

Clearing the Desk

IT'S ALWAYS been difficult to classify University alumni by occupations because they keep changing so often. Right now it would be completely hopeless. For instance, in Wichita, Kansas, we ran into Florence Collins, '43bus, who majored in French at the University. Was she teaching French? No, she had got a job in an airplane factory some time ago; tired of an office job and volunteered for training in engineering and mathematics; and now she's working in the stress analysis department—one of the most technical phases of aviation work.

THEN THERE'S John Paynter, '26ba, who is a high school principal by profession but is now an executive in the engineering field service program of one of the booming airplane plants in Wichita. Incidentally, we are indebted to John for an interesting tour around the environs of the big plane factories, the beautiful campus of Wichita University, and other points of interest. If he ever loses interest in the aviation industry, which doesn't seem likely at this time, he should apply for a post with the Wichita Chamber of Commerce.

GOT ANY opinion about University or alumni affairs that you would like to express to other alumni? At the suggestion of Joe Lewis, '21law, Ponca City attorney, *Sooner Magazine* plans to resume a regular department for letters to the editor, beginning with the December issue. Have you got a pet idea as to the kind of man most needed in the presidency of the University? If the regents haven't yet asked you for your advice, here's a chance to give it anyway! What do you think the University ought to do to improve its educational service, to improve its public relations, to get along better with the Legislature, to combine liberal with specialized education—and so on. Or do you have suggestions for changes in *Sooner Magazine*, new projects for the Alumni Association, or anything else to get off your chest? Write a letter and address it to the editor of *Sooner Magazine*; other alumni will enjoy reading it—or if they don't maybe it will stimulate them to express *their* opinions. Just hold it down to 300 words and don't get libelous. Otherwise the sky's the limit.

THIS TALK about the University's financial picture has aroused some difference of opinion, but there's at least one woman in the state who was pretty well convinced that the institution was threatened with some serious financial problems. She wrote a letter to Virginia Hawk, '37, director of radio station WNAD, and enclosed five dollars. "I want to keep on hearing the programs over WNAD, and

if you need money to keep it going I want to do what I can to help," she wrote.

WE HAVE all heard about white people exploiting the natives in the far outpost of the world but Lt. Joseph L. Hull, '42law, who hadn't seen an electric light, a cold drink or a white woman for 11 months when he wrote us, reports that history is being reversed instead of repeating itself. He wrote from an island in the Southwest Pacific that the native population is busily exploiting the whites there. Due to the work of missions throughout the islands, it is not unusual to hear a group of natives discussing a trade in English which would make an Oxford man feel perfectly at home. Lieutenant Hull adds that reading matter is so scarce that the men in his battery read every page of every issue of *Sooner Magazine*, though 90 percent of them have never been in Oklahoma.

SGT. THURMAN WHITE, '41ms, late of the Extension Division staff and now of the U. S. Marines, photographic section, wrote to complain that this department isn't as chatty as it used to be. Well, neither are conditions!

MANY BUSY alumni might have missed the historic fact that the O. U. Alumni Association was mentioned in the *New Yorker* recently. This sophisticated journal manufactured a laugh out of a news item from Norman, concerning the difficulty of keeping up with alumni addresses in wartime, which was printed in the *New York World-Telegram* with some of the essential information chopped off before publication. There is no use in our trying to explain what was funny about it, because the humor lies in the whimsical subtlety with which the *New Yorker* serves up such items. We just thought you ought to know.

THERE'S SOME talk around the campus of organizing a very exclusive club composed of University staff members who haven't been mentioned for the presidency since Joe Brandt resigned.

WHAT GOES ON among the members of the Class of '15? Lem Tittle, '15 law, attorney at Mangum, has asked the question and if members of the class will respond, we'll print the news in our Roll Call department.

DON'T FAIL to read, and think about, the newspaper editorials on Joe Brandt's resignation which are printed in this issue of the Magazine. Much as friends of the University appreciate many of the constructive comments made, the fact remains that the editorials in general reveal a regrettable absence of true understanding of the University problems.—R.C.

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