

HERB CAEN



From Here to Absurdity

FRANKLY, I'm juuust a little tired of the Washington Post and NYTimes getting all the Watergate scoops, so herewith our first exclusive, which we will call The Waterfont Caper:

"After the death of Henry VIII, the London churches were plundered once more. In 1551, a certain Rychard Nyxson bought whatever wasn't nailed down in his own parish church, including the church curtains and an altar cloth. The next year Nyxson took his turn as Churchwarden. In that position he sold off several pews, two altar stones and four grave stones. The year before, a fellow churchwarden at a neighboring church sold the font for the holy water to a man called Nixon, who wanted the metal to seal leaks. Nixon was a plumber."

Our correspondent, Lawrence D. Green, on leave from UC-Berkeley, culled the foregoing in the musty archives of the Institute of Historical Research at University of London. "The variations in spelling are standard for the 16th Century," he notes. "Shakespeare, for example, is also spelled Shaxberd." News you will read nowhere else, even in the Post and Times.

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