

# SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

*Alumni Staff Members:* D. C. Jenks of *The Purcell Register*, '11ba, Hiram Impson of *The McAlester Democrat*, '15ba, and Joe W. McBride of *The Anadarko Daily News*, '28bs, Guest Editors for the month of November; Catherine Robinson, '46, Assistant Editor; Ted Beard, '21, Riding The Range; Harold Keith, '29, Sooner Sports; Betty Jean McLean, '49, Roll Call; Jan Thomas, '49, War Records; Mrs. Mary Turnbull, Alumni Records; Beverly Howard, Medical School, and June Desper, '46, Mailing.

VOL. XVIII

NOVEMBER, 1945

NO. 3

## Coordinating

*Sooner Magazine* profits by the novel experience of contributing editors. Guest editors last month and again in this November issue are making outstanding contributions to the thousands of readers.

This "reconversion" is still—and likely will be for some weeks to come—in the process of slow evolution. For the Army still must function through "essential persons." Until that function shall have evolved, the *Sooner Magazine* editor-in-chief must still count points and long dreary hours in Manila, Iwo Jima and shattered Tokyo.

In the interim, guest editors continue to be of untold assistance to the executive officials of the Association in producing monthly a bigger and better *Sooner Magazine*. This month three additional outstanding state journalists—sons of O. U.—are the guiding lights. Here they are and here are their editorials.

## Specialized Age in Education

By D. C. JENKS, '11ba  
MANAGING EDITOR OF *The Purcell Register*

We are living in a specialized age and technical training is necessary for those who are to succeed in this era. More and more the world is becoming a workshop where man in his physical and chemical laboratories is able to take a few raw materials and convert them into the various goods and implements needed for his well being and comfort. The great war just closed was fought by the technicians in their laboratories. American genius and inventive skill led the world and brought victory to the allied arms.

The state University with its specialized schools is keeping abreast of the times and is setting the pace in the state in training the youth of the state in physics, chemistry, botany, zoology, mathematics, engineering, medicine and the various other sciences and professions. Men and women educated at the University hold high positions in their communities all over the state. The University is carrying on.

All these things are well. But we must never lose sight of the fact that a man well informed in his particular business or profession may still be, comparatively speaking, an uneducated man. We must not neglect the well rounded education. Technical training must be acquired in this age of science. But, we are becoming too prone to specialize to an extent that literature, art, music and the economic sciences are neglected.

The state University has a duty here. It should combat this tendency. It should maintain high



D. C. JENKS

standards and through its influence as the head of the state educational system encourage high schools to turn out graduates whose basic education will enable them to adjust themselves to any environment into which they might be thrown. High schools are in many instances neglecting the fundamental course of study to the everlasting detriment of the growing youth of the land.

## Our University and the Press

By HIRAM IMPSON, '15ba  
EDITOR-PUBLISHER OF *The McAlester Democrat*

The taxpaying citizens of Oklahoma, through their representatives in both houses of the legislature assembled as the Twentieth Legislature, made the most generous financial contribution in the history of the state for the support and maintenance of their state University and for its long-needed expansion.

With the large appropriation at their disposal, there comes a corresponding obligation for increased effort on the part of the governing board and the officials of the University to give the taxpayers the biggest dividends they have ever received—dividends computed on the basis of fitting individual students and graduates into the community life, the business life, the professional life of the state. The people who pay their proportionate part of the taxes and those who are not able to pay any of these taxes must feel that a good investment has been made in those privileged to attend the University of Oklahoma or they will be less generous in the years to come.

The former students and the graduates of the University are the ones responsible for the selling of the University to the people of Oklahoma. These students and graduates have convinced the citizens of our state that the money invested in the state University has been well invested. That made it easier than usual for the legislature to make the appropriations this year.

There remains many things that the state University may do for the people of this state. These things are, no doubt, being considered. Those that bring the influence of the University to the front door of each state home, no matter how humble, should be the first considered. The former students and graduates can assist in such a program, but there must be the attitude at the University of taking the University to the people.

One of the principal developments of this University-people program is a School of Journalism that will have none better and but few as good in the nation. Oklahoma people are entitled to have as good a newspaper school as they have a law or medical school. They are entitled to the best School of Journalism in the United States. We have one of the best now but it could be expanded to include every phase of newspaper publishing. It should be able to teach the best about practical printing, the knowledge of which is finding fewer recruits in the country newspaper. Why not take



HIRAM IMPSON

## The Cover

In a curiosity shop along Seattle's famed waterfront, SPAR Lt. (jg) Roberta M. Huff, '33ba, Norman, is interested in these walrus' tusks imported from Alaska which will be her new station. Lt. Huff was previously on duty with the Coast Guard in New Orleans. In civilian life, Lt. Huff was personal secretary to Lt. Comdr. Margaret Stevenson while she was on duty in civilian life as Counselor of Women at the University of Oklahoma.

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*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 in 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.

printing to college and teach them there to work with inky hands? We should have ink artists and printing scientists at our University in the newspaper school shop.

Through the development of the press of this state would come the greatest incentive and the most important line of communication between the University and the people who are to be served by the University. The press can carry every phase of University of service to the front doors of the state. Public health finds no greater ally than it and the University should keep out in front in bringing better health to the people of Oklahoma. The University should keep out in front in bringing good government to the people and hundreds read the newspapers to one that will pick up a political science bulletin whose author is a Ph.D. In fact, you cannot name a service the University is capable of rendering the people who support the University that is not conveyed them in some form or another by the press of this state; and what it is now doing can be increased many fold, if the University will increase its efforts to make the state press more effective.



JOE W. McBRIDE

## Make Ourselves Worthy

By JOE W. McBRIDE, '28bs

Editor-Publisher of the *Anadarko Daily News*

Science and experience have proven that most anything grows and develops handsomely and constructively when the arts of loving care and helpfulness are showered with enthusiasm and understanding. A flower, a person, a community, even a great University will thrive under such nurture.

By experience we learn that persons, institutions and organizations thrive on compliment, enthusiastic and willing contributions of time, labor and finance. Through experience we know that success rides with success.

Also by experience we know that snipers, egotists, loose thinking critics and prejudiced persons can do enough damage in a short time to ruin what years of careful nurture has erected.

The University of Oklahoma, not perfect by any means, has attained high station because of the love, loyalty and personable contributions made by its students, faculty, alumni and friends. Every good thing that comes to the University is because persons wanted to improve the University. The good things never arrive while draped with caustic and prejudiced trimmings.

Therefore when we improve ourselves as students, faculty members and alumni in the arts of tolerance, loving care, enthusiasm and understanding toward the University of Oklahoma it is then we rapidly improve the University in every respect.

As this theme of loyalty, love and helpfulness develops, problems will fade into improvements underway. Financial difficulties will clear, educational facilities will increase and improve and ad-

ministrative duties will become pleasant and inspiring.

Many people of the state of Oklahoma love the University of Oklahoma. They admire its high station in education. This type of goodwill and cooperation has lifted the University to its present standard. That same goodwill, carefully courted and enlarged will gain greater and more useful attainments. The legislature is no bug-a-boo if we ourselves are on the optimistic and progressive side of the picture. The legislature wants to join to help build all things constructive. The results rest entirely on all of us.

Then let us improve ourselves for the good of the University of Oklahoma. The state will do its part for the University of Oklahoma when we ourselves are worthy of such acceptance.

## Another Casualty of Modern Travel Is the Southwest's Old Wagon Yard

The editorial quoted below appeared in an October issue on the editorial page of the *Daily Oklahoman*. Dr. Leonard Logan, '14ba, professor of sociology at the University and consultant to the State Planning Board, "sings the song" of one of the Southwest's old landmarks. The significant slant on the "old wagon yard" caused *Sooner Magazine* to secure permission from Dr. Logan and the Oklahoma Publishing Company for reprint. The editorial is indeed a plea for high priority in post war planning.

One of the major casualties of the automobile, hard surface roads and modern technology in the Southwest is the wagon yard. Very few under 35 know what a wagon yard is, or was, and would not know what you were talking about if you asked them. But in the old days the wagon yard was an important institution and served a useful purpose.

For the benefit of those who might not know the definition of a wagon yard we will pause to say that in the old days before automotive travel they were places in town where the farmer could go to put up his team, leave his wagon, hack or buggy and know they would not likely be molested while about his business. He might bring his feed with him or he could buy it at the yard.

At the better wagon yards there was a camp house where the farmer and his family could stay overnight without going to the expensive hotel where the drummers stopped. The rates were reasonable and within the average farmer's reach.

The wagon yard was located close to the business center and the court house for the convenience of the farmer. It was usually enclosed with a high board fence and on two or three sides there were long rows of stalls for the horses and mules. At one end of the row of stalls there was a feed house and in the enclosure the customers left their vehicles. Good wagon yards provided sheds for the purpose. Wagon yards were not like tourist camps because there were no sleeping quarters near their mules, unless the farmer elected to sleep in the hay.

In the center of the enclosure there was also usually a well and water trough for the stock. The well also served as source of water supply for the owner and his guests. They were innocent of the rules of public health and flies were taken for granted.

If the farmer brought his family with him and it was necessary to remain over night, or longer, there were accommodations for them to sleep. The wagon yard house usually faced the street. Some had two stories and some were large rambling one-story structures with a porch running around it.

Some of the better wagon yards provided wash bowls and pitchers and two kinds of water, clean and dirty. In other yards you went out on to the porch where there were two or three wash pans on a shelf and a bucket for water. The bucket was usually empty and you had to draw your own water. On the wall there were also two or three

roller towels of unbleached toweling. This kind did not show the dirt so plainly.

Good meals were served family style and you could eat all you wanted for a quarter. The food was the kind the farmer was accustomed to and it was served the way he wanted it.

The wagon yard not only served the purpose of an inn for man and beast. It was a rest center for the women and children where they could wait for the husband and father while he finished his business. It was a social center where information and gossip were exchanged among friends and acquaintances. In the office there was a table where the men could play pitch in the evenings after supper and the women sat and talked.

The automobile put the wagon yard out of business. The farmer now can travel many times the distance he formerly did, attend to his business in town and get back home and still do nearly a day's work. They drive in now after supper to attend the movies or visit friends.

With the passing of the wagon yard very little has been done in the towns serving the farmer for the convenience of his wife and children. There is less occasion to remain over night now that the distances have been shortened. But while they are waiting on the old man, where is the place for them to go for rest? The only place in most towns is to stand on the street corner, loaf in stores or on the court house yard. Few towns even provide benches for this purpose. There are few toilet facilities and they are frequently insanitary.

Oklahoma is an agricultural state. We depend more on agriculture than on any other one thing for our economic well being. It is the sole source of support for most of our towns. Yet what have the towns done for the farmer? It would be well, while we are talking about post-war planning, to include in our plans rest centers for the farmer and his family and a convenient place to park his car or truck.

It is the least a town can do for the farmer to provide a clean rest center. It should be maintained and above all should avoid the odor of lysol and other disinfectants.

You say it is expensive. Sure it will cost money! But don't you make your money off the farmer? What kind of a fix would you be in if the farmers all left the country, or if they quit coming to your town? A farmer's rest center is the least a community can do to show its appreciation of the rural people who patronize it. It should have a high priority in post-war plans.

## O.I.P.A. Meets Again

The first meeting of the Oklahoma Interscholastic Press Association since activities were curtailed by the war in 1942 was held on the campus October 20. Highschool students attended from all over the state. Leslie H. Rice, secretary-treasurer and director of newspaper and annual contest held in the spring, was director of the conference.

Stewart Harral, '36ma, director of the School of Journalism, gave the welcoming address. Then Merle Woods, '17, co-publisher of the *El Reno American*, spoke to the group on "The Value of Journalism Training in Highschool" and Harold Tacker, '40bfa, member of the University photography staff and former navy combat photographer, discussed "Photography in the Postwar World." Sponsors of winning highschool entries in the 1944-45 O.I.P.A. newspaper contest also spoke at clinics on newspapers and annual publications, telling the story behind their individual publications.

## Future Aeronautical Plans

Dr. George L. Cross, University president, said recently that he hoped certain facilities of the Naval Air station could be used in the development of part of the University's aeronautical program, including aeronautical engineering and flight instruction.

Specific facilities which Dr. Cross named as possibly being useful to the University were the administration building, hangars and garage.