

# SH! MYSTERY, INTRIGUE 'LURK' IN OUR CAPITAL

Would You Believe It? They Do Say There's Code Back of Every Tree.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance  
WASHINGTON, April 7.—The "official secrets" measure passed so speedily and so surreptitiously by the house at the state department's bidding has given this prosaic capital an atmosphere of mystery and intrigue resembling the inside of an E. Phillips Oppenheim novel.

The fairly calm and collected city on the Potomac has been transformed into a place where there lurks a code behind every tree and a diplomatic secret behind every swinging door.

The change is all the more remarkable because the Roosevelt administration has been opening dark doors and doing business in daylight. The President and his cabinet members, so far as is known, have let the public know what both their right and left hands were doing.

## What Is "Official Secret?"

Except for certain banking information withheld by the treasury and the controller of the currency for what seem like sufficient reasons, the reading—and voting—public has been kept aware of its government's plans and purposes.

Indeed, that has been the dominant difference between the present administration and its predecessors since the World War.

But now the talk is all of "official secrets." Which raises the question of what an "official secret" may be. If the proposed law had been in effect a few years ago, would Mabel Walker Willebrandt now be in the house for having taken with her many files of documents from the department of justice?

## The Case of Mr. Doheny

Would her offense have been aggravated because she made some thousands of dollars for having used them as the basis of a series of syndicated articles?

Then there was Rear Admiral J. K. Robison. It was he who filled Edward L. Doheny with fears of the "yellow peril," and convinced Doheny that, as a good patriot, he ought to leave Elk Hills from the government and pay for it by constructing oil tanks at Pearl Harbor.

Admiral Robison, as the Doheny trial developed, divulged so many naval secrets that a jury which shared his fears eventually acquitted the oil magnate.

Would the government officials who inspired the Teapot Dome inquiry by conveying information to certain senators be behind the bars now, if the "official secrets" proposal had been in effect at that time?

## Would Hush All Probes

Under even the most literal interpretation of the measure, they might, and the officials who sought to hush up the investigation would be going around with Distinguished Service Crosses on their chests.

Several senators point out that all hope of investigation of executive departments in the face of executive opposition, as was the case during the Coolidge and Hoover admin-

# Five Injured in Auto-Truck Collision; Death May Separate Girls, Long Chums



Frank C. Dietz Jr.

## ROUND UP SUSPECTS

Eight Youths Held on Delinquency Charges; Accused of Thefts.

Eight youths ranging in age from 14 to 18, alleged to have taken a variety of loot from twelve stores and to have stolen an automobile are held today on delinquency charges.

Peter LaRossa, 21, of 509 Harmon street, accused of taking loot from the youths, is held on a charge of receiving stolen property.

## TRANSFER INSPECTOR

F. M. Gumm of Animal Industry Bureau Will Go to California.

Transfer of F. M. Gumm, senior meat inspector of the local office of the United States animal industry bureau, to Los Angeles, Cal., was announced here today.

Gumm will leave Saturday to assume duties as inspector in the California city.

## TOPPLES UNDER TRAIN

Chicago Man Dies; Both Legs Cut Off by Freight.

By United Press  
HAMMOND, Ind., April 7.—Harrison Grayson, 37, Chicago, died in a hospital here shortly after both his legs were amputated by an Erie freight train he had attempted to board.

## 4 POSTMASTERS NAMED

Indiana Appointments Are Announced by Jim Farley.

By United Press  
WASHINGTON, April 7.—Postmaster-General Farley has announced appointment of the following postmasters in Indiana:

Royal Center, Frank L. Hand; Tipton, William J. Zehner; Windfall, Bertha M. Harris; New Harmony, Harry S. Glump.

istrations, would vanish in the face of the proposed statute.

A President and his attorney-general need only hold that the information desired was an "official secret," and that publication was "prejudicial to the safety and interest of the United States."



Miss Beatrice Toops (left), and Miss Vera Haibe.

## Apparently No Hope for Recovery of 15-Year-Old Victim.

Death today is threatening to end the friendship of two girls, chums through grade school and into high school, as the sequel to an automobile and truck collision shortly before midnight Thursday at Arlington avenue and the Brookville road, which was followed by fire.

With practically no hope for recovery, Miss Beatrice Toops, 15, of 5306 Lowell avenue, lies in city hospital, suffering from burns and fractures of her legs, and of her jaw.

In the same hospital is her chum, Miss Vera Haibe, 16, of 27 South Webster street. Her legs are broken and she is suffering from burns. Her condition is serious.

## Five Persons Injured

Another patient is Frank C. Dietz Jr., 19, of 234 North Gray street, driver of the automobile, also in a serious condition.

The fourth passenger in the automobile, Robert Spall, 16, of 3315 East Vermont street, is at his home suffering from burns and cuts. He was burned in dragging the others from the automobile.

Driver of the truck, Mike Gordon, 26, of 1429 Spann avenue, incurred burns on the face and hands.

Abe Smock, 431 Louisiana street, owner of the truck who, with Mrs. Smock, was riding in the cab, escaped injury. Holding his wife in his arms, Smock sprang from the truck as flaming gasoline spread from its tank.

## Truck Is Destroyed

The truck, loaded with soap and soap chips, was destroyed. Firemen from engine house No. 25 fought the fire. They were forced to obtain water from a creek 700 feet distant, as there was no hydrant near the accident scene.

Spall, describing the crash today,

insists there was no light on the truck. He said he did not see the machine until the small coupe Dietz was driving was within ten or twelve feet.

"There was a crash," Spall said, "and the next burst of flame. We were a tangled heap in the car. I opened a door—I don't know how. Vera crawled out, screaming 'Bee, Bee!' She's back there in the fire."

Spall said he found Miss Toops lying on the car floor. He lifted her in his arms and stumbled over Dietz. After getting the girl out, he returned and brought Dietz to safety.

Miss Toops and Miss Haibe attended Tech high school until January, when the former was forced to quit due to ill health. Miss Haibe also quit rather than go to school without her chum. Spall is a junior at Tech and Dietz was graduated from the school and has concluded his freshman year at Purdue university.

The girls were at the Toops home Thursday night when the youths called and suggested a ride in the Dietz car. The four left the home about 9 and rode for a few hours. Spall said they were en route back to the Toops home when the accident occurred.

## Demand Phone Rate Slash

South Bend's protest against rates of the Indian Bell Telephone Company and demand for reduction were filed with the public service commission today.



Robert Spall

## Really Good!

H. L. Mencken Tries New Beer, and He Says It Is.

By United Press

BALTIMORE, Md., April 7.—H. L. Mencken, connoisseur of beer, was first in line when the famed old bar of the Hotel Renwick reopened just after midnight today.

Hundreds crowded about, anxiously awaiting his verdict on the new 3.2 per cent brew.

"Here it goes," Mencken said as the first glass was drawn and he bent his elbow.

Everyone held his breath. What would the verdict be?

The high priest of brewing began to grin.

"Pretty good," he pronounced. "Not bad at all. Fill it again."

## SPEAKIES TO BE RAIDED

N. Y. Health Department to Launch War for Licenses.

By United Press

NEW YORK, April 7.—The New York health department, at present charged with licensing purveyors of beer, today announced that "all speakeasies which have not received permits to sell beer will be raided, beginning Wednesday morning, April 12."

Transportation to Be Topic. Transportation will be discussed by Russell T. MacFall, an attorney, at the luncheon Monday of the Scientific Club at the Columbia Club.

# STATE PONDER TREE PLANTING IN MINE AREA

Indiana Forester Confident That Woods Will Grow on Waste Lands.

By Times Special

WASHINGTON, April 7.—A plan for reforestation of wasteland in the coal fields of southwest Indiana was submitted to the national forestry conference Thursday by Ralph Wilcox, Indiana state forester.

The plan, evolved by Wilcox and Senator Frederick Van Nuys, contemplates rehabilitation of 25,000 acres of stripped-over coal lands and coal banks, the planting of thirty million pine, walnut, and locust trees, and expenditure of approximately \$770,000 by the federal government.

The project, Wilson estimates, will provide 234,000 man days of work for the unemployed of the coal mine area.

If the plan is carried out, it will be necessary for the state of Indiana to acquire, either by purchase or condemnation, the waste coal lands in Vigo, Clay, Owen, Knox, Sullivan, and other counties—land that once yielded valuable coal

deposits, but which now is worthless and has the appearance of shell-torn battlefields.

Wilcox said that he had experimented in this area and had determined that it was practicable to grow trees on the land denuded by the strip mining of coal.

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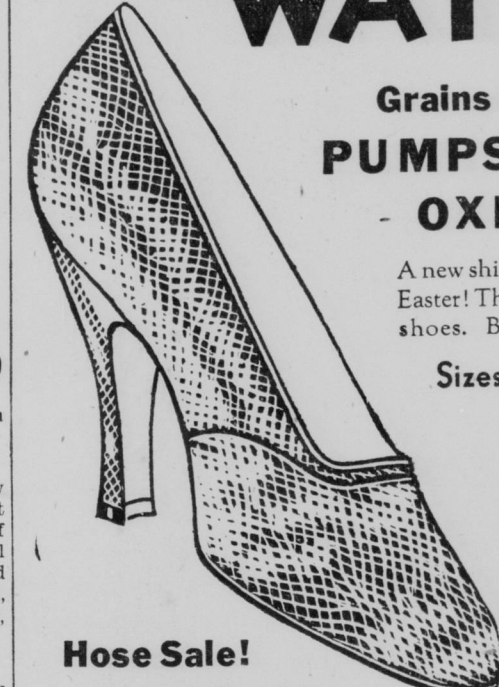


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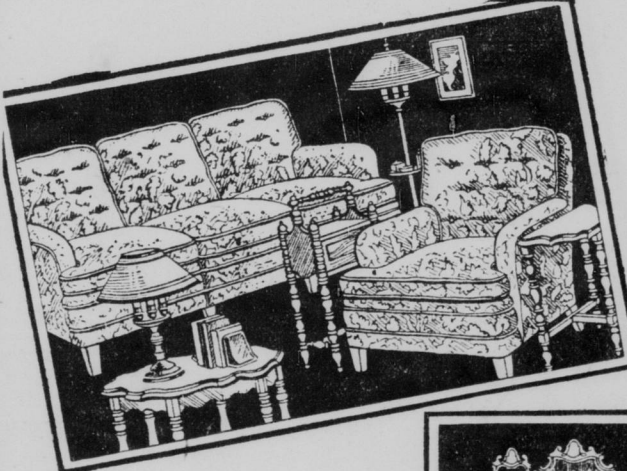
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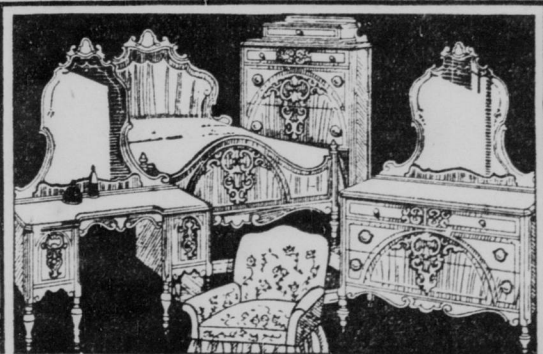
This is really a marvelous value—a chance to have a home of your own. This room has a handsome Tapestry Davenport and Lounge Chair, Table Lamps, and other items.

The Bedroom

A charming group which if bought alone would be worth \$75. But in the outfit you get a walnut vanity, chest, bed, soft mattress, resilient spring, pillows and spread.

The Dining Room

For the third room you can have your choice of Dining Room or Kitchen. In the Dining Room you get a massive Walnut Buffet, Table, Host Chair and Five Side Chairs.



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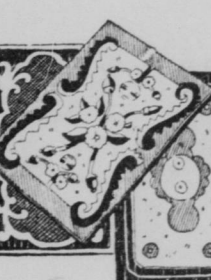
Full or single size with colorful cretonne cover. Tufted and Roll Edge. 40 pounds of new cotton and felt.

Very Low Terms

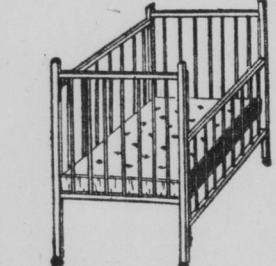


**Kitchen Cabinet**  
**\$16.75**

Green or oak—plenty of storage space. Special for Saturday.



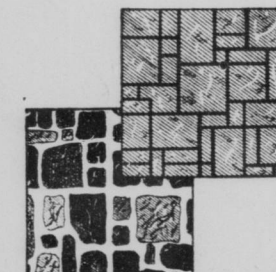
**27x48 Axminster**  
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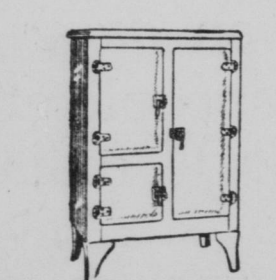
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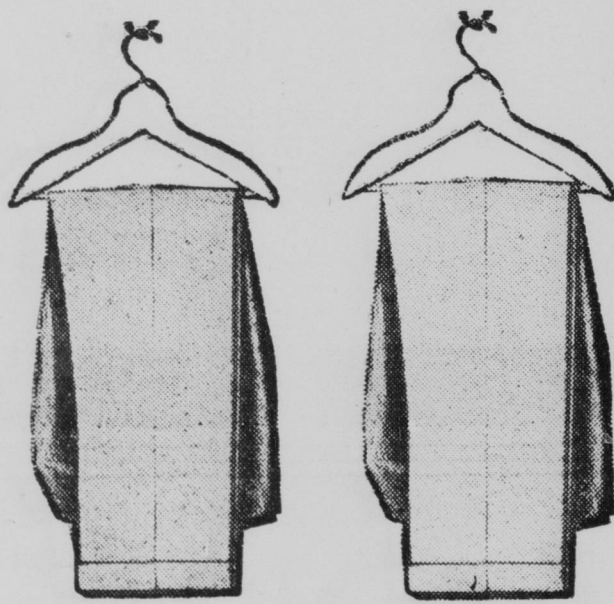
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