



Serving a Need for Alumni

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Oklahoma Memorial Union
University of Oklahoma, Norman

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Clearing the Desk

BEGINNING WITH THIS issue, *Sooner Magazine* will publish from time to time on page 1 guest editorials written by University of Oklahoma faculty members and perhaps other specialists in various fields who are in close contact with O.U. The staff believes that faculty members have data at hand relating to the University which will prove of interest to Sooner alumni. The first of these, which appears in this issue, was written by Leonard Logan, '14ba, who represents the University on the State Postwar Planning Commission set up at the suggestion of Governor Kerr. Dr. Logan has been on leave of absence as sociology professor but recently returned to the campus.

THE INTRICACIES involved in maintaining war records on more than 8,000 alumni in service were further complicated last month following receipt of a letter from Lt. Ed Ellinghausen, '41ba, in the Southwest Pacific, reporting capture by his outfit of a Japanese soldier, an O.U. graduate. "We have captured a Jap here who speaks perfect English," Lieutenant Ellinghausen wrote. "On inquiry it was found he was a graduate of O.U. What gets me is the fact he is only a Pfc."

IN ANOTHER LETTER from the Pacific area, Lt. J. F. "Maj" Malone, '37ba, eloquently described the jitters a serviceman experiences while "waiting for the word that will tell him whether he is a mother or a father." "If an expectant father in civilian life feels any approach to martyrdom as he bites his nails in those final hours before the delivery room," he wrote, "let me say to him his moment is bliss compared to the soldier who paces his slit trench under bombing and fire." News was later received by the Alumni Office, probably several days before it arrived at a particular slit trench in the Pacific, that Lieutenant and Mrs. Malone were the parents of a baby daughter named Peggy.

A PERTINENT followup to Joe Brandt's Chicago speech and Oklahoma's heated editorial response was a letter from Clara McCoy Borjes, '36ed, West Los Angeles, California, which appeared in the *Daily Oklahoman*. Mr. Brandt termed the state's future "a grave question mark" and gave as the reason for his statement that the state has been dominated by eastern financial interests which have drained it of its natural resources, mainly oil. Indignant state editors replied to the former O.U. president in their editorial columns, giving in the main figures and descriptions of Oklahoma's productivity. Since Mrs. Borjes represents one school of thought on present-day con-

ditions in Oklahoma, her letter is here reproduced in part.

Recently I rode a crowded bus 20 miles to pay 25 cents for a week-old copy of your paper. I have at hand your editorial answering Joe Brandt's article about Oklahoma. I graduated from Oklahoma University in 1935 but I do not feel Oklahoma gave me an education. I earned it working as a curb-hop at \$15 to \$30 a month. My B.S. brought me a job—cashier in a department store at \$55 a month for 48 to 50 hours per week. My husband took a short course at O. U. and walked the streets begging for work at 20 cents an hour to get a start. After several years of this we left Oklahoma for California where, after two weeks, my husband began earning \$70 a week (and not defense work). Mr. Editor, loyalty, which you say Mr. Brandt lacks, is a poor spread for bread and it doesn't dress our children.

Frankly I think you should thank Joe Brandt for exposing the shameful way our beautiful state has been gutted, our fine University made the laughing stock of educational circles (and you helped in this), and our people driven away.

In case you are still reading, Mr. Editor, I should like to tell you that many of us "Okies" would like to return. Perhaps you are not interested in that, but what about our little brothers and sisters growing up there who want jobs, homes, and families?

Let us have some editorials skipping the grand phrases about wheat (check and see who owns the most wheat acreage around Enid—not the independent farmer) but give us some concrete examples of new industries, actual jobs that will be available, after the war, to Oklahomans.

EVEN IN THESE hurry scurry days, people never get too busy to talk to the new high school graduates back home about coming to the University. A sergeant stationed at Chickasha, a business graduate, was showing a couple of home town friends downtown Norman the other day, reported that he was trying to get them enrolled in school. A V-12 trainee now attending O.U. in the Navy Training Program has acted as a sort of good will agent for O.U. in his home town in another state, and there is the possibility that several of his friends may enrol here.

WITH THE DEPARTURE of Roscoe Cate to new quarters in the Ad Building the whole Alumni Office is left in the hands of a woman staff. This includes the Alumni Association, the Placement Bureau, the Graduate Records Office and *Sooner Magazine*. Having one job to concentrate on will simplify matters a great deal for Roscoe. For the last two years he's been dashing off in all directions at the same time in his various capacities as acting-manager of the Oklahoma Memorial Union, acting executive secretary of the Alumni Association and editor-manager of the magazine. Despite all the wartime complications, besides having too much to do, he made notable progress in both the Union and alumni programs and we can say with authority that he'll do fine in his new job.—E. W.