Jeocalendar Available

As the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History closes this fall to get ready for its move to spectacular new quarters, many of us will miss seeing our favorite exhibits. If the large mammoth skeleton has intrigued you, you now have an opportunity to learn more about this creature while the exhibit is being cleaned and prepared for placement in the new building.

The Oklahoma Geological Survey's second Geocalendar, Oklahoma's Ice Age, shows a Columbian mammoth (Mammuthus columbi), such as the one at the museum, being hunted by a group of paleoindians in a scene from Oklahoma some 10,000 years ago.

The calendar, which measures 20 by 30 inches, and an accompanying 8-page booklet are both printed in color and give readers details about the Ice Age and its impact on the people, animals and geology of Oklahoma. The text was written by Nicholas J. Czaplewski and Don D. Wyckoff from the museum and Kenneth S. Johnson from the Oklahoma Geological Survey. The Survey is a state agency for research and public service that is located in the Sarkeys Energy Center at OU.

The OGS is selling the calendar and booklet for $4 (plus $2 shipping if mailed), which will only recover publication costs. Copies of the booklet are available for sale separately at a cost of $1. For more information, write to the OGS at 100 East Boyd, Rm. N-131, Norman, OK 73019-0628, or call (405) 360-2886.

Connie Smith, '74 B.A.
Norman, Oklahoma

J. Clayton Feaver Fans

I truly enjoyed J.R. Morris' article, “Remembering J. Clayton Feaver.”

I was one of those students who sat in his "herd of 300," without even enrolling in the class, to listen and learn from such a wonderful teacher. I then enrolled in the class and was constantly asked by Dr. Feaver, "How many times are you going to take this class?"

After graduating in '71 and then spending three years in Southeast Asia, my first weekend back in the States was spent at a November OU football game. One of the first familiar voices I heard was that of J. Clayton giving his invocation prior to the game; I knew I was home.

For those of us who were lucky enough to learn from this gentleman, we will never be able to fully express our appreciation. Those who never experienced his creative teachings will have missed a wonderful opportunity to challenge their own values.

Yes, this is a gentleman who will be missed by all who knew him. I began missing him in 1971.

Steven D. Porter, '71 B.B.A.
Fort Worth, Texas

Thank you so much for the wonderful article on Dr. Clayton Feaver. He was the best teacher I ever had. I graduated from OU in 1959. I majored in accounting but took three classes under Dr. Feaver as electives just because he was so interesting. Students very seldom cut his classes. He was the best.

The other really fine teacher I had at OU was Lee Thayer. He taught business communications.

It is really a shame that everyone can't have the opportunity to have a Dr. Feaver in their life.

Junia Milvain '59 B.B.A.
St. Petersburg, Florida

Prologue: Jim Harlow

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the “Prologue,” which you wrote on Jim Harlow, in the Summer 1996 issue of Sooner Magazine. It was very well done to say the least.

Under your tutelage and leadership the Sooner Magazine has become an excellent publication representing the University and the Foundation well.

William W. Talley II, Ph.D.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Pardon Our Slip

Theresa Blackbear DeLaughter, of Dallas, Texas, was quick to spot a Sooner Magazine error in misidentifying a Summer 1996 issue photograph of her daughter. Headlands Health Careers Program participant Brie DeLaughter is pictured on Page 18 in a Kiowa shell dress made by her grandmother, Anita Blackbear.
Where Credit Is Due

Thank you for the winter issue of Sooner with the interesting piece about film and video in the curriculum. ("art, film and videotape") It may give me a chance to track down some embarrassing misinformation about my screen work. I would like very much to know the source of the credits attributed to me in the caption beneath my picture. They include two movies: A Star Is Born and Nothing Sacred, on which I never received, claimed or deserved any credit. A couple of times in the course of interviews I have mentioned that I was partly responsible for a few lines each of them, and somehow this has been wildly magnified into a complete misrepresentation that distresses me because it is untrue and because of my respect for the writers who actually were responsible for the pictures in question...

I suspect that there is some reference book of film credit information that contains these errors, and I want to know what it is so that I can undertake whatever recourse is available to me.

Ring Lardner Jr.
New York, New York

Editor's Note: The source for the Lardner caption was the most recent edition of Ephraim Katz's Film Encyclopedia.

Cross Incident Recalled

The story on Dr. George L. Cross in the Sooner Magazine (Spring 1996) was so appropriate. It reminded me of how many such interesting writings I've enjoyed in your magazine since knowing the former editor David Burr dating back to 1951. In fact, David featured a few of my friends and me in a story called "I Am a Camera," after the Broadway play by that name, in the spring issue of 1952.

Most of us are fortunate if in our life we get to know a few people like Dr. Cross and David. It was my good fortune to know these two men at a formative time in my life, and their influences have lasted a lifetime. As many people as Dr. Cross dealt with through the course of his career, he would likely not recall a lone occasion—as I, of course, do—where an accounting professor and friend, W. K. Newton, brought a rather immature student—me—to the office of Dr. Cross to solicit his aid in avoiding suspension for that young student.

We don't do or say enough for men like Dr. Cross, but the recent honoring of him is something I am as proud of as I'm certain thousands of others are.

Homer H. Hulme, '55 B.B.A.
Chickasha, Oklahoma

The Murrah Story

Each of us in the Murrah family has read Professor Leo Whinery's excellent article published recently in the Sooner Magazine. ("Who Was Alfred P. Murrah?" Spring 1996) We consider it to be the best synopsis of the Judge's life and contributions, and we are profoundly appreciative to Professor Whinery for it. Many friends have commented with high praise for the writing of this tribute, expressing so well the sensitive irony of the Judge's life and its association with the tragic event of April 19, 1995.

Professor Whinery has been so very deserving in his position as the Murrah Professor. Please thank him for his thoughtfulness in the Judge's memory.

A. P. Murrah Jr., '61 J.D.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Sooner Century

I am a Sooner, having graduated in 1942. My home has been in Illinois ever since, but I still am a Sooner.

I recently bought a copy of Sooner Century, and it got me to thinking about the many football games I watched, and some where I sold pop to make a couple of bucks while I was there. It also reminded me that possibly my dad played football at OU while he was there.

Would the Athletic Department or J. Brent Clark have access to the records, if still existing, to determine if my father, Fay Lester Garton, played at the University? If he did it probably was as a center. Fay graduated with a B.A. in 1915.

Thank you for checking into this matter.

Norman L. Garton, '42 B.S.
Joliet, Illinois

Editor's Note: The official OU Letterman's List does not contain Fay Garton's name. However, J. Brent Clark points out that there is no record of the hundreds of young men who contributed to the teams but did not earn letters.

Fisk Guide Rates OU Among “Best, Most Interesting”

The recent selection of the University of Oklahoma as one of the nation's 300 “best and most interesting higher education institutions” was greeted on campus with pleasure but not surprise.

The 1997 Fisk Guide to Colleges reverses previous references to a football/party school reputation in a 2,000-word essay praising OU's academic accomplishments: "Football's not top dog at OU anymore, taking a back seat to National Merit Scholar freshmen and endowment-toting professors."

The review gives OU high marks for a number of outstanding academic programs and research activities, the residence halls, campus facilities, extracurricular life and Norman's quality of life. A successful private funding program is credited with attracting "stellar faculty and building a first-rate research university"—but one in which "undergraduates still feel welcome."

Fisk quotes an upperclassman: "OU's finest attribute is the talented group of individuals who serve this institution either as professors, staff or students, and have taken it upon themselves to do the finest work of which they are capable."