

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

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MARY EVELYN SMITH

Absent Alumna Makes Plans

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student assistant, assistant editor and finally as editor of the magazine "chose" to become Mrs. Ted Hefley and move to Philadelphia. The assistant to Miss Walker, Miss Elaine Larecy, was promptly promoted to acting editor of SOONER MAGAZINE and performed her services with distinction for some three months until she "chose" to become Mrs. McCool, upon Lt. Dick McCool's return from the Pacific. Since the marriage of Miss Larecy, our readers are aware of the fact that by Executive Board action, a group of guest editors will, each month, assist the officers of the Association in editing and producing SOONER MAGAZINE until an officer of the U. S. Army on military leave now in Manila or Tokyo is able to complete his services as an essential officer of the Army and return to the position of managing editor of the publication. Miss Hunt's letter continues:

"Well, to get down to the point, don't you think a lot of alumni would agree with me that an expanded magazine would be valuable and popular?"

"Maybe others wouldn't agree with some other things I would like, but anyway, here they are:

"A more personal slant to the whole magazine—like you give in your column. You get a real punch and reader interest in it. It always sounds like you are bursting with enthusiasm and good will for every Sooner. The rest of the magazine, on the other hand, is usually rather formal. I read about my old friends but I hardly recognize them in the midst of titles, degrees, addresses, and all the other detail.

"And last but maybe most important to me—I would like to read more about what is going on at the University, written by some one with the viewpoint of an alumnus. Not just facts about events, but some description of the campus, the students, the professors, and the activities compared with how they used to be before the war, or in 1935, or in 1930—rather an interpretation of new things in an old setting, if you get the idea. Harold Keith always does that type of writing, in anything he does.

"I am sure I would never have had any urge to write this sort of letter during the long period I lived in Norman. I knew so much about the University and its news then that I could not have imagined the viewpoint of an absent Sooner. But I sure have that viewpoint now and my ideal of an alumni magazine would be one that was edited with the absent person in mind.

"Did you happen to read the short story in *Collier's* a few weeks ago by Hansford Martin? I got a great kick out of it simply because it had an illustration of the Union Tower, and some references to campus scenes—especially the elevator key in Union.

"Saw Francis Stilley Sunday on his way from Oklahoma City to New York AP, and got a little current news from him. Joy and young Brenn are staying here for a while, and are with her parents just one block from me in Kaywood Gardens. Don't you think, Mr. Beaird, that the School of Journalism has turned out a tremendous number of people who have made good in AP, UP and on newspapers, etc.? Same way through the whole University.

"Do come back to Washington and make another speech. You really went over last year. I overlooked saying—expecting you to read my mind—that the military news in the magazine throughout the war has been remarkable. I think the staff performed a real service in gathering and printing all those thousands of items about people in service. During the war that was the No. 1 need. I doubt if any other alumni magazine delivered like Oklahoma on that type of news. All my remarks earlier in letter are for postwar, of course."

Sincerely yours,
Frances Hunt

November 13, 1945

Dear Mr. Beaird:

It is such a treat to be receiving the *Sooner* and to catch up on all the news—

In answer to your request—Roy '34ba, '34law, '40m.ed, is now sailing the high seas to Europe to become a part of the Army of Occupation there. He has been in Fort Ord, California, until recently when he was transferred to Fort Sill and from there to Europe. John, '33ba, is working in the Separation Center at Camp Bowie, Texas—he says he takes care of everyone's discharge except his own.

As for my own status, I have been seeing the country with USO—2½ years have given me an opportunity to observe a lot of angles of war training. At first I was stationed in Wilmington, Illinois, where we served the war plant workers . . . then with the Air Corps (B-29) in Clovis, New Mexico . . . then in Rolla, Missouri, when the 70th Infantry Division was training at Fort Leonard Wood to ship overseas (we played Christmas carols by request all through the month of November because the fellows said they knew they would be far from the Christmas atmosphere in the real season, and they were) . . . then to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where we had among others the illiterates that the army is trying to raise to a fourth grade level—the camp there is Camp Chaffee . . . and now here in Colorado Springs where we serve the convalescents from Camp Carson Hospital and the 10th Mountain Infantry Division recently returned from Italy as well as Peterson Field and Second Airforce Headquarters. It has all been very interesting, and someone should write a book on all the humor and tragedy one meets in a USO Club. I only wish I were a writer.

In the 10th Mountain Division I have met Charles Briley, '43drama, graduate of the O. U. Drama School—he visits the Club frequently, can still act and dance, and we have great fun discussing all our mutual friends from O. U.

This brings you up to date on at least part of the Grantham's. With the best to you and your family, and regards to Mrs. Turnbull,

Frances Eudean Grantham, '38ed, '44m.a.
Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"Prexy" Again

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they have the capacity for self-education within them.

(2) Our co-operation with the University and the student. We accept our responsibility for co-operation with the University in continuing their educational training. Our knowledge of and interest in the welfare of the University, as well as what we say and do, may be a tremendous influence in determining the attitude of our youngsters toward the University. A personal acquaintance with those who instruct our children will lead to a better mutual understanding. Our interest in both the curricular and social activities of our children is advisable. Neither should we be too quick to judge and criticize when other interests, especially social activities, cause our youngsters to fail to meet standard educational requirements.

(3) Our influence on public opinion. We accept our responsibility to promote the welfare of the University, particularly in our local communities. To do this, we should be well informed concerning its functions, its objectives, its plans and its needs, that we may be able to present them to our fellow citizens. Facts about how many boys and girls are working their way thru school will contradict malicious statements that O. U. is a school for rich men's sons and daughters. Similar facts will, I believe, refute statements that O. U. is a snobbish school or that the instructors are communistic in their tendencies and atheistic in their teachings of our sons and daughters. All that I have said may be an expression of personal opinion, gathered thru several years of intimate association with the University and activity within the Alumni Association, but personal or otherwise, it is our University as I see it from a seat in the Dad's Association, and to the purposes named above I commend the utmost effort, thought and loyalty of this Association."

Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

SOONERS 0, AGGIES 47

The crippled Sooner football team was annihilated 47-0 by Oklahoma A. and M. College's all-victorious club at Owen Field November 24 with 32,992 fans, second largest crowd ever to see a game at Norman, watching with awe and astonishment.

Coach Jim Lookabaugh's big, experienced team, most of it held over from last year's Cotton Bowl champs, destroyed the injury-riddled Sooners with forward passing (they completed 11 of 20 for 218 yards and four touchdowns) and running (Aggies outran Oklahoma, 263 net yards to 81.)

The first play characterized the game's tempo, Aggie Jimmy Reynolds lateraling the opening kickoff to Bob Fenimore who dashed 57 yards down the sideline before Jack Venable, Sooner fullback, caught him from the rear and tossed him out of bounds amid a cloud of white chalk. On the first scrimmage play the 204-pound Aggie line trapped a guard and Reynolds lunged 24 yards to a touchdown. From that furious beginning, the Stillwaters kept going.

It was the worst football defeat in 52 years at Norman. Lookabaugh played the Aggie starting team and Fenimore 50 of the game's total of 60 minutes despite the swelling tide of Aggie points. Back in 1917 Bennie Owen took a light, wartime club to Urbana, Ill., where it was spanked 0-44 by Bob Zupke's Illini. This was the previous worst licking until November 24, 1945.

The crippled Sooners fought savagely and threatened to score right up to the final gun. "If they'd beaten us just 14-7, several of our boys would have been so disconsolate we'd have had to bury them. This way was quick and painless," Trainer Ted Owen declared philosophically. Bill Price, Alfred Needs, Bill Irwin, John Harley jr., Bill Hallett, Moose Kolb and Julian Medaris, were Sooner players out of the game because of injuries.

SOONER FIRSTS

Judge John Harley sr., of Tulsa and King G. Price, Norman insurance man, can bask in a new distinction. They are the first former Sooner football lettermen whose sons have also lettered.

Harley, who played fullback in 1910 for Bennie Owen's Sooners and won his varsity "O" is the father of John Harley jr., who played tackle for Coach Dewey "Snorter" Luster's Big Six champions of 1943 and 1944. Last year the younger Harley was All-Big Six Conference tackle.

King Price was an All-Missouri Valley Conference end for Owen's 1923 Sooners and played 60 minutes (as did all the other members of the Oklahoma team) in the 14-7 upset win over mighty Nebraska at Norman in 1924. His son, Bill Price, started the 1945 Homecoming clash with Iowa State at quarterback for Luster's Sooners (who won 14-7) and played slashingly until he broke his ankle late in the game.

Thus Harley is the first Sooner linesman and Price the first back who lettered, and whose dads also lettered. Anybody know any others?

THE NEW COACH

Dewey "Snorter" Luster's successor as Sooner football coach hasn't yet been selected and probably won't be until after Comdr. Lawrence "Jap" Haskell, Sooner athletic director recently discharged from the Navy, reports for duty at Norman December 1.

Hal Muldrow, Jr.

'28

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