Oklahomans at home and abroad

Winter is here and spring can't be far behind, so Ray Haun, '12as, Detroit, Mich., and Dr. V. E. Monnett, '12as, Norman, already are shooting letters back and forth with plans for the 25-year reunion to be held this spring by the Class of '12.

Plans are still in the formative stage, but it has been suggested that the class either publish a special magazine of its own or provide material for a special number of The Sooner Magazine to be issued about the first of May.

Collection of biographical material about members of the class, which includes alumni prominent in many fields, already has been started.

Marker for Mex

Mex, the white bulldog who for many years worked hard at the job of being Sooner football mascot, will lie in an unmarked grave no longer. During Homecoming, Chauncey Dolph, '22as, '24bs,med, 26med, now of Houston, Texas, contributed $25 for a headstone to mark Mex's grave no longer. During Ironic, the Sooner football mascot, will lie in an unmarked grave no longer.

43 in legislature

A careful check of the records indicates there are 43 University graduates, former students or present students in the new legislature.

Nine graduates of the Sooner law school and one former student of the University are members of the State Senate. The House roster contains 33 Soonees.

The nine law graduates in the upper house are Dennis Bushyhead, '29, Claremore; Charles B. Duffy, '22, Ponca City; Merton Munson, '31, Lawton; J. A. Rinehart, '23, El Reno; Jack Rorschach, '31, Vinita; H. C. Ivester, '27, Sayre; Joe B. Thompson, '27, Ardmore; Tom C. Waldrep, '35, Shawnee; and James M. Wilson, '33, Enid. The tenth Sooner in the Senate is E. V. George, '26as, Norman.

Soonees in the House are:

Malcolm Bancum, student, Sulphur, Murray county; Bryan Billings, '35ex, Oklahomana county; Herbert L. Broman, '32as, now a law student, Muskogee county; Dale Brown, student, Coal gate, Coal county; William O. Cox, '31law, Oklahaoma county; J. T. Daniel, '23as, Wau rika, Jefferson county; Noel Duncan, '31as, Cleveland, Pawnee county.

Paul Edwards, '31law, Enid, Garfield county; Harold Freeman, '35ex, Pauls Valley, Garvin county; Murray F. Gibbons, '35ex, Oklahoma county; Finis C. Gillespie, Jr., '33as, '35law, Hobart, Kiowa county; Francis Goodpastor, '35ex, Vinita, Craig county; Louie Gossett, '23law, Antlers, Pushmataha county; Len Hugo, '31law, Norman, Cleveland county; Harry "Dutch" Hill, student, Chickasha, Grady county; J. Kenneth Hogue, '35 law, Carnegie, Caddo county.

Huby Jordan, '31ex, Kiowa, Pittsburg county; Aubrey Kerr, '28law, Ada, Pontotoc county; B. B. Kerr, '31law, Oklahoma City; Glade R. Kirkpatrick, '27ex, Tulsa county; Bert Larson, '30as, Fargo, Ellis county; A. E. Montgomery, '31law, Tulsa, Cherokee county; George W. Oliphant, '31law, Holdenville, Hughes county; Roy H. Page, '30ex, Kellyville, Creek county.


Presides at convention

Richard H. Floyd, '19as, '28law, Norman attorney, presided as president of a province convention of Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity December 3-5 at Denver, Colo. Fred Reeder, Jr., '37law, was the delegate from Holmes Inn, the University of Oklahoma chapter of the fraternity.

The school year 1936-37 is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the University chapter, and a reunion of members is planned in May, 1937.


No lobbying

A resolution declaring that University employees should refrain from contacting members of the legislature to promote measures concerning their departments or other departments of the University was adopted at the December meeting of the Board of Regents.

The resolution stated:

The president and the Board of Regents are the only proper channel through which recommendations concerning the administration of the university as a whole or in any of its parts, should reach the legislature or other state officials and authorities.

Without the knowledge and approval of the president, no employe of the university should initiate or promote with individual members of the legislature or other state authorities, any recommendation concerning general university policies or concerning his personal advancement, the advancement of his department, or the advancement of any other individual or depart ment. This applies also to encouragement of activity among students or groups of students.

An employe of the university, who, by invitation as a member of the legislature or other state official, shall discuss policies affecting the university as a whole or any of its parts is under an obligation of honor to inform the president of the nature of such discussion.

The purpose of this statement of principles is to restrain members of the faculty and other uni...
Honor Guest

R. O. Courtright '14

A Sooner who has gone far toward the top in the coaching field was one of the outstanding guests at the annual Homecoming celebration of 1936. He is R. O. Courtright, '14, now backfield coach at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Mr. Courtright traveled all the way from Ann Arbor to attend the annual alumni dinner-dance in Oklahoma City and to see the Sooner-Missouri game. Writing to Secretary Ted Beaird after he returned to Ann Arbor, he said: "It was a great pleasure to renew old acquaintances again. It certainly was worth taking the long trip, and I am only sorry I could not remain longer."

He has had a successful career as director and coach at Pittsburg State Teachers College, Pittsburg, Kan.; University of Nevada, Colorado School of Mines and University of Michigan.

Appointed to the Michigan coaching staff in 1927, he at first had charge of the "B" team which then played a regular schedule. After making a notable record in this field, he was promoted in 1932 to the post of backfield coach for the varsity and freshman basketball coach. He has also coached varsity tennis and varsity golf, as well as teaching classes in physical education.

His record as a student in the University was remarkable, as he made Phi Beta Kappa while winning four varsity letters in sport for each of three consecutive years, in football, baseball, track and basketball. He also found time to sing in the quartet and glee club. He is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Mountain drama

Two University law school graduates met on opposite sides of a deer-slaying trial in mountainous Pushmataha county recently, an occasion which attracted so much public attention that officials decided to hold the trial right out on the porch of the hardware store at Clayton, so the crowd could see and hear.

Jess Pullen, '24ex, assistant state attorney general, was sent to prosecute the case because the charge was too unpopular for local authorities to handle. Joe Stamper, '33as, '35law, who in January will become county attorney, defended the halt country youth charged with slaying and selling a deer. The jurors sat on the edges of their chairs as Stamper attacked the "money-interests" on charges that they were buying deer at will, and as he deplored that the law should single out a farm boy to pay the penalty.

The verdict, returned without any hesitation, was "not guilty."

Oratorio soloists

Wilda Griffin, '27fa, '33fa, pm, and Earl A. VirDen, '32fa, both on the University voice faculty, were among the soloists assigned leading parts in a presentation of Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah," by the University Choral union December 13 in the McFarland memorial church in Norman.

Board members

Marv Brown, '29fa, Clarence Black, '30fa, and Rex Beidie, '21law, are among the newly elected directors of the Oklahoma County Bar association which held its annual meeting recently.

CAMPUS REVIEW

Indignation week

Tempers rose rapidly in Norman on a recent morning when the Daily Oklahoman came forth with a two-column spread on page one which included:

1. A letter signed "Norman Merchant" bitterly assailing the University administration and charging the student body with loose morals on a wholesale scale.

2. An assignment from the managing editor to reporter Frank Dennis, '29as, to spend a week in Norman, run around town in the evenings, and report what he found.

3. A report from Dennis giving the student body a clean bill of health.

Unfortunately, many persons apparently read only the denunciatory letter; failed to read the sensible report at the bottom of the column that scotched it.

Norman civic leaders, University authorities and the student body rose in wrath to protest. Some typical comments:

President W. B. Bizzell—"Outrageous slander on the students of the University. While the statement of Frank Dennis repudiated it completely, his statement cannot offset the harm that has been done by the University by the publication of the letter from some unknown individual who claims to live in Norman."

Joint statement of Norman Chamber of Commerce and Retail Credit Men's association: "As citizens of Norman in close contact with student life we believe the University administration is conscientiously and effectively doing all within its power to protect and promote high student morals and maintain a wholesome atmosphere on the campus."
Ralph Kenyon, president of the men's council: "The letter evidently was written by a man who did not know the facts or one, who intended deliberately to insult the students of the University. I know personally that the students of the University are cleaner on the average than most people of the same age. The University has established and is enforcing every possible type of regulation to uphold the moral standards among students."

The Oklahoma News: "Common decency would compel a newspaper to refrain from publishing a charge after investigation had disclosed the falsity of the charges."

The report which Dennis made on student life in Norman—a report made to an editor who decreed "Don't pull your punches"—should be read by all alumni and kept in mind for citing to parents of prospective University students who fear things are not as they should be in Norman.

Dennis' report to his editor:

Norman is the dreariest city I ever saw.

I spent a very pleasant week there, saw nothing out-of-the-way except several tattooed drunks Saturday night, and saw thousands of students studying, working or engaging in entirely wholesome recreation. Boys and girls strolling along the riverbank, produced the bourbon at the time. A five-mile drive, part of it through a jungle it so hot for him that he had quit selling whiskey.

A taxidriver said he couldn't guarantee to find a bootlegger, but would try. First he took me to a ramshackle house near the state hospital, but he had quit the business. A five-mile drive, part of it through a jungle along the riverbank, produced the bourbon at the time. A five-mile drive, part of it through a jungle it so hot for him that he had quit selling whiskey.

The kids I saw drunk Saturday night were stags at a fraternity dance. They looked like boys who were drowning the sorrowsthatgrow out of puppy love, or thought they were smart. They weren't harming anybody or threatening any merchants.

At the Independent Men's association dance in the Union there wasn't a pint in the crowd. A. E. Thomas, a wary University official who is the watchdog at the independent dances, said he hadn't seen any drunkenness there all year. Since the students have been able to get 3.2 beer or better they have lost interest in the hard stuff, he said.

I suppose this sounds as if the University student body is about 100 per cent lily-white. It isn't. There are thousands of boys and girls thrown together there, and the custom of the place allows for some pretty promiscuous dating. A lot of girls—one per cent would be a lot in the aggregate—slip out for late dates on week end nights, and the midnight no-date rule either is unenforced or unenforceable. I gathered that love finds an opportunity in Norman as elsewhere; that a good many boys spend a lot of time in Oklahoma City, and as boys don't have to be in at fixed hours, probably many spend the night in the city.

I learned that liquor is easily obtained at a couple of roadhouses on the Oklahoma City-Norman highway in Oklahoma county; that there are no disorderly houses in Norman; that there is a place on the river south of town called "Hell's Half Acre" for romantic reasons; that the no-date rule is strictly enforced, and that the cab drivers shun trips to the country because their insurance doesn't cover excursions far from the city limits.

The guy who wrote the letter is just dead wrong about unchaperoned bus trips. There was one last year, and the students were punished. The dean of women, Edna McDaniel, probably knows all about the late dating, but scarcely personally could pursue all violators, even if that was her job, which it isn't.

It was my observation that the students are better protected, better disciplined, better behaved on the whole than those of the same age in other cities in the state. As a matter of fact, they seem less like flaming youth than a lot of Oklahoma City high school kids.

The hellraisers are definitely fewer than the one per cent you suggest. For every hell-raiser there is a dozen serious-faced boys like the one who minds the popcorn machine in the Varsity shop, working his way through school and counting it a privilege.

Several hundred students responded to a call for a mass meeting and voted to boycott the Daily Oklahoman and Times.

Walter Harrison, managing editor of the two newspapers, was hanged in effigy early one morning by unknown critics.

What appeared to be the final chapter in the episode took place at a meeting of the Norman Forum when Mr. Harrison, along with Robert Fredericks of the Oklahoma News and Jenkin Lloyd Jones of the Tulsa Tribune, was on the speaking program.

Under a barrage of questions from students and faculty members asking why a newspaper would publish a letter without using the name of the writer, when the charges had been proved false, Mr. Harrison declared that he believed the publication of the letter along with proof of its inaccuracy had done the University no harm.

"Those charges about student moral conditions have been circulated by word of mouth for the last five years. I consider it a compliment to the University to bring it into the open and show that the charges were unfounded."

Mr. Harrison frankly admitted, however, that if he were doing it over again, he would print Dennis' report at the top of the column, to make sure that everyone who read the letter would also read the report showing the falsity of the accusations.

Armaments make jobs

The large armies of Germany and other European countries are a form of unemployment relief, and Hitler does not really desire war for Germany, Dr. H. C. Peterson, instructor in history, said in the principal address at the annual founder's day banquet of the University chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Despite the threats of a major war, Great Britain still has the balance of power in Europe and "has her hand on the brake," Dr. Peterson said.

Building is inspected

Five hundred persons went through the new Biological Sciences building during a visiting day program sponsored by the botany and zoology departments and by members of biological societies. Events of the day included initiation of 21 pledges into Phi Sigma, a buffet supper sponsoring the new members, and a public address by Dr. J. E. Ackert, dean of the graduate school at Kansas State college, in the evening.

Indian institute

Proposal for establishment of a $1,000,000 Institute of Indian Affairs at the University of Oklahoma will be presented at the new session of Congress, President W. B. Bizzell has announced. The institute would give training for those planning to enter the Indian service, would aid those doing research in Indian history, and would help preserve Indian culture.