

Clearing the Desk

A LOT of miscellaneous stuff comes across an editor's desk. Some of it doesn't fit very well into regular departments of the magazine, but still is worth printing. An interesting comment in a letter... a good story going the rounds of the campus... a bit of information that ought to be told—these kinds of things stack up on an editor's desk. Something's got to be done with them. So here goes.

This department replaces, at least temporarily, the space formerly devoted to letters from alumni. This doesn't mean that we aren't still eager to receive letters on matters of general alumni interest for publication in *Sooner Magazine*.

We'll make room for quotations from all such that come in, as part of this department. But the publication of routine letters in full will be discontinued.

DOES ANYONE have a copy of the 1912-13 *Sooner Yearbook* that he would like to exchange for \$5.00 in cash? Mrs. T. L. Lauderdale, Box 524, Ranger, Texas, would like very much to obtain that particular yearbook and has offered to pay cash for it. No extra copy could be found on the University campus.

INCIDENTALLY, the editor of this magazine is still searching for some noble Sooner willing to donate a copy of the very first yearbook, the *1905 Mistletoe*, which is the only one needed to make the Alumni Office file of yearbooks complete from the very beginning.

Neither the University president's office nor the student publications office has a complete file of the yearbooks, and it would be a real service to the University and everyone concerned if some loyal Sooner could see his way clear to supply the needed volume and make one file complete.

A promise is hereby made to give due credit to any such donor by inscribing his name in the front of the book, with explanation that it is on permanent loan to the Alumni Office.

DO WE detect a little irony in the *Stillwater Gazette's* remarks relative to the search for a new president for the University?

"It is an odd commentary on Oklahoma University," says the *Gazette*, "to point out that nearly as much publicity has been given to the choosing of a successor for President W. B. Bizzell as would have been given if the University were seeking a successor to the football coach. Almost as much attention, we repeat, but not quite."

One explanation might be that in Oklahoma when a college president resigns,

instead of retiring by the more sudden method, it's really *news*.

A TULSA NEWSPAPER, noting unofficial rumors that Joe Brandt was being considered for the presidency, called attention to the fact that four of the six past presidents of the University had names beginning with "B" (Boyd, Brooks, Buchanan, Bizzell).

They might also try astrology, palm reading and ouija boards.

COMPLIMENTS on the Engineering Alumni Directory were sufficiently numerous to keep us from joining the French Foreign Legion, even providing we could find it or discover which country it is fighting for currently.

We will not bore readers by printing such comments, but will let the reaction be summed up by Ben F. Wallace, of Oklahoma City, who wrote "It was very fine."

NO SMALL ITEM in the success of Boys' State, sponsored on the campus each August by the American Legion, is the fact that the Union Building provides a most convenient place for headquarters.

Wearing a crew-necked Boys' State sweater like the rest of them, Alumni Secretary and Union Manager Ted Beard served actively as trouble shooter for this annual affair that has won generous praise from the people of Oklahoma.

Wrote State Legion Commander Rivers to Alumni Secretary Beard: "The Second Oklahoma Boys' State is now history, and the American Legion is grateful to you for helping make this so successful. Please accept our sincere thanks."

POLO is one of the first "war casualties" at O. U. Capt. L. R. Wingfield, crack polo coach, is being transferred from his duties on the R. O. T. C. faculty. During his two years as coach the Sooner riders have won 45 games, lost 7 and tied 1, for a percentage of .664.

OKLAHOMA'S RECOGNITION of the evils of political meddling in higher education is a healthy thing, says President A. G. Crane of the University of Wyoming who visited the O. U. campus during the summer for a conference on public service radio broadcasting.

Alumni Secretary Beard gave him a copy of *Sooner Magazine* containing a compilation of state newspaper comment on the resignation of President Bizzell. After reading this, Dr. Crane wrote Secretary Beard that, "I was particularly struck with the frank discussion of the political annoyances and obstructions."

"It is a wholesome situation," Dr. Crane

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added, "If the people of the state understand the effects of political intrigue and interference. The public sentiment must be built up which will serve notice on the politicians to keep their hands off of education and research."

In our dual capacity as business manager, we have persuaded the editor to add Mr. Crane's comment on *Sooner Magazine*.

"I congratulate you upon the very attractive and excellent magazine. In its format and its liberal use of pictures, the magazine rates well with our popular pictorial magazines such as *Life* and others. I present some orchids to its management."

So far we have not noted any signs of anxiety from the circulation manager of *Life*.

FROM MILWAUKEE comes a letter from Christine Squire, first girl editor of the *Oklahoma Daily*. She writes that she has left the University of Minnesota Press to take a position with the Farm Security Administration at Milwaukee. A loyal *Sooner*, she adds the hope that "the Regents will select a successor to President Bizzell of a caliber that the University merits."

CLASS REUNIONS are a good deal of trouble to arrange, and the attendance generally does not represent a very large percentage of the class membership except for the older and smaller classes.

But the alumni who attend seem to have such a great time that the trouble is well repaid.

Dr. Elgin Groseclose, who is economist with the U. S. Treasury Department at Washington, and an outstanding author and novelist, came from Washington to attend his class reunion in June. He has many opportunities to attend brilliant and glamorous gatherings of various kinds, but he enjoyed the class reunion enough to write Secretary Beaird: "Congratulations to you on the splendid management you gave the whole affair. It was one of the happiest occasions I have attended in a long time."

SOMETIMES STUDENTS acquire theories of economics and philosophy not taught in the classrooms.

This summer a journalism student was noted smoking a cigar while making his regular run in search for news.

"How come the sudden prosperity?" we inquired.

"I had to smoke a cigar," he explained with a grin, "because I didn't have enough money to buy a package of cigarets."

ONE OF our leading metropolitan newspapers states editorially that: "Academic freedom, as usually explained, is the inherent right of one instructor to advocate something that 100 students and

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200 parents are opposed to and believe it never should be advocated at all."

Sure. And freedom of the press, as usually explained, is the inherent right of one newspaper to advocate something that 100,000 readers and 200,000 citizens are opposed to and believe never should be advocated at all.

Freedom of any kind carries along with it the possibility of abuse, but we'll still vote for freedom—both teaching and the press.

SOMEWHAT BEWILDERED was Dale Vliet, '38law, when he visited his fraternity house in Norman recently.

In the living room were six or eight chapter members listening to the phonograph. Instead of the latest swing record, it was a symphony orchestra selection.

WE ALSO LIKE the aplomb of a law school graduate who, invited to come back to the class reunion in June, wrote the Alumni Office a note inquiring, "What class do I belong to, if any?"

HARRY WIMBERLY, '24, new member of the Board of Regents, believes that Oklahoma has never had a governor who feels the keen interest in the institution that is taken by Governor Leon C. Phillips, '16law.

Writing in his personal column, *The West Side*, in the *Altus Times-Democrat*, the new board member commented:

"During his (Governor Phillip's) legislative career and since he has been chief executive of the state he has defended the school against political assaults, both from within and without. In our conversation with him prior to receiving the appointment the governor made it definite that his chief and only concern was in seeing the institution go forward so that it may render a greater service to the state. He wants it to be representative of the highest ideals of Oklahoma both in its teaching and in its relationship to the state as a whole. It is going to be a happy privilege to work with a group of fine men who are willing to sacrifice time and money in the interest of higher education in this state."

BY THIS TIME, we surely have proved our opening statement to the effect that this would be a miscellaneous department.

In closing we would like to tell a story of the man-bites-dog variety.

It seems that a girl happened to walk past the Law Barn the other day when a law student group was having a picture made.

And goodness-knows-how-many co-ed alumnae will be glad to know that the girl had enough presence of mind to jump at the opportunity and let loose one of those long, admiring whistles!

—R. C.