
Clearing the Desk

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WHILE YOU are doing this "global thinking" that is so highly recommended at present by all the best commentators, we suggest that you begin to think of the University of Oklahoma Association as being a pretty global sort of thing itself. A checkup in mid-May, as we started mailing out a V-mail letter to all Sooners in the U.S. forces overseas showed a total of 489, and there are doubtless many more whose addresses we do not yet have. More than a fifth of those overseas are paid members of the Alumni Association, and mail reports indicate that every copy of *Sooner Magazine* that goes overseas is read by more than one O. U. man.

MONEY IS about the least of the worries of many of the boys in service. Registrar George Wadsack wrote his son in the Air Corps to inquire if a gift of money would be welcome for a certain anniversary that was coming up. Since young George was stationed at some unrevealed point accessible only by air-mail and packages limited to a few ounces, money seemed the most logical gift. But young George vetoed the suggestion immediately—he wasn't even drawing his regular pay, for the reason that there was nothing to buy at the place where he was, and the Army was providing all the necessities. Another alumnus, writing from the "heart of the New Guinea jungles," sent an Australian pound note to pay for a year's subscription to *Sooner Magazine*. "I don't know whether the bank will take this or not," he wrote, "but it's the only kind of money I have seen for months. If the bank will take it, send me the magazine; if not, just keep it for a souvenir—there isn't any way to spend it here."

PAUL REED, '16, the Sulphur automobile dealer and hard-working alumni member of the Athletic Council for many years, has had a war experience that not many men could duplicate. He enlisted in the Navy Seabees, went into the South Pacific, spent six months working with the motor pool on Guadalcanal during the thick of the fighting there, then flew back to the United States to transfer to the Army and accept a commission as lieutenant in the Transportation Corps which he had earned by pre-war work as a reserve officer. His grin when he visited the campus in May on a brief leave was as wide as ever, but there was a serious expression in his eyes that traced back to Guadalcanal.

THESE ARE precarious days for an alumni worker, who most any day is likely to stumble over a colonel or a brigadier general whom he has overlooked in compiling the service records. Harold Keith,

'29ba, '39ma, this journal's hard-working sports editor, deserves the credit for digging up the facts about Col. Roger Wood Peard, '10, of the U. S. Marine Corps. Keith finally got it by writing Congressman Mike Monroney, '24ba, who got the information about Colonel Peard's present address from the Marine headquarters in Washington. The colonel did not receive a degree from O. U. and his name never got into the main alumni file. But it's there from now on!

ALUMNI IN the vicinity of St. Louis are invited to the annual boat ride sponsored by the O. U. Alumni Association of St. Louis. This year it's scheduled on June 9, according to Mrs. E. J. Merritt (Rosa Osmond, '35), who visited the alumni office in May. Her husband is the new president of the St. Louis Club. The annual boat ride has become quite an institution, and judging from the repeat business each year, it's a very popular way of bringing alumni together to discuss the benefits of higher learning—or whatever it is that people discuss on boat rides.

CLASS SPIRIT at the University of Oklahoma has been increasing each year for the last several years. The Class of '43 was the best organized of any in recent years, with Jim Davidson, law student and R.O.T.C. senior, heading the activities as class president. Jim organized a fine group of committees, had several very respectable class meetings, raised an amazingly large amount of cash to erect a monument of President Emeritus W. B. Bizzell, fast-talked the faculty into exempting the better students in the class from final examinations, and organized a "Senior Week" series of events which may well grow into a tradition on the campus. The class elected Sue Starr, Oklahoma City girl who is a Letzeiser medal winner and an outstanding student leader, to represent the class on the Alumni Association's Advisory Council from Recent Classes.

WE APPRECIATE the good intentions of—but violently disagree with—the too numerous alumni who comment that they failed to give us address changes because they thought we wouldn't want to be bothered with making so many changes. As a matter of fact, any alumni program is almost completely dependent upon its address list. Keeping addresses up to date is the very foundation of every other thing done in an alumni office. If the addresses aren't correct, most of the other work is wasted. So bring on your address changes, no matter how often or how many. We have made more than 20,000 address changes in the last year, which ought to indicate that we can handle it on a quantity basis.

R. C.