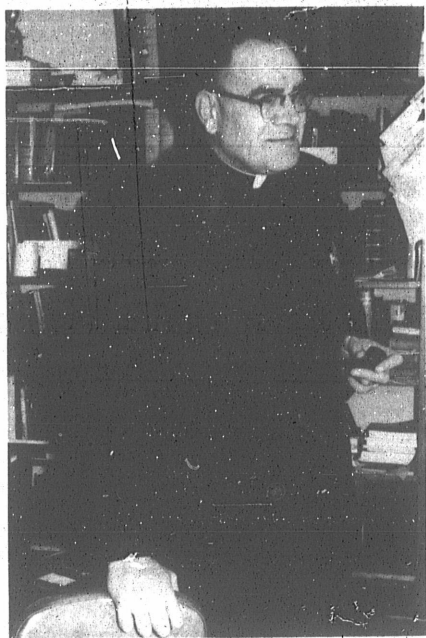


# Man Quits Church To Teach at U-A



OLIVER EVERETTE

Joining the faculty of the University of Alaska next fall will be Oliver Everett, pastor of the Fairbanks Evangelical Lutheran Church. Everett has been teaching part time for the English Department at the University since 1958. He will be leaving the ministry to devote full time to teaching Composition, Advanced Exposition and Masterpieces of World Literature.

His ambition to teach is nothing new. He has been thinking of it since 1935, when he began his education with the idea of going into English literature, but ended up going into the seminary.

Born in 1912 in northern Minnesota, Everett went to high school in North Dakota. He received his B.A. in 1933 from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota and in 1936 he earned his B.Th. and M.Th. degrees at the Luther Theological Seminary at St. Paul, Minnesota.

At the University of Washington in Seattle, he received his M.A. in 1951. He did graduate work in the field of literature at the University of Washington from 1951 to 1953, at the University of Oregon in 1954, and at the University of Alaska in 1964 and 1965.

As a student of poetry at the University of Washington and with Theodore Roethke as advisor, Everett wrote his M.A. thesis, a brochure of original verse. He also studied poetry under John Berryman at the University of Washington.

Everett has published seven books of verse, as well as numerous articles on theology. "Under the Juniper Tree," 1951, and "God Has Been Northward Always," 1965, are his best known books.

From 1932 to 1942 Everett's religious poems appeared in numerous religious periodicals. These were termed "too secular" by the religious press, but the secular press

found them "too religious." Consequently, little was submitted until "Under the Juniper Tree." Since 1963 his poems have been published in magazines such as Discourse, Partners, Alaska Review and Wisconsin Poetry Magazine. More poems are due to appear in Christmas, Trace and Prism.

His poem, "God Calls Us Still" was published as choir sheet music.

While he was living in Sweet Home, Oregon, an anthology of Oregon poets entitled "Fabric of Song," was published and included two of his poems, "Parched" and "Nuno Dimittis," 1955.

He edited and produced a mimeographed monthly called Pen, Heart & Cross in 1958-1959.

In the parishes he served for 20 of the 30 years of his ministry, Everett edited and produced a monthly parish newsletter. He has been author of many church-related news stories for various daily and weekly papers in Oregon, Washington and Alaska. The best known of these has been "Studies in Black," 1959—poems which were drawn from his childhood in Minnesota. Some have appeared since in Alaska Review, Discourse, etc.

In 1958 he was called to Fairbanks to organize and rebuild the new Lutheran church. In his last three assignments prior to coming to Alaska, Everett built up a parsonage and church, even starting a congregation in Sweet Home, Oregon.

Everett served as a judge in 1965 in the State Poetry Contest of Alaska and was one of three judges on poetry for the Festival of Arts at the University of Alaska this year.

Coming as a complete surprise, he was named Poet Laureate of the State of Alaska

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in 1965. The nomination was made by Professor Robert Bowen of the Alaska Methodist University and was backed by the Poetry Society of Alaska. Advisors were Dr. Wills of the University of Alaska and Charles Roberts of the Alaska Methodist University.

Everette's wife, Norma, works as assistant librarian in the Fairbanks Public Library. They have five children. Oliver G. is First Lieutenant aboard the U.S. Seadragon, an atomic submarine.

Their younger son, Paul, is communications man with the anti-submarine squadron and is married to Sharon Gatchell of Fairbanks. They have one child. One daughter, Elaine, Mrs. Noble Dick, lives at Anderson, Alaska. Her husband works as comptroller at Clear.

Mavis Mitten, the oldest daughter, lives at Fort Dietrick, Maryland; her husband is a lieutenant with the Army in biological warfare. Esther, youngest daughter of the Everettes, is a sophomore at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. Three of the children finished college; three had graduate work.

Asked if he thought he would ever return to the ministry, Everette said he would probably teach for the rest of his life.

"I look at teaching about the same way that I look at the ministry," he said, adding that the classes he held at the parish were always the highlight of his work.

—By MARGARET CHOAT