

VI - 73 D - 20. Untitled news clip - The Saratogian, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
December 26, 1944.

11-7-36 SATURDAY evening, another

*The Saratoga
Dec 21 1936*

Christmastide project came to a close at The Ridge Book and Gift Shop, when the sterling silver bowl, Marie Antoinette pattern, donated by Katherine Anne Porter, author of The Leaning Tower, from her wedding silver, was awarded to Carl E. Smith of the Skidmore faculty.

Miss Agnes Smedley, author of Battle Hymn of China, had given her time and services for the week before Christmas for this relief fund for Chinese cultural workers as her Christmas work. Having been for more than 12 years a Red Cross worker and service woman with the Chinese Red Army, Miss Smedley is keenly aware of the great need for relief for these war workers. In the last day of her activities, she made a personal trip along Broadway, making more than \$30 for the fund before the bowl was awarded at a special gathering in The Ridge Shop, of Miss Smedley, John A. Slade, Miss Evelyn M. Barrett, and workers and shoppers in the Ridge Shop at the time.

Kathleen Burdick, a member of Bemis Heights Society Children of the American Revolution, who was shopping in the store at the time with her mother, Mrs. Arthur D. Burdick, was invited to preside at the bowl.

Miss Porter, active in the relief project which netted \$125, is leaving Yaddo where she has been for some months, tomorrow for Hollywood, to begin her duties as consultant and technical adviser to one of the Hollywood studios. She will approve or reject plays on which she works. Negotiations have been going on for the past week and she finally has accepted a contract at \$1,500 a week for 13 weeks, after which her salary will be \$2,000 a week.

Among Miss Porter's other books are Flowering Judas, Pale Horse, Pale Rider, and the novel on which she has been working for a long time, will be ready for publication in the next six months.

With her first two and her last book, The Leaning Tower, Miss Porter has established herself as America's most eminent short story writer, critics being almost unanimous in their opinions on this.

MISS PORTER had been ordered by her doctor, Dr. Grace McGuire Swanner to leave this climate for the winter and had planned to spend the winter in Tucson, Arizona, having already made airplane reservations to leave New York on Jan. 3. The offer of a contract altered her plans in favor of Hollywood where the climate is also excellent.

Miss Porter is an exacting artist, a harsh critic of movie films, and almost never goes to see one. Before signing any contract with Hollywood, she has stipulated her name shall never be used on any film which she has not approved. She claims the right to reject any-

thing which she considers inappropriate.

Early last week, the film studio in Hollywood called her by transcontinental phone and discussed terms with her. They protested once.

"You're playing hard to catch," they said cynically.

"I'm not playing," she warned them, whereupon they changed their tone and talked "turkey."

"Turkey," meaning not only money but agreement to her terms, about the kind of films on which she will work and rejection of others. Miss Porter hopes to return to her farm home, South Hill, nine miles from Saratoga, in the spring.

Miss Smedley is continuing to work on the other holiday project for the Chinese Relief, the prize of which is a Child's Ensemble which will be awarded next Saturday, at Brunner's.