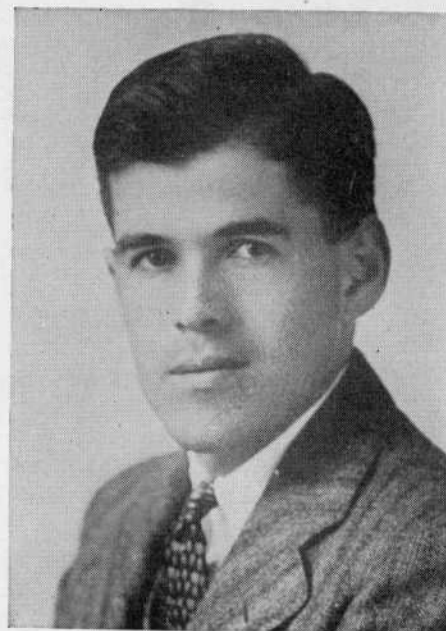


Todd Downing, '24as, '28M. A., became one of Oklahoma's most interesting fiction writers this fall when his murder mystery, "Murder on Tour," was released by G. P. Putnam's Sons. The young University Spanish instructor collected material for his book during student tours to Mexico City during the past four years. As a student of the murder mystery form, Downing is almost certain to be heard from again in this field



Belles lettres and bell ringers

No More Trumpets

George Milburn, '30ex, *No More Trumpets* and Other Stories. New York. Harcourt, Brace and Company. 1933. \$2.50.

IN a remarkably short time George Milburn, '30ex, a contributing editor of *The Sooner Magazine*, has made himself one of the few short story writers of the United States who are important and significant. If *Oklahoma Town* demonstrated that he was a craftsman and story teller *par excellence*, *No More Trumpets* adds stature through subtle humor and satire. Mr. Milburn will never be satisfied with the world as it is and that is one reason why he is an important figure in contemporary letters. In his earlier stories, he was inclined to be rather bitter about social injustice; while he is still concerned, he is now making full use of his marvelous power of satire, seasoned with spontaneous humor, as in the opening story of this all-star selection, "The Visit to Uncle Jake's."

There are eighteen stories in this second collection, which is bound uniformly with *Oklahoma Town*. Many of them have had the highest honors of the short story in America, such as inclusion in George O'Brien's collections, highest ranking in the O. Henry Memorial awards, etc. They are stories which Oklahomans have been talking about for

the past several years. They are stories which every Oklahoman will want on his library table and which should head the fall reading. With one exception, all of the stories have an Oklahoma setting. Many social strata are pictured, from university campus to city and farm.

People will differ on their favorite stories, of course. Here, to take from Mr. Milburn's own titles, is all white meat. "A Student in Economics" seems to be the campus favorite. Craftsmen seem to like "Heel, Toe, and A 1, 2, 3, 4" best. "Pilgrim's Progress" best illustrates Mr. Milburn's mastery of satire. "Inquire Within" has more heartbeats in it than any story Mr. Milburn has written and it is a perfect demonstration of his essential greatness as a writer, the effortless ease with which he makes people live and ordinary people important people. "Sugar Be Sweet" is perhaps the best example of milburnia. It is a novel in short story form of the barrenness of American life told as only a master can tell it, in a few pages. It alone would make *No More Trumpets* a triumph for any writer.



Murder on Tour

Todd Downing, '24as, '28M.A. *Murder on Tour*. New York. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1933. \$2.00.

Do not begin reading *Murder on Tour* if you have an appointment with a dentist in half an hour, for you are not going to be able to lay aside Mr. Downing's

mystery until you've solved it. Confirmed mystery story readers on the campus have rated Mr. Downing's first published novel as a triumph, and one of the best and most interesting of the year. President Bizzell almost missed an appointment with the committee arranging the Saturday night classes because of *Murder on Tour*. And you'll appreciate his position, with only a few more pages to go, when you yourself start reading, for Mr. Downing is very deft at spreading suspicion and equally deft in covering up clues.

Payne, near solution of a smuggling mystery, is murdered in a hotel room in San Antonio. He is strangled with a pair of black silk stockings. Rennert of the Treasury department takes up the search, and at the same time, seeks Payne's murder. He joins Dr. Lipscomb's tour of Mexico. There are thirteen people in the party. It isn't fair to tell more.

Mr. Downing is a past-master at telling mystery stories. He has read almost every mystery story of recent years published in English, Spanish or Italian. He has been writing mystery novels for some years. He not only knows how to tell a mystery story but he supplies the interesting background of Mexico, which he knows so well. Rennert is a new and pleasing type of detective and you'll enjoy the smooth way he works. Mr. Downing is well on his way to becoming the leading mystery novelist of the country. You'll agree when you've read *Murder on Tour*, with its unusual situations, its fool-proof construction and its easy-on-the-eye style.