

SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Alumni Staff Members: Edith Walker, '41, Editor; Elaine Larecy, '42, Assistant Editor; Ted Beaird, '21, Riding the Range; Harold Keith, '29, Sooner Sports; Sue Starr, '43, Assistant Executive Secretary; Mrs. Robert C. Twyman, Placement Bureau; Elizabeth Lees, '45, Roll Call; Mrs. Mary Turnbull, Alumni Records; Beverly Howard, Medical School, and Sarah Gephardt, '44, Mailing.

VOL. XVI

AUGUST, 1944

NO.12

Our Aging Citizenry and Universities

Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild in his book *People*, published in 1939, said in the first sentence of Chapter I, "if the birth rate of the United States should continue to decline as it has during most of the present century, by the year 1975, there would be no babies born at all." He said that such a possibility is foreshadowed by the fact that in 1935 there were over one and a half million fewer children under ten years of age than there were five years previously.

No one believes, including Professor Fairchild, no babies will be born in 1975. But we do know that the race is growing older. What is happening is that more people are living to be older and fewer babies per 1,000 population are being born. This explains why in 1890 the median age of our total population was 21.4 years and in 1940, 28.9 years. This means that there were as many people living below the age in each of these years as there were people living above these ages.

Now what do all these figures have to do with higher education? In the first place it means that old age is competing with youth for the tax dollar. In 1943 for every tax dollar spent on education in Oklahoma fifty cents were spent on old age pensions. This is not intended to be an implied argument against old age pensions. What we are trying to do here is to present a statement of fact. It may be due to the lack of education that so many are forced to rely in their old age on pensions. If so, then we should take an inventory of our educational system to see if there is something wrong with it, to correct the mistakes, if any, we are making in education.

It could be that we need more education. It seems to be wiser to invest more dollars in youth so they may not be dependent in old age. However, we must take into consideration those social forces that affect the individual and over which the individual has no control.

Although the number of youth is decreasing, that does not mean the college and university population is not increasing. Until the war began the percentage of youth going to colleges and universities was constantly on the increase. It is significant that eighty-eight percent of the names listed in the 1944 edition of *Who's Who* were college graduates, an all-time high. Youth is realizing, too, that in this increasingly complex society in which we live and which is growing more highly competitive every day, that a college or university education is essential in getting ahead.

University authorities are expecting the largest enrolment in history immediately following the war. Public Law 346 of the 78th Congress, better known as the G. I. Bill of Rights, has made it possible for returning servicemen and women to resume their education if they so desire. It is expected that most of those who have had their college work interrupted by the war will return to the campus. In addition, those who are now engaged in war work will return with the normal crop of high school graduates.

For a few years after the war there will be a huge increase in enrolment, then it will level off to the normal trend. We can expect with a reasonable degree of assurance that as far as the enrolment in institutions of higher education is concerned, the percentage increase in the number enrolled will more than offset the percentage decrease in population of that age group.

From the way things are shaping up now, it appears that our aging population will place increasing responsibilities on our institutions of higher education, although there are likely to be many empty public school buildings because of the decline in the number of children of school age.

—LEONARD LOGAN

The Cover

In this all out for art photograph by Art Professor Leonard Good, Art Students Dorothy Campbell, Norman, (left) and Marian Morris, Ada, find suitable subjects on the Sooner campus. Miss Campbell planned to paint later this summer in Taos and Miss Morris expected to leave soon to enter the New York School of Fine Arts on a year's scholarship. Just to be consistent, that's the Art Building in the background.

Contents

FACULTY	2
THE UNIVERSITY	3
WITH THE ARMED FORCES	7
<i>By Elaine Larecy</i>	
CALLING THE ROLL	15
<i>By Elizabeth Lees</i>	
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS	20
OKLAHOMA BOOKS	21
ASSOCIATION PROGRESS	22
SOONER SPORTS	23
<i>By Harold Keith</i>	
CLEARING THE DESK	24

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Officers: T. R. Benedum, Norman, president; George D. Hann, Ardmore, first vice president; C. H. Fawks, Oklahoma City, second vice president; Roscoe Cate, Norman, secretary-treasurer.

Executive Board Members: Vernon Cook, Oklahoma City; Earle S. Porter, Tulsa; William F. Absher, Bartlesville; C. V. Nichols, Anadarko; Harry D. Simmons, Stillwater; T. R. Benedum, Norman; all members-at-large; Dr. Roscoe Walker, Pawhuska, District I representative; James L. Robinson, Tahlequah, District II; Joe A. Brown, Hartshorne, District III; Joe W. Lee, Shawnee, District IV; Fred E. Tarman, Norman, District V; Dr. Roy C. Warren, Yukon, District VI; Lylith Medbery, Clinton, District VII; Maj. William V. Cox, Ponca City, District VIII; Merle Woods, El Reno, District IX.

Trustees of Life Membership Fund: Errett R. Newby, Oklahoma City; Tom F. Carey, Oklahoma City; Neil R. Johnson, Norman.

Sooner Magazine is published the fifth day of each month by the University of Oklahoma Association, Union Building, Norman, Okla. Entered as second-class matter Oct. 13, 1928, at the post office at Norman, Okla., under the Act of Cong. of March 3, 1879. Subscription \$3.00 per year, of which \$2.00 is for the Magazine and \$1.00 for Alumni Dues. Foreign, \$4.00. Life, \$60.00. Single copies 25 cents. Opinions expressed are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent official action of the Alumni Executive Board. Member of American Alumni Council.