



GEARED FOR BUSINESS — Eric Stanley Gardner is shown in the study of his 3,000-acre ranch near Temecula, Calif. The creator of "Perry Mason" has geared the ranch strictly for business and keeps a bed close

Creator of 'Perry Mason' Never Wanted to Be Writer

Temecula, Calif. (UPI)—"I never wanted to be a writer," said Eric Stanley Gardner. "I just wanted to live like one."

Thus, at 70, does the creator of "Perry Mason" sum up a career that has seen him turn out a virtual one-man library of mystery novels.

His 100th tome, "The Case of the Waylaid Wolf," was published this year, and he estimates that more than 110 million copies of his books have been sold in the United States and Canada alone.

He quit a brilliant legal practice for full-time writing a quarter of a century ago "so I would have more time for hunting and fishing."

Yet it is easy to see his first love is the books, although he constantly grumbles they keep him from doing as much hunting and fishing as he'd like.

Working for 50 Years
"I'm never on vacation," he said. "I'm 70, and I've been working day and night for 50 years. I've got to slow down."

Yet, only recently, he signed a contract to write another 20 "whodunits" in the next five years.

Why? Because although he is an expert craftsman who thrives on work, he considers himself mainly a business operator which "manufactures good salable merchandise."

"I'm not a writer — I'm a business man," the stocky, gray-haired bespectacled author said in the study of his 3,000-acre ranch on the outskirts of this tiny Southern California town.

"I'm a salesman. There's writing — and there's writing. I don't have the time to wait for inspiration — or anything. I never have. For 10 years I practiced law during the day, wrote at night and turned out a novelle for the magazines every third day."

"This morning I got up at six, drove to San Diego, came back and dictated 12,000 words of my next book. This afternoon, I'm having this interview, and then I'll dictate some more — until my voice gives out. I'm having trouble with it."

"My big problem, though, is correspondence. It's huge. Just about the only things I have time to read are my mail and the latest stuff on legal medicine."

One reason for Gardner's deluge of mail is his nationally-known Court of Last Resort, an organization that works on behalf of men convicted of crimes they didn't commit. Convicts and their relatives send him thousands of letters.

"From now on, though," he said, "I'm concentrating on the books. I've spent eight-tenths of my time in the last

10 years working for the Court.

"I'll still be active, but I won't do any more writing or investigating for it."

Geared for Business
The Gardner acreage, named Rancho del Paisano, is geared strictly for business. The author has a bed close by his study. His family lives in Oakland, Calif., hundreds of miles away.

The ranch, adjoining an Indian reservation, has a few horses, a few tenants, a little buy, about 10 houses and 15 employees, the busiest of whom are six secretaries who transcribe Gardner's dictation and keep his financial dealings in order.

"Many people take mystery novels instead of sleeping pills, and they're more beneficial — at least to the writers," he laughed.

Seriously, though, the mystery book has a very interesting psychological importance to people. The average man is ever in a state of supreme suspense because life is all complications with no conclusions. That's the trouble with life.

"So the reader has problems and can't sleep. He picks up a mystery story which has substituted a hypothetical problem for a real one. He solves it, is happy there is a conclusion, turns out the lights and goes to bed. We call it 'escape fiction,' and it's a good word."

"Another thing. It's not low-level reading, as some critics think. Our biggest readers are doctors, bankers, big businessmen — people with important problems."

The late President Franklin D. Roosevelt was an avid Gardner fan, as is former President Harry S. Truman.

"Truman and I still correspond," said Gardner.

The author's shrewd grasp of his profession guided his career from its beginning. He explained:

Started 37 Years Ago
"I started writing stories 37 years ago, when I was 34 and still a lawyer. I knew I didn't know anything about writing, so for the first 12 or 13 years I never wrote anything with a legal background — I just learned my craft. I wrote westerns, waterfront stories, that sort of stuff."

"That's why I say I'm a businessman. Most writers do their best stuff first for the low-paying publications and run out of material by the time they've earned their way into the big time. I sold my worst stuff first and had my best in reserve — the mysteries with legal backgrounds — when I got to the high paying field."

Many noted attorneys, in-

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Light-Weight Nose Cone Secret of Atlas Missile

Washington — (UPI) — The secret behind America's record 9,000-mile Atlas missile shoot was a light-weight nose cone which can carry as devastating a nuclear warhead as older, heavier models.

A standard Atlas Missile, without extra engine thrust or increased fuel load, hurled the new-type nose cone from Cape Canaveral, Fla., to a point beyond the southern tip of Africa last week.

Still elated over the flight, the Air Force said today it planned more of the super-distance launches from both the East and West coasts.

Farther Yet
A top officer said some test shots of the Atlas and Titan missiles may go even farther than the one which broke the previous distance record of some 7,700 miles. That was set by two Russian multi-

stage rockets fired into the Pacific.

The Atlas flight vividly demonstrated that the "nominal" range of 6,325 statute miles formerly stated for American intercontinental missiles is an obsolete statistic.

The Strategic Air Command now rates various versions of the Atlas and Titan as having 7,360 to 9,775-mile range. They will be able to sweep the Soviet Union from the most southwesterly bases now being built in the United States. There would be "good coverage" of Russian targets from those bases, even without the extra range now attainable, the Air Force officer said.

He was certain from on-the-scene visual observations that Friday's flight was "highly accurate," although it will take several days to analyze the mass of tracking data recorded throughout the journey.

The officer said there will be some "pretty long" shots from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. as well as Canaveral but he declined to say

whether there will be an effort to hit Indian Ocean targets from the West Coast base.

The nose cone which spelled success Friday is more than 10 feet long and made of ablation materials. These materials absorb the enormous heat generated on re-entering the atmosphere and then throw it off by vaporizing, thus protecting the warhead.

In Friday's shot, about 1,000 pounds of instruments were carried instead of a warhead.

The new nose cone, made by General Electric Company, will be used on combat versions of the Atlas. Presently, combat ready Atlas missiles at Vandenberg have blunt, copper nose cones, which set up a shock wave ahead of the re-entering vehicles and dissipate the heat.

Salem — (UPI) — Tillamook and Benton counties will each receive a \$25,000 civil defense emergency hospital next month. This will bring the number stored in Oregon to 20.

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Refrigeration Preserves Kidney During Surgery

Los Angeles — (Science Service) — A human kidney can be refrigerated and preserved during surgery with a new device that uses the same principle that helps to condition the cabin air of modern aircraft.

The technique was developed in a cooperative program between Dr. Abraham Cockett of the division of urology of the University of California Medical School at Los Angeles and the Garrett Corporation of Los Angeles, makers of aircraft air conditioning equipment.

Lined With Sponge
The unit, which operates on the principle of air-to-liquid heat exchange, is a stainless steel container about the size and shape of a kidney and lined with surgical sponge.

Through a special inlet and outlet a water-alcohol solution can be circulated through the hollow walls of the unit.

During surgery in which blood flow to the kidney must be temporarily interrupted, the device is fitted around the kidney. A circulating refrigerant keeps the kidney at temperatures between 55 and 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

Half-Size Unit
Thus the kidney tissue (which ordinarily deteriorates rapidly when its blood supply is interrupted) is preserved until circulation is restored.

In cases where half of the kidney must be removed because of disease, a special half-size unit is placed around the normal half of the kidney.

Other surgical procedures in which the device is used are in removal of fatty plaques from the kidney artery and in certain types of abnormal surgery in which the kidney artery must be clamped.

LET 'EM ROLL
Montpelier, Vt. — (UPI) — The first issue of the weekly Montpelier Graphic nearly didn't come out because publisher Stanley Knapp lost his eyeglasses. But he found them just in time.

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