

**Personal Log Book
Attributed to Columbus**

VANCOUVER, B. C. — (U.P.) — Historians here are studying a 22-page document purporting to be Christopher Columbus' personal log book, kept on the voyage that led to the discovery of America.

Charles P. Smith said he found the book in the library of his deceased brother in Devonshire, England. He said it had gathered dust there since its reported discovery in a lead-lined cask off the Welsh coast 88 years ago.

Smith made no claims for the authenticity of the book, but

forged or genuine, he said it is not for sale.

Language and history experts at the University of British Columbia either say the document is a hoax or cautiously withhold opinion pending further study.

One authority who doubts the validity of the book said the idiom and sentence structure were not used in 1492.

Smith reported the document contains a letter supposedly written to Columbus by Queen Isabella. Penned in Spanish, the letter makes the famous discoverer vice-roy-admiral and governor-general of all land west of the Azores.

The journal bears the inscription, "My Secrete Log Boke."

**Steinbeck Says Television
Means New Way of Life**

By WALTER L. BARKDULL
United Press Staff Correspondent

PACIFIC GROVE, Cal. — (P) — Television can become an "octopus, a monster," the novelist John Steinbeck believes.

Or, he continued, it can become "a thing of great good." Steinbeck wants to make it good.

"In any event it is the most powerful means of communication ever devised," the author of "Grapes of Wrath," "Cannery Row" and many other books said.

"It will rearrange our whole way of life," the writer predicted. It's impact, good or bad, is so powerful because video combines elements of all previous communications media, he explained.

He and a group of his associates have formed a producing company that already has in production "packaged" television shows for sale to stations and sponsors.

Only recently returned from New York, Steinbeck is living under temporary difficulties here in the little brown one-story frame house built years ago by his father.

The tiny house on a secluded, tree-lined street where he wrote some of his most famous stories is being completely renovated.

Clad in a T-shirt and army trousers, Steinbeck settled back in a book-lined corner somewhat removed from the confusion and over a cup of coffee explained his views.

"Already many people in cities where television is available have changed their whole social life," Steinbeck said. "They have set aside certain nights when they stay home for particular programs."

Must Be Good

Interrupting a moment, the tall, broad-shouldered ex-war correspondent clamped his arms around a kitchen cabinet and moved it into place.

"But the program has to be

good," he continued. "With radio, people just talk over a poor program—ignore it—but with television they walk over and turn off the set."

"Just imagine a housewife in the middle west watching French chefs prepare their world-famous dishes or be on the scene for a Paris fashion opening," he commented, describing two of the shows now in production.

Other productions include the presentation of one-act plays and a jam session led by Eddie Condon. Steinbeck was particularly enthusiastic about the plays, calling them an "untapped" medium. He said the best stage stars would play in them.

**Bright Red Stolen Car
Cinch to Identify**

ST. PAUL, Minn. — (U.P.) — Here's one stolen car that didn't need a license number to identify it.

The call over the St. Paul police radio described the car as follows: 1939 Ford convertible; bright red color; three yellow hub caps, one red one; blue tail light; yellow grill work; three radio aerials, two with flags and one with streamer.

Patrolman Robert Highberg spotted the car 20 minutes later. It had been stolen from George Hillsuk and abandoned on a downtown street.

**Emotional Background
Studied in Allergies**

SAN FRANCISCO — (U.P.) — A study made at the University of California medical school shows that knowledge of a person's emo-

tional background is important in treating sufferers from allergies. In a paper on the survey, Dr. Paul A. Gilebe and Dr. William J. Kerr wrote that there was a definite relation between when the patient first becomes aware of his

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**Western Building
Figure Falls Off**

PORTLAND — (P) — The amount of building started in the west last month fell off 1.8 per cent from the figure a year ago, the magazine Western Building reported Tuesday.

A total of \$145,093,413 in building permits was issued by 226 western cities and counties in September, compared to \$147,815,592 in September of 1947. The number of permits dropped, too: from last year's 37,339 to 32,659.

Los Angeles and Los Angeles county's unincorporated area continued to lead the west in construction volume. San Francisco, San Diego and Seattle ranked next.

**Wild Rats Threaten
Assamese Tribesmen**

CALCUTTA, India — (P) — Forty thousand Assamese tribesmen are facing a near famine by an invasion of wild rats.

The rodents are destroying standing crops and overrunning granaries in the area along the northwestern border of Burma.

The invasion was caused by the flowering of bamboo trees, which occurs every 25 years. These flowers are a delicacy for rats.

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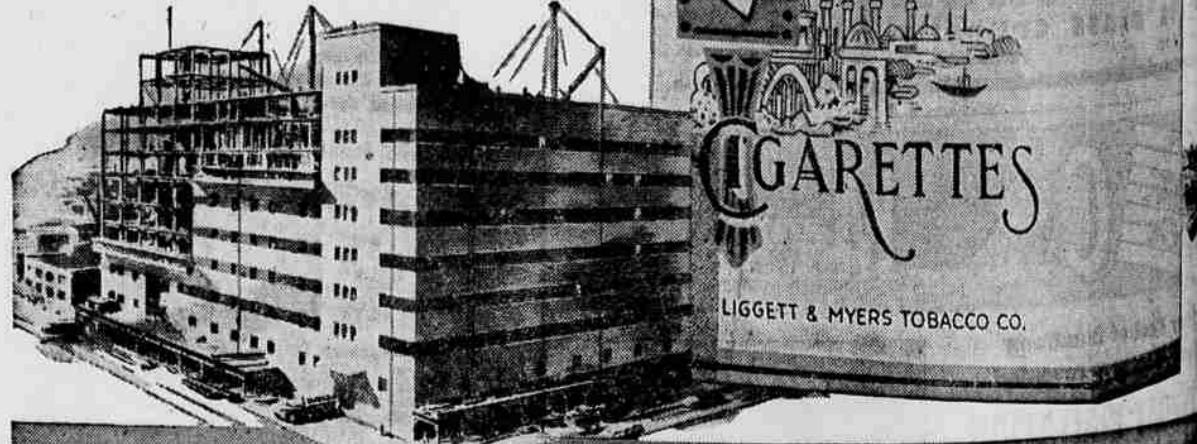
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