

Reporter Mok Reminds Friends Of Era When Job Was the Goal

By ED WALLACE,
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Michael Mok came to the World-Telegram two years ago and has spent much of his time chafing impatiently for just the type of assignment which sent him into the psychiatric wards of Kings County Hospital.

As a young reporter in love with his work, he reminds other staff members of a past and colorful era when the job was never regarded as a steppingstone, but as a goal.

Mr. Mok is a newspaperman by inclination and choice, and the one way to make him furious is to ask: "I know you're a reporter—but do you also do serious writing?"

Manhattan Native.

He was born in Manhattan 30 years ago and attended St. John's College in Annapolis and Georgetown University in Washington, where he began his newspaper career on the Washington Star.

But, according to Mr. Mok, his higher education was acquired during eight years in the U.S. Marines, including a year's service in Korea.

His credentials, upon discharge, were one wound, two tattoos, and four stripes of his grade as platoon sergeant.

Another thing he brought with him from the Marine Corps was a fluent knowledge of Russian, which he learned in Naval Intelligence School. Mr. Mok used this to great advantage on his first important assignment here, covering the life and tirades of Nikita Khrushchev.

His linguistic skill reminds oldtimers of his father, the



Photo by Stanziola

MICHAEL MOK.

late Michel Mok, for many years a New York Post reporter, who used his knowledge of six languages* to score several news beats.

Skillful at Judo.

Young Mike is an advanced judo player, a sport he learned in the Orient and now continues as a member of the New York Dojo. He is mar-

ried, lives in Manhattan with his wife, Sylvia, and has a family goal of five children.

He is short and chunky, and the likelihood of his ever being voted the best-dressed anything is somewhat remote.

As for his future plans, Mike says:

"I am doing exactly what I like to do right now."