

# Sooner Scene

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN O.U. AND ITS ALUMNI HAS BEEN AND IS A DYNAMIC, VIGOROUS AND GROWING ONE

**T**HE new constitution presented to you in this issue of the *Sooner Magazine* reflects changes of the past 30 years. The University of Oklahoma has been fortunate in that Sooner alumni have always had a warm regard for their alma mater, and for one another. Ever since the day Guy Y. Williams auctioned off his favorite bird dog to get the life membership program started, or even before that when an alumnus helped Dr. Charles Gould build the paleontology trays in the geology laboratory, there have been alumni who felt very close to the University and were willing to assume responsibility for assisting it.

Today alumni are even better acquainted with the University itself, but they are not so well-acquainted with one another. This is understandable since there are nearly 60,000 alumni living all over the world, approximately one-half of whom were graduated since World War II. These alumni were members of larger classes and a larger student body. They are acquainted with one another through different kinds of personal associations. For example, if they live a great distance away from the campus, they are apt to know who the other O.U. alumni are in their own community. They will remember and perhaps have ties with fellow classmates in other cities who are in the same major field of study or with fellow students who belonged to the same social or scholastic organizations. These ties involve just as many people and are just as meaningful as were those of older classes where numbers were such that every O.U. student had an opportunity to be well acquainted and associated with every other student.

Add to these changes the broader changes in society and the fact that people live in an entirely different world in the 1960's than the one existing in the '20's and '30's. Social and business patterns are different today. Super highways, air transportation, television and longer vacations are only a few of the factors that have influenced these changes so greatly. With these and other changes in mind, the Alumni Association has been studying ways and means of providing a more realistic and responsive service for members of the As-

sociation, and the new constitution is one result of this study. In general, it is intended to give more alumni from ever-widening areas a voice in policy-making of the Association. This will be accomplished through the expanded membership of the executive board (Article VI, Section 1).

Another point is to give more attention to natural interest groups by recognizing and assisting the constituent societies within various schools and colleges of the University to organize and to carry out programs of special interest to them (Article VII).

An annual meeting of alumni leaders from throughout the nation (Article VIII) will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas, revitalize the various programs and strengthen leadership among the alumni.

All of the basic organization work and planning is done during the summer months for the Alumni Development Fund. This year the ADF will be under the direction of Ronald K. Green, who formerly was Director of Financial Aids for the University. Approximately 4,000 alumni will be actively working on this fine program. The ADF continues to grow, and it becomes more important each year to the University and to the Association.

Several alumni clubs are very active this summer and the Alumni Office provides various services for them. To mention just a few, the Alumni Club of the Delaware Valley met for its annual spring picnic in Philadelphia on Sunday, June 30. This is a wonderful group of interested people, and it is not at all unusual for attendance at meetings to run as high as 80 to 90

per cent of the alumni living in that area. The Delaware Valley Club has established an endowed scholarship, and each year one or more students attend the University with this assistance.

The Dallas Alumni Club meets each month throughout the year, and plans are already completed for another big All-Oklahoma Dinner Dance at the Sheraton Hotel on October 11, the evening before the traditional O.U.-Texas football game.

The Oklahoma City Club meets each month, and this summer is making plans for a series of special events to be sponsored throughout the coming year. The alumni of Bartlesville have recently elected new officers and are getting ready to rejuvenate their organization activities.

Mrs. Pearl Henry and other officers of the Los Angeles Alumni Club have been working several months making plans for a week-long headquarters the last week of September when thousands of Oklahomans will gather in southern California for the O.U.-U.S.C. football game. Alumni headquarters will be established at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles and members of the Los Angeles Alumni Club will be on hand as hosts and hostesses to help make this occasion an enjoyable one.

Individuals represent alumni in a great variety of University-related programs and activities. For example, the Distinguished Service Citation Program, the O.U. Athletic Council, the Advisory Committees of various colleges and schools on the campus, legislative committees, the planning and operation of various adult education programs through the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education, and so on. As a matter of fact, with approximately 4,000 active participants in all phases of the organized alumni program, the University and its alumni have a very dynamic and vigorous relationship. —RBG

## THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

*Officers:* Jack A. Taylor, Oklahoma City, president; Mrs. Sam Noble, Ardmore, and Dr. J. H. Tisdal, Clinton, vice presidents; R. Boyd Gunning, Norman, executive director; Guy H. Brown, Norman, executive secretary; Charles Engleman, Clinton, immediate past president.

*Executive Board Members:* Bill Wise, Oklahoma City; Jack H. Santee, Tulsa; John M. Imel, Tulsa; Hugh Garnett, Altus; John B. Doolin, Alva; Mrs. Sam Noble, Ardmore; Jack A. Taylor, Oklahoma City—all members at large.

Denzil D. Garrison, Bartlesville (District I); Frank Spence, Wagoner (District II); Ernest "Mike" Massad, Ardmore (District III); James Miller, Shawnee (District IV); Patrick J. O'Hornett, Oklahoma City (District V); Fred R. Harris, Lawton (District VI); Dr. J. H. Tisdal, Clinton (District VII); C. D. Northcutt, Ponca City (District VIII).

*1962-63 Representative on O.U. Athletic Council:* Frank Spence, Wagoner.

*Association Membership:* Any former student who completed satisfactorily one or more semesters at the University of Oklahoma is eligible for membership. Annual membership is \$5.00. Life Membership is \$80.00, payable \$5.00 down and \$5.00 quarterly.