

Sooners At Home And Abroad

PHI Beta Kappa member, sorority president, English major, piano student, national officer of Kappa Kappa Gamma—and now Helen Meyers, '33, is swinging hi-de-ho in New York City's Rainbow Room and in the Rainbow Grill.

Time was when Miss Myers was a member of the University's Manuscript Club as well as almost every other organization on the campus. Time was when she was very very much annoyed because she was not allowed to take such advanced courses in geology as paleontology.

And now, six time a night, she swings with a grand piano around the revolving stage in the Rainbow room, playing request numbers from the tables—anything and everything from *Margie* to Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 13* to George Gershwin's *Foggy Day* and to *St. Louis Woman*. And as many times again she appears in the Rainbow Grill, a singer as well as a pianist.

Miss Myers went to New York City for a two-weeks visit and has stayed eighteen months. Trained in classical piano studies, she started her present career by accident. Present one night at the Rainbow Room when the pianist, whom she knew slightly, was called away by an emergency, she took over without preparation or special experience. A theatrical manager heard her. An audition followed, and a job at the *Maisonette Russe*, fashionable supper club. Two months there, then to Rockefeller Plaza—the Rainbow Room and Grill.

But that isn't all she's been doing. The College of Fine Arts might be surprised to learn that any educational piano recordings for children they may have, made by the Victor recording company, are very likely by Miss Myers. She estimates that she has done nearly a hundred such records for the American Book Company and the Ginn Book Company.

Or many people might be surprised to learn that she won first place on one of Major Bowes' programs, playing a number written by her brother. Or to learn that she is a member of the only three-piano team booked by the NBC artist service.

But then again, it's hard to be surprised



Two Sooner girls who have made good in the highly competitive field of entertainment in New York City are Helen Meyers, '33 (left) and Emily Stephenson, '34.

at anything that might be done by a person who once wrote and destroyed ten chapters of a novel, who collected fossils, who has written a music book for children, who writes popular songs—one of them published, who has a sublimated desire that may eventually break out—to be a writer.—Dick Disney.

In musical show

It's a long way from the role of an ordinary, although pretty, little girl in school at Skiatook, Oklahoma, to theater and concert stage of New York, but Emily Stephenson, '34, has traveled that route.

Miss Stephenson made her first important appearance on Broadway in the nationally discussed musical comedy, *I'd Rather Be Right*, one of the big hits of the present theatrical season.

She has spent two summers in a stock company, made a cruise as a concert artist on the *Aquitania's* first South American trip, and filled an engagement in one of Long Island's swankiest supper clubs. She regards her present role as especially fortunate because of the opportunity of working with George M. Cohan, one of the great men of the theater world.

A music student since she was a 9-year-old grade pupil in Skiatook, Miss Stephenson began taking voice lessons while in Anadarko High School. When a student in the University, she definitely decided to seek a voice career. Lawrence Tibbett heard her sing when he visited Oklahoma soon after her graduation and he advised her to continue her work. Through a letter of introduction to Dr. John Erskine given her by Mr. Tibbett, the Oklahoma school girl obtained a fellowship at the

Juillard School of Music where she studied for two and a half years.

During her first summer in the east, Miss Stephenson was a member of the Essex Players Stock Company at Lake Champlain, New York, playing ingenue roles in several productions.

She was engaged as one of the girl soloists in *I'd Rather Be Right*, but recently has been understudying Joy Hodges, the feminine lead.—Lucille Moore Gilstrap.

Milburn writes radio script

George Milburn, '31ex, short story writer, has turned to the radio field and is script writer for the nationally broadcast program "Scattergood Baines." He and his family are living at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Received Ph. D. degree

A Ph. D. degree was awarded in February to Jessie D. Newby, '10, '25ma, by the University of Iowa. Dr. Newby, who has been head of the Latin department at Central State Teachers College, Edmond, since 1932, completed her work for the high degree during the school year 1936-37, but her final examination was given in January and the degree conferred February 1.

Her dissertation was on "A Numismatic Commentary on the Res Gestae of Augustus." The Romans had a habit of issuing coins to commemorate any special event, much as in done with stamps today, and Dr. Newby found a fascinating field for study in the correlation of specific coins and historical events.

Dr. Newby's previous work before going to Central including teaching in Guth-



Rev. Edgar Bruce Wilson, '28, who has won recognition for his work as a minister.



Joanne Alcorn, '35ex, of Ponca City, is the bride-to-be of Pinky Tomlin, '34ex, radio comedian and song writer.



E. E. Bradley, '37ex, who is now completing his first year as head of the speech work at Panhandle A. and M. College.

rie, district 56; instructor in Oklahoma and Texas high schools, assistant principal and principal in Oklahoma high schools, five years; and instructor at the University of Oklahoma, summers of 1910 and 1928.



Young pastor wins recognition

The biography of Rev. Edgar Bruce Wilson, '28ed, has been included in the latest edition of *Who's Who in the Clergy*. For the last five years Dr. Wilson has been pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Lebanon, New Hampshire. During his pastorate, Dr. Wilson has established the Wesley Foundation work of the M. E. church at Dartmouth College.

After graduating from the University of Oklahoma, where he was a Lambda Chi Alpha, he attended Boston University of Theology and received the degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology. He received his Doctor of Theology degree at Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado.

For several years Dr. Wilson was promoter of boys' and young people's work in the Congregational Churches of Greater Boston and associate director of Camp Waldron for boys. He is the author of *The Religious Function of the Family*.

Mrs. Wilson is a graduate of Doane College, Crete, Nebraska. They have a son two years old.



Tomlin likes radio work

Truman "Pinky" Tomlin, '34ex, who has had a hectic career as orchestra player and singer, radio vocalist, screen actor, song writer and radio comedian, has about decided to concentrate on radio work as

a result of his success during the last year.

About a year ago Eddie Cantor asked the sorrel-topped Oklahoma youth to be a guest star on his nationally popular program. Tomlin was quite a hit on that particular show. Two months later a Tomlin song, *The Love Bug Will Bite You*, became a hit, and he was invited to appear on the Cantor program again. The two performances were so successful that Cantor offered Tomlin the important job of pinch-hitting for him during his summer vacation.

The Sooner actor-singer-composer was frankly apprehensive over tackling this assignment, as his radio experience was somewhat scant. However, he took the job and his work was successful enough that Cantor gave him a full year's contract with his show.

Recently Tomlin has been on a personal appearance tour under the supervision of Cantor, and after about eight weeks of this he will either rejoin the radio show or go to a show of his own which Cantor is seeking to arrange.

"He has planned great things for me for the future, and feeling sure that he is sincere makes this country guy pretty happy," Tomlin wrote the *Sooner Magazine*.

"I realize that in order to attain the success that I'm shooting at, it will take long years of hard work and many heart-breaks. If I should ever be fortunate enough to attain this goal I can assure you that at no time will I forget to attribute this success to the fact that I was allowed the privilege of associating with all the fine kids that only Oklahoma can have.

"When I was in school there banging

out a meagre living on the guitar and singing songs, those same kids applauded my efforts which gave me courage to tackle this profession, which as you know is no cinch. They gave me the courage to start and are giving me the courage to go on by their continued letters and words of encouragement.

"In the past whether convenient or not, I have always plugged, both on the radio and in pictures, this state of Oklahoma, and as I am marrying Joanne Alcorn, who is an Oklahoman and a graduate of the University, I can assure you that I see even more reason to continue plugging Oklahoma.

Mr. Tomlin's marriage to Miss Alcorn, '35ex, was to take place late in February. She is a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority at the University. She recently has been attending the University of California at Los Angeles. They plan to make their home in Hollywood.



Bradley heads speech department

E. E. Bradley, '37ex, is serving his first year as head of the speech department of Panhandle Agricultural and Mechanical College, Goodwell.

He formerly taught at Marlow High School and El Reno High School and had championship debate teams. While at El Reno, his radio play group won the state championship and one of his students won the state championship in interpretive reading. More than sixty students participated in speech contest work. One student qualified for the national tournament and won fourth place in dramatic declamation. Representatives from

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Mr. Bradley's department attended the Student Legislature held in November at Oklahoma City and the debate team attended a tournament sponsored at Winfield, Kansas.



Chosen useful citizen

Irene Walker, '28, '30ma, who is beginning her third year as dean of the Woodward Junior College, has been named by a special committee as one of the two most useful citizens in Woodward. The selection was based upon Miss Walker's efforts in behalf of students wishing to work their way through college, her participation in civic activities and her scholastic record. From 1930 to 1932, Miss Walker was a faculty member in the English department at the University of Oklahoma.



Lecture foundation planned

Alumni and major students of the English department of the University were honored by the faculty at a biennial dinner February 10 in the new lounge and ballroom of the Union.

Plans for a Lecture Foundation in English to bring distinguished scholars to the campus were announced. A number of gifts already have been made for this purpose, and alumni and students are invited to make gifts to the foundation. The distinguished speakers would be invited to Norman on the occasion of the biennial homecomings for English majors.

Dr. Jewel Wurtzbaugh, associate professor of English, is chief sponsor of the plan.

Principal speaker on the dinner program was Dr. R. H. Griffith, professor of English at the University of Texas, who spoke about "Ideas in the Stream of Eighteenth Century Thought" as they color and affect living and thinking today.

During the dinner Dr. Wurtzbaugh was presented a beautiful portfolio with a Renaissance scroll of the signatures of seventy-five of her star students, in recognition of her ten years of teaching at the University.

More than a hundred persons attended the dinner program.

The *Sooner Magazine* was asked to announce that alumni wishing to contribute to the Lecture Foundation should send gifts directly to the English Department.



Recent additions to the public school staff at Holdenville include Pearl Chaney, '27ms, instructor of English and journalism; Elaine Davis, '37, second grade teacher; and L. B. Drake, '27ms, head of the science department. Superintendent of schools at Holdenville is Wade H. Shumate, '14; C. A. Stozier, '25, is principal of junior and senior high schools.

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