

SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Alumni Staff Members: Joseph W. Hicks, Public Relations Counselor, Chicago, Illinois, '23ba; Howard Van Dyke of the *Norman Transcript*, '33ba, and Stewart Harral, director of the School of Journalism and Press Relations, '36ma, Guest Editors for the month of February; Catherine Robinson, 46, Assistant Editor; Ted Beaird, '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 Lui Antonelli, '41, Mailing.

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These Guest February Eds

The stable '20s and the sober '30s speak to the baffled middle '40s in the editorials from the pens of *Sooner Magazine* guest editors this month. The successful public relations counselor, Joe Hicks, '23ba, applies his work shop formula in an appeal in the interest of his state. Howard "Press Box" Van Dyke, '33ba, sounds the call to arms. Stew Harrall, '36ma, emphasizes services of O. U. in the process of "life-long learning." Also the '20s and '30s sound a theme of "caution" to the teeming thousands temporarily treading the mad whirlpool of problems in the post war hours of '46! Here they are:

Freedom of Speech

By JOSEPH W. HICKS, '23ba
Public Relations Counselor,
Chicago, Illinois

Practicing the right of free speech we Americans have believed in, fought for, and sometimes died for, since this nation was founded. I got into a conversation with a sailor on a suburban train several months ago. A regular Navy man, he was back from five years in the South Pacific with several citations and was soon to be discharged from Great Lakes.



JOSEPH HICKS

I asked him if he wanted to go back to the job he had before he entered the Navy and he said no, he wanted to go to a school of geology and become a geologist. Like a true Sooner, then, my next remark was, "Have you ever thought of going to Oklahoma? It offers more opportunities in the field of geology than any other school, or any other state, in the union."

Yes, he replied, he had thought something of going there, although he had never visited the state. In fact, he suddenly seemed to remember, as we discussed it, that his own father, who had been a geologist and who had died when he was a wee lad, had been a graduate of the University of Oklahoma.

He had been so out of touch with things, down in the Pacific, the sailor told me, that he really didn't have any very definite plans. He wasn't familiar with the G. I. Bill of Rights and didn't know how to go about finding out more about his rights under that program or the educational opportunities it offered.

It happened that Ted Beaird had been in Chicago only a few weeks before and had talked to the alumni group about his work with the Veterans' Administration. I suggested to the sailor that he get in touch with him and find out about the veterans' program the University was offering. Sometime later I learned that he had done so. He is in

the University of Oklahoma now, pursuing training for the profession he wanted to enter.

It is on such chance conversations that men's futures hinge. It was on such conversations between free men that our great West was built.

"Go West, young man. Go West."

"They've found gold in California."

"Oregon has great timberlands, to be had for the settling."

"There's fine land to farm in the Dakotas."

"They've struck oil in Oklahoma!"

Heard over mugs of beer, around the cracker barrels in country stores, over farmhouse supper tables, in hotel lobbies, in restaurants, on stage-coaches and trains, everywhere men met and talked, these phrases sent a whole tide of civilization westward. They helped build rich states and a great nation.

The point I want to make is that freedom of speech was bought too dearly, costs too much in blood and sacrifice to maintain, to be used destructively. It was given to us that we might build, not tear down . . . that we might contribute to our immediate environment and to the world at large.

As Sooners we can contribute much to the growth and progress of Oklahoma as we practice our prerogative of free speech. Within the state or abroad we are its ambassadors, and can be its best salesmen. The things we say lightly may be taken more seriously than we know, the remarks we make with sincerity may have a profound effect upon the public's opinion of the state.

Utilize freedom of speech to sell Oklahoma. But don't ever sell Oklahoma short!

Calling 70,000 Sooners

By HOWARD VAN DYKE, '33ba
News Editor, *Norman Transcript*

The University of Oklahoma desperately needs the friendship, the support and the loyalty of the 70,000 graduates and former students who are not members of the University of Oklahoma Association.



HOWARD VAN DYKE

in the Southwest.

They have fought a good fight, they have played the game like stout fellows, but it's about time

Up to now the 5,000 Sooners who are members of the Association have been carrying the ball for Oklahoma U. The schedule has been tough, and the opposition rugged.

Perhaps you haven't always agreed with the course charted by these Sooners, but no one ever questioned their loyalty and their devotion to the University. Their goal and their aim has been to make the University the outstanding educational institution

The Cover

President Harry S. Truman presents the Medal of Honor to Lieutenant Richard Miles McCool, Jr., USN, '41ba—President Truman presented the medal on December 18 to Lt. McCool.

The citation read in part: Conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the USS LCS 122, during operations against Japanese forces in the Ryukyu Chain, June 10 and 11, 1945.

Lt. McCool was graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June, 1944, after having previously received his degree from the University of Oklahoma.

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they had a little support from the silent fans in the stands. Better still they would appreciate some new material on the team. Surely 70,000 can furnish some husky candidates who are willing to get out and block and help clear the way for the University.

No football team or no ace back can go far in modern football unless blockers are out ahead bowling over opposition as it makes its threats.

The crucial postwar period is upon us. Oklahoma U. must start forward in the field of education with a broad sweep of vision, with fresh new enthusiasm for the task ahead, and with a confidence strengthened by the knowledge that approximately 75,000 graduates and former students are behind it as it tackles the gigantic task facing colleges and universities today.

The time for petty bickering or indifference is past. Indifference probably is the main enemy of united support for the University. Too many graduates are too busy making a living, raising a family and taking part in the civic affairs of their home communities to consider the needs of O. U.

Perhaps the only time they think about O. U. is when some unfavorable publicity brings black headlines across pages of bigtown newspapers. A small minority probably harbors a grudge against O. U. because of some prof who flunked them in a tough course, or because of other fancied or real injuries received while on the campus.

To all of these O. U. issues a call. It needs you all. Perhaps you didn't make Phi Beta Kappa while you were in school, but thousands of you have won a place for yourselves and are prominent and respected in towns and cities scattered all over Oklahoma and the nation.

To Sooners everywhere and especially in Oklahoma, O. U. issues a call for help. You can help in several ways, you can select the path you wish to travel.

One path is through becoming an active member of the University of Oklahoma Association. Here you can join with friends of college days and friends of the University in becoming a united force, working only for the good of O. U. You can have a voice in the direction of the alumni affairs and can help chart the course for future greatness for Oklahoma U.

If for some reason you do not care to become a member of the alumni organization there are other ways in which you can help.

One method is to talk O. U. in your daily life, point out her good points, ask support of your friends in helping O. U. become the educational and cultural center of the Southwest.

Housewives especially can point out to high school students the advantages to be obtained through attendance at the University.

And last, but not least, have a friendly talk with the legislators from your area. Let them know you are interested in the welfare of the University, that you want to see it grow, not only in size, but in stature as an educational and cultural center.

Legislators are human, many of them are Sooners themselves. No one likes to be driven or pushed around. Most of them resent undue pressure when University appropriation measures are up for consideration. They'll pay more attention if you go to them now as a friend at frequent intervals and show your interest in O. U. The big majority of them can be trusted to do the proper thing if we'll show the proper interest.

Too often in the past 70,000 of us have stood mute and unmoving while a valiant 5,000 battled for O. U. Let's get in the fight—NOW!

Life-Long Learning for Oklahomans—That's O.U.

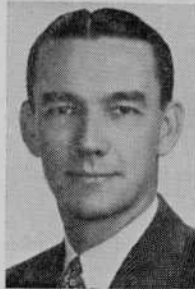
By STEWART HARRAL, '36ma
Director of the School of Journalism
and Press Relations

Mix together a few buildings, a dinosaur or two, an oil refinery, thousands of books, long utility

tunnels, some rare Chinese paintings from the Sung dynasty, and a model drug store and you will get some idea of the physical plant, equipment and collections which make up the University of Oklahoma.

But those things are just a part of the University. Visit a classroom and you see the instruction in operation, but you get another idea of its program when Mrs. J. H. Smith of Tulsa receives material from the package library. She needed information because she was to speak to her study club on the subject, "Characteristics of American Humor."

Services of the University are as varied as the needs of Oklahoma citizens—issuing a monthly bulletin on business conditions in the state, sponsoring short courses for many groups, ranging from ministers to welders; furnishing high school students with debate material, analyzing materials for highway construction, providing research results for state betterment—these and hundreds of others—are some of the service functions of the University.



STEWART HARRAL

to the community and to the commonwealth.

Education today is not restricted to youth. The college campus, formerly a cloistered realm for the select and solitary, now distributes its useful knowledge to all who earnestly seek to increase their skill and capacity for service. Thousands of adults are reached annually through the campus and off-campus activities of the University.

Time was when adult education was considered desirable mainly for the fellow "across the tracks," the foreigner who knew of his deficiencies, the person who wanted to do something in his spare time, the chap whose schooling ended early. But today untold numbers of persons, from the metropolitan center's leading brain surgeon to the village constable, may enjoy benefits of a great state university.

"Life-long learning" for all Oklahomans—that's the ideal of University officials as they seek to increase the effectiveness of the over-all program. In discovering new truths and disseminating information which will add to the wealth and general welfare of Oklahoma, the University will continue to make vital contributions to the citizenry to whom it belongs.

It should not be assumed that the University can continue to expand its countless services on its current budget. With its heavy load of postwar responsibilities, the University needs additional income. For one thing, the University faces increased operating costs in every phase of its program just at the time when enrolment is certain to rise to new record heights.

Just organized, the University of Oklahoma Foundation, a trust fund, has been set up to receive gifts and bequests. The scope and effectiveness of the University's services can be increased as alumni, parents of students, friends and far-sighted citizens of Oklahoma respond. Please don't think for a moment that "my bit won't help." It will!

The University has never nor does it ever hope to be aloof and remote from the problems of state citizens. All Oklahomans are co-partners and share in its dividends. To those who look for it for leadership, help, guidance, research, inspiration—the University of Oklahoma stands as an institution of service. With continued interest and support from its alumni and friends, it will continue to advance and exist for the good of all.

Correspondence . . .

Manus Island
3 January, 1946

Dear Ted:

It has been a real pleasure having the SOONER MAGAZINE and ALUMNI NEWS and I wish you would convey my thanks to that Grad who has been so very generous in making these possible. I know that I speak for all of the SOONERS abroad in telling you that next to having a letter from home, these are the most welcome.

As to the casualty report I am happy to say that all those with whom I have had any sort of contact have made it out ok. This reply to your request is somewhat belated but for some unknown reason your letter was apparently sent on a round-the-world tour before reaching here. We hope to have this area wrapped up pretty shortly and be on our way to the good ol' USA. Mister, I could stand some Stateside living again. When that happy day comes, hope I can drop in and say thanks for all the splendid reading I've had in "Ridin' the Sooner Range."

Best regards,
Frank D. Ashby, '36
C.S.K.T. (AA) (T)

Chon Ju, Korea
23 December 1945
Dear Ted:

Wish that you would change the address for *Sooner Magazine*. Guess that my subscription has not run out, but don't know. My present address is:

Hq. 6th Division, I.G. Department
A. P. O. No. 6 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

At present am inspector general for the 6th Division. We are occupying the southern half of Korea, below the 38° North latitude. The Russians have the part above that. This is a rough and rugged country. Very mountainous, with narrow valleys. The valleys are intensely farmed with rice and vegetables, and an irrigation system extends up the mountains to the source of the streams. I suppose it has been built up over a period of centuries. They really raise bumper crops and do not depend on rainfall. The people are much smaller than Americans. Black, rather than yellow, slant eyed and the general run of people seen on the streets are very dirty in appearance. They are very unsanitary according to our standards. Division Headquarters is located in a Presbyterian college here in Chon Ju and I have my quarters in one of the college residences, so feel right at home. Understand that the Japs closed the college in 1939.

I saw in the *Sooner Magazine* that you were out of the service again. Hope that you are re-adjusted to civilian life again and enjoying health and prosperity. With best wishes for a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,
Lt. Col. Lloyd L. Smith

P. S. Do you realize that it was twenty-five years ago last September that we took the Consistory at Guthrie? Time sure flies. I have a son, L. L., Jr., who is 17 years of age and a freshman at the University of Georgia.

Dear Ted:

Here it has been so long—but I assure you that not a day goes by—well O. U. and you fine guys and gals—

We are still enjoying California and working hard but when one has two boys, well it keeps the old man on the go.

Since I last wrote you many things have happened. In the first place, I spent a couple of hours on the campus last summer but only the painters were around your office.

Talked with Perry Ward the other day. He is going places here—has a fine show on N.B.C. "What's Cookin' Ladies." Big time. The Van

(Continued on page 19)