

DIED: Georges Carpentier, 81, France's most illustrious heavyweight boxing champion; of a heart attack, in Paris, Oct. 28. Called "The Orchid Man" for his classic good looks and elegant life-style, Carpentier was world light-heavyweight champion and a French hero when he fought Jack Dempsey on July 2, 1921, in "The Match of the Century," which brought boxing's first million-dollar gate at a ring in New Jersey. Carpentier was knocked out in the fourth round. Two years later he lost a fifteen-round TKO to Gene Tunney. He retired in 1927.

■ **Gustav Hertz**, 88, East German physicist; in Berlin, Oct. 30. Hertz won the Nobel Prize in 1925 with Dr. James Franck for "their discovery of the laws governing the impact of an electron on an atom." One of the leading German scientists who agreed to help the Soviet Union when Nazi Germany fell in 1945, Hertz played an important part in Soviet efforts to construct the atom bomb.

■ **Rex Stout**, 88, dean of U.S. mystery writers; in Danbury, Conn., Oct. 27. Stout's best-known hero was Nero Wolfe, a corpulent, cunning crime solver who cultivated orchids, loved gour-

met food and left the legwork to his handsome assistant, Archie Goodwin, because he hated leaving his finely appointed Manhattan brownstone. Stout, the sixth of nine children, grew up a Quaker in Wakarusa, Kans. A child prodigy in arithmetic, he toured the state in an exhibition, solving complex math problems within seconds. After a stint as a free-lance magazine writer, Stout struck it rich by selling bankers his Educational Thrift System, a scheme for recruiting children as depositors. This netted him \$400,000 with which he retired to Paris in 1927 to write fiction. Nero Wolfe first appeared in 1934 in "Ferde-Lance." Ultimately, Stout turned out one detective story a year, spending only six weeks on each, never rereading or rewriting. "Writing any kind of fiction is a sort of explosion," he once said. "When the explosion has taken place, there's no use going around looking at the debris."



Jill Krementz

Rex Stout:
One a year