

Slipper's Soliloquies

**February 11, my
First Anniversary**



By Fred Slipper

February 11th, the date of this week's paper, is a big day for me. Just one year ago I started working at the Courier/Journal. Where has the time gone? It has been a fun year for me, and I have learned a lot about the newspaper business.

Before World War 11, I had no definite goal in life. I worked in Seattle, first for a wholesale clothing warehouse, then clerk in a transfer and moving business, then traffic manager for a food broker, and finally for the Port of Seattle before joining Uncle Sam's forces. After getting out of the Air Force, I knew one thing for sure — I didn't want to work in a big city.

So Jinny and I and Mary (born before I entered the service) returned to our first love, Skagit Valley. I started working for my father-in-law, Fred Fellows, in the Skagit Valley State Bank, located where ABC Travel Agency is now located. I found I liked the banking business, and after four years (1946-50) experience had an opportunity to move to Ritzville and be the manager of a State bank there. We thought we might stay in Eastern Washington five years or so, and ended up spending 26 years there!!!

So it was only natural that we would return to Sedro-Woolley when I was retired by Rainier National Bank, who had purchased the Ritzville State Bank in 1959. I spent eight months filling in at the Sedro-Woolley office of Skagit State Bank, and enjoyed it, renewing many old acquaintances through the bank customers. When I was through there I didn't know just what to do, but knew I had to find something to keep me busy as I didn't seem ready to retire.

So when Edward Wise, a native of Sedro-Woolley and publisher of the Sedro-Woolley Courier Times/Burlington Journal, contacted me regarding working at the paper, I said to myself, "Why not give it a try?" So here I am, one year later.

As they say at the most dramatic point of a TV program, "To be continued next week." Hope you can stand the suspense.....