Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beaird

They galloped over the trails, thousands strong—
are THIS homecoming! It was O.U.'s biggest and
better homecoming of '46. And—what a grand one
this year! With all-time HIGH record
number of alumni and students crazily participat-
ing in the celebration it was, indeed, O.U.'s "kick
off" in post-war activity!

More than 4,000 class-mates and students, out of
the 10,000 plus potential Phi Beta Kappas, got festivities
off to a roaring start on Thursday night (Nov-
ember 14) when their spontaneous and deter-
mined march upon the White House lawn resulted
in Friday "free cuts." President George L. Cross
even took time out from the little room of Okla-
ahoma City's Hospital Ward, where he was
vaguely awaiting the stork's arrival, to give the
frenzied mob its official go-ahead signal!

Thousands of old (and many not-so-old) grads
began to arrive in droves a day prior to the "kick-
off." The influx continued until the opening whistle
of the Missouri-Oklahoma football contest the fol-
lowing afternoon, when an unquelled crowd of
33,831 hilarious spectators watched the big Soo-
ner squad slaughter the taut Tigers, 27-6. Al-
though the great Oklahoma victory climaxed the
reunion, it was but one of a number of events pre-
pared by the Sooner Alumni Association, the Uni-
versity, campus organizations, and Norman towns-
people for the visiting former students.

That 14, November, Friday was bleak and cold!
Foul weather failed to put a damper on prepara-
tion activity—it was "full steam ahead." Float
and house decorations far exceeded expectations
both in number and quality. DELTA GAMMA
Sorority and PHI GAMMA DELTA Fraternity
overcame stiff competition to win the decoration
contests. Other organizations placed as follows:
Second, ALPHA GAMMA DELTA Sorority and
DELTA CHI Fraternity; third, KAPPA KAPPA
Sorority and BETA THETA PI Fraternity.

A huge and accurately detailed map of Okla-
ahoma, on which were outlined the old Indian ter-
ritories, adorned the DELTA GAM front lawn.
The DELTA CHI's used a clever Indian pow-wow
presentation was the same act they used while
touring with a U.S.O. group in Europe and South
America during the war.

ESCOE, '44, OKLAHOMA CITY, whose special
"Plummer" may not be able to fix a leaky
faucet or a stopped-up drain, but she's a whiz
with a baton! She is Pat Plummer, freshman in
the University College and one of four twirlers
with the O.U. band. Pat was graduated last
spring from Central High School, Oklahoma
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The Cover

Lynn Riggs, '20-'23, formerly of Claremore, was
"saturated in Oklahoma history and legend" from the
time he learned to walk. Thus, it is not diffi-
cult to understand how he could write his famous
play, "Green Grow the Lilacs," whose setting is near
Claremore.

A versatile writer, Riggs has written scenarios
for the motion pictures, "The Plainsman" and
"Garden of Allah"; he has been selling poetry
since his pre-O.U. days to quality magazines, and
has written 15 plays.

He recently completed "Tragic Ground," a mu-
sical play, and is nearing completion on a new play
called "Verdigris Primitive." (See story, "Riggs
Knows His Oklahoma," on page 3.)

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UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Officers: Maj. Wm. V. Cox, Ponca City, Presi-
dent; Mrs. June Baker Durkee, Mangum, first vice-
president; Joe Curtis, Pauls Valley, second vice-
president; Ted M. Beaird, Norman, executive sec-
retary.

Executive Board Members: Hal Muddrow, Jr.,
Norman; Herbert Brittan, Oklahoma City; Max
Cook, Clinton; C. V. Nichols, Anadarko, and
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Emerson Price, Vinita, District I representative;
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Maj. William V. Cox, Ponca City, District VIII;
and George D. Hall, Ardmore, immediate past
president.

Trustees of Life Membership Fund: Errett R.
Newby, Oklahoma City; Tom F. Carey, Oklahoma
City, and Neil R. Johnson, Norman.

1946-47 Alumni Representatives of the O. U.
Alumni Council: Paul Reed, Sulphur; Neil R.
Johnson, Norman; Granville R. Norris, Muskogee.

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the editor and do not necessarily represent official
action of the Alumni Executive Board. Member of
American Alumni Council.
An informal dance in the Union Ballroom followed the show, with Warren Morris, Eldorado, Kansas, in change.

The show and dance was just a part of the Union Activities Board's homecoming contribution. Active on the board's committee were the following:

Program: Raymond White, '41ms, associate professor of secretarial science, and Bob Penney, '45 geo, Norman; parade: Ben Head, '42 ms, Oklahoma City; dance: L. E. "Jap" Haskell, '22 geo, OU athletic department director, and June Hodge, Norman; house decorations, Dr. Glenn C. Couch, '37ms, director of student affairs and dean of the University College, and Bill Olsen, Salt Lake City, Utah; reception, Dr. E. D. Meacham, '48ma, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Taffy Williams, Collingswood, N. J.; publicity, Stewart Hفلک، '36ms, director of journalism school, and Thelma Dickey, Oklahoma City; pep rally and halftime activities, Jim Mayfield, '28ba, manager, University Book Exchange, and James Steele, Duncan.

Other members of the U.A.B. executive committee include: Mary Lou Stubeman, '48ma, director, Union Activities Board, Roland Champion, Pekin, Ill., general chairman of homecoming activities; Wayne Fuller, Waukega, and Joe Holland, Norman.

Other events on the Friday calendar included formal dances by Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and Worcester House residents. Chaperons at the annual PIKA black and white affair were Dr. Charles C. Bush, '32ma, and Mrs. Bush, Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Mayfield, Burton H. Gildersleeve, Ted M. Beard, '21ba, and Mrs. Beard, '24; and Mrs. H. A. Nedom, PIKA hostess. All are from Norman. Worcester chaperons included: Dewey McNelley, '33ma and Mrs. McNelley, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Reed, Vivian Nemec, '36ma, and Mrs. Nemec, all of Norman.

This university city was bristling with activity by sunup Homecoming Saturday, November 16th. Half-awake students were putting final touches on floats or cleaning house, while scores of Sooner alumni were about early in order to prevent missing anything of interest.

The annual parade (under the marshalship of the old veteran of former parades prior to World War II—Ben Head, '42 ms, Oklahoma City) always one of the biggest treats of homecoming, started rolling at 10 o'clock. Thousands of spectators lined Norman streets to get a glimpse of the 60 floats entered by sorority, fraternity and independent organizations. Top awards were Alpha Chi Omega, Sigma Nu and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, respectively.

Leading the parade was the University Band, followed by the Thomas C. Reynolds (University) Post (303) of the American Legion color guard. Also participating were Pauls Valley, Kingfisher, and Shawnee bands, winners in the Band Day parade here October 19, and the Norman Roping Club.

THE ANNUAL HOMECOMING MEETING (SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1946) OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA (ALUMNI) ASSOCIATION. Reading from left to right—seated at table: President George L. Cross, University of Oklahoma; O.U. Alumnus, Bob Wallace, President Board of Regents; Major Bill Cox, President of Board; O.U. Alumnus Joe Looney, President Dads' Association. (Standing, reading from left to right) Ted Beaird, Executive Secretary—Manager of Alumni Association; Gray Davis, Oklahoma City, Executive Board Member; Paul Reed, Sulphur, Alumni Representative on O.U. Athletic Council; June Baker Durkee, Mangum, First Vice-President; Max Cook, Clinton, Executive Board Member-at-large; George D. Hann, Ardmore, immediate past president Executive Board; Herbert Branam, Oklahoma City, Executive Board member-at-large; James R. Frazier, Wewoka, District IV, Executive Board Member; (Back row, left to right) James C. Hamill, Madill, District III Executive Board Member; James L. Robinson, Tahlequah, District II Executive Board member; Granville Norris, Muskogee, Alumni Representative on O.U. Athletic Council; Fisher Muldrow, past president Executive Board, and member Board of Governors, Oklahoma Memorial Union.

The busiest spots on the campus from early in the morning until game time, and then again after the grid classic, were the lobbies of the Oklahoma Memorial Union, where hundreds of former students registered and renewed old friendships.

The foyer of the Oklahoma Memorial Union, bedecked in its "flowers and ferns" was a busy spot early that homecoming morning. The Registration Committee, headed by Chairman Fustin F. Gaither, '26ma, and Co-Chairman Glenn C. Couch, '37ma, were up and about early, with their assigned Sooner students registering the mobs as they arrived. Serving with Gaither and Couch were:

Ralph Benfeng, Arthur B. Adams, dean of Business; Raymond Crews, '41law; G. Ed Walton, '39ma; Kenneth Harris, '39ma; Lloyd Swearingen, '21ma; J. C. Powell, '24law; E. E. Hatfield, '36ma; Ruth Elder, '34ma; John Freeman, '42ba; Willa Griffin, '36ma; Stewart Harral, '36ma; D. B. R. Johnson, '18ma; Frank Bailey, '18ma; Raymond White, '41ma; Thurman White, '41ma; Paul MacMinn, director of student affairs; Jack Douglas, '36ma; Boyd Gunning, '37ma, and C. F. Daily, '35 ma.

Members of the Alumni Executive Board held their annual meeting following the parade in the Union's "Y" Lounge. Present were Tom Carey, '08ma, Oklahoma City, past president and trustee of the life membership trust fund; Col.
Riggs Knows His Oklahoma

Lynn Riggs, who was responsible for the beginning of fabulous "Oklahoma" when he wrote the libretto, had something new to say about the play when he arrived in Oklahoma City recently for the "First Nighter" of OKLAHOMA. With icycles hanging from the bunion of his gray felt sombrero.

The gentle playwright, whose born-romantic glasses somehow escaped getting over when he stepped inside the Skirvin hotel lobby from the freezing cold, predicted that "Oklahoma" in one form or another will be playing for 50 years.

"The play is completely American, it becomes ageless. It is one of those things which will last forever... Our children will see "Oklahoma," Riggs said.

Standing easily, with two books, not his own, tucked under his arm, the distinguished-looking Riggs revealed that he experienced mixed feeling about being asked to attend the Midsummer Night's Play on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. He felt it was "a kind of an honor, but at the same time I said that it's the only play other people have done things with."

"However," he added, "the play is a constant excitement to me—it's always fresh to me."

The playwright, whose outstanding impression upon meeting was that of being a gentleman above all, saw only the opening performance of "Oklahoma," but he left New York less than two weeks later to return home. He returned to the University of Oklahoma to attend the half-finished play "Verdigriss Primitive," this setting near Verdigris on the Frisco.

He has resigned his Associated Press post and now works on a "Tragic Ground," on which he is collaborating with Aaron Copland and Agnes de Mille.

The Riggs story began in 1899, his birth date. The son of a cattleman and of Cherokee Indian parents, he grew up in Claremore, and Laurcy, a cousin who died. "This Oklahoma had a wonderful quality of character," Riggs recalled, "Green Grow the Lilacs" had its setting outs old.

"Oklahoma" was Riggs first Broadway production which prompted the writing of the poem that is now known as "Green Grow the Lilacs." Riggs had read the poem which was written in 1917 by a Mr. C. E. Decker, former University Professor of English. The poem is included in the program as a bonus for those attending the show.

"Oklahoma," Riggs pointed out, was not his first Broadway production. "I had written" Richard Sale, the first play, for the volunteers during World War I. "It was the only play other people have done things with," Riggs said.

"Oklahoma" was Riggs' first Oklahoma visit in 15 years. The show opened in New York in 1927 and lasted 2,896 performances.

"The gentleman playwright, whose horn-rimmed glasses were not too easy to see through, was introduced to the World's Press Club of Oklahoma, composed of the members and their guests, following adjournment of the annual business meeting.

A carnival couldn't have provided more thronging excitement during the annual packed halftime festivities of the '46 Homecoming game. The red-uniformed Sooner band, the student card section, and 30 Big Six distance runners kept the crowd enthralled.

An additional feature was the traditional pipe-smoking ceremony, a halftime highlight of the capacity crowd well entertained. An additional feature was the traditional pipe-smoking ceremony, a halftime highlight of the capacity crowd well entertained.

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Glancing back fifty years, JUDGE C. ROSS HUME, '98ba, '00ma, ANADARKO, and HARRY FORD, '98, OKLAHOMA CITY, arrive at O.U. Alumni headquarters Homecoming morning. They are promptly "registered in" by Executive Secretary TED BEAIRD and immediately they check the headlines of O.U.'s OKLAHOMA DAILY to check on the possibility of other Sooner alums of their day who may have arrived during the wee hours to participate in the November 16 affair. Those fifty years after have left their trace!

Science Group Elects 4 Profs

Dr. J. Teague Scift, chairman of the department of animal biology at the University, was elected president of the Oklahoma Academy of Science at the 35th annual meeting at Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater.

Three other O.U. faculty members were elected as officers of the Academy. Dr. A. O. Wente, acting dean of the Graduate College and professor of Zoology, was elected permanent secretary of the organization.

Dr. Howard W. Larsh, chairman of the department of plant sciences, was elected assistant secretary-treasurer, and Dr. Ralph Marsden, associate professor of geology and geography, was elected vice-president of section B.

O.U. Budget May Be Decreased

Institutions of higher education in Oklahoma may not receive more than 25 per cent increase in their appropriations during the next biennium, Roger Phelps, state budget officer, told the O.U. chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

If the $10,000,000 tax reduction program proposed by the state interim tax committee is approved, the University and other state schools will not receive the amounts which the State Board of Regents has requested. Total appropriations cannot exceed $42,600,000 because of the budget-balancing amendment to the constitution.

The University has asked $5,017,000 for the first year of the next biennium and $5,092,000 for the second year. The present allocation is $3,424,134.

During the business session of the meeting, a committee was named to study the Oklahoma Teacher Retirement law and prepare recommendations for possible action by the Legislature. Dr. Leonard Logan, professor of sociology, will head the committee, with Professors Stewart C. Wilcox, department of English, and L. A. Doran, department of government, as members.

Daily Wins Two Major Awards

Two major awards were won by the Oklahoma Daily at the 27th national convention of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic fraternity, in Chicago.

The student newspaper won second place in both straight news writing and feature writing divisions in competition with college newspapers from the entire nation.

The awards were presented to Charles L. Ward, delegate from the University Sigma Delta Chi chapter, at the final convention banquet.

The Daily placed first in the feature writing division of the student newspaper contest in 1941. This year's convention was the first held since that year.

A copy of "Sigma Delta Chi News," University chapter publication, was reproduced at the convention in connection with a demonstration of facsimile transmission of newspapers.

'37 Lawyers Plan Memorial

Plans for a memorial scholarship have been announced by the University law class of 1937 in honor of two of its members killed in World War II, Leroy Allen and Harry Riley.

Earl Snell, '36ba, '37law, associate professor of law, recently presided over a reunion of 75 alumni of that year where they formulated plans for financing the scholarship.

Elliott Fenton, '35ba, '37law, Oklahoma City, was elected secretary of the organization and will head the committee appointed to work out the details of the law scholarship, the first to be offered in the law school. William T. Brunson, '37ba, '37law, James O. Bradley, '37law, and James Mc-Williams, '37ba, '37law, all of Oklahoma City will serve on the memorial fund committee.

'SOONER MAGAZINE
Dillard, Dollar, Prexy Is Proud Of His Newest Scholar

BULLETIN

At 9:15 p.m. Friday, November 15, Mrs. George L. Cross gave birth to an eight-pound boy in St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City. President Cross left a regents' meeting on the campus about 8 p.m. and arrived in Oklahoma City just in time to be present at the event.

The new arrival has been named Braden Riehl. Mrs. Cross and the baby were reported "doing well."

The Crosses have two other children, Mary Lynn, 14, and Bill, 9.

By RAY PARK, '326a
(Special reprint from the Daily Oklahoman)

It is with a great deal of satisfaction that we are able to record that the president of a state university is just as silly as any other mortal—such as, for instance, an unlettered newspaper reporter—when he has just become the papa of a brand new boy.

We just happened to drop by St. Anthony hospital on the chance we might pick up a ham sandwich from a pretty nurse we know in the nutrition department when we are startled by a dazzling flash, of atomic proportions, swirling up and down the corridors.

It turns out to be the beaming countenance of Dr. George Cross, who for the purpose of this article we shall refer to as George, as at the moment he is not acting like a Dr.

You have heard, no doubt, of a college president being on the beam. Well, this is the case of a beam being on the president.

It seems, the best I can make out, that with just slight assistance from Mrs. Cross, George has had himself a son.

"Quite a boy... quite a boy," he says, with that proud smirk that all new fathers bore their friends with.

"Aren't you walking around a little early?" I reply, in my most cutting manner, seeking to jar him down to earth.

But this remark sails right over his head.

"Oh, no, I am feeling fine," he says. He is not even nervous, he explains, adding, "have a cigar," and poking his pipe in my face and chomping down on my cigar.

I carefully extracted my cigar—it is of surprisingly good brand, too, coming from a college educator—and resign myself to hearing the details.

"He weighs nine pounds," George adds, with a lyrical note in his voice. This later turns out to be a gross exaggeration as the official records disclose that Braden Riehl Cross lacks a full ounce of attaining this mark.

"What color are his eyes?" I ask, knowing full well I will have to listen to this, too, sooner or later.

This brings a bit of pained surprise to his expression.

"Blue, of course," he snaps.

Needless to say, George has blue eyes while Mrs. Cross only has brown eyes.

I see there is no need to ask him who Braden Riehl looks like. That would have been an insult to my intelligence, from his viewpoint.

"And did you see all that hair?" continues George.

"He'll probably lose it all," Mrs. Cross says dryly. "Most babies do."

George shot her a sharp glare. The idea of his son losing hair!

I am unable to comprehend the foolish attitude of these boasting fathers—especially from one who already has experienced the miracle of fatherhood twice.

Why, when I had my son three years ago, I hardly mentioned the fact. But say, there was a boy for you. I'll never forget my first look... the cutest, smartest...

All the time they are bringing in a steady procession of flowers from friends of Mrs. Cross. George accepts them all with coy modesty, while Mrs. Cross stretches her neck for just one small glance.

"I wonder," she mumbles, "just why they bother to give the wives all this calcium when it is the husbands who have all the children."

Watching their favorite Sooners (vintage of 1946) take care of the Missouri Tigers Homecoming afternoon, November 16, from the fifty-yard line box of President GEORGE L. CROSS, HUME and FORD intently watch the parade of the stars on still familiar grounds, even fifty years after their playing days.

DECEMBER, 1946
Merrill Attends National Meeting

Dr. Maurice H. Merrill, '19ba, '22law, professor of law, attended the annual meeting of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws at Philadelphia, October 21-26. He is one of the three Commissioners representing Oklahoma, by appointment of the Governor. The conference approved and recommended for adoption in the various states a Uniform Criminal Statistics Act, a Uniform Reverter of Realty Act, and a Uniform Criminal Statistics Act, a Uniform Reciprocal Judgments Act, and a Uniform Desertion and Non-Support Act, and also approved and recommended for adoption in the various states a Uniform Criminal Statistics Act, a Uniform Reverter of Realty Act, and a Uniform Criminal Statistics Act, a Uniform Reciprocal Judgments Act, and a Uniform Desertion and Non-Support Act.

Audio-Visual Group Meets

Five University faculty members and one graduate student participated in the program for the conference on Standards in Teacher-Training in Audio-Visual Aids held December 11, on the campus. Five more faculty members were among the 40 educators attending.

Dr. Edith A. Irving, dean of the College of Education, was chairman for the opening session. "What Should Be Included in a Beginning Course in Audio-Visual Aids?" Dr. Harold D. Holstine, assistant professor of the Bureau of Educational Research, Ohio State University, and Francis Noel, chief of the division of audio-visual aids, California state department of Education, headlined the program.

Dr. Arnold E. Loyd, dean of the College of Education, was chairman for the opening session. "What Should Be Included in a Beginning Course in Audio-Visual Aids?" Dr. Harold D. Holstine, assistant professor of the Bureau of Educational Research, Ohio State University, and Francis Noel, chief of the division of audio-visual aids, California state department of Education, headlined the program.

Leo F. Cain, professor of education, was chairman for the opening session. "What Should Be Included in a Beginning Course in Audio-Visual Aids?" Dr. Harold D. Holstine, assistant professor of the Bureau of Educational Research, Ohio State University, and Francis Noel, chief of the division of audio-visual aids, California state department of Education, headlined the program.

The conference also determined to undertake the drafting of a Model Oil Conservation Act, and authorized the appointment of a committee for that purpose.

Approval was given by the conference to minor revisions in the Uniform Vehicle Code, previously prepared by it in cooperation with the National Conference on Street and Highway Safety.

Savoie Lottinville, '29ba, director of the University Press, has written an article, "What Would You Publish?" that is featured in the November, 1946, issue of the College and University Business Magazine.

Transradio Press and N.E.A. have given Golding honorable mention, and N.E.A. selected Andros and Walker on their second and third teams.

Faculty

W. Page Keeton, dean of the University Law School, and Dr. Maurice H. Merrill, '19ba, '22law, recently attended the eighth annual meeting of the Oklahoma Bar Association in Tulsa. Dr. Merrill was a member of the House of Delegates from the Cleveland County Bar Association and also presented the report of the Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

Howard H. Rowley has been appointed associate professor of chemistry at the University. He graduated from Northwestern University and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the American Chemical Society, the American Association of University Professors, and the Iowa Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Alice Sowers, director of the Oklahoma Family Life Institute Extension Division, returned recently from Chicago, Illinois, where she met with the executive committee of the Adult Education Department of the N.E.A. Dr. Sowers was educational consultant for the film "Shy-Guy" produced by Coronet Magazine.

Dr. Oscar B. Jacobson, University art professor, has a collection of 22 paintings done in Colorado this last summer on display at the Art Museum. He has shown exhibitions in New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Dallas, Houston, and Colorado Springs, as well as at Syracuse, Cornell, Grinnell, and the Universities of Kansas and Wisconsin.

Helen B. Burton, director of the School of Home Economics, represented the University at a celebration of fifty years of Home Economics, at the Ohio State University.

At the recent meeting of the Oklahoma Home Economics Association held in Oklahoma City, Laura A. Millers was named director of the Home Economics Department. She was elected vice-president. Susan Miller, assistant professor of home economics, was elected councilor of the State Association. Helen B. Burton, director of the School of Home Economics, continues as president for one more year.

Burton G. Gildersleeve, formerly of the Ohio State University faculty, and Donald V. Alliger have joined the staff of the University. Mr. Gildersleeve is an associate professor of finance. Mr. Alliger is a new instructor in business communication.

Dr. Gustav Mueller, chairman of the philosophy department at the University, is again the American editor of Sophia, an international journal of philosophy, history, published in Italy. The magazine was suspended during the war. Articles are written in English, French, Spanish, Italian and German.

A former University professor is still turning out books on how to write business letters. He is William H. Butterfield, who was once director of the National Retail Credit Association, St. Louis, Missouri. His recent book is "How to Write Good Credit Letters."

Mr. E. Campbell, professor of English at the University, is the author of "Jim Bridger, Mountain Man," published recently.

Dr. Helen B. Burton, director of the University School of Home Economics, has been re-elected president of the Oklahoma Economics Association.

Richard N. Kuhlmian is chairman of the administrative committee of the University School of Architecture.

Dr. Ralph Bienfang, University pharmacy professor, has been named a member of the committee on alumni activities of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

Don Clark, assistant professor of radio at the University, came to O.U. this fall from radio station KFDA, Amarillo, Texas, where he has been news editor for the past three years. Prior to that he was head of the speech department at Amarillo College and newscaster for station KGNN, Amarillo.

The Midwest Conference of Pharmacy Secretaries has been instrumental in forming narcotics laws and in helping plan a prescription service for veterans of World War II.