Football and Other Things

I enjoyed the Spring number of Sooner Magazine, especially your "Prologue" on the business-as-usual aspects of our alma mater. It's nice to know that you were not so terrorized by the football team as to be fearful of taking a stroll across campus. Thanks. I love the football team and the rest of the University, and I see no reason to presume that either is bound for hell in a handbasket, but it was reassuring to hear some positive news from one close to the source.

On page 13 of the Spring issue, I noticed the photo, in Pam McKeown's "Rx for Success" piece, that included John Barbour in the pharmacy class of 1897. Sooner football fans might be intrigued to know that Mr. Barbour was the ardent OU fan mentioned several times by Harold Keith in his Oklahoma Kickoff. You could check with Mr. Keith, but I think that has to be the John Barbour who bore uncomplainingly some of the team's financial losses in its early years. And if it is the right Mr. Barbour, then it was his drugstore that students and other fans stood outside to receive news of how their beloved team was faring on some far-off gridiron before the era of instant replays. I don't have the book in front of me here at the office, but if memory serves, the reports from Dallas, Columbia and other points were received via Western Union and then relayed to the crowd waiting outside. So, I was highly intrigued not only to see Prof. DeBarr, but also Mr. Barbour. Keep the good magazines coming.

Edgar L. Frost, '61 B.A., '67 M.A.
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

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we were at Norman together. It's been an interesting and rewarding experience, but those six years I spent in Norman have to rank right up there with the best of all.

All kinds of good wishes to Jessie. Wish we could sit down for some "Do you know whatever happened to . . .?"

B. Abbott Sparks '41 B.F.A., '43 M.A.
Dallas, Texas

The "Sooner Song Book" article (Spring 1989) took me back, alright! I was on the campus (in high school) when the "OU Chant" was introduced and went to many of the OU games, stage productions and pep rallies at the "corner." I didn't know until I read Margaret French's article how many songs have been composed for OU. There are probably many of your readers today with the talent to put together words and melodies. And I have a challenge for them.

My reason for writing is to tell your readers about the song contest held annually by the Oklahoma Heritage Association for songs that tell some historic, cultural or geographic characteristic of Oklahoma.

The purpose of the contest is to enhance the on-going heritage and quality of life in Oklahoma by encouraging the composition and performance of original music which deals with the heritage of Oklahoma, and "to help aspiring composers, writers and performers of music in Oklahoma by exposing their state-oriented works to the public."

The contest has been conducted for 18 years, so there is a collection of Oklahoma songs just waiting to be used for any centennial function. In fact, Dan Faulkner's "Oklahoma Is My Home," one of the winners of 1987, has been sung at the Sooner Games of 1988, the Torch Run ceremonies at Boise City and Lawton in 1989, and we are expecting to hear it in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the Olympic Festival this month in Norman.

For rules of the contest, you may write to the Oklahoma Heritage Association at 201 N.W. 14, Oklahoma City, OK 73103, or phone (405) 236-4438. I work for the Association and hope I'll be hearing from many OU grads and former students. The contest deadline is October 17.

Carol E. McWilliams '43 B.Mus, '47 M.Mus
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Toothaker in the Spotlight


What a fascinating and likable person Professor Toothaker seems to be. I'd love the opportunity to visit with him.

Lewis Burton, '50 B.S.
Wichita, Kansas

Flexner Tapes for Sale

Regarding your article on "Bob Flexner: Craftsman." Do you know how I can get copies of his woodworking tapes discussed in the article?

Jessie Kent, '61 B.S.
Atlanta, Georgia

Editor's Note: The tapes may be ordered directly from Fine Woodworking magazine by calling toll-free 1-800-888-8286, specifying "Repairing Furniture with Bob Flexner" and/or "Refinishing Furniture with Bob Flexner." Each tape is $29.95 with a $2.50 handling charge per order, regardless of the number of tapes.

Keep Those Photos Coming

A treasure drove of historic photographs and alumni memories has resulted from the notice in the Spring issue of Sooner Magazine that such memorabilia is being accepted for the Centennial Collection of the OU Archives in the Western History Collections and for use in Centennial publicity. The invitation remains open for Sooners wishing to give or loan their favorite campus photographs and contribute brief written anecdotes about their University days. Send to Carol J. Burr, Editor, Sooner Magazine, 100 Timberdell Road, Norman, Oklahoma 73019. Pack carefully and indicate whether the photographs are to be returned.

The New Man in Evans Hall

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value privacy, it might be a problem, but I happen to live a relatively non-controversial life. The things I like to do society considers very acceptable. They really don't mind if you go to parties or read books."

Van Horn is having little difficulty in adjusting to the reprieve from the big city pressures of his last two posts in Pittsburgh and Houston. His hometown in Indiana was about the size of Norman, and he is very comfortable in such an environment. A dedicated hiker and outdoorsman, he finds the area's open spaces one of its most attractive features.

Oklahoma's new resident is convinced in other ways as well that his newly adopted state is the place to be. "One of the things that is really intriguing to me about this job is the timing," he explains. "The state and the University are sitting in a very good situation. The next 10 years will be a time of a tremendous amount of development. A very appealing thing about the University of Oklahoma is its ability to have an impact on the state — turning out students, providing leadership in a variety of areas through research, the host of public service activities that go on at the University."

The new president brought his Sooner Magazine visit to a close 30 minutes past the allotted time, and with seeming reluctance. Although this practice may make problems for schedulers, such consideration sends his graciousness rating sky high.

The first-impression verdict? Dick Van Horn knows his business. Moreover, this is a man who intends to be in charge, but he will do so in his own way and at his own pace, with diplomacy and measured deliberation.

Have you met the new president? Yes, as will a host of other Sooners over the next few short months.

What is he like? Totally competent, surprisingly candid, at home with himself.

How do you think he will do? Very well.

Are we going to like him? We would not be at all surprised.