

OF SMITH & MEN

By Jack Smith

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Our neighbors the Daltons have sent their young son Eric to a private prep school in an idyllic valley somewhere near Santa Barbara, Calif., to harden his head for Stanford.

He is an only child and so of course they are beginning to notice his absence in many subtle ways.

For one thing, the water level of the Dalton swimming pool has gone down. Eric himself displaced about 117 pounds deadweight. He was a permanent fixture in the pool. The Daltons even went to the trouble of devising a floating tray to feed him egg sandwiches during hot spells. His mother got a nice tan just by waiting on him.

The reason they sent him away to prep school is that Stanford has raised its requirements since Dalton went there and they have to give the boy extra thrust.

The Daltons obviously miss the lad, but he warms their hearts by writing now and then, when he needs something.

Mrs. Dalton rushed over the other morning to show us one of his first communications. It was addressed "Occupant." Eric apparently didn't want to let on to the boys in school that he had a mother and father. At his age parents are regarded as a social stigma.

In the letter itself, however, he recognized the relationship, beginning with the salutation, "Dear Folks."

Then he went at once to the heart of his problem.

"Didn't you get my letter asking for that stuff?" he wrote. "So far you haven't mentioned it. Maybe by the time you get this it will be here. I don't want to seem

ungrateful, but I'm getting desperate."

"What is it the boy wants?" I asked Mrs. Dalton. "Maybe it's something we could help with. Pencils? Notebooks? Slide rule?"

"Read on," she said. "Read on."

"In case you didn't get my other letter," he wrote, "here's what I would like you to send me.

"Fizzies (lot's of them). Gum (not too much). Tang (one jar). Cookies (one package). The ones you sent up before are all gone. They were good.

"I will be pretty well set if you could send me these things. You probably already have. I have about a B average. Ou est le petit gateau?" "What's that mean," I asked? "ou est le petit gateau?" "Isn't that wonderful?" said his mother. "He's learning French already. It means where are the little cookies, I think."

"Big deal," I said. "Apparently he hasn't learned that the possessive apostrophe doesn't belong in the word lots, in reference to Fizzies, whatever they are."

"They're little things that go with the Tang," she explained. "That's instant orange juice."

"It's none of my business," I told Mrs. Dalton, "but it seems to me you're indulging the boy. Let him deny himself for a change, learn how to live with austerity."

"Listen," my wife said. She had been fishing through her mementoes and had a yellow scrap of paper with the bold letterhead of the Fourth Division, U.S. Marine Corps. Apparently it was some little something I had written her during World War II, in a moment of weakness.

"Ou est le petit gateau?" she read. "Us men are getting desperate."
War is hell.

Local Students Named to Group

Three St. Mary's High school students have been named to a high school advisory committee to the attorney general on crime prevention. They are John W. Snider Jr., Mary Jo Balzer and Fredrich Burich. Sister Cecilia Mary, principal of St. Mary's, will serve as faculty advisor. Similar advisory committees have been named at Central Catholic in Portland, Forest Grove Union High, St. Francis in Eugene, Springfield High, and Illinois Valley High in Cave Junction.

Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton said the first duties of the student committees, working with teacher advisors, will be to enumerate the agencies in their communities engaged in crime prevention, and evaluate the agencies in terms of effectiveness and prevention of crime and delinquency.

The committees will aid in the attorney general's experimental program for the prevention of crime. The program is the first of its kind in the country and was inaugurated last spring after a statewide crime conference.

The high school groups will be a part of the citizens advisory committee on crime prevention. Recommendations of the committee will be coordinated and put into action by a crime prevention division in the state department of justice.

Idaho Woman, 43, Traffic Fatality

Ontario, Ore. (UPI) - Mrs. Helen Alpha Ball, 43, Weiser, Ida., was injured fatally Thursday in a traffic accident during heavy fog while en route to work in Huntington, Ore. She died in a Weiser hospital.

Molalla FFA Youth Speaking Champion

Kansas City (UPI) - Dennis H. Wood, 17, of Molalla, Ore., won the National Future Farmers of America public speaking contest Thursday night during the annual American Royal program.

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