

Election of President Truman Tops 10 Biggest Stories of '48; 'Battle of Berlin' in 2nd Place

By Paul R. Mickelson
(List also on page 1)
General News Editor of The Associated Press

Seven out of the 10 biggest headlines of 1948 concerned foreign news but the one that topped them all was over the classic American story of the trim little man from Missouri who upset every prediction to hold on to the biggest job in the world.

Harry S. Truman's mother said he always ploughed a straight furrow as a country lad, and the hearts of millions by his winning fight for re-election to the presidency of the United States never will be forgotten in American politics. For human interest in this nation's publications, you can't beat the story of the underdog who won out against terrific odds. President Truman's victory was just that kind of a triumph, as close as Paul Mickelson it was, and editors of Associated Press newspapers voted overwhelmingly for it as story No. 1 in the annual poll.

"Political Miracle"
As he fought and won re-election, carrying with him workable majorities for the democratic party in both branches of congress, President Truman wrought the political miracle of the century. In the dust of defeat, he left once overly-optimistic republicans wrangling among themselves and expert political poll takers, who predicted easy victory for Thomas E. Dewey, stewing with explanations and decided loss of prestige.

The editors voted the "Battle for Berlin" the second biggest story of the year. There were millions of underdogs in Berlin, too, but there was no victory. The devastated city of 3,000,000 was a symbolic prize in the cold war between Russia and the western allies.

Airlift Only Answer
Caught in the devastation of war, caught in the middle of the east-west fight over the standard of money to be used, the rubble heap city was staggered in June when the Russians imposed the excruciating blockade of Berlin. Blaming it on "difficulties," though it clearly was a counter thrust against the western currency reform to end inflation which was wrecking recovery plans, the Russians shut the rail lines entering Berlin from the west. The situation left but one answer. Unwilling to push armed convoys of supplies across the Soviet lines, the western allies took to the air. The famous corridor airlift was born and the story about it and the battle for the city was as exciting as prospects for peace were sad.

Israel Ranks Third
Winning third place in the poll of the big newspaper stories of 1948 was the birth of a nation. Clearly victorious in bitter fighting and sniping that saw Count Folke Bernadotte, United Nations peace envoy to Palestine, fall to assassin bullets, the state of Israel was born in a proclamation of independence. It was the first Hebrew nation in 2,000 years, but strife seems to be never-ending lot for the new nation.

A little, brown man entered his prayer meeting grounds in India, looked at his watch and said when a man saluted him: "Today I am unusually late."
He raised one hand to give the man a blessing when the assassin began to shoot. Three shots rang out. Death came quickly to the emaciated body of Mohandas Gandhi, apostle of non-violence and peace to India's millions, less than a year after he had achieved his life's main goal. It happened Jan. 30 and the story of the tragedy, voted the fourth biggest story of the year, was reflected in headlines throughout 1948.

Marshall Plan Fifth
The American dollar also fought along the cold war front in 1948 and fought what appeared to be in the closing months of the year an all-winning battle. The Marshall Plan, with billions for European recovery, was a continuing story that won many headlines and many Russian curses. It was a clear winner of the fifth spot in the year's best news stories.

The continuing story listed in sixth place in 1948 was the top subject of headline writers in 1947. It was the cost of living and inflation. There was no letup in inflation this year. Some food prices dropped ever so slightly while costs of almost everything else kept skyrocketing. However, news gets old quickly in America. High costs were "old stuff" comparatively, so the champ headline winner of a year ago fell far behind in the shuffle for news.

All year Associated Press reporters, most of them working

under the worst possible conditions, won little space in American newspapers as they told the story of the swift pace of communist hordes in China. But when dirty, forsaken but important Mukden fell in October, followed by the collapse at Suchow which made the nationalist capital of Nanking vulnerable to the Reds, the story of the fight and its vast importance was told in screaming headlines.

As Mme. Chiang Kai-shek flew to Washington to appeal for United States aid — for almost anything to help stem the communist tide — editors voted the story the seventh biggest of the year. History may make it the biggest.

For real drama nothing touched the one that was bulletined out of New York on Aug. 12, telling of Mrs. Oksana Stepanovna Kasenkina's jump to freedom from the Russian consulate. Held prisoner there pending transfer and imprisonment — or death — to her native Russia, the woman who rebelled against communism leaped from the third floor window of the consulate. She landed in the cement courtyard and was enmeshed in the wires of a fence. No reporters lingering outside for news of the captive woman, saw her jump but they, together with police, saw her seconds later lying in a heap.

Mrs. Kasenkina almost lost her life but a long hospital stay saved it and she won her freedom. It was the eighth biggest story.

Babe Ruth, who rose from the obscurity of an orphanage to become perhaps the greatest of baseball immortals, lost his long fight against cancer in August. His death and the story of his fabulous career was listed as the biggest sports story and the ninth most important news event in 1948.

The famous "spy hunt" was in and out of the year's headlines but when Charles Chambers, senior Time Magazine editor, led investigators to a field, picked out a pumpkin and showed the contents — rolls of micro-film which held state department secrets of a decade ago — the story was emblazoned over the earth. The development gave the house un-American committee a shot-in-the-arm in its hot and cold investigation. It was voted the 10th biggest story of the year.

Tropical Track Losing Money

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 24 (AP)—Tropical park race course announced today that it is more than \$92,000 in the red after the first half of its 40-day meeting.
Wagering is down about 30 per cent from last year and the track anticipates a loss or just an even break for the season. Bruce Langdon, a Tropical executive, said that the track would have to handle about a half million dollars a day for the balance of the season to break even.

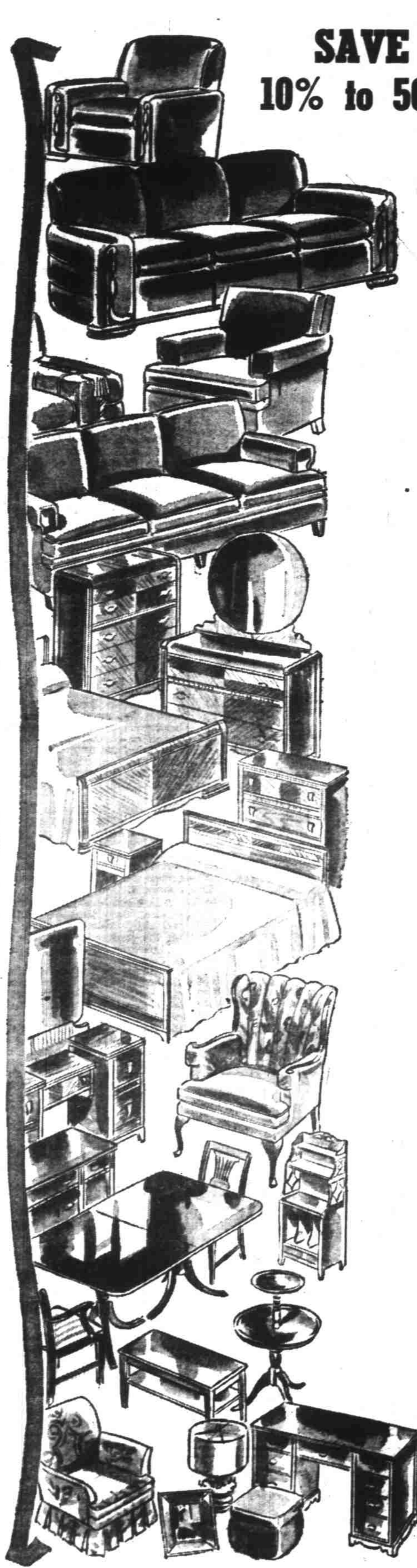
A Thrilling Gift...
WURLITZER
this Christmas

\$495 up
A Practical Gift...
An Economical Gift
Music completes the enjoyment of the home... and
Wurlitzer is the name that means music to millions.
"More people buy Wurlitzer pianos than those of any other name."
WILLS MUSIC STORE
JANZ & WISCARSON
SALEM OREGON

—WANTED—
Walnut Meats and Filbert Meats
Also Walnuts in the Shell
HIGHEST PRICE CASH ON DELIVERY
FOR ORCHARD RUN... SEE US BEFORE YOU SELL.
MORRIS KLORFEIN PACKING CO.
408 N. Front Street SALEM Telephone 3-7633

Conscientious, Dignified Service
HOWELL - EDWARDS
SALEM FUNERAL CHAPEL
545 North Capitol / Tel. 3-3672

Before Inventory 5 Days---Dec. 27-28-29-30-31



**SAVE
10% to 50%**

CLEARANCE

**EASY
TERMS**

Out they go! Complete suites! Odd pieces! Occasional pieces! Chairs, beds, sofas, tables! Regardless of former prices, they're slated to go and here's where thrifty homemakers take advantage of this great opportunity to replace or add new furniture to their homes. Shop early for best buys.

FREE DELIVERY

LIVING ROOM VALUES

- Reg. 189.44—1 only—2 pc. Velour Suite, Clearance **98.00**
- Reg. 439.00—2 pc. French Style, carved frame, choice of rose or blue, now **289.00**
- Reg. 169.00—2 pc. Blitwell Davenport and Chair, choice of turquoise, rose or beige, now **149.00**
- Reg. 229.00—3 pc. Sectional (Blitwell) Davenport in freeze **198.00**
- Reg. 349.00 Kidney Davenport, modern in freeze upholstery, now **279.00**
- Reg. 44.75 Swing Rocker, full spring construction, now **29.75**
- Reg. 59.50 Swing Rocker, velour upholstery, full spring construction, now **44.75**
- Reg. 49.75 Swing Rocker, extra comfortable, now **39.75**
- Reg. 129.75—2 only—2 pc. Sofa Bed Suite, coil spring construction, bedding compartment, now **89.75**
- Reg. 269.00—1 only—Simmons Hide-a-bed with Beauty Rest Mattress, now **229.00**
- Reg. 229.75—1 only—Simmons Sectional Sofa, Innerspring Mattress, now **189.00**

OCCASIONAL PIECES

- Reg. 11.95—2 only—Table Lamps Complete with Shades **3.95**
- Reg. 16.75—1 only—Table Lamp Now **5.95**
- Reg. 22.75—1 only—Table Lamp Complete with Shade, now **8.95**
- Reg. 11.95—1 only—Floor Lamp With Shade **5.95**
- Reg. 39.95—1 only—Floor Lamp With Shade, damaged, now **13.75**
- Reg. 79.00—1 only—Leather Top Coffee Table, now **49.75**
- Reg. 19.95—3 only—Mahogany Corner Wall Cabinet, glass front, now **9.95**
- Reg. 14.75—6 only—Corner Piece Cabinets, Walnut or Mahogany **5.95**
- Reg. 5.50—5 only—Framed Mirrors, Now **2.95**
- Reg. 16.95—8 only—Maple End Tables, Now **9.95**
- Reg. 3.70—4 only—Metal Bath Stools, Choice of Colors, now **2.39**
- Reg. 2.95—7 only—Folding Clothes Dryer Racks, now **1.95**

BED ROOM BARGAINS

- 5 pc. Bedroom Suite in Walnut, plate mirror, including bench and nite stand, clearance **119.75**
- Reg. 224.00—1 only—6 pc. Twin Bedroom Suite, Blonde Walnut with plate mirror, a buy, now **189.75**
- Reg. 219.00—1 only—4 pc. Maple Dresser Suite, Dresser, Bed, Chest and Matching Nite Stand **129.00**
- Reg. 89.75—1 only—Dresser, walnut, Large Plate Mirror **69.75**
- Reg. 139.00—2 only—5 pc. Bedroom Suite, Vanity, Chest, Bed, Nite Stand and Bench, now **114.75**
- Reg. 219.00—1 only—6 pc. Twin Bedroom Suite, bleached mahogany, now **169.00**
- Reg. 34.75—2 only—4 Drawer Chest in walnut, a real buy, only **26.75**
- Reg. 16.75—5 only—Hollywood Beds, upholstered head board, now **9.95**
- Reg. 17.95—2 only—Beds, twin size, spool style, now **11.75**
- Reg. 34.50—1 only—Mattress, layered felt, damaged in shipping, clearance **16.95**
- Reg. 37.50—1 only—Box Spring, full sized, water stained in shipping, now **18.75**
- Reg. 26.75—3 only—Innerspring Mattress, full size, slightly soiled **19.75**
- Reg. 47.50—2 only—Simmons Twin Size Box Spring, fine quality, now **34.75**
- Reg. 28.75—1 only—Child's Bed, large size, Drop Side **22.75**
- Reg. 8.95—Pair Pillow, Hairtex filled, size 20x26, now **3.95**
- Reg. 6.75—3 only—Nursery Chair, all wood, natural finish **2.49**
- Reg. 12.95 Child's Wardrobe, fibre board, sturdy construction, now **8.95**
- Reg. 8.95—3 only—Fibre Storage Cabinets, Now **3.95**

FOR DINING ROOMS

- Reg. 219—1 only—8 pc. Oak Dining Suite, Now **169.00**
- Reg. 189.00—1 only—8 pc. Walnut Dining Suite, special **149.00**
- Reg. 59.75—1 only—Oak Hutch Cabinet, Now **49.75**
- Reg. 79.75—1 only—Drop Leaf Table, walnut extension style, large size, now **59.75**
- Reg. 139.00—1 only—Mahogany Drop Leaf Table, a good buy **89.75**
- Reg. 124.75 Mahogany 5 pc. Dinette Suite Extension Table, 4 uph. Chairs, now **89.75**
- Reg. 398.00—1 only—8 pc. Dining Suite, Mahogany, now **269.00**
- Reg. 98.50—1 only—Drop Leaf Table, Extension Style, now **69.75**
- Reg. 99.75—1 only—Walnut Buffet, large size with mirror on back **69.75**

FLOOR COVERING

- Reg. 19.95—2 only—Charm Tread Rugs 4x6, faded **8.95**
- Reg. 24.95—4 only—Looptuft Rugs, Size 4x6, now **18.75**
- Reg. 5.44—Tuft Rugs, Size 24x36, now **3.85**
- Reg. 2.75 Wilwear Rugs 27x54, now **1.69**
- 25% Discount on All Cotton Rugs 32 1/2% Discount on Remnant Inlaid and Felt Base Floor Coverings
- Reg. 12.95—Persian Wool Druget Rugs, 3x6, Now **9.95**
- 3 Only—Axminster Rugs, Size 9x12, Now **37.75**

APPLIANCES

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Console Radio, popular name brand | Reg. 167.50 | Now 119.50 |
| Other Console Radios | 189.50 | 149.50 |
| Charter Oak Oil Heater | 169.50 | 116.00 |
| Quick Heat Oil Heater | 126.50 | 74.50 |
| Gibson Refrigerator | 315.75 | 269.50 |
| G.E. Washer (floor model) as is | 99.50 | 99.50 |
| Wedgewood Gas Range | 223.00 | 168.00 |
| Fire Screen | 17.75 | 11.75 |
| Others as low as 7.75 | | |
| 2 Burner Hot Plate | 18.50 | 11.75 |
| Automatic Roaster | 15.75 | 6.95 |
| Electric (Plug In) Heater | 32.75 | 16.95 |
| Deluxe Electric Clock | 21.35 | 9.54 |

A little down on a big bill!
GEVURTZ
275 North Liberty