



LETTERS

“100 Years of Pride” Search

Everyone interested in band music will be welcomed to the OU band’s 100th anniversary celebration this fall. Of course, band alumni will play a major part in that celebration and will be receiving a detailed description of the celebration’s events in the mail. Our committee estimates that we have names and addresses for only about half of the band alumni, and we are asking *Sooner Magazine* to help us find the “other half.”

Any band alumnus who did not receive a “save the date” post card a few weeks ago is lost to us. Please send us your contact information. The best way to reach us is through the OU Bands Web site at <http://bands.ou.edu> (all lower case and without www). We’d also welcome a note addressed to 100 Years of Pride, OU Bands, 500 West Boyd, Norman, OK 73019. The band office phone number is 405/325-2731. There is no need to worry about signing up for a ton of junk mail. We don’t have that much money.

*John H. Waller, '61 bs chem engr
100 Years of Pride Committee Chair
Norman, Oklahoma*

Going the Distance

Thank you, *Sooner Magazine*, for “Going the Distance” with Marita Hynes [Summer 2003]. Truly an inspiring story about how women’s athletics became a part of OU’s fabric and tradition due to Marita’s relentless and inspired efforts. The University was truly blessed to have Marita during an incredible time of growth in women’s intercollegiate sports. Her strength of conviction and leadership resulted in some fabulous achievements for female student/athletes at OU—achievements that surely will earn them and their sports a place of stature with the great traditions the men’s programs have enjoyed for so many years.

Your story is a well-deserved tribute to the woman who established many solid benchmarks of growth and achievement

for OU that now are the foundation for a women’s athletic program the University can be proud of. Congratulations!

*Dave Smeal, OU staff retired
Norman, Oklahoma*

Camp Notes

I loved reading about Camp Crimson! I sure wish they would have had it in 1975 when I arrived on campus as a freshman. I can remember being intimidated coming from a small town to big campus life at OU. I’m sure the confidence and connection Camp Crimson develops is invaluable for getting freshmen off to a great start both academically and socially.

You know, it is always better to leave a place better than you found it—and it is hard to say that OU is better than I found it in 1975 (I still say the ’75 football team was the greatest but that is beside the point)—BUT I truly am proud of all that OU has become and will continue to become in the future. BOOMER SOONER and see you at the Sugar Bowl.

*Debbie Reeser McKinnon, '79 bs ed
Williamsburg, Virginia*

Breaching the Barriers

I wanted to comment on the article “Breaching the Barriers” [Spring 2003]. My history is as follows: My father settled a “claim” at Cordell, Oklahoma, about 1895 or 1896, [where] I was born December 25, 1918; BA 1943 University of Oklahoma, Norman; M.D. 1948 OU Medical School, Oklahoma City; postgraduate residency in orthopaedic surgery 1952, University . . . and affiliated hospitals.

We went to the Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab, India, 1954. Started dept. of orthopaedics and eventually became professor.

Then we went to Bangladesh immediately after their independence 1971, started postgraduate training in orthopaedic surgery and built a 700-bed hospital . . . I was the only foreign government officer in Bangladesh, where I served for ten years. Given honorary citizenship of Bangladesh (one other American given this honor, Muhammad Ali, the prizefighter).

The reason that I am telling you all of

this is because we Oklahomans have worked around the world with other cultures and religions for many years. I was a medical missionary under the United Methodist Church. We worked primarily with Hindus for first 18 years and with Muslims the past 30 years. Some of our closest friends belong to those cultures.

I think it is a very wise decision to start the academic program in Religious Studies. I would have benefited by having a head start before going abroad if I had had . . . this course during my years at OU.

*Ronald J. Garst, '43 ba, '48 md
Maryville, Tennessee*

Untangling Publishing History

I think I’ve untangled the matter of the first OU Press book. [re: “Letters,” *Sooner Magazine* Summer 2003] *Folk Say* was a periodical, which ran for four years. Its initial publication date was 1929, the same year as my grandfather’s book. But for some reason the Press indicates that the first printing of *Folk Say* was in 1930, the year after *The Terminology of Physical Science*. This, I now remember, was the point Duane [the late OU History of Science Collections curator Duane H. D. Roller, the writer’s father] made: *Folk Say* seems to have been backdated so that there would not be two 1930 issues. *Terminology* appeared in late 1929 and the first issue of *Folk Say* a couple of months later in early 1930, backdated. Also, there is the question of periodical vs. book; *Terminology* is unquestionably the first book (in the sense of an independent work which is not a periodical) and probably the first item published.

I guess this is what makes historical research fun; we can just imagine Duane attacking this problem and untangling it.

*Duane W. Roller, '66 ba letrs, '68 ma
Professor of Greek and Latin
The Ohio State University
Athens, Ohio*

Money Well Spent

Shortly after Bob and I were married in 1947, we received an invitation to become Life Members in the OU Alumni Association. If memory serves me (or not), the price was \$100, no small amount

in those days (1947 dollars). We decided to go for it, paying it out at \$5 a month until completed.

This was one of the best investments we ever made. For more than 50 years, we have enjoyed hearing all the news about OU, and particularly *Sooner Magazine*. We have attended many campus events, including the memorable "Carmina Burana" performed on the North Oval several summers ago, and the wedding reception of our granddaughter this year in Beaird Lounge.

All together in our extended family are 10 OU grads including the above mentioned granddaughter who is now finishing her second year at the OU Medical School. Plus a grandson who is an OU junior.

GO SOONERS!

Bob, '47 mech engr, and Dorothy Hamilton
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

It's All About Class

I was thrilled to read the article on Merv Johnson in the spring *Sooner Magazine*. Merv served as my mentor when I was a student at OU trying to learn how to coach! Merv provided valuable insight and became a great friend. Merv is what class is all about. He showed me what it was to be a "coach." He spent endless hours teaching me how to do things with class. The lessons he instilled in me have worked very well as I am starting my 20th year as a coach in the National Football League. My success is related to those hours he spent with me. It is great that an award for integrity should be named for him, for in this day and age of scandal, he is a beacon of class that shines. Thank you for writing about Coach Johnson, truly one of a kind!

Chuck Lester, '80 phys ed
Buffalo Bills
Orchard Park, New York

Open to the Public

I have just finished reading the (Spring 2003) quarterly of *Sooner Magazine*, and have thoroughly enjoyed it, especially the article on Page 27, "Preserving the History of Medicine," by Jennifer McDonald. . . .

Is the History of Medicine Collection in the Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Center Library open to the public, or is this just for faculty and students? It would be interesting to see.

Mabel E. Smith Clowers
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

EDITOR'S NOTE: The exhibit is open to the public from 10-4 M-F, although an advance call to 405/271-2285, ext. 48755 or 48752 is appreciated to assure availability of a knowledgeable guide. Reader Clowers' interest is partially fueled by her grandson, Brian E. Clowers, '01 bma, now a third-year OU medical student, part of a family boasting a bevy of OU connections, from her brothers, the late Robert I. Smith, '43 bs, and Arthur W. Smith; husband Paul E. Clowers, '43 bs civ engr; son Dennis E. Clowers, '71 bs civ engr, '73 mba; and daughter-in-law Susan Glazer Clowers, '73 bs.

A Policy Success

The spring *Sooner Magazine* article on the "Foreign Policy in a Time of Crisis" was an excellent recap of the wonderful spring seminar. As President Boren stated, "One of the University's objectives is to present and discuss all sides of issues," which was certainly accomplished at these thought provoking sessions. Bravo to President Boren for having these seminars for all of us to enjoy!

Also, thank you for reprinting Georgie Anne Geyer's article, "OU: A Model for Modern Traditions." What positive public relations for OU.

Robert Hume Brady, '60 bba
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

A Boost for Ethics

I've just read the Ethics article, and forwarded it to our Curriculum Committee Chair for her to read, as we are working on including ethics in all our courses. I'm glad to see OU remains on the front lines in business education (no matter what the Ivy alumni who are consulted for the *Newsweek* polls believe).

Bernie Maroney, '84 bs eng, '86 bs civ engr
Lecturer, MIS
University of Regina, Canada

Eavesdropping on History

On September 9, 2003, some 33 Sooner greats representing five decades of OU football gathered in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for a reunion professionally videotaped by Gabriel Sports Reunion. For most of a day, a Heisman trophy winner, All-Americans, record-holders and record-breakers mingled with coaches and broadcasters to swap stories few outside the inner Sooner circle have heard. A couple of cameras even roamed the halls outside the studio to catch unguarded moments in the make-up room and autograph session. It was an occasion unequalled in its humor, heartfelt emotion and good old-fashioned storytelling. I was fortunate enough to be in the room with these fellows, and it was like eavesdropping on history.

Not every OU great was able to attend, but those who did provided terrific insight into the eras from Wilkinson, Fairbanks and Switzer to comments on the Stoops phenomenon. You would recognize the names of all of the participants—Barry Switzer, Claude Arnold, Brian Bosworth, Buddy Burris, Tony Casillas, Eddie Crowder, Keith Jackson, Jack Mildren, Greg Pruitt, Dewey Selmon, Billy Sims, Joe Washington—just to name a few.

The result of this extraordinary gathering is "Oklahoma Football Legends Reunion," a 5-hour recording—on 2 DVDs or 4 VHS tapes—that is being sold via direct response TV and radio ads that may not reach all Sooner fans. So we are spreading the word that orders are being taken by the producers at 1-800-410-8802. The recording sells for \$79.95 plus shipping and handling, with a portion of the proceeds going to the University. If you love OU football, regardless of your generation, you will want to be a part of this reunion.

Jakie Sandefer, '59 bba
Houston, Texas