

August 30, 1941.

Mrs. H. Leigh MacCurdy,  
244 Bronxville Road,  
Bronxville, N.Y.

Dear Elizabeth:

In clearing up some of my files which have been listed for attention weeks and even months ago, I find your letter of May 12th. You asked about Gordon Gray. Gordon was married to Ruth Christianson, who is a daughter of a Congregational minister. Her father passed away about a year ago, and Ruth was secretary to Riling and Riling, lawyers.

When Mrs. Hulteen left me last August I spent quite some time choosing her successor. Her name was Miss Laretta Gerstenberger. I impressed upon Miss Gerstenberger the thought that I wanted to engage some one who would stay with me quite some time. Miss Gerstenberger had worked for John Stutz, and had three years work in the University in domestic science. She was one of the Eudora Gerstenbergers. I told her that unless the young lady agreed to stay at least two years I would not want to engage her. I told her that I believed in the institution of marriage, but for the work here I wanted someone that I could count on for an extended period. She assured me that she had no thought of getting married. She was married May 1st. That made eight months for her.

I went through the same routine, and Miss Christianson was the next selectee. I told her the same story. She certainly had no thought of getting married, so she told me. And she lasted three months. Gordon got a job as director of athletics at Kelly Field, at Brady, Texas, at \$2600 a year. He was in the draft, A-1 classification, and was expecting to be called, so when he got this job he took it, of course, and with it changed the decisions of the young lady.

In fairness to Miss Gerstenberger I might say that her young gentleman friend was also in the draft but he went to Annapolis on the short course and got an ensign's job out of it, so that changed her ideas. This defense program really is working wonders!

Now Mrs. Hulteen is with us at the present time and she is writing this letter, but it is only for thirty days, although I wish it were for as many years. Mrs. Hulteen is breaking in Polly Gowans, who just graduated from the University with Phi Beta Kappa honors. She is the daughter of "Buck" Gowans, the principal of