

THE SOONER MAGAZINE

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◆ OKLAHOMA ALUMNI NEWS ◆

December, 1936

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Oklahomans at home and abroad

Magazine setup changes

Beginning December 1, at about the same time this issue comes off the press, the *Sooner Magazine* will acquire a "full time" editor.

Strictly speaking, it won't be exactly that, because he will spend a part of his time as assistant in the press relations department at the University. But it will be the nearest thing to a full-time editor that the magazine has had.

We hope the new arrangement will lead to improvements in the magazine, particularly in increased volume of material about the activities of University alumni.

Various alumni publications over the country have made surveys from time to time in order to determine what kind of articles or departments are best liked by alumni readers. Class notes or personal items—Jim Smith becoming a proud father or Susie Jones being appointed teacher—nearly always top the list in popularity.

In order to assemble material of this kind, we need the help of every reader of this magazine. Every reader is hereby appointed a correspondent. You don't have to rival Arthur Brisbane or Walter Lippmann in literary ability—just write the item any way you wish, or just clip out a newspaper item and mail the clipping, indicating date and origin of it.

Your alumni magazine is the only clearing house for news of University graduates and former students that is designed especially to serve this group.

It's your magazine, and we hope you will assist in making it more useful.

The University board of regents at its monthly meeting October 31 confirmed appointment of Roscoe Cate, '26as, as assistant in press relations department of the University and editor of the *Sooner Magazine*, the alumni executive board having previously approved the plan.

Under the new arrangement, Cate, who has been editing the magazine on a part-

time basis this fall, has resigned his position as city editor of the *Norman Transcript*, effective December 1, and will devote full time to the two positions at the University.



Election winners

Twenty-five University graduates, former students, or students were elected members of the State House of Representatives in the general election November 3. Four Sooners are listed among the 22 new members of the state senate.

Josh Lee, '17as, swept to an impressive victory in the United States senate race. Thurman Hurst, '12law, was elected to the State Supreme court from the sixth district; Wilburn Cartwright, '20law, was re-elected congressman in the third district and Will Rogers, '30M.S., was returned to the office of congressman-at-large.

Sooners who won state senate races are James M. Wilson, '33law, Enid, eighth district; Tom C. Waldrep, '15law, Shaw-

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THE COVER—Dignified Monnet hall, which students, with traditional perversity, continue to label the "Law Barn."

nee, thirteenth district; Merton Munson, '29as, '31law, Lawton, seventeenth district; and Joe B. Thompson, '24ex, Ardmore, eighteenth district.

Four students enrolled in the University were elected to the House. They are Dale Brown, Coalgate, Coal county; Malcolm Baucum, Sulphur, Murray county; Wilson Wallace, Ardmore, Carter county; and Dutch Hill, Chickasha, Grady county.

Alumni and former students in the new House are Ben Huey, '31law, Norman, Cleveland county; Francis Goodpaster, '33ex, Vinita, Craig county; Bert Larason, '30as, Fargo, Ellis county; Finis C. Gillespie, Jr., '33as, '35law, Hobart, Kiowa county; Leon C. Phillips, '16law, Okemah, Okfuskee county; Noel Duncan, '32ex, Cleveland, Pawnee county; Jesse E. Taylor, '30as, Woodward, Woodward county; Roy B. Hooper, '33ex, Elgin, Comanche county; Harold Freeman, '25ex, Pauls Valley, Garvin county; Roy H. Page, '31ex, Kellyville, Creek county; Herbert Branan, '32as, Muskogee, and Murrell H. Thornton, '10ex, Muskogee, both representing Muskogee county; Huby Jordan, '32ex, Kiowa, Pittsburg county; Marvin Wooten, '31ex, Konawa, Seminole county; C. W. Schwoerke, '31law, Bryan Billings, '32ex, William O. Coe, '28law, B. B. Kerr, '31law, and Murray F. Gibbons, '15ex, all Oklahoma county; and A. E. Montgomery, '15law, and Glade R. Kirkpatrick, '27ex, both of Tulsa county.



Geology alumni meet

A series of informal meetings of geology alumni has been started in various centers of Oklahoma by Dr. V. E. Monnett, '12, director of the school of geology.

By mid-November, meetings had been held at Enid, Shawnee, Ardmore and Oklahoma City. Other gatherings were scheduled at Ponca City, Bartlesville, Tulsa and probably Chickasha or Duncan. Plans also were considered for geology



Leon Phillips, '16law (on the left), and J. T. Daniel, '25as, snapped at the State Capitol as a Democratic caucus was held to decide between the two for the speakership of the new House of Representatives. Daniel, backed by the Marland administration, won the speakership. Phillips held the position in the last legislature. He is leader of a strong minority in the new House.

rallies at Wichita, Kan., and at Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston and Wichita Falls, Texas.

No effort is made for formal organization, geologists being frequently on the move. The informal gatherings help the geology faculty keep up with needs in the field, and give the alumni information on new developments in their profession.

Symposium quite harmless

Newspaper stories going out over the state after the new Norman Forum held its political symposium probably aroused apprehensions in the minds of some good citizens, as some of the stories put undue emphasis on certain minor angles of the occasion.

The Forum invited four speakers, representing Republican, Democratic, Socialist and Communist political parties, to speak 20 minutes each and then ask and answer questions. There was lively discussion after the main speeches, and some pointed questions were asked, but it was more a clash of wits than a clash of principles. There was much laughter as the visiting political experts slashed at each other verbally.

Some of the published news stories left the impression that the meeting was a sensational one. As a matter of fact, it was a sort of glorified bull session—a lot of talk containing a certain amount of information but leading nowhere in particular.

As for whether the event indicated any extreme liberalism on the part of the University faculty, this writer can quote a Norman business man who is an active member of the American Legion and presumably entirely safe and sane in his viewpoint: "It was the best evening's entertainment I've had for a long time."

The Forum, which includes both University and non-University members, has sponsored addresses by two well-known lecturers recently. Speaking for the Emergency Peace Campaign, Robert Morss Lovett, veteran University of Chicago professor, advocated more effective neutrality legislation, and disarmament to the point of actual needs for defense.

Bernard Fay, French professor and lecturer, in another lecture sponsored by the

Forum described dictatorships as fear-permeated government certain to fall sooner or later.

"Democracy," he said, "is safe as long as it accepts intelligent leaders, is ready to fight to preserve the democratic form of government, and resists contamination by Communism."

The terms "Fascism" and "Communism" are often loosely used as representing two opposite poles of thought, while as a matter of fact the two have much in common, he declared.

E. N. Comfort, director of the Oklahoma School of Religion, who heads the Forum, emphasizes that it is intended to foster free discussion of all angles of important problems, without taking any stand or advocating any particular viewpoint.

Business openhouse

Prominent alumni, members of the Board of Regents and other interested persons gathered at the University October 31 for a celebration in appreciation of the New Business Administration building.

Speakers at luncheon and dinner programs hailed the new building as an important milestone in the progress of the University in general, and business education in particular.

President W. B. Bizzell, speaking at the luncheon session, emphasized the growing importance of professional training in business—importance both for the success of the individual and the good of society as a whole.

Dr. Bizzell commended Dr. A. B. Adams, dean of the college of business administration, for his record.

"Dean Adams has been part of the entire development and I think it is fair to say that the school has developed around his personality and his interests," Dr. Bizzell said.

"With all my heart I congratulate him and the faculty of the college on their new building. The only way to obtain an appropriation for a building like this in this state, or any other state university, is to deserve it—to make the people believe in the work that is being done by the college."

Speakers at the luncheon included Ma-

yor Eugene Kerr, Muskogee, vice-president of the University board of regents; and Eugene P. Ledbetter, '14, Oklahoma City; Joseph Looney, '20, '22, Wewoka, and Lloyd Noble, '21, Ardmore, other members of the Board of Regents. E. V. George, state senator, and Ben Huey, '31, and Herbert Branan, '32, members of the legislature, also spoke.

Several of the speakers urged that efforts be made to encourage more friendly relationships between the University faculty and members of the legislature.

The program at the dinner session included addresses by Fletcher Riley, '17, justice of the State Supreme Court; Morris Head, '26, Oklahoma City; Dorsey Douglas, Jr., '29, Oklahoma City; Dan Hogan, Oklahoma City, and Dr. Adams. Luther White, '14, Tulsa, was toastmaster.

Alumni meetings planned

As this issue of the magazine went to press, several gatherings of alumni were being planned over the state. Gerald Tebbe called a meeting of University graduates November 10 at Perry. Hicks Epton was making arrangements for a session at Wewoka, and H. E. Wrinkle, superintendent of schools at Bartlesville, was sponsoring plans for an alumni rally there. Ted Beaird, association secretary, was booked to give an Armistice Day address at Ardmore November 11, and planned to discuss arrangements for organization of alumni there while in the city.

Speaks in Houston

Savoie Lottinville, '29, business manager of the University of Oklahoma Press, spoke recently at a meeting of the Southwestern Library association in Houston, Texas. His subject was "The Place of an Institutional Press in the Southwest."

While in Houston he saw Clifton Marion Mackey, '16as, '17sc, who is now with the Westinghouse company at Houston, and his wife, Alice Hurley Mackey, '15as; Curtis Smith, '29as, former campus musician now with the Humble Oil company at Houston, and Helen Matthews, '36as, who is doing library work in Texas. There are about two hundred Sooner alumni in Houston now, Lottinville was told.

Repercussions

The Business Administration openhouse luncheon, at which several members of the board of regents spoke, had some repercussions in the public prints.

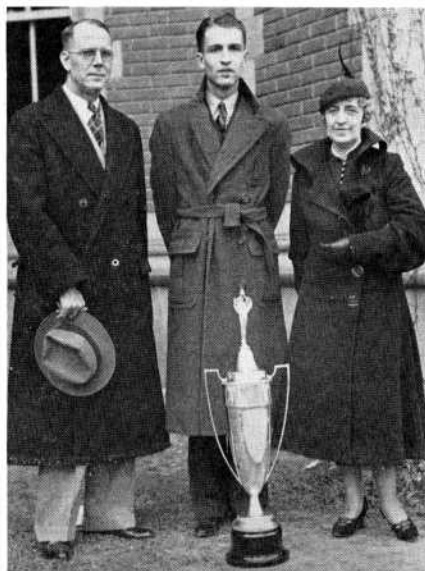
Said Walter Harrison, writing in the *Tiny Times* of the *Oklahoma City Times*:

Too often, members of the board of regents of the state university at Norman have been yes-men for the president of the school.

Not so Maj. Eugene Kerr, of Muskogee, an independent mind who speaks his opinions in session and out. At the dedication of the new home of the School of Business Administration the other day, he lashed professors who spend classroom time arguing theories of government.

"Of course he was speaking directly about Oklahoma university. There are professors down

The young man and young woman shown with the cups are the winners of the 1937 Dads association awards made to the two outstanding students in the University. On the left, Stewart Mark, law freshman, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mark, Oklahoma City. In the other picture, Ruth Clark, fine arts senior, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Clark, Tulsa.



there who have devoted hours to attempting to prove that all religion is shabby mummery based on an identical form of myth. Others declaim consistently on the merits of the Russian Soviet government.

There should be no objection to a display of the facts about Communistic Russia, or the attitude of any government toward religion, but we question the right of any classroom teacher to argue and impress the theory of radical government trends upon a group of children.

Major Kerr will do well to kick out with both feet and call names. He will be surprised at the support he will get.

Both the *Oklahoma Daily* and the Press Box column of the *Norman Transcript* immediately pooh-poohed the idea that Communism is being fomented on the campus.

Bob Volmer, *Daily* editor, commented: "Surely Mr. Harrison does not believe his charges. If he actually knows for a fact what he stated so dogmatically, he's a better reporter by sitting in his office in Oklahoma City than leg men who cover the University every day.

"If his information happened to come from Maj. Eugene Kerr, of Muskogee, vice-chairman of the board of regents, then we must conclude that Mr. Kerr is much better informed than the *Oklahoma Daily*. And Mr. Kerr visits the university one day every month."

"What is wrong," queried Vollmer, "with 'professors who spend classroom time arguing theories of government.'? As for the 'proof' that 'all religion is shabby mummery,' we haven't heard it. Neither have we heard any professors 'declaim consistently on the merits of the Russian Soviet government.'"

The Press Box column in the *Transcript* recalled that several radicals from New York who tried to start various agitations on the campus a few years ago soon dropped out of school because their type of movement "fopped" there.

Warmest retort came from Dr. A. B. Adams, dean of the college of business administration, who was a speaker on the same program with Major Kerr.

Dr. Adams charged that the "Tiny Times" did a "great injustice" to the University.

"As a matter of fact, Major Kerr made no direct charge against any professor or group of professors of the university," Dr. Adams said in a statement to the *Times*. "You on the other hand made specific charges against 'professors down there,'

which, if true, should not be ignored by either the board of regents or the people of the state. Until cleared up, these charges cast an ugly shadow upon all faculty members, as well as upon the institution as a whole."

"Of the 270 individual classroom teachers at the University, it is possible that some of them are not top flight," he said. "among the faculty are various shades of opinions and personalities . . . It is inevitable and even desirable that the faculty members of an institution of this size constitute a cross-section of American opinion upon our great public problems."

Major Kerr's speech, which was an extemporaneous and informal discussion, emphasized the danger in a professor's presenting opinions as facts. He also, however, expressed himself as being in favor of free presentation of facts—even about Russia.

Luncheon proposed

Some of the alumni of the School of Pharmacy have discussed the possibility of a luncheon in Norman on Friday, December 11, on the day of the fourth annual convention of the Oklahoma University Pharmaceutical association. Those who would be interested are asked to get in touch with Bob Richardson, '35, at Duncan, or Paul McCluskey, '35, at Chickasha.

That Dallas game

Following the Sooner-Texas game at Dallas, speculation arose as to whether the University might insist on a home-and-home schedule hereafter, rather than an annual game at Dallas.

Both athletic and administrative officials at the University branded the talk as pure speculation, and stated that since the present contract calling for the game to be played in Dallas has two more years to

run, no consideration is being given to the question this year.

It is a fact, of course, that Big Six schools have a general policy of opposing the scheduling of games anywhere except at one school or the other, and Kansas and Missouri abandoned the custom of playing their annual game at Kansas City.

However, the Dallas game is the most reliable source of income on the Sooner schedule, which is no small consideration for an athletic department that has big expenses and Stadium bond payments to meet.

The question is still an open one, and any graduates who feel that the annual Dallas rally should be continued after the present contract expires still have plenty of time to express their opinions.

Old gym on last lap

Remodeled for perhaps the last time, the old gymnasium in November was made ready for a band practice room and a vivarium for the zoology department. The frame structure, located south of the Union, was built in 1903 to house the physical education activities of the University. Many of the "greats" in Sooner athletic history earned their fame in that building. It is now one of three frame structures remaining on the campus.

Reunion in Pasadena

Members of the medical class of 1936 who are now located on the Pacific coast are planning to hold a reunion at the Rose Bowl game in Pasadena on New Year's day, according to word received from Howell Ernest Wiggins, at Cedars of Lebanon hospital, Los Angeles, Calif.

Statuary placed

Two pieces of sculpture weighing three tons each were placed above the entrance of the new Business Administration build-

ing while Julius Struppeck, '36, the University's only graduate with major in sculpture, looked on nervously. Struppeck carved the figures out of eight tons of limestone. One represents commerce and the other industry. ▲

Pool cover started

WPA work on the campus continued during November with a crew of men starting work on a building to cover the new swimming pool for men, north of the Fieldhouse. It is expected the building will be completed before the end of the first semester. Also approved by the WPA: campus entrance arches on Brooks street at Jenkins avenue; construction of 700 feet of utility tunnel between the power plant and the North Oval; and construction of a brick forage building for the R.O.T.C. to replace one destroyed by fire last year. Total of the program is about \$27,000, with the federal government furnishing about \$14,000. ▲

Editors' help invited

Members of the central district of the Oklahoma Press association, meeting in Norman on the day of the Nebraska game, discussed newspaper problems and heard W. B. Bizzell invite their support in getting a journalism building for the University. ▲

Cadet medical unit?

Washington officials are considering possibility of establishing a medical unit of the R.O.T.C. at the University Medical school, Oklahoma City, according to word received in Norman. The project is contingent upon provision of funds by the next Congress. ▲

Barracks proposed

Malcolm Baucum, student legislator-elect from Sulphur, inspired by the example of Oklahoma A. and M. college which took over abandoned civilian conservation corps camps and made them into barracks for students, proposed that low-cost barracks be constructed for needy students at the University. He proposed that the barracks be built jointly by federal and state funds. ▲

Bentonelli wins praise

Joseph Bentonelli, '20as, '21B.M., had another glorious homecoming October 23 when he sang in concert in Oklahoma

City on a program with Helen Jepson, soprano.

He visited his parents, in Norman, before leaving to begin rehearsals for the Chicago Civic Opera season. His 14-weeks season with the Metropolitan will start the middle of January when he appears in "Tales of Hoffman."

Of the Oklahoma City concert, Herbert Ricker wrote in the *Oklahoma News*:

Never have we heard Mr. Bentonelli sing more beautifully than he did last night. We must appreciate his mastery of each song, which showed the most careful study of the subtle moods of the text; his cultivated ear that directed the shading of the musical phrases that made every tune have a meaning. There is a wistfulness underlying his interpretation that makes every song typical of Bentonelli in spite of the spirit or mood that he may be portraying. His tone is not the rich, mellow one that we associate with an operatic tenor, although it is one of fine quality controlled by a cultivated mentality. His artistic achievement is one that demands respect and admiration. ▲

Holmberg awards

In honor of the memory of her husband, the late dean of the college of fine arts, Mrs. Fredrik Holmberg annually will award cash prizes to outstanding students in the college of fine arts, according to announcement from the office of President W. B. Bizzell.

The awards, to be known as the "Fredrik Holmberg Memorial Awards," will be made annually at commencement time to the highest ranking seniors in the schools of art, drama, and music. Each award will consist of \$50 in cash accompanied by a scroll. ▲

Prize dads

More than five hundred dads of University students attended the annual Dads' day celebration. R. L. Hill, who traveled about nine hundred miles from Harlingen, Texas, won the prize for coming the longest distance from outside the state. The father coming the longest distance from inside the state was J. E. Summers, Guymon.

Other awards went to Dr. J. H. Crockett, Durant, 65 years old, the oldest dad present; Floyd S. Gregory, 38 years old,

Hominy, youngest; W. E. Huddleston, Konawa, Dr. Charles Hess, Durant, and F. Fleming, Enid, tied for father with most daughters in school; J. B. Blankenship, Norman, most sons enrolled; N. M. Hughes, Ada, most sons and daughters enrolled.

New officers of the association are C. S. Storms, Waurika, president; H. L. Muldrow, Norman, re-elected secretary, and R. W. Hutto, Norman, re-elected treasurer. Eight vice-presidents elected are W. R. Clark, Tulsa; Ernest Lambert, Okmulgee; Dr. Charles A. Hess, Durant; Harry E. Morris, Ada; J. C. Cheek, Oklahoma City; Ernest E. Brown, Duncan; Dr. J. R. Hinshaw, Butler; and F. Fleming, Enid.

Dads association awards to the most outstanding students in the University were made to Stewart Mark and Ruth Clark. Dr. W. W. Groom, of McAlester, in his address as retiring president, expressed hope that the wealthy men of Oklahoma will contribute funds for scholarships, museums, art galleries and endowments for departmental chairs at the University. ▲

Schmoldt is killed

Many a Sooner graduate who has been aided by genial Bill Schmoldt in selecting just the right gift for a special occasion mourned the passing of the proprietor of the Bam Bam gift shop.

Mr. Schmoldt was killed instantly in an automobile crash a mile south of Moore on Highway 77. His car went off the concrete slab, and as he attempted to get back on the concrete, the car skidded across the highway and smashed into the side of an oncoming truck.

He had operated the gift shop in Norman for the last ten years. ▲

Archeological project

Tulsa university and the University of Oklahoma have joined in requesting an \$85,000 WPA project for archeological research work to be done under joint direction of the two institutions. Most of the research would be centered in north-east Oklahoma.



The camera was straight when this picture was made, but the stage wasn't. A tilting stage set designed to represent an airplane taking off and in flight was designed by Merwin Elwell for the first Playhouse show of the year, "The Solitaire Man." In the picture, left to right, are Annie Youngblood, Claude Traverse, Amzie Strickland, Charles Briley, Nell Marie Anderson and David Crockett.