

Our Goal Is Simple

By D. H. Grisso, '30geol, president of the Association

Dust has not laid yet from the many trips Ted Beard made across the SOONER RANGE nor will it for a long time to come. Ted had carried the Alumni Association on his shoulders for so many years that he was, for all intents and purposes, The Association. His passing from the RANGE made it necessary for the Executive Board of the Association to analyze and evaluate the very reasons for the existence of such an association. Suffice it for the moment to report that such analysis was soon resolved in the way of an answer to such questions by planning ways and means to create, if possible, a more vigorous and purposeful organization than ever before.

The small group of former students of the University who years ago saw the necessity of the Association and established it, formulated its purposes as twofold; first, to promote through association and united effort the interests of our University, and second, to create and perpetuate good fellowship among ourselves and to renew our past pleasant relations. It was agreed that the purposes, as stated, held in themselves sufficient reason to justify the organization, but it was believed that the ways and means of achieving the aims could and should be broadened.

Time was upon us to make major decisions and one of them was compulsory. For the past several years the Secretary of the Association acted also as manager of the Student Union. The responsibilities of management of the enlarged Union would be so much greater than theretofore that it was decided that in all fairness to ourselves and the Board of Governors of the Union that the two positions should not be filled by the same man. The Board, under the able leadership of Joe Curtis, president, soon found a most gratifying solution in another combination, and one that offers the Association its greatest challenge to be of service. It consisted in the merger of the management of the University of Oklahoma Foundation, the Alumni Development Fund and the Alumni Association. The interests of each unit are closely related and therein lies the possibility that under such consolidation the Association can effectively realize its first purpose, that of promoting the interests of the University. Our second purpose can more easily be promoted by having a common effort.

Mr. Boyd Gunning was secretary of the Foundation and of the Development Fund and was employed by the Executive Board as secretary of the Association. The merger of the three was readily approved by the Executive Board of each and a coordinated program was rapidly formulated.

By every means possible, each former student of the University will be solicited to become an active supporter of the Association. An all-out effort will attempt to cause an active chapter of alumni to be organized at least in every county of the state and in many of the counties, active chapters will be formed in each major city and town located therein. We hope, thereby, to inform every former student as to how his individual, active support and interest can be utilized—passiveness must be awakened to the realization that although individual parts, small though they may be, are the real backbone of our Association.

Our goal is simple—every former student an active member of the Association; the field is fertile—out of approximately 100,000 eligible for membership, only 7½ percent are. Individual efforts of those who are already active must be directed toward missionary work in their areas. Rewards will come through knowledge that many things were accomplished which contributed to the progress of the University and to the aid of education. The Alumni Development Fund has been created for the very purpose of gathering the contributions and directing their expenditure in the execution of selected projects.

It is a fine thing for the Association to set goals of endeavor, but they mean exactly what every alumna or alumnus wants them to mean. It is a physical impossibility for the Association to grow and to fulfill its aspirations without the concerted aid of the present and potential members.

The question for the potential members is: is the Association necessary? The present members have answered this question in the affirmative. No high-powered salesmanship should be necessary if the former student pleasantly remembers his or her campus days, and if we of the Association do not fail in our mission of service both to the Alumni and to the University.

An Air Age Institute

The three grade school teachers twittered like highschool girls as the 4-place Beechcraft Bonanza cut through the sky over Norman.

"Just let those youngsters try pulling that air talk on me again—I'll show them I know what it's all about," quipped the lady with a fringe of gray about the temples.

A much younger school marm turned from the window to which she had glued herself, "Now I know why they play hookey to hang around the airport."

The third school teacher, an attractive middle-aged lady, adjusted the sun-viser on her window and breathed out a most non-teacherish, "Gee Whiz."

The teachers, who preferred to remain anonymous when they learned their remarks were being overheard for the purpose of publication, were making their first airplane flight. Their sky trip was part of the training offered teachers during the Air Age and Aviation Education Week held on the University campus July 10-14.

During the week teachers sprouted wings to give themselves a better understanding of the meaning of air transportation.

A wide variety of instructional and informative materials were brought to the Extension Study Center to further the air age education of men and women who spend the winter months behind desks in Oklahoma's school rooms. Purpose of the course was to give them a background which will enable them to guide and instruct their students in the air age.

In addition to the airplane rides and exhibits, air age and travel films were shown as part of the program. And a bus excursion to Tinker Air Force Base near Oklahoma City rounded out the course. At the Army field teachers got a glimpse of military craft when they inspected a B-36.

G. E. Loafmann, '39, school administrator from McAlester, thought his flight during the Air Age Week quite different from the one he made when he took to the air over Norman for the first time back in 1927. His initial flight was made in a biplane flown by B. S. Graham, '24, then YMCA secretary at O.U.

"Being up in that thing was like flying a hoe handle," he recalls.

The flight was so spine-tingling that he had abstained from going up again until the Air Age Event.

In Norman for the school administrators' conference, Loafman took his wife and two sons, Tom, 11, and Glenn, Jr., 6, on the sky trip. The children enjoyed the Norman flight so much that they made their father promise them an air trip over Oklahoma City before they returned to McAlester.

When Loafmann and the other teachers had their feet firmly on the ground once again, they cataloged their notes. They were ready to cope with the air age in the classroom.

Locoweed Funds Granted

The University has received a \$3,000 grant to continue a year's research on the Bigbend locoweed, Dr. Cross has announced.

Dr. S. H. Wender, professor of chemistry, is directing the project, which was started a year ago.

"Much progress has been made in purification of the toxic substance," Wender says. "Oklahoma has some losses from stock eating locoweed, but it isn't the major problem it is in some parts of Texas and the great plain states. Once we know what the poison is, we have a better chance of finding some way to counteract its effect on animals."