

# Clearing the Desk

By R. C.

SUCH A vast number of O. U. alumni are now on active duty with the armed forces of the United States, that the Alumni Association finds it quite impossible to send free copies of *Sooner Magazine* to all of them—much as we would like to. Free copies are going to the Officers' Clubs at a score of army posts and camps where the largest concentrations of Sooners are found, and word from some of these points indicates that this service is much appreciated. However, only a limited number of the men on active duty will have access to these free copies. We are now glad to announce that the group subscription price of \$2 a year for the magazine has been made available to anyone who would like to give *Sooner Magazine* to relatives or friends in the armed services of the United States or our Allies. Inquiries as to whether a certain man in the service is already receiving the *Magazine* will be answered promptly by the editor. Or a list of non-subscribing alumni will be supplied upon request to persons or groups wishing to sponsor subscriptions. Here is something that doesn't cost a great deal, but is a real personal favor to the Sooner alumnus on active duty. The following comment from an alumnus on duty in Alabama tells the story: "You cannot realize the pleasure we get from *Sooner Magazine*. This war is a full time job, making letter writing and keeping up with our friends almost impossible. But the *Magazine* comes in here to help us keep in contact. We surely want to know about what is happening to the O. U. boys."

WAR HAS affected almost everything, but there is one little matter which pursues the uneven tenor of its way just as in the past. This perennial argument over the merits of *Boomer Sooner* as the University pep song. After the Kansas basketball game, some "O. U. Friend" wrote a letter to the *Oklahoma Daily* like this: "You may not know it, but O. U. has growing pains. It is on its way to becoming one of the big universities of the U. S. A. Brandt realizes it, and his call for a song that came from the heart of Oklahoma was one indication of it. Yale was Big Big when O. U. was born and it was natural for O. U. to ape the big boys. Now O. U. is BIG and should act it, in song, in conduct, etc." Far from being convinced by this epistle, David Wood, the sprightly sports columnist of the *Daily*, came right back with an argument in favor of the much discussed pep song. "Okay," said Wood, "so Yale

has a song *Boola Boola* and the Sooners took the tune. Yes, and Harvard, which is America's oldest university, took its song from an old Irish tune, *Believe Me, If All These Endearing Young Charms*. The national anthem is an old beerhall song, and *America* has a striking resemblance to *God Save the King*. Besides, the Sooner band puts a midwestern fervor into the piece that makes the way Yale men sing it sound like Chopin's funeral march. Personally, I get a great thrill out of hearing that song as the Sooner Band plays it and I always will. If someone can write a tune like *Notre Dame Victory March* or *Far Above Cayuga's Waters* it'll sell itself to Sooner fans. Until then, *Boomer Sooner* has plenty of what it takes."

IF ANY O. U. folk happen to drop by Eek, 50 miles south of Bethel of the Kuskokwim River, in Alaska, they should stop to see Jennie Robinette Bashelier, '33fa. She is teaching school there for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Mail service is a little slow, but reaches there about once a month, she writes.

NUMBER OF degrees from O.U. to be found in certain families is certainly surprising. When we started the informal search for the family with the most degrees, we didn't realize how many entrants there might be. Latest nomination is the family of Mrs. H. Brauer, of Norman, the nomination being made by a son-in-law, Edgar D. Eaves, who is associate professor of mathematics at the University of Tennessee. (His count, at least, should be unimpeachable!) His list includes: Mrs. Ben Theimer (Hanna Brauer), B.A. and M.A. degrees; Mrs. Robert Mills (Marie Brauer), B.A. and M.A.; Mrs. Henry Gross (Margrete Brauer), B.A. and M.A.; Mrs. Edgar D. Eaves (Dorothea Brauer), B. A. and M. A.; Dr. Siegfried Brauer, B.S. and. M. D.; Albert Brauer, B.S.; Ruth Brauer, B.A.; and Rev. Richard Brauer, M.S. in Education. This makes a total of 13 degrees, and if we count Mr. Eaves's B.S. and M.A. degrees from the University, there is a total of 15 degrees in the Brauer family.

HAVE YOU any recent news about an O. U. alumnus on duty with the armed forces? We want news about the Sooner men now soldiers and sailors and marines (even if it does run into five pages of 8-point type, as it did in this issue!) We also want changes of address of men in the service, so we can reach them with news from the Alumni Office. Drop a card to the editor.

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