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# Clearing the Desk

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*NOTE TO* those engineering alumni who want a picture of the Engine Building on the cover of this monthly compendium: We've had several sessions with our photographer about this, but he still doesn't give. We have about come to the conclusion, reluctantly, that he doesn't consider the Engine Building exactly photogenic. Personally, we never had a class in this domain of slide rules and green shirts, but so many Sooners have gone through there that we think the building rates a cover on the Magazine—artistic or no.

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*ANYONE HAVING* trouble buying a small war bond per month might take a look at a Sooner school-teaching couple, B. W. Baker, '32m.ed, and Mrs. Baker (Ruth York, '30ed), who both teach at Petersburg, a community near Ringling. They have bought \$2,500 worth of war bonds in the Third War Loan drive with savings which they accumulated from their own labor by means of thrift, ingenuity and plenty of hard work. They own four cows and 350 laying hens, had a large garden during the summer, and even grew a coffee plant. And they take care of it all without hiring help.

*ANOTHER SOONER* making a home front contribution to the war effort is Mrs. Doris Waters-Scherer, '20ba, '29ma, a housewife in Billings, Montana, who has canned 600 quarts of food this year.

*AND FOR VARIETY*, we might mention the "Victory garden" planted on a Southwest Pacific island by Capt. Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37law, and other members of his Field Artillery unit. This group of enterprising American soldiers bought a small pig from the natives, fattened him up to 250 pounds, and then had barbecued pork, served up with roasting ears, fresh tomatoes, lima beans and lettuce out of their own garden which they had planted and cultivated. Captain Gunning reports that about 20 Sooners in his vicinity got together one night recently and had a good session.

*TRYING TO UNTANGLE* the University's various and sundry terms and semesters—Army, Navy, Civilian, long and short, and with various combinations and complications—is hard to explain intelligibly unless you go into the whole background and show the reason for it. M. L. Wardell, '19ba, the genial acting di-

rector of the Extension Division, solved the problem neatly at a recent meeting when he was explaining the University's war program to an alumni group. "We don't call them semesters or terms any more," he explained. "We just call them Starts and Stops."

*THIS MONTH* we revived a Letter to the Editor department in the Magazine and this is a general invitation for readers to write us letters about whatever is on their minds. Of course we are most interested in expressions of opinion about University affairs, though for general reader interest some communications from Sooners overseas telling about their personal experiences—as far as censorship will permit—would be most welcome.

*A FEW* alumni have expressed concern over the Regents' decree of supervision for the editorial side of the *Oklahoma Daily*, fearing that there is interference with freedom of speech. Actually, the thing the Regents are trying to do is not to put any curb on legitimate expression of student opinion, but rather to establish the principle of editorial responsibility. Anywhere they go after leaving school, writers have to think about the consequences of what they write for publication. While they are in school, learning the trade, is none too early to learn the necessity of using restraint, good taste, and good editorial skill.

*WHENEVER YOU READ* news stories emanating from Oklahoma City, the chances are good that some O. U. alumnus or former student had something to do with preparing the story. We were talking in the office the other day about the considerable number of Sooners working in newspaper and wire service offices in Oklahoma's capital city, and the office staff compiled a list of more than a dozen from personal knowledge. Probably it isn't complete, but here's the list: Associated Press—Francis Stilley, '42journ, Marjorie Trent, '43journ; United Press—Lee Bond, '32bs, Roy Calvin, '41; *Oklahoman* and *Times*—Otis Sullivant, '24; Ralph Sewell, '42ba; David Wood, '42; George Cornell, '43journ; Carter Bradley, '40 journ; Gene Campbell, '42journ; Raymond Parr, '32ba; Frances Townsend, '36ba; Dorothy Quinan, '42ba; Horace Thompson, '30law; Harold Mueller, '18-'19; Ernestine Brown, '39journ; John Turner, '35ba.