**LETTERS**

**Historical Footnotes:**
—Colonel Jack Ridley

With the current national interest in the 50th anniversary of the first breaking of the sound barrier by Chuck Yeager, I thought that your readers would be interested in learning that there was an Oklahoma connection, in fact, an OU connection, to this historic event.

The aeronautical engineer and test pilot who worked closest to Yeager in those days was Colonel Jack Ridley, born in 1915 in Garvin County, Oklahoma. In fact, Ridley helped Yeager squirm from the B-29 mother ship into Oklahoma. In fact, Ridley helped Yeager

—Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher

I read with fascination your review of Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher’s autobiography in the (spring) Sooner Magazine.

Please permit me an anecdote of the time and events of her admission to the Law School.

I was a journalism major at OU, 1947 to 1950, under the G.I. Bill. In August of 1948, I married my wife, Pearl Trachtenberg, in N.Y.C. We moved and lived in Oklahoma City for several months before moving to the campus to “Sooner City,” housing for married students. My wife was a secretary at the Law School. While she worked for the faculty and staff at the Law School, most of her work was with Dr. (Maurice) Merrill.

In the period prior to the admission of Ada Lois Sipuel, there was considerable agitation on campus, (including faculty) for and against her admission to the Law School.

On the day of Ada Lois Sipuel’s admission to the Law School, it was discreetly devised amongst the secretarial staff to take a break, or generally not be available in the office, and therefore, with no one to admit her, she could not be admitted. However, there was one exception—my wife, Pearl R. Trachtenberg. She refused to be part of this deception, stayed on as Ada Lois Sipuel arrived and helped her fill out all the required papers for enrollment.

Needless to say, my beloved wife caught “holy” for a short period after that too passed. The rest I am sure is properly documented in Ms. Sipuel’s autobiography.

Irv Trachtenberg, ’50 B.A.
Portland, Oregon

As a contributor and alumnus of OU, I really enjoy the literature which keeps me up to date. Periodicals such as Sooner Magazine, OU People and Priority are very important to me. So please keep them coming.

Larry Gurkowski
’79 B.S., ’80 M.S., ’84 M.D.
Tulsa, Oklahoma

...Except for Football

Your note on Page 2 of the Spring issue referred to Mr. Von Schamann’s kick as a “point-after.”

If memory serves, it was a rather long field goal, not a “point-after” touchdown. During the two time-outs, Coach Hays called to “ice” Mr. Von Schamann, the Ohio State University crowd began chanting “block that kick,” and Mr. Von Schamann calmly began leading the crowd in their chant! Then he settled down and beat them... with a field goal.

Charles Schmidt, ’74 B.B.A.
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

EDITOR’S NOTE: Add to the public admonishment from reader Schmidt that of J. Brison Woods, ’63 B.A., of New Orleans, Louisiana, who sent a clipping with a big red, “No.” The editor’s credentials with the Athletic Department and Sooners in general sink to a new low. At this point, it would probably do no good to claim to know the difference.

I can’t believe the “Sooner” didn’t mention football! It is the only way many of us know whether we have a team! Since we became “second rate” in the state media, this news is not there. Is there any hope again?

Ralph L. Jones, ’40 J.D.
Roanoke, Virginia

EDITOR’S NOTE: Many years ago, when Sooner Magazine went from 10 times a year to four, we dropped time-dependent and advance articles, like the football forecast. The alumni association’s OU People carries a season wrap-up in the January issue, and athletic donors receive publications from Sooner Club. For alumni outside the circulation of the state media, this
A Stroll in the Park

I thoroughly enjoyed the article, "David Burr Park," in the (summer) Sooner Magazine. As this happened after I moved from Norman, I was not aware of this until now. However, I am delighted with this beautiful and meaningful tribute to David. His many contributions to the OU fabric will continue throughout the years.

Walking the campus is the only way to get to know the campus environment. President and Mrs. Boren's dedication to this assures the continued development and maintenance of a pleasant academic environment for all students. A campus environment is primarily for students who may choose to live, work or play during their most formative years. The "rub-off" value to faculty, staff and visitors becomes a plus factor.

President Boren's endorsement of giving Randy Lacewell the freedom of access to his office is the real key to the success of this program. This action assures professional recommendations receive full consideration by the president. This has not always been the procedure, even though President Cross always endorsed my recommendations. Many times, I had to take some unorthodox procedures to accomplish the end results.

It is so appropriate that this park has become a jewel in the total campus environment. I look forward to visiting this park the next time that I get to Norman.

Robert M. Rucker, FASLA
Professor Emeritus
Texas A&M University
The Woodlands, Texas

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bob Rucker was OU landscape architect and assistant professor of plant sciences from 1945 to 1968.

My congratulations and felicitations to you because of your recent memoir of Cleo Cross, and now the account of David Burr Park. The park sounds beautiful, and it is a pleasing way to honor David.

Marion Bergin
Kerrville, Texas

The summer issue was a delight! It was great to read about the distinguished faculty members and the various trees planted around the campus . . . but the best was to read about the background and dedication of David Burr Park! We remember seeing the gazebo when we were there last May. The article and the picture accompanying it make us want to return and walk around the park. It's a beautifully written piece.

The whole magazine is always a joy to read because the articles are so well written. You must have chosen your authors well. Not everything we read these days flows so smoothly.

Betty Hall, '42 B.A.
Austin, Texas