

Books Suggested For Presents To Famous Folks Around World

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK.—(P)—Santa Claus had a problem. "I don't have any trouble picking presents for the children," he wrote. "But these grownups—so many of them want books. But what book? I don't have much time to read, and this year the dad-blamed publishers came out with about 8,000 new titles. Can you imagine anybody in his right mind wading through 8,000 new books? How about helping me again?"

So, for the third year, I have compiled a tentative list of gift books to be sent to famous folks around the world. Hyar 'tis—all in good fun.

How to Stop Worrying and Start Living—George Jernard Shaw.

The Man in the Street—George Gallup and Elmo Roper.

Crusade in Europe—Stalin.

No Place to Hide—Whittaker Chambers.

Tomorrow Will Be Better—The Republican Party.

Theory of Harmony—Molotov.

A Mask for Privilege—An automobile dealer.

The American Language—Sam Goldwyn and Leo Durocher.

The Loved One—Tommy Manville.

The Old Beauty—Peggy Hopkins Joyce.

The Gathering Storm—Your local weather forecaster.

The Gesture—Norman Thomas.

The World Is Not Unknown—The Soviet Embassy.

Toward an Unknown Station—Thomas E. Dewey.

King of the Wind—Harold

New Eagles Aerie Will be Organized For Three Cities

Institution of a new aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Tri-City to serve Riddle, Canyonville and Myrtle Creek, was assured today when Dr. H. B. Scofield, Roseburg, organizer in charge of circulating a charter here, received word from M. L. Brown, Kansas City, Mo., managing organizer of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, approving plans for the institution.

The institution is scheduled to take place at 2 p. m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at Melody Mountain Barn. Dr. Scofield has called a meeting of those who have signed the charter list to complete arrangements for the institution Friday night at the same location.

"Every man who has signed an application card is urged to be at this meeting, and to have any prospects with him. Committee members especially should attend, so that details of the institution program can be completed," the organizer said.

"While applications for the charter class to be initiated at the institution will be received up until the day of the event itself, men wishing to affiliate with the new Aerie are urged to get their applications in by Friday to make sure they are initiated on the institution date, when all arrangements for institution will be made."

"We hope to announce at our meeting Friday where the new

meeting quarters will be located, and if this is impossible it will be necessary to arrange to meet temporarily in Melody Mt. Barn where the institution will be held. A visiting degree team will be present to initiate the local members. Visitors will be present from all neighboring cities where Aeries of Eagles are located, and some of the district and national officers of the Order are expected. Webb Loy from Bend, head of the State Organization Board, will institute this new aerie of Eagles.

Vets Assured Of Prompt Action On Loan Applications

Assurance was given today by Director William F. Garrenstroom of the state Department of Veterans' Affairs that applications for the \$8,000 Oregon Veterans' farm and home loan will be processed without further delay.

The director said last week's successful sale of \$2,000,000 of loan bonds to finance the program has eliminated the waiting period forced on applicants for loans in November, when they were told that funds were not immediately available because the bonds failed to sell in the department's offering on November 5.

Seven investment firms competed in the repeat offering of Dec. 7, with successful bid going to Halsey, Stuart & Co., of Chicago at 1.74 percent effective interest rate. That makes \$12,000.

000 in bonds sold by the veterans' department to date.

November applications for loans dropped to 199, or 76 fewer than in October and the lowest since last February, due to the temporary financial setback and due partly also to normal seasonal conditions, the director said.

However, the department disbursed \$835,900 in November to 193 Oregon veterans who had applied earlier for funds to purchase homes and farms.

This week the department announced that the application of Casper Schweigert of 1550 Norway, Salem, was approved for the maximum of \$8,000, sending the

program over the \$10,000,000 in loans granted since the start of operations in the fall of 1945. Schweigert's brought the total of loans granted to 2,624.

The agency was in operation nearly two years before reaching the million-dollar mark. The last \$9,000,000 were loaned in the past 17 months. The peak of loan activities was reached in July of this year, with loans averaging more than \$825,000 a month since then.

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Soldier's Lone Invention Aids In Winning Battle of Normandy

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK.—(P)—Curtis G. Culin Jr., made only one invention in his life—but it helped win the battle of Normandy.

It was this unheralded young sergeant who figured out a way for American tanks to crash through the French hedgerows. This led to Gen. Patton's famous dash across France.

Recognizing that the "suggestion box" principle pay off on the battlefield as well as on the industrial front, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower pays this tribute to "Bud" Culin in his memoirs:

"(He) restored the effectiveness of the tank and gave a tremendous boost to moral throughout the army."

I set out to get the sergeant's own story, and found him less impressed with his own invention than was his commander-in-chief. Ex-Sergeant Culin, a slender, blond, mild-looking man of 33, now holds an office post here with Schenley Distillers, Inc.

"I commanded a light tank in the 102nd cavalry reconnaissance squadron," he said, "and my invention, if you want to call it that, was something anybody in the front lines would have come up with in a few days. Our squadron just happened to be the first to try it out and develop it."

For six weeks after the landing in Normandy the American Army made advances measured in terms of yards rather than miles. The landscape offered almost as much resistance to progress as did the dug-in enemy.

Hedgerows Baffle Tanks
The chief obstacles were the famous Normandy hedgerows. They were massive banks of dirt, centuries old, and topped by thick growths of shrubbery and small trees.

"When our tanks hit them, it was like cracking onto a stone wall," said Culin. "And if we tried to climb over them, the underbelly of the tank was exposed. The German anti-tank guns then could tip us open like sardine cans. Our own tank guns were pointed at the sky—useless. We couldn't defend ourselves."

The problem was to find a way for the tanks to forge a path through the hedgerows, guns firing, instead of clambering over them. At first combat engineers were sent out on foot to blast holes in the hedgerows. But they were picked off by German infantry.

"One day my commanding officer called a meeting of non-coms to get suggestions," said Culin. "I didn't know anything about mechanics or engineering, but I had seen a lot of German iron road-blocks."

Device Successful
"I suggested putting sharpened chunks of iron from these road-blocks on our tanks so we could dig through the hedgerows."

They tried it. They welded four flanges to a crossbar, fixed it to a tank—and the 15-ton vehicle pitched-forked its way right through the nearest hedgerow.

"Gen. Bradley heard about it and came down to watch a demonstration," said Culin. "He saw it worked, and swore to secrecy. He then secretly had 600 of our front-line tanks equipped. They were used to spearhead our attack."

The device caught the Germans completely by surprise, and the American Army made a successful

breakthrough of the Nazi lines at St. Lo on July 25th, 1944—the breakthrough that carried to the Siegfried line.

"Later they called me and three others back to Corps Headquarters and gave us the Legion of Merit for the invention," said Culin. "All it meant, I was a half-day off from the front."

"One of those who got a medal," he grinned, "was an officer who insisted when I made the suggestion that it would never work."

Culin lost his left foot and had part of his right thigh blown off a few weeks later in the Huertgen forest when he stepped on a German mine and fell on another one.

"But it didn't make me a pacifist," he said. "Hell, no. I don't think we're doing half enough right now. I only hope we don't make the same mistake we made in 1939."

David Rizzio, murdered favorite of Mary Queen of Scots, entered her service as a musician—a bass singer—and later became her valet de chambre and foreign secretary.

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