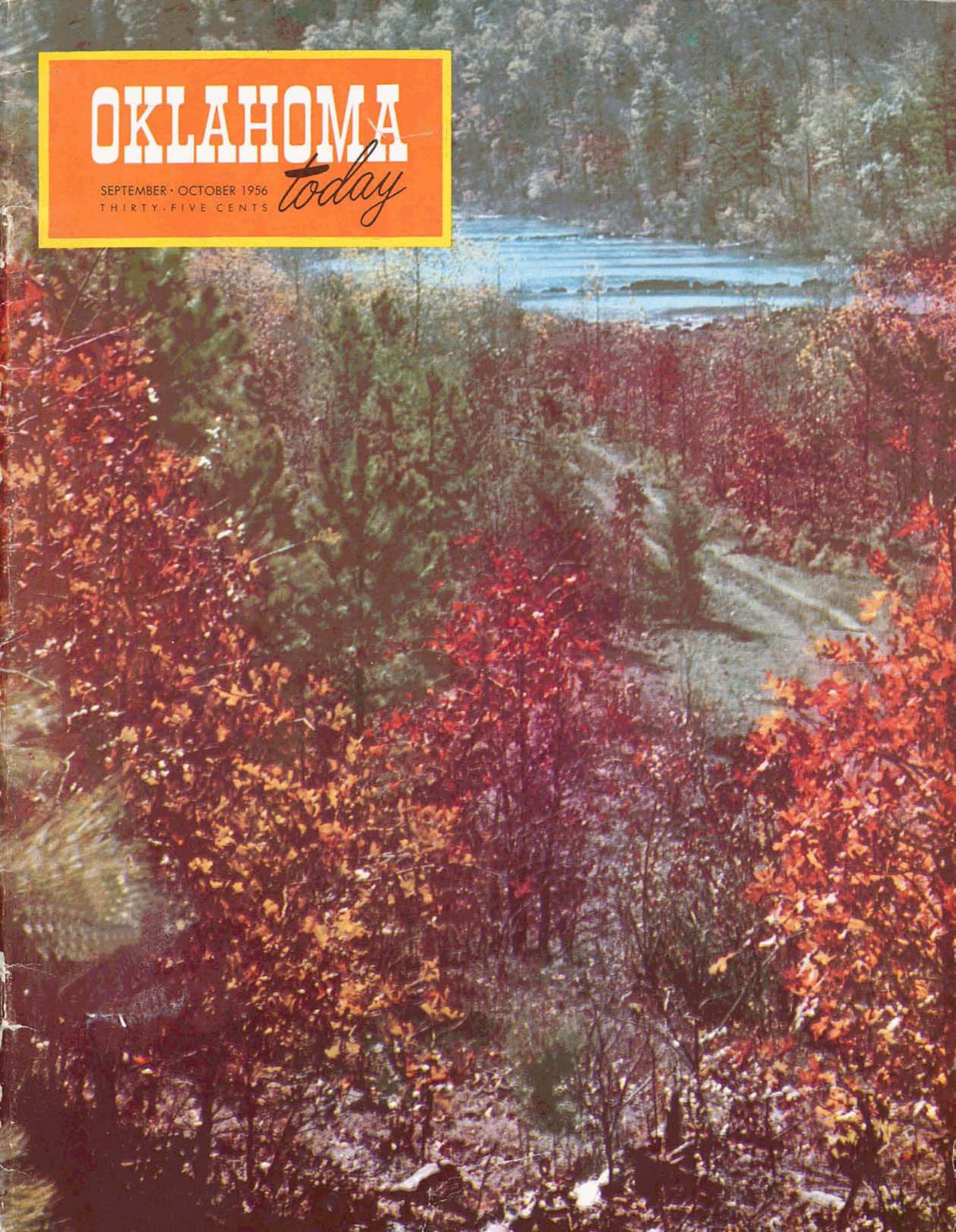


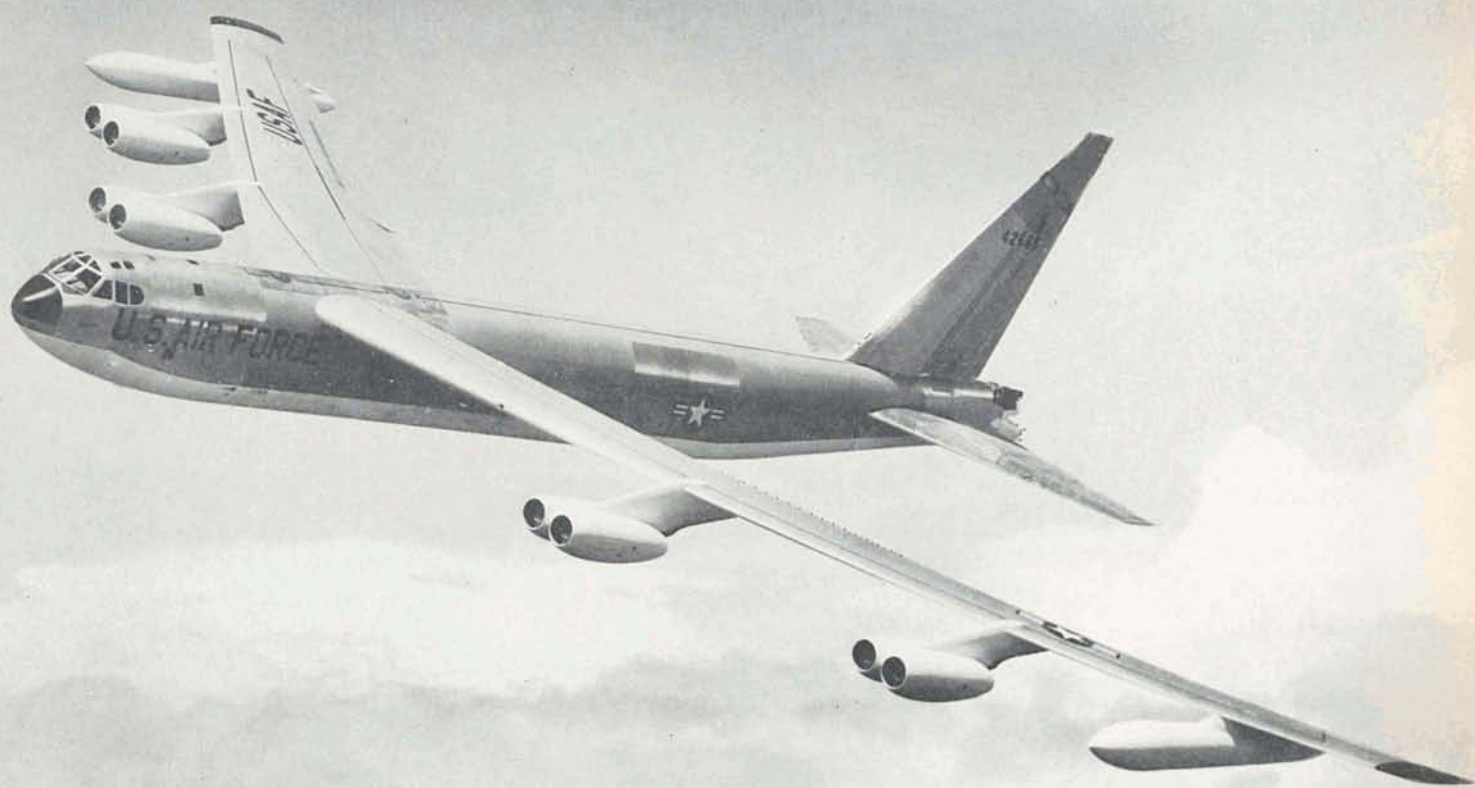
# OKLAHOMA

SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER 1956  
THIRTY-FIVE CENTS

*today*









# OKLAHOMA *today*

successor to Resourceful Oklahoma

Vol. VI, No. 8

Sept.-Oct., 1956

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[LITHOGRAPHED IN OKLAHOMA U.S.A.]

# Come to the Fair

COMMUNITIES throughout Oklahoma, with their eye on sprucing up for the 1957 Semi-Centennial celebration of the Sooner State's birthday, are now kicking off local fairs. With the big ones—state fairs at Muskogee, Tulsa and Oklahoma City climaxing these annual affairs.

There's always a lot of interest in local fairs, for it is at fair time that community pride in various kinds of local accomplishment is at its shiningest best. There's added incentive to put on good shows this year, however, for they will offer opportunity to conduct efficient fairs that will enable communities to smooth out kinks that will make for finer, more colorful and glamorous spectacles for 1957.

Oklahomans are becoming progressively prouder of their great state, and one way to show the 1957 visitor in the Sooner State that we've grown up and truly progressed during our first 50 years of statehood is by setting the proper stage for great 1957 events of all kinds, be they fairs or other important events and celebrations. (Calendar of Events on Page 3.)

Oklahomans everywhere—whether they remain in their state or have gone elsewhere for their rendezvous with destiny—are joining the Oklahoma Semi-Centennial Commission in taking the invitation to "Visit Oklahoma in 1957" to all corners of the nation.

OKLAHOMA TODAY salutes the communities that this year are holding special events and fairs, and pledges all assistance to help them make their 1957 presentations even greater.—J.McW.

## OUR COVERS

FRONT—"Autumn Grandeur" in the Mountain Fork river area, Eastern Oklahoma, north of Broken Bow.

COLOR PHOTO BY MEL WOODBURY.

BACK—"Oil Derrick in the Sunset," south of Guthrie.

COLOR PHOTO BY ROSS CUMMINGS.

INSIDE BACK—Mysterious Glass Mountain, in western Oklahoma.

PHOTO BY KAZIMIR PETRAUSKAS.

INSIDE FRONT—Thousands of Oklahomans witnessed a dramatic demonstration of U. S. air might in Oklahoma City recently, when the Sooner State's Capital City played host to the National Aircraft Show. The top photo shows the Boeing-built B-52 C giant bomber in flight, and below is a group of Douglas B-66 tactical bombers, newest combat aircraft now in operational service with the U. S. airforce. These were among many types of military planes performing at the Oklahoma City show.



# YOU CAN HELP US GROW...!

Dear OKLAHOMA TODAY Reader:

Your favorite state magazine (OKLAHOMA TODAY, of course!) is growing up. Like a growing lad, only a lot faster, this publication has outgrown its knee britches and donned long pants. From its 16-and-24-page beginnings, OKLAHOMA TODAY with this issue takes on a new, man-sized look with its 32 pages.

Not only is it our firm hope and desire to make it grow steadily, but we further want to make its contents even more beautiful, both pictorially and editorially.

Something else must be done so the Oklahoma story of progress can be told to ever-increasing thousands throughout the nation. This is to expand its circulation. This can be done only through the all-out support of Oklahomans who want to prove to a cynical, doubting world that Oklahoma is a most desirable place to locate industry, to raise a family and to enjoy outdoor recreation. Our circulation goal is 100,000 paid subscriptions by 1957!

There's a colorful and fabulous story about Oklahoma to be told. There are beautiful pictures of interesting and scenic spots in Oklahoma to be shown. Industry outside the state must be convinced that Oklahoma has abundant untouched natural resources to be developed, and a populace that is resourceful and ready to contribute to the growth of any industry that locates inside Oklahoma's borders. There are friendly, wholesome Oklahomans, unexcelled as neighbors, ready to prove that "Oklahoma Hospitality" is not just a catch phrase.

The Sooner State is preparing to celebrate the anniversary of its first 50 years of statehood in 1957, and through the pages of OKLAHOMA TODAY the story of its half-century of progress is being told in word and picture.

What can Oklahomans do to help swell OKLAHOMA TODAY'S readership?

They can join the more than 8,000 readers who are either subscribing or buying this magazine on the newsstands, and sending extra copies to friends and relatives outside the state. Other Oklahomans not now numbered among our readers can send in their subscriptions to OKLAHOMA TODAY, for themselves and for some friend or relative now living in some other state—that's the way to spread THE OKLAHOMA STORY!

By doing this, Oklahomans can help supplement the small amount of funds now being allocated to OKLAHOMA TODAY by sponsoring state agencies, and thus help to improve its pictorial and editorial content—and to maintain its present high quality and workmanship.

Again we invite your continued support to your magazine and urge you to tell your friends and neighbors about it.

Cordially yours,



Editor.

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO YOUR MAGAZINE...

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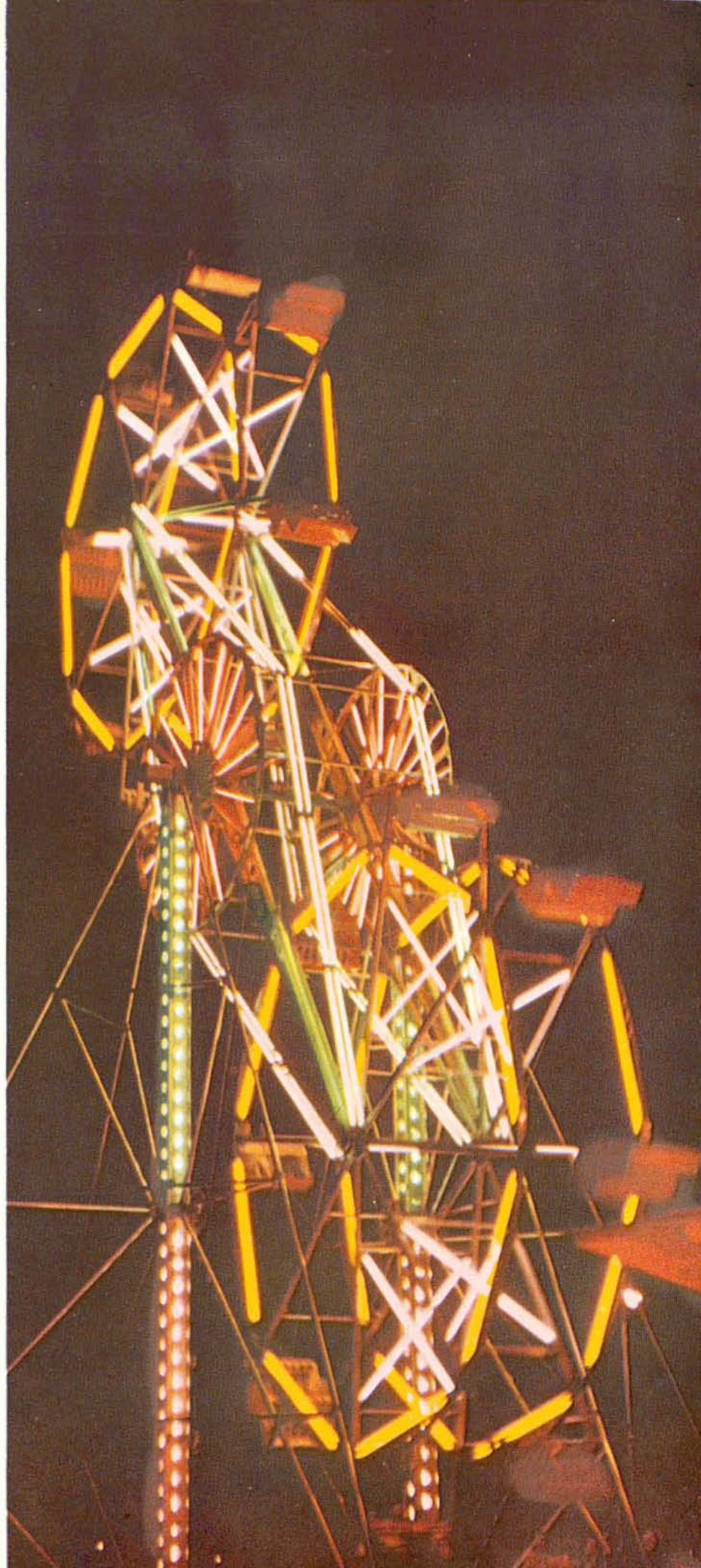
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September through November 15

Sept. (First Week)	County Fair, Walters
Sept. 3.....	Labor Day Celebration & Rodeo, Henryetta
Sept. 3-5 .....	Elk City Rodeo, Elk City
Sept. 3-6 .....	Ottawa County Fair, Miami
Sept. 6.....	Cherokee National Holiday, Tahlequah
Sept. 6-9 .....	Prison Rodeo, McAlester
Sept. 7-9 .....	Formal Dedication Riverbank Power Plant #3, Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co., Muskogee
Sept. 9-12 .....	Southwest Regional Baseball Tournament, "Little World Series," Cushing
Sept. 10-13 .....	Kay County Fair, Blackwell
Sept. 10-13 .....	Annual Osage County Free Fair, Pawhuska
Sept. 10-13 .....	Pawnee Free Fair & Old Timers Reunion, Pawnee
Sept. 11-15 .....	Tri-State Fair, Guymon
Sept. 12-13 .....	County Fair, Woodward
Sept. 12-15 .....	County Fair, Wewoka
Sept. 13-14 .....	Payne County District Fair, Stillwater
Sept. 13-15 .....	Cushing District Fair, Cushing
Sept. 13-15 .....	Choctaw County Fair, Hugo
Sept. 13-15 .....	Rodeo, El Reno
Sept. 14-15 .....	Geary Tri-County Fair, Geary
Sept. 15-23 .....	Oklahoma Free State Fair, Muskogee
Sept. 16.....	Cherokee Strip Celebration, Perry
Sept. 16.....	Cherokee Strip Celebration, Enid
Sept. 16.....	Cherokee Strip Celebration, Ponca City
Sept. 17-19 .....	Scottish Rite Reunion, Guthrie
Sept. 17-20 .....	Grant County Free Fair, Pond Creek
Third Week.....	Annual County Fair, Purcell
Sept. 19-22 .....	Comanche County Fair, Lawton
Sept. 22-29 .....	The State Fair of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City
Sept. 29-Oct. 5 ....	Tulsa State Fair and Exposition, Tulsa
Oct. 5-6.....	Northwestern State College, Homecoming, Alva
Oct. 8-14.....	Garfield County Fair, Enid
Oct. 10 .....	Salina Day, Salina
Oct. 15-17.....	Soil Conservation Society of America, National Meeting, Tulsa
Oct. 31 .....	Annual Hallowe'en, Inc. Parade & Carnival, Pawhuska
Oct. 31 .....	Hallowe'en Party for Children, Walters
Nov. (First Week)	Foliage Tour, Tahlequah
Nov. 4.....	Will Rogers Day, Claremore
Nov. 11.....	Veteran's Day, Walters
Nov. 11.....	Muskogee Kennel Club "Dog Show," Muskogee

What's a fair without a ferris wheel? This one's in the Midway at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds.

COLOR PHOTO BY A. Y. OWEN







One-time cowboy, Indian fighter, Scout, trail rider,  
U. S. marshal: That's the fascinating story of—

# Pistol Pete of Perkins

By GEORGE PHINNEY





When you feel you'd like to take a trip back over the pages of Oklahoma history but don't have the time to read a lot of books or dig through a mass of musty files, then you should take a trip to Perkins, Oklahoma. It is just a little town on the banks of the Cimarron river some ten miles south of Stillwater, but in it lives one of the Sooner state's most colorful pioneers, one of the few survivors of a vanished era in American history, the growth of the great West. He is 96-year-old Frank "Pistol Pete" Eaton, born in Hartford, Conn., Oct. 26, 1860, but an Oklahoman since he was four.

Pistol Pete is a one-time cowboy, scout, Indian fighter, trail rider, and Deputy U. S. marshal. He got the moniker "Pistol Pete" when he outshot and outdrew every soldier under Colonel Coppinger's command at Ft. Gibson when he was 17 years old and too young to join the army.

Dressed in his Levis, ten-gallon hat, with a pistol strapped to his side, Pistol Pete is the tourists' idea of a perfect oldtime westerner. He spins yarns by the volume and nothing delights him more than to be asked to demonstrate his lightning draw. His hand is still strong and steady and he reads without glasses.

If it is a pretty day Pistol Pete will suggest driving down to the Cimarron river. It is only a quarter of a mile from town. There he will prove his marksmanship by clipping the head off a water moccasin and tell you the story of how he and another fellow years ago dived into the river to spear a big catfish. If you look doubtful, he will tell you the river in those days had plenty of water and that many times he swam it where the Chisholm Trail crossed it out in the northwest.

Should you make some remark about the fiddle you see half hidden among the mementos of his earlier life, Pistol Pete will grab it and strike up with "Sally Gooden", "Turkey in the Straw" or "Old Dan Tucker" then the first thing you know he is jigging.

"I used to cut a mean swath," Pete will tell you, "way back with Indian squaws in them thar tepee days."

Of his years as Deputy U. S. Marshal under Judge Isaac "Hanging Judge" Parker of Ft. Smith, Pistol Pete likes to recall one time an Indian condemned for murder, was to be hanged on a certain day. The date was several weeks in the future. Friends and relatives of the Indian asked that he be released to play ball as he was one of their star players. Judge Parker demurred. Deputy Eaton knew Indian nature. He told Judge Parker if the Indian failed to show up for execution he'd let them slip the noose around his own neck. That cinched it. The Indian was released.

Pete says one of the deputies asked him, "Frank, hain't yuh worried?" It was a few days before execution day. "Naw, I says, 'Ifen I was scairt, I'd be humpin' it out o' here. That Injun'll be aroun' on time.'"

Sure enough on the morning he was to be hanged, the Indian showed up, walked to the gallows, and went to the Happy Hunting Ground without a murmur.

Frank "Pistol Pete" Eaton, colorful Sooner, a U. S. deputy marshal under "Hanging Judge" Isaac Parker.

"That," Pistol Pete tells you, "is how much an old time Indian's word was worth. His word was his bond. He needed no chattels for security, no one to vouch for his honesty."

Take the time Pistol Pete was scouting for General Sheridan. A band of Mexican soldiers mistook him for one of Geronimo's warriors and began firing on him. It was near the Mexican border and the savage old chief had been sighted only minutes before. Pistol Pete was close on his trail. He couldn't talk Spanish and the Mexicans couldn't understand English and before they found out they were all on the same mission, Geronimo disappeared across the Rio Grande.

"Yep, Geronimo was a fighter. But he was a gentleman," Pete will tell you. "He fought for his people. He loved the plains. He told me later from his cell in the Ft. Sill federal jail that if the army hadn't had some mighty good scouts, he'd never have been captured. And I believe it."

Pistol Pete was a pony express rider and carried the mail from Ponca City to the Kansas line. He had to swim swollen streams, wrap his feet in rags and tie them with rawhide to keep his toes from freezing.

"But," says this spry oldtimer with a twinkle in his eyes, "the mail went through despite rain, hail, sleet, or snow, and only a dim trail across the prairie, without even a beacon light to guide a feller."

The .45 Pistol Pete still wears strapped to his side bears 11 authentic notches on its handle, but he doesn't say too much about what they signify. However in the book on his life he reveals that four of them denote the four outlaws who shot his father down in cold blood. The other seven got there in the line of duty while he was a deputy U. S. marshal.

Does Pistol Pete keep his gun loaded?

"I'd rather have a pocket of rocks than an empty gun," is his stock answer when asked this question.

Pistol Pete's hair is long and braided like an Indian's. He hasn't had a hair cut in sixty years. It is streaked with gray but still strong and shiny with health. His hands are strong and steady as they were fifty years ago, and he walks with the gait and spring of a man half his age. He is proud of his vegetable garden and says it keeps him trim now that he rides a horse only in pioneer day or rodeo parades.

"What do I think of Oklahoma? What would you think of a land that had been your home for 92 years?" returns Pistol Pete.

"I wouldn't trade Oklahoma for any state in the Union, an' that's a fact," says this just-about-a-century-old Sooner, "I've seen it grow from tepees to towers, from Indians to engines, and from wild plains to airplanes. It is still young and vigorous, and I hope to be around to lead that parade in '57, when she'll be a half century old . . . just two years more than half as old as I am."

PHOTO BY JESSE A. BREWER







"Smoking Room" Editor takes the world on a tour on his magic, multi-colored carpet.

# oklahoma's brilliant autumn

By R. G. MILLER

"Smoking Room" Columnist, Daily Oklahoman

Asking me to do a piece about Oklahoma's colorful autumn foliage is like asking papa if he would like home-made biscuits and preserves for breakfast.

Yessum, I like it. And here it is.

In doing this story it is my hope that my early upbringing at Mother's knee and at Father's hickory switch altar, where tolerance, understanding, truth, fairness, neighborliness and unselfishness were drilled daily, will not fail me. I do not have the slightest desire to distort facts or stretch points; nor to paint pictures that are not there.

In my 45 years of adulthood it has not been my privilege to be as widely traveled as many other people who are even younger, but I have viewed the autumn foliage spreads in 38 of the 48 states. Every one of them offers a brilliant show of wonderful multi-color.

Oklahoma's foliage in the autumn ranks with the very best of them. I don't wish to come right out and say that the autumn foliage in Oklahoma's forests, mountains and valleys, along its tumbling, clear-water streams and in its scenic canyons is the prettiest in the whole country. That might not be quite so. But, perhaps this story will reach far enough from home to arouse the curiosity of editors of national magazines who, when carrying pictures of colorful autumn foliage through the years, seldom have sent their cameramen beyond New England to look for autumnal grandeur.

I have oohed and aahed at the beauty of the colorful trees in the Berkshire hills in Massachusetts; the lake regions in Wisconsin and Minnesota; the mountains in Colorado and New Mexico; the Smoky Mountains in east Tennessee and western North Carolina; the Cumberland Mountains in Kentucky; the mountains flanking the Hudson upstream from New York City, and the scenic regions of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The foliage in all of these states is superb. Dozens of cover-page pic-

tures are plentiful in each of them. But Oklahoma's colorful foliage takes no back seat in comparison.

Bigness of trees, height of mountains and depth of streams do not necessarily make autumn color. It takes many different kinds of trees, all showing off their autumnal brilliance at the same time, blending their hues and colors in a symphony of standing-room-only acclaim, to make the best foliage show.

Oklahoma has the trees, 141 different kinds of trees. When the forces of nature perform normally, which they do not every season—here or anywhere else—the last week in October and the first few days of November offer as ever-pleasing autumn foliage extravaganza as can be enjoyed anywhere.

In some of the other states I have noticed that the autumn colors are found chiefly on the maples, oaks, elms, pines, spruces and cedars. In Colorado the aspen is the ace, king, queen, jack and ten-spot of the foliage show. In many of the most popular centers for viewing autumn colors I have noticed that red is the dominant color with only a sprinkling of yellow—all much the same hue of red and yellow.

Go with me to any one of a thousand spots in the Kiamichi or Winding Stair Mountains; in the Cookson, Spavinaw or Potato Hills; in the rolling forest regions of Pushmataha, McCurtain, LeFlore, Latimer, Cherokee, Adair or Delaware counties—all in Oklahoma—and I will roll up the curtain on a foliage show that will induce spontaneous cheers and lasting memories.

Trees and more trees all in autumn finery: Oak, willow, pine, maple, ash, sycamore, hackberry, holly, pecan, walnut, gum, huckleberry, dogwood, cypress, mulberry, haw, sassafras, plum, hickory, elm, locust, beech, bois d'arc. These and more than a hundred other different kinds of trees abound in Oklahoma.

Colors of the leaves? Not one shade of red but a dozen shades of red; not only dark brown but light, medium and curly brown; not one bright yellow but a score of hues of yellow; greens in many shades; whites now and then; royal purple here and there. All of these colors

Continued on page 24

♦ "Autumn's Golden Lane," Eastern Oklahoma.

COLOR PHOTO BY KAZIMIR PETRAUSKAS



To the bird-dog  
enthusiast in Oklahoma,  
"Hey-roooo! Ho!" spells  
thrills and fun galore at—

## LAKE MURRAY dog trials

By ALDEN KIMSEY  
*Fish and Game Dept. Staff Writer*

PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Two big sod-busting pointer dogs with legs set for a quick get-away and muscles quivering were being held in check by their handlers. Behind the handlers and in front of the line of riders forming the gallery were the two judges who eyed their watches. They gave a signal. The dogs' bodies opened up like released springs. With legs scissoring and hides shining like so much liver-and-white satin the first brace of the day dropped from sight into the ravine out in front of the gallery and then they were out there quartering up the country, cutting it up in chunks of the right size and shape to please their handlers.

Riders of the gallery moved out, briskly at first, testing their mounts and rigging, and then falling into comfortable gaits along the road. The procession wound snake fashion into the brown grass, the oak sprouts and rolling terrain of the Lake Murray Peninsula. More than anything it resembled a striking force of cavalry troops entering hostile country with scouts well to the front.

The two dogs ranged wide as they had been trained to do. The gallery saw them while they skimmed over the country on either side of the road and later in the distance as they bounded between a high point and the sky or swung along the backbone of a ridge. The two scouts and two handlers worked in close to the dogs keeping them in whistle and voice range when they could.

"Hey-roooo! Ho!" the handlers shouted to their dogs. These sounds rode back downwind and mingled with the gallery noises of saddle leather, hoofs and occasional leisurely comments. Progress along the road was at a snail pace with the gallery observing the dogs and in no hurry to move on.

After several minutes Billie of Arkansas, owned and handled by Mrs. Mary C. Oliver, made the first point of the morning. He located his covey in a patch of persimmon trees growing in a ravine. Billie was so well hidden by the trees that Mrs. Oliver rode past once before spotting him. But he held perfectly and as prescribed by the rules, Mrs. Oliver walked in, and fired a gun over him. The birds flushed but still Billie held motionless, locked up tight with the bird scent and correct training.

In the final reckoning Billie of Arkansas won second place in the all-age trial having competed with a record entry of 58 dogs including some of the top pointers and setters in the business. First place winners in the various events were: Wayside King's Dot, owned by Earl Gilliam, of Tyler, Texas; Fast Delivery Ben, owned by Homer Dodd, Tyler, Texas; Wayside Paladin Mike, owned by Alf McCall, Ardmore, Oklahoma and Bill Wade, owned by Dr. William V. Garnier, Amite, Louisiana.

In Oklahoma the bobwhite quail is top-drawer material with hunters and field trialers alike. Good populations of the bird inhabit the peninsula at Lake Murray and other sections of the state. So it is not without reason that the Lake Murray trails are among the most popular in the country. The recent 1956 event marked the 36th annual trials of the Oklahoma Amateur Field Trial Association, Inc., and drew more contestants than ever before. The association is among nation's best-known groups of this kind.

The peninsula, by its very nature, adds to the success and popularity of the field trials. The area is inside Lake Murray State Park and no hunting or other molesting of the quail is permitted. This extensive area has all the necessities of life for the bobwhite. Water is plentiful as Lake Murray is to either side. Much of the peninsula is open grassland with oak thickets within easy quail flight at most points. These thickets protect the birds from natural predators and offer acorns, a favorite food.

For the field trialers and their dogs the peninsula also is ideal. The lay of the land is such that dogs can be spotted by judges and viewed by the gallery at long distances. Twenty miles of road traverses the area with a variety hunting cover offered, including lakeshore and timbered ridge.

Weather and scenery combine to make the field trials a pleasant outing for visitors. Much of the course has Lake Murray as a background and the Oklahoma fall, and spring months are ideal for the sport.

(For those who like a luxurious club environment, while not participating in the dog trials, there's swank Lake Murray lodge to accommodate them.)

Excellent prizes, including \$500 in cash, are offered. The real prize comes with the feeling of pride the trainer or owner gets when his four-footed pal wins an honor in the field. If his dog doesn't win, the owner may bring him back for another try next year. That return trip in itself is something to look forward to, for both man and dog.



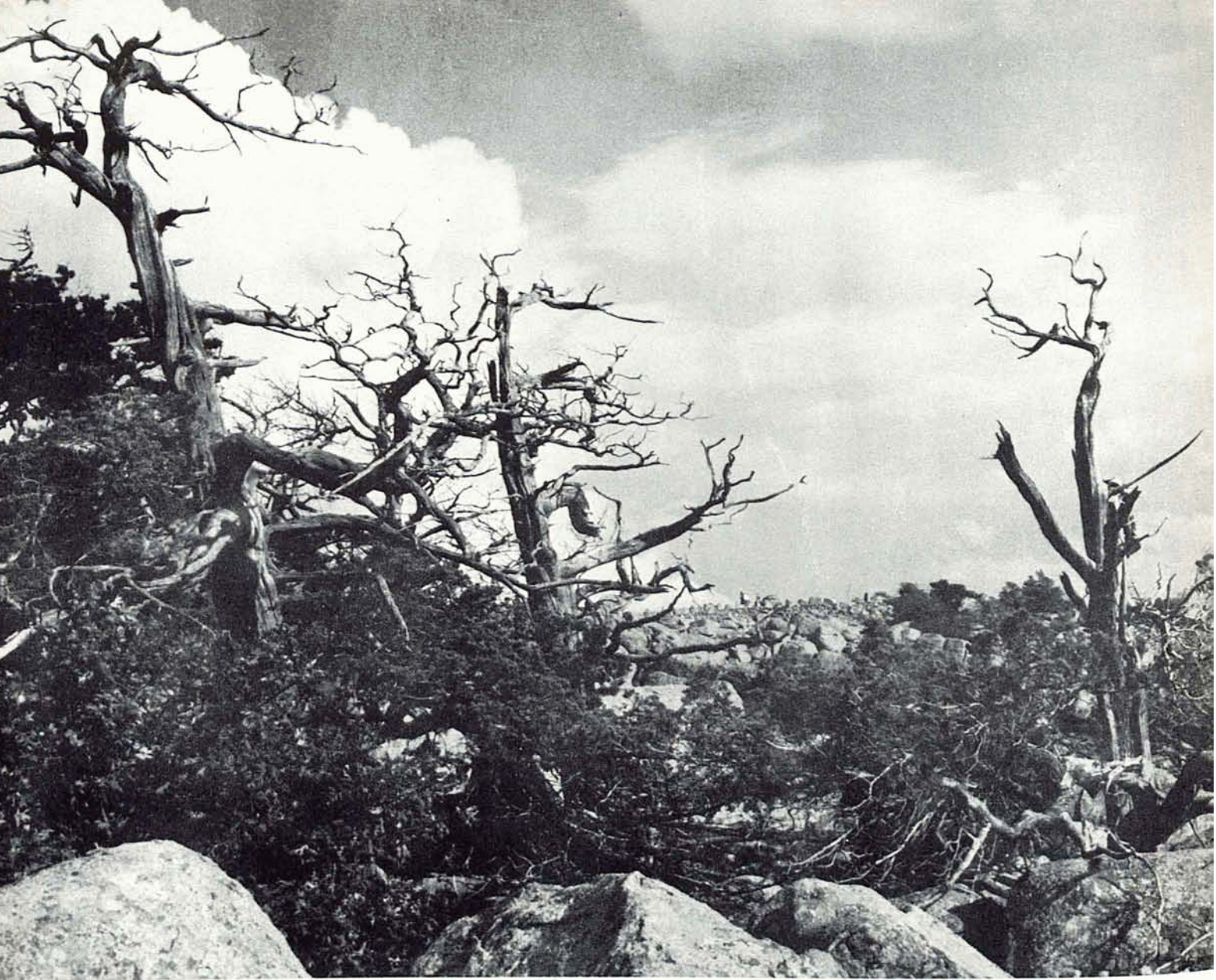


Two dogs with a single thought—"Get that quail!"



Riders rest their mounts during lull in Lake Murray Dog Trials.





Gnarled cedars and huge granite boulders greet visitors to the top of Mt. Scott.

**An author and her photographer-husband  
have become bewitched by . . .**

# *Witchery in the Wichitas*

By ROBERTA HADDON

PHOTOS BY THE HADDONS, ROBERTA AND EMMETT



OUT in the southwestern part of Oklahoma state there is a fairyland—seasoned with a tang of the Old West! It nestles comfortably in the Wichita Mountains, where pink granite peaks rise above lush grasslands to meet vast expanses of azure sky. There the deer and the antelope play, while the largest remaining group of Texas longhorns and thundering herds of buffalo roam unmolested in a 60,000-acre pasture.

It was Teddy Roosevelt, that rugged naturalist, whose executive order set this area up as a game preserve in 1905. Two years later it became a reality, when the American Bison Society provided 15 buffaloes to turn loose inside an 8,000-acre enclosure. That was its modest beginning.

Today, the Wichita Wildlife Refuge, under the supervision of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, maintains this 60,000 acres dedicated to the preservation of species which otherwise might become extinct. And any time of the year there is something here for everyone to enjoy.

A fisherman may dip his lure into any of the 17 clear deep lakes studding the refuge and come up with bass or crappie or catfish. And, if the weather permits, he may enjoy a swim before he fries his catch over an open fire in one of the many picnic areas. He might pitch his tent and camp overnight if he likes to rough it.

Rock hounds, both professional and amateur, have thrilled to discoveries made in the ancient pink granite boulders forming one of our continent's oldest mountain ranges. It is estimated that the Wichitas were at one time 15,000 feet high. By combining forces, the wind and the rain and the sun and time have worn these peaks down. But they have not destroyed the timeless beauty of them. Mt. Scott, which stands some 2,500 feet above sea level and 1,000 feet above the surrounding terrain, is the highest remaining peak.

The Wichitas have cast a spell over bird watchers, too. While observing the hundreds of wild turkey, the majestic bald or golden eagles, red tailed hawk, quail, cardinals, the strange scissortail, some watchers have been known to forget to eat lunches they had brought along. Only when the amusing road-runner went dashing past in his half-flighted gait, a leftover lizard tail dangling from his bill, did they remember their sandwiches.

In spring and summer, wildflower enthusiasts could, understandably, go quite mad over the blazing blankets of reds and yellows, purples and blues, of gaillardia, sneezeweed, bergamot mint, butterfly weed, spiderwort and a myriad others. And autumn offers unsurpassed beauty of multi-colored foliage.

Mother nature has made it possible for Oklahoma to hold second place in the nation in number of kinds of wildflowers. In the Wichitas she went all-out in her enthusiasm.

Kids and grownups alike love to watch the cowboys at work with longhorns and buffaloes. And a round-up of either of these legendary creatures is a never-to-be forgotten event!

It was on a nostalgic summer day that Emmett and I got to thinking about such things. We realized suddenly that we had concerned ourselves much too long with the affairs of men and of the world. Maybe it was the dry rasp of a lonely cicada on a tree outside our window

that set us to thinking. But then, we have never needed any but the feeblest excuse to go to the Wichitas. Besides, we had a new camera that was fairly itching to be tried.

We donned our jeans, packed our photographic equipment and were off. By the time we heard the rattle of the cattle guard under our wheels at the entrance to the refuge, we began to feel the old magic in the air. Golden sunlight bathed the great sweep of emerald bluestem pastures where we could already see herds of buffalo and longhorn grazing. Beyond them, a group of men on horseback jogged across the horizon. A roundup! We were in luck.

First, though, we swung our car up the smooth three-mile drive to the top of Mt. Scott, up past the unique River of Boulders, stopping now and then at lookout points to soak up the wonder of it. At the top, we could see 50 miles in any direction in the clear atmosphere. To the west, peak after peak of the Wichitas dropped away to a soft blue-purple in the distance. Buzzards stirred a bit of admiration in us as we saw them dip and float on updrafts near the rugged mountain peaks in one of the most fascinating demonstrations of soaring displayed by any bird.

Below us, to the east, Lake Lawtonka looked so close we felt we could dive right into its sparkling blue depths.

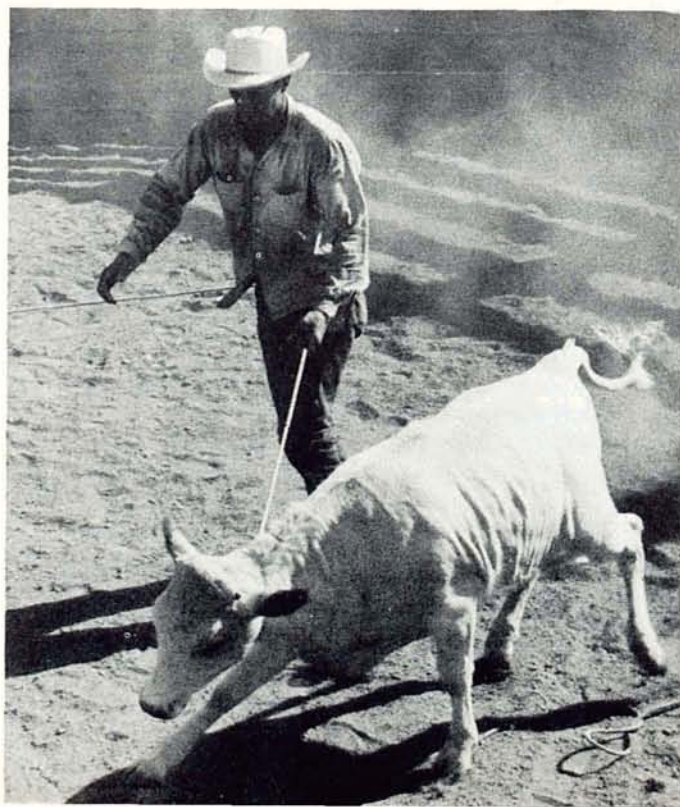
But this wasn't watching a roundup!

By the time we arrived at the corrals and had perched ourselves at good vantage points atop the heavy eight-foot fence, action was under way. Three cowboys in the corral waited while a fourth man opened the gate from the chutes to release one of the animals.

Now out plunged a big longhorn yearling, kicking and bawling. A cowboy's rope caught the animal's legs

*Continued on page 20*

At branding time, in early fall, the big headquarter corrals become a center of activity. Reminiscent of the old west, cowboys whoop it up to bring in the longhorn herds, to the tune of the bellowing and bawling of a hundred cows, separated from their calves.





**A contest, an Indian relic and an idea prompted a young Oklahoma girl to create:**

# THE SOONER STATE'S FLAG

By RAY HENDLEY



*"I am not the flag; not at all. I am but its shadow. I am whatever you make me, nothing more. I am your belief in yourself, your dreams of what a people may become . . . I am the day's work of the weakest man, and the largest dream of the most daring."*

—Franklin K. Lane  
"Makers of the Flag"

In 1925, a young Oklahoma girl not long out of art school created her first masterpiece—a design which thousands of Oklahomans would view daily for years without end.

Mrs. Louise Funk Fluke, an Oklahoma City artist and housewife, was probably the most jubilant person in the state that April day. A committee had called and told her that the design which she had submitted in a statewide contest had won. Louise had every reason to be excited, for this was no ordinary contest. Her winning entry was to become the new Oklahoma State flag.

Today, as a result of those judges' decision, the flag that Louise Fluke designed 31 years ago flies significantly throughout Oklahoma, representing the past achievements, the present growth and the future aspirations of a state moving ahead.

This 25-year-old Oklahoma girl, with sketches of an old Indian peace pipe, a worn chieftain's shield, an olive branch plus the blue of an Oklahoma sky, translated into this simple design the very heart and personality of our state. The flag's blue field represents loyalty and devotion. The shield implies defensive or protective warfare, when justifiable; the small crosses on the shield are said to be the American Indian's graphic sign for stars—indicating lofty ideals or a purpose of high endeavor. The shield is surmounted by and always subservient to the calumet and

olive branch which betoken a love of peace by a united people.

How did Louise Fluke come to design such a distinctive emblem? The story behind the design began in 1924. At that time, many Oklahomans had become increasingly aware that our first state flag was seldom displayed.

"Oklahomans were proud of their growing state then," Mrs. Fluke recalls, "but the flag just didn't seem to appeal to them."

This first flag was adopted March 2, 1911. The design contained the numerals 46 centered inside a large white star which was bordered by blue. This star was then centered over a solid red field.

"I remember that our first flag was especially objectionable among the soldiers at Fort Sill," Mrs. Fluke said. "Many of them didn't want to display the flag because of its red field."

Whether it was the flag's color, design or significance which caused popular dissatisfaction, a remedy was suggested by several state and military officials: why not a new flag—one that all Oklahomans would be proud to claim?

To a certain public-minded organization, this was the answer. The Oklahoma Daughters of the American Revolution decided to sponsor an open contest in which



all Oklahomans could submit proposed designs for a new state banner.

"From these entries, submitted to the DAR, three (judged for beauty, distinction and significance) would be chosen by a state committee in the semi-finals," Mrs. Fluke said. "The final selection—judged by Governor Martin Trapp, General Baird H. Markham and Charlie Barrett—would become Oklahoma's new state flag."

Following the DAR's decision to sponsor the contest, the Shawnee chapter of the organization asked Louise if she would enter the contest in behalf of that chapter. Louise had lived in Shawnee since she was a year old, but had just recently moved to Oklahoma City with her husband, George, who was with the Liberty National Bank.

"My father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Funk, and I came to Oklahoma in 1901 as early pioneers," Mrs. Fluke recalled. "I was only a year old then; however, except for that year Oklahoma has always been my home. I wish I could claim to have been born here."

Louise's first attempt at painting was in the Shawnee schools under Marjorie Dodge Tapp. After she was graduated from high school, Louise attended Columbia University, the New York Art Students' League, Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee, the Audibon Tyler School of Painting and the Chicago Art Institute.

"I owe everything to my mother who encouraged me to continue my art training," Mrs. Fluke remarked.

Her mother, Trimmier Sloan Funk, is widely remembered in Shawnee as one who helped establish the city's first public library. She was a librarian there for more than 30 years.

Since Louise's ties with her home town remained close, she consented to enter the flag-contest in behalf of the Shawnee chapter of the Oklahoma DAR.

"When the Shawnee Daughters asked me to enter the contest," Mrs. Fluke said, "I was doubtful whether I could design a truly significant and distinctive flag for our state. I was extremely interested though, and I was going to do my best."

Indeed, Louise did do her best. She devoted every available minute during the following weeks to research and designing. Before attempting any kind of design, she studied several accounts of the history and formation of Oklahoma. She read books, looked at hundreds of pictures and examined myriads of relics and Indian lore at the Oklahoma City Carnegie Library and the museum of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

"In those days, the Historical Society's museum was in the Capitol Building basement," Mrs. Fluke recalled. "Almost daily I took that little old rickety streetcar, which isn't there anymore, down to the museum. There were hundreds of potential motifs for an emblem among the Society's growing collection."

"Dr. J. B. Thoburn, then the research director of the museum, gave me some very helpful suggestions," she continued. "He also explained the meanings and legends—both true and fiction—behind many of the Indian and historical relics in the museum."

Mrs. Fluke glanced at the miniature flag of Oklahoma which she had in her hand and said, "Nothing has more bearing on the early theme of our state than the

Indian, and to me nothing suggested more possibilities in the way of a design. In the interesting collection of the Oklahoma Historical Society I found one thing to which I invariably returned."

This was a worn, soiled buffalo-rawhide war shield that had belonged to an American Indian chief, and an old pecan-wood peace pipe. These relics, together with sketches of the white man's olive branch (a symbol of peace) prompted Louise's first visualization of the Oklahoma State flag.

With these relics as symbols, Louise began her sketches, unaware that one was to become widely known throughout the state. Working on a drawing board at her Oklahoma City home, she sketched designs of every conceivable combination.



PHOTO BY RAY HENDLEY

Mrs. Louise Funk Fluke, creator of Oklahoma's flag.

"It takes many tries on any piece of design before an acceptable pattern begins to unfold," Mrs. Fluke remarked. "And in this case, a dozen sketches was just the beginning."

Although she finally submitted three emblems, Louise had finished one design which was her favorite. It represented that for which she was striving—a simple but distinctive and meaningful emblem reflecting Oklahoma's past, present and future.

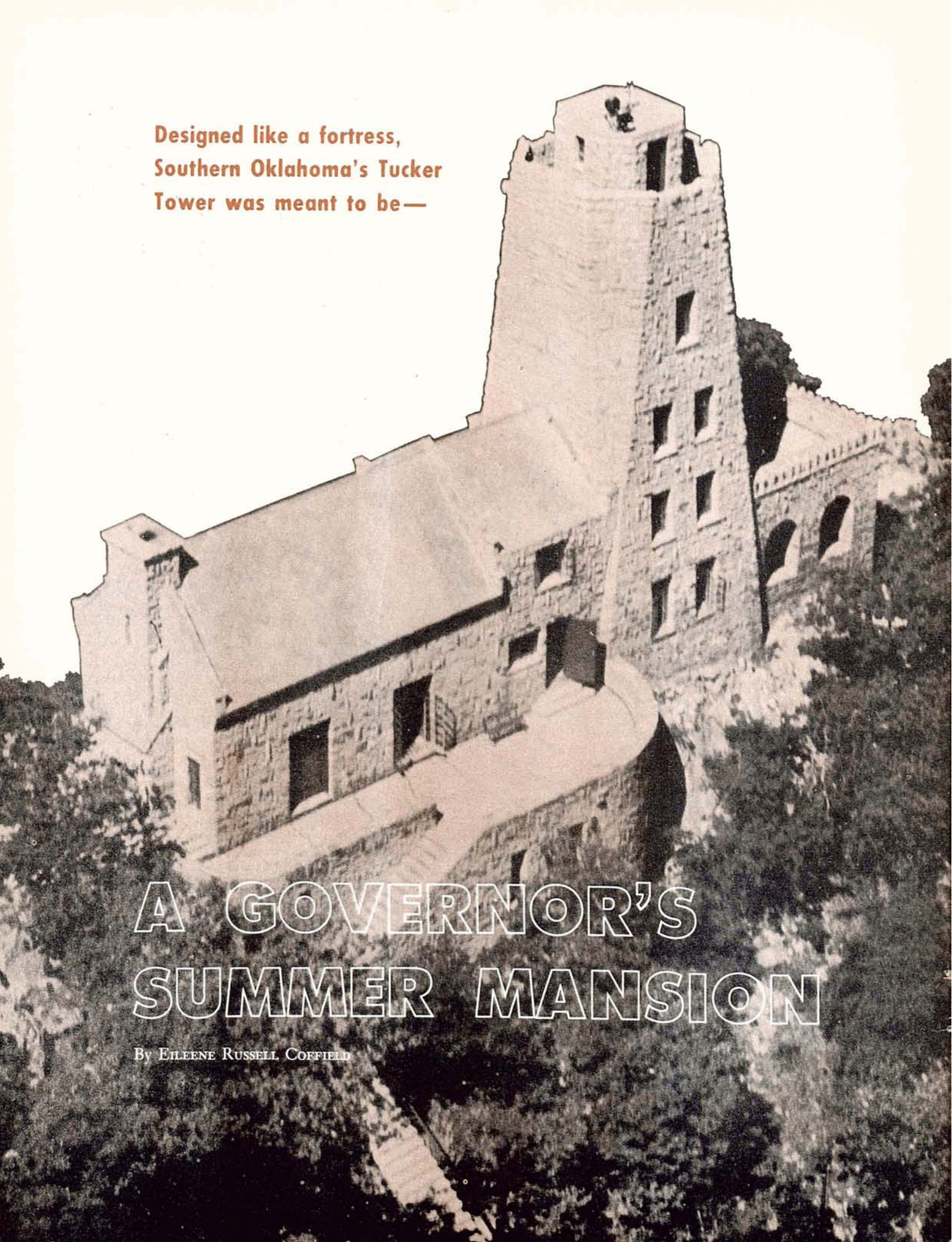
This design was also the judges' favorite. In the finals, Louise's entry was unanimously chosen. The state legislature officially adopted the banner, and on April 2, 1925, Oklahoma's new flag flew throughout the state.

Except for the addition of the word "Oklahoma" to the banner in 1941, the design that Louise gave still waves as the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of the history of our near 50-year-old state.

Mrs. Fluke's interest in our flag didn't end with the hoisting on that April day, however. Today, she continues to paint flags for schools, clubs, libraries and friends.

*Continued on page 20*



The photograph shows the Tucker Tower, a large, multi-story stone building with a prominent tower on the right side. The building is situated on a hillside, surrounded by trees and vegetation. The tower has several windows and a crenellated top. The main building has a flat roof and several windows. The overall appearance is that of a fortress or a large residence.

Designed like a fortress,  
Southern Oklahoma's Tucker  
Tower was meant to be—

# A GOVERNOR'S SUMMER MANSION

By EILEENE RUSSELL COFFIELD



A sun-tanned, amber-spectacled vacationer stood on the boat docks at Lake Murray and pointing across the water, loudly exclaimed, "Look! What's that!"

Beyond his sight-seeing finger was the stately Tucker Tower, looming majestically above the rock-fringed cliff, looking for sure like an old fortress guarding its peninsula.

The Tower is such a sharp architectural contrast to the low-slung million dollar lodge of redwood and windows just a short distance across the lake, that tourists seldom fail to stand in awe of it at first glimpse.

The vacationer adjusted his sun glasses and with much enthusiasm cried, "What a perfect spot for a summer home! Funny nobody ever thought of it!"

But without knowing it, he tapped the right nail on the head. For reliable sources relate that the original plan was to construct a summer home on Lake Murray for use of the Governor of Oklahoma. William H. Murray was governor when this project was started.

Work was said to have begun sometime during 1934 and all of the work was done by various government work relief organizations.

All of the hand pointed stone used in the construction of the Tucker Tower building was quarried on the Lake Murray State Park site, and the stone was produced from the "Devil's Kitchen" formation.

The Tower was named for Fred Tucker, a resident of Ardmore, Oklahoma, who spent a great deal of time and money in making it possible to get work started on the Lake Murray park area.

The structure has a basement, main floor, mezzanine floor, living quarters floor, another living quarters floor, and above this approximately 30 feet of tower at the top of which there is an observation platform.

The top of the ridge on which the Tower is built is approximately 25 feet above the lake level and the building itself is about 75 feet high. This would make the observation platform then, some 100 feet above the lake level.

But even though work was done on the Tower from 1934 until 1947—some 13 years—it was never completed and never occupied as a summer home by any of Oklahoma's governors.

At one time it was the plan of the Oklahoma State Park department and the National Park Service to use Tucker Tower for a headquarter's building for extensive boating facilities.

The entire building itself would probably have served as headquarters for some type of yachting club, and the long narrow neck of water immediately to the southwest of the Tower would have been made the harbor for sailing craft. Due to the fact that the lake was slow in filling up with water, these plans never materialized.

During the latter part of 1940, an agreement was made between the State Park Service and the School of Geology at Oklahoma University, whereby control of Tucker Tower and a greater part of the peninsula on which the Tower was built would be turned over to the School of Geology.

At that time, it was the plan of Dr. Williams and Dr. Monet, who were connected with the Department of Geology at Norman, to conduct summer field classes in the area surrounding Lake Murray and use Tucker

Tower as headquarters for their students to live in during the summer.

It was also their plan to complete construction on Tucker Tower building and to set up a museum within the building which would deal entirely with the geological features of the area.

In addition to this, they also planned to construct a very extensive cabin area to be used as living quarters for any students who might attend the summer sessions.

During the summer of 1941 Dr. Williams and one or two instructors from Oklahoma University had a small class of summer students quartered in Tucker Tower. However, before any work could be done on the completion of the Tower or any improvements started on the peninsula, the second world war came along and all plans were tabled.

It seemed that a real life for Tucker Tower was doomed!

But in 1951 and 1952 the Oklahoma legislature really got down to business. The first thing it did was to appropriate \$20,000 and seriously begin the operation of converting this beautiful idle tower into a museum . . . where Oklahoma could proudly display samples of its geological wares.

It is a perfect location for a geological museum. For only a few miles away are the Arbuckle Mountains. Rock formations that can be seen along U.S. 77 from Oklahoma City south to Ardmore, are a peculiar upheaval of rock formations, turned on edge and exposed on the surface in such strange fashion, that it resembles to a T, a giant row of tombstones in an elephant-sized cemetery.

This is recognized as one of the most unusual geological spots anywhere in the United States, and has kept geologists scratching both their heads and pencils for years. For only a few miles from this "stone cemetery" where formations crop out on the surface, these same formations will be found thousands of feet deep.

And now—at last—Tucker Tower was to come alive.

With this financial backing a caretaker's residence was constructed, a water well was drilled and a propane system for heat installed and new walks built to the building proper and down to the lake shore.

To continue the project, the legislature appropriated \$9,000 for each year in 1953 and 1954. This money was spent to employ a topflight geologist who prepared the displays that are now being shown at the Tucker Tower Museum. And in 1955 and 1956 it approved an appropriation of \$3,000 for each year for expenses involved in the operation of the Museum.

Boat docks have been constructed at the foot of the cliff, thus making the Tower accessible both by boat and automobile. An all-weather road encircling the entire Lake Murray, approaches the tower from behind.

Tucker Tower Museum is now open for sight-seers, fishermen, 'rock hounds' and conventioners (Lake Murray has lots of conventions) to "climb up and browse around."

So, should you ever climb the long stairs to reach Tucker Tower and walk out on the stone terrace to pause a few minutes, you're bound to see a tourist snapping his camera as he sighs at the beauty of this Sooner State's glamour spot.





# **"BIG RED" MARCHES ON!**

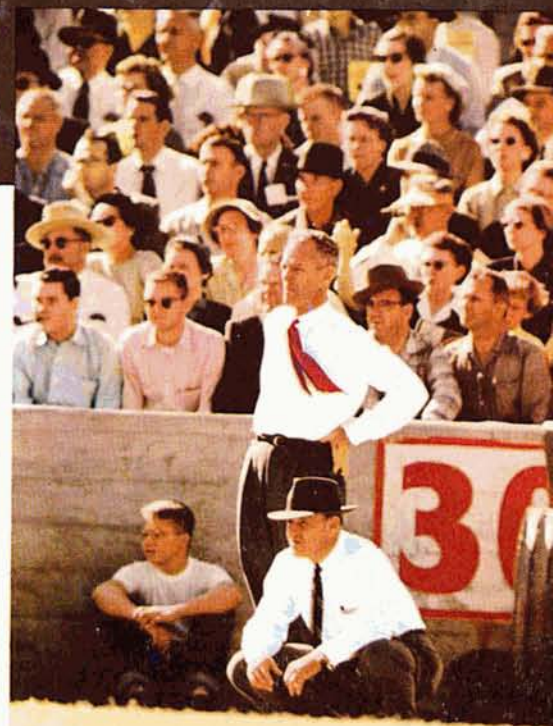
The University of Oklahoma's gridiron warriors are looking forward to their biggest, most challenging season of all time. Here's why: (1) Coach Bud Wilkinson's defending national collegiate champions will be the target of a whole year's concentration from every opponent. Everybody shoots its best loads and directs its most cunning preparation at the defending champ; (2) Notre Dame's mighty Irish are back on the schedule; (3) OU will be defending three glittering consecutivity records—30 straight victories; scored in 106 straight, and played 53





successive Big Six and Big Seven conference games without defeat. OU will blend 28 lettermen from last year's team with an undefeated freshman squad. The Sooners again will employ their two-eleven fast-break system, and introduce a new formation—a modified spread from an unbalanced line, to the already super-successful Wilkinson Split-T. The above photo shows a typical OU crowd in Owen Field at Norman. At the right are Coach Wilkinson (standing) and the OU head line coach, Gomer Jones.

COLOR PHOTOS BY A. Y. OWEN





*Early-day drama in Red Canyon  
could be told if there was  
voice in . . .*

## THE SILENT WITNESS

By ARTHUR BROOKHART AND JENNIE ROSE BENTON

It is the quiet time of day and riders are at rest. Horses laze in the sun half-sleeping, half-listening to the murmur of their masters' voices beneath the shade of the weathered old cottonwood. The tree, it seems, is reclining like the men. For its gnarled trunk is bent and a large portion of it presses against the earth.

"Time was," remarks Arthur leaning back against the tree, "when this bend in the trunk was high enough a man could ride under it on horseback." So begins a story. The leaves of the old tree stir and whisper as if remembering and nodding approval as the voice below continues.

"I was a young man, not yet out of my teens. The cattle I took to Kansas City to sell represented the final step in my first business venture. While I was there, I chanced to meet a commission cattle buyer by the name of Allen. When he asked me where I was from I told him Red Canyon; this section of Oklahoma was still 'No Man's Land'."

"'Red Canyon,' he said. 'There isn't by any chance an old cottonwood tree in that canyon with a very sharp bend in the trunk?' When I told him that there was, he unexpectedly invited me to have dinner with him. I suppose that it was a good dinner but not to this day can I remember what I ate for it was there that he told me the story that he had told to no other man from this locality.

"The story rolls back the years and takes us first to Texas. A tired man discouraged and weary drops in a chair and shakes his head to the question in the eyes of his wife. The woman is not old but the eyes are old as she says, 'He's still crying, hasn't eaten a thing all day.' The two are silent for what can one say? Two long years of toil have bought a few head of cattle and two horses. Now the horses are gone. Without them the cattle turned loose on public range are gone too. Worse than that the little mustang given to Robby by a rancher has been stolen. The child had not stopped pining for his eastern playmates until the day the mustang became his own.

From that day the pony had been companion to all his dreams."

"Far to the north, a little girl tries hard to be pleased as her 'Dad' buys her a little mustang to replace the black colt her mare had foaled. Thieves had taken her colt and in a few days Robby's father will be borrowing money to buy it to replace the boy's lost pony."

For this is the racket—two groups of thieves operating under one leader are stealing horses and finding a ready market for their loot where their partners have been at work. The plan works smoothly for awhile and then the truth is learned. Perhaps discovered by a little boy who sees the halter he has shaped of leather bits and rope return on a colt quite different from his own."

"Even when men know what is happening and posses are sent out, their efforts are in vain. The handsome but burly leader of the outlaws has planned his work well and when the chase gets hot, he disappears into the wilds of No-Man's Land where no state or county officers dare to follow. Still stock disappears and new stock is sold to the unsuspecting. Too late the word gets around of what is happening. Desperate, the pioneers turn to the federal government for help."

"Help comes in the person of a handsome young deputy United States marshal. He picks his twelve-man posse well. When the thieves under hot pursuit of the marshal and his men cross into No Man's Land the officers and his group cross too. They bear down on their quarry. When they taste the dust kicked up by the thieves' horses, the outlaw leader motions for a conference."

"Beneath the old tree the two leaders advance slowly, facing one another; their firearms are laid down. Each holds one hand aloft. The conference is brief but to the point. The outlaw points out that this is No Man's Land and out of the jurisdiction of the law. This, he says, is the outlaws' domain. The marshal's voice is unwavering as he replies that he is a deputy U.S. marshal and his orders say only to bring back the thieves; they make no mention



of boundaries. With this statement, law comes for the first time to No Man's Land."

"The outlaw turns, takes up his arms and as he and his men race away, they are firing over their shoulders at their pursuers. The chase that follows is short but frantic. The smell of gunpowder mingles with clouds of dust. A man's scream pierces the air as his horse storms on without him. Soon five of the outlaws' sweat lathered horses charge on with hanging reins and empty saddles. Among the victims lies the outlaw leader. The four remaining riders disband and race toward the hills. Fired by their victories, the posse, only one of whom is injured, turn to follow. Their leader calls them back. 'We've had our inning, if we follow them they'll hole up in the rocks

and they'll have theirs!' Seeing the logic of the statement, the men turn back to the grim task of burying the dead."

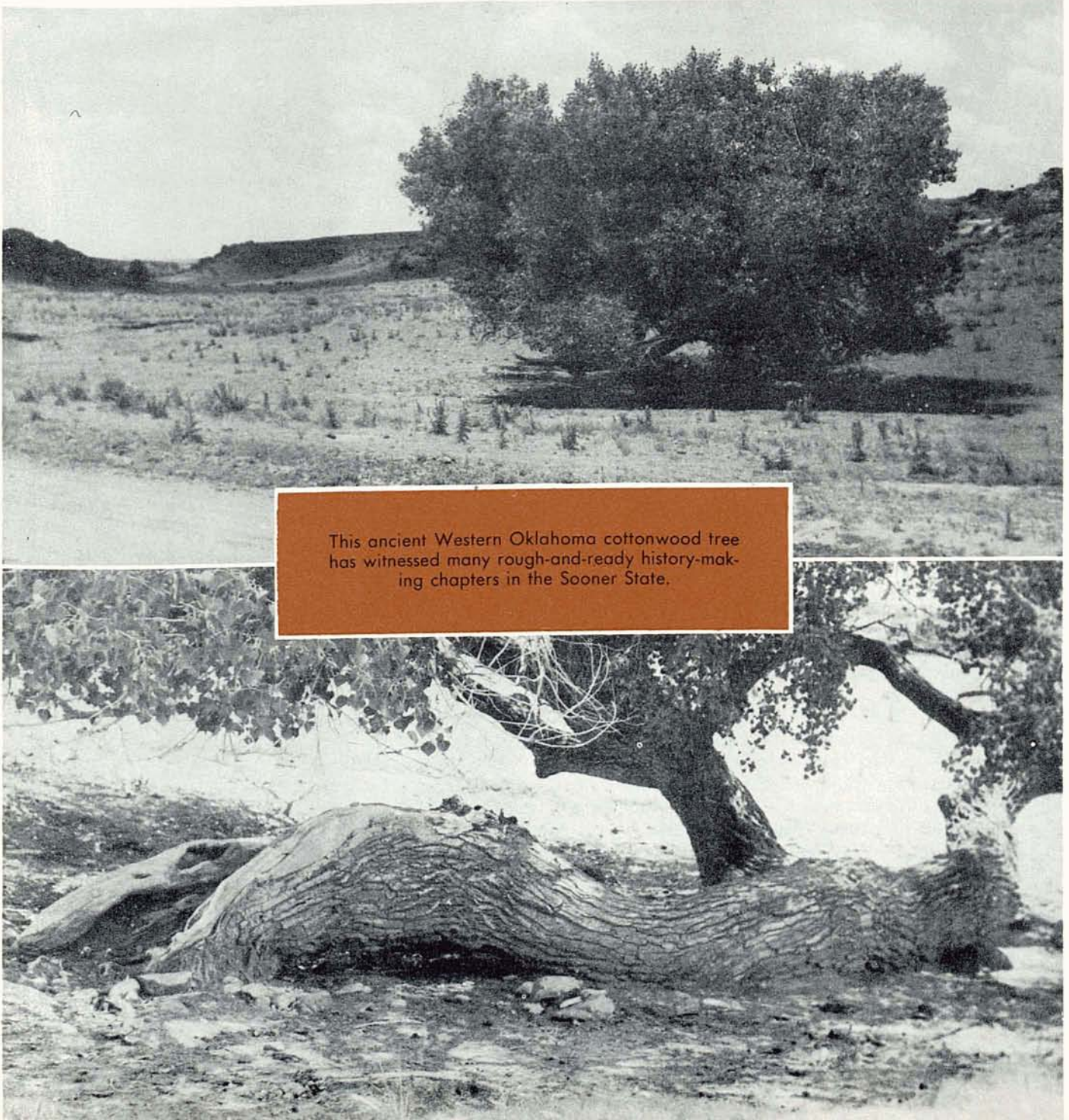
"That was one of my first adventures as marshal. We scraped out one large grave and buried them there together," concluded Allen.

"I was just finishing my dessert which I hadn't tasted," says Arthur. "Big eyed and all ears, I asked, 'And what did you do with the ones who were wounded?'"

"Allen's voice was many years away as he replied, 'There were no wounded'."

The story told, the riders mount and ride down the canyon across piled stones that may well be the outlaw grave. The cottonwood sighs as if it alone knows that only thus does the history of the old west live. For the tree has no voice to tell of the drama that has passed before it!

PHOTOS BY MARVIN BENTON



This ancient Western Oklahoma cottonwood tree has witnessed many rough-and-ready history-making chapters in the Sooner State.



## Witchery in Wichitas

Continued from page 11

while two men rushed in to throw him. Suddenly one of the men lost his hold. He fell to the ground, the heavy yearling landed *kerplunk* on top of him. For a few panicky moments all was still except for the struggling animal and man in a pile there on the corral floor. Somebody had to get hurt in that fracas!

Then, all at once I realized that both man and yearling were on their feet. The cowboy looked bruised and beaten and dusty, but he said, as he inspected the foot-long rip in his shirt somewhat sadly, "A feller could get his clothes torn that way if he's not careful."

From across the corral Emmett looked at me calmly. "Did you get a shot of that?" he asked. I had forgotten that I held a camera in my hand!

After another hour of shooting the cowboys in action, we went to find our pink granite canyon. It lies only 150 yards from the busy highway, yet it is quiet and peaceful as a Garden of Eden. Cool, clear water splashes down the meandering canyon bed from one level to another, forming numerous small deep pools and waterfalls as it goes. As we bathed our hot faces we remembered what a wise old friend had told us once, "Nature possesses her own healing agent and will, if given an opportunity, restore again and again the jaded human spirit."

It would be difficult to find a place where Nature has a more irresistible influence than she has here in the Wichitas. And it would be well nigh impossible to spend a day there without some of its fascination rubbing off on you.

Looking westward across peaks of the Wichita Mountains from atop Mt. Scott, highest point in this ancient and weathered range.



## SOONER STATE'S FLAG

Continued from page 13

"Among the countless flags which I have painted," she said, "there are two which I hold specially."

Her large painting of our flag is displayed with the other 47 state flags in the Continental Memorial Hall, Washington, D.C. Also at Washington, at the National Headquarters of the Federated Women's Club, hangs her painting of Oklahoma's largest silk flag.

Like Betsy Ross, who made U.S. flags for many years, Mrs. Fluke has toyed with the idea of commercially producing miniature souvenir flags of our state.

"I haven't made any definite plans for making the flags," she said, "but with Oklahoma's great Semi-Centennial Celebration approaching, the idea becomes more appealing."

When asked if she had the job of redesigning our flag, Mrs. Fluke replied that she would design it practically the same as she did in 1925.

"Ever since the day the flag was adopted, the

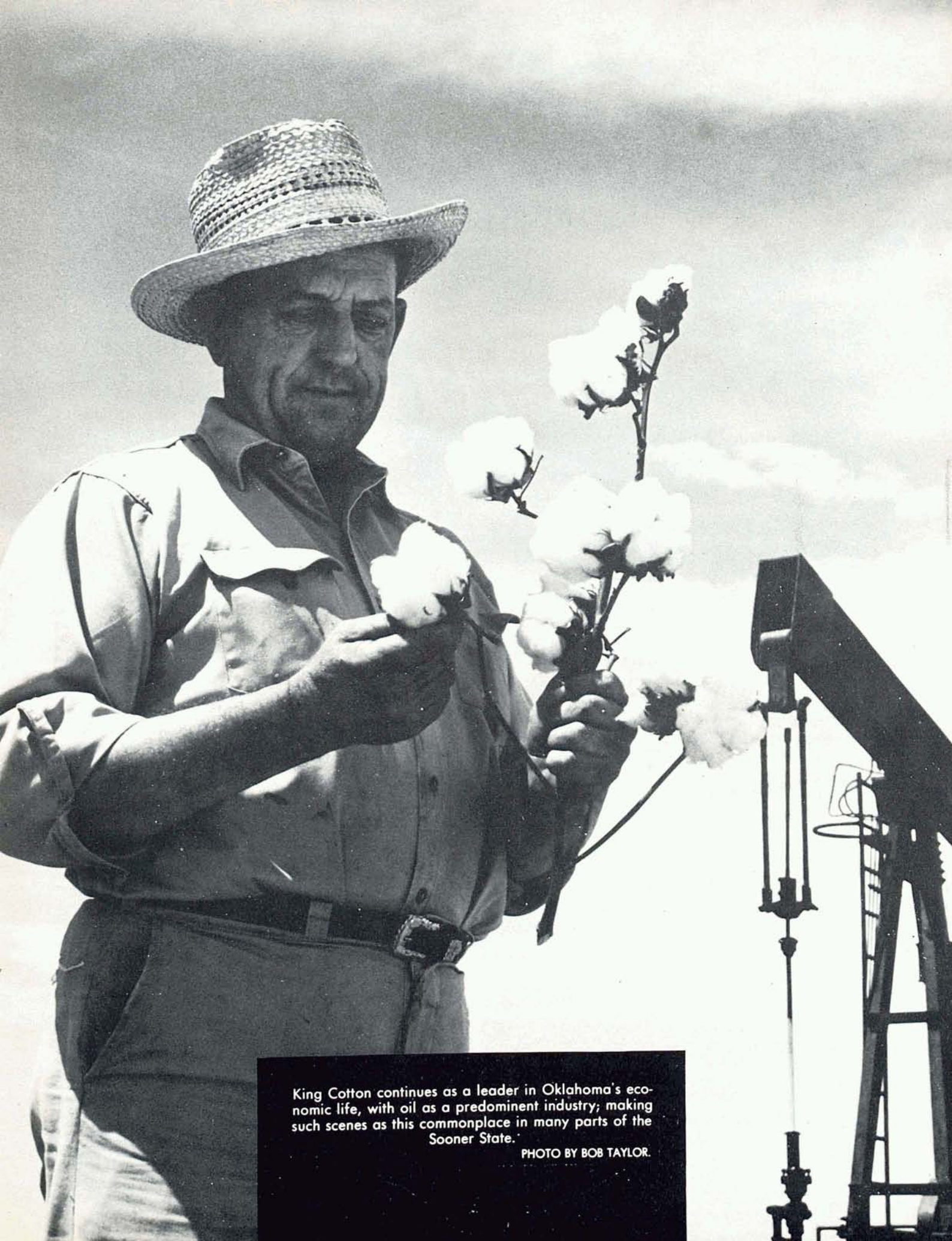
significance has become more meaningful to me," she said. "Oklahoma has come a long way since 1907. As the state grows older and more prosperous, I believe that our flag, too, grows more meaningful with each passing year."

Today, Mrs. George Fluke lives in Ponca City. She has lived there since July, 1925. In 1954, she luckily escaped a serious automobile accident in which her husband was killed. She was left with her only son, George, now serving in the army. Through the years, Mrs. Fluke's interest in the community has never waned. She remains active in several clubs and organizations including the Oklahoma DAR and the 20th Century Club.

At a recent Western district meeting at Alva, the Oklahoma DAR extended the following honor to the state flag:

"We honor the flag of Oklahoma as a sign of loyalty to our state and nation. May each of us dedicate our hopes, ambitions and deeds to the building of a nobler civilization."



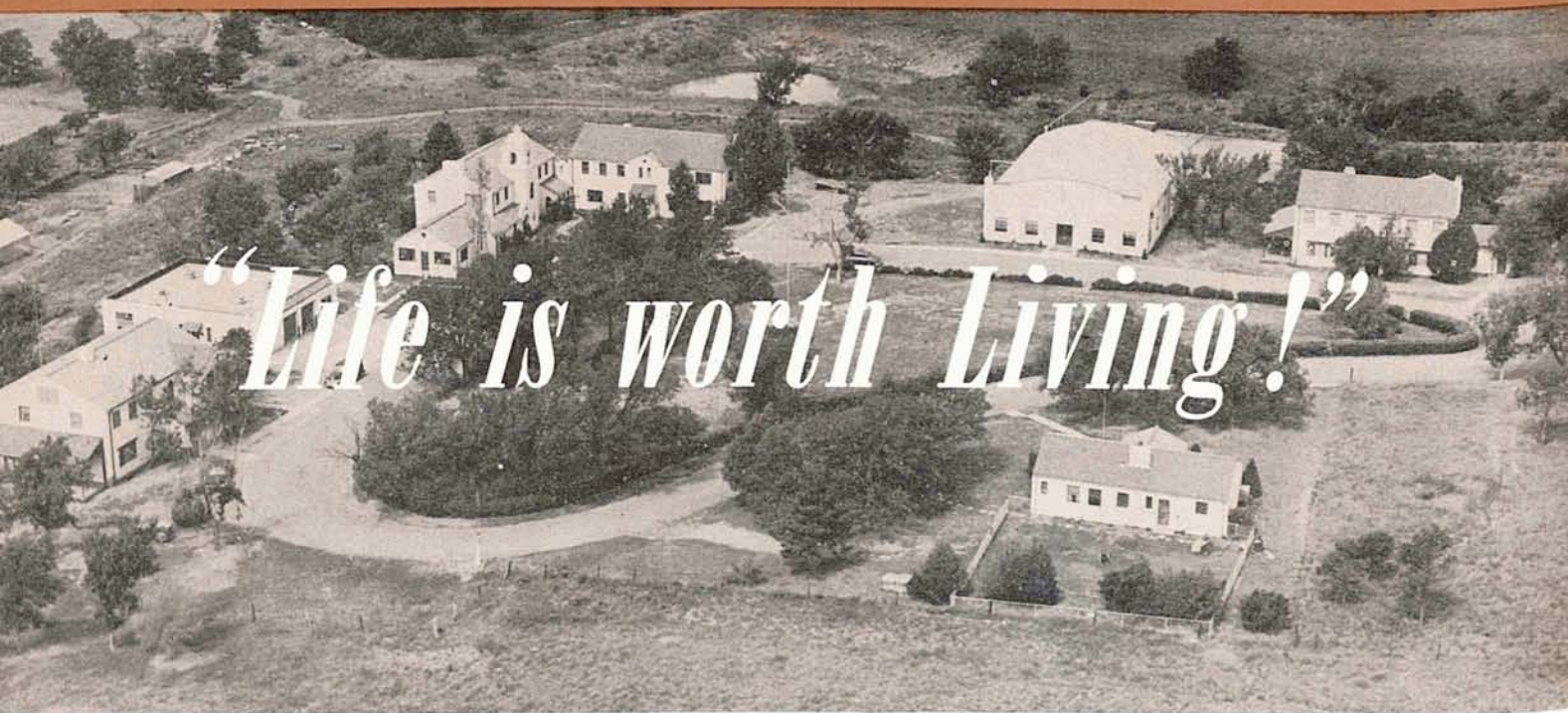


King Cotton continues as a leader in Oklahoma's economic life, with oil as a predominant industry; making such scenes as this commonplace in many parts of the Sooner State.

PHOTO BY BOB TAYLOR.



**TOGETHER, THROUGH THIS UNIQUE PROGRAM,  
OKLAHOMA BOYS AND GIRLS ARE LEARNING:**



BY H. W. "HANK" WARD

This is a happy story of boys and girls who have been spared the heartbreak and sorrow of the wrong turn after tragedy or economic disaster has shattered their homes. It is the inspirational story of forward-thinking Oklahomans who with charity in their hearts and faith in the future founded the American Legion Home School. It is the American Legion Home School story!

It begins in 1926 when the American Legion of Oklahoma first conceived the idea of a Home School for the children of deceased, disabled or destitute veterans of Oklahoma. The seed of the idea germinated and grew, firing the imagination of the late E. W. Marland who gave it a husky boost forward by lending it his support and donating 100 acres of land a mile and a half east of Ponca City as a site for the school. The proposed location was ideal. 20 acres sloping gently to a bluff overlooking the Arkansas River Valley would provide generous room for the friendly Spanish Colonial dormitories and other necessary buildings and the 80 acres of fertile bottom land at the foot of the bluff could be farmed by the boys as part of the vocational training program planned. After months of further planning and with the first buildings completed, the American Legion Home School was ready in 1927 to accept its first children and to begin the fulfillment of its dedicated trust of providing them with a home life approximating as nearly as possible that of a real home.

As the Home School approaches its 30th birthday it point with pride to the more than 1,000 children it has assisted in finding a new lease on life and hope for the future. The average annual enrollment is 105 children equally divided between boys and girls. They range in age from 6 to 16 and may remain at the Home School through highschool. Frequently after several years at the Home School, conditions at home improve to the point where a child may return to his family and where economic unrest was the major reason for their enrollment in the Home School they visit their families for short intervals during their stay at the Home School. Approximately 50 per cent of the children remain at the school until their graduation from highschool.

Guided by Earl N. Summers, the Home School's superintendent, and his staff, the children lead normal healthy lives. The boys and girls live in separate dormitories—each a self contained unit under the guidance of a married couple who act as "house mothers" and counselors. A third assistant serves as a cook as each dormitory has its own dining and cooking facilities. The friendly dormitory apartments each are home to three or four youngsters and are cheerfully furnished down to the colorful curtains at each window.

Each child in keeping with his age and ability is assigned certain duties. For instance, the girls in addition to tending their own clothes iron the boys' shirts, but the boys have the responsibility of ironing their own jeans.



The school is proud of the fact that almost without exception, every young girl has made herself at least one dress before reaching her tenth birthday. It is just one of the "built-in" traditions the children have provided on their own.

Where leadership ability is evident, the older boys and girls are given the responsibility of watching over younger charges, a "big brother" and "big sister" program which has proved its worth.

The boys farm the 80 acres of bottom land and tend a small herd of white face cattle and many are active in FFA programs of the Kay County Chapter. A poultry program is in the planning stage and it is expected before too long to have 500 hens under the supervision of five of the boys.

The boys and girls are active in many organizations and are encouraged in any of these undertakings. The girls participate in the 4-H program, the Camp Fire and Rainbow Girls, and other programs. A sizeable number of them participate in piano instruction and recitals of the Ponca City Federated Music Club.

The school has its own Boy Scout Troop with around thirty boys participating, three of them being Eagle Scouts and one Life Scout. In 1955 the school sent a Representative to Boy's State who also served as a Page in the Oklahoma legislature for one week.

The children attend school in Ponca City's public schools where many have been honor students. Where the desire and ability for a higher education exists following their graduation, they are encouraged and assisted in achieving this goal. Two annual scholarships are available for this purpose. One each for a boy and a girl. It is awarded on the basis of the desire for higher education and individual citizenship and scholastic records.

The church of their choice in Ponca City supplies their religious training and the children have enviable attendance records.

Medical care is furnished free by the Medical Association of Ponca City.

Each child at the Home School is sponsored by an American Legion Post or Auxiliary Unit. In this connection they furnish the child's clothing, spending money, Christmas and birthday presents, and once a year the child spends two weeks on the average visiting with the sponsor. The selection of clothing is made by the youngster with occasional help or suggestions to assure them of making selections tastfully and for best usage.

Outside entertainment costs are offset for the children by providing them with an allowance.

The State of Oklahoma through its War Veterans Commission spends \$2.20 per day per child for subsistence and schooling. This amounts to roughly \$72,000 a year and pays for the administration, food costs and educational expenses of the children at the Home School. This amounts to less than half the cost it takes to maintain children in other institutions. This difference is offset by the American Legion of Oklahoma which undertakes the maintenance and child welfare costs. In addition, the Legion and its Auxiliary spends approximately \$14,000 annually on clothing not to mention other intangible costs, including the completion two years ago of a \$39,800 recreational building.



PHOTO BY O. W. HUNT

Young girls develop in lady-lake manner in the gracious atmosphere at the Ponca City "residence."

The alumni of the American Legion Home School have carved out careers for themselves to which the State of Oklahoma and the Nation can point with pride. There is Major T. L. Rider of the U. S. Air Force Special Air Mission Squadron who has flown such notables as President Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles. There is Lt. Col. Sidney Marks of the Regular Army. And Dr. Paul Masters of Dell City, Oklahoma; Al Cassingham, Ponca City Junior highschool coach and his sister, Miss Geneva Cassingham, Girl's athletic director at Tulsa Rogers college. And Julius Marks, active in Ponca City civic clubs. The list is legion. And a special tribute to those five boys of the American Legion Home School who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II.

This is *their* story, it is your story!

Boys will be boys, especially when there are calves to wrestle and ride. This is true on the American Legion Home ranch near Ponca City.

PHOTO BY O. W. HUNT







"Weeping Willow."

COLOR PHOTO BY JEFF GRIFFIN

**brilliant autumn** Continued from page 7  
blend into a spread that is not easy to describe or comprehend. Believe me, though, it is grand.

The most colorful autumn foliage in Oklahoma is found in the eastern one-third of the state—the farther east the more trees and hills and, of course, the more color in the foliage.

People who have traveled Oklahoma as much as I have are reluctant to be pinned down to the point of putting the finger on the "most beautiful spot" in the state, with autumn foliage being the deciding factor. Many designate Delaware county this time and Pushmataha county the next; a group will agree that Cherokee county has more trees and more color this year, but will switch to LeFlore or McCurtain county next year. There are sections in Latimer or Haskell county that get the loudest applause on Monday but by Wednesday, as the foliage tourists push on through the gloriously beautiful woods, the prize for beauty of the autumn leaves may go to sections in Atoka or Pittsburg county.

Readers in Oklahoma are likely to wish me a new spell of ankle ache because I single out eastern Oklahoma for the most attractive foliage displays. I do so only because it is true. The east side of the state not only has

more kinds of trees but nature's elements work more favorably for the production of autumn forest color.

The principal cities in the state, including Tulsa, Muskogee, Ardmore, Enid, Lawton, Shawnee, Oklahoma City, Duncan, McAlester, Bartlesville, Norman, Okmulgee and many others, are dotted with beautiful trees that put on an excellent color show each autumn. And their surrounding rural areas present foliage festivals well worth driving out to see. But Oklahoma's autumn foliage, which compares with that in the older states in the east, is in the state's eastern counties. That from one who has visited every county in the state at least once a year for the last 30 years.

The prize one-day trip of all, to view colorful foliage in Oklahoma, is this one: From McAlester to Wilburton on U. S. 270; south on SH 2 to the intersection with SH 63, thence east to Talihina; south on the Indian highway across the Kiamichi mountains to the intersection with SH 21 at Bethel village, and on south to Broken Bow. On this route the tourists are in hills, mountains and forests all the way, crossing many beautiful streams, and the 100 or more different kinds of trees are decked out in their most colorful dresses—and that many different kinds of birds may be singing welcome at the same time.



**MUSKOGEE** Nineteen-year-old Lynn Gilliland of Muskogee was recent first-place award winner in the senior division of the 1956 state competition of Fisher Body Craftsman's guild with his version of "the car of tomorrow" which he designed and built. His prize: \$150.

**HUGO** This city which has been busy enriching its economy through its attracting of new industries soon will have a new market for sale of local grains in the form of a \$200,000 milling company. A new road materials firm also is locating here, having recently incorporated with a stock value of \$100,000.

**VINITA** Doubled employment, tripled production and a near-\$500,000 annual payroll marked the first year of progress of one of northeastern Oklahoma's newest industries—Munsingwear. The plant began operation in mid-1955.

**TULSA** The U. S. airforce has allocated \$6,745,000 to Douglas Aircraft Co., here, for C132 facilities to include a new engineering building. Target date for completion: late next summer.

**ENID** The new Enid Medical Center, designed to provide space for 14 doctors, a complete laboratory and pharmacy in 13,500 feet of floor space is now nearing completion.

**OSAGE HILLS STATE PARK** A new \$66,000 swimming pool was recently dedicated in this northeastern Oklahoma playground area located between Pawhuska and Bartlesville.

**PONCA CITY** This city's new \$430,000 elementary school will be ready when the 1956-57 school year starts.

**LAWTON** This city's first industrial raw material plant, Gordon Cartons, Inc., has started operations. The plant has installed an automatic Mercury press capable of producing 1,500,000 cartons every 24 hours.

**OKLAHOMA CITY** Tinker airforce base here poured more than \$112,000,000 into Oklahoma tills during 1955-56 fiscal year, including nearly \$100,000,000 in payrolls to more than 25,000 civilian and military personnel.

## OKLAHOMA'S SEMI-CENTENNIAL BOOSTERS



Dale Robertson, Oklahoma City lad who made good in Hollywood, is another Sooner who is serving as an honorary member of Oklahoma Gov. Gary's Semi-Centennial Commission. Robertson hit the big time in the movie industry back in 1947 when he finished his stint with Uncle Sam's Army. Young Dale's mother, Mrs. Varval Robertson lives in Oklahoma City; his father, Melvin, resides in Supulpa.



Another talented Oklahoma beauty who is issuing invitations to her native state's Semi-Centennial Celebration in '57 is Miss Yvonne Choteau, world-travelled ballerina with the noted Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Miss Choteau will visit numerous states and major cities of the U. S., and invite governors and mayors to the event. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Choteau of Muskogee and was inducted into Oklahoma's Hall of Fame when she was only 18.



Miss Revel Ray, native Oklahoman now making Roulette Records in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she now resides. Born in Tulsa, Miss Ray is a redhaired Cherokee Indian maiden who is spreading the Oklahoma Semi-Centennial-in-'57 invitation around the country. Last Spring she gave a command performance at the Sallisaw Lions Club-Chamber of Commerce banquet, at which she featured her new recording, "Sallisaw Squaw."



# OKLAHOMA • 1956 COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

## OKLAHOMA A. & M.

Sept. 22	Kansas State at Manhattan
Sept. 29	Arkansas at Little Rock
Oct. 6	Wichita at Wichita
Oct. 13	Tulsa at Tulsa
Oct. 20	Houston at Stillwater
Oct. 26	Kansas at Stillwater
Nov. 3	Texas Tech at Stillwater
Nov. 10	La. State at Baton Rouge
Nov. 17	Detroit at Stillwater
Dec. 1	Oklahoma at Stillwater

## LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

Sept. 15	Southwestern State at Weatherford
Sept. 22	Central State at Edmond
Sept. 29	Tenn. State at Nashville
Oct. 6	Texas College at Langston
Oct. 13	Lincoln University at Kansas City
Oct. 20	Southern University at Baton Rouge, La.
Oct. 27	Texas Southern at Ft. Worth
Nov. 3	Wiley College at Marshall, Texas
Nov. 10	Arkansas State at Langston (Homecoming)
Nov. 17	Prairie View College at Langston

## NORTHWESTERN STATE

Sept. 15	Sterling at Alva
Sept. 22	Bethel at Newton, Kansas
Sept. 28	Northeastern State at Alva
Oct. 6	Southwestern State at Alva (Homecoming)
Oct. 12	Southeastern State at Durant
Oct. 20	Arkansas Polytechnic at Russellville, Ark.
Oct. 26	Central State at Alva
Nov. 2	East Central at Alva
Nov. 9	Southwestern at Winfield, Kansas

## UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Sept. 29	North Carolina at Norman
Oct. 6	Kansas State at Norman (Homecoming)
Oct. 13	Texas at Dallas
Oct. 20	Kansas at Lawrence, Kansas
Oct. 27	Notre Dame at Notre Dame.
Nov. 3	Colorado at Boulder
Nov. 17	Missouri at Norman
Nov. 24	Nebraska at Norman
Dec. 1	Oklahoma A&M at Stillwater

## CENTRAL STATE

Sept. 15	Fort Hays at Hays, Kansas
Sept. 21	Langston at Edmond
Sept. 28	Southeastern State at Durant
Oct. 6	Southern Arkansas State at Magnolia, Ark.
Oct. 13	Southwestern State at Weatherford
Oct. 20	East Central at Edmond (Homecoming)
Oct. 26	Northwestern State at Alva
Nov. 2	Northeastern State at Edmond
Nov. 9	Emporia State at Edmond

## SOUTHEASTERN STATE

Sept. 22	Austin at Denison, Texas
Sept. 28	Central State at Durant
Oct. 6	Northeastern State at Tahlequah
Oct. 12	Northwestern State at Durant
Oct. 19	Memphis Air Base at Memphis
Oct. 27	Southwestern State at Weatherford
Nov. 2	Open
Nov. 10	Southern State at Durant (Homecoming)
Nov. 15	East Central at Ada

## TULSA UNIVERSITY

Sept. 15	New Mexico A&M at Tulsa
Sept. 29	Cincinnati University at Cincinnati
Oct. 6	Marquette at Tulsa
Oct. 13	A&M at Tulsa
Oct. 20	Tulsa at Detroit
Oct. 27	Hardin-Simmons at Tulsa
Nov. 3	College of Pacific at Tulsa
Nov. 10	Tulsa at Houston
Nov. 17	Texas Tech at Tulsa
Nov. 24	Wichita at Tulsa

## NORTHEASTERN STATE

Sept. 15	Southern State at Magnolia, Arkansas
Sept. 22	Emporia State at Tahlequah
Sept. 28	Northwestern State at Alva
Oct. 6	Southeastern State at Tahlequah
Oct. 13	East Central at Ada
Oct. 20	Southwestern State College at Tahlequah
Oct. 27	Open
Nov. 2	Central State at Edmond
Nov. 10	Pittsburg State at Pittsburg, Kansas
Nov. 17	Panhandle A&M at Tahlequah

## SOUTHWESTERN STATE

Sept. 15	Langston at Weatherford
Sept. 22	McNeese at Lake Charles, La.
Sept. 29	East Central at Weatherford
Oct. 6	Northwestern State at Alva
Oct. 13	Central St. at Weatherford (Homecoming)
Oct. 20	Northwestern State at Tahlequah
Oct. 27	Southeastern State at Weatherford
Nov. 3	Panhandle at Goodwell
Nov. 10	Eastern New Mexico at Portales, N.M.

## JUNIOR COLLEGES

### BACONE

Sept. 15	Northeastern at Muskogee
Sept. 22	Oklahoma Military Academy at Muskogee
Sept. 27	Murray State at Tishomingo
Oct. 6	Connors at Muskogee
Oct. 12	Open
Oct. 18	Eastern at Wilburton
Oct. 27	Cameron at Lawton
Nov. 1	Northern at Tonkawa

### EASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M

Sept. 8	Tyler Junior College at Tyler
Sept. 13	Open
Sept. 21	Northeastern at Miami
Sept. 28	Cameron at Lawton
Oct. 4	Northeastern State at Tahlequah
Oct. 11	Connors at Warner
Oct. 18	Bacone at Wilburton
Oct. 24	Oklahoma Military Academy at Claremore
Nov. 3	Murray at Wilburton (Homecoming)
Nov. 8	Northern at Wilburton
Nov. 19	Open

### OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY

Sept. 14	Joplin J. C. at Joplin
Sept. 22	Bacone J. C. at Muskogee
Sept. 27	Connors A&M at Warner
Oct. 5	Murray at O.M.A.
Oct. 11	Northern Oklahoma J. C. at Tonkawa
Oct. 20	Kemper Mil. Inst. at O.M.A. (Homecoming)
Oct. 24	Eastern Okla. A&M at O.M.A.
Nov. 10	Wentworth Mil. Academy at Lexington, Mo.

### CAMERON STATE

Sept. 15	Connors State at Lawton
Sept. 21	Cisco J. C. at Cisco, Texas
Sept. 28	Eastern State at Lawton
Oct. 5	Northeastern at Miami
Oct. 13	Arlington State at Lawton
Oct. 20	Murray State at Lawton
Oct. 27	Bacone College at Lawton
Nov. 3	Open
Nov. 10	Open
Nov. 16	Compton J. C. at Compton, Cal.
Nov. 22	New Mex. Mil. Inst. at Roswell

### NORTHERN OKLAHOMA

Sept. 14	Hutchinson at Hutchinson
Sept. 20	Murray at Tonkawa
Sept. 28	Coffeyville at Coffeyville
Oct. 5	Fort Scott at Tonkawa (Homecoming)
Oct. 11	O.M.A. at Tonkawa
Oct. 18	Connors at Warner
Oct. 27	Northeastern at Northeastern
Nov. 1	Bacone at Tonkawa
Nov. 8	Eastern at Wilburton

### PANHANDLE A&M

Sept. 13	Missouri Valley at Marshall, Mo.
Sept. 22	N.M. Military at Goodwell
Sept. 29	Highlands University at Las Vegas, N.M.
Oct. 6	New Mexico Western at Goodwell
Oct. 13	Adams State at Goodwell (Homecoming)
Oct. 20	Colorado State at Greeley, Colo.
Oct. 27	Arizona State at Flagstaff, Arizona
Nov. 3	Southwestern at Goodwell
Nov. 10	Fort Hays at Goodwell
Nov. 17	Northeastern at Tahlequah

### CONNORS STATE

Sept. 15	Cameron Aggies at Lawton
Sept. 20	Kilgore J. C. at Kilgore, Texas
Sept. 27	Okla. Military Academy at Warner
Oct. 6	Bacone at Muskogee
Oct. 11	Eastern A&M at Warner
Oct. 18	Northern J. C. at Warner
Oct. 25	Open
Nov. 2	Northeastern A&M at Miami
Nov. 9	Murray Aggies at Tishomingo

### NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M

Sept. 15	Bacone College at Bacone
Sept. 21	Eastern A&M College at Miami
Oct. 4	Cameron Aggies at Miami
Oct. 11	Murray Aggies at Tishomingo
Oct. 20	San Angelo at San Angelo, Texas
Oct. 27	Northern J. C. at Miami (Homecoming)
Nov. 2	Connors Aggies at Miami
Nov. 8	Tyler J. C. at Tyler
Nov. 15	Coffeyville Jr. College at Miami

Oklahoma's ultra-modern Turner Turnpike, between Oklahoma City and Tulsa, is traveled by millions of motorists yearly. This is the overpass walkway at Midway Station, Stroud.

COLOR PHOTO BY PAUL E. LEFEBVRE







## OKLAHOMA BUSINESS

# PROGRESS REPORT

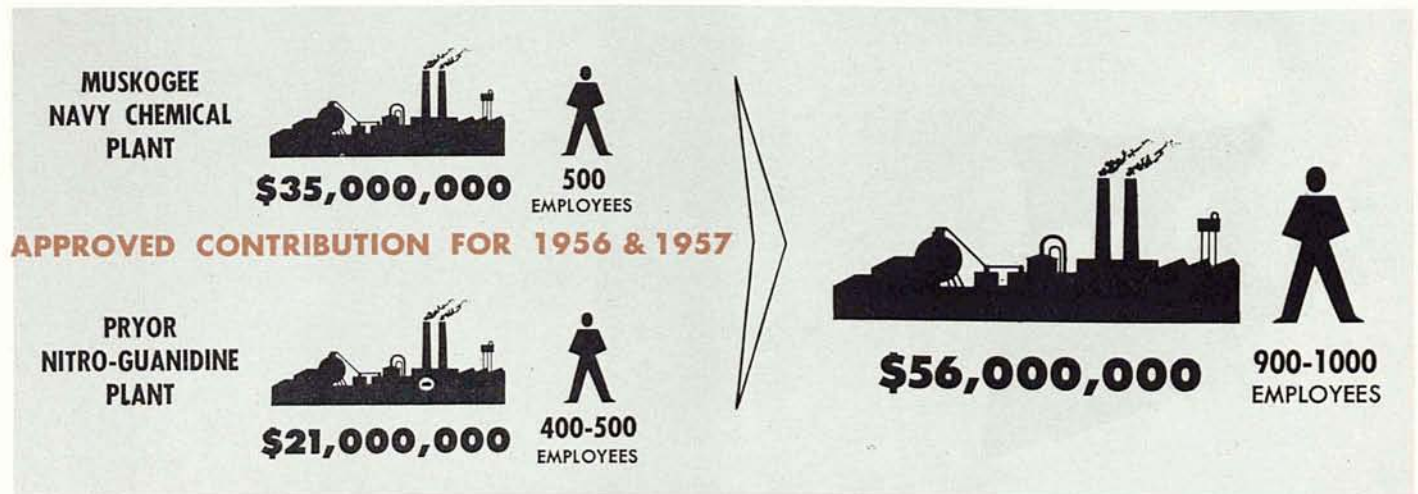
A total of 129 new industries were located in Oklahoma during 1955 and up to March of 1956. Sixty-seven of these new industries have a local market for their production, 12 have a statewide market and 51 have a national market. The fact that 51 of these new industries command a national market indicates that a major part of the new industries located during this short period of time have substantial resources.

Approved construction for 1956 and 1957 includes a Navy Chemical Plant at Muskogee. The construction cost of which is estimated at \$35,000,000. This plant is ex-

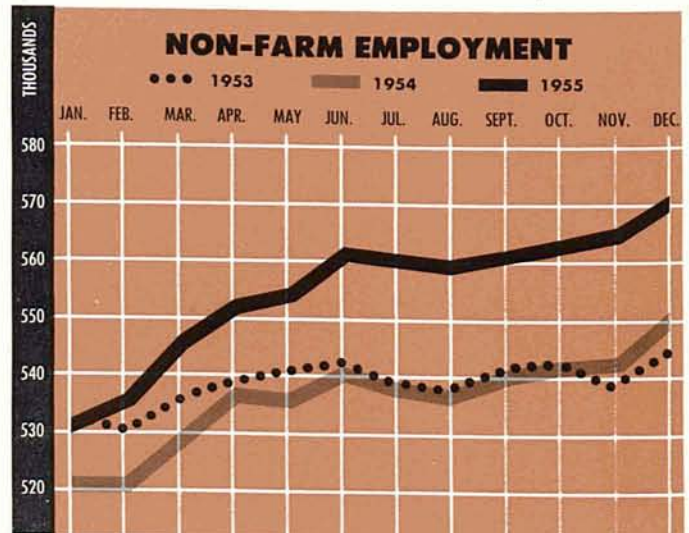
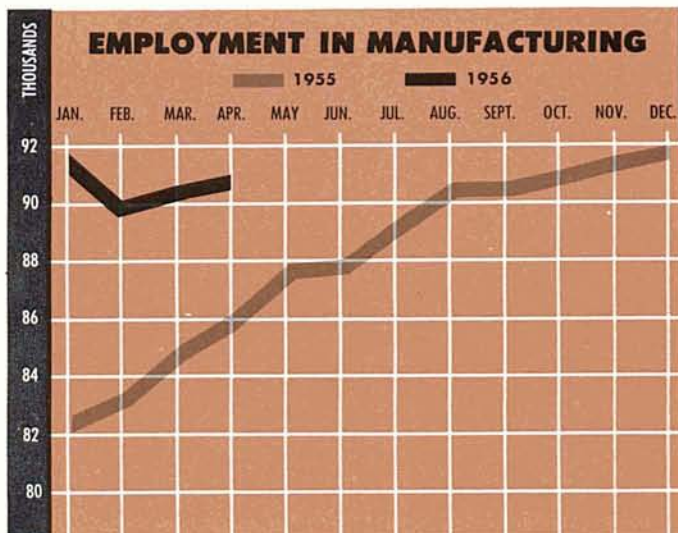
pected to employ around 500 people. A contract has been let to construct a Nitro-Guanidine Plant at Pryor, Oklahoma, with an estimated construction cost of \$21,000,000. This plant is expected to employ between 400 and 500 people with prospects of even greater expansion. These two plants alone will give the state \$56,000,000 in new construction and employment opportunities for 900 to 1,000 people.

Employment in manufacturing in the state increased from 82,000 in the beginning of 1955 to a total of 91,000 at the end of March, 1956. This is a very substantial increase which is reflected in the number of new industries located in the state during this period.

The general economy of Oklahoma, from the point of view of industrial production, construction, non-farm employment and retail trade continues to show a steady increase that is not only in keeping with the general economy of the nation but also reflects a substantial increase in the economy of the state, that is not directly tied in with the national economy. The great development and increase in new manufacturing can be closely related to the continued enthusiasm and work of individual communities and agencies engaged in selling. Oklahoma is a state with a very healthy industrial atmosphere.

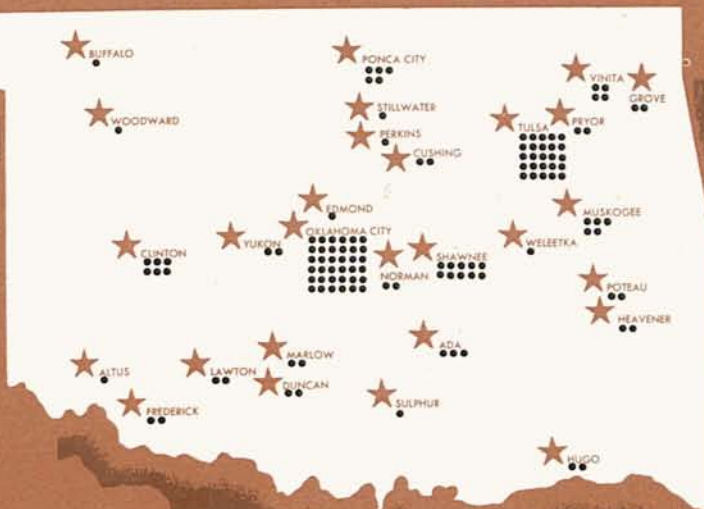


These charts prepared by W. E. Butler, Research Director, Oklahoma State Department of Commerce & Industry.





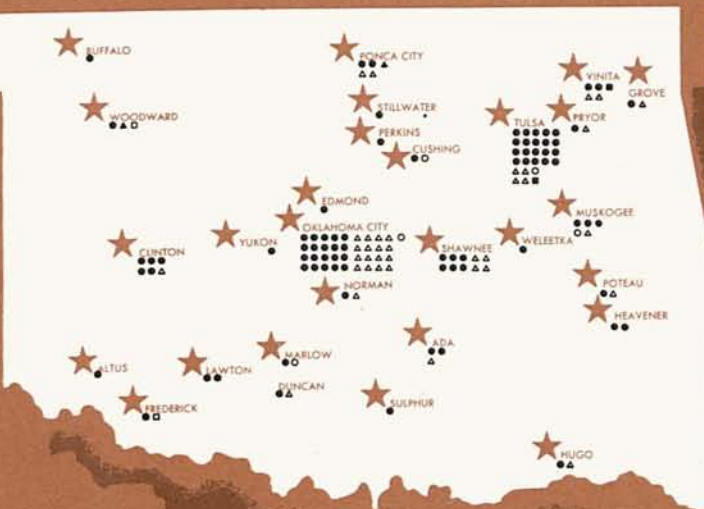
# **LOCATIONS OF NEW FIRMS ESTABLISHED IN 1955 & 1956**



# **NUMBER EMPLOYED IN ESTABLISHED NEW FIRMS IN 1955 & 1956**

AVERAGE NUMBER  
OF WORKERS

- 1-9    ▲ 50-99
- 10-24    ■ 100-249
- ▲ 25-49    □ 250-499



# **MARKET AREA FOR NEW FIRMS ESTABLISHED IN 1955 & 1956**

- LOCAL
- ▲ STATE
- NATIONAL





# WILL OKLAHOMA BE COMMUNISTIC IN 1981?

*... the Russians think so!*

BY DICK JOHN  
WKY-TV Newscaster





It almost seems like a dream. A year ago, the possibility of a trip through Russia would have certainly been as remote as the chance of visiting the moon. Yet, they say someday we'll visit the moon, and the cold, bluish-gray of the Baltic that first morning in Leningrad was certainly no dream.

The story of the trip to Russia by 28 Oklahomans and a doctor from Kansas has been told again and again since our return early this summer. It seems that Oklahomans have an intense desire to know what the Soviet Union is really like. This curiosity is almost identical to that which we saw in Russia, where all that was necessary to stop traffic on the busiest street was a bill-fold full of snap-shots of life back home.

What was the Soviet Union like? It's big . . . bigger than even we had expected. It's a land of countless contrasts . . . oxen plowing the fields while faster-than-sound jet aircraft scream overhead. It's also a land of people, 200-million of them, who are pretty much like people the world over.

We were the beneficiaries of a decision which apparently had been made many months before we arrived. Somewhere, someone decided that the Oklahomans who wanted to visit Russia should not only be allowed to make the visit . . . they should be accorded the finest treatment Ivan knows how to extend. As a result, although we didn't know it until we had been there for several days, we were shown more, and traveled over more territory of the Soviet Union, than any similar group which had been there before. Even the regular press corps in Moscow was a little envious . . . we were seeing parts of Russia even they could not visit.

We found little that would ease intelligent concern about the future. The Russian worker lives a life that to us would be impossible, yet he seems more than satisfied with his lot. He is ignorant of our way of life, and so can only compare his status with the past in Russia. And in this sense, he is doing well. Despite the almost impossible red tape and bureaucracy under which he lives, he seems to be making some progress in the fields of education and farming. And despite the poor quality, short supply and high price of almost all consumer goods, he seems to have more of the better things in life than he has ever enjoyed before.

It is easy to talk of the chain-flush toilets, the home-made brooms, and the tiny screen television sets. We have them beat, hands-down, in such things. It is more disturbing to discuss instead, their sense of destiny that someday in the not-too-distant future, Communism will rule the world. They make no bones about it . . . they tell you face to face that within 25 years their way of life will be ours.

It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most of us. It's a trip that more Americans must make, if only to know a little better what kind of fellow this Russian really is, and how much he is willing to sacrifice to make his way, our way.

*Editor's Note—When Dick John, genial reporter for WKY-TV, Oklahoma City, returned from his junket along with 28 other Oklahomans from Soviet Russia and waypoints, we asked him to do a piece for OKLAHOMA TODAY. He did, and dropped the provocative statement in his story that Russians actually believe the world will yield to the communist philosophy within 25 years. He also told us, personally, that the Russians liked OKLAHOMA TODAY, copies of which Oklahoma visitors to the USSR showed in various parts of the land of "many contrasts."*

COLOR PHOTO BY DICK JOHN



# What They're Saying About OKLAHOMA TODAY.

## From Down South—in Oklahoma

Our State's brand new magazine, OKLAHOMA TODAY, is doing a highly creditable job, even in its infancy, of presenting an attractive picture of Oklahoma in text and photograph.

—Duncan Daily Banner  
Duncan

Thank you again and again.

## "A Real Humdinger!"

We received our complimentary copy of this month's issue of the state's new magazine, OKLAHOMA TODAY, today and immediately sat down and read it cover to cover. We were greatly surprised and pleased to find our local fair listed in the magazine's column of coming events. OKLAHOMA TODAY is awakening Oklahoma with a gigantic burst of state pride. Each time we read this magazine we always arrive at the same inevitable conclusion that there "jest simply ain't no other place like Oklahoma". Man! We've got it and if we haven't got it we can get it! OKLAHOMA TODAY is not only a magazine that every family in Oklahoma should subscribe to but they should also subscribe to it for their poor unfortunate relatives who live, or rather exist, out of the state. OKLAHOMA TODAY is stupendous, colossal, gigantic, great, marvelous, wonderful—heck, Mr. Webster just didn't write enough adjectives to describe it, and it ever comes in gorgeous technicolor, all for two bucks a year. All we can say is, "Read it and grow proud, Okie!"

—Wellston News  
Wellston

If you do not subscribe to the magazine, OKLAHOMA TODAY, you are missing something. It tells stories of Oklahoma places, people and things of interest. It is a beautiful and interesting magazine from cover to cover and is available for the small sum of 35 cents.

—The Bristow News  
Bristow

## An Adman Speaks

A mighty fine publication—we don't want to miss a copy.

—Ford Advertising Agency  
Enid

## Nice!

Latest edition of OKLAHOMA TODAY is beyond any question the finest piece of publicity the state has produced.

It is a commercially marketable magazine, chuck full of professional color photography and held together by good writing.

—City Editor  
Phoenix, Muskogee

## A Good Wish

How I do like this publication! Best wishes for its continued success.

—Beth West  
P. O. Box 67, Oklahoma City

## Christmas in September

We like the magazine very much and expect to use subscriptions as Christmas presents this coming holiday time. Your color pictures are beautifully reproduced.

—Mayme B. Bush  
Box 217, Rt. 1, Oklahoma City

## RGM Takes a Look

RGM has waited a long time to pay respects to OKLAHOMA TODAY, the new magazine issued by four state departments in the capitol. It is a fine magazine, informative, colorful, interesting, well done. It deserves to be purchased by the thousands by Oklahoma business and civic interests and distributed among people out of state who may still believe Oklahoma has no mountains, lakes, caves, rivers, forests, parks, history and little culture and few bath rooms. However, it is going to take more than editorial boosting and public well-wishing to make this good magazine stay in business. It is not a give-away publication. The subscription price is \$2 a year, and well worth it. It can be made as popular and helpful as Arizona Highways magazine which, by the way, took 30 years to build up enough support to pay its own way. The legislature likely will continue to appropriate enough funds to keep OKLAHOMA TODAY going, and we have no personal objection to that, but the magazine is worthy of a paid circulation list of 100,000 within the state. So far, the magazine has shown no political flavor. And it should never do so.

—R. G. Miller  
Editor, "The Smoking Room"  
Daily Oklahoman

Thanks for the big assist, RGM!

## Oklahoma Pride!

I wish to subscribe to the magazine, OKLAHOMA TODAY. . . I am delighted with it.

—Mrs. Dorothy Hamman  
Box 405, Edmond

We're delighted, too. Thank you!

## An Editor Speaks—and Subscribes!

Looking over an issue, I am convinced it would be a mistake, both moral and financial, to not subscribe for OKLAHOMA TODAY. For anyone with a trace of an Oklahoma State inferiority complex, this magazine should be a necessity. If you have them, I'd like to have the subscription begin with the first issue.

—E. E. Everett  
Editor, The Hunter's Horn  
Sand Springs







