From The Editor's Mail Box

Wherein We Recount Things and Thoughts Which Come To Our Attention.

Remember the old daily paper, how it comes out and says as how this will be the last issue of the day so that the staff can get home for Christmas dinner? Well this the December issue of The Archi is to go to press early with the hopes that it will catch all the brethren and their cistern in time for Ye Editor to say "Merry Christmas" before they leave school for the holidays.

Speaking of holidays it reminds us that that Paeonios has set the date for the Twelfth convention so that those able to attend will see the K. S. A. C. crew in school after the holidays. The dates are January 7-8, 1927, for the benenit of those who didn't subscribe in time to get the November issue of the "little newspaper." Just how the dates will work out remains to be seen. We have certain Dean's of Men in mind.

But be that as it may, turn to the Paeonios chapter notes for the final shot of the Twelfth convention, so that those able to attend will see the K. S. A. C. crew in school after the holidays. The dates are January 7-8, 1927, for the benenit of those who didn't subscribe in time to get the November issue of the "little newspaper." Just how the dates will work out remains to be seen. We have certain Dean's of Men in mind.

Do Own Contracting

"You may be interested in the working of our office, which is located here on the Boone College campus at Wuchang. Because capable and reliable contractors are so scarce, we are obliged to violate one of the cardinal canons and go into the contracting business. For any work that is within working distance of Wuchang, we contract for labor only, and buy our own materials. It is only in this way that we can control quality of materials and workmanship."

"In addition to Mr. B. and myself we have the following staff of Chinese: 3 draftsman, a bookkeeper, a comptadore or head purchasing man, two transport men or coolie bosses (corresponding to truck drivers), an office and blueprint boy, miscellaneous outside coolies and as many superintendents or watchmen as we have outside jobs running. Of these, only two, the comptadore and bookkeeper speak English, so I have plenty of opportunity to exercise my Chinese vocabulary."

"During Mr. B.'s furlough of 14 months, I conducted the designing end and had the help of another foreigner as superintendent and paymaster. Mr. B. now undertakes all of the conferences, designing and drafting room work, while I do the engineering design, estimating, contracts, supervision,uying and paying.

Nothing Monotonous

"Believe me there is nothing monotonous about this job. We have to do..." (Continued on Page Four)

ANTHEMIOS—ILLINOIS

Paul E. Wicklund, Contributor

On the week-end that the Gophers dazzled the Wolverines Burt Thorud and Benny Benson journeyed to Detroit to visit Fred Rohn, who has been confined to a plaster cast for some time as a result of a cracked hip bone. They say he's the same "Horso" Rohn. One outstanding thing about him is that he's still keeping up his work as Detroit representative of the Int'l Fireproofing Co., although flat on his back with only the use of his arms.

A drawing board has been improvised over his head which swings down within reach, and on this he sketches and engineers his projects.

Our travelers found Leo M. Bauer, '14, plenty busy in his practice of architecture and serving as president of the Lini Club. He intimated that he was going to come through big for the Anthemios building fund.

Walter Giles (Pete) Bishop, '19, dropped in with his newly acquired helpmate to see Fred while Burt and Benny were still there.
Elder from Michigan, who just arrived a couple of weeks ago, and before that I met Russell Kroh, an AFX from Ohio State, who is here on the McKim fellowship from Columbia. With Kroh I took a short trip into Normandy, a trip which, despite almost continuous rain, was exceedingly interesting. Elder and I are now on our way to Rome, where we expect to spend the greater part of the winter. Before we get home we will have visited Corcassonne, Albi, Toulouse, Marseilles, Nice and any other places which seem to strike the right spot.

In order to be set for a big day tomorrow I must soon do some "stut-eye" and thanking you in advance for The Arch I am.

Fraternally,

Leroy E. Kiffey, Ikt. ’25.

DEMETRIOS—OHIO STATE

W. S. Gould, Correspondent

Graduation this quarter will rob us of one senior member, Robert Ayers. Bob’s graduation is unique in that he is the first graduate of the department to construct a model as a thesis. His subject was “A Sarcophagus of an Indian Chieftain.”

Two of the boys have attained noteworthy honors. George Merkle has been pledged to Tau Beta Pi. George also received the prize offered by Tau Sigma Delta, in water-color competition. Richard King was initiated by Scabbard and Blade, honorary military fraternity.

A card from Tampa, Florida informs us that B. F. (“Duke”) Renick, ’23, is the proud “daddy” of a 14-pound girl and adds “Marianne has a good voice.” “Duke” reports that he is paying city streets.

We were all greatly honored and surprised the early part of the month when Clarence Dale Badgley, Demetrios ’23, paid us a visit at the house. Dale was the 1926 winner of the Rome Prize and has spent the fall traveling and studying in Europe before choosing his problem for the year.

At present enjoying a short vacation with his folks and will return to the American Academy January 1, to begin work on the “Restoration of the Main Temple at Ostia.” He also brought word back that George Frazer, Mnesicles ’19, has just completed his “Restoration of Hadrian’s Villa at Tivoli.”

MNESICLES—MINNESOTA

Glynne Blackett, Correspondent

Bro. Milo Richardson, Hettinger, N. D., paid the chapter a few days’ visit. We were expecting Milo back in school shortly.

Mnesicles is going strong in bowling again this year. This is the sixth successive year we have bowled in the final. Dec. 6th we bowled the A-F-A for the silver-plated cup to decorate our mantel.

Mnesicles finished second place in the professional division of volley ball this
fall, having been defeated only by the Psi Omegas.

Robert Potter has graduated and is now enjoying the quiet life at his home in Fargo.

Menesicles calendar reads:
Jan. 8—Winter Formal (Dudley Bayliss in charge); Jan. 15, Initiation (Sidney Stolte in charge); Dec. 6th, Menesicles selected Bruce R. Church, '28, as convention delegate while electing a new slate of officers headed by Kenneth Backstrom, '27, W. A. His fellow officers are Sidney Stolte, '27, W. A.; Louis Santo, '28, W. E.; Dudley Bayliss, '29, W. S.; Glynne Shifflett, '29, W. C.; Clarence Olsen, '29, W. Supt., and Chester Carjola '28, House Manager.

KALLIKRATES—VIRGINIA
Ralph Little, Correspondent

At our last meeting Tom Parker, the chapter W. A. this year, was elected delegate to the National Convention at Manhattan, Kansas.

The Committee on the Beaux-Arts Ball have been appointed and are already functioning. The date for this year's ball is March 25th. We are going to get the best orchestra in the east if we can, and intend letting nothing stand in the way of making the affair a big success.

PAIONIOS—K. S. A.
"Cap" Solvera, Jr., Correspondent

Paeonios takes this last chance to again say that we are striving to make this convention the biggest in the history of the fraternity and that we cordially invite our brothers to attend and assist in its success.

"Soupys" Soupy, '27, is the nucleus around which our chapter builds its hopes for a knockout convention, with the guidance of H. E. Wichers, '24. Call him Soupys, fellows, and remember he doesn't smoke.

Bob Osborne is winning himself a permanent position on the Varsity Basketball team by his fine showing in practice. We wonder how he will keep his position as "First Fiddler" and star forward at the same time.

One of the old standbys has doubled-crossed himself and put out his pin—again. "Hank" loss is his handle, and the lady friend is Miss Alberta Woodward, Chi Omega.

ANDRONICUS—U. S. C.
Carl W. Denney, Correspondent

After a most enjoyable vacation of Thanksgiving, the brothers have returned to school with the anticipation of seeing Southern California's Trojan Eleven triumph over the wonder team of the East, Notre Dame, on Dec. 4th. (Editor's note—they didn't.)

On this date, we of Andronicus chapter are looking to winning the Annual Homecoming parade with our beautiful and symbolic float, the "Return of Helen of Troy." Last year we were awarded the grand prize for our conception of the "Return of Pharaoh." A more complete description of the float will be in the next issue.

December 15th, school adjourns to January 3rd for the Christmas vacation, at which time Brother George Loren Patrick, Andronicus delegate to the convention, will spend his time seeing the sights back at Manhattan.

DINOCRATES—TEXAS
J. Roy White, Correspondent

The football season closed in the proverbial blaze of glory for T. U. on Turkey Day. The Aggies were defeated by the score of 1 to 5. A number of our alumni were with, San Antonio exes leading by a heavy majority.

For the first time at homecoming we were able to entertain these home-comers of ours in our own abode, which was filled to capacity. Ask Steward Law.

O yes—our initiation of November 8 and 9 mustn't be forgotten. Tred Nagle and Jim Hammond, both Austin boys, came through unscathed. We expect to hold another run-in before Christmas.

The Cactus, T. U. year-book, is printing pictures of serenity and fraternity houses this year, and "Brother Buck" (being Jim Buchanan) is making us a hotsky pencil sketch of our mansion-in-disguise. We certainly hope they accept it, Buck.

The results of the recent Beaux Art competitions were quite pleasing. In both Class A and B Projects only six men failed to receive mentions. Even our dear W. A. blossomed forth with a verbal of glory for T. U. on Turkey Day. "See you at the convention.""
WHO MISSES—

—the list of lost men, new addresses, etc.

Space forbids us publishing the list of men’s addresses wanted (it’s still the same as last month), the new pledges and initiates, but we’ll have them all in the January Post-Convention issue.

like glue, is about the toughest varnish in the world, and of course most of the world’s supply of wood oil, the base of varnishes, is produced in Central China, and is used in the natural state here. There are several brands of cement made in China, all fairly good and uniform quality. American and British prepared roofings are sold in Hankow, but we use tile roofs almost entirely, cheap native round gray tile, native made French style flat tile, or for more monumental buildings, the old style Chinese glazed tile in brown, green or yellow.

Costs In Comparison

“Costs are rather startling in comparison to American. Local currency is about two for one of American gold dollars, and the following figures are all in local currency. A very average sized residence for foreigners, without heating or plumbing for $5,700 about 14 cents per cu. ft. Our school buildings usually cost 12 to 15 cents, and the best residence work 20 cents.

“A very good school building was built in Changsha last year for 31 cents, with heating, plumbing, terrazzo and the best hardware. (Divide these figures by two for comparison with U. S. dollars and cents.) Labor is usually only 20 to 25 percent of the total cost, and this of course makes a difference in all kinds of details, the same material rather than labor. Most teams get about 70 cents a day. The highest paid man in our office gets $35 per month, and the office boys get ten a month.

May you be wondering why is a mission architect? What has that got to do with converting the heathen, etc.? The following are some of the jobs put through our office since I came here: a church, parish hall and residence in one compound, the church and parish hall in Chinese temple style, but with brick, reinforced concrete and wood-stool trusses and plenty of precast ornamental concrete; converting large duplex residence into a college dormitory; four new residences for faculty at Boone; brick and reinforced concrete dining hall and assembly for boys’ boarding school; kitchen and laundry additions to girls’ school; third story added to girls school building; rebuilt part of Boone theological school; two-story church and parish hall at a small port up river in the temple style construction, similar to the first mentioned; practice school with class rooms, dining hall and dormitory for 120 boys at the normal college; residence at Anking and numerous small jobs of alterations, additions, heating plants, etc.

Three Years Work Ahead

“We now have on the boards in various stages of development, the following projects already under way or to go thru during the next three years: four different residences; a chapel and gym building for the girls school; college dormitory for Boone to seat 700; two school and college science buildings, a boys primary school building; assembly hall for normal college; settlement house for social workers; maternity ward addition to hospital; residences for Chinese doctors at hospital; power plant for hospital; two different groups of college buildings in Nanking; class room building for Kuling American school (for foreign children); steam heating plant for the same institution; swimming pool and showers for Boone gym; new church for one of the native parishes in Wu-chang, etc.

“We find new jobs for us faster than we can turn over the old ones. A live wire plus fellowship are standing around looking wise and looking for jobs or else going to Florida, we are praying for time enough to do all of ours decently. I have written this with the idea that what I have to relate is of interest to many of the fraters, and you will probably pass it around or perhaps put some of it in The Archi.

“We are way off here, news from and about everybody is valuable and interesting. I hear from Dassett (Mnesicles ’17) in Paris occasionally, and was pleased to see Badgley’s (Demetrios ’23) fourth mention in the American Architect, the convention picture in Pencil Points, to hear of Mill Osborne’s marriage, and to see in the Columbia catalogue that he’s on the faculty there, and to learn that Fraser (Mnesicles ’19) got the Rome prize, and that Doc Oman (Demetrios ’20) is a prof at Ohio State.

“I enjoy Chubb’s (Demetrios ’04) overviews on the monthly. I don’t see or hear anything of Hammond (Hammett Mnesicles ’19, we believe he means?) when he was around this side of the world. If my attractive description of my job yet in The Archi, there will be a sudden rush of APX to the mission fields. There are lots worse places to be. More news to come to a nice place like China instead of Paris, where you get mobbed?”

Brother Taylor has recently been elected to full membership in the Association of Chinese and American Engineers, and he is also a member of the Hankow Chamber of Commerce. Walt is an Ohio Tau Beta Pi man. The latter part of September the Chinese ordered Forrest troops out of the Hankow port, and Cantonese troops had cut off Wu-chang, where Boone college is located. However the last word Walter’s folks had was that he was supervising some work at Kuling and was out of the zone of immediate danger. The Archi has no later news.