Cecil Brite Hard to Replace

Through the years the Sooner articles telling about faculty members I was associated with during my term as student senator have really brought back the memories.

One member over at the Journalism School—or at least that was where a desk with his name on it was—was Cecil H. Brite. A profession that has really grown over the last 25 years is that of financial manager. Mr. Brite filled that position with every organization in Norman that had dues-paying members—churches, Greek organizations and too many to list. Who has managed the money of the organizations since his retirement?

T. P. (Ted) Red, ’51 B.S.
Dallas, Texas

Editor's Note: It takes a number of other Norman citizens to manage the finances of community organizations formerly served by Cecil Brite, who died at his home in Norman on October 21, the day of the annual Cecil Brite Lecture at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. The lectureship series was established by family and friends on the occasion of Mr. Brite’s retirement. His responsibilities for the University’s student publications have been performed by Fred Weddle since 1973.

Hirsch Films Available

My compliments on your fine article on the “Gridiron” films in the summer 1985 issue of the Sooner Magazine. After the article in Vital Signs was published last year, I tried contacting Dr. Hirsch through the magazine, but I have had no reply. Could you please let me know an address for Dr. Hirsch?

Peter E. Blau, ’62 M.S.
Washington, D.C.

Editor's Note: Information concerning Dr. Jeffrey Hirsch’s films can be obtained by addressing him c/o 120 Robert S. Kerr Avenue, Globe Life Concourse, Suite 3-C, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102.

They All Loved Old Jake

That was a fascinating story by Harold Keith—“The Dean of Pneumonia Downs” (Spring 1985)...

a great piece of journalism. Being a former trackman in Oklahoma, I was impressed, as I knew Mr. Jacobs.

The Sooner is getting better each printing.

Jimmy V. Nowlin, ’49 B.B.A.
Santa Ana, California

Memories of Morris Sought

Calling all friends and acquaintances of Morris Tenenbaum! Currently I am collecting photographs, home movies, letters, art work, stories and anecdotes related to the late Morris Tenenbaum as part of a documentary film about him.

This production, which is second in a series, is tentatively titled “The Secret Life of Morris Tenenbaum, A Folk Tailor” and will portray the life and creations of this avid Oklahoma University fan. Morris was a Polish immigrant who moved to Norman, Oklahoma, in the 1930s. He became a fixture at the University, attending virtually every football game and served as the “gatekeeper” for the locker room from the days of Coach Bennie Owen to the present coach, Barry Switzer.

Not until Morris died and his estate was sold did the community and the state learn of the wealth of personal art which he had created from his surroundings. His house was filled with football jerseys he had embellished and embroidered, with quilts he had made solely from men’s ties and hats he made out of hubcaps. Two shows of Morris’ work have been held, one in Oklahoma City and one in New York City.

Because Morris was so involved in the campus and the football team, the film necessarily will be a portrait of OU and the Sooners. I welcome hearing from fraternity brothers who sold any clothes to Morris; football players who took sticks of the “Big Red” cherry gum which Morris always handed out before games; collectors who have any of his folk art work; and anyone who knew this “Roommate,” as he liked to call everyone. Also please contact me if you have any other leads—if you know of someone who might not see this letter.

Cathey Edwards
Cathey Edwards Productions
P.O. Box 52112
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74152-0112
(918) 744-7174

Even with Computers, You Gotta Know the Territory

Ah, the age of the computer! Remember when three little old ladies with quill pens could inscribe the names on the actual diplomas in time for commencement—and get them right? Of course, they probably knew each graduate personally, knew that J. Elmer Potter and Jake Potter and Jacob E. Potter, Jr., were one in the same fellow. And when Jake went out to make his way in the world, those little ladies could keep his address current no matter how many different ways he sent in his name—even when he married Irma—and she started corresponding on his behalf. Gone, gone, those golden days, replaced by a computer system that defies description when it comes to speed and flexibility—but sadly, it doesn’t know the territory. J. Elmer, Jake, Jacob E. and Irma have been known to receive a magazine apiece.

“Cleaning up the mailing list” is apparently a computer term, a never-ending chore being performed at this very moment by several not-so-old ladies with state-of-the-art video display terminals. As the University’s various external mailing lists are being combined (they call it “merged” in computerese)—lists from the alumni office, the development office and the foundation—we are finding duplications that only a human eye can discern. Sooner Magazine readers receiving more than one copy under different names or addresses can speed up the clean-up and choose the mailing label of their choice at the same time simply by writing us at 100 Timberdell Road, Norman, Oklahoma 73019. We are told that once the computer gets to know you, it will be just like the old days—this from the same folks who recommended the break-up of AT&T.

—CJB