



Sooner alumnae holding unusual defense jobs. Left to right: Mrs. Cassie Corinne Hausaman Andersen, Elizabeth Kirkbride, Rosa Lee Montgomery, Stella Louise Fischer, Ruth Tappan, Mrs. Leon Jillson Shock and Ruby Ruth Vincent.

In Jobs Ranging From Airport Draftsman to Technician in a Ballistics Laboratory, Sooner Women Are Filling Vital Posts

WHILE many women graduates of the University are working with defense and relief organizations, to make their contribution to the national program, a surprising number of O.U. women are using their University training to fill vital technical positions that contribute directly to the defense effort.

One O.U. woman graduate is an architectural draftsman on airport work, another is computer in a ballistics laboratory, and one is secretary in the Office of Emergency Management at Washington—right in the nerve center of the defense program.

In such widely scattered localities as California, Texas, Ohio, Maryland and the nation's capital, O.U. women are helping the nation prepare for its hazardous future.

One of the "veterans" in national defense work who got in on the ground floor when the program was in its infancy is Stella Louise Fischer, '35, formerly of El Reno, who began work in June, 1940, for Robert W. Horton, director of information for the Office of Emergency Management, in Washington. Mr. Horton is a former New York newspaperman and his office is one of the most important because it publicizes the government's defense program.

When Uncle Sam gave him the job of setting up a publicity office, Mr. Horton began looking around for a secretary. His interview with Miss Fischer was brief and to the point. He asked her if she was good, she said she was, and she got the job.

At first there were only two persons in the office to handle all interviews, typing

and messenger work. Miss Fischer answered nine phones and questions from a hundred or more people every day, in addition to incoming and outgoing phone calls for Mr. Horton and people who filed in to see him. "In fact," she says, "we did most everything but sweep out at night."

Now there are 215 persons on the office staff, in contrast to the two of a year ago, and Miss Fischer has a private office which isn't as "private" as it sounds because of the number of people who come in each day.

Many nationally known figures associated with different divisions of the national defense program come into Miss Fischer's office each day—Knudsen, Nelson, Stettinius, Hillman and others. Song writer Irving Berlin dropped in before his two songs *Any Bonds Today* and *Arms for the Love of America* were released, and McClelland Barclay, the illustrator, and Alice Hughes, columnist, were other visitors.

Miss Fischer's training and experience provide a partial explanation for her presence today in one of the key defense offices. After leaving the University where she was enrolled in the College of Business Administration, she worked at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City, as secretary to C. C. Childers, then state auditor; went to Washington, D.C., as receptionist in Josh Lee's office, and later was secretary for a year and a half with the United States Film Service, the government agency that produced the films *The Plow that Broke the Plains* and *The River*.

Clear across the country from where Miss Fischer now answers phones and questions, Cassie Hausaman Andersen, '39bus, is busy in the offices of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation in Burbank, California. Mrs. Andersen, former Oklahoma City resident, works in the employee relations department where she has charge of making wage advances and consulting with employees in regard to wages, loans and group insurance.

Mrs. Andersen's department is a sort of liaison agent which tries to solve the problems of the 50,000 Lockheed employees working in Burbank, and keep harmony in the aircraft family. Because she has contact with so many of the Lockheed employees, Mrs. Andersen is glad she specialized in personnel and business management at O.U.

Down in Galveston, Texas, in one of the southernmost parts of the United States, Ruth Julia Tappan, '41arch, '41eng, Norman, holds an unusual title. An architectural draftsman, Miss Tappan is the first and only girl employed by the Galveston district of U.S. Engineers, office which has charge of construction of airports for the War Department. The Galveston district includes all of Texas except the panhandle, almost all of New Mexico, and part of Colorado and Louisiana.

Blonde-haired Ruth learned about mathematical formulas and blueprints along with her ABC's. Father F. G. Tappan has been director of the School of Electrical Engineering at O.U. for a number of years, and conversation at home is apt to veer to engineering more than any other subject. Miss Tappan graduated last June with a degree in architectural engineering, and at the end of the summer term received a degree in architecture. She is a member of Phi Mu sorority and was president during her senior year.

Possibly the most unusual of all jobs held by women in national defense work is that of Leon Jillson Shock, '39ed, who is an assistant computer in the Ballistics Research Laboratory at Aberdeen, Maryland. Her work consists of solving differential equations by the hundreds, for bombing tables. The Ballistics Research Laboratory is a scientific organization maintained by the ordnance department of the U.S. Army.

Since she has been at Aberdeen, Mrs. Shock reports having seen many Sooner

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quette on a Marquette line play and dashing 24 yards to a touchdown.

It was a play that seldom occurs in football, and naturally confused players of both teams.

"What happened? What happened?" Sooner Guard Mitchell Shadid kept asking, from the bottom of a pile of players.

"Well I'll be dawgoned!" exclaimed Sooner Tackle Roger Eason, disgustedly, "You've been out here eight weeks running our plays and don't know the signals yet!"

Early in the fourth quarter Guard Clare Morford of Oklahoma plucked the ball off McCahill's nervous hand as the Marquette halfback dropped back to pass, and ran 61 yards to another touchdown even screwier than Campbell's. The Oklahomans were becoming alert as well as vicious as the game aged.

With J. S. Munsey, the Sooners' 151-pound junior, calling signals and expertly mixing up the A formation attack, Oklahoma mercilessly counted twice more, Jacobs bulling over after a drive and Carl Brewington gliding down the middle for three yards and another touchdown.

Meanwhile Haberlein, warming to his work, hit the last six conversions in a row and the Sooners walked off the field, after perfunctory handshakes with the downcast Hilltoppers, with their highest score in 18 years, since Bennie Owen's Sooners belted Washington 62 to 7 at Norman in a Missouri Valley conference game back in 1923.

The cold and threatening weather, following an early-morning rain, cut the crowd to approximately 7,000 but what a game they saw on the fast tarp-protected Sooner field! Seventy-five points scored by both teams and over 1,000 yards gained in all departments!

It was a grand show one that should bring the fans back in hordes next fall.

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Women Defense Workers

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alumni, who were either stationed at the ordnance training center or employed in the laboratory.

In Cleveland, Ohio, another O.U. woman graduate holds a record similar to Ruth Tappan's in Galveston. Elizabeth Kirkbride, '39chem, '41ms, known to her friends as Betty, is a laboratory technician for the American Gas Association and the first and only girl ever to be employed by the laboratories in a technical capacity.

At O.U., Miss Kirkbride was a graduate assistant in chemistry for one year, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Chi Omega sorority, Women's Athletic Association and women's swimming and tennis clubs. Her home is in Tulsa.

With so many efforts being made these days to keep up army morale, the work being done at the Replacement Training Center at Fort Sill by two O.U. women graduates is of real importance. Rosa Lee Montgomery, '37lib.sci, formerly of Roosevelt, Oklahoma, is librarian at the Service

Club and Ruby Ruth Vincent, '24fa, '25ba, '36ma, is the newly appointed junior hostess.

Miss Montgomery feels that the library contributes as much or more to keeping up the morale of the selectees than any other one source because it makes an appeal to all kinds of boys and can serve a greater number. Statistics regarding the number of selectees who have reading cards, the kind of books preferred, and so on, indicate the wide interest in the library. Out of approximately 8,000 selectees at Fort Sill, about 1,500 have registered at the library, and in one month 2,300 books were checked out.

Miss Montgomery has found the most popular type of reading to include current best sellers in fiction and non-fiction, books on self-culture and psychoanalysis, poetry, drama and philosophy. The library even has a supply of technical books which soldiers can use for study before taking special examinations.

The new librarian came to Fort Sill last spring from the Army Industrial Library in Washington, D.C., has worked in the library at Northwestern State College, Alva; and was for one year cataloger for the Oklahoma City Board of Education. She believes the new job is by far the most interesting she has ever had.

The other Sooner who is boosting morale these days at Fort Sill, Ruby Ruth Vincent, arranges entertainment for soldiers at the Service Club or makes arrangements for women guests either at the club or at the Hostess House. The performance of these duties, however, is not so brief as it sounds. Each week's schedule includes two dances held for 250 to 400 couples, one card party—bridge, dominoes, pinochle, hearts, checkers and chess—a variety show using army talent, and a dancing class.

Besides these activities, Miss Vincent has charge of a glee club of fifty voices which presents concerts and programs over the air, a drama club which gives one-act plays and does choral readings. Road shows and programs from surrounding towns are presented on an average of once each week. Before going to Fort Sill, Miss Vincent was head of the speech and drama department at Cameron Junior College, Lawton, for five years, and her students won a number of state and national championships in forensic competitions.

Mrs. George E. Calvert, '20ms, Oklahoma City civic worker and a national leader in Parent-Teacher Association work, is heading up a national nutrition program which involves meal planning, balanced menus and the establishing of a nationwide organization of men and women trained for quantity cooking in case of disaster and evacuation.

This program, using the slogan "Defense Begins at Home," is sponsored by the committee on education for home and family life, of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Mrs. Calvert is chairman of the national committee.

Doubtless there are hundreds of O.U. women graduates in other work vital to

national defense. The picture changes so rapidly that no survey could be complete. But the stories of the alumnae mentioned in this article provide a cross section of the varied and important work being done by Sooner women.

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News From the Campus

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Oklahoma, and Kenneth C. Kaufman. And he gives credit to the "distinguished faculty" of the University for encouraging literary production.

"Oklahoma has lived lustily, vastly and excitingly," the article states. "Small wonder it invites its sons and daughters to attempt the perpetuation of some of that life on the printed page.

"But even the vivid panorama of the Oklahoma scene would hardly account for the rise of literature in the state. One of the other stimulating factors is the University of Oklahoma. The University believes in developing a sectional literature, and particularly an Oklahoma literature. It considers this one of its functions. Partly as a result of this belief, there is the University of Oklahoma Press, managed by Savoie Lotinville, a keen young publisher who delights particularly in the discovery of a new author. x x x

"The Press encourages writers by publishing, but the University also possesses a distinguished faculty, many of whom stimulate authorship by force of example, and one of whom stimulates it particularly by instruction.

"The latter is Walter S. Campbell, better known by his pen name, Stanley Vestal, whose laboratory classes in professional writing are becoming celebrated.

"Finally—and his colleagues in the field of stimulating Oklahoma literature will be the first to admit his importance—there is Kenneth C. Kaufman. Professor Kaufman, a member of the faculty of the University of Oklahoma, is a linguist and he teaches languages. But his ruling passion is for literature, and particularly the literature of the west. He is book review editor of the *Daily Oklahoman*. Because of his peculiar situation he occupies a key place in the literary picture of the west. Where other newspapers must concern themselves with literature on a national plane, Kaufman can devote his chief attention to sectional literature, and he has through his literary page done very much to contribute to the advancement of authorship in his own state. Kenneth Kaufman is a sort of father-confessor to the whole literary population of Oklahoma and to a degree of some of the states surrounding."

Pointing to a list compiled several years ago which named 63 Oklahomans who are writing more or less professionally, Wellman comments that "Outside of California and New York, which seem to be magnets for writers from all states, not many places have a record like that."

"Oklahoma," he wrote, "has a beautiful

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