

T. A. HUTCHINS, SAGE OF YSLETA, DIES OF AUTOMOBILE INJURIES

No Last Prayer to Be Offered for Sage Who Lived and Died as a Free-Thinker

Thomas A. Hutchins Wrote, 'It Matters Not What
One Believes or Hopes For
After His Death'

By MARSHALL HAIL

Men who believe in reason, but not in religion, tomorrow will bury Thomas A. Hutchins, the Sage of Ysleta, as he asked to be buried—without benefit of clergy.

The snowy haired thinker belonged to the Freethinkers' Guild of the Southwestern Rationalist Assn.

In the will of each guild member is the paragraph:

"I direct that no preacher or any ecclesiastic of any cult or religion of any kind whatsoever shall be allowed to officiate at my funeral, but that the services of an agnostic or atheist be secured if available."

C. A. Hutchins, son of the dead man, said that his father's wishes will be carried out.

Attorney U. S. Goen, president of the Rationalist Association, will read a service that was prepared for such funerals by the Sage himself.

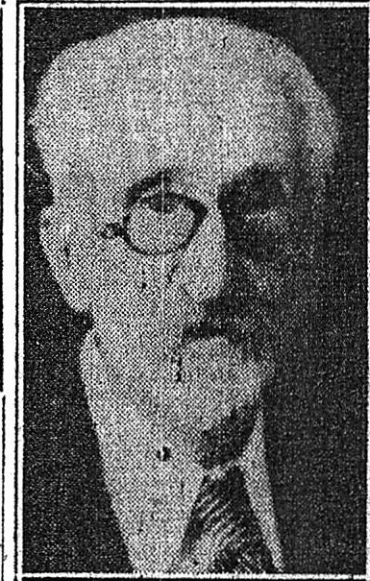
There will be no requiem mass, no prayers, no sermon. At the

service at Peak-Hagedorn Mortuary Mr. Goen will read the same words that Mr. Hutchins read at the first rationalist funeral in El Paso in 1932.

"It matters not what one believes or hopes for after death," wrote Mr. Hutchins.

"We come upon the stage of life enveloped in mystery, play our part as destiny decrees, and pass away in like mystery . . .

"Free-thought removes all fear, because it explodes all myths and destroys every terror attached to death. It knows nothing of a future or continued existence; and while



Thomas A. Hutchins

not a shield against grief, it is far more satisfactory and consoling than a theology which leaves in doubt the salvation of the dead from eternal

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Struck By Car While
Stepping Aside For
Another Machine

FIFTH HIGHWAY DEATH

Receives Compound Fracture
Of Right Leg in Accident
At Valley Town

T. A. Hutchins, known as "The Sage of Ysleta," and one of the Southwest's best-known rationalist thinkers and writers, died today. He received a compound fracture of his right leg when he was struck by an automobile in Ysleta last night.

Mr. Hutchins' death was the fifth on county highways since January 1.

According to county highway police, Mr. Hutchins was walking across the street in front of the Sena Service Station. He stepped back to avoid a westbound automobile and was struck by one driven by Harry Snelson, 15, Ysleta. Mr. Hutchins received a compound fracture of his right leg.

Profound Thinker

U. S. Goen, president of the Southwest Rationalist Assn., which Mr. Hutchins was honored president, said today that the funeral service that Mr. Hutchins wrote for the Freethinkers' Guild of the association will be read at his funeral.

Mr. Hutchins was a profound thinker, Mr. Goen said.

"I never knew a man who thought so straight and clearly as did Mr. Hutchins," said Mr. Goen.

"He was a widely read man and knew the history of every religion in the world. Most of them he had studied in Latin and Greek."

Read Latest Books

"Mr. Hutchins kept abreast of the latest development in psychology and philosophy by reading all the latest books and magazine articles."

Before advanced age overtook him, Mr. Hutchins was a traveler and trader. He dealt in stocks and investments. He made frequent trips to Europe and South America. At one time during his life, he was connected with newspaper work, Mr. Goen said.

NO LAST PRAYER FOR YSLETA SAGE

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torment."

These are the words that the 86-year-old philisopher wrote for the last rites of men, who doubt the word of God.

Brief Service at Grave

At the grave a briefer service will be read:

"We now consign the body of our friend to the grave . . . and while we do so with reverence and respect, with sorrow and regret, all fear is absent, for nowhere has nature inspired any."

The service will be held at 3:30 p. m. tomorrow with burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Members of the Rationalist Assn., which Mr. Hutchins founded, will be pallbearers. They are: W. L. Rider, Dr. R. H. Geer, J. H. Conway, David Lerner, A. J. W. Schmid, and J. Lemstra.

T. A. Hutchins was known for his clarity of thought, his serenity, and his friendliness.

When critics in the press and pulpit denounced him as "un-American" he merely smiled. He was a lineal descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, who came over on the Mayflower, and who were celebrated in the "Courtship of Miles Standish." He was a distant relative of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Founded Newspaper Once

Mr. Hutchins was born in Burlington, Vt., June 21, 1848, and educated in Boston.

He founded the East Boston Advocate and printed the first copies of the Saturday Evening Post under the management of Cyrus H. K. Curtis.

He was financial advisor to Cuban and South American financial institutions. He was a pioneer in the moving picture industry, introducing the projectors, immediately after they were invented, to France.

He moved to Fort Davis in 1904 and to Ysleta in 1917.

Survivors are three sons, C. A. Hutchins, Ysleta; Kenneth, Boston; Phillip, New York City, and a daughter, Mrs. A. L. Finney, Boston.

The Sage of Ysleta

T. A. HUTCHINS spent the latter years of his interesting life immersed in Rationalism. He was founder of the Southwestern Rationalist Assn. Many of his utterances in the newspapers, sharply critical of Christianity, stirred the devout to spirited argument.

While Mr. Hutchins rejected organized religion to the end, his own viewpoint was not so remote from Christianity as some religionists thought.

At the first funeral services conducted by the Rationalist Assn. Mr. Hutchins read a ritual written by himself, which today becomes his own requiem:

The Golden Rule, announced by pagans, centuries before Christianity was born, or claimed to be a new revelation to man by its founder, was the fundamental guide of his faith in his actions and dealings with his fellow men, and one thus guided "Does well; acts nobly; angels could ask no more."

The kindly Ysleta scholar also wrote in his burial service that "Every man has a right to his own views." Mr. Hutchins frequently said, as Voltaire said, in effect: "I may not agree with a word you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

In these days of suppression of minorities there is need for tolerance.

The El Paso Inter-Religious Good Will Committee, composed of prominent Catholics, Protestants, and Jews, is working to "make the country safe for religious freedom," including freedom for non-believers.

Mr. Hutchins always insisted that he had about the same objective:

An unemployed actor went on a hunger strike in Hollywood. Yet there was a time when actors didn't have to strike to go hungry.

EDITORIAL

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