Clearing the Desk

By R. C.

IT'S REALLY AMAZING how you run onto Sooner alumni practically everywhere. Secretary Ted Beard runs into them on airlines, on trains, at conventions, at crossroads filling stations, and in some of the most important offices in the nation's capital.

Various members of the University staff report similar experiences. And usually the Soonerers they encounter here and there immediately start asking questions about the University and what goes on in Norman. Not always, however, is the enthusiasm quite so marked as in the case reported by Emil Kraettli, secretary of the University, and J. L. Lindsay, comptroller, when they came back from a recent trip into Kansas.

They got on their train about fifteen minutes before it was due to depart. A middle-aged man and his wife got on the train and stopped at a nearby vacant seat. The woman sat down and it was evident that her husband had come down to see her off.

But the husband kept looking at Kraettli and Lindsey. Finally he stepped over and said "I remember you." He introduced himself and explained that he graduated from O.U. in 1913. He hadn't been back since, but he had always had a deep interest in the University and he had a lot of questions to ask. In a few minutes he sat down, and a typical session of O.U. reminiscences was in full swing.

One of the train crew called out something about "all aboard," but the enthusiastic Sooner kept talking. Finally the conductor came through the car with the last warning for non-passengers to get off, as the train was leaving.

Suddenly awakened from his thoughts of many years ago, the man grabbed his hat and rushed for the car exit.

But a plaintive call in a woman's voice brought him up short. He had completely forgotten about his faithful (and understanding) wife, who had sat there patiently waiting for him to say goodbye!

PRESIDENT BIZZELL'S timely and significant article in this magazine, on the fundamental unsoundness of the Hitler regime, is written from a wealth of information and background material.

When he retires from the presidency of the University August 1, Dr. Bizzell will become head of the sociology department and an active teacher. And the course that he is particularly interested in teaching is one devoted to The Ethical Basis of Society. This is a field in which he has long had a special interest, and he has accumulated a great amount of material on the subject.

When he says that Hitler's social system is based on a system of ethics that cannot endure and cannot be successful in the long run, his opinion is backed up by the weight of history and the total experience of mankind.

NANCY ROYAL, who wrote the article about the Class of '41, was editor of the Oklahoma Daily during the first semester of the present school year and is well equipped to write about the important things that happened to this particular class.

THE ARTICLE on Fish Pastures, telling what it takes to make fish plentiful in Oklahoma's rapidly increasing artificial lakes, was adapted by Sigfrid Floren from a University public lecture given by Dr. A. I. Ortenburger, professor of zoology and probably the state's best expert on fish.

Probably neither Floren, who is a busy law student, nor Dr. Ortenburger, who is a busy professor, would qualify as an expert on the art of fishing, but they have done a good job of presenting the scientific angles of how to make fish plentiful.

JOHN ROGERS, '14 law, who is author of the article The Southwest Looks Ahead, is a Tulsa oil man and civic leader of manifold interests. He recently resigned from the University Board of Regents to accept an appointment to the newly created board of State Regents for Higher Education. The article in this magazine is condensed from an address delivered by Mr. Rogers at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Council of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

ACCURACY of the following story is not guaranteed, but it was published in the Daily as a true occurrence, and alumni who know Track Coach John Jacobs won't doubt it.

It was during an intramural track meet and a little squirt approached Jake with a request for a pair of track shoes. Jake looked him over with a questioning air.

"What can you do?" he inquired.

"Well, I dunno," the kid remarked. "I'm a little stiff from bowling."

Whereupon the coach, with a perfectly straight face, retorted "I don't care where you're from, son, what can you do?"

"IT SHOULD BE an interesting comparison of bald heads," was the comment of W. C. Kite, '16ba, on the forthcoming 25-year reunion of his class. He added that when he attends his 50th class reunion, he expects to be accompanied by his eldest son who will then be attending his 25th class reunion.

EVERETT CARPENTER, of Shawnee, member of the 1911 reunion class, has a son Dan, who graduated from O.U. in engineering in 1939, and is now an engineer with the Tremont Company, located at Hutchinson, Kansas. Another son is a medico at the University of Chicago, and another is a junior at Oklahoma A. and M. College.

HERE'S ANOTHER CHAPTER in our long-range, and friendly, discussion with Alumnus John Brown of Hawaii over whether or not Hawaiian memberships in the Alumni Association should be classed as "foreign." We claim the decision in this round, as we have had to pay 20 cents exchange charges on Mr. Brown's check even though Hawaii is part of the United States. We state this in no mercenary spirit, but just mention it as something that Mr. Brown ought to call to the attention of Congress along with other data supporting Hawaii's interests. However, at last reports Congress was fairly busy with another matter. We believe the name was Hitler.

SPEAKING OF DEFENSE, this magazine is spreading some information about the University's part in national defense to various parts of the country. The Federal Security Agency of the Office of Education, Washington, D.C., requested 25 copies of the March issue to be placed in the loan library of the "Information Exchange on Education and Defense."

That particular issue carried several articles about the special training work given by the University in industrial and related fields, and the part played by engineering graduates in national defense.

Numerous universities setting up special courses for national defense have been referred to the University of Oklahoma for details of the very effective program being conducted in Norman.

DON'T WORRY about the intricacies of that football diagram on the blackboard by Coach Snorter Luster's picture on the cover of the May Sooner Magazine. That particular diagram won't give any aid and comfort to enemy football camps that might happen to see the magazine.

When Harold Tacker posed Coach Luster for the picture, there was a diagram on the board and Tacker thought that it would provide nice background atmosphere for the photograph.

But cunning Luster thought a minute with a worried expression, "Wait a minute," he said, and picked up an eraser. "I'll just put something else on there." So he wiped off the new Sooner play that was illustrated, and chalked up a standard play that looked good but doesn't mean a thing.

SORRY, BIFF!