

**ONLY HUMAN**By **Sidney Fields****Foundations Found Here**

Werk's Charity, one of the earliest foundations on record, was established over 500 years ago for the sole purpose of "supplying faggots to burn heretics at the stake."

This always tickles F. Emerson Andrews, an expert foundation watcher. He's president of the Foundation Library Center, where anyone seeking a grant can find all the information needed about the 15,000 American foundations.

They have \$15 billion in assets and hand out about \$780 million a year. They range from the \$4 billion Ford Foundation to a family group with 26 cents in assets. The Library has to add about 1,200 new ones yearly who get tax-exempt status.

Only 168 publish annual reports. Since 1950, the Internal Revenue Service ruled that all of



F. Emerson Andrews—Foundation watcher

them have to file an "information return," listing their dough and how it's spent. The Library has a copy of all such returns.

"The public has a right to know all about foundations," Andrews says, "whether all the facts are favorable or not."

**Foundation Foibles**

He often puzzles about the foibles of some funds: One is dedicated only to planting Redbuds from Texas to the Canadian border. There are two others in Wisconsin and Illinois devoted to the preservation of "that magnificent bird, the prairie chicken." Another in Kansas is called "The Horses Christmas Dinner Trust Fund."

"They ran into trouble," Andrews says. "It seems there weren't enough worthy horses left in Kansas."

Andrews, a scholarly, energetic man from Lancaster, Pa., where his father ran a grocery store, has authored 17 books covering math, fiction and philanthropy.

For 29 years he worked for the Russell Sage Foundation, left it in 1956 to open the Library when the Carnegie people gave him a grant to centralize all information about our mushrooming foundations. The Library now has a Washington branch.

**Variety of Callers**

The New York center gets about 20 visitors a day and a sackful of mail. Callers and writers include earnest college presidents, researchers, lawyers, poets, playwrights, foundation executives and trustees, all with noble and productive aims.

They also include the man who argued that it would improve living conditions greatly if he got a grant to pay his back income taxes. Another applied for \$10,000 for a badly-needed divorce.

says. "One scientist contended that if we slept in a salt solution in an aqua bed, we'd have the ideal sleep that fish enjoy and wouldn't need more than two or three hours a night."

Andrews didn't bat an eyelash when a man contended that the growing polar ice cap would soon tilt the earth and threaten all life, and the only answer was to give him a few million for atomic power to blast the ice cap.

**Early Rocketeer**

"Maybe in 10 years someone might be interested in that blast job," Andrews says. "In 1920, Robert Goddard was called 'Moon-Mad Goddard' because of his experiments with rockets to reach extreme altitudes. The government would not give him a grant. The Smithsonian Institution did. Even so no one in the government was interested until our intelligence discovered the Germans were using his patents for their V-2 rockets."

He is always touched remembering a James Dean who always delivered the Sunday papers to the men on the Boston Lightship and set up a foundation to continue the practice after his death.

But he is puzzled by the Bird Song Foundation, which uses its funds to record the performances of 26 articulate frogs and toads.

And he works up a fever about the Electronic Medical Foundation in San Francisco, which claimed a drop of blood on its "radioscope" could diagnose any human ill. When the authorities sent them a man's blood sample they replied he had arthritis of the right foot. The man had had his right foot amputated.

"They were put out of business," Andrews says, "when the diagnosis from another sample said it was tooth decay and a sinus infection. That blood sample was from a rooster."