Record of Civilization Put in Vault Under Seal 'Open in 60 Centuries'

ATLANTA, Ga. (U.P.)—In the year 8103 a group of scientists may break into a subterranean vault near here to find a complete record of civilization as it existed in 1938. The vault, of granite and stainless steel, is located under what is now the administration building of Oglethorpe University.

Dr. Thornwall Jacobs, youthful president of the university, has assembled a vast collection of books, pictures, samples, models and phonograph records to be sealed in the vault.

All the material in the crypt will be placed in glass and stainless steel containers, which will be evacuated of air and filled with some inert gas such as helium or argon to prevent deterioration.

Including Chewing Gum

The vault itself is nearly completed. It is a tomb-like room beneath the main building, with granite walls 2 feet thick. The ceiling is 2 feet thick and its floor is the granite bedrock of the Appalachian Mountains.

The doorway will be closed with granite blocks and sealed with a specially designed stainless steel door.

The material in the vault will include films, models, pictures, micro records of all the world's important books, and samples of everything from lead pencils to chewing gum.

Although no definite method of preserving the memory of the crypt has been agreed upon, several are being considered. One proposal is that stainless steel tablets be placed in every important museum and university in the world. The tablets would tell the purpose and list contents of the crypt.

Counts on Sportsmanship

Another suggestion is that some sort of mechanical device be built and placed in the main museums and universities. When the year 8103 arrives, the device would announce the location of the vault.

Dr. Jacobs has set 60 centuries hence as the date for opening the crypt because it is 6167 years from the first record in history, the beginning of the Egyptian calendar, to 1936, when the vault was first started. Counting ahead 6167 years from 1936 gives the year 8103.

A Salem, O., scientist, Dr. T. K. Peters, has perfected a method of impressing photographic images on metal, which makes it possible to keep even motion picture records indefinitely. Dr. Peters will supervise the filling and sealing of the crypt.

Dr. Peters has obtained the cooperation of the country's leading manufacturers, historical societies, railroads, museums and libraries.

"All our work will be in vain if the crypt is destroyed or prematurely opened," Dr. Jacobs said.

"But we are counting on the sportsmanship of future generations to curb their curiosity and leave our crypt alone for 60 centuries. Then they may open it and find a complete record of our civilization."

DRIFTS PILE HIGH

Heavy snows which piled up drifts ranging above 20 feet in many places have brought the Sierra Nevada snow pack far above normal.

Under Arrest

Cliff Haley, 23, of Tacoma, Wash., whom the State Department is attempting to locate in Spain, where he served as a volunteer machine-gunner. Word of his arrest just as he was about to embark for home has caused his parents great anxiety.

T.H.S. Journalists Bid to U.S.C.

Student journalists and their instructor from Torrance high school have been invited to attend the 16th annual Newspaper Day on the campus of the University of Southern California, March 5, according to announcement by Professor Roy L. French, director of the School of Journalism.

Norman Alley, newsreel cameraman who photographed the sinking of the Panay in Chinese waters, is scheduled to speak to the conference of high school and junior college journalism students and publishers in Bovard auditorium. Mrs. Verna Hosfelt, editor of the Colton Daily Courier, also will speak as will several other prominent newspaper men.

As in the past, publishers and executives of daily and weekly newspapers of Southern California will be special guests at both the morning session and noon luncheon.

A feature of the luncheon will be the presentation of the Crombie Allen award to the high school paper showing the greatest improvement in 1937 over the previous year. Two other awards by the Daily Trojan, U. S. C. newspaper, will be made to the runner-up in the high school division and to the junior college winner.

Asks Permit for Emergency Hospital Near Torrance

Permission to operate an emergency hospital at 14222 South Main street is sought in an application filed this week with the county board of supervisors.

Dr. A. W. Lindberg, stated the hospital being adjacent to the oil fields, would serve industrial cases.

Pasadena Organist Succumbs Here

Robert B. Meacham, well-known Pasadena organist, succumbed at Torrance Memorial hospital late last Wednesday afternoon. He contracted pneumonia about two weeks ago and tho he passed the crisis satisfactorily and had begun to recuperate, he had a relapse and failed to rally.

For several years he was organist at Pasadena's First Methodist church and was an active member of the city's chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Mr. Meacham was survived by his mother, a sister and a brother.