

# SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

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## Clearing the Desk

SINCE A new editor will move in behind this desk June 1, this appears to be a particularly appropriate time to revive this former regular department of *Sooner Magazine* which was shucked off when the publication was trimmed to fit the available paper supply. This process of desk clearing isn't at all complicated and will probably consist mainly of collecting together some old tax receipts, a parody on *The Raven*, a murder mystery or two and a few choice poems and cartoons.

THANKS ARE in order, at this point, to the many persons whom I have had the pleasure of working with and meeting inside this knotty-pine-walled room during the last several years. Particular people who have made getting out a magazine fun are Mrs. Mary Turnbull, keeper of alumni records, whose amazing store of knowledge about alumni data has helped untangle many a knotty problem; Elaine Larecy, the new editor as of now and always a good person to have around, who has done a masterful job during the war of keeping up to date information on O.U. men and women in service in her former capacity as war records secretary, and Elizabeth Lees, who has handled the writing of the Roll Call section and always managed to make the routine rollicking. A special doffing of the cap goes also to that artist with the camera, Richard Meek, who has produced almost all of the cover pictures for the last two years or more. I humbly admit leaving out some of the credit lines which Richard certainly deserved, but this was not intentional and I'm sure regular readers could identify the Meek technique at a glance anyway.

FOR THE INFORMATION of you people who have had qualms about the University's collapsing during the war years, be assured by a sidelines observer that the old place is going to pull through all right. There's a beautiful building program on paper and maybe more money for faculty paychecks and operating expenses. What the University needs now is a goodly corps of vigorous, inspirational teachers on the faculty, teachers who like students and whose main purpose is to teach students to think.

ALUMNI who have long been gone from these campus haunts are going to have to do some thinking, too, along international lines. If college alumni wherever they are in the world were well informed and saw clearly the issues involved in maintaining justice and freedom, not for the privileged few but for all people, they would constitute a powerful bloc for good. Sometimes it's amazing to discover that some college graduates actually believe what most editorial writers dish out day after day, or subscribe to those myths of racial superiority which have been bandied about by so many and understood by so few, or hold to the inevitability of depressions and a life of starvation for three-fourths

of the people in the world. There are a lot of prejudices and superstitions to be whipped, all right, and a lot of facts to trace down, but the goal should be worth the effort to a group as well equipped for the task as college alumni.

SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS of the University have forged right ahead during the war years despite terrific wartime handicaps of depleted staffs, rapid turnover in personnel and shortages of materials to work with. There's the University Press, which is becoming known as one of the leading college presses in the country, and station WNAD in the Union Tower which daily broadcasts a full schedule of newscasts, music and educational programs.

QUITE A FEW alumni with the armed forces in Europe will remain over there for several years to come to help with the gigantic rebuilding program as members of the Civil Affairs Division. One of these, Lt. Truman Pouncey, who is also a former O.U. faculty member, has promised to write something soon for *Sooner Magazine* about his work in the field of Military Government. What Lieutenant Pouncey will have to say should be of interest to all alumni, who must become aware of what a vast job the rebuilding of that devastated continent is going to be. We also hope to publish in some future issues the comments of President George L. Cross on what he considers the future of liberal education at the University.

A MAN Oklahoma may well be proud of is Congressman Mike Monroney who has been recognized during the last several years as one of the coming young statesmen in Congress. Re-elected last fall for his fourth term in the House of Representatives, Congressman Monroney is to be commended for taking a stand on leading issues, stating his position and staying with his decision even though he may not have been on the popular side. At present, he is working on one of the biggest assignments of his congressional career as vice chairman of the committee making a study of Congress for the purpose of rendering that body more efficient, effective and intelligent in its actions.

IN WASHINGTON, D.C., there is an organization called the Educational Policies Commission, composed of leading educators and teachers, which is working for the establishment of an International Office of Education as "the best means of assuring that no nation, ever again, will be able to train its youth for aggression." In a leaflet describing the functions of the proposed International Office of Education and the services which it might perform, the need for the U.S. to take the lead in setting up such an agency was seen as follows, "After the war, the task of adjusting American schools and colleges to peace will be a great one; but, in restoring their own educational systems, the Ameri-

can people cannot afford to ignore their duties of world citizenship. All the shining educational improvements made in their own country, if not paralleled by strides toward international aid and understanding, may well be sacrificed to another war."—E.W.

## The Cover

A recent meeting of the Alumni Club of Washington, D.C., brought together this distinguished quartet of alumni who hold high positions in the public life of the nation. Included are (left to right seated) Maj. Gen. William P. T. Hill, '32ba, of the Marine Corps; former Congressman Jed Johnson, '15, recently appointed judge of the U.S. Customs Court in New York; and (left to right standing) Congressman Mike Monroney, '24ba, of the Fifth Congressional District, and Paul A. Walker, '12law, of the Federal Communications Commission.

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