

## About the Energy Center

As a fortunate alumnae recipient of the *Sooner Magazine*, I wish to commend you on the article, "Inside the Energy Center" (Fall 1989), which sheds light on the dominating structure slowly risen on the landscape. My son-in-law prepares projects with industry to conserve energy. To my inquiring about conservation, he remarked that the center would primarily be interested in the sale of energy rather than in its conservation. However, the article implies that energy issues can and will be defined over time. Hopefully conservation would be defined and developed as one of them.

Anne Lowry, '61 M.LIB.S.  
Norman, Oklahoma

Congratulations on the very fine article in the Fall 1989 issue of *Sooner Magazine* on the Energy Center. As a graduate in petroleum engineering, I have been pleased to see the center built and have made minor financial contributions to it.

In reading the article, I sense an orientation toward hydrocarbon energy (oil and gas). The petroleum engineering school came into being because Oklahoma is located in the center of several oil producing states. A majority of petroleum engineers around the world are from OU. However, the name "Energy Center" implies a study of all sources of energy, hydrocarbon, nuclear, solar, wind, thermal, hydraulic, oceanic and all the rest. A true energy center would be doing research on all of these. As a major U.S. university, OU should be broader than just a petroleum industry school.

My question is: Is the intended scope of the Energy Center broad enough to cover all forms of energy and thereby justify the name?

John E. Eckel, '29 B.S.  
Arkansas City, Kansas

*EDITOR'S NOTE: For response to alumni concerns about the Energy Center, Sooner Magazine turned to the person responsible for its development and management:*

As Mr. Eckel correctly indicates, an "energy center" today must be concerned with more than just fossil fuels—and this is certainly the case

with the OU Energy Center. The full scope of interests of the Energy Center include not only all of the energy sources mentioned by Mr. Eckel, but also the transportation and end-uses of energy, and their economic, political and environmental effects. The orientation toward hydrocarbon energy that may have been implied in the *Sooner* article reflects where many of our historical strengths and current activities lie. The broadening of our programs is under way now and can be expected to continually adapt to the energy world changes in the years ahead.

Barnet Groten  
Executive Director  
OU Energy Center

## To Toil in Norman

I was recently in Norman and ran across your Summer 1988 edition. I read David Gross' article, and I must respond: "An acre in Middlesex," said Macaulay, "is better than a principality in Utopia." This will not persuade a child of the '60s (Gross explicitly rejects common sense), but for those who are aware that we have no choice but to toil in Middlesex, it is dispositive.

Cleon W. Winslow, '55 B.A., '55 B.S.  
San Clemente, California

## Harold Keith Recalls OU Photographer Tacker

A recent note from Sylvia Tacker, advising me of the death of her husband and my old friend, Harold Tacker, brought back a lot of memories of the late 1930s at the University. Some alumni might like to share them.

Harold was brought to the University of Oklahoma in 1935 by Capt. Lawrence "Biff" Jones, Sooner football coach and athletic director, to play football and shoot pictures for the OU athletic department. Our mutual friend Boyd Gunning recalls that "Harold really wasn't big enough to play college football, and when he saw the size of Biff's other Sooner players that year, he decided to become a full-time photographer."

Working out of a darkroom in the basement of old Science Hall, Harold later shot pictures for Gunning, then assistant director of OU's extension division and director of audio visual education, and later alumni secretary

and director of the OU Foundation. A painter as well as a photographer, Harold enrolled in the OU School of Art, where he graduated with honors.

At the start of World War II, Harold enlisted and became a lieutenant commander in the Navy Signal Corps, earning combat medals and the Legion of Merit. After the war ended, he stayed in the service until failing health forced his retirement. He then moved to Seattle, became a professional photographer and produced National Park Service post cards.

At his death, *The Seattle Times* eulogized him in an article by staff writer Anh Do. "Harold Tacker thrived on creativity," she wrote, "spending long hours painting, photographing and tapestry weaving. He later transformed his paintings onto tapestry, spurred by his wife Sylvia, who fell in love with the art while taking an adult education weaving class in 1957.

"The couple, members of the Seattle Weavers Guild, taught seminars and workshops in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and around the United States. Sylvia Tacker wrote books about weaving, while her husband photographed tapestries for publication. He had a special eye for how things should look.

"Friends remember Tacker as a shy man with remarkable talent . . . Virginia Harvey of Whidbey Island praised his knack for photography. 'He produced closeups of textiles so amazing that you could read them thread by thread. He had a special style.'"

Those of us who knew Harold at OU thought he was pretty special, too.

Harold Keith, '29 B.A., '39 M.A.  
Norman, Oklahoma

*EDITOR'S NOTE: In his 39 years as sports information director and the subsequent 21 as the campus' resident expert on Sooner lore, Harold Keith has developed an extraordinary circle of acquaintances and keeps up with most of them. The note from Mrs. Tacker sent him to the SI files, where among other memorabilia he found a sketch that the talented young Tacker had done of his boss, Biff Jones. That was enough to send Keith back to the typewriter to knock out another of his many Sooner Magazine reports to alumni, the first written in January 1930.*