Musical notes mark the hours on the University campus now, and the soul-shaking whistle blasts have been eliminated.

No longer do strident whistle blasts puncture the day’s routine on the University of Oklahoma campus, interrupting after-dinner speakers and wracking student nervous systems. After more than 25 years of whistle-tooting, quiet (comparatively speaking) reigns in Soonerland.

Yes indeed, returning alumni will find henceforth that the traditional whistle on the O.U. power plant is silent—succeeded by a set of chimes whose mellifluous tones are considered a more dignified, and certainly a more pleasant means of marking time on a college campus.

It is proper that a final tribute of a sort be paid the whistle on its largely unlaunted demise.

In referring to “the whistle,” it has only one whistle since time immemorial. But such is not the case. There have been, in fact, three different whistles, one bearing a mongrel strain which presently will be explained.

Recalling a few memories out of the past, Bennie Shultz, supervisor of the University's light and power plant, remembers that the St. Pat’s Council got a hankering for a whistle in 1916 while he was still a student in the College of Engineering. The engineers put their plan into action, made a campus-wide drive for money, and bought a whistle.

This first whistle, a piercing one-bell factory whistle, was engraved with: “St. Pat’s Council. Classes of 1917, ’18, ’19 and ’20.” For several years, this whistle rang for curfew and such other particular times as was necessary, and seemed to be doing its job faithfully.

By 1925, when physical boundaries of the campus and the student population had grown considerably, officials decided that a “factory” whistle was offensive to scholarly ears. So the curfew ringer was streamlined, the little one-bell whistle whisked into obscurity and replaced by a modern three-bell whistle, which had a stifled sort of blast but still was piercing in intensity.

For a time it seemed as if the whistle of ’25 would never wear out, but finally continuous usage took its toll and the little valve mechanism began to crack, making replacement necessary in 1937. Campus officials still had memories of the depression at this time and weren’t so particular when purchasing a successor to whistle No. 2. They bought a regular steamboat whistle of the three-bell variety, nothing fancy. But it whistled, at 8 a.m., 12 noon, 1 p.m., 5 p.m., and women’s curfew depending upon the day of the week.

Probably this whistle would have had a longer career had not larceny interfered. Before whistle No. 3 was a year old, one of its three bells was stolen. Since it was apparent the whistle couldn’t go on in this crippled condition, the officials reached way back on the shelf where they had put Whistle No. 1 in 1925. This, they said, will make up the deficiency. For when they added this one-bell whistle, it all added up to three bells again.

The whistle history reached a gradual stop this fall, when campus officials secured the present chimes after waiting through three months or so of priorities and red tape. The chimes were purchased last June and were ready to operate save for one mechanism which was held up at the factory by government orders.

The whistle ceased tooting and the chimes began chiming in December just in time to be used during caroling season. The chime apparatus is electrically controlled by the big clock in the Union lounge. It warms up the tubes in the eight amplifying horns set atop the Union tower from whence the sounds emanate. The striking of the hours and quarter-hours is reproduced through a small microphone.

No Tears Are Shed

The late but unlamented curfew whistle with campus water tower in background
SOONER MAGAZINE

SOONER
Basketball!

REMAINING
HOME SCHEDULE

Feb. 7—Missouri
Feb. 16—Nebraska
Feb. 27—Kansas
Mar. 12—Okla. Aggies

General Admission 55c

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
Fieldhouse, Norman

and has recently been stationed at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland.

WITHERSPOON-PRICE: Miss Dorothy WITHER-
spoon, '41, Ada, and Ovell Price, Wichita,
Kansas, were married in December at the home
of the bride's parents. Mrs. Price is a member
of Chi Omega sorority. Mr. Price formerly at-
tended East Central State College, Ada, and is
employed with the Beech Aircraft Corporation
in Wichita.

Lt. M. H. Yowell, '41ba, has been transferred
from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to Camp Roberts, Cal-
ifornia.

1942 James S. Crebree, '42, Beaver, has
taken a position in the petroleum di-
vision of the Civil Service Commission, Wash-
ington, D. C.
Fred Damon, '42, Oklahoma City, has taken
a position with the Phillips Petroleum Company,
Bartlesville.

Chimes of Soonerland

(continued from page 13)
crphone in the amplifying equipment
and the sound is broadcast throughout
the campus area and to a considerable
distance beyond.

From 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. the chimes do
not ring at all. Beginning at 6 a.m.
through the 13-hour period until 7 a.m.,
the chimes sound only at the hour to co-
icide with class hours. From 7 a.m.
to 1 a.m., the chimes ring every quarter-
hour.

Reaction of campus folk to the chimes
has been almost wholly favorable. The
women rejoicing that it has been exhibited
by the quintet of operators in the power plant
who had the responsibility for tooting the
whistle on time. Lee Brown, Norman,
power plant operator for some fifteen
years, holds the unique record of having
blown curved more than any other one
man.

"What do I think of the new chimes?"
grins Mr. Brown. "Why, I like them
fine. Anything to get rid of that whistle."

Supervisor Shultz echoes Mr. Brown's sen-
timents. "The whistle was a headache,"
he states succinctly. The quintet of op-
erators generally agree that they are heart-
ily in favor of the chimes, not because
they particularly like chimes, but be-
cause it keeps them from having to re-
member to blow the whistle. Perhaps if
all the seconds which the operators save
by not blowing the whistle were laid end
to end it would run into several hours in
a year's time. But, of course, the thing
they are relieved of is the necessity of
watching the clock so religiously.

In the meantime, the old whistle still
has not met with an ignominious end as
might be believed. Friends have con-
cocted several schemes to use it to best
advantage and save it from total oblivion.
Some have suggested that it be employed
as a local air raid warning signal. Another
plan is to make it into watch charms,
proceeds from which would go into a de-
fense fund. A third suggestion is to melt
it down and remold the metal into little
whistles. At any rate, Walter W. Kraft,
superintendent of the University utilities
department, would like to see something
pretty drastic done with the relic. Back
in days past, Mr. Kraft discovered that
students love to blow a whistle to com-
memorate some big event like winning the
Big Six conference. And knowing stu-
dent psychology, says Mr. Kraft knows
that if the old whistle is left around, it
will be tooting again one of these days
despite the melodious chimes.

Pass Bar Examination

Among the 31 out of 61 applicants who
successfully passed Oklahoma Bar exami-
nations in December were four former
students and alumni of the University.

They are J. B. Marshall, '31, Edmond,
district court clerk deputy; James Russell
Blakeney, '34, and Herbert L. Pickett, '33,
of Oklahoma City; and Rupert E. Wilson,
Jr., '39ba, '41law, Norman.

Records for Children

Parents who grow weary with reading
dirty tales and children's yarns to their
younger have Helen Myers, '33ba, re-
coder of children's phonograph records,
to thank for remedying their situation.

For two years Miss Myers has been with
the R. C. A. Victor Recording Company
in Camden, New Jersey, pioneering in a
new field which is proving a boon to
child education. Of eleven children's al-
bums recently released by the Victor Com-
pany, seven were Miss Myers's productions.

Her picture, in connection with the re-
lease, appeared in the music department
of Time Magazine.

Musical ventures of the Sooner alumna
date back to her own childhood when she
staged elaborate plays in the Myers's
yard in Oklahoma City, with acting, di-
rection, music, dances and costumes ably
supervised and executed by Helen Myers,
age 8.

Coming to O. U. after a year at Gulf
Park College in Mississippi, she somehow
managed to cram the days full of music
practice along with the many activities
on a college campus. She was a member
of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, later
elected its president, and a member of the
Mortar Board, Phi Beta Kappa and
the University Glee Club.

The days since college have been equally
busy for the blue-eyed, brown-haired mu-
sician. Several years after graduation,
she landed in one of New York's swankiest
 supper clubs, Rockefeller Center's Rainbow
Room, as featured entertainer. Not
only was she giving piano and organ per-
fomances, but also sang each evening to
white-tied, bespectacled audiences.

From the bright lights of New York
City, Miss Myers went to Camden, New
Jersey, to join the Victor Recording Com-
pany as composer and producer of chil-
dren's records. Musical composition, her
first love, was the real reason for her go-
ing East, and the last two years she has de-
voted most of her time to this one field.