‘That’s Carey’s Job’
A Slogan to Forget, Says Association President Tom Carey
By Tom F. Carey, ’08, President, University of Oklahoma Association

A PROMINENT graduate was approached recently and asked to do a small task that concerned the University of Oklahoma Association. It was a matter of considerable importance but would not in itself require a great deal of time.

Almost before the matter had been suggested he dismissed it with a brief statement: “That’s Carey’s job.”

After one or two shots like that you would wonder, with me, for what is a president of this association. Right then for one fourth of two cents I could have chucked the whole job back to you, lock, stock and barrel. And for another half cent I would have taken out a new set of naturalization papers.

There are some 6,000 graduates of the University of Oklahoma and several thousand others, who as former students, are fully as vitally interested as those who happen to hold degrees. Most of these, graduates and former students alike, fall over each other passing out the “you first, my dear Carey.”

The average university graduate is trained to a high degree of sidestepping. After four years probation he moves on as a past master. And unfortunately he feels the urge to continue the art on into private life. I got my share of the same thing. Only my probation lasted five years, and when you say “that’s Carey’s job,” I propose to pass it right back to you with equal agility.

The University of Oklahoma Association does not displace the individual in his personal relationship to his fellows. It does not select officers to do the job that you should do yourself. Nowhere does it assume the burden that rests with each of us in person. The Association merely provides a means of co-operation and collective activity. And when it fails in collective undertaking it will be because we have failed in our individual capacity—because too many contented themselves with saying “That’s Carey’s job.”

This, ladies and gentlemen, is not a Mexican army. We need corporals, sargents, and privates, and lots of them, as well as officers. And if any of you fellows in the ranks feel that you can do a better job of officering than some others, drop me a note and I’ll guarantee a vacancy for your benefit and furnish a perfectly good private to step back in the hole you leave in the ranks, tendering also a special vote of thanks along with the bargain.

Just what Carey’s job is in this association I cannot tell because I am not sure that I know myself. But between us as friends I will let you in on this little secret. I have taken freely from the state at a time and in a way that I could not provide for myself. I am under obligation to return something, but under no greater obligation that the rest of you who have shared equally with me. I propose to do my part, but I do not propose to let anyone of you, equally as great a beneficiary as I, ease out front under your own task by simply saying “That’s Carey’s job.”

So long as we hold our job, and that will be for another month or two unless some of the rest of you want a chance at the vacancy I mentioned above, we are going to spend part of our time introducing you to what may look like Carey’s job but is in fact nothing more than your own job needing a little better acquaintance with yourself.

President Tom Carey
Of the University of Oklahoma Association, doesn’t want Sooners to become pastmasters of the fine old game of sidestepping. He is an accounting engineer and lives in Oklahoma City.

Varsity Enrollment Reaches 4,747

No matter how fast the University of Oklahoma builds for future classes, each year’s enrollment makes the previous year’s estimate obsolete. On September 25, 4,747 students had enrolled for the first semester, the largest single semester enrollment.

The university’s enrollment has passed that of the University of Kansas, which on September 25 had 3,937 students matriculated, as compared to 3,955 for same day the previous year. The enrollment at the University of Missouri was 3,877, as compared to 3,899 the same day last year. The first semester enrollment last year at Kansas was 4,112. Enrollment in both universities is not complete.