

Oklahoma Looks at the University

By RAY PARR
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This, it says here, in a telegram from Ted Beard, is to be an editorial entitled, "Oklahoma Looks at the University."

We would draw a subject like this, just as the whole darn state is looking at New Orleans. (These lines are being pounded out a few hours before the "kick-off" in the Sugar Bowl). Drat those pesky farmers, anyway.

The Range Rider insisted, however, on one item from this corner.

"I just want to show the army how hard up we are," he said. "Then maybe they will turn my editor loose."

With this fair warning that no great thoughts may be expected in the paragraphs to follow, we are happy to record, nevertheless, that the looks being tossed at the University these days carry promise of better things to come.

As the University enters what is probably its greatest period of expansion in a quarter of a century, it is doubtful that the school ever stood higher in the thoughts and affection of the people of Oklahoma.

The University has been buffeted by political storms, and pinched by the economy of depression years, but it has survived in surprisingly good shape like the sturdy ship it is, and appears headed for more pleasant sailing in the years to come.

For one thing, the University goes into the post-war period with clean political hands. No major state scandal has lapped at its campus, or splashed its personnel. The difficult problems that lie ahead will be made easier by the knowledge that school has the respect, confidence and best wishes of all Oklahoma.

This new era of better feeling was reflected pointedly in the last session of the legislature where the University's reception was warm and friendly. In the past it has been considered "good politics" to blast the University. This was no longer true in the last session.

While honeymooning with a legislature may not strike the most romantic chord in some scholastic hearts, the fact remains that if you are married to a guy, you might as well try to get along with him, especially if you want him to bring home those pay checks.

There has been too much of a tendency to view the Oklahoma legislature as one of those unpleasant necessities of life—something to tolerate for a brief period every two years.

But it must be remembered that the average legislator pretty well represents the average citizen back in his district. A hostile legislature could very wisely be taken as a warning signal. It means the folks back home aren't feeling too kindly toward the University.

Many a rural legislator has asked in all sincerity just what good the state is getting out of all that money spent on the University—when the people back home are crying for roads, better local schools and bigger pensions.

This means that the people also have been wondering about what goes on in the cloistered nooks behind the ivy walls. The University is going to have to tell them, and show them, what a really great university can mean to the people as a whole.

There has been personal spite in many of the political attacks on the University. Various political groups have resented the fact they could not control the University as they had dominated other state institutions. Some of the so-called colorful characters in the governor's chair have had the idea the "University crowd was agin' 'em" at elections. But with the state slowly reaching maturity,

it is to be hoped in the future that Oklahoma will have fewer "colorful characters" and more statesmen in the governor's chair.

In the long run, the University's policy of refusing to trade its integrity for a political crust of bread has paid off. But perhaps, in winning this battle, the school has withdrawn too much into a defensive shell. It has brought about a great deal of misunderstanding.

There has been a feeling that the University has held itself too much aloof from the state instead of functioning as a vital part of the state. No state-supported institution can operate successfully behind its wall of China.

On numerous occasions in the past, the press as well as various public officials have been given the impression that what went on inside the University was "none of their business." This has led to a certain amount of suspicion and mistrust. The University, which actually has nothing to hide, should operate with open doors. Such a policy would result in the school getting credit for many fine achievements that have gone unnoticed.

In the short time that Dr. George Cross has been at the helm, he probably has done as much as any other man to add a human touch to the University and to break down this wall of misunderstanding.

The University's overall problems were never presented more successfully to a legislative appropriations committee than at the last session. Dr. Cross had all the facts at his finger tips. He answered all questions with a candor and sincerity that brought a warm response from the legislators. In turn, they gave the University its first building program in years, and also increased appropriations for general operations.

Legislators not only want to see their University develop into one of the great universities of the country, but they like Cross personally.

Typical was the comment of a southeastern legislator one day:

"That fellow Cross walked right in and called me by my first name," he said. "He doesn't even try to act like a college president when he comes out here. He's all right."

About the only criticism that has been heard of the University's young president has come from a few members of his own faculty. He deserves better. The University must present a united front. This is no time for personal jealousies within the ranks.

Let's Live in the Present and Let the World Know It

By BOB KNISELEY
Editor *Daily Journal-Capital*, Pawhuska

Recent disclosures reveal that people throughout the United States—and even the people of our bordering states—have an idea that the Indians and the cowboys are still sniping at each other all across an arid plain where the fence posts are buried underneath the blow-sand that is Oklahoma to them.

Industrialists, who ought to know better because they have had their markets in Oklahoma for some years past, are shocked when the suggestion is made that they might set up shop somewhere in Oklahoma.

"Why, I would have to have 60,000 gallons of water a day for my factory," said one industrialist approached by an Oklahoma businessman. "I couldn't operate in Oklahoma."

Maybe that sounds silly. But that situation exists in the minds of people throughout these "enlightened" United States.

A lot of the fault can be laid at the doors of the writers in Oklahoma, both in newspaper work and in free-lance writing.

We have peddled feature stories to the press of

the nation and to the magazines—when we could "make" them, giving the nation and the world erroneous ideas of Oklahoma. We have sent that type of story out because it would get results in the pay-check department for us.

The University of Oklahoma operates a School of Journalism, where some of the nation's outstanding newspapermen and magazine workers have received training.

That School of Journalism is a possible source of some good lessons in geography for the rest of the world.

By teaching the students of that school to let the rest of the world know that Oklahoma's colorful history is HISTORY, and that we have the same types of people, industry and living conditions that exist in most places—not in all, thank goodness, our University of Oklahoma can do our state a great service.

Since the older newspaper people and free-lance writers have become too staid in their ways of writing to ever get away from the Oklahoma of cowboy and Indian days, the Journalism school has an opportunity of sending out boys and girls to the press of the state and nation who can be ambassadors to allay the fears of those not so fortunate to be Oklahomans about our state.

It might even help if a course in Oklahoma geography in all the phases of that subject were required for a Journalism enrolment—or at least for a bachelor's degree.

But, until we Oklahoma writers can get the proper kind of publicity for Oklahoma, we are going to be classed with Matt Kimes and Pretty Boy Floyd or the cowboys and Indians who once did do some fancy sniping at each other in these parts—50, 60, 75 years ago, let's not forget.

New York Merry-Go-Round

By FRANCIS STILLEY, '42 JOURN
New York Bureau of the Associated Press

NEW YORK—(not by AP)—This is the only place in the world where the automobiles are in danger of being run over by the pedestrians.

There are at least four people to every ham sandwich in this village, and two or three for the mustard.

If the country's population is 140,000,000, New York must have no less than 130,000,000 of the populants.

The other 10,000,000 probably are waiting for a ride here.

The town is so full it has split in the middle, busted at the seams and is sagging in the seat.

So am I. I have been here three months and if anybody knows how to get out of Grand Central Station please write me quick.

The housing situation is so bad it isn't even a situation any more—it's a state of nerves.

I am probably the most nervous man in town. I have spots before my eyes which spell out "NO VACANCY."

There is some hope, though. If I can just figure out a way to make \$72,000 more a year I will be able to get my name on a waiting list.

Nowadays you've got to make a reservation months in advance even to get to sit on a bench in Central Park.

Apartments and houses can be rented—with about \$10,000 and a couple of tommy-guns. But you're still got to be careful of booby-traps set by the people who already live in them.

It is still possible to get a hotel room—anytime after 1953.

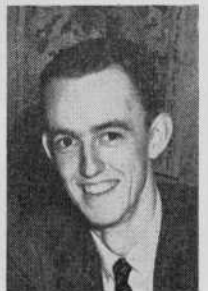
A few apartments are advertised in the papers every day, only they are rented before anybody can turn to the want-ad page. I am working on a special kind of quick flip.

Despite all, I have not given up hope. I heard of a fellow who found a place to live the other day after looking only three years.

What I am trying to find out is what he did in



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FRANCIS STILLEY



BOB KNISELEY

the meantime. The meantime has just about got me down.

Things here are not really so bad, though.

If you go into a cafe for breakfast they will guarantee to serve you by dinner—if you'll help cook it.

There are lots of good stage shows which can be seen—if you are a member of the cast.

The subways are a great help, and usually all but about three or four million people are able to get in time to get to work.

Economic conditions are extremely good. Everybody is getting rich, as the OPA took the ceiling price off the Brooklyn bridge.

I've been wondering some, though, as to what I'm going to do with the thing.

I wouldn't have bought it, except the fellow said they wouldn't be making any more of them for some time yet.

Grades Count!

There's no denying it—the more "A's" made in college the better! Okmulgee High School has been cited as the 1945 Phi Beta Kappa scholastic trophy winner which is awarded annually to the state high school for achievement of its graduates at the University of Oklahoma.

Since 1926 the trophy has been given to the high school whose graduates attain the highest grade average during their first semester at the University. Dr. F. A. Balyeat, '11ba, '18ma, Phi Beta Kappa president, stated. A school must have five or more students enrolled at O. U. in order to be considered in the contest.

Alpha of Oklahoma was the first Phi Beta Kappa chapter in the nation to offer a high school award of this kind. Pauls Valley, Hugo and Ponca City have won the trophy twice. Other winners have been Hartshorne, Apache, Blackwell, Mangum, Bristow, University High School at Norman, Newkirk, Bartlesville, Lawton, Cordell and Central High School at Tulsa.

Oklahoma Leads Entire Country for Glass Ware

Here's another first for Oklahoma: the state leads the nation in the number of plants producing pressed ware, fruit jars and jelly glasses, it is revealed by W. E. Ham, '38geol, '39ms, staff member of the Oklahoma Geological Survey with headquarters at the University.

Oklahoma has attained leadership in several industries and is well on the way toward claiming other honors, it is pointed out by J. O. Beach, '23ba, '32ma, secretary of the Survey, in the current issue of *The Hopper*.

Too often, Beach points out, outstanding achievements of Oklahoma in industries have been overlooked by too many who have been preaching the "handicap" philosophy of why the state has not developed industrially.

With low cost fuel and power, many important industrial mineral raw materials, adequate transportation, favorable climate and many nearby markets, Oklahoma stands on the threshold for additional industries, he stated.

Help for Foreign Students

Milk for 90 Russian students for a year or food and clothing for two Greek students for 19 months may be provided by contributions to the recent World Student Service fund drive which hit above the \$1,200 mark at the University of Oklahoma.

The WSSF was formed to help meet student needs in war devastated countries. It is an international organization which works impartially without reference to race, nationality, religion or politics.

With the \$1,000 goal which O. U. topped, 27 students could be kept for a month at a rehabilitation camp or a student center for Chinese youths could be operated for 19 months.

O. U.'s campaign leaders were backed by the 'Y,' student government, American Legion post and other campus organizations. Bob Marr, Oklahoma City, and Holicie Hoshall of Tulsa were co-chairmen of the drive.

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

The listing of events (for *Riding the Sooner Range*—January, 1946 magazine issue) will be made of records on the trail. No, not trail but TRAILS! This December, 1945 schedule shows, upon the spread, that more miles, more places, more events, more people, are to be covered, visited, listed and couniled with and worked for, than in any one month's period since 1941! Indeed, pre-war—pre-Pearl Harbor!

This is a nice session. These chaps are, as of old,—genial, interested and ever on the alert in the promotion of Sooner projects! This is a swell home, church, school and business County Capitol! How long now, over these twenty-eight years, has PURCELL been a pleasant spot in my life work. Pleasures (and some disappointments) have been listed in those years upon the records in this little city. BUT, this December '45 day, all is well! JOHN KENNEDY, '30pharm, still in the harness; CY ELLINGER, '26ba, the late ARMY intelligence "hot shot" now, back at banking, leasing "swapping" and about; Dad GUY NORTHCUTT still speaking of his O. U. sons (now over-seas) with the usual pride and satisfaction. ART HERRON, '32ed, '36ms, doing, as over a period of years in other Oklahoma cities, an outstanding job as Superintendent of Schools. And, already, after only four months as a citizen of the PURCELL Community, ART is "one of the fellows" and "taken in" as such.

From PURCELL—a drive is soon underway for a special business men's conference in Skirvin Tower, OKLAHOMA CITY. Here again it is a pleasure to work with professional men, ever interested in University development and the welfare of their state. Dads JOE HAMILTON, ALLEN STREET, TED WIEDMAN and many others, contribute to the deliberations of the hour.

How much more pleasant this Sunday P. M. would be if it could be a drive with the family and friends to the country for air. BUT it is up Highway 77 with PONCA CITY as the goal. In EDMOND (enroute to PONCA) it's a pause to ask of the present whereabouts and welfare of the distinguished officer of the U. S. Navy, ROY JONES, '37phd, of CSTC. Other "ole time cronies and friends" of EDMOND come in for discussion. A rehash of the days of JOHN G. MITCHELL, '19ma. The present prexie of the University of Nevada, JOHN O. MOSELEY, '16ma, comes in for play—then on up the 77 trail.

In GUTHRIE it's a check-up on "DUTCH" SMITH, '21, to tell this proud dad his charming daughter recently came by the Alumni Headquarters and made herself known as he had directed. Further GUTHRIE checks on the now DuBuque, Iowa Doctor, JOHN PICKARD, '26med, and a short re-hash over that incident in 1920 when, following his "Pitching-to-Victory" O. U. base-ball stalwarts, he "mis-interpreted" the cream gravy for soup at the evening meal at the ole Frat Barn. Like checks on GORDON BIERER, '21ba, and other sons of Oklahoma's first state Capital! Then on up the 77 trail.

In PERRY it's time out for a "coke" and to announce to some of the assemblage that "the ole salt" DAVE MATTHEWS, '42law, recently separated from the South Pacific U. S. Naval boys, was in a few hours to become a PERRY citizen and "barrister" along with AL SINGLETARY, '30, (no chance for "the Navy" to go wrong in that professional tie-up!) Dad and Mother WES LEATHEROCK (Wes of that fine PERRY Daily) justly proud that WES, Jr.—now a student of journalism on O. U. campus, had the Alumni Headquarters and Union reporter's "run". Sure, he's a chip off the ole block. He always gets his story! Then on up the 77 trail.

In PONCA CITY, it's Sooners from all over—and it was a most pleasant and profitable three hours. MAJOR BILL COX, '21ba, '24ma, compli-

mented the Range Rider by having as his special guest in the assembly, CHAS. W. HAXEL, '28, my once-kid brother-in-law. W. B. "TOMMY" THOMPSON, '26ba, ole friend of ALTUS, SNYDER and O. U. days, there in all his glory. SENATOR CHARLES DUFFY, '22law, GEORGE MILLER, '23law, BILL CLINE, '21law, of NEWKIRK; BOYD WHITLOCK, '31bus, KAW CITY; HARRY HOUSTON, BLACKWELL, plus dozens of others, made PONCA CITY the O. U. Capitol (at least temporarily) in that session. Then on out on an Eastern trail!

In CLEVELAND, it was a Sooner Rally, headed by GEORGE ANNETT and ELMER HEARD, '40. Elmer, not only the O. U. "Grad" but "Dad" of stalwart O. U. sons; namely, Charlie and—now coming in from the service, John. After hours of visitation and business in CLEVELAND, it's north on the trail!

PAWHUSKA, the Osage capital, is alive with Sooners. Headed by "Chief" JOHN PEARSON, '29law, and wife (MRS. JOHN WYNOLA WALKER PEARSON, '29) they flocked in from all wards (and County sections).

Among those with whom we worked while in this PAWHUSKA session were:

B. L. COGBURN, '28ms, LEE N. CLAYTON, '45, CHARLES MARRS, '41ms, DR. ROSCOE WALKER, '09bs, REX D. DAVIS, '43, IVAN F. DAVIS, '21pharm, GEORGE E. HARRIS, JR., '39bs, JOSEPH C. THORSTENBERG, '40chem. eng, EUGENE H. DUGGAN, '40chem. eng, IRENE LUYERNE HARRIS, '40bs, ERA GANDY, '24ba, MARTHA TOOT, '30ba, '39ma, JEANNE M. KING, '33ma, MR. LYNN CRIDER, '45bs, FRANKLIN BARKER, '44ba, JOHN KENNEDY, '17, and RAYMOND HIGGINS, '29ba. Then in closing the PAWHUSKA assembly, it is back on the trail to OKLAHOMA CITY in a non-stop 1937 Flivver Flight!

That eventful plus historical night four years ago—December 7, 1941! PEARL HARBOR! How events have passed in rapid order in that span in world time!

On this Friday night, December 7, 1945, back in the O. U. Alumni suite, Biltmore Hotel, OKLAHOMA CITY, a series of episodes, indeed, all thrown together equal an anti-climax, leading to V-E and V-J Days as they pass in review!

Millions of men discharged, or at this hour in the process of being separated from "the Armed Forces Service" of these United States, causes us to realize World War II is nearing an end (for some). With additional millions still on foreign soils and far from that "separation" hour, it causes us to realize World War II is still the upper-most thought in the minds of those men and indeed, the end for them is nowhere in view. Thus, confusion, unrest and strained feelings are rampant. Thus, the Riding of the Sooner Range, though pleasant always, grows rough in spots!

And where, in recent hours, has this travelin' the Range led and who was observed in the passing? Plenty! Today, in St. Anthony Hospital, Oklahoma City (on an early morning mission of surgery—after consultation with DR. JOHN LAMB, '32med) a hurry-up "hall session" was held with DR. WAYMAN THOMPSON, '29med, scurryin' out on his medical mission. Dr. KELLY WEST, '15med, and other medics, recently in from BOUGAINVILLE and additional salt-water points down South Pacific way, exchanged greetings and offered suggestions on Association progress.

A hurried swing from "surgery" in OKLAHOMA'S ST. ANTHONY down to the Biltmore Conference rooms brought about the final touches to the School of Medicine of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association's relation and coordination with the general Association. Dr. TOM LOWRY, '16med, Dean of the School of Medicine along with the Medical Alumni's "Prexie" Dr.

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