



LETTERS

A Niche for J. Teague Self

I was interested to read James D. Brashear's nomination of Dr. J. Teague Self as worthy of having his likeness displayed on campus ["Letters," Spring 2004]. How often do we actually remember vividly something taught in a course more than 40 years ago?

I still recall how Dr. Self asked on the first day of class—in what I think was Introduction to Zoology—the difference between a tree and a broomstick. Dr. Self gave me a "C" (no doubt earned) in the class, but I still remember the question, and the answer—energy, and that there was more of it in the living tree. He obviously lost me in a good deal of what we covered after that initial discussion, but I've often thought of the point and of the value of a broad-based education.

When you're taking required classes, you don't realize the benefits, but you just might for the rest of your life. I remember such instances from a handful of professors and am now grateful. I would go along with the idea of a niche somewhere on campus for a bust of Dr. Self.

*Ed Frost, '61 ba journ, '67 ma russian
Norman, Oklahoma*

A WWII "Pride" Romance

[Re: "100 Years of the Pride of Oklahoma," Summer 2004.] Two similar events in small-town schools in western Oklahoma affected Charlene Armstrong and Herbert Steves for the rest of their lives. Charlene, attending Canton High School as a freshman, joined a newly formed high school band. Her instrument of choice was a trumpet.

After graduation, her choice of universities was the University of Oklahoma as her father had attended the University from 1907 to 1909, when he was the captain of the football team. Charlene began at OU in the fall semester of 1941 and joined the OU band.

I, Herbert Steves, was in a similar circumstance living near Mountain View, Oklahoma. The school did not have a band until 1937, and at first had only six

students; I don't think any of us knew much about band music.

But the band experience gave me a good start in music. When I enrolled at Oklahoma A&M in the fall of 1942, I joined the ROTC band. I had only one semester at OAMC, as the draft was getting closer. In the spring of 1943, the Navy announced its V-12 college training program and upon qualifying for that program, I was ordered to the University of Oklahoma on July 1, 1943, to continue work toward a degree in engineering.

Very early in the V-12 unit, word was passed through the ranks that a Navy band was being formed and that anyone with previous band experience should report to the University's band room. The director was Professor Wehrend, who directed the University and the Navy bands for the next two years.

Here in the band our two lives began to merge. Charlene was the secretary or librarian for the band. She would place the music for each practice session and collect it at the end of the sessions. After a few months of practicing together in the band and noticing each other from time to time, a friendship began to develop that soon became more than just friendship.

The University band, composed of both Navy and civilian persons, played at football and basketball games and a few other functions in the immediate area. Travel was restricted, so we were permitted to attend only the annual OU-Texas game at Dallas, down and back in the same day on a bus.

The University furnished red uniforms with white trim for the band; that was about the only time the Navy boys were allowed out of their Navy uniforms. The Navy would drill on Saturday morning and then be dismissed. Those of us in the Pride would run to the band room under the stadium and change. We would get ready, warm up briefly and march into the stadium for the game. If there was rain on game day, those red uniforms were not color fast, and we had pink tee shirts for several weeks after.

With victory in Europe on May 8, 1945, I popped the question of matrimony to Charlene, and she accepted. We were married on November 1.

That was almost 59 years ago, and it all began in the band room at the University in 1944. We have had the privilege and pleasure of having our four children—Bob, Gary, Karen and Chris—graduate from OU and one granddaughter, Rebecca. Three of them have earned advanced degrees from the University. My employment as an engineer for Humble Oil Company (three years) and then with Conoco (36 years) has taken us to four states and around the world to live in Indonesia, Norway and London. Thank you "Pride of Oklahoma," for bringing us together.

*Herb Steves, '45 eng,
and Charlene Armstrong Steves
Edmond, Oklahoma*

A Tantlinger Search

I just found this article you wrote about the Tantlingers in Miller's 101 Real West Show. They are my great-grandparents. It's a long story, but my family knows so very little about them other than a few hazy family legends. For years we've wondered about them, and now with the miracle of the Internet, I am back on the trail. I would like to know where I can find more detailed information about them, including anything about a child they either had or adopted, my grandfather, John Vania Tantlinger, born 1905.

*Dana (Tantlinger) Sutton
Simi Valley, California*

Editor's Note: Mrs. Tantlinger's diary and a scrapbook, from which the Sooner Magazine story was derived, can be found in the OU Libraries' Western History Collections. The full name of the show was the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch Wild West Show.

Anyone Remember Dame Eva?

For a biography of the soprano Dame Eva Turner, who taught at OU from 1949 to 1959, I would like to interview friends, professional colleagues, past stu-

dents and anyone who heard her singing at any point in her career. I would also be grateful for access to written correspondence. Additionally, I am seeking assistance in locating memorabilia (programs, photos and other items) relating to her career and help in obtaining reviews, concert notices, newspaper articles and other materials related to performances she gave in South America, Greece, Portugal, Italy and especially Germany. (I can provide date ranges upon request.)

Please contact me by email at sunbear@well.com, or via letter at P.O. Box 19064, Oakland, CA, 94619.

Lisa Hirsch
Oakland, California

The Medal Honorees

I was just looking through the spring issue and took special note of letters concerning the "Brothers in Arms" piece. One correspondent offered information correcting the use of the word "Congressional" along with "Medal of Honor." While I would affirm that "Medal of Honor" was the correct usage generally applied when I was in the service, and that NCOs, Staff NCOs and officers were commonly observed correcting any use of the word "Congressional" when younger Marines mentioned this revered decoration or its recipients, I suspect this response of being a phenomenon of military culture and that the use of the word "Congressional" may have some historical precedent.

As a young Marine officer of 1st Bn 8th Marines aboard Camp LeJeune, N.C., in 1989, I was required to have impacted wisdom teeth removed before our scheduled deployment to the Mediterranean as part of a Marine Amphibious Ready Group, Landing Force 6th Fleet. While waiting to be called in for the procedure and contemplating what contingencies might befall us during our shipboard deployment (this was just prior to the decimation of the Berlin Wall and eventual collapse of the Soviet Union), I was interested to read of the exploits of a young Navy ensign who had lost his life while serving his country and had been noted for conspicuous gallantry by means

of a formal citation, a copy of which I was reading as I stood in the waiting area of 2d Dental Battalion (a unit of 2d Force Service Support Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, which is made up of Navy personnel). The heading of the citation, in fact, read: "Congressional Medal of Honor."

Thanks for honoring those who have given their all.

Greg Coleman, '87 *ba pol sci*
Claremore, Oklahoma

Archiving Project Appreciated

Congratulations and thank you to *Sooner Magazine* for the Herculean task of archiving your issues on the Internet. After reading the accomplishment in the Winter 2004 issue ["Prologue"], I recalled the release form I was sent some time back for an article I wrote several years ago. Realizing the administrative and organizational task this entire operation must have been, the results are a gift to future *Sooner* generations. It's comforting to know this valuable resource is now always accessible and just a few clicks away.

Greg D. Kubiak, '83 *pol sci*
Washington, D.C.

Editor's Note: Sooner Magazine historical archives—1981 to present so far, but soon back to 1928—can be accessed at <http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/sooner> or through the OU Foundation Web site, <http://www.oufoundation.org>.

Historical Cover-Ups Recalled

There are two points in Mr. Drayton's letter (*Sooner Magazine*, Summer 2004) which I should like to dispute.

The first is his assertion that a reviewer should be limited in the review and "... reserve judgment regarding the issues addressed..." In my estimation, part and parcel of a review is the significance, validity, accuracy, veracity, etc. of issues covered in the script under review.

The second is his assertion that "... he has seen little to suggest that our leaders are inclined to cover-ups." It may well be true that there were no cover-ups by the

leaders of his church, [the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints] and/or that "... he has seen little to suggest it," referring to the presumed massacre at Mountain Meadows. Yet, cover-ups in the Catholic church came to light only recently. How long they persisted, it is difficult to say; but until their detection no one knew about the cover-ups which may well have existed for decades, if not centuries.

Religious massacres took place over centuries, starting with Exodus XXXII-27, 28; Jerusalem in 1099 A. D.; Albigensians in the XIII century; Huguenots in the XVI century; to name but a few. Attempts to cover them up were many, some of which may have eluded even the most persevering historians.

Leon W. Zelby
Norman, Oklahoma

Safety Concerns Sooner Mom

Thanks for the terrific magazine. The article [Summer 2004] on the makeover at Huffman center is interesting in that the parking issue is not addressed. My student lives off campus for two years now and still pays the exorbitant fees and can't find a place to park, safe at night, close and timely to walk so that she could use it.

Is there a plan for parking to be added?

Julie Jantz Scott, '74 *bs nursing*
Clinton, Oklahoma

Editor's Note: No completely satisfactory answer exists to these concerns. No additional surface parking space is available close to Huston Huffman Center. As for safety issues, OUDPS and Norman Police officers regularly patrol the area, emergency phones are located nearby and a Safe Walk escort service is available to and from any place on campus or Greek housing with a phone call.

CORRECTION: The College of Nursing instructor pictured on Page 30 of *Sooner Magazine*, Summer 2004, "More Nurses for Oklahoma," is Mark J. Fisher, not Jeff Fisher as identified.