

Package Information

If you need material for a program or a speech, O.U.'s Public Information Bureau may be the source you've been looking for.

By PEGGY NEISWANDER

Mr. Schmidt was flattered when he was elected program chairman of the Moose Club. He never dreamed that the orphan's home would ask the Mooses to give the annual Easter program. "What does a bachelor like me know about kid's programs," he asked a fellow Moose.

This case is a common one and is the reason that the Public Information Bureau at the University of Oklahoma sends out nearly 1,500 program packages a year. The packages are designed to cover enough material to prepare a speech, panel discussion or debate on almost any subject.

The service dates back to 1913 when field workers from the Extension Division visited schools over the state and furnished material for debates. Package libraries were started in 1918. Still later, in 1946, the bureau was moved to North

Campus and the present organization set up.

Package Information, as it is sometimes called, is a part of the Extension Division of the University and is a service of the University to the people of Oklahoma. "Requests come in from all over the country, though," Mrs. Mary Ila Thurston, '39 m.ed, extension specialist in public information, said.

Material has been gathered over a period of years and there seems to be no end to the types of materials that can be found in the stacks of the bureau. "If by some chance we do not have the material asked for, we refer the person wanting it to a specialized library where it may be found," says Mrs. Thurston.

Most state universities have information services but some are not so complete as

the one at Norman. This may account for many of the out-of-state requests.

"Some of our requests are for material to pinpoint knowledge of a general nature," says Mrs. Thurston. Such was the case of the United Nations observer who wrote for the history of the U.N. after she had attended a session of that organization.

Program packages are prepared on the topics most in demand and new packages are constantly being prepared to place on the lists. In the event that a subject is a controversial one, the packages are designed to give both sides of the subject.

Not all of the subject matter is on subjects such as world affairs and history. Recently a package was mailed containing all the information that could be gathered on how to build a chicken house. "Some

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of the requests are most interesting and amusing," Mrs. Thurston said.

Bulletins are published by the department containing lists of plays and packages which are available. The plays may be used if the royalties are paid to the publisher before the play is presented.

Packages are mailed for use over a two week period and a one dollar handling fee is charged. A fine is assessed for overdue material.

Special services are given to clubs or persons who give regularly scheduled programs or speeches. They may send the bureau a schedule of the subjects of the events and two weeks before it is to be given, all the necessary information will be sent.

Football Flavors . . .

secretary, and Ferrill Martin, '46m.ed, treasurer. Bacon, Rizley and Martin are from Sayre.

Garfield County alumni held a football meeting September 21 in Enid. Paul 'Buddy' Burris, '49bus, All-American football performer at O.U., gave the packed house his impressions of the current O.U. football team. The meeting was called by Ed Fleming, '14, club president.

Wichita, Kansas, Alumni club held a late summer meeting and elected officers. They are Clifton L. McCown, '38geol, president; Ernest Snell, '32bus, vice president, and Dorothy J. Swinney, '27fa, secretary-treasurer.

By This We Live . . .

"No person has ever held the remedy for the ills of the world, no one ever will—even Christ was crucified and He was the Son of God! But at least a part of the

naughtiness of humanity can be bettered by individual Christian uprightness; hence, one of the tenets of my own creed is a variation upon the Golden Rule: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, but you do it first.' The assurance of having done this simple yet difficult act is a reassuring comfort when the work of my long day is done."—**Joseph H. Benton**, '20ba, '21fa, '41ma, professor of music.

The Greatest Discovery. "A. E. Housman, the English scholar and poet, once wrote, 'Whosoever will save his life shall lose it, and whosoever will lose his life shall find it.' That is the most important truth which has ever been uttered, and the greatest discovery ever made in the moral world.

"Housman, who was not a Christian, makes a characteristic omission from the passage, the words, 'for my sake.' Yet these words are important to the believer and the unbeliever alike; for they indicate its essential meaning. Devotion to something outside oneself to a person, to a job, to an institution, to an ideal—to such an extent that one actually would lay down his life for it—is the only escape from the kind of spiritual dryness which afflicts the man who is wholly centered in himself.

"I suppose that this passage is the one which I have chiefly tried—not very successfully, I fear—to live by."—**Dr. John M. Raines**, professor of English.

Walk Humbly. "As a religious believer, I trust in the concept of God and the universe evolved through the Judaic-Christian search after truth. Our Great Teacher said that its essence was to love God with all one's heart, soul, mind and strength and to love one's neighbor as one's self. Its practical application is summed up in the counsel of Micah, 'to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.' These injunctions are for day-to-day living. I see no distinction between so-called secular and religious activity. To be absorbed at useful tasks to which he feels a vocation; to achieve a happy family

life; be a good neighbor; to leave the world better for having been in it: thus does a man serve God and fulfill his mission here. This may not be profound philosophy, but by it I try to live."—**Dr. Maurice H. Merrill**, '19ba, '22Law, research professor of law.

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