Sooner persons and personalities

A Sooner law professor whose writings widen his fame daily --- a Sooner assistant to the president of one of America's largest chain stores --- another Sooner directs a great derrick manufacturing corporation

MAURICE H. MERRILL

The position of private in the rear rank, Students Army Training Corps, is the lowest that Maurice H. Merrill, '19 arts-sc., '22 law, has ever held.

His other activities have been consistently those of A-1 calibre and perhaps by a process of accumulating honors he has reached his present position, just ten years after graduation.

Mr. Merrill is now professor of law at the University of Nebraska. He has been faculty editor of the Nebraska Law Bulletin since 1927. He has had one book published by the Thomas Law Book Co. of St. Louis and has two now in preparation, one for the Harvard University Press, and one for the Vernon Law Book Co. In addition he has contributed articles to the Harvard Law Review, the University of Pennsylvania Law Review and other legal periodicals.

Professor Merrill was born in Washington, D. C., thirty-two years ago. When he was seven he moved with his parents to Roff, Indian Territory, and later to the vicinity of Stratford where he grew up. He received his high school education at Stratford, at the Oklahoma Military Academy at Claremore, and at the Castle Heights school in Lebanon, Tennessee.

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IVIN G. RICHARDSON

He entered the the university in 1915, four years later received his B. A. degree and then entered the law school. He alternated studying the intricacies of Gladstone with serving as student assistant in government from 1919 to 1922. He was married immediately after his graduation from law school to Miss Orpha Roberts, '21 arts-sc.

Mr. Merrill was a member of Alpha Kappa Psi and of Phi Delta Phi and served one term as a member of the student council while he was in school. In 1922 he received the S. T. Bledsoe prize for the ranking senior law student. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Peet and Coif as an alumnus upon the installation of the chapters. Yet he modestly mentions these honors by saying, "I was in the extra-curricular activities only in a minor way. I never attained any great distinction in them."

After practicing law in Tulsa for two years Mr. Merrill became associate professor of law at the University of Idaho. He left this position after a year to become assistant professor of law at the University of Nebraska. After two years there he was promoted to a full professorship, and is now occupying that position.

Such rapid promotion with the study and work it necessarily involves would occupy the entire time of the average man but for him it has seemed only the incentive to more work. He has not even used his summers as vacation times but has taught one summer at the University of California and one at Cornell University.

His published works, each of which has entailed copious and detailed research, are: Law of Implied Covenants in Oil and Gas Leases and articles concerning constitutional law, public utilities, oil and gas law and agency, in such periodicals as the Harvard Law Review and the Pennsylvania Law Review. His two books now in preparation are: The Corporation Commission of Oklahoma which is to be published by the Harvard University Press as one of its series on administrative law, published by the Vernon Law Book Co. of Kansas City.

IVIN G. RICHARDSON

If you can fancy contacting with 22,000 employees and aiding in the promotion of good will in over 1400 communities you can imagine a position which requires responsibility, tact and much work.

Then, if you are of the class of 1915, you will undoubtedly recall your class president as a man who possessed each of these qualities in an unusual degree, and you will not be surprised to find that he now signs his correspondence as "IVIN G. Richardson, assistant to the

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MAURICE H. MERRILL

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R. R. BLOSS
... president, J. C. Penney Co., and is located in the New York offices of this company at 330 West Thirty-Fourth street.

If you were a really serious member of your class you will remember that Richardson served as your president during both your junior and senior years. That he was a member of the glee club for four years and its president during his senior year. That as president of the Business School club he became head of Lambda chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi when it was installed at the university.

And that he went from graduation into the army during the very exciting year of 1917.

What you perhaps haven't heard of is Richardson's activities since the armistice for he has spent all of that time in the east. The Harvard graduate school of business administration claimed him in 1919 and after leaving it he became a research assistant in the New York Federal Reserve bank.

Banking held his interest but a short time and he soon became director of research for the Atlas Portland Cement Co. While working for this company he held the secretarialship of the Harvard Business School club of New York for two years.

For the past three years Richardson has been connected with the J. C. Penney Co. His progress during this time may be measured by the fact that on the first of this year he was made assistant to the president and has more recently been appointed assistant director of public relations. He is now thirty-three years old.

His present responsibility of helping to promote good will in every community where the Penney stores are located, is one of true magnitude but he finds time to be in addition an active member of the Harvard club, the Western university club and the Braidburn country club.

R. R. BLOSS

"Vice-president and general manager" is a title which may mean much or little. Attached to a business man who operates a single business in a small town it may be totally unimportant but when it is used in connection with a company which maintains ware house facilities in twenty-two cities of the United States and general offices in ten cities of the United States and foreign countries it is indeed of significance.

"Vice-president and general manager of the International Derrick and Equipment Co." written after the name of R. R. Bloss marks him then as one of the most successful ex-students of the university. Bloss attended the university during the summer of 1910 and the year of 1911. Though he did not stay long enough to graduate he writes enthusiastically that he was "one of the first students to enroll in the college of mechanical engineering which at that time was under the direction of Prof. James H. Felgar."

He was one of the pioneers of the school in aviation interest for he left school in 1911 to join the engineering corps of the Curtis Airplane and Motor Manufacturing Co., at Buffalo. He studied the mechanics of the planes until he fitted himself for assistant chief engineer and became associated with the Standard Airplane Co. of Plainfield, New Jersey.

The declaration of war caused his assignment to the United States Army Airplane Experimental and Development station at McCook Field, Dayton Ohio. Here he remained until late in 1919, working on development projects in connection with military planes and airplane propellers.

At the end of the war Mr Bloss left aviation to enter the oil well supply business and early in 1921 became chief engineer of the International Derrick and Equipment Co. with offices in Columbus, Ohio. Today he is vice-president and general manager of the company. In this capacity he directs the manufacture of oilwell derricks, standard rigs, rotary drilling...