

In the Mail . . .

RECENT service of University staff members in pointing the way to possible improvements in state government and other fields is praised by Alfred A. Crowell, '29, of Elgin, Ill. He writes to the editor of *The Sooner Magazine* as follows:

As an alumnus of the University, I should like to express my appreciation of the professional authority which a few individuals and groups connected with O. U. are beginning to assume in publishing their opinions and findings in reference to economic, political and business conditions in the state.

Only when these opinions and findings of our professors, authorities in their fields, are accepted as the valuable information they are, will the University take its rightful place in Oklahoma life.

For instance, the state constitutional reform program proposed by Cortez A. M. Ewing, Oliver Benson, and John Alley, if firmly suggested by leading professors of many other great universities as a remedy for local political ailments, would be accepted almost immediately by some group in power to make the change.

We all remember the great weight that certain Columbia University men carried with Mr. Roosevelt while he was governor of New York. He seldom advocated a financial bill without consulting Columbia.

So it should be in Oklahoma. I am glad that some definite progress in this direction is being made. It will establish the University more firmly as the only really unbiased authority in the state and help Oklahoma in its as yet comparatively inexperienced gropings for reliable state men and institutions.

In response to the request for suggestions for service by the Alumni Association, Rosa Osmond Merritt, '33ex, suggests a system be set up whereby Sooners in each community would welcome Sooner newcomers.

"Most of the departments in the University have some record or at least the department heads have some knowledge of where their graduates are taking jobs," writes Mrs. Merritt, who is now with the John S. Swift Company, Planographers, at St. Louis, Mo.

"If you could correlate such information in vicinities and pass it on to the Advisory Council there that certain new graduates had accepted positions and were moving to the vicinity. To be more specific—many electrical engineering seniors are signed in the spring by large corporations and sent to distant cities. It is when they first find themselves more or less alone in a new community that they need the contact of their alumni association—not after months and months when they finally are discovered by the local chapter through friends. To my way of thinking that would be a real service."

The idea sounds like a very good one. Until a special system can be worked out, the editor suggests that Sooners watch the

Sooner Magazine for items about Sooners moving into their communities, and take it on themselves to be hospitable.

Sarah K. Little, '36, writes from Billings that she really enjoys teaching. She sends her check for the Magazine although adding that "My reading is confined to 'I done seen a cat' or 'i seed a curcuss,' which are actual sentences from a paper I just graded."

Edward L. Howard, '31, who is with the Howard Petroleum Corporation at Tyler, Texas, sends word that he has some "terrible times" there, but they are with his golf partner, T. J. (Jesse) Johnson, '25, and not with things in general at Tyler. In fact, he expects to be there permanently. Mrs. Howard was Co-Norma Perrine, '30, a member of Alpha Chi Omega. They have one child, Sara Ann, five years old.

Golfer Johnson is an independent in the oil business at Tyler.

A recent address by Alumni Secretary Ted Beard at a meeting of the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors brought this interesting letter from Dr. John A. Griswold, associate professor of finance:

"I found your remarks at the A. A. U. P. meeting the other evening very interesting. I imagine your criticism of the faculty relationships with the community and the state is quite justified but from my observation I would say that the situation is not peculiar to Oklahoma. I am very much in favor of taking any steps we can to improve these relationships and I shall be glad to co-operate in any way that I can.

"Since my main interest is in finance and banking I have been thinking recently of the possibility of working with groups of bankers in the state in some way which would make them more conscious of the University. A plan along this line was worked out at the University of Illinois with the result that the University was materially aided in obtaining an increased appropriation over the governor's opposition."

Quite a number of University faculty members who are not graduates or former students subscribe to *The Sooner Magazine* in order to co-operate with the Alumni Association and show their appreciation for the work the Association is doing for the University.

The spirit of these people is well expressed in a letter from Dr. Alma J. Neill,

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acting head of the department of physi-
ology, who writes:

"Though I am not an alumna of the
University of Oklahoma by the conferring
of a degree, I am in spirit and co-opera-
tion, hence please accept my check for
\$3.00 as my subscription to the Alumni
Magazine."

The co-operation of the University fac-
ulty with the Alumni Association is more
important than is generally realized to
the success of the campaign for improv-
ing the University.

C. O. Hunt, of the University Ex-
tension Division, is another member of
the University staff who has a kind word
for the Association and the Magazine.
Writes Mr. Hunt:

I have always contended that the success of the
alumni of any educational institution was the
most accurate measurement of the institution's
success. Then, undoubtedly, an organ such as
The Sooner Magazine, which carries information
concerning the activities of the alumni, is of
great value not only to the institution but to
each individual member of the alumni as well.

I notice these outstanding features of *The
Sooner Magazine*. It publicizes the activities of
those who have enjoyed the environment of O.
U., it informs them of the services that O. U.
desires to render them even though they have
departed from the campus, and it carries well
founded suggestions, given by members of the
Alumni Association and officers of the Univer-
sity, as to how we may have a larger and better
Oklahoma University.

"I am sorry to be so late in sending in
my dues—I don't want to miss any copies
of *The Sooner Magazine* up here," writes
J. Wesley Kitchens, '36, '37ma, who is
now teaching assistant at the University
of Iowa, Iowa City.

Kenneth Abernathy, '31law, attorney at
Shawnee, sees great possibilities in the
county Advisory Council setup of the
Alumni Association.

"The University has contributed in a
large measure to the cultural and mater-
ial well-being of us all," he comments.
"Through active participation in the Al-
umni Association we can show Oklaho-
ma an unshaken determination that
neither through indolence nor for the sake
of expediency will we permit the prog-
ress of our University or its usefulness
to the state's future citizens to be im-
paired."

Sooners seem to be scattered around
everywhere. Scott P. Squyres, '24law,
Oklahoma City, writes that his duties
as national commander of the Veterans
of Foreign Wars take him all about the
country and he frequently runs onto
Sooners.

Roy C. Jenkins, '31, assistant regional
manager for the Real Silk Hosiery Mills,
Inc., in the western region, writes: "Sel-
dom a month goes by, when I'm out in the
territory, that I do not run into a fellow
Sooner somewhere. Have met them
throughout my entire territory, and I
know of nothing more interesting and

enjoyable than a good visit with these fel-
lows about old times in Soonerland."

Kind words department:

From James W. Moffitt, '34ex, secre-
tary of the Oklahoma Historical Society—
"I wish to compliment you upon the
October issue of *The Sooner Magazine*.
You and your associates are doing a
splendid piece of work."

From Mrs. Carl S. Ford, '22ex, Enid—
"I have just received the October issue
of *The Sooner Magazine*. Please extend
my congratulations to those responsible
for this publication. I find it very in-
teresting, entertaining, and beneficial. I
cannot imagine any former University
student doing without our *Sooner Maga-
zine*."

O. W. Rush, Northwestern State
Teachers College, Alva—"I want to con-
gratulate you on the excellent magazine
which you are producing. I have en-
joyed the copies which you sent to me.
It is one of the best, if not the best, al-
umni magazine that I have ever seen."

George D. Hann, '36ed.m, superintend-
ent of schools at Clinton—"We have just
received the October issue of the Maga-
zine. It not only is the best issue that I
have ever seen of our magazine but I
believe it is the best alumni magazine
that I have seen of this or any other in-
stitution.

James F. Haning, '36, Norman—"You
are to be congratulated for editing the
best magazine ever published by the As-
sociation."

From Vienna, Ill., comes the plea of
Nat Boomer, '14ex, who wants some help
in prospecting for oil. We'll let him tell
it:

"Two or three times when driving
through West Vienna I have 'come across'
an Oklahoma or a Texas man on his way
to Carmi or Lawrenceville, Ill. These
men are hunting our new oil fields.

"It is predicted that oil will be found
under the whole south end of our state.
I live about thirty miles north of Cairo,
Ill., in the unglaciated section of the state
near the spur of the Ozarks which ex-
tend across the south ends of four states.
Much limestone is found here.

"I am writing you so that you might
put anyone of your state, and more espe-
cially some former student of Oklahoma
University in touch with me so that I
might possibly give encouragement to one
prospecting for oil. I myself am a former
student (1914) of the University of Ok-
lahoma. I am now a retired school-
master."

Charles "Chuck" Newell, '07ex, has
this to say regarding the lack of a Sooner
alumni club at Dallas:

"Anent Carl D. McWade's wonder-
ment as to why there is no Alumni or-
ganization in Dallas to become a rallying
point for Sooners and Exes before, dur-

ing and after the annual Oklahoma-Texas game, perhaps you'd be interested in some history.

"When the present 10-year Oklahoma-Texas contract for the Dallas game was signed Frank Watson, Shelley Tracy and a number of Sooners living in Dallas organized an Oklahoma-Texas club. Frank Cleckler helped a lot. Watson and Tracy and the writer headed it for three years. We arranged dinner-dances for the night before the game twice. Dr. Bizzell and Ben Owen attended and so did Ad Lindsey. But in spite of a floor show that beat any nearby nite spots we couldn't get a crowd. So the third year we switched to a luncheon game day, guaranteed and delivered prompt service and start, but again we had to brag about the quality rather than the size of our crowd.

"So we quit. It was evident that visiting alumni didn't care for anything approaching formal entertainment but preferred to take their chances on impromptu reunions with Sooner friends."



A letter from *The Sooner Magazine* to Mrs. Sally E. Hockaday Benson, '19, traveled all the way to Canton, China, and back to Searcy, Ark., before it found her.

"We returned from Canton in August of last year," she writes. "Since I am no longer in a foreign country, you may not be so interested in my affairs; nevertheless, I'll answer a few of the questions.

"My husband, George Benson, and I went to South China in 1925 as missionaries of the Church of Christ. For some months we were stationed in Kwei Hsien, but due to the strong anti-foreign and anti-Christian feeling prevalent we were forced to seek refuge in British Hong Kong where we studied Cantonese. Our two children, Ruth and Lois, were born in Hong Kong in 1926 and 1929, respectively.

"In 1929, we moved to Canton where we were busy in mission work and the teaching of English. In 1933 the Yuen To Bible School was built, of which my husband was principal. In 1936, we returned via Palestine and Europe, Mr. Benson having been called home to accept the presidency of Harding College here at Searcy.

"So glad not to be in China now."



Alfred H. Schmidt, '36, sends his check for annual dues and subscription to the magazine, adding "It's a real pleasure to receive *The Sooner Magazine* and find out what my friends in far away Oklahoma are doing."



Law graduate now priest

Ray Harkin, '31law, who deserted the law profession to spend four years in the University of Louvain in Belgium in study for Catholic priesthood, is now at Corpus Christi parish in Oklahoma City. He was ordained in a service last summer at Pawhuska, where his parents live.

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