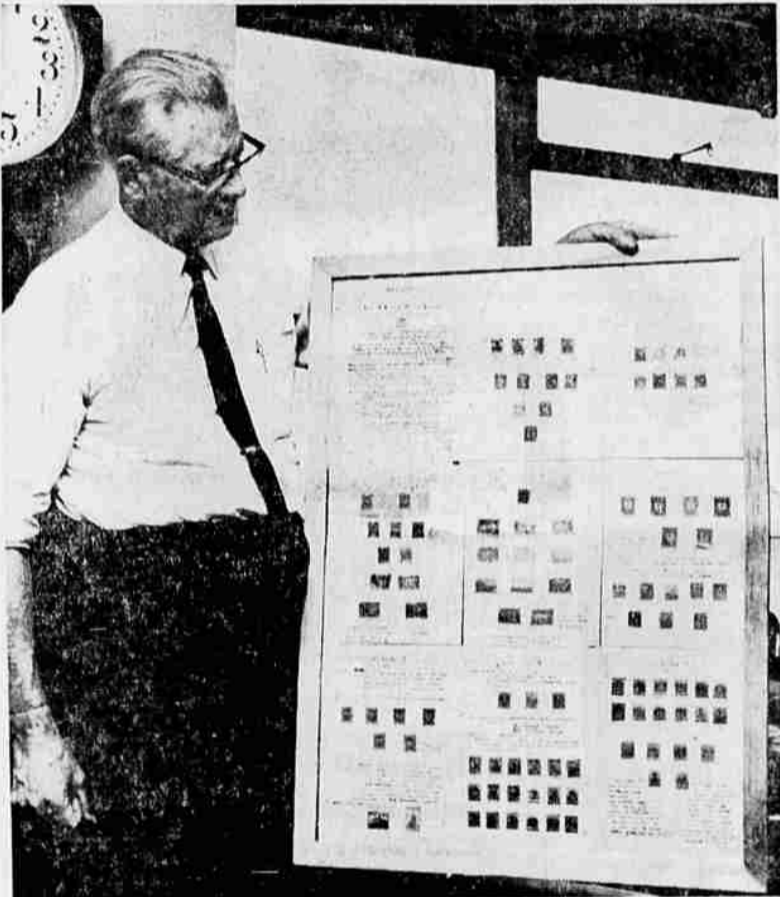
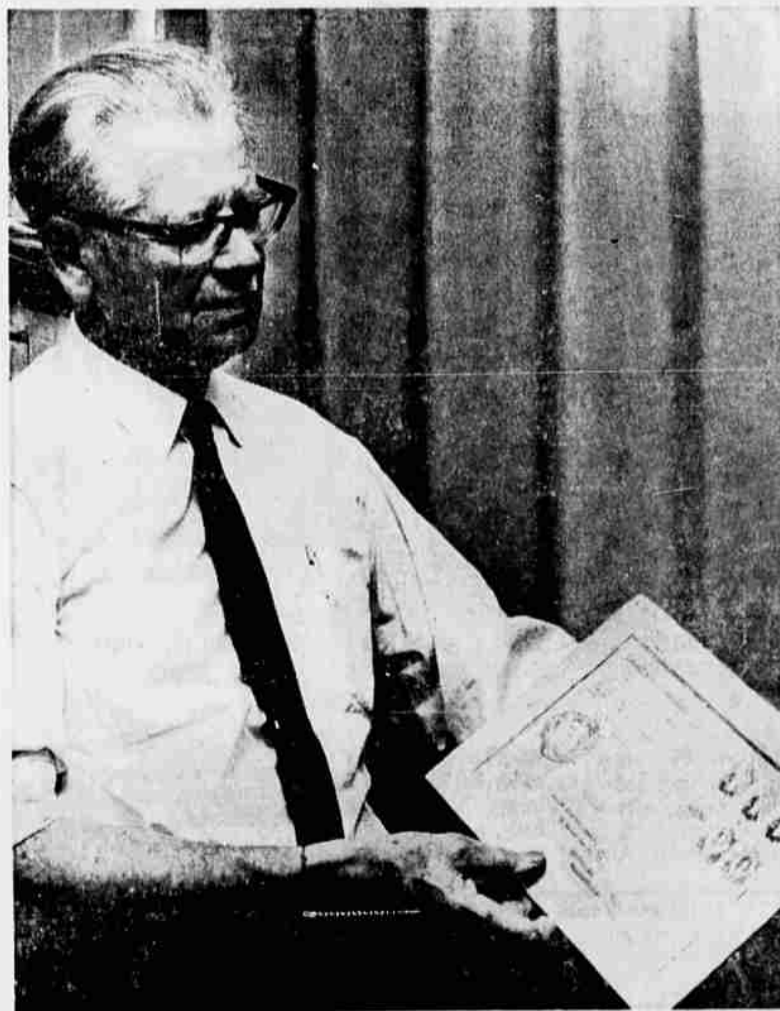




Dr. and Mrs. William B. Giles are shown here at piano at Rogue Valley Manor.



Shown here is a display case of stamps exhibited by Dr. Giles. Many of his stamps are in such display cases, while others are in cabinet drawers in one room of Dr. and Mrs. Giles' Manor apartment.



Dr. Giles displays a tin container with stamps attached which was dropped from an airplane in the Pacific. It is just one of several for which he has the original cover, making his collection valuable.

## MANOR-ISMS

By ETHELYN EVANS

# Dr. W. B. Giles, A Man of Many Hobbies

Dr. William B. Giles, a retired physician, is a resident of Rogue Valley Manor, one of our members being currently described under the medical category. He has so many diverse hobbies, perfected to the stage of being nearly parallel careers with his primary work in medicine, that the word "incredible" may be over-worked, but it is descriptive.

Born in Newfoundland, at the age of six little William came to the United States with his father, Capt. Edwin J. Giles, his mother and two brothers. He was educated in Mass. chusetts, graduating cum laude from Tufts College Medical School in Boston.

He always found ingenious ways to supplement his school funds. When in high school, using a Christmas gift jig-saw, he manufactured attractive picture frames, bookends and other articles which sold readily. A gift camera was the beginning of a hobby with which he made immediate profits by being the first to produce and distribute the new Velox picture postcard in his vicinity, using pictures of local interest selected with artistic care and skillfully developed.

**Grades Are Recognized**  
In recognition of high scholarship grades as a freshman in college, he was made a Prosector, which paid his tuition. Junior year vacation time provided work and experience as ambulance surgeon and intern in Grace Emergency Hospital; and he was permitted to combine his senior studies with work as house officer there. Also, during these youthful days he played football, baseball and excelled in chess. Even with this work-load and extra-curriculum activity, he managed that cum laude.

After graduation, in New York City, Dr. Giles became house surgeon in New York Lying-in Hospital. Upon completion of this work, he was selected as intern and house surgeon of New York Polyclinic Post-graduate Medical School and Hospital, a pioneer institution of that type in the United States. After four years of intern work he was ready for private practice.

But at this time World War I was being fought in Europe and Dr. Giles responded to the call for doctors in France. He served two years in France, gaining vast experience. When the United States was about to enter the war, he came home to lecture before medical society meetings and conventions (preparing his own colored slides to illustrate his talks), trying to encourage doctors to enlist. He also teamed up with Miss Evangeline Booth of the Salvation Army in a drive for nurses.

**Volunteered For Service**  
Dr. Giles then volunteered for service in our Navy. He was assigned to the Brooklyn Naval Hospital, where he immediately and successfully organized weekly conferences and won for this an official commendation. Later he was reassigned to the Navy ship Comfort, the first hospital ship to cross the Atlantic in the War. Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels ordered each ship to select one officer for extra duty as instructor of crews in hygiene and infectious diseases, and Dr. Giles was selected.

His work resulted in the Comfort checking in with the lowest record in such diseases. Secretary Daniels wrote Dr. Giles a personal letter of thanks for outstanding achievement. On the Comfort he also played a portable organ and assisted the Chaplain in conducting morale building songs.

After the war he remained in the service by signing up for the Naval Reserve. Although still a young man, he had already established an "incredible" record in his schools and in the service.

Dr. Giles started private practice in New York City, where with his usual capacity for hard work, he accepted appointments on the staffs of the Polyclinic Hospital, the Neurological Institute, and also taught at Bellevue Medical School. He was on the consulting staff of the New York Children's Hospital and the Manhattan State Hospital.

**Takes Post-Graduate Course**  
At the same time he was taking a post-graduate course in pediatrics in Harvard Medical School and also found time to do experimental and research work in neurology in the Bellevue Laboratory. One of his treasured mementoes is a book on "Neuro-surgery" presented to him by the author, Dr. William Sharp, and inscribed:

"To Dr. Wm. B. Giles, esteemed colleague and friend, as a slight token of high regard and in grateful appreciation of the many valuable suggestions and tireless efforts of co-operation during a pioneer period of neuro-surgery in this City."

Somehow, during these years, he managed not to neglect the social, civic and religious side of his life. He was an officer and served on committees in medical societies, physicians and surgeons clubs, college and hospital alumni groups, the American Legion and in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was a Phi Chi medical fraternity member and acted as sponsor and organizer of chapters in Cornell and Columbia Universities. He held office in civic clubs such as Kiwanis, Odd Fellows, Elks, and several Masonic Orders, including Knights Templar.

**Active in Church Work**  
He was active in the Methodist Church, a leader in the church social service field. He visited and watched over the health of 200 elderly people in the New York Methodist Home; and served in the social service departments of public hospitals and clinics — always gratuitously. All this required "incredibly" efficient organization of time, ability and physical stamina.

From early school days, William Giles and Vivian Beach were inseparable chums. Their contemporaries had a pun for it: "When there's a Will — there's a Vivian." When he was in Tufts College, she attended nearby New England Conservatory of Music. Then they were sweethearts and later she became and now is his charming wife.

All through their years of school and courtship, Dr. Giles kept a most meticulous diary account of all their conversations and parties — picnics, church socials, hayrides, sings and choir meetings. These were the days before radio, television or good movies; and when an occasional automobile was an object of intense curiosity. This diary, written in a fine, clear hand with no margins, has been read and enjoyed by their family for years. Dr. Giles tells me he is having it printed.

**Accomplished Concert Pianist**  
Vivian Giles is an accomplished concert pianist. After each Manor concert she has given us, I have written about her musical career. It was in her scrapbook that I discovered still another hobby of her husbands: Art.

A program he designed for one of her concerts in Argentina — "Birds, Insects & Animals in Music" — shows clever, life-like pictures of birds, animals, etc. which he sketched. Another is a beautifully designed frontispiece for a program of "Love Inspired Compositions of Great Musicians." He has always shared his wife's love of music by singing in choruses and choirs, and now he sings with the Barbershop quartet in Medford.

The American Ambassador to Argentina urged Dr. Giles to move there where American doctors were urgently needed. So off they went to Buenos Aires. He had to prepare for revalidation of his diploma, so, during his first 15 months in Argentina he learned Spanish, and took 48 oral examinations — in Spanish, of course. He passed all successfully and became the first American trained doctor in Buenos Aires. He maintained a large practice there for more than 20 years; and also joined the Consulting Staff of the very fine British Hospital and had the use of all hospital facilities.

**Becomes Affiliated**  
Almost immediately he became affiliated with many Argentine organizations. He served on the official board of Iglesia Methodists, was president of the Men's Club, and organized meetings in which the heads of nine religious faiths spoke on such subjects as the work of the church against Communism. He spoke before youth meetings on subjects including "Wonders of Astronomy" and "Philately." Both hobbies of his own which he was ardently pursuing. He arranged hobby exhibitions. He was active in Masonic careers, joined the American Club,

Features

Sports

MEDFORD **MAJ** TRIBUNE

SECTION B MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1963 PAGES 1 to 10



Many of Dr. Giles' stamps are on boards, held down with paper clips and rubber bands, such as those shown in this picture. In the background is a telescope, another of Dr. Giles' many hobbies.



Dr. Giles is shown here in his "stamp room" in his apartment at Rogue Valley Manor with some of its cabinets.

the Society of the River Plate, and the Asociacion Universitaria Norteamericana.

Dr. Giles gave many lectures in Buenos Aires and some of the subjects were "Population Pressure," "Verba Mate," "Archaeology in Patagonia," "Witchcraft and the Macchi of the Napuche Indians in Chile."

In preparation for these talks, he tracked the Yacba plant across Brazil and the Uruguay River region to study its native state; for his archaeological lecture he accompanied archaeologist, Professor Menghin, on two expeditions; he went to Chile to observe witchcraft, and by taking medicines along he was to live with and study the Indians. He managed all this by making his vacations do double duty.

He had long before succumbed to the lure of stamp collection and became the President of the Buenos Aires Philatelic Society and organized the first Philatelic Congress held in Argentina. He was, of course, repeating the same "incredible" program of busy, busy hours.

**Italian Classic Stamps**  
Dr. Giles' interest in philately had its beginning in the collection of Italian Classic stamps when traveling through Italy on his return from service in France. He soon had a splendid collection of these "classics." His stamp hobby has gone on and on and grown and grown until, with anyone but Dr. Giles, it would have become out-of-hand. His collection is housed in one room of their Manor apartment. This room and its "incredible" contents must be seen to be believed. If transferred to some hobby exhibition, it would stop the show.

There are high, low and wide cabinets everywhere. Pull-out drawer types are filled with thousands of stamps; card sized cabinet drawers contain thousands of stamps in ticketed envelopes; high and narrow cabinets are filled with stamps in high, narrow envelopes; several letter-filing cabinets holds stamps in folders; one cabinet houses albums of stamps; even in his bathroom are shelves he has built to hold long, narrow boxes of stamps; on tables and chairs are piles of sorted stamps; held to cardboard by rubber bands. He also manages to tuck in magazines and books on philately here and there in the room.

He has, of course, stamps which are far beyond my comprehension. For instance, he has stamps attached to the originals covers for tin containers which were flown to the Pacific and dropped. His many stamps attached to original covers un-

doubtedly make his collection more interesting and valuable, although he also has blocks of stamps he bought in bulk. Dr. Giles says no thief would know what to take or where to find it, whereas an "incredible" feature of all this is that he knows what he has and where to find it. He is sorting the stamps by topic and country and cataloguing them — as a full time occupation for his retirement years.

**Interested In Scientific Gadgets**  
Dr. Giles' inquiring mind has ever been interested in all things scientific and in new scientific gadgets. In his early days in New York, he hatched the earphones of his crystal set to a large megaphone. Then he placed it in an open window and proceeded to broadcast the Dempsey-Carpenter fight to a huge, astonished audience in the street outside. This was before the days of the "loud speaker."

He maintained this scientific interest while in Argentina and joined the Association of Technologists of the River Plate, later becoming vice president of that association.

Dr. Giles also enjoyed the study of astronomy. He reluctantly left behind a fine, large telescope in Argentina, because Dictator Peron's orders prevented people from taking many things out of the country — in fact almost all things. So now, also in this "incredible" room, he has a borrowed telescope. Placed near a window, pointing toward the heavenly space above our mountains, it is ready for instant use. During the late eclipse, he took a number of fellow-members to our penthouse roof to use this instrument, and, while guarding their eyes from harm, he poured forth scientific information.

**Has Model Railroad**  
Like many other men, Dr. Giles always adored the hobby of model railroading, but he perfected it to the "nth" degree by building intricate, triple-level assemblies with dozens of remote controls — to the delight of his own and the neighborhood small-fry.

Dr. Giles' plan to devote his time after retirement to his stamp collection didn't hold. From the beginning he has been in the thick of planning and working for our Manor programs. He selects and rents all our films; he works in philatelic shows or acts as judge or chairman; he exhibits in our local Methodist Church; he gives lectures before numerous groups. When I say that Dr. Giles is still pursuing his hobbies, I mean he is intensely interested in study, inquiry and experimentation.