

A Humble Beginning

A story of progress and of men of foresight as they met the challenge of the depression years by launching a new publication. Continuing the history of the Alumni Association and its presidents

1928-29 With the meeting of November 10, 1928, TOM F. CAREY, '08ba, assumed the office of the presidency for the second time.

Always an outstanding leader as witnessed by his record in 1912-13, Carey again "careyed" the alumni association along to another successful year.

Of all the accomplishments made during this year, the most notable was begun in October, 1928. It is still going on today. That accomplishment was and is *Sooner Magazine* which was born in October of the first part of Carey's second term.

The SOONER MAGAZINE IS 21 YEARS OLD.

The simple statement may not sound exciting to Sooners of recent years who have taken the alumni magazine as a matter of course. But to Joe Brandt, '21ba, Frank Cleckler, '21ba, John B. Gordon, '30ba, and others who were present at the birth of the magazine and nursed it through its infant years, a 21st anniversary is *Something*.

Twenty-one years doesn't sound like a long time, but just 21 years ago the present University Library building was still under construction; the Union Building was not yet completed; the Infirmary was being put into use for the first time; enrolment for the fall term was little over 4,800; and Frank Cleckler was just starting his administration as alumni secretary and manager of the Union.

Frank tells the story of the magazine's establishment like this: "Many interested alumni and faculty of the University had long seen the need for an alumni magazine and, accordingly, neither Joe Brandt, the first editor, nor myself, as alumni secretary, claims credit for originating the idea. However, when Joe Brandt and I returned to the campus in the fall of 1928, the very first thing we did was to initiate plans which resulted in the publication of Volume I, Number 1, as of October 1, 1928.

"For a good many months prior to that time I had been corresponding with President Bizzell and others about resigning my position in Washington and returning to the University as alumni secretary. While on my vacation in the latter part of August, I finally decided to burn the bridges behind me and take on the then very uncertain job as alumni secretary for the University of Oklahoma.

"The very day I began these duties, which as I remember it, was the day following Labor Day of 1928, Joe and I got an old pine table and a couple of chairs in what was the old dean of men's office, a couple of pencils and scratch pads and started to work outlining plans for an alumni magazine which we, with the subsequent approval of the Alumni Executive Board, named *The Sooner Magazine*.

"We made up a list of articles which we thought



TOM F. CAREY
1928-29

we could get together during the next few days and immediately called for that same night a conference of alumni faculty whom we believed could give us for the class notes some personal items about alumni they had seen or had had contact with during the summer. This was the original source of the class notes which have been continuously carried to this day.

"Joe started to work on the articles and I on the advertising and other innumerable details necessary to getting out a new sheet.

"We printed enough copies of the first issue to send one to each graduate whose name was then on file in the alumni office. It so happened that the classes of 1927 and 1928 had not been entered in the alumni files but we somehow got these names and included them in our mailing list. Somewhere near October 1, Volume one, Number one, was released by the University Press and, as we had no addressograph list at that time, the addressing was done on the typewriter, mainly by student assistants.

"As we were extremely anxious to get the first issue out on time, the few clerical employees of the alumni office (part time student assistants), myself, Joe Brandt, editor of the University Press, the late Sam Crawford, then superintendent of the Press, and practically all of the employees of the Press worked all night addressing, stuffing, and sorting geographically, as is necessary under postal rules, some 5,000 or more copies.

"Not only did we do this on the first issue, but

for several subsequent issues the sun was well over the water tower before the last copy was addressed, sorted geographically and ready for the eagle eye of Ed Burke (former assistant postmaster of Norman)—that walking dictionary of postal regulations.

"As the records will indicate the *Sooner Magazine* was received very enthusiastically, due largely to the ability and interest of the then editor, Joe Brandt. However, many were skeptical as to our ability to continue the publication. Many opinions were expressed that two, three or six months would see the death of another 'noble experiment.'

"It would take entirely too much space to outline the many problems and difficulties encountered in the first year of publication, but all of them were surmountable in one way or another, and the *Sooner* has not missed an issue and has continued to serve the alumni and University in a most commendable way."

The lead article of the first issue of the magazine was *Prexy's Problems*, written by President W. B. Bizzell.

Dr. Bizzell commended the establishment of an alumni magazine and expressed belief that it could perform valuable services for the University.

"A modern university is a complex organism," he wrote. "It consists of a great student body, faculty members, parents and former students. It is not an easy task to maintain coordination of effort between complex groups composed of these diverse elements. But in addition to these groups, there is a great supporting citizenship that is ever sensitive to the welfare of the institution and jealous of its reputation.

"I am hoping that *The Sooner Magazine* will help to bring into closer coordination the very important elements that constitute the University's clientele. I hope this issue may give you some indication of the service that we anticipate it may render in this capacity."

O.U.'s alumni magazine was started with a sound editorial basis by Editor Brandt. An able newspaperman, with metropolitan experience as city editor of the *Tulsa Tribune*, he took the view that an alumni magazine should be primarily a news publication, and avoid being literary or controversial. This policy was continued by Ernie Hill, '32, who succeeded Brandt as editor in 1934, and by the succeeding editors up to and including the present editor, David A. Burr, '50ba.

It is interesting to note Brandt's editorial in the first issue which explained the establishment of the magazine and set the course for its future policies in the following editorial:

"Thirty-six years have elapsed since the University of Oklahoma was established in the then small village of Norman. During that period, more

than 6,000 graduates have gone forth, in addition to hundreds of students who were unable to complete their courses for degrees. Varied and ingenious efforts have been made by the alumni association, working without funds and usually under great handicaps, to knit together this great group of former students, but with indifferent success.

"Ranking fifth in enrolment among the state universities of America, the University was practically the only state school not to have a regular alumni magazine; and one of the few universities of any consequence in the country that did not maintain a strong active alumni association.

"However willing and aggressive various alumni boards have been—and persistent effort to build a strong association testifies to the purpose of these boards and their energy—intelligent purpose was defeated by absence of a regular magazine that would serve as a mirror for the activities and interests of all.

"This year the long-deferred hope of establishing a regular magazine for former students has been realized, thanks to the energy of the University of Oklahoma Association board and the intelligent cooperation of the University of Oklahoma during these trial years.

"Here, then, thirty-six years after the University began sending out graduates, appears a magazine which should have been existent years ago.

"What should be the purpose of *The Sooner Magazine*?

"The experience of many other graduates and alumni magazines naturally sets itself as a guide for this one, newest of the new.

"The *Sooner Magazine* should be a NEWS magazine, keeping pace with the activities of former students of the University, recounting the steps in progress made by the University itself.

"It should contain the maximum of news and the minimum of propaganda. Its only policy should be fairness in giving news, adequacy in serving the University of Oklahoma Association and its members.

"This is in keeping with the best traditions of American alumni magazines, which long ago abandoned pretensions to be literary or controversial. All but a few conform to the purpose stated for *The Sooner Magazine*—to publish the news."

The Sooner Magazine in its first decade of publication has compared well with other alumni magazines of the nation.

In its tenth year it changed from a ten-month to a twelve-month publication basis and has continued to maintain this schedule ever since.

Printing the magazine is the chief item in the budget of the alumni association and, with alumni membership increasing daily, the magazine will correspondingly continue to improve to give YOU better news of YOUR University.

1929-30 Following Carey's second term in office, RAYMOND A. TOLBERT, '21ba, '13Law, became president of the association.

A prominent Oklahoma City attorney, he was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1890. Tolbert was a Sooner even while in grade school where he associated with several future Sooners like Peyton E. Brown, '13, Blackwell and Shelly Tracy, '12ba, Dallas, and others.

While attending O.U. he was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, Phi Delta Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternities, of the Sooner bar and the Senate literary society. He was law librarian and played on the law school football team and served as secretary of the student committee of six that procured the appropriation for the law school building from the state legislature.

Tolbert has always been in the forefront of alumni activities. Several times he was a member of the association executive board and was presi-

dent of the Oklahoma City branch of the association when he called the state wide meeting of graduates and former students in 1923 to oppose the efforts of the then Governor Walton to remove President Stratton D. Brooks. He proposed at this meeting that the University Alumni Association be reorganized as the University of Oklahoma Association with membership open to both former students and graduates.

This proposal, which marked the beginning of the present association, was adopted.

With Paul A. Walker, '13Law, Tolbert formed a committee of law school graduates that volunteered its services and successfully represented the board of regents in the supreme court in the case of Peebly versus Childers, a victory which restored \$420,000 to the University salary appropriations which had been eliminated by Governor Walton.

His services to the stadium-union organization have been invaluable and most unselfish. He was a member of the stadium union board of



RAYMOND A. TOLBERT
1929-30

the stadium union building committee, and of the board of governors of the Oklahoma Union. As legal counsel he incorporated these two organizations and handled all the legal proceedings for them relating to the \$400,000 bond issue without compensation. For his many distinguished services to the University, he was awarded the coveted Sigma Delta Chi scroll of honor in 1928.

From 1913 to 1919 he engaged in the practice of law at Hobart where he served as city attorney and as president of the library board. He assisted in establishing several Carnegie libraries in western Oklahoma. Rejected for the first officers' training camp and in the first draft on account of minor physical disabilities, Mr. Tolbert plunged into war service whole heartedly, serving as chairman of the Red Cross and the Y.M.C.A. He was accepted in 1917 in the A.E.F. and served in the air service until 1919. He now holds the commission of captain in the air reserve.

On his return from the war, he became assistant attorney for Oklahoma for the C.R.I. & P. Railway with headquarters at El Reno. Since 1922 he has been a partner in the firm of Embry, Johnson, Crowe & Tolbert, one of the oldest legal firms in Oklahoma City. He is a member of the Oklahoma County, state and American Bar Associations.

He served as a member of the Board of Regents of the University from 1931 to 1933, was a member of the staff of the University Magazine, a past

president of the Oklahoma Auto Club and probably the first alumnus to be made a member of the executive committee of the Oklahoma State Bar Association.

Indeed a tribute to the outstanding character and leadership of Tolbert are the many things done by the association during his year in the president's seat.

An entry in the minutes for the first meeting at which he presided reveal that eight well-remembered and worthy members of the faculty were selected for honorary membership in the association. They were A. B. Adams, H. H. Herbert, C. N. Gould, L. N. Morgan, J. F. Brookes, Frank Tappan, C. E. Decker and A. J. Williams.

Another forthright accomplishment was the establishment of the University Placement Service which then looked forward to the placement of students after graduation. This service has since become an activity of the University and is not connected with the Association.

It is interesting to note that a resolution was proposed at the June 3, 1929, meeting (held in the Chemistry building) which stated that:

"... all payment on life membership subscriptions shall be placed in a separate fund known as the Life Membership Fund, and no part thereof used for current expenses; provided, however, that the income from the investment of such fund may be used for meeting current expenses if and when so required."

A most courteous invitation was received from the Board of Directors of the American Legion Building in Paris to place a memorial tablet in their building in memory of the graduates and former students of the University of Oklahoma who gave their lives in the World War. The invitation had to be declined "due to the fact that funds are not available and the Association should first consider such for our own Memorial Building."

Of course, the entry that is the pride of this office is found in the statement: "Motion was made, seconded and *unanimously* carried that the Secretary be instructed to write a letter of commendation to the Editorial staff of the *Sooner Magazine* in appreciation of the excellent quality of the alumni publication—the *Sooner Magazine*."

1930-31 Luther H. White, '14ba, took the president's chair after Tolbert and proceeded to bring further honor and distinction to the history of the alumni association.

In the course of his administration he provided for many far reaching and important matters relating both to organization and progress.

Among the first things that were accomplished was the passing of a motion providing that the president of the association, "by virtue of his past service and knowledge of association problems," automatically become a regular member of the Executive Board for the year following his service as president. This motion was introduced by Raymond and Tolbert and passed without dissent.

Other accomplishments that are attributed to the white period are the creation of certificates of life membership, the establishment of the James Shannon Buchanan Memorial Lectureship in memory of "Uncle Buck," the famous and much-revered former history professor and acting president of the University and the creation of the "O.U. Life Membership Fund."

In tribute to the tireless efforts and service of White, the following resolution was included in the June 8, 1931, minutes.

"Be it resolved by the Alumni Executive Board of the University of Oklahoma Association in a meeting duly assembled that, *Whereas* during the year just closing Luther H. White of Tulsa, Okla-



LUTHER H. WHITE
1930-31

homa, has been the President of the organization; and *Whereas*, many questions of great moment and importance to the Association have come up and problems been presented which called for the taking of a large amount of time and energy for the President of the organization; and *Whereas*, on all of such occasions our President has been willing and prompt to give whatever attention was needed in working out satisfactorily the solutions of these matters: *Be it resolved*, that said Board and each and every individual member thereof take this means of expressing to said Luther H. White, our sincere appreciation of the services rendered by him his year and trust that the known and expressed feelings of his fellow associates during this time, as well as all friends of the University, will in some measure compensate him for the sacrifice which he has made in the unselfish performance of his duties as President of the Alumni Association."

Proof that this tribute, the only one of such a nature that I have found in all the minutes, was justified can be found by glancing at both his University and professional records.

White attained distinction while in school by membership in the Senate, Teutonia, Pick and Hammer Club, Y.M.C.A. Cabinet and Phi Beta Kappa. During 1914 he was a member of the senior class football team and received a scholarship in geology.

In the professional field, he has attained success in every venture as evidenced by the fact that, although living in Fort Worth, he is a member of the Tulsa Geological Society, American Association of Petroleum Geologists and A.I.M.E.

In many ways he typifies the best of Oklahoma. He is a native Oklahoman, his family had been long established in Oklahoma, he was educated in Oklahoma, and he has been identified as a leader in what is best for Oklahoma and his chosen field of geology.

He was born in Altus, July 12, 1890, and attended country school through the eighth grade at the White school house, named after his grandfather. Then he attended Altus highschool, graduating in 1910. Throughout these highschool years and later, when he attended the University of Oklahoma, White plowed corn and picked cotton—and made grades that brought him an alumni Phi Beta Kappa membership. But such things are characteristic of Luther H. White. He is not only hard working and scholarly, but always willing.

Graduating in 1914 with a major in geology, he

spent his first two years as principal of Purcell highschool, moving to Tulsa in 1916. Since that time he has been a leader in geology both in Oklahoma and Texas.

He did geological work for B. G. Goble until 1918 when he joined Hull and Bradstreet. This partnership later became Oklahoma Central Oil Company and later organized as the J. A. Hull Company of which White was a member of the board of directors and chief geologist. He joined the Sunray Oil Company as manager of the land and geological departments and served from 1935 to 1937. He then served in the capacity of manager of the land and geological department and the scouting and leasing department for the Deep Rock Oil Corporation.

Currently White has been engaged with the Sinclair Prairie Oil Company doing work on the stratigraphic and structural problems of the Pre-Permian Stratigraphy of the Greater Permian Basin.

As one of the founders of the Tulsa Geological Society, White is a past president of this organization which has become the largest of its kind in the world. He is a charter member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and a former first vice-president of that association.

1931-32 As a short introduction to the Association's next president, I would like to make one comment. On February 12, 1949, I came to work and found a short office memorandum on my desk. It was a note from Ted Beard that suggested and outlined this article. It also stated the following: "I would like you to work in the historical background and historical development of the Association, year by year, in featuring the various men who have headed the Association in the position of president. The men you will be writing about are great men. They have contributed tremendously to the nation, to the state and to their various professional fields. Do them justice, because we're proud of them."

By reading the past few articles in this series, I'm sure every reader can see why the Association is proud of its past presidents. Likewise, I'm sure you will be interested in the following story.

You might not have known any of the past presidents of the Association but Almer Stilwell "Mike" Monroney, '24ba, is known to most of you.

Mike represents the fifth district of Oklahoma and the story of how he got that job in 1938 and what he's done as a member of the House of Representatives of the United States of America is one that requires chronological treatment for completeness.

He has lived in Oklahoma City all of his 47 years. Born March 2, 1902, his parents were Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Monroney, a pioneer family. His father came to Oklahoma City in 1890 and established the Doc and Bill Furniture Store, well known to Oklahoma Cityans.

Mike attended Emerson school for seven grades and then graduated from Lincoln grade school. Upon graduation, he entered what is now Central highschool, but at that time was Oklahoma City highschool, the only one in town.

While in highschool, he acquired the habit of holding down about three jobs at once and has been doing well at it ever since.

He worked as copy boy on both the *Daily Oklahoman* and the *Oklahoma News* during his highschool days. He delivered groceries one summer and later began work in the mailing room of the *News*.

Here he swung mail sacks into a horse-drawn wagon and drove to the train every day. In truth, he has been a new dealer ever since with no desire to return to the horse and buggy age.



A. S. "MIKE" MONRONEY
1931-32

In extended conferences with William Moore, principal, Monroney acquired considerable skill in the art of negotiating with one of opposite beliefs, a skill which has served him well during committee assignments in Congress.

The principal clung to the idea that after-school study halls were fine things for the development of the intellect of growing boys, while Mike felt they were merely invented to interfere with one's extra jobs.

As a result of this difference in viewpoints, Mike several times came close to having his intellectual development cut short, but by skillfull "negotiations" managed to graduate at the end of four years.

During these busy highschool days, Mike also found time to play center on Oklahoma City's state championship football team. The summer after graduation he was assistant sports editor of *The Daily Oklahoman*, and then entered the University of Oklahoma as correspondent for the paper.

In his first year at O.U. Monroney received fine training in swaying crowds. Although this achievement did not appear in his campaign literature, records show that he was elected freshman yell leader and did acrobats to the tune of "Boomer—Sooner" with the best of them.

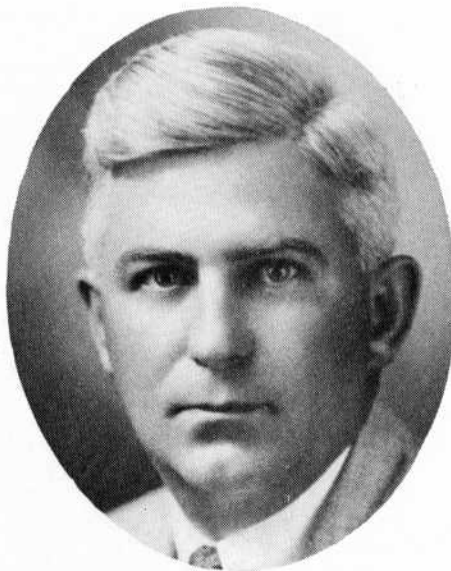
Mike was born with a rollicking sense of humor which several crusades into politics have not yet taken away from him. He hopes he never gets to taking himself so seriously he can't get a laugh out of his own activities.

After sweeping to victory in the contest for freshman yell leader, Monroney turned to school politics in earnest. In those days, the editor of the *Oklahoma Daily* was elected by the student body, and school politics was dominated by a well-organized combine.

Monroney set out to organize non-fraternity students and fraternities outside the combine into a strong opposition party. On election day, he arranged to move voting boxes into the infirmary where 200 ailing students voted for the first time. They showed their gratitude in proper fashion, and Mike, the sophomore, was elected editor of the paper. It was the first time a brash second-year student ever won this election.

One of his first official acts as editor of the *Oklahoma Daily* was to launch a straight-faced, intensive campaign against petting among University of Oklahoma students.

According to an article by Ray Parr, '32ba, in the Sunday, November 13, 1938, edition of *The*



CHESTER H. WESTFALL
1932-33; 1933-34

Daily Oklahoman "The campaign created no end of furor and folks never could figure out whether or not Mike was serious about it. However, the young folks may be assured that he is contemplating no national law against lovemaking."

Monroney was editor during the turbulent days of the Walton administration when the governor declared war on the school and the board of regents. He turned political writer and kept the faculty in a constant state of jitters with his stories on state politics thus violating an old tradition at the University that students should confine their writings to political situations no closer to home than Asia.

In addition to his many activities, Monroney plunged into text books often enough to be elected to Phi Beta Kappa, honorary scholastic fraternity. He also was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, Pe-et, Checkmate, Phi Gamma Delta and the Student Council.

He was graduated in 1924 and began work on the *Oklahoman News*. This was the autumn of the bitter political fight between Jack Walton, Democratic nominee, and W. B. Pine, Republican nominee for the United States Senate.

After less than two months on the paper, the good-natured cub reporter stumbled on to the biggest scoop of the campaign.

While hanging around political headquarters to get routine news, Monroney picked up a letter from the retiring Democratic Senator, Robert L. Owen, now a Washington attorney, in which he advocated bolting the Democratic party to defeat Walton.

Monroney went back to his office and wrote a piece about the letter and his surprised city editor wouldn't believe it until Monroney went back and got the original letter. The resulting headlines had an effect and the cub reporter's newspaper interests were definitely political from then on.

He spent the next four years as statehouse reporter and learned first hand what makes the political wheels go around.

In 1928, Monroney quit newspaper work and joined his father in the furniture business. Two months later, his father died and Mike had the job of running a furniture business he knew nothing about.

Then the depression, and the young business man learned about real trouble and worry. But he still had the knack of doing more than one job at a time. He became a joiner and an active civic worker. The laughing, friendly personality

that later was to roll in the votes at the polls began to make itself felt, and they began electing Mike president.

At 31 years of age he became the youngest president of the University of Oklahoma (Alumni) Association. At 30 he was the youngest president the Retail Furniture Dealers' Association ever had. At 32 he was the Oklahoma City Rotary Club's youngest prexy. He served two terms as president of the Oklahoma City Retailers' Association.

In one way or another, nearly everybody in town came to know Mike. And when he surprised his friends by jumping into the fifth district congressional race after the death of Congressman R. P. Hill, almost everyone in town voted for him. It was another story elsewhere in the district though, and he failed to win. But he knew enough about politics to believe the people were tired of the same old platforms and promises.

So he launched what was called his "streamlined" campaign with a cry of "down with the professional politician."

The highlight of his campaign came when he sent pickets to walk up and down in front of a University of Oklahoma football crowd bearing signs, "Mike Monroney unfair to organized politicians."

He didn't win but he got his name in wide circulation through the district. Mike tried again.

He realized that he had to have crowds before he could tell them what he would do as congressman, so he organized his famous Showboat.

Clarence Griffin, Negro janitor at the furniture store, and "one of the finest bass singers you'll find anywhere," was drafter. Jack Caldwell, theater organist, agreed to operate an electric organ on a truck. Charles Huey, O.G.&E. employee and an amateur whistler of note, limbered up his notes and the "Monotony Trio" was off to the forks of the creeks.

In 1938, Mike gave the people of the fifth district a hillbilly band, a singing Negro janitor, an amateur whistler and an electric organ, and they followed a new Moses to the polls and gave him an 11,000-vote victory in the race for the Democratic nomination for Congress. They followed it up with a decisive triumph in the general election too.

Not only that, Mike gave them home-brewed poetry, comic cartoons and an Irish grin and the combination turned out the voters on election day. The new Democratic nominee started early, and in December, 1937, sent out thousands of Christmas cards, covered with ballot boxes and rhyming jingles:

"I'm starting now on this campaign
(Let's forget about that streamline train)
To line up Santa and the boys
To wish you all a million joys
For happiness I'll vote 'er straight
For joy and health I'll legislate
Good jobs for all throughout the year
It's a landslide of the season's cheer so
MERRY CHRISTMAS (fifth district)"

This doesn't say much about politics or Mike running for Congress, but it was pretty easy to get the general idea especially with talk current that Gomer Smith, incumbent, might run for the United States Senate.

Then as the campaign warmed up, into the mails went postcards with cartoons showing a gangling fellow by the name of Mike Monroney trying to hitch-hike his way to Washington with the captions, "When a Feller Needs a Friend," and "I Will Appreciate Your Giving Mike a Lift."

The Oklahoma City furniture dealer learned long ago that the people like to be entertained and when this campaign opened he was no novice at keeping them happy.

For eight years he was a co-author of Oklahoma City Gridiron shows, annual razz banquets dedicated to the proposition of deflating all politicians and big shots.

When the final vote score was announced, Monroney had 33,455 votes to 22,170 for his nearest opponent, T. Bone McDonald—incidentally an A.&M. graduate!

Monroney has had an amazing career ever since. A fact evidenced by the recognition given him by *Collier's Magazine* on April 12, 1946.

He was picked as the nation's outstanding Congressman for 1945 and received the award with Senator Vandenberg, who was selected the nation's outstanding Senator.

The award, consisting of a silver plaque and a \$10,000 check was presented to Monroney by President Truman in a ceremony in which Truman handed many verbal posies to the fifth district Representative. Mike immediately gave the check to the Episcopal diocesan center west of Britton.

At the presentation, President Truman said Monroney had done a remarkable job in working on the reorganization committee.

"It is a novelty," he said, "when members are complimented for their work. They usually get mud and brickbats."

In commending Monroney, the *Collier's* announcement article said:

"Even when he was a freshman member of the house, Monroney showed a profound understanding of the duties and functions of a representative of the people. His horizons lay beyond the dimensions of the house itself. It was not enough, he felt, to be a good Congressman in the old political sense of the term—which meant merely to obtain the requisite number of federal appointments for his constituents, and the culverts and bridges they desired for their communities.

"In 1939 he saw the inevitability of America's entry into the war. He defied a then popular trend and voted for the fortifications of Guam. He spent the summer of 1943 barnstorming on behalf of a house resolution in the interests of the erection of permanent peace machinery. It was obvious from the start that Monroney was something new in representatives."

Monroney's interests in Congress have ranged far and wide, but it was in recognition of the organizational and operational deficiencies of Congress that he really distinguished himself. He not only saw what was wrong, but was instrumental in devising correctives which have been incorporated in the recent reorganization bill of Congress.

Mike has authored not only many a bill but many articles for national magazines also. *Collier's* praised him on their editorial page for his labor bill and Fulton Lewis Jr., famed radio commentator, threw a whole bouquet of orchids at him for his honesty and integrity. His articles have appeared in *Woman's Home Companion*, *American*, *Collier's*, and many others. He has also been selected by *Life* as one of twelve outstanding Congressmen. A few years ago he was honored by Colgate University when they presented him with an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree.

As president of the University of Oklahoma Association, Monroney did something that prepared him well for his reorganization of Congress bills some years later. He revised the constitution and brought the Association up to date. Among other accomplishments during the Monroney administration were the membership campaigns which substantially increased the number on the rolls and the establishment of an endowment association and fund for the University.

1932-33; 1933-34 Chester H. Westfall, '16

journal, is just a little bit different from the majority of the Association's past presidents. You will note the above dates and see that he served two consecutive terms as president. There are only three others who can claim this distinction—L. W. Cole, '99ba; Tom Carey, '08ba and Earl Foster, '12ba, '13Law.

Westfall's administration can be seen unfolding as the correspondence in his file is thumbed through. In a letter to Frank S. Cleckler, alumni secretary at this time, Westfall, in asking for the history and activities of the Association to date, told Cleckler to pretend that he (Westfall) was a "Chinaman in the dark."

Westfall wasn't in the dark long. He immediately set to work to accomplish the following notable things:

Writing in the October, 1933, issue of *Sooner Magazine* he stated that "An appeal to alumni to get into the harness and help their University is not merely an appeal to that old 'rah-rah' college spirit that is quite important in campus days, but has less place later. It is primarily an appeal for a highly essential public service. The building of *esprit de corps* among alumni is a means, not an end, though it is a highly important 'means'."

Westfall then outlined his program and carried it out to the letter during his administrations.

Sooner Magazine became what he termed a "trade journal for alumni" whose purposes were to keep alumni informed of the development and activity of the University and to maintain among alumni "Sooner traditions" "thus preserving the ideals and atmosphere that have endeared the University to all who have gone there."

He stimulated the *esprit de corps* that he so much desired by interesting active and aggressive alumni in all parts of the state in a state-wide University of Oklahoma day complete with special radio programs. Through them he obtained the support of influential alumni to urge the best laws for O.U. from the state legislature; he obtained favorable University publicity and arranged for the appointment of three alumni in each county who would have the specific task of interesting leading highschool students and athletes in the University. A multiplicity of small things were accomplished, but the big fight occurred when Governor Murray attempted to move the engineering school from the Sooner campus to Aggie-land. Just take a look at your old *Sooner Magazines* during 1932-33-34 and you'll find hundreds of editorials suggesting ways and means to defeat the governor in this particular activity. The ensuing squabble did a great deal to unite the Association as alumni and former students everywhere worked to defend their University. They succeeded too.

Westfall's University records reveal that he was both a good student and an active one. He belonged to Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Delta Chi, Pe-et, the student House of Representatives, the Y.M.C.A. Cabinet, the Grady County Club and served as editor of the *University Oklahoman*. He was also vice-president of the Press Club and president of his junior class.

Shortly after graduation, he was made an instructor at the University School of Journalism and then became managing secretary of the Oklahoma State Council of Defense. He served as secretary of the State Red Cross and Liberty Bond campaigns and later was a state director for the fifth liberty loan. He was private secretary to Governor Robert L. Williams and, in 1920, became president of the Marland Oil Company of Mexico. At the present time, Westfall is president and general manager of the Mercury Drill- ing Company of Tulsa.

(Continued next month)



Topeka club officers assemble for a group picture. Standing are Ernest Shiner, '26bs, '28ms, former president and present program chairman; Bill Simpson, '36bs, vice president from Lawrence; Dr. J. H. Foth, '14ba, retiring president. Seated are T. Hall Collinson, '35ba, '37Law, newly elected president; Mrs. Martha Coffman Harvey, '36ja, secretary; Mrs. Helen Miller, '38ba, vice president from Topeka, and Miss Esther Turvey, '19ja, '19ba, retiring secretary.

Topekans Elect Officers

T. Hall Collinson, '35ba, '37Law, was elected president of the Topeka, Kansas, Alumni Association at their annual meeting November 11 in the Hotel Jayhawk. He succeeded Dr. J. H. Foth, '14ba.

Mrs. Tom Miller, '38ba, was chosen vice-president from Topeka and Bill Simpson, '36bs, a mem-

ber of the University of Kansas staff, was chosen as vice-president from Lawrence. Mrs. Burton Harvey, '36fa, was elected secretary.

Pictures of the O.U.-Kansas University football game were shown. Ernest Shiner, '26bs, '28ms, was in charge of arrangements for the meeting.

Frank Warren, mayor of Topeka, sent a letter to Mr. Collinson congratulating him on his election to the head of the Topeka group.



Officers of the newly chartered Tokyo-Yokohama area chapter of the Oklahoma Alumni Association avidly scan the latest news of campus activities at a recent meeting. They are Howard F. Van Zandt, '29bs, '37ma, Oklahoma City, president of the group; Mrs. Lavada Jarboe Nacci, '42h.ec, Norman, vice president, and Mrs. Jean Casteel Brown, '39ja, '40mus, Sapulpa, secretary-treasurer.

Alums Gathered in Columbia

Pre-game congregation point for alumni attending the Missouri-Oklahoma football game November 12 was the Tiger Hotel in Columbia. Pictured here are some of the many who met old friends before game time.

1. A happy pre-victory group are W. W. Cotton, '35med, and Mrs. W. W. Cotton, '30nurse, Poteau; Earl Hendricks, '25ba, and Mrs. Hendricks, Prague; Mrs. Julia Burleson, '27ba, and Dr. Ned Burleson, '26ba, '29bs, '31med, Prague, and Mrs. Riley Smith of Poteau.

2. Allan A. McDonald, 43bs, Norman, Jane Marvin, Mount Vernon, Illinois, and Bill Slivka, '46geol, Mount Vernon, Illinois, display various indications of which side they are rooting for.

3. Jack D. Graves, pharmacy senior from Marlow and wife, and J. B. Dixon, '37 pharm, and wife, Kansas City, Missouri, pause for the camera.

4. Herbert Ray, Grove; and Mr. E. B. Rhodes, '23pharm, and Mrs. Rhodes, Grove, are pictured as the camera interrupts the conversation.

5. Knowlton E. Carson, '32ba, Kansas City, Kansas; Charles B. Jones, '48bus, Madill, and Don E. Welch, '48Law, Madill are seen shortly after they registered.

Education Good for Blind Grad

Despite the fact he has lived in a world surrounded by darkness the past 15 years, Martin Pettigrew, '43ba, is a business success.

Operating the cigaret-soda concession in the basement of the Cleveland county court house, Martin, as he is known around town and the campus corner, came to Norman in 1940. He enrolled in the University despite the fact that he was blind. He majored in economics.

Concerning his college career Martin states, "Even if going to the University hadn't enabled me to earn more money, the broadening of my life was well worth the time and effort."

"I feel a whole lot better equipped and more confident with my education. The more things you understand the more things you enjoy," he added.

Reed Becomes Institute Dean

Dr. G. Nathan Reed, '24ms, recently head of the organic chemistry division at the Institute of Textile Technology, Charlottesville, Virginia, has taken over the duties of dean of faculty at the Lowell Textile Institute.

Dr. Reed holds membership in numerous professional societies including Phi Lambda Upsilon, Sigma Xi, the American Chemical Society, the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, the Society for Engineering Education and the National Education Association.





Henryetta Clubbers pictured are Dr. T. A. Trow, '42med, Mrs. James T. Young and James T. Young, '48journ, Wesley E. Combs, '49Law and Mrs. Combs and Miss Ann Sullins, '49bs.



Henryetta Club Is Chartered

The Henryetta Alumni Club's November meeting was held in the Georgian Hotel. Guy Brown, '42ba, '48ma, field director of the Alumni Development Fund presented the club's charter and following the dinner the meeting was adjourned to the Teen Town building for a showing of the O.U.-Texas football film.

Pictured at left are the officers of the Henryetta group. They are M.S. Douglass, Jr., '38ba, '38Law, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Carlton E. Smith and Dr. Smith, '30ba, '32bs, '34med, president.

Others in attendance but not pictured are Gladys Wiginton, '42bs, and Mr. Wiginton; Kathryn Boerstler, '39ba; D.F. Meyer, '17ba; Clarence B. Smith, '24bus, and Mrs. Smith; Alice Dean Booth, '49bs; Mrs. M. S. Douglas, Jr., and Bess Wood.

Minnesotans Celebrate

Some Minnesota alumni could not participate in the Homecoming events on the campus, but celebrate they did with a party of their own October 28.

Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, director of the Alumni Development Fund, was on hand to help the Minnesotans celebrate.

Among the Minnesotans pictured at right are Marian Alden, '48ba, Gunning, V. A. Newcomb, '40m.ed, Mrs. Sidney Miller and Mr. Miller, '28bs, '30ms, Dr. Curry Bell, '16ba, '16bs, and Mrs. Bell.

