

# Sooners Everywhere

By Morris L. Wardell, '19

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IT is gratifying to find graduates and former students of the University of Oklahoma doing successful work wherever one meets them. Our graduates seem to find themselves very quickly after graduation, and one is at once impressed by the number of outstanding, successful alumni to be found in every town and city of any size in the United States. The enthusiasm with which alumni gather together for a Sooner meeting is evidence that the Sooner spirit lives on long after our students leave the campus.

It takes little time for old graduates and recent ones to find a kindred ground. The older graduates tell the younger ones what it was like when the University was young, when the student body numbered one hundred, five hundred, and then a thousand. Just before the World War the enrolment was above a thousand, and then came the rush to college bringing the enrolment quickly to three thousand. These staggering figures impress the recent graduate very little. Then it is the youngster's turn; he tells of five thousand, six thousand, and the members of classes of '38 and '39 look about complacently and say, "Last year we had seven thousand during the first semester."

It's a thrill to listen to the old and the new. That's Oklahoma of the early day and the present. Not only the numbers of students but the growth of the campus, the number of buildings, faculty, and every point that can be recalled by each one becomes a subject of conversation.

Always and without fail, old and young graduates inquire about their former teachers. Faculty members often wonder what lasting impressions, if any, are made on the members of their classes. The answer can be found among former students who have been off the campus five, ten and twenty years. The particular grade that may have been all-important during student days will usually have been forgotten, but the general memories, whatever they may be, do not fade as years pass.

"Is the old gym still standing?" That's a favorite question. Most apropos is Utilities Superintendent Walter Kraft's famous remark, in answer to Dr. H. C. Peterson's fear that the old building might burn and destroy all his valuable material: "Sure, your papers are safe! That building is fire-proof. It's never burned yet."

## Young or Old, You Find Them Eager To Talk of O. U.

The football team that has attracted so much attention over the nation is usually good for a long discussion. "How did the team get to be so good? Will it be strong next year?" And to answer all the questions one really needs to be a football coach or a sports writer.

### NEBRASKA

In Lincoln, Nebraska, the Sooner who knows most about early days of the University of Oklahoma is Eck Frank Schramm, '06, but little did he know what had taken place here during the past thirty years. In the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Henry, '33m.ed, where the informal meeting was held, was the fiftieth anniversary number of the *Norman Transcript* which carried pictures and narratives. As Schramm turned page after page he recalled those days of class fights, chapel programs, and football games when the score might be forty to nothing. There are few old grads who can reminisce as well as he. After a meeting that lasted until almost midnight, he promised to leave his duties as professor of geology at the University of Nebraska long enough to visit his alma mater—sometime.

### CHICAGO

Sooners of Chicago and the immediate vicinity always provide a good meeting.

The Sooner party there cannot be called a one-night affair. It began Friday morning, October 6, and ended only when all Sooners reached their homes after the Oklahoma-Northwestern football game. This was doubtless the most widely attended Sooner meeting ever held. More than the Mississippi Valley region had representatives in Chicago. Shelley Tracy, '11, and Mrs. Tracy from New York who were en route to Honolulu; Clarence Musser, '39, from Atlanta, Georgia; dozens and dozens from Oklahoma, and scores from southern Illinois, which looks like Soonerland itself, came to a great dinner and pro-



O.U. session at Atlanta, Georgia. Standing, left to right, Josiah Sibley, Paul Jeffries, and Clarence Musser. Seated, left to right, Mrs. Eugenia Boone Taylor, J. F. Malone and Dr. M. L. Wardell

gram in celebration of a great victory. Prior to the game, sports writers were saying there couldn't be much of a game, because the "Big Six just doesn't play the type of football that the Big Ten plays." How true the words were, but how different the interpretation after the game!

### MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL

Probably no significance should be attached to the fact that Minneapolis and St. Paul are the Twin Cities, but it looks as if all Sooners there are twins—so many alumni live there. That's a great group and its members represent every school and college of the University of Oklahoma; one might almost say every department.

Sooners from both cities gathered at the Curtis Hotel, Indianapolis, the night of October 24. Dr. C. Curry Bell, '16, of St. Paul, did most of the work of getting the gang together, and he was elected president of the "Twin Cities Alumni Association of the University of Oklahoma." Virginia K. Geary, '32ex, St. Paul, was elected secretary. Only recently Miss Geary was admitted to the Minnesota Bar as a graduate of the St. Paul College of Law.

During the dinner program, each of those present was introduced by George Christmas, '28, St. Paul newspaperman. The group seemed to thoroughly enjoy hearing about recent news at the University, and those present decided to have a meeting about every six months or whenever a good opportunity presents itself.

Those present included: Dr. Curry Bell, '16, and Mrs. Bell (not an O.U. girl); Dr. John H. Benward, '39med, interne at Ancker Hospital, St. Paul; Warner T. Bonfoey, of St. Paul, a former Oklahoma City resident but not an O.U. man, and Mrs. Bonfoey (Esther Parry Anderson, 24, member of Delta Gamma); George Christmas, '28, sports writer for the St. Paul Dispatch, and Mrs. Christmas (a Minnesota

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girl); Ralph Campbell, '09, advertising agency operator, and Mrs. Campbell (Minnesota graduate); Donald M. Castleberry, '36, teacher; Harold Seburn Edwards, '15, manager Allen Edwards Fuel Company, and Mrs. Edwards (Vermelle Meacham, Central State Teachers College '08); Virginia K. Geary, '32, attorney; William S. Gibson, '25ex, editor of the University of Minnesota alumni magazine, and Mrs. Gibson, a graduate of Oklahoma City University; Leota Wintin Goodson, '09ex, teacher in Washburn High School in Minneapolis; Forrest E. Miller (not an O. U. man), and Mrs. Miller (Catherine Serwiss, '31); Dr. H. P. McCrimmon, '25, and Mrs. McCrimmon (Adelaide Paxton, '24); Francis H. Pope, '36ma, who is in the public school system at Robbinsdale, Minnesota, and Mrs. Pope (a Minnesota girl); Christine Squire, '33, assistant editor at the University of Minnesota Press; Ray Whitson, '34, chemist for the Great Lakes Pipe Line Company at Minneapolis, and Mrs. Whitson (Corelia McCray, '32); Dr. Harlan Word, '36, resident in surgery at Ancker Hospital, and Mrs. Word (not an O.U. girl, but a former resident of Oklahoma City); and Earl Christmas, '11, advertising and publicity agency, St. Paul.

There are a number of other Sooners living in the Twin Cities, including John Edward Morris, '22, teacher; B. Albert McClellan, '30, employed by General Mills, and Clayton D'Armand Gerken, '36, who is doing personnel work with high-ability students at the University of Minnesota.

### LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Sooners in Kentucky are making rapid progress. An informal dinner in Lexington brought together a few who knew the campus more than a score of years ago. Mrs. Dorothy Arnold Sellards, '21, whose husband teaches in the University of Kentucky, was May Queen when it meant more to be that distinguished person than to be all present-day queens combined. It was unnecessary to prove all her accomplishments while on the campus, but to show her young daughter what was expected of a co-ed around 1920, the Sooner yearbook was brought out. For more than two hours the contents of this yearbook became the theme of discussion.

Dr. Louis Silverthorn, '34med, is doing intern work in St. Joseph's Hospital in Lexington. He arranged the Kentucky meeting. Alfred Brauer, '24ma, professor of zoology at the University of Kentucky, and Helen C. Beauchamp, '24, now case consultant, Department of Welfare at Frankfort, both loyal Sooners, added their experiences to the discussions of alumni affairs past and present.

### COLUMBUS, OHIO

On November 8, those who could find the time met for a luncheon in the faculty club at the University of Ohio in Colum-

bus. Whatever the local atmosphere may be, it gives way to Oklahoma sunshine when Sooners get together. Dorothy Ostenberg, '29ed, originally from Tulsa, shortly after four years at O.U. found herself Mrs. O'Rourke at the University of Ohio. Her husband is professor of mining and petroleum engineering there. Dorothy has spent nine years in Columbus. A husband, two children, a happy home, and an alumni organization which she has sponsored, take most of her time. Josephine Reavis, class of '30, is now reference librarian in the office of the American Education Press. She was employed in New York before returning as far west as Columbus. It may be possible for her to complete the return trip sometime. Thelma R. Reinberg Burke, '28, is technical librarian and bibliographer at Battelle Memorial Institute, of which Dr. O. E. Harder, '11, is assistant director. Maria E. Johnson, '34, who will be remembered on the O.U. campus as giving most of her time to academic pursuits during the school year and travelling during the summer, spends her time in Columbus. Glenn Couch, '31, '37ms, who is on leave from the O.U. faculty to complete work on the Ph.D. degree in Columbus, probably is the most ardent supporter and defender of the Sooners. Imagine Glenn mildly replying to this question asked him by a non-travelled Buckeye: "In Oklahoma do you live far from a doctor whom you can call in case of sickness?" Glenn is still wondering how he might have answered more effectively than he did.

### BOOMINGTON, INDIANA

A few Sooners have established themselves at Indiana University in Bloomington. Richard C. Murray, an Oklahoman but not an O.U. graduate, is assistant dean of the School of Commerce. Mrs. Murray (Mildred Kistler, '29ex) upholds Sooner traditions among the Hoosiers. Sunday dinners are the rewards for visiting Sooners. Charles E. Thompson, '39, is now doing graduate work in Indiana University.

### URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

In Urbana and Champaign, Illinois, the small twin cities, are O.U. graduates who have been drawn there by the University of Illinois. Margaret Kaeiser, '34, '36ms, now a senior fellow in the department of botany, arranged a meeting for the evening of November 15. Janet Brown Greer, '35, who is now Mrs. Sam D. Coleman, is a newcomer to Urbana and will doubtless long hold forth on the joy of living in Oklahoma. Mr. Coleman is assistant extension editor in the University of Illinois. Maurice T. Whetzel, '31, and Odile Berry Whetzel, '31, leave work and home duties and travel far to see O.U. football games. John L. Page, '36, is a member of the faculty of the department of geography in the University. Helen Eades, '28, joined the faculty there in 1933. These Sooners look forward to the time when visits to the O. U. campus will allow them to renew acquaintances again.

### MATTOON, ILLINOIS

When one travels through Illinois he sees company or professional cards and signs of Sooners almost as frequently as in Oklahoma. The oil development in central and southern Illinois has been attractive to hundreds of O.U. graduates representing primarily law, medicine and engineering.

Mattoon is the Sooner capital. A luncheon meeting here on November 16 was made possible by rapid transportation arranged by Dean C. M. Thompson of the University of Illinois. To leave an interview at eleven o'clock, drive forty miles, meet a luncheon engagement, tell what O. U. has done during the last several years, answer the questions of a score of interested alumni and make the return trip to Urbana in time for a three o'clock appointment was no little matter, but the details worked out smoothly due to the generous help of one or two at the University of Illinois. When Mrs. Ruth Johnson Duffield, '30, announced that her husband, Paul Duffield, '30, was out in the field looking after the Texas Oil Company's interests and that she had left young son James and young daughter Ruth Ann at home while she arranged the luncheon meeting in Mattoon, one knows then that the old Sooner spirit is still at work. Frank Burton Jordan, '29law, left the Carter Oil Company offices long enough to renew his acquaintance of twenty years—high school, O.U., and law practice—and tell about Mary Anne, now seven, and Frank Burton Jordan III, now four, and their mother Marian Padden Jordan. And there sat W. J. Barnett, '35 eng, another Carter Oil Company employe, ready to speak for his wife, Paulyne, and daughter, Hyla Jean.

The law firm, Grace and Albert, was represented by Tom Ed Grace, '36, while Carl Albert, '31, looked after the business. Those two are a great combination. It looked for a time as if Tom Ed could never leave O.U., fearing that campus politics would be neglected. It must have been hard for Carl, after globe trotting and taking Oxford in his usual stride, to settle down to a prosaic law practice in Mattoon. But there they are, in the long shadows of the University of Illinois.

R. J. Sullivan, '34, division engineer, and W. H. Jones, both with the Carter Oil Company, and Donald R. Ryan, '29, Standard Oil Company, were present to ask about former faculty members and the football team.

When Mrs. Paul E. Romine added her comment it was considered too good to brief since it tells so much that is representative of Sooners:

"Was enrolled in O.U. as Katherine Virginia Edwards in 1921-22, and attended summer terms. I taught school five years and was court clerk of Jackson County, Oklahoma, for four years and since that time have been trailing around with my oil husband, living in ten towns in four different states."

Mrs. Til R. Rhynes added her comment for T. M. Beard, alumni secretary: "Of course you would hardly remember me. You were my teacher in the Kiefer schools years ago."

Everyone is a Sooner when among Sooners. W. F. Eiting, class of '36 at the University of Tulsa, and Carl G. Herrington, '34, A. and M. College, enthusiastically came to the Sooner luncheon as they always do.

#### AUSTIN, TEXAS

It is a long way from Illinois to Texas, from Urbana to Austin, from oil to Longhorns, from older and more conservative institutions of the Old Northwest to the lack of tradition and presence of a skyscraper library in the Great Southwest. But Sooners are the same in either place. In Austin, Charles H. Newell, '07ex, is the chief of the clan. He was press agent for Bennie Owen when O.U. was young; knew the best boarding houses in Norman and all places where duckings and class fights could be carried on without too much supervision from the University faculty. Those who met for the first Austin alumni dinner at the call of Charlie Newell were: John A. Croom, '34; Claude H. Mears, '25; Fred Bullard, '21, '22ms; Bess Mills Bullard, '21; Landon A. McCollister, '25; Bird Paul Bolton, '24ex; Mrs. Bolton, '24ex; Charles Green, '25ex; Mrs. Ann McCall Fitzpatrick, '16; Mrs. Marcelle Lively Hamer, '21; Nelson Brown, '20ex; and Harrell Lee, '25ex. Others who are friends of O.U. were present.

Sooners who become Texans by residence still revere the memories of O.U. Mrs. Fitzpatrick has seen to it that her son follows the footsteps of his mother; he is now a student at O.U.

It's strange what arguments develop in a meeting of old students. The debatable honor of having been the first to play a saxophone on the O.U. campus was a heated point of discussion between Nelson Brown and Fred Bullard. Another whose name should not appear here maintained that he was the meanest freshman in his class—no argument on this; all agreed. And here in this meeting was told the story of how the owl on the Law Building was painted!!!

#### NEW YORK, N. Y.

When Henry Hudson sailed the river that now bears his name and when Charles II assigned to the Duke of York the administration of a sparsely settled coastal area, the only Sooners there were Indians who had come sooner than the Dutch or the English. Now 250 Oklahoma Sooners call New York home—at least it is their local address. When on short notice forty loyal sons and daughters of O. U. come to Broadway it is not presumed that any great announcement will be made to New Yorkers concerning it, but nevertheless they rated as guests of Fred Waring who gives his commercial radio broadcast in the Vanderbilt Theatre. The amount of publicity was almost embarrass-

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ing. The dinner around the corner was the most reminiscent hour the Maison Louis has had for years, so far as Oklahoma-New Yorkers are concerned. This meeting has already been reported in detail in *Sooner Magazine*.

### PRINCETON, N. J.

At Princeton, New Jersey, on the evening of November 29, a Sooner party developed—one of those meetings that “just grows.” After a dinner in the home of Joe Brandt, '21, former editor of the University of Oklahoma Press and now editor of the Princeton Press, Maurice Kelley, '27, now a professor of English on the Princeton faculty, and Mrs. Kelley, who hails from A. and M., joined us for an after dinner fireside chat. Eugene Springer, '25, '26ma, and Mrs. Springer, '27, also joined this homecoming party. Gene is doing advanced study at Princeton in mathematics—study at Oxford, where he had been for a year and a half, was not all that could be desired. Blackouts and mathematics not being good mixers, and the fact that Einstein is at Princeton, helping no little to influence them, the Springers returned there. Their crossing on the President Harding in the famous September storm was something! Margaret Mueller, '38ex, who while in attendance at O.U. was Joe Brandt's secretary, is in Princeton still helping Joe. John Ewing, former professor at O.U., and George Tobias, '33, both of whom are with the Federal Government in Trenton, a dozen miles away, telephoned Joe to see if they might join the party. The evening starting with a few, finished with nearly a dozen Sooners.

### WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington, D.C., has its share of Sooners. It is not uncommonly remarked that O.U. has more of its former students in federal employment than any other mid-western university. The congressional delegation alone looks like an alumni reunion. Lynden Mannen, '27, '38ma, and his capable wife “Pat,” '34, both busy all the time, took time out to arrange a luncheon at Restaurant Madrillon, December 6. Federal employes don't take out much time for lunch, but on that day the luncheon hour was longer than usual. All these were enthusiastically present: Helen Slentz, '30, '32ma, doing confidential research for the National Resources Planning board, was carrying a notebook from which she reported on many of her friends who could not be present; Lionel V. Murphy, '26, '29ma, with the Personnel Office, Department of Labor; John T. Fishburn, '35, State Department, Office of the Economic Adviser; Tully Nettleton, '23, Washington editorial writer for the *Christian Science Monitor*, one of Washington's outstanding writers (his wife Ruth sent regrets); Mildred Coston, '34; Juneal Saunders, '34; Gertrude Sidener Phillips, '20, with WPA, who has seen that Woodrow Crumbo, '38, now painting murals in the Interior Building, finds his way around; Onis Gaines Jones Goodin (who says all

that is her name) '35ma, working in the Library of Congress; Gaston Litton, '34, who has charge of all Indian documents in the National Archives and who is the co-author of a recent book published at the University of Oklahoma Press, *Cherokee Cavaliers*; Edward A. Evans, '12ex, with the Scripps-Howard newspapers; Roy St. Lewis, '15, one of the successful and widely known attorneys of Washington and who, since he has his office in the National Press Building, knows probably as many newspaper men who can make or break any man in the United States, as anyone in Washington.

### ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

In Annapolis, the home of several Sooners, William H. Bayliff, '24, '29ms, and his wife Nelle Jones Bayliff, '25, arranged an informal luncheon for O.U. alumni. Mr. Bayliff is an instructor in the widely publicized St. John's College, third oldest University in the United States. They are in the enviable position of having a part in one of the most interesting educational experiments now being conducted.

### ATLANTA, GEORGIA

While “Gone With The Wind” was the principal topic of conversation, at Atlanta Sooners on December 16 sent out a call that brought together the recent arrivals as well as those of longer residence. J. F. “Maj” Malone, '37, who is in the national office of Pi Kappa Alpha, found new and old friends there. Paul Jeffries, who is taking time out to work in one of Atlanta's architectural firms before completing work for a degree, still speaks the language of northwestern Oklahoma. Clarence Musser, '39law, with the National Labor Relations Board; Mrs. Eugenia Boone Taylor, '37bus; Josiah Sibley, '23, and his wife; and a guest, R. M. McFarland (colleague of “Maj.” Malone) were there to check on O.U. recent history.

### MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

The last alumni meeting was held in Memphis on the evening of December 19. Those attending were: Ruth Crowe Loeb, '27; J. W. Graham, former student; Walter L. Berry, '19; Ada Crowe, former student; J. Earl Hooks, '19, and Mrs. Hooks; William C. Bateman, '33; J. L. Highsaw, '11; Henry Loeb, Michigan, '18; Mable Long Morrison, '23ex; Ralph Shank, '39, and Mrs. Shank; Mary Maguire Graham, '26; D. B. Morrison, '23ex; Mrs. Clover Gorton Berry, '18; and Emory Grinnell, '39.

Fifteen meetings held during October, November, and December in which scores of Sooners came together is a record of some consequence. If a program like this could be carried on all the time, the University of Oklahoma would never lack publicity and loyal support. Many of these who have met for the first time since graduation have renewed friendships and good relations that should call them back to their alma mater in 1942 when all loyal Sooners celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the University.