

Under Cover

Two alumna join the contributors to this month's *Sooner Magazine*. Making her first appearance is Ida Sloan, '35ba, with an excellent summary and eye-witness account of the Sugar Bowl weekend. She's a real reporter in every sense of the word and is employed by the *Norman Transcript* in that capacity. Her reporting run has brought her into contact with the University and its people and gives an added stamp of authority to what she says in her Sugar Bowl Roundup.

Ruth Foreman Updegraff, '28ba, '40ma, who is married to Norman attorney Paul Updegraff, '30Law, is making her second showing in the magazine. In November she described her trip to the O.U.-Texas game with her husband and two small children. As an upshot of the story, Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, alumni executive secretary, was asked by a campus personality if the magazine wouldn't pay her way to write a similar report on the Sugar Bowl. Since Ida was covering the New Orleans story, Ruth agreed to report a visit to the home of Mrs. Inez Bever Price, '24ed, (see cover and Sooner Portraits).

The editor scanned the Washington news for several days during late December and early January waiting for the news break that would provide another Sooner Portrait. When it came, a wire was dispatched to Senator Ernest McFarland, '17ba, for photo and additional information. He had just been named to the important national position of majority leader in the U. S. Senate.

Jesse L. Rader, '08ba, '13ma, University librarian, complete with cigar, was entertaining Boyd Gunning and David Burr with a look at a new gift of books when *Sooner* reporter John Wagoner dropped in for an interview. John got a story that is especially timely due to an important honor recently accorded Mr. Rader. You'll like the warm and human story that is the outcome of Wagoner's interview.

Roscoe Cate, '26ba, vice president of the University, presents a clearly-drawn picture of what the University has requested and needs from the present state legislature. It would be well to carefully study the story.

In addition to the usual University news

summary, the editor and Wagoner joined forces to write several special articles. Designed to be informative is the story on the three Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs now preparing young men for military or naval duty. A picture and word presentation of the "Pride of Oklahoma" helps round out the university section.

Regular features appear as usual with a special nod to On the Sooner Scene. Boyd Gunning outlines the program and projects of the Alumni Development Fund for the year and the Scene is followed by a listing of the names of contributors to the Fund for the past six months.

Helen O'Dell, Sooner Roll Call editor, Becomes Mrs., but alumni won't miss her.

On January 28 the *Sooner's* editorial staff lost a Miss and gained a Mrs. Whether we are also gaining a Mr. remains to be seen. The Miss is Helen O'Dell, '52, Nowata, editor of the Roll Call news, who married Glenn Wilson, '51, Flora, Illinois. It was a mating of journalistic minds as Glenn is head of the Norman bureau of the *Daily Oklahoman*. Helen has been with the magazine since last June when she entered O.U. as a transfer student from North-eastern A.&M.

For those individuals who think athletics Are controlled by alumni, a second look

Some news stories recently released have stirred the ire of the editor to the point of making a study of the alumni's position in athletic affairs at the University.

In a United Press story from Fresno, California, Duke Jacobs, former assistant football coach here and now head football coach at Fresno State, was quoted as having pointed to alumni and other pressure groups and having remarked that "they and they alone" are responsible for the "disgraceful" state of a collegiate sport that "holds above everything else the won and lost record of a coach."

Jacobs was quoted as referring to Bud Wilkinson and stating: "He is a fine gentleman and a brilliant coach. But give him two losing seasons and he will be fired . . . despite the fact that nowhere will Oklahoma be able to buy a better coach. . . ."

It can not be denied that an organized alumni can become a "pressure" group. Any organization can. What is galling is the implication that alumni of the University of Oklahoma have the hiring and firing privileges of any person appointed by the University administration.

To set the record straight, herewith is reported the exact influence the organized alumni (Alumni Association) have on the athletic setup. Probably the greatest amount of influence is felt through three alumni representatives on the Athletic Council. However, before conclusions rear their heads, the makeup of the Athletic Council is such that while the alumni can make their wishes known they can do little more. In addition to the three alumni, there are

four students and eight faculty representatives on the council. Each member has equal vote, and all are appointed by the president of the University.

Alumni do get priority on athletic tickets. They attained the priority plan because the administration wished to encourage strong alumni support of ALL University affairs and as an incentive for joining the Alumni Association. All hands agreed that there was a certain amount of sense to the arrangement.

Let me add before readers think I am completely naive, that undoubtedly sometime in the future and perhaps at the present, there will be criticism of any coach who is at the helm. I believe the Alumni Association would find it impossible and highly undesirable to try to channel each individual's thought concerning football or anything else connected with the University.

This is the season of the year for vague rumors concerning alumni "pressure." Every new stand gives up its quota of stories originating from a dozen different states referring to why a coach was hired or fired or why a college president or other official resigned. It is significant to note that no such serious criticism has been leveled against the alumni of the University. As a matter of fact, there seems ample reason to believe that the friendly support of the alumni has been a strong factor in making other coaching berths seem less attractive to Coach Bud Wilkinson.

David Burr, editor



A further step in the completion of the new Union expansion project was taken during January. Interior Decorator Robert D. Harrell was on the campus to mix the paints (more than 50 hues will be used) and to supervise the beginning of painting.

Hillyer Freeland, '38fa, manager of the Union, is optimistic about the completion of the project on time despite material shortages and building restrictions. Since most of the critical materials were ordered several months ago, he anticipates no holdup from that source.

A visitor to the campus at the present time would be able to determine how the exterior of the building will look. Although much work still remains, the new wings have adopted the form that will be the new Union. In as much as cold weather will have little effect on the progress of the building work now, work continues on schedule.

OKLAHOMA

MEMORIAL UNION

University of Oklahoma, Norman

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