

OUR BOYS



February
1924

*Trying to sell
a C. G. copy
to Mrs. King,
who edits the
Country-
woman de-
partment!
Pages 8 and 9
tell you all
about the fun.*

*Also in this
issue: Grace
S. Richmond
and Zane
Grey.*

Volume Seventeen

Number Two-D

How I Came to Write "The Thundering Herd"

TO THE boys of
OUR BOYS: It
would take a

By ZANE GREY

Whose new novel will start in the
February Journal

long time to tell all about how I came to write *The Thundering Herd*—almost as long as it took to write the book. But perhaps I can give you some idea in short space.

In the first place, some fifteen years ago I had the great good fortune to become a friend of the old plainsman, Buffalo Jones, and he took me on some wild trips to the North Rim of the Grand Cañon. He was really the saviour of the buffalo—that is to say, he captured most of the buffalo calves, from which have descended all the buffalo living today. Naturally, I became wonderfully interested in these fine, big animals.

One day I was pretty much scared by Jones' cowboys, who put me on a white horse that the buffalo hated, and the whole herd took after me and chased me all over the desert. Not until afterwards did the cowboys tell me that the white horse thought it was play, and could never have been caught by the buffalo.

From Buffalo Jones I first heard about the millions of buffalo on the plains in the early days—the vast thundering herds—and the stories of how they were massacred

for their hides and bones. Hides sold as cheap as twenty-five cents. This slaughter was one of the bloodiest carnages in the history of the world, and a terrible blunder. For the buffalo were superior to cattle, and would

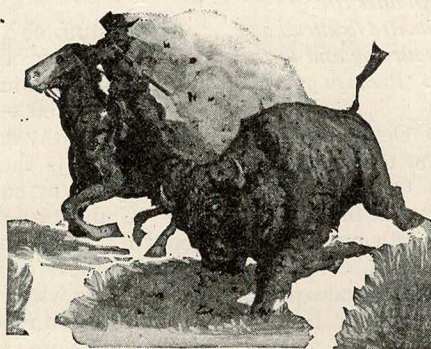
have enriched our great West. But they were butchered in a few short years.

I determined to write the story of the vanishing of the thundering herds, and set about getting my material. A few years ago I visited the plains of Kansas, Oklahoma and the Pan Handle of Texas, to make myself familiar with the prairie land where the vast herds used to roam. I found deep buffalo wallows and trails, but no other signs of

the American Bison. Then from all I had gathered I wrote *The Thundering Herd*.

I hope all you boys, and all my readers will be interested in the story, not only because I have tried to draw a true picture of the extermination of one of the most wonderful of our own American animals, but also that it may give you the impulse toward conservation of what wild life still exists in our great country.

My best wishes to you all.



"In the early days, vast, thundering herds of buffalo were massacred for their hides and bones."

No one is better fitted to introduce you to a new novel than the author himself. That is why we asked Zane Grey to tell you boys how and why he decided to write *The Thundering Herd*, which starts in the February issue of The Journal. He was glad to do it and was especially well pleased when we told him that our P-J-G salesmen would point out his thrilling story of the buffalo country to all their prospects and persuade them to read every installment. You will, won't you?

Speak in THE H

TODAY the Editor of OUR

Boys caught me grinning all over and acting like a year-old with a lollypop. Of course I wanted to know what was ailing me. I showed him the full-color picture appearing in the February Journal, of *The Laughing Cavalier*, that I just had framed.

"By George, that's beautiful!" he exclaimed; and slapping me on the back, continued: "Mac, if you'll write an article about what you think of the Journal's art features, I'll publish it with a reproduction of the picture in this issue of OUR BOYS."

So here I am and in the center of this page is my picture, is, the picture belonging to me, *Laughing Cavalier*, painted by Fra

Although I draw pictures and do for OUR BOYS, and they call me a around here, really I am not one. But I'll admit being an art studenting one of the evening class, well-known art school in Philadelphia. For this reason I am particularly interested in The Journal art series and sure it will have a very definite art students over all the country. I doubt about it, this series of pictures beautifully illustrated history world's greatest artists and their pieces. A work of this character form, and poorly illustrated would cost many times the price of the Journal for a whole year! That's the thing to keep in mind.