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# Clearing the Desk

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THE ALUMNI OFFICE isn't the same without the suave but hard driving personality of Ted Beaird to keep the program going at top speed. Few men can get so enthusiastic as Ted about pushing through a constructive piece of work, or winning a fight for a good cause. And few men have such whole-hearted confidence from their friends and such respect from their foes. But all these qualities which make him missed in the Alumni Office make him doubly valuable to the Army Air Corps, where he has gone to serve as captain, on leave from his duties as alumni executive secretary and manager of the Unon. It's like him to want to be in the thick of whatever is the most important job to do, and that is right where he is now. We'll miss early morning conferences over a second cup of coffee in the Union Cafeteria, and we'll miss the fun of working together to solve one tough problem after another. But the organized alumni can take satisfaction in knowing that they have loaned a mighty good man to the Air Corps.

SOONER MAGAZINE is still getting around to the far places of the world, though the postoffice has declined, for very good reasons, to undertake delivery to our subscribers in the Philippines or in Cairo, Egypt. A letter from Lt. James L. Lain, '37bus, who is on duty in Australia, reports that "Our best contact with the U. S. is through it, not only because we gain information of our 'cobbers' who have also been moved over the seven seas, but by observing the changes in occupations and locations of other Sooners we get a picture of what is happening all over the U. S." The arrival of the magazine, he wrote, is the signal for a group of Sooners to get together for several hours of news digestion and reminiscing. In Lieutenant Lain's own battalion there are Capt. Iliff S. Higginbotham, Tulsa; Capt. Bryan Rakestraw, Oklahoma City, and Lt. Glenn Foster, Muskogee. In another battalion are Lt. J. O. Givens, Oklahoma City, and Lt. Earl Boddy, Tulsa. "Some day we hope to be a part of the troops who will win Bataan back," Lieutenant Lain writes.

O. U. IS a large school, but it's still a small world. Elizabeth Jane Kirkbride, '39bs, '41ms, and Clarence E. Gay, Jr., '41eng, attended the University for four years without ever meeting each other. But after their graduation, they both were employed by the American Gas Association and happened to take up their duties in the company's laboratories in Cleveland, Ohio. They soon became acquainted and another Sooner

romance resulted. The couple were married July 18 in New York City where Mr. Gay is now employed as testing engineer for the Ford Instrument Company, and Mrs. Gay is assistant to the director of the Research Laboratories of the Western Electric Company.

A SOONER war hero (Kenneth M. Taylor, '40) inspired a Sooner writer (Rudolph N. Hill, '26ba, of Wewoka) to write a poem and it was good enough to win the recent quarterly contest of the Poetry Society of Oklahoma. Entitled *Hero from Pearl Harbor*, the poem is as follows:

*His gallant eyes hold that far, brooding  
look*

*Of one who outclimbed death through  
flaming skies.*

*He has no further use for pen or book  
Until Japan's light dim—no more to rise!  
What matters now moon-gold of tropic  
beach,*

*Green loveliness of high-walled mountain-  
side,*

*If liberty be placed beyond man's reach  
And Christian conscience no more be his  
guide?*

*All down the dust-filled centuries he came  
To found his tree of life beside the stream  
Of everlasting truth, to light a flame  
Of ageless love by oasis of dream;  
Which, seen afar across the pilgrim sand,  
May guide his sons into the Promised  
Land.*

ALUMNI OFFICES throughout the country are giving unofficial assistance to army, navy and government officials seeking trained personnel for numerous responsible assignments. In August the Civil Service Commission notified the O. U. Alumni Office that the need for qualified personnel administrators in the federal civilian war agencies was so urgent that an open continuous examination was being held for personnel officers and assistants at salaries ranging from \$2,600 to \$6,500. Of course only fully qualified persons are wanted. Applicants for all positions above the \$2,600 grade must have had successful, full-time paid experience in a regularly constituted personnel agency of a commercial or industrial concern, or of a federal, state or local government, using modern techniques and conducting a comprehensive program of personnel administration; or other similar experience. The various branches of the armed forces from time to time need specialists of certain classifications, and the Alumni Office is assisting unofficially in helping the procurement officers make the contacts they want.

—R. C.