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# Clearing the Desk

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*ON THE FACE OF IT* there would seem to be little connection between a dice game indulged in by officers in a certain headquarters on an island in the South Pacific war area, and the life membership program of the O. U. Alumni Association. But there was in at least one case. An officer who had unusually good luck wrote us the next morning that it seemed an excellent idea to invest part of his "ill gotten gains" in a life membership. He enclosed a check as payment in full. We are still wondering whether this opens up a spectacular and overlooked field for membership promotion!

*A QUICK TRIP* to Chicago on business for the Oklahoma Memorial Union gave us an opportunity to visit briefly with several Sooner alumni, including Joe Hicks, '23ba, who operates a flourishing business as public relations counsel; Wesley Nunn, '17, chairman of the Chicago Advisory Council of the Alumni Association and advertising manager of Standard Oil of Indiana; Bob Dunlap, '35ba, a Sooner football great of the '30s; H. A. "Buck" Graham, another former Sooner athlete; Homer Heck, '35, a radio dramatic director for NBC network studios in Chicago and now directing the famous Vic and Sade serial show; and Christine Squire Hill, '33ba, '40ma, staff member in the Chicago Bureau of the *United Press*. At a luncheon session with Joe Hicks presiding as the gracious host, we talked about Sooner football and other O. U. affairs including the possibility of organizing a University of Oklahoma Alumni Charter Club for the Chicago area.

*WE ARE* frequently called upon by alumni to tell them what is being done now with this or that fraternity house. It might be of general interest to give the whole list.

Occupied by soldiers in the Army Specialized Training Program—Beta Theta Pi, Phi Kappa Psi and Kappa Alpha.

Occupied by sailors in the Navy Training Unit—Phi Gamma Delta, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Chi and Sigma Nu.

Leased and operated by the University as houses for civilian men—Pi Lambda Phi, Delta Chi and Kappa Sigma.

Operated by fraternity alumni associations as houses for civilian men—Delta Upsilon and Delta Tau Delta.

Leased and operated by the University as houses for women students—Phi Kappa Sigma, Sigma Alpha Mu, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Acacia and Alpha Tau Omega.

Sigma Delta Tau sorority house also is under lease to the University for use of women students. Phi Mu house is unoccupied. All other sorority houses are still operated by the chapters.

*THE MAGAZINE* staff plans to have a good display of pictures and clippings about the war achievements of alumni for exhibition in the Union Building at Homecoming time, November 6.

*SPECIAL NOTE* to readers who have an annual membership-subscription in the Alumni Association: Time was when your Alumni Office staff was a bit regretful when an annual member changed to a life membership. The reason, a very practical one, was that all the money paid on the life membership went into the permanent trust fund, and until the money could be invested and start drawing interest, the new life membership constituted a liability instead of an asset. Under the new plan adopted this year, 20 percent of each life membership goes into the current operating budget to take care of that period of financial drouth existing until the life membership is paid in full and the investment drawing interest. The moral: don't hold back any more on changing from annual to life membership!

*WE KEEP* telling readers in the far-off places of the world that the war has caused drastic changes on the campus. Perhaps we ought to assure you that some things haven't changed so much. The Union Building was a strange place to most students during July and August with an Army mess occupying the Cafeteria, but the project was a temporary one and the Army moved out when its permanent mess quarters were completed. We quote from the personal column of Mildred Nichols, editor of the *Oklahoma Daily*:

Thick smoke, crowded tables, a long line of coffee-seekers, noise of rapid conversation, a nickelodeon trying to be heard—all this made the first day of school and the re-opening of the Union Cafeteria to civilians seem like old times.

Among the large mobs which thronged the place were many who just sat, smiling happily over their coffee and inhaling the good old atmosphere. It was sort of a return to normalcy.

And the amazing thing was that civilians greatly outnumbered students in uniform. In a way it was a general reunion center because everyone was busy yelling at returning friends and recounting summer adventures.

The old mobs were all there—the government profs, a group of engineers, the journalism table, and even a few bridge players. In short, the Union really seemed like the Union for the first time since last spring. And it was good.

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