

The University of Oklahoma  
Norman, Oklahoma

June 20, 1923.

To Community-Minded Citizens  
in Oklahoma:

**GLORIOUS NATURE**

Old timers say this is the most wonderful growing season they have known in Oklahoma. The floods have caused great devastation, but the abundant rains have spread a blanket of beauty over the whole state. The rains came too late to save some of the crops, and they seem to have drowned other crops just coming out of the ground, but the harvest may be more abundant than the more discouraged farmers and gardeners anticipate.

In beautifying homes and towns, nature by her present fecundity is inspiring all to greater zeal. The soil of Oklahoma is showing what it can do when it gets water. It is too late to plant much new right now, but the present rank vegetation should inspire eager new planning. August should not pass without extensive new plans for beautifying homes public grounds through fall planting and in preparation for next season.

Are you studying the bulletin on landscaping recently issued? If you have mislaid your copy, send to us for another.

**ALL KEEPING AT WORK**

Now is the time to study labor conditions. In most sections there is now work for all who want it, but slack times will come soon. Unemployment, whether voluntary or involuntary, is a great community waste. Several community councils have committees at work on plans to avoid this waste. If nobody is studying this problem in your community, get at it by all means.

A committee of the Chamber of Commerce or some other agency should be studying ways and means by which all labor can be constantly employed. Jobs created as charity are a poor makeshift. The aim should be to organize industries on a small scale or large, to take up the labor slack at every season during the year. This will require some capital but it will pay big dividends if enterprises are properly organized and managed. Get off the charity basis and develop local resources to pay all concerned.

There are overflowing resources in every Oklahoma community. We are carrying too many Oklahoma eggs in one basket of heavy crop farming. The aim of all our civic organizations should be to get everybody busy all the time at something which will keep him happy and will reward his labor.

**RAINS AND MOSQUITOES**

Abundant rains throughout the state have proved a great boon to vegetation, but the marshes, pools, and puddles they have created, will breed such swarms of mosquitoes as have never before been known, unless you do something to restrain or abolish this pest. Screen the house thoroughly and keep

behind screens at night, if the pests cannot be destroyed wholesale by drainage and oiling of water surfaces. The malaria-bearing mosquito bites his worst and almost only after dark.

The after effects of the rains are sure to be hurtful to health in many ways, unless great care is taken. This is a task upon which community councils and all civic organizations should be busy throughout the whole summer. Part of the state knows no malaria. But the mosquito-cursed zone will certainly spread and with it will spread also this dread disease, which is already doing so much to enervate Oklahomans.

#### HIGH SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCIES

I have talked with many high school principals and school superintendents about the possibility of using certain classes in the high schools for community service. The youngsters can be students and still do a great amount of valuable service, especially in lines of research for the community.

There is a course in hygiene in every school. Have you ever thought of using the youngsters in these classes to organize and put through a community movement in public health? With a little guidance they can do this handsomely.

Next year some of the best minds in the high school will be studying economics and civics. They will likely be knitting their brows over problems on the other side of the world, or great national issues, which only remotely touch their own community. Would it not greatly enhance the value of their education if the principles of civics and economics were immediately applied in studies in their own community?

Talk to the school people about these and similar projects. Tell them what you want to find out about the economic and social conditions in your own community. Have the students draw maps and charts, setting forth resources and present production. Have them prepare other maps and charts, showing what is possible in production and through development of these resources, if all shall work together to this end. Have them chart employment and unemployment, and thus show graphically how much the community wastes and loses from an inadequate industrial program.

Outline a dozen different projects through which students under expert direction can assemble facts and programs looking to community progress.

#### PRUNING OUR LISTS

We seek from time to time to cut out of our lists the names of those who are not interested in receiving these monthly letters. Enclosed with this in certain (not all) of the envelopes addressed is a return card on which we ask the correspondent to state whether further letters in this series are desired. If one of these cards is enclosed to you, will you kindly give the matter attention at once? We desire to serve all who may be interested and shall be glad to retain your name on the list if you desire.

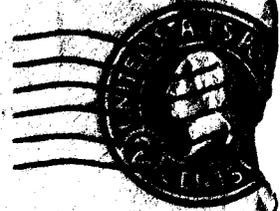
Very sincerely yours,



Community Counselor.

After 10 days, return to  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA,  
Extension Division,  
Box 100,  
NORMAN, OKLA.

NORMAN  
JUN 21  
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Mrs. Ans B. Cutlip  
Wewoka, Okla.