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When Mark <sup>took over</sup> ~~got into~~ his job at Newsday, his <sup>opinion</sup> ~~suspicions~~ of Alicia as an editor were confirmed. She was a genius, as he had thought; she came by it naturally as the daughter of <sup>Joe</sup> ~~W.~~ Patterson, so long the publisher of the New York Daily News. But no <sup>other</sup> mortal could have published a successful paper using her methods. Her philosophy of management was to keep the people on the paper antagonistic. She believed <sup>that</sup> if they disliked one another, they tried harder to do superior work. She had the temperament suited to that type <sup>of</sup> operation, but no one else could run a paper ~~like~~ <sup>a</sup> that <sup>way</sup> <sup>⊙</sup>

Her managing editor was in charge of news and nothing else; another man was in charge of <sup>Newsday's</sup> ~~Newsday's~~ Washington Bureau and feature articles, and they <sup>two</sup> ~~scarcely~~ spoke to each other. When they had to communicate, they did it through notes that had to be delivered from one end of the building to the other. Mark quickly broke that up. He made the managing editor responsible for everything, <sup>except</sup> ~~except~~ the editorials, and when the other man couldn't go along, he gave him a year's salary and fired him. The year's salary was Harry's idea, <sup>having</sup> the man ~~had~~ been a special favorite of Alicia's.

In spite of these abrasions among the staff in the beginning, the news department of Newsday met the challenge of President Kennedy's assassination in Dallas ~~more~~ than satisfactorily. Mark wrote to William Miller, a reporter on the Courier-Journal, on November 27: "I am proud of what Newsday has done within the past few days. It's a great tribute to what Alicia has built up here."

He also said: "All of us here, and I am sure there, have been in trauma since Friday. I can't imagine any greater outpouring of grief

and respect than we have seen....I have always had great reservations about Lyndon Johnson, but he's ours now..

In another letter on November 27 <sup>✓</sup> this one to Vic Sholis, manager of WHAS <sup>Mark</sup> ~~he~~ discussed President Kennedy, <sup>saying:</sup> ~~He said:~~

"Dear Vic:

✓ Thank you very much <sup>for</sup> ~~me~~ your letter of November 21, which was written, of course, the day before we got the terrible news of the assassination. Since then I have not had a chance to do anything except work and grieve.

"I think Kennedy had all the elements that make a great president, save the one flaw <sup>✓</sup> that he didn't realize the moral strength of such a man as he and of the presidency itself. He had bad leadership in Congress. I think one reason his program never got further than it did was that he adhered too strictly to what he had learned in Massachusetts politics. Nevertheless, he had that greatness within him and in time it would have [come] out.

✓ "I can't be enthusiastic about Johnson. His image is that of a large, abler Earle Clements <sup>✓</sup> [~~Clements was a Kentucky senator.~~]"

Then he abruptly changed the subject and confessed to Vic his feelings about an upcoming visit of assorted children and grandchildren:

"Willie and I are anticipating the descent of a hoard for Thanksgiving. Georgia and Marc <sup>✓</sup> and their four and Mark III, who is at Exeter, will be coming. We have asked Georgia to bring sleeping bags with her. Willie is trembling with anticipation and I am cowering with dread because I am going to have to see Macy's parade <sup>✓</sup> live."

We enjoyed living on Long Island more than we <sup>had</sup> <sup>to</sup> expected. We saw a lot of our old New York friends and a goodly number of Mark's co-workers on Newsday whom we found most congenial: Virginia Paisley, the book

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was Georgia's husband's name mentioned earlier?  
de book

Have put Marc's name in page 413

Is Mark III the son of Mark's wife?

his introduction on page 338  
It's an added page

Ethridge

editor, the Hal Burtons, the Alan Hathaways, the Bill Mc Elwains, the Joe Albrights, and George Oppenheimer, the theatre critic, who now and then, when Mark was out of town, took ~~we~~ to dinner and a show.

And Mark was out of town frequently. Beginning in February, 1964, he caught the Long Island train at Garden City every Sunday afternoon for New York, and from there the Seaboard Airline ~~xxx~~ overnight train to Sanford, N.C. where Bud Abbott met him.

After a bath and breakfast, Mark borrowed ~~Bud's car~~ Mary Snow's car and drove the thirty-two miles to Chapel Hill to conduct a three-hour seminar with his journalism class with frequent breaks for Coca-Colas. Then he drove back to Sanford, had dinner with Mary Snow and Bud and the children, caught an overnight train for New York and was in Garden City in time to go to the office for a full day's work. It was somewhat strenuous, but he was only in his sixty-~~seven~~<sup>the</sup> and sixty-eighth year<sup>s</sup>/then. And he had accepted the Newsday job for only two years.

When the two years were up in September, 1965, Harry had a replacement for Mark in mind. Once when Harry had called on President Johnson in the White House he had met Bill Moyers, Johnson's special assistant and but earlier had been a newspaperman in Texas, press secretary, and been impressed by him. Though Bill and Harry were poles apart in politics, just ~~x~~ as Mark and Harry were, Harry, when he interviewed Bill about the editorship of Newsday, was completely sold on him.

After Bill had worked for him for awhile, Harry even wrote in his will that Bill was to inherit one hundred thousand dollars. However, as Harry aged and suffered bad health, he became, it seems, more crotchety and disillusioned with Bill and decided not to leave him that one hundred thousand; in fact, not to leave him one penny. But instead of remaking his will, ~~for~~ <sup>NO</sup> Bill would not know Harry had once planned to leave him the money, he added a codicill nullifying the gift. Evidently, he wanted Bill to suffer.

But even before Harry's death, Bill had suffered quite a jolt. While he was traveling in Europe, completely unaware that the sale of Newsday was in the works, Harry sold his 51 percent of the paper to the Los Angeles Times. Joe Albright, who with his sister, had inherited Alicia's 49 percent, didn't know it either. ~~Joe and his sister~~ <sup>They</sup> didn't sell their shares when Harry did; they held on for some time until the Los Angeles Times agreed to pay them considerably more per share than Harry had received.

~~This all happened, of course, after Mark had left.~~ Harry, however, had kept Mark on the paper as director and consultant at ~~\$1000~~ <sup>one thousand dollars</sup> a month.

Very shortly after the sale, Otis Chandler Jr., publisher of the Los Angeles Times and ~~new~~ <sup>new</sup> owner and publisher of Newsday, was on the phone.

"Mark, do you need <sup>thousand dollars</sup> that ~~\$1000~~ a month that Newsday pays you ~~to~~?"

live!

And as Mark ~~tells~~ <sup>described intelligently</sup> it, he "like a goddamned fool answered, 'No, Otis.'"

"Well, ~~that's~~ <sup>that's</sup> good because I'm cutting it out this very minute."

Mark and I lived in Chapel Hill for a year while we were building our house twenty-two miles ~~away~~ <sup>there</sup> to the south ~~of it~~, overlooking Rocky River. Our life in ~~Chapel Hill~~ was most pleasant. Many, ~~many~~ years before ~~H~~ in 1935, ~~to be exact~~ <sup>to be</sup> ~~H~~ in a University Day address, Mark had described Chapel Hill as the "capital of the Southern mind" and we still found it ~~so~~.

Indeed, North Carolina, though it has strayed now and then, has been on a forward, upward path for a great many years. Mark remembers <sup>ed</sup> that ~~s~~ back in 1923, over a half century ago, when he was a reporter on the New York Sun, he was assigned ~~by the managing editor~~ to do a series on the renaissance of North Carolina under the leadership of Governor

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Charles Brantley <sup>ley</sup> Aycock; the superintendent of schools, Charles Duncan McIver; and the writer, Walter Hines Page, and it became quite obvious to him during <sup>the ensuing</sup> ~~that~~ research that North Carolina was the most enlightened state in the South and <sup>in the nation's</sup> ~~was~~ equalled only by Wisconsin in its progressive outlook ~~in the nation.~~

In addition to the university's faculty, Chapel Hill's citizenry is enriched by eminent lawyers, doctors, professors, and industrial leaders who have retired there. Mark found many delightful people whom he had known by reputation only; but there were others he had met in bygone years, such as Dr. Reese Berryhill, the man most responsible for the size and excellence of the university's School of Medicine; and Vermont Royster, the retired editor of the Wall Street Journal and a past president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

The closest friend of these North Carolina years <sup>was</sup> ~~had been~~ a man whom <sup>Mark</sup> he had admired for a quarter of a century, but never met ~~with~~ Oscar Ewing, known to all his friends as Jack. He had a brilliant career in New York as a law partner of Chief Justice Charles <sup>Ewing</sup> Hughes, and after that, was an active New Dealer. Under <sup>him</sup> he was administrator of the Federal Security Administration from 1947 until 1952, ~~President Truman appointed him head of the newly created department, Health, Education and Welfare, which should, of course, have entitled him to be a member of his cabinet. Congress, however, meanly refused to recognize the position to be of cabinet rank. Nevertheless, he acquired a stature much more memorable as author of the Medicare Bill.~~ He and Mark <sup>thought</sup> ~~think~~ alike on practically all public issues and ~~have~~ spent many happy hours talking over their government experiences.

To ~~return to~~ <sup>found his</sup> Mark's classes at the university, ~~he found them~~

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exhilarating and inspiring. Dean Luxon kept them small <sup>1/4</sup> usually  
twelve or fourteen ~~and they were~~ all upperclassmen, plus a few publishers  
from around the state. <sup>Once Mark</sup> ~~Now that he~~ was living in North Carolina, he  
met with them twice a week, three hours at a time. The course was  
listed as Newspaper Management, <sup>and Mark's</sup> ~~his~~ aim was to give the students a  
shortcut on how to be a publisher. Practically all of them, <sup>#</sup> except those  
who were already <sup>1/4</sup> hoped someday to be publishers. Not expecially of big  
papers, but of small ones. In Mark's opinion North Carolina has more  
good newspapers than any state he <sup>knows</sup> ~~knows about~~. It has, he <sup>is</sup> ~~says~~, "forty-  
one <sup>dailies</sup> ~~dailies~~ and God only knows how many weeklies." At the beginning of  
each day's class, he ~~gave a~~ <sup>gave</sup> lecture for about a half-hour or forty-five  
minutes, then <sup>announced</sup> ~~threw out~~ a subject for discussion. He and his students  
talked about how management looks at circulation, at advertising, at  
news, at editorials, at everything that has to do with getting out a  
paper. His job wasn't to teach reporting or advertising or make-up;  
his job was to teach how to run a newspaper, ~~and~~

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He was good at <sup>it</sup> ~~his job~~, according to a story in the Chapel Hill  
Weekly, now a daily ~~and~~ called the Chapel Hill Newspaper. ~~In the story~~  
The writer ended with these two paragraphs:

"Although his titles and awards are numerous, what impresses  
Ethridge's classes the most are his humility, his humor, and his modest  
approach to the profession he has helped mold. Principles and policies  
gleaned from <sup>#</sup> a lifetime of newspapering are passed along to students with  
a palatable seasoning of personal experience and anecdote.

"As one North Carolinian observed: 'Studying newspapering under  
Mark Ethridge is like studying playwriting under Shakespeare.'"

Two honors, which <sup>Mark</sup> ~~he~~ deeply appreciated, came to him during these  
last years of his career. He appreciated them <sup>even</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>deeply</sup> than ~~the~~ many  
others, he <sup>is</sup> ~~says~~, because they came after his active days of publishing  
and editing and almost at the close of his teaching stint. In 1966,

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He was good at his <sup>it</sup> job, according to a story ~~that~~ in the Chapel Hill Weekly, now a daily called simply The Chapel Hill Newspaper, The Charlotte Observer, The Durham Herald and many other North Carolina papers. The writer, Joan Page, said extravagantly, "Studying newspapering under Mark Ethridge is like studying playwriting under William Shakespeare."

With more accuracy she drew a colorful picture of Mark in the classroom. She wrote:

"Much of the aura of a city newsroom envelopes the white haired professor's ... ~~seminar~~ <sup>seminar</sup> on newspaper management.

"Peering over dark framed glasses <sup>w</sup> posed mid~~x~~ of his nose, he generally presides over a table littered with newspapers and ashtrays in shirt sleeves and loosened tie. Press jargon ~~and~~ and newsman slang creep frequently into his conversation as he alternates between filtered and non-filtered cigarettes " for variety!"

After sketching Mark's career and citing his honorary degrees and honors, Ms. Page ~~continued~~ <sup>said</sup>:

" , , , , , What impresses Ethridge students most <sup>is</sup> his humbleness, his humor and his honest approach to the profession he has helped mold. Enthusiasm and <sup>is</sup> since regard for students' opinions characterize his classes. Principles and policies <sup>is</sup> gleaned from a life time of newspapering are generously passed along to his students with a palatable seasoning of anecdotes and personal escapades.....

"News and a strong editorial page are stressed as major ingredients of a good newspaper.

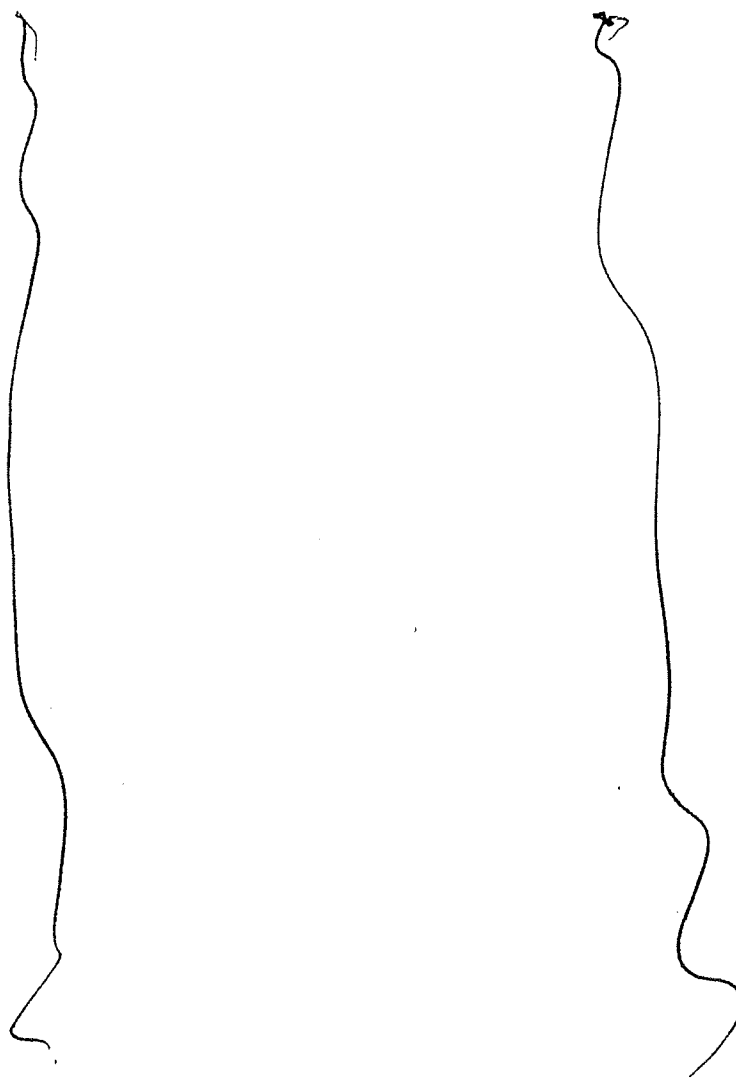
"Unless you <sup>is</sup> got a good news in a paper, nothing else matters," he tells his students. News is the purpose of publishing in the first place. And no paper is rated great that doesn't have an editorial <sup>page</sup>

that says something.!......

"'.....zthere has never been a great newspaper ~~that was,~~' he wants  
'that was run from the business office. The Newspaper should be run g  
from the editorial and news department. ~~The~~ Advertising should be kept  
separate from news and should not determine news space. No advertis-  
ing salesman should be allowed to touch a piece of news..... '

" Ethridge sees no harm in <sup>as</sup> newsmen participating in community  
activities and government missions so long as he stays out of 'elective  
politics.' No newspaperman should run for elective office, he says."

This very pleasant task of passing on his newspaper "command-  
to younger minds  
ments" / came to an end when





~~write about and wrote with vigor and conviction. We, too, have great and agonizing issues. If we write about them with vigor and conviction we will be filling the credo (expressed by Harry Ashmore)... 'The free press,' he said, 'was conceived not only for the protection of the verities, but as the cutting edge of change.'~~"

~~This was practically Mark's swan song. He didn't make another serious address after that. Just four months later he retired for the third time.~~

*Pack up*  
*Mail*  
 He reached his seventy second birthday, which was North Carolina University's cutting-off time for professors without tenure. Full-time professors are forced to retire at seventy and deans of departments at sixty-five.

There was a farewell press banquet to which ~~a great~~ many of his students and members of the journalism faculty and wives came. Dean Nel Luxon made some remarks:

"Were I to name one publisher among the hundreds I have met, worked for, addressed and ~~argued~~ <sup>gr</sup> with -- if I were to name the one I admire and respect most, I would without hesitation name Mark Ethridge.

"To me, Mark Ethridge embodies -- personifies, if you prefer -- all the attributes a newspaper publisher should have...

"Some thirty years ago, newspapermen and journalism teachers began to notice a change for the better in a once ~~great~~ <sup>u</sup> newspaper -- The Courier Journal, which I believe it is fair to say had slipped since its heyday. This rebirth -- renaissance, to use a fancy word -- we soon learned was brought about by a native Mississippian, who arrived in Louisville by way of Georgia, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia. It was a great day for Louisville and for United States journalism when Mark Ethridge went there, in 1936.

"Soon his speeches at newspaper conventions and on college campuses

were being widely quoted -- and I, must ad, disputed in not a few instances by his fellow publishers..."

Then, after more kind remarks, Dean Luxon told what transpired the first time he met Mark:

"We did not meet until August, 1958... when he [Mark] went to a journalism teachers convention at the University of Missouri to accept an award for The Courier-Journal. At that time, I was not the most popular journalism teacher in the country. The year before, in Boston, I had suggested that three-fourths of my teaching colleagues go home and close their journalism schools if they couldn't improve them. In fact, the day that I met Mark, my successor as AEJ president had attacked my suggestion -- and me -- in his presidential address.

"I go into this detail to set the stage for Mark's talk that noon. He told me he was going to quote me with approval. I explained to him that the group giving the award to his newspaper was composed of my severest critics, who had formed an informal but active 'Hate Luxon' organization. I suggested that he leave out the reference to me and my campaign for higher standards. He disagreed. I finally ended my argument with, 'You can't do it.'

"His reply, typical of the man, was, 'The hell I can't.'

"He did and the temperature at the speakers' table dropped forty degrees.!"

~~Mark and I are now living quietly in our house on Rocky River. Our greatest joy is the visits of our children, in-laws, eighteen grandchildren, counting two in-law granddaughters and two in-law grandsons, and other relatives and friends.~~

~~Mark had a stroke when he was 79 and hasn't been able to do much~~

44<sup>97</sup> - A - Ethridge

Three honors came to Mark during his last years. He appreciated ~~more~~ <sup>them</sup> ~~deeply~~ than all the others, he said, because they came after his active years of publishing and editing.

In 1966 inaugurated the Southern Regional Educational Board named its ~~XX/XXXX~~ fellowships, "The Mark F. Ethridge Fellowships." As they were for the continuing education of Southern journalists in fifteen states, he couldn't have been more delighted.

<sup>Then ↑</sup> ~~The other honor happened~~ in early 1968 ~~when~~ he was chosen the centennial-year recipient of the William Allen White Foundation's National Award for Journalistic Merit. As he said in his talk at the presentation luncheon ~~at which he was given the award~~, nothing had ever pleased him more than that recognition because William Allen White had always been one of his idols. He recalled that, when he became managing editor and editorial writer of the ~~New York World~~ Macon Telegraph in 1925, one of the first things he did was to subscribe to the New York World, the Akron Beacon Journal, the Emporia (Kansas) Gazette and a little North Georgia weekly called Dahlonega <sup>omega</sup> ~~Nugget~~, so called because John C. Calhoun had mined gold there.

Each Monday morning <sup>Mark</sup> ~~he~~ carried a column of reprint editorials under the unimaginative head, "As Others See It." <sup>Almost</sup> ~~Most~~ always there appeared editorials by <sup>Irvin's</sup> ~~Cobb~~ of the World, White of Emporia, <sup>C.L.</sup> ~~Knight~~ of Akron, and Townsend of Dahlonega. Later, he quoted Mr. J.N. Heiskell of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Indeed, Mr. Heiskell was such a hero of Mark's, he proudly journeyed to Little Rock to speak at the event commemorating <sup>Heiskell's</sup> ~~his~~ fiftieth anniversary as editor of the Arkansas Gazette on June 24, 1952.

"I began a long time ago to try and analyze the Gazette and M.F. Heiskell," he said on that occasion, "to try to understand what it was that made the Gazette and him a truly regional newspaper with an equally great editor. I came to understand it in terms of newspapermen.

"Every newspaperman hopes that the paper he works on is more

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enduring than the newsprint of today's issue.

"He hopes that the news he prints is fairly told, that its editorial positions are its own, uncorrupted and incorruptible, that the editor has enough knowledge and wisdom, understanding and compassion for the human race, that he will give the paper the authority and the sympathy that come with those things.

There must be strong editorial policy that doesn't shout, but persuades and reasons.

"There must be mutual respect between the editor and the public.

"We in the newspaper profession know that you have that here and we know how fortunate you are to have it."

~~The celebration in Mr. Heiskel's honor was on June 28, 1952.~~

Mark's subject, sixteen years later, at the William Allen White centennial luncheon, was close kin to his subject at Little Rock. It was the "Editorial Writer." He talked at some length about Mr. White after all, it was his hundredth birthday and of the other great editors of his early newspaper years; but he couldn't resist talking about the editors of today or, to be more exact, the editors of the sixties, for it was eleven years ago that he made that speech. Yet, what he said then holds true today. Why, he asked, did the editors of the present lack the vigor, the vitality, the earnestness yes, the fire in the guts of those giants who preceded them?

"Better manners, stricter libel laws, and a rise in the intelligence of readers who want reason instead of invective," he suggested, "have tended to bank the editorial fires." Also, he said, he believed "the growth of monopoly situations and chains had tended to sap editorial vigor." He granted that monopoly situations and chains were inevitable and, in many cases, had improved local and regional papers. "In some chains not all, by any means" he said, "there is inevitable central-office

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thinking. For whatever reason, we do have on the <sup>#</sup>whole more pallid, less colorful, and less editorial expression."

He disputed vigorously the remark he had heard many editors make:

✓ We don't have the issues to write about that our editorial predecessors did." He declared: "Historians will say that ever since World War II this country has undergone an industrial and social revolution, manifesting itself in many ways, among them the fight for civil rights; violence in the streets; mass migration of American people within the country; the flight <sup>to</sup> the suburbs; the decay of the core of the cities, weakening their tax bases and therefore their ability to handle their problems, leaving slums and ghettos <sup>s</sup> such as Harlem, Watts, and Houghs; the shifting of defense industries creating problems of schools, water, sewers, etc.; the mechanization of agriculture, <sup>f</sup>including cotton picking and wheat harvesting; the mechanization of mining, creating the problems of Appalachia and the whole poverty program."

There was no end (to the problems) he stressed, with which editors should deal. "One that was always with us, but even more so now, is big government," he said. "One of the prime functions of a newspaper is to monitor government, whether on the local or national level. We are, in a deep sense, the public shield against immorality or malfeasance on the part of public officials. Our obligation to our readers is to give them the truth, to dig for it, to demand it. Where<sup>e</sup>ver newspapers are not doing that they are abdicating their responsibility. It is all the more urgent in these days when vast expenditures of taxpayers' money are being made....I have long felt that small papers, as opposed to metropolitan papers, have more influence, or could have more influence, in their communities than big-city papers. They are closer to the

people. Where they live up to the charter of a free press, they can assure clean, if not good, government."

Then, <sup>Mark</sup> finally, like the old man he was, ~~he~~ took it upon himself to give the modern editor some advice. He said the modern editor "must keep in mind these days ~~when the United States stands almost alone as the nation with the power to defend the Western world.~~ The education level of the country has measurably lifted. The G.I. bill and the multitude of scholarships provided by the government and private foundations have swamped the colleges and universities. In the past 25 years since the United States 'vaulted into the seat of power,' as Alastair Cooke said, we have seldom had less than a million men and women abroad in any one year. We have a good <sup>deal</sup> ~~deal~~ more than that now. Do they come home to read childish and ignorant editorials about foreign countries they know at first hand?

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"Theirs is indeed a new audience," ~~he continued~~ "It is young for one thing; almost half the people of the United States are under 35...."

"The new audience is literate. Forecasts indicate that by 1980 87 percent of Americans between 18 and 21 will be enrolled in institutions of higher learning and that by 1985, 8<sup>0</sup> million adults will be college graduates against 47 million in 1960... We cannot man the newspapers today with ignorant or uneducated men and expect them to command the respect of readers who are aware of the space race, of scientific advancement in every field, of changes in every discipline, including education. This is an age of specialization and only the man or woman who knows <sup>as</sup> much or more than the people to whom he is writing can make this complex world intelligent to them, or gain the ear of scientists and professional men. Newspapers must educate their people better, travel them more, but never forget the local scene.

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<sup>sign</sup> "The ~~M~~ <sup>mentors</sup> of the past, such as Mr. White, had great issues to

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to write about and wrote with vigor and conviction. We, too, have great and agonizing ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ issues. If we write about them with vigor and conviction we will be filling the credo, expressed by Harry Ashmore. "The free press," he said, "was conceived not only for the protection of the verities, but as the cutting edge of change."

The third honor came in 1981, and this to Mark was the greatest honor of all. The <sup>of Mississippi</sup> University, to which he had so longed to return after his freshman year, elected ~~tax~~ him to its Hall of Fame. Though crippled with paralysis, <sup>after a series of strokes</sup> he went back to be introduced and wildly applauded at the banquet marking the occasion. Never did his eyes sparkle brighter.

Mark and I spent his last <sup>4</sup> years quietly ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ in our North Carolina home, except for visits to our children and their visits to us. / On May 15, 1979, our days darkened and changed at the death of our daughter Mary~~x~~ Snow. But life went on. Mark dictated letters, wrote checks, sat on the deck, looking at Rocky River, watched television and read. And, of course, he did a lot of thinking about the past and ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ wondering whether he had really accomplished anything or not.

"What a person does in this life is wiped out so fast," he mused. "I admit I'm shocked at how quickly people forget. One source of comfort lies in the fact that I'm sure I didn't waste the talents God gave me. I used my ability, such as it was, and my energies to the fullest. I have had a good life. I don't quarrel with that at all. If I said more -- God dam~~nx~~ it - I'd feel like I was bragging."

The End