

Patient Persistence—

# A Lot Of Work To Get A Book

By EUGENE FALLON

Sooner or later every citizen of Southport wends his way to that stately white building which houses the town government. Few city halls overlook so much natural beauty as is here found. Huge live oaks, looking the old sentinels that they are, ring the seat of civic government.

They arrive of all ages, these citizens. Many are tax-payers and people intent on complaints, compliments, flattery, righteous anger. Some come as tourists.

But it is of none of these we write. Park in the spacious yard. Shortly after school lets out you'll see children arrive. These come for other reasons than given above. They come eager for knowledge, eager for travel, adventure and suspense. They come for truth. And they are never disappointed, because up the wide stairway is the beautiful world of books.

A million characters await them: Robin Hood, Christian, Greathart, Hansel and Gretel, Deerslayer, Little Eva St. Clair, white whales and black beauties, the Count of Monte Cristo, Don Quixote astride Rosinante challenging non-existent giants. Percy Shelley rubs shoulders with Walt Whitman, and Hemingway pats Robert Ruark on the back, saying "well done."

The librarian is always smiling. Her name is Mrs. Philip King, and she's the best librarian in the Coastal Plains, maybe in North Carolina.

Without her, Deerslayer would lose his trail, Don Quixote would wind up swimming across the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn,

Robin Hood would be shooting his arrows in Central Park, Rip Van Winkle would be wide awake on the flat canyons of Chicago's Loop. She is indispensable, and very, very obliging. Let me tell how much so.

I entered the Southport Public Library on January 1 in search of a book called "The Magic-Maker". It is a fairly new book, written by Charles Norman. It is a biography of one of America's leading contemporary poets, a man now in his middle sixties, named E. E. Cummings. The book had received a good press upon publication. I said I'd like to read it.

Mrs. King said immediately that her library did not have a copy. "But I'll order it for you right away," she promised.

You don't get that sort of treatment in the Fifth Avenue Library at New York. You don't get that treatment in larger libraries scattered elsewhere in Tarheelia, not unless you happen to be a member of the library board. Some librarians regard every prospective borrower with ill-concealed suspicion. They wave you vaguely toward the great shelves, the mountain of books, the clutter of centuries. You are on your own, and often you wind up at a table with a magazine.

Not so in Southport. On the second floor of City Hall each book-lover's quest is a mutual transaction. Mrs. King directs, finds the requested book, or makes suggestions.

But to return to my story: The week I walked into the Southport Public Library and found Mrs. King highly pleased. She

had my book.

And, dear readers, it took some getting! Mrs. King showed me some cards. The first was from the N. C. State Library at Raleigh. It acknowledged the request, and noted that their copy "was missing". The second card had been mailed from Wilmington and the library of the same name. It was an exact copy of the first—"copy here, but gone". The third card came from High Point. Same story. The last card came from the Sheppard Memorial Library at Greenville, and with it came the book.

Mrs. King said that she had never known an exact duplication of circumstances. That never had she had to run a book down like she did Norman's.

Two things shine clearly through these facts: Mrs. King is a most competent and obliging librarian; and secondly, E. E. Cummings made a music which held all who heard it, in thrall.

Once having gotten their hands on "The Magic-Maker" readers refused to part with such treasure. In other words, they kept their copies, guarding them as zealously (and illegally) as a miser. I feel that through the efforts of our local librarian, I have possession of a book well worth the reading. Time alone will tell if I shall break the chain, and return the book.

## The Facts About Easter Seals

The National Society for Crippled Children and Adults and its more than 1,500 affiliates, known as the Easter Seal societies, fight crippling on national, state and community levels through a coordinated program of direct treatment, research and education.

Since its founding in 1921, the organization has spread into all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Today over 1,000 centers and programs give special treatment needed by the crippled. Substantial facilities and services, each adapted to community needs, include rehabilitation and treatment centers, residential centers, sheltered workshops, resident and day camps, itinerant, mobile and home therapy services; equipment pools; and home employment programs. Easter Seals each year provide rehabilitation care to a quarter

of a million crippled children and adults regardless of cause of crippling, race, religion, national background or economic status.

The \$18 million cost of this broad program is financed largely by the voluntary contributions of 4,000,000 Americans, given during the annual Easter Seal campaign. Legacies and special gifts also contribute substantially.

Enhancement of knowledge and skill is the aim of the nation-wide Easter Seal professional education program. Through National Society scholarships and fellowships alone, more than 400 persons including doctors, physical, occupational and speech therapists, counselors, and others have received advanced training. Still more persons have received such awards from state and local societies.

## "Fashion Maid" Search Underway

The "Fashion Maid of America" search, to select and honor America's most fashionable beauty, as the symbol of world fashion prominence, has started to accept entries throughout the nation on February 15.

The unique contest, open to all school and college girls, career girls, single and married women, is not a bathing beauty contest. The emphasis is on appearance in fashions—dress, formal, street or sports attire—poise and personality in wearing of fashion, rather than appearance in a swim suit.

All a contestant need to do to enter the "Fashion Maid of America" Contest is fill out an official entry form, attach a photo or snapshot in any dress, street attire or formal, and send to contest headquarters. Entry blanks for this area may be found at Leder's Department Store.

The goals of the "Fashion Maid of America" Contest, which is sponsored nationally by over 1,000 Department and Fashion Shops and Daisy's Originals of Miami, is to enhance the prestige and importance of American girls in the fashion world—and to elevate Uncle Sam's nieces on the World's fashion pedestal—for all the world to see and admire.

America's most fashionable beauty will achieve national and international fame and be elevated to her fashion throne when the selection of the 1962 "Fashion Maid of America" will be made when all aspirants have been evaluated after April 15, 1962—close of the quest.

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LIMIT 4 WITH ORDER		

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<b>ICE CREAM</b> 1/2 . . . .	Gallon	<b>49¢</b>
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## Telephone Talk

by  
H. F. KINCAID

Your Telephone Manager

IT'S HARD to imagine how the President of the United States could perform his many duties without the aid of telephones in his office. Yet, a telephone on the desk of the Chief Executive is relatively new. President Rutherford B. Hayes directed the installation of the first White House telephone in December, 1878. Some time later, the President's telephone was placed in a booth near, but not inside, his office. This arrangement lasted for more than 50 years. President Hoover, in 1929, became the first Chief Executive to have a telephone on his desk.

\* \* \*

WON'T BE LONG before we'll be "folding our tents" and moving outside again . . . ready for another pleasant summer on the patio! And here's a suggestion that'll make your outdoor living even more pleasant this year — an extension telephone on your patio . . . either the portable or the permanent type. The cost is small, the convenience great. Why not call our business office, or ask any telephone serviceman, about an extension phone for your patio . . . right away!

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NEXT WEEK, April 8-14, is *National Library Week*. This marks the fifth observance of National Library Week, sponsored by the National Book Committee in cooperation with the American Library Association, and dedicated to the expansion and increased use of library facilities.

AN INTERESTING sidelight to this year's National Library Week is that it coincides with National Foreign Language Week. With this in mind, a special flyer containing the Library Week slogan, "Read — and Watch Your World Grow," is being printed in 12 languages!

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APRIL SHOWERS make you blue? Cheer yourself and someone else . . . go visiting by telephone!