Avoid Costly Replacements



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Clearing the Desk

SADDEST story of the month is the tale of multiplied woe that comes from a young Sooner now in Army service on the West Coast. High blood pressure almost kept him out of the Army, but he finally made the grade. His outfit was sent to an embarkation point and he was all set for foreign service, with visions of adventure in some far distant land. About that time he developed a fine large case of measles and was promptly isolated in a room by himself. While he lay there feeling sorry for himself, his outfit sailed away. And when he recovered, instead of battling Japs in the far reaches of the Pacific, he was put to work guarding prisoners on a garbage truck at the local station. Everything considered, we believe the good humored tone of his letter deserves our own brand of D.S.C. award-Distinguished Smiling Cross.

THIS IS our warning for people who go to Washington. The employment situation being what it is there, something is likely to happen to you as suddenly and unexpectedly as a torpedo on a dark night. For example, take the case of Carrie Fay Russell, University sophomore from Altus, who with a perfectly carefree mind went into the offices of the Federal Communications Commission at Washington to visit a friend from Oklahoma who was working there. An executive in the office noticed her, and (perhaps noting the carefree expression) said "Are you not working anywhere?" There was a brief conversation and almost before she knew what had happened to her, Miss Russell, slightly dazed, had taken off her hat and started to work as a government employee. So if you are planning to visit Washington, don't say we didn't warn you.

FROM Wailuki, Maui, T. H., comes some news related to the war although our correspondent, John S. Brown, '25law, is careful not to divulge any military intelligence. Alumnus Brown reports that citizens there are rationed on gasoline (10 gallons a month), tires (not any), and liquor (one quart per week). Whether the liquor is permitted to keep citizens from worrying about the gasoline and tire situation wasn't explained. Mr. Brown did say that he met a sergeant the other day who knew Frank Watson, '25law, president of his class at O. U. He also reports growing familiarity with complete blackouts, air raid drills, gas drills, and other civilian defense activities. His law partner, A. E. Jenkins, '12law, is acting provost marshal for the island of Maui, appointed by the military governor.

IT'S NATURAL, perhaps, to think of men in naval service as being pretty well

cut off from regular communication lines. However, we are pleased to hear rather often from Sooners who spend much of their time on the briny deep chasing submarines or convoying convoys or doing whatever job the Navy is most preoccupied with at the moment. Your editor and the alumni secretary particularly appreciated the spirit of a letter from an ensign, whose name we won't reveal, who wrote, "I was tempted to drop out this year since I am in the Navy and far from Oklahoma, but it came to mind that the Association has probably been hard hit by the withdrawal of many members busy with the war effort -consequently I am glad to participate again." Then we heard from a recent alumnus serving as petty officer on a ship in the Atlantic, who reported that he has received Sooner Magazine regularly through the mail service maintained for U.S. fighting men wherever they go. This petty officer, incidentally, reported that he gets a kick each month out of condescending to lend his magazine to another alumnus aboard the ship who is his superior officer. Additional naval intelligence has been received from Ensign Al Naifeh, '40law, who wrote via the postmaster at San Francisco to send in a dollar for membership in the Law School Alumni Association. And he added another dollar for a similar membership for Capt. Bryan Rakestraw, '39law, "whom I understand is pretty far out too and might not remember to apply."

NEXT TIME you visit Norman, bring some pennies and nickels with you if you expect to stop down town. Norman has installed parking meters in the first two blocks of Main Street east of the Santa Fe railroad. And don't say it's a silly idea for such a small town. Because Norman has got big-town traffic conditions since the various naval projects nearby are getting into full swing. You can park 20 minutes for 1 cent, or two hours for 5 cents.

ALUMNI INTERESTED in civilian defense activities in their own communities might well investigate the possibility of sponsoring weekly "victory programs" featuring 16 mm. sound films that can be obtained from the Visual Education Department of the University. A few suggestive titles among those in the library are Fighting the Fire Bomb, Japs Bomb U.S.A., Subcontracting for Defense, U. S. Blasts Marshall Islands, Russia Stops Hitler, The Warning, Pearl Harbor-Normandie, Air Raid Warden, Vitamin B-1. As Thurman White, director of visual education at O. U., points out, America's foes have used movies as an instrument of war. We can do the same thing, and the University is ready to supply you the ammunition.-R.C.