

# TREACY NEWSLETTER

June, 1991

William O. Treacy, Ed.

No. 1

## FIRST TREACY NEWSLETTER NEARLY WENT UNPUBLISHED!

The editor of Treacy Newsletter advises that in early April he had determined to abandon the project and return subscription money then received. Postcard invitations for subscriptions had been mailed to 31 kinsmen on January 25 but two months later, March 25, only six persons had responded. In April however interest picked up and six more persons sent in their subscription dollars and in May two more subscribed. Some sent more than the asked-for one dollar and in those cases the editor determined to purchase subscriptions for the overpayer's siblings who did not respond. Using this method the newsletter will be sent to nineteen households.

### BONUS SUPPLEMENT ATTACHED

As a special bonus to charter subscribers the editor has attached an article concerning Leo J. Rasche, older brother of Estelle "Mom" Treacy. Depending on reader interest the editor will consider similar articles with future issues.

### NEWSLETTER FINANCES BARED

The cost of putting the initial issue of the newsletter into the hands of the 19 subscribers has been computed to be: Postcards \$4.65; stamps \$7.98; Envelopes \$1.90; Reproduction \$6.65; and paper \$5.32; for a total of \$26.50. This is about the amount received from the fourteen subscribers who paid, or overpaid, for their subscriptions. The editor asks that each subscriber send in \$2.00 to continue his or her subscription, along with any news to share with the rest of the clan.

## TREACYS STORE ARTICLE BEING PREPARED

Maurice F. Treacy, 1930s employee of Treacy's Cash store, later manager of (Treacy's) Clover Farm Store, and still later co-owner of Treacy's, direct successor of Treacy's Cash, by then solely a clothing store, is presently writing a descriptive history of these institutions, which flourished in Oakland, Maryland, for well over 50 years. This newsletter will advise readers as to when the article is complete and how to obtain a copy.

## JACK TREACY WORLD WAR II LETTER SURFACES

After the June, 1989, Treacy Reunion in Grantsville and Herrington Manor State Park, Leo E. Treacy sent to the York, Pennsylvania, Treacys a letter he had received from his brother, then Lt.(jg) John T. "Jack" Treacy during World War II. At Jack's funeral later the same year the relatives in attendance were privileged to read it. Jack was then assigned to the CIC (combat information center) of the destroyer Bryant. Leo had then returned from naval service in Hawaii and was enrolled in the V-12 Navy college pre-commissioning program. It reads: U.S.S. BRYANT (DD 665), 26 November 1944. Dear Leo, Since you are so interested in my activities and since censorship has been relaxed I can tell you a little about it. We were with the "softening up" bombardment group at Leyte and went in several days before the landing. We followed the minesweepers into the gulf and bombarded from dawn to dusk every day until Dugout Doug arrived except for one day when a typhoon prevented operations. "A" day we closed the beach to 2000 yards and covered the landings, fired counter battery and close support fire for the troops. There were enemy planes around all the time from the minute we arrived. No doubt you have read of the surface action. The morning before the arrival of the Tokio Express air raids increased both in size and number and kept us busy all day. After dark they eased up. We were with Admiral Kinkaid's outfit that night in Surigao Strait.

Along with other cans we closed to a very uncomfortable range and fired fish into a Jap heavy cruiser which later sank. Shells were popping all over the place but we were lucky and didn't stop any of them. At daylight we found the water full of Jap survivors who we tried to pick up but they refused capture. Some of them could have been coaxed but we couldn't spare the time to fool with them because another force was attacking our CVEs east of Samar. This was also a threat to the gulf so our force was ordered out to intercept but some of Mitcher's planes arrived first so our orders were changed. Does that give you a rough idea? You were lucky to get away from AA 909. All of the boys on landing craft take a beating with

the possible exception of LSTs. I've seen them operate so I know what I'm talking about. They get everything thrown at them during their approach to the beach. That's all I have to tell you except that you are a bad boy in Physics. Better luck next time. Love, Jack. (Editor's note: Jack, along with the other crewmembers of the Bryant was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation ribbon for his combat service from June, 1944 to April, 1945 in the battles of Saipan-Tinian, Palau, Surigao Strait, Iwo-Jima and Okinawa. The spelling "Tokio" is not an error. Such spelling was common in the pre-war and war years. "AA 909" was Leo's anti-aircraft unit in Hawaii which was disbanded after threat of invasion there diminished. The unit was converted to landing craft crews.)

In Ireland the telephone directories list nearly three times those spelling their name Treacy as those spelling their names Tracy and Tracey combined. None list with the prefix O'. Three, however are listed under the ancient spelling of O'Treasagh.

## If you don't keep his name alive, who will?

An invitation to place the name of a member of your family who immigrated to America in the only national museum created to honor them.

Whether your ancestors first set foot on American soil at Ellis Island, or entered through another gateway, here is a unique opportunity to share your gratitude. And to present your family with a gift that will be meaningful now and for generations to come.

When you make a \$100 tax-deductible contribution to restore Ellis Island, the name you designate will be permanently placed on the newly created American Immigrant Wall of Honor. You can choose the name of an ancestor or just your own family name. And you'll

receive an Official Certificate of Registration. To register additional names, there is a minimum gift of \$100 for each name. Please send for your registration form today. By now you assure that the Ellis Island Immigration Museum will be a place to honor your own heritage, as well as movement to the great American traditions of freedom, hope and opportunity.

To obtain your registration form for the American Immigrant Wall of Honor, write to: Ellis Island Foundation, P.O. Box 1111, New York, N.Y. 10103.

The name of the person whose name is being registered must be a direct ancestor of the person making the contribution. The name must be a direct ancestor of the person making the contribution. The name must be a direct ancestor of the person making the contribution. The name must be a direct ancestor of the person making the contribution.

Keep the Dream Alive





## FAMILY MYTH EXPLODED

### RASCHE NOT A FRENCH NAME

Stephen D. Treacy of Anchorage, Alaska, is responsible for laying to rest a family myth, fondly held which speculated that the name Rasche was really French and that it was properly pronounced RAH-SHAY. Both Estelle Rasche Treacy and Agnes Rasche Brooks had stated this during their lifetimes, bolstering the theory with the fact that the portion of Prussia from which Heinrich (Henry) Rasche emigrated shared a border with France.

#### STEVE PROCURES RASCHE LINEAGE

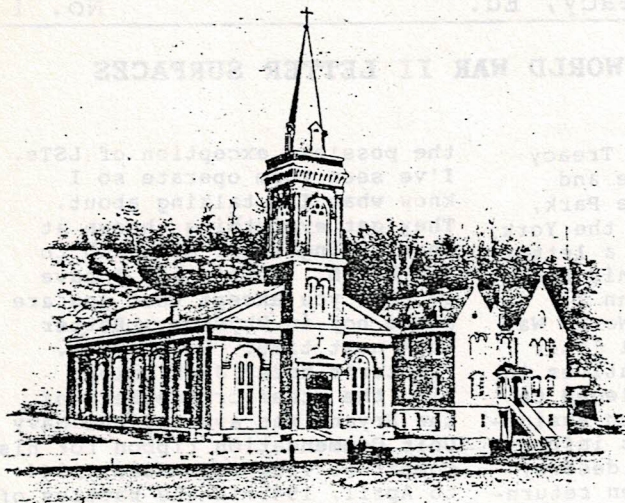
In 1987 and 1988 Steve hired a German genealogist who searched the church-state records of Niessen and vicinity, the town near Marburg where Henry was born. The German lady traced Henry's paternal ancestors to five generations beyond Henry. Of the five only Henry's father, Johann Bernhard Heinrich, used the surname Rasche, the four of his ancestors all using the surname Raschen.

#### EDITOR BOLSTERS RASCHEN VALIDITY

On his receipt of a copy of the work procured by Steve, your editor checked with experts in the French and German languages. They confirmed that Raschen is definitely German, that raschen translates "quick" and that no French word resembles rasche.

#### RASCHE LINEAGE FAMILY'S LONGEST

The lineage chart prepared by Steve from the information produced by the German expert shows that it is by far the longest in the Treacy/Rasche (and ancestors) chains. Such chart shows the remotest Raschen to be Johannes, born in 1661, married to Elizabeth Techethoff in 1684, and who died in Nörde, Prussia, in 1741.



Thomas Rowan, Estelle Treacy's grandfather was the contractor who built St. Peter's Catholic Church in West-ernport, Maryland in the 1800s. Before the Rowans moved to the U.S. from Canada, Thomas was a subcontractor (bricklaying) in the construction of the Parliament building in Ottawa.

### CLAN NOTES FROM:

#### ALASKA

Laura Ellen Moore Treacy is now concluding an extended stay with son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Ann Treacy in Anchorage. There she starred in a professional live theatre production of Quilters, "a Pioneer Musical." This show, which enjoyed rave reviews, constitutes her theatrical comeback following triple by-pass surgery in January 1990. Also Laura celebrated her 74th birthday while there (March 30). Break a leg Laura.

Steve (3020 Redwood Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99508) continues to codify family vital statistics (names, relationships, events, dates & places). Please keep him informed of new children, marriages, births, deaths, etc. He enters the data and periodically distributes printouts to interested family members.

#### CALIFORNIA

John Treacy, Jr. writes from Oakland that his job requires that he be on the road a lot and that he may shortly be detailed to Pensacola. In such event he will be a close neighbor to Editor Bill and reporter Mary Ruth, who look forward to seeing him.

There is a Treacy Street in Newark, N.J., a Trearcy Street in St. Louis, Mo., A Treeseey Street in Houston, Texas, and a Treasch Street in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Seven cities and towns in the U. S. bear the name Tracy as do some 75 streets

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Jane Treacy, daughter of Maurice and Betty Talbot Treacy, is now a partner in the firm Treacy and Eagleburger, Architects, in Washington.





Everyone with a family member in W.W.II service hung a "service flag" in the front window. Pictured is the Treacy front window which service flag displayed in 1945.

#### FLORIDA

Anita Weimer Friedlander gave birth to her and husband Bob's first son whom they named James Patrick in honor of his great-grandfather. His older sister incidentally is Tracy Ellen. James Patrick was born 1990.

Andrea Bronwen Treacy Libby husband Lloyd and son Kyle last year moved into their new home: 2810 Arnold Palmer Court, Shalimar, Fla. 32579. Lloyd, an engineer, both designed the home and participated in its construction.

Neither Patrick Treacy nor Mary Treacy submitted any news from Tallahassee.

#### MARYLAND

Suzanne Treacy Woodside and husband Kieth both work for Woodward & Lothrop, as buyer and as salesman respectively. They make their home in Takoma Park outside of D.C.

Maurice F. Treacy was recently awarded an elementary flute certificate from Peabody Preparatory, a division of the prestigious Peabody Institute of Music in Baltimore. He has now mastered Music Theory and is well on his way through the Peabody intermediate program. Says Casey: "Peabody Institute ain't easy!"

#### PAKISTAN

Gabriel Owen Treacy was born to the Mark Treacys last year (March 24, 1990) in Gilgit. Carole delivered Gabriel in a Pakistani clinic while Mark was on the road to Islamabad to pick up Carole's mother. They believe that Gabriel is the first and only American baby ever born in Gilgit. Carole, Gaelan and Gabriel recently rejoined Mark after visiting the Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. and Chillum, Maryland kin.

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Helen Chisholm Treacy of York is recovering from cataract surgery which she says considerably improved her reading vision. She also reports that daughters Mary and Jackie were excellent nursing care providers through her recovery. Jackie reports that daughter Jeanette stays a tad busy these days what with attending beauty school mornings, finishing up high school requirements at York High afternoons and tending busy and energetic Erin Nicole, born to her on July 17, 1990, and working at Hardee's three or four nights per week.

ERNEST.	TIMMERMAN, H.	WATERS, JOHN D.
AT. M.	TRESSLER, JAMES	WHEELER, RICHARD D.
BERA,	THOMAS, SAMUEL	WILSON, JOSEPH ROY.
L.R.	TASKER, RUSSELL L.	WILSON, LAWRENCE.
OND.	TICHNELL, PHILLIP H.	WHITE, MAX LEE.
EW.	TREACY, JAMES J.	WEIGHT, JAMES E.
CE.	TREACY, JOHN T.	WHITE, JOHN ALBERT.
CH G.	TREACY, MAURICE F.	WALLS, OSCAR.
ONE LEO.	TREACY, LEO F.	WARNICK, HARRY J.
Y ERVIN.	TREACY, WILLIAM D.	WOOD, JOHN WARD.
LEE.		WELCH, OBELL C.
P DALE.		WISE, JUNE WILSON.
H.		WHIPP, PAUL RHODES.
S.		WILT, JESSE JAMES.
DN L.	UNGER, BENTON W. J.	WHITE, ROY TAYLOR.
ROBT.	UMBEL, ROBERT EARL.	WOLFE, FRANKLIN K.
A.	UPHOLD, HARRY C.	WAPNEY, HOWARD M.
	UPHOLD, HENRY CLAY.	WILBUR, REED S.
		WELCH, CHAS WILLIAM.

The Oakland, Md., W.W. II Honor Roll was a billboard size monument which displayed the names of all of the service members from Garrett County. Pictured is the section listing the five Treacys who served.



## TANZANIA

Brian Leo Treacy, wife Patricia O'C and daughter Caitlin Victoria (born May 5, 1990) together with dog Dixie will return to the U.S. in early summer this year. Brian will sever his service with the U.N. as an attorney (dealing with refugee problems) and will seek a legal position where Patricia will be posted as a USAID epidemiologist. Possible locations: Washington, D.C., Central or South America.

## WEST VIRGINIA

Treacy Heather Bentley is in her sophomore year at Marshall University in Huntington. She continues a serious student of ballet and was prima three years ago. Ryan is on the swim team which won first place in his age group in the 1990 State of West Virginia competition. Joel is learning to write letters on a Muppet Computer keyboard. Their mother, Laura Ellen Treacy Bentley, is teaching gifted students English at Mill Community College. Laurie is an accomplished poet and recently sold a poem to Quilt World magazine.

## VIRGINIA

Karen Treacy, Robert's wife delivered daughter Jennifer Michele on April 27, 1990. At last report her eyes were blue but that report is now dated. Robert was awarded his Associates Degree in math, magna cum laude, a year ago and is continuing his studies in physics, specifically thermodynamics. Karen at last report was pursuing study in creative writing. Both Robert and Karen haunt caves and Karen is a member of a mountain search and rescue group. Chris, son of Jacqueline Treacy Owens finished his freshman year at the University of Virginia this last month. Dennis and Donna Treacy of Hanover expect their second to arrive in August, 1991.

Everyone with a family member in W.W.II service hung a "service flag" in the front window. The Treacy family is pictured in the window which service flag displayed in 1945.

Anders Holmer (Lindeland) gave birth to her and husband's first son whom they named James Patrick in honor of his grandfather. His older sister is Tracy Ellen. James Patrick was born 1950.

Andrew Brown Treacy (Libby) and his wife and son (Libby) last year moved into their new home at 3810 Arnold Palmer Court, 2nd floor, 714. 71572. Libby, an engineer, had designed the home and participated in its construction.

Neither Patrick Treacy nor Mary Treacy submitted any news from Tallahassee.

HARRYLAND

Suzanne Treacy Woodside and her husband (Kish) both work for Woodside & Co., a buyer and salesman respectively. They make their home in Takoma Park outside of D.C.

Maurice F. Treacy was recently awarded an elementary (1st grade) license from Pasco County, a division of the prestigious Pasco Institute of Music in Baltimore. He has now mastered his way through the Pasco Intermediate program. (Treacy's "Pasco Institute" is a "Pasco"



## LEO J. RASCHE

(Although he is not an ancestor, some of his namesakes and other blood kin have suggested that I record some of the accomplishments and antics of this colorful relative.)

Leo Joseph Rasche was no doubt named for Pope Leo XIII, the popular and socially conscious -particularly as to rights of labor- pontiff who reigned at the time of Leo's birth on August 8, 1882. He was the second child of Henry A. and Katherine Rowan Rasche, after Harry. Like Harry, Leo was a mischievous child. My mother, his sister Estelle, recounted to me how these two had, while living in Kennedy, Minnesota, learned that if they and several of their pals all walked in step up the horse powered incline which operated the community grain elevator, they could raise the internal elevator to the top of the storage structure and, on signal, all jump off, leaving the uncounterbalanced elevator to crash to the building's floor. Their father made his own wine and kept the finished product in crates of bottles under lock and key in a storage room in their home. Harry and Leo met this challenge with the aid of a chair which provided enough height for them to be able to crawl through the transom atop the locked door and to drop down into the room. After sampling the wares, they found that the only way out was to stack crates of wine bottles against the door in sufficient height to exit through the transom. Unfortunately, when their father next unlocked and opened the door (it opened inward) the stacked crates toppled and many bottles broke, resulting in a thrashing for the culprits. Back in Oakland the duo loved to taunt the local blacksmith, Mr. Yellowly, whose shop was in the same Water Street block as the Rasche home. On one occasion they tied a rope to a stake in the field behind the blacksmith shop. One boy held the other end loosely so that it lay on the ground obscured by the tall grass. The other shouted taunts and insults at Mr. Yellowly until, exasperated, he left his work and chased the blackguard across the field. At this point the accomplice pulled the rope taut, sending the smith into the air and onto the ground with a crashing thud. As early teenagers the same two would walk the Baltimore & Ohio tracks to the "88 Bridge" which spans the Youghiogheny River just west of Oakland. The track curved sharply around a wooded hill as it approached the bridge so that the engineer was unable to see any obstructions on the bridge until the train was nearly on it. Knowing this, the brothers would await a train on the bridge until they knew they were seen by the engineer, who by then was sounding frantic warnings on the steamwhistle. Then they feigned panic with gestures and shouts until the engine was on the bridge itself and the engineer could no longer see straight ahead around the boiler. At this point they would lower themselves between the crossties, hang with their hands and gently drop into the river while the train screeched to a stop overhead. They would wade or swim ashore, hide in the woods unseen, from where they could observe the train crew's panic, frustration and, finally, fury.



LEO J. RASCHE

Kate Rowan Rasche had been well educated in Canada before moving with her parents to the United States. And, Henry had provided well for the educations of the children of his marriage to Ellen Cullen. With his support and encouragement, Kate traveled extensively on the B & O Railroad, visiting and evaluating schools to further the educations of the three older children, Harry, Leo and Estelle. Elementary education was then very limited in Oakland and there were no secondary schools at all in Garrett County. She decided upon Notre Dame, in Indiana, which then provided secondary courses for boys on the college grounds and for girls at adjacent St. Mary's on the Hill. There the three boarded in dormitories for several years until, after Henry's death, Kate could no longer afford the fees and expenses and they were withdrawn. Leo's final bill, and likely those of the other two, was left in default.

In order to keep the family intact, the older boys, Harry and Leo, went to work with the local newspapers and their mother organized the Rasche Family Orchestra, designating Leo as its manager. All six of the Rasche children were accomplished musicians as was Kate who for many years taught music. Leo played the violin and the others the cornet, piano, viola, bass, switching sometimes to trombone and other instruments as occasions required. Principally they played at the many resort hotels then booming in Western Maryland and nearby West Virginia.

Leo moved on to Grafton, W. Va., where he moved up the newspaper ladder to become in his late twenties, editor of The Grafton Sentinel, that city's daily. Additionally, he taught music and was known locally as "Professor" Rasche. In 1915 he tired of the daily pressures of putting out the paper, purchased an array of "snake oil" and other medicinal cures and set out as a drummer to sell his wares down the South Atlantic coast. While he was drumming in South Carolina, Pancho Villa conducted his raid into Texas and Leo enlisted as a bandsman in the Second South Carolina Infantry Division. Following training as an infantryman and bandsman, both in South Carolina and Texas, he and his unit participated in the failed mission into Mexico to capture Pancho Villa. Before his enlistment was up Leo rose to the rank of sergeant. Upon America's entry into World War I, he was promoted to second lieutenant and assigned military police duties in a New York unit. This unit fought in France and participated in driving the Germans out of Belgium. For the latter he was entitled to wear the fourragère awarded members of his unit by the king of that country. Wounded by enemy shrapnel, he also wore a "wound stripe" on the sleeve of his tunic, the Purple Heart medal not being awarded for wounds at the time. Leo volunteered to stay on in Germany with the occupational forces after the armistice. At some point during his service in Europe Leo and some of his fellow officers, after singing The Road to Mandalay wondered why "...the dawn comes up like thunder out of China 'cross the bay." They wrote to the poem's author, Rudyard Kipling and received a response: The hundreds and hundreds of waterfowl at that southern Burma location would simultaneously take wing from the water just at dawn and the beat of their wings created a thunder-like sound.



On his return to the U. S. via a troop transport, he renewed acquaintance with an old sergeant friend. They agreed, as a joke on the army, to doctor their respective military record files, which each carried with him, so that upon their arrival the sergeant would be discharged a first lieutenant and Leo a sergeant. It worked perfectly and both veterans chuckled right up until 1936 when the federal and many state governments enacted bonus legislation for World War I service. Under those laws Leo was entitled to receive many hundreds of dollars more than was his friend. Both agreed and both confessed to their discharge prank and the army corrected the altered records in good spirit. Leo received his proper bonus and the story was carried nationally on the newswire services.

Leo became employed with the New York World, one of that city's leading dailies. He remained with it when it merged with the New York Telegram and later with the New York Sun, to become the New York World Telegram & Sun, the city's principal daily. Meanwhile he rose to chief headline writer and later to feature editor. During these successful years he met, and later married Harriet Gephart, the foremost (and perhaps only) female newsreporter in France in World War I. She had the distinction of interviewing and reporting on General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing, Allied Expeditionary Forces Commander.

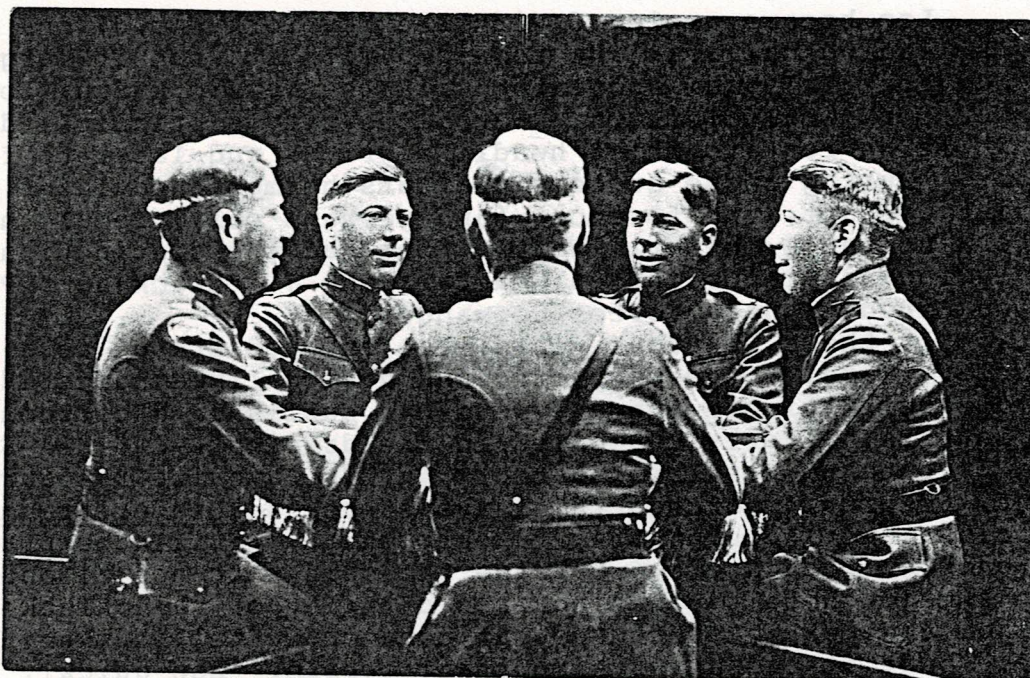
In these New York years, Leo enjoyed status as a city notable. Yardly, the respected and nationally syndicated cartoonist of the Baltimore Sun drew and had published a cartoon around the letters cleverly concealed in the drawing L-E-O R-A-S-C-H-E as a tribute to his friend, Leo. In his favorite restaurant haunt, the string orchestra always struck up Lieberstraum, Leo's favorite tune whenever they saw him enter. Still the prankster, Leo once noticed a crowd outside the main entrance to one of the city's major hotels. He inquired of a few of the onlookers as to whom they expected to see but none could tell him anything except that it was a very important person. Leo quickly and quietly slipped into one of the hotel's side entrances and emerged out of the main entrance, hat held high and beaming to the crowd. They responded with a spatter of applause and disbursed.

Leo had a good vocabulary and a ready wit. Instead of simply characterizing something as unusual or odd, he would choose to say "That is singular." Sometimes, by way of apology for being remiss in some obligation he would offer: "I meant to do that but I came down with an unexpected drunk."

After retiring from the newspaper business in the 1950s he visited the West, stopping first at Notre Dame where he visited with its president, Fr. Theodore Hesberg (then a White House advisor) and made a substantial financial contribution to make up for his mother's, and his, inability to pay the Rasche family's bill from the 1890s. He proceeded on to Utah and California where he visited his surviving half brothers and sisters from his father's first marriage, to Ellen Cullen, and his first cousin, Dr. P. J. Rowan's daughter. Having renewed association with his old school on this trip he became an active member of the alumni association and was awarded the University gold medal given to fifty year members of the Association. Leo died May 24, 1960 and is buried alongside Harriet in the Oakland Cemetery.



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Leo captioned this spoof photograph which he had made in Paris in 1918: "A strategy meeting of high level allied warlords."

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After retiring from the newspaper business in the 1950s he visited the West, stopping first at Moore Park where he visited with his president, Mr. Theodore Nabors (then a White House advisor) and made a substantial financial contribution to make up for his mother's, and his, inability to pay the Rasche family's bill from the 1890s. He proceeded on to Utah and California where he visited his surviving half brothers and sisters from his father's first marriage to Ellen Cullen, and his first cousin, Dr. P. J. Rowan's daughter. Having renewed association with his old school on this trip he became an active member of the alumni association and was awarded the University gold medal given to fifty year members of the Association. Leo died May 24, 1980 and is buried alongside Harriet in the Oakland Cemetery.