Finding the Sun
And You’ll Find It at the University of Oklahoma

The smug belief often encountered in Oklahoma that a real education is only possible in some “exclusive” eastern college was given a well-timed blow by one of the University of Oklahoma’s warmest admirers among state editors this summer in an editorial entitled “Finding the Sun” in the Tulsa Tribune, and written by Richard Lloyd Jones, the editor and publisher. 

Mr. Jones, for years a Visitor of the University of Wisconsin, has been always a staunch advocate of the university. Sooners at various times will encounter the same snobbery which Mr. Jones so vigorously discounts, and the editorial will be for them an effective rejoinder to those who do not know the possibilities of their own state university.

The editorial follows:

“In a state which has built up and for years maintained a state university that not only rates as one of the outstanding educational institutions of this country, but of the world, devoted parents announced to me, with pride, this summer, that they were sending their son who had completed his high school in June to one of the old small high-class colleges in New England. They had made this selection because they wanted their precious youth to acquire the culture and refinement of such a high-class college and have the benefit of the breadth of vision that grows out of the association with youths from all parts of the country. They had seen the butcher’s daughter and the baker’s boy go to the state university. They wanted their boy in a high-class college.

“Their own state university was so big, so fine, so tremendous and so near that they, with their inexperience and small town life limitations, were unable to see its stimulating, cultural and creative powers.

“When I put the catalogues of the two institutions before these good people they were amazed to find that the college of their choice had a few scattered students from only a small number of states out of New England, their own state university had over a thousand students from outside that state, and scattered in all six continents of the world. In addition, there were over 500 students from foreign countries gathered from all the six continents of the world.

“For broadening experience, there was no comparison. The youth was being sent into a small collegiate corral in which he would form contacts with little more than the sons of loyal members of the New England Congregational church. Instead of blessing their boy with a rare opportunity and benefits, they were actually denying their boy his biggest opportunity.

“It takes an educated person to see an educational opportunity. That commonwealth college within but a few miles of that home has an academic rating at Oxford, at Heidelberg, and at the Sorbonne, that no college in the world betters, while the ivy-grown New England college, splendid and excellent in its limited curriculum and in its fine spiritual traditions, bears a name which is hardly known in academic halls across the seas. Some folks would run away from a real privilege and think they are smart in doing it.

“Don’t be afraid of your commonwealth college. A pathetic result of a foolish mother’s limitations comes to mind. She had an attractive daughter, who was above the average in her high school work. She should have gone on to the University of Oklahoma. But the mother thought her choice daughter had better stay out of college than stoop so low as to go to democracy’s school. To-day she is clerking at a petty wage. The mother thought the best was away—away ‘east.’ It is silly to assume that the east has something better to offer in education than the west.

“Our state universities are good enough to educate the bright sons and daughters of the most intelligent families. People who are always assuming that that which democracy creates must be commonplace reveal a limitation in their own intelligence, to say nothing of their patriotism. Those who believe that the best is something a long way off, that there can be nothing superior close and nearer at home remind me of the poet who expressed the delight of his surprise when he said, ‘While looking for a lamp I found the sun.’”

Graduate Accepts Research Position

Otto W. Walter, ’20 eng., and former associate professor of electrical engineering in the university, was named assistant engineer to the chief engineer of the Hall Electric Heating Co., Fort Wayne, Indiana, a $6,000,000 corporation, last summer. Walter was a student in the university until 1918, when he was employed by the DuPont interests during the war. In 1921, he received his B.A. degree, with Phi Beta Kappa honors. Last summer, he received his M.S. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

During the last four summers, he conducted research work for the General Electric Co. at Fort Wayne.