In the Mail...

RECENT service of University staff members in pointing the way to possible improvements in state government and other fields is praised by Alfred A. Crowell, '29, of Elgin, Ill. He writes to the editor of The Sooner Magazine as follows:

As an alumnus of the University, I should like to express my appreciation of the professional authority which a few individuals and groups connected with O. U. are beginning to assume in publishing their opinions and findings in reference to economic, political and business conditions in the state.

Only when these opinions and findings of our professors, authorities in their fields, are accepted as the valuable information they are, will the University take its rightful place in Oklahoma life.

For instance, the state constitutional reform program proposed by Cortez A. M. Ewing, Oliver Benson, and John Alley, if firmly suggested by leading professors of many other great universities as a remedy for local political ailments, would be accepted almost immediately by some group in power to make the change.

We all remember the great weight that certain Columbia University men carried with Mr. Roosevelt while he was governor of New York. He seldom advocated a financial bill without consulting Columbia.

So it should be in Oklahoma. I am glad that some definite progress in this direction is being made. It will establish the University more firmly as the only really unbiased authority in the state and help Oklahoma in its as yet comparatively inexperienced groping for reliable state men and institutions.

In response to the request for suggestions for service by the Alumni Association, Rosa Osmond Merritt, '33x, suggests a system be set up whereby Sooners in each community would welcome Sooners moving into their communities, and take it on themselves to be hospitable.

Sarah K. Little, '36, writes from Bilings that she really enjoys teaching. She sends her check for the Magazine although adding that “My reading is confined to ‘I done seen a cat’ or ‘I seen a curucus’, which are actual sentences from a paper I just graded.”

Edward L. Howard, '31, who is with the Howard Petroleum Corporation at Tyler, Texas, sends word that he has some “terrible times” there, but they are with his golf partner, T. J. (Jesse) Johnson, '25, and not with things in general at Tyler. In fact, he expects to be there permanently. Mrs. Howard was Co-Norma Perrine, '30, a member of Alpha Chi Omega. They have one child, Sara Ann, five years old.

Golfer Johnson is an independent in the oil business at Tyler.

A recent address by Alumni Secretary Ted Beard at a meeting of the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors brought this interesting letter from Dr. John A. Griswold, associate professor of finance:

“I found your remarks at the A. A. U. P. meeting the other evening very interesting. I imagine your criticism of the faculty relationships with the community and the state is quite justified but from my observation I would say that the situation is not peculiar to Oklahoma. I am very much in favor of taking any steps we can to improve these relationships and I shall be glad to co-operate in any way that I can.

“Since my main interest is in finance and banking I have been thinking recently of the possibility of working with groups of bankers in the state in some way which would make them more conscious of the University. A plan along this line was worked out at the University of Illinois with the result that the University was materially aided in obtaining an increased appropriation over the governor’s opposition.”

Quite a number of University faculty members who are not graduates or former students subscribe to The Sooner Magazine in order to co-operate with the Alumni Association and show their appreciation for the work the Association is doing for the University.

The spirit of these people is well expressed in a letter from Dr. Alma J. Nell,
acting head of the department of physiology, who writes:

"Though I am not an alumna of the University of Oklahoma by the conferring of a degree, I am a member of the Alumni Association."

The co-operation of the University faculty with the Alumni Association is more important than generally realized to the success of the campaign for improving the University.

C. O. Hunt, of the University Extension Division, is another member of the Extension staff who has a kind word for the Association and the Magazine.

W. Wesley Kitchens, '36, '37, is now teaching assistant at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Kenneth Abernathy, '31aw, attorney at Shawnee, sees great possibilities in the county Advisory Council setup of the Alumni Association.

"The University has contributed in a large measure to the cultural and material well-being of us all," he comments.

"Through active participation in the Alumni Association we can show Oklahoma an unshaken determination that neither through indifference nor for the sake of expediency will we permit the progress of our University or its usefulness to the state's future citizens to be impaired."

Sooners seem to be scattered around everywhere. Scott P. Squyres, '24aw, Oklahoma City, writes that his duties as national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars take him all about the country and he frequently runs onto Sooners.

Roy C. Jenkins, '31, assistant regional manager for the Real Silk Hosiery Mills, Inc., in the western region, writes: "Seldom a month goes by, when I'm out in the territory, that I do not run into a fellow Sooner somewhere. Have met them throughout my entire territory, and I know of nothing more interesting and enjoyable than a good visit with these fellows about old times in Soonerland."

Kind words department:

From James W. Mollett, '34ex, secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society—"I wish to compliment you upon the October issue of The Sooner Magazine. You and your associates are doing a splendid piece of work."

From Mrs. Carl S. Ford, '22ex, Enid—"I have just received the October issue of The Sooner Magazine. Please extend my congratulations to those responsible for this publication. I find it very interesting, entertaining, and beneficial."

George D. Hann, '36, superintendent of schools at Clinton—"We have just received the October issue of the Magazine. It is not only the best issue of our magazine but I believe it is the best alumni magazine that I have seen ever."
ing and after the annual Oklahoma-Texas game, perhaps you'd be interested in some history.

"When the present 10-year Oklahoma-Texas contract for the Dallas game was signed Frank Watson, Shelley Tracy and a number of Sooners living in Dallas organized an Oklahoma-Texas club. Frank Cleckler helped a lot. Watson and Tracy and the writer headed it for three years. We arranged dinner-dances for the night before the game twice. Dr. Bizzell and Ben Owen attended and so did Ad Lindsey. But in spite of a floor show that beat any nearby nite spots we couldn't get a crowd. So the third year we switched to a luncheon game day, guaranteed and delivered prompt service and start, but again we had to brag about the quality rather than the size of our crowd. 

"So we quit. It was evident that visiting alumni didn't care for anything approaching formal entertainment but preferred to take their chances on impromptu reunions with Sooner friends."

A letter from The Sooner Magazine to Mrs. Sally E. Hockaday Benson, '19, traveled all the way to Canton, China, and back to Searcy, Ark., before it found her.

"We returned from Canton in August of last year," she writes. "Since I am no longer in a foreign country, you may not be so interested in my affairs; nevertheless, I'll answer a few of the questions.

"My husband, George Benson, and I went to South China in 1925 as missionaries of the Church of Christ. For some months we were stationed in Kwei Hsien, but due to the strong anti-foreign and anti-Christian feeling prevalent we were forced to seek refuge in British Hong Kong where we studied Cantonese. Our two children, Ruth and Lois, were born in Hong Kong in 1926 and 1929, respectively.

"In 1929, we moved to Canton where we were busy in mission work and the teaching of English. In 1933 the Yuen To Bible School was built, of which my husband was principal. In 1936, we returned via Palestine and Europe, Mr. Benson having been called home to accept the presidency of Harding College here at Searcy."

"So glad not to be in China now."

Alfred H. Schmidt, '36, sends his check for annual dues and subscription to the magazine, adding "It's a real pleasure to receive The Sooner Magazine and find out what my friends in far away Oklahoma are doing."

Law graduate now priest

Ray Harkin, '31 law, who deserted the law profession to spend four years in the University of Louvain in Belgium in study for Catholic priesthood, is now at Corpus Christi parish in Oklahoma City. He was ordained in a service last summer at Pawhuska, where his parents live.

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