

## NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

## NOTICE; CHANGE OF ADDRESS IMPORTANT

The change of address of anyone receiving *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* regularly—member, exchange or subscription—should be sent immediately to the Office of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Historical Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This will insure prompt delivery of the magazine each quarter.

## HISTORY OF SENECA INDIAN SCHOOL

An attractive booklet giving the history of the Seneca Indian School, compiled by Margaret L. Schiffbauer, has been received by the Editorial Department from Mr. J. N. Kagey, Principal of this historic school at Wyandotte, Oklahoma, who has served in his position since 1926, and has thus given the institution more years of service than any of its leaders. Mrs. Kagey is of Choctaw Indian descent and has been instructor in music for many years.

Seneca Indian School was established as a mission school in 1872, by the Friends Missionary Council (Quaker). Its original location was on the Seneca Reservation, south of the village of Wyandotte, but when the railroad was built through this section, the site was moved to the reservation lands owned by the Wyandot Indians who subsequently gave the first 160 acre tract to this school which now owns 1,250 acres and 33 buildings. About 1880, it was taken over and operated by the Government as a boarding school for boys and girls from the Seneca, Wyandot and Shawnee tribes living in the region, and was called the "Seneca, Wyandotte and Shawnee School." In 1900, Quapaw boys and girls were transferred to the institution which then became known simply as the "Seneca Boarding School."

Dr. Charles W. Kirk, Superintendent, and Mrs. Kirk were stationed here from 1878-1884. Miss Elizabeth Test taught here, and later served at the Friends Mission among the Kickapoo, the story of which is told in this number of *The Chronicles* by the Rev. Hobert D. Ragland ("Missions of the Society of Friends among the Indian Tribes of the Sac and Fox Agency").

The front cover of the Seneca Indian School booklet was designed by Tarbie Manley, a 6th grade pupil, showing the south side of the large boys' dormitory; and was tinted and bound by the 8th and 9th grade classes attending the session this year (1954-55). Mrs. Schiffbauer, the compiler in acknowledgment to retired employees, former students and others for much of the data used in this history.

lists their names, some among them of well known pioneers of Indian descent in Ottawa County: "Susan Armstrong Fisher, Mrs. Garver Splitlog, Mrs. Cecelia B. Wallace, Mrs. Charlotte Nesvold, Mrs. Bertha Johnson Cheek, Mrs. Naomi Pacheco, Mr. Silas Dawson, Mr. Guy Jennison, Mrs. Maude Scott, Mrs. Elizabeth Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. George Long, Mr. and Mrs. Ermin C. Peristo, Mrs. Harold Nesvold, and Milton S. Cotter." —M.E.W.

**MEMPHIS AIR FORCE RESERVE FLYING FIELD**  
Dedication of "Chickasaw Wing"

The following report by Mrs. Jessie Randolph Moore, Secretary of the Council of the Chickasaw Nation, gives an interesting account of the dedication of the "Chickasaw Wing," Memphis Air Force Flying Field, and data on early Chickasaw history from the time of their discovery by DeSoto:

A great honor was conferred on the Chickasaw Nation when the Memphis Air Force Reserve Flying Field named the newly established Training Field "The Chickasaw Wing," at Memphis, Tennessee, on September 28, 1944.

Air field officers had extended a cordial invitation to the Honorable Floyd Maytabby, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation and twenty Chickasaws whom he had selected to attend the Dedication Ceremonies of the Chickasaw Wing Training Field at Memphis. The Chickasaw Delegation included Governor Maytabby and family, the Governor's Chickasaw Council and other members of the Chickasaw Nation selected to fill out the quota of guests.

At 8:00 a.m. September 26, we arrived at the Oklahoma City Air Field where we met the Chickasaw Delegation, Governor Maytabby in charge. The special member of the delegation was the lovely little Chickasaw Princess, Miss Betty Berry, the Governor's charming granddaughter who became the mascot and pride of the Chickasaw guests.

We were escorted to the Air plane at 9:30 and were flown away to our rendezvous with the "Chickasaw Wing" in Tennessee. Our plane arrived at the municipal air port at noon where we were met by a reception committee of air officers who escorted us to headquarters. Here we were received by another welcoming group of officers and their wives, headed by Commander E. Patterson, Commander of the Air Field. Brigadier General William J. Fry, Commander "Chickasaw Wing," Lieutenant Colonel Joseph H. Frieseman chairman of the air show committee, the honorable Frank J. Toby, Mayor of Memphis and co-host for the day's events and a host of other executive officers in a particular field of service in the Memphis Air Reserve Flying Center and the Chickasaw Wing Training Field.

After luncheon at headquarters, we were escorted to the Memphis Air Reserve Flying Center, key to the Chickasaw Wing Training Field, for the dedication ceremonies. The program stated: "The Memphis Air Reserve Flying Center is to keep house for the "Chickasaw Wing" Training Field, maintaining air planes, buildings, administrative services supplies and full time man power."

On arrival at the airport, we were seated with many distinguished guests from over the United States, officers of the Army, Navy and Air

Force, congressmen, governors, mayors, and others too numerous to mention for there was a great assembly.

### *Chickasaw Wing Dedication*

The welcome address of Colonel E. Paterson Commander of the Memphis Air Rogers Flying Center and the Honorable Frank Toby, Mayor of Memphis were full of most gracious hospitality and were sincerely appreciated by the Assembly, especially the Chickasaws who felt they had returned to their old homeland after a long absence.

The dedication address of the Chickasaw Wing Training Field, by Brigadier General William J. Fry, Commander of the field was an inspiring and sincere appraisal of the purpose of the Air Officials in building this important Chickasaw Wing Training Field, also the Chickasaw Wing Training Center was a memorial to honor the people of the ancient, unconquerable Chickasaw Nation in their historic homeland.

The response by the Honorable Floyd Maytubby, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation and Mr. Justice Earl Welch, member Supreme Court of Oklahoma and member of the Chickasaw Council were a proud and sincere appreciation for the great honor that had been paid the Chickasaw Nation by this memorial to their ancestors for the distinguished part they had played in the early history of these United States.

There was also "The Presentation of Colors," the Kille Band and Indian dance that added interest to the program.

In the Air Show, we saw a flying demonstration of our country's air force in action with the latest equipment and finest trained air men in the world. This outstanding event was sponsored by the 2684th A.F. Flying Reserve Center and the 1710th Pilot Training Wing, known today as the "Chickasaw Wing."

The program included aerial flying of many types of modern combat planes, including U. S. largest bombers, America's fastest jet bombers, jet interceptors assigned the task of defending the U. S., Rescue air operation, helicopter demonstration high and low altitude flying.

The feature attraction was a precision formation of a jet flying exhibition by the "Thunderbirds," the U.S. internationally known air force precision flying team. This was truly a great air show. A magnificent spectacle, a grand finale to a memorable day.

This "Chickasaw Wing" Training Field will always be a proving center for first class Air Force and a splendid memorial to the ancient Chickasaw Nation in their old home in Tennessee.

### *Memories*

As we floated along over the land that was Indian Territory and Arkansas our thoughts went back over the historic path of our beloved old Chickasaw Nation and its home in the southern States, which included western Kentucky, western Tennessee, northern Mississippi and northwest Alabama.

We recalled several events in recorded history that was associated with western Tennessee: the first event was in 1541, when De Soto the Spanish explorer and warrior, made his conquering march across the southern part of north America arriving in country occupied by the Chickasaw Nation in the autumn of that year. De Soto requested permission from the Chickasaws to spend the winter months with them as he needed their meat and vegetables for his soldiers and their corn for his horses. The Chickasaws responded, and De Soto, his soldiers and horses spent the winter in comfort.

When spring arrived according to De Soto's past tactics, he demanded the Chickasaws give him men to serve his army and to accompany him on his march to the country lying beyond the Mississippi River. The Chickasaws refused, and demanded payment for the winter keep of De Soto, his soldiers and horses. De Soto refused and departed. The Chickasaws followed him, and gave battle; killed some soldiers appropriated some horses; harassed him all the way up to what is now known as Chickasaw Bluffs in Tennessee, where a final battle was fought. The Chickasaws killed more soldiers and appropriated more horses in payment for the winter keep of De Soto's expeditionary forces. De Soto crossed the Mississippi River at Chickasaw Bluffs, or near, and never came back. In 1682 recorded history states, that LaSalle the great soldier of France came down the Mississippi River on an exploring expedition. Since the De Soto's time, the Chickasaw Nation had established a town extending seven miles along the Mississippi River where Memphis now stands. LaSalle stopped at this Chickasaw town and we read in a priest's diary, who was attending him on this expedition, a description of this Indian town, and the place of worship. The priest described the place of worship as a long building containing two rooms: a large outer room served as the Holy Place, and a small inner room or Holy of Holies, where a sacred fire was always kept burning—a symbol of the sun (the word Fire in Chickasaw means "Little Sun"). The sun in turn was a symbol of God, the Creator, who manifested through the sun. We think this religion was reminiscent of the ancient Mayan Empire from which the Chickasaws had migrated several thousand years ago after one of the many volcanic eruptions that history records.

In 1734, the Chickasaws appear on the pages of history again in a story associated with Tennessee. In 1732 Blenville Governor of the Province of Louisiana, wrote to the King of France that the French would have to exterminate the Chickasaws if they ever hoped to occupy the country lying between their northern and southern provinces. The King of France wrote to Blenville: "Exterminate the Chickasaws."

Blenville proceeded to carry out the King's orders: Colonel Vincennes and D'Artugette brought up an army from New Orleans to meet in the Chickasaw country and exterminate the enemy. The Chickasaws waited until the army of Vincennes and D'Artugette gave battle, killed Vincennes and D'Artugette and drove the remnant of their army back north to Ft. Vincennes. Then the Chickasaws met Blenville at Ackia a Chickasaw town in north Mississippi and whipped Blenville and his army back to New Orleans.

Congressman Rankin of Mississippi, in 1824, two hundred years later, introduced a bill in Congress (H.R. No. 30623), to make the old Ackia battle ground a Chickasaw Memorial Park and erect a monument to honor the Chickasaw Nation for one of the most important battles ever fought in American history for it saved the central part of the United States for the English speaking people. The bill passed both houses of Congress and was signed by the President of the United States.

We read in the historical records of 1792 the message sent by President Washington to the great Chickasaw, Chief Flamingo, and his band of warriors, thanking them for joining the U. S. forces at Fort Washington, Ohio, in the war against the Indian tribes of the Northwest Territory in 1791. In 1812 we read again in recorded history that the Chickasaws joined the great Choctaw, Chief Pushmataha and his warriors, together with the Cherokee, Creek and Seminoles in fighting under General Andrew Jackson at the battle of New Orleans when England was striving to recover her lost colonies. The battle flag carried by the Chickasaws in the Battle of New Orleans now hangs on the walls of the Oklahoma State Museum.

In 1816, a treaty was made between the United States and the Chickasaws, by which they sold all of their lands in Kentucky and Tennessee to

the United States. An original roll was made of the members of the Chickasaw Nation at the time the treaty was signed in order that each Chickasaw would receive an equal share of the money.

The Chickasaw Nation will always remember with pride and sincere gratitude the high honor Tennessee has paid our ancient nation in their old homeland. The footprints of our ancestors have been gone for many years from the hills and valleys of Tennessee and we are proud to know their spirited impress.

The wonderful air plane voyage, the impressive dedication of the "Chickasaw Wing," the marvelous air show and the most gracious hospitality shown the Chickasaw guests by the Air Force and citizens of Memphis will always be a day of unforgettable memories.

Jessie Randolph Moore, Secretary  
Council of Chickasaw Nation

#### A LETTER FROM TALLEQUAH, CHEROKEE NATION, 1849

Some interesting notes on Tahlequah written by a "Melissa Moore" en route to Texas give glimpses of life in this historic Cherokee capital in 1849. A photostatic copy of her original letter sent from Tahlequah to her sisters and brothers in Illinois has been received by the Historical Society, the text of the letter appearing as follows:

Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah = pron'ced Taleko!

September 26th, 1849

Dear Sisters & brothers I take this opportunity of writing to relieve you of all fears concerning us We arrived here in this place on the 24 of september amongst the cherokees I expect you will be scared when you hear this but you need not for they are quite an intelligen people as much so as the whites in general. they have free schools here & two Seminary agoin up in this place - one for males & the other for females. about one half of them are with [sic] as the whites & are good farmers & have lots of negrows they have sheriffs magist ves [sic] and other officers they are divided into districts and elect their head chief and a second chief who preside over them - there is several family of whites stopped in here to work. Mr Moore and Lorenzo is at work they get from one to 2 dollars a day the horse was tired out and we stopped to rest them we intend going on in the course of a week or so to Texas the country here is some of it very broken & mountainous and some of it is very beautiful and level with pearls & lumber the land produces well there is the best springs - beautiful & large streams for mill seates the people look healthy here the country has the same appearance from this to springfield in green county. we are all in tolerable good health except Lorenzo's babe & Matilda she has had the chills ever since we left Illinois John has got over them I am in much better health than I was considering everything Enoch has the phthiisic (phthisic) some though not so bad as he had we get flower for 2 sents a hundred bacon for 7 sents

<sup>1</sup>It is interesting to note this introductory line by Melissa Moore, in her letter, giving the pronunciation of Tahlequah as "Taleko." This form is nearly "Tellico," the name of several Cherokee settlements in East Tennessee ("Great Tellico, 1755"), and that from which the later name Tahlequah is said to have come. Mrs. Moore's note leads one to think that "Taleko" was the pronunciation used by the natives in the Indian Territory one hundred years ago when referring to Tahlequah.—Ed.

beef for 1 cent & a half per pound wool & Irish potatoes for 20 cents per bushel sugar & coffee is a bit a pound there is several stores (and it has) a printing office & a post office. It is about 30 miles from Fort Gibson & goods generally dearer here than they are in Quincy. The town is small  
 I (word here illegible) no more but remains yours & so forth.

Neill/ssa Moore

Jane and Margaret  
 Rankin

THE PASSING OF TWO CHEROKEE PIONEERS IN OKLAHOMA  
 JOHN M. ADAIR AND MARTHA (PATSY) MAYES POINTER

John Martin Adair, a citizen of the old Cherokee Nation, died at the age of ninety-seven, on May 29, 1955. Widely and affectionately known as "Uncle John Adair" throughout Cherokee and Muskegee counties, he had long made his home at Tahlequah, in which city funeral services were held at the First Methodist Church and burial was made with the Tahlequah VFW Post in charge of graveside ceremonies. John M. Adair, born on June 3, 1858 at Fort Gibson, was a Cherokee by blood and a member of the old Oolootka and Adair families in the Cherokee Nation. He attended Shurtleff College, and served in Troop L, First United States Volunteer Cavalry in the Spanish American War in 1898. This was the famous "Rough Rider Regiment" commanded by Col. Theodore Roosevelt. Mr. Adair married Miss Tryphena Terrell at Tahlequah in 1903. He was a first cousin of Will Rogers, and is survived by a half-brother, Dennis Wolf Bushyhead of Westville, and many nieces and nephews.

Martha (Patsy) Mayes Pointer, daughter of Jesse Bushyhead Mayes and Cherokee Adair Mayes, was born on January 10, 1875, near Tip in the Coosweecnowee District of the Cherokee Nation. She graduated from the Cherokee Female Seminary at Tahlequah in 1892, and later served here as a teacher and, also, at the Cherokee Orphan Home at Salina. She married Mr. Edwin Mooring Pointer of Sallisaw, in 1900. She was one of the most active members of the Cherokee Seminary Association, and was well known for civic interest and work at Sallisaw where she had lived for many years at the time of her death on May 30, 1955. Mrs. Pointer is survived by two sons, Samuel J. and James D. Pointer, of Sallisaw; a grandson, Ed Pointer who is a student of medicine in the University of Oklahoma; and a great granddaughter, Deborah Pointer.

—M.H.W.

ROBERT E. LEE AT FORT BELKNAP, TEXAS

Did Robert E. Lee ever have any connection with or visit Fort Belknap in Texas? This point has been brought up by Judge Ben G. Oneal, of Washita Falls, in a letter to Colonel George H. Shirk, after reading the article on "Mail Call at Fort Washita" in the Spring issue of *The Chronicles*, 1955. Judge Oneal's letter and Colonel Shirk's reply follow:

Wichita Falls, Texas

June 15, 1955

Colonel George H. Shirk  
Colcord Building  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Colonel Shirk:

Please accept my thanks for the volume of "The Chronicles of Oklahoma" recently sent me. It certainly was a thoughtful kindness on your part.

Though I have not had time to read all the papers, I have genuinely enjoyed those I have read, and particularly "Mail Call at Fort Washita." In fact, I have read all those letters at least twice. And when I read them I lose the present and feel that I am living in that time and somehow feel that I have known the writers, the letters are so intimate.

The people who a century hence seek to know (if there are then any who care) something of how we of this day felt and thought will have a difficult time. For then there will be few intimate letters from friend to friend telling the little things that make up life as well as the greater things.

Reading Mrs. Rossell's letter, it is not hard to imagine her. If her tongue was sharp as her pen, she must have kept Fort Washita lively.

In some respects the correspondence surprised me. There is no mention of trouble with the Indians or fear of trouble. Then the references to General Belknap not being liked. One instance is Mrs. Rossell's "so ends the poor unloved Gen."

And that reminds me to ask a favor. I would like to have for a few days a copy of Vol. XX, No. 2 (June, 1942) of "The Chronicles of Oklahoma" which contains the biography of General Belknap by Carolyn Thomas Foreman. I have been intrigued by the fact that no other man who spent so short a time in Texas as did General Belknap leaves a name so permanently and widely spread over the map as he did.

There is, of course, Old Fort Belknap, the low mountains around the Fort are called Belknap Mountains; there is a Belknap Creek; the street in Fort Worth that was the road to Fort Belknap is called Belknap Street; in Jacksonboro the street along the old Butterfield Coach road to Fort Belknap is named Belknap Street; the first county seat of Young County was designated by the Legislature as Belknap and the records so show; the fieldnotes in the patents to many surveys of land even as far as (my miles from the Fort have their beginning calls by course and distance from Fort Belknap.

I see at the bottom of page 30 of the volume of the "Chronicles" you sent me this statement: Gen. Robt. E. Lee helped locate the fort, meaning Fort Belknap. I shall be pleased to know the source of your information. I have tried for several years to find some evidence of General Lee's having had some connection with the Fort, but so far have failed. I have Douglas Southall Freeman's 4-volume life of General Lee, which is well indexed. I fail to find Fort Belknap in the index. There is a letter copied in the book written August 5, 1851, from Baltimore by the General to his son then at West Point. He seems to have been stationed then at Baltimore. He was in about 1854 or 1855 at Camp Cooper, thirty miles from Fort Belknap, for several months. Freeman copies several of his letters written there.

In fact, from the records, it seems that the establishment of the Fort was a 6th Infantry job.

I trust you will pardon me for the length of this letter.

Again thanking you for "The Chronicles", I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Ben G. Oneal

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
22 June 1955

Hon. Ben G. Oneal,  
470 First National Building,  
Wichita Falls, Texas.

Dear Judge,

Many thanks for your warm letter of the 15th. It was very good to hear from you. It is indeed remarkable how closely the article ties in with the early history of Belknap and Phantom Hill. It must have caused much local excitement when General Smith revised the plans and made provision for only two post in your area.

You asked about Robert E. Lee. That was of special interest. How that language appeared in the article is this: I had secured from you, some time ago, a map of Fort Belknap. On the map, along the side, was considerable legend, keyed to the illustrations. As part of the text on this map, was the phrase regarding Lee. When the map went to the printer, the text included the part about General Lee.

Yes, Lee visited Fort Belknap several times. The best material on this is Riser's "Robert E. Lee in Texas" published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Lee reported in to Camp Cooper, as commander, in April, 1866. This post was very near Belknap, and Lee, with his cavalry, was in and out of Belknap many times, I am certain. You would find this volume very interesting.

They will forward you a copy of the June (1942) *Chronicles* direct from the Historical Society. Am sure you will find the copy of much interest and a nice addition to your own library.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

(Signed) George H. Shirk

---

#### MORE HISTORY FOR DWIGHT MISSION AND SOME DATA ON THE FINNEY FAMILY IN OKLAHOMA

It is by coincidence that much of the early history relating to Dwight Mission among the Western Cherokees is published in this issue of *The Chronicles* (see pages 202 and 259). Another milestone was reached in the records of this noted mission station in the history of Oklahoma on May 1, 1955, when the last mortgage note payment was made on the property under the Auspices of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., in Oklahoma. The burning of



the mortgage at Dwight on June 14, 1955, with fitting ceremonies closed an epoch in its work under the Presbyterian Board of National Missions. Established on its present site in 1829, near Marble City in Sequoyah County, it operated through the years, except for a twenty-year period from the outbreak of the Civil War, as a center of education and religious training for Indian youth until 1948 when the school was closed by the Presbyterian Board. Two years later the Synod of Oklahoma purchased the property which is now the conference grounds for all Presbyterians in the Synod. A non-profit corporation governs the property and plans its use as a center for organization meetings such as the Oklahoma Academy of Science which recently held a conference here with 200 persons in attendance. The officers of this Dwight Mission corporation are Charles Heinrich, Muskogee, President; Maurice F. Ellison, Tulsa, Secretary; Leslie E. Berto, Tulsa, Business Manager.

An official Oklahoma Historical Marker erected through the work of the Oklahoma Historical Society is located five miles west of Sallisaw on U. S. Highway #64, and bears the following inscription:

"DWIGHT MISSION. About 7 mi. N.E. First established in 1821, among Western Cherokees in Pope Co., Ark. Ter., by Rev. C. Washburn, American Bd. of Foreign Missions. Moved to this new land of the Cherokees in Ind. Ter., 1829. Site at Nicksville, postoffice named for Gen. John Nickse whose widow, Sarah Perkins Nickse, was 1st woman appointed to U.S. government position in Oklahoma, 1832."

The Reverend Alfred Finney was associated with Mr. Washburn in the work at Dwight from its first establishment in 1821 until his death at the Mission in 1833. The family name of Finney is well known in the history of the Osages as well as the Cherokees. "Reminiscences of a Trader in the Osage Country" by the late James E. Finney appears in this issue of *The Chronicles*, and his nephew, Frank F. Finney, now of Oklahoma City, has contributed in this same issue the biography of "John N. Florer" whose wife was Anna Finney.

Historical notes on a branch of the Finney family<sup>1</sup> furnished at the request of the Editor, by Mr. William F. Finney of Oklahoma City, is an interesting genealogical study of a family that has had a vital part in the development of the American frontier:

"Robert Finney of Scottish Ancestry came to America from Ireland in 1720, and bought Thunder Hill estate, a six hundred acre tract which is now located in the City of Philadelphia. The home he built has a family living in it at the present time. His grandson, Thomas McKean, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

"Robert Finney's son, Dr. John Finney, was educated in Ireland and later lived in New Castle, Delaware. His home, Amstel House, now

<sup>1</sup>The Rev. Alfred Finney's relationship to this family is not known at this writing.—Ed.

between the Historical Society of Delaware. George Washington and other prominent men of Revolutionary War days were entertained in Oils home. Dr. Finney's son, David Finney, was a prominent attorney, and also lived at New Castle; and his nephew, Thomas McKean, served his apprenticeship in David's law office, and is the one referred to as the signer of the Declaration of Independence. David was a very wealthy man, and properties that he owned are now visited in a pilgrimage which is held in New Castle every spring.

"David Finney lost much of his wealth in the Revolutionary War, and his son, David Thompson Finney, moved to Holmes County, Ohio. Like all pioneers, he cleared land and supplied food and clothes to his family, which came from the soil and the work of his hands. Educated in law, he served in his County as a judge. His son, John French Finney, followed the life of his father, reared seven children, and was a substantial citizen of Ohio. He weathered the hardships of the Civil War.

"Our family and that of Frank F. Finney, of Oklahoma City, divide at this point: John French Finney was Frank F. Finney's grandfather, and was my great-grandfather.

"My grandfather, Thomas Finney, migrated to Kansas about the close of the Civil War, and owned land in Topeka. My father, John Edgar Finney, moved to Oklahoma in 1907, and died at Fort Cobb four years ago. He reared three sons: John E., who is a farmer and ranchman at Fort Cobb; W. D., who is a banker at Fort Cobb; and myself in the photo-engraving business in Oklahoma City. All three of us have sons who represent the sixth generation of the Finney family in America." —M.H.W.

#### "FIRSTS" AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA MEDICAL CENTER

The University of Oklahoma Medical Center has made history in 1955. The following notes have been received by the Editorial Office from R. L. Schreiber, in the Public Relations Office of the Medical School and Medical Center:

#### *Medical Center "Firsts"*

Commencement 1955 has been significant in several ways at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center: For the first time, one hundred Oklahomans marched across the stage at Owen Field in Norman to receive their M.D. degrees. This is the largest class to be graduated from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine.

Slightly more than 2,000 students have received their medical education at the OU School of Medicine. The first graduating class in 1911 had fourteen students. Through the years enrollments have gradually increased. Four years ago the classes were increased from 50 to 100 students, so today the record student enrollment approaches 400.

Dr. Daniel Webster Lee of Oklahoma City was graduated with the class of 1955. He has the double distinction of being the first Negro to enter and be graduated from the OU School of Medicine.

Another significant fact about the Commencement 1955 is the graduation of the first Ph.D.'s in Medical Science. One of the shortcomings of modern society is the lack of trained scientists. It has been especially true in medical schools, where scientists are desperately needed to assist in the training of future doctors. The faculty of the OU School of Medicine

has been making a concerted effort to train basic medical scientists. During the last five years, this scientific program has mushroomed from less than five students to more than 50. The first five to receive Ph.D. degrees in Medical Science are: Dr. Robert E. Coulson of Hobart, Dr. L. Ernest Gonzalez of Mexico City, Dr. Lloyd Glenn McArthur of Elk City, Dr. Paul McCay of Tulsa and Dr. Robert C. Troop of Healdton. All five men are fundamentally interested in research and teaching.

Another "first" at the medical center this year has been the granting of the first Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. The OU School of Nursing has been granting diplomas since 1913. However, in 1961 the Regents for Higher Education authorized the University of Oklahoma to grant the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing under the College of Arts and Science. After two years of academic work, the School of Nursing and University Hospitals provide thirty months of clinical experience for the degree program. The three women who received the first B.S. in Nursing degrees are: Miss Jo Ann Keeley of Norman, Miss Gloria Lord and Mrs. Barbara Searle Henthorn, both of Oklahoma City.

—R. L. S.