

A Must for Alumni

When University of Oklahoma graduates return to the campus there is one must on their visitation list.

Strangers to the campus will go into the president's office and never notice the quiet unassuming man who sits in the first office but nearly all graduates will stop to speak.

The man is Emil Kraettli, '18, University secretary since 1913. Many of the graduates and former students are personal friends.

Kraettli, his hair now more white than black, sees one thing wrong with the sudden growth of enrolment at O.U. He used to know nearly all the students personally—now he only knows two or three hundred by their first name.

"I know just about as many but not in proportion to the size of the school," he explained. This is a serious drawback to the man who likes to know people—especially students.

His door is always open despite a heavy load of work. He also serves as secretary to the University's board of regents.

If anyone wants to know something about the University—past, present or future—Mr. Kraettli is the man to see. He can quickly recall O.U.'s early history explaining the turbulent days of its growth.

He has been a close personal friend as well as secretary to five University presidents, starting with Dr. Stratton D. Brooks. Since 1919 he has served as secretary of the board of regents.

When the board comes to Norman for a meeting it doesn't have to worry about the agenda or any information concerning a situation they want to discuss. The agenda is neatly and efficiently prepared under Kraettli's guidance and he has all the necessary details handy.

He has missed only two board meetings since he took over 30 years ago—once when he was undergoing an operation and the second last summer when the board held a special meeting while Kraettli was on vacation.

Before joining the University staff he was a salesman for a film company in Kansas City and later worked in a hardware and implement store in Hobart. Kraettli joined the staff as secretary to Errett Newby, '07fa, '08ba, Oklahoma City, registrar and University secretary but was soon named secretary to Dr. Brooks.

"College students are the same as they were 10, 20 or 30 years ago," Kraettli explains. He recalls when freshmen had to wear red hats and the students were always pulling some kind of stunt.

"Not that it was bad," he quickly explains. Veterans have had a healthy influence on campus life but students are just about the same as when I came to the campus, he adds.

During his 36 years, Kraettli has been connected with students as the administrator of the Lew Wentz Loan Fund. Any needy student who is in financial trouble can depend on Kraettli to help.

When the veterans returned to the campus in 1946-47, Kraettli served as a kind of special advisor to the GI's, many of whom had families to take care of besides the school work.

Regardless of the amount of work he has to do Kraettli is always ready to talk over problems with a student—or anyone else for that matter—and he usually has some good advice.

And he is not only an expert on University affairs. In his spare time he does a lot of fishing and friends will say he knows the right places. Mr. Kraettli has fished in nearly every part of the country and he eagerly awaits vacation time so that he can get to a lake.



Gerald Dixon, '49bus, Tulsa, signs the check that makes him Life Member No. 1000.

Life Members Pass 1,000 Mark

When Gerald Dixon, '49bus, Tulsa, sat down at his desk in the offices of the John S. Lauder Company and wrote his name on the bottom of a check, he didn't know that the check would be the object of so much attention.

But it is pretty hard to ignore the check and the person who is now listed as the 1000th life member of the University of Oklahoma (Alumni) Association.

It has taken quite a bit of time and cooperation on the part of the alumni to achieve the latest chapter in the life membership book.

Back in 1928 when the Alumni Association

program was revamped to include provisions for a payment from alumni that would bring them membership for life in the Association, anyone suggesting the possibility of reaching 1,000 paid life members would have been liable for a smear campaign. At that time the talk concerned the possibility of reaching a goal of 500 lifers and this by only the hardest optimists.

There was reason to believe ten years ago that the first goal was within easy reach. Kenneth Harris, '39ba, '49Law, senior assistant in public relations, had just purchased the 400th life membership—still a long way from the 1000 mark.

Only ten years later Dixon sat down and began to write.

The purchaser of a life membership contributes greatly to his alumni group. A life member pays \$80 of which \$64 goes into a permanent trust fund and \$16 goes into the operational fund of the Association. For this amount Dixon bought a lifetime subscription to *Sooner Magazine* and placed himself in line for the greater benefits under the athletic priority program.

Dixon, who is now sales manager for John S. Lauder Company, attended highschool at Kiowa, Kansas. He entered the airforce in 1942 and was discharged in 1946. After separation he enrolled at O.U. and completed his college degree. He is married to Carolyn Jane Dixon.

Dallas Dinner-Dance

A Sooner Dinner-Dance will be held in the Peacock Terrace of the Baker Hotel October 13 for all O.U. students and alumni attending the Texas-O.U. football game.

The dinner will begin at 7:45 p.m. with dancing till 1 p.m. An orchestra from the University will provide the music.

Sponsored by the Dallas Alumni Club, plans for the pre-game get-together are now being completed. Next month's *Sooner Magazine* will announce the place to buy and price of tickets.