

# Capital Journal

An Independent Newspaper—Established 1888  
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 Published every afternoon except Sunday at 444 Chemekeeta St., Salem. Phones: Business, Newsroom, Want-Ads, 2-2406; Society Editor, 2-2409.  
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 By Carrier Monthly, \$1.20; Six Months, \$7.50; One Year, \$12.00. By Mail in Marion, Polk, Linn, Benton, Clackamas and Yamhill Counties: Monthly, \$1.00; Six Months, \$6.00; One Year, \$10.00. By Mail Elsewhere in Oregon: Monthly, \$1.00; Six Months, \$6.00; One Year, \$10.00. By Mail Outside Oregon: Monthly, \$1.25; Six Months, \$7.50; One Year, \$12.00.

## PRESS CONFERENCE ON TELEVISION

President Eisenhower has shown a progressive improvement in his handling of press conferences. He has had four so far. It is evident that these questions and answers on public issues have become a permanent institution and Ike has shaped his course to it because it offers the public a chance to learn what it wants to know. It will enable him also to gain public support for his program as FDR used his "fireside" radio addresses. That is of course is he is frank and precise, as is his inclination. Success of Ike's press conferences has revived the possibility of their being covered by television—a proposal that is now being studied by the administration. Discussing this political end product, Arthur Krock, chief of the New York Times Washington bureau in his "In the Nation" column in commenting on the fourth conference, says:

"The president handled the difficult and delicate business of a news conference with a combination of subject knowledge, candor, quick thinking, earnestness and personal charm that achieved a new record. If millions of people are to see and hear such a performance frequently, while it is proceeding, the president's political rivals and the opposition party as a whole will be very hard put to try to match it and counter its effects."

"The president has grown increasingly skillful in the give-and-take of news conferences and manages to be discreet and frank at the same time. He may, and probably will, be led occasionally into comments and answers to certain questions that will make trouble for him, as so often they did for Presidents Roosevelt and Truman. But the importance, variety and number of the questions thrown at him and his sure and informing responses suggest that such mishaps will be rare. Also, when the president is engaged in exchanges with individuals he reveals to the full his famous personality, which is not the case when he is obliged to read set speeches written by somebody else.

Even though they lost the national election, the democrats thought they had the best of it in television with superior talent and experience with video and made good use of it. Television gave Kefauver his lead in convention delegates and Harriman his District of Columbia strength. Russell and Barkley used it effectively and Adlai Stevenson displayed his versatility brilliantly. But some republicans soon acquired quality on video after a tough start, with most of television time contracted in advance by democrats.

If the White House decides that the news conferences can be screened occasionally without impairing their spontaneity, Krock concludes that "conflicting westerns, soap operas and puppet shows may as well go off the air."

## QUEEN MARY'S DEATH

Dowager Queen Mary was the grand dame, or "grandmother of the British commonwealth," as that apt phrase maker, Winston Churchill put it. Her death will be widely mourned, but assuming it had to come rather soon it is well that has now come now so the proper period of mourning can elapse before the coronation of her granddaughter, Queen Elizabeth.

Queen Mary was a holdover from an earlier day, even an earlier century when royalty was in full flower and the people of the world had more veneration of it than they have today. Not that the lack is noticeable in the British realms however.

Queen Mary lived and died by a stern code of devotion to duty and to the royal tradition. This impelled her to refuse recognition to the end of her life of her son's wife, the former Wallis Warfield Simpson. Narrow, spiteful, snobbish many thought it, and so it was if viewed from the popular angle. But from Mary's viewpoint one imagines it represented maintenance of proper royal standards at a considerable personal sacrifice, for she certainly loved her son.

Her death removes a great figure from the British commonwealth, but her value as a cementer of the loyalties of a diverse and widely dispersed people will not cease with her death. Rather she will remain part of a great tradition of empire that may endure a long time in a climate supposedly unsuited to it.

## BACK SEAT FOR MORSE

The democrats of the senate were very decent about letting Oregon's Wayne Morse have a rear seat on their side of the aisle. Morse has been sitting by himself in the middle, but close enough to the republicans to hear some of the things they were saying about him. Morse has a fairly thick hide but this seems to have been too much.

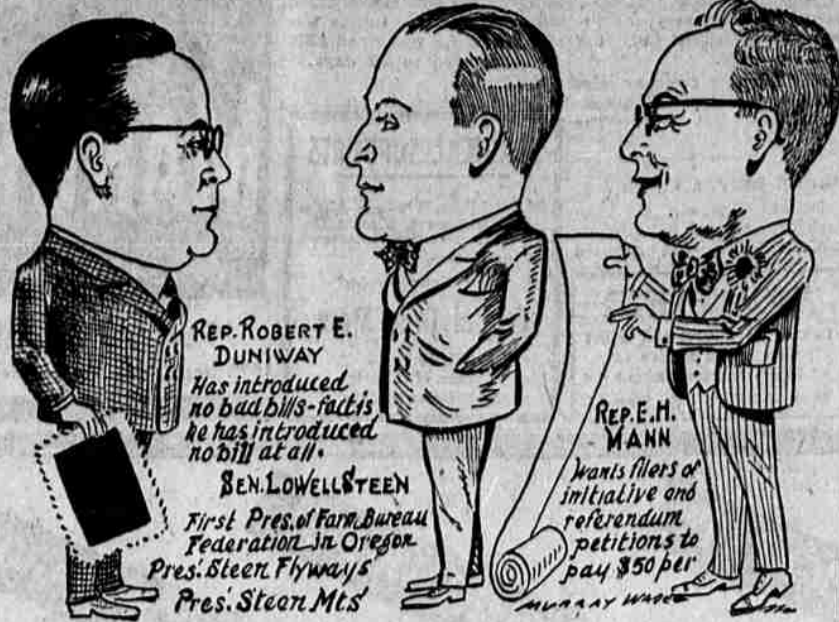
One hopes, but not too hopefully, that this will dispose of Morse's seat difficulties and that we shall hear no more about them. But knowing Morse as we do we doubt this, for Morse without publicity would be a dreary figure indeed.

In any event we expect no republican complaints from this latest development.

## BY BECK Husbands



## LEGISLATORS as Seen by Murray Wade



**REP. ROBERT E. DUNIWAY**  
*Has introduced no bad bills—facts he has introduced no bill at all.*

**SEN. LOWELL STEEN**  
*First Pres. of Farm Bureau Federation in Oregon. Pres. Steen Flyways Pres. Steen Met.*

**REP. E. H. MANN**  
*wants filers of initiative and referendum petitions to pay \$50 per*

## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND Dulles Changed His Mind With More Information on Bohlen

**BY DREW PEARSON**  
 Washington—If what Senator Tobey calls "the willful group of little men" opposing Chip Bohlen to be ambassador to Moscow knew all the facts about him, they probably wouldn't be so vehement in their opposition.

Real fact is that John Foster Dulles, campaigning for Dewey in 1948 and expecting to be the new secretary of state, told friends privately that one of the first things he would do when he took over the state department would be to "exile" Bohlen. He had in mind a long period of service in some pleasant country such as Guatemala or Tanganyika.

The fact that Dulles is now strong for Bohlen is due first to the fact that he recognizes Bohlen as a man of ability; second, the fact that Bohlen is by all odds the best man to undertake a difficult diplomatic sounding mission with the new Kremlin.

This sounding is a plan for a Big Three meeting of Eisenhower, Malenkov and Churchill. Eisenhower has decided that he would be willing to meet Malenkov halfway, preferably in Berlin, in order to discuss peace in Korea and a possible truce in the cold war.

### BEHIND BIG 3

The idea for such a meeting has been debated back and forth inside the White House ever since Stalin died. Some Ike-advisers have cautioned that the new Kremlin is much more anxious than we are for a truce, that it would be better to wait for them to come to us.

Other advisers have urged that Ike leave no stone unturned, should by all means sit down with Malenkov. They believe that even if the Big Three conference gets nowhere it would have two important advantages:

1. Ike would get a chance to size up the new boss of Russia.
2. The new boss of Russia would have an opportunity to get acquainted; to see that we're not as bad as we're made out to be. Malenkov has never been outside the Soviet, knows few westerners, has the reputation of hating Americans.

In addition, political advisers are impatiently reminding the White House that it has now been three months since he went to Korea, and four months since he campaigned on a pledge of doing something definite about Korea. Yet so far nothing definite has been done. They think a meeting with Malenkov would be politically advantageous at this time.

### PARADOXICAL BOHLEN

Chip Bohlen is in the paradoxical position of being suspected by the McCarthyites for being a New Dealer, yet the New Dealers never liked him because they suspected he was a reactionary.

A cousin of the famed German munitions maker, Krupp Von Bohlen, he was suspected by some of the people around Roosevelt as not wanting to carve up Germany after the war. More recently he was also suspected by some of the Acheson people because he didn't enter into the battle against McCarthy. Yet it's now McCarthy who's out to smear and defeat him.

Involved in the battle over Bohlen is the fact that John Foster Dulles started his work as secretary of state by seeking to appease certain senators. One of them was McCarthy. He partially sided with McCarthy during his early Voice of America probe, did not support his own state department personnel as did Acheson.

He also hired the administrative assistant of Senator Bridges of New Hampshire to be state department security director. As chairman of the

## Weeks Cuts Commerce Budget 169 Millions

New York (AP)—The New York Times reported Wednesday that Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks has revised the Truman administration's budget estimate for his department downward by 169 million dollars.

The Times, in a story from Washington by Charles E. Egan, said most of the 15 percent cut proposed by Weeks is at the expense of the Maritime and Civil Aeronautics administrations.

was the chief smear-weapon used against him.

This was also the inside reason Senator McCarran stated that Scott McLeod, Senator Bridges' former assistant and now state department security director, had refused to clear Bohlen, even though Dulles gave him a clean bill of health to the senate foreign relations committee.

Such are the wheels within wheels surrounding a confirmation fight almost as bitter as anything in Truman's day. In brief, petty politics continues to be petty politics.

Note—Bohlen's greatest asset is a perfect knowledge of the Russian language and of Russian characteristics. He has translated Russian for Roosevelt, Truman, Jimmy Byrnes and others. He also understands Russian quirks, peculiarities and politics. Such a diplomat is rare in any foreign office.

senate appropriations committee, Bridges is one of the most powerful men on Capitol Hill and one whose favor is coveted. However, Dulles is now learning what Acheson learned many years earlier: 1. That you can't appease Senator McCarthy; the more he gets the more he wants; 2. When you hire assistants of senators they sometimes pay more allegiance to their old bosses than to their new bosses.

### FBI ON BOHLEN

In the Bohlen case, the FBI was called in to check on a reported incident in his life which may or may not have happened many years ago. The FBI could find no substantiation for it, nor could it find anything serious against his character beyond an occasion when Sherman Billingsley of the Stork Club asked Bohlen to leave the club for repeatedly walking from one side of the dance floor to the other, regardless of dancing couples in his way.

However, word went up to the McCarthy group on Capitol Hill that Bohlen's name had been given as a reference by several state department officials who were fired. This fanned the fire of suspicion and

## Salem 40 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL  
 March 25, 1913  
 That all cluster lights in Salem will be used at no distant date seems probable since an agreement between Portland Railway Light & Power company and city officials appears imminent. City street lights to the number of 116 have been installed and the cost of operating them has been borne by city, state and county.

For the first time since the Biograph motion picture company took pictures of the Oregon state penitentiary Salem folks will be seen again in films when Independent motion pictures are flashed on the screen of Elgin theater tomorrow. Shown will be the first official train crossing the new railroad bridge between Salem and West Salem. Persons riding on the front of the engine can be recognized.

Mayor Steeves stirred up the automobile fire engine question again last night when he presented a communication concerning a proposal for reduction in insurance rates.

Day Officer "Dad" Irvine yesterday placed himself in line for a leather medal by actually laying hands on a man infected with smallpox. This diseased person, from Independence, had been shaking hands with several local saloon keepers before he was recognized as dangerous by reason of his marked face and body. Dr. Miles, city physician, sent him to the pest house.

City council proposes to pave Chemekeeta street from 14th street eastward to 21st street.

Now, after a long fight between various factions in North Marion county, the county court has approved a bridge across the Willamette to form a connecting link between Marion county and Yamhill roads. Cost of this bridge (the Newberg bridge) will be \$85,000 and be paid equally by Marion and Yamhill counties. The main street structure will be 735 feet in length and stand 95 feet above low water mark in the river.

Have you tried it? "Salamander." "Hopfen and Maltz—Gott Erhalten." A reproduction of the old-fashioned malt beer. Salem Brewery Association.

Sixteen sets of sidewalk resolutions were read before the

## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### Housewives Don't Like the Name; Prefer Homemakers

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—The question of the hour, ladies, is what do you want to be known as—Housewives or Homemakers?

The most desirable feminine career today is unquestionably marriage. The title most women seek and are proudest of is "Mrs."—whether it be Mrs. Jones or Mrs. Throckmorton-Smythe.

But a lot of very happily married women are very sick and tired of having to list their occupation as "Housewife." They like the job but don't like the tag.

They feel it doesn't have enough dignity, doesn't describe their important role enough, and invites a snobbish condescension from the snobby.

To put it in one lady's words, "whenever I have to say I'm a housewife, it makes me feel mousy and that makes me feel boiling mad, like a lioness. But what can I do? After all, I am just a housewife."

Well, some women are trying to do something about it. They are campaigning to erase the word "Housewife" from the American vocabulary and replace it with "Homemaker."

Among the embattled hausfraus in this cause is Mrs. Norma A. Lee of Rutland, Ohio.

"For what nobler career could anyone ask? Then why should not the homemaker have the honor of bearing that dignified name rather than the ordinary one of housewife, for which she so often feels it necessary to apologize?"

The real argument against Mrs. Lee's crusade is that housewife is a natural heart-meaning word to all except snobs, and homemaker is a made-up word.

Too many occupations already are switching to artificial titles that sound a bit ridiculous. Janitors become custodians and now are building superintendents. Bill collectors are credit counsellors and garbage collectors sanitary patrolmen. Before long traffic cops will be stationary street safety directors and mailmen will be traveling communications engineers.

A housewife could be called a lot of titles—childherder, heartwatcher, m a t k e e p e r, heartmate, doghouse supervisor, or paycheck guardian. She could even be called "Homewife," although that might raise the question as to whether there was an office wife in the background, too.

But if the annoyed kitchen cuties will take one man's advice well, instead of fighting against that term housewife, they'll fight for it. It has a lot of heart and history behind it, and no one ever ridiculed it except in envy or ignorance.

## Oregon's Accidental Deaths Among Highest

Portland (AP)—Oregon's accidental death rate last year was one of the highest in the nation, Dr. Harold M. Erickson, state health officer, reported Tuesday.

The national average for 1952 was 61.3 deaths per 100,000 population. Oregon's rate was 77.1, he said, and added that is an improvement over 1951's rate of 78.7.

Most of the deaths, 475, were the result of traffic accidents. There were 323 deaths in the home, 226 occupational mishaps and 180 listed as public accidents.

council last evening and all were adopted. All call for construction of wooden sidewalks along Shipping and Norway streets.

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