

Chapter 15

War and Peace



In this chapter:

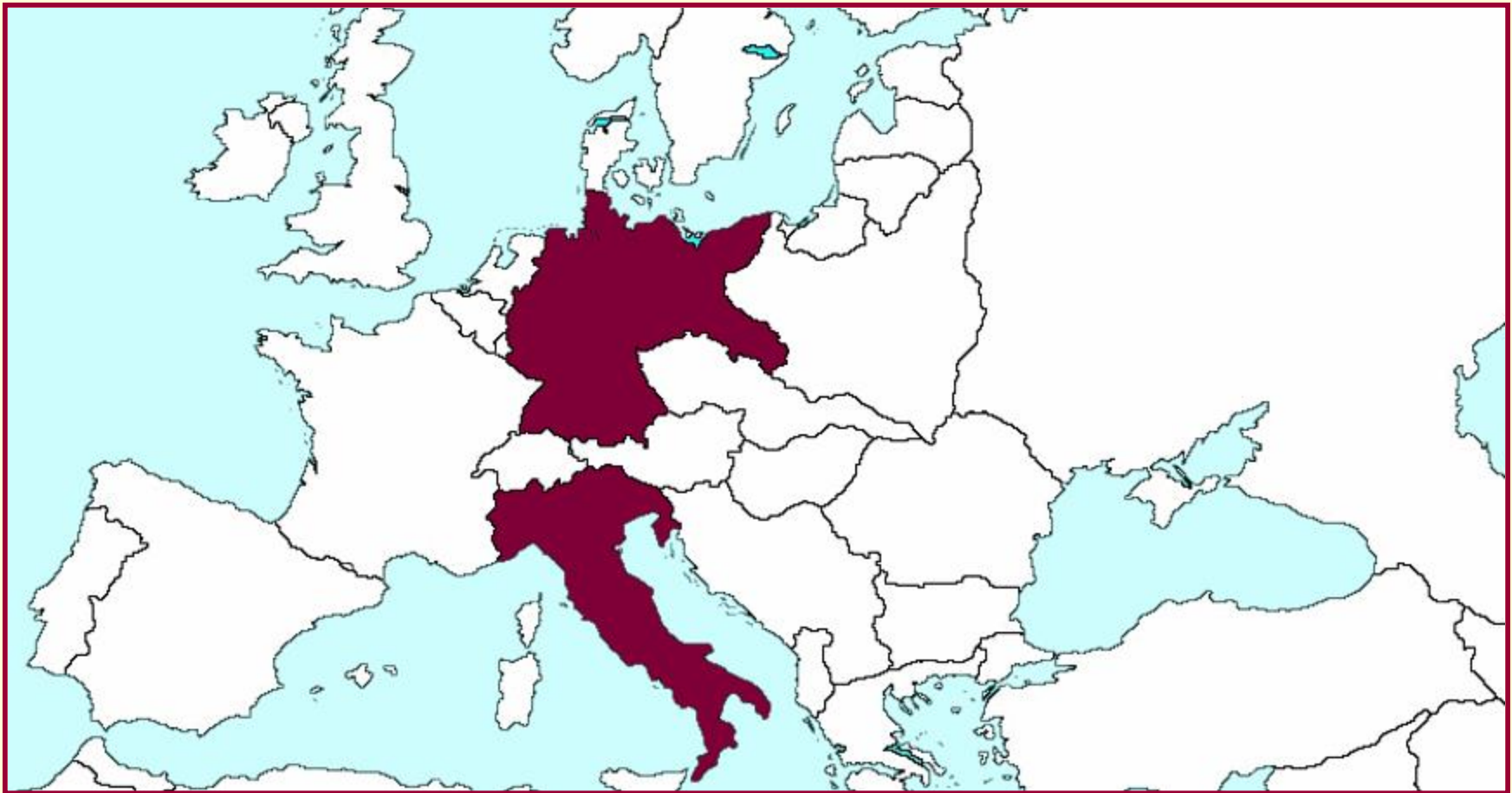
- ❖ *Just 20 years after “The War to End All Wars,” the world will be plunged into a second global conflict, and once again, Oklahoma’s contributions will help guide the United States to victory.*
- ❖ *The Postwar Era will reshape the geography, culture, and social beliefs of our state.*
- ❖ *Technology will become part of everyday life, and will even send Oklahomans into space.*

Section 1: World War II



In the late 1930s, Germany and Italy were led by dictators, or rulers with complete control.

Each believed the best way out of the Great Depression was to expand their borders and gain new resources.





*In Italy, Benito Mussolini
came to power in 1922.
He led a political party
known as the Fascists.*

*Adolf Hitler
and the Nazi Party
gained control of
Germany in 1933.*





Japan was an island nation that lacked the basic raw materials it needed to become a world power.

In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria, a Chinese province, to gain access to its vast amounts of iron ore and coal.

The Japanese also took Taiwan.

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. World War II had begun.

"All the News That's
Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

EXTRA

Partly cloudy and somewhat warmer today. Tomorrow generally fair with moderate temperatures. Temperature Forecast—Mon., 67; Tue., 61.

VOL. LXXXVIII...No. 29,808. NEW YORK, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1939. THREE CENTS

GERMAN ARMY ATTACKS POLAND; CITIES BOMBED, PORT BLOCKADED; DANZIG IS ACCEPTED INTO REICH

BRITISH MOBILIZING

Army Raised to Its Full
Strength, Army and Air
Reserves Called Up

PARLIAMENT IS CONVOKED

Midnight Meeting Is Held by
"Ministers—Negotiations
Admitted Failure

By the Associated Press
LONDON, Friday, Sept. 1.—The
House of Commons was summoned
to meet today at 9 P. M. (13 noon
New York).

British Call Up Forces
By FRANKLAND KEMER Jr.
Special Cable to The New York Times.
LONDON, Friday, Sept. 1.—All
through the night direct re-
ports from Germany and
which appeared to have broken
out tonight as direct reports
showed the first to full strength,
and other decisive propo-
sitions close to the front and began
moving 1,000,000 school children
all invaders from the crowded cit-

Bulletins on Europe's Conflict

London Hears of Warsaw Bombing
LONDON, Friday, Sept. 1 (AP).—Reuters British news
agency said it had learned from Polish sources in Paris that
Warsaw was bombed today.

French Confirm Beginning of War
PARIS, Friday, Sept. 1 (AP).—The Havas news agency
said today that official French dispatches from Germany
indicated that "the Reich began hostilities on Poland this
morning."

The agency also reported that the Polish Embassy here
had announced that "Germany violated the Polish frontier at
four points."

"German reports of pretended violations of German territory
by Poland are pure invention, as is the tale of 'attack'
by Polish insurgents on Gdansk," the embassy announcement
said.

Attack on Entire Front Reported
LONDON, Friday, Sept. 1 (AP).—A Reuters dispatch
from Paris said:

"The following is given with all reserve: According to
unconfirmed reports received here, the Germans have begun
an offensive with extreme violence on the whole Polish front."

First Wounded Brought Into Gdansk
GLENWITTE, Germany, Friday, Sept. 1 (AP).—An army
ambulance carrying wounded soldiers arrived at the emer-
gency hospital here today at 9:10 A. M.

The men, carried in a wagon, were on stretchers. One had
a first-aid field bandage. It could not be ascertained where
the ambulance came from.

At about 9:30 a half-mile long truck train manned by

HOSTILITIES BEGUN

Warsaw Reports German
Offensive Moving on
Three Objectives

ROOSEVELT WARNS NAVY

Also Notifies Army Leaders of
Warfare—Envoys Tell of
Bombing of 4 Cities

By JERRY SEAPERS
Special Cable to The New York Times.
WARSAW, Poland, Friday, Sept. 1.—War began at 5 o'clock this
morning with German planes at-
tacking Gdynia, Gdansk and Ko-
sczyn.
At Gdynia three bombs exploded
in the sea.
The regular German Army started
an advance in the direction of
Gdansk, Gdynia, Gdansk and Ko-
sczyn. The German plan ap-
parently is to cut off Warsaw by
land along the line of Danzig, Ko-
sczyn, Gdansk and Gdynia.
The offensive is developing. From
East Prussia, toward Gdansk and
northward from Slovakia.

FREE CITY IS SEIZED

Forster Notifies Hitler of
Order Putting Danzig
Into the Reich

ACCEPTED BY CHANCELLOR

Polish Ready, Made Their
Preparations After Hostilities
Appeared Inevitable

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE NEW YORK TIMES.
DANZIG, Friday, Sept. 1.—Dr. A.
Giese, mayor of this morning
Albert Forster, Reich Chief of State,
contained the announcement of the
Free City to the Reich, thus ending
by a full stroke the original point of
contention in the international
arena.
In a telegram to Chancellor Hitler
Forster explained his ac-
tion as necessary to remove "the
existing necessity of our people and
State." Herr Forster also issued a
proclamation to the people of Dan-
zig stating the hour awaited for
"they shall be armed because
our Father, Adolf Hitler, has
ordered us."

Hitler Acts Against Poland

A map of Poland and surrounding regions. It shows the Baltic Sea to the north, Germany to the west, and Czechoslovakia to the south. Key cities marked include Berlin, Prague, Gdansk, Danzig, Poznan, Lodz, Breslau, and Warsaw. The map also shows the Vistula River and the Baltic Sea. The text 'GERMANY' is written vertically on the left, and 'UPPER SILESIA' is written at the bottom right.

HITLER GIVES WORD

In a Proclamation He
Accuses Warsaw of
'Appeal to Arms'

FOREIGNERS ARE WARNED

They Remain in Poland at Own
Risk—Nazis to Shoot at Any
Planes Flying Over Reich

By OTTO D. TOLZSCHER
Special Cable to The New York Times.
BERLIN, Friday, Sept. 1.—
Charging that Germany had been
attacked, Chancellor Hitler at 8:15
today this morning issued a pro-
clamation to the army declaring
that from now on there will be no
with force and calling on all
armed forces "to fulfill their duty
to the Reich."
The text of the proclamation
reads:
"To the German people:
The Polish nation refused any
efforts for a peaceful regulation of
neighborly relations; instead it
has appeared to wage war."

*But German air raids on Great Britain failed.
In five weeks, the Nazis lost more than 1,900 aircraft.*



*Most Americans wanted to stay out of the war,
so Congress had passed neutrality laws in the 1930s.*



*But President Roosevelt
began to realize that
U.S. involvement
was inevitable.*

*The government
initiated the first
peacetime military
draft in September 1940.*

The U.S. had reduced oil exports to slow Japanese expansion in the Pacific, but the effort failed.

Japan joined Germany and Italy in an alliance called The Axis Powers.



Negotiations between the U.S. and Japan broke down.

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands.



One of the first ships torpedoed was the U.S.S. Oklahoma, which rolled on its side in the shallow waters of the harbor.

429 officers and enlisted men were killed.

Survivors scrambled aboard the U.S.S. Maryland, manned its anti-aircraft guns, and fired back at the attacking planes.



*Roosevelt called the December 7th attack
“a date that will live in infamy.”
Congress declared war on Japan on December 8th,
and on Germany and Italy three days later.*

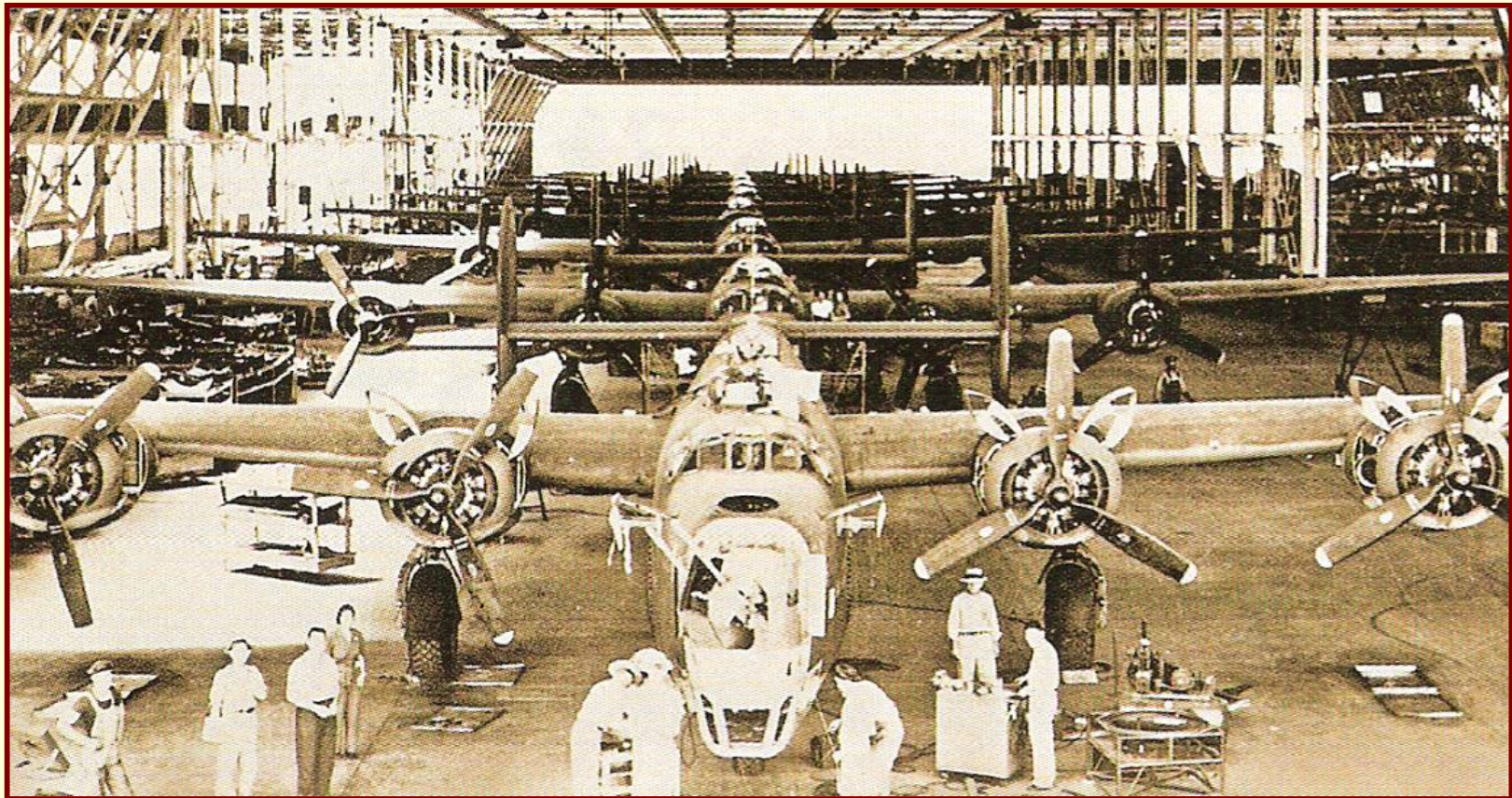
*The U.S. joined the Allied Powers, which included
the United Kingdom, France, Poland, Norway, Belgium,
the Netherlands, the Soviet Union, China, and Brazil.*



The War Department began building weapons factories and maintenance sites.

Midwest Air Depot opened in January, 1942. It was renamed Tinker Field in 1948.

*Clarence Tinker was the first Native American general in the U.S. Army.
He was killed in combat during the War.*



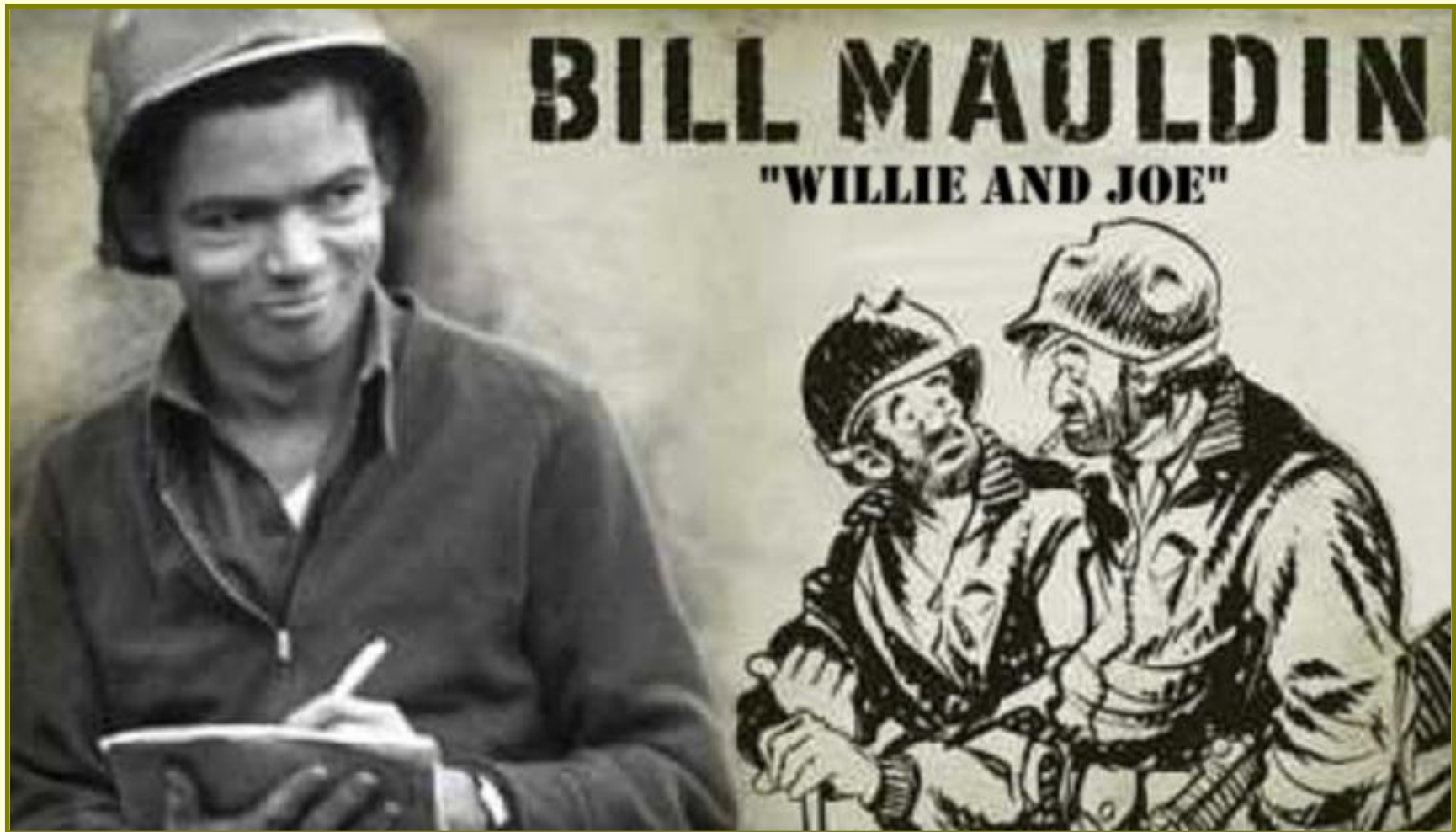
**Almost 500,000 Oklahomans went to war,
many from the state's National Guard.**



**The 45th Infantry
Division
were known as
The Thunderbirds,
and saw heavy
fighting in Europe.**

*More than 20,000 of its men
lost their lives and eight
received the Medal of Honor.*

In 1945, Bill Mauldin, a cartoonist in the 45th, won the Pulitzer Prize for his wartime work.





*"Spring
is here."*

**Texans and Oklahomans formed the 90th Infantry.
They called themselves the “Tough ‘Ombres.”**

They fought at Utah Beach on D-Day and later at the Battle of the Bulge.



Native American Code Talkers were used in Europe.

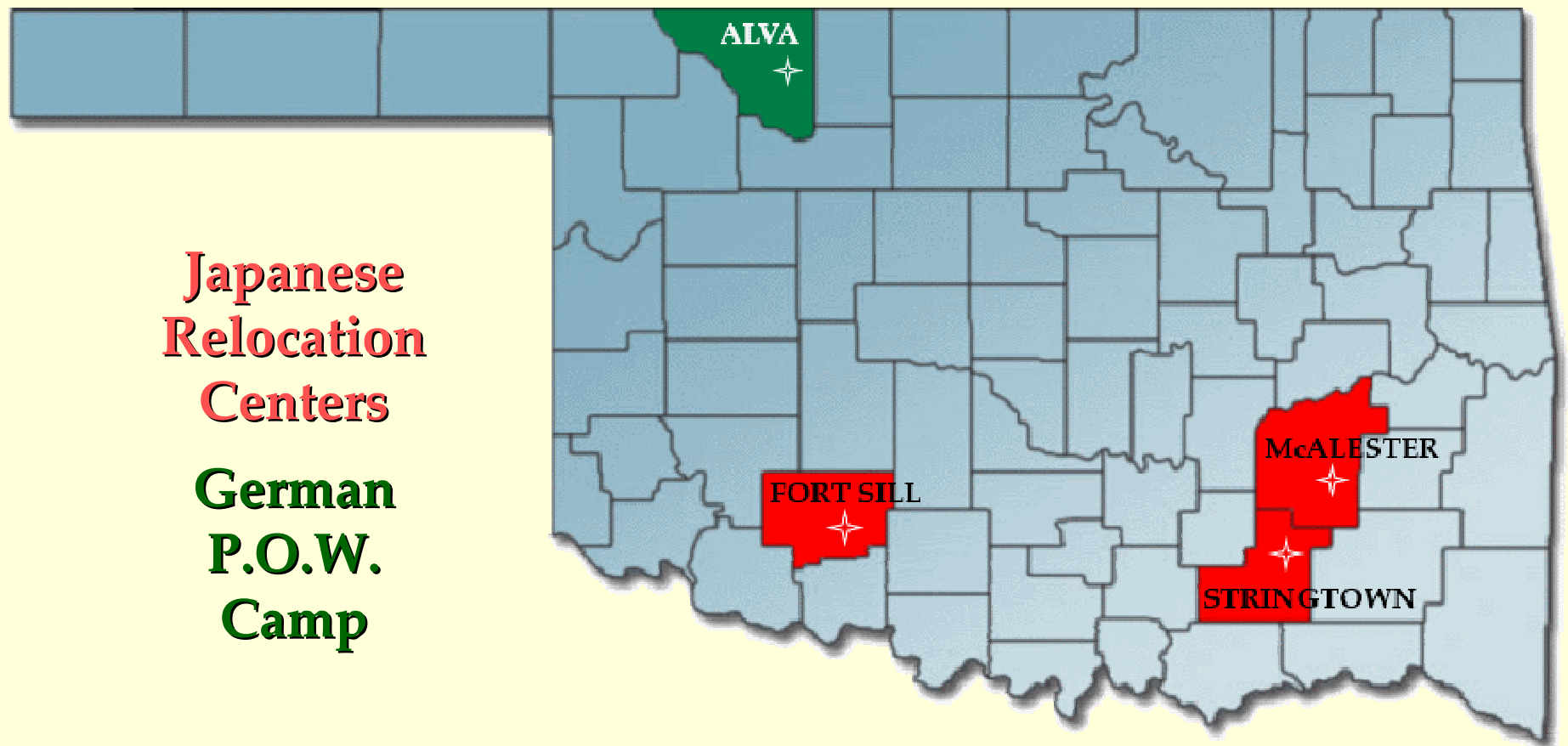
Oklahoma tribes who served included the Comanche, Cherokee, Choctaw, Cheyenne, Muscogee Creek, Kiowa, Osage, Pawnee, Seminole, and Sac and Fox.



After Pearl Harbor, many Japanese-Americans were sent to “Relocation Centers” for security.

Three of these centers were in Fort Sill, McAlester, and Stringtown.

There was also a Prisoner of War Camp for captured Germans in Alva.



When the men went off to war, America's women again went to work in the factories.

They were personified by a character who was known as "Rosie the Riveter."



Ration books limited the supply of certain things like food, clothing, oil and gas, and other items.

HOW TO SHOP WITH WAR RATION BOOK TWO

... to Buy Canned, Bottled and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables;
Dried Fruits, Juices and all Canned Soups



1. **USE THIS RATION BOOK.** You may use one or all of your family's ration books when you shop. You may not shop with loose ration stamps.



2. **USE BLUE STAMPS ONLY.** All blue point stamps marked A, B, and C are good during the first ration period. They add up to 48 points for each member of the family.



3. **THE NUMBERS SHOW POINTS.** You will not be able to get "change" in point stamps, so save your low-value stamps for buying low-point foods.



4. **LOOK AT THE POINT VALUES** before you buy. Points have nothing to do with prices or quality. Point values will be the same in all stores.



5. **GIVE THE STAMPS TO YOUR GROCER.** Tear out stamps in the presence of your grocer—or tear them out in the presence of the delivery boy.



6. **FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES** are not rationed. Use them instead of rationed foods whenever possible. Try out recipes that make your rations go further.

YOUR POINT ALLOWANCE MUST LAST FOR THE FULL RATION PERIOD

Plan How Many Points You Will Use Each Time Before You Shop

BUY EARLY IN THE WEEK



Foods are going to our fighting men. They come first! Your ration gives you your fair share of the foods that are left.



BUY EARLY IN THE DAY





**Schools held scrap drives,
collecting old metal
to help the war effort.**

*Farm equipment that had been unused
since the Dust Bowl was recycled
to make battleships and planes.*

**People also planted
new Victory Gardens
and bought War Bonds.**

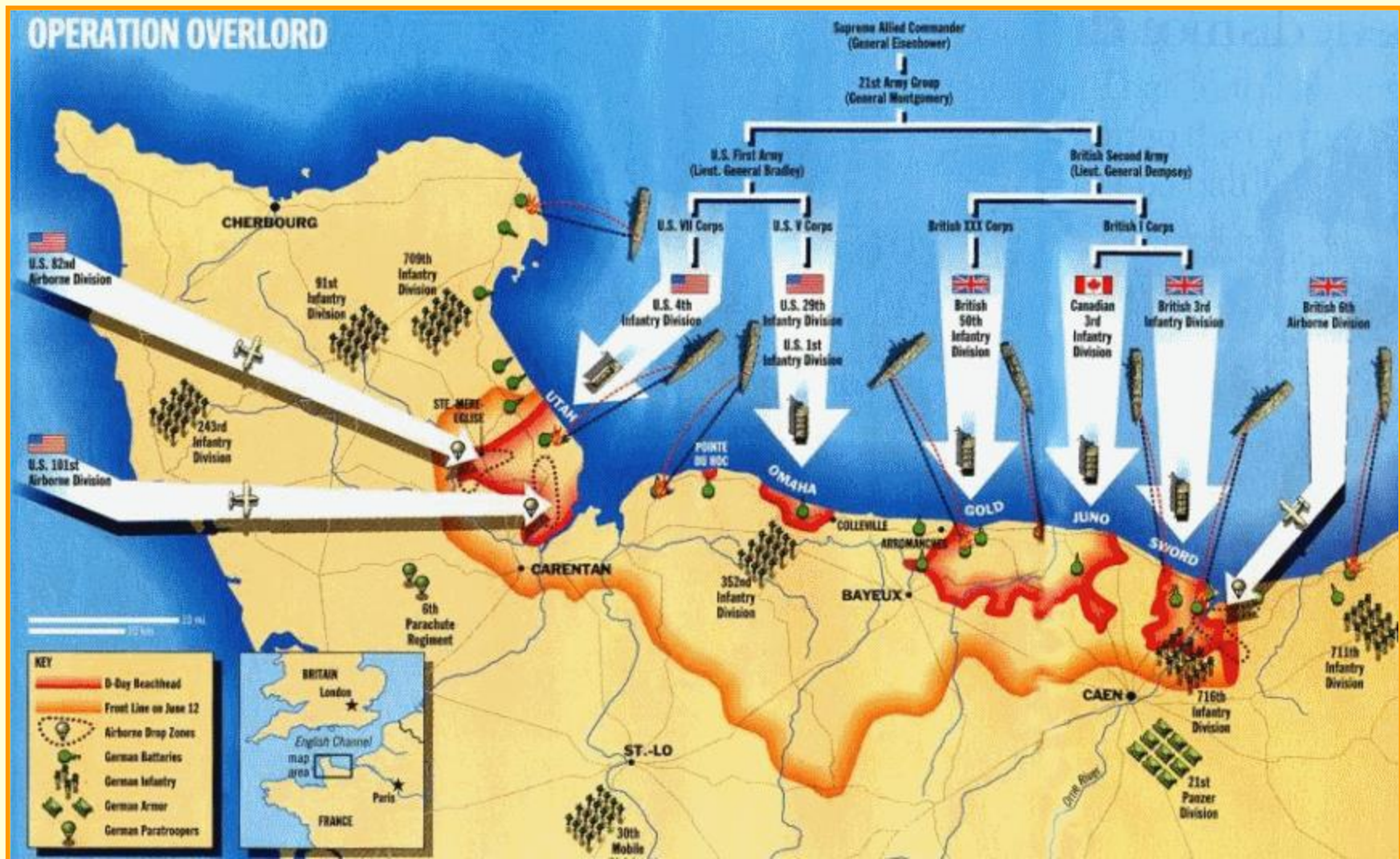
One bright spot stateside happened in 1943, when “Oklahoma!” premiered on Broadway.

It was based on the play
“Green Grow the Lilacs” by Lynn Riggs.



*The title
number
became our
state song
in 1953,
and the
musical was
filmed
in 1955.*

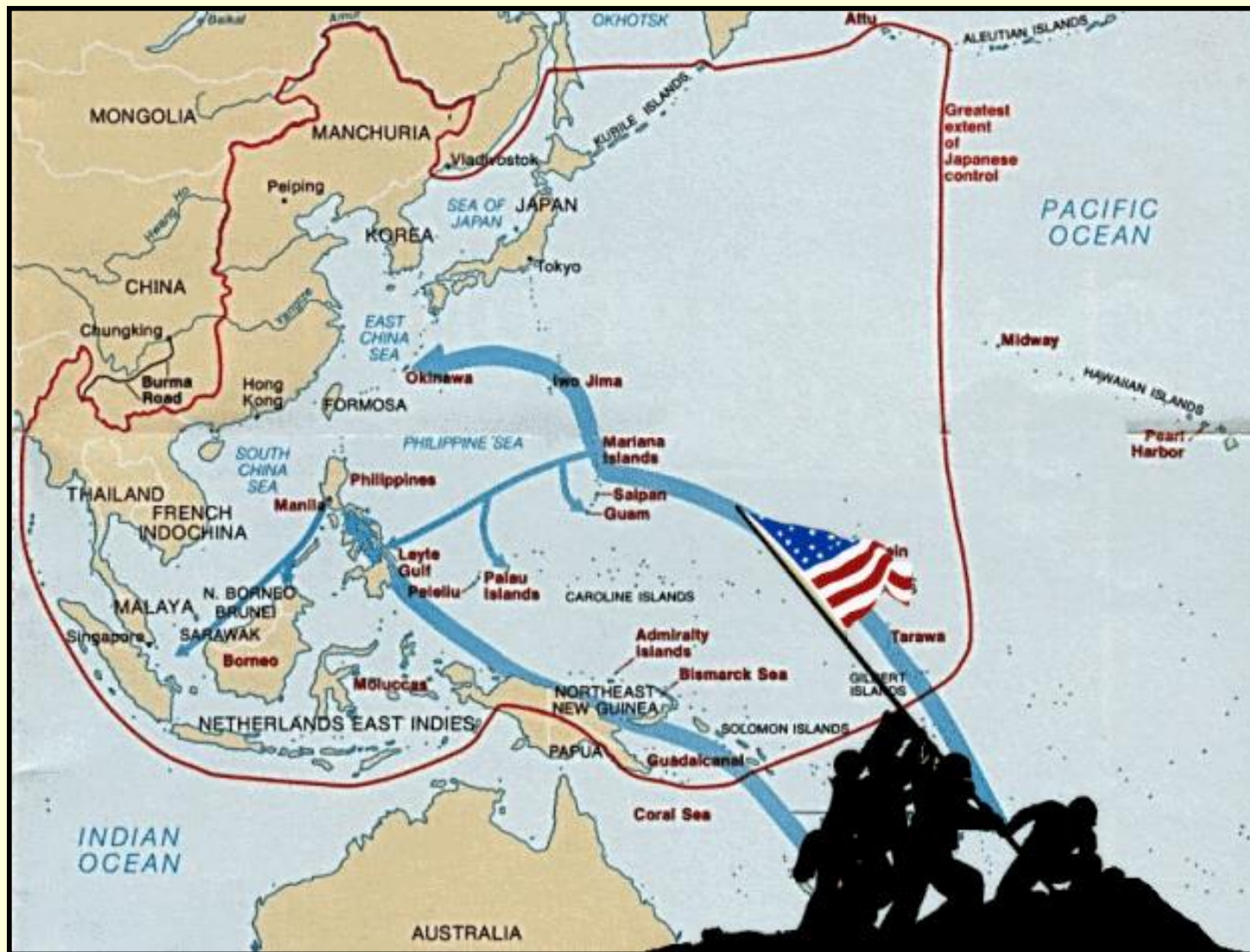
On June 6, 1944, the Allies stormed the beaches of Normandy in northwestern France.



*Nazi Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945,
proclaimed V-E Day (for “Victory in Europe”).
Japan, however, refused to give up.*



In the Pacific, the Allies liberated the East Indies and the Philippines, and raised the flag on Iwo Jima island.



President Roosevelt died of a stroke on April 12th, 1945.

Fearing an invasion of Japan would cause an enormous loss of American lives, the new president, Harry Truman, ordered an atomic bomb dropped on the city of Hiroshima.



More than 60,000 people were killed instantly.

But Japan still refused to surrender, and three days later a second bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. Another 40,000 died.



On August 15, Japan surrendered. The war was over.

More than 6,500 Oklahomans had been killed during the war, and 11,000 wounded.

Thirteen Oklahomans were awarded the Medal of Honor for their service.



Section 2: The Postwar Period





*In 1945,
millions of soldiers
returned home.*

**Life in Oklahoma was
different after the war.**

*For the first time,
a majority of people
no longer lived on
farms or in rural areas.*

**51% of the population
now lived in the cities.**

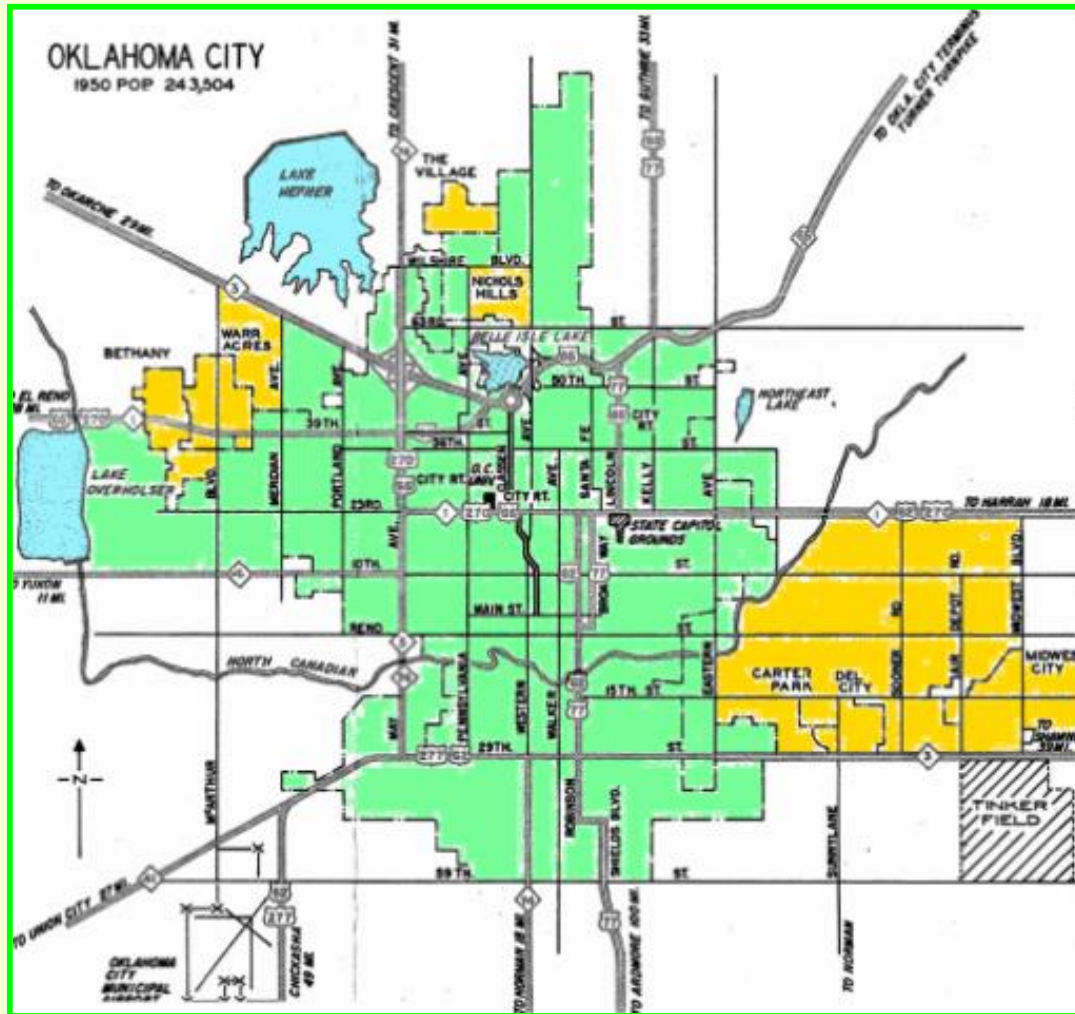
The Servicemen's Readjustment Act, known as The G.I. Bill of Rights, passed in 1944.

*It provided funding for education and training; home, farm, and business loans;
and unemployment and job search assistance.*

*"G.I." was a common term used for military veterans.
It actually meant "government issue."*



Developers began building blocks of houses, called suburbs, on the edges of existing cities.

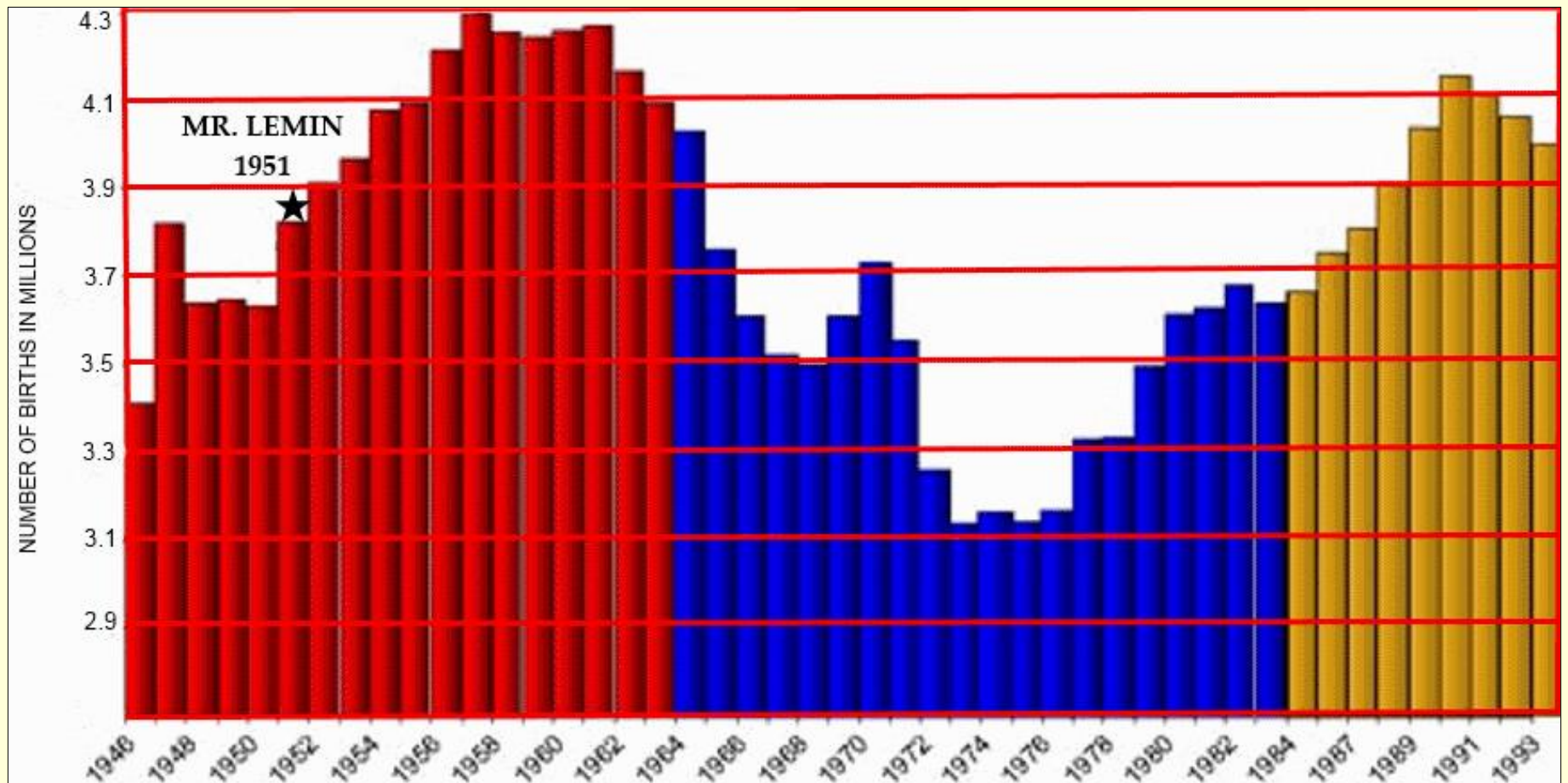


*Bethany,
Warr Acres,
Nichols Hills,
The Village,
Del City, and
Midwest City
expanded during
the late 1940s.*

*But smaller towns like Britton
completely disappeared.*

**Between 1946 and 1964, more than 78 million children were born in the United States.
This generation was called the Baby Boomers.**

More than 950,000 were born in Oklahoma.



**Although the state population was growing,
the number of school districts declined due to
consolidation, or joining of rural schools.**

In 1914, there were almost 6,000 state districts. Now, there are 524.

In Noble County, some of the actual buildings were moved to other towns.



*By 1962, 90% of America's households
had a black-and-white television.*

**Oklahoma City's first television station,
WKY-TV Channel 4, began broadcasting in 1949.**



*It was an NBC affiliate
and in 1990, it changed
its call letters
to KFOR.*

*One of the most popular
local programs was
"3-D Danny,"
with Danny Williams (right)
as the leader of the
Space Science Center
and John Ferguson as
his arch-enemy,
the evil Duke of Mukeden.*

*John Ferguson later created “Count Gregore,”
host of the late-night “Shock Theatre.”*

John and I have worked together on several productions in local theatre.

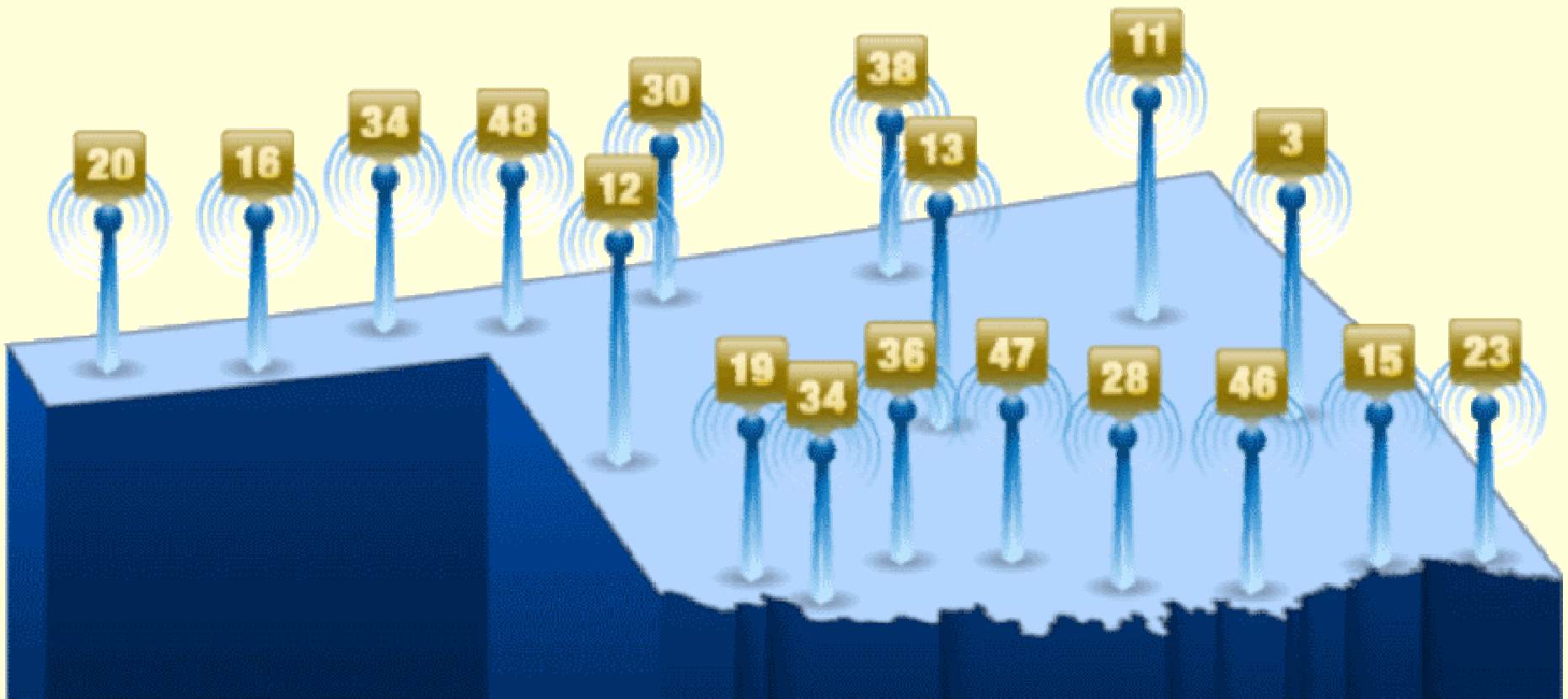


Oklahoma was first in the nation to provide a statewide educational television network.

KETA, Channel 13, began operating in 1953.

Today, it broadcasts with 17 other stations across the state.

The network is called the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA).



**Popular music changed forever
when Rock-and-Roll began.**

**Oklahoma City
radio station KOMA 1520
switched to a rock-and-roll
format in the 1950s.
It could be heard all over
the southwestern U.S.**

*Elvis Presley's early hit, "Heartbreak Hotel,"
was co-written by Oklahoman Mae Boren Axton.
Presley later recorded "Never Been to Spain,"
written by Axton's son, Hoyt.*



*Oilman Thomas Gilcrease opened a gallery
in Tulsa for his art collection in 1949.*

Today, the paintings and sculptures are showcased at the Gilcrease Museum.

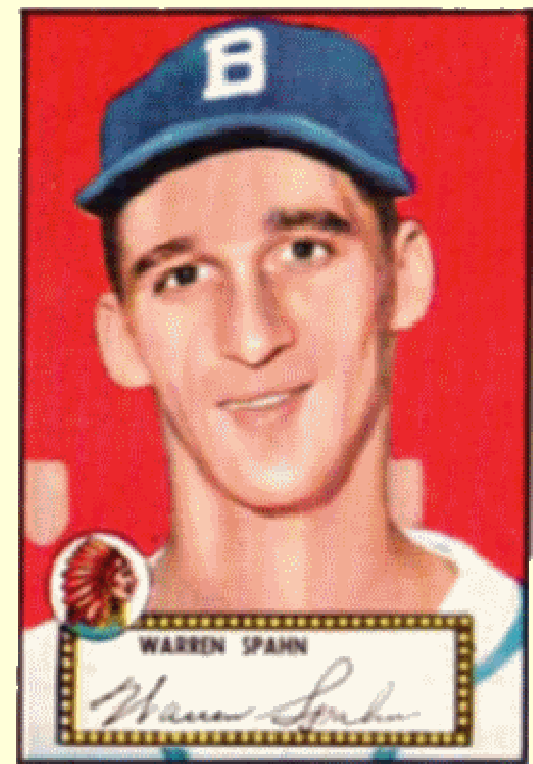
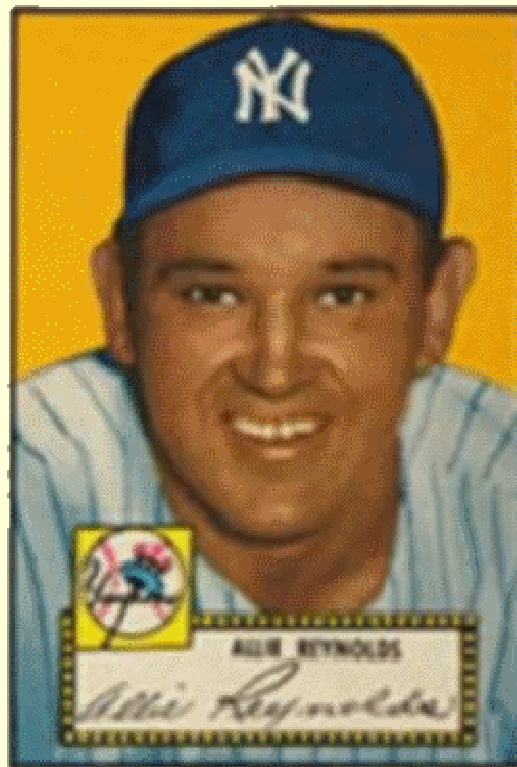
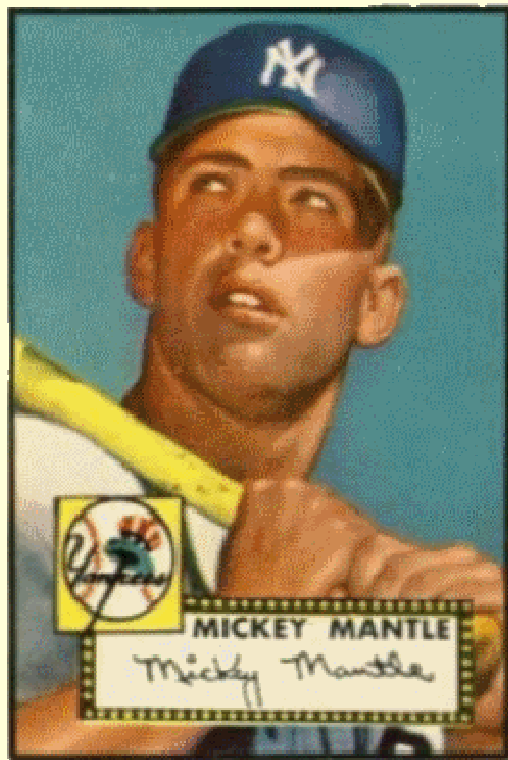


The Cowboy Hall of Fame was established in 1955.

Later, it became the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

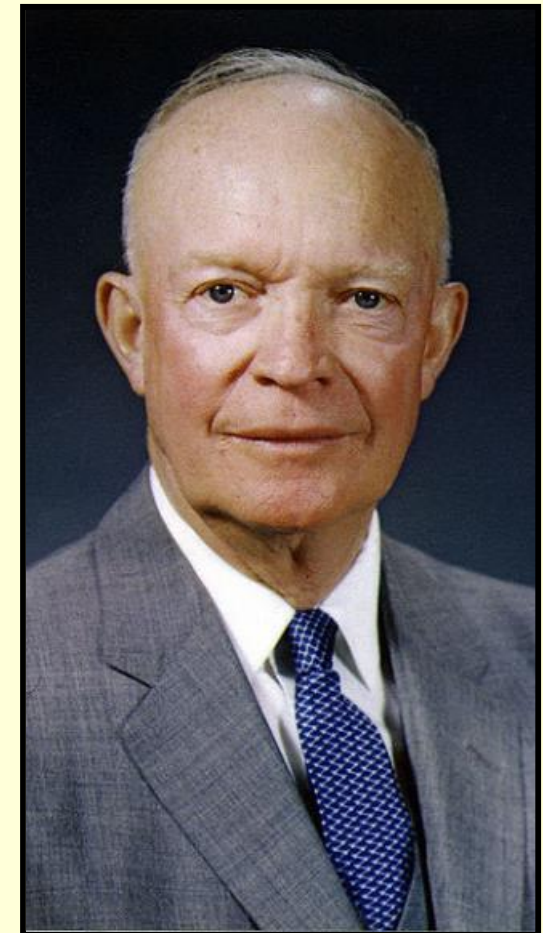


Baseball legends from Oklahoma included Mickey Mantle and Allie Reynolds, who both played for the New York Yankees, and Warren Spahn, who played for the Boston Braves.



In 1956, the federal government established the Interstate Highway System across the U.S.

The system was championed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.



The popularity of automobiles led to a new restaurant concept: eating in your car.

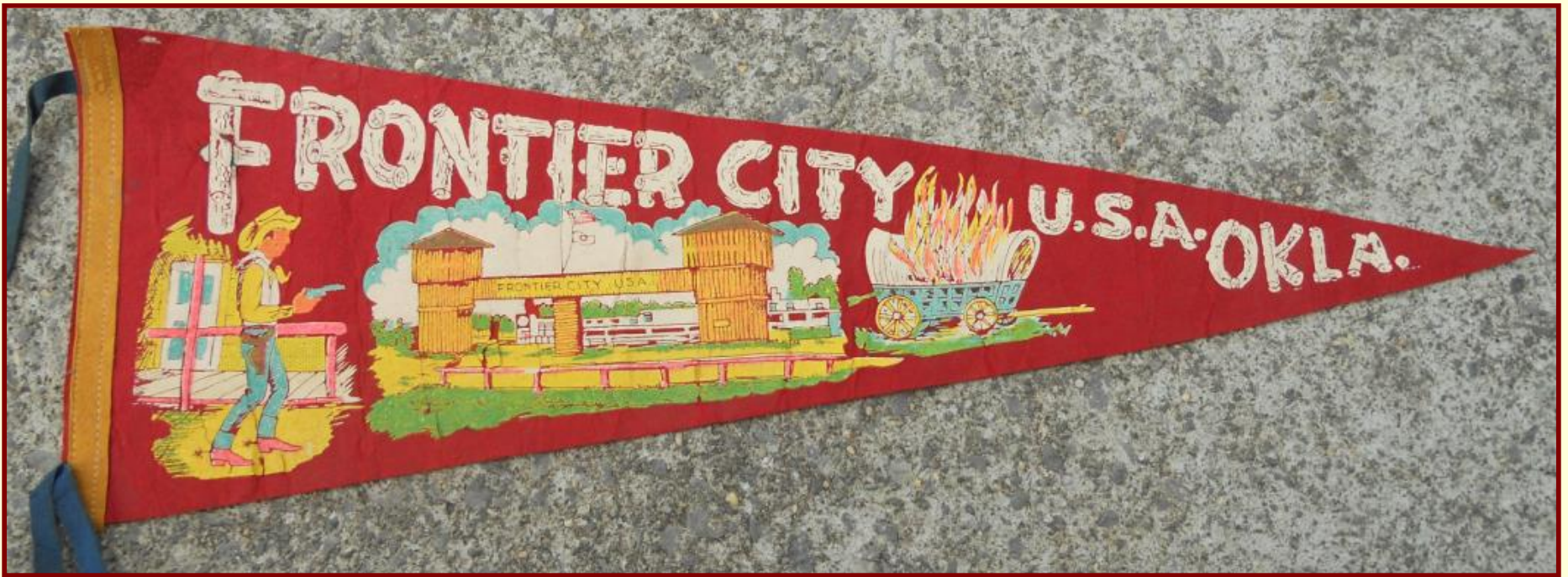
The Top Hat café in Shawnee changed its format and took on a new, space-age name: Sonic Drive In.



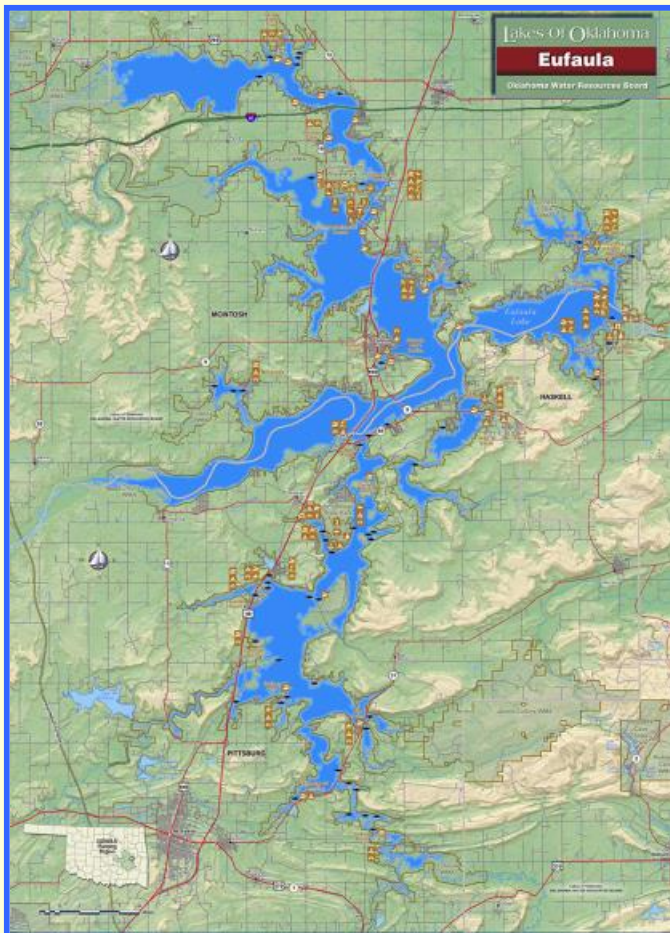
Amusement parks also boomed in the 1950s.

The most popular was Frontier City,
an Old West theme park in Oklahoma City.

*More than 30 new state parks were also built in the 1950s and 1960s,
including Alabaster Caverns in Woods County
and Black Mesa in Cimarron County.*



*Oklahoma also built dams for flood control, drinking water, irrigation, and recreation.
Lake Eufaula was created in 1956.*



Oklahoma's deadliest tornado struck Woodward on Wednesday, April 9, 1947, killing 116 people.

The F5 was nearly two miles wide and destroyed more than 1,000 structures.





*The following year,
Major Ernest Fawbush
and Captain Robert Miller
predicted the
atmospheric conditions
that indicated a tornado
would develop at
Tinker Air Force Base.*

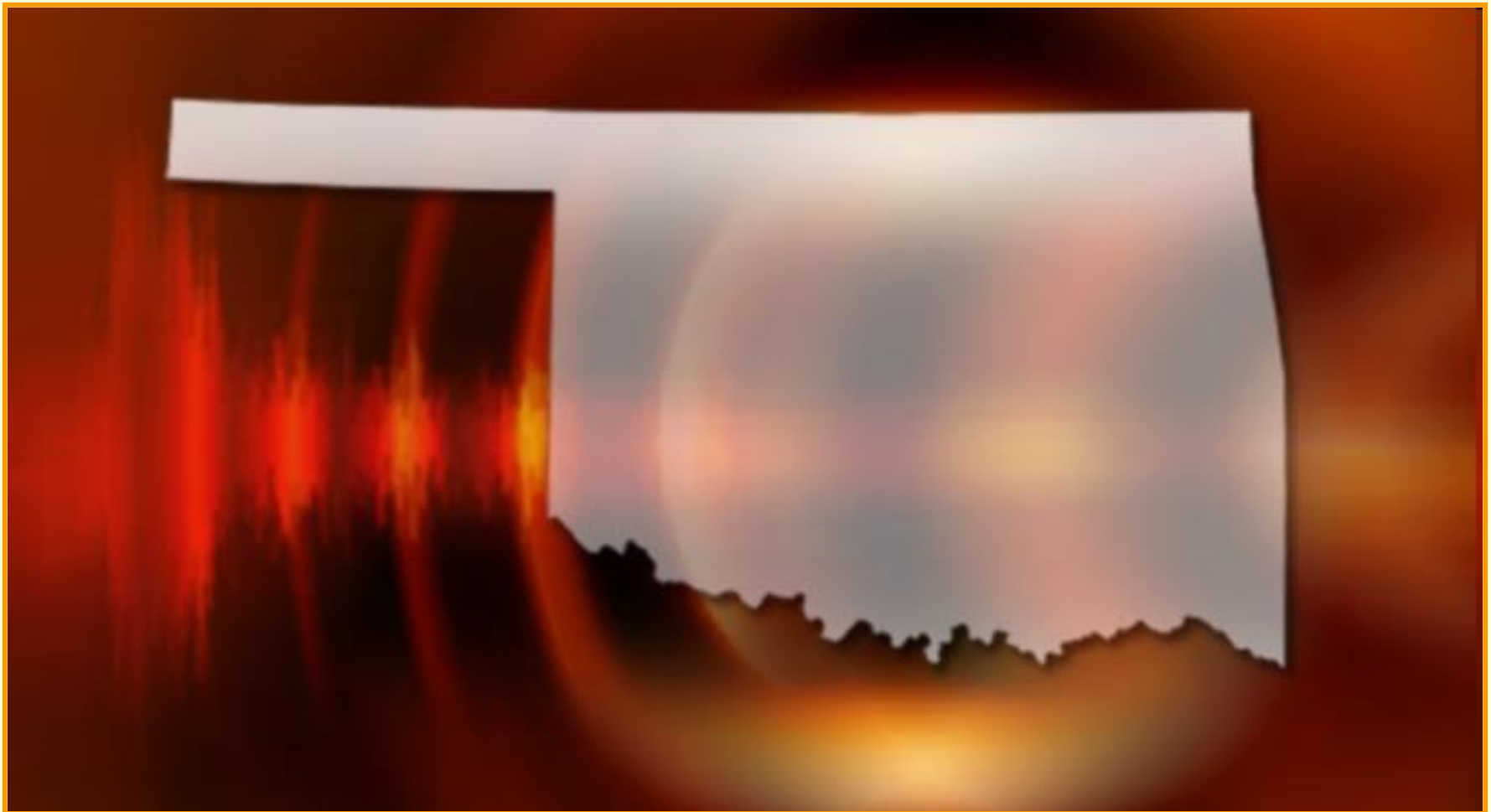
The two men observed weather patterns developing exactly as they had five days earlier, producing a tornado that had caused \$10 million damage.

It was the first successful tornado warning.



**Oklahoma has experienced multiple earthquakes,
including a magnitude 5.8 in Pawnee in 2016.**

Two others, at magnitudes 5.6 and 5.7, occurred in 1952 and in 2011.



Section 3: Social Change



*Two world powers emerged after World War II:
The United States and the Soviet Union.*



**Although the U.S.
and the U.S.S.R. were
allies against the Nazis,
the two countries engaged
in an ideological
“Cold War”:
democracy vs.
communism.**

It led to two wars in Southeast Asia.

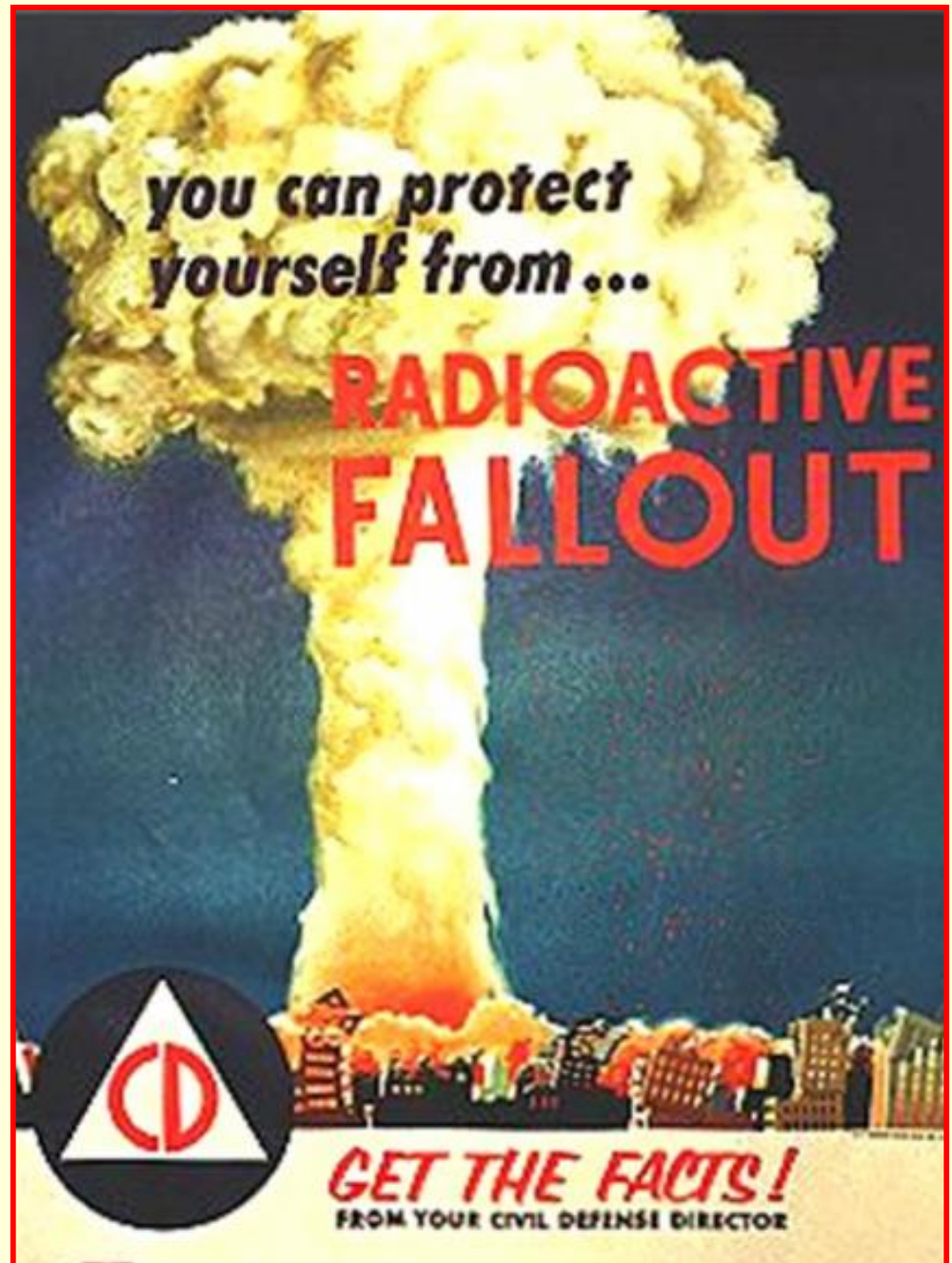
*Communist North Korea invaded South Korea
in 1950, and the conflict lasted three years.*

About 450 Oklahomans died while serving in the war.



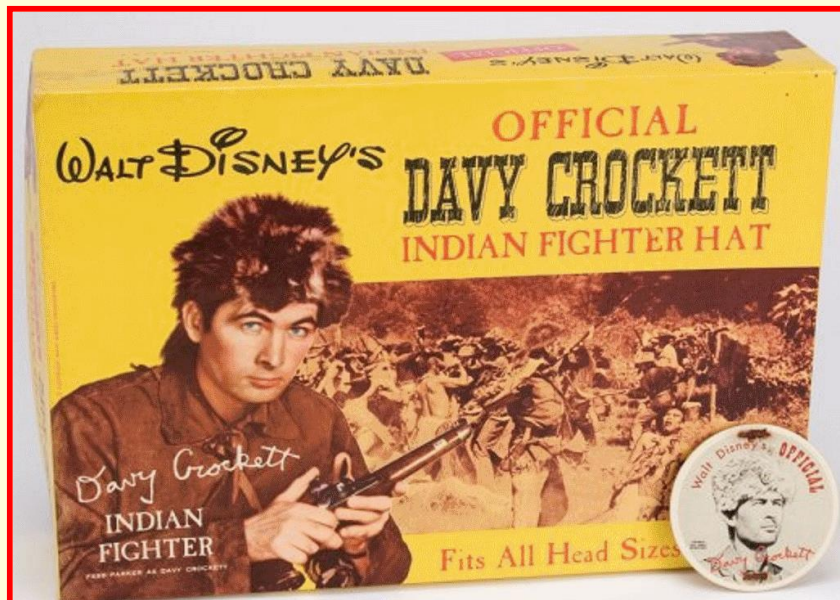
*Fear of nuclear war
created a great
deal of anxiety
in the 1950s.*

*People built
fallout shelters
and conducted
“Duck & Cover”
drills planned by
the Office
of Civil Defense.*



For children, activities included new toys like Legos, Davy Crockett "Indian Fighter hats," and Mr. Potato Head.

The original Mr. Potato Head used an actual potato or other vegetable!



Oklahoma's first native-born governor was Robert S. Kerr, who served from 1942-1946.

Kerr later served 15 years in the United States Senate.

His greatest legacy was the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.



**Roy J. Turner was governor from 1946-1950,
and authorized and began the construction
of the Turnpike that bears his name.**



In 1946, Ada Lois Sipuel, an honor graduate of Langston University, applied to the OU Law School.

*Due to state segregation laws,
she was denied admission.*

*She and her attorneys
Amos T. Hall (left) and
Thurgood Marshall (center) filed
a lawsuit against OU.*

*In 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court
ruled that black students
must be permitted to enroll
at previously all-white schools.*

*Her championing of civil rights
would help the country
overturn the old Jim Crow laws.*





**In 1950, Johnston Murray
was elected governor.**

He was the son of "Alfalfa Bill" Murray.

**During his tenure,
the fear of communism
prompted the state
government
to require a loyalty oath
of all state employees.**

*Also during his term, women gained
the right to serve on juries.*

New roads and the ongoing issue of segregation challenged the next governor, Raymond Gary.

Three branches of the Interstate highway system, I-35, I-40, and I-44, were being planned to cross Oklahoma.

At Gary's request, the State Regents called for desegregation in all public schools.



Clara Luper, a local history teacher, led one of the country's first "sit-ins" in 1958.



A sit-in occurs when a group of people enter a public facility and refuse to leave until their demands are met.

Luper and 12 others sat at the lunch counter at the Katz Drug Store and refused to leave.

The company eventually desegregated all its stores.

Luper participated in demonstrations for integration of cafeterias, churches, and amusement parks; marches; boycotts; and voter registration drives. She was arrested 26 times in her fight to end discrimination.



**Carl Albert, a Congressman from McAlester,
was Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
from 1971 to 1976.**



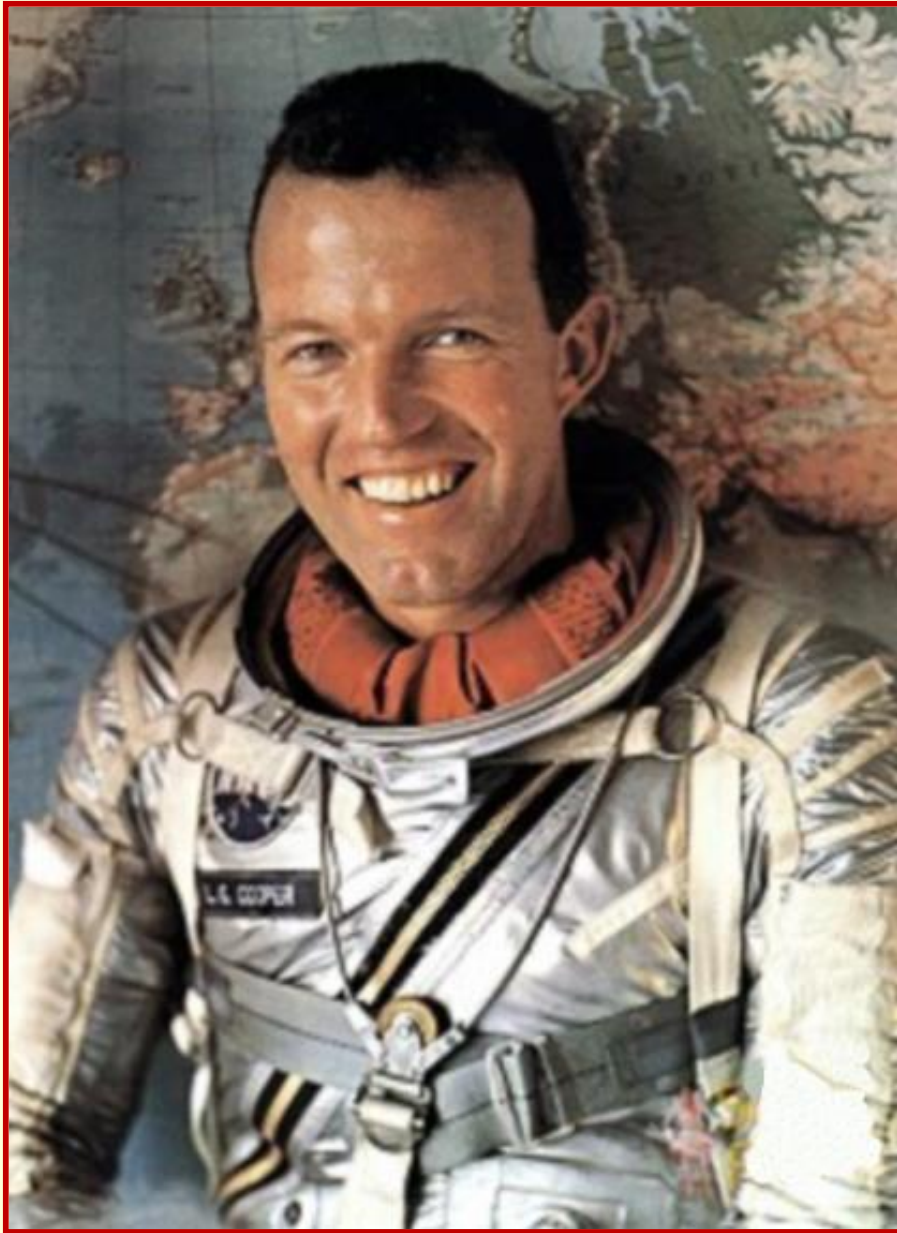
**He served the 3rd District
in eastern Oklahoma
for more than 30 years.**

*At only 5 feet 4 inches tall,
Albert was often referred to as
“The Little Giant from Little Dixie.”*

*He was speaker during the Watergate crisis.
Because of the sudden resignation of
Vice President Spiro Agnew in 1973,
Albert was next in line to become president
from October to December of that year.*

Americans were caught by surprise when the Soviets launched the Sputnik 1 satellite in 1957. The U.S. immediately joined the Space Race.





**The National
Aeronautics and
Space Administration
quickly created a
manned spaceflight
program called
Project Mercury.**

**One of the first
seven astronauts
was Oklahoman
Gordon Cooper.**

**The first woman to
complete NASA's
screening process
was Oklahoma's
Jerrie Cobb
(pictured here in
splashdown training).**

*Cobb had become a pilot at age 12,
but the government would not allow
women to fly military jets.
This rule excluded her from
the spaceflight program.*



*But a new song would be the anthem of the 1960s:
“The Times, They Are A-Changing.”*

