

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,
1956-present

University Relations

7-2-1971

Delano resigns UM alumni post to direct railroad association; Oechsli is new alumni director

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Delano resigns UM alumni post to direct railroad association; Oechsli is new alumni director" (1971). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 25148.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/25148>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.



IMMEDIATELY

sale/jm
7-2-71
state + cs

DELANO RESIGNS UM ALUMNI POST
TO DIRECT RAILROAD ASSOCIATION;
OECHSLI IS NEW ALUMNI DIRECTOR

MISSOULA--

John L. Delano, 49, former state legislator and Helena businessman who has served as executive director of the University of Montana Alumni Association since September 1968, has resigned the alumni post to become director of the Montana Railroad Association (MRA).

George Oechsli, 43, a Butte native and former broadcast news director there, succeeds Delano as executive director of the Alumni Association. For the past year, Oechsli has served as director of the Alumni Association Development Fund and associate director of the Alumni Association.

Delano's resignation and his and Oechsli's new appointments were effective Thursday (July 1).

In announcing Delano's resignation from the University staff, UM President Robert T. Pantzer said: "John Delano has served the Alumni Association and this University in splendid fashion. I deeply regret that he is leaving the Missoula campus, but I realize his new position will be a great challenge and I wish him well."

Regarding Pantzer's appointment of Oechsli to the alumni post, which was okayed by the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Pantzer said: "We are fortunate that George Oechsli has been working with the UM Alumni Office during the past year, and I am confident that he will make a very competent executive director of the Alumni Association."

Delano's appointment as MRA director was announced by Newell Gough Jr., Helena attorney and MRA chairman.

more

DELANO RESIGNS; OECHSLI NEW ALUMNI DIRECTOR--2

"The railroads of Montana are fortunate in having a person of Mr. Delano's wide acquaintanceship and broad knowledge of Montana economic and social areas in this important position," Gough said.

Delano spearheaded significant developments within the Alumni Association during his three-year tenure as executive director. He launched the UM Library Book Fund Drive within the Alumni Development Fund late in 1969 in response to Pantzer's challenge to UM alumni and friends to remedy the deficit in the Library's holdings. The book fund has reached nearly \$100,000 in donations.

Delano also was among those instrumental in designing a series of meetings for exchanges of information and ideas between administrators from the six units of the Montana University System and state legislators and prospective state legislators prior to the convening of the 42nd State Legislature this year.

Also included in the programs developed under Delano's leadership are the UM Faculty Speakers Bureau, designed to provide speakers from UM at the request of various service groups and other organizations throughout the state, and the UM Student Ambassadors Program, in which UM students visit their hometown high schools during vacation breaks to inform high school students of University programs and objectives and to encourage the students to attend college.

As director of the UM Alumni Development Fund, Oechsli has been responsible for raising funds for the alumni development program. The Development Fund, created in 1968 by the Alumni Association Board of Directors, is used by UM for grants, scholarships and improvements.

Oechsli was graduated from UM in 1952 with a degree in business administration. He was stationed in Paris with the Army Signal Corps from 1952-54. After his discharge, Oechsli worked as news director for KXLF radio and television stations in Butte. He operated a home furnishings store in the Mining City between 1959-70.

DELANO RESIGNS; OECHSLI NEW ALUMNI DIRECTOR--3

Active in Butte civic affairs, Oechsli was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club and he served as chairman of the Silver Bow County Cancer Crusade. Mrs. Oechsli, who is the former Alice Lyden of Butte, was president of the Butte Junior League in 1969. The couple has two sons.

A native of Billings, Delano was employed by the Montana Physicians Service in Helena prior to his appointment as Alumni Association executive director in 1968. He served two terms in the Montana Legislature as a representative of Lewis & Clark County.

After five years^{Army} service in World War II, including duty in the Pacific Theater, Delano was discharged with the rank of captain and he returned to UM where he was graduated in 1947 with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

In 1954, Delano was elected state president of the Montana Jaycees. He was also named "Outstanding Man of the Year" in Billings in 1954. He is a past president of the UM Alumni Association, the Helena Navy League, St. Peters Community Hospital in Helena, the Helena Kiwanis Club and he is immediate past president of the Western Montana Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Delano has received the Sears-Roebuck Legislative Conservation Award from the National and Montana Wildlife Federations, and he has served on the Vocational School for Girls Advisory Council.

He also has been active in the Montana Trapshooting Association, YMCA, Elks Club and the American Legion.

Mrs. Delano is the former Katherine Louise Shallenberger of Missoula. The couple has two daughters.

###