

Attention, Mystery Writers

Some amateur mystery writer will be \$100 richer June 9. This amount is first place money for competition in the Short Course in Professional Writing contest scheduled at the University for June 7 through June 10.

A second prize of \$50 and a third prize of \$25 will also be presented at this annual event. These prizes are offered for the best original unpublished detective or mystery stories (involving a murder and its solution) not exceeding 15,000 words in length, submitted by a person registered for the short course. The contest is open only to persons who have not previously sold a detective or mystery story; however, the contestants may have sold stories of other types.

Known as the Robert Whitehand Memorial Award, the prize money is given annually by Harlan Mendenhall, '37journ, in memory of his friend, the late Capt. Robert E. Whitehand, '33ba.

In choosing this method of honoring the memory of Captain Whitehand, Mendenhall wrote to Professor Walter S. Campbell, director of courses in professional writing, as follows: "I would like to do this in appreciation of the aid, interest and encouragement you and Foster Harris, ('25ba, assistant professor of English) have given me in helping me get started on my career."

Mendenhall is one of the most successful writers in his field in this country, having published some 500 detective stories, articles in *"The Writer's Digest"* and a film, "How to Write a Detective Story." He is a veteran of World War II, and is now owner and manager of Mendenhall Film Productions. During his military service he spent more than three years making training and promotion films for the Army Air Forces.

Whitehand, former professor of drama at the University and a navigator in the airforce at the time of his death, was a promising Oklahoma playwright and short story writer. He was killed in 1945 in an air mission over Germany. Before turning to creative writing, Whitehand did newspaper work in Tulsa after receiving his degree in journalism in 1933. He received the Master's Degree in speech and dramatic art in 1936.

Twice during his career he won the Oklahoma prize offered by the University School of Drama for his two plays, *Precious Land* and *Pegasus on Foot*. While doing graduate work at the University of Iowa, Whitehand edited *American Prefaces* and had two short stories reprinted in Edward J. O'Brien's *Best Short Stories of 1936* and in Harry Hansen's *O Henry Memorial Award Prize Stories* in 1938. O'Brien's 1936 volume was dedicated to Whitehand as the most promising short story writer of the year.

To be eligible for the Whitehand award it is not required that contestants attend the short course. Registration with payment of registration fee of five dollars is sufficient to make any contestant eligible.

Contest rules state that no contestant may submit more than one story unless the second story is written in collaboration with another contestant. Collaboration on only one story is permitted of the contestant. Each contestant is expected to retain a carbon copy of his story, as those in charge of the contest will not assume responsibility for the loss of manuscripts submitted to them. Each manuscript will remain the property of the contestant submitting it. Mendenhall will choose the judges, and their decision will be final.

Persons wishing to enter the contest must mail the following three items to: Robert Whitehand Memorial Award, care of Professor W. S. Campbell, at the University not later than midnight of May 1.

1. Manuscript of story submitted, typed double spaced on one side of consecutively number pages of white paper, size 8x11. The first page of the

manuscript must bear a title, but instead of the author's name, it should bear an identification number selected by the contestant, consisting of four figures and two letters of the alphabet (for example A-3546-G).

2. An envelope similarly addressed, containing on one sheet the title of the story submitted, with author's name and same identification number as that typed on the manuscript; also the name and address of the contestant and a signed statement certifying that the manuscript submitted is original and unpublished and that the writer has not previously sold a detective or mystery story. Together with these, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of the contestant's manuscript.

3. A small envelope containing the name of the contestant, with a money order in the amount of five dollars to pay the fee for registration necessary for eligibility.

The short course programs will all be held in a ground-floor auditorium in B.O.Q. on the South Campus. Registration will begin Monday morning, June 7, and the program will be devoted to talks by publishers, editors, and booksellers on Marketing. Opportunity will be given to registered students to meet members of the staff and discuss with them manuscripts, markets and projects. There will be an evening program also.

Tuesday will be devoted to Non-Fiction, and Wednesday will be devoted to Fiction. At this time the Robert Whitehand Memorial Award will be made by Mendenhall. The morning of Thursday will be devoted to Poetry, and visiting poets will have an opportunity to read from their works to the assembly.

The courses in Professional Writing at the University stand very high—none higher—in volume of sales by their graduates. With the exception of the Course on Novel, all the courses can be taken by correspondence.

For particulars about the short course pertaining to programs, awards and housing, readers are directed to write to Professor W. S. Campbell (Stanley Vestal) at the University.

Dr. Jess Miller, '47med, now interning at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, was a recent visitor at the Medical School.

Dr. Grady Ryan, '47med, visited the Medical School recently. Dr. Ryan is interning at the Jefferson Davis Hospital, Houston, Texas.

Dr. Willard L. McGraw, '44med, has been released from the Army. He served for two years and was recently stationed at Craig Field, Selma, Alabama.

Dr. John A. Rollow III, '43med, has completed a residency at Wesley Hospital, Oklahoma City, and is now living in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Dr. Jack Paul Birge, '31med, is now practicing in Alice, Texas.

Dr. R. P. Holt, '41ba, '44med, is now with the Oklahoma City Clinic.

Dr. V. F. Forester, '44med, Shawnee, was a recent visitor to the Medical School.

Dr. Wayne Hull, '32med, visited in Oklahoma City recently. He is now located at Omaha, Nebraska.

Drs. Gibson Parrish and Pamela Parrish (Pamela Prentice), both in the class of 1944, are now completing residencies in medicine at the Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois.

Sorority Alumnae Organize

The Norman Pan-Hellenic Alumnae Club, organized in the fall of 1947, recently sponsored the first in a series of annual teas for girls who will graduate from Norman high schools this year. Held in the Kappa Alpha Theta house, the first tea was designed to better acquaint the girls with the Greek rush system.

Under the presidency of Dr. Dora McFarland, '21ma, associate professor of mathematics, the group interprets active Panhellenic regulations and actions to the various Norman alumnae associations. Offices rotate among the sorority representatives according to the year of chapter installation on the University campus.

Other officers are Mrs. Churchill Blakey, (Gail Katherine Riley, '45ba), treasurer; Mrs. J. Bruce Wylie, (Nona Boyett, '37), secretary, and Mrs. H. G. Powell, (Elizabeth McIntyre, '47, '48) reporter. Two representatives from each sorority compose the council.



Pictured at a recent meeting held in the Alpha Chi Omega sorority house are members of the Norman Panhellenic Alumnae Council, which was organized late last year. First row, left to right: Mrs. H. H. Taft, Mrs. Harold Powell (Elizabeth McIntyre, '47, '48), Mrs. James Logan, Mrs. William Clark Hetherington (Marian Unger, '43h.ec), Miss Mary Lou Stubbeman, '45bus. Second row: Mrs. King G. Price (Inez Bever, '24ed), Dr. Dora McFarland, '21ma, Mrs. J. Bruce Wylie (Nona Boyett, '37), Mrs. Churchill Blakeley (Gail Katherine Riley, '45ba), Mrs. W. B. Kennedy (Florence Hammons, '43ba) and Mrs. E. Alton Marrs (Wandalene Kerr, '40ed). Third row: Mrs. John H. Rohrer, Mrs. Joe Glander, Mrs. Cecil Brite, Mrs. F. A. Milton, Mrs. E. A. Frederickson, Mrs. J. J. Rhyne, Mrs. Jack Jones (Colleen Cravens, '45) and Mrs. Leslie Rice.