

# SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Staff: Jess Heck, '48, Assistant Editor; Ted Beard, '21, Riding the Sooner Range; Larry Stephenson, '48, Staff Writer; Betty Jean McLean, '49, Roll Call; Pat Lance, '49, Staff Writer; Paul McClung, '48, Special Writer; Thellys Gill Hess, '47, Book Review and War Records Secretary; Betty Barclay, '45, Staff Photographer; Mrs. Mary Turnbull, Alumni Records.

VOL. XX

MAY, 1948

NO. 9

## The Cover

Three veteran professors in the School of Geology are being honored during the May 30 reunion of that school's alums. Posing in front of a display case in the Geology Building, they are, left to right, Dr. O. F. Evans, professor of geology; Dr. A. J. Williams, professor of geology, and Dr. C. E. Decker, research professor emeritus of paleontology.

## The Contents

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Riding the Range . . . . .         | 3  |
| Reunion . . . . .                  | 4  |
| Alumni in the News . . . . .       | 5  |
| Achievement Awards . . . . .       | 6  |
| Correspondence . . . . .           | 9  |
| Books . . . . .                    | 10 |
| Mothers' Day Activities . . . . .  | 10 |
| Faculty . . . . .                  | 13 |
| The 'Y' at O.U. . . . .            | 16 |
| Undergraduate Activities . . . . . | 21 |
| Sooner Sports . . . . .            | 24 |
| Roll Call . . . . .                | 26 |

## UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

**Officers:** Hal Muldrow, Jr., Norman, President; Grady Harris, Alex, First Vice-President; Herbert Branan, Oklahoma City, Second Vice-President; Ted M. Beard, Norman, executive secretary-manager.

**Executive Board Members:** Hal Muldrow, Jr.; Herbert Branan, Oklahoma City; Max Cook, Clinton; C. Guy Brown, Oklahoma City; Milt Phillips, Seminole; and H. D. Grisso, Norman—all members-at-large. Emerson Price, Vinita, District I; William M. Dodson, Muskogee, District II; James C. Hammill, Madill, District III; Frank Crider, Ada, District IV; Joe Curtis, Pauls Valley, District V; Grady D. Harris, Alex, District VI; Harry Hughes, Weatherford, District VII, and Maj. William V. Cox, Ponca City, District VIII.

**Trustees of Life Membership Fund:** Errett R. Newby, Oklahoma City; Tom F. Carey, Oklahoma City, and Neil R. Johnson, Norman.

**1947-48 Representatives on the O.U. Athletic Council:** Neil R. Johnson, Norman; Granville T. Norris, Muskogee, and Paul Reed, Sulphur.

*Sooner Magazine* is published the fifth day of each month by the University of Oklahoma Association, Union Building, Norman, Okla. Entered as second-class matter Oct. 13, 1928, at the post office in Norman, Okla., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Subscription \$3.00 per year, of which \$2.00 is for the magazine and \$1.00 for Alumni Dues. Foreign, \$4.00. Life, \$60.00. Single copies 25 cents. Opinions expressed are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent official action of the Alumni Executive Board. Member of American Alumni Council.

## Riding the Sooner Range

BY TED BEARD

Sooners really have been Riding the Sooner Range in all sections these past thirty days—and nights. Here's an idea of Sooner doings—in Anadarko, Oklahoma; in Washington, D. C.; on the O. U. campus, and over the nation!

### AFTER 55 YEARS, FIRST SOONER GRADUATE WEDS CHILDHOOD FLAME

"After 55 long years, C. Ross Hume, 70 plus, Anadarko attorney, the first graduate (1898) of the University, recently claimed his childhood sweetheart, Mrs. Viola Chaffin Davis, as his bride.

"In 1893, Hume, then fuzzy-faced and fifteen, attended a Christian Endeavor meeting at the Caldwell, Kansas, Presbyterian Church. There he met apple-cheeked 13-year-old Viola Chaffin.

"But next spring he returned to Anadarko and later attended the University. They drifted apart.

"He was such a scholarly lad that I didn't think he'd ever look at me," Mrs. Hume recalled.

"The Judge had answered the phone, but, when asked what the bride wore, he hastily surrendered the receiver to his capable wife.

"Her voice bubbled excitedly over the telephone after the ceremony. She must have been blushing.

"This sounds just like a radio quiz program," she said.

"They were married by the Rev. Everett Poole, pastor of the Anadarko Presbyterian Church, in the First Presbyterian Church, El Reno.

"The bride wore a blue crepe dress. 'Yes, I had an ensemble, a coat to match the dress, but I took the coat off for the ceremony,' she related.

"But right now I look awful," she said. They had just returned to Anadarko from El Reno.

"For her wedding she wore an orchid. Was it the first he'd ever given her? 'Yes.'

"And how did it make her feel?"

"Hepped up, if you want to call it that," she chuckled.

"They met for the first time since 1894 last year in Glendale, California. They were both visiting there.

"Did they recognize each other? 'Oh, yes, at once.'

"And did they know then that they were in love?"

"Well, he thought he was, and he wanted to get married right away, but it took me eight months to decide," she said.

"I think he was dreaming," the bride added.

"And how did the bride like the groom by Wednesday afternoon? 'I'll tell you later,' she promised.' As for the whole affair, I'm thrilled.'

"After their childhood romance faded, Miss Chaffin remained in Kansas, attended Bethany College in Topeka and later married Robert Davis.

"While in the University, Hume was exchange editor of the first student newspaper and a member of the first glee club.

"A member of the University's first football squad, he quarterbacked the team in 1896 and captained it in 1897. After his graduation Hume married Miss Verna Gossard and established a home and law practice in Anadarko.

"Both Mr. Davis and the first Mrs. Hume died several years ago.

"Three children of Judge Hume, Betty, Dorothy and Russ G., attended O. U.

"The bride and groom honeymooned in Washington, D. C., where they visited the home of his daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Hammond.

"The couple returned to Oklahoma for Hume's initiation into Phi Beta Kappa at the University May 10, and where 'the Judge' will return again on Sunday, May 30, to act as the chairman of his reunion class of 1898 party—the golden anniversary of these 50 years ago campus Sooners."

NOW, with the Judge happily married, let's turn toward the nation's capital and note the accomplishments of another interesting Sooner son—

### JACK OF ALL TRADES—MASTER OF MOST!

"That's the title given JAMES STILLWELL, '29, native Oklahoman and prominent state department official, in an article by John White published recently in the *Washington* (D. C.) *Times Herald*.

"For there's little that Jim Stillwell hasn't done. From washing dishes in the Theta house during his college life to chief of all lend-lease operating division, the capable Sooner has had his thumb in more than the average number of pies.

"He was born in CHICKASHA July 24, 1906. His father's people were all Sooners, his mother's were Davidsons of the town of Davidson, North Carolina, where they had founded the college of Davidson.

"He has never been reluctant to work. He started early and is still at it. At the University he did everything—delivered ice, mowed lawns, waxed floors, stoked furnaces, managed an ice-cream plant, worked on a bridge gang and threshed wheat.

"In 1934, after working for General Motors and teaching history and government, he took his M.A. degree. After that, he returned to G. M. until December of 1941, when he went to Washington to go into the Army as a captain. After a brief visit with a friend in the lend-lease department one morning, he found himself out of uniform that afternoon and busily sweating it out over red tape and lend-lease.

"Since the war, he has continued his Washington career, working in different capacities. He has been given special assignments for the White House and has acted as special assistant to the under-secretary of state. When Luckman left, he took up the task of keeping the wheels of food conservation rolling. After Congress put conservation officially

under the wing of the department of agriculture, Stillwell returned to the state department, where he is using common sense and experience in breaking up a multiplicity of bottlenecks."

NOW, with the "breaker of bottlenecks" still "lending and leasing," a turn is made back to the O. U. campus for a National Broadcasting Company release to a nation-wide audience, participated in by some 163 outstanding O. U. campus personalities from as many towns and cities. Here it is:

"Saturday, April 17, was a 'first' on the University of Oklahoma campus, when one hundred and sixty members of the Men's Glee Club and the Women's Choral Group sang in the performance of 'The Mount of Olives,' musical story of Christ's journey to the cross, over a national network. These two choral groups work under the direction of CHESTER FRANCIS of the O. U. music faculty.

"This occasion was the first time in more than ten years that this oratorio of Ludwig van Beethoven's had been heard by American music lovers. Plates of the English translation were lost in a blitz in England, and this oratorio had not been presented in the United States since before the war. The English text is by the Reverend Mr. J. Troutbeck, made from the original text by Franz Xaver Huber.

"The opportunity to take part in the Orchestras of the Nation program sponsored by the National Broadcasting Company, provided the initial appearance of the University of Oklahoma choral groups with Metropolitan Opera singers Josephine Antoine, soprano, who was featured as the Seraph, and Frederick Jagel who was featured as Christ. GUS LEASE, baritone, of the O. U. music faculty, took the part of Peter.

"It was also the first time for this oratorio to be broadcast on a national network. WKY of Oklahoma City did a splendid job of handling this broadcast, which fed the program to other stations and broadcast a transcription of the program on Sunday over WKY.

"It was not the first time, however, that the Oklahoma State Symphony had been selected by the National Broadcasting Company to this place of honor among the nation's orchestras. Several times the orchestra has attained the distinction of playing on the Orchestras of the Nation series, since it has been under the baton of its very able director, Victor Alessandro.

"Part 1 of the afternoon program of music by Ludwig van Beethoven, which was broadcast, consisted of *The Grand Overture in C Major 'Namensfeier' Opus 115*, followed by *The Mount of Olives Oratorio Opus 85*. The second part of the orchestra's program, which was given for the local audience only, was *Symphony Number Two in D Major, Opus 36*.

"It was a rare treat for the University audience to see its own choral groups and one of the faculty members highly honored by the recognition given their fine musical abilities on the occasion of taking part with Metropolitan Opera singers in this broadcast of the Oklahoma State Symphony on the Orchestras of the Nation series.

"The officials of the Oklahoma State Symphony who were in Norman for the Saturday afternoon program requested that the choral groups and Professor Lease appear with the Orchestra and the Metropolitan soloists on Sunday in Oklahoma City, and the program was repeated at that time, but not broadcast.

"One listener in up-state New York requested a recording which couldn't be supplied because Petrillo would not permit recordings to be made for sale within the United States. However, the National Broadcasting Company was permitted to fill the request for a recording to be taken out of the country by the President of the Swiss Music Conservatory.

"Chester Francis and Victor Alessandro are due a great deal of commendation for this superb performance."

So, there they are and what they are doing. Just a cross-section of multiplied thousands of Sooners covering the Rangel!

## Reunion in the Union

May 30 and 31 will mark class reunion days on the University campus for every fifth O.U. graduating class, starting with that of 1898 when there were nine graduates, to 1948, with approximately 2,000.

Members of the classes of 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1918, 1923, 1928, 1933, 1938, and 1943 and 1948 will meet for the annual group reunions.

Only nine persons were graduated in the first class of 1898, and six of that number are still living. C. Ross Hume, attorney from Anadarko and chairman of the 1898 reunion committee, and Dr. Roy P. Stoops, Oakland, California, claim the title of first graduates, as they were the only two of the nine receiving BA degrees. The other seven were pharmacists.

Other living members of the 1898 class are James L. Freeman, Tonkawa; Edmund S. Norris, Pawnee; Robert F. Snapp, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and William A. McCutcheon, Oklahoma City.

The program for Sunday, May 30, includes reunion class meetings and registration, Union Building, 1:30 p.m.; special radio broadcast featuring all reunion classes, 3 to 4 p.m.; special visitation period for individual classes and campus visitation, 4 to 5 p.m.; reunion dinner, Union Ballroom, 5 p.m., and baccalaureate services, 7:30 p.m. at Owen Field.

The annual Board of Governors' meeting at 10 a.m. in the Union Building will kick off Monday's program. The rest of the schedule includes the annual alumni luncheon in co-operation with the O.U. School of Geology, honoring Dr. A. J. Williams, professor of geology; Dr. C. E. Decker, research professor emeritus of paleontology, and Dr. O. F. Evans, professor of geology, at 12:15 p.m. There will be an Alumni Executive Board meeting at 2:30 p.m. and commencement exercises at 7:30 p.m. at Owen Field.

Individual class reunions have been planned for 1:30 p.m. Sunday in the Union Building. The class committee chairmen are C. Ross Hume, Anadarko, 1898; Francis C. Oakes, Edmond, 1903; Errett R. Newby, Oklahoma City, 1908; Earl Sneed, Tulsa, 1913; Corrine Breeding, Oklahoma City, 1918; Charles C. Bush, Jr., Norman, 1923; Q. M. Spradling, Norman, 1928; Cecil C. Ferree, Miami, Oklahoma, 1933; John W. Gittinger, Norman, 1938; Webster L. Benham, Jr., Oklahoma City, 1943.



Hal Muldrow, '28bus, president of the University of Oklahoma (Alumni) Association, and Mrs. Muldrow visited recently with Sooners in Topeka, Kansas, and attended the Topeka Alumni Club's monthly meeting. He is shown here (third from left) with the new Topeka Club officers: Front row, Mrs. Sula Snyder (left) '37ba, treasurer, and Mrs. Helen Hadley Miller, '38ba, secretary. Second row, left to right, T. Hall Collinson, '35ba, '37law, vice-president; E. A. Shiner, '26ed, '28ms, president; Muldrow, and Professor Joseph H. Foth, '14ba, head of the economics and business administration colleges, Washburn Municipal University.