

*Wrote 'Northwest Passage'*

# Kenneth Roberts, U. S. Novelist, Dies Suddenly

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, July 21 (AP)—Author Kenneth Roberts, whose historical novels have repeatedly made the best-seller lists since 1937, died today. He was 71.

His family said Roberts had been in bed for only a week and had just completed proof-reading another novel "Water Unlimited," due for October publication. A niece, Miss Marjorie Mosser, said death was due to coronary thrombosis.

Recently Roberts won a special Pulitzer citation for his books which the Pulitzer committee said "have long created a greater interest in our early American history."

Death came at Roberts' seaside farm where he said he "dabbled in off-beat agriculture." He specialized in vegetables, some of which grew to three times their normal size.

The farm is adjacent to the home of his late friend Booth Tarkington, who created "Penrod." Roberts always paid tribute to Tarkington for his "immeasurable" aid in his writing problems.

#### HAD BEST SELLERS

A 6-footer, a rapid conversationalist and eager worker, Roberts first hit the charmed circle of literary best sellers with "Northwest Passage" in 1937. His last published novel was "Boon Island."

Prior to "Northwest Passage," a story of French and Indian War days, Roberts produced a series of romantic-realistic novels dealing with the Revolution and War of 1812, starting with "Arundel" and followed by "The Lively Lady," "Rabble in Arms," and "Captain Caution."

A digger for details he would put nothing on paper that was not demonstrably accurate. "Northwest Passage," he said, required three years of the hardest kind of research "for the reader to understand in two days."

#### TALES AIDED WRITING

Roberts was born here on Dec. 8, 1885. His family settled in Maine in 1639 and its men had fought for American rights asea and ashore. Long before he turned to writing he had heard from his grandmother the stories of his ancestors. Later these stories were

## Is Dead



Author Kenneth Roberts died yesterday at his home in Kennebunkport, Me., after a short illness. He was 71.—(AP Photofax)

to become entwined in his books.

He was graduated from Cornell University in 1908 and three years later married Anna S. Mosser, who survives. They were childless.

For eight years Roberts was a reporter, special writer and columnist for the defunct Boston Post, then served briefly on the editorial staffs of Puck and Life in New York until World War I when he became an Army captain in the Intelligence section of the Siberian Expeditionary Force.

In 1928 when he started his first novel he had a long string of magazine stories to his credit.

Private funeral services will be held Tuesday at Bigelow Chapel at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery.

#### 7 UNIVERSITIES

MANILA—The Philippines have seven private universities of recognized standing.