George B. Parker, '08

BY MAUREEN MCKERNAN

In the “Standard-Star” New Rochelle, New York

GEORGE B. PARKER, of
Mount Kisco, is proof of how styles in
editors have changed. Imagine a Horace
Greeley or a Joseph Medill without
whiskers!

A generation ago, no reader would
have placed the faintest trust in a news-
paper whose editor was a smooth faced,
boyish looking individual with the drawl
of the southwest still clinging to his
speech.

George B. Parker is boyish looking,
and he's editor-in-chief of the twenty-
five newspapers of the Scripps-Howard
organization which stretches across the
continent.

When a new editor-in-chief was need-
ed, the powers that be reached out to
Texas for George B. Parker, an Okla-
homian, thereby giving some weight to
the statement which native New Yorkers
do not like—that the east gets its brains
from the middle west.

Though he spends much of his time
in the east, he thinks middle western
journalism is the most exciting and most
satisfying. Talk to him half an hour
and an ambitious reporter might want
to turn his back on New York and the
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One big story of those years George
Parker visited young Ferguson
while the convention was in session in
Guthrie, which drafted the Oklahoma
state constitution. Fists flew and names
were called during that convention when
a wordy civil war waged over the ques-
tion of removing the capital to Oklaho-
a City. Young Ferguson, as editor of
the leading Guthrie newspaper, was in
the midst of it, and the excitement of
those stirring times made a newspaper
reporter out of George Parker.

Mr Parker got his first job as a re-
porter on the News, in Oklahoma City,
a paper founded by Scripps-Howard in
1906. He married a girl he had known
in college, Adelaide Loomis, of Norman
who was a member of the faculty of the
university at the time of her marriage.

In the beginning he covered all sorts of
assignments, as all young reporters do,
and in the end he was editor of the pa-
per. The most fun he's ever had in his
newspaper life was when he was a re-
porter for the Oklahoma News.

Those first years of Oklahoma's state-
hood were grand, exciting days for young
newspaper men. The cattle thieves and
the bad men of the old territory
were still plentiful and active and bad
men of those days were more colorful
characters in their horseback riding,
two-gun shooting ways than the dope
choked, machine gun experts of today.

One big story of those years George
Parker still remembers with keen relish
and pride and pleasure. That was the
story of Henry Starr, the most colorful
and famous bandit of the southwest
since Billy the Kid.

A COLORFUL FIGURE

Henry Starr was a bandit with a be-
guiling personality. He once was grant-
saved the Osages from cultural extinction and which Henry Seidel Canby, editor of the *Saturday Review of Literature* said that "One aspect of life as it was actually lived on this continent...will have its best memorial in Wah'Kon-Tah. It is a book about the good earth of America."

In New York Mr Mathews was well received. Lewis Titterton, who broadcasts for the National Broadcasting company on "Characters and Books" interviewed the author November 6 over the N. B. C. station WJZ. There were other honors for him before he returned to Norman November 17.

GEORGE B. PARKER, '08 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 85)

ed a pardon by President Theodore Roosevelt and at another time was pardoned from the Colorado state penitentiary. Each time Starr would turn over a new leaf—but always, after a little while, an epidemic of bank robberies would break out in his vicinity and the hunt for Henry Starr would be on again. About 1909 or '10 when Oklahoma was in the throes of a Henry Starr hunt, the governor offered $1,500 for him, dead or alive. Banks were being robbed all over the state, and though no one had seen Henry Starr, the papers of the state gave him credit for being on a new rampage.

The editor of the *Oklahoma News* had a theory that the newspapers were all wrong and that Henry Starr was not in Oklahoma. George Parker was sitting at his desk, pounding out a dope story along that line one afternoon when his phone rang. The call was from a former classmate who was then starting his business career carrying ice water up and down stairs in his uncle's hotel in Stroud.

A "LITTLE" EXCITEMENT

"Say, Deac," said this classmate's voice over the phone, "we had a little excitement here just now and I happened to think about you being on a paper and I thought you might be interested. Henry Starr's just been shot out in the street. He robbed our bank."

Just like that—a story to make a young reporter famous, all his own, hot off the press, within a few minutes after it happened.

The famous bandit had been brought down by a single shot fired by an excited clerk in a hardware store who had fired one shot at random through a show window, at the group of galloping horsemen who were then storming down the street in a getaway—and that one shot brought down the prize bandit of the gang.

HIS EDITORIAL RISE

From reporter Mr Parker was advanced to city editor, and finally to managing editor of the *Oklahoma News*, in 1914. In 1920 he was sent to Cleveland to run the *Cleveland Press*. From Cleveland he was sent to Houston, Texas, as editor in charge of the Scripps-Howard papers of the southwest, which include those published in El Paso, Houston, Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque and Memphis. Since 1927 he has been editor-in-chief of the entire Scripps-Howard organization.

Last year Mr and Mrs Parker moved to Mount Kisco. They have bought land in Lawrence Farms and will build there. Meantime they occupy the old Daly home—the big colonial mansion in front of which the stuffed elk used to stand—on the Pleasantville Road, next to Mount Kisco golf club. Their 18-year-old son, George B. Parker, jr., and their 16-year-old daughter, Mary, attend Scarborough school on the Vanderbilt estate and both are going to be newspaper reporters when they finish college.

Mrs Parker's present interest is Westchester history and she already knows more about the county than a lot of our natives. Mr Parker plays a little golf, not so well, and doesn't care.

NEW UNIVERSITY DEBATE FORUM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 83)

forty-four entries were listed of which twenty-five new men were selected making the university debate forum, containing the senior and junior divisions, a squad of thirty-two members. On October 20, try-outs for the women's debating teams were held to select ten members. Their program will be conducted along the same lines as the men's.

Informal and formal discussion of various subjects will be held within two groups. Leading men on the campus will be invited to lead the forum on timely topics of the day. As the plans for the forum take place the department intends to publish a university debate forum magazine in the form of a monthly bulletin. In this magazine analysis of various timely questions will be prepared and will also include articles by leading professors on the campus, members of the public speaking department, and others.

It is interesting to note that last year the members of the university debating squad maintained an A- average in all scholastic work. Norman is rapidly expanding eastward on Main street. This is a view of newer downtown Norman as you turn onto Main street from the Oklahoma City-Ardmore highway.

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