

A Sooner who "sells" the University

By Mary Catherine Lynn

SOMEONE on the University faculty got to thinking about how often he saw a student from Tuttle, in spite of the fact that this town is a very small one. There must be some reason for it.

Investigation revealed that there *was* a reason, and Elton M. Couch, '25ba, is it. Principal of Tuttle High school since 1926, Mr. Couch has encouraged hundreds of young people to come to Norman to continue their education.

During the present school year, 25 Tuttle students are enrolled in the University. That isn't such a large number, but it is approximately 3 percent of the entire population of Tuttle which is officially 766. Last year, 23 students from Tuttle were enrolled in the University.

In proportion to population, Tuttle sends about six times as many students to the University as Oklahoma City, since the state's capital sends about one-half of one percent of its population to Norman.

The students from Tuttle agree that Mr. Couch deserves most of the credit for his town's unusual interest in higher education. He is so enthusiastic about the benefits of a college education—and the particular advantages offered at the University of Oklahoma—that he has little difficulty in getting his students to share this enthusiasm.

He finds many opportunities to tell young people about the University, pointing out its attractive features, and at the same time warning them about the problems that they are likely to meet. He endeavors to give them the best possible high school foundation for their college work. Since he teaches physics, he tries particularly to make his physics training fit his students for science work in the University.

However, he is too practical to confine his "missionary work" to just talking and teaching. He long ago decided that a first hand view of the University, with its many points of interest, does more than any kind of a word picture.

So in the Spring, about time for the annual Interscholastic Meet, he gathers all his boys and girls who he believes are interested in higher education and brings them to Norman for an inspection tour.

Elton M. Couch, Tuttle school man who is largely responsible for the fact that his small town sends a remarkably high proportion of its young people to the University.

He shows them the campus, takes them through the more important buildings, and describes various aspects of University life.

By this time, a great many of the young people are eager and enthusiastic about coming to the University, but an important problem remains—many of the enthusiastic students face financial problems and must have work to help pay their expenses while in school.

Recognizing that this is a vital part of his effort to get students into the University, Mr. Couch brings the group to Norman again in the early Autumn, about a week or two before school starts. This time he helps the prospective students make a systematic canvass of all the possible job sources. They visit the Y.W.C.A. employment office, go to the campus shops, interview University officials and check the possibilities of getting work in Norman homes or stores.

Usually, by the time school starts each student who really needs a job has found one, because a systematic plan was followed.

But even after the students are enrolled, paying their way, and safely launched in the University, Mr. Couch doesn't consider that his job is finished. On the contrary, he keeps in constant touch with them through their parents, and makes periodical visits to Norman to check up on their progress.

In the meantime, he plugs away at instilling a new generation of Tuttle boys

and girls with the ambition to attend the University and prepare themselves for a fully useful and well-rounded life.

Considering his vision and his energy, it is no wonder that the citizens of Tuttle regard Mr. Couch as an unusually fine school man, and they rejoice each year at the generous supply of sheepskins being garnered by the young people of this small town.

Perhaps the fact that Mr. Couch had to work his own way through college accounts for his sympathy with the working student, and his understanding of the problems encountered. Some of his enthusiasm for higher education might be traced back to the influence of his mother, who was a school teacher herself and who encouraged him to get a University degree.

He plans to carry on the Couch tradition at the University through his two small daughters, both of whom he expects to graduate from O.U. A brother, Glenn C. Couch, is instructor in botany in the University.

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What, no tickets?

There is some legislative grumbling at Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University, and part of it goes back to the football ticket racket, Frank McNaughton, United Press political writer, said in his "Off the Record" column.

Some legislators got sore this year because of failure to get special favors in the way of football passes, McNaughton declared.

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Women scholars honored

Mortar Board has chosen as the four junior women with highest scholastic averages during their sophomore years: Eleanor Burton, Oklahoma City; Helen Anderson, Norman; Geraldine Frensley, Ardmore; Flossie Green, Erick. Their names will be inscribed on the Mortar Board honor plaque in the Women's building.

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Would pay athletes

Formal motion for establishment of a system of open subsidization of athletes in large colleges and universities was presented to a January meeting of the University Administrative council by Dr. A. B. Adams, dean of the college of business administration. The proposal, which recommends that room and board be provided athletes for their service to the University, was referred to the Athletic council for study and a report.

