

Meet the Photographers

A gentle reader glancing through the Union issue of the *Sooner* may not be able to visualize the infinite patience and planning that went into the pictures that illustrate the magazine. Or hear, for that matter, the several thousand 4-letter words that can be memorized. Both were handy when the color photos were being shot.

With James Bragg, '36ms, head of the University Photographic Service, and John Nesom, '43bus, behind the camera, the rooms that present such an attractive appearance were captured. At times it was a battle of herculean proportions.

The routine went something like this: the editor arranged a convenient time for photographers and student models; the photographers arranged their cameras with lights jockeyed into position; the lights went out. This routine seldom varied through the several nights that work went forward on the project.

As a consequence of lighting difficulty two of the photographs presented in the Union area were taken with natural lighting, i.e., room lights. Taken by this means were the fountain room (pictures were made with an exposure time of 2, 4 and 8 minutes) and the Union lobby.

The principal shutterbugs for the *Sooner*

not only have to contend with the misdeeds of lighting fixtures, but must also humor along the idiosyncrasies of editors who know they have a revolutionary idea for a picture—that can't be taken. The photographer's worries only begin after he has snapped the shutter. From that point on it's a running battle. Most people become down right indignant if they can't drop over to the Photo Lab 30 minutes after the shot was taken and pick up a print. It seems hard for them to conceive that somewhere along the line the remote possibility could have arisen that someone else might have wanted a picture. Remote? It happens many times a day. Fortunately, for the *Sooner's* sake, such experiences have mellowed Bragg and Nesom to the extent that they are at least tolerant of editor's demands.

Doing a good job with ingenuity and ability as their main camera is an old stunt for the Photographic Service. With Bragg as the headman for the past several years and Nesom as full-time photographer, the Service includes the O.U. Motion Picture Unit and comes under the leadership of the Extension Division.

But back to the Union. Not all of the pictures used in this issue were shot by the



JOHN NESOM
... Touche

Photographic Service (those of the Kitchen facilities and a few interiors were not) but more than 50 black-and-white prints were plus 25 color shots.

Both Bragg and Nesom are old-line contributors to the magazine. In the masthead credit is always given and completely overlooked to the Photographic Service for their photographs.

Bragg attended Central State College and received a BS before O.U. got him. An Oklahoma City product, Bragg completed his master's degree in ecology in 1936. During his stint on the *Sooner* campus he met a Miss Beatrice McKenzie, '36ba. Both were working toward degrees in biological sciences and both were members of Phi Sigma (honorary biological fraternity). So both, culminating and celebrating their graduation, were married in 1936.

There is another factor, besides the one of scientific interest, that adds to the mutual interest of the Braggs. Though she doesn't work for Jim, Bea is also a photographer. Specializing in child photography, she once had her own studio doing just that type of work. Some of Bea's work was represented on the cover of the January '51, issue of *Sooner Magazine* and will appear again this January.

John Nesom finished his degree in business in 1943 and graduated into the waiting arms of his "Uncle." John served with the U. S. Signal Photo Corps before the University employed his photographic skills. During his undergraduate days, John wielded a foil as easily as his Speedgraphic and was a member of the college fencing club. For the Union John was always close to his work; he lives in a Union apartment.



BEA AND JIM BRAGG
... Interest in Science Plus Photography Equals Marriage