
Clearing the Desk

IT'S NOT very original to say that war causes some strange things, but we can't think how else to describe it when an alumnus writes in to say that he is a law graduate now serving in the Army Engineer Corps! Evidently in a somewhat surprised frame of mind, he writes that the engineers seem to be pretty good guys after all, and he is willing to make the sacrifice. In order to save him from possible reprisals, we will keep the identity of this Law Barn backslider a deep military secret.

ANOTHER ALUMNUS surprised at his fate is Clancy Pearce, the former editor of the *Oklahoma Daily*, who used to write scathing editorials about the Oklahoma Aggies and who now finds himself assigned as Private Pearce to serve at one of the smaller Oklahoma agricultural colleges which is essentially a branch of A. and M. College.

LATEST WORD from that fast moving rider of the Sooner Range, Capt. Ted Beaird, your alumni executive secretary serving in the Army Air Corps on leave of absence from his duties at O. U., is that he is stationed at Pendleton Field, Oregon, where he has been given responsibilities in the post headquarters. Though not going into great detail as to the comparative merits of Oklahoma and Oregon, he indicates that there is no doubt whatever that Oregon exceeds the Sooner state in snowfall!

PHOTOGRAPHERS MISSED a wonderful picture when a half dozen members of the University administrative staff traveled from Norman to Oklahoma City last month for a hearing on the University's budget request before the State Regents for Higher Education. The six men crowded into a utilities department delivery truck which had two temporary benches in it, and bounced to the State Capitol in a style like the old-fashioned police patrol wagon. It wasn't done as a stunt either, as there were no photographers or reporters invited. It was simply a means of meeting present-day travel difficulties.

STUDENTS WHO leave school to go into the armed forces are now being given a special certificate by the University, showing that they have been listed on the Honor Roll of O. U. alumni and former students fighting in World War II. It dignifies the occasion, and makes it a lot different from plain "quitting school."

SOME MONTHS ago the Alumni Office sent out a magazine subscription renewal

letter written in rhyme. Persons who failed to respond received a second letter, also in rhyme. The total response was excellent, indicating that people like a touch of humor now and then. One alumna did not renew her subscription, but was sufficiently moved by the solicitation that she fired back the following rhymed reply:

Really and truly I liked your rhyme,
'Twas even better the second time.
And it makes me glum to tell you "No,"
But the plain truth is—I haven't the dough!

THE FATHER of an O. U. alumnus serving in North Africa sends us a letter that contains a strong message for people back home. "This war is a struggle dealing with men's lives," the Sooner soldier wrote. "And it breaks my heart when I see pictures or read about the lazy way some of these young kids are trained. If they would only take some officers and non-commissioned officers who have seen battle, who would tear their hearts out to see that a young kid can take care of himself, to see that he knows some of the little tricks of the trade. I have seen those that did know the tricks and I have seen them live; and I have also seen these poor untrained kids come out of replacement centers who did not know and who fell by the wayside. . . . It is not only the way some of the instructors teach the kids, but such things as strikes, people kicking because they cannot have their Sunday afternoon rides, or because they cannot get an inch-thick steak every other day. All these things are the things that burn us up, and we would all feel much better if they were straightened out." Some of them are being straightened out, we are glad to report. Only a few weeks ago some fliers arrived in Oklahoma straight from the North Africa battlefields with the special assignment of teaching student aviators the tricks learned under actual combat conditions. As for civilians kicking about lack of pleasure gasoline and inch-thick steaks, there is surprisingly little of that—at least in this part of the country. Of course one of the things we are fighting for is freedom to gripe, which is an old American custom, but at the same time we fall right in line with whatever steps are necessary to win this war.

NEXT MONTH we hope to present in *Sooner Magazine* a complete list of O. U. alumni and former students now serving in the armed forces, along with the casualty list as it now stands, and the record of awards and decorations given Sooners. Don't miss the February issue.

R. C.

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