

Mr. Aldrich Could Be Sir Winthrop in Britain

WHEN wealthy Winthrop W. Aldrich presents his credentials as the new American ambassador to Queen Elizabeth's Court of St. James's, the attractive young Queen could, quite properly from the British viewpoint, greet him as Sir Winthrop. She won't, however, because to do so might create what the diplomats call an incident.

As an American citizen, Ambassador Aldrich is not permitted to use that prefix of respect even though he has been a Knight Grand Cross of the British Empire for four years and is entitled to wear a handsome six-pointed star bearing the inscription, "For God and the Empire."

The order, which is limited to 70 men, was conferred upon Aldrich by British Socialist Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks, in the embassy in Washington in 1948 for his work in obtaining Yankee money to shore up Britain's sagging economy. And, in addition to the knighthood, Aldrich holds the first King's medal authorized by the late King George VI for service to the empire.

Thus the 67-year-old financier, former chairman of the board of the Chase National Bank of New York and a warm friend of President Eisenhower, will occupy the highest position in Britain of any American ambassador since the Revolution. By contrast, his predecessor, Walter S. Gifford, managed only an honorary fellowship in the Middle Temple, a sort of lawyers'

guild, during his two-year tenure in London.

Mrs. Aldrich was made a Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire at the same time her husband was knighted.

Honorarily speaking, Ambassador Aldrich is starting on the top rung of the ladder. Most ambassadors toil for years in the international goodwill industry and garner nothing more impressive than a few honorary degrees from various universities. (This is an old American custom, too.) One of our recent ambassadors to Britain, Lewis Douglas, was the degree champ. He collected eight of them and a ninth is waiting for him at the University of Sheffield. They won't mail it to him.

It's a fine thing that the British hold our new ambassador in such esteem, but the disturbing thought must occur to Aldrich that the honor could have grave political consequences. Suppose he's tea-ing one day with some of his fellow knights and one of them inadvertently



Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Aldrich.

ently calls him Sir Winthrop with in earshot of an unreconstructed Democrat. Just think what the Democrats could do with "Sir Winthrop" out in the grassroots in 1956!

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SUNDAY NEWS, FEBRUARY 15, 1953

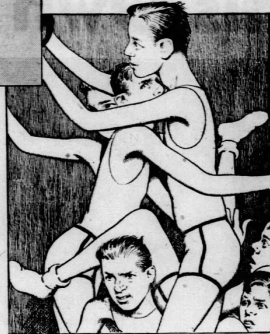
AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

By W. E. Hill

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High school dramatic society rehearsing like mad. Under the direction of Miss Noonan, the English instructor (extreme right), they are going to do "As You Like It," in modern dress. There was some talk of "Arsenic and Old Lace," but nobody wanted to dress up as an old lady.



Basketball practice in the gym, showing one of those tense moments when the going is rough.



Why school bus drivers age prematurely. Fights and mass roughhouses are in progress. The air is filled with shrieks and catcalls.



Boy kept after school by hard-hearted teacher, on account of eating in class, making rude noises, and answering back.



Four high school seniors holding a business get-together after hours. It's about the year book, and the editor, the business manager and two co-managers are discussing finances, class history, class will, etc.

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Law Blots Out Tear-Gas Pen

Omaha.—A woman who wrote a letter to a newspaper here said she had found a way to protect herself when she had to be alone in the streets at night. She had a tear-gas gun in the shape of a fountain pen.

So many other women wrote and called to find out where they could get such guns that Detective Inspector Harry Green felt impelled to issue a warning. Such guns, he said, are dangerous weapons and come under the law against concealed weapons.

There is a powder primer in the gas cartridge, it goes off easily, especially in nervous hands, and the wax plug could cause serious injury. Having them around the house, he added, was especially dangerous to children.

Millionaires Few And Far Between

London.—Austerity-conscious Britain is down to her last 60 millionaires (pound standard). In 1929, when England went to war against Germany, she had 1,024 millionaires. Taxes have done it. To produce \$12,000 a year after taxes, a man must have one million pounds invested. Only 60 had reported this much net income for 1951.

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