Let's talk it over

By Association President Tolbert

Soonerland has much for which to be thankful:

ITEM I.
The confidence of Oklahoma's taxpayers who are investing their hard earned money in the institution.

ITEM II.
Good fathers and mothers who by sacrifice and self denial have throughout the years accumulated savings and invested in education of Sooner sons and daughters in the institution.

ITEM III.
Men such as Bennie Owen and others, who have made Soonerland what it is, who exemplify the best in Sooner Spirit, and who through all the years have remained with us at no small pecuniary loss but satisfied by the results accomplished to continue their good works among us.

ITEM IV.
Faithful and loyal students, ex-students, alumni and friends who by their work and contributions have made the Memorial Stadium and Union an actuality for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

The memories of these and others have done for Soonerland will be cherished forever.

Many of us should also be thankful that we did not have to compete against standards set by the oncoming Sooner generation. Witness the spendid feature article on Hawaii contributed to the November issue of this publication by Elizabeth Ann McMurray, a junior in the McAlester high school and the fifteen year old daughter of Marie Hunter, '11 mus. and Jack McMurray, ex '11.

Have you had last year's file of The Sooner Magazine bound for Junior to read and imbibe Sooner Spirit as he grows up? You might also get a "kick" out of reading it yourself in the years to come.

Mrs Walter Ferguson, ex '07, our distinguished vice president, tells me that she had the volume of the magazine bound and that she regards it as one of her prize possessions. Where is the enterprising Sooner book binder that will advertise an attractive rate for binding the annual volume for interested Sooners? Where is said Sooner who would like to provide the means for presenting the State Historical society library with a bound volume of the magazine each year?

Page Mr Ripley. Believe it or not: one of the livest Sooner clubs is in Texas. "Bullet" Watson, '12 law, "Chuck" Newell & Company, (Unlimited) of Dallas set a pace in entertaining visiting Sooners generating the old fighting spirit before the Texas game at the Dallas fair that will be hard to equal elsewhere. "Chuck" Newell, envoy extraordinary and minister pleni potentiary representing the Dallas alumni at the annual reunion in Oklahoma City before the Homecoming game, reported that by next year an eighty thousand capacity stadium would be available at Fair park and that several floors of the Baker hotel, leading Dallas hotel and Sooner headquarters, would be reserved for Sooners and their friends. "Chuck," now business manager of a leading Dallas newspaper, was a charter member of the Oklahoma school of journalism established by the Kappa Alpha fraternity. He is the one who introduced Bennie Owen, through his press dispatches written in hand, to the high school boys and people of Oklahoma in 1905. "Bill" Randolph, '12 law, now judge of the Court of Common Pleas at Tulsa, and then Hutton Bellah, '22 jour., cranked up their coronas and kept up the good work. And, believe it or not, they were not so modern as to predict the morning before the game the number of touchdowns by which the home team would lose. Those boys had their psychology on straight.

Did you ever enjoy yourself so much before at a Homecoming? That's the question I hear everywhere. The dinner, pep meeting and dance at Oklahoma City, with G. B. "Deake" Parker, '07, editor in chief of the Scripps-Howard papers, and wife Adelaide Loomis Parker, '09, from New York City, Virginia Telbert Fowler, '15 arts-sc., from Los Angeles, California, lots of Sooners from Texas and everybody from everywhere in Oklahoma; the informal registration and meeting of old friends the morning of the game in the Oklahoma Union building: a bang up football game with old grads yelling in the rain, a sea of yellow slickers and red shirts in the freshman section; a tea by the Norman alumni after the game in the beautiful ball room in the Union building, a good place to see your favorite faculty members; a student council dance at Norman and another one at the University club in Oklahoma City, all made Homecoming a real event. Could you improve on it? If so our efficient alumni secretary will welcome your suggestions.

"On or before December 1, 1929" was written on a lot of 2-5-0 pledges. Four hundred thousand dollars in cold cash was borrowed on the security of a lot of red cards with language like that signed by loyal Sooners. Those cards are now the legal and moral obligations of Soonerland. Every Sooner is jealous of his credit and the financial good name of all Soonerland.

Hats off to Warner K. (Doc) Bobo, ex '15, and his McEwen Halliburton spe-
special to the Texas game. He has started something that hits the spot and is a distinct service to Soonerland.

The next rainy Sunday afternoon, you might get out that old Sooner and go over your class and fraternity pictures and write a lot of items for The Sooner Magazine about who married who and where they are and what they are doing.

Clinic of our times

The alumni university

OKLAHOMA—AN INDIAN LABORATORY

By STANLEY VESTAL

THE University of Oklahoma has a unique opportunity for the study of the American Indian. More than thirty tribes can be found within the State. Nowhere on this continent is there a better laboratory for the study of the native race. Here in Oklahoma the historian, the ethnologist, the anthropologist have an opportunity that can be matched elsewhere. The administration of the university is well aware of this fact, and President Bizzell is doing all he can to encourage work in this field. It is to be expected that many of the alumni and faculty will do work of this kind in the future and therefore I have been asked to give a brief account of the methods and results of such work based upon my own experience in doing research among certain Indians of the Plains tribes, particularly the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, and Sioux. I am glad to do this in the hope that my experience may be of value to others in this great, rich field.

Early investigators were hampered by poor interpreters, by the reluctance of the Indians to talk, and by the lack of any background of science or history of the West by which to check results. These disadvantages are no longer insurmountable.

For research among the Indians one requires a staff consisting of an investigator, an interpreter, a stenographer, and of course an informant.

The investigator must be first of all a good listener. Generally speaking, he will have better luck if he is old enough to show a few grey hairs. It is all the better if he has been a soldier, for Plains Indians have little respect for mere civilians. It is well also if he knows something of Indian customs and etiquette so as to avoid offense. Old-time Indians are very courteous and dislike those who do not observe their conventions. Needless to say, the investigator should be one who likes Indians and respects them.

The stenographer should be one who can take notes rapidly and unobtrusively, a quiet, efficient, and energetic person. Some people try to get along without stenographers, but a man cannot do his best work in research with his nose in a notebook.

The interpreter is the most difficult member of the staff to find. Some of them are out of sympathy with the older Indians. Some of them will supply from their own information the answers to one's questions. Some of them will even make up stories rather than take the trouble to repeat what the old men say. And of course there are factions and jealousies among Indians, as among other people, which erect barriers and cause suspicion and dislike. It is well to know of these things in advance, since no interpreter, however well he knows the languages, is of any use unless he has the confidence of your informant. It is well to have several interpreters on your string and to use each one where he will do the most good. This is difficult, since they are sometimes jealous of each other.

The informant of course must be a man who has information to give and is willing to give it. More than that he should be one with a good memory and a reputation for honesty and courage. Not every old Indian has all these qualities, and if one gathers data from some disreputable man, it is likely that men of better character will refuse to talk. For this reason a good introduction is absolutely essential. No one in his senses will undertake to test the honesty, capacity and knowledge of an informant, but when we read we listen in the dark. The one weakness in Indian information lies in the matter of chronology. The Indian has no means of recording the day of the week or the month when something happened, but with the aid of the white man's records one can generally check up these inaccuracies.

For this reason one should never ask a man where he was half so guarded in their statements some of them would have to go out of business. After all a book is only a man talking and very often talking through his hat. During an interview one has many chances to test the honesty, capacity and knowledge of an informant, but when we read we listen in the dark. The one weakness in Indian information lies in the matter of chronology. The Indian has no means of recording the day of the week or the month when something happened, but with the aid of the white man's records one can generally check up these inaccuracies.

For this reason one should never ask a man where he was half so guarded in their statements some of them would have to go out of business. After all a book is only a man talking and very often talking through his hat. During an interview one has many chances to test the honesty, capacity and knowledge of an informant, but when we read we listen in the dark. The one weakness in Indian information lies in the matter of chronology. The Indian has no means of recording the day of the week or the month when something happened, but with the aid of the white man's records one can generally check up these inaccuracies.