

THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL IS A LONELY ONE FOR SENATOR NEUBERGER'S WIDOW, MAURINE

Editors' note: Before his death, Senator Richard L. Neuberger described his wife as "the other half of this Senate team." She now seeks the Senate seat he left vacant. This article gives you a glimpse of her on a lonely campaign trail.

Salem she argued successfully for a string of consumer and social bills. Still limber and athletic, she likes teen-agers, and friends say of finding comfort in a chair. In winning the nomination for crats and piled up the largest vote she will win over the Republican ernor of Oregon, Elmo Smith, oratic votes away from her.

she won over five other Demo- Democratic leaders say polls show paper publisher and former gov- win without attracting some Dem- Smith himself has said he cannot

By MATT KRAMER

A hundred persons were waiting under the shade trees when Maurine Neuberger got out of the car and began walking toward her 50th meeting of the political campaign.

She is given a good chance to become the third woman ever to be elected to the U. S. Senate, and they watched with interest as she crossed a sparsely grassed field at picnic grounds near Moro.

Slender and brown-haired, she appeared tired as she reached the first group by a picnic table.

They greeted her warmly, in the way of the dry land wheat farmers who spend their time on the sun-baked hills of Central Oregon. As she responded to their warmth, her face shed the lines of 52 years.

"That's the best part," she said later in her low-pitched voice. "The small meetings where you can talk to the people and listen to their ideas."

"Of course everyone wants to give advice to a woman candidate," and her smile became broader. "but women are used to advice and these people mean so well. That man who said he would be writing me about some things that had been bothering him. He seemed shrewd, and I think I'll welcome his letters."

Giles French, editor of the weekly Sherman County Journal, began introducing her to others at the meeting, a picnic sponsored by the Sherman County Historical Society.

This was watched closely, for French is a long-time political foe of the ideas of Mrs. Neuberger and her late husband, Sen. Richard L. Neuberger. They all had been together in the state Legislature, where it is doubtful if Republican French ever voted on the same side as the Democratic Neubergers.

But they smiled and moved easily from group to group.

"I've heard you are a Presbyterian, a Catholic and a Jew. Would you mind telling me your religion?" one man asked.

"Well, I'm not any of those. I'm a Unitarian," said Mrs. Neuberger, who later added it was the first time in this campaign she had met a question on religion. The question had figured in the 1954 campaign of her late husband, who was Jewish.

Soon French began talking in the style to which his followers have become accustomed.

"I wish the government would go away and leave me alone," he said, decrying social security, taxes, police laxity, youth programs, highway projects and public welfare.

Mrs. Neuberger listened a while, then took issue with him.

"You say things were done better when you were young. But who wants to go back to all the work, the big field crews and horse teams?" she asked.

"I remember on our farm when I was a girl we had a model T car we were so proud of. But we could only use it six months out of the year. There weren't any roads on which it could run in the winter. Who would want to give up that fine road on which I came here today? And yet there wouldn't be that road without the taxes and the government part in the road program," she said, her voice rising a bit.

Later French introduced her on the speaking platform and she spoke of Oregon pioneers and of the social pioneering still to come.

French, who listened intently to her talk, bade her a warm goodbye. As she left, he remarked to an acquaintance, "A fine woman."

Mrs. Neuberger returned to Portland where she lives alone in the home she and her husband had, even before Senate days. It is an old, green, three-story house in a fashionable section of the city's west hills.

It was there her husband was felled by a cerebral hemorrhage last March. It is his seat in the Senate she is seeking.

Several factors help her. Her supporters cite her familiarity with the Senate and those in it. Before his death her husband frequently told voters of his wife's active part in his Senate work. She had a desk in his office and worked there regularly.

"And she wasn't on the payroll either," a friend says.

She also is a native of Oregon, a descendant of a pioneer family. She was in three Oregon towns, teaching English and physical education until she was 37. She was in a Portland school by that time, met Neuberger, a rising author who shared her interest in outdoor activities and liberal policies, and married him. They had no children.

Her opponents say you still can hear the school teacher when she addresses a group. If so, she is a popular teacher. She was elected three times to the state Legislature before her husband was voted into the Senate in 1954. At

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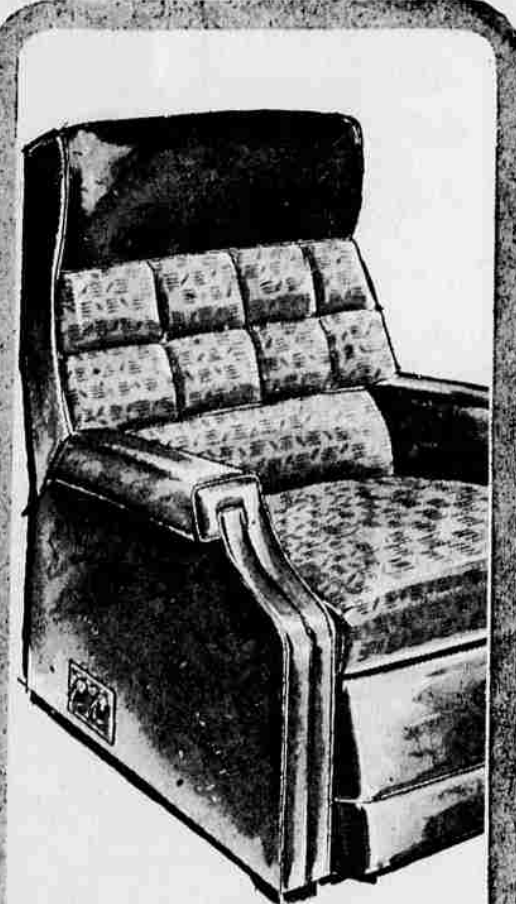
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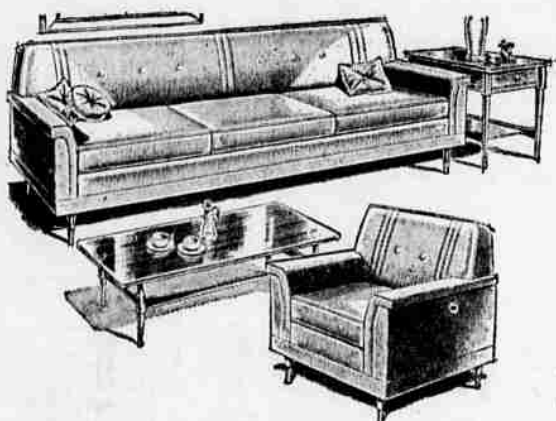
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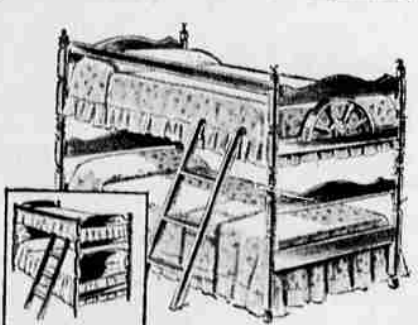
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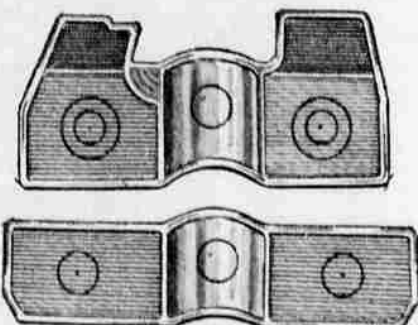


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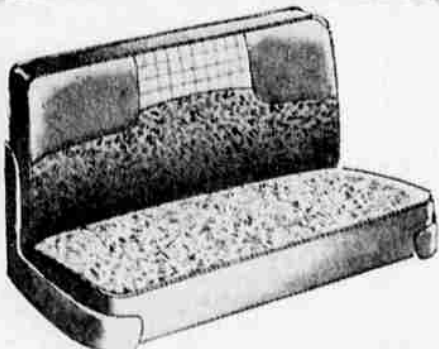
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