



July 3, 2001

Perry was rather quiet in the early spring of 1935. That gloomy, somber mood resulted from a combination of two major problems. For one thing, Dust Bowl woes plagued the usually placid life in this area. Added to that was the economic stress of the Great Depression. The Dust Bowl was a regional matter but the Depression gripped the entire nation. Locally, the air was clogged almost daily with particles of red soil. Great clouds of dust filled the air to such an extent that it irritated the eyes, ears, nose and throat. It could be tasted. The grime seemed to roll off the prairie and permeate everything. Dust Bowl concerns did have the dubious virtue of taking our minds off the crushing economic crisis. Thus we were assaulted by both physical and emotional challenges. Few things could deflect an adult's attention from those two parallel problems, but occasionally something did happen to provide at least momentary relief. In this case, municipal elections were scheduled, and that helped a lot. It was something else to talk about.

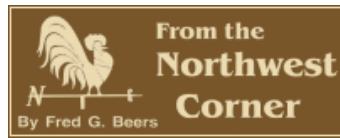
Ted Newton, energetic young furniture dealer and mortician, was completing a two-year term as mayor and he liked to remind folks that he was the first native son to head our city government. He was a Republican, and Oklahoma was considered a heavily Democratic state, so his first term as mayor had been something of a surprise. Terms of office then were two years for the mayor, city council members and city clerk. Four of the eight council members were up for election on alternate years. In those days candidates for city office filed as Republicans or Democrats, unlike today's nonpartisan elections.

Mr. Newton had compiled a good record of accomplishments when he pitched his hat into the ring for a second term. That, plus his youthful zest, led many to believe that he was a shoo-in for reelection. Ah, but the outcome of Perry political races was not easy to forecast then, even as now.

Some of the hot-button topics around town in 1935 were the exciting possibility of a new municipal stadium for Perry high school football and the semi-professional Perry Merchants baseball team, to be built by the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) at the northeast edge of town, and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) park to be built southeast of town on property owned by the city of Perry. Both were to be largely government-funded as depression-busting innovations. Mayor Newton had a hand in pushing both projects. They were not yet sure things, but they had people excited about the possibilities. The projects were popular with many citizens but the usual swirl of controversy also descended on them.

The primary election was scheduled for March 12. In addition to Newton, Republican candidates for mayor were H.H. Reynolds and J.A. Wood. Democratic candidates for mayor were Fred Kretsch, Bert Shaw, W.E. Johnston and Marsh Woodruff. Four seats on the city council also were at stake. In ward one, candidates were L.J. Mooter, Republican; and John White, Orlando Walkling and W.H. Sheets, Democrats. Ward two council candidates were Bert Stevens and Bert Bobbitt, Republicans; and Floyd Laird and J.M. Abel Democrats. Ward three council candidates were H.R. Walker, Republican; and Donald Taylor, Paul Ryan and Harold D. Roads, Democrats. Ward four council candidates were John Adams, Republican; and V .K. DeBord, John C. Jacobs and George A. Butler, Democrats. Candidates for city clerk were Henry Henriksen, Republican; and C.V. Guthrie, Sadie Lee Freeman and Charles O. Collins, Democrats. For city treasurer, O.R. Hall, a Democrat, was unopposed. City school board elections were part of the primary. Candidates locally were Harry Donaldson, ward 2; John Mugler, ward 4; and R.J. Huston, outlying district.

For reelection, Mr. Newton had more on his hands than the opposing candidates. He was the subject of a little 8 1/2 x 11 flier published on one of the hand-fed presses in the print shop of Mr. O.H. Hovey. We'll have more about all this in the next



July 6, 2001

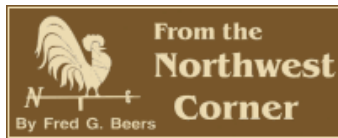
O.H. Hovey was an early-day resident of this community, a colorful, if outspoken, figure throughout his long life. In the early months of 1935, the municipal elections in his adopted city of Perry seemed to be pretty routine. But it was time to elect a mayor, city clerk and four council members, and the tempo of campaigning that spring may have reached a new peak. Perry's only newspaper, *The Perry Daily Journal*, stuck to non-partisan reporting but a strident new voice could be heard by reading the columns of a single sheet flier written, printed and distributed by Mr. Hovey. He was a printer by trade and he felt he had been deprived of some job printing business with the city during the first term of Mayor G.D. (Ted) Newton. To retaliate, Mr. Hovey used his printing press in an effort to kick the mayor out of office.

Many people knew Mr. Hovey by sight. His slight figure was distinguishable by a long, white beard that waved freely in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl air. A small leather cap usually was perched atop his head and he normally wore a jacket over a shirt buttoned at the collar. His one-cylinder Oldsmobile created a stir when it brought him to Perry in 1906, but he abandoned his car in favor of walking as he grew older. He died in 1940 at the age of 91. Occasionally, Mr. Hovey would start up a weekly newspaper, only to drop it when advertising revenue dipped too low. For the anti-Newton campaign in 1935, he named the irregular publication *Hovey's Election Revival Leaflet*. It was unabashedly political (think anti-Newton) in nature and no advertising appeared in it. Only one side of the sheet was used but comic illustrations, bearing the likes of Jiggs from the popular Maggie and Jiggs strip, dressed up the one-page sheet.

The *Election Revival Leaflet* dated March 19, 1935, stated that the sheet's mission was "For Guidance of Brother and Sister Sinners of My Large Flock." Mr. Hovey may have chosen the "revival" theme because at that time a city-wide revival was being held in a large tent, called the Revival Tabernacle, just a few yards from his print shop, near the present location of the Perry Police Department. The revival was sponsored by the Presbyterian, Christian, Methodist and Baptist churches with Rev. George Rose as the visiting evangelist.

Mr. Hovey wrote: "I had intended to hold one of my 'Election Revivals' about this time, but have been so blamed busy for several days and nights, printing election ballots for the City of Perry and Red Rock, with other work, that it has been impossible to concentrate and do justice to this very important affair. I have therefore let the more or less good brothers and sisters of my flock give their ideas as to the situation. The members of my flock, as you know, are not a silk stocking crowd. They are mostly working people like myself, doing their best to carry on in these depressing times, and trying to provide food and clothing for their wives and children. Read what they have to say and see if you don't think they have good plain common sense." What follows is a mixture of personal comments by Mr. Hovey and some other statements, none of them attributed, mostly taking pot shots at Mayor Newton.

Portions of the above were taken from the *Revival Leaflet* that was published about two weeks before the general election. We'll have more details of the primary election and the subsequent torrid 1935 general election in the next Northwest Corner.



July 10, 2001

O.H. Hovey first appeared on the streets of Perry in 1906 when he arrived driving a one-cylinder Oldsmobile, the first automobile seen in this city. He remained here until his death at the age of 91 in 1940. In the intervening years he and his long white beard were familiar sights. He operated a job printing business from his home, a rather ramshackle building on the north side of Cedar street, about a half block off the west side of the Perry square. His house sat back some 20 feet from the sidewalk and quite a lot of vines, weeds and other vegetation grew rampant along the pathway to his door. Exotic birds in tall cages were on the front porch, and local youngsters could fantasize that he also harbored reptiles and other venomous animal life forms there. Such stories, for the most part, were mere figments of their imagination. Mr. Hovey was something of a populist and he pulled no punches in his campaign to defeat the incumbent mayor, G.D. (Ted) Newton, Republican, in his bid for a second two-year term. The year was 1935 and voters needed a little relief from worrying about the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl.

Announcing his campaign for another term in the February 23, 1935, edition of *The Perry Daily Journal*, Mayor Newton stated: "I have only one promise and that is to continue giving the city of Perry the best administration it has ever had.... By this, I refer you to each department of the city." He went on to point with pride to the police force, the fire department, water and light department, sewage disposal plant, light plant and the individuals who operated all of them. He invited voters to "compare what I have done with what has been done in the past." He added: "I am the youngest and only native-born mayor Perry has ever had.... My heart and soul (sic) is in the upbuilding of Perry...." When the filing period closed, six more candidates had filed for mayor. Opposing Mr. Newton in the Republican primary were H.H. Reynolds, a former mayor, and J.A. Wood. Four Democrats also filed for mayor – Fred Kretsch, a former mayor; and Bert Shaw, W.E. Johnston and Marsh B. Woodruff. The primary election was set for March 12 to be followed by the general election on April 2.

Because he had an ax to grind with Mayor Newton. Mr. Hovey chose to enliven the race by publishing a noisy little flier printed and distributed by himself. He was the owner-operator of a small job printing shop. Mr. Hovey was disgruntled because he believed he had been denied some of the city's job printing business during the two-year term of Mayor Newton. So, Mr. Hovey created what he called *Hovey's Election Revival Leaflet*, an anti-Newton, 8 1/2 x 11 sheet encouraging voters to defeat Mr. Newton.

Mr. Hovey was outspoken but cryptic in his remarks. He did not always name names, perhaps as a safeguard against libel, but most of those who read his leaflets knew who he was writing about. More on all this will appear soon in another Northwest Corner column.



July 13, 2001

In 1935, the primary election for Perry municipal offices was scheduled for March 19, followed by the general election on April 2, but public apathy apparently was widespread. O. H. Hovey, who was not a candidate himself, did his best to make

voters pay attention. He had been a colorful figure since his arrival here in 1906 driving a one-cylinder Oldsmobile, the first automobile seen in Perry. Mr. Hovey tried to drum up interest in the election by issuing a single sheet political flier. He called it *Hovey's Election Revival Leaflet*. It was primarily a diatribe against the incumbent mayor, G.D. (Ted) Newton. It was anti-Newton but did not outwardly support any of the mayor's opponents in the primary. Despite Mr. Hovey's fiery litany, voters seemed to show little interest before going to the polls.

Partly because of his youthful vitality and because he was the city's first native-born mayor, Mr. Newton was believed by some to be a cinch for reelection. His Republican opponents in the primary were H.H. Reynolds, a former mayor and an authentic area pioneer who operated an insurance and real estate agency on the north side of the square; and J.A. Wood. One of Mr. Reynolds' unique claims to fame was the fact that he had been a participant in five of the Oklahoma land runs. Mr. Newton also was from pioneer Cherokee Strip stock and his family name was widely recognized.

Mr. Hovey poked some jabs like this in his political flier: "If the Superintend (sic) of Motive Power of the great Santa Fe railway system, a man in charge of millions of dollars worth of locomotives were to pass away, would they get some Perry dishwasher to take the place? No, they would get a man of experience. But when a superintendent of our half million dollar water and light plant is needed our 'Experienced Boy Mayor, the Only Native Boy Mayor Born in Oklahoma and Still Running Wild' appoints a man whose time has been spent in a drug store selling tooth paste, corn salve, merry widows and the like, and puts him on the job. Great business!" (My family operated a drug store here at the time but I do not know who Mr. Hovey was describing in this piece.)

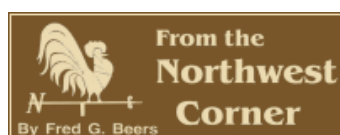
Here's another sample: "Practical and expert experience is what is in demand these days," Mr. Hovey wrote. "Great industries don't employ men simply because they 'want the job' and will see if they can catch on to it. Perry has a flock of that kind of 'seekers for jobs.' It also has candidates who have made good in the past, who are experienced, who were true to their trust. You know who. Be careful!"

Did Mr. Hovey's political flier affect the election? There's no way to determine that, but Mr. Newton was narrowly defeated by Mr. Reynolds in the primary, 273–261. Mr. Wood received 48 votes. Fred Kretsch, another former mayor, won the Democratic nomination with 340 votes to 283 for Marsh Woodruff and 101 for W.E. Johnston.

The general election on April 2 was almost an anti-climax, pitting two former mayors against each other. Both were well regarded but they were not dynamic campaigners. In the final tally of general election ballots, Mr. Reynolds was the winner with 887 to 618 for Mr. Kretsch. The winner carried all but one of the city's seven precincts.

Others claiming victory in the general election were Charles V. Guthrie, city clerk; O.R. Hall, city treasurer; city council members, ward one, L.J. Mooter; ward two, J.M. Abel; ward three, H.R. Walker; and J.H. Adams, ward four; and school board members, Harry Donaldson, ward two; John Mugler, ward four; and R.J. Huston, outlying district.

Mr. Hovey inked the rollers on his printing presses for a few more years and it is hard to tell if he or his readers had more fun. At any rate, I am indebted to Virginia Eggers for bringing me a copy of the *Revival Leaflet* from 1935. It is in good condition, encased in a plastic holder, and a fine addition to my collection of historic memorabilia.



July 17, 2001

Ah, yes indeed! Times change. It happens before we notice it, but then some unrelated incident calls the transition to our attention. For me, one thing that most often brings this to mind is the scanning of old newspapers from other generations. Often those columns reveal changes in our society so subtle that we didn't notice them as they occurred. While researching information in *The Perry Daily Journal* for the recent series about the 1935 municipal election, in which Mayor Ted Newton was defeated with the help of a flier from the print shop of Mr. O.H. Hovey, I came across quite a bit of information on other topics. One of those tidbits dealt with a city-wide revival service held in the courthouse park during that Dust Bowl spring in Perry.

The revival was held under the joint sponsorship of the Baptist, Christian, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, with Rev. George Rose as the visiting evangelist. Far as I know, at that time we had no organization like today's Ministerial Alliance. So that kind of ecumenicity alone was an intriguing twist, but there is more. The services were held nightly for *four weeks* in the great outdoors on the courthouse lawn which was renamed "Revival Tabernacle" for the event. Obviously there was a lot of harmony and cooperation among those four local congregations. Thank goodness that has not changed.

Does it seem hard to believe that the revival went on each night for four weeks? That length of time was not unusual in those days, before so many demands on our time came along – like TV, movies in nearby towns, and so forth? By contrast, we have become accustomed to that kind of service on just a few nights, not four weeks.

To be honest, I don't remember that particular series of union services in my pre-teen age years, but I am sure our family was represented in the revival tabernacle every night. Our drug store, and the others around the square, probably served lots of root beer, limeades and Cokes to thirsty customers when the services were dismissed. I do remember going to revival services in brush arbors and tents whenever they came to town, which was about once every spring or summer. Usually these were held on the vacant lots where our Municipal Court building is now headquartered, or behind Foster's Corner Drug where the Ruble-Vance auto dealership is located. (Some further irony: The latter also was part of the very sinful "Hell's Half Acre" after the opening of the Cherokee Strip on September 16, 1893.)

In a front page story about the union revival service on Saturday, March 30, 1935, *The Perry Daily Journal* stated that Mrs. George Rose, wife of the scheduled evangelist, was going to preach at 7:30 that night from the platform in the courthouse park. Her husband had been ill and unable to preach for a few days, so she filled in. The story did not say where the Roses were home-based.

In those days, churches of virtually all denominations had worship services each Sunday morning and evening and again on Wednesday night. Today, such schedules are rare, just like the four-week revivals in the courthouse park. Somebody tell me, is that progress or just a symbol of changing times?



July 20, 2001

The bi-monthly newsletter published by the RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) goes to those mostly anonymous volunteer men and women who do so much in Perry, Enid and throughout north-central Oklahoma. It's an interesting little four-page 8 ½ x 11 publication and, among others, it is distributed to folks who serve in various recognized, non-profit fields of endeavor. In Perry that includes those who provide weekly hair care for residents of our two nursing homes, assist at the hospital and in other ways contribute a great deal of time and effort in service to their fellow men and

women.. Each issue of the newsletter spotlights one individual as "a special volunteer." The July-August newsletter puts that focus on Olivia McNeil of Perry, and they could not have found a more worthy person to honor.

The newsletter tells that Mrs. McNeil has lived in Noble county all her life, except for two years during World War II when she worked at an aircraft factory in Wichita. "In more recent years," the publication relates, "Olivia has donated many hours of service to the Perry community and currently volunteers at the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry where she greets visitors and offers information about the Cherokee Strip area. She also volunteers at her church and has previously donated time at the nursing homes. As a member of the local chapter of the GFWC (General Federation of Women's Clubs), she assists with fund-raising for the library." (Olivia is a member of the GFWC Progress club, which holds an annual benefit at the library.) The article concludes, "Olivia is a great example of 'lifelong learning'.. She learned to swim at the age of 74!"

Speaking of our local women, it's interesting to note that both the Rotary and Lions clubs have been headed by a couple of capable and energetic young ladies the past year. Carolyn Briegge has completed her term as president of the Lions club, where her dad, Gene Wood, is a stalwart member, and Lois Malget has ended her year at the helm of the Rotary club. As a member of the latter organization, I can attest to the excellent service provided by Lois, and I also know that Carolyn did the same for the Lions. Carolyn was the first of her gender to be handed the Lions gavel, while the Rotarians broke the ice by installing Donna Occhipinti Yost as president for 1994-95. The local Rotary club newsletter points out that women were first admitted to the international organization in 1987 and they are now the fastest-growing segment of Rotary's membership. Congratulations to Lois and Carolyn, and belatedly to Donna, for the completion of their year in what used to be an all-male field.



July 24, 2001

Here's something for those who rely on answering machines to receive phone calls from time to time. You know who you are. Perhaps others may be interested, so everyone is welcome to read on. The following offers some clever, comical, even fanciful messages for those machines. I am told that all of these have been authenticated by the "world famous International Institute of Answering Machine Messages." Maybe your personal message needs to be updated or refreshed. If so, feel free to select one of these as a substitute, or use them as a source of inspiration for something original. You can probably think of funnier messages. Anyway, hot off the internet by e-mail, here they are:

"My wife and I can't come to the phone right now, but if you'll leave your name and phone number, we'll get back to you as soon as we're finished."

"Hello. You are talking to a machine. I am capable of receiving messages. My owners do not need siding, windows or a hot tub, and their carpets are clean. They give to charity at the office and don't need their picture taken. If you're still with me, leave your name and home phone number and they will get back to you."

"This is not an answering machine - this is a telepathic thought-recording device. After the tone, think about your name, your number, and your reason for calling, and I'll think about returning your call."

"Hi! John's answering machine is broken. This is his refrigerator. Please speak very slowly, and I'll stick your message to myself with one of these magnets."

"Hi. This is John. If you are the phone company, I already sent the money. If you are my parents, please send money. If you are my bank, you didn't lend me enough money. If you are my friends, you owe me money. If you are a female, don't worry. I have LOTS of money."

"A is for academics, B is for beer. One of these reasons is why we're not here. So, leave a message."

"Hello. If you leave a message, I'll call you soon. If you leave a sexy message, I'll call sooner."

"Hi. Now YOU say something."

"Hi. I'm probably home, I'm just avoiding someone I don't like. Leave me a message. And if I don't call back, it's you."

And the Number One actual answering machine message recorded and verified by the "world famous" institute is this:

"Hello. You've reached Jim and Sonya. We can't pick up the phone right now because we're doing something we really enjoy. We're brushing our teeth. Sometimes we do it up and down, sometimes left to right. Leave a message, and when we're through brushing, we'll call you back."

Now, if you buy into any of this, let me know. I've got some waterfront property on Laird's Lake that I'd like to discuss. But please don't call me at home. My answering machine is out of order.



July 27, 2001

Let's play "Remember When," using that as an excuse for a fond backward look at some of the things we used to see and do in our daily life here in Perry, Oklahoma. Today's topic deals with the dance halls that provided recreation for several generations of local residents.

Lawrence Welk and his "Champagne" music-makers scaled unbelievable heights of popularity in the 1960s and 1970s through his weekly hour on a national TV network. But did you know that some years ago they also appeared in Noble county? Many younger people are becoming familiar with the Welk organization through the OETA (Oklahoma Educational Television Association) which provides a weekly one-hour show made up of remarks by some of excerpts from the old show with a few introductory remarks by some of the performers.

My friend Ernie Voise tells me that Mr. Welk and his orchestra once played for a dance in Bohemian Hall, north of Perry on old U.S. 77. The time period would have been prior to World War II, when all kinds of dance music were popular. Mr. Welk offered dancers a selection of musical styles, with a strong accent on polkas. Bohemian Hall also was the meeting place for many organizations in that community, including the Foster lodge of the Anti-Thief Association. The ATA once was a large and popular group, thanks largely to the efforts of Ralph Vance. He had been a national treasurer of the ATA, which began in the early days as "the Anti-Horse Thief Association." The old wooden building is still there but with a different name and, as far as I know, no dances. But I digress.

Another major dance palace in this area was located a short distance east of Perry on U.S. 64, and it was known as "Tom's Hall." The owner-operator, as I recall, was the late Tom Meshek. The venue also provided live bands playing a wide variety of styles. Saturday night dances at Tom's Hall were immensely popular. The building was a large one-story frame structure,

sitting perhaps 50 yards off the highway. That space provided a parking area for cars and pickups, and quite a few folks who parked there but didn't want to dance just rolled down the windows and watched and listened. That was pretty entertaining and it didn't cost a nickel. Eventually the building burned down and it was never rebuilt. And who can forget the 77 Drive-In dance floor in the Cain Hotel, operated by Daisy Cain? A nickelodeon provided the music and corn starch kept the floor slick.

Several more like Tom's Hall were scattered around the Perry area. Simmons Barn, south of town, had a large and very well-patronized dance floor. The music was largely country and Western, even before those styles captivated the fancy of other regions. Among others, Merl (Salathiel) Lindsay's band played there, and that was one of the most popular bands performing in this state, along with Bob Wills – and his Texas Playboys, including Johnny Lee Wills and guitarist Leon ("Take It Away Leon") McAuliffe. Those name bands always drew crowds of dancers and just plain lookers. Some of them also played for public dances at the armory.

At Lake Laird, a dreamy little pond that delighted swimmers and sun-bathers in the daylight hours, a wooden pavilion covered with tar paper also became a dance hall on Saturday nights and on special occasions. A series of nationally known musical stars was just beginning when the building burned down in the early 1940s, never to rise again from the ashes. Last I heard, the original Ink Spots were booked there for a weekend show, but that never happened. Liquor was still illegal in Oklahoma and there was talk that a few local prohibitionists torched the place because they believed some of the couples were brown-bagging containers of the demon rum into the place. Remember the Cottonwood Club, nestled in a grove of cottonwoods just off the curve at the east edge of town? Wasn't George Dixon the operator there? And who can forget Eve's Tavern, operated by Eve Stanislav at the U.S. 77 curve on the northeast edge of town?

Ivan Kennedy had a roller rink at 623 Elm street and it became a dance hall on weekends when the Merl Lindsay or Bob Wills bands were available.

It was popular with skaters during the week and with dancers on weekends. A few years later Mr. Kennedy moved his roller rink/dance hall to the middle of the block on Seventh street between Delaware and Elm. It was right across the street from the Kennedy Tire Shop building of earlier years. Those are some of the places that attracted dancers back in the era of slow dancing and jitterbugging. Those styles and the music that accompanied them eventually fell from favor and the old dance halls were converted to other uses. Looking back from this perspective, it seems like a pity. Even for those who didn't care to dance, it was a time to see friends you didn't run into every day.



July 31, 2001

The approach of September gets the juices flowing with renewed velocity as we await the arrival of that wonderful time of year known as Football Season! This is not to denigrate softball, baseball, soccer, track, swimming, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, golf, tennis, horseshoe pitching, or the sport du jour, and all the others. I also applaud them and those who take part in them. Tennis used to be my particular personal favorite before the legs gave out, and I have grandchildren who take gymnastics, others who play baseball, softball, soccer and basketball I root for all of them. They are great for participants and spectators alike, but the old chest ticker just seems to beat a little faster and the sports page becomes infinitely more interesting when media coverage devotes time to gridiron teams and individual players, from grade school through the collegiate and NFL ranks. Now's the time to study schedules, read the pre-season selections, and anticipate

the start of another season for the Perry Maroons, Oklahoma State Cowboys, defending national champion Oklahoma Sooners, and all the others we love to watch. Boy, this is going to be great fun. Let's sing the National Anthem and holler Play Ball! It's time to kick it off.

Inevitably, a new season also turns our minds back far enough to recall some of the great moments and the great players from days gone by. At least it does that for me. While doing a little research recently on another topic, I was privileged to have a peek at some clippings that relate to one of the greatest athletes who ever wore the maroon and white uniforms of Perry high school. John St.Clair distinguished himself and our local school with his prowess not only on the gridiron, but on the wrestling mat as well. For starters, he was the first Perry Maroon to win an officially recognized individual state championship. He earned that honor in 1942 by defeating all his opponents in the 142-pound class at the state tournament. It was the first state tournament sanctioned by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association and the Maroons as a team placed third behind No. 1 Tulsa Central and No. 2 Blackwell. The OSSAA is the organization that oversees high school sports in this state. PHS has produced many sterling wrestlers through the years and some of them came along before John, but his title was the first to receive official recognition. He trumped that distinction by coming back one year later, as a senior at PHS, to win a second state championship at 145 pounds.

John also was a two-year starter at center on Coach Harold Daniels' Perry high school football team. As a senior in 1943, he was named a member of the North squad on the Oklahoma high school all-state football team. The clippings reveal that some other talented Oklahoma prep stars were chosen that year. Maybe you've heard of these two from the South squad -- Darrell Royal of Hollis, quarterback; and Norman McNabb of Norman, tackle. After World War II, both played for Coach Bud Wilkinson at OU. Familiar names on the North squad were Leon Simmons of Enid, tackle; Warren Nichols of Watonga, quarterback; Kenneth Roof of Thomas, halfback; and Bob Fenimore of Woodward, fullback. Warren (Bud) Nichols was a 16-year-old senior and an A student that year and he later succeeded Coach Daniels at the helm here.

Missing selection to the All-State team by an eyelash were these two from Perry: fullback Sidney Berry and quarterback Dayle Lynch. Vernon Snell of the *Daily Oklahoman* sports staff called both of them "sterling backs."

Perry has a lot of sports heroes and a glorious record in many sports. John St.Clair was a contributor to all that and he deserved all the laurels that were awarded him. With a new school year and a new football season looming straight ahead, you have to wonder who will be the next ones to achieve in like manner.