

The Case Of The Missing 'Gov.'

The strange, one-way feud between McKeldin, Theodore Roosevelt, and "Who's Who in America" continues on its dizzy way. A new edition of the biennial "biographical dictionary of notable living men and women" is just out, superseding the 1952-53 edition, which listed no McKeldins at all and left Maryland without a Governor. The 1954-55 edition does list Mr. McKeldin, but still gives us no Governor.

It defines him instead as "lawyer; . . . exec. sec. to mayor, Balt., 1927-31, 1931-43 and since 1947."

It omits all mention of his four-year term as Mayor of Balt.; in fact, it fails to credit the present Republican candidate for Governor with any political preference or affiliation at **Eve. Sun**

Yet it lists his address as "Government House, Annapolis, Md."

Another feature of the 1954-55 edition is inclusion, for the first time, of Mahoney, George Perry. (Byrd, Harry Clifton, has been in for years now.) Should the voters send one or the other of these latter notables to Annapolis for the 1955-59 gubernatorial term, would "Who's Who In America" consider him worthy of the title "gov."? **MAY 7 1954**

William Preston Lane, Jr., in any event, is succinctly described as "ex-gov."

It is generally accepted that the choice of whom the book includes is up to the book (though various persons of obvious prominence are somehow able to keep their names out). The choice of facts in any one sketch, however, is largely up to the individual.

Accordingly, the issuance of a new "Who's Who In America" is customarily followed by a small game of seeing who is deemed to have so increased in stature since last time as to be worthy of admission. (Or, who was worthy of deletion—the book quietly drops many a living man or woman as no longer sufficiently notable.) Then, also, invidious comparisons of inchage are made to see how many and lengthy are the accomplishments on which the notables pride themselves.

The total of "listees" (on this rarefied plane, the word "biographee" also zooms by from time to time) in the 1954-55 edition is 48,650. The preceding edition came to 44,614. The only ready way to learn in full which of the novitiates are Marylanders is to obtain the geographical index to "Who's Who In America," published by the same firm, only not out yet and costing extra.

One honor, however, is no longer Maryland's. The name of Olaf Sverre Asmodt, a Beltsville agronomist, no longer leads all the rest. George Nelson Aagard, of Dallas, Texas, beats him out. Maryland has no one, either, to challenge Thomas John Watson, the business-machines manufacturer, for length. Glenn L. Martin's 97 lines appear to hold local honors—almost a column, against Watson's almost two.

Dwight D. Eisenhower's write-up runs 24 lines, a good average length. The sketch of Milton S. Eisenhower, one of his brothers, runs twice as long.

Still another contrast, in the big book with the red, red cover, is the listing headed "McCarthy, Joseph R., U.S. senator." The McCarthy career has been pared down from seventeen lines, as printed in 1952-53, to four.

That is no record for the course, however; in 1948-49, McKeldin, Theodore R., occupied two lines. At that time "Who's Who In America" listed him as "mayor of Baltimore since May 1943," although he had been a lawyer since May, 1947.

In 1954-55, the print in his entry counts out at thirteen lines. In the ensuing investigation, should the focus of questioning be directed at "Who's Who In America" or at Mr. McKeldin?

"The fault," declares a gubernatorial aide, "is not the Governor's. He fills out their blanks properly."

The Governor himself adds: "No hard feelings on my part. Editing that book is a huge task. But I'm glad my name is at least spelled right."

The inquiry is not expected to complete its hearings until 1956-57. **J.H.B.**