

'Hot' Freezer Given Mrs. Truman Only One Of Thousands Of Gifts That Pour Into White House; Some Can't Be Kept

By ERNEST B. VACCARO
WASHINGTON, Aug. 18 (AP)—Gifts for the White House? They come by the thousands every year, and always have.

The home freezer presented to Mrs. Harry S. Truman in 1945 has had more publicity than most such gifts receive, because it was linked with the current Capitol Hill investigation of five percenters.

But actually it's only one of tens of thousands of presents that have poured in on the Trumans since they moved into the executive mansion.

For example, gifts from friends and admirers have made President Truman probably the best hated man in the United States.

The gifts range in retail value up to \$200. They include ten gallon westerners, broad-brimmed panamas, high silk formal, pith helmets, long billed sports caps—and even feathered varieties given to him by Indians.

Americans have been following the custom of sending gifts to presidents for more years than anyone can remember.

Those sent by other nations—and they include many of the more valuable ones, like diamond studded daggers and priceless paintings—the president cannot keep because the constitution forbids him to accept gifts from foreign governments. This government keeps them.

The \$5000 howling alley he received as a birthday present in 1946 from old friends in Missouri will remain in the White House, like the swimming pool that was given to the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The horseshoe-pitching court just outside Truman's office window is another gift that will serve future presidents.

Lots of gifts, however, are strictly personal. Like the hats and upwards of 1000 neckties—with bowties predominating—shirts, socks, and even suits.

From the day Truman took over at the White House, people have called regularly bringing in gifts. Some times a delegation will bring a turkey, or a salmon from the Pacific northwest, fresh caught mountain trout, a crate of strawberries, a record-weight watermelon or a box of chocolate candy.

One man in daily contact with the president said all these gifts had to be catalogued when the Trumans moved out of the White House so it could be repaired.

"There must be enough to fill a warehouse," he said.

One of the presents Truman can't keep is an almost priceless painting of Benjamin Franklin presented him on behalf of the French government.

But he can keep enough shirts to last him a lifetime, as a result of a trip he made to Kansas City a few years ago during the shirt shortage.

He went around to the shop of Eddie Jacobson, his former haberdashery partner, looking for some white shirts, size 15½ with 32-inch sleeves.

Jacobson was fresh out at the time, and newsmen reported that for their papers.

More than 250 shirts came in from all parts of the country. The president had to plead with the press to halt the avalanche. Members of his staff benefited by the bonanza.

'Mom' To Feed Her 350 'Brats'

COUGAR, Wash., Aug. 18 (AP)—Mom Mulkey is having her 350 kids back to dinner again.

Mrs. P. A. Mulkey, the Cougar, Wash., woman who is "mom" to several hundred World War II veterans, scheduled her third annual barbecue picnic for Aug. 21.

Mrs. Mulkey got started writing letters to servicemen—particularly servicemen without families—during the war. After the war ended she decided to invite them all to dinner.

"Hundreds of the 'Mulkey brats,' as she calls them, turned up for that first dinner in 1947. She's been having them annually ever since.

The picnic starts at Mulkey park, six miles east of here, at 12:30 Sunday.

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Car Shortage Slows Grain And Lumber

PORTLAND, Aug. 18 (AP)—Western Oregon lumber mills and grain dealers are beginning to feel the pinch of a railroad boxcar shortage for the first time this summer.

Similar shortages in the past two summers have curtailed lumber operations.

Lumber spokesmen said shippers' orders had been slashed an average of 30 per cent the past week. One Polk county grain elevator manager, Matt Gillis of the farmers co-op, said he received three cars last week when he needed many more.

Southern Pacific railway Freight Traffic Manager Frank C. Nelson admitted he couldn't promise much improvement right now: "We're in pretty tough trouble."

He said the shortage developed suddenly, as it has in the past two years.

No lumber mills are reported shut down, but trade sources indicated the tight situation might bite or curtail some operations in the near future.

The northern railways serving eastern Oregon, Washington and the Columbia River had only a "fairly tight" car situation. The car supply was a still meeting demand, spokesmen said.

COACH TO PRINCIPAL
PENDLETON, Aug. 18 (AP)—Frank Nihil, coach and teacher at Mac H. in Milton Freewater, has been selected its principal. He replaces Don Frenatti who recently became principal of Pendleton senior high school.

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Plans Talked For Musical Production
Plans were discussed for a forthcoming entertainment feature, the Gale Page musical production, to be held September 14 at Mills school at a Tuesday night meet'g of the 30-30 club.

Tickets for the program will go on sale soon.

After the business meeting, the guest speaker, Sgt. Earl Tichenor of the Oregon state police was introduced, and spoke on the state police set-up in this state, mentioning requirements and training necessary for a state policeman.

GRASS SEEDS UP
PORTLAND, Aug. 18 (AP)—Oregon grass seeds are attracting competitive bids that are booming their prices. Common ryegrass is up to about 10½ cents a pound, blue leg alta fescue is up to 38 cents and chewing fescue was quoted yesterday at 32 and 33 cents. One deal was listed at 34 cents.

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