

'Prexy' At Play

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Horseback riding, tennis, flying, golf—all in a day's relaxation for Prexy—Dr. Eric A. Walker.

Prexy believes in keeping himself physically fit and Saturday he proved it to a Collegian photographer and me. Our assignment called for spending a day with Prexy at "play."

The only trouble was we were still sleeping when Prexy began his relaxation—riding quarter-horses through the University farms at 8 in the morning. We thought we might be intruding to phone him at 9 and therefore waited till 9:30, so as not to wake him. But when we called we found him long gone from the Presidential mansion.

He was back at 10:30 and immediately set upon working on his huge stamp collection which he started in 1930. He collects mostly American stamps—first day covers, plate blocks and sheets of unused commemorative issues. "I don't get too much time to keep up with all the issues, but once in a while things begin to pile

up and then I get to work sorting, filing and entering them into the looseleaf books."

After a short lunch, Prexy tried his hand at the electric organ, another one of his many diversified hobbies. Then it was time to watch the baseball game on TV and help his 12-year-old son Bryan build a model tank.

We joined Prexy at 3 p.m. and found him relaxing in his spacious yard. He quickly showed us through his well-kept and very "home-like" house. Then it was out to the small fish pond where Bryan and he feed the goldfish and played with the family Siamese cat "Minnie." Bryan, a third-base Little Leaguer, told us of his favorite pastime—making and then burning plastic models on the front lawn to great dislike of his father. "One day the campus cops will catch him," Prexy quipped.

A second floor den is the setting for much of Prexy's "homework" and countless shingles and citations hang from the wall, but most noticeable are two rifles and a cavalry sword. After viewing the stamp collection, we ventured downstairs to meet Jo, Prexy's wife, who was occupied baking a pie for the family dinner.

"Well, I guess it's time to meet Dean Perez," Prexy said.

as he ran up the stairs to dress for his tennis match with Perez. Ridge Riley and McKay Donkin on the University courts near the skating rink. Within seconds after arriving, Prexy was on the court and warming up for the ensuing match. Perez was late in arriving so Prexy took on Donkin in a singles match to get warmed-up.

"Call me at 6," Prexy shouted from the courts in reference to a flying engagement we had arranged with him. He received his pilot's license July 17 and was taking Dean Perez for a ride. The winds were turbulent so it wasn't good weather to take a beginner up in the Cessna 150 but Prexy brought along his daughter Gail, a cute 16-year-old State College High School senior, for a ride. "I get sick, but I like flying," Gail said.

After a half hour flight around the countryside and over the campus, Prexy landed and returned home. He wasn't finished yet as his wife and he decided to play a few holes of golf.

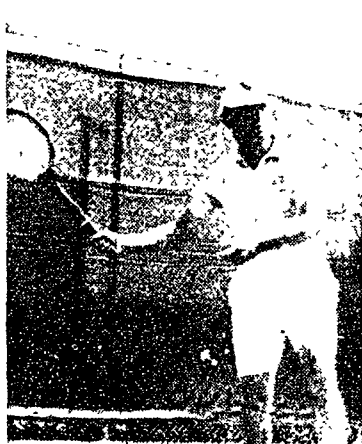
All this after a strenuous week in the office which included a Board of Trustees' meeting, a trip to Newport and numerous office appointments. This sounds like work to me, but not for the University's 49-year-old president.



PREXY AND HIS SON throw food to hundreds of hungry goldfish in the pond in front of the President's home.



MRS. WALKER AND HUBBY give approval to one of Bryan's many models. Bryan works in the library of the Walkers' campus home.



PRESIDENTIAL FORM on the tennis court is caught by Collegian's camera as Prexy returns a serve from Ridge Riley, executive secretary of the Alumni Association



FLYING IS THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER'S favorite hobby. Prexy is shown here entering a Cessna with his cute 16-year-old daughter, Gail. He often takes his children up for a "spin."



PREXY RELAXES after a long day of horseback riding, tennis, flying and golf. He leaves with his family for their summer home in Kitty Hawk, N.C., Saturday.