

In the Mail . . .

Letters to the Alumni Secretary and the Magazine Editor

Sir:

As you know there are a great many of us who find it a pleasant side-line to boost the University to the citizenship of our locality. As you know there has been an all too prevalent idea that the University is a sort of superficial institution where the children of wealthy parents go in order to learn who to snub when they get out of school. Just about the time we get a favorable reaction built up in our community a lot of tripe printed under the name of "News" comes out of the University and destroys our efforts.

Particularly I refer to the story which occurred in the Times of Oklahoma City on the afternoon of March 19, referring to "Cribbing" in the University. Despite the fact that two deans are quoted to substantiate the statements made I simply do not believe this article to be true. I know it was not true in the law school when I was there. There were only three men that I ever heard of cribbing in my class, and they were so thoroughly discredited by the other students that I think they stopped it. I do not believe that the law school is any exception to any of the other professional schools.

I have said all of this to make it perfectly clear that I am not running from the truth. There should be some way to ascertain the truth in this particular, and if such a condition does exist then we will face these facts for what they are worth. Certainly an institution that would attract students 90 percent of whom are no more interested in their work than this article implies, is one that needs overhauling. If the truth is as I believe, then a grave and serious injustice is done the University, and a great bulk of decent, high-type students, by such articles as the one to which I refer.

I cannot believe that this article could have been started on the campus, but assume that somebody from Oklahoma City, who needed something sensational, created it.

I don't know what can be done about this sort of thing, if needed anything can be done. I do know that such stories hurt. If true, then I am willing for the hurt to come, but I want to be dead certain they are true before we subject ourselves to unnecessary criticism. I would like to add further that this is not merely a personal expression. I talked with eight or ten local graduates, and they feel the same way I do about it.

When you have given this matter your thought kindly drop me a line and let me know if there is anything we can do to counteract such stuff.

HICKS EPTON, '32LAW
Wewoka, Oklahoma

Sir:

I have just finished looking over the March issue of the *Sooner Magazine*. By reason of the fact that I think that a fellow should be told about his accomplishments while he is still living, I wish to say to you that I think you are putting out a very fine magazine. It is very interesting and very impressive.

BEN HATCHER,
B.A. '24, LL.B. '25,
Ada, Oklahoma.

Sir:

Every time I go into the reading room of the University Club here I am impressed with the fact that many of the Universities and also many of the college fraternities have their magazines displayed for reading on the main reading table. In looking over the assortment I am struck with the fact that the Oklahoma University Alumni magazine is conspicuous by its absence.

This magazine should be on the reading table of not only this University Club, but every other University club in the State, and, for that matter, perhaps on the reading table of every prominent social club in the State, regardless of whether it is a university club, or not. I therefore, wish to urge upon you that you furnish this magazine to these clubs if you have the authority to do so and that, if you do not have this authority, you take the matter up with your Board of Directors for I am certain that a worthwhile opportunity to make friends and spread favorable impressions is being neglected.

ROBERT H. WOOD, '11
Tulsa, Oklahoma

For a good suggestion, thanks to Mr. Wood. The Tulsa University Club has been added to the mailing list.

▲

Sir:

I thank you for your letter of March 28, and will state that I also received a letter from Mr. H. H. Leake in connection with the visit of the senior class of Guymon High School to the campus of the University.

I was prompted to write my first letter for the reason that the reception given to the class last year at the University had been compared to the reception given them at the A. and M. College, by members of the class, very much to the disadvantage of the University.

With the politicians cussing the University, and propaganda in various portions of the state being directed against the University, I think that we should do everything possible to create a favorable sentiment toward the University.

I regret to note that the University lost Paul B. Sears. Although I did not have the pleasure of knowing him while at the University, his book, *Deserts on the March*, could almost serve as a Bible for this section of the country.

VINCENT DALE, '33ex
Guymon, Oklahoma

P.S.—I have just talked with Mr. McNeill, and he tells me that the Class received the nicest reception of the trip at the University. Thanks!

▲

Sir:

As you doubtless know, I seldom write you concerning any communication received from your office. However, I was much interested in the editorial quoted in your Bulletin of March 21, 1938, and want you to know that I thoroughly approve of your attitude respecting the same.

I am wondering if a copy of this Bulletin was sent to the editor of the *Journal*? If not, would it not be possible to have a copy reach him through some friendly channel? I should like to know his reaction.

COLEMAN HAYES, '24, '26LAW
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The editorial mentioned above was one published in the *Perry Journal*, criticizing the *Sooner Magazine's* suggestion that O. U. alumni take a more aggressive attitude toward election of public spirited men to the State Legislature.

▲

Sir:

I read your bulletin of March 21 to chairmen and members of the County Advisory Councils and I am taking this opportunity to tell you that

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 40)

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Belles Lettres and Bell Ringers

Sequoyah, by Grant Foreman. University of Oklahoma Press, 1938. \$1.50.

MOST Oklahomans know that Sequoyah was the Cherokee Indian genius who conceived and perfected an alphabet for his tribal language, but the full picture of this achievement and the illiterate person who performed it has never before been presented.

Grant Foreman, making use of newly discovered source material, has now written the story with all of the essential elements included in an attractive book, *Sequoyah*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

The fact that an untutored Cherokee Indian who could neither write nor speak

English could work out a practical alphabet that gave his people a means of written communication is truly amazing. He worked at his task for twelve laborious years, but so well did he accomplish his purpose that the other Cherokees were able to take the alphabet and master it within a very short time.

Some of the original type used for the first printing done in the Cherokee alphabet are used as decorations on the jacket of *Sequoyah*. The appearance of the volume is fully up to the high standards set by the University Press.

The names of some of the Indian warriors and statesmen are best known now, but few Indians appear destined for more lasting fame than Sequoyah, the illiterate genius who gave his people a means of writing their own language.

IN THE MAIL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

I am with you one hundred per cent. I admire your aggressiveness and the stand that you are taking without compromise. That is the only way we can get anywhere and the policy you have adopted of being positive and fair is absolutely sound.

Boy, go to it!

LEONARD LOGAN, '14B.A.
Norman, Oklahoma

Sir:

Check for \$3.00 enclosed. Thanks for continuing to send the *Sooner Magazine*. Don't want to miss an issue. Have just returned from Carlsbad, New Mexico, in the Guadalupe Mountains, where I have been superintending a copper, lead and zinc mine.

LEON H. BROWN, '16LAW
Mission, Texas

Sir:

I have received this morning a copy of your magazine, *The Sooner Magazine*, which I am frank to admit is the best Alumni Magazine I have seen published in the United States. You are doing a wonderful job and I hope that you are enjoying your work.

FRED A. ANDERSON, JR.
Gloster, Mississippi

Sir:

I received a copy of the *Sooner Magazine*, and while I am no judge of publications, will say that yours was read with a great deal of pleasure.

The material used in the publication, the workmanship and all is of the highest class.

It is then my pleasure to add sincere best wishes for the success of your publication.

G. C. HARSTON
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Sir:

Left my native state of Oklahoma with my conscience protesting but only because Tennessee had a particular job in adult education to be accomplished. The great TVA program has resulted in millions being poured into this section in funds, to accomplish a five-fold rehabilitation program. With a population of over three millions; a heavy rainfall to bring large crop produc-

tion, and climate that is most pleasant it's hard to keep from "falling for" Sunny Tennessee.

The two great medical schools in this state attract quite a number of our Oklahoma youth. The Quarter system has some advantages, for some of them. Several come into my office, just because there is a common bond of fellowship between Oklahomans.

The most interesting observation recently made however, is the progressive program of our own Oklahoma University Alumni Association, under the leadership of its new secretary, Ted Beard. It will go places, lift up the hands of higher education in Oklahoma, and eventually "clip the wings" of conniving, cheap politicians within the state who have during recent years, been a definite hindrance to the development of a great University in a new state. Here in Memphis we are taking steps to organize some twenty O.U. alumni to join in this forward movement, and twelve or fifteen more in Nashville.

L. W. KIBLER, '16
Memphis, Tennessee

Sir:

In response to a series of notices, I hereby send my three dollars for renewing my membership in the University of Oklahoma Association. Please date this back to cover the four months lapse and thanks a lot for sending the Magazine during that time.

"Count me in—I am ready to join the fight for O.U.!"

DALE A. CAMP, '31
Newkirk, Oklahoma

P.S.—I am teaching mathematics in the Newkirk High School. Seven or eight members of the Newkirk faculty are graduates of O.U.

Sir:

I look forward to the coming of the *Sooner Magazine* because of the interest aroused by seeing articles with the names of old friends such as yours and others. I see in the March issue before me now Dean Carson, Dr. Felgar, David Logan, Dr. Bizzell, Lowrey Harrell, Harold Keith, and many others.

I hope to get back to Norman for a visit at the University some time during the coming Summer vacation.

MAJOR WILLIAM E. CORKILL, '16
State College, Arkansas