

Gothic Beauty Mourned

Prior to WWII while serving as secretary to Rupel Jones, director of the School of Drama at the University, I enjoyed strolling the campus in Norman. The beauty of the Gothic buildings I loved. I still hug those memories to my heart mentally.

Recently, on a visit to the campus, I saw the new music building—a shock and a poke in the eye artistically! My impulse was to hurry to the campus golf course, sit and feed the ducks and weep.

*Mary Elaine Smith Phillips
Durant, Oklahoma*

P.S. What do architects have against the curved line?

Editor's Note: Mrs. Phillips' husband, retired Associate District Judge John Allen Phillips II is the subject of an award-winning feature article, "The Unsinkable Judge," by JoAnn Ridings of the Durant Daily Democrat. The article recounts Phillips' courageous struggle to continue his judicial career after losing his sight in 1977. The judge is a member of the fabled OU Law Class of 1937, which included many distinguished Oklahomans.

Another Viewpoint Heard

(Re: "Prologue," Fall 1992) When a University has to bear the burden of Donnie Duncan, Gary Gibbs, Stan Abel, Anita Hill and David Swank, we're a long way from being able to say "We've got it all." How will we ever regain respect with these individuals?

*Victor W. Pryor Jr., '58 B.S., '65 J.D.
Holdenville, Oklahoma*

Mystery Ballerina Found

From the Editor: In discussing my favorite OU poster—the football player and the ballerina—in the Fall 1992 "Prologue," I confessed to being able to identify All-American Tony Casillas but not his lovely partner. OU Engineering Dean Billy Crynes quickly came up with her name: Debra Dermeyer, originally a chemical engineering major from Omaha, Nebraska, who studied dance and earned a 1987 degree in accounting.

Dermeyer now is employed by Amoco Production in Tulsa. OU was the only university she found that offered ma-

jors in both engineering and dance. Her father, a die-hard Nebraska Cornhusker fan, did survive the shock.

Of possible interest to anyone who somehow escaped Super Bowl Sunday: Dallas Cowboy Casillas now has a NFL championship ring to go with the collegiate version he earned as part of the 1985 national champion Sooners.

The Houser Legacy

The Allan Houser exhibit (*Sooner Magazine*, Fall 1992) was indeed magnificent and a tribute to the enterprise of the staff of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Unfortunately in these hard times, the University cannot afford to buy even one of these outstanding sculptures. My dream is that someone will love one of the Houser sculptures so much that he/she will want to purchase it for our campus to be enjoyed by everyone who passes by, both today and in the years to come.

*Molly Crawley
Norman, Oklahoma*

More on Mrs. Moore

Your "Prologue" of Louise Moore in the Spring/Summer 1992 *Sooner Magazine* is perfect.

*The whole issue is especially fine.
Marion Bergin, '60 M.A.
Kerrville, Texas*

Editor's Note: Mrs. Bergin is the widow of David P. Bergin, the popular professor of journalism from 1952 to 1968, best known for his photography classes.

Thank you for the piece on LBM. Karen and I really enjoyed it. Louise would often come through the newsroom late at night. She'd be on her way home from a lecture, play or something. We had some nice chats. I'll never forget her.

*Andy Rieger, '80 B.A.
H.H. Herbert School of Journalism
and Mass Communication
University of Oklahoma*

Editor's Note: As the present holder of LBM's old job as faculty adviser to The Oklahoma Daily, Rieger was uniquely qualified to "chat" with his predecessor about her favorite subject.

The Most Senior Sooner

From the Editor: An article from *The Schulenburg* (Texas) *Sticker*, forwarded to *Sooner Magazine* by Dallas alumnus William M. "Mac" Sudduth ('69 B.S., '74 M.A., '76 Ph.D.) added a footnote to OU history. His grandmother, Elva Fitch McLean, a remarkable lady with Sooner connections, had celebrated her 105th birthday on August 17, 1992. OU records reveal, not surprisingly, that she also is the oldest person on the alumni database.

Born in Iowa in 1887, she remembers moving West at age two and having to learn to walk all over again because she was never allowed out of the wagon all the way to Kansas. In a lottery in 1902, her family drew a homestead in Comanche County, Oklahoma, and moved to Walters; she moved in with an aunt and uncle in Norman to attend OU.

Mrs. McLean was an OU student in 1902-03, and although she did not earn a degree, she did receive her teaching certificate and taught a year before marrying O. F. McLean. She devoted the next 33 years to her husband and four daughters. Then, after O. F.'s death in 1940, she proved herself a woman ahead of her time.

Going to work for the Army during World War II, she ran the military's lodge at Los Alamos, New Mexico, that housed the scientists who were developing the atomic bomb. Forced by the Army to retire at age 70, she went to floral design school, then with one of her daughters, ran a floral shop in Sinton, Texas, purchased for her by her son-in-law, Jim Davis ('42 B.S.) She finally retired for good at age 102 and moved to the Davises' guest house in Schulenberg, a decision she had delayed "until she got old."

An avid sports fan, Elva McLean is the matriarch of a three-generation Sooner family. Daughter Mavis Davis ('41 B.A.) is an OU graduate. Another McLean daughter, Mac's mother, the late Betty Sudduth, of Norman, was a secretary in both the alumni office and the College of Engineering. Mac's wife Sharon ('70 B.A.) was an admissions office employee, and his sister, Ellen Usry, of Norman, after 25 years of marriage, is working toward her OU degree. Her grandmother would expect no less.