

# Henry Miller Book In The Works

By DAN PAVILLARD  
Citizen Staff Writer

The envelope comes. Big. Book announcement unfolds from its mouth, even larger. Henry Miller, coat and bicycle boom at a tilt from a photograph in the upper right hand corner.

From its "desert workshop-printery," the Loujon Press is announcing advance subscriptions to a previously unpublished work by Henry Miller, "Order and Chaos Chez Hans Reichel." Introduction by Lawrence Durrell.

The book is "a long intimate book letter" to the painter Reichel (died 1938). It is also the love of Louise and Jon Webb, who have soaked their lives into its pages, one page at a time for more than a year.

Miller gave the Webbs his manuscript because he knew they must have a money-maker for their handoff, oldtime letter press or stop publishing. He had known them in New Orleans where he contributed to each of the three issues of "The Outsider," a poetry and writing "book magazine" the Webbs intended as a quarterly.

The first number came out in 1961. The next the following year. Another year, No. 3, dedicated to Charles Bukowski, poet, postman, drinker, satanic-angelic friend.

"No quarterly can make money without advertisements. Even the big ones rely on book publication for their profit," Webb says in the former grocery store at 1009 E. Elm St. that is printery and home to him and Gypsy Lou, as his wife is known in publishing circles.

"We've printed 1,524 copies of Miller's book in three editions," he says. "But the margin intended as profit is being eaten up by heavy demand for pre-publication subscriptions (25 percent cheaper than publication price), and rising costs. Some paper goes up \$2 per hundredweight each month," and we can't buy it all at once."

Unbound copies lie stacked in a corner. Pages lie in collating trays, as Gypsy Lou moves quickly and quietly picking them out one by one. She stops, drags a curtain down a rod to prevent the sun from fading colored stock.

In another corner the 60-year-old press, held together by coat hangers and rope, stands on a rickety base built by the (uninsured) freight handlers who dropped and broke its 1,100 pounds of clanking parts on delivery here in November of 1965.

"It's suicidal in a way," Jon muses, looking at a jacket proof. "We could get by for half the cost. Six runs on that lousy little jacket (He is pleased with its handsomeness, he says later). Budgeted \$60 for it; it's already passed \$500."

"If we get the Heidelberg press we want out of this book, we can do three books a year," he says wistfully. Sinking into an overstuffed chair, Louise sings out, "All I want is just a squash blossom necklace!" She smiles, tired but happy.

Pinned to the wall around their work space are orders for the Miller book, two from Beatles John Lennon and Paul McCartney — for the leather-bound, autographed editions; hundreds from university libraries here and in Europe; a Barcelona telegram asking for European rights. Not an order from an Arizona bookstore, but orders from every college in the state, a fact that puzzles the Webbs.

Each day resembles the former since the Webbs, as book editors, turned their backs on New York and \$25,000 per year to spend 16 hours a day, seven days a week doing what they want to do. Now there is no more jewelry to pawn, no angels, no loans offered ("except by a few 'friends' back East who want 8 percent interest and 50 percent of the profit.")

The Miller book won't be out when the announcement says it will. The pay-as-you-go operation creeps at a pace dictated by economic necessity. But it is nearly finished. Miller should have his copy this week.

In the Webbs' new book, there are glossy photos, colored pages, leather ones, French ones (translated by Miller), reproductions of penned pages and drawings. "It is not," Jon points out, "one of Miller's so-called 'dirty books'."

Miller wrote the Webbs recently about the book: "It's a product of the times, and of my strange life with strange but fascinating friends... a bit crazy, quite personal, and a testimonial all in one."

Proceeds from the book must pay the last bills it incurred, buy a \$3,000 press, cover the cost of making a talking record of Bukowski's poetry, and publish the long awaited fourth number of "The Outsider." It is dedicated to the poet, Kenneth Patchen, who lies dying in Los Angeles. (His wan countenance gazes equivocally from a hospital photo above a Webb work table).

On a widely acclaimed book of Bukowski's poetry which the Webbs printed a few years ago, "Crucifix in a Deathhand," the

couple figure they cleared 4 what their hourly wage will be, care, as long as it's enough to menting the best of the various cents an hour. They don't know on the Miller book, and don't permit them to "keep docu- schools of poetry."



Louise, Jon Webb Read Bindery Pages



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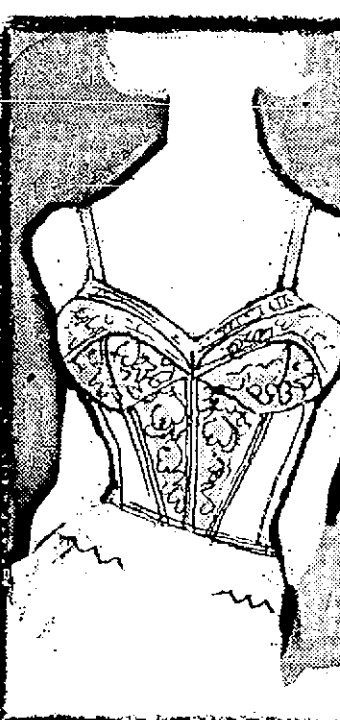
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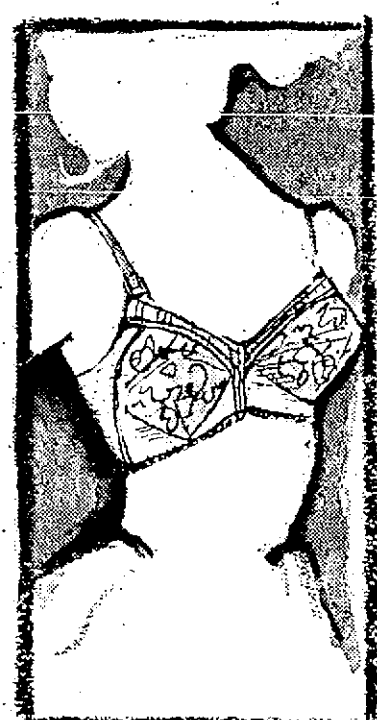
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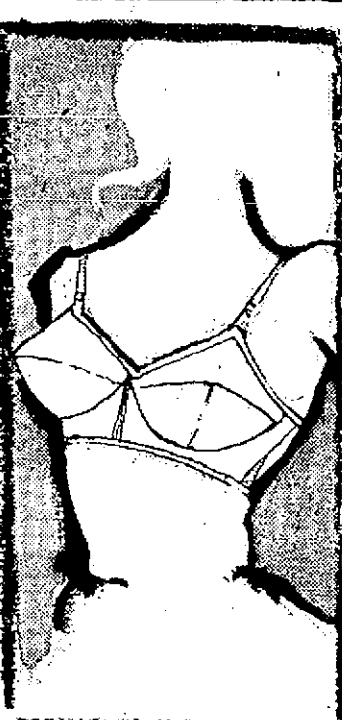
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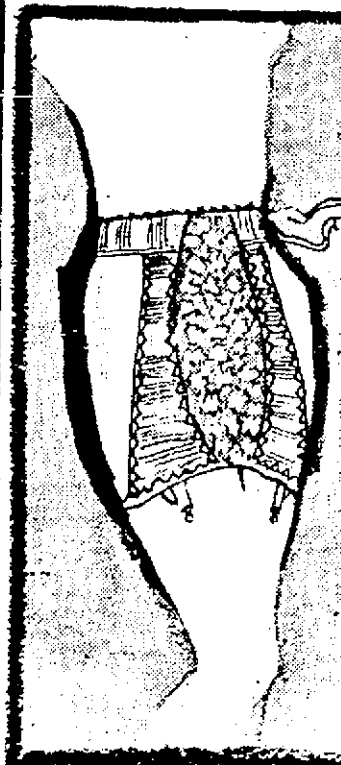
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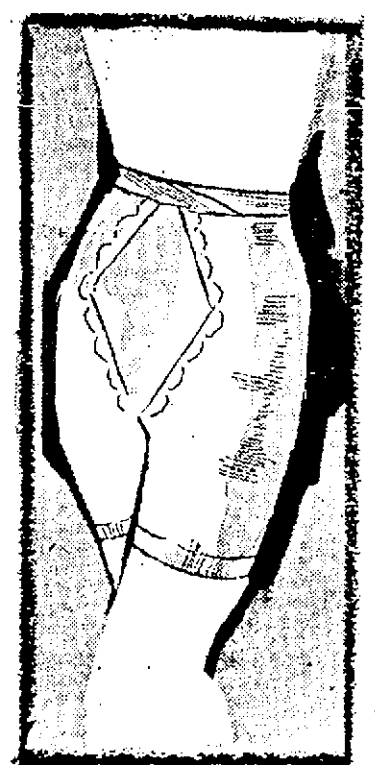


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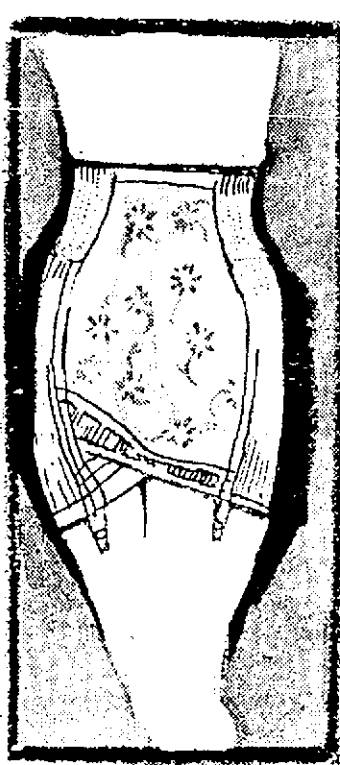


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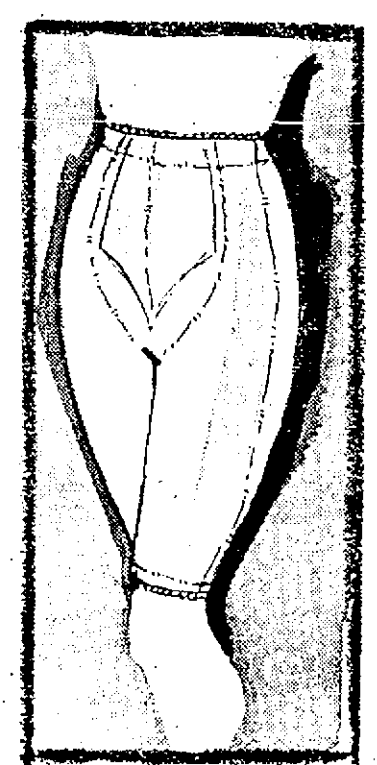
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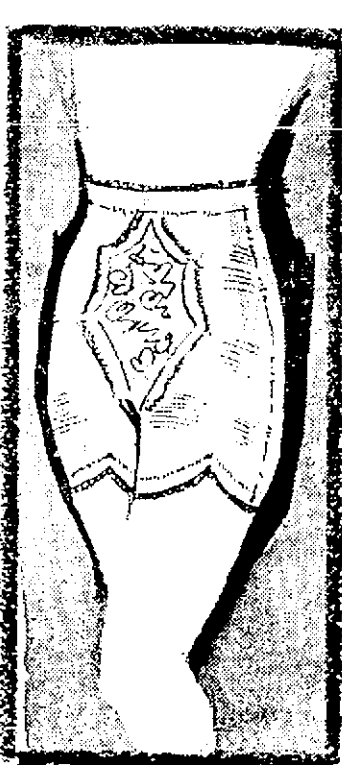
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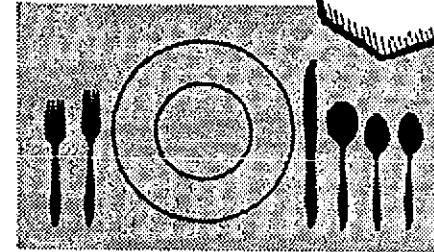
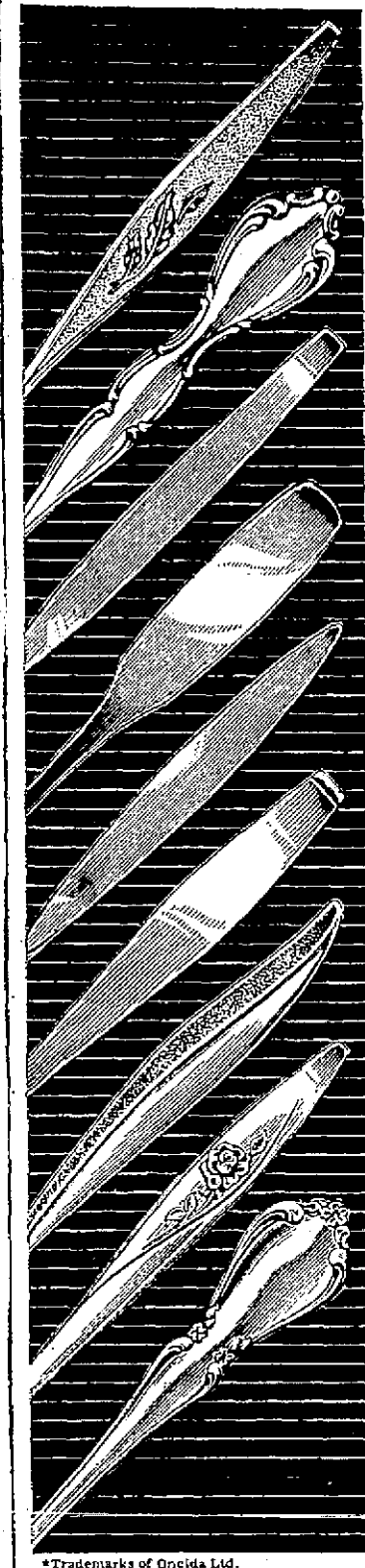


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