These Guest February Eds

The stable '20s and the sober '30s speak to the baffled middle '40s in the editorials from the pens of Sooner Magazine guest editors this month. The successful public relations counselor, Joe Hicks, '33a, applies his work shop formula in an appeal in the interest of his state. Howard "Press Box" Van Dyke, '33a, sounds the call to arms. Stew Harrall, '36ma, emphasizes services of O. U. in the process of "lifelong learning." Also the '20s and '30s sound a theme of "caution" to the teeming thousands temporarily treading the mad whirlpool of problems in the post war hours of '46! Here they are:

Freedom of Speech

By Joseph W. Hicks, '33a
Public Relations Counselor, Chicago, Illinois

Practicing the right of free speech we Americans have believed in, fought for, and sometimes died for, since this nation was founded, I got into a conversation with a sailor on a suburban train several months ago. A regular Navy man, he was back from five years in the South Pacific, with several citations and was soon to be discharged from Great Lakes.

I asked him if he wanted to go back to the job he had before he entered the Navy and he said no, he wanted to go to a school of geology and become a geologist. Like a true Sooner, then, my next remark was, "Have you ever thought of going to Oklahoma? It offers more opportunities in the field of geology than any other school, or any other state in the union."

Yes, he replied, he had thought something of going there, although he had never visited the state. In fact, he suddenly seemed to remember, as we discussed it, that his own father, who had been a geologist and who had died when he was a wee lad, had been a graduate of the University of Oklahoma.

He had been so out of touch with things, down in the Pacific, the sailor told me, that he really didn't have any very definite plans. He wasn't familiar with the G. I. Bill of Rights and didn't know how to go about finding out more about his rights under that program or the educational opportunities it offered.

It happened that Ted Beaird had been in Chicago only a few weeks before and had talked to the alumni group about his work with the Veterans' Administration. I suggested to the sailor that he get in touch with him and find out about the veterans' program the University was offering. Sometime later I learned that he had done so. He is in the University of Oklahoma now, pursuing training for the profession he wanted to enter.

It is on such chance conversations that men's futures hinge. It was on such conversations between free men that our great West was built.

"Go West, young man. Go West."
"They've found gold in California."
"Oregon has great timberlands, to be had for the settling."
"There's fine land to farm in the Dakotas."
"They've struck oil in Oklahoma!"

Heard over mugs of beer, around the cracker barrels in country stores, over farmhouse supper tables, in hotel lobbies, in restaurants, on stage coaches and trains, everywhere men met and talked, these phrases sent a whole tide of civilization westward. They helped build rich states and a great nation.

The point I want to make is that freedom of speech was bought too dearly, costs too much in blood and sacrifice to maintain, to be used destructively. It was given to us that we might build, not tear down ... that we might contribute to our immediate environment and to the world at large.

As Sooners we can contribute much to the growth and progress of Oklahoma as we practice our prerogative of free speech. Within the state or abroad we are its ambassadors, and can be its best salesman. The things we say lightly may be taken more seriously than we know, the remarks we make with sincerity may have a profound effect upon the public's opinion of the state.

Utilize freedom of speech to sell Oklahoma. But don't ever sell Oklahoma short!

Calling 70,000 Sooners

By Howard Van Dyke, '33a
News Editor, Norman Transcript

The University of Oklahoma desperately needs the friendship, the support and the loyalty of the 70,000 graduates and former students who are not members of the University of Oklahoma Association.

Up to now the 5,000 Sooners who are members of the Association have been carrying the ball for Oklahoma U. The schedule has been tough, and the opposition rugged.

Perhaps you haven't always agreed with the course charted by these Sooners, but no one ever questioned their loyalty and their devotion to the University. Their goal and their aim has been to make the University the outstanding educational institution in the Southwest.

They have fought a good fight, they have played the game like stout fellows, but it's about time the Cover

President Harry S. Truman presents the Medal of Honour to Lieutenant Richard Miles McCool, Jr., USN. "Hab—President Truman presented the medal on December 18 to Lt. McCool. The citation read in part: Conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the USS LCS 122, during operations against Japanese forces in the Ryukyus Chain, June 10 and 11, 1945. Lt. McCool was graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June, 1944, after having previously received his degree from the University of Oklahoma.

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Life-Long Learning for Oklahomans—That's O.U.

By STEWART HARREL, '36ma

Director of the School of Journalism and Press Relations

Mix together a few buildings, a dinosaur or two, an oil refinery, thousands of books, long utility tunnels, some rare Chinese paintings from the Sung dynasty, and a model drug store and you will get some idea of the physical plant, equipment and collections which make up the University of Oklahoma.

But those things are just a part of the University. Visit a classroom and you see the instruction in operation, but you get only one part of its program when Mrs. J. H. Smith of Tulsa receives material from the package library. She needed information because she was to address a club on the subject, "Characteristics of American Humor."

Services of the University are as varied as the needs of Oklahoma citizens—issuing a monthly bulletin on business conditions in the state, sponsoring short courses for many groups, ranging from ministers to welders; furnishing high school students with debate material, analyzing materials for higher educational purposes; research results for state betterment; these and hundreds of others—are some of the service functions of the University.

Not so many years ago the University started as a one-building affair with less than fifty students. Today, the enrollment is soaring as hundreds of veterans return to classrooms and laboratories. By next fall enrollment may reach 8,000.

In its most notable service—that of giving the best possible education to its students. The University will continue to place emphasis on sound scholarship, good citizenship, and the duties of the individual to the community and to the commonwealth.

Education today is not restricted to youth. The college campus, formerly a cloistered realm for the scholar and student, is now open to useful knowledge to all who earnestly seek to increase their skill and capacity for service. Thousands of adults are reached annually through the campus and off-campus activities of the University.

Time was when adult education was considered desirable mainly for the fellow "across the tracks," the foreigner who knew of his deficiencies, the person who wanted to do something in his spare time, the chap whose schooling ended early. But today untold numbers of persons, from the metropolitan center's leading brain surgeon to the village constable, may enjoy benefits of a great state university.

"Life-long learning" for all Oklahomans—that's the ideal of University officials as they seek to increase the effectiveness of the over-all program. In discovering new truths, in increasing knowledge information which will add to the wealth and general welfare of Oklahoma, the University will continue to make vital contributions to the citizenship to whom it belongs.

It should not be assumed that the University can continue to expand its countless services on its current budget. With its heavy load of postwar responsibilities the University needs an additional income. For one thing, the University faces increased operating costs in every phase of its program just at the time when enrolment is certain to rise to new record heights.

Just organized, the University of Oklahoma Foundation, a trust fund, has been set up to receive gifts and bequests. The scope and effectiveness of the University's services can be increased as opportunities spring from our past, our present and our future. Bright-eyed citizens of Oklahoma respond. Don't think for a moment that "my bit won't help." It will!

The University has never nor does it ever hope to baffle and遥控e the problems of state citizens. All Oklahomans are co-partners and share in its dividends. To those who look for it for leadership, help, guidance, research, inspiration—as an University institution of service. With continued interest and support from its alumni and friends, it will continue to advance and exist for the good of all.

Dear Ted:

It has been a real pleasure having the SOONER MAGAZINE and ALUMNI NEWS and I wish you would convey my thanks to that Grad who has the responsibility in putting our name in the world. I know that I speak for all of the SOONERS abroad in telling you that next to having a letter from home, these are the most welcome.

As to the casual remark to be happy to say that all those with whom I have had any sort of contract have made it out ok. This reply to your request is somewhat belated but for some unknown reason the letter was supposed to round the world-tour before reaching here. We hope to have this area wrapped up pretty shortly and be on our way to the good of USA. Muster, I could stand some Stateside living again. When that happy day comes, hope I can drop in and say thanks for all the splendid reading I've had in "Ridin the Sooner Range."

Best regards,

Frank D. Ashley, '36
C.S.K.T. (AA) (T)

Chon Ju, Korea
23 December 1945

Dear Ted:

Wish that you would change the address for SOONER MAGAZINE. Guess that my subscription has not run out, but don't know. My present address is:

Hq. 6th Division, I.G. Department
A. P. O. No. 6 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

At present am inspector general for the 6th Division. We are occupying the southern half of Korea, below the 38th North latitude. The Russians have the part above that. This is a rough and rugged country. Very mountainous, with narrow valleys. The valleys are intensely farmed with rice and vegetables, and an irrigation system extends up the mountains to the source of the stream. I suppose it has been built up over a period of centuries. They really raise bumber crops and do not depend on rainfall. The people are much smaller than Americans. Black, rather than yellow, slant eyed and the general run of people seen on the streets are very dirty in appearance. They are very unsanitary according to our standards. Division Headquarters is located in a Presbyterian college here in Chon Ju and I have two quarters in one of the college residences, so feel right at home. Understand that the Japs closed the college in 1939.

Here in the Sooner Magazine that you were out of the service again. Hope that you are re-adjusted to civilian life again and enjoying health and prosperity. With best wishes for a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Lt. Col. Lloyd L. Smith

P. S. Do you realize that it was twenty-five years ago last September that we took the Consistory at Guthrie! Time sure flies. I have a son, L. L., Jr., who is 17 years of age and a freshman at the University of Georgia.

Dear Ted:

Here it has been so long—but I assure you that not a day goes by—wells O.U. and you fine guys down there.

We are still enjoying California and working hard but when one has two boys, well it keeps the old man on the go.

Since last wrote you many things have happened. In the first place, I spent a couple of hours on the campus last summer but only the painters were around your office.

Talked to the Secretary Ward the other day. He is going places here—has a fine show on N.B.C. "What's Cookin' Ladies." Big time. The Van (Continued on page 19)

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