trip, there are oodles of interesting places nearby; Little Sahara, the Cimarron Sand Dunes; Boiling Springs State Park; the Glass Mountains; the Salt Plains, and adjoining Wildlife Refuge and Salt Plains Lake; Chimney Rock; but more about these in Eric Allen's travel article, touring the area in the next issue of Oklahoma Today.

Alabaster was the first stone carved artistically by man. Buried with Cleopatra were small Alabaster cups containing paint and brushes, which she had used during her life to paint her eyebrows. Beautiful vases of Alabaster, filled with the scent of ancient perfumes, were found in King Tut-Ankh-Amen's tomb. Also found were Alabaster carvings of the Lotus blossom—Egyptian symbol of eternal life. The pyramids of Egypt were finished and decorated with polished Alabaster. It was used in the city of Cairo, in building the Mosque of Mohammed Ali. And, known to every Christian, is the account in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, of the woman who brought an Alabaster box filled with precious ointment, which she broke open, and annointed the head of Jesus, while he ate with the Pharisees.
The best way we know of to achieve an impression of the enthusiasm for growth that is motivating Oklahoma is to visit a few of the 20 towns and cities that were winners of this year’s Community Achievement Awards.

Sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce and Development Council, in cooperation with the Dept. of Commerce and Industry, thirty-nine communities entered the first competition in 1960. This past year the number of entries more than doubled, with eighty-four communities competing.

This is a contest no one can lose, for every community that enters develops an organization, with committees active in stimulating growth and development. From the enthusiasm and community spirit generated come new industries, new schools, churches, parks, recreational centers, cultural facilities, landscaping,—all improvements which remain after the competition is over.

Oklahoma Today offers a brief overview of this year’s plaque winners. If any of the Certificate of Merit Winners are near you we would urge you to visit them. Hardly half a percentage point separates the achievements of any of the five winning towns in each division. Most of all, if your community is not entered in this year’s competition, we urge you to enter at once. This competition is providing Oklahoma with a yardstick for achievement and enthusiasm of incalculable value.

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YUKON (Cont.)

WOODWAR

BRONZE PLAQUE WINNER

SIXTEEN
ARDMORE

BRONZE PLAQUE
WINNER

WOODWARD (Cont.)
OFFICIAL PRAIRIE DOG TOWN

Vast dog towns greeted the early plains pioneer but they compete with cattle for food and most now are gone. Burrows often are connected. The alarm "bark" alerts the entire population. Together with deer, buffalo and elk prairie dogs are part of the original fauna and are left here for you to see.
TEXOMA
SILVER PLAQUE
WINNER

POTEAU
SILVER PLAQUE
WINNER
GUYMON
SILVER PLAQUE
WINNER

ENID
SILVER PLAQUE
WINNER
What's your hobby? Whatever it is, it's likely you'll find enthusiastic fellow devotees somewhere in Soonerland. Oklahomans are hobbyists, from A to Z, and particularly fortunate in that we can enjoy our hobbies close at hand, from Arrowhead collecting, Water Skiing, Spelunking, Skindiving, through Xylography, Y, and Z, without wasting precious days of vacation time traveling long distances to get to where that pet hobby can be enjoyed.

Why don't you join us? Here's an alphabetical sampling of a few of the hobbies at hand to choose from:

ARCHERY Our Indian history may have something to do with the popularity of bows and arrows. Archery clubs are active. The World Champion Archer, Joe Thornton, lives in Tahlequah where one of the events of the annual Cherokee National Holiday in early September is the "cornstalk" shoot. ANTIQUES . . . Precious belongings of the pioneers were brought here by covered wagon. Today antique collectors happen on "finds" in antique and furniture shops all over Oklahoma. Antique shows are held each year.

BARBERSHOP QUARTET SINGING . . . Probably the least amount of talking at any kind of Convention anywhere is at the gatherings of the Society for Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA — whew!). The quartets (wives included) can be found harmonizing in rooms, lobbies, dining rooms, any place around their Convention facilities, at any hour. Contests highlight the meetings, with the public invited to share the fun. BOTANISTS . . . and just plain flower lovers will want to visit the Rose Gardens in Tulsa during July, or flower displays such as the Iris show in May and the Zinnia show in July, in Woodward. Wild flowers of all colors and kinds are found throughout the state from April through October. Beavers Bend State Park has, within its 1,300-acre limits, every kind of tree and shrub native to Oklahoma, as well as other rare species.

CAMPING enthusiasts find a wide variety of scenic terrain in which to pitch their tents from the high and rugged Black Mesa country to the pine-covered mountains of the southeast. Sixteen State Parks and 12 Recreation Areas provide all the necessities of modern camping. Oklahoma also has Platt National Park; the 181,000-acre Ouachita National Forest; and the beautiful Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

DOGS of all breeds, shapes and sizes can be seen in the annual state Dog Show and the Obedience Show held this year in Oklahoma City . . . and the hunting variety are at their best at the Annual Field Trials fall event at Lake Murray State Park near Ardmore. DANCING . . . square and otherwise, delights young people of all ages in every area of Oklahoma. Square dance associations meet regularly. Oklahoma ballerinas have achieved international fame. Following in their toe-steps are hundreds of students in ballet classes in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The world's finest ballet companies perform here each year.

EATING is a hobby anyone can enjoy, and you'll find all varieties of international cuisine, with special emphasis on the southwestern flavor—imported from near neighbor Mexico. The chili, tacos, enchiladas, etc., are the best to be found. But perhaps the high "C" of Soonerland cookery is our steaks. Steak houses, Cattlemen's Cafes, and Sirloin Rooms abound, and there is no tastier treat than a man-sized steak, from Oklahoma's rangeland, done to a turn—to your especial taste.

FLYING is practically a necessity for Oklahoman who live on huge ranches in our

soonerland

TWENTY-SIX OKLAHOMA TODAY
wide open spaces. It is also a favorite leisure-time activity. The Flying Farmers Association was organized at Oklahoma State University in 1944, and the National Flying Farmers Association, formed from the Oklahoma group in 1945, now has 1,500 members. Some 1,700 private pilots and students are registered in the state, and may be seen cruising over the colorful green of farm and ranch any day. Groups schedule fly-in breakfasts and fly-in golf tournaments, like the annual tourney at Lake Texoma State Park, and even fly-in fishing competitions, such as the well known one on Grand Lake, at Grove. FOSSIL hunters have been well rewarded in their search for traces of ancient plant, animal and human life among the colorful rock formations at Black Mesa, Alabaster Caverns, Spiro, and many other archaeological sites.

GOLF, both amateur and professional, draws galleries of thousands to courses throughout the state. New courses have recently been opened at Lake Exoma, Quartz Mountain, Lake Murray, Roman Nose and Sonoita State Parks. Oklahoma has been host to all the United States' major golf tournaments, the most recent being the National Open at Tulsa's Southern Hills Country Club. Oklahoma City annually has top golfers in its open tournament, August 23-26 this year. Yearly Indian tournaments are unique events here, where the golf season is year 'round. The national GUN show is held in Bristow, and the Davis Gun Collection in Claremore is said to be the largest individual collection in the U.S.

Oklomans' love of HORSES reflects their pioneer heritage. All kinds of horses, from the cutting horse showing his skill in competition to the high stepping thoroughbred prancing around a show ring, lure thousands to Rodeos, Charity Horse Shows, Quarter Horse, Arabian, and Appaloosa shows. HUNTING is an old favorite. Deer, quail, pheasant, prairie chicken, ducks, geese and many other kinds of birds and game are to be found in all areas of the state. An elk season will be opened this year in two southwestern counties.

INDIANS have influenced Oklahoma from the beginning of its history. Collecting artifacts, arts, and crafts of these original Oklahomans, reading, and writing about their lives, visiting the sites where Indian history is made, is one of the most fascinating of Oklahoma hobbies. Fine exhibits of arrowheads, tools, clothing, handwork and paintings are to be seen at the Gilcrease Museum and Philbrook Art Center in Tulsa; Woolaroc Museum, Bartlesville; the Historical Society museum in Oklahoma City; Indian City, Anadarko, and many tribal and other museums throughout the state. Cherokee Indian weavers still hand loom fine blankets and clothing near Tahlequah, and at Pawnee Indians handicraft items for distribution to shops and collections throughout the world. Four capitols of the Five Civilized Tribes are still to be seen in Okmulgee, Tahlequah, Tuscaloosa and Tishomingo — reflecting the government and culture of the Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian nations.

JAZZ devotees gather with rhythm, reeds, and brass for fun and dancing at clubs, school dances and Saturday night jam sessions. Pete Fountain heads the annual Oklahoma University Jazz Festival this year.

The art of KNITTING is one leisure time activity that has made a strong come back in popularity during recent years. Knitwear fashions worn today may have influenced this. Whatever the cause, knit garments are shown in abundance at State and County Fairs. KITCHEN CRAFT exhibits at the Fairs always bring entries by the hundreds; cooking contests are sponsored by milling and grocery

hobbyland

BY DOROTHY HOLZBAUER & SALLY WEST
companies, and cooking schools are attended by thousands of students of kitchenology per day.

Tooling fancy LEATHER articles has been a proud craft in Oklahoma since the first frontiersman shot his first deer. Today's Boy Scouts are one group who make fine leather articles. Many leather carving aficionados go in for intricate equipment—with beautiful results. Fancy saddles, boots, jackets, six-gun holsters, and belts always turn up in large numbers at Rodeos and Roundup Club gatherings.

MUSIC? Oklahoma has everything from excellent symphony orchestras to piano recitals. Polished professionals, and excited youngsters perform Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. Hi-fi, stereophonic equipment and recordings are the hottest items on the market. FM radio is here to stay. Famed artists perform on our artist and concert series. District and State Music competitions turn up fine new talent year after year.

NEEDLEWORK of all kinds—embroidery and fancy crewel work—are not just memories of Early-American days, but still fill the spare time of many. Surprisingly enough, the winner of a recent needlework blue ribbon at the State Fair was a man, who learned the complicated art of Swedish darning through occupational therapy.

Here we start at an early age learning about ORNITHOLOGY (or bird watching, if you prefer) in Junior Audubon clubs. Many Garden Club organizations sponsor junior groups, and the state Ornithological Society honors young bird watchers. The State Society has some 250 members and meets for field trips to various parts of Oklahoma. A short course at Oklahoma State University is held each summer for interested ornithologists.

One of the more controversial new crazes is sport PARACHUTE JUMPING, which makes the faint heart shudder. Experienced amateur jumpers spiehl for hours about their thrills falling through space. Parachute jumping clubs are many, and confirmed fans have become skilled at sky diving, which is the fine art of diving, turning, flying and otherwise executing fancy maneuvers in the sky before opening the parachute.

Quilting was once an activity of necessity. Today it is one of quiet enjoyment. The product is beautiful and makes up one of the most interesting of displays at our fairs. The correspondence of a small town weekly newspaper recently noted that three ladies in the community had finished "their fourth quilt in the last two months." Quilting is a social activity, combining work and chat.

Racing combines the thrills of a race or precision driving, and the pride in "do-it-yourself", in building, repairing and maintaining cars. Oklahoma's regional organizations of the Sports Car Club of America hold regular races, rallies, economy runs and gymkhanas (precision driving and maneuvers). Cars range in value, from the Italian made Maserati, costing nearly $15,000, to $600 or $800 home-made autos. A few of the events, all free except for races, include the Pioneer Sport Car Rally, and Ponca City Grand Prix held in June. Others are planned for fall. Trophies and dash plaques are awarded in various classes. These meets are often inter-regional, bringing sports car drivers from six states.

Spelunking... There are more than 100 known large caves in Oklahoma. Experts think there could be easily three times that number. Areas with caves open (by permission from property owners) are the Ozark-Cookson Hills in the northeast and the Blaine Gypsum formation.
stretching from Woodward to Weatherford; and the Arbuckle mountains in southern Oklahoma. Spelunkers (amateur cave explorers) and Speleologists (scientists) with lights and nerve can find many new caves to conquer. The beginning Spelunker will want to tour the Alabaster Caverns for a guided look at an underground river's beautiful handiwork.

How often beautiful mosaic TILES ashtrays or inlaid tables are admired in homes and shops. Many of these tile articles are handcrafted at home by everyone from tots to grandmothers. Hobby shops can't keep enough of the tiles, in all colors, shapes and sizes, to supply the demand. School art classes and youth groups supervise tile projects, and educational TV presents classes in this popular hobby.

The attraction of grease paint, footlights, applause, and just plain fun, bring numbers of amateurs to stage and audience of Oklahoma's many little THEATERS. Cities and towns have their own theater groups with volunteer casts, stagehands, make-up artists, directors, etc., which fill auditoriums with delighted audiences. Oklahoma City's Mummers, and Tulsa's Little Theater are two of the nation's most outstanding examples of community theater. College play houses, too, are successful, and have turned out such fine actors and actresses as Van Heflin, Jennifer Jones, Dale Robertson, Gretchen Wyler, Tony Randall, James Garner, and Dennis Weaver for Broadway, Hollywood, and TV.

The bottoms of Oklahoma's many lakes went undisturbed for years, except by an occasional deep fishing line. But no more. Today UNDERWATER EXPLORERS are diving and exploring — looking at the rocks, fish and vegetation — and having great fun with skin and scuba diving. Lake Tenkiller is one of the favorite spots for this new sport. Classes in diving and using the apparatus are conducted in several cities.

VAGRANCY... while somewhat disreputable as a full-time occupation, vagrancy makes a wonderful hobby, particularly when the dogwood and redbud are blooming, or in autumn while the foliage is turning. Then it's great to turn part time vagrant, just wander, and admire.

WATER SPORTS bring fishermen, skiers, boaters, sailors and swimmers to Oklahoma's more than 1,000 square miles of water. Summer lake vacations and weekend trips are enjoyed by thousands of people in our State Parks, Lodges and lake recreation areas. Our fine fishing has been featured in national sporting magazines. Our State Park system is rated one of the nation's finest. The Eufaula reservoir, due for completion in 1965, 102,500 acres in area, will be the largest manmade lake in the southwest.

XYLOGRAPHY, you poor ignorant soul, is the art of wood carving and making prints from the carved surface (don't feel too bad, we didn't know either till we looked it up). Classes in this art, and the use of the special tools required for it, are taught in several schools hereabouts. Xylography instruction books are popular items in hobby shops.

Here we find YAWNING, which becomes almost inevitable as one begins to doze, and—

ZZZ finally snooze. Who can think of a finer hobby to indulge in the good ol' summertime, so pleasant, so restful, so easy in Soonerland's lovely parks, with the breeze sighing in the leaves overhead, and bird songs contributing a pleasant, musical lullaby . . .
AT THE PAWHUSKA JOURNAL-CAPITAL

Glen Van Dyke, publisher of the Pawhuska Journal-Capital, graciously offered to help us out on a recent research problem and when we walked into his office, lo, what did we see? There, framed and gorgeously hanging on the wall is virtually every color picture Oklahoma Today has ever published. Believe us, and thrusting all modesty aside, it makes a tremendous display! First time you’re in the Journal-Capital neighborhood, drop in and see for yourself. Much thanks Glen, and our congratulations on your excellent taste. One final note—Frank Spencer, who edits the Journal-Capital is one of the nicest outlanders who ever drifted into Okieland.

OKLAHOMA INDUSTRY

Perry has been selected as the site for a new medical garment factory, a branch of Lin Mfg. Company at Clinton. John Deere Chemical Company has announced a $3.5 million expansion for Pryor. Cherokee Indian Weavers Association of Tahlequah is spending $75,000 on expansion which will create jobs for 40 to 50 people. Threaded Products Corp. has built a new $80,000 plant at Tulsa. Sinclair Research, Inc. is building a $4 million research center in Tulsa. Oklahoma Cement Company’s plant at Pryor will double capacity by July. McAlester Foundation, Inc. has built a new plant for Marine Engineering and Equipment Company. Bulk cement plant is under construction at Woodward by Oklahoma Cement Co. Plastek Central, Inc., will open soon at Wewoka. Humble Oil and Refining is tripling the size of its office building at Ardmore. North American Aviation is occupying 270,000 square feet of factory space at Tulsa with the expectation of employing 2,000 people in another year. A growing industry in Ada is SouthwesternBulk Handlers, Inc. which traveled more than 2 million miles last year handling cement for Ideal Cement Company. Dowell Division of Dow Chemical is building a new plant in Enid. New branch factory of Serro Trailer Company will be in operation at Bristow in another month. Aero Commander, Inc. of Bethany has a multi-million dollar contract with General Electric for production of turbojet engines. Gold Spot Dairy is spending a quarter of a million dollars at Enid for a new plant. Ball Brothers is spending $1.2 million in an expansion program at Okmulgee. The newest industry at Wilburton is the Atlas Mud Company, owned by Allie Reynolds. Work began last month on the new Phillips Petroleum helium plant at Guymon. One of Ardmore’s new industries, Lear and Company, has already announced expansion plans. Sand Springs has a new manufacturer—Starfire Boat Corporation. General Electric announces multi-million dollar space age plant to employ 1,200 by the end of 1963 in Oklahoma City.

PHANTOM HERDS

Asleep I fell one windy day,
Out where the bluestem grows,
Andneath the net old Morpheus cast
An eerie vision rose.

From out the north, huge bison herds
Across the prairie wound;
Ten times ten thousand churning hooves
Relayed a mighty sound.

Great shaggy beasts, their nostrils flared,
Their eyes were fi’ry too,
And off those many heaving flanks
A fetid odor threw.

The very earth their passing shook,
This vast stampeding throng,
Beneath a cloud of stifling dust
So swiftly raced along.

And on and ever on they went,
Nor stopped they by the way,
Intent upon some errant trail
No living force could stay.

Awakened with a sudden start,
Befuddled wits aside,
’Twas but the wind in headlong flight,
No rushing herds abide.

So many years have passed, alas,
Since down these trails they’ce trod,
Their ancient ways and u~allow holes
Are overgrown with sod.

Their remnants, but a very few,
Afar are scattered they;
Now only phantom herds,—no more,
Are trailing far astray.

. . . Charles Ruggles Fox

NATIONAL WINNER

Lawton high school student Ricki Graef is the winner of this year’s $1,000 National First Prize Award for her essay on The Role of the Community in Employment of the Handicapped.

The competition, among the nation’s junior and
NEW HOME FOR O.P.A.

The Oklahoma Press Association’s new building on Lincoln Blvd. is the envy of every press association in the country, and the finest in the U. S. of A. The building’s interior includes beautiful and luxurious conference rooms, offices, and space for O.P.A.’s working services; clipping service, advertising, public relations and promotion, speakers’ bureau, films, bulletins, reports, etc., all available to O.P.A. members. United Press International has offices in the building. O.P.A. executives Ben Blackstock, Lyndall Williams, and Paul Zumsteg show visitors through the premises with all the pride of new parents, and understandably so. Even we’re envious. President N. B. Musselman, publisher of the Shawnee News-Star, quoted a letter received from the American Newspaper Publishers’ Association, in his column in the dedication issue of The Oklahoma Publisher: “The American Newspaper Publishers’ Association is in the fortunate position of being able to observe the splendid work being done by the Oklahoma Press Association.” Perhaps Oklahoma’s greatest blessing is the alertness and straightforward honesty of our press.

NEW BOOKS

HECK THOMAS: FRONTIER MARSHAL by Glenn Shirley (pub. Chilton). Heck Thomas had perhaps the longest and most varied career in law enforcement of any frontier officer. It began when at age 18, immediately after the Civil War, he became a policeman in Atlanta, Georgia. As an express messenger in Texas he set the Rangers on Sam Bass. Later he operated his own detective agency. From 1886 to 1892 he rode as a deputy for Hanging Judge Parker. Then until his death in 1912 he served as Deputy U. S. Marshal in Oklahoma Territory, and as Chief of Police in Lawton. During his half century of service he arrested and named more big-name outlaws than you’ll see on a week of television. His reputation as a fearless and incorruptible officer was well-earned and deserved. Glenn Shirley tells his story well. Don’t miss it.
LONGHORNS FOR FORT SILL by Robert E. Trevathan (pub. Criterion). Oklahoman Bob Trevathan’s latest novel concerns young Tom Colbert, who upon the death of his father, is faced with the whopping chore of driving a herd of beef from Texas’ Brazos River to Fort Sill. Added to the tough problems of any trail drive, an outlaw drover throws a few head in with Tom’s herd for the drive, then eventually steals the whole herd. Tom’s problems are finally solved not by any act of violence on his part, but as a result of his right and fair treatment of Indians met along the way. As Country Boy columnist Roy Stewart reports in his recent review, the publishers say this novel is “for juvenile readers. If that is so, us kids like it.”

LITTLE CHAPEL OF THE LAKE

When you visit Lake Murray this summer, spend a few moments in the lovely little Chapel of the Lake, open each day. It is a place for quiet meditation and prayer, for busy fun-seekers and vacationers.

CAMPOREE

Some 135 scouts registered for the recent Pawnee Bill District, Will Rogers Council, Boy Scout Camporee held at Lake Pawnee. Teepee registration was supervised by full-blood Pawnee Gilbert Beard, in tribal costume. At the campfire that night Pawnee Cub Scouts danced, and a “tall-tale” contest was held; master-of-ceremonies being Pawnee Eagle Scout Steven Palmer. The next day featured competition in woodlore, physical fitness, campcraft, and first aid.
NEVER before has Oklahoma had a national bowling champion, in either men's or women's competition; now we have champions in both.

Classic of bowling events is the American Bowling Congress meet. This year a twenty-six year old Oklahoman, Billy Ray Young, Tulsa, won the National All-Events crown. Young has twice bowled perfect 300 games, and was a bowler to watch even before he bowled the winning 2015 All-Events total and brought home the title.

Two Oklahoma City lovelies, Sandy Hooper and Jean Cowger, captured the women's doubles crown at Phoenix, Arizona, after the gruelling 42 day stand there of the Women's Bowling Congress. Sandy's All-Events score of 1804 was only five points short of a win, and made her All-Events runner-up, while a terrific three-game series of 257, 225, and 227 totaled 709, and with Jean's 529 made up the National Championship score of 1238 in women's doubles.

Oklahoma also hosted its first National Tournament this year. The Tournament of Stars, held April 4-7, was televised live over ABC to more than 150 stations all over the nation. Over two thousand spectators watched this event, and the contestants were so pleased that the tournament will return next year.

The kids are bowling more and better too. Last September the Oklahoma Association of Bowling Proprietors began a junior bowling program. This included reduced rates of 35c a line, the formation of competitive leagues, free coaching and trophies.

The association is sending three highschool seniors to Washington, D.C., this summer to compete for more than ten thousand dollars in scholarships. The scholarships will be based on character ratings as well as bowling skill.

The junior program has been an unqualified success. Some 3500 junior bowlers registered at the start of the program. About ten thousand youngsters are now registered. . . . Val Thiessen.
ULSA'S ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS in Mohawk Park are on the grow. A beautifully architectured new building exhibits primates, birds, fish, reptiles, and other species. The new elephant house exhibits these huge pachyderms against a background of larger-than-life sculptures embossed in relief—a more dramatic setting can hardly be imagined.

Dollars provided by last year's bond issue, $589,600 to be exact, are financing construction of the second phase of the zoo's master plan. This includes a sweeping semi-circle of open air grottoes for the display of bears, panthers, lions, tigers, hippopotamuses, a seal pool in the center of the plaza, and expanded parking facilities.

Mohawk park is the nation's sixth largest municipal park, providing ample space for the zoo's carefully planned expansion. New street access to the zoo, a concrete moated monkey island and giraffe house are planned, and a new bond issue some four years hence will complete the zoo's concentrical concept. Zoo director Hugh Davis lists 560 mammals, birds, and reptiles, of 152 species and sub-species, presently included in the zoo's collection, which is also growing with expanding facilities.

Oklahoma City's Lincoln Park Zoo is one of the top sixteen zoos in the nation, having risen from 37th place only three years ago. It's African antelope collection is among the world's finest. The same is true of the cat collection, and the primate collection which now exhibits all the great apes, including gorillas.

Lincoln Park is especially noted for the basic animal research carried on there by Dr. Warren D. Thomas and his staff. The Oklahoma City Zoo was the second in the nation to adopt the "Zoo Key" system, wherein a youngster's plastic, elephant-shaped key starts a recorded narrative at each exhibit, describing the animal being viewed.

Under construction at Lincoln Park is a new diet kitchen and nursery where baby animals can be cared for and exhibited. A new $300,000 pachyderm house will display African and Indian elephants, hippopotamus, black African rhinoceros, and white rhinoceros.

Several especially rare species are here. Father David deer, now completely extinct in their native Asiatic habitat, are exhibited, the only such exhibit west of the Mississippi. The Defassa water buck is rare indeed. The only other zoo in the world having one is in Cairo, Egypt.

The first gemsbok born in the United States was born in the Lincoln Park Zoo. In addition to this magnificently horned native of the plains of South Africa, you will see here India's Barasingha deer. The Barasingha was captured, surprisingly, in southeastern Oklahoma. A rancher had brought the species there years ago and it had returned to the wild in that rugged, mountainous terrain.

Cheetahs, huge, friendly and fleet-footed cats, the hunting playmates of kings, have been born in captivity only three times in 2000 years... the most recent being at Lincoln Park. New construction plans at Lincoln Park include a future bird house and an aquarium. Population of the Lincoln Park Zoo includes some 1,100 mammals, birds, and reptiles of 240 species.

Bill Burchardt