

Clearing the Desk

THE FAMILIAR "Riding the Sooner Range" featured by Ted Beard is missing from this issue of *Sooner Magazine* because Captain Beard (alumni executive secretary on leave of absence for the duration), is extremely busy with his duties as commanding officer of a large training squadron at McClellan Field in California. Readers will miss his breezy report of his contacts with alumni, but turning out soldiers for the Army Air Forces is a much more important job right now.

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AGAIN WE apologize for the lateness of the magazine. The October issue wasn't quite so late as the September issue, but it was late enough to bleach a few more hairs grey in the editorial sanctum. We hope the University of Oklahoma Press will have this issue back on schedule, or at least reasonably close. Even the omniscient *Sat. Eve. Post* is having delivery trouble these days, so who are we to complain?

THEY ARE coming fairly often now, but every letter from an O. U. man in the armed forces across the seas brings a new thrill of pride. Yesterday we had a letter from a young Sooner in Northern Ireland, renewing his subscription to *Sooner Magazine* and asking for information about Life Membership. A few days before we had a letter from an O. U. officer "somewhere in Australia." He, too, wanted to get the magazine and hear about what's cooking among his friends. Not wanting to bother with the difficulties of sending money from Australia, he said to just start the magazine going to him, and bill his wife, who is in the United States. We did both, and his idea is one that some other Sooners might like to copy.

THERE SEEMS to be an erroneous impression among many wives and parents that there is no use trying to send the magazine to a man in the service "because his address changes so often" or "because he is overseas now." The Alumni Records Office makes a business of changing addresses, and is glad to do it no matter how often an alumnus moves. And as for the distance angle, the Army and the other branches of service see to it that the mail gets through just as fast as possible because letters and magazines from home are great morale builders, and the farther from home the men are, the more important the mail becomes.

DON'T FORGET that if you can't come to Homecoming November 14, you can enjoy two events of the day via WNAD, the University Broadcasting Station (640 on your radio dial). At 1:30 p.m., a salute to the alumni serving in the armed forces will

be broadcast from the Fieldhouse where the big Homecoming Rally will be in progress. And at 2:45 p.m., WNAD will begin its pre-game broadcast of the Sooner-Missouri Homecoming football game.

SPEAKING OF radio, the University is going to miss Homer Heck, '35, who left his position as director of WNAD last month to take a fine position in the NBC network studios at Chicago. He deserves a large share of the credit for building up the standards of the University radio station and making it one of the really outstanding educational radio stations in the entire nation. Educational or public service radio is a field quite different from commercial radio in its objectives and policies, and Homer Heck's achievements in this highly specialized field have been widely recognized in national conferences. The University has a remarkably useful asset in its radio station. Without meaning to cast any aspersions on commercial radio which has its own particular field, it can be said that as a strictly educational station, WNAD can carry on a public service program much more effective than anything that commercial radio interests could do.

WHEN YOU hear about University students going into various reserve enlistment programs, don't think of it as a draft evasion plan. It isn't that at all. It's an officer procurement program. The armed forces consider the reserve enlistment plan to be a fine method of securing good officer material. Unless the student who is in reserve status does college work that the armed forces consider is going to make him a better officer, he is taken out of school and put into active service.

—R. C.

