

Cop Who Doubles As Shakespeare Expert Started As Baseball Player in College

United Press Correspondent
New York (U.P.)—Redmond O'Hanlon, the policeman who has achieved national prominence by answering questions about Shakespeare on a television quiz program, got to be an expert in a strange way.

He ran baseball into pure scholarship.

O'Hanlon will take the air on the \$64,000 Question program tonight to say whether he will keep the \$16,000 he has won or risk losing it by trying the \$32,000 question.

He got into the Shakespeare racket as a result of one question he asked in college. He's been in it for 16 years, without a nickel's reward—until he got on the quiz show—straining his eyes with reading during more than 6000 hours of research.

All this work has produced a manuscript on O'Hanlon's specialty—"The Story of Shakespearean Word-play." He hopes to get it published as a book to be used by teachers and others deeply interested in English literature. It's a neglected phase of Shakespeare study, the last work in the field having been done by a German in 1895.

Baseball Did It

Baseball got him into Shakespeare like this:

He was a standout leftfielder at Manhattan college in the mid 1930's, and after two years there he got a baseball scholarship to Drew University. At Drew, he was the first baseball player to study English literature, getting a bachelor of arts degree in 1939 with close attention to Shakespeare and the outfield.

He would not have got into studying Shakespeare's puns and other wordplay had he not asked a question one day of Prof. Earl Aldrich. They were studying in the play "Antony and Cleopatra," a passage in which a lady in waiting asks a soothsayer if he indeed has the power to foretell the future. He replies: "In nature's infinite book of secrecy, a little I can read."

"What does it mean?" O'Hanlon asked. "Is it possible he means 'eye' as well as 'I'—or what?"

The professor looked at him and said: "Why don't you try to find out?"

Still Looking

O'Hanlon did. That was 16 years ago, and so far he has collected some 3600 instances of possible wordplay from Shakespeare's total output of 1,000,000 words.

After a spell of coaching and teaching English at a school for delinquent boys, O'Hanlon began work toward a master's degree

at Fordham University. World War II came along, and he had finished all his degree work except the thesis when he joined the Red Cross as a field director in January, 1943.

He carried the thesis—which, naturally, was on Shakespearean wordplay—through Army maneuvers in four states and finished it in the Pacific, getting his degree in 1944. He was on the Peleliu invasion, one of the roughest in the entire Pacific war, and in the Philippines fighting. After the war, he joined the New York Police Department; he had taken the police exam before leaving.

Pounded Beats

As a patrolman, he pounded beats on the Bowery and in Chinatown and became a 300 hitter on the department baseball team. Right now, he's on the staff of the police magazine.

O'Hanlon, a blue-eyed, black-haired, smiling Irishman, has five children, ranging from 10

years to six months old. He needs to build more bedrooms on his Staten Island house and wants to build himself a study, if he wins. He spends 2½ hours a day commuting by bus, ferry, and subway and loves it because he spends the time researching.

His other time for study he describes like this: "After the chores are done at night, and the children finally are out of the way—if there is no baseball, or a good fight on TV, then I turn to Shakespeare."

Soviet Premier To Visit India

Moscow (U.P.)—India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru announced today that Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin will visit India.

He said no date for the visit has as yet been fixed.

"People usually come to India in the winter," Nehru said.

The Indian Prime Minister made his disclosure of Bulganin's intended trip at a press conference.

He said he invited Bulganin to pay the visit and that the Soviet Premier accepted. Nehru spoke to about 75 Soviet, Indian and Western newsmen at the press conference.

He also supported the position of President Eisenhower that the contribution of the Geneva Big Four heads of government's conference will "not be in solving problems suddenly. It will have to be a gradual process."

Brewers Get Warning On Beer Advertising

Washington (U.P.)—The Internal Revenue Service has warned the nation's breweries to stop advertising their beer as non-fattening.

It also advised the brewers to cut out talking about calories. Such advertising, it said yesterday, is likely to deceive the public.

The service said it made a survey late last year to find out whether beer drinkers were being misled by advertising with the low calories theme.

It said many persons interviewed believed the advertised beer was either entirely non-fattening or at least had negligible calorie content. Some believed that a person could lose weight by drinking it.

Pope Urges Proper Use of Movies

Vatican City (U.P.)—Pope Pius XII today urged motion picture producers to use the "almost magical power" of films to lead man "to the realm of light, of the noble and the beautiful."

The pope spoke from his golden throne in St. Peter's Basilica to 10,000 pilgrims and Italian movie producers and stars crowded into the central nave and apse of the cathedral.

The 79-year-old pontiff urged the movie producers not to make themselves "accomplices of the lower instincts and passions of man."

"Respect for mankind," male or female, adult or child and "loving understanding" are basic elements in the ideal picture, the Pope said. Such a film should show the viewer "reality, but a reality seen through the eyes of one who knows more than he."

He said that censorship of films by civil and religious authorities was needed, but it would be more desirable if the censorship came directly from the people themselves.

Churchill Optimistic About World's Future

London (U.P.)—Former Prime Minister Winston Churchill said today he is optimistic for the future, but warned the free world not to expect too much of next month's talks with Russia.

He said the West should persevere in a policy of peace through strength, just in case the coming Big Four conference is not "a complete and immediate success."

Churchill, who has been a long time advocate of a face to face meeting with Soviet leaders in an attempt to end the cold war, spoke today at the unveiling of a bronze statue of himself in London's historic, 500-year-old Guildhall.

"I don't believe that humanity is going to destroy itself," he said. "I do not feel that our generation has to be abashed before its ancestors."

Portland Rooming House Burns; Residents Escape

Portland (U.P.)—Flames in a two-story rooming house in downtown Portland early today drove occupants into the street and took firemen nearly an hour to extinguish.

Firemen said the tenants of the building escaped without injury after fire was discovered in the bed of one of the roomers shortly after midnight.

Freed Jet Fighter Ace To Thank UN Officials

San Francisco (U.P.)—Capt. Harold E. Fischer Jr., jet fighter ace, recently released by the Chinese Communists, will thank United Nations officials today for their efforts in obtaining his freedom.

At ceremonies to be held in the Fairmont Hotel, Fischer will publicly thank Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., chief American delegate to the U.N., and Dag Hammarskjold, U.N. secretary general.

The World Veterans Federation is sponsoring the ceremonies. The federation will also present a plaque to Lodge.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Hong Kong Consul Awaits Turncoats

Hong Kong (U.P.)—A U.S. consulate official today maintained for the third straight day a fruitless vigil at the Chinese Communist border for three former American soldiers who apparently had had their fill of Communism and wanted to go home.

Although Peiping has given no indication when or where the three would emerge from China, S. M. Backe, head of the consular section, again visited the border to check on arrivals aboard the train from Canton, usual exit route from Red China. The men were not aboard and Backe returned to Hong Kong.

LAURINE & DYKE CHANGES RUG DISPLAYS

Medford, Ore. — Laurine & Dyke Floor Covering, 400 E. Main, wish to announce that they are changing their rug displays.

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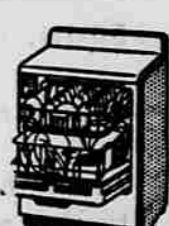
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