

Clearing the Desk

WHEN this column was established, in the September issue, the title seemed to be a happy inspiration. However, after desperately trying to clear the desk for a quick trip to Dallas for the Sooner-Texas game, and vainly endeavoring ever since to get the desk cleared, we have concluded that the title is based on wishful thinking instead of reality.

Fortunately, just as we were feeling pretty discouraged about it all, Reader Vivian Lorita Smith of Beebe, Arkansas, wrote us a letter saying "I believe you like to try out new ideas and I think it's a good idea."

EVERY TIME we get a good chance, we send out one of our news item forms on a business reply card. It lists various suggestions for news items, such as marriages, births, promotions, changes of jobs, and so on.

Mrs. Alta Loomis Carder, '06, of Cordell, used one of the cards to report that she now has two lovely grandchildren, Charles Bulkley Lutz II of Oklahoma City, son of the former Adelaide Carder, '26; and a granddaughter Jennie Knowlton Carder of Washington, who is the daughter of Charles Carder, '36ba, '38law.

"I suppose," Mrs. Carder commented, "you would call this a promotion—or possibly a change in jobs."

AS THE University's new flying field is improved and becomes better known to fliers generally, a lot of Sooner football fans are going to quit worrying about highway traffic congestion.

Although the field was only a few weeks old, three planes dropped in October 19 bearing fans on their way to the Sooner-Kansas State game. In a few years, if private flying continues to expand, there probably will be scores of planes coming in on football weekends.

SOONER FOOTBALL attracts so much attention from state newspapers now that a story is going around that Oklahoma's opponents have quit scouting Sooner games. They just buy a copy of the Sunday *Oklahoman*, where the trick plays are explained in photographs and diagrams.

THIS IS probably as good a place as any to apologize to Louise Webb, '39 speech, for giving her degree incorrectly in the item beneath her picture in the October magazine. She is an unusually intelligent young woman, but not precocious enough to have earned a university degree about the time she was actually in high school.

AND WHILE engaged in acknowledging the error of our ways, we really should

report that Dr. Guy Y. Williams, the maestro of student military training during the World War I, called up to state that there were some errors of the fact in the article "When War Called in '17," in the October magazine.

However, he was too busy organizing the draft registration of University men to accept our invitation to write the story the way he recalled it.

PROFESSORS have to be alert every minute. The younger generation just doesn't seem to have any proper respect.

Take the case of Dr. Joseph Pray of the government faculty. A student called up and said that such-and-such student organization would like to have Dr. Pray address them at a certain time and place on the subject "Democracy versus Conscriptio."

Dr. Pray had courteously accepted before the sinister implication of the subject struck him. Gasping a little, he managed to say "... but I think we'd better change that title a little."

ONE REASON we have had difficulty in clearing the desk is that we have been busy with correspondence with George A. Heap, '23eng, of Los Angeles, who is a delightful correspondent even if nothing much has come out of it as yet.

It all started at a meeting of the "University of Oklahoma Alumni Association of Southern California" last summer in the voice studio of Mrs. Minnaetha White in Los Angeles. There were some engineers present and a recording was made, to be sent to the University, principally for the edification of present members of the secret engineer society L. K. O. T. However, some lawyers were involved, and the natural confusion resulting from lawyers and engineers being involved in the same project seems to have prevented the record's being delivered to Norman.

Mr. Heap has very kindly written off-the-record details about what was on the record, but we still await delivery at Norman.

NORMAN AND THE UNIVERSITY received national publicity recently in *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines, when the two publications carried full color pictures of Norman Courts as part of a linoleum company's page advertisement. One photograph illustrated Indian murals in the lounge of Norman Courts, carved on linoleum by J. Craig Sheppard, O. U. alumnus and former assistant in art on the faculty.

T. Jack Foster, '29, Norman cleaning tycoon and operator of Norman Courts,

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was so proud of it that he sent reprints to a large list of O. U. alumni.

THE SPIRIT is willing but the purse weak. Says a Los Angeles alumnus in response to a form letter: "It is nice to feel like I am not forgotten and when I am able I do intend to subscribe to the organization. Meanwhile, I appreciate hearing from you, and hope things are going well at home."

HOMECOMING plans were well in hand last month. Oklahoma City alumni got an early start on arrangements for the dinner-dance, named committees, worked out arrangements for a reduced price, and started a ticket campaign.

Farthest-away ticket order was from C. W. Hamilton, '12ba, of New York, who with Mrs. Hamilton plans to come to Norman for Homecoming. He hasn't visited the University since about 1916.

FROM 1832 Wilhelmina Rise, Honolulu, Hawaii, comes an interesting letter from Denzel Carr, '22, to Alumni Secretary Ted Beaird.

"As old age creeps on apace," he writes, "one should make peace with one's maker. And to be consistent in an age when one lays more stress on collegiate than on ecclesiastical affiliation and loyalty, one should make peace with one's college before one grows too old. The enclosed check in one kerplunk finishes up the quarterly payments (unfortunately a decade overdue) on the joint life membership of Denzel and Elizabeth (Ball) Carr. Now that I have written the check, I am going down and try to buy some new equipment for my 21-year-old typewriter. Paying off a lot of old debts, you see."

FOOTBALL FANS who wonder why the high school stars they recommended so highly a few years back aren't showing up on the Sooner varsity ought to be told a few facts about the situation.

Last year Doc Erskine, the backfield coach who is given the grief job of studying the new prospects, had *five hundred* boys recommended to him as being good timber for the Sooner football squad.

Naturally, the great majority of them have to be passed up because there is a limit to the number that can be handled effectively on the squad.

It's evident, too, that the coaching staff is very anxious to get the boys who show the most promise. Probably they make some mistakes in their selections, but they are going to choose the ones who look the best.

With so many boys recommended, and comparatively few positions to be filled, it is certain that many boys who have good records have to be passed up.

MR. REFEREE, give us a time out while we sponge our fevered brow. The mail has just brought an information card for the Engineering Alumni Directory published last August.

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