



LETTERS

If You Were a Friend of Port . . .

The arrival of my *Sooner Magazine* routinely alters my plans for that day because as soon as my mailbox snaps shut, I retire to one of my “comfort zones” with a cup of tea and prepare to enjoy a journey of an hour or two remembering what it felt like to be a Sooner student.

“Those were the days, my friend. We thought...”

Edgar Frost’s “Behind the Scenes” article about Port Robertson [Summer 2014] took me on a memory-filled journey into the ’60s and ’70s when my late husband, Louis Griffis, and I were on Port’s tutoring staff. Oh, how we gloried in the fact that Port was our *friend* and

plucks the strings on many more songs. Ed Frost’s story played a symphony for me. If there were more room, I’d relate the time that the Russian wrestling team came to the old field house and Morris Tenenbaum spent the evening following Port around to translate.

“Those were the days, my friend . . .”

*Molly Levite Griffis, ’60 ba
Norman, Oklahoma*

Logan Family Remembered

My name is Debi Logan Nixon. I read the article on the Logan Apartments and was so gratified at the amount of information on it and the fact that the apartments are being restored to their original state. I am the eldest daughter of David L. Logan, only son of David M. Logan. My Granddad built the Logan Apartments and donated them to the University of Oklahoma, with two stipulations—one apartment being available to members of the Logan family and the Cherokee tribe.

I understand Brent Swift is the new owner of the apartments, and the only things missing are the “milk delivery” doors and

the bronze plaque of “Grannie Logan” (Annie Kuykendall Logan) and Leonard Logan, my great-grandparents.

I know the original plaque that was on the building is of my great-grandparents facing each other and “The Logan Apartments” between them, with details. I have the original bronze castings of my grandparents in their individual casts. The castings are the heavy bronze of the bas-relief profiles that were the proofs for the final plaque, now missing. Granddaddy was also a genealogist and wrote “A Branch of The Logan Family Tree,”

in which a picture of the Logan Apartments plaque is. I have several copies of the book.

My dad now has Alzheimer’s but has been a faithful supporter of OU his entire life. My niece attends there currently, and my youngest son plans to attend upon graduation from high school. My Dad’s sister, Lou Logan Garrison, still resides in Oklahoma City.

On behalf of my family, I would like to tell you how much we appreciate the article and the tribute to our family. Granddaddy Logan was an amazing man, and it’s wonderful that his generosity of donating the apartments to the University of Oklahoma is still being felt today.

*Debi Logan Nixon
Kemp, Texas*

The Men of Hester-Robertson

I enjoyed the latest issue of *Sooner Magazine*, and thanks for your work. I (a male) was a resident in both Hester and Robertson Halls from the Summer of 1956 through Spring of 1958, and, as I remember, only male students were in both halls at that time. I mention this only because in your article on “Recycling Hester Hall,” you note that the two houses were for women residents, and that only in 1972 “some men students were housed there.”

If both houses were occupied only by women while I was there, I sure was misled by all my co-habitants—can I go back to those days with this new-found knowledge???

*Kenneth S. Johnson
’59 geol, ’61 geol eng, ’62 ms geol
Norman, Oklahoma*

From Loyal Players and Fans

Editor’s Note: The following letter, forwarded to Sooner Magazine and reprinted by permission, was written by All-American lineman and 1962 Sooner co-captain Leon Cross and sent to current OU coaches and players on behalf of his fellow former players and loyal Sooner fans. The Theodore



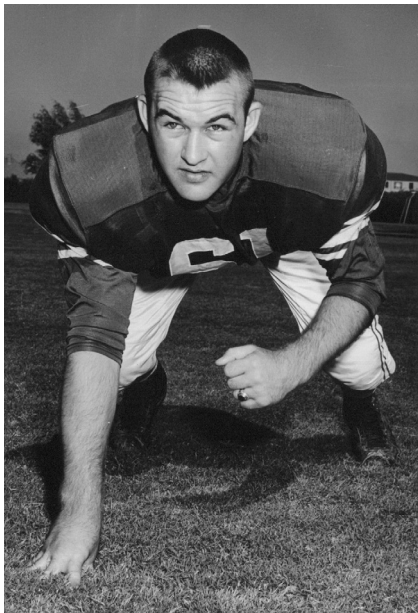
Courtesy Mike McSpadden

Port Robertson had his hands full with the very talented but controversial and hard-to-control Joe Don Looney, right, with whom he often clashed.

not our academic adviser! Frost hit the nail on the “pea head” when he reported that Port would go to the mat...any mat, any time...with each and every know-it-all whipper snapper who thought he was bigger than his “father”...that “father” being Port Robertson.

As I read Ed’s story, a cornucopia overflowing with names from that day and time...Jewel Wurtzbaugh, Dorothy Truex, Charlyce King, Foster Harris, Dwight Swain, Guy Brown...fill my living room as well as my heart.

I have read that a really good story



1962 All-American Leon Cross

Roosevelt quote, written in answer to his critics, was shared with the 1961 team by Coach Bud Wilkinson after its fifth straight loss.

Dear Coach Stoops, staff, and members of the 2014 Oklahoma Sooner Football Team:

We understand the disappointment that you must be experiencing from not having achieved the goals set prior to the start of the 2014 season, and as alumni and former players ourselves, we share that disappointment. But, even though you didn't reach those goals, we want you to know that we are proud of the way you represented us, our University, and our loyal fans this season. In our estimation, the effort invested by you and the subsequent positive results that were achieved—both on and off the field—certainly outweigh the negatives and counterbalance the disappointment by a significant margin.

Without question, we appreciate the hard work that you invested in your preparation for and your performances in the games this season. And although there may be criticism coming from certain areas, there will be none emanating from the ranks of your true supporters—those who are loyal to the Oklahoma Sooner football program.

During his presidency, President Teddy Roosevelt received harsh criticism for some difficult decisions he had to make. He responded to his critics with a message we would like to share with you; we believe its message should be applied to many of your critics:

The Man in the Arena

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

— Theodore Roosevelt

The vast majority of your critics have never been in the arena. Their faces have never been marred by the dust, sweat, and blood of competition, and they have only witnessed you who *have* been tested on the field from the relative comfort of the stands surrounding the hallowed ground within Memorial Stadium.

We say again that we are proud of our Sooners, and we wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

GO SOONERS!

*Leon Cross, '63 bs ed
Norman, Oklahoma*

Another Voice Heard From

I'm with Leon Cross on this! Reading the letter from President Roosevelt, it is so true and so powerful as to the power and reward of effort. We have all been there, and we have all lost some we could have or should have won, but we still get up and get out there tomorrow and the next day and the day after that. I do think we learn more from our losses than

from our victories.

Now we need to all pick it up and get ready for the Bowl. We need to go into the off season with a victory behind us!

GO SOONERS!

*Wayne Lee, '65 arch
Boulder, Colorado*

Editor's Note: Wayne Lee was an All-American center/linebacker and co-captain on the 1962 Sooner football team.

Applying Reason to the Season

Having been down the road that the coaches are now traveling, I know just how frustrating it can be. No question that the entire staff and players work their butts off to be the best they can be. Sometimes things just don't go the way you would like, but the answer is not to bitch and moan and blame. It is to support the program and coaches as they hit the road to find the best young men for the system.

With the limited scholarships now permitted, teams are not near as deep as folks think. 85 total full-time scholarships mean that probably no more than 40-45 are ready to play great D1 football today; divided O&D, and it's just two deep—if you're lucky—and injuries can deplete a team so quick!!!

We have a GREAT coaching staff that needs our full support ALL the time—not just when things are going our way.

Winning at Oklahoma is so expected, as though it should just happen. For fans to feel that OU is entitled to win just because it is OU is absolutely not facing the current situation in major college football. Only one team went undefeated this year, and they lucked out time and again. So the message is don't listen to the talking heads and mouths whose job it is to be negative. Negative sells.

My thanks to Leon Cross for his many years of loyalty to the program we all love and respect so much.

*Jay O'Neal, '59 bs pet eng
Crested Butte, Colorado*

Editor's Note: Jay O'Neal was a quarterback on Bud Wilkinson's 1954-57 teams.