



***April 2, 1996***

Reading about plans for the annual Easter egg hunt coming up next Saturday, April 6, conjures up visions of some earlier Perry traditions of the season that have been lost in antiquity, so to speak. I remember a few of them. Maybe you can add to these.

The community egg hunt that we know now has been going on here forever, it seems. The Perry Lions club has been sponsoring one in the courthouse park and at other locations for several years, and for all I know they may have started the whole thing here. But back in the 1920s and early 1930s I remember we had Easter egg hunts at the north end of Seventh street, where the spacious home of George and Juana Hall now stands. No homes were on that large section then and it was used primarily for pasture. At Easter time, however, hundreds of kids of many ages lined up just off Marchbanks street and awaited the signal to dash toward the north in search of candy eggs and other bounty. You had to be pretty, slow to miss getting at least one of the small sacks planted throughout the area.

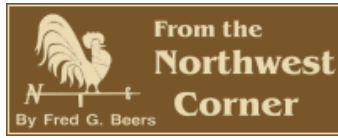
Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Stahl had another kind of Easter game at their home, located on the southwest corner of Tenth and Elm streets, where the city school now has a parking lot. Each year on Easter Sunday afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Stahl would invite neighborhood children to their rather large front yard for a series of races for various age levels. I don't know if this was only for children of the Presbyterian church, which was just down the street, but as I recall there was a disproportionate number of kids from our Sunday school in attendance each year. My sisters, Gloria and Jeanice, and I always took part, I know.

I also remember looking forward to the event with great zest each spring. The routine was always the same. We'd go home after church for the standard roast beef Sunday dinner at noon, then change clothes and walk up the street to the Stahl home.

Mr. Stahl did not give out sacks of candy to the winners of each race, which usually consisted of about a 30-yard dash. His prizes were live bunnies and, I think, baby chickens. Yes, I know how awful that sounds today, but it was considered wonderful back then, even if most of those poor little creatures failed to survive more than a day or so when the winners returned home with them.

Kraemer's Store on the east side of the square, operated by Ott and Marguerite Edson, started their own Easter tradition. They had a glass display case on the sidewalk at the front of the store. It was about a four-foot cube, with a glass top and glass on all four sides, anchored to the concrete. Normally it contained a display of shoes or wearing apparel, but for several days before Easter the case displayed numerous live bunnies. Any child who got a new pair of shoes from Kraemer's for Easter received one of the soft, cuddly little animals. In our household at the time, new shoes for Easter were generally regarded as quite a luxury, so Jeanice, Gloria and I concentrated on trying to win a rabbit at the Stahl home. At least one of us won something there each year. Jeanice was the oldest, fastest and the best coordinated, so she was usually the prize winner among the entries from our family. Thanks to Shirley Williams and Bernice Schieffer for reminding me & Kraemer's Easter specialty.

As I say, you can probably add your own recollections of Easter egg hunts and other traditions of the season to these fond memories. These are just a few of the ones that spring readily to my mind. Didn't we have fun, 'way back then?



***April 4, 1996***

More good news for the downtown business area. Brian and Dianne Richardson are preparing to open a new men's apparel store on the south side of the square at 632 Cedar street, snuggled between Kelley Kueck's newly opened women's clothing store and Shirley Self's Shoe Box. Seems like a natural combination. Brian, a computer operator at the Charles Machine Works, Inc., and Dianne plan to have their store opened by the latter part of July. The name of the business will be Cedar Clothes, a reference to both the street location and the decor they are planning. Brian will continue as an employee at CMW.

While Susan Henderson and her husband, Bruce, were recently dismantling an old house for salvage, they came across the faded remnants of a note that may have been written in the early days of this century. The note was found in the wall of a room. The writer used a pencil on plain white stationery, now turned quite yellow, and time has nearly obliterated the entire message. There is no salutation or other indication of the recipient's identity, and the signature of the sender is difficult to read. This much is legible:

"I hope you have a good time at the ball game. Did you have fun last night'? I didn't. Yes, I got my problems today and some for tomorrow. I don't know if I can come Sunday evening because I may have to stay home and take care of my daddy for he is very sick, but if I come I'll tell you. I know the weather sure is awful. This rain -- it looks like it will never stop. Oh, I don't care:" The signature follows, but it is very unclear. A note on the back of the sheet reads: "She can't spell very good, can she'? Ha!"

Sounds like it might have been a note exchanged by two young school girls. With just the smidgen of information given, you can let your imagination run free and conjure up little story based on these word fragments. So, it's just a little cryptic message from out of the past, a small slice of life from another age in Perry. The Hendersons have laminated the sheet to protect it from further loss, and they are enjoying speculating on the origins of their unusual find.

A recent note from Wesley A. Leatherrock in Oklahoma City contains a comment that some of you will find interesting. Wesley writes: "Your mention of the dentists downtown led us to recall Dr. Render (whose office was not downtown) and the houseboat he had at what was then called the New Perry Lake. The lake was also the site of boat races that drew considerable crowds. We recalled the Cutsingers' speed boat of which they were particularly proud."

Dr. L. O. Render's home and office were on Birch street. As I recall, he built the houseboat Wesley remembers and he and his wife, Ruth, often spent weekends aboard it on the "New Perry Lake," which we now know simply as the Perry lake, our water reservoir. Dr. Render was quite proud of his houseboat and it was an interesting sight to behold floating along on the surface of that big lake. At least, we thought it was big at that time, back in the 1930s and 1940s. What with silting and one thing and another, it doesn't seem so big any more.



***April 6, 1996***

Congratulations to our city officials for fixing the traffic lights around the square. Workmen finished the job Thursday afternoon and now we have a real traffic system once again in the downtown area. Those blinking red lights had been in use for so long that it took a little while to readjust to the green-amber-red sequence once more. A friend suggests that since we now have that problem solved, let's see what we can do about getting some more rain.

The public's craving for memorabilia from the past seems to be unsated and growing steadily. Martha Casteel is getting ready to open a "This and That" shop on the north side of the square, featuring antiques and collectibles and adding to Perry's list of places that fascinate visitors. There is a growing market for items of historic interest that are indigenous to a particular area, such as the Cherokee Strip.

Strolling around the square one day last week, I met a lady -- visiting here from Owasso. She told me she has been here several times and always looks forward to browsing through such shops. Although she may not make a major purchase in each store, she generally finds something in some store that she can't live without and considers that a minor triumph. We have dozens of such visitors regularly and the number will continue to grow as we learn new ways to lure them off the highways.

Pawnee, our smaller neighbor to the east (pop. 2197), has done an outstanding job of developing its tourism. appeal. Pawnee's efforts have been mostly homegrown, and the story of their accomplishment is one that we should study carefully. It has a direct application to our hopes and dreams here in Perry.

The Pawnee success story is the feature article in the current issue of our state's excellent official magazine, *Oklahoma Today*, and it is interesting reading. The title is right to the point: "Pawnee -- the Can-Do Town." A short time back Pawnee residents recognized the value of their heritage and revived the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show as an annual summer event. It is held on six consecutive summer weekends against a backdrop of buffalo and native stone at the Pawnee Bill Ranch on the outskirts of town. By year's end, it is expected that well over 100,000 people have come to see the show, tour Pawnee Bill's sandstone mansion and ranch, and peruse the authentic cowboy and American Indian arts and crafts in the stores that line the town's main street.

Darrell Gambill, president of the Chamber of Commerce, remembers when there weren't but a couple of cars in town. "Now most days, you can't even find a parking space," he says. Outside professional talent was first utilized for the Wild West Show, but for economic reasons that did not quite work out. So, to make it happen, local folks pitched in and staged the entire production themselves with hometown volunteers.

Incredibly, the show had the gloss and sheen of a professional performance and huge crowds attended each night throughout the summer. Shows were limited to weekend performances, and the hometown trick riders, stunt men, musicians and all others who took part had a ball. The Wild West Show became a keystone of Pawnee's renaissance.

Meanwhile, in the town's once-forlorn looking business district around the square, a new sense of pride infused merchants who were already there and served as a catalyst to bring in new enterprises. Store fronts were painted and generally refurbished, broken sidewalks and curbs were rebuilt and the old town developed a fresh look, though it was still authentically American West.

D. Jo Ferguson, publisher of the weekly *Pawnee Chief* newspaper, sensed something changing when then-Gov. David Walters, accompanied by several state senators and congressman, visited Pawnee in the spring of 1993 as part of the Cherokee Strip centennial commemoration. "You could feel something happening that day," Jo says. "People were starting to get excited about Pawnee again."

Some 200 people volunteered to assist in preparing downtown and the Pawnee Bill Ranch for the centennial celebration. "The lawns were mowed, the buildings were refurbished, the whole town was cleaned up," Jo says. "And everybody

chipped in. It was a whole community effort. That day is when things really started to happen in Pawnee." Perry would do well to borrow some of that spirit in time for our own cleanup drive on April 13. Help is needed. Check with Cindy Rice for details on how you can be part of that project.

One of the new businesses that came to Pawnee was Miss Lillie's Tea Room, operated by Sharon Sample, which quickly became a major tour bus attraction. Featuring excellent sandwiches, soup, homemade pies and candy, plus frontier days atmosphere, the restaurant brought a large number of diners to Pawnee each day. Sadly, Miss Lillie's has now moved to Stillwater, but Pawnee's development continues unfazed. Something else will take the place of the tea room.

There is no real reason why Perry cannot match or exceed the great turnaround Pawnee is experiencing. We have the people and the potential. Do we have the energy and the motivation to do it? Perry Main Street, the Perry Development Coalition and the Perry Chamber of Commerce are all trying to take us along that path. If we listen to the workers and leaders in those organizations and put our shoulders to the wheel, we can become one of those "success stories" and folks will be reading about us in a future issue of Oklahoma Today. Let's make a united effort to reach that goal.

Welcome to the Perry business community, Martha Casteel.



## ***April 9, 1996***

This week's mail brought a note from John McLemore with the news that he will be ordained as a minister in the Christian church (Disciples of Christ) next Sunday in Purcell. That was interesting for several reasons, not the least of which is the fact that it climaxes a long spiritual journey for John, but it also evoked some pleasant memories of the years he spent in Perry.

John first came to Perry almost 30 years ago, in September of 1966, as youth minister of the First Christian church while he was still a student at Phillips University. He worked with the pastor, Rev. Joe Samuels, who is now retired and lives in Oklahoma City. Joe was very interested in the theatre; and in due time started a summer theatre project here for young people. One of the group's first productions was "Our Town." The effort gave young people of this community a worthwhile activity for several years. They did some innovative things that were well received.

In June of 1968 John married Carolyn Miller, one of Emaline Miller's daughters, and the young couple moved from here the following year. In 1973 they returned to Perry and John was employed by Wilma Smith at Fleet Sales. Early in the spring of 1975 a few folks from Perry and the surrounding area got together to organize Stagecoach Community Theatre. "Oklahoma!" was their first production, and John won the part of Curly McLain, the male lead.

That first play was historic for several reasons, but it's safe to say that John essayed the part about as well as it's ever been done by a non-professional performer. He has a marvelous singing voice and an instinctive stage presence. His Irish smile is irresistible. John even had a home permanent to make his straight black hair fit his character's name.

John, Carolyn and Emaline were three of the prime movers in Stagecoach as performers on-stage and backstage workers as well. I became better acquainted with all of them through Stagecoach activities. John was one of the group's first presidents, but in 1978 he and Carolyn again left this city. Since then he has worked as the associate minister at Putnam

City Christian church, associate minister at the First Christian church in Kingfisher, and now he is in his thirteenth year as minister of the First Christian church in Purcell. During all of that time he has been a licensed minister, but never ordained.

For the first nine of those last thirteen years John and Carolyn lived in Oklahoma City where he sold computers and served the Purcell church on a part-time basis. In January 1993 he quit his secular job to fulfill his lifelong goal of graduate theological education and enrolled full-time at the Phillips Theological Seminary in Enid. In 1994 he and Carolyn moved to Purcell but he continued commuting to classes at Phillips. On May 18 he will graduate with a master of divinity degree with honors and at 3 p. m. next Sunday he will be ordained in Purcell.

"It has been a long and winding journey to this point, but I finally made it," John writes. Carolyn works at St. Anthony, hospital in Oklahoma City. They have a son, Patrick, who just recently turned 25. Patrick and his wife have two children. John and Carolyn also have a daughter, Katherine, who will graduate from Oklahoma City University this spring with a degree in music performance (oboe). Carolyn's mother, Emaline, is now an attorney in Oklahoma City. John's mother, Myrl McLemore Otti, is a patient at Perry Nursing home. John's stepfather, Elvin Otti, lives on Highland Drive, near his daughter, Karen Perry, who also has been a staunch supporter of Stagecoach.

Because of their close ties to this community, John and Carolyn have stayed in touch with many Perry friends through the years and I guess we feel like we own at least a part of both of them. John and Carolyn have had a long struggle to reach this point in their life, and all of us here congratulate them on achieving such a notable goal. We wish them well as they continue their journey and we thank them for the wonderful contributions they have made to the people and organizations they have touched along the way.



## ***April 11, 1996***

Starting next Saturday morning at 9 a.m., volunteer crews will begin Perry's annual Cleanup Day. Seems like only yesterday when we were going through this drill the last time. Isn't it amazing, how much junk/trash/mess can accumulate in such short order?

Cleanup Day has the support of our official city family, and we thank street commissioner Jim Davis and his crew for their special help in this effort. The Perry Development Coalition has been a major player in Cleanup Day since the group's inception a few years ago. Cindy Rice is chairman of the PDC's Beautification Committee, which promotes the project, and she also deserves a pat on the back along with all the members of her committee. They're working hard to make this day a success.

The object of Cleanup Day is to encourage all Perryans -- those in the business district as well as in residential areas -- to get their property in shape, rid it of weeds, piles of junk, sweep away the accumulation of winter trash, apply a little fresh paint where warranted, and just generally make it look like the folks who live here take pride in their community.

But don't depend on the street, department and the Perry Development Coalition volunteers to do the work for you. They are here to assist by hauling away the stuff you bring to the high school parking lot Saturday morning. There are not enough of them to do all the work of cleaning up individual businesses and residences; that's our part of the project. They encourage all of us to lend a hand in this eminently worthwhile effort. Gather up your junk and bring it to the high school

parking lot Saturday morning. If you're physically unable to do that, call 336-4684, 336-4556, or 336-4100, and someone will assist you.

Cleanup Day would not be such a big problem if we just took care of our property all through the year. Get rid of those weeds poking up through the cracks. Sweep the sidewalks and driveways. Wash the windows. Chop down that volunteer vegetation before it grows wildly, out of control. Splash on a little paint from time to time. Then step back and admire the results, but don't dismiss the effort and do no more until Cleanup Day rolls around next year. Let's express our pride in Perry by putting on a clean, happy face throughout the community all year long. Here's wishing a joyous Cleanup Day to one and all!

The recent column devoted to Ethel L. Johnston prompted a most interesting letter from Mary Lee Campbell, a longtime friend now living in Vinita. Mary Lee is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Gus Wollard and the widow of O. B. Campbell, former managing editor of *The Perry Daily Journal*. The Campbells left here several years ago for Medford and O. B. eventually became publisher of the Vinita Daily Journal and a respected Oklahoma historian. Here's a portion of Mary Lee's letter:

"Ethel L. Johnston was a good friend of mine and my family. However, she did not start Camp Fire Girls in Perry. You see, I was their mascot, Mrs. William H. Beers, wife of the Methodist minister, started it when she moved to Perry. My dad, Gus Wollard, was her right hand man. You had to be 12 years old to belong. My sister, Lucinda Wollard, was 12. So were Ella Merry, Maxine Woodruff and Edna Mugler, but I was only 11. I was allowed to go along when daddy took them places for one year.

"Mr. Waltermire, a farmer, was daddy's dear friend and Camp Fire Girls camped on his place and used the mud slide down to the creek for a swim. I have and use the cane Mr. Waltermire made for dad from the root of a tree. Camp Fire has meant so much to me. I was a leader at Medford, then many times here in Vinita...Mother Nature, later Grandmother Nature .and have planned for my funeral to be a Camp Fire Ceremonial."

My thanks to Mary Lee for this warm and informative letter about the origin of the Camp Fire program in Perry and her devotion to its principles. The Wollard family lived at 1013 Elm street where Judge and Mrs. Dan Allen now reside. As I have noted previously, the Rev. Beers was the Methodist minister here some 70 years ago. Although we have the same last name, we are not related, to the best of my knowledge, but I keep hearing good things like this about him, so I'd be happy to claim him.

Preliminary surveying has been started for a new north entry to the Perry post office, including an approved ramp for the disabled to replace the one now in use. Postmaster Leonard Robinson says the west entry steps also will be reinforced to strengthen them as part of the project. None of this work will interfere with the new, wider sidewalks soon to be installed on all four sides of the square.



**April 13, 1996**

The early rustlings of spring find things bustling in our town. Just look around and see what's going on. Wal-Mart is getting ready for a major interior renovation at their store on Perry Plaza, starting later this month. Merchandise will be relocated

and the line of services will be expanded, but no additional space will be added to the building at this time. Also at the Plaza, Pizza Hut has completed a thorough interior makeover and expansion, and it looks great.

Jim Miller's Old South eating shop on the south side of the square has had a facelift with a new exterior paint job, improving that particular corner of the business district. Bernice and Wally Schieffer are installing a sturdy new pipe fence at the rear of their offices on the east side of the square, and Mike and Janet Shannon are planning some improvements at their Corner Drug Store just down the street from there. The Shannons also are new owners of the former J.C. Penney store building, where Mel's Clothing and a dance studio are located. The Wash House soon will have new facilities at Eighth and Fir. Members of the Church of the Nazarene are adding to their building, and the First Christian church is about to undertake an ambitious expansion program also.

The whole town should look brighter when Saturday's Cleanup Day efforts have been completed. Thanks to all those who worked in this effort, and also to those who pitched in to clean up their own little areas. Just like housework, this is a never-ending project. Let's keep at it.

One of the reasons things are upbeat in Perry is the continuing thrust of our Perry Main Street organization. The other night in Oklahoma City, 17 Perry folks were on hand for the tenth anniversary celebration of the Oklahoma Main Street program. Total attendance from towns all over the state was around 450, and you just can't come away from a meeting like that without feeling enthused. It's like a giant pep rally. Main Street towns are on the go everywhere. There's a feeling of optimism wherever this program is in operation, in big towns and little towns -- many of them smaller than Perry. Their economy is improving, the business districts are getting new life and a cleaner look, merchants are rising to the challenge and getting out of old ruts, and it all just seems contagious. If you want to be a part of Perry's Main Street program, call Betty Warner, the program manager, at 336-1212 and ask where you can help. Anna Lou Randall received a handsome and well-deserved plaque as Perry's 1966 "board member of the year" at the Oklahoma City banquet.

Before either side concedes this year's presidential election to the other side, think about 1936. The Literary Digest was one of the country's most respected magazines then and their weekly presidential poll was closely watched. Alfred M. Landon of Kansas was the Republican nominee opposing the reelection of Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt who was seeking a second term. On the eve of the election, the Literary Digest said its poll showed Landon would get 370 electoral votes and carry 32 states. You know what happened in the election: FDR won in a landslide, carrying all the 48 states except Maine and Vermont, and the Literary Digest went out of business.

Hoagy Carmichael's great tune, "Stardust," is generally regarded as one of the most beautiful ballads of this century. The music is exceedingly melodious, romantic and poignant, but the lyrics by Mitch Parrish also are truly lyrical. How can you not like something that begins like this: "And now the purple shades of twilight time steal across the meadows of my mind." Great images appear. The verse is longer than in most popular songs and it is as pleasing to the ear as the chorus, something you can't say about many ditties of the period. Those are just some of the reasons that this song ranks as my all-time favorite, hands down. It's hard to imagine a bad rendition of "Stardust," though I suppose that's possible. I don't even want to think about it.

Mr. and Mrs. George McGuire, who live east of the city, are rightfully proud of their 19-year-old son, Joshua. He is a freshman at Langston University on a full academic scholarship. Joshua had the highest score of his freshman class, which has more than 500 students. The McGuires take special pride in this because he is a product of home schooling, something we're hearing more and more about these days. Mrs. McGuire says their home education program is based on moral values, loyalty to family and individual instruction, and those points are eloquently covered in an essay Joshua wrote earlier this year. Congratulations to the entire family.



***April 16, 1996***

Daisy Lemon Coldiron was a pioneer Oklahoman in the purest sense of the word. She was a homemaker on the prairie, a mother, and a stabilizing good right hand for her husband, Dr. D. F. Coldiron, one of our most respected early-day Noble county physicians. But she also marched in the cause of women's suffrage and took a stand on troublesome social issues long before that was fashionable. Perhaps equally important, she was a poet whose works sing the ballad of a young state struggling to find its place in the order of things nearly a century ago.

Carol Steichen recently showed me her copy of "Ballads of the Plains," the last collection of Mrs. Coldiron's work to be published. It was compiled posthumously by her daughter, Kara Lee Coldiron, who now lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, and was printed in 1950 by Kaleidograph Press of Dallas. Glancing through its pages took me back to the time before Mrs. Coldiron's death on November 25, 1946, when she and Doctor lived in the family home on Fir Avenue, approximately where John Divine Hall now stands.

Along with rearing two sons, Kenneth and Victor, and her daughter, Kara Lee, Mrs. Coldiron found creative time to write about the history, legends and traditions of her adopted plains country. The late Hillary Ross Greer said her lines were "tanged with the salt and sorrows of (Oklahoma's) historic soil."

Mrs. Coldiron was a slender lady of medium height who walked very erect until failing health began taking its toll. She had a sweet, pleasant smile, and greeted all the children of the neighborhood with a friendly word or just a nod of the head in recognition. Our family lived only a few blocks from the Coldiron home. Her husband was our family physician and we all attended the Presbyterian church, so even as a youngster I felt a strong relationship with the Coldirons. In the years since Mrs. Coldiron passed away in 1946, those friendships have only been deepened and strengthened as all of us grew up.

In the flyleaf for "Ballads of the Plains," Kara Lee notes that her mother was born near Marion, Kentucky, and came, as a young woman with her mother and brothers to settle on a claim in Grant county, southwest of Pond Creek, in the Cherokee Strip. Later she married Dr. Coldiron, who also was from Kentucky, and they soon came to Perry after moving his practice here from Red Rock. Mrs. Coldiron was active in the literary affairs of her state, a member of the Poetry Society of Oklahoma and in 1936 won the society's first prize for the best Oklahoma poem. Her poems were published widely and reprinted frequently, and were used often on radio programs. Many of her poems, particularly those which deal with pioneers, have been included in anthologies of both state and national interest.

"Ballads of the Plains" contains some of Mrs. Coldiron's most lyrical verses, including one titled simply "Oklahoma," which rings out with rich descriptions of the land runs, the tumultuous early days and a meaningful summation of the goodness of this former wilderness. "Bill Doolin," another entry in this book, describes the ascent of Bill Doolin as "king of the outlaws," and still another, "Zip Wyatt -- Alias Dick Yeager," gives an account of the holdup at Red Rock in 1889. A cowboy's "Mirage on the Prairie" is included. Altogether, 42 ballads are contained in the collection. Mrs. Coldiron's poetry can be found at Perry Carnegie Library.

And on Saturday, April 20, the Oklahoma Historical Society will celebrate Mrs. Coldiron's poetic contributions to the historic tapestry of this state. Adelia Hanson, historian-registrar at the Sheerar Museum in Stillwater, will give an address

on "Daisy Lemon Coldiron: Cherokee Strip Pioneer, Suffragist, Poet of Oklahoma's History," during the society's annual meeting in the Holiday Inn at Stillwater. Ms. Hanson will speak during Session VII in Room A between 8:30 and 10 a.m. on Saturday. Registration for the annual meeting will begin Thursday afternoon at the Holiday Inn, and the meeting will continue through Saturday morning. Fees are \$12 for OHS members and \$15 for non-members. More details are available through Kaye Bond or Clyde Speer at the Cherokee Strip Museum [here](#).

If you have never read Mrs. Coldiron's verses, or if it's been a while since you've had an opportunity to renew your acquaintance with her lyrical work, now would be a good time to sit down and treat yourself to a rewarding experience with one of her hooks. And, hopefully, Perry will be represented at the Oklahoma Historical Society's tributes next Saturday when this distinguished lady will be formally recognized.



## **April 18, 1996**

Leasa Howard, daughter of Ed and Mary Malzahn, used to dream about having her own horse farm one day. An article in the February issue of *Arizona Horse Connection*, a magazine widely distributed among horse people in Arizona's East Valley, tells how Leasa realized that dream come true after three years of converting nothingness to physical reality. Leasa's Tierra Farms in the Chandler, AZ, area have brought her happiness and success. The writer of the article adds: "...Because she has a strong sense of family and community values, she opens the doors to her 'land of dreams' so that others can experience the wonder of horses."

Tierra Farms has become a bustling hive of activity. Two large arenas, one lighted, are leased to clubs and groups to stage their particular activities. Leasa and her husband, Bruce, are attentive to developing horse activities and are always willing to help groups. "Our main objective has been to provide a safe, affordable facility to allow everyone, young and old, to pursue their equine dreams, whatever their favorite breed or particular interest," Leasa says.

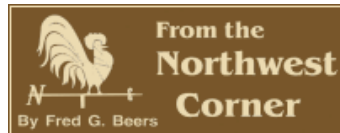
Last year Leasa donated a purebred Arabian foal to a 4-H club girl who lost her horse. This year she is donating a yearling purebred Arabian gelding to a 4-H essay contest winner. Tierra Farms is a family operation. Leasa's two sons, Zahn, 16, and Matthew, 13, work on the farm and in the feed store, during the summer and on weekends. Eight-year-old Whitney has begun to work around the horses. Leasa's husband is in charge of the arenas and all the events held at the farm. It is a family-oriented business, besides being a dream come true.

The cover of *Arizona Horse Connection* is a color photo rendition of Tierra Farms, a panoramic view of the entire layout showing how it nestles at the foothills of a mountain range. Two horse photos are superimposed for added interest, and "Making Dreams Come True," the title of the article about Tierra Farms, is scripted onto the cover. All in all, a very interesting and comprehensive treatment.

Edythe Tilman of Oklahoma City, who grew up here as Edythe Gottlieb, daughter of Rudolph and Elsie Gottlieb, also remembers the Easter day runs at the home of W. N. Stahl. The Gottliebs lived just across the alley from the Stahls, and one year Elsie could not understand why Edythe and her sister, Ethel Maurice, declined to take part in the races. Finally, the two daughters explained to their mother: "If we enter, we'll have to run against the Lindeman girls, and they always win because they're so much faster. And we're afraid that even if we won, they'd beat us up." With parental reassurances, the

girls took part, but failed to capture one of the Easter bunny prizes. The Lindeman girls were Mary, Lucille, Ruth and Philamene, and they wouldn't have beaten up on their friends, Edythe and Ethel Maurice.

Glenda Martin, a resident of Arkansas City, Kan., with family roots in this community, called the other day seeking information about the "Royal Hotel," which she had been told once operated here. The best information I could furnish concerned the "Royle Hotel" (note the spelling) from some 50 years ago, last managed by Mrs. Evelyn Rathbone at 309 1/2 Seventh street on the second story of the building now occupied by the Senior Citizens Center. If any reader has additional information, including the possibility of another hotel with this name from pre-statehood days, I'll try to pass it along to Ms. Martin. She is doing research for a family tree project.



## ***April 20, 1996***

Harold Daniels was the kind of football coach who could motivate young men to play far above their real skill level or natural ability. He was nicknamed "Hump" because he made his players work harder than they knew they could. Nowadays we call it "giving 110 percent" or words to that effect. Hump frequently got that result in the 1930s and 1940s by holding the threat of physical pain over their heads -- the pain you experience from running laps or fast-stepping it away from a 2 x 4 paddle. He barked his commands like a Marine Corps drill instructor and woe be unto the perspiring player who didn't respond with sufficient zeal. It's a technique that might not succeed today, but Hump's way was eminently successful back there in another era.

Somehow, I doubt that even one former member of Hump's many PHS squads would criticize him for his methods. Most of them held him in the highest regard, not simply fear, during their playing days and they would accord him the same degree of respect today. He was an honorable man. He persuaded the young men under him that his methods would work. The proof of that was demonstrated to them regularly in their many victories over teams from much larger schools where the players were more numerous, sometimes faster, and, frequently, bigger physically -- Enid, Stillwater, Ponca and Guthrie, to name a few. But not one of those opponents was ever tougher or more grimly determined than Hump's Maroons. The satisfaction the Perry lads experienced from such triumphs made the difficult preparation process worthwhile.

Our high school football stadium is named Daniels Field in Hump's honor. However, many of his most notable victories came before that layout was built as a WPA project in the late 1930s. Hump's Maroons achieved a lot of glory on the old Fair Park Field where bits of glass, sticker patches, gravel and occasional animal droppings enriched the playing surface. It was also known jocularly as the Dust Bowl because of the swirling red clouds that sometimes shrouded the field in those drought-plagued years. It had virtually no grass cover.

Fair Park Field was at the Noble county fairgrounds northwest of the present main exhibit building in an area where the weekly auction sale building was later located. On the west side, the playing field had a wooden grandstand with a bobtailed canopy, just a few yards from the Santa Fe Railroad tracks. Steam locomotives pulling freight and passenger trains tootled past--there routinely during each game and added another element to the color and environment. Bleachers for visitors were placed across the field on the east side. The same field was used for rodeos, livestock exhibits, horse races, semipro baseball, and many other things. The Perry National Guard unit, a horse-drawn Artillery outfit, used the old

fairgrounds livestock exhibit building as an armory and the weekend warriors frequently worked with their animals on the playing field. It truly was a multi-purpose area, but Hump Daniels' football teams drew the biggest crowds.

Hump came to Perry in 1931 after having coached at Yale high school in Payne county. He had a winning record at Yale but his greatest achievements were racked up here. He was our head football coach, usually with no more than one assistant; head basketball coach, head baseball coach, athletic director and social science teacher. In later years he became drivers education instructor. During the summer he was director of the Perry supervised play program in which hundreds of youngsters learned to swim and throw a baseball. For many seasons he also was player/manager of the Perry Merchants semi-pro baseball team, and he made winners out of them, too.

Hump's body was lean and athletic, His hairline was receding but he had an adequate crop of slicked-down brown hair covering his pate. High cheekbones suggested a Native American ancestry. The eyes were intense and the usual facial expression was serious, but he could quickly break out a disarming smile to dispel the notion that he was grumpy. He, sometimes seemed ill at ease addressing a group, but in truth he was outgoing and liked being around people. Kids just naturally flocked to him. Hump had no children of his own but hundreds of Perry youngsters loved him and viewed him as a father figure. Adults found him to be pleasant company.



## ***April 23, 1996***

Hump Daniels came to Perry high school as football coach just before the start of the 1931-32 term. PHS had experienced losing seasons the previous two years and fans were getting restive for a winner. They picked the right man when they lured Hump away from Yale high school, where he had been winning regularly. He turned the Perry program around and established a winning tradition that lasted almost three decades.

But it wasn't an instantaneous transformation. Hump's first year here was hardly a howling success. The Maroons finished the 1931 season with a record of four wins against seven losses, but there was a glimmer of hope for the future.

Coach Daniels arrived in town shortly before September 1, 1931, and held a meeting with Harold Plumer, a senior end and fullback who had been designated team captain. Gulley Walters, the manual training (shop) instructor, was named to assist Hump. Gulley was a graduate of Northwestern Oklahoma State college at Alva. He and Hump comprised the entire PHS coaching staff.

In addition to Plumer, some of the other players identified in pre-season drills were Glen Lighty, center; Gene Ley, quarterback; Glen Taylor, fullback; Torn Munger, halfback; Jack Henry, wing; Bob Powers, tackle; plus Ellsworth Choate, Nick Triplett and Harley DeVilbiss. The first game of the season was on September 18 at Ponca City. In a pre-game scrimmage one week earlier, Perry defeated Morrison, 18-0, but the game did not count in the season's record. Still, it was a hopeful sign.

On the eve of the game at Ponca City, a pep rally was held in the high school auditorium with attorney Paul W. Cress, a former standout Maroon athlete, as master of ceremonies. The Red Hots pep club helped stir up enthusiasm with Hazel Powers as the club's "Grand High" and Betty Munger as yell leader. (Hazel later married Harold Plumer, the team captain.) Prof. Leopold Radgowsky directed the PHS band in several stirring fight songs. W. Homer Hill, school superintendent, was

one of the speakers. Despite that peppy sendoff, the Maroons were blanked the next day by the Ponca City Wildcats, 28-0.

Perry lost again the following Friday at Bristow, 33-6, but quarterback Ralls scored the Maroons' first touchdown of the season on a 40-yard run. Covington came to Perry one week later. Hump's squad had a brilliant first half and went on to post, their first victory under their new coach, 13-6. Tonkawa defeated the Maroons the following week, 7-0, and Enid squeaked by with a 12-6 win one week later, although *The Journal* sports editor said the Plainsmen were outplayed by the Maroons.

Hump's Perry team lost the next two games, to Garber, 18-0, and to Edmond, 20-6, but then won an exciting homecoming contest here with Fairfax, 13-7. Stillwater shut out the Maroons, 20-0, the following week, and Newkirk had a lopsided 40-0 win in the final regular game of the season. The local American Legion post, with Dr. A. M. Crowder spearheading the project, arranged for a post-season game with Billings to raise money for local charities. The game was sanctioned by the Oklahoma High School Athletic Association because the nationwide depression had created a dire need for projects such as this.

The 1931 Billings team, coached by Bruce Dressier, was undefeated during the regular season. They had a powerful backfield featuring D. Dupy, W. Dupy, Williams and Piper, and the highly regarded Bulldogs had posted several lopsided victories, but the PHS team prevailed, 20-0. It was another hopeful sign for the future. Bob Powers was the only Maroon selected in 1931 for the All-Northern Conference team.

It was a long season, and a losing season, for the Maroons, but a new spirit was evident at PHS and throughout the community as the town sensed their new high school football coach was a winner. Brighter days appeared to be on the horizon. More on the 1930' decade of football in the next column.



## ***April 25, 1996***

The 1931 season was Hump Daniels' inaugural year as Perry high school football coach. His Maroons that season had a mediocre 4-7 record while the players were introduced to his offense, the Notre Dame box formation. It took that first year for the players to become accustomed to it. The box was similar to the double-wing then in vogue but it featured direct snaps to a spinning back who would hand off, pass downfield or run with the ball himself. The main ingredient was a wall of blockers for the runner. Similar plays today bear labels like "student body left," or "student body right," or "student body up the middle." It was sheer power and a preponderance of numbers against a defense that usually had no time to figure out who had the ball and where he was heading.

Hump made the formation work here for nearly 30 years, even after most schoolboy teams were clamoring for the newfangled split-T formation made popular in the 1950s and 1960s by Coach Bud Wilkinson at the University of Oklahoma. Most of Perry's opponents drilled on defenses against the split-T. When they played the Maroons they had to learn an entirely different type of defense. That gave Hump's teams another advantage.

The coach and his players used that first season to get acquainted with each other. By the time Hump's second season arrived, the Maroons were ready to rumble. From a modest 4-7 finish in 1931, they chalked up a glossy record of 7-2-2 in 1932, outscoring their opponents 133-38. Included was a stirring 13-0 shutout over Stillwater. The next year, 1933, was

almost as good with six wins, three losses and two ties, -- and a point spread of 137-76. Actually the Maroons were just getting warmed up.

The 1934 season began with a 13-2 win over the arch-rival Blackwell Maroons, followed by a 12-0 defeat of Ponca City. Cleveland was the next victim, 30-0, but Lawton high school managed a 7-7 tie the following week to provide the only blemish of the season. In successive weeks the PHS Maroons defeated Britton, 14-12; Edmond, 25-7; Enid, 14-9; Hominy, 21-6; Stillwater, 19-0; Fairfax, 6-0; Wynona, 43-0; and Newkirk, 45-0. Perry outscored their opponents 249-43.

Football fever was definitely in the air as the 1935 season rolled around. It opened with a 7-0 win over Sperry, but Ponca City posted a 14-6 victory the following week. That was the Maroons' only loss of the year. Enid managed a 7-7 tie later, but decisive wins were posted by Hump's team over Cleveland, 25-0; Oklahoma City Foster, 52-0; Hominy, 31-0; Drumright, 19-13; Sulphur, 20-0; Fairfax, 38-7; Wynona, 37-12; and Newkirk, 36-12. PHS outscored their combined opponents 278-65 en route to a 9-1-1 season.

Then came 1936. Because it was the high water mark of that decade, and possibly the best in Hump's career, I'm going to deal with it separately a little later on. For now let's just note that the 1936 Maroons were unbeaten and untied on the gridiron, and only one team managed to score against them. The record that year was 11-0-0. Perry scored a total of 388 points, their opponents managed a grand total of 7.

The Maroons continued to roll with a nine-game season in 1937, opening with a 40-0 win over Carmen. Oklahoma City Central was next and Hump's fired-up PHS squad won that one by 19-0. Guthrie shaded the Maroons, 7-0; Blackwell won, 6-0; and Ponca City eked out a 7-6 victory. Perry trimmed Enid, 7-0; tied Fairfax, 0-0; defeated Davenport, 21-0; and Hominy, 26-6, to close out the season with a 5-3-1 record. Perry's point margin against the combined opposition was 119-26.

Perry again played a rather brief schedule of nine games in 1938. Some said it was because opponents were becoming hard to find. The Maroons' victims were Davenport, 37-0; Edmond, 31-0; Yale, 9-7; Ponca City, 7-2; and Newkirk, 27-0. Guthrie tied the locals, 12-12; and the Maroons lost to Enid, 12-0; Blackwell, 9-6; and Bristow, 28-6, to produce another 5-3-1 record. The PHS point margin for the season was 135-62.

Perry was undefeated once again in 1939, although two ties marred the record. One was with Enid and one with Ponca City, both by a score of 6-6. Victories were chalked up over Crescent, 25-0; Billings, 54-0; Edmond, 33-0; Yale, 32-0; Guthrie, 13-0; Blackwell, 21-0; Bristow, 14-0; Newkirk, 196; Garber, 36-13; and Beaver, 25-0. For the year, Perry outscored its foes 284-31.

The next Northwest Corner will have more about that 1936 team, its fabulous record and the major disappointment that marred an otherwise unsullied record.



***April 27, 1996***

By the time the fall of 1936 arrived, Perry high school football fans had grown accustomed to wining. During the previous two seasons, the PHS Maroons had lost only one game and three consecutive winning seasons had the local populace

begging for more. Since his arrival here in 1931, Coach Hump Daniels had instilled a fresh new spirit not only in the student body, but indeed in the community as a whole. Perhaps no one expected the abundance of thrills awaiting them in 1936.

Sixty boys turned out for pre-season workouts directed by Daniels and his chief assistant, V D. Petree, a high school science teacher. The squad included eleven returning lettermen from the 1935 team which finished with a 9-1-1 record, but Hump commented on September 5, in an interview with *The Journal's* sports editor, that the team lacked both depth and experience. Several new players were being counted on to fill the breach.

One of the returning linemen, center Kenneth Carmack, was unable to juggle his work schedule and school schedule, so his playing status looked doubtful. Orville Winters was expected to take over for Carmack. Some of those looking good in early practices were Jack Wurtz, quarterback; Clay Rook, halfback; and Kenneth Evans, fullback. Gene Dauman or Bob Burke was expected to be the other halfback for the first game of the season at Fair Park Field, when Medford would come to town.

On the Thursday before that first game, city crews were adjusting floodlights at the fairgrounds grandstand in preparation for a night contest. A record crowd was expected. On the injury front, Hump announced that end Bill Jensen probably would not play because of a jammed toe. He gave this rundown on probable starters: Winters, center; Jimmy Cain, right guard; Woody Foster or Pat Dennis, left guard; Gerald Miller or Robert Edwards, left tackle; Ralph Treeman, right tackle; Bruce Wilson or Vester Wilhelm, right end; co-captain, Paul Kehres, left end; Wurtz, quarterback; Rook and Dauman, halfbacks; and Kenneth Evans, fullback. Other backs likely to play were Paul Walter, Raymond Sanders, King Montgomery, Gene Hanna, Burke, Carl Laird Jr., Frank Jones Jr. and Bill Smith.

"Maroons Romp to Easy Victory" was the headline on the story in *The Journal* after the game. The Maroons defeated Medford 33-0 as Hump used 30 players. Peppy music was provided by Prof. Leopold Radgowsky's PHS band to add a little color to a rather one-sided game. The Perry team outweighed the visitors by a considerable margin. Wurtz scored the first touchdown on a 20-yard run. Rook, in his first game for Perry high school, kicked the first extra point.

One week later, Evans scored in the last minute of play to hand the Maroons a hard-fought 6-0 victory on a rain-soaked field at Ponca City. Carmack intercepted a Wildcat pass seconds later and scooted from the PHS 35 to the Ponca City 10 yard line before he was dragged down. Later in the season, Clay Rook was declared ineligible because his home was outside the Perry school district. As a consequence, Perry was compelled to forfeit the Ponca game and thereby wiped out a perfect unbeaten, untied season. The bitter taste left by that ruling was extremely difficult to overcome in this football-happy town.

On the following Friday the Maroons defeated Coach Jim Lookabaugh's Capitol Hill squad, 60-0. The Oklahoma City team claimed they sent their "reserves" here for the game, but local fans believed it was the varsity. In any event Perry's first string played less than half a game. Newkirk was the next Maroon victim, falling 52-0, then Oklahoma City Classen came to town with a strong team a week later. The Maroons won that one, 19-0, and considered it a real triumph even if the comets asserted that they also sent their "B" team. Perry defeated the Enid Plainsmen, 20-0, in the sixth game of the season. It was homecoming and a record crowd attended. During halftime, Mary McClellan, a sophomore, was crowned football queen by co-captains Paul Kehres and Robert Edwards. Attendants were Priscilla Thompson, a senior, and Helen Fitzhugh, a junior. Fans also presented gifts that night to Hump and his assistant coach, V D. Petree.

Hominy became the only team to score on the Maroons a week later when they recovered a fumble over the goal line. Jensen scored on a 60-yard run in the afternoon game at Hominy. Fullback Evans had three touchdowns, one on a 65-yard gallop. Perry won the game, 32-7. The Maroons then outclassed Drumright on the Tornadoes' home field, 31-0. Three Perry touchdowns were called back in a game marked by "miserable officiating," according to *The Journal's* account.

On the following Friday Perry defeated the always-tough Fairfax Red Devils, 27-0. It was the Maroons' final Northern Conference game of the year. One week later, Perry easily defeated Crescent, 38-0. There were no post-season playoffs back then, but on the day after the Crescent game it was announced that Perry would play at Henryetta on Thanksgiving Day. The Hens also were undefeated and were reputed to be the strongest team in the eastern half of the state. To wind up the regular season, the Maroons mauled Carmen 58 - 0. Kehres, Laird, Evans and Jensen each scored two touchdowns. Cockrum also scored a TD. Extra points were kicked by Dauman (2), Carmack and Evans.

To climax the year, Perry defeated Henryetta 12-0 in the "turkey bowl" game. "The Maroons completely outplayed the Hens," *The Journal* story said. Evans scored from the one yard line early in the second quarter. Defensive back Paul Walter intercepted a Henryetta pass and ran 50 yards to score the other TD. Perry had 259 yards rushing, Henryetta had 56. The Maroons had 17 first downs, the Hens had. four, including two by penalties.

Despite their wonderful record, Hump's Maroons did not win the Northern Conference crown because of the forfeiture to Ponca City. The final standings showed Pawhuska on top with a 4-0-1 (.900) record. Blackwell and Ponca City (both 6-1-0 .857) tied for second and Perry finished fourth with an official record of 5-1-0 (.833). It was a big conference. Other members were Enid, Guthrie, Fairfax, Stillwater, Drumright, Hominy, Newkirk and Cushing.

Wurtz was chosen as a quarterback on the Tulsa Tribune's 1936 All-State team and tackle Bob Edwards was named to the Tulsa World's All-State squad. Paul Kehres, Wurtz and Edwards were on the All-Conference team; Wurtz was named a captain of the team. Edwards won the Lions club trophy as most valuable football player of the year.

The Poor Boys club, Lions and Rotarians sponsored a banquet to honor the Maroons on December 14. Visiting coaches who spoke at the affair in the Methodist church basement included Vie Hurt, 'Tulsa University; Ted Cox, Oklahoma A.&M.; Spec Moore, OU end coach; and Dewey Luster, Norman high school coach and newly named OU backfield coach. Dr. A. M. Crowder led group singing of "America," and Dr. O. W. Boyer gave the invocation. Hump introduced each player. V. D. Petree, Hump's assistant coach, and Jack Snyder, whose truck transported players to the practice field each day, were guests.

Thus did the great 1936 season end. One game was forfeited to spoil an otherwise superb record, but the Maroons should have reigned supreme in the conference and probably would have been crowned state champions if a playoff system had been in existence. Hump Daniels' teams had other exciting years. In 1944 they almost grabbed the brass ring in the state playoffs. No doubt a case could be made for the greatness of many of those teams, but in the minds of most followers, 1936 was the peak year for the Maroons under Coach Harold Daniels. Two more installments remain to wrap up this series of columns.



**April 30, 1996**

**1936 PHS Football Team** lined up like this on offense. Crouched in three-point stance, from left: end Bill Jensen, tackle Ralph Treeman, guard Jimmy Cain, center Ken Carmack, guard Woody Foster, tackle Robert "Hook" Edwards, and end Paul Kehres. In backfield, from left: halfback Paul Walter, fullback Kenneth Evans, quarterback Jack Wurtz, and halfback Vester Wilhelm. Coaches were Harold Daniels (standing at left) and V. D. Petree, right. (Photo courtesy Ken Carmack)

The previous four Northwest Corners have dealt with Coach Harold "Hump" Daniels' great football teams of the 1930s. Hump came here from Yale high school in 1931 and he continued coaching here for nearly 30 years, but this series has focused primarily on his first decade at PHS. Gene Dauman, now a retired lumberman, grew up on a farm in the blackjacks of Noble county. He was a halfback on Coach Daniels' celebrated 1936 squad and he has been an excellent resource in compiling this information.

Gene has furnished a list of some of the players that he remembers from that team. Most of those he named would have been sophomores, juniors or seniors. "We probably had about 60 guys out for football," Gene estimates. Hump was the head coach and he normally had one assistant – primarily V. D. Petree -- but in some years he had one or two more. Byard Anderson, from the elementary school faculty, was one of those.

Squad members listed by Gene, in no particular order, are Kenneth Carmack, Jimmy Cain, Bill Carmichael, Barren Cockrum, Loren Cockrum, Alvin Cockrum, Pat Dennis, Robert Edwards, Bill Jensen, Paul Kehres, Kenneth Evans, Ralph Freeman, Dennis Underside, Clay Rook, Woody Foster, Dick Hall, Gerald Miller, John Morgan, Earl Nicewander, Raymond Sanders, Lawrence Shea, Ed Tucker, Paul Walter, Bruce Wilson, Orville Winters and Jack Wurtz. Obviously, there were many more to comprise a squad of 60, but that's as complete as we can be for now. Perhaps others can add more names to this 1936 football roster.

On the eve of the 1936 homecoming football game with Enid, *The Journal* had this rundown on members of the Maroon squad: GENE DAUMAN -- Right halfback; age 17; senior with two years on squad; Weighs 160 pounds and is 5 feet 8 inches tall. Son of Mr. and Mrs. E Dauman, Rte. 4, Perry; JACK WURTZ -- Quarterback, 17, junior, two years on squad. Weighs 140, 5 feet 8 inches tall. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Wurtz, 1309 Grove. WILLIAM FOSTER -- Guard, 17, senior, second year on squad. Weighs 178, 5 feet 9 inches tall. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Foster, 618 7th. ROBERT EDWARDS -- Tackle, 17, senior, second year letterman; 185, 6 feet 3 inches tall. Son of Roy Edwards, Rte. 3. PAUL KEHRES -- Left end, 19, senior, third year letterman. Weighs 175, 5 feet 10 inches. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kehres, 901 Cedar.

VESPER WILHELM -- Left halfback, 18, letterman, second year on squad. Junior, 164, 5 feet 11 inches. Son of James Wilhelm. BILL JENSEN -- Right end, 18, senior letterman, third year on squad. Weighs 170, 6 feet tall. Son of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Jensen, 1008 Delaware. RALPH TREEMAN -- Tackle, 16, senior letterman, second year on squad. Weighs 160, 6 feet tall. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Treeman, 8th and Kaw. FRANK KNIGHT -- Left end, 18, senior letterman, first year on squad. Weighs 174, 5 feet, 11 inches. Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Knight, 129 Cedar.

DENNIS UNDERSIDE -- Right guard, 16, senior, two years on squad. Weighs 150, 5 feet 7 inches tall. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Underside, 405 Ivanhoe. LEONARD WINTERS -- Center, senior; 16, two years on squad. Weighs 150, 5 feet 9 inches. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Winters, 725 Delaware. CARL LAIRD -- Fullback, 17, junior, one year letterman with two years on squad; weighs 150, 5 feet 9 inches tall. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Laird, 801 6th. ALVIN COCKRUM -- Left end, 18, senior, one year on squad. Weighs 148, 5 feet 10 inches tall. Son of C. F. Cockrum. PAUL WALTER -- Left halfback, 17, senior, three years on squad. Weighs 163, 6 feet tall. Son of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Walter, 902 Grove.

KENNETH BURKE -- Fullback, 17, sophomore, first year on squad. Weighs 144, 5 feet 10 inches. Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Burke, 1220 Grove. PAT DENNIS -- Left guard, 19; senior letterman with two years on team. Weighs 160, 5 feet 11 inches. Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Dennis, 641 Fir. RAYMOND SANDERS -- Halfback, 16, senior, two years on squad. Weighs 150, 5 feet 11 inches. Son of Luther Sanders, 425 Fir. KENNETH EVANS -- Fullback, 17, weighs 158, 5 feet 10 inches. Two-year senior letterman. Son of Mrs. Mable Evans, 634 Fir. JAMES CAIN -- Right guard, senior, 18, 176 pounds, 5 feet 11 inches. Son of Mrs. Fannie Cain, Lucien. KENNETH CARMACK -- Center, 18, senior letterman with two years on squad. Weighs 190, 5 feet 10 inches. Son of Mrs. D. Carmack, 515 Grove.

JACK HANNA -- Halfback, 17, junior, second year on squad. Weighs 155, 5 feet 6 inches. Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hanna, 906 Elm. FRANK JONES -- Fullback, 16, sophomore, first year on squad. Weighs 130, 5 feet 6 inches. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones, 711 Delaware. PAUL HICKS -- Right end, 17, sophomore, first year on squad. Weighs 140, 5 feet 9 inches tall. Son of Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Hicks, 728 Cedar. DON HIGHFILL -- Right tackle, 17, junior, two years on squad. Weighs 144, 6 feet, 1 inch tall. Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Highfill, 8th and Noble. ELI PRICER -- Tackle, 17, sophomore, second year on squad. Weighs 163, 5 feet 10 inches tall. Son of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Pricer, 116 Cedar. KING MONTGOMERY JR. -- Halfback, 16, sophomore, first year of football.

Perry was required to forfeit one game in the 1936 season because an ineligible player, Clay Rook, saw action. He did not meet the residence requirements, so the 6-0 victory over Ponca City was tossed out. The Maroons did not lose a game on the gridiron that year, however. And Rook was used in game with Medford before the Ponca City game. Here's how *The Journal* of that day reported the story:

"Here's one for Ripley. Two football teams played a game. One team defeated the other 33 to 0, yet neither team won and neither team lost. The situation came about as a result of the Perry-Medford game. Perry won 33 to 0, according to the score sheet at the end of the game. But because the Oklahoma Athletic Association board of control ruled that both teams played to an ineligible man in the contest, both teams were required to forfeit. So Perry forfeited to Medford and in turn Medford school officials wrote the Perry schools this week, forfeiting to them. First we won, then we lost, then we won, and now it looks like a tie. You figure it out. The Medford ineligibility came about by the board decreeing that Guadalupe Solarios, a Mexican boy playing in the Medford backfield, was 21 years of age."

*The Journal* did not name the ineligible player used by Perry, but the school knew Rook's status was being challenged. Rook was one of several outstanding college prospects on the 1936 PHS team. Jack Wurtz, Bill Jensen, Jimmy Caine, Bill Carmichael and several others also were sought and signed by some major schools. I remember Wurtz starred at Oklahoma A.&M., Jensen played for the Sooners at OU, Cain was on the squad at Central State, and I think Bill Carmichael wound up on the Naval Academy wrestling squad at Annapolis. Far as I know, Clay Rook did not play college football.

You could argue that Hump's 1944 PHS team was his best. I'll tell more about that historic season in a subsequent column.