As radio station KOMA’s banquet on April 5, honoring the national champion Oklahoma A. and M. basketball team, their traditional rival Oklahoma University, was well represented. Here the O. U. director of athletics, L. E. “Jay” Haskell, chair with two former O. U. All-American basketball “greats,” Bud Browning, coach of the A. A. U. Champion Phillips ’46, and Bruce Drake, head cager mentor at O. U. Nearby is O. U. ’s proxy, George L. Cross, and KOMA’s director of public relations, Webster L. Benham, Jr., ’43h, with cat “hunted” found no use for the black jack (really it’s a comb), as Sooner and Aggie fans joined heartily in paying tribute to Coach Henry Iba, All-American Bob Kirkland and the Aggie team.

First Sooner Football Fan Dies

R. L. “Bud” Risinger, 80, in whom little greenfront, two-chair barber shop the University of Oklahoma’s first football team was organized back in 1895, died in Norman this month. He was the father of Jewell Dittmar, ’19, Muskogee. Mr. Risinger not only permitted his shop to become the first University team’s headquarters, (the team dressed, bathed, discussed its strategy and had its wounds dressed there) but he himself played tackle on the first University team which lost the only game played that year, a 0-24 defeat to an Oklahoma City eleven.

Those were the days when Norman was a dusty little boom town of one-story frame buildings just built in the Indian country and the University a two-story brick building standing in solitude upon the grassy prairie half a mile southwest.

This first Sooner team was coached by Jack Harts, a 20-year old transfer student from Southwestern College of Winfield, Kansas. Mr. Harts is now a Los Angeles, California, seed merchant.

Only nine students were available for the first game so Mr. Harts enlisted Mr. Risinger, who had never played before, and Fred Perry, who drove the town sprinkling wagon, and both played the whole game.

Neither Mr. Risinger nor Mr. Harts were enrolled but in those distant times there were no eligibility rules to plague the coaches or infuriate the alumni.

But in the fruits of that humble beginning football at the University has made a phenomenal growth. For 52 consecutive years the sport has burgeoned sensationally at Norman until today it attracts crowds of 33,000 here in a single afternoon and is the passion of the University’s grads.

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Public Relations Officer Appointed
Maj. Gordon G. Murphy, '32-'36, Norman, has been appointed public relations officer at the Field Artillery school, Fort Sill. Formely an instructor in the department of motors, he has just returned to the school from Carlisle Buranks, Pennsylvania, where he attended the Army public relations course.

Throughout the battles of Ardenness, the Rhineland and Central Europe Major Murphy served as executive officer of the 758th Field Artillery Battalion. In addition to battle stars for those major campaigns, he has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for outstanding service in combat. After occupation duty at Fulda, Germany, from May to July, 1945, Major Murphy was transferred to the Delta Base section at Marseilles, France, remaining with that organization until his return to the United States in October, 1945.

Major Murphy received his commission as a second lieutenant of Field Artillery in 1936 upon completion of training in the R.O.T.C. at the University. Called to active duty in March, 1940, he completed the battery officers' course at the Field Artillery school in July and was graduated from the officers' communication course at the school in 1942.

Navy Skeet Shooting Champion Returns
Comdr. William Ragsdale, '27ba, nationally known skeet shooter and Navy small-arms expert, has been released to inactive duty and will return to Oklahoma to assume the state distributorship of "Sun Ray" adaptable metal awnings and jalousies. He will open sales offices and assembly plants in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

His release from the service at the Jacksonvile, Florida, Naval Personnel Separation Center, where he was special interviewing officer, concluded over four years of duty. Prior to his assignment to the center, Comdr. Ragsdale had served in the Navy's gunnery training program both in the States and in the Pacific and had been on the staff of the Naval Air Advanced Training Command in Jacksonvile.

Past president of the Massachusetts Skeet Shooting Association, he was on a five-man Navy team which won the Navy championship in 1942.

Discharges
(Continued from page 27)

- Capt. C. R. Musgrave, Jr., '42law, Bartlesville, who spent three years in the Southwest Pacific with an infantry division, was on terminal leave until March 1.
- J. D. Norton, '35, received his discharge from the Army Air Corps in January. Mr. Norton was coach at Walters High School prior to his enlistment.
- Lt. Col. Charles Edward Peterson, '38eng, Wichita Falls, Texas, has received his discharge from the Army after serving in the Pacific.
- Capt. Clare E. Petty, '42ba, '43ma, and Pfc. Eugene C. Bond, '44, both of Norman, have recently received discharges from the Army.
- Harvey Milt Phillips, '22, Oklahoma City, received his discharge from the Navy November 14, 1945.
- Among former University students who have recently been discharged are Paul W. Phillips, ensign, '40v.b., Geronimo; Jack W. Burns, staff sergeant, '38ba, Normal; Charles Pyle, captain, '33-'35, Paul Valley; James T. Blanton, lieutenant, '31ba, 31law, Paul Valley, and W. K. Pollard, '42ba, Blackwell.
- Cpl. H. Everett Pope, Jr., '38-'41, Tulsa, recently received his discharge from the Army after serving three and a half years in the Field Artillery. He served for six months in Manila.
- Lt. Col. A. H. Radliff, '29ba, Shawnee, has received his discharge from military service.
- Staff Sgt. Dale Rayburn, '41-'43, Chickasha, has received his discharge from military service and is now living at Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- Sgt. John F. Ringel, '42eng, Andrews, Texas, has received his discharge from military service.
- Lt. Scott I. Robinson, '41pharm, Okmulgee, has been placed on inactive duty in the Navy. Lieutentanet Robison entered the Navy in 1941 and served 26 months overseas. He was awarded a Letter of Commendation.
- Ed Rogers, '41ba, has received his discharge from the Army. Mr. Rogers was doing graduate work at Princeton University before entering the service.
- Robert E. Rogers, Jr., '29eng, Oklahoma City, has received his discharge from military service.
- Capt. Irving D. Ross, '4law, Newkirk, has received his discharge from the Army.
- Capt. John K. Runyan, '31-'37, Oklahoma City, has received his discharge from military service.

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