



Wives of representatives in the Oregon Legislature who write for newspapers now term themselves the House News Hens. Last week they interviewed Governor Robert Holmes, who talked about building programs and proposed legislation affecting schools. Pictured here with the governor are (left

to right) Mrs. Allen Tom, Mrs. Emil Stunz, Mrs. Robert Duncan of Medford, Mrs. R. E. Schedeen, the governor, Mrs. Al Littrell, Medford, Mrs. Verne Cady and Mrs. Fayette Bristol. The seven women contribute to a total of 27 newspapers.

### House "News Hens" Interview Governor; Hearings Continue

By FRANCES LITTELL  
Salem—The House News Hens interviewed Governor Holmes. We were greeted by Harry Swanson, the governor's general assistant, who showed us through the beautiful suite of offices occupied by the Governor and his staff. The Governor, nattily dressed in a blue suit complete with pink carnation and lots of white handkerchief showing from his pocket, greeted us most cordially, said he wished we represented 227 newspapers instead of the 27 to which the seven of us contribute. I must admit it was an exciting event. However,

as to its newsworthiness, I can't say we heard anything we hadn't already heard. I'd say ditto, ditto, ditto inaugural speech. However, the governor did admit his school building program will probably have to be cut and the Key District Bill will come back to the House of Representatives and will be revalued and amended and will probably come out as the District formula. Of course we were pleased and flattered when he told us we asked better questions than the press. In spite of the fact that the press and others feel the governor's proposed bold and new program for the 49th session of the Oregon Legislature is bogged down, he seemingly isn't worried and says when this session is over he expects most of his program to be approved. He will run again in 1958, and not one of us remembered to ask him this question. We asked for 15 minutes and he gave us 35.

Many Hearings  
There are still lots of public hearings both afternoons and evenings. Many bills are being tabled, a few will go to interim committees for study after the session is over. Most of us were ready to purchase ear plugs to wear during the sessions. However, that will not be necessary as both the Senate and the House have decided to enforce the time rules on speeches. Friday morning an editorial page from the Medford Mail Tribune with Eric Allen's editorial on School Equalization was found on each and every desk in the House of Representatives. Saturday we sat in on the GOP state central committee meeting held in Portland to elect a new chairman. James F. Short, former administrator of the State Agriculture department was elected. Al says he is an excellent choice. Sunday we were part of the throng at the open house given for Mr. and Mrs. Douglas McKay in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary by their two daughters and sons-in-law, the Lester Greens and the Wayne Hadleys, in the latter's home. And so we begin our 12th week in session.

Adarel Social Club  
To Meet Thursday  
Jacksonville Adarel Social club will meet for a salad luncheon Thursday, April 11, at the home of Mrs. Earl Brewold, 2668 Jacksonville highway, Medford. Installation of officers will be held. Mrs. Brewold will be assisted by Mrs. William Childreth and Mrs. Lee Stone for the 12:30 p.m. luncheon.

### Medical Auxiliary To Hear Talk by Festival Director

Dr. Angus L. Bowmer, producing director of the Oregon Shakespearean festival, will be guest speaker at the April meeting of the women's auxiliary to the Jackson County Medical society. The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 10, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Earl L. Lawson, 301 Windsor avenue. A potluck dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Dr. Bowmer will discuss the plans for the enlargement of facilities of the Shakespearean Festival in Ashland and tell the tale of "Two Gentlemen of Verona," one of the plays to be given by the festival this August.

### Pastor to Speak For Service Guild Monday Evening

The Rev. Raymond Balcomb will discuss the book, "Paul's Letters to the Local Churches," at the Monday meeting of the Sunnyside Wesleyan Service guild. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. O. P. Taylor, 3254 Jacksonville highway. Mrs. Richard Hawkins will give the devotions and a report of the nominating committee will be given. Committee members include Mrs. Roger Note, Miss Mary Vandenberg, and Miss Nancy Lamb. Mrs. Gerald Shuman, president, will be hostess for the meeting.

### Bills About Dogs, Ragweed, Knives Take Time of Legislators

By MARIJANE DUNCAN  
Salem—Though "they" say until the tax bills hit the Floor, we're not there, we have a "home stretch" feeling these days. At least this legislature has hit its stride and everyone seems to know where he's going—no longer in circles. As with every job, there is much routine, but the meaning of the daily task is apparent now, whereas as first it was lost in a maze of bills, amendments to bills, hearings on bills, and correspondence on bills. Now that many are safely past the House and tucked away in our yellow "passed bills" books, the huge, ungainly volumes which hold the new bills are not so intimidating. The variety of bills is endless—dogs and ragweed to be controlled, river channels to be deepened, switchblade knives to be banned, obsolete laws to be amended or eliminated, and so on and so on. You may wonder why the Legislature must concern itself, in its limited time, with comparatively minor problems, when major ones such as school aid and new tax structure loom ahead. The answer lies with each one of us. Compare yourself to your neighbor, for instance. Are all the same equally important to each of you? Some things yes—schools (if you are both parents) and of course, taxes.

But there are a myriad of other areas of state government, and each of them represents a compelling interest on the part of one segment of our population. And, all of them must be served. It is a question of trying to sort out the most pressing problems of statewide import, and, at the same time, trying to serve one's constituents well. This adds up to many, many pieces of legislation, which go to the various committees; and some of which, by a necessary process of elimination, never come out. There just isn't time—and sometimes there just isn't money—enough for all. The committee chairmen have quite a burden of responsibility. First things must come first, and it is up to them to decide. In this they are aided and advised by their committee members. It is virtually impossible for each member of the Legislature to concern himself with what is going on in the committees of which he is not a member. He has his own committee responsibilities, and these must be foremost in his mind. If a constituent writes about a particular piece of legislation, he tries to follow this and generally apprises the chairman whose committee has the bill of his constituent's feelings. He may even suggest amendments, if the problem is a pressing and serious one. But all this takes time, and there is precious little of that commodity to spare. We are having longer sessions and, often, afternoon sessions, too. The Senate has had them all along, in an attempt to catch up on the time they lost getting organized. Though the House sessions often run two hours, I do not find them dull. They are enlivened by snatches of wit and humor, and there are rarely long dry presentations. Rather, if a bill means enough to a member that he must speak on it for several minutes, his enthusiasm and sincerity give zest to his words. Whatever one may say about lack of experience in this Legislature, no one can accuse this group of lack of enthusiasm or earnestness of purpose—or of unwillingness to listen to the other fellow's point of view. The most interesting experience I have had in recent weeks was an interview with Governor Holmes—not an exclusive one, by any means, for there were seven wives of Representatives (all those who write for their home-town papers) who participated. The idea was Esther Bristol's wife of Representative Fayette Bristol, of Grants Pass. Each of us was supposed to ask a question, and we tried to make them as diversified as possible. In answering them, the governor "stuck by his guns" and maintained his previously announced positions. I don't think any of us really expected that he would present us with any breathtaking revelations. If we learned little we did not know already, it was because most of us asked the same, old questions. New Committee We did learn that a new committee is being formed on state parks, and that some new ones will probably be designated. And we asked about the idea of the state providing a governor's mansion; to which the governor answered that he felt this was not the right time for such a project, budget problems being what they are; but that he felt that someday the state should and would provide a home for our executive. I don't think any of us disagreed with this. It doesn't seem that the governor should have to house-hunt, rent a place that may not be designed for the kind of entertaining he must do, and sometimes have to move out and house-hunt again, as the Holmes must do in a couple of months. On the other hand, there are other problems far more pressing, and it seems the best thing this Legislature can do will be to start planning toward a home for our chief executive. Most states provide one. The governor was friendly and informal and answered all our questions carefully. Yes, he still believed our tax problems could and would be solved by a re-

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