Introducing Mr. Cleckler

He’s the Pep Manager for the Sooner Association

FRANK S. CLECKLER

Comes from Washington, D. C., to become the first permanent secretary of the University of Oklahoma Association. He is a graduate of the university, class of ’21. For his views on the association, see "A Word from the Secretary.

Cleckler entering the first officers training camp at Fort Logan H. Roots, Arkansas, in May, 1917. He was commissioned a second lieutenant August 15, 1917, and was sent overseas in April, 1918, returning to the United States in July, 1919. He was honorably discharged in August, 1919, remaining a member of the officers’ reserve corps, in which he now holds the commission of captain.

Cleckler entered the University of Oklahoma in September, 1919, and was familiar to thousands of students who passed through the treasurer’s office, for he worked in that office while in the university. He was graduated in 1921 from the school of business with a B.A. degree. While in the university, he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta and Alpha Kappa Psi fraternities.

The next seven years were spent in government service, with the United States Veterans bureau. He was successively supervisor of vocational training, being promoted to the chief rehabilitation division, in charge of the local office in Oklahoma City, and later to the district office in Dallas, Texas, as district supervisor of commercial and professional training for Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. In 1924, he was promoted to be chief of training for that district, and was transferred soon after to Washington, D. C., to the central office as a supervisor. The next three years were spent in traveling over the United States supervising the adjudication divisions of the regional offices of the United States Veterans bureau. Last year, he went to Paris to attend the American Legion convention, and made a 6,000 mile tour through Europe.

Always interested in higher education, Cleckler visited universities and colleges whenever opportunity offered, and also discussed with various alumni associations their problems, with a view of applying them to the University of Oklahoma Association, although at that time, the idea of becoming secretary of the association had never entered his mind. At Washington, where he found a loyal group of alumni, he organized the Sooner club, serving as its president, and keeping alive its interest in the university.

When the University of Oklahoma Association board offered him the sec-

HAT is the name?”

"Frank Cleckler."

"Oh, Heckler. Say I’m glad to see you, Mr. Heckler."

No heckler but some Cleckler is the new full-time secretary of the University of Oklahoma Association, whose checks always carry the signature, Frank S. Cleckler.

Though his name is sometimes toyed with—now Heckler, then Kleckler—the new secretary has evinced any desire but that of play in taking over the rather prodigious task of removing the shroud from that dust-covered corpse, variously known as the Alumni association and the University of Oklahoma Association.

Many of us are familiar with the cadaver, having at various times received an appeal to rush funds to sustain the watchers at the wake. By the time Cleckler arrived in Norman he found the association in the class of antiques, without a buyer.

Without funds, the association presented by its inactivity a rather painful contrast to other things on the university campus, where youth was in the saddle, where the university was reaching the upper strata of the Big Universities.

Dr. Herbert V. L. Sapper, president last year of the University of Oklahoma Association, and his board, had agreed that the only way to revive the association was to issue a magazine.

Dr. A. B. Adams, dean of the school of business, had said as much in an address to the association several years ago.

President Tom Carey and his new board, aided by the ever-reliable war-horses of the association, Dr. Guy Y. Williams and Dr. Edgar Meacham, devised a plan of creating The Sooner Magazine, and of employing a full-time secretary for the first time.

Without finances, neither was possible. So the life-membership plan, now being used by practically all graduate associations, was evolved, making a guarantee for the magazine and for the salaries incident to a permanent organization. A minimum of 105 life memberships at $60 each was required to finance the association during its trial period, and the board

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was president of the Sooner club in Washington, D. C., and was an alumnus who had remained consistently loyal to his university. He, the association board agreed, was the logical man to take up the duties of permanent secretary.

RANK CLECKLER is a pioneer Oklahoman in many ways. His father, Dr. W. H. Cleckler, was a pioneer physician in Indian Territory, and his mother was a pioneer school teacher. Frank’s youth was spent in Red Oak, Wilburton, and Hartshorne, where Doctor Cleckler was physician for the Rock Island Coal Mining Co. Frank was graduated from Red Oak high school in 1913, and taught school for a year, then worked a year as bookkeeper and cashier at Hartshorne.

He entered the Oklahoma School of Mines in 1915, becoming secretary of the school as well. The next year, he entered Northwestern State Teacher’s college where he worked as secretary and financial clerk. The world war interrupted his school work,
secretaries were insistent that nothing in Oklahoma could be done until a magazine was established, and Cleckler made the establishment of the magazine a condition of acceptance. This was in accord with the purposes of the association board. Joseph A. Brandt, also a graduate of the university, class of 1921, resigned his position as city editor of The Tulsa Tribune, to establish the magazine. Both Cleckler and Brandt began their duties September 1.

Two Sooners Given High Posts in Education

To the rapidly growing list of Sooners who are in charge of the administration of Oklahoma colleges was added the name of Dr. H. G. Bennett (left) as president of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical college at Stillwater. At the right is Dr. R. C. Beckstrom, formerly with the Colorado School of Mines, and now dean of the new school of petroleum engineering of the University of Tulsa. Doctor Beckstrom is a graduate of the university's school of geology.

Golden, Colorado, was appointed late in the summer by Dr. John Duncan Finlayson, chancellor of the University of Tulsa, to be dean of the new school of petroleum engineering of the Tulsa school.

These two Sooners are additions to the rapidly growing number of university and college presidents recruited from the university's graduate ranks.

Mell A. Nash, '19 educ., former state superintendent of education, is president of the Oklahoma College for Women at Chickasha. He is one of the best known educators in the state, and during his presidency, O. C. W. has experienced a rapid increase in enrollment.

Ernest Edward Brown, '19 arts-sc., who did his graduate work at Columbia University, is president of the Southwestern State Teachers college at Weatherford.

A. Linscheid, M. A., '20, is president of the East Central Teachers college at Ada.

John G. Mitchell, M. A., '19, is president of the Central State Teachers college at Edmond.