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Fred Tarman's mother, whose maiden name was ^{Ella France} Bedell, was a member of a family which also fled from England during "Bloody Mary's" slaughter of Protestants, and they settled at Hempstead, Long Island. Fred's grandfather ^{I had} (Bedell) married Elizabeth Dickinson and they migrated to Syracuse, New York, where Fred's mother was born in 1852. When ~~she~~ ^{the daughter} was eight years old they, too, ^{moved west and} homesteaded a farm near Oldtown, Illinois, where Fred's father's family was living. There ^{Fred's} his parents met and were married in 1868 when Mrs. Tarman was sixteen years old. (Mrs. Fred ^E Tarman now has a sampler made by Elizabeth Dickinson ^{in 1830} when she was eight years old.) Fred's parents immediately migrated to ~~the~~ Clearfield, a small town in southwest Iowa and homesteaded a farm there. ~~E. Tarman~~ Fred was born in Clearfield in 1889.

~~William B.~~ Tarman, Fred's father, served with the Union Army in the Civil war, and while sleeping on the cold ground in wintertime he contracted measles and rheumatism. The measles later developed into chronic bronchitis.

While farming near Clearfield both the rheumatism and bronchitis became worse so the Tarmans sold the farm and moved into Clearfield where Mr. Tarman engaged in the real estate and insurance business.

In the years 1902, 1903 and 1904, the severe winters caused the elder Mr. Tarman to have pneumonia each year, so in 1905 he went to Kerrville, Texas, a health resort in the mountains northwest of San Antonio. In the spring when he returned to Iowa he stopped in Norman, Oklahoma Territory to visit the Bridgewater family. The Bridgewaters had been neighbors of the Tarmans in Iowa before moving to Norman. Mr. Tarman liked the milder climate, and decided to sell his business at Clearfield and move to Norman. He arrived here with his family in August, 1905.

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But when cold weather came, the bronchitis and Reumatism became worse again, and Fred's father died in February, 1906, the year that Fred graduated from Norman High School.

The father's misfortune became Fred's good fortune because living in Norman gave him an opportunity to attend the University of Oklahoma, ^{had he remained} while in Iowa, a college education would have been out of the question.

Fred graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1910, and was a member of the first journalism class. During the summer, he had an opportunity to get a job as a reporter for the Daily Oklahoman, so his mother sold her home and they moved to Oklahoma City. Over a period of six years Fred served as reporter, sports editor, state news editor, and night editor of the Oklahoman and day news editor of the Oklahoma City Times. Incidentally, R.W. Hutto, former president of the Security National Bank, ^{graduating} was in Fred's class.

~~see~~ In 1917 H.H. Herbert, Director of the O.U. School of Journalism, offered Fred the position of assistant professor of journalism, and Fred was happy to return to Norman. ^{Here} he had done some campus reporting while in college for the Norman Transcript, J.J. Burke's paper. So he started his newspaper career on the Transcript and is finishing it there.

While on the journalism faculty Fred became friends with R.H. Parham, who with Guy Hardie of Purcell, had come to Norman in 1917 and bought all three weekly papers, the Transcript, The Democrat Topic from Willard Hess, and the People's Voice, the Populist paper from John Allen, and consolidated them into the Transcript. ^{Later} Mr. and Mrs. Parham and Mr. and Mrs. Tarman went to press conventions together and became very good friends.

In 1922, when the population of Norman had grown to about 11,000, Parham decided to convert the tri-weekly Transcript into a daily, so he offered Fred the job of editor and he accepted. Then Mr. Parham and Mr. Hardie each sold Fred enough stock that each of them owned one-third. Mr. Tarman says R.W. Hutto loaned him the money to buy the stock.

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On January 1, 1918, Fred was married to Miss Billie Henkel in St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Oklahoma City. Billie Henkel Tarman was the daughter of George and Julia Ruth Mackey Henkel of Flatonia, Texas. Fred and Billie have two children--twins-- ~~a girl and a boy.~~ *upon son and daughter.* Both are married. *Mrs. Richard Kern meedy* Harriet lives in Oklahoma City and has three children and Roger *M. Tarman* also has three children. He lives in New Brunswick, New Jersey, where he is head of the art and music departments of Rutgers University. *Harriet's husband is a lawyer with the Sohio all company.*

With Mr. Tarman at the helm, the Transcript grew and prospered and over the years has won many awards for excellence. In the hands of a truly civic minded and dedicated editor--an editor who had the welfare of his city in mind and at heart, as Mr. Tarman did, and who used his newspaper to tell the people what was needed and how it could be accomplished the Transcript has become a power in the civic life of Norman.

*Robert
Egg*

When Mr. Tarman became editor of the Transcript October 1, 1922 he immediately adopted the slogan for the paper, "Make Norman a Better Place in Which to Live" and that slogan was carried on the front page as the "left ear" to the left of the Masthead. It stayed there until recent years when the front page was modernized with new type faces and an irregular type of appearance and the so called "ears" were dropped.

When Mr. Tarman became editor Norman people were still burning coal for both heating and cooking, and he immediately began urging the City Commission as it was then known, to get the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, which had been furnishing Norman with electric power and lights to bring in natural gas. The Commission responded, and the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company began purchasing gas from the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company, which had transmission lines a few miles north of Norman. The Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company built distribution lines and started service in 1924.

While the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company had come to Norman in 1917, it obtained its first franchise to serve the city in 1919. It extended for ten years, and when the franchise was about to expire in 1929, the mayor and members of the City Commission proposed that the voters reject a renewal of the franchise and permit the city Commission to build and operate a municipal power and light plant. An election was called.

Numerous smaller towns and cities in the state had municipal plants, so Mr. Tarman made a detailed investigation of their operations. He found many of the plants were run down because of inexperienced management and had to vote bonds frequently to repair or rebuild their plants. Mr. Tarman decided expert management and excellent service by Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company was far better for Norman, so he, in his editorials, conducted a vigorous campaign against the bond issue and it was defeated. That issue has never been revived. Harold Belknap, who became business manager in 1930 after R.H. Parham died, joined in all policies.

In the first six years after Mr. Tarman came to Norman, the city had dirt streets, and during severe rains and when snow melted in the streets

[Handwritten signature]

Mr. Tarman
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in the spring Main Street became a big mudhole in the three blocks in the downtown business district. In the fall of 1911 a bond issue was voted and Main Street was paved. So far as Mr. Tarman can recall few if any other streets were paved ~~before~~ ^{after} he became editor of the Transcript ~~and~~ he soon began urging a street paving program. R.W. Hutto was a member of the Council and supported the program. West Main Street, University Boulevard, and North Peters Avenue were the first three assessment districts formed. The property owners did not protest them out, and a paving movement got under way. Today practically all thoroughfares and side streets have either been paved or black topped.

Mr. Tarman began advocating state governmental reforms in the 1930's. He advocated the state sales tax, with most of the revenue going to the welfare department. Other newspapers reprinted his editorials or took up the campaign in their own way, and the sales tax was adopted.

In the late 1920's a number of separate fund raising campaigns were conducted in Norman for the benefit of the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, and the University YWCA and YMCA, also the Salvation Army. Mr. Tarman and the late Hal Muldrow, Sr., who had headed two of the campaigns, got together and invited some prominent business men and University faculty members to meet and discuss the formation of a Community Chest similar to one operated in Oklahoma City. The idea was adopted and the first Community Chest began operations about 1928, but some organizations refused to come in and carried on their own campaigns. So after a few years the Community Chest lacked so much general support that it was abandoned and for several years each of the organizations carried on campaigns alone. However a few years later public sentiment ^{had} developed against so many campaigns that Mr. Tarman and Mr. Muldrow tried again, and that time the United Fund was organized and it has functioned with great success ever since.

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Fred E. Tarman

Willard News

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Mr. Fred Tarman's ancestral background started in England while Henry VIII was king. In 1509, ~~was~~ while England was affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church, Henry married Ann Bolyn and that displeased the Pope. One year later he decided to divorce Ann, but the Pope refused to approve that. So Henry broke with the Roman Catholic Church and established the Church of England, with himself as head of it. Then he proceeded to marry and behead five wives.

When he finally died in 1547, the first heir to the throne was Edward VI who had lung trouble and died within a year. The next heir was Queen Mary of Scotland, who had married King Philip of Spain, ~~and~~ and became a devout Catholic. She became known as "Bloody Mary" because she ~~proceeded~~ ^{proceeded} to murder about 400 prominent followers of King Henry, ^{who went with Jesus} into the Church of England.

All of this concerns the Tarman family because one of their great, great-grandfathers was Lord Frazier of Scotland, who had become a Protestant and refused to rejoin the Catholic Church. Learning that he was marked by "Bloody Mary" for execution, Lord Frazier abandoned his estate in Scotland and fled to Ireland and from there made his way to Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

^{Others} Others of the Tarman families had also fled England during that period and migrated to Newport News, Virginia, not far from Fortress Monroe. There a Tarman married a daughter of Lord Frazier, and they migrated to Ohio where Fred's father ^{William B. Tarman} was born in 1842. Still later, the grandfather and his wife moved to a farm community near Bloomington, Illinois, called Oldtown.