

Larkin Bailey

He became a member of the Bailey clan at birth in Niles, Michigan in 1898. Farming was a way of life for the Bailey family.

The Bailey's and children moved to Lacon, Illinois and continued farming. The next stop was Emmetsburg, Iowa in 1906 where Mr. Bailey senior was a successful buckwheat farmer.

The family farm home was three miles from town and with temperatures many times 20 below or so – and a 1 ½ mile walk to school for the young ones – the Bailey bunch decided to mark time until Spring, then head south. They landed in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Larkin, younger of two boys in the family, left his mark at every farming stop. He was following a Shetland pony on the farm near Lacon when he stumbled and fell. The pony, only a stride ahead, kicked up his heels – and a scar was implanted on the boy's head. Injury not bad and the incident was classified as fun.

This young man early showed tendencies for sharp business acumen. On the farm in Iowa, one of the peskiest pests was the muskrat. Because they'd make off with grain and other valuables, the state put a bounty of 15 cents on each muskrat hide. There's no bookkeeping record, but many a muskrat bit the dust and many a payment of 15 cents jangled in this sharp shooter's pockets as he rid the countryside – around the Bailey stake out – of the muskrat scourge.

This Wolverine's yen for sports made an early appearance. Cock fighting was illegal in the territorial and early Oklahoma statehood days. Yet –

Some Saturday afternoons, down at the coal bin near the railroad tracks off Main Street in Broken Arrow, there'd be a crowd of "kids" giving muffled whoops and cheerleading type arm gestures.

Young Bailey was conducting a bantam rooster fight – just for the amusement of friends. Always, one "spectator" would be posted on the outside of the ring, to single if a town marshal or the constable should happen down the street. Promoting fun for the other guy emerged early as a Bailey trademark. He was born with a box office touch.

After short years in Broken Arrow, the family moved to Tulsa. There were brief stretches of living in Coweta and the Bailey abstract company had a branch in Wagoner.

High school in Tulsa, with football, basketball, bowling, baseball, dramatics and glee club warbling all woven about exam cramming and studying, was followed by 14 months overseas military service with the Marines in World War I. Then came college at Ames, Iowa, Michigan at Ann Arbor, some time at Yale and Harvard and a stretch at the University of California in Berkeley, with fudge-making a sideline and profitable hobby. A bar examination and then young Bailey ended his educational roaming, anchoring in Tulsa in the abstract business with his father. How he's packed so many activities and achievements and diversified interests into a few short years, even though he's blessed with huge, bristling chunks of vim and vigor, still is a happy mystery.

Some of the milestones and the list is almost endless, include:

- *National Grand President of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity*
- *President of Tulsa Executive Club*
- *Charter member and president – Greet T Club*
- *President, Mr. and Mrs. Class, First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa*
- *President, Tulsa Downtown Rotary Club*
- *Chairman, Rotary Foundation one year*
- *President, Tulsa Farm Club*
- *President, Tulsa Angus Club*
- *Deacon and trustee of First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa*
- *Director, First National Bank of Owasso*
- *Coach of Tulsa Abstract and Title Co Little League baseball team*
- *Scout for three major league baseball clubs – St. Louis Brown, Milwaukee Braves, Brooklyn Dodgers*
- *Work on Tulsa World newspaper as sports assistant*
- *Member, Oklahoma Bar Association, California Bar Association*
- *Director Tulsa Junior Chamber of Commerce*
- *Member, Tulsa Country Club*
- *Member, Tulsa Forum*
- *Member, Tulsa Club*
- *Member, Petroleum Club of Tulsa*
- *Member, Delta Theta Phi law fraternity*
- *Original member, SPEBSQSA, Barber Shop Singing Organization*
- *Member, American Legion*
- *Member of the Shiners*
- *Rancher and livestock breeder*
- *Member of Home Builders Association of greater Tulsa, Inc.*
- *Member, Tulsa Real Estate Salesmen's Association*
- *World traveler*
- *An ultra-devoted and very lively grandpa*

The camera caught a half century plus of pictures revealing interesting flashback hints of the ten-speed, never dull, ever crusading and ever progressing career of a farm boy come to town.