

# SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

*Sooner Staff Members:* David A. Burr, '50, Editor; Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, Managing Editor; John Wagoner, '51, Feature Editor; Helen J. O'Dell, '52, Roll Call and News Editor; Mrs. Mary Turnbull, Alumni Records; Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, Sooner Sports; Colbert Swanson, '50, and Glenn Copeland, '53, Mailing. Photography by University Photographic Service.

VOL. XXII

JULY, 1950

NO. 11

## The Cover

Oscar Harder, '10ba, '11ma, Columbus, Ohio, was one of the members of the largest reunion class—1910. Harder is seen exhibiting a rare object, the class pin of the '10 class.

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*Sooner Magazine* is published on 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, \$80. 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.

## On The Sooner Scene

Beginning a series of articles by the executive secretary of the Alumni Association. This month Boyd Gunning discusses the need for aid to worthy students.

By Boyd Gunning

Opportunity is a precious word in the English language, especially if you believe in the free enterprise brand of democracy. The opportunity to worship as your conscience dictates, to speak your mind without fear of reprisal, the opportunity to work, and to seek the truth through education and study, is still important today as it was in 1776.

The opportunity for advanced study should be not only a *right* but an *obligation* as well, for all those who are qualified. Society needs the leadership of our best minds well-trained.

A keen mind and the desire to learn are important; however, there are many thousands of students who have these attributes and still are not afforded the opportunity of advanced and professional study.

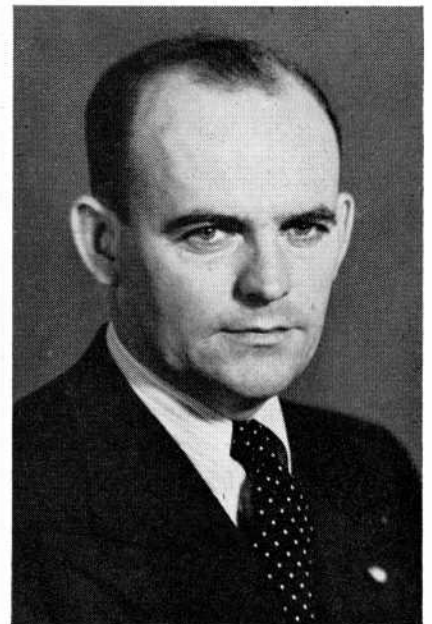
The report of the President's Commission on Higher Education, issued in December of 1947, recognized this problem and urged immediate steps be taken to provide gifted youth with equal opportunities through scholarships and fellowships. The report stated, "Only in this way can we be certain of developing for the common good all the potential leadership our society produces, no matter in what social or economic stratum it appears."

If gifted students are to be granted this opportunity for advanced study regardless of their financial status, then a system of scholarships and fellowships must be established. The report on higher education mentioned above recommended a government financed program of scholarships to insure for every gifted student the opportunity of advanced study. There is no question but what such scholarships are in the national interest. However, the question is this:

Must we secure aid for gifted students from the government and thereby place another responsibility and expense on the public purse? I believe that if alumni of the universities and colleges understand this problem, the money will be forthcoming. There are few experiences in life as gratifying as that of giving a boost to a worthy and deserving student.

The O.U. Development Fund has demonstrated the value of a scholarship program. Last year twenty development fund scholarships were awarded.

The applicants were so numerous and the need so great that thirty such scholarships have been set up for 1950-51. Selection of students for these was made the first week in June by a faculty com-



BOYD GUNNING, '37BA, '37LAW

mittee. But for every scholarship given there are twenty applicants of proven ability for whom nothing can be done.

Fortunately a number of these students will continue their studies anyway, by either borrowing the required funds or working enough to pay expenses, but this is not possible in every case. And in some cases the sacrifice will prove to be too great a strain on the health of the individual.

If every alumnus would contribute, even in a modest way, to the Development Fund, the scholarship problem would be solved at O.U., and every worthy student would have a chance to prepare himself for a responsible place in society.

The thirty development fund scholarships now available should be increased to 100, and the total number of scholarships at O.U. from the present 386 to at least 1000. This would be an investment in the future of Oklahoma and the nation. The returns on such an investment are guaranteed by the abilities and the ambitions of the students helped.