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For Some, Museums Come First

By Ymelda Dixon
Star-News Staff Writer

Even before Watergate, Everett Dirksen yesterday, Mrs. Eugene Rietzke had let Mrs. Everett Dirksen, wife of the late senator and mother-in-law of Sen. Howard Baker, pick-the-day for the luncheon held at Rietzke estate Beaufort Park, in McLean and invited a number of Senate wives, among them Mrs. Sam Ervin, wife of the star of the hearings, and Mrs. John McClellan, wife of the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

GWYN HAS been re-elected for five years to the unique job. Knights of Malta, as they are commonly called, have 8,000 members throughout the world. Membership usually comes after recommendations from bishops. In Carey’s case, it was Cardinal Spellman when Carey managed the St. Regis Hotel in New York City.

The Knights, who at one time consisted mainly of royalty and nobles, maintain full diplomatic relations with 38 countries and have ambassadors in every Latin American country except Mexico.

Gwyn, a very with-it gentelman, is also very serious. “In this day and age we are fulfilling our original purpose of taking care of the sick and the poor.” He says the word “military” is used “because we were fighting monks although primarily hospitals and religions as propounded by our founder, Blessed Gerard in 1099.” When the first crusade began we were already in Jerusalem with a 2000 bed hospital ready for the sick and injured pilgrims.

THE KNIGHTS have one acre of ground left in Jerusalem. “A toehold” says Gwyn, adding, we are going to build something there.”

He explains how an order that once had great temporal and spiritual power manages a worldwide organization without wealth. “I don’t really know how we do; I call it the daily miracle. Everytime there is an emergency, a crisis, members, friends and countries come to our rescue.”

The Gwyn family returns to Canada every summer for a breather. “The rest of the time I pretty well sit tight in Rome.” He will go back there after side trips to Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil.

At a luncheon for Mrs. Everett Dirksen yesterday, Mamie Eisenhower said she had listened to the Watergate hearings on her car radio as she drove in from her Gettysburg home. President Eisenhower’s widow watches the hearings whenever she can, she said.

“That policeman really sounded like a typical Bronx or Brooklyn cop,” was her only comment.

Waryock is leaving here to become his country’s ambassador to Switzerland where he has been stationed twice before. After this tour of duty comes retirement and he was given his choice of assignments. It was unqualifiedly Switzerland. He will live in Bern, although his diplomatic territory includes Austria.

“I have been very happy in the U.S.,” said the witty Irishman in toasting his host, “We consider this our great colonial achievement as we do Canada; we gave up on Scotland 2,000 years ago.”