

SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Alumni Staff Members: Ray Parr of the *Daily Oklahoman*, '32ba; Bob Kniseley of the *Pawhuska Daily Journal-Capital*, '33, and Francis Stilley of the *Associated Press*, '42journ, Guest Editors for the month of January; 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 Comments, Opinions and Views—

In the initial 1946 issue, *Sooner Magazine* presents "a quartette of editorial comment" representing various classes and interests. The Range Rider, Ted Beard, '21ba, comments on Alumni Association Progress; Ray "Below Par" Parr, '32ba, takes you behind the scenes of O. U.'s past and wishes for its future; Bob Kniseley, '33, seeks to change the point of view and establish "civilized" commonwealth tradition; while Francis Stilley, '42journ, writes up "the big town—old New York" based on his experiences of the past few weeks. Here they are:

O. U. Alumni—Pre-and Post-W. W. II

By TED BEARD
*Executive Secretary-Manager
University of Oklahoma Association*

In December, 1941, *SOONER MAGAZINE* was indeed enjoying its peak. That hour of "climax" meant we had no worries over securing a bountiful amount of excellent magazine paper, no problems involved in the organization over editorial staff members and no headaches over shortages in linotype personnel, printing facilities and up-to-the-minute press equipment.

During the month of December, 1941, the then editor-manager of *SOONER MAGAZINE*, Roscoe Cate (today assistant to the O. U. president in charge of finance) in editorial comment—*Visions of Accomplishment*, stated: "Some years ago the group of fifteen alumni of the University of California, approached Robert Sibley, then president of the McGraw-Hill Publishing Company of California, and asked him to become executive manager of the alumni program at California.

"If you will go out and get thirty thousand dollars and lock it up in the bank, I'll see about it." They did and he did.

"Now the California Alumni Association has 26,500 dues-paying members with an endowment fund in excess of six hundred thousand dollars, established through the sale of more than 12,000 life memberships in the Association, constituting the largest organization of its kind in the world.

"In view of this remarkable record, it is interesting to examine Mr. Sibley's statement of the basic requirements of an Alumni Association:

1. A large and widely distributed membership.
2. The full sympathy of the university administration.
3. A democratic form of organization for the Alumni Association.
4. Events to bring alumni back to the campus for the renewal of campus acquaintances and the revisitation of under-graduate scenes which stimulate activity and interest.
5. Providing means to carry the University to alumni by club organizations, faculty speakers, meetings and programs of a like nature.
6. Maintenance of a lively, up-to-date periodical.
7. A vision of accomplishment."

"No single one of these factors has been entirely neglected by the University of Oklahoma Association, but certainly there is much to be done toward achieving a completely-rounded program such as Mr. Sibley outlines.

"The O. U. Association meets the requirement for a widely distributed membership—extended in this case to some forty states—but it does not have a really large membership in terms of percentage of the total number of alumni. Perhaps we do not have fifteen alumni like those California patriots who put thirty thousand dollars in the bank to conduct a campaign. But the O. U. Alumni Association has some good leadership and some good workers. With a sufficiently clear vision of accomplishment, it can keep increasing its membership and its strength."

Today, in 1946, the O. U. Alumni Association enjoys a greatly multiplied membership in terms of percentages of the total number of alumni as compared to the membership in 1941, but an ever-increasing challenge is before the University of Oklahoma alumni in this post-war period. Many of these challenges are being met by the psychology behind the O. U. organization and its work. Monthly, multiplied hundreds in the various O. U. chartered clubs units throughout the country assist in solving the challenging problems as they come before the alumni administration, and—what is the philosophy upon which all this work is based? Just this: unite together the University of Oklahoma former students and graduates, plus Dads and Mothers, to promote the interest of higher education in Oklahoma. Yes, unite together to stimulate and develop public interest in culture and learning and especially to develop such interest in the fields of higher education as are offered at the University of Oklahoma.

Furthermore, this group disseminates information about the services of the University of Oklahoma, including both the educational program on the campus and the extension services throughout the state.

A SPECIAL SERVICE OF THESE INTERESTED AND WORKING GROUPS IS TO INFORM THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION, THROUGH THE ALUMNI OFFICE, ABOUT OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THEIR COMMUNITIES ON THE UNIVERSITY PROGRAM AND ITS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

Due to the basic principal on which the University of Oklahoma Association functions today, the organization, in its principal divisions, is enjoying its climax in this early post-war era. Daily, from all sections of the globe, new annual and life members rush their fees or checks to the central alumni office at O. U. to join the ever-increasing ranks. To participate by affiliating in the "strength in numbers" in carrying forward the liaison work is their objective. Thus, a widely distributed membership is enjoyed.

Enjoying this widely distributed membership with a full sympathy of and from the University of Oklahoma administration; with a democratic form of alumni organization; providing means, through alumni associates, to carry the University to the local communities; maintaining through the medium of *SOONER MAGAZINE*, an up-to-date, 12-months-a-year periodical—points toward a definite goal to be reached. If you, as a graduate or former student of the institution, have not as yet affiliated with this potent force in bringing about a greater University, you are solicited and urged to add your individual contribution through your personal affiliation, thus giving "more strength in numbers" and thus aiding in a vision of accomplishment.

The Cover

Looking over the rainbow—beginning life anew—in these good United States, *Sooner Magazine* presents this month on its cover the recently liberated from Japanese prison camp Major Clifford C. Hines, and his wife, Alyene Powell Hines.

At the time of Major Hines' capture at the fall of Bataan, Mrs. Hines was a secretary on the O. U. Alumni staff, while years before, both as a student "hired hand" and later as field representative, the major worked for the Alumni Association.

It is significant that "the major and his lady" should meet upon his return from Japan and her return from war work in Washington, D. C., at the old stomping ground, the Alumni headquarters at the University, (See "They Fought to Live" feature story, page 17, this issue *Sooner Magazine* for details on Major Hines' tour of duty and life as a prisoner of war of the Japanese.)

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