Hats Off To

George B. "Deak" Parker '07 arts-sc.,(right), because he occupies one of the most responsible editorial positions in America, he being editor-in-chief of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, because he is perhaps the most widely-known graduate of the university, and because he has always been a brave, distinguished editor. He was born on a farm near Ithaca, Michigan, September 19, 1886. His first job was as a water boy for a beet hoeing gang at 50 cents a day. At the university, he was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity and an associate member of Sigma Delta Chi fraternity. He soon tired of working in a tax office, and asked for a job as a reporter on the Daily Oklahoman. He was rejected. The Oklahoma News offered him a job at $10 a week. Successively, he became city editor, telegraph editor, managing editor, and editor in 1914. Two years later, he was made editor-in-chief of the Scripps-Howard papers in the Southwest. During the Walton regime, the then editor of the Oklahoma News became ill, and Parker, who had been editor of the Cleveland Press in the meantime, returned to take charge of the opposition to the Walton regime. As a result partly of his courageous attitude, he was made general editorial executive of all the 26 Scripps-Howard newspapers. In 1927, he was named editor-in-chief and moved his offices to 250 Park avenue, New York city, where he now lives.

William N. "Bill" Randolph '10 arts-sc.,'12 law, (left) because he is the founder of the Oklahoma League of Young Democrats, because he has set an exceptionally high standard for justice as a judge of the court of common pleas of Tulsa, and because of his long and honorable association with journalism in Oklahoma. In the university, where he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity, he was editor of the Umpire, the predecessor of the Oklahoma Daily. He is one of the founders of Pe-et, the senior honorary fraternity for men. After a year on the Muskogee Times-Democrat and the Henryetta Freelance, he was made a member of the legal staff of the Roxana Petroleum Corp. at Tulsa. Later Randolph became assistant city attorney. In 1920, he became the political writer for the Tulsa Tribune, serving at the state Capitol, and later conducting an editorial column for the newspaper. During this period, he had led the agitation which resulted in the establishment of the courts of common pleas in Tulsa county, as well as prior to that time, forming the League of Young Democrats. In 1926, Governor Trapp named him common pleas judge. He was re-elected, standing at the head of the Democratic ticket.

Lynn Riggs, ex-'23 arts-sc., (right) because he is one of the leading American playwrights, because he is a poet of rare charm, because he is a Guggenheim fellow, and because he is immortalizing certain phases of Oklahoma life through his dramas. He was born on a farm near Claremore, Oklahoma, in 1899. He attended the University of Oklahoma, where he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and Blue Pencil. During his university life he had been writing verse for the Smart Set, Poetry and the Nation. He taught English for a while, wrote a farce and toured the Middle West as second tenor in a quartet on a Chautauqua circuit. Then he went to New Mexico, where he worked on a ranch and became a friend of Witter Bynner, the poet. The Santa Fe Players produced his one-act, "Knives from Syria." Riggs then wrote "Sump'n Like Wings" and "Big Lake," all of the action taking place in Oklahoma. In 1926, he went east, where he saw "Big Lake" produced by the American Laboratory theater and published a few weeks later. His newest play, "A Lantern to See By" (see Sooner Books and Authors) will be produced this fall by the Lenox Hill Players in New York during the coming season. "Sump'n Like Wings" will be played during the same time by the American Laboratory theater.