A Word From the Secretary

OU—Mr., Miss or Mrs. Sooner—occasionally get a bill for membership in this association, or other appeal for funds for the support of projects for the advancement of the interests of the university. It is a fair question to ask, "What do we get for our money?"

As alumni and former students, we are and should be the group most interested in the destiny of this university. This interest most often results from an entirely unselfish loyalty to the grand old school which gave us our big opportunity in life and paved the way for the success many are enjoying. There is also another very important reason why we as a group are the most interested and concerned about the destiny of the University of Oklahoma. Are we more concerned than are the present student generation or even the faculty? Most certainly we are. Our status is one which is irrevocably fixed. With the faculty or student body it is quite different. They may change their affiliations at will. If the policies or standards of the university do not meet the requirements of the faculty or students, they can sever their relationship and become affiliated with an institution meeting these standards. We cannot do this. We are Sooners and we will be to life's end.

The world judges the value of our education very largely by the standing of our Alma Mater. Our first duty, then, from a purely selfish standpoint if from no other, is to protect and advance the interests of the university. As the University of Oklahoma increases in prestige the value of our degree increases. Every advance the university makes adds to the value of our relationship.

Frequently, as individuals, we are called on and do render service in the interests of the university, but in order that our efforts be most effective we must have an organization which provides the machinery with which to work. To realize the most benefit, our efforts must be pooled and the association must be representative.

This is the most important benefit we will receive from our support of the association. It is, however, an intangible something the intrinsic value of which is indisputable but sometimes difficult to visualize. The more concrete return for our money is this magazine, the principal purpose of which will be to furnish news and information about your university and yourselves. Those of us who are associated here in getting out The Sooner Magazine believe that it is well worth its subscription price. If you have any constructive suggestions for the improvement of this magazine, forward them to the editor and they will be given careful consideration. Granting that The Sooner Magazine is worth its subscription price, which includes membership in the University of Oklahoma Association, the other and larger services our association renders cost the individual nothing.

There are many other services our association renders its members, the value of which depends on the requirements of the individual. Among these are the following:

1. Assistance in securing employment. More than two hundred former students were placed in teaching positions in the past year through the efforts of our employment service. This service will be extended to other fields as rapidly as finances are available for the development of this service.

2. The alumni office will serve as a point of contact when necessary between you and the university. As the institution grows and its organization and faculty changes, it will be increasingly difficult for individuals to keep pace with it. This service then will grow in importance as time and its inevitable changes come.

These are some of the principal functions from the standpoint of the members of our association. The university also has an important interest in our organization. This relationship is very clearly stated in the following quotation from a recent address by Dr. A. B. Adams, dean of the school of business, one of the outstanding and most respected members of the faculty, and one who is keenly interested in alumni affairs.

Dr. Adams said: "In the past few years the alumni of the American universities have been accused in the public press of being interested in their Alma Mater only to the extent of seeing that she puts out a winning football team. This false accusation is each day being disproved by the leading alumni of all the larger universities, as evidenced by their interest in raising endowment funds, securing donations for special purposes, and by their active interest in courses of study and curricula. At the time of the resignation of President Brooks the loyal alumni of this institution thoroughly demonstrated that they were interested in preserving the academic standing, and the freedom from political domination of this university.

"However, in ordinary times, about the only opportunity the alumni of this institution have of coming in close contact with the university is through athletics. Such contact is good and wholesome if not carried too far by the alumni and the university. But the alumni body should have many other opportunities to come in contact with the old institution other than to merely yell for athletic victory from the sidelines.

"How to accomplish this ideal of making the university an ever present beacon light and directive force in the lives of its graduates has not yet been solved. It must be solved if the university, to its fullest extent, is to perform its mission in educational leadership. Through its graduates it should radiate culture to the people of the state. To do this it must constantly disseminate scientific, literary, aesthetic, and ethical ideas and ideals.

"In order to attain this goal there must be some physical means or machinery whereby the institution can remain in constant contact with its graduates. As I see it, there are two ways by which such a function of the university may be accomplished. The first is through frequent personal contacts between faculty members and administrative officers of the university and the alumni members. This could be effected, if there were organized active alumni clubs in each of the cities of the state. Such clubs could hold frequent meetings to which they could invite representatives of the university to address them on scientific, literary, cultural, practical or educational topics. Should the more active alumni foster and encourage such a movement by the whole body of the association, it would be very beneficial."

(Turn to page 32, please)
directing the development of future university eds and coeds, whether you are engrossed in the weaving of the colorful tapestry of Oklahoma politics, whether you returned from school to take over your father's grocery business or went back to the farm, you will enjoy knowing this fellow Sooner through his books and you should make it a point today to read one of his plays. Read one and you will read others. For they are about people you have known, in a language you hear every day and in scenes which are familiar.

Lynn Riggs is at present spending a year abroad on a Guggenheim Fellowship. He visited at the university last spring and spent considerable time in Tulsa where his play "Big Lake" was produced by the Tulsa Little Theater Players.

Besides the writing of plays he has been successful in the field of poetry and has had verse published in Poetry, The Nation, and other national publications. A large section of the magazine Poetry recently was devoted to poems by Lynn Riggs and the university's own poet Stanley Vestal.

--- "B".

**Read in Cosmopolitan**

Betty Kirk, '26 journ., now a feature writer on the New York Telegram, met Ray Long, editor of Cosmopolitan magazine, Rex Beach and Irvin S. Cobb, exemplars of Izaak Walton and O. Henry, when the trio visited Oklahoma City a year ago. Betty interviewed the roving three and remarked about a short story she had written. All the readers of the Cosmopolitan Magazine for August agreed with Ray Long in accepting Betty's "An Ace Up Her Sleeve."

On the Telegram, Betty found that a feature writer's life is filled with the pleasant and the unpleasant. Walter Lister, the city editor, taking cognizance of the worries of New Yorkers in hunting apartments, assigned Betty to spend a month apartment hunting.

Every type of apartment fell under her keen scrutiny—from a single bedroom with a gas jet operated from a meter which responds to the magic touch of a quarter, to the deluxe $10,000 apartments on Park Lane. Her first article appeared on the front page of the Telegram.

Though a new "stunt" on the Telegram, it was not new to Betty, who had done a similar series for the Oklahoma News.

--- "B".

**A Word From the Secretary**

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--- "B".

**SUGGESTIONS?**

(Continued from page 16)

to the university, to the alumni, and to the state.

"The other method of bringing the university into the daily lives of its alumni is through the establishment of a monthly or quarterly magazine."

The magazine is being established and will fulfill its mission. The success of the other functions of the University of Oklahoma Association depends entirely on your individual support.

--- "B".

**For the Ill and Infirm**

Christened Hygeia Hall, the new university hospital nevertheless will function this year, in spite of the resurrection of the Greek classics and mythology to find a title. The building cost $135,000, is three stories in height, the second floor being exclusively for boys, while girls must carry their cots a floor higher. An automatic elevator—one of those hospitalish kinds that move with deadly precision—has been installed. There is an operating room on the third floor. (Hygeia—in Greek mythology, the daughter of Aesculapius, personifying health.)

--- "B".

Failure of Aubrey Kerr, elected last semester to be president of the student council, to return to school this fall, led to the selection of Bob Shelton, vice president, to be his successor.

--- "B".

The University of California Alumni association in 1921 had an enrollment of 4,500 members. Now it has 20,000 who pay annual dues. Its magazine often carries as much as $4,000 worth of local and national advertising.

--- "B".

--- "B".

--- "B".

--- "B".