Sooneristically speaking

JAMES SHANNON BUCHANAN was one of those rare men every one loves. No one I have ever talked with regarding him ever held a grudge against this faithful servant of Oklahoma and the university for thirty-five years. Dr. Roy Temple House said of him that he had the most magnetic personality of any Oklahoman. And that about describes Uncle Buck. Despite worries that would have destroyed many men, he never let them destroy his geniality, his interest in others.

Thirty-five years of service to the university—to the state of Oklahoma. That is a long, long time to serve an institution longer than the lives of many men. His life marks the span of the university—all but four years of it. He came to a small territorial university. When he died, that same university was America's twenty-third largest. Much of Uncle Buck lives in the university of today. Much of Uncle Buck has gone to shape the lives of the readers of this magazine. If our readers could gather about one big table to talk about him, it would be interesting to discover in what countless ways he had influenced lives, had helped set students on the right road of life.

As Reverend Bray quoted during the funeral services, They are not dead who live in the hearts left behind them.

There was no affectionate treatment to Uncle Buck. His first approach to you would as like as not be gruff. He might scare you half to death. You would as like as not be gruff. Uncle Buck. His first approach to you would be about one big table to talk about him. It would be interesting to discover in what countless ways he had influenced lives, had helped set students on the right road of life.

The president said that Uncle Buck was the kindest man he had ever known. Every graduate of the university should read the president's moving tribute to Soonerland's grand old man.

Mr. Buchanan was a type of teacher who is yielding gradually to the driving power of Method. The charm of his courses lay as much in the personality of the man as in the subject taught.

As President Bizzell declared, Uncle Buck was one of the first teachers to point out the services to our republic of Andrew Jackson. In the state constitutional convention Uncle Buck helped resolve many of the difficulties attendant on establishing law in a new commonwealth.

He was an ardent Democrat. In my student days, along with a few other young democrats, I helped organize the first Young Republican club at the university. Later, in a course in American History dealing with the reconstruction period, Uncle Buck would pause in his lectures when we had reached some particularly heinous episode of the carpetbaggers to remark slyly: "There, Mr. Brandt, are some of your Republicans!"

Of especial significance and importance to the university was the occupancy by the school of art of the old library building last February. The event was rather crowded off the boards by the library dedication, but it is almost of equal importance.

Before the building was available, the university was in the unusual position of having one of America's most famous painters and critics as director of the school of art—without a place in which to work.

Now, under Dr. Jacobson's deft touch, the building has been transformed until even the architect wouldn't recognize it. Dr. Jacobson has loaned the university and the state his valuable and tasteful art collection, which every Sooner should see, on returning to the campus Commencement week. The old stack room has been transformed into a permanent exhibit room, and Mr. Jacobson is bringing to Norman some of the choicest traveling art exhibits to be had.

Years ago Dr. Jacobson began to point out the possibilities of the west to painters. Now the west is the veritable mecca of American artists.

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