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, ’34 ex, 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 headset when Pilot Hans Mirow breezed over from Nome in his tricky new Fairchild “23.”

Since Mirow often brings queer things from over Seward peninsula way, yours truly minced 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. Unknown 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 blizzard. She wore the right side of her nose, but the race was worth it.

While at Nome she learned to like seal liver, cinder, and sable-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 horse economics—the school kind—but up here she’s also learned how to fetch and 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. Cheers 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. 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 Whitman, ’34 ex, 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 Foods 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, ’15 ma, 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 September.