



If we are to believe the artist, Benton Ferguson, '31 arts-sc., this is the way Mrs Walter Ferguson, '07 fine arts, writes about home management. At any rate you'll enjoy every line of the sketch below. The author reveals his identity in the last line

Mrs Walter Ferguson

AN INTIMATE SKETCH

Mrs Walter Ferguson, '07 fine arts, has, I suppose, gained somewhat of a reputation as a writer, but for some reason, that fact has never impressed me. Perhaps it is because I know her too well. Even though she is the idol of a club woman in Pittsburgh, or she gives advice to a stenographer in New York, or even if a few million people do read what she has to say every day, at least, they only read it—I have to listen to it. But I will have to admit, or perhaps boast—she can write. Her short epigrammatic style has a terseness to it that a lot of editorial writers should copy. It almost startles me to see in clear concise print, perfect summaries of her after dinner theories. And that's about all the compliments I can hand her—as far as her writing is concerned.

She was born Lucia Loomis, in Boggy Depot, Indian Territory, the first child of a family of three girls. This handicap of location was hardly lessened when her parents moved to Wapanuka. Her schooling was of the average Indian Territory sort, except that she read everything in the vicinity she could get her hands on. Before she got out of high

school she was sent to a convent in Missouri for two years. Her final school days were spent in Norman, and if I understand it right she was quite a belle in Norman, (although the only proof I've got is that she hooked a pretty good man). There is very little record of what she did in school, except that she made good grades and was a member of the Eta Beta Pi sorority (later, Kappa Alpha Theta). She was graduated from school with a fine arts degree in violin and piano, in 1908 and in November of the same year, married Walter Ferguson, also a former student of the university. They moved to Cherokee where they edited, managed, printed, and wrote for their own paper. When I say 'they,' I mean 'they,' for Mrs Ferguson did fully as much on the paper as Mr Ferguson.

In 1920, after selling the *Cherokee Republican*, the Fergusons moved to Oklahoma City. It was here that Mrs Ferguson really began writing. Her acquaintance with G. B. Parker, '07 arts-sc., and his knowledge of her newspaper work, led to a series of local articles, entitled "From

a Woman's Point of View." These gained such a local reputation that, in 1922, they were syndicated throughout all of the Scripps-McRae newspapers (now Scripps-Howard). And, well, if you read her stuff in the *Oklahoma News*, which is one of the twenty-six papers in which it is published, you know how she's been raving against men ever since.

The unusual thing about her writing is that it hasn't affected her. Of course, it may in time, but it hasn't yet. And instead of secluding herself in some office she writes all her articles at home under the most adverse conditions—the victrola playing, a thirteen-year old daughter tap dancing, a seven year old son playing cowboy and Indian, a husband hollering for quiet—and she calmly uses the hunt and peck system.

She reads a lot, mostly newspapers and the newer books. It is her favorite recreation, and I don't believe that there is anything in the day's news that escapes her eye: certainly a new book doesn't come out that she doesn't read or know the reason why. At first I thought it

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St. Pat's day plans

Every year, along about the middle of March, when most young men's fancies lightly turn to thoughts of baseball, the engineers at O. U. are hard at work in preparation for their annual openhouse.

The approach of Saint Patrick's day on March 17 is the signal for large celebrations in engineering colleges throughout the country. At the University of Iowa, Iowa City, an entire week is devoted to an appropriate celebration of the occasion. However, at this school, the affair is known as Mecca week, due to the strenuous objections of the Irish element in the city of naming it a Saint Patrick's celebration.

At O. U. the celebration has been in vogue for many years and is an occasion for the reunion of old grads, a large openhouse display, and at times an expression of the esteem with which the law and engine schools regard each other.

In order to promote the success of a real celebration a tidy sum of money is needed, and in past years, the treasurer of the Engineer's club has handled funds totalling in excess of \$1,000 for a single year. A portion of these expenses are defrayed by holding an Engineer's show which this year will be held at the Sooner theater on Wednesday, March 11. In addition to the regular feature picture the engineers will furnish stage entertainment and will receive a percentage of the gate receipts. In previous years, various methods have been used to obtain the necessary funds and at one time a style show was held featuring the latest in womens wearing apparel as displayed by interesting co-eds.

Heretofore, the official publication was usually termed the Saint Pat's Daily and was an edition of the *Oklahoma Daily*, the campus newspaper. This year, however, the April issue of *The Sooner Magazine* will be dedicated to the Engineers and will contain all the information usually published in the Saint Pat's Daily and several articles of special interest being prepared by the editorial staff.

The program of the open house festivities, as outlined by the Saint Pat's board, is as follows:

Wednesday, March 11:

Saint Pat's Show—evening performance at the Sooner theater.

Friday, March 13:

10:30 a.m. Arrival of Saint Pat and Parade around the oval.

10:45 a. m. Coronation of queen on the steps of the Engineering building
1-5 p. m. Seventeenth annual openhouse. The two engineering build-

ings, the Petroleum laboratory building and the Geology building.

8-11:30 p. m. Engineer's dance—Oklahoma Union ballroom.

12-12:30 a. m. Fireworks display.

Saturday, March 14:

6:30 p. m. Engineer's banquet with crowning of senior engineers as Knights of Saint Patrick.

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MRS WALTER FERGUSON

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was part of her "racket," but she seems to enjoy it.

Now, her advice has been printed from one end of the land to the other—let me tell you some things about herself that she hasn't had published. She can manage a house fairly well, but she cops all honors as the world's worst cook. There's only one dish that she can do justice with, and that's slaw. She's as gullible as they make them, and is an easy mark for every house to house solicitor that comes along. This probably explains the fact that she'll let anyone take up her time, for she wouldn't insult a fly. Right now she's probably serving on some committee or reading a book report to the bridge club, just because they were counting on her. She has a diabolical habit of hiding things all over the house, and under the pretense of putting something away, she will stow it into some God-forsaken place where even the devil couldn't find it. For instance, let a member of the family or a guest come in and lay something down as harmless as a package of cigarets, and she'll eye it with fiendish glee and then when your back is turned—Presto! it is "put away"—never to be found again.

But despite all that—she is in the vernacular of a college student "OK."

The understanding and common sense that she manages to put into her articles are also used at home. She will forgive anything and can understand anything. She professes to hate sentiment, but it is only a ruse to hide one of the most sentimental souls in the world. She seldom worries and then only about trifles, for she trusts her family and her friends and she would, and often does, do anything for them. She has the one saving grace of tolerance—a sharp sense of humor. That and her unwarped, good common sense, which she applies to everyone and every situation, are her

two great virtues. Her faults are few—at least, I think so. For I'm her oldest, and perhaps you've already guessed, her boldest, son.

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THE UNION INVESTIGATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 194)

thereon are to be paid at the rate of approximately \$40,000.00 yearly.

Neither the stadium nor the Union building are complete. When completed and furnished the total cost of both projects will be in excess of \$1,000,000.00 without cost to the state. In its present state of completion the Union building contains the following facilities:

1. Offices for the student government and various student organizations.
2. Meeting and committee rooms for student organizations, literary, and honorary societies and religious organizations.
3. Assembly room for large groups.
4. The offices of *The Sooner*, the university year book published by the students.
5. Lounge and study room, not finished but partially furnished and in use daily.
6. The Y. M. C. A. and student employment office.
7. One unfurnished part of the building used for class rooms and offices by the university. It contains six class rooms and two offices.
8. The alumni office.
9. The alumni placement bureau.
10. Ball room.
11. Cafeteria and soda fountain.
12. Amusements hall, containing billiards, bowling, and pool.
13. News stand.
14. The university book exchange.

All activities in the building are operated in the interests of the students and the university. Food and other prices are kept as low as possible.

Part-time student help is employed in all departments. The Union employs more student labor than any single enterprise in Norman. The payroll for student employees during the school year 1929-30 was \$17,497.12. Approximately sixty students are employed at the university rate of thirty-five cents an hour which is considerably in excess of the rate at which most of the type of labor employed could be obtained. Recently *The Oklahoma Daily* published a survey showing that many private business houses were employing students at rates as low as eleven cents an hour for exactly the same type of work the Union pays thirty-five cents.

Most large universities have student Unions similar to the University of Oklahoma Union. A fee is charged in all such schools and almost without exception this fee is in excess of \$2.50. The usual charge is \$5.00 each semester and in some cases as much as \$10.00 is charged each student enrolled. At the University of Wisconsin approximately \$900,000.00 was contributed by alumni but the 9,000 students pay \$5.00 each semester for the upkeep and maintenance of the Union.

Enrollment fees at the University of Oklahoma are lower than any state university in this section of the country. The general fees which are a "prerequisite to enrollment" are infirmary, \$2.50; library, \$1.50; and Union \$2.50, total \$6.50. A few courses require laboratory fees to cover the cost of instructional material. Many state universities have a matriculation fee, which is larger than our general fees, in addition to much larger fees of all types. Required fees at the University of Oklahoma are without exception fewer and smaller than fees of the Universities of Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa State, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin. Most of these schools have Student Union Buildings or have plans for building them.