

At the right, Walter Emery, coach of the university debate squad and author of this article on the recent changes in university debating. Lower left: Members of the university debating Forum—First row: Josh Lee (head of public speaking department), Milton Elliott, Harry Pines, Leonard Sosland, Rex Chaney, Sam Minsky, Walter B. Emery, (director of debate), second row: Roy Grantham, Robert Slover, Charles Green, Mrs Perrill Munch Brown (instructor in public speaking), John Mathews, Bryan Robestraw, A. R. Douglas, J. F. Malone; third row: George McElroy, Bert Seidell, Cleo Wilson, Herman Greenhaw, John Haruritz, John Wallace, Leslie Henry; fourth row: Willie Stark, Julian Rothbaum, Thomas Dopler, A. O. Johnson, Neal Keller, Barney Burns and Charles Christenson, all members of the university debate Forum



New university debate forum

BY WALTER EMERY, '28

UNDER a new plan recently initiated by the public speaking department the members of the debate squad are to be known as the University Forum while working under the direction of the department. The entire group is to be divided into two divisions, one the senior and one the junior. All the old members of the debate squad, Charles Christensen, Lawton; A. O. Johnson, Norman; George Miskovsky and Mack Cunningham, Oklahoma City; and Harry Pines, Tulsa, automatically became members of the senior division. During the latter part of the semester results of in-

ter-forum debates will promote, at the discretion of the debate coach, the newer members of the forum to the senior division.

From the upper group debaters will be selected to participate in the major debates of the year with such universities as Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, Bucknell, and the larger schools over the country. A number of radio debates will be carried out by the members of this group also.

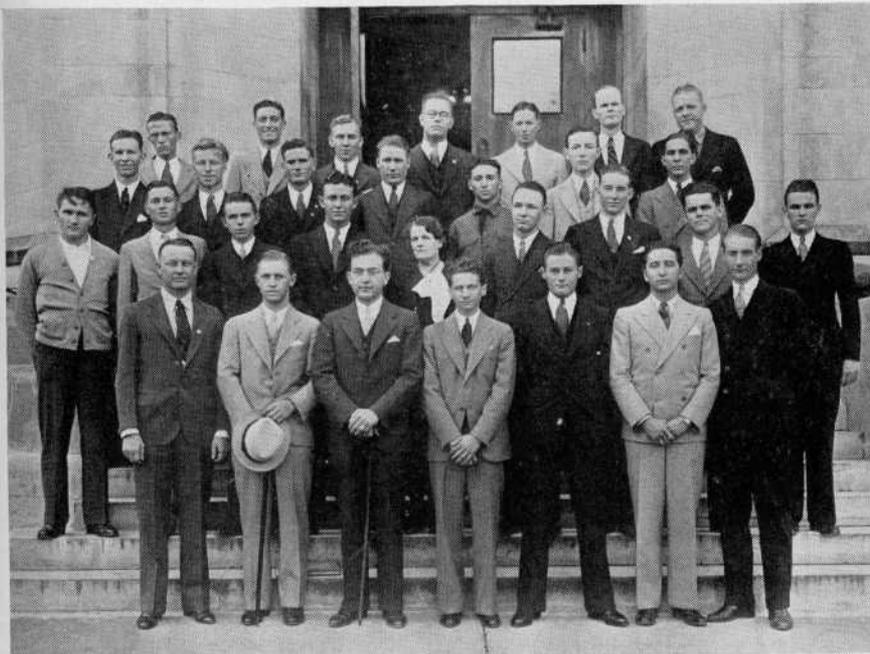
In the lower junior division of the forum there will be sixteen men who will debate among themselves in the

squad meetings and also some will be selected to represent the university in debates with some of the state schools and smaller colleges which are on tour. Men from the junior division will also be taken to civic clubs over the state to present exhibition debates. The civic club to be visited will suggest a question they would like to have discussed which will be worked up by four members of this division to be given before a meeting of this club. When the debate has been concluded the club will be at liberty to ask questions on the subject at hand to be answered by the members of the squad. While rendering a real service to the citizens of the state the debaters will be receiving a splendid training.

Four members of the senior group are to be sent to the debate tournament to be held at the state University of Iowa, Iowa City, sometime in March. Some ten or fifteen of the leading state universities over the country will be represented at this meeting which is to be the prize debate trip of the year. A team of two men will also be sent to debate the universities of Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri. A number of short trips for members of the junior group will also be arranged.

The purpose of the reorganization of the debating squad is further to emphasize the training for debaters. The system heretofore used was felt inadequate by the public speaking department to thoroughly train new debaters for the university. They have expanded this new plan to care for all who are interested in university debating. At the general try-out for the university squad

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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.

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GEORGE B. PARKER, '08

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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 ex-

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

citement 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 plate, 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 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 Vanderlip 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.

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NEW UNIVERSITY DEBATE FORUM

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forty-four entries were listed of which twenty-five new men were selected making the university debate forum, containing the senior and junior divisions, comprise 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 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.