

# First McMahon Fellows Near Degrees

Charles Ward and Harry Culver were chosen last fall as the first graduate students to receive the McMahon Fellowships. In this article alumns get a look at the qualifications they offered for the chance.



HARRY CULVER, '47BA

Charles Ward and Harry Culver, two former Oklahoma newsmen, will return to the fourth estate after pocketing masters' degrees at the end of the summer session.

First students to complete a program of study under the McMahon journalism fellowship plan, they returned to the University last fall to work on the advanced degree.

Ward seems to have away of piling honors upon honors. This award was not his first and would not be his last. But to begin the story where it should begin.

Ward was born in Celena (Collin County) Texas in July 1918. He moved to Arkansas some time later and attended highschool at Batesville. His outstanding achievements during highschool were a harbinger of what was to come. He was editor of his school newspaper and won the "Quill and Scroll" award as the champion highschool news writer in the nation in 1935, his senior year.

Ward found time to be a reporter for the *Batesville News Review* during his highschool years and the *Batesville Guard-Record* following that. When he finished his secondary education, he became editor of the *Cleburn County Times*, Heber Springs, Arkansas, and held a second job most of the time as manager of the Gem Theater in Heber Springs.

But Charley's education was not complete, and not being an individual who does things in half measures, he left his editorship and enrolled in Arkansas Polytechnic College, Russellville, Arkansas, in 1939. At Polytech he continued along his winning way by becoming editor of the college's newspaper, member of the student council, listed in the college's Who's Who, and won several awards as an outstanding student.

The war interrupted Ward's education in 1941

and he entered the army air corps. The war was interrupted in 1942 when he married another Arkansas native, Miss Mary Lois Barrett.

A long list of campaigns behind him including Luzon, New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Ryukus, and Southern Philippines, Master Sergeant Ward was discharged in 1945.

As if a war and a marriage were not enough, Charles wasted little time in getting back to school to complete his half-finished education. This time he made his way to Oklahoma and the University and the state have held him ever since.

If the other students majoring in journalism had known what was happening in 1946 when Ward started his studies here, it seems doubtful if he would have lived to establish his near impossible record. But then they didn't know, and the record was made.

In rapid succession, Ward was issue editor, managing editor and editor of the *Oklahoma Daily*. The above jobs constitute what most people consider a maximum of work, but most people never knew anyone quite like Charles Ward. He served as a member of the publications board which supervised the publication of the *Daily*, the *Covered Wagon*, the *Sooner Yearbook*, and acted as director of Journalism Press, Inc.

He was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity, and of the League of Young Democrats.

Probably the top honor coming Ward's way was his selection as the outstanding student by the Dad's Day group in 1947. He received his journalism degree in 1948. Until his return this fall as a McMahon fellow, he served as assistant to the secretary-manager of the Oklahoma Press Association in Oklahoma City.

Whatever Ward decides to do when he completes his master's work, don't count him out. He's made the odds in his favor.

Harry Culver is the second McMahon fellow (actually the first one chosen). He takes a back seat for achievement and honors to no one. The standings listed after his name indicate why he was the recipient of one of the two \$1000 fellowships set up by the Perpetual Charitable Corporation founded by the late Eugene D. McMahon, '15ba, and his mother.

Mrs. E. P. McMahon and her son founded the corporation as a memorial to E. P. McMahon. After the death of Eugene in 1945, Mrs. McMahon has continued the work in memory of both her husband and son.

Culver is a six-foot-plus, 190-pound man whose smile holds just a trace of shyness. He belies the usual impression of the self-made man. In place of brusqueness, there's a certain informality. In place of cynicism there's a quick interest which would be apparent to the most disinterested onlooker. How he got that way is worth recording.

Harry was born in Chickasha in 1922. His highschool work was done at Homestead where he graduated in 1940. Basketball, tennis, debating and

music added the spice that is reputed to come with variety. He graduated at the top of his class.

Culver relates that he first came to the campus in the spring of 1940 with the Homestead debating team. The team came off with fourth honors in the state debate meet, but the University came off with Culver.

Impressed with the University, both in size and quality, he enrolled for the 1940 fall semester. Said he concerning his first impression of the institution, "It looked like an awfully big school." But the bigness didn't detour his ambition. He took a job with the NYA to help pay for his education. Before entering the army air corps in 1943, he continued to work his way and also to be an issue and sports editor of the *Oklahoma Daily*.

With five university semesters behind him, Culver joined the air corps and rose to the rank of captain before his discharge. In between entry and separation, he sandwiched 33 missions over Germany. One of his B-17 tours over the German area resulted in a four-month internship in Sweden when he was forced to land on his way back to the home base. He was discharged in December 1945.

School beckoned again and a month later he was back to complete his education. This time no war interrupted him. He served as managing editor of the *Oklahoma Daily* and was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, Kappa Alpha Mu, YMCA, and many other organizations.

He received the Sigma Delta Chi award as the outstanding male journalism senior in 1947.

Culver became editor of the *Anadarko Daily News* following graduation and later joined the staff of the *Shawnee News-Star* in 1948. He was working for the Shawnee newspaper when he received notification of his selection as a McMahon fellow for 1949.

Harry isn't the only member of the immediate family to have been graduated from the University. His wife, the former Mattie Lee Hardy, received a degree in music education in 1947.

When the *Sooner* editor asked Culver what the McMahon fellowship meant to him, he said, "It meant that I had a chance to study instead of living and attending classes." He's done research in readability and served as assistant to C. Joe Holland, '37ba, '47ma, supervisor of the *Oklahoma Daily*.

Since the McMahon fellowships are intended



CHARLES WARD, '48BA

for those who will in the future contribute something to Oklahoma, Culver was asked what he thought of his opportunities in the state. It was a question which he must have anticipated. "I'm sold on Oklahoma. I think my chances for success are greater here than anywhere else in the nation," he said.

They say reciprocity rules the world and this is certainly a case in point. It seems reasonable to assume Oklahoma is sold on Harry Culver.

## A Degree with Honors

When Herbert Kaplan, '50bs, was awarded a degree with honors at the spring commencement program, he became the 12th person to graduate from the University with special recognition attached to his diploma.

The New York City student was the first to graduate with honors since 1947, when Levona Sarah Williams, '47bs, received the award. The College of Arts and Sciences has offered the degrees of bachelor of arts with honors and bachelor of science with honors since 1936.

To qualify for the degree the student must satisfy all requirements for graduation, apply for admission to candidacy for honors not later than the second semester of the junior year, complete the last four semesters in residence with an average of 2.5 grade points for each hour, and pass a comprehensive oral examination for which the committee on honors appoints a board of examination.

The examination covers a minimum of seven fields of study selected from a planned list.

Only an even dozen Sooners have made the mark in the 15 years since the honors award was established. Kaplan, number 12, attended the College of the City of New York before coming to the University in 1947. A pre-medical student, he received a \$200 Alumni Development Fund scholarship for the 1949-50 semester. He served as vice-president of Hillel Foundation, and was a member of the Independent Men's Association, history club, and Alpha Epsilon Delta, honorary pre-medical society.

Named outstanding pledge of Alpha Epsilon Delta in 1948, Kaplan served as chapter president during his senior year. During his enrolment in school at Norman, he served as scoutmaster of Boy Scouts of America and worked as a student assistant in the chemistry department.

He plans to continue his education in Michigan, where he will work toward an M. D. degree.

The honored dozen reveals no conflict between the sexes. Six men have won the degree, and six women have matched them one for one.

The June, 1936 class, first to be eligible for the degree with honors, had three winners: John Wesley Kitchens, '36ba, '37ma; William Claud Henry, '36ba, '37ma; and Rosemary Hudson, '36ba.

Three students in the class of '38 also won honors: Catherine Audrey Armstrong, '38ba; Patience Francelia Sewell, '38ba; and William Joseph Hilseweck, '38bs.

Winning honors in 1940 were Marcelotte Leake,

'40bs, '42ms, and Helen Lamprich Harris, '40bs.

Receiving the bachelor's degree with honors in recent years were:

James Atwood Dugger, '43bs, '44ba, '46med; Terry Triffet, '45ba; Levona Sarah Williams, '47bs; and Herbert Kaplan, '50.

## Salter Gets Special Membership

Leslie E. Salter, '21ba, '22Law, has been elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa Associates, national honorary organization with a limited membership of 200.

Now a Master in Chancery of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Salter is a member of the law firm of Morgan, Salter and Sellery in Chicago. He was one of 16 members of Phi Beta Kappa elected to membership.

Admitted to the Oklahoma bar in 1922, Salter served two terms as a member of the state legislature, 1920-24. From 1925 to 1928 he was Assistant United States Attorney in Oklahoma, and from 1928 to 1934 he was Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States.

## Wardell New Society Head

Dr. M. L. Wardell, '19ba, University professor of history, is new president of the Oklahoma division of the American Cancer Society.

He succeeds W. G. Skelly, Tulsa oilman.

## ASSOCIATION



Los Angeles picnickers stowed away the food in preparation for their giant conflict with the Aggie softball team. At the left are Leona Crisp Moles, '26bs, '30ms, Earl B. Moles, Andrew Castile, '16ba, Lela Mitchell Berlin, '15ba, and Herbert A. Berlin, '11ba. At right are Mrs. Gloria Rinn, Club Secretary Charlie Forbes, '22ba, '25ma, Mrs. Jeanne Estes, President Hiawatha Estes, '40eng, Ferne Forbes, '28bs, and Jack Rinn, '40bs, club treasurer.

## Los Angeles Holds Picnic

More than 100 former Sooners, their families and friends met in La Dera Park in Los Angeles June 25 for the club's annual picnic.

Oldest graduate present was Herbert A. Berlin, '11ba, who formerly taught in Oklahoma City. He is now retired and living in Oxnard, California.

Following a fried chicken meal, the Sooners tangled with former Aggies who had issued a softball challenge. Charlie E. Forbes, '22ba, '25ma, club secretary, reported on the game:

"Encouraged by the aggressive cheer-leading by F. Lyman Tibbitts, '16ba, '19ma, and co-operation from the bleachers, our team won from the strong former Stillwater lads 23 to 5. And with an A.&M. scorekeeper!

"To select a star from the team would be both difficult and unfair as time after time well-placed hits accounted for tallies, and a catch broke the hearts of the Aggies in their scoring efforts."

Dr. Alice Sowers, director of the O.U. Family Life Institute was a guest at the picnic. She was in California visiting Pepperdine College.

## Kniseley Chosen Denver Chief

H. B. Kniseley, '26ba, '29ma, was elected president of the Denver Alumni Chapter May 5. Other officers elected were John H. Tippit, '38ba, '40Law, vice-president; and Carter B. King, Jr., '45bs, secretary-treasurer.

Sixty persons were present for the dinner meeting, which was followed by a short business session. The chapter announced that it plans to add social meetings every three months.

Movies of the Oklahoma-Texas game were shown after the election of officers was held.