Sooneristically Speaking

This editor is pleased to announce the appointment as contributing editors of:

JOHN JOSEPH MATHEWS of Pawhuska;
ELGIN GROSECLOSE of New York.

Mr. Matthews read journalism and science in the university, leaving it in 1920 to attend the University of Oxford, England, where he was in residence at Merton college for three and a half years, taking his degree in natural science. Since his return and until recently, Mr. Matthews has been a realtor in Los Angeles, California. Flying and hunting are his hobbies, and readers will recall his delightful articles on hunting in The Sooner Magazine last year.

Doctor Groseclose is considered one of the most brilliant graduates of the university, taking his bachelor of arts degree in 1920. For two years he was a missionary in Teheran, Persia. On his return to America, he was held by the Russians at Tiflis and narrowly escaped serious trouble. He returned to the university for advanced work. Then he became a specialist in finance for the East for the department of commerce, and left that work to become associated with the Guaranty Co. of New York.

Doctor Groseclose contributes to the Atlantic Monthly, Asia and other magazines. Their acceptance of positions on the editorial board of The Sooner Magazine, I am sure, will meet with the delighted approval of all readers.

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The Norman chamber of commerce is missing a "good bet," it seems to me. Why not follow the example of Ithaca, New York, and urge Oklahomans to consider Norman as the state’s ideal residential center?

Consider for a moment the advantages: One of the finest water systems in Oklahoma, with unsurpassed water; an excellent school and church system; many miles of pavement and sewer; one of the state’s most beautiful motion picture theaters; the choice of many of the finest attractions of the theater and music world at the state university; the finest library in Oklahoma; at the state university; ideal climate; location in the center of the state, an hour’s drive from the capital, on the main line of the Santa Fe railway.

I could name many more “booster” factors that make Norman ideal for the person who wants the quiet, restful atmosphere of a small town, plus the advantages of a great city. Even though the chamber of commerce does not develop this fallow field, there are many people in this state and elsewhere who have been adventurous and have discovered for themselves that Norman is an ideal home city. More and more, people are moving to Norman to make it their final home. Some come to be with their children while the latter attend the university; and charmed by Oklahoma’s Ideal City, they remain, the city’s best “boosters.”

Oklahoma’s great library building will be dedicated on February 21 and 22. Books were moved into it during the Christmas recess.

Every alumnus who can do so should plan to come to Norman for the dedication exercises. Some of the greatest figures in American letters today will make addresses that will be worth anyone’s time to hear. The dedication exercises should provide a rare intellectual feast.

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For alumni consumption: First canvass to second canvass: “Who was that graduate?”

The visit of the University of Oxford debaters is always one of the great events of the school year and this year was no exception. Four hundred high school students from many high schools attended the debate held December 10 in the university auditorium. They heard two types of debate—the philosophical conclusions of the young Englishmen, and the hard, materialistic facts cited by the young Americans.

It was interesting, indeed, to listen to that debate. It was as though both sides were ignoring each other. The methods of the two teams were so dissimilar that there could be no common ground of debate. I was hoping that the Sooner team would abandon the cold, boring recitation of facts and figures that has done more than any other factor to kill debating in American colleges, and sip for a moment from the leisurely cup of introspection. But the team’s members did not. If the young high school students could learn that lesson, that figures are useless without intellectual challenge, that night’s visit to Norman was well spent.