Sooner persons and personalities

A Sooner editor whose friendship helps the university. An Oklahoman, described as one of the world’s most brilliant language scholars, advises the Polish Academy of Science. A Sooner who edits the publications for one of America’s largest utility corporations.

Fred E. Tarman

A sensational story is the breath of life to the average newspaper editor. It makes for the paying front page. It fills columns which might otherwise be given over to coastal storms or scientific investigations. It rescues a dull Monday morning from the usual political rehash with Borah inevitably in the headlines.

A sensational story is meat and potatoes to the newspaper man. If it is a local sensation it may even be artichokes and oysters for a few days. Do you wonder that the editor sated with the small plays of many weeks gives rein to banner heads and stygian type when he may? You do not.

So far we have told nothing that is news. But like the classic tale of the microbes carrying lipsticks the story of Fred E. Tarman, ’10 arts-sc, is news.

Tarman, as editor of the Norman Transcript has, in the interests of a university to which he is intensely loyal, forgone many sensations in the news of Norman and of the campus in order to print news which is accurate, but which does not harm his alma mater. No loyalty can reach farther.

In adopting this policy Tarman has not been neglectful of his duty as an editor in giving his readers a complete and full account of the news. If he had one could call him partisan, but this he is not. Rather, he has steered a fair-minded course and used facts as his background, neither distorting nor minimizing them. In so doing he establishes his own honesty of purpose.

That Norman papers may be the fountainhead of good or evil to the university may be easily understood by anyone who has the least conception of the weight of publicity. That they have chosen that the weight of their influence shall be good, that it shall be positive rather than negative, is a matter of tremendous importance to the interpretation which the university receives all over the state. For when one considers that leased wire services carry from the newspaper offices of Norman the news of the campus to the whole southwest and in some instances to the nation, one realizes that if these wire services received an adverse interpretation from Norman there could be little chance of a righting influence coming from any other source.

A press favorable to the university does, however, exist in Norman and it is chiefly due to Fred Tarman that such is the case.

A part of Tarman’s understanding of the situation may come from the fact that he was a member of the first journalism class in the university and was assistant professor of journalism in the university from 1917 to 1920. In the term between his graduation in 1910 and his joining the faculty of the school of journalism he had been reporter, sports editor, state editor, city editor and night editor of the Daily Oklahoman. In 1916 he was news editor of the Oklahoma City Times.

In 1920 he left the university to try his hand at the oil business for a couple of years but, finding himself too much of a newspaper man to desert the publishing business, he returned and bought an interest in the Norman Transcript in 1922. He has been its editor since that date.

Tarman has been a pioneer in interest and service in the University of Oklahoma Association. He was its president in 1915. He was one of the founders of Pe-et and today takes great pride in this most esteemed of all the men’s organizations. He became a member of Sigma Delta Chi through his journalistic activities and an alumnus member of Phi Beta Kappa. Phi Gamma Delta is his social fraternity.

Through his office as president of the Norman chamber of commerce and a director of the Norman Lions club he has accomplished a great deal in bringing about a closer and more cordial relation between the university and the town of Norman.
Denzel Carr

“BRILLIANT” is a word which is often misused. It is applied by many to mediocre people and things and so loses its importance. For brilliancy is a quality which is as rare as it is extraordinary and in its true sense describes the characteristic which every scholar would like to possess.

This word, when used by Dr. Roy Temple House, a master of words and of languages, possesses true significance, however. And when Doctor House applies the word to Denzel Carr, a former student of his, we become curious concerning this “brilliant” person.

Carr left the university in 1922. He was not a graduate. Today he signs a letter to the editor of this magazine as “a Sooner who left too soon.” Yet in view of the meteoric career of Denzel Carr we cannot but wonder if a degree was a totally unimportant matter in his life. Without it he has continued his study, with it he might have followed the example of so many who interpret their degree as a period put at the end of all their self-cultivation.

Being no graduate, Carr continued to study. Having as a primary interest foreign languages, he studied them. With language as his métier he has progressed more thoroughly into scholasticism than the greater percentage of his contemporaries. Today he is a master of nine languages. Most of them he has acquired within the last seven years.

After leaving the university he went in July to San Francisco where he studied Chinese, Japanese and Buddhism until March, 1923. In April of that year he went to Kyoto, Japan, where he taught English in a secondary school.

His teaching Carr supplemented by such varied activities as revising manuscripts, reading proofs, typing copy and translating articles from German, French, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese and Swedish for a Buddhist quarterly published in English.

He stayed in Kyoto only one year and then moved to Wakayama. Here he remained for five years, teaching English, French, Russian and phonetics in the Imperial School of Commerce. And as if this were not sufficient activity Carr gave lessons in German privately.

Such an amount of teaching would satiate the average student with his subject, but with Carr the progression has been from many languages into even more languages. He used his extra moments from teaching five languages to devote to the study of Polish.

This study was so successful that he was persuaded in April to become a lecturer in Japanese at the University of Cracow, Poland, a lecturer in Chinese at the Cracow University of Commerce and manuscript reviser and English proof reader to the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Because of his versatility and excellence in these positions he has been made Kosciuszko scholar for the year 1929-30 at the University of Cracow.

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While Carr has undoubtedly an adaptability for the tongues of other nations it is as a student of the base of language that he excels. It was his discovery of several previously unrecognized laws of the Japanese language which led to his going to Japan. Likewise it was discoveries in the Polish language which led to his being invited to go to the University of Cracow as an instructor.

Of his accomplishments Carr speaks modestly. A large part of the credit for his advancement he gives to Doctor House. In a recent letter to the M. H. he writes, "I wonder whether the students who run around the O. U. buildings really feel that they have a great man in their midst. I don't suppose they do, for I didn't feel it, either, when I was in their place and my linguistic interests should have enabled me to estimate Doctor House at his full value."

Denzel Carr has recently become a life member of the University of Oklahoma association and is looking forward to the time when he may return from Cracow and pay the campus a visit. His present address is Aleja Krasinskiego 18, Krakow, Poland.

Joe Hicks

His father wanted him to be a second Billy Sunday, but he became a newspaper man. Then a student. And sold advertising. Became an editor. Was married. Continues in journalism. Teaches a class in the Medill school of journalism at Chicago. Is the father of an entrancing little girl. And is sole editor of the Byllesby publications.

The story isn't a reasonable one considering the youth of the hero and unless you have at some time within your recent college days known Joe Hicks, '23 journ., you may doubt that any man could do so many things in so short a space of time. If you know Hicks you have already stopped wondering.

His first two years of college were spent at the University of Washington. They were interrupted by the usual war service of the men of that day. In January, 1921, he came to Oklahoma City where he worked on the Oklahoma News as a reporter and state editor. The urge to return to college sent him to Norman and he remained there until June of 1923 when he was graduated from the school of journalism.

Exactly one day after graduation Hicks and Lois Jeanette Marshall, ex '22, were married and left soon after the ceremony for Los Angeles. Here he became advertising manager of the United Creditors association. It took but a few months in this position to convince him that he was essentially a newspaper man so he moved to Long Beach and organized a state department and became state editor of the Long Beach Telegram.

Huckins Hotel

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Organization was again declared to be his chief occupation and he was sent to the village of Laguna Beach to organize a weekly newspaper known as the Laguna Beach Life which grew to be one of the largest weekly newspapers on the Pacific coast.

A vacation which lured Mr and Mrs Hicks to Oklahoma City for a visit in October, 1924, became more than a vacation when he resolved to stay and become assistant city editor of the Oklahoma City Times. But even the ties of family and friends in Oklahoma City could not satisfy Hick’s restless feet and so he left after a year of newspaper work there to become a member of the advertising department of the Byllesby Engineering and Management Corp. and to organize an executives’ magazine for the company.

Late in 1927 he was made editor of publications for the entire company, which position meant that he was editing two monthly magazines and one weekly news bulletin in addition to doing publicity and public relations work.

The foregoing would provide sufficient activity for the most ambitious of men but even this enumeration includes only the occupations which Hicks pursued after he came to Oklahoma. Before that time he had been associated with the Topeka Daily Capital, Seattle Post Intelligencer and Los Angeles Times, all in a reportorial capacity, and had served as correspondent for the United Press, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Underwood & Underwood news service, Wichita Beacon, St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Kansas City Journal and the Dallas Times-Herald.

Perhaps because of such a plentiful beginning Hicks now finds himself a member of Sigma Chi, Sigma Delta Chi, a Mason, commander of Henry Marison Byllesby post No. 552 of the American Legion, Elmgate country club and City club of Chicago, lecturer once a week on Writing for Business at the Medill school of journalism of Northwestern university and a member of the Industrial Relation Editors association of Chicago.

Winnetka, one of Chicago’s suburbs, is the homeplace of Mr. and Mrs. Hicks and of their two and a half year old daughter, Beverly Joe. Mr Hicks’ business office is at 231 South La Salle, Chicago.

BY COUNTIES

The three counties leading in enrollment this semester at the University of Oklahoma are: Oklahoma with 858 students; Cleveland with 777 students; and Tulsa with 296.