

WANTED:

for Bank Ribbing



Photos by Mike Shea

A CARICATURIST, according to Webster, is an artist who exaggerates the peculiarities of a person or thing. No one exaggerates peculiarities with more success than a caricaturist named Gordon Currie.

Currie, an Australian by birth, is touring the United States and (with his pen) poking fun at one of our most staid institutions—banks. The banks not only endure his jesting but pay him for it.

It all began about five years ago when Currie, then a newspaper art-

ist, conceived the idea and sold it to a Texas bank. It works like this: Currie sets up his studio in the bank lobby, draws his unconventional portraits of the customers, then presents the sketches to the subjects with the bank's compliments.

From such simple things is good will created. Banks invariably experience a rash of new customers during Currie's appearances. Some come to pose, many more just to watch, and a few to open accounts. In addition to sketching, Currie sets

up a display of his caricatures of famous people—President Eisenhower, Queen Elizabeth, and other notables from around the world. Because he has more offers than he can handle, Currie limits his appearances to 26 a year.

From the banks' viewpoint, these one-man shows help dispel the notion that banks are all austerity and no humor. To prove it, at least once during each visit Currie caricatures one of the bank's officers, "including the bald head and all that."



Gordon Currie



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1. Sketch of young visitor draws giggles from her girl friends.
2. During Decatur (Ill.) visit, Currie caricatures bank president.
3. John Foster Dulles is among famous people who were "Curried."
4. Another amiable guest smiles ruefully at Currie treatment.
5. Typical Currie sketch takes about two minutes to draw.



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