

SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Alumni Staff Members: Jess Heck, '48, Assistant Editor; Ted Beard, '21, Riding the Sooner Range; Larry Stephenson, '48, Staff Writer; Betty Jean McClean, '49, Roll Call; Harold Keith, '29, Sooner Sports; Paul McClung, '48, Special Writer; Thellys Gill Hess, '47bus, War Records Secretary and Book Review; Betty Barclay, '45, Staff Photographer; Mrs. Mary Turnbull, Alumni Records; John McGee, and Colbert Swanson, Mailing.

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The Cover

Adorning this month's cover is pretty Dorothy Duffy, engineers' St. Pat queen for 1948. Dorothy, Ponca City sophomore in Art, was best known on the campus as a cheer leader before her recent election to royalty. She is the daughter of Charles B. Duffy, '22law, and Mrs. Duffy (Vala Gladys Self, '19-'22).

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Riding the Sooner Range

BY TED BEARD

"Paul McClung" is rapidly becoming a campus synonym for "feature story." A journalism junior, his byline has appeared in *The Oklahoma Daily* this school year over stories about everything from an interview with Diana Barrymore, youngest member of the famous acting family, to stories about Cheponey, Collie dog which was shot on the campus.

His feature on Nancy Morgan, Campbell-Harris writing student, won the January Sigma Delta Chi journalism award as the month's best feature appearing in *The Oklahoma Daily*.

A new writer for *Sooner Magazine*, Paul is a rusty-haired fellow with a grin that breaks out over a serious face. He never says "no" when asked to write a story. "It gets me into plenty of jams, though," he says. "I started working on *Sooner* a week before the deadline for this issue. Ted Beard said he wanted three thousand-word stories, complete with pictures."

He slept only a couple of hours each night that week and lived on eggs, coffee, and candy bars, trying to get the stories, write for *The Oklahoma Daily*, and finish a term paper. But he got the stories. They are in this issue.

"I had some real photographers on those stories, though," he says. "They'll stand on their heads to get a good shot." Betty Barclay, '45fa, Sooner staff photographer, and Ned Hockman, education senior and assistant in the University photographic service department, took the pictures.

Paul is a student in the magazine feature writing classes taught by Grace E. Ray, '20ba, '23ma, who, besides being a teacher in journalism, is also a freelance writer. Paul was the first person this semester in his class to sell an article. *Grit* purchased the story.

How does he do it? "I just write more," is his ready answer. He writes several thousands of words every week for the *Daily* and points at writing a 5,000-word fiction story every week.

He describes Foster Harris, '25ba, his fiction instructor, as his most reluctant subject for an interview. Paul spent from 9 p.m. one night until 2:30 a.m. trying to get Foster to loosen up.

"A crowd was there and we'd been working on him all evening," Paul recalls. "I hated to torment him into it. He just doesn't like to get his name in the papers. But he's a big brother to me just as he is to dozens of others. His story is a natural and I had to write it. He gave the interview only because he's so nice—and he wanted to go to bed, too."

Paul and Jerry, his innocent-blue-eyed wife, describes life in their pre-fab in Sooner City, the veteran-housing project south of the main campus, as a three-ring circus. They take turns with each other, going to classes and taking care of their honey-headed two-year-old daughter, Jean.

Jerry is the only mother among the seven Uni-

versity Band majorettes. She divides her time among rearing Jean, strutting in front of the band, cooking, sewing, tating and studying drama (she's enrolled in 13 hours, including playwriting, which is taught by Arthur Wilmurt, associate professor of drama. Wilmurt is a newcomer to the University.) She writes confession stories, too!

Jerry wasn't going to school last summer. She "didn't have anything to do." She'd watched Paul and helped him write fiction. So she sat down at their little portable typewriter and wrote a 5,000-word story. The editors liked it. They sent her a note.

"Along with my rejection slip, she laughingly says. Paul adds, "We're pounding them out and the editors are pounding them back at us. We make six trips a day to the postoffice to see if we have sold one yet."

Paul is so proud of his family that as soon as he meets someone he shows him his billfold pictures of Jerry and Jean. "Little Jean's eyes are as large and blue as her mamma's, and Jerry is proud of her, too. "She'll be a great actress," Jerry exclaims. "When she says 'The three little kittens, they lost their mittens,' she almost cries."

Paul disagrees. "Nah, she's a story teller."

Jean starts out, "Once upon a time there were three little bears."

"And what did they do?" you ask her.

Then Jean almost bursts with amusement as she says her punch line, "They brush their teeth!"

Last spring Jerry and Paul were in the same French class. Mrs. Jeannette McMurray Alessandri, '24, assistant professor of modern languages, held the baby while the parents took the final examination.

When Paul gets home at night from the paper, Jerry cooks a thick midnight steak. They talk and study, then Jerry goes to bed and Paul sits down at the desk to write fiction. "I never know when he comes to bed," Jerry says. Paul confesses, "Sometimes I get sleepy and don't write."

They don't always observe the routine. Their list of pre-fab guests would look like *The Oklahoma Daily* masthead or the program for the latest campus play. "Lyle Copmann, editor of the *Daily*, Suzanne Hurst, Jack Messall, Alan Jenkins, news writers, or Jean Speegle, Gwen Ford, Jimmy Holland, Don Cales, all student actresses and actors.

Jerry just wishes that Paul would stay at home more often. But Paul says, "I can't stay away from the newspaper. I'll go down there to write a headline, and before I realize it I'm calling up people on the phone as fast as I can, and running all over town trying to get a story."

Paul met Jerry in Centennial High School, Pueblo, Colorado. He was editor of *The Centenniallight*, the newspaper, and was arranging to photograph the prettiest girls in school. He was writing a feature story.

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1947-48 Representatives on the O.U. Athletic Council: Neil R. Johnson, Norman; Granville T. Norris, Muskogee, and Paul Reed, Sulphur.

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Paul's father, a minister, was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Pueblo. He has been pastor in Walters and Clinton. Paul's parents are now residents of Oklahoma City.

Jerry's parents were reared in the Mangum area, but her father, Dewey Smart, was a railroad man, and the family eventually landed in Pueblo. Jerry was a twirler at Pueblo High School, and also wrote feature stories for the high school paper and later for Pueblo Junior College.

Paul and Jerry aren't the only McClungs in the University. Paul laughs and says he has relatives scattered thicker than rabbits all over Oklahoma and Texas, and he's never even heard of most of them.

His third cousins, Pat and Bill McClung, are also Sooner City residents. Pat and Bill married sisters. Pat, a junior law student, married Coy Hargis. Bill, a student in the University College, married Mary Hargis. The aunt of Coy and Mary is Anna Lewis, '30ph.d, who is a teacher at Oklahoma College for Women, Chickasha, and who is one of the few living members of Oklahoma's Hall of Fame.

Edwin Leslie McClung, a pharmacy sophomore, is another relative of Paul's.

After this feature writer, Paul McClung, finished high school he attended the School of Journalism at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. Before the first year was completed he was off to the Army.

During his three years of "beating around all over the United States" by way of Infantry, Engineers, and Parachute Troops, he and Jerry wrote daily letters to each other. The letters are crammed in a trunk in their Sooner City closet.

Paul is always finding a helluva way to make a living. Last year he even did housework in order to supplement his GI subsistence check. Part of each summer is spent doctoring calves, "playing with the ponies," and driving tractors at the home of his aunt and uncle the M. E. Harrisons, Byers, Texas.

Jerry and Paul have found themselves. They are doing what they most want to do. "We're having the time of our lives!" they say.

"But I wish he'd stay at home more," Jerry adds.

Seattle Alumni Club Reports

Subscriptions for a scholarship fund were started at a recent Seattle Alumni Club meeting held in the home of Dr. Richard D. Roys, '35ba, '39med, and Mrs. Roys (Ruth Shannon, '36ed).

Those attending were Jess E. Schrock, '40-'41; Mrs. Schrock (Jeanne Reardon, '43bus); Ira Eppler, '38bfa, '43mfa; Marise Chastain, '43journ; Clarence Taylor, '43eng; Col. S. H. Alexander, '26bs, '28med; Mrs. Alexander (LeBeryl Henderson, '27med); Virginia Harvey, '43nurse; Mrs. Lavonia McArthur Leo, '43bus, and Capt. John K. Whistler, '35eng.

R. L. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. McAfee, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Sechler, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Ensminger, Mrs. John Whistler, Mr. and Mrs. O. Thomas, Omere Leo, Mrs. Ira Eppler, Miss Mary Myers, Miss Anne Phillips, J. J. Connell, Lockrem Johnson and Wesley Wehr.

Correspondence . . .

New York, New York

Dear Mr. Beard:

It has been practically a year since we wrote to you and gave you some news concerning the Perry family. We haven't much news to send at present about ourselves. J. D. is still connected with the Student Life Department in the College of the City of New York. We visited friends and relatives in Oklahoma this past August, but were not near our old "Alma Mater." We still enjoy *Sooner Magazine*.

You requested some information about former graduates. Do you remember Richard F. Burt, '22ba, '25ma? He completed 25 years as superintendent of schools at Glenpool, Oklahoma, last spring. He retired, and the people in that community presented him with a gold watch and a farewell basket-dinner. He and his wife went to Colorado Springs on a vacation. While there, he was offered, and accepted the position as superintendent of schools in Monument, Colorado. He seems to be enjoying his work there immensely.

Stella Rhinehart Halit, '25ba, and her talented husband, H. Halit, are in Washington, D. C. We spent a pleasant evening with them as they were enroute to Washington to spend the holidays with her sister, Mrs. Robert Jantz.

We had Christmas greetings from Wallace Royce, '22ba. He is the pastor of the Methodist Church in Dewey. We also heard from Louise Winn Getchell, '22ba. She is, I believe, librarian in the Robert E. Lee College in Washington, D. C.

Must bring this to a close, wishing you prosperity for the remainder of 1948.

Sincerely, J. D. Perry, '21eng, and Vera Kaphart Perry, '23ba.



ERL E. DEACON, 21ENG

Erl Deacon Is Regents President

Erl E. Deacon, '21ba, Cushing, former vice-president of the Board of Regents, was named president of the Board at a recent meeting. He succeeds Lloyd Noble, '21, Ardmore. Other Officers elected were Don Emery, '20ba, '21law, Bartlesville, vice-president, and Emil R. Kraettli, '18, university secretary, as board secretary.

The regents also approved selection of two University engineering students for scholarships on recommendation of President Cross and W. H. Carson, dean of the College of Engineering. They are James A. Graves, Norman, and Herbert C. Oakes, Jr., Oklahoma City.

Mrs. Margaret B. Andersen, graduate student in chemistry, received the Samuel Roberts Noble Research Foundation fellowship for 12 months. Mrs. Andersen, who received a B. A. degree from Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, will work under the direction of Dr. S. H. Wender, associate professor of chemistry.

Members of the Board of Regents are T. R. Benedum, '28law, Norman; Joe W. McBride, '28bs, Anadarko; Ned Shepler, '18, Lawton, and Dr. Oscar Rogers White, '21bs, Oklahoma City.

NEW PRESS BOX

Plans for the construction of a new press box at Owen Stadium are underway after approval by the University Board of Regents. The new box will have two decks, the top one to be used by photographers. The lower one will provide facilities for writers, coaches and also contain a snack bar, rest rooms and booths for radio stations. A lift to raise heavy equipment will be built.

The Wright and Selby architect firm, Oklahoma City, has contracted for the preliminary planning. The present press box was constructed in 1924.



A typical scene in the Paul McClung prejab home in Sooner City at O.U.: Paul pounds out a feature story for *Sooner Magazine* while his wife Jerry and their little daughter Jean take care of studies the easy way, in bed. (See *Riding the Sooner Range*.)