

McKay Due Home on Monday to Begin New Phase Of Long Political Career—Campaign for Senate

By CONRAD FRANGE Staff Writer, The Statesman (Story also on Page 1).

Douglas McKay, the man who wanted to quit politics 3 1/2 years ago, arrives home tomorrow to begin the major battle of his political career.

As the climax to a long and distinguished career in local government McKay carried Oregon's banner to the upper echelons of federal government when he was named secretary of the Interior department in President Eisenhower's cabinet Nov. 20, 1952.

He has resigned from the Interior department to return to Oregon to seek election as U.S. Senator. That post is now held by Democratic Sen. Wayne Morse.

First barrier to the goal, for McKay, is a tough primary battle with State Sen. Phil Hitchcock for the Republican nomination.

McKay's appointment to President Eisenhower's cabinet in 1952 came as a big surprise to national political observers. "He had not been regarded generally as being among the front-runners for the job," read one dispatch.

Labeling himself as "just a punk governor from a small state," McKay found himself with the gigantic job of being lord of one-third of the nation's area, of administering a \$519,000,000 budget, of bossing 56,000 people (which he had pared by 4,000) and watching over a far-flung domain.

He said that, although he had hoped to retire from public life at the end of his governor's term, he "couldn't refuse" President-elect Eisenhower.

McKay's selection to the cabinet—the first Oregon citizen so honored since 1871—brought congratulations from most of Oregon's top officials. Sen. Morse, however, by a nod McKay a "stooge" of selfish interests.

The two men have rarely seen eye-to-eye on anything since—especially in the field of power development and natural resources.

As one of the original sponsors of the Willamette Valley Project and an active member of the Columbia Basin Interagency Committee, McKay has already interested himself in reclamation, natural resources.

His announced viewpoint on water power development in the Pacific northwest was, briefly, that public and private power could and should exist side by side. "There's room for both," he said—many times.

An early Eisenhower supporter, McKay pledged to carry out the Republican platform on public power, off-shore oil lands and Alaskan and Hawaiian statehood.

Headlines Made Even before his approval by the U.S. Senate, McKay made headlines in a closed-door testimony before the Senate Interior Committee he advocated giving privately-owned utilities a bigger share of the power business.

After his appointment McKay plunged into the job of administering his vast Interior empire, made a flying visit to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and purged his regime of undesirable "New Dealers." Some of these "hirings and firings" brought on controversies.

He kicked up a local hornet's nest when he virtually junked the old Truman administration's plans to build a federal dam at Hell's Canyon and gave a friendly nod to a privately-owned power firm. He added his decision was "part of the policy of this administration."

Sen. Morse immediately leaped on this announcement with both feet, crying "a shocking betrayal of the public interest."

Annual Saving Meanwhile McKay started a re-organization program in the Interior Department, with a view toward saving about \$250,000 yearly from "immediate changes." He cut 1,322 employees off the reclamation bureau staff and reduced other staffs.

The power pot continued to bubble when the secretary and Mrs. McKay returned home in June, 1953, for the Detroit Dam dedication and several other public appearances.

Of interest to this locality was an interior move to speed up the salvage of some 20 million dollars worth of timber in O & C lands.

McKay also announced plans to formulate a "definite national Indian policy," urged that some national parks, utilized only for recreation, be turned over to the states.

"Confused Program" On a return round of speeches in May for the avowed purpose of explaining the "confused power program," the secretary noted that much of the misunderstanding "is caused by uninformed persons and some by deliberate misinformation."

He predicted that current research would soon permit construction of river dams without harming fishlife. In talks billed by Republican leaders as "major power policy speeches," McKay reiterated his faith in a program of development of power projects in this region by both public and private agencies.

Backers of Earl T. Newbury, who was running against Paul Patterson for Oregon's GOP gubernatorial nomination, accused McKay of using Republican National Committee funds to influence the election in favor of Patterson.

Another local controversy got underway when the Interior Department approved the sale of Bonneville power to four private utility companies under 20-year contracts.

Blast by Morse Sen. Morse blasted the action as a "sellout of the public interest to private utility monopoly."

In mid-1954 McKay, on a flying visit to Interior territories scolded Alaskans about their belligerent approach to the statehood issue. This made headlines and counter headlines. He made a whirlwind tour of Oregon in an attempt to help Sen Guy Cordon get reelected. But Cordon was defeated by Democrat Richard Neuberger.

On a vacation visit home last August McKay said the administration's partnership power policy is receiving "fine reaction" over the country, despite opposition in the Northwest.

Despite the burden of responsibility he carried, McKay gained and held the respect of Washington newspapermen. Reporters said his office was practically the only major one in the Capitol which was always open to them.

"McKay," one of them wrote, "will grant interviews to accredited reporters and answer their questions on any subject, no holds barred."

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Then several days later, with dramatic suddenness, McKay flew to Oregon and filed for the Republican nomination for the Senate.

So Doug McKay, who once described himself to Washington newsmen as just a country boy, is coming home to do battle once again in the home pasture.

Union Takes Pickets From Motor Firm

Agreement between Salem Machinists and at least one of three automobile firms it has been picketing appeared near Saturday.

Pickets were withdrawn from Valley Motor Co., 323 Centre St., indicating that the union and company had apparently reached a tentative solution to their labor problems dating back more than a year.

Authoritative sources who declined to be quoted said a new contract would probably be signed Monday by the union and Valley Motors, Salem outlet for Ford motor cars. A company spokesman said it would definitely not be a union shop, reporting terms of the contract would permit mechanics to decide whether they wanted to be union members or not as before.

He said terms of the contract were not yet completely worked out but that he was sure they would reach equitable terms all the way around. The union had struck the firm last year in a wage and hour dispute.

Pickets still patrolled two other Salem automobile firms Saturday, however, and though there was some indication settlements also might be near at Loder Bros. and Capital Chevrolet.

Mexican Film Showing Planned

"Red Rain," movie version of a prize-winning Mexican novel of 1946, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Collins Hall on the Willamette University campus.

The film is set in the historical background of the revolt of de la Huerta against Mexican President Obregon in 1923. Open to the public, the movie will have English sub-titles.

Runaway



SELMA, Ala. — Grace Marit Ewing, 16-year-old daughter of a wealthy former deputy assistant secretary of defense, Frank M. Ewing, was found working in a Selma grocery Saturday.

She ran away from home at Kenwood, Md., Feb. 26. The blonde teen-ager told reporters "I left home to earn my living, and I've found out now that I can."

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Are You Correctly Registered to Vote?

In order to vote at the May 18 primary you must:

1. Be correctly registered by midnight, Tuesday, April 17.
2. You are correctly registered if you:
 1. Voted at the 1954 general election and have not moved nor had a change of address or change of name since.
 2. Will still be living at the same address on election day.
 3. Registered since the 1954 election and meet the other qualifications above.

You may register:

1. From 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the county clerk's office Monday through Fridays.
2. From 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the county clerk's office April 13, 14, 16 and 17.
3. From 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily through this Sunday at Salem fire stations.
4. With any one of the 40 deputy registrars in different sections of Marion County.

Citizens who will become eligible to vote between April 17 and May 18 must also register before the April 17 deadline.

If the Post Office has changed your address you may report the new address to the county clerk by telephone or mail.

U.S. National Plans Forum

The first of U. S. National Bank's 1954 estate and trust forum series will be held in Salem at the Marion Hotel at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday.

Rex Gibson, vice president and manager of the Ladd & Bush-Salem branch, will preside. The meeting will feature a four-man team from the bank's head office.

The current series marks the seventh year that U. S. National has presented the informative series throughout the state. Last year more than 2,500 persons attended the 21 forums.

The importance of estate planning, practical distribution plans that have been used successfully and the need for sound estate management will be the topics for discussion during the Wednesday evening meeting.

Speakers will include R. M. Alton, vice president and head of U. S. National's trust department; W. D. Hinson, trust officer,

and assistant trust officers H. E. Butler and William R. Bradshaw. A question and answer period and social hour will conclude the forum. Gibson stated. Anyone interested is invited.

County Zoning Talks Planned Three members of the Citizens' Committee for county planning and zoning will outline problems involved at appearances this week before Marion County groups.

Lt. Col. Norman W. Todd will talk before the Hubbard Parent-Teachers Association at 8 p. m. Monday at Hubbard Grade School. Scheduled as speaker at a meeting of the South Salem Chamber of Commerce at 8 p.m. Tuesday is Everett DeWeese, while at noon Tuesday David W. Baker will talk at a meeting of the Stayton Lions Club.

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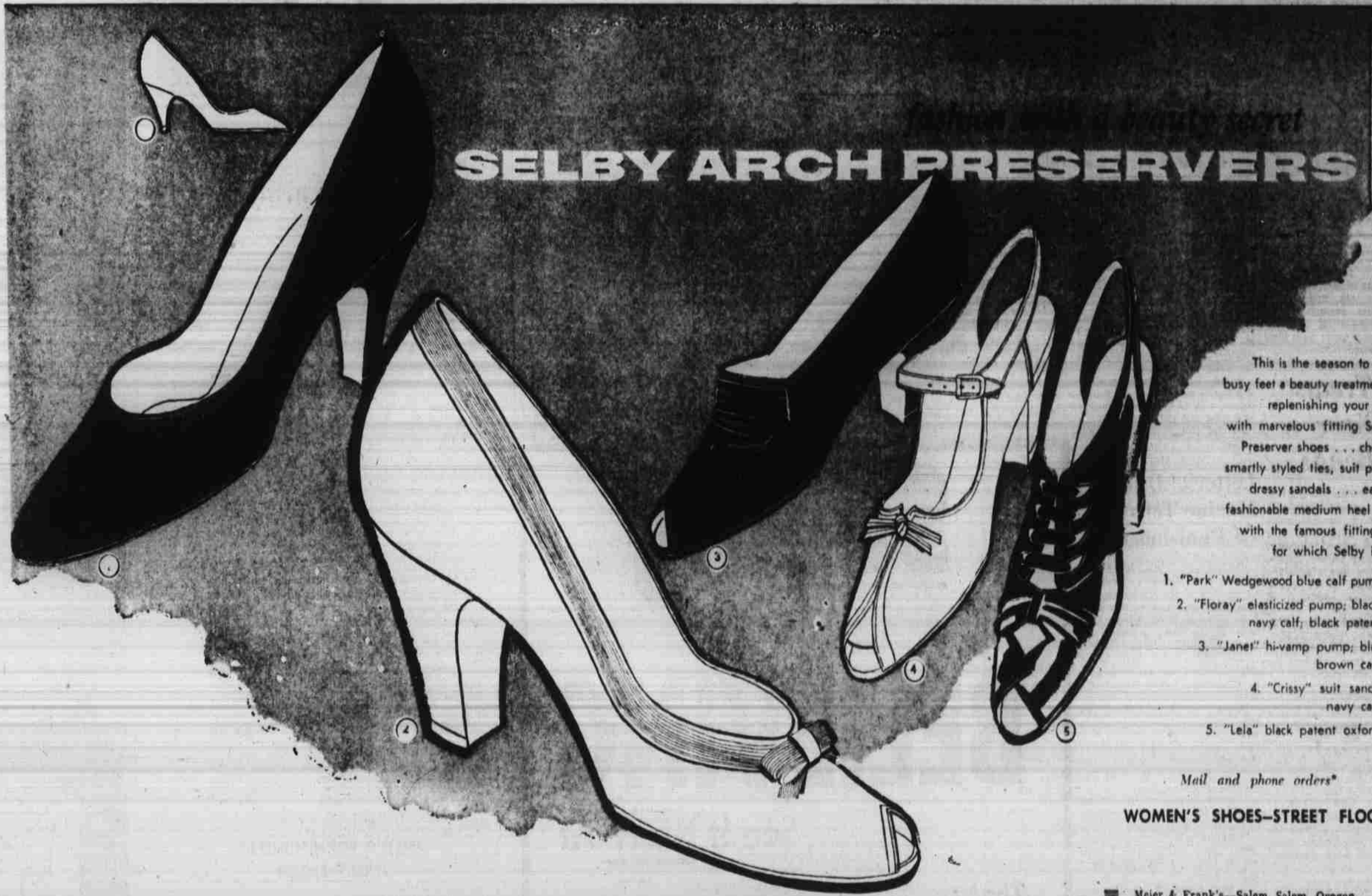
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