

Here are Harrington Wimberly, '24 journ., editor of "The Altus Times-Democrat" and a leading Oklahoma newspaper publisher and Mattye Wilson Williams, '25 journ., one of the few woman managing editors of a daily newspaper in Oklahoma. She is the managing editor of Mr Wimberly's newspaper

## Two editors



THE rise of Altus, Oklahoma to one of the best-known cities of the state may be attributed in great part to a newspaper, the *Altus Times-Democrat*, edited and owned for a number of years by the late Hutton Bellah, '23 journ., and since 1929 edited by Harrington Wimberly, '24 journ., who has just retired as vice president of the University of Oklahoma Association.

Mr Wimberly is a joint owner with the Pulliam Publishing Corporation of this important daily newspaper. The only woman stockholder of the Pulliam corporation is also the managing editor of the newspaper—one of the few newspapers in Oklahoma with a woman managing editor—Mattye Wilson Williams, '25 journ. In addition, she is correspondent for the *Associated Press*, *Daily Oklahoman*, *Wichita Falls Record-News* and the *Dallas News*. Frequently, she has a story published in the *Kansas City Star*.

Mr Wimberly is a typical community editor. That is meant as a complimentary gesture for a good community editor is one who revitalizes his locality and keeps its face washed. He is a composite of instructor, caretaker, pep-leader, and slave-driver.

Down at Altus cotton farmers, cattle men and business men, and the next door neighbor drop in to talk over the low price of cotton, or the promotion of business and civic improvement. They are accorded a cordial welcome by the editor as they enter. Mr Wimberly, by means of these sessions is privileged to keep in close touch with the very tone

of his community through the pulse of his individual readers.

Mr Wimberly studied both business and editorial journalism in the university upon coming here from his home in Hagerman, New Mexico. With school days over, he went to Altus in 1924 where Hutton Bellah had just bought the *Times-Democrat*. He was advertising manager. In 1925 he became editor and business manager of the *Cordell Beacon* at Cordell. Here was where Mr Wimberly was to spend so much effort and so much midnight oil; where he was to learn so much about the management of a community newspaper. He did practically all the work including editorial and advertising work and the direction of the mechanical plant, necessary to putting out a good paper. In addition he learned his lessons of people through his close association with them. He was here, there and everywhere, making friends, and gaining an insight into the neighborhood. He even taught journalism and sponsored the *Spur*, student newspaper, at Oklahoma Christian college.

In 1928 he returned to become vice president and business manager of the *Times-Democrat* as it was changed at that time from a semi-weekly to a daily paper. The newspaper and job printing business which Hutton Bellah had conceived and had built into a splendid, aggressive corporation for public benefit, was to pass into good hands. When Bellah sold his interests in 1929, Mr Wimberly became president of the Altus Publishing Company.

Mr Wimberly married Miss Myrth McCurley, Cordell, in 1927. While in school, he was active in interfraternity work, being a member of Alpha Tau Omega. He was a Jazz Hound and member of Sigma Delta Chi, journalistic fraternity. He is still interested in activity work as he is director of the Rotary club in Altus.

Unusual though it is for a woman to hold the important responsibilities of editing a daily newspaper, Mrs Williams, herself sees no reason why a woman should not be as successful as a man in that very difficult position. The enthusiastic acceptance of her efforts in behalf of the paper by her readers is evidence that no prejudice exists in regard to her sex. Her vivid newspaper personality is reflected to a refreshing extent through the pages of the paper, although her femininity has never predominated to the extent of subordinating other strong features of the newspaper.

She writes: "Since depression days have hit even the newspaper, I am handling society along with my other duties of editing all news copy from local sources and the United Press. I give all local assignments, and usually write from two to four columns of local news items daily. That is a lot of work, but one of the first things I learned about a small daily is that it is necessary to work all the time.

"My work is more interesting now for I have such a variety, and I get a real thrill out of handling a real story myself, instead of merely editing some one else's story."