

... Who Runs Uphill To Meet Success

David I. Walsh.

There were depression years when he had a ringside seat in the Capitol—and the World War II years when he headed the Automotive Council for War Production. Then labor and industry cooperation turned out the vital armaments that made Detroit the Arsenal of Democracy.

He represented the nation as an employer delegate to the International Labor Organization, at conferences in Stockholm, Geneva and at home, and served as chairman of employer delegates. There were other assignments, other important things to do.

He came to Michigan in 1939 with the Automobile Manufacturers Association, was its general manager when he moved to Nash-Kelvinator Corp. in 1948 as assistant to the president. He was executive vice-president when the company merged with Hudson Motor Car Co., in 1954 to form American Motors Corp. He became chairman and president of AMC in 1954 and remained there until he first ran for governor in 1962.

Romney got a chance to lick money problems when he headed AMC and faced a debt of \$85-million. But under his leadership came the compact car revolution in the industry, and AMC became a highly profitable and large corporation.

There was the story that Romney's interest in politics placed him on the verge of announcing his candidacy for the U.S. Senate—but that within 30 minutes on Saturday morning he changed his mind when warned that his departure from American Motors would send its stock down 10 points on Monday.

It was after Romney's later departure that AMC again ran into financial troubles, but he no longer was connected with the company which had made him a fortune, and given him homes in Bloomfield Hills and Lansing.

Honors for his business activities have included Associated Press' "Man of the Year" award four times for the man who began his career with Aluminum Corp. of America, which he served from 1930 to 1939, mostly in Washington.

There was always Romney time for civic, religious and humanitarian activities—including a citizens effort to help Detroit schools. He was chairman of a 270-member Advisory Council, which helped adopt 182 steps of improvement. He managed the Detroit Automotive Jubilee.

He helped organize the Citizens for Michigan when the state was on the verge of financial bankruptcy—sought answers and recommended solutions to Michigan's troubles.

He got behind a movement to call a Constitutional Convention, became a Republican delegate and a vice-president. It was an easy step from "Con-Coe" headlines to the Republican nomination for governor—and his present term—his third—in a four-year term provided by the new Constitution.

That Romney had won public respect through his public service and public office was shown by the increased margins in his reelections.

He brought to an end a 14-year Democratic domination when he defeated the incumbent by 70,000 votes—the only Republican to win statewide office that year. There had been a \$100 million deficit the public didn't like.

Two years later, in 1964, when President Johnson was running away with Michigan, Romney was reelected by 350,000 votes.

In 1965, Romney really ran—leading a Republican landslide with his 530,000 margin and carrying a Republican into a U.S. Senate seat sought by an old Michigan vote-getter—former Gov. G. Mennen (Goop) Williams.

Romney was credited with switching the Congressional delegation control to 12 to seven Republicans by ousting five Democrats; with restoring Republican control in the Legislature; with electing Republicans to the state's educational boards, to the Supreme Court (non-partisan) and many local offices.

The Romney runs in Michigan attracted national attention, as

had campaigning cooperation of his attractive wife, Lenore, his close adviser, companion and a speaker with appeal.

Romney has traveled countless thousands of miles, spoken at many party fund-raising dinners, visited 36 states in the last year.

He's been criticized for his

frequent absences from his job as governor—he's away on vacation now. But the answer is that "the state should willingly share a man big enough to be president—and proud to do it."

Shaking off political criticism, and touching his religion are different things for the

Merom faithful followers of Romney.

A devout member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Romney once was president of the Detroit state. He had served two years as a young minister in Great Britain. Son Scott also served there, and son Mitt is now in

France as a missionary.

But it is the church's stand on Negro membership that has brought criticism—and the Romney answer that he has shown his interest in the race by his efforts in open housing, and in the United Negro College Fund, and in other ways. Mrs. Romney resigned from a club

because it excluded Negroes from certain floors of the building.

He brushes aside the charge that he is not eligible for the presidency because he was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, of American parents, July 8, 1907. He's every inch and every ounce an American, he says, and grew

up in Utah and Idaho. He graduated from Salt Lake City High School, attended the University of Utah and George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Not a graduate, he has received a dozen or more honorary degrees from colleges and universities.

His wife is his high school

sweetheart, Lenore LaFount; his daughters Lynn (Mrs. Loren) Keenan, of Bloomfield Hills, and Jane (Mrs. Bruce) Robinson, of Ann Arbor. There are 11 grandchildren.

They are "Romney Boosters" and a closely knit family, and fully confident that the White House is in the family's future.

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