

# LETTERS

## Does Bizzell Memorial Library Have a Great Reading Room—or What?

Let me add my thanks for your article on The Great Reading Room of Bizzell Library—truly the most scholarly, the most inspiring, and emotionally, the most satisfying space on our campus. The Room is a true gem, and the story brought back memories of many wonderful times.

Some time before the article appeared, I had drawn a sketch of the dramatic East Window as the cover for my Annual Sooner Foolishness, which I still send to The Faithful [although nothing about our beloved Sooners can ever be considered as foolish, can it?]. And I thought that you might like to see that every Sooner of every era remembers The Room and The Library with genuine affection.

Charles W. Ward, A.I.A.  
'50 B.Arch.  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

*Editor's Note: We were so impressed with architecture alumnus Ward's charming sketch of Bizzell's East Window from the cover of his OU sports newsletter to his friends that we asked to see others he has done of campus sites. A future issue of Sooner Magazine will feature Charles Ward and his nostalgic views of OU.*

Our entire family was thrilled with the article and lovely pictures of the restored Great Reading Room in the Bizzell Library in the Spring issue of the *Sooner Magazine*.

The library was my father's pride and joy. I am sure he would be delighted.

I think Anne Morgan's suggestion that donations be sent to restore the chairs was excellent.

Lee (B. Thompson, '25 B.A., '27 L.L.B.) joins me in sending our check to take care of five chairs in memory of my father, William Bennett Bizzell.

Elaine B. Thompson  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Editor's Note: University of Oklahoma alumni and friends responded enthusiastically to Anne Morgan's suggestion in the Summer 1993 Sooner Magazine that individuals "buy a chair" in Bizzell's Great Reading Room. In*

### FOLLOW THAT CAR!

*From the Editor:* Remember the letter from the Dallas alumnus requesting an OU car window decal so that he might hold his own on the freeways among all the Longhorns and Texas Aggies? *Sooner Magazine* directed readers to the OU Alumni Association, which received 138 requests from 28 states, the District of Columbia and a foreign country—not counting decals for my children and a French the exchange student in our office—who, incidentally, thought this was a very strange custom.

### ALUMNI ON TOUR 1994

Your friendly OU Alumni Association is booking three '94 tours, at home and abroad: **Midnight Sun Express and Alaska Passage**—July 18-30—from \$3,299.

From Fairbanks aboard domed train through the Denali National Park to Anchorage, transfer to Seward for cruise through Inside Passage to Vancouver, with optional Vancouver extension.

**English/French Country-side**—August 6-21—from New York \$3,999.

From Chester, Stratford-upon-Avon, Bath, Stonehenge and London, train through the Chunnel to Paris, the Normandy beaches, Mont St. Michel and the Chateau Country. **New England/Canada Foliage Spectacular**—September 18-October 2—approx. \$2,775 with air from Oklahoma City.

From Boston, bus through New Hampshire to Campobello, ferry to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, reboard bus for New Brunswick, Quebec City and Montreal.

Complete details available from Marian Brown, Assistant Director, OU Alumni Association, 900 Asp Avenue, MZ-1, Norman, OK 73019-0401 or (405) 325-1710.

what may be the University's only no-budget funding campaign ever, contributions of \$95 each had been received by January 1, 1994, to refurbish 108 of the 200 chairs in the Great Reading Room, the only phase yet to be completed in that popular renovation project.

Each chair will bear a small plaque acknowledging the donor's designee as "In Honor of . . ." or "In Memory of . . ." or as "A Gift of . . ." Besides those given in the donor's own name, several of the chairs were "purchased" as Christmas or birthday gifts and others to honor a family member or favorite professor.

**A complete list of the Great Reading Room honorees will appear in the next issue of Sooner Magazine.**

Contributions still are being accepted for the remaining chairs. Checks for \$95 for each chair, payable to OU Foundation/Library Chairs, should be mailed to 100 Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73019-0685. Please designate the honoree.

## Another Tale or Two About Harold Keith

Kathryn Jenson White's article about Harold Keith (and Molly Griffis) brought back a flood of great memories to this OU graduate.

As a student sports writer for *The Oklahoma Daily* and campus correspondent for the Associated Press, I was in almost daily contact with Harold, the University's sports information director, and found him to be always warm, friendly, helpful, encouraging and gracious.

I considered him to be my unofficial adviser and mentor. He helped me in many ways, but one memory in particular stays with me.

One spring Friday in 1946, I took off early for a trip home to Ardmore. The next day I went into semi-shock when I learned that Oklahoma's football coach, Dewey (Snorter) Luster, had resigned. When I reached Harold, he immediately relieved my fear that I had blown the story. Knowing I wasn't around, he had wired the story to the Associated

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Press in Oklahoma City and signed my name.

I didn't think it was possible, but my admiration for Harold Keith increased the following year when the new coach, a great coach but one obsessed with winning at any cost, tried to get Keith fired because he would not send out false stories to mislead and confuse the next opponent. Harold survived that effort; the coach himself was gone after that one year, and the Bud Wilkinson era began.

Robert K. Payne, '48 B.A.  
Arlington, Virginia

*Editor's Note: The coach who succeeded Snorter Luster and preceded Bud Wilkinson was Jim Tatum, who coached only the 1946 season at OU, then at Maryland from 1947-55, before returning to North Carolina.*

## Righting the Record

I am a lifetime member of the Alumni Association and have been receiving the *Sooner Magazine* for a long time. I enjoy it very much.

I have just received the summer edition of the magazine, and I have doubts about one article. I enjoyed the article on "Why Do They Teach," however, I questioned one statement. Apparently Mary Lou Stiles stated that she cut her teeth on the counter of her grandparents' drugstore in Oklahoma Territory. Had she been born the year Oklahoma became a state (1907), she would now be 86 years of age. Therefore had she cut her teeth during the time of Oklahoma Territory, she would be in her late '80s, which I doubt.

J.T. Brooks, '45 M.D.  
Sylmar, California

*Editor's Note: Our apologies to the youthful Professor Stiles. While the drugstore dated from territorial days, she certainly does not.*

## Agreeable Disagreement

How excellent, and how badly needed, was your editorial, "Prologue," in Summer '93 issue, with TV, newspapers and magazines being so full of the disheartening incidents of

people beating, murdering and setting fire to those who merely disagree with their opinions!

And what an excellent issue it was: Nim Razook's "Exercise in Ethics," Robert Hale's conquest of the opera world and every other worthwhile article and story. Of course OU alums do not need to learn to disagree agreeably, business ethics and to let their children, and their coaches, "have fun" in their sports. Those characteristics rubbed off on us from the likes of Bennie Owen, Cortez Ewing, Dean Adams, Clayton Feaver, E. E. Dale, Scotty McDermott, W. B. Bizzell, Bud Wilkinson and a couple of Georges—Sutton and Cross—and the list goes on and on. But we need to be reminded occasionally and inspired to get the message to others. A great magazine and a great issue.

Eugene Kendall, '32 B.A., '34 M.A.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

P.S. Can an alum audit Stewart Ryan's physics class (like I did Dean Holmberg's "Theory of Music" and Dean Monnet's "Contracts" in the '30s)?

## Choctaw Lighthorsemen

I work with and for Mr. Dale McDoulett ('67 B.B.A., '70 J.D.) at Kaiser-Francis Oil Company. Dale receives *Sooner Magazine* regularly, and I always enjoy peeking at the articles before the magazine is passed on. Fall 1993 was of particular interest to me because of the story on "Tracking the Choctaw Lighthorsemen" and that enchanting article on "Harold and Molly."

I am very hopeful that Eve Sandstrom writes that book on the Lighthorsemen. My family has included a number of Oklahoma lawmen, and I have heard of the Lighthorsemen all of my life but have never read anything about them—just heard stories.

I really want to visit the Western History Collections! I have been writing the stories my grandparents told me, as well as those of other Okies, about their lives during the Oklahoma horse-and-buggy days. If the stories fit together well, I would like to have them published. But more than for publishing

purposes, I want to preserve my family history for my children. I would like to find some of the information from the Western History Collections to enhance the stories and put them into proper perspective. I would appreciate any help that could be given so that we could enjoy the wealth of the Collections. (I promise to bring *only* a pencil with my paper—not pens!)

Sheryl M. Green  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

*Editor's Note: The Western History Collections in Monnet Hall are open 8-to-5 M-F excluding holidays and Sat. 8-to-12 when OU is in session. No advance arrangements required. Researchers should report to the librarian's desk for assistance.*

## A Keeper Issue

Each article would make this issue (*Sooner Magazine*, Vol. 14 No. 1, Fall 1993) a keeper; all together they are outstanding.

The feature on Harold Keith delighted me. We enjoyed knowing Virginia and Harold all the years when we lived in Norman. Kitty and Johnny Keith were also our buddies. . . .

"Tracking the Choctaw Lighthorsemen" pleased me, bringing me up to date on the Western History Collections, and introducing me to one aspect of Choctaw history. It was good to see glimpses of the reading room in Monnet Hall, my bailiwick when I was editorial assistant on *Oklahoma Law Review*, and later when I was assistant law librarian.

"For Services Rendered" interested me. I read with appreciation the accounts of the accomplishments of the latest Distinguished Professors, even though these honorees are more recent than "our day" at OU.

"How to Judge Art" is a treat; it's great to have this brief item on art appreciation. I learned some pointers, too.

"The Battle for Planet Earth" and "Sooner Spotlight • Robert Griswold" are gratifying, as is the inside-back-cover photograph of the gorgeous south oval chrysanthemum gardens.

Marion Bergin, '60 M. Lib.Sci.  
Kerrville, Texas