

student to work toward a doctorate degree, they asked Dr. Malcolm Renfrew at the University of Idaho for a candidate. Dr. Renfrew explained that Mrs. Runyan would qualify, but that her plans would probably depend on what her husband did. The Harvard and Radcliffe officials conferred on the matter, and offered fellowships to both William and Thora.

These brilliant students, whose home was in Ukiah, California, met while both were in the Army. Married in 1954, they decided in 1957 to go to college together. With their previous outstanding academic records, they had a choice of colleges as broad as the nation, and selected the University of Idaho.

"We decided it was just what we were seeking," said Runyan. "Most important, it ranked high academically. Also, it was not overly large. For us, the University of Idaho seemed to hold much promise."

The promise for William and Thora Runyan was fulfilled in 1961. But what about the future of the University of Idaho? Will there be promise and fulfillment in the years to come?

In Seattle, Washington, as this is written, lives a machine shop operator, William C. Cheney, a man in his sixties. With drill and lathe and torch, Cheney is a master. He can turn out almost any kind of mechanical equipment that comes to his mind or to the minds of others. A former college teacher, he is an inventor, an historian, and an astronomer who built all the equipment for his own observatory.

Back when radios first came into homes in quantity if not quality, one came into Cheney's shop beside the gently lapping waters of Puget Sound. Cheney added two recording machines. Whenever some significant news announcement or address came over the air, he flicked on one of the recorders. On wax (and even on glass during World War II) he recorded history as it was being made — the landing of Charles Lindbergh in Paris in 1927 after the first non-stop flight from New York; the stock market crash of 1929; the deaths of Comedian Will Rogers and Pilot Wiley Post in an airplane crash at Point Barrow, Alaska, August 15, 1935; the "blood, sweat and tears" speech of Winston Churchill in World War II; the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, December 7, 1941 . . .

Cheney collected other historical information in the form of such assorted reminders as restaurant menus going back a half-century, Sears-Roebuck catalogs for each decade in the same period,

and ration cards and coupons used in the United States during World War II. Then, in 1960, Cheney began sealing all the historical material he had collected in his lifetime inside 55-gallon oil drums. Eventually there were seventeen barrels. They were important to Cheney, and he hoped they would be important to scholars a half-century hence.

He wanted those barrels stored at an institution of higher learning to be opened and studied by professors and students in the year 2010. He wanted the institution to be one which would have a concern for America's heritage and a desire to build upon it. He wanted it to have not only a sound present but a promising future. He chose as the recipient of his unusual gift the University of Idaho, which he knew only by reputation, and the barrels have come to rest and wait in the sub-basement of the Library Building.

Thus a man who had never set foot on the University of Idaho campus showed that he had faith in its future. This writer, who has been privileged to study at the University, to serve on its administrative staff, and even to teach a class, also has faith. He has faith that the many young travelers destined to pass this way in the years to come will be guided to a better life by a beacon of knowledge, bright and warm.