

# Backlog

THE O.U. SCHOOL OF DRAMA HAS A  
NEW ANGEL—THE ALUMNI CLUBS

**I**N PAST years the O.U. School of Drama has seldom been able to put its own road company on the road. The USO sponsored a 1960 tour of military bases in Southeast Asia for the Sooner thespians, but the University itself has lacked the resources to allow the company to venture off campus. But a grant from the Alumni Development Fund and the enthusiasm of five O.U. alumni clubs are about to mobilize the stay-at-home performers.

During the month of February the University of Oklahoma Players will present "One Sunday Afternoon" by James Hagen in five Oklahoma towns—Duncan, Frederick, Altus, Lawton and Ardmore. The ADF money will take care of transportation costs and three meals for the 14-member cast and the director, Charles C. Suggs, associate professor of drama. The School of Drama will provide its own portable sets and lights; the players will be their own stage hands, setting up and striking the sets for each performance.

Sponsorship on the local level will come primarily from the alumni club in each of the five cities. The club will be responsible for stage and dressing room facilities, \$25 for royalties, all promotion activities, and in some cases for overnight accommodations and additional meals for the company. Proceeds from the performances will go to the sponsoring organizations.

The Duncan performance is slated for February 17 in the high school auditorium. Officers of the Stephens County Alumni Club, under President Bob Richardson, Jr., comprise the committee in charge of arrangements. Other members are Dr. Bob Shick, vice president; Mrs. J. A. Maurer, secretary, and Tommy Jones, treasurer.

Frederick furniture dealer David Gish will represent the Tillman County Alumni Club working with the co-sponsoring Frederick Kiwanis Club. Overnight accommodations in private homes will be provided in Frederick for the University Players following their February 19 performance in the high school auditorium.

The next night, February 20, the Players will be on the high school auditorium stage in Altus. The sponsoring Jackson County Club will also provide overnight accommodations, either in private homes or in an Altus hotel. Mrs. Hugh Garnett, club president, is heading the play committee with Roger Harrison and Mrs. Weldon Ferris.

The Cameron College auditorium has been booked for the Lawton performance, February 21, by the sponsors, the Coman-

che County Alumni Club and the Lawton Little Theater with help from other civic groups. Arrangement committee members are Karey Fuqua, chairman, Joe Dutcher, Bill Crawford, Marvin Trope, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond T. Mayhall, Clyde Shelton, and Mr. and Mrs. George Champlin.

The Carter County Alumni Club has been joined by the Ardmore Little Theater in sponsoring the performance in that city, February 26, in the Little Theater auditorium. Andrew Riddle, Jr., is chairman of the committee, which includes Mrs. Riddle, Mrs. Jodie Williams and McMillan Lambert.

Sending the University Players into Oklahoma communities has been a long-time ambition of Fine Arts Dean F. Donald Clark and Drama School Director Rupert Jones. Touring company experience is invaluable for the drama students, of course; it will be a much more seasoned group of performers who return to the campus from this tour. In addition, the Players will provide a welcome source of live entertainment to communities where the choice is usually between an evening at the movies or before the family television set. But even more important is giving the people of the state an opportunity to see what is being done at O.U. in this segment of the fine arts.

Expecting the taxpayer to flock to the O.U. campus from all parts of the state to see for himself how his educational investment is prospering is unfortunately too much to ask. The time has come for University resources to be less campus-bound. Luckily the greatest of these resources are also the most portable—the people who are O.U.'s contribution to the various academic and cultural areas. For many years lecturers from the faculty and staff have been a steady source of supply for program chairmen in organizations all over the state. From time to time student entertainers and University vocal and instrumental groups have made the meeting circuit. The University Players are a valuable addition to this company, and one which may lead to a continuing expansion of the program of Sooners-on-tour. —CJR

## Next in the Sooner

In February the "Anatomy of Excellence" series will feature 15 of O.U.'s most distinguished professors, representatives of the sort of academic strength that can be the foundation of a great University.

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