Two ‘Sides’ to Sooner Magazine

The following letters from two Sooner alumni present the two viewpoints on what the O.U. Association and Sooner Magazine mean to the respective writers. In the first letter, S. Deborah Haines, '13ba, Norman, Oklahoma, expresses a disappointment in her University connections, since she has lost contact with her classmates. Therefore, Range Rider Ted Beaird and Sooner Magazine wish to be—that is, to be newsy and to urge them to send in news items, then we will have news items in Sooner Magazine for your class year. In a like manner, if you will correspond with your old friends shown on the class list addresses that we are sending you and urge them to send in news items, then we will have all these years represented in Sooner. We are enclosing an enrollment card as per your request to be used in the magazine. We regularly paid member until April, 1948.

Unfortunately, the pictures made in the Los Angeles meeting when President Cross was with you some months ago were never printed. Dear enough for cut purposes to be used in the magazine. We regretted this very much because we were most anxious to have the Los Angeles pictures in the Sooner Magazine.

The morning mail that brought your communication from Los Angeles, we received another communication from Deborah Haines. These two communications coming from you people back in California and the Sooner alumni who were in Los Angeles and who were regularly paid member until April, 1948.

Miss Lasley Changes 'Status', But Still Likes Sooner Magazine

Dear Mr. Beaird:

I am enclosing a postal money order for $5 as payment on my Life Membership. Will you, please, give it to the proper person.

This letter actually has a three-fold purpose: to give my correct address, to inform you of my change in status, and to tell you how I look forward to receiving the Sooner.

The correct address is now Mrs. B. W. Fields (‘44ba), 2515 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley, California. And that brings us to the subject of change in status. I was graduated from O.U. in 1944 and received my M.A. in 1945 as Cornelia Ann Lasley. During the year 1945-46 I taught Spanish 1 at O.U., and in September of 1946, I came to the University of California at Berkeley to teach a similar course. February 12 (1947) I was married to Bill Wayne Field, himself a native Oklahoman, but a Californian by adoption. I am teaching again this semester, and both of us are enrolled in the Spanish department of the University of California.

I hope this information will be of some help in filling out my alumni card. The Sooner is one of my favorite publications, and I am going to try and make it keep track of all my Sooner friends to send us their latest addresses, information, etc. If you will send us the names of others in these classes, we will secure their addresses, mail them to you and you can help us greatly by writing them and securing news notes about these people.

Cordially yours,

Ted M. Beaird.

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Miss Deborah Haines

723 Asp Avenue

Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Miss Haines:

I received your letter of criticisms and suggestions in order to make the magazine better. I have been thinking about it but that we are guilty, quite guilty in that we were merely permitted to pay dues all those years without having a chance to do anything about it. We are going to make amends (or try to) for being delinquent in our duty down through all those years.

Your suggestion about supplying the names and addresses of all O.U. alumni for the classes of 1910 to 1914 inclusive is most timely. We are happy to comply by supplying you, attached to this letter, the address records on these five classes (50 names in all) as we have them established in our records in our headquarters as of today. Naturally, many of these records are incomplete because some 30 to 40 years after (or even two, three and four years after in many cases) it is difficult for us to get all of our good Sooner friends to send us their latest addresses, information, etc. If you will send us the names of others in these classes, we will secure their addresses, mail them to you and you can help us greatly by writing them and securing news notes about these people.

Cordially yours,

Ted M. Beaird.

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March, 1947, copy of Sooner Magazine has caused my delightful mailings to disappear. Enclosed is $5.00, Please send my subscription.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Adella Ingold Stanley

1015 W. 21st Street

Los Angeles 7, California

Dear Mrs. Stanley:

Thanks kindly for your March 7 communication that reached us by airmail this morning. We appreciate your affiliating with your alumni Association and this letter will constitute a receipt for your check in the amount of $5, enrolling you as a member-subscriber to the Association for the period of the next 12 months. Membership subscriptions in the Association are held from one year date of payment of dues and will continue as teacher of Adult Bible Class, First Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles—a worth while and enjoyable work. I was 65 last December, and have asked to be relieved from this heavy task.

I am taking a complete test during April, and I intend to continue as Church Visitor in the First Presbyterian Church. My husband was a Presbyterian minister and encouraged me to take a number of Bible courses. After his passing away I went back to the University of Arkansas, taught school two years, in Arkansas and came to California in 1937.

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April 10, 1947

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I am neither lost, strayed, stolen nor have I forgotten my alma mater and old friends in Norman. I have been in such an unsettled state that corresponding has suffered greatly.

A year ago my wife and I started back to Brazil after eight years in service, having obtained passage with no small difficulty. There were from one to two thousand candidates for passage at almost any time in those days. In New York on the way out, we were informed that our work was to be in the very heart of Brazil—Goiânia, the new capital of the state of Goiás, from which state so much rock crystal was flown during the war. We were to build a church, parsonage and perhaps some chapels.

On arriving at our destination in the middle of May, we found there was not a single building of the Methodist Church in the state, the congregations were small and scattered; financial strength weak. A fund had been granted for the church in this city, but only two thirds of it came out, and one third of that had to be expended to buy a suitable and usable lot. The housing situation was and is critical, rents absurd, and no houses to be had easily. We lived in a hotel at full day rates, which are about half in getting a cheap but costly (high rent) house, where we remained for some time. Cost of living is high; transportation poor. The one 128-mile railroad in the state passes us by 43 miles. We have highways, the kind Ford began breaking in; buses, for the most part trunk chassis with boxes built on them with hard cushioned seats....

The task of building a church with about half of its cost available, without other ways of financing of building parsonage out of rental allowances, which were inadequate for actual costs of construction, is not small. We decided to build a sub- sidiary building that would serve as a meeting place for the present, until the congregation grows, or outgrows it, and then for educational and social purposes. It will have the requisite amenities for our students and for the church itself, which we expect will have considerable over a million dollars addition for building next year. Right now we have two buildings under construction—one a press building which is going up on the parking lot just west of the Fieldhouse and the other a research institute building east of the student dormitories. We are about to begin construction of a new classroom building and also an addition to the Engineering Building. The legislature is in session and there is every indication we will have considerably over a million dollars additional for building next year.

We have about 6,000 veterans enrolled—more than half being married. You can imagine what our housing problem has been. The government is converting barracks on both the Norman and Oklahoma campuses so that we have 150 apartments. We have 30 of the trailer type housing units. I could go on and on telling you about changes, but I suggest that you come back and see the campus for first-hand information. Sooner Magazine will be keeping you up to date on new developments in each issue.

Mrs. Sue's Musings

I am a national member of A.A.W.U. and would like to know if anyone can tell me if there is a local branch in Beverly Hills or surrounding cities? I have gone to meetings of A.A.W.U. and also about the A.A.W.U. There is a local chapter in Norman, and I am sure we can get information about those in California. You will no doubt hear from me in a few days.

We have been placing orders for classrooms through the University book exchange and I have asked J. C. Mayfield, the manager, to write you about this. For several years it was impossible to get rings, but I understand they are again available.

I am sure you will be interested to know that our enrollment on the Norman campus is over 9,600 and with the Medical School and School of Nursing the University in Oklahoma City is over 10,000. That is considerably more than when you were here.

The Navy maintained a flying field and school north of Norman and also a machinists' school immediately south of the campus. Both bases were abandoned by the Navy, and the University has taken over these properties for classrooms, laboratories, housing, etc. In fact, it would be impossible to take care of our students without these facilities.

With building in progress, the extra work of building in progress, the extra work

In November we had another unexpected adventure. My wife reported an abnormal condition that proved to be cancer, Adeno Carcinoma Infiltrante, and was admitted to Ohio University Hospital for treatment at once. She took a plane in December and was operated on successfully in New York. She is now convalescing in Aede—our forlorn abode.

"With building in progress, the extra work thrown upon me, the fact that I am the only minister of my church in this state and that in addition I have been given the superintendency of the district as well as the charge—the district including this state, part of Minas and one charge in the state of Sao Paulo—you can see I have been busy and also that financial conditions these days have not been too flush.

"With best wishes and kindest regards to all, I am,"

"Yours sincerely,

"Charles Alexander Long, '03m."