
PROLOGUE

OU's Adopted Son Established A New Standard for Sooners

The traditional source of support for colleges and universities, public or private, is its body of alumni. Here reside the fond memories, the loyalty and affection that translate into active concern for the welfare of the alma mater. In addition to their emotional ties, alumni also have vested professional interests in maintaining academic quality in the departments where they earned their degrees. Such dedicated graduates can be counted on for contributions of time, money, leadership and expertise—all the things that the late Jack Maurer gave in great abundance to the University of Oklahoma, an institution he never attended.

If the University of Minnesota or Wichita State University, where Maurer earned degrees in engineering and economics, had realized what they were losing when he married into the staunchest of Sooner families, the McCaslands of Duncan (See Page 28), the University of Oklahoma could have been sued for alienation of affection. Maurer was a prize.

His involvement with the people and projects of the University spanned 35 years, the dependence on his good judgment becoming increasingly invaluable to each organization he served. When his advice was sought, he gave it honestly, never reluctant to disagree when the occasion demanded but unfailingly supportive whatever the outcome. His strength and personal integrity lent credibility to any cause he endorsed.

Maurer was instrumental in the McCasland Foundation gift to the new wing of the Bizzell Memorial Library, the third floor being named in memory of his father-in-law, T. H. McCasland Sr. He served as vice president of the Bizzell Library Society, whose goal is the expansion of the collections. Maurer was a Founder of the Energy

Center. OU's Alpha of Oklahoma chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma national business honor society made him an honorary member.

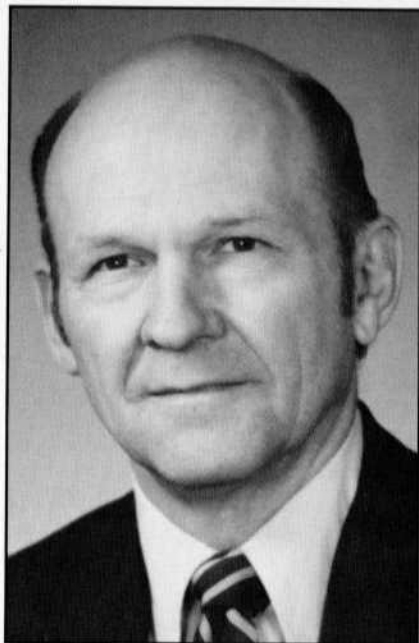
In his hometown of Duncan, where he was president of Mack Oil Company and chairman of both Security National Bank and Trust Company and American National Bank, Maurer's civic service was extraordinary, as was his leadership in a variety of state organizations and in the oil and gas industry. He represented western Oklahoma on the board of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, and his banking acumen was attested by his appointment as a director of the Oklahoma City branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Just a year ago, the Distinguished Service Citation committee made one of its most popular choices in awarding Maurer the highest honor the University can bestow. The presentation, citing his life of achievement and dedication to others, and the honoree's response, paying tribute to his adopted university, were emotional experiences for those in the audience who knew that Maurer was battling cancer.

In October 1985, he could have been excused for declining the chairmanship of the University of Oklahoma Foundation, a responsibility for which he had been groomed for most of his 10 years as a trustee, then vice chairman. But with the University facing its most serious financial crisis, he was not about to back away.

Jack Maurer lived those last long, difficult months as he had lived the rest of his life, constructively, with dignity and grace. When he died on March 11 at the age of 59, his friends and colleagues could say with a single voice, "Well done."

—CJB



Jack A. Maurer