

SOONER MAGAZINE

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The Cover

Alumni files record the stories of thousands of O.U. grads and former students who have been making outstanding accomplishments the world over during the more than half century history of the University. The cover shot shows a handful of these clippings garnishing a picture of the library entrance through which thousands of Sooners pass in preparing for careers.

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Riding the Sooner Range

BY TED BEARD

April showers have failed to dampen the trails on the Sooner Range in this first seventy-two hours of April, 1948. March winds prevail, however, and even multi-million dollar twisters make of war-torn B-29s on the Army's Tinker Field mere masses of crumpled steel and iron. Anxiety, nerves, and semi-hysteria sweep a nation! The "war feel" is in the air—uncertainty is a pass word—uneasiness and instability grip people and professions

Out of all this semi-chaos breaks a story of accomplishments of a Sooner son in this morning's *Oklahoma Daily* that convinces one that *nowhere* in the world could it happen *but* in America! It is the story of American pluck, courage and determination! It is the story of one man exemplifying "the way of Democracy"! But, here is the press release of an advanced and experienced soldier-student—a Sooner on the campus from up WATONGA-way. Read it—it should give renewed appreciation of the American way of life! Here it is:

"Amazing Sid Stewart has just completed a book in six weeks!

"It's 286 pages of crisp, newly typewritten pages, only half a foot high—but mountains in emotional interest.

"A Campbell-Harris professional writing student, Sid 'felt that I was ready to write the book so I sat down and started it.'

"You gasp but tall Sid reminds you, 'Wait a minute, though. I'd been thinking about it and planning it for two years.'

"Survivor of the Bataan death march and the Jap Hell Ship, Sid in his book, *Give Us This Day*, relives his four tortured years in Jap prison camps.

"Sid lives in a swank apartment at 333 South Webster street with affable Leonard Snyder, the true crime and confession writer. The apartment is full of soft, rosy lights and Sid's paintings. The two writers decided to rent the apartment last summer. They made most of their own furniture.

"In a darkened little room they have a wire recorder. Sid told his story into the little machine, then played his voice back to himself for typing and rewriting. The recorder accounts for part of his speed in writing the book.

"After completing the last line, Sid checked in for a week at the University infirmary. Doctors told him he'd worked himself into a state of exhaustion.

"But Sid carried so much lead in him they couldn't be sure what was the matter. Three clusters crowd for space on his Purple Heart. He also was awarded the D.S.C., Soldiers Medal, Silver Star and five battle stars.

"He's only 28 years old, but when he looks at you and tells his fantastic-true stories by the hour, you imagine you see tiny flecks of gray in his wavy black hair.

"He was captured April 9, 1942. In filth infested prison camps he watched his buddies die when he begged them to live and prayed for his own life. Once he was locked in a cell with 48 others. Two months later Sid was the only man alive.

"The Russians freed him August 18, 1945, from a prison in Manchuria. He was returned, suffering from beri-beri and malnutrition, to hospitals in the United States. He'd been starved and beaten from 200 down to 87 pounds.

"Sid studied art at the University for a year before the war. He completed pre-med work at the University and at Baylor, and after the war was admitted to Medical School. But he turned it down. He wanted to write. 'To tell the truth,' he quips, 'I'd sure like to have a degree but I don't want to be bored with it!'

"While at Baylor, he wrote a column for the *Dallas Morning News*. 'A Young Man's Fancy' was the name of the column and Sid wrote 'On politics to God knows what. The nice thing about education is, if you ever have to clean a toilet bowl, it gives so much to think about while you're doing it,' he said.

"As for writing, Sid recently had a story published in *Extension* magazine. This summer he goes to work on a historical fiction novel based on an 18th century castle in the Philippines.

"During the war bond tour, Sid developed a habit of dictating news interviews outright to reporters. The interviews were good. Lazy reporters like him. So do plenty of others.

"His book is 'For my mother and father, and for all the other mothers and fathers who waited and prayed, and especially for those who still burn the lamp in the window.'"

There is his story within a story! That is the Sooner Sid, who a brief few years ago was a care-free kid on the O.U. campus, now back at a mature man of the world. One of the many, many men who staked their all that a world might survive!

Yes, it is the same same story, world-wide, if we as good Americans, but pause to think. As these lines about death marcher Sid Stewart come off the press, back there on the East Coast in New York other news lines are coming over the ticker tape dealing with the "symbols of a nation's disgrace." Let's read that Bataan story—the story of "a convention of bitter memories" that closed as of twilight last night. Here is the report from that international assembly:

"NEW YORK—Stripped of all the unusual convention gaiety, a small band of Americans—self-termed 'symbols of a nation's disgrace'—met in convention here, and their memories were bitter. The occasion was the opening of the third annual

Association Progress

AT LAST—

A Larger Student Union

The Oklahoma Memorial Union Board of Governors finally has been given the green light by the commissioner of internal revenue in Washington to take immediate steps toward the beginning of a \$1,200,000 Union Building expansion project.

The final ruling declares that the Union can issue tax exempt bonds to finance construction, which will consist primarily of a north wing to be added to the present building. The University Board of Regents requested the supplemental ruling because of technical difficulties which arose over a similar ruling issued some time ago.

First plans for the expansion were made in 1945. They include an enlarged ballroom with a terrace and outside dance floor off the ballroom, as well as an enlarged cafeteria and fountain and private dining rooms in the north wing.

The south wing will be enlarged to accommodate a theater with a seating capacity of over 400, dressing and costume rooms and recreational space.

Because of increased building costs, changes have been made in the 1945 plans. The north wing addition will receive major attention, according to Hillyer Freeland, '39bfa operational manager of the Union.

The north wing will be extended 100 feet north of the present building and will be 96 feet wide. Large brick glass windows will enclose each side. The service drive will be laid in front of the wing, and the outside dance floor and terrace will compose the west side of the addition. A portable bandstand will be included in the enlarged ballroom. The proposed cafeteria and fountain will double the size of the present ones.

Chairman of the building committee is Dr. E. D. Meacham, '14ba, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Members include Frank Cleckler, '21ba, Oklahoma City; Jack Luttrell, '38ba, '41law, Norman, and Fisher Muldrow, '22, Seminole.

Alumni Reunion in Tulsa

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Ted,

The Tulsa County Alumni Club held a meeting Friday night, March 26, with Football Coach Bud Wilkinson as speaker. There were about 75 present. Bud gave us a very interesting talk about football prospects for the coming season and showed the pictures of the Texas game of last year.

Membership cards which have been printed recently were distributed to those members who have their dues paid up.

Among those present were my parents, Madge and Leroy Elmore, of Wichita, Kansas, who were visiting my husband and me for the week-end. They enjoyed the Tulsa Club and saw several old friends from the University. Both my parents graduated in the Class of 1918. Saturday Daddy had lunch at the Mayo Hotel with Harry L. S. Halley and Bill Eagleton, both of whom were in his law class in 1918. It was quite a reunion.

I thought you might want to print some of this in the *Sooner Magazine*, because we always enjoy reading in it about other alumni groups and their members.

Sincerely, Anne Elmore Stites, '46ba, secretary-treasurer, Tulsa County Club.

An Active O.U. Foundation

The University of Oklahoma Foundation, under the direction of Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37law, now has a full-time fund-raising office located in the Administration Building.

Each academic department of the University is being invited to make a careful study of the needs of the department which are of a nature that they probably cannot be met from state funds, and which therefore are appropriate objects for gifts or bequests.

Such objects might include highly specialized research equipment, special library collections, specialized laboratories, auxiliary buildings for specialized work, publications of special significance, and grants to employ assistants for special research projects.

In submitting reports on needs, departments are instructed to give a general description of needs, in terms understandable to prospective donors. Also, the appropriate cost, with sufficient breakdown of

items to show how the amount was determined is to be listed. Explanation of the good to be accomplished if the need is met by a gift is further requested.

Degrees, Hard Work Pay Off

Forty per cent of the graduates of a university commerce college will be making annual salaries of more than \$10,000 by the time the class has been out of college thirty years. These figures were compiled by Ohio State University.

"The average commerce graduate must expect to work five or six years before his earnings pass \$4,000," so the study goes. The survey showed that income of the college trained businessman will rise steadily throughout his career.

A study by the Engineers Joint Council found that experienced engineers in 1939 received four and one-half times the salary of the beginner. But by 1946 he was paid only two and three-quarter times the wage of the inexperienced engineer.

Also pertaining to the engineer is a report by the Occupational Outlook Division of the Bureau of Labor. "The 1950 graduating class will total well over 45,000 engineers," reads the report. "In view of the impending over-supply in the profession, it is important for students to get the best training they can so that they will be better able to compete for jobs."

The report advises engineering students to take a rounded curriculum including such courses as economics, business administration, English, statistics and accounting.

Summer School Plans

Hundreds of courses from A to Z (accounting to zoology) will be offered during the University of Oklahoma summer session, June 4 to August 4, it has been announced by Dr. A. E. Joyal, director and dean of the College of Education.

Courses will be offered in 46 schools, departments and colleges this summer. In education, for example, teachers and administrators will have their choice of 84 courses.

Classes in law will be offered during a 12-weeks quarter, some of the classes to run for six weeks, while others will run for the entire quarter. A limited number of graduate courses in education, English and history are scheduled for the inter-session, which will be held August 4 to September 1.



SID STEWART
Recording a Book.

meeting of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.

"Catcalls, laughter and clinking of glasses were missing, instead, the boys, led by their president, Maj. Gen. Edward P. King, Jr., (ret.) gathered in small groups. In hushed voices, they talked of Bataan, of the death march . . . of buddies dying like flies under the Jap bayonet and club . . . how, out of 38,000 American prisoners taken by the Nips, only one in 10, or 3,800 survived . . . and how even that 3,800 figure is dwindling now as wartime wounds and privations reap their belated lethal harvest.

"General King, although reluctant to relive the horror of Jap bestiality, recounted in a hollow voice those last days on Bataan, in April, 1942. 'Our real value to the nation now is that we're horrible examples of what can happen to a country unprepared,' he told reporters, then added, grimly:

"'And the boys who died on Bataan during the death march and in rotten prison camps are further symbols of a nation in disgrace.'

"King told of Bataan's last week, 'We ran out of food early,' he said, 'the men had been fighting on one-third rations for weeks. I couldn't order a counter attack because the men couldn't walk if they had to bear the extra weight of a gun. All we could do was lay on the ground and try to stop them when they came at us.'

"King declared, 'If they had only answered our wires for help we could have held out forever. As it was, we did what we were ordered to do—hold the airfields.'

"'Hopelessly spreading his arms, King added sorrowfully: 'As you know, the planes never came. I surrendered to an arrogant Jap officer on April 9.'

"The general's tale was taken up by former T/Sgt. Simme Pickman, 30, of Boston. 'After the surrender,' he said, 'most of us were sorry to be alive. The Japs clubbed and bayoneted the boys unmercifully. Men were dying all around me. It was the nearest thing to hell on earth.'

"To demonstrate his prison camp treatment, Pickman showed huge, ugly welts that covered his back, shoulders and arms. 'Jap whips and clubs,' was his terse explanation."

Landmarks on the Sooner Range? Yes, in this hour of "anxiety, nerves and semi-hysteria" we need but pause to *THINK*—indeed, we need but pause to give thanks to that band of "1 out of 10" who, with their fallen comrades, gave to us a continuance "of the American way of life"