

## A traveling man

# If possible Morley would be everywhere

By Elaine Osborn

News staff writer

If it were possible, right now he'd be in Tehran, Peking, Phnom Penh and Washington—all at once.

It's instinctive for John Morley to want to be on top of things at all times since for more than 40 years he has watched history in the making as a freelance foreign and domestic correspondent.

Nicknamed "Marco Polo" Morley by radio announcer Lowell Thomas, the French-born Leisure World resident has been to virtually every major country in the world.

And armed with a knowledge of several languages, he has interviewed many of the men and women who shaped the world into what it is today.

Much of the material he gathered went into his syndicated columns, "I Believe" and "After Hours."

But Morley imparts his thorough knowledge of the foreign and domestic scene not only through the written word.

For 35 years, he has been a popular speaker who, along with Sir Winston Churchill and

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, was named one of the greatest speakers to ever appear at San Francisco's Town Hall.

He also has tallied more than 11,000 speaking engagements with 98 percent repeat appearances.

Morley was co-publisher of three small-circulation Illinois newspapers when the turbulence in Germany made it the focal point of world attention during the early 1930s.

Leaving his wife Lucile and their daughter behind in Oak Park, Ill., Morley departed in 1931 for Germany to discover a country in the midst of political upheaval.

During the eight years he was in Berlin for the Associated News Service, Morley said he watched millions of Germans stupefied by a short, stocky, dynamic man who eventually would lead them into a catastrophic war.

As a resident of the same hotel which housed Nazi headquarters, Morley said he saw Hitler on several occasions drinking coffee in the lobby or stopping on the street to chat amiably with passersby.

"I interviewed him many times," the correspondent recalled. "He was very accessible before he became chancellor."

The veteran newsman didn't hesitate to classify the dictator as the most difficult person he ever interviewed.

"It's hard to describe a man like Hitler," he said thoughtfully as he groped for impressions of Der Fueher.

"He wasn't a man I could feel comfortable around. He was very arrogant and very critical of our country.

"He had absolutely no vision of history. He only knew to grab out for power."

By the time he fled Berlin, Sept. 1, 1939 after the German invasion of Poland, Morley had several times returned to his lodgings to find his room ransacked by the Gestapo.

More than once, he was bundled off in a car to be interrogated by local authorities.

But it was one of only several times Morley had taken chances in the pursuit of the "hot story."

Two decades later, he risked life and liberty to get an exclusive interview with Dr. Zhivago author Boris Pasternak who then was under house arrest for his criticism of government activities.

Morley scaled the wall surrounding the Nobel Prize winners' Peredelkino estate past armed guards to obtain the two-hour interview.

"It was an unforgettable reporting experience," Morley wrote in his subsequent article.

"But I wouldn't do it again," he confessed in the comfort of his study.

Though among the dozens of prestigious people he met during his career, there were some people he didn't care for, Morley said there were far more individuals he liked.

"Nehru of India impressed me tremendously," he said of his interview with the late Indian prime minister.

David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir of Israel

were also among his favorites.

And of the several presidents with whom he conversed, Morley termed Richard Nixon and Franklin Roosevelt as the most capable leaders.

With world-wide connections, Morley said he has at his fingertips first-hand accounts on which to base his analytical lectures which keep him on tour half the year. Following are some of his impressions on issues of the day.

**—Establishing relations**

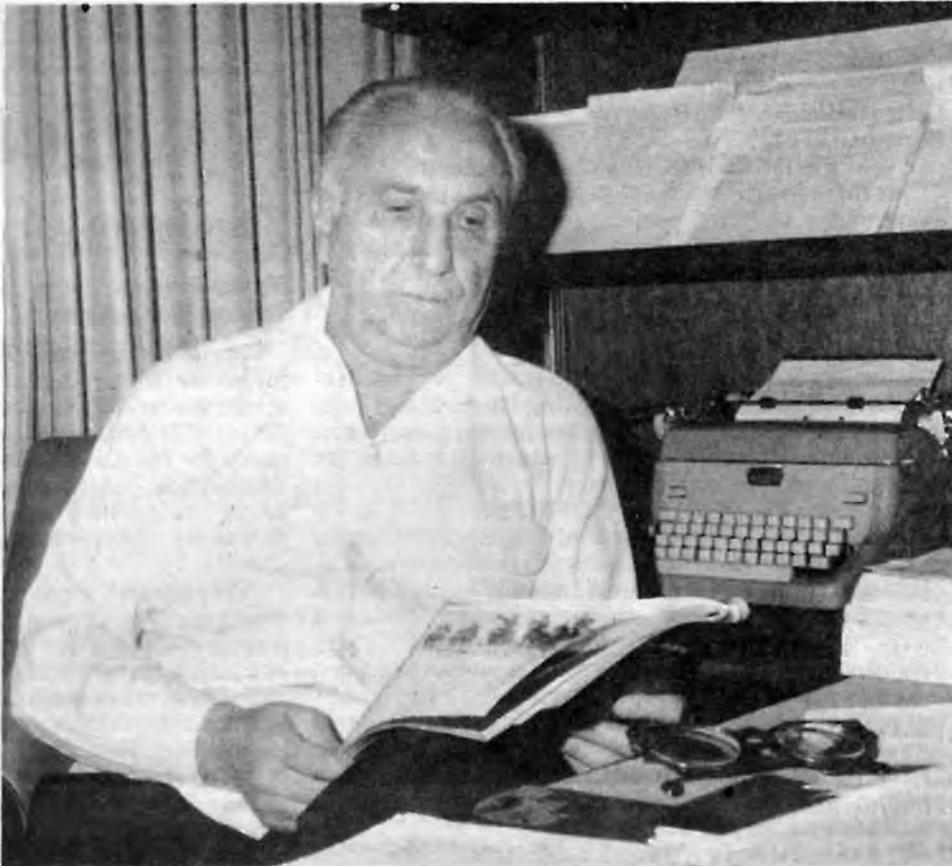
**with China:** "An unfortunate decision. It's the way it was done. Only eight hours before Carter made the announcement was Taiwan notified. Nixon could have made the deal. Ford could have made the deal. Johnson could have made the same deal. It was unfair to 17 million Taiwanese who don't want to be communist."

**—The Middle East:** "President Carter oversold Camp David. There will never be peace in the Middle East until the Arabs recognize the

right of Israel to exist as a nation and until Israel realizes the west bank is part of Jordan. Jerusalem should be a religious city run by a counsel of rabbis, Christians and Moslems."

**—President Carter:** "He is a fine moral man. But his foreign policy is most unfortunate. He doesn't have the people who know what they are doing. Unless he does an about-face, Kennedy will make mince meat out of him in 1980."

**—America's future:** "I'm very optimistic."



**POPULAR SPEAKER**—John Morley, known throughout the country and popular in Leisure World as a speaker, relaxes

during an interview in his Leisure World manor.

—NEWS Photo