

SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

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The Cover

The young lady on the cover is testing the water in the South Oval pool but not in preparation for going swimming. Cameraman Paul Nishimuta, looking for a shot that would indicate coolness and summer breezes, asked Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson Newsom, '48fa, to pose and the results are fairly obvious.

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Riding the Sooner Range

BY TED BEARD

Down through the years the Range has been specifically allotted to a personality point of view of those that we are privileged to meet, greet, and those with whom we are privileged to eat! Each month an endeavor is made to give you a bird's eye view via a word picture of your old friends and associates. This month, however, we shall present a "policy" matter.

The Range article for this May, 1949, issue will be devoted to a matter of administration, stimulated by receipt and exchange of correspondence with an outstanding alumnus of the University of Oklahoma. The article is being so designed and carried in the columns of the Sooner Range because we feel there may be other hundreds concerned with the same items as was this outstanding alumnus who advised with us by his writing of the letter to the Range Rider on a fair and impartial basis.

By carrying this exchange of correspondence it will acquaint our thousands of alumni members with the policy matters incident to the selection of alumni to serve on the Alumni Executive Board by the various alumni commissions and business committees established under the constitution and by-laws of the Association.

(The writer's name will not be used as we have not contacted him prior to presenting the article asking for permission to use same.)

This outstanding business and professional man says:

Dear Ted:

"The March issue of the University of Oklahoma *News of the Month* containing the official ballot of the alumni association has just been received by me.

"In going over the list of fifteen candidates for the Board I am impressed with one very significant fact: Out of this number seven candidates are alumni who have graduated in the 1940 decade; the most of the others graduated in the 1930 decade and the oldest candidate graduated in 1923. The group of alumni graduated prior to 1923 are not represented in any way on this slate which to my way of thinking is a big mistake. I will readily admit that the major number of alumni have graduated in the last twenty years and also that it is highly desirable for the younger alumni to shoulder as much of the responsibility as possible. On the other hand, it has been my observation not only among the Oklahoma University graduates but among alumni of other colleges and universities that the older and more mature members shoulder the major part of the load.

"This matter is personally immaterial to me but I feel certain that the other older members of the

alumni association will share my feelings in regard to the age division of the candidates for the Alumni Board.

"Yours very truly, Signed."

Prior to presenting the reply on the part of your Executive Secretary to this very fine suggestion, it should be called to your attention that nominees are selected by an official nominating committee appointed each season by the current president of the general Alumni Association. This nominating committee selects nominees to go on the ballot from which the members of the Association throughout the world vote their choice in the selection of members to the Executive Board.

This season President GRADY HARRIS, '18, appointed to the official nominating committee, to serve with him in selecting the nominees for the ballots, the following alumni: C. GUY BROWN, '23ba, HERBERT BRANAN, '32ba, '38Law, HORTON GRISSO, '30geol, BEN HEAD, '42bus, '48Law, HARRY HUGHES, '29ba, J. F. MALONE, '37ba, PAUL REED, '16 and DICK VIRTUE, '44ba.

At the Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City on Monday night, March 14, the nominating committee met. After a careful survey of the alumni membership the committee made its nomination of 15 nominees. Soon after some 50,000 ballots were printed and released to former students and graduates of the University scattered throughout the world.

And now, for our reply to the interested alumnus who addressed the letter quoted above.

"My dear _____:

"Your April 22 letter reached me this morning. I note with particular interest your comments relative to the list of fifteen nominees on the official alumni ballot. It is true that a majority of these nominees come from the 1930 and 1940 bracket of graduates. It just so happened that the Nominating Committee of nine made their selections on this basis.

"I note your comments that it is highly desirable for the younger alumni to shoulder as much of the responsibility but that older and more mature alumni members should shoulder the major part of the load in carrying forward the program. Indeed, I feel that we have the whole picture rather well balanced. For example, two of the commissioners on the very important O.U. Alumni Development Fund Board, including the chairman, are HARRY DIAMOND of the Class of 1912 and NORMAN BRILLHART of the Class of 1917. The three alumni Executive Board members who represent the alumni on the O.U. Athletic Council are

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Officers: Grady Harris, Alex, President; Joe Curtis, Pauls Valley, Vice-President; Ted Beard, Norman, Executive Secretary-Manager, and Hal Muldrow, Jr., Immediate Past President.

Executive Board Members: Herb Branan, Oklahoma City; Max Cook, Clinton; C. Guy Brown, Oklahoma City; Milt Phillips, Seminole; H. D. Grisso, Norman; George D. Hann, Ardmore; Bruce Carter, Miami; Roy Grantham, Ponca City; Judge Bob Howell, Holdenville—all members-at-large.

Emerson Price, Vinita, District I; William M. Dodson, Muskogee, District II; James C. Hamill, Madill, District III; Frank Crider, Ada, District IV; Joe Curtis, Pauls Valley, District V; Grady Harris, Alex, District VI; Harry Hughes, Weatherford, District VII; Col. 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.

1948-49 Representatives on the O.U. Athletic Council: Neil R. Johnson, Norman; Granville T. Norris, Muskogee, and Paul Reed, Sulphur.

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NEIL R. JOHNSON, 1915, GRANVILLE NORRIS, 1929 and PAUL REED, 1916. The three trustees of the O.U. Life Membership Trust Fund, who are responsible for administering the fifty-odd thousand dollar fund, investing in securities, etc., are ERRETT R. NEWBY, 1907, TOM F. CAREY, 1908 and NEIL JOHNSON, 1915.

"On the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma Memorial Union, which of course, as you know after all your years of service as a governor, is an alumni corporation project carried forward by the alumni, we find among the Board members the following: R. W. HUTTO, 1910, A. N. BOATMAN, 1914, E. D. MEACHAM, 1914, NORMAN BRILLHART, 1917, DON EMERY, 1920, FRANK S. CLECKLER, 1912, LOWREY H. HARRELL, 1916, GRADY HARRIS, 1918 and many others.

"One of the greatest developments, and in my opinion the most far-sighted program that has been designed at the University in the past 50 years, is the University of Oklahoma Foundation. In fact, five of the Board members serving on the Foundation Board of Trustees are O.U. alumni. They are, FRED TARMAN, 1910, T. HOWARD McCASLAND, 1916, DAWSON HOUK, 1914-1921, GEORGE HANN, 1918 and 1936 and TOM CAREY, 1908.

"There are so many hundreds of outstanding, hard-working alumni who can and will, when elected, serve with distinction on these various alumni boards, that it really is a problem to balance up the whole program when we analyze the various business projects carried forward by the Association.

"We are most appreciative of your interest, _____, and I assure you we will be happy to hear from you at any time offering suggestions as to carrying forward the program.

"Cordially yours, Ted Beard."

So there we have taken a gallop over the Range in the realm of "policy making." Indeed, it is stimulating when we have graduates of yesteryear (or several yesteryears) taking the time and interest to write us and counsel as to their particular points of view in the development of a stronger Alumni Association and a greater University of Oklahoma. Such counsel makes for general interest (and a stronger Association) while we continue Riding the Sooner Range.

▶ J. Bruce Wiley, '35bs, '41m.eng, associate professor of electrical engineering, is one of 25 educators in the nation chosen to attend the General Electric Professors' conference in Schenectady, New York. The group, which will meet June 27 to July 29, represents electrical, industrial and mechanical engineering. Visiting professors will plan course work, tour plants and study operations.



Honoree Dr. F. P. Baker, Mrs. Felix C. Duvall, honoree Benny Owen, Mrs. Don Emery, and Grady Harris, '18, are seen at the speakers table at the achievement award dinner.

Second Achievement Day Held

The Rev. T. H. McDowell, director of the Oklahoma-Kansas Region, National Conference of Christian and Jews, Inc., invoked the blessing. The room settled down to the steady hum of diners eating and conversing with their neighbors.

The occasion was the second annual Achievement Day Award Banquet, April 12 which was to honor five outstanding Oklahomans on the basis of their record of achievement. They were Dr. Forrest Pitt Baker, Benny Owen, Frank Phillips, Lew Wentz and Muriel H. Wright.

Grady Harris, '18, Alex, president of the University of Oklahoma Association and presiding officer, introduced Don Emery, '20ba, '21Law, Bartlesville, president of the University Regents, who in turn welcomed the many dignitaries and guests.

The Union Ballroom was filled with the voices of Marguerite Ebel, soprano, and Sterling Ebel, baritone, as they joined in the duet from *Pagliacci*. Joseph Benton, '20ba, '21fa, '41ma, professor of music, accompanied the singers.

President Cross was introduced.

"Achievement is a simple word," he said. "Yet it combines several meanings . . . an ideal, a philosophy of life, a belief in the dignity of work and a faith in attainment through honest effort," so began the introduction of award winners.

"It is fitting tonight that we should honor four men and one woman . . . each of whom has contributed in a unique way to the economy, to the culture, and to the welfare of our state and nation . . ." Dr. Cross continued.

The first award was presented to Dr. Forrest Pitt Baker, superintendent of Eastern Oklahoma State Sanatorium at Talihina.

Dr. Baker was born at Hot Springs, Arkansas. His father, a West Point graduate, made the Cherokee Strip run and settled at Cleveland. Later he served as a medical officer with the Philippine constabulary. Returning to this country the family established a home in Amity, Arkansas, where Dr. Baker was graduated from high school.

He received his M.D. from the University of Arkansas school of medicine in 1912. He did his internship in Little Rock's city hospital and residency for a year at St. Vincent's hospital in the same city. He served as resident physician at the State Sanatorium at Booneville, Arkansas. From 1917 to 1922 he was a medical officer in the army stationed in Panama. It was Governor Johnson that named him superintendent at Talihina.

He is a fellow of the American Medical Association, a fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians, an honorary life member of the Oklahoma Congress of Parents and Teachers and a medical adviser of the state welfare department.

Bennie Owen, director of intramural athletics, received the next award.

Owen's athletic star began its ascendancy when he quarterbacked Fielding H. Yost's all-victorious Kansas club in 1899. In 1905 he came to the University as coach. His success was in keeping with this phenomenal man. His 1908 team lost one game, his 1910 squad lost two, his 1911 eleven



DR. BAKER



MR. OWEN



MR. PHILLIPS



MR. WENTZ



MISS WRIGHT