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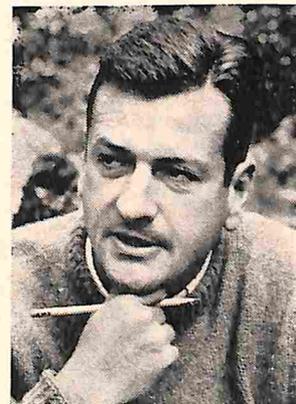
Governor Romney
Ran Him Ragged

Michigan's Governor George Romney, who is the subject of an article in this issue, is 59 and full of vigor. Brock Brower, who wrote the article, is 35 and considers himself in good physical shape. But he nearly exhausted himself trying to solve the puzzle of this man. Some of his interviews were literally conducted on the sprint (the governor runs two miles at daybreak). Others were done on the wing, as the two flew to Seattle, Anchorage, Salt Lake City, Pocatello and Idaho Falls, and the rest took place at Romney's home in Bloomfield Hills and at Lansing. "It's the offshoot people you have to interview," he says. One of his best talks was with the janitor of a Mormon stake building which Romney had helped finance. Another was with a Negro Mormon taxi driver. Brower rode around with him for several hours and came away surprised by Romney's "incredible personal impact" on people. All in all, it took Brower four months. "I never met a man," he says, "for whom I had more respect in his day-to-day discipline and moral confrontation with the world."

Brower is a free-lance writer who has done articles for us before—on Norman Mailer and Senator William Fulbright. Last summer he moved to Hanover, N.H. "to get away from urban tension" and to finish a novel he had been working on for five years. It is called *Debris* (Atheneum) and will appear in September. Commenting on his double life as journalist and fiction writer, he observes, "One clears your head for the other. Now that I've finished the Romney piece, I've exhausted my concern for the active, going world for a while, and I'm ready to settle down on a one-act play."

After a childhood spent in Westfield, N.J., Brower was graduated from Dartmouth in 1953. He went to Harvard Law School for a year ("It gave me a respect for conciseness and choice of words"), and then spent two years as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford where he took a first in English language and literature. He spent two years in the Army writing manuals for guerrilla warfare, became editor of the University of North Carolina Press and started selling more and more nonfiction stories to magazines. The only nonliterary interlude in his civilian career was a nine-month job with a toy company. "I was broke," he says, "and besides, it was interesting. They were working on a new educational approach for toys, and I wrote their manuals and instructional material. It was fascinating to see how you could get a kid interested in, say, a globe—and watch him turn it in the sunshine and learn how nighttime comes."

Brower and his wife Ann (he met her in Paris during his Rhodes Scholar years) have a son and three daughters, aged 5, 3 and 2, whom he plans to teach to ski. He taught his son, Montgomery, 8, last winter, and the boy broke a leg—"Just a small fracture," Brower says. He tried to interest Governor Romney in the sport while he was in Michigan.



BROCK BROWER

