



# LETTERS

## Identifying Hadsell

I was so pleased to see in the article in the Fall 2007 issue entitled "100 Years Surveying Oklahoma," pictures of my maternal grandfather, Sardis Roy Hadsell.



Sardis Roy Hadsell

I must, however, add a correction to the caption under the picture on page 11. My grandfather is the man on the left standing near the tent rather than the man in the middle as the caption indicates. In the lower picture on page 13, Grandfather Hadsell is pictured second from the right.

The article brought back pleasant memories. I greatly enjoy your fine publication.

*Carole McMillan Duffield, '57ba  
Weatherford, Texas*

## The Magnificent Mums

Someone just showed me the Fall 2007 issue of *Sooner Magazine*. I am SO impressed with the beauty that the grounds and landscape people created with the flower beds on the campus for the centennial. Is there any way I can get prints of those centennial flower beds? (Or could I at least get a copy of that issue of the magazine?)

I really wish you could publicize what you did more widely. I think it is (or at least, was) a beautiful and unique way to celebrate the centennial that more people should know about.

*Melissa Huffman, '87 m lib  
Rose State College  
Midwest City, Oklahoma*

*Editor's Note: The mum garden images in Sooner Magazine are copyrighted by the University of Oklahoma, and individual prints are not available.*

## Rosy Memories of Sooner City

I enjoy reading the articles in your magazine; therefore, I was surprised when I started reading letters to the editor regarding an article about the pre-fabs in Sooner City ["Postscript: Parkview Apartments"]. Somehow I missed reading the article that apparently appeared in the Spring 2007 issue and was very disappointed I had missed it.

My husband and I lived in the pre-fabs 1957-1961. We first lived in a single, paying around \$37 monthly, and later moved to a double when we started a family, paying \$47.50 a month. Even though we've often laughed about the grass growing up in our bathroom between the floor and outer wall, they certainly provided us with very reasonably priced housing, allowing us to attend college.

I would love to have a copy of the article as I no longer have the magazine. I would love for our children to read about the history of Sooner City. Two of them and their spouses have also graduated from OU.

*Donita Southwick  
Paul W. Southwick, '61 zool  
Garber, Oklahoma*

*Editor's Note: Sooner Magazine is available online at [www.oufoundation.org](http://www.oufoundation.org).*

## Memories of Another Hue

Your Fall 2007 edition of *Sooner Magazine* is one of the best, ever. I first attended OU in 1953-54. I returned to OU after military service in 1958 and lived in Norman until 1965. One of my jobs was as dorm counselor at Cross Center, Resi-

dential Hall and Wilson Center, a close neighbor of Sooner City. In the succeeding years, I had forgotten about Sooner City, but the correspondence in "Letters" refreshed my memory.

I am ashamed to say that I was totally ignorant of the "unwritten law" that required black students to remain on campus after sundown. Most of the black students housed in Sooner City in those days were actually foreign students from mostly African countries. In summer '59, there was only one African American student in Residential Hall, and I don't remember his ever mentioning the "sundown rule."

I am surprised that the former residents of Sooner City speak of the place with nostalgia. People I know who lived there hated it and remember only the roaches, rodents, leaky ceilings, the cold, the heat. And the rest of us referred to it as "the hunch huts."

*Wendell Jack Dawson, '65 bba  
Reno, Nevada*

## Pe-Ets Need Patience

Great article in *Sooner Magazine* re: the clock ["Postscript: The Pe-Et Clock," Fall 2007]. Where can I send my little brother John [Ritz, an OU development officer] to pick up my paperweight chip? As a fellow woodworker, I admire President Boren's new clock. A non-buffalo chip would be great! Thanks.

*Mike Ritz, '67 eng  
Memphis, Tennessee*

*Editor's Note: Perhaps we shouldn't have mentioned the President's future intention to have paperweights made, each containing a chip from the late, lamented Pe-Et Elm. That project will take a while, but paperweights eventually will be mailed to Pe-Et alumni for whom OU has valid addresses, saving Brother John a trip across the campus.*

## You Gotta Have Hart

That was a great article about my favorite author ["Hart of the Mystery," Winter 2007]. Carolyn Hart's books have been soooo much fun to read, and, she would be glad to know, buy.

I love the milder mysteries, so Annie's

"Death on Demand" series was a great one to find. I by accident bought *The Christi Caper*, enjoyed it so much that I found the first one and that was that.

Oklahoma is fortunate to have a special person like Carolyn Hart. I was very glad to read your article about her and her life and family. Thanks for writing it.

*Lenore Cline  
Yakima, Washington*

### Fan Mail

Just a brief note to tell you and your staff how much I enjoy your magazine and its professional appearance, beautiful images and timely and informative stories and features. It is a real credit to you and your staff, the University and the state.

*Michael D. Collin, '65 bba  
Overland Park, Kansas*

### The Fighting 21st

I really appreciate this story ["The Fighting 21st," Fall 2006]. My father was a part of this unit. He is featured in the New Mexico PBS part of the series on "The War."

There are very few left. They had held an annual reunion every year since 1946 until 2007. There were just not enough left to attend.

If you are interested in a follow up on this group, I can put you in touch with some of those who are left.

Thank you for helping get out their story.

*Willis J. Pullins  
Lebanon, Indiana*

### Flying with the Sooners

I did enjoy your article on the Oklahoma University Aviation program in the magazine. It brought back memories of my assignment to the Air Force R.O.T.C. at OU 1953-1956. I was an instructor pilot and would go to Tinker A.F. Base on weekends, check out a transport-type aircraft and fly our cadets locally or on cross-country trips to Air Force bases in the U.S.A. Saturdays were military drill days,

so I could get a load of cadets to go on weekend trips.

When my last year of assignment came, I had several cadets approach me who wanted to form a flying club. I contacted Col. Goodhart, our commanding officer, for his approval to hold night meetings. He was in favor and assured us he would help in any way he possibly could. In the beginning, we scheduled meetings at night, elected officers, set membership dues at \$5.00, and over 100 cadets joined.

Our next opportunity was finding an aircraft to buy when a cadet told us he could buy a J-3 Piper Cub. The following day he, three other cadets and I went to check it out, and we bought it for \$400. Following our purchase, the seller introduced us to civilian flight instructors, and I flew with one whose books and records were in order. With pride, he showed me his license, which was #16.

The cadets were busy flying, which soon led to the need for the second plane. The process was much as the first one had been, and cadets located a Taylor Craft in a cow pasture. After we all checked it out, I flew it and the club bought the second club aircraft for \$450. I flew it to Westheimer, where it was housed. Our monthly dues had dropped to \$2.00 a flying hour plus their fuel cost. Our fuel rebates paid for inspections and hangar fees.

I left OU and went with S.A.C. as a pilot and finance officer for three years in Europe. I soon lost contact with the club but knew many cadets earned their private license or were touched by other important fields of aviation.

I read "Flying Sooners," Fall 2005, when it arrived, thoroughly enjoyed the memories, wrote my response planning to mail it. It became a part of my files along with my promise to visit OU. Recently my office was remodeled and everything examined. There was my unmailed letter to the *Sooner*. If anyone should be interested in information or comments on the early days of the club, I can be reached. It is quite evident that I enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce.

*Lt. Col. Ben L. Robinson, U.S.A.F. Ret.  
Irving, Texas*

### Recognition Merited

I am writing just to say thank you for writing about my oldest brother, George ["Uncommon Courage," Spring 2007]. He really did not receive a lot of things in life that he truly deserved.

Because our biological father never really did anything for his children, George was the true man of the house who worked and took care of all of his younger siblings—along with my oldest sister, Claudette. Claudette as the oldest sibling can really give account of the things that she and he went through. I am the youngest of the 10 of us.



George and Johnny Farmer

If it had not been for George and Claudette and my mother, we would not have made it, and I would not be where I am in life today. I thank God for them, and I am so grateful that you took the time to write some of his accomplishments.

Thank you again, his baby sister,  
*Lucille "Tut" Farmer-Pugh  
Novi, Minnesota*