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Eisenhower and his wife Mamie at their Gettysburg, Pa., farm on his 75th birthday. Books on Ike by his son and grandson are now in preparation.

Bringing Eisenhower Back

by Lloyd Shearer

NEW YORK, N.Y.

Random House, the publishing company owned by RCA, is paying David Eisenhower a hefty advance of \$280,000 to write a book on his famous grandfather.

The book, tentatively entitled *Going Home to Glory: Dwight D. Eisenhower*, is projected as "an intimate character study of the General and the period in which he acquired fame and power, and how he exercised them."

Presumably, David, 28, will have access to Ike's personal correspondence with his wife Mamie, but so will everyone else since David's father John, also a writer, is currently editing for publication some 319 letters Ike penned to Mamie in the course of their marriage, which endured from 1916 to 1969. The book of Ike-Mamie letters is scheduled for late this year or early next.

No date, however, has been set for the completion of David Eisenhower's manuscript. Young Eisenhower expects it will take between 18 months and two years. Currently he is associated with the Wall Street law firm of Curtis

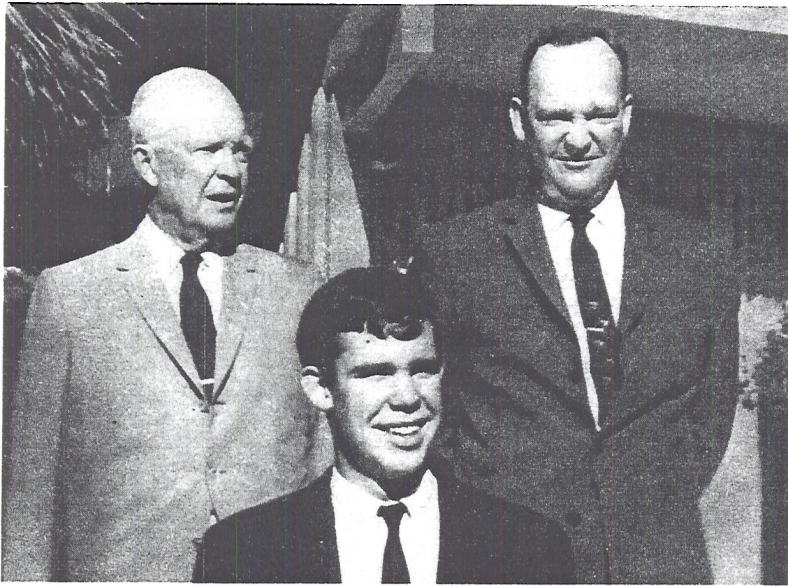
Mallet-Prevost Colt & Mosle; but no one is certain for how long, or even, whether, David will practice law or succumb to the blandishments of the literary life as his father did.

David Eisenhower was born on March 31, 1948. Dwight Eisenhower died on March 28, 1969, three days before David reached 21—so that Ike's grandson enjoyed a most limited relationship with the old man. He remembers him in part as a stern, forbidding disciplinarian, which, of course, he was, although he projected publicly the image of the warm, wise, friendly, down-to-earth grandfather, which he was not.

David's dad

Three years ago, the publishing house of Doubleday paid David's dad, John S. D. Eisenhower, U.S. Military Academy, Class of '44, a good deal less than \$280,000 to pen his memoirs of Ike.

John Eisenhower, who worked as an editor on Ike's own memoirs, resigned from the Army, wrote his first book, *The Bitter Woods*, and served later as U. S.



Eisenhower in 1965 with son John (right), now editing Ike-Mamie letters for a book, and grandson David, at work on a biography of the General.



Ex-model Kay Summersby was Eisenhower's World War II chauffeur and secretary. The paperback rights to her posthumous memoirs netted \$800,000.

Ambassador to Belgium, wrote *Strictly Personal* in 1974.

Strictly Personal was no best seller, but John Eisenhower is a perceptive and highly sensitive author, and he wrote revealingly and with documentation about the syndrome of living in the shadow of his famous father.

"I am certain," he wrote, "that I was born standing at attention. Perhaps I was something like the top sergeant who was not born, but issued. With a few lapses of minor rebellion throughout my life, I am inclined to think that I remained in that posture, figuratively, for many years until I was nearly forty. Certain factors contributed to this: a Spartan upbringing; West Point training; and the circumstances of my father's meteoric rise to prominence during my early twenties. His unusual success... affected the normal relations between a father and son, making it doubly difficult to establish my own

identity."

It will be interesting to note how much young David Eisenhower can add to his dad's written memories of Ike.

Overseas love affair

Undoubtedly Kay Summersby's memoirs of his grandfather will also come as a surprise to David. Kay was the tall, blue-eyed Irish ex-model who served as Ike's chauffeur and secretary of sorts in World War II. Before she died of cancer, Kay wrote a book with Barbara Wyden, *Past Forgetting*, to be published by Simon & Schuster in January. In this work, Kay purportedly tells of her overseas love affair with Ike, which was in truth little more than a diversion.

Bantam has paid \$800,000 for the paperback rights to Kay's posthumous book. The Ladies' Home Journal has paid \$6000 for an excerpt, and PARADE will reveal some pertinent information concerning Ike and Kay in a future issue.