



—Star-Telegram Staff Photo by Key Herbert.

INSPECTING GIFTS FROM FRANCE—Gifts from France to Texas are attracting considerable attention at Austin, where the "Thank You" shipment is being cataloged. Left to right, William McCraw, Dallas, department commander of the American Legion in Texas; Governor Jester; Rev. Charles Sumners, president of the Austin Lions Club, and J. Lee Johnson III, Fort Worth, representing the Amon G. Carter Foundation, view a French flag in a plastic container. Objects at their feet as they stand in the doorway of the French box car are a vase and a bust which are typical of the "gratitude" cargo.

Committee at Work

'Merci' Cargo Cataloging Interesting but Tedious

BY C. L. RICHHART,
Star-Telegram Staff Writer.

AUSTIN, Feb. 19—A state committee delegated by Governor Jester to handle the cataloging, exhibition and final disposition of more than 300 gifts sent by French people to Texans in gratitude for 1947 contributions to the Friendship Train Saturday had plunged into its fascinating but rather tedious job.

A committee of Grand Voiture of Texas 40 and 8 members named to direct this work will meet here Sunday at state department headquarters of the American Legion, together with an advisory group which has been asked to help. The committee, headed by Walter C. Wolf of San Antonio, immediate past grand chef de gare of the 40 and 8, will hear a report from staff representatives of the Legion headquarters and volunteers enlisted to help with unloading the French box car, which brought the gifts here.

Interest Increases.

The staff workers and others recruited from the University of Texas and elsewhere have found cataloging of the "gratitude car" cargo increasingly interesting. The professors and students of French from the romance language department of the university have been delighted with their assignment to translate the inscriptions in French attached to the gifts.

Among the gifts already cataloged is a long, white, bridal gown, complete with a delicately-fashioned head-dress and veil, which the French donor asked to be presented to the governor's wife. The first lady of Texas in turn is to select a Texas bride to be married in the wedding gown. The committee will make the presentation to Mrs. Jester later.

Also cataloged were two gifts sent from Soissons to the mayor of Paducah in appreciation of services he had rendered the French people during the recent war. The gifts are a painting and a bust. The bust is of St. John the Baptist and is a duplicate of one displayed in Soissons. Another special request of a donor is that a painting by Louis Chanas be given to an American family with the understanding that the

family will write to the Frenchman.

Job Half Done.

About half of the boxes and crates have been unpacked; so the workers still have a big job ahead of them next week.

Committeemen who will meet with Wolf Sunday include Remy Ancelin, Dallas, grand chef de gare of the 40 and 8; Charles A. Bennett, Weslaco; Fred Army, Dallas; Lou Roberts, Amarillo, and Ernest S. Goems, Austin. The advisory group invited to meet with them includes W. Luther Thompson, vice president of the Austin Chamber of Commerce; Rev. John A. Barclay, Austin, representing Lions Clubs which sponsored the Friendship Train in Texas; J. Lee Johnson III, Fort Worth, representing the Amon G. Carter Foundation, which contributed 15 carloads of food to the Friendship Train, and Weldon Hart of the governor's staff.

Dr. W. R. Brooks of Smith Observatory, Geneva, N. Y., was the discoverer of 27 comets.

Denton to Open Bids On School Building

DENTON, Feb. 19 (Spl).—The Denton Board of Education will open bids Tuesday for the construction of a new East Ward elementary school. Supt. Chester O. Strickland estimated the building will cost from \$75,000 to \$90,000.

Plans call for a one-story fire-proof structure, 176 feet long and 36 feet wide. It will have six classrooms and a combination auditorium and cafeteria.

When the new building is completed, Denton will have four elementary schools. In addition about 400 pupils attend these grades in the demonstration schools of North Texas State Teachers College and Texas State College for Women.

Graham Chamber to Meet

GRAHAM, Feb. 19 (Spl).—Annual meeting of the Graham Chamber of Commerce will be held here Thursday night. Dr. W. M. Ostberg of Coffeyville, Kan., will be the guest speaker.

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