
Clearing the Desk

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WE'RE SORRY about the lateness of the September magazine. It was the largest issue of the magazine ever published (excepting a 1930 directory issue), and it went to press right at the time the University Press was being swamped with last-minute work connected with enrolment. The reserve enlistment programs and the new University College plan required quite a volume of printed materials, most of which could not be completed until just before enrolment. Anyway, we hope you enjoyed reading the special anniversary articles. One thing we omitted in the September issue was identification of Otis Sullivan, '24, who wrote the fine article about Bob Kerr, genial democratic nominee for governor. Otis is the "dean" of newspaper correspondents at the State Capitol. He has seen governors come and go; has learned their good points and their bad points; and has known them well enough to talk bluntly when he feels like it. Hardest thing about covering the capitol, he says, is to keep from getting cynical.

AS THIS is written, we still don't know whether there will be a Riding the Range feature in the front of this book, by Capt. Ted Beaird, your alumni executive secretary now on leave of absence in the Air Corps. The captain is en route from Miami Beach, Florida, where he completed the training course for Air Corps administrative officers, to the Sacramento Air Depot to begin his first permanent assignment. If we can catch him on the fly, the article will be in this issue. Captain Beaird is proud of all of the U. S. Armed Forces, but if pressed for a personal, confidential opinion, he will admit that he advises his friends that they would be making a terrible mistake to consider joining anything except the Air Corps.

SIGNS OF the war on the campus . . . The *Oklahoma Daily* being issued in tabloid form . . . Department heads and officials looking frantically for students to work part time, instead of students looking for jobs . . . Heavier schedules of scholastic work are the usual thing now; boys want to take as many hours as possible per semester . . . They're studying harder, too, because unless they progress a full fourth of the way toward a degree each year they are not allowed to continue in school under any reserve enlistment program . . . Students have more money to spend (good summer jobs, and many parents have larger incomes) . . . Sailors, sailors everywhere, and not a drop of water; at least not enough to float even a Navy

PT boat . . . Some sailors and some college boys eyeing each other belligerently, but most of them fraternizing on a friendly basis . . . Among thousands of sailors and thousands of students you find all kinds of people . . . Heavy enrolments in engineering, chemistry, and other technical fields important to the war effort . . . More interest in physical fitness . . . The campus isn't insulated from the war; the University is in the war up to its neck.

THE MAGAZINE is publishing hundreds of items each month about O. U. men going into military service, and giving news about the thousands already in. For obvious reasons we can't give exact addresses in the Magazine. Identification of a particular piece of news with a certain military unit might easily reveal something of military significance. However, if you want to try to reach some friends you know to be in the service, you can address a letter to him c/o the Alumni Office, University of Oklahoma, Norman, and we'll take the responsibility of forwarding it on to the person you want to reach. Our address records aren't one hundred percent perfect, and never will be, but they are surprisingly complete when you consider the difficulties. O. U. men in service, members of their families, their friends, faculty members, and our newspaper clipping service all have helped greatly in keeping up with the Sooner fighting men.

FOOTBALL IS NOW about as much a gambling game as it is a sport. A coach starts building a team and gambles on how long some of his key players will get to stick around. Some are awaiting calls to the armed forces which might come after the first game, or the second game—if not before. Most of the others are in various enlisted reserve groups and are therefore subject to call any time, as well as facing automatic elimination from school if they fail to maintain satisfactory scholastic records. Athletic Director Dale Arbuckle told a Norman civic club that he considers football justified this year for just two reasons: (1) to get boys in top condition for the armed forces, and (2) to provide wholesome entertainment for the public as a relief from the war tension. Considering the very considerable number of former Sooner football players now flying combat planes and hunting submarines and doing other vital chores for the Armed Forces, football is a first class conditioner.

—R. C.