Youth speaks
A Sooner reporter wrote about it

By Beth Campbell, '29, in the Springfield Leader

AFTER a mad rush to the church in a "stolen" taxicab, frenzied straightening of dress and hair, a slow march onto the platform with toes a-tingle and knees not exactly normal, I faced what seemed to me the world last night, as I preached my "maiden" sermon from the platform of the First Congregational church under the auspices of the Sunday Evening forum.

And I'll venture no self-flattery could equal it in thrill.

I had declared in a column last Monday that religion deserves a better presentation than it sometimes gets, that something ought to be done about sermons, and that I thought I could preach a better one than some I had heard. The result was the suggestion to "see if you can" and finally last night's sincere attempt.

The taxicab which was to take me to the church was late anyway, and then when it stalled midway on the journey, I had that sinking feeling, a near-oblivion, and I saw visions of a pulpit without a preacher, and a reporter without a job. The driver went for another machine leaving me to wait with my escort, and the hour was tolling for the start of the service. The boy in question, being a brave boy, and heaps more accommodating than the taxi man, tinkered with it a little. There was a sputter, then—contact—and off we went. I had to get there, you see, but HOW. The taxi was returned immediately, of course.

At the church, the Reverend G. Bryant Drake, the alert young pastor, was hurrying, graciously trying to take care of the overflowing audience. He did not appear to be particularly nervous, but when he caught sight of me he looked mighty relieved—or maybe that was when he began to be frightened.

I removed my coat and hat and then waited in a little anteroom. I held onto it for fear it would be fuddled me. My sister and a few others whispered good wishes. I took them calmly. I had not begun to get excited—yet.

As the strains of the organ began, I found myself leading the pastor and theyoung group of people as the church "has his hands full."

I realize the difficulties of trying to please everyone, of trying to make pastoral calls, preach funerals, and a hundred and one other things in addition to preparing sermons, but still I think that religion deserves a better presentation than it always gets.

Springfield has a group of fine pastors, a number of whom would probably rank with preachers and speakers in much larger towns. They are a splendid band, manifesting generally a spirit of cooperation and toleration. In comparison with many other cities, Springfield is fortunate in the men who occupy its pulpits. But I think the same conditions that apply all over the country apply here.

*Miss Campbell's column of February 17 in the Springfield Leader*

(Continued on page 258)
Marguerite Van Dyke, '26 arts-sc., is teaching English in the state industrial school for girls at Tecumseh, Oklahoma. Address, Box 397, Tecumseh.

Members of the faculty of Northwestern State Teachers college at Alva, who are graduates of O. U., are: Jeann M. Holland, M. A. 29, John Cameron, M. A. 26, Eugene Brown, M. A. 28, Elsie Jane Harrison, M. A. 27, Guilford Louthan, M. S. 27, and Mrs Sybil Tinkelbaugh Hall, M. S. 27.

1927

James Ledbetter, '27 law, is county judge of Noble county, Perry.
Esther C. Thompson, '27 educ., is now teaching in the mathematics department of the high school at Noble, Oklahoma.
Buffington B. Burris, '27 arts-sc., and Mrs Burris have moved to Clinton, where Mr Burris is publisher of the Clinton Daily News.
James W. Dow, ex '27, is doing graduate work in the University of Chicago. Address, 5540 S. Woodlawn avenue, Hyde Park, Chicago.
Helen Mastrick, '27 arts-sc., M. A. 28, is doing graduate work in the University of Chicago. Her address is 6030 Greenwood avenue, Chicago.
Ralph E. Chase, M. A. 27, is assistant professor in zoology at the University of Illinois and also doing graduate work on his Ph. D. degree. Address, 601 West California street, Urbana, Illinois.

Among the former students and alumni associated with oil companies in the south Oklahoma City oil fields are: J. Lynn Overcash, jr., '27 arts-sc., Herbert Beardsmore, '25 sc., Eugene Ames, '27 law, Cliff Wright, ex '24, Hardy Buff, ex '28, and Francis Irwin, ex '13.

1928

Julian W. Smith, '28 geol, is now chief geologist for the Enson Oil Co., at Enid.
Louise E. Perkins, '28 home ec., is teaching in Leadville, Colorado, high school. Address, 144 West Ninth.
Hubert H. Thompson, '28 sc., is chief chemist for the Dixie Oil Co., Inc., Address, Box 548, Vivian, Louisiana.
James Burrill Moore, '28 ed., teacher in Sapulpa high school, is also head of boys and director of vocational guidance.
Raymond Ford, '28 arts-sc., is now with Arkansas City Milling Co., working out of Topeka office. Address, Majestic Building, Topeka, Kansas.

Helen Eagles, '28 home ec., is now teaching design and clothing in the department of home economics at Texas North State Teachers college, Denton, Texas.
Ellen Posey, '28 geol, graduate assistant in the geology department of the University of Oklahoma has accepted a position with the Empire Oil and Gas Co. of Batesville.

Two Sooners who are working for the Oklahoma state medical school, Eula Gene Smith, '28 home eco, and Lucile Brown, '28 arts-sc., are living at 725 East Fourteenth street, Oklahoma City.

Tephia Irene Folsom, '28 arts-sc., is serving part time with the Extension division of the university and the rest of the time is working for an M. A. degree. Her home is at 524 W. Eufaula, Norman.

James G. Hazlip, ex '28, has resigned his position with the Safeway Airlines at Tulsa to accept a position as assistant to Jimmy Doolittle, test pilot for the Shell Petroleum Co. aviation department at St. Louis.


Edgar Bruce Wilson, '28, is a student in the Boston university school of theology. In conjunction with his school work he is director of boy's activities for the "City Missionary Society" of Boston, and associate director of "Camp Waldron" for boys in the White Mountains of New Hampshire during the summer months. His home is at 72 Mt. Vernon street, Boston, Mass.

Wayman J. Thompson, '29 med., is a physician in Easton Hospital, Easton, Pennsylvania.

Mrs Ruth D. Sanger, '29 home ec., is teaching home economics in the high school at Choctaw, Oklahoma.

L. G. DeLotzter, '29, is enrolled in Northwestern university school of medicine. Address, 1138 Aston street, Chicago.

Phineas McCray Casady, '29 arts-sc., is studying for the general theological seminary for the ministry in the Episcopal church. Address, Chelsea Square, New York City.

James H. Hodges, '29, has been elected president of the Graduate club of the University of Oklahoma. Ruby Van Zant was elected vice-president and Ann Willbore, '28 arts-sc., secretary.

Guy C. Chambers, M. A. 29, who has been head of the foreign language department in Okmulgee high school for the past eight years is now instructor in the foreign language department at the A. & M. college, Stillwater. Address, 723 Jefferson street.

1930

Mildred Nicholson, '30, has gone to Fairfax, where she will teach English in the junior high school. She finished work for her B. A. at the end of the first semester.

Frank Crider, '30 arts-sc., captain of the varsity football team this year and letterman in athletics in Altus high school next year, will coach athletes in Alus high school next year.

R. O. T. C. officers who graduated at mid-semester in '30 and received commissions in the field artillery are Marvin Balch, James A. Cowan, Stayton W. Hammer, jr., John Russell Simpson, jr., and Warren B. Trout. Fred Paul Schonwald received a commission in the infantry.

John Johnstone, '29 bus., is with the market department in '30 and received commissions in the field artillery are Marvin Balch, James A. Cowan, Stayton W. Hammer, jr., John Russell Simpson, jr., and Warren B. Trout. Fred Paul Schonwald received a commission in the infantry.

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"Kiowa Art in Oklahoma" is the title of the leading article in Holland's, the Magazine of the South for April, written by Richard Caldwell, R. O. T. C., city editor of the Sapulpa Herald. The article is illustrated with reproductions of the paintings of Azah, Ho-ke-ah, Mopope and Toiscoe.

YOUTH SPEAKS

(Continued from column 1, page 244)

Sunday by Sunday, with some revivals in between, sermons have to be prepared, and in some cases ground out. As a result, many of them are illogical, manifesting little study or thought, and rather crudely put together. People listen to such addresses, not only the church members who could perhaps overlook one such poor attempt, but the strangers, who venture into the church to find out what it is all about.

Most any Christian is faced at some time with the proposition of making excuses for the pastor to his friends not in the church. Which is not as it should be. It seems to me that ministers should do their pastoral work, of course, and attend to other problems, but that they should realize that their sermons are like faces, the manifestation to the public of what is within.

If you're wondering upon what authority I speak so generally about ministers, I might explain, that every Monday morning I read sermons from practically every preacher in town and assemble them for publication. Some of them are excerpts, and many send the entire manuscripts of the talk. In any case, not a week goes by that I do not read at least one that, sympathetic as I am toward religious views, does not disgust me with its inconsistency, its poor grammar, or superfluous use of words. Someone will argue that it is not the English or the form but the sheer religion that matters, and I will admit that a man filled with sincerity of purpose and a clear thinker can sway an audience and achieve his aims whether he is grammatically correct or not. But think how vastly better his sermon, how much greater his influence would be if he spent as much time and work on his sermon as he might.

Religion deserves better handling than it always gets. No one would think of allowing a slovenly servant to handle a beautiful vase of priceless glass yet people allow men who are not always competent to preach the gospel which is their very life. Especially in small country churches there are men who are utterly unequipped, yet who have been duly ordained to the ministry. And not only in the small churches, but occasionally in a large church, will be found a man who is incapable of really preaching to his great audiences. I have heard church people say: "I am in the church in spite of preaching that I have heard and not because of it."

There is a need I think, in the ministry, as well as in many other professions, for higher standards of work, better preparation, far-reaching ideals, more continuous work. In the last analysis, however, there is enough good in the general run of sermons and enough excellence in the better ones, to make regular church going worthwhile.
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But, as I have observed, I probably never shall be called upon to demonstrate that I could preach one of "the better ones."


YOUTH SPEAKS
(Continued from column 2, page 244)

And then I was through, so I stopped. And although the prayer wasn’t a part of the program, it had to be. I felt that way. And then that was over, and I was a "pastor emeritus" as it were, and people were crowding up around, as I suppose they always do, but quite overwhelming me. They were lovely, saying nice things, and thanking me, when I should have been thanking them.

There was one old man who stooped and kissed me on the forehead, and gave me his blessing. I think the congratulations frightened me more than the rest, but finally I broke away and ran off with the office force. By the way if it didn’t do anything else, it got more newspaper people inside of a church than had been in one in many a day.

This morning the Associated Press carrying the story, made what I hope was an error. Instead of calling me the "guest preacher" as they did later on, the

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