Sooner Profile

Professor-Mayor Guides Norman

By BUD BAER, '47 O.U. Journalism Senior

"He may be a university professor, but he has his feet on the ground"—a campaign slogan.

Norman was in the market for a new mayor in March of 1943. Civic meetings were in progress with discussions of likely prospects to fill the position. A group of civic leaders centered their nominations on Dr. H. V. Thornton, '22ba, '29ma, professor of government at the University of Oklahoma.

"H. V., we need a good man and we think you're the man for the job," said the group, in homage.

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Professor—Mayor Thornton first assumed duties as mayor. In this period he has never yet had to search for something to do. His full-time teaching schedule and his job of guiding the Norman administration account for all of his time. In the mornings and early afternoons, he lectures to his government classes, cracking jokes about mayors. The rest of the day and sometimes at night, he is usually at the City Hall, explaining to irritated citizens or conferring with officials about policies of municipal government, reasons for increased water rates, new garbage collecting system and other common city problems.

Thornton's administrative system is based on his motto, "There are no secrets in the City Hall." He constantly strives to maintain close relationship between citizens and the city government. He fully realizes that city government cannot get ahead of the people and yet remain effective. To accomplish this, he uses the "townhall" technique. At frequent intervals, Thornton calls a meeting of representatives from practically every club and organization in the city, ranging from the city chamber of commerce to garden clubs. Important policies concerning city government are discussed. Problems are ironed out. Opinions are expressed. The representatives spread the word to their organizations. The city board of commissioners ordinarily acts upon the consensus of these organizations.

In July, 1945, Thornton played a leading role in revising the Norman city charter. Instead of electing the mayor at large as he had been chosen two times, he instigated a new system whereby the city commissioners elect one of their group as mayor. Previously, four districts elected commissioners. Now seven commissioners are elected-at-large, one of them being selected as the mayor of the city.

The new method has an advantage over the old since the group of commissioners can now act in better harmony without the influence of the individual districts. It imposes a city-wide responsibility on each commissioner.

The post of mayor is not without its light moments. When Thornton was attending a city commissioners' meeting, a discussion concerning the enlargement of the city fire department was made the chief topic of conversation at the gathering. One of the commissioners made the proposal that they wait until an "emergency" arose before taking steps to expand the department.

Thornton has discovered that some people in Norman still believe a mayor has unlimited powers. He has established two requirements for a mayor of a small city. First, he must have a sense of humor. Second, he must be available for all calls at any time.

One morning about 3 a.m., the phone rang in the mayor's home. Half asleep, Thornton staggered to the phone only to hear someone ask, "Where's Julia street?"

Not knowing the exact location of every street, he was forced to apologize for being unable to answer his question.

Whereupon the voice at the other end exclaimed disgustedly, "You're the mayor, ain't you?"

Occasionally Thornton gets called in the wee hours by some disdainful citizen requesting action against howling cats disturbing the peaceful atmosphere in the last few moments before dawn, with wakeful squalls.

City improvements during Thornton's administration include the building of a $260,000 sewerage disposal system, construction of a modern municipal hospital, building of an addition at fire station, drilling a number of deep wells, laying several miles of sewer and water lines and providing needed additions to park facilities.

Thornton's present term as mayor expires next spring, but his position as professor at O.U. remains definitely. He feels that he will have gained enough practical experience in city government by spring. At that time, he will be devoting all his time to teaching, waking up his government students with interesting excerpts from his tenure as mayor of Norman.
2 Sooner Alumnae Go Abroad

FRANKFURT, Germany—Recently arriving from the United States to serve as Army Librarians in the European Theater was Miss Mary J. Prince, '35(bac), Guthrie and Josephine Paxton, '32(bac), formerly of Norman, now a resident of Richmond, California. Army Librarians are brought over from the United States by European Theater Special Services, who sponsor the many libraries in occupied Europe for the American troops.

European Theater Special Services, whose chief is Maj. Gen. A. R. Bolling, the former commanding general of the 84th Infantry Division, has the over-all task of maintaining a high level of morale among the occupation troops by providing the best recreation and entertainment possible. Besides the many libraries scattered throughout the Theater, European Theater Special Services sponsors many other forms of relaxation such as motion pictures, live shows, service clubs, athletics, tours, and handicraft shops.

Miss Prince has been assigned with the United States Forces in Austria, and there will take up her duties as Army Librarian. She has previously done librarian work at Camp Robinson in Arkansas.

Miss Paxton has been assigned to the Headquarters Continental Base Section, and there will take up her duties as Army Librarian. She has also served as librarian in the United States, at Camp Maxey in Texas and Ft. Dix, New Jersey.

Kenneth Wade Joins 'Regulars'

Lt. (jg) Kenneth W. Wade, foster son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wyman, 416 South 19th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas, has been sworn into the regular Navy at Eighth Naval District headquarters at New Orleans.

Lieutenant Wade, who was commissioned in the Naval Reserve in June, 1944, and served 18 months in the Pacific, has been on duty in the district public information office there since last February as officer in charge of radio programming and special events.

A 1940 graduate of Fort Smith High School, he entered the University of Oklahoma as an N.R.O.T.C. student, but left the University in 1944 to attend Midshipmen's School at Tower Hall, Chicago.

Upon being commissioned ensign, he was ordered to the LC(FF)995 in the Pacific Fleet for duty as navigator and later became executive officer of the ship. For participation in the invasion of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, he wears two battle stars on his Asiatic-Pacific ribbon.

He is a member of Delta Sigma Fraternity at Fort Smith. For his work in arranging extensive Navy participation in the recent Louisiana State Fair at Shreveport, Lieutenant Wade received a letter of commendation from Rear Admiral A. S. Merrill, U.S.N., commandant, Eighth Naval District.

Navy Reserve Activated

Just because the North Base has been overrun by students instead of sailors since September, there's no basis for believing that Navy personnel are extinct on the campus. Not by a long shot.

In fact, the Navy uniform is still not a bit uncommon, for Division 8-43 of the Navy Reserve has taken up where the regulars left off.

At present only veterans of World War II are eligible for membership in the local division, whose ultimate personnel will consist of 200 enlisted men and 15 various officers, Commanding Officer Paul Harkey has announced.

However, membership will not be restricted to former servicemen after discontinuation of the draft, he said.

Training men for artificial ratings is the primary duty of the unit. The primary training groups include: Radiomen, machinist mates, electrician's mates, metalsmiths, and shiptenders.

It's not all lessons, lectures, and drills for the local reserve members, for an active sports program is a definite part of their activity. What's more, an annual cruise is desired of each division member by the Navy Department, and a jaunt at sea every three years is a requirement.

"Another outstanding feature of our program," Harkey pointed out, "is that reserve men get three and one-third percent of their monthly basic pay for each class attended as well as full pay and allowances while on cruises."

The reserve's shops and classrooms are located in the North Base armory, formerly the North Base alteration and repair building, which at present is the object of an anticipated $38,000 conversion chore.

Although no contracts have been let for the project, surveys have been made and the complete remodeling of the spacious edifice will be a reality, Harkey reveals. Just when work will get under way has not been designated by the Public Works Department of the Eighth Naval District headquarters at New Orleans.

Included in the remodeling of the building, one of three at the base retained by the Navy, will be the construction of a central drill hall, a radio station, which will operate on a Naval network; a gymnasium, as well as classrooms and offices.

A freshman law student from Idabel, Commanding Officer Harkey launched a successful campaign for a seat in the state legislature this fall. He was the first Oklahoma University student commissioned under the V-7 program and served 74 months in the Navy, 56 of which were spent at sea. The local division head saw action in six major campaigns in the Pacific aboard the battleships Wisconsin and New Mexico. He is a graduate of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corp (N.R.O.T.C.) or the Naval Aviation College Program (N.C.A.P.).

Completed applications must be prior to Dec. 17 and examinations will be held on Jan. 18.

The N.R.O.T.C. program is designed to provide a steady supply of well-qualified line and staff officers for the and staff corps of the regular Navy and to build up the ranks of trained reservists. It will give graduates opportunities equal to those of the U.S. Naval Academy graduates.

Dave Wallace kicked 28 of 32 extra-points this season and added two field goals to break a record set by Jack "Straight-Line" Haberlein in 1941. As a team the Sooner set ten new season records.
Binkley Resumes Active Service

Capt. John F. Binkley, '40pe, Oklahoma City, recently has been recalled to active service and assigned to duty with the Artillery School at the Fort Sill Artillery Center of the nation.

He served 20 months in the European Theater of Operations as Battery Commander, Battery C, 547th Field Battalion. His outfit saw action against the Germans in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns. In addition to the E.H.M.E. Ribbon with two battle stars, Captain Binkley wears the Victory, American Theater, and Occupation Ribbons.

Captain Binkley received a reserve commission at the University in 1939. He was called to active duty in January of 1942 and a month later attended the Battery Officers Course at Fort Sill. In July of the same year he was assigned to the 419th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia, where he served until January of 1943 when he was assigned as an instructor of research in the department of Gunnery, Field Artillery School, Fort Sill. It was in April of 1944 that he was assigned to the 5447th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Houston, Texas, that same month the entire Battalion was sent overseas.

Prior to entering military service Captain Binkley was a petroleum engineer for the National Tank Company, Tulsa.

At the present time Captain and Mrs. Binkley and their son, John Ford, are living in Lawton.

Phi Beta Kappas Hold Banquet

Phi Beta Kappa held Founder's Day banquet on December 5, in the Woodruff Room, Union. President and Mrs. Cross were special guests.

Dr. W. Page Keeton, dean of the School of Industry.

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National Guard to Re-Organize

Re-organization of two companies of the famous 45th National Guard Division in Norman offers students a chance to make a minimum of $1.25 an hour for two hours, one night a week. Lt. Col. James O. Hood, University Infirmary director and commander of the 120th Medical Battalion announced recently.

A re-organization meeting of Companies A and B of the 120th Medical Battalion that served the "Thunderbirds" on Anzio Beach, Salerno, and southern France, was held in the Infirmary lobby.

Veterans may enlist in discharge grade for one or three year terms. Non-veterans may enlist for three year periods. Discharge Marine or Naval personnel may enlist in a grade comparable to the rate they held in their service branch. University R.O.T.C. personnel may enlist without affecting their R.O.T.C. pay status. Enlisted Reserve Corps members may enlist but will be dropped from the E.R.C. rolls.

First Lt. Fred Harris, University pre-med student will command Company B and 1st Lt. Marshall Harrell will command Company A. These units will meet two nights a week until July and personnel will be paid regular Army pay rates.

Discharged—

- Rollie D. Theoford, '28-30, has recently returned from service, and spoke to a gathering in the farm assembly room at the courthouse in Norman. Theoford is a graduate of the University Law School.
- Dr. Harold Woodridge, '38-40, was recently discharged from the Navy, and has established a dental office in Altus with his father, Dr. M. H. Woodridge.
- Woodridge was discharged as a lieutenant (j.g.) and was stationed at the Corpus Christi Naval Air Base.
- Lt. (j.g.) George Robert Alford, '31bus, was discharged from the service in June. Alford is now at home at Box 428, Dillon, South Carolina.
- Leonard Bertram Alford, '33ba, was discharged in November, 1945, with the rank of lieutenant from the U.S.N.R. He has since accepted a position with the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. and has taken up residence in Arlington, Virginia.
- Oberon K. Fowler, '45ba, former Navy ensign, has returned to civilian life and is now living at Bartlesville.
- Lt. (j.g.) John S. Danner, '43ba, recently discharged from the Navy, has returned to civilian life, and is now living in Lawton.
- D. Ross Bell, '37bus, has returned from the service and is now at home at 1315 Northwest 22nd street, in Oklahoma City.
- Bion J. Acton, '41-43, was recently honorably discharged from the service. He has established residence at Guthrie.
- Lt. Col. James W. Billings, Jr., '40eng, was discharged from the service in May. He is now living at Cushing.
- Lt. Col. Felix A. Bodovitz, '21ba, was discharged from the service recently and is now living in Tulsa.

William Harold Smith, chairman of the art department, is exhibiting an oil painting "Rendezvous" at the Tulsa County Art exhibition being held through January 5.
On the Level

By Hal Middleworth, Sports Writer
The Daily Oklahoman

(Editor's note: SOONER MAGAZINE quotes below the Hal Middleworth column from Monday morning, December 2, 1946, sports page of the Oklahoman.)

"In a football season which produced one reversal of form after another, two disappointments stand out above all others. One was the record of the proud Texas Longhorns, and the other was the almost complete collapse of the Oklahoma Aggies.

"In September and early October, Texas has the record of the year, and the Aggies, playing in the Sun Bowl engagement, has won 8 and lost 2.

"The Oklahoma team voted to accept the bid for the holidays around December 20, then report to Jacksonville, Florida, January 1."

Tatum Explains O.U. Grid Power

Building his first Oklahoma team from men who sincerely liked to play, Jim Tatum achieved a sound reconstruction of the sport in his freshman year.

"What little success we've had this year should be attributed to our fine staff and the boys on our squad. Every one of our players and coaches took tremendous pride in his work," the Sooner head- coach is only as strong as his poorest assistant."

"I counted 19 of them walking along, either with his arm around a girl's waist or with her arm on his.

"That's why I insisted, when I came from Norman to Oklahoma City, that there be a K.O in the 160-pound semi-final appearance of Melvin Stevens, Oklahoma City Boxing Club, for a K.O in the 160-pound semi-final appearance of Melvin Stevens, Oklahoma City Boxing Club, for a K.O."

"There were things he firmly believed each player should do if Oklahoma was to have a great club. If a player didn't wish to do them, he was advised in advance to withdraw. The things Tatum stressed were personal conduct, loyalty, scholarship and staying in good, hard physical shape to play football.

"The Aggies' downfall this year, I'm afraid, is the result of every one of our players and coaches taking tremendous pride in their work," the Sooner head-coach said. "That's why I insisted, when I came to Oklahoma, that I be given the right to employ the absolutely best assistant coaches. Any head coach is only as strong as his poorest assistant."

Ginn Wins Big Six 2-Mile Title

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