

Institute Gets Assist From Alumni Contributors

By Dr. Percy Buchanan

There is no questioning the fact that Asia has within the past decade or so come into prominence not only in international affairs but also in the daily life of every American. Asia is affecting our thinking, Asiatic modes are affecting such prosaic items as furniture and architecture. The Asiatic soy bean is increasing its volume in our diet and a knowledge of Asiatic culture and psychology is a "must," as we are discovering, if we are to continue living as a One World.

Perhaps there are some who might think that a study of things Asiatic has no place in a Mid-States area such as Oklahoma. However, we have long since discovered that Oklahoma is closer to the Far East today than it was to Nebraska a score of years ago. San Francisco now adjoins Tokyo and Peking lies on the outskirts of Los Angeles (actually I saw at the front gate of Yenching University in Peking a large sign saying "City Limits of Los Angeles"—erected undoubtedly by some prankster, but having in it more truth than the prankster realized).

When first I came to the University of Oklahoma, I was given *carte blanche* by the Administration to develop the Institute of Asiatic Affairs. There was hearty co-operation on the part of the members of the faculty and of the Administration in this matter. However, there were no funds available. It devolved upon me, therefore, to find sources for the development of an Institute of Asiatic Affairs which would, at one time, increase the understanding of the peoples of the Southwest area with regard to the Far East and help Far Eastern students now located at the University.

With this end in view, I immediately wrote to Congressmen, soliciting their aid. I wrote to business houses, asking for financial assistance, and tried to tap the various Foundations. All of these sources were empty. I next began on a program of personal introduction of the Far East to Oklahoma, broadcasting weekly on a program

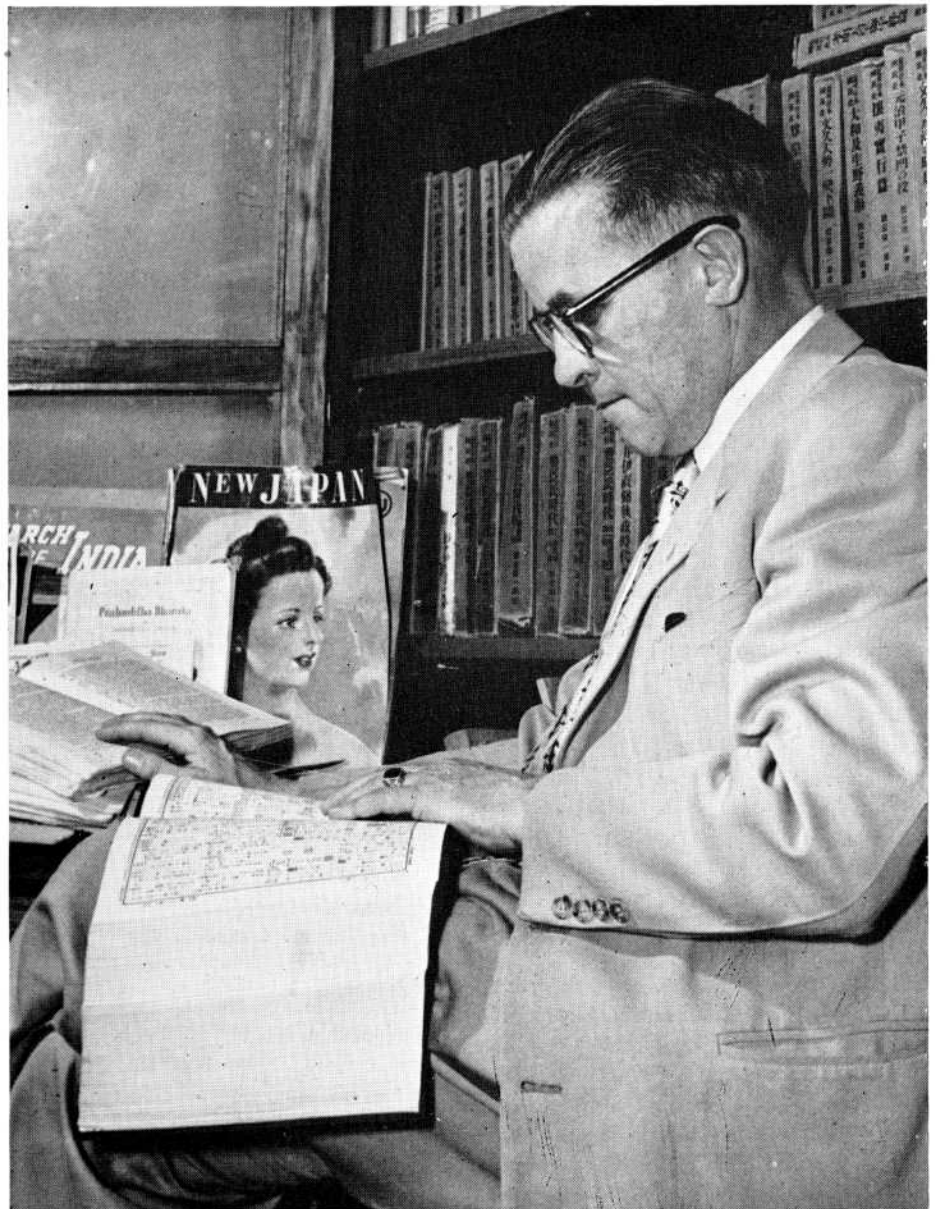
that I have called "The Orient in the News" and sending these programs in mimeographed form to all who request them (there are at the present time about 165 mimeographed copies going out each week). I also embarked on a rather heavy schedule of speaking throughout the state. I now average about five speeches a week—and have made as many as ten in a single week. These methods have borne fruit and the response to Institute projects has been quite worthwhile.

Another project, in which the alumni are involved, is the one wherein I wrote personal letters to as many alumni now located in the Far East as I could find, requesting from them for the Institute books, art objects and so forth.

I can't begin to give you the names of

all who have sent individual books, papers, magazines and so forth for the Institute Library, but I would like to mention especially Guy P. Webb, '24ba, Civil Information Officer of Nagoya, Japan, who has sent over a hundred books, among which is the edition in Japanese of the 66-volume History of Modern Japan; J. L. Manning, '30ba, of the Manila Trading & Supply Company, Port Area, Manila, who has sent a number of books on the Philippines and on behalf of the Institute has subscribed to the Daily Manila Bulletin; Miss Laura J. Mauk, '10ba, of Sendai, Japan, who has sent us a number of books on Japan; and V. C. Searle, '28ba, '29ma, of

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Dr. Percy Buchanan, director of the University Institute of Asiatic Affairs, examines a collection of magazines, books, and newspapers sent to the Institute by alumni who have been or are now in the Far East. They become part of the Institute's Library.

Institute . . .

Chicago, who has sent us also a number of books from Japan.

In addition to these, we have a few books from India, from Indo-China, and weekly and monthly magazines from Taiwan, Pakistan, India, Burma and Korea. However, our library is still fearfully inadequate and we would appreciate it very much if those of you who are still in the Far East, continue your contributions, and if those of you who have been in the Far East and have returned, will send us what you have on the Far East that you have no further

need of. We will get this across, alumni, if it kills us—and you.

I must mention another way that the alumni has helped us. Last fall the Alumni Development Fund made a \$500.00 contribution to the Institute of Asiatic Affairs. With this fund, we instituted two classes: one in the Chinese language and one in Japanese. For these classes we have native Japanese and Chinese teachers who are paid out of this fund. The classes are extracurricular and give the student no credit. Yet they are amazingly well attended, the Chinese class beginning with 16 students and the Japanese with 17.

Next year, if our subsidy will hold out, we propose to add Hindustani to our list of languages with the hope that the Chinese language will be taken over by the Modern Languages Department and made a regular part of the curriculum.

Let me say that I honestly believe in the Institute and for what it can do and is doing in the creation of a better understanding of the Far East in this Southwest area and I appreciate more than I can say what the alumni are doing in helping us achieve the purpose for which the Institute of Asiatic Affairs was created.

A New High in Spirit

10 Years Ago

Commencement activities and class reunions were the topics of interest in May, 1941. Probably a new high mark in class spirit was recorded by ten accounting students who were graduated from the University in 1930. Though scattered over the country from Washington, D. C., to Los Angeles, California, they kept a round-robin news letter going for ten years. The letters read like personal visits, containing news, pictures, congratulations on promotions and condolences on misfortunes. Included in the group were Odies Primrose, '30bus, Norman; Carl O. Craig, '30bus, Glendale, California; Mrs. C. H. Butt (Elizabeth Cate), '30bus, Baltimore, Maryland; Charles Manney, '30bus, Arkansas City, Kansas; Buenos Sikes, '30bus, DeQueen, Arkansas; Joe Moody, '30bus, San Antonio, Texas; Bert Thurber, Jr., '30bus, Arlington, Virginia; Alvin Rosecrans, '30bus, Tonkawa; Archie Giezentanner, '30bus, Ponca City; and Clinton Gay, '30bus, Shawnee.

Josh Lee, '17ba, Norman, United States Senator and former head of the University public speaking department, was announced as commencement speaker for the 1941 ceremonies. Lee is now a member of the Civil Aeronautics Board in Washington, D. C.

The annual reunion for home economics alumnae was also set for the weekend of commencement exercises. Included on the program for the reunion were an inspection tour of the home economics building, a visit to the practice house and a luncheon.

Geology alums were early with their get-together. Approximately 50 alumni and faculty members attended a luncheon held in Houston, Texas, during the meeting there of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

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