

SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Alumni Staff Members: E. M. DeWeese of *The Southeast Oklahoman*, '21ba, and Mary Evelyn Smith of *The Oklahoma Daily*, '46, Guest Editors for the month of December; 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.

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More Eds

The two guest editors this month represent "a span of life" in the history of the University. E. M. DeWeese, '21ba, is the outstanding publisher of *The Southeast Oklahoman*, "down in little Dixie," Hugo. While Mary Evelyn Smith, whose home is in Lawton, is the present "madame editor" of the *Oklahoma Daily*. Their editorials are indeed "food for thought." Here they are: (TMB)

Put First Things First

By E. M. DEWEESE, '21ba
Publisher, *The Southeast Oklahoman*, Hugo

In the years immediately prior to World War II there was a definite trend toward renewing emphasis on the humanities in college curricula. It was an overdue reaction to over-emphasis upon specialization.

An alarming proportion of university professional school graduates, well equipped as to technical information and method, had but bare acquaintance with cultural subjects. Educated for the purpose of making money, they were ill-equipped for a full life.

The University of Oklahoma was one of the institutions where this lack was recognized and policies were under consideration or actually inaugurated to meet the need.

Doubtless the exigencies of war—intensive specialized training provided and technical facilities made available for the armed services—halted or slowed down this program. Surely, it will be renewed.

The need is greater than ever. Back from war, many young men and women have and will come to ours and other universities, seeking "that something." Attaining professional proficiency will not alone meet their need. Only a well rounded education can do that.

The primary purpose of education is, or should be, teaching people to live full, satisfying lives—conducive not only to personal happiness, but directly beneficial or at least not adverse to the best interest of society. All things else should be secondary.

Education without inculcation of rational ethics is worse than futile. But, to a great extent, that has been the practice, not only in our own land, but all over the civilized world. In that lies the source of many global ills.

Wars without number have resulted from materialistic concepts, of people as well as leadership. This made easy acceptance of the doctrine that the end justifies the means. Nations followed that policy more than any other since the dawn of history. Now that science is a bond servant of Mars, men possess weapons of such terrible potentialities that it not only is possible, but probable, that civilization will destroy itself in event of another world war.

What is the answer? More scientific advancement? That will come, of course. But we will do well to catch up in some other ways.

One can hardly escape realization that moral progress has lagged far behind scientific attainment. Science can teach men to harness the power of the atom but cannot by any rule of physics convince those whose only yardstick of conduct is self interest that they should use that knowledge for

naught but benefit to mankind. Decency cannot be created in a research laboratory.

Back in the Gay Nineties and early years of this century many colleges made required study of a course called moral philosophy. Doubtless in the catalogs of most universities in our time there is listed, with less appalling names, some similar courses. They probably are tucked inconspicuously away among the social sciences, elective only, and regarded by students as snap courses, to be utilized only in event an hour or so of credit is needed in their senior year.



E. M. DEWEESE

Why not resurrect and renovate one of these courses? Give it an instruction approach of proven psychological worth. It can be made of more actual value than any course in the curriculum, bar none.

Young men and women actually are anxious for suggestions or instruction as to how best to approach life. They're more anxious about that than anything else. But too many assume that attainment of professional proficiency and a subsequent comfortable income will bring all that can be desired. They assume, likewise, that a nation composed of such people will live in contentment, safe from all harm.

Character building is essential to education, in home, church, common school and university. It is not a task for one, but for all. Seldom is an adequate job of indoctrination done by any one agency. The colleges and universities must assume a share in the task. Theirs is the culminating effort. For it is probable that but few matriculate whose character is so fixed as not to be susceptible to suggestion.

Does it sound elemental? It is—and fundamental. All along the line there has been a letdown—a lack of progress in teaching the requirements of decent society.

People cannot be educated except as individuals. If it were possible to achieve a plurality in improved individual morality—not morality in a narrow sense, but from a standpoint of rigid intellectual honesty, a desire to do right for right's sake and not for hope of reward or fear of punishment, a better day would dawn forthwith.

Traditions and Landmarks

By MARY EVELYN SMITH, '46
Editor, *The Oklahoma Daily*, O. U.

The University of Oklahoma has returned to a peacetime tempo. The small wartime enrolment has swelled to more than 3,000, and University officials are expecting a still larger increase second semester. This figure includes 1,400 freshmen and about 600 veterans.

These new students and most of the veterans know little or nothing about O. U., its heritage or traditions. They are not yet familiar with campus activities. Many do not yet feel that this is their University and their campus. It is the task of all "old" students to unite these heterogeneous groups

The Cover

Sooner Magazine proudly presents—cowboy, scholar and gentleman, the distinguished Dr. Edward Everett Dale. His multiplied years of service for the University of Oklahoma and the state, are recognized by multiplied thousands. Here he is as he appeared in "Frontier paraphernalia" on Dad's Day at O.U. in 1945.

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into a spirited student body, with common ideals and purposes.

But even the "old" students are not equipped for this task. Like most of the youth today they are beginning to realize the important role they will play in the uncertain future of a world not yet at peace. They have reached the age at which they are impatient with anything of the past. They are living in the present and are eager for the future.

There is a feeling that they have been cheated of something by an older, bungling generation.

There has been a repeated cry that the University has no "school spirit," no traditions, nothing to remember after college days are gone but a few dull classes.

So the students have sought to establish traditions. Some are good ideas, and maybe there is a definite need for them. Frontier Days, for example, covers a weekend. Students wear western garb, have big programs and convert the Student Union Building into a "Frontier Town." Although this celebration was started in 1942, it is already called a "tradition."

This is all well and good. But O. U. has plenty of traditions—the students simply do not know them. And they differ vastly from the present-day "tradition" concept of a week of fun and frolic.

Few even notice the large limestone rock which sits in the north oval. If you mention the '06 rock to them, they only stare blankly.

Where did it come from? In the young days of the University when class rivalry was high, members of the class of 1906 found the rock near Moore where it had fallen from a Santa Fe train. They brought it to the campus with a mule team.

The '06 class guarded the rock zealously, but couldn't prevent rival classes from burying the rock. There's much more to the story—how, years later, the Deep, Dark, Mystery Club took up the burial ceremony, and how Dr. Guy Y. Williams, a member of the class of 1906 and a professor of chemistry on the campus, did his best to protect the '06 rock, which had become a symbol of the class spirit.

Present-day students do not know what the spoonholder is. They have no idea that the class of 1910 spent a Saturday night excavating and pouring concrete in the north oval to leave a memorial on the campus. Nor do they know the details of a "shotgun" guard which protected the spoonholder from rival classes until the concrete hardened. And, incidentally, why is it called the spoonholder?

There are other memorials on the campus which doubtless have stories behind them—stories which would make this campus mean more to its present students. Where did the totem pole come from? the sun dial? the fountain between the Union and the Law Barn? the one between the Art Building and the Geology Building?

Students pass these every day, without thinking that students, like themselves, established the landmarks.

How could these stories be made available to present day students? What about a booklet prepared by the Alumni association? It could be rich with campus lore, stories that haven't been written anywhere but have been kept in the memory of thousands of alumni all over the country.

Such a booklet wouldn't solve all of the problems of unifying O. U.'s student body. But a knowledge of the campus would show how students of

Correspondence . . .

The Man Who Started It All

Fifty years ago this fall, O. U. played its first football game under sponsored coaching direction. The man who coached that first hour was Jack Harts, now of Glendale, California. Recently by action on the part of the O. U. Athletic Council and the Executive Board of the Alumni Association, Jack Harts was invited to return for Homecoming Day (November 10, 1945) and to receive the red and white "O" blanket with the numeral "50" on it between halves of the Homecoming game. The letter quoted below is self-explanatory. Jack Harts is not quite so active today as he was in those beginning hours, hence he could not be with us to receive the tribute of multiplied thousands of O. U. fans.

November 5, 1945

Dear Friend:

You cannot imagine how disappointed I am that I cannot be with you on November 10, at your 50th anniversary. My heart is heavy and my soul is sad, for God knows it would be the proudest moment of my life to visit you and see the long, long way you have traveled since 1895. For I have seen some of your wonderful photos of the University and its environs. I can only imagine how far you have traveled since that first football game just north of the only building we had at that time. There we played our hearts out for the first game—and lost!

Our field was not even fenced in—no admission—and only a few "hacks" scattered around the prairies. But our team was good—just big Pumpkin Huskers with freckled faces who didn't know their strength. Yet, good natured and didn't want to hurt any one. After the first game with Oklahoma City High School, when we were beaten 65 to nothing, they changed their minds, and from then on through the season they were Demons—did everything but bite—which I prohibited. They never lost another game and I quit calling them a bunch of sissies.

So you can see why I would love to be there to enjoy the progress you have made and to meet the few who are left that might remember me, and all the good fellows I know are there. Had I known a month ago, I could have changed my plans. I want you and the Association to know that I do appreciate your kind and generous invitation. And next Saturday, November 10, I shall be pulling for that bunch of Sooners just the same as in days of old.

Give my regards to Judge Ross Hume of Anadarko, who remembers me. How proud I would have been to receive that blanket. I would have cherished it as long as life lasted. And now, "Dear Friends," I must bid you "adios," knowing I have missed an opportunity that comes to us only once in a lifetime. Should we not meet again this side of the "Great Beyond," possibly our next meeting shall be in the "Land Beyond the Stars," as I am trailing down the "West Side of Life." Yet, my heart is warm and I love the memories of those days in Oklahoma.

Your sincere friend,
Jack Harts

many years past have cherished it. It would be a step in the right direction.

Alumni would not be disappointed in the students of the University of Oklahoma. They are essentially the same young Americans who have been attending this University since its founding. If they seem a little lost, a little bewildered, they will soon find themselves. They've come through a war splendidly. They are ready to start building the University of Oklahoma into a greater institution than it has ever been, but they will need the help of the vast number of Sooners who have gone before.

On Armistice Day in a note from Captain William Hillyer Freeland, '38fa, from his Command Headquarters in Manila came, in part, the observation listed below:

"The other day I attended a session of the Yamashita trial. It was most interesting. If I can get another ticket from my friend I want to go again. The other day Lt. Col. Ben Burdick was up from Mindoro Island. I got him a ticket also. We had a real chat along with Major Tom Bryan. (His wife is one of the Owens girls, I think).

"We have been overworked of late. I can't figure where it comes from. There are too many generals around asking for reports is the main trouble.

"Dale Vliet expects to get in orders November 20, so he will soon be home.

Sincerely,
Hillyer"

Post-War Planning by An Absent O.U. Alum

Special Note: A few days ago the Executive Office of the Association received from Frances K. Hunt, now of Washington, D. C., a very constructive list of suggestions dealing with post-war plans for SOONER MAGAZINE. Miss Hunt graduated from the University in 1929 and was formerly staff member of the School of Journalism on the O. U. campus. She is now, and has been for some time, the secretary of the Washington, D. C., O. U. Charter Club.

The suggestions she offers in her letter, addressed to the Alumni Headquarters, are most constructive and summarize a cross-section of suggestions that have been made by many alumni over the period of the past three months. In quoting portions of her letter below, special comments will be offered following the questions, in order to acquaint our clientele with plans for the immediate future and the general changes in magazine policy that have come about since V-E and V-J days. Miss Hunt's letter, (in part) is as follows:

"Just wanted to say I'm glad the war is over for this reason as well as all the others: maybe the Sooner Magazine can soon return to its old size and speed. I miss all the articles and features you used to have until paper shortage cut them out."

Special Note: Indeed, not unlike other alumni publications throughout the U.S., SOONER MAGAZINE suffered during the war period due to the paper shortage and other war emergency measures that were, of necessity, observed in accordance with the "rules of the game." Not until seventeen days ago did the "paper shortage" become even slightly on a pre-war basis. In the November issue, 1945, SOONER MAGAZINE, we have been able to increase the size by four magazine pages. This is the first increase in the size of the magazine since the Executive Office of the Association was forced, due to the war measures, to cut the number of pages to an all-time low of twenty pages. It is hoped by the officers and members of the editorial staff of the publication that we may continue to increase the size of the magazine until we bring it back to a pre-war standard.

"I noted by *Sooner State Press* you are going to have some guest editors because Elaine left you. The magazine has had such nice and attractive editors lately that you just can't hold them. Guess you'll have to get a man. But of course I highly approve of women editors and am particularly admiring of both Edith and Elaine."

Special Note: It is noted from the comments of Frances Hunt that we have been unable "to hold" the attractive editors during the war period. Our readers of course are aware that Edith Walker, after a number of years on the editorial staff as

(Continued on page 22)



MARY EVELYN SMITH