

L E T T E R S

Football and Other Things

I enjoyed the Spring number of *Sooner Magazine*, especially your "Prologue" on the business-as-usual aspects of our alma mater. It's nice to know that you were not so terrorized by the football team as to be fearful of taking a stroll across campus. Thanks. I love the football team and the rest of the University, and I see no reason to presume that either is bound for hell in a handbasket, but it was reassuring to hear some positive news from one close to the source.

On page 13 of the Spring issue, I noticed the photo, in Pam McKeown's "Rx for Success" piece, that included John Barbour in the pharmacy class of 1897. Sooner football fans might be intrigued to know that Mr. Barbour was the ardent OU fan mentioned several times by Harold Keith in his *Oklahoma Kickoff*. You could check with Mr. Keith, but I think that has to be the John Barbour who bore uncomplainingly some of the team's financial losses in its early years. And if it is the right Mr. Barbour, then it was his drugstore that students and other fans stood outside to receive news of how their beloved team was faring on some far-off gridiron before the era of instant replays. I don't have the book in front of me here at the office, but if memory serves, the reports from Dallas, Columbia and other points were received via Western Union and then relayed to the crowd waiting outside. So, I was highly intrigued not only to see Prof. DeBarr, but also Mr. Barbour.

Keep the good magazines coming.

Edgar L. Frost, '61 B.A., '67 M.A.
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Editor's Note: To early-day Sooners, there was only one John Barbour.

I always enjoy the *Sooner Magazine*, especially the articles of historical significance and those articles concerning major happenings and scientific achievements that are attributed to the University faculty and students.

We can say that we have achieved major university status at both OU and OSU when we can publish a magazine about university life and have no reference to sports other than a schedule of events on the last page in the magazine. I feel that you may be

headed in that direction. I would like to challenge you and your staff to publish such an issue. You have hundreds of students, faculty and events that deserve coverage, recognition and praise.

Leonard E. Sullivan
State Representative
House of Representatives
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Thank you for the extra copies of the Spring issue of *Sooner Magazine*. I am working hard at getting my out-of-state friends to believe me and not the national media about our wonderful university. I have a whole collection of newspaper articles, letters to editors, etc., in support of same, and now the *Sooner Magazine* will be my very best reinforcement.

Every few months I receive three alumni/ae magazines: one from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, from which school I received my B.A. degree in 1929; one from Columbia University in New York City (M.A. 1935); and one from the University of Oklahoma, from which I have no degree but with which I have had a close and endearing relationship in many capacities for 47 years. Of the three magazines by far my favorite and most thoroughly read is the *Sooner Magazine*, which I consider to be a masterpiece of literary art. This may be partly due to the fact that I am acquainted with so many of the article authors and have known so many of the people and events presented, but also because of the human interest and artistry of the whole publication.

Harriet E. Peterson
Norman, Oklahoma

Our Tribute to "Luke"

Thank you for your article, "Our Neighbor on the Hill," by Grover Fulkerson. It really warmed my heart to see "Luke" (Arrell M. Gibson) characterized in the fullest sense as you did, both by your well-done summary about him and in Grover's article.

He would have appreciated the quality of your work and the freshness of your approach. A lot has been written about him but with a sameness that sounds almost trite, even to my ears. Thank you for taking the time to put imagination and interest in interpreting him as a human being with a zest

for life and for people of all kinds.

Rosemary Gibson, '84 B.L.S.
(Mrs. Arrell Morgan)
Norman, Oklahoma

Just a note to thank you for F. Grover Fulkerson's nostalgic tribute to Dr. Arrell M. Gibson. As one of Dr. Gibson's successful graduate students, I can attest to his unfailing enthusiasm and support as I researched and wrote my thesis. He was never too busy to talk to me about my studies and to offer encouragement and praise (or criticism) when merited.

I was also fortunate to have been education director at the museum during part of his tenure as curator and enjoyed many hours of conversation with him about Oklahoma and Native American history — conversations which were periodically interrupted by phone calls and visits from students who needed help or advice. In these encounters, he was unfailingly patient, always polite and gracious. He will be missed as a fine teacher and writer, but mostly perhaps, as a true gentleman.

I am also glad to see regular contributions by Michael Waters, who was a great favorite of mine when he was a regular columnist for the student paper.

Keep up the good work!

Judy Furlong, '85 M.L.S.
Executive Director, Vallejo Museum
Vallejo, California

"Chant" Rolls On and On

Couldn't read the story about Jessie Lone Clarkson and the "OU Chant" in *Sooner Magazine* without dropping her a line of good wishes over all these years.

Seems to me it might have been in her class in "Sight Singing" that she first tried out the "OU Chant" on our class. And it certainly has stood the test of time. Proud of her!

Don't know if she'll remember the name at the bottom of this note, but I had a couple of her classes and was very active in the years '37 to '43, first in the music school and various singing jobs, including the Varsity Club and the Ramblers dance bands.

I'm sure a great deal has happened to each of us in the many years since

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we were at Norman together. It's been an interesting and rewarding experience, but those six years I spent in Norman have to rank right up there with the best of all.

All kinds of good wishes to Jessie. Wish we could sit down for some "Do you know whatever happened to . . . ?"

B. Abbott Sparks
'41 B.F.A., '43 M.A.
Dallas, Texas

The "Sooner Song Book" article (Spring 1989) took me back, alright! I was on the campus (in high school) when the "OU Chant" was introduced and went to many of the OU games, stage productions and pep rallies at the "corner." I didn't know until I read Margaret French's article how many songs have been composed for OU. There are probably many of your readers today with the talent to put together words and melodies. And I have a challenge for them.

My reason for writing is to tell your readers about the song contest held annually by the Oklahoma Heritage Association for songs that tell some historic, cultural or geographic characteristic of Oklahoma.

The purpose of the contest is to "enhance the on-going heritage and quality of life in Oklahoma by encouraging the composition and performance of original music which deals with the heritage of Oklahoma," and "to help aspiring composers, writers and performers of music in Oklahoma by exposing their state-oriented works to the public."

The contest has been conducted for 18 years, so there is a collection of Oklahoma songs just waiting to be used for any centennial function. In fact, Dan Faulkner's "Oklahoma Is My Home," one of the winners of 1987, has been sung at the Sooner Games of 1988, the Torch Run ceremonies at Boise City and Lawton in 1989, and we are expecting to hear it in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the Olympic Festival this month in Norman.

For rules of the contest, you may write to the Oklahoma Heritage Association at 201 N.W. 14, Oklahoma City, OK 73103, or phone (405) 235-4458. I work for the Association and hope I'll be hearing from many OU

The New Man in Evans Hall

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value privacy, it might be a problem, but I happen to live a relatively non-controversial life. The things I like to do society considers very acceptable. They really don't mind if you go to parties or read books."

Van Horn is having little difficulty in adjusting to the reprieve from the big city pressures of his last two posts in Pittsburgh and Houston. His hometown in Indiana was about the size of Norman, and he is very comfortable in such an environment. A dedicated hiker and outdoorsman, he finds the area's open spaces one of its most attractive features.

Oklahoma's new resident is convinced in other ways as well that his newly adopted state is the place to be. "One of the things that is really intriguing to me about this job is the timing," he explains. "The state and the University are sitting in a very good situation. The next 10 years will be a time of a tremendous amount of development. A very appealing thing about the University of Oklahoma is its ability to have an impact on the state—turning out students, providing leadership in a variety of areas through research, the host of public

grads and former students. The contest deadline is October 17.

Carol E. McWilliams
'43 B.Mus, '47 M.Mus
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Toothaker in the Spotlight

I just read "Sooner Spotlight: Toothaker" by Michael Waters in the Spring 1989 issue of *Sooner Magazine*.

What a fascinating and likable person Professor Toothaker seems to be. I'd love the opportunity to visit with him.

Lewis Burton, '50 B.S.
Wichita, Kansas

Flexner Tapes for Sale

Regarding your article on "Bob Flexner: Craftsman." Do you know how I can get copies of his woodworking tapes discussed in the article?

Jessie Kent, '61 B.S.
Atlanta, Georgia

Editor's Note: The tapes may be ordered directly from Fine Woodworking

service activities that go on at the University."


The new president brought his *Sooner Magazine* visit to a close 30 minutes past the allotted time, and with seeming reluctance. Although this practice may make problems for schedulers, such consideration sends his graciousness rating sky high.

The first-impression verdict? Dick Van Horn knows his business. Moreover, this is a man who intends to be in charge, but he will do so in his own way and at his own pace, with diplomacy and measured deliberation. After months of the frustration of a national search, when seemingly no one was being singled out for the job, the University of Oklahoma ultimately made an extremely good choice.

Have you met the new president? Yes, as will a host of other Sooners over the next few short months.

What is he like? Totally competent, surprisingly candid, at home with himself.

How do you think he will do? Very well.

Are we going to like him? We would not be at all surprised. 

magazine by calling toll-free 1-800-888-8286, specifying "Repairing Furniture with Bob Flexner" and/or "Refinishing Furniture with Bob Flexner." Each tape is \$29.95 with a \$2.50 handling charge per order, regardless of the number of tapes.

Keep Those Photos Coming

A treasure trove of historic photographs and alumni memories has resulted from the notice in the Spring issue of *Sooner Magazine* that such memorabilia is being accepted for the Centennial Collection of the OU Archives in the Western History Collections and for use in Centennial publicity. The invitation remains open for Sooners wishing to give or loan their favorite campus photographs and contribute brief written anecdotes about their University days. Send to Carol J. Burr, Editor, *Sooner Magazine*, 100 Timberdell Road, Norman, Oklahoma 73019. Pack carefully and indicate whether the photographs are to be returned. 