

IN THE BEGINNING

I

When Mark died on April ⁵ 1984, I had been married to him for sixty years, lacking six months. So, if anybody is sufficiently knowledge^{ably} to write a biography about ^{my} ~~me~~, ^{I'm the} ~~one~~. I met him when he came to Macon, Georgia⁵ to take a job as a cub reporter on the Macon Telegraph. It was 1915. He was nineteen. He ^{delighted in} enjoyed recounting the circumstances of our meeting:

"~~After~~ ^{After} some months in Macon, I began to see frequently on the sport pages of the Telegraph glowing stories about a girl^m Willie Snow^m, he would say ^{his eyes were shining}. She played forward on the Lanier High School girls basketball team and every time the team played, she starred. Lanier could lose ten to thirty, but, no matter, ~~she~~ ^{Snow} starred^m so the Telegraph report^d ed. ~~Finally~~, It got so bad I finally said to George Sparks^m, who wrote the stories ^{out} - I found ~~it~~ later he had a crush on her ^m. ^{He} I'd certainly like to meet that girl who stars whether her team wins or loses."

"He said he'd be glad to introduce me if I would go with him the next Sunday night to the B.Y.P.U.^m that is, the Baptist Young Peoples Union. So I went. We got there early, but soon Willie, wearing a dark blue taffeta dress that swished when she walked, came in with two of her brothers. They were all giggling to beat the band. George introduced me to Willie and she kept on giggling. But, anyway, I went with her to church and then walked home with her. When we got there she gave me olive-and-cream-cheese sandwiches and iced lemonade. We sat in the swing on the front porch, eating the sandwiches and drinking the lemonade.

After that I was hooked. It was a case of ~~the~~ true love that ^{didn't} ~~did not~~ always run smoothly. but we made it in spite of everything."

Those were the actual circumstances of our meeting, though I don't believe I giggled that much, but because I was born in Savannah and often ~~xxx~~ visited my aunt in Guyton, thirty miles away, Mark sometimes changed his story to swear solemnly that he coaxed me out of the Ogeechee swamp with a stick of peppermint candy, and I, barefoot. }

Mark looked very different from other nineteen-year-olds, though it is hard to say why. His face, oval-shaped, had unblemished, shiny ~~clear~~ white and pink skin, a large nose, nice mouth, lean jaws, the whole lit by keenly alive, dark, ocean-blue eyes. He was slim and of medium height. He walked briskly, head up and seemingly questing, almost always with a rolled up Telegraph in his right hand. Every day he marked all the stories he had written with vigorous black check marks. The paper some days looked as if he had written every local story.

He was a fine talker, ⁿ ~~He had~~ ^{with} a pleasant, well-pitched voice, not too high, not too low, ^{and} he gestured with both hands. When amused, he smiled entirely with his eyes. They sparkled brilliantly, relaxing and warming his whole face, but his lips never opened. Nor did he ever laugh out loud, he simply drew in a long breath and let it out softly, steam-like.

He was ~~extremely~~ proud of his family, though not boringly so. To begin with, old English records spelled the name Ethridge in innumerable, intricate ways, but by the fifteenth century it was whittled down to Etheredge. During the American Revolution, so tradition has it, those Etheredges on the side of the colonists dropped the second "e" in indignant rage with the Etheredges who stayed

loyal to the English crown. Or it could be that some ~~Etteridge~~ Etheredge ancestor grew tired of writing all those "e's". That struck Mark as admirably sensible.

However, long before the "e" was dropped, there lived an Etheredge with whom Mark especially enjoyed claiming kin. He was Sir George Etheredge, England's famous restoration comedy-dramatist and author of ~~xxxxxxxx~~ scatological limericks. Sir George Etheredge's grandfather, a vitner, was one of Bermuda's original "adventurers" and Sir George's father, Captain George Etheredge, lived there until his death in 1650.

Mark felt high excitement in 1969 when, on a visit to Bermuda, he walked the extensive land once owned by his family. He wrote in the guest book of James Stewart Duncan, the current owner, "Get off my land!"

Another ancestor who seemed noteworthy to Mark was William E. Ethridge, who came from England to Virginia in 1645 and accumulated a substantial estate. When he died in 1716, that property, among others, included a thousand acres of land in Norfolk county, Virginia. About that time other Etheredges settled along the southern coast of Virginia and the northern shores of North Carolina. From there Mark's branch of Etheredges moved southwest by slow stages until they finally reached Old Marion, Mississippi.

On his maternal side, Mark had a grandmother who was ^{Scottish} Scotch, a Davidson. This ^{Scottish} Scotch blood in his veins pleased him inordinately.

He ~~were~~ wore the Davidson plaid in scarfs and tams on special occasions and once on a visit to Scotland he bought enough plaid to make our youngest son, David, a tuxedo ^{jacket} coat. ~~and~~ Mark frequently suggested ^{Scottish} Scotch songs for groups to sing. This revered grandmother came to America as a young girl to join her brothers in Aberdeen, Mississippi. Her parents had died in Scotland. "Mama told me she had a thick, Scottish brogue," Mark bragged.

Start here, around

Mark was born April 22nd, 1896, in Meridian, Mississippi, ~~He~~ ^{the} ~~father~~ ^{of} ~~eight~~ ^{five girls and four boys} children. ~~He was the~~ ^{youngest boy.} ~~four~~ ^{four} sisters and three brothers. He was a middle child, ~~four~~ ^{four} children older and three younger. His father, ~~who was dead,~~ ^{William Nathaniel Ethridge,} had

worked as a very young boy during the Civil War to help support the family. Afterwards, he read law and became a member of the Mississippi bar. When he died, the Memphis Commercial Appeal called him the leading

he? below

lawyer of Mississippi. ~~He was~~ ^{an} advanced thinker for his day, ~~he~~ ^{he} condemned the privately owned Meridian water works and won municipal ownership for the city. He attacked the Bell Telephone Company as a monopoly and helped establish the Meridian Home Telephone Company,

for work

a competing system which has ^{that price} disappeared. ~~He lost a lot of money doing~~ ^{But} ~~it,~~ ^{Mary,} when he died, Mark's mother ~~found~~ ^{her husband had left} ~~she had~~ ^{she} very little money ~~and~~ ^{and} owned, among other things, bales of worthless telephone stock and two Negro churches.

~~Mark's father~~

William Nathaniel's

~~He was very finicky about his dress. All his clothes and shoes~~ ^{Mary} were tailor made. He and Mark's mother used to go to Hot Springs, Arkansas, and he always took along his Prince Albert and his evening clothes.

above it? like

"How he got such fancy notions, God only knows," Mark mused ^{often} ~~when~~ he talked about his father. "He made big fees in his law practice and spent them like water, or gave them away. Long after he got to be the leading member of the Mississippi Bar, I ~~have known~~ ^{knew} him to go into police court and fight a case where he thought some in justice was involved. He was always trying to get more pay for firemen, policemen, and railroad workers. ~~He~~ ^{he} used to have ~~silver services~~ ^{silver services that had been} given to ~~us~~ ^{him} by the firemen and the police."

This "dude or democrat" had almost as many black clients as white. ^{had a reputation of never refusing} He ~~never refused~~ a client because of his color or financial circumstances. One of his most celebrated cases involved a Negro accused

of murdering a white man. ^{William Nathaniel's} ~~Mark's father's~~ defence was so strong that a jury - all white, of course, found the Black innocent, ^{and} ~~an unbelievable~~ ^{unbelievable} verdict in those days in Mississippi. Mark was fond of boasting that enraged by the verdict, two brothers of the murdered man, came to his father's office, threatening to horsewhip him. He simply picked them up, one after the other, and threw them down the stairs, ~~and~~ ^{he} did it with one arm at that.

~~He had only one arm because~~ when he was about ten or eleven years old his mother sent him ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ to the grocery store across town, on the other side of the railroad tracks, ^{and} on the way back he ran around a train standing on one set of tracks but ^{failed to} ~~didn't~~ see another coming. It ~~knocked him down and~~ cut off his arm just below the shoulder. ^{Mary} ~~Mark's mother~~ always insisted that ^{her husband} ~~William~~ ^{bugged/harder} with one arm than any other man with two.

Mark ~~xxxxx~~ never enjoyed jokes about Negroes. He ^{always} remembered something his father ^{had} said to him when he was very young: "Nothing that ^{embarrasses} anybody is ever funny."

^{William Nathaniel} ~~Mark's father~~ also ^{defended} had as clients prostitutes, arrested, ~~so~~ ^{Mark understood,} for plying their trade too zealously. When he succeeded in getting the judge to discharge them ^{or} ~~when not successful,~~ they had ^{finished} ~~finished~~ serving their sentence, he brought them home for ^{his wife} ~~his wife~~ to teach them sewing so they could ~~leave their old lives and~~ make an honest living as seamstresses.

Though ~~Mark's~~ father was a Methodist and his mother a Baptist, ~~this was~~ ^{so} ~~no problem for~~ the children. ^{They} were allowed to go to ^{where} ~~any church~~ they pleased. ~~Since they were free to choose any~~

5 boys - 8 children

5-Ethridge

any church → five of them became ~~Methodists~~ Baptists and four Methodists. Indeed, how he became a Baptist was one of Mark's favorite stories. "I was confirmed a Methodist," ^{Nah} he related, "and won all the stars for Bible reading ~~all~~ that the Epworth League offered. I was perfectly content with the old-fashioned ~~Methodist~~ ~~church~~ ~~and~~, but ~~then~~ the Baptist church installed an organ that had to be pumped by hand. For some reason I don't understand, considering my aversion for manual labor, I left the Methodist church and joined the Baptist just so I could pump that organ. ~~and~~ that was the depth of my religious convictions."

Parents

~~That might have been the depth of Mark's religious convictions, but he remained nevertheless, through~~ ~~but~~ he was an ardent Bible reader all his life. ~~In fact~~ In his middle years he wrote a letter to the ~~manager~~ manager of the then new Hilton hotel in Atlanta, complaining bitterly that there was no Gideon Bible in our room. In fact, he told him he didn't consider ~~he was running~~ ^{the Hilton} a first-class hotel for two reasons: there was no ~~can-opener~~ bottle-opener in the bathroom and, ~~worst of all,~~ no Bible ^{on the bedside table.}

^{In those early years of the century, Nah delivered the} ~~Mark's most cherished possession as a child was a present from~~ Meridian Dispatch with the help of his father - a worn-out ^{mare} horse named Nellie, that used to pull the family buggy. Nellie helped Mark ~~with~~ deliver the Meridian Dispatch. ^{Nellie} ~~knew~~ the paper route as well as Mark did, and when somebody ~~stopped~~ ^{dropped} canceled his subscription, ^{to the paper} Mark had trouble with Nellie. ~~She~~ ^{she} had been accustomed to stopping at that subscriber's house, and so refused to go on without considerable coaxing and ~~some~~ rein slapping.

~~In those years~~ Meridian had a hitching ordinance which

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requiring anyone leaving his horse on the street to tie her to a hitching block. ~~meant you had to put a hitching block on your horse when you left~~ ~~her in the street, no matter how gentle she was.~~ One cold winter afternoon, when the sun was high, Mark left Nellie with her hitching block on in front of the building in which his father had his law office, and dropped in to see him. While he was ~~gone~~ inside, the sun dipped behind the building and left Nellie in the shade. ~~so~~ she picked up her hitching block and moved across the street where the sun still shone.

Mark and his friends played almost every afternoon firemen. They ^{built} installed a contraption ^{in the stable} that rang a bell and moved a whip to flick Nellie on the rump. She'd run out, get between the shafts of the buggy, and they'd ^{hitch up} jump in the buggy and race two or three blocks to the make-believe fire.

"One morning before I went to school, ^{years later} Mark ^{told} liked telling the children, "I went to the stable to feed Nellie and ~~she~~ found she wasn't there. I was shocked and frightened; she had never gone off before. I looked all around the neighborhood but couldn't find her. I told everyone I saw that she was gone and when I reached school I got word she was at the vet's. ~~I couldn't understand how she had found her way.~~ I had taken her to the vet's once or twice, but she had never gone by herself. The vet said he had discovered her waiting at the front door when he got to his office that morning, rolling on the ground in great agony with what ~~seemed~~ ^{terrible} seemed to be a ~~terrible~~ stomach ache. He thought she had eaten some kind of poison berries and had given her medicine, but nothing seemed to help/.

"When she saw me, she carried on in the most touching manner. She whinnied and tried to get up but the

pain was too great. The vet said, 'let her lie there.' I stayed with her the rest of the day and into the night until she died. ~~I was heartbroken.~~

Mark wasn't ~~exaggerating about his grief.~~ ^(heartbroken) He adored Nellie. And this life of an animal, any animal - horse, mule, cat, ~~dog, colored cat~~ ^{enriched} his days, ~~remained with him all his life, years.~~ ^{remained with him all his ~~life~~ years.}

Another ~~unmistakable~~ ^(lifelong) characteristic, ~~summarizing~~, his determination to finish whatever he set his mind and hands ~~to~~ ^{to, also} ~~the~~ ^{surf} faced early. But his family didn't consider it determination as much as stubbornness and, in some instances, temper. He had a temper, all right; when he really got mad, he stayed mad; but it was his determination that was over riding. One morning he flew into a rage because he wanted to do something and his mother wouldn't let him. He fell to the floor and screamed and kicked, ~~screamed and kicked~~ as if he'd never stop.

However, the blare of a circus parade band finally penetrated his ears (the home was near the down town section of Meridian). Instantly he shut up and went outside to see the parade. It was quite a long parade and by the time it was over, he had forgotten what he was so ~~very~~ angry about.

However, that was no problem. He asked his mother and when she told him, ~~he~~ fell right back down to the floor and resumed his screaming and kicking as if he had never been interrupted.

^{William Nathaniel} ~~When Mark's father~~ was ⁵⁴ ~~fifty-four~~ when ^{suffered} ~~he~~ had a stroke ~~just~~ as he finished arguing a case in the ^{Laurel} ~~Laurel~~ Mississippi courthouse, ^{he} ~~and~~ died a few hours later. Mark was fourteen. ^{Although} His mother had her hands ~~very~~ full

rearing all the children ^{who were} ~~who were~~ still at home, ^{but she} ~~but she~~ ^{managed to} ~~did~~ many small acts to show her affection. Mark remember ^{always} how she put a sweet potato in the oven while he was at school so that by the time he got home in the early afternoon it was squashy soft, with a generous portion of butter and a sprinkling of cinnamon flavoring a slit down the middle of it. Mark ~~always~~ insisted he never tasted anything to equal it.

Rewrite all of this. (see over)

remained
take all this out
the whole
words
leave
some

had
been
left?

Mary was left with _____ (how many) children still at home. Then a brief description of how they made it.

(Will, then 27, was a lawyer in his father's firm, + helped support them and helped get the girls through college. etc.)

Mary thought girls needed college more than boys so they could become school teachers, etc.).

Mark liked school. ~~Writing~~ ^{he wrote} more than a half century later, ^{he wrote} a reminiscing letter (it is dated July 30, 1959) to his sister, Annie, ^{1/2} who was ~~just~~ ^{two} a couple of years younger than he. ~~He wrote~~: "I have vivid recollections about the first and fifth grades. Cousin Lena Davidson taught me in the first grade and because she was our cousin ^{w/} she made an example of me by cracking a pencil over my head for behaving like a modern kindergarten child. She was always strict, you know, and took a good part of it out on me. The fifth grade ^a I remember well. I believe Miss Celia Anderson was teacher - ~~it~~ it was in that (grade) that I really developed a passion for reading; so much so that I almost put my eyes out. I remember that Miss Anderson told me to tell Mama and Papa that my eyes were going bad and how insulted I was that they didn't ~~believe~~ ^{believe} it at first. But, as you remember, I did wind up with glasses.

take out

"I remember very well one episode with you when I was in the third grade and you were in the first grade. We heard that Pat Moore, who was principal, was sick, and we considered that as good reason as any not to go to school. I am sure it was your devilish inspiration, but we decided to take her flowers. We picked some ~~1/2~~ poppies-- or may-pops as I remember we called them ~~at~~; at any rate, some common flowers growing along the sidewalk -- and took them to her house. We ~~skilled~~ enough time not to go to school that day and got spankings for it when Mama found out.

ref

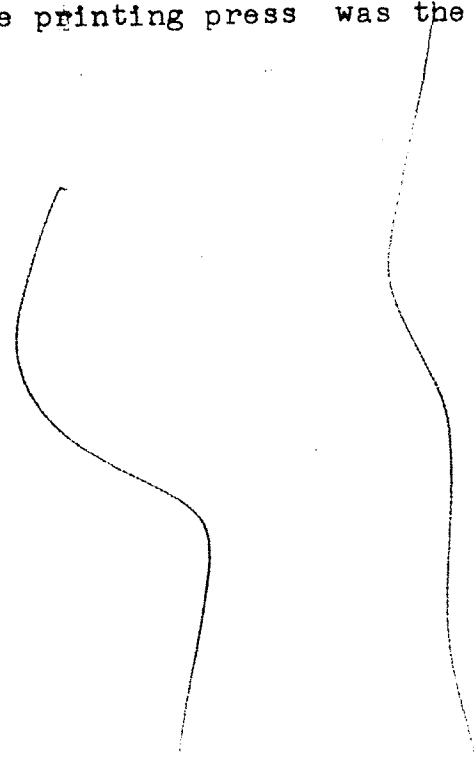
"It was always difficult for me to get to school on time. The firehouse was on the corner of the block that East End occupied and we had to pass it on the way to school. The foreman ^{i e} always had the finest, best-kept ~~xxxxxx~~ pair of horses in town, and occasionally a good fire to go to. And, of course, if I was anywhere near, I always went with them, regardless of school.

"Another thing I remember ^{by} about the third grade was that

Article
quotes

the teacher ^{was it} Miss Smith? ^{had} a passion for ~~Poetry~~ or more correctly, a passion for making us learn it. I had to stay after school one day for pulling a girl's hair, one of the Slaughter girls, I believe, and learn a good portion of ~~The Charge of the Light Brigade~~. I don't think children are made to learn poetry as early now, but it would be a good thing if they were.

Mark especially liked high school. During his senior year he made the debating team and so did his best friend, Jeff Ham. They debated ^{throughout} ~~all over~~ Mississippi ~~and over Mississippi~~ and some places in Alabama. Their biggest interschool debate was with the York, Alabama, high school. The topic was: Resolved that the steam engine ^{has} a greater effect on civilization than the printing press. Mark couldn't recall in later life which side he and Jeff took, for they prepared ~~equally~~ well for both sides in order to rebut; but he always contended that if he had been given the choice, he ^{would} have chosen the negative. ~~As far back as he could remember,~~ he agreed with Victor Hugo's ~~assertion~~ that the invention of the printing press was the greatest event in ~~the~~ world's history.



Many years after that debate ⁱⁿ a quarter of a century, at least ⁱⁿ Mark went to Minneapolis to be the speaker at a banquet celebrating the ^{500th} ~~five hundredth~~ anniversary of the invention of movable type and ~~at~~ the opening of a new newspaper plant by John and Mike (Gardner) Cowles. ~~At the beginning of that speech he said,~~ "Just consider how many of our liberties are due to Gutenberg's invention of the printing press," ^{he said,} "Before he gave the world the art of printing, what libraries there were were the properties of princes or monasteries, and literacy was confined to the few who were of the Church or of the courts. Then came the printing press. Literacy generated human aspirations and gave human beings the outlet for the expression of their aspirations. It is not too much to say that the invention of movable type was in reality the beginning of the emergence of the world ~~from~~ the Dark Ages. Martin Luther certainly felt, and said, that it was responsible for the success of the Reformation.

Ming. 7
clear?

~~"If you will only go to our own Bill of Rights and reread the articles that compose it, you will discover that virtually every right enumerated as the condition precedent to the adoption of our form of government has its tap roots in the art of printing. Freedom of worship as we know it, freedom of speech and of the press, freedom of assembly and the right of petition for redress of grievances are all meaningless phrases unless based upon and supported by the printed word. It has been~~

through these ~~five~~⁵⁰⁰ hundred years man's instrument in the achievement of his aspirations for freedom and his desire to improve himself as a social being."

Though Mark gave a great deal of his time to the debating team, his Number One subject during his senior year was history. He ~~had~~^{met} a young teacher, Miss Frances Cole from Columbia, Missouri, ~~who turned out to be one of the most beneficial influences of his life.~~ ^{sparked a fire that burned all his life.} "She gave the teaching of history its finest meaning," Mark insists. ^{ed} She taught me the difference between the real and the ostensible in men's motives. She set me upon a course of study ^w that lasted not just for one year, but for all my years."

While in high school ~~he~~^{Mark} also began writing a column for the Meridian Star called "Baseball Bubbles" ^{by Fannie.} ~~Mark~~ had always been interested in news papers. ~~The first time he remembers reading a newspaper he was eight years old.~~ ^{for the first time when} He spread the paper ~~out~~ on the floor and kneeled on top of it. ^{One} The headline read: JAPAN STRIKES THE FIRST BLOW, ^{referring to} ~~that was~~ the opening of the Russo-Japanese War in 1904. ~~He not only read the headlines but the story that followed. And from that day on he kept it up. It was the start of his daily-newspaper-reading habit.~~

^{he graduated from} After high school Mark ~~continued working~~^{ed} for the Star for a year. ^{full-time} There was no money for college.

(?)

in September, 1918,
 Then, with a year's earnings, he quit ^{his} ~~his~~ job in
~~September~~ and left home to enter college, but his year's
 earnings were not enough. When he got to Ole Miss he
 went directly to Chancellor Butts, saying, "Here I am. I hope you can
~~give me a scholarship.~~ The Chancellor said, "I'm sorry,
 I have no scholarship to give you, but there is a job
 ringing the bell for classes. Mark took it. He and
 another boy who ~~rotated~~ ^{alternated} with him ~~began ringing~~ ^{rang} the bell at ^{intervals} necessary
 from ~~at~~ eight o'clock in the morning ~~and continued~~ until the
 last class in the afternoon. Students have reported
 it was the most chaotic year ^{at} the University, ~~and it was for~~
 Mark let the history and English classes, which were
 his favorites, run overtime, and the mathematic and
 science classes, which he disliked, got short shrift.

SING

~~XX~~
~~XX~~

Although fraternities had been barred from Ole Miss,
 Mark joined the S.A.E. fraternity ^{by going} ~~to go~~
 to Jackson, Tennessee, and enroll in Union University.
 Everybody had to do that to be a member of any fraternity
 at Ole Miss. ~~That~~, just as soon as he was pledged ^{it}
 took about two and a half weeks ^{he left} ~~he left~~ Union and went
 back to the University of Mississippi. He ~~has~~ often
 wondered what the president and dean of Union thought
 of that ploy.

Clear how
or is?

That freshman year Mark saw a good deal of William
 Faulkner, ^{who} ~~he~~ was the son of the provost of the University

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and lived on the campus. Though ^{Faulkner} he, too, was in the S.A.E., ^{he created no} Mark thought ^{strong great impression on Mark.} nothing much about him. Faulkner hung around with the drinking crowd on campus, and in those days, though it is hard to believe now, Mark didn't drink, not even a beer.

Mark ^{stayed at} ~~went to~~ Ole Miss for only one year before he had to drop out for lack of money. ~~His mother thought it was more important for his three younger sisters to have college educations than it was for him. They needed college diplomas to teach school, which she considered the only proper vocation for her daughters.~~

Mark was terribly unhappy over dropping out of Ole Miss, for in spite of being badly bitten by the newspaper virus, he thought he must be a lawyer. All the men in his family were lawyers. Besides his father, he had three brothers who were just ^{starting} getting their practices started, and at least three ^{who were} cousins lawyers. During his young years all his leaning was toward the law. He envisioned himself in the black robes of a ~~star~~ Supreme Court judge.

However, at nineteen a newspaper job seemed his only solution. ^{to the problem of supporting himself} He was given ^{offered} the choice of three reporting jobs. The owner of the Meridian Star also ran the Mobile (Ala) ^{being} Item and the Enguerrer Sun in Columbus, Georgia. He said Mark could ~~work~~ work on any one he liked. Mark chose Columbus. His pay was twenty dollars a week. He wasn't too happy at first, ^{and} He wrote his mother on July 4th, 1915, shortly after arriving there, a rather pitiful letter.

For you to
burn a line
with marks

~~easy to share the stroll through it. Oh, yes indeed Columbus was
a grand place when I had all my hair and all my teeth and all the
rest of a cocky young man who thought the world was his oyster."~~

Evidently, Mark looked at Columbus through ~~much~~ ^{worn} ~~resist~~ ^{mother} glasses
after ~~forty eight~~ years than he had used when writing his ~~mother~~
July 4th, 1915,

Pick
up
how

shortly after his arrival there, "Have met several of my S.A.E. brothers
over here and they are nice to me when they meet me on the street, but
so ~~there is no~~ ^{hard} ~~time to take me anywhere.~~ ^{for them}
I work ~~too~~ ^{hard} they don't have time to take me anywhere. I get to bed
about 2:30 in the morning, get up about 11:30, take a bath and swim

How

~~was living at the Y.M.C.A.~~ until 12 o'clock, and then dress and have
dinner at 12:30, ~~and then~~ go to work at 1 o'clock, and work until the next
morning. So you see I have practically no time at all. Possibly it is best
for me that I don't ^{or} ~~(I maybe)~~ would be spending my time idly or foolishly."

In addition to his job as reporter, he soon began writing a
column called "Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax."

He also ~~wrote~~ ^{told} his mother of his shattered hopes of returning to
Ole Miss. "...I began to think about not ~~returning~~ being able to go
back to school next year and it made me ~~feel~~ ^{feel} miserably. ...However, I
expect to live ~~as cheaply~~ ^{as} as I possibly can over here and
go back year after next...."

A little further on in the same letter ^{wrote,} he said: "Well, I
have my first pay day Tuesday, but needless to say it and some more
I will draw next week are already paid out. I will have to pay the
Y.M.C.A. \$11 and ^{still owe for the} \$3 on the first two nights I was here when I had to
stay at a hotel."

12-0- Ethridge

Fifty eight years later explained to him

Mark explained why he chose to work in Columbus ^u Georgia ~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~ and ~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~ how attached he became to that Georgia city ~~forty-~~
~~eight years later~~ ^{It was} in a piece he ^{wrote} for W.G. Tucker, editor of the
 Enquirer, to run in a special edition ^{of} celebrating that paper's
 120th anniversary.

Ethridge

lady to share the stroll ~~through~~ through it. Oh, yes, indeed, Columbus was a grand place when he had all my hair and all my teeth and all the zest of a young cocky young man who thought the world was his oyster."

~~In that piece for Mr. Tucker, Mark didn't mention that~~
 the paper in those days ~~ran on such a slim margin~~ it frequently ~~ran~~
 ran out of cash. Every Tuesday, pay day, as soon as he received his check he rushed to a saloon about a block and a half away to ask the saloonkeeper to cash it, hoping the paper still had money in the bank. Mark became very attached to that saloonkeeper, who would sell him a beer for fifteen cents and give him enough extras on the side to make a meal of sorts.

Its precarious financial condition aside, Mark wasn't impressed with the Enquirer-Sun as a newspaper⁴. Still, ~~he~~^{he} for three months he was fairly content working for it. Then a disgraceful thing⁷ happened. ~~The~~^A lazy ~~old~~ editor slept through the biggest story of the year that broke right under his nose. Somebody, either/AP or UP, woke him one evening around ten or ~~at~~ eleven o'clock and told him that a mob had taken Leo Frank from the state prison farm at Milledgeville and was headed toward Atlanta to lynch him.

Leo Frank's for murder trial had held the rapt attention of the public for many ~~4~~ months. In 1913, Mary Feagan, an employe^e of Frank, an Atlanta manufacturer of shoe laces, had arrived at the factory on a holiday and been murdered, ?

as (she had been ill on the regular payday) ~~and been murdered~~. Frank admitted being at the factory, but denied murdering the girl. The trial was considerably delayed while the Georgia authorities tried to gather evidence ^{to} to convict him. Finally, ^{they} they called in a Pinkerton detective from New York. After a supposedly thorough investigation, the Pinkerton man declared all ~~the~~ ^{the} evidence pointed to Frank as the guilty party, ^{and} the trial began.

The proceedings were frequently interrupted by ^(hostile) emotional outbursts of ~~hostile~~ ^{mob} cries from a ~~mob~~ outside the courthouse. (~~The~~ fact ~~that~~ ~~a~~ that Frank was a Jew might have inflamed ~~the~~ anger of the mob, though ~~no~~ there was no public acknowledgment of ~~any~~ ^{social} prejudice.) The jury returned a verdict of guilty and Frank was sentenced to be hanged. However, in 1915, Governor Nathaniel E. Harris, because of doubt surrounding the case, commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment. As it turned out, the Governor did Frank no favor. He was hanged from a tree in Marietta, about forty miles from Atlanta. *When exactly*

to go to Newark to see his business partner

~~The Enquirer-Sun's failure to cover the lynching was for Mark the end of his connection with that paper. He wanted to resign and get a job on the Macon (Georgia) Telegraph, which had quite a good reputation. Very shortly the way opened. When the Enquirer-Sun sent him to Macon to cover a highway convention, he went to the Telegraph office and introduced himself to George Long, the managing editor, who asked Mark who wrote the column in the Enquirer called Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax. Mark replied, "I do" and Long said, "How about coming to~~

STET ?

Needs paragraph here to explain what the editor and/or paper did. Did he go back to sleep?

finish with date