

Sooners at Home and Abroad

WITH August's sun beating down mercilessly on the O.U. campus, a letter from Fairbanks, Alaska, was a refreshing sight on the magazine editor's desk. The letter was from Noel C. Ross, '34ex, and here is what it said:

The world's farthest north newspaper reporter, at work on his cabin on the Fairbanks airport on last Saturday's sunny midnight, threw down his hatchet and heisted his headnet when Pilot Hans Mirow breezed over from Nome in his tricky new Fairchild "24."

Since Mirow often brings queer things from over Seward peninsula way, yours truly mished across the niggerheads to see what he had brought this time.

Out she stepped, just as pert and pretty as she used to be on the campus of O.U.—Miss Joyce Harris, '33, Kappa Kappa Gamma. Unbeknown to me, she had been in mukluks at Nome all last winter, teaching the urchins there to live the white man's way.

Since her years at the Kappa house, she has added to her achievements, for last spring she drove a team of eight blue-eyed Siberian huskies over six miles of shore ice of the Bering sea to win the Chechako trophy—a prized piece of silver. Her time was 22 minutes, through a Bering blow at 32 below. She froze the right side of her nose, but the race was worth it.

While at Nome she learned to like seal liver, reindeer, and schei-fish. In Oklahoma she used to hate fish, but she's going next year to Kodiak where salmon is king, and bears grow bigger than any place else in the world.

She teaches home economics—the school kind—but up here she's also learned how to fetch and to carry, and to bake bread on a Yukon stove.

From Fairbanks Miss Harris went Outside, via the Richardson Highway and the Alaska Lines. She is returning to Oklahoma to call on her college friends, and to see her father and mother, Dr. and Mrs. D. S. Harris of Drummond.

However, before the departure of the University of Oklahoma's farthest north teacher graduate, she and the world's farthest north newspaper reporter, did some reminiscing—viewing from this far-north perspective the wasted years.

Naturally enough, our real living in Alaska brought us to the same conclusion.

We wondered whether the University picture has changed, whether "higher education" is ever going to get down to bedrock?

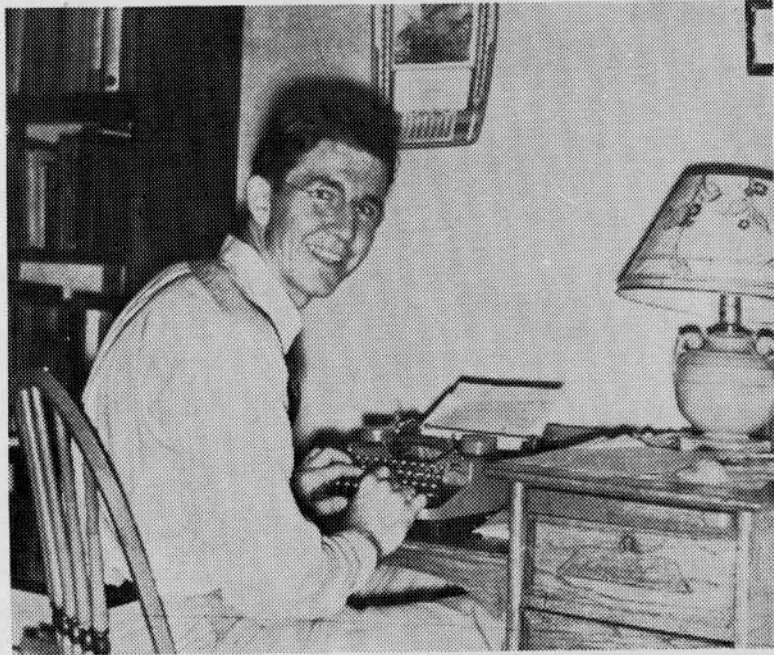
But be that as it may, we're going north anyway. Cheerio and kindest personal regards.

Getting fired is path to success

When you tune in your radio on the popular "Gang Busters" program, or pick up a detective story magazine, you are likely to run onto the work of Harlan Mendenhall, '37, who lost his newspaper job during hard times and thereby got shunted into free lance writing which so far has averaged paying him more than twice as much as reporting.

Mendenhall was one of 17 who lost their jobs in September, 1937, when an Oklahoma City newspaper adopted a retrenchment program. Out of work for three weeks, he kept busy and placed two scripts with the Columbia Broadcasting System program, "Gang Busters." He liked free lance writing, and when his first magazine story, a crime-confession piece, sold for \$90 he liked it even better.

Mrs. Mendenhall, '37ex, helped keep the specter of the wolf from the doorstep



Harlan Mendenhall, '37, lost his newspaper job. Result: a successful start as a free lance writer.

by getting a regular job as bookkeeper for a dentist. They were anxious to pay off college debts so Mendenhall worked on a Wichita Falls newspaper for four months.

His work on radio scripts won him a regular assignment for covering Southwestern cases for the Gang Buster program and he quit the Wichita Falls place to come back to Oklahoma City to devote full time to writing. His next two magazine stories failed to sell, but he kept at it and studied short story technique to improve his skill.

Then he began to get the right slant and his stories started selling. Since going on his own, he has averaged selling a detective story every two weeks, has bought a new car and paid up practically all of his college day debts.

Mendenhall, who writes under two other names besides his own to aid in marketing his work, recently sold his biggest story—a three-part serial story on the history of the Barker-Karpis gang, said to be the largest that ever operated in the Southwest. He writes for five magazines and two syndicates.

Life Member news

Recent correspondence has brought news about many of the Life Members of the University of Oklahoma Association.

Carl Whiteman, '14ex, New York, has perhaps one of the biggest selling jobs of any Sooner. He is vice president of the General Foods Corporation, vice president of General Food Sales Company, Inc., vice president and director of General Foods, Ltd., Toronto, Canada; and is chairman

of the merchandising committee in charge of selling and advertising Post's cereals, a line of coffees and teas, and is in charge of the sale of all products to institutions, restaurants, hotels and so on.

After merchandise brokerage experience in Oklahoma City, Dallas and Fort Worth he went to Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1924 to become division sales manager with the Postum Cereal Company. After a time in Cincinnati, Ohio, he went to New York as assistant to the president of Post Products Company, and when the Postum Company became part of the General Foods Corporation in 1929, he remained in various capacities in the sales end of the business.

... Robert S. Gordon, '20, has been general counsel for the National Dairy Products Corporation, New York City, since 1935. His home is in Scarsdale, New York, and he and Mrs. Gordon, a Washington girl and graduate of Wellesley College, have two boys, Bob and Jim, 12 and 10 years old... F. L. Aurin, '14, '15ma, is president of the Southland Royalty Company, with office in Fort Worth, where he moved recently from Ponca City. He had been vice president of the company for some time, and was made president just before moving to Fort Worth. Mr. Aurin has been with the Southland company since leaving his position as chief geologist of the Marland Oil Company in 1928. A son, Fred B. Aurin, graduated from O. U. this year after a four-year premedical course majoring in zoology, and will enter John Hopkins Medical School in Septem-

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ber. A daughter, Joan, 15 years old, is in high school.

...Luther H. White, '14, former president of the Alumni Association, is manager of the land and geological department, scouting and leasing department for the Deep Rock Oil Corporation, Tulsa. From 1935 to November 1, 1937, he was manager of the land and geological departments of the Sunray Oil Company. A son, Harold A. White, received a degree from O.U. in 1937 and is a medical student at Tulane University. Kenneth T. White is a student in the University College of Business administration, and two other children are still in school in Tulsa. ...The doctor's dissertation by Jessie D. Newby, '10, head of the Latin department of Central State Teachers College, Edmond, was published recently and has been warmly complimented by authorities in the field, both in America and abroad. The dissertation, *A Numismatic Commentary on the Res Gestae of Augustus*, was prepared for her Ph.D. degree which was conferred on her February 1, 1938, at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. It deals with the historical significance of Roman coins...

...David R. Milsten, '28law, Tulsa, has been appointed general counsel for the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, for the states of Oklahoma and Arkansas. This is the society which controls performance rights on copyrighted works of leading authors and publishers. The new appointment will not interfere with Mr. Milsten's private practice as an attorney. Mr. Milsten's book on Will Rogers, *An Appreciation of Will Rogers*, published in 1935 by the Naylor Company, San Antonio, Texas, has been approved by the State Board of Education as a recommended volume for the public schools of Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. Milsten have a son, Donald Ellis Milsten, born May 14, 1938.

...John F. Wilkinson, '23, has been in investment banking since graduation and since 1930 has been traveling representative of the bond department of the Mercantile Commerce Bank & Trust Company at St. Louis, Missouri. Mrs. Wilkinson is a Delta Gamma from Washington University and they have two daughters, 9 and 4 years old... Robert H. Wood, '11, is in the oil business in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas, with headquarters in Tulsa... E. H. Skinner, '23, has been in the pipeline business since leaving school and is now general superintendent of the Great Lakes Pipe Line Company at Kansas City, Missouri.

...Lee Thompson, '27law, leader in student activities while in O.U., is continuing his habits of keeping busy as an attorney and civic worker in Oklahoma City where he is practicing law. He is

past director of the Junior Division of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and past vice-president of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce; past director of the Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma City; past director of the Oklahoma County Bar Association; member of the Oklahoma County Bar Association, State Bar of Oklahoma and American Bar Association; director of Oklahoma County Chapter of the American Red Cross; vice chairman of education committee of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce; Captain of Field Artillery in the Oklahoma National Guard; listed in *America's Young Men*; former member of Executive Board, University of Oklahoma Association; former president O.U. Alumni Club of Oklahoma County; present chairman O. U. Alumni Advisory Council, Oklahoma County; Mason, Shriner, and member of Oklahoma Club, Lawyers' Club, Seventy-Five Club, Men's Dinner Club and Army and Navy Club.

...The second generation in the family of W.J. Armstrong, '16law, Oklahoma City, will soon be included in the O.U. alumni group. A son, William B. Armstrong, is a senior in the School of Geology. Mr. Armstrong is oil and gas conservation officer for the State Corporation Commission, Oklahoma City.

...Goldie Cooksey, '21, '24piano, 26ma, assistant in English in the University, worked toward a Ph.D. in English during the summer at Chicago University. She has been national chapterian of Chi Delta Phi, national literary society, since 1934 and has organized three chapters—at the University of Oklahoma, Bethel College and Oklahoma College for Women... Laurence E. Beattie, '20law, is practicing law at Ardmore and also has an interest in the B. & L. Jewelry store at Ardmore. He is alternate national executive committeeman of the Oklahoma Department of the American Legion, and is active in the United States Army Reserve Corps, being commissioned as major... H. S. Oderman, '16, '27ms, is director of the City Ice & Fuel Company of Cleveland, Ohio, the Detroit City Ice & Fuel Company, Detroit, Michigan, and the Zero Ice & Cold Storage Company, Norman, Oklahoma, and is president of the latter two companies...

...Ralph V. James, '34, is representative for the Investors Syndicate in South Central Oklahoma, and is living in Norman. He writes that the tenth anniversary of *The Sooner Magazine* reminds him of the time "when I, along with seventeen others including Frank Cleckler, worked all night long trying to get Volume 1 Number 1 out on time in September, 1928"... Gaiser D. Maddox, '33, is working in the Maracaibo district of Venezuela for the Sago Petroleum Corporation, a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and writes that Dr. W. H. Carson, dean of the College of Engineering, was a recent visitor there.

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