



## The rapid rise of Paul A. Gorman

Last June 20 when Paul A. Gorman returned to his native Carrollton, Mo. to dedicate the new high school building, he was introduced as executive vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, a position to which he had been elevated a few months before. However, he was probably best known to many of the home folks as the local boy who once swept floors at Mattingly Brothers and Porter Variety Store.

They remembered him, too, as the young fellow who delivered newspapers and held jobs at the Kelly furniture and under-taking establishment and the Fred W. Stamper frozen foods firm.

This early industrious surge showed no letup after he was graduated from Carrollton High School. Entering the University, he fired a furnace and waited on tables, and for three years he worked six hours every night at a campus drug store for \$12.50 a week.

His job almost caused him to pass up an opportunity with A. T. & T. Showing up for an interview at the appointed time, he found the room crowded, and after waiting an hour he started to leave to report at the drug store. The interviewer caught sight of him, called him back and, after a brief discussion, offered him a job at \$30 a week. That was in 1929, the year he won his B.S. in B.A. degree.

Before his latest promotion—one of a series of jumps in responsibilities which have come rapidly in recent years—Gorman had seen service in four departments. As he told Joseph Kaye in an interview

for the Kansas City Star, "I've learned there's no substitute for experience. The broader the experience you acquire, the better you are qualified for increased responsibility. In order to do each job well, you've got to be able to reach a sound opinion and stick to it." Perhaps this formula began taking shape while he did menial jobs in Carrollton.

The record of M. U. alumni in top positions with A. T. & T. is impressive. Cleo Craig, from Rich Hill, Mo., is the retired chairman of the board. Eugene J. McNeely, from Jackson, Mo., is also an executive vice-president. William V. Kahler is president of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company. C. E. Schooley is general manager of the Indiana Bell Telephone Company. There are numerous others in high positions.

Gorman began his career with Western Electric Company, supply and manufacturing arm of the Bell Telephone System, as an accounting clerk at Hawthorne, Ill. After holding a number of supervisory positions he joined the parent company in New York as assistant personnel relations vice-president. That was in 1953. A year later he returned to W. E. as vice-president for defense projects, and in 1956 he became vice-president of manufacturing. He was elected president of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company in 1958, and last spring he rejoined A. T. & T. in New York as an executive vice-president.

Two years before leaving the campus, Gorman met his future wife, Betty Edwards of St. Louis, a student in 1928-29. They live in Chatham, N. J.