EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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He Laughs at Locksmiths

EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.

LA GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

The divine power moves with difficufty, but at the same time surely. — Euripides.

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News From Home

We have just finished reading through a large sheaf of letters written to the La Grande junior chamber of commerce. The letters were written by former men and women members of our county and area — now serving their country in the armed services.

They are full of enthusiasm and gratitude, expressing their pleasure at being able to hear from home thfough the medium of the junior chamber's servicemen's letter.

The letter, a four page, tabloid size newspaper, created, mailed and directed by the members of the junior chamber, sponsored by local businessmen and published by the La Grande Evening Observer, is issued semi-monthly.

This editorial is for the purpose of commending the junior chamber on a highly worthwhile job which is being thoroughly handled, but also to point out how avid our men and women in the service are for news of home, of which they think constantly and to which they plan to return.

Here are a few excerpts from the letters:

"I am writing in regard to your paper, as I feel that my appreciation should be shown for your efforts in giving us fellows the enjoyment of receiving news and humor from home. This news and humor is especially helpful now as I am in combat on Iwo Jima island, which by now you have no doubt heard of, and as usual the marines 'have the situation well in hand'."

Another in France says:

"It really helps one's morale to get a paper from home. I have been away for three years. Keep the news coming and we will keep the Germans and Japs running."

Another, in this country, wrote:

"This is a very good means of keeping track of the other fellows in the service from the home town. It also gives us an idea of what is going on at home in the field of business and present and post-war planning."

These letters are typical. They have been received from all parts of the world in which our armed forces are stationed and fighting and many of them carry graphic descriptions of the numerous actions in which the authors have participated.

They want news from home primarily because, wherever they may be, home is where their thoughts are; secondarily because most of them hope to get back and they are genuinely interested in what's going on at home — not only from point of view of news of their friends and neighbors, but of what they will return to as a place to live and work and enjoy the compensations of the peace they are fighting for.

These facts open a great field of thinking toward our obligations to them, but they also indicate that we should do everything possible to keep them informed. Contact the junior chamber or this newspaper if you know of a serviceman or woman who is not receiving the servicemen's tabloid and it will be sent, but do more than that.

Write often. Nearly every letter received stressed the fact that news from home and contact with familiar people and places at home is a great morale builder. If so, then let's keep their morale at the highest possible pitch. It is little enough to do.

Funny Business

"It gives him that tired feeling so he can drop right off to sleep!"

• SO THEY SAY

Eight to 10 years after V-J day it is quite possible that 400,000 workers will be supported directly or indirectly by civil aviation.
—Commerce Secretary Henry A. Wallace.

We know that we have lost the war, but we want to show you we are the finest fighting soldiers in the world.
—German officer captured on western front.

The right of the peoples who suffered from nazi occupation to receive from Germany material compensation for the losses inflicted by her is indisputable. Besides the agressor should know that in future he will not remain unpunished.
—Soviet Ambassador Audrei I. Gromyko.

We still face the danger of secret nazi-fascist infiltration into the political and economic life of this hemisphere.
—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, jr.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

Between British operations in Greece, and Russian operations in Poland, patient, idealistic ex-Governor Lehman, head of UNRRA, is having serious difficulties. Though Poland probably has suffered more than any other country, UNRRA has only just been able to start workers and relief toward that war-torn country.

It was last summer that the Lublin government asked that UNRRA send a mission to help Poland. Governor Lehman's office immediately drafted a reply. But the U. S. office of censorship stepped in and said that the reply could not be sent to the Lublin government by uncoded radio because it involved information regarding the movement of supply ships and personnel.

Whereupon Governor Lehman's office asked the state department to send the message in code to the American embassy in Moscow, which in turn was to ask the Russian foreign office to deliver the message to the Lublin Poles.

The state department and the embassy in Moscow were glad to comply and the message was passed on to the Soviet foreign office. Several weeks passed and Governor Lehman assumed that the message had been delivered.

Then, suddenly, the Soviet foreign office, in rather an aggrieved manner, returned the message saying that it could not deliver it to the Lubin government. The Lublin Poles, it was explained, were a separate govern- the Soviets said, Governor Lehman should ment and no part of Moscow. Therefore, communicate with them direct.

This, of course, was exactly what Governor Lehman had tried to do, but had been barred by the U. S. censor.

In the interim, Lehman had troubles with Moscow regarding the question of sending UNRRA workers into Poland to distribute supplies. To try to iron out these difficulties, Lehman proposed going personally to Moscow to confer with Stalin. For a time he thought this was all set.

Then, suddenly, at the Montreal UNRRA conference last fall, Soviet Delegate Vasili Sergeev got up and announced bluntly and publicly that Lehman couldn't go to Moscow.

Under UNRRA rules, its own international workers must distribute relief in each country and nationals of that country are not to be in charge. However, the Russians have been suspicious that UNRRA workers were disguised intelligence agents and their suspicions were heightened by the way Col. L. F. R. Shepherd operated for British intelligence in Greece under the guise of an UNRRA worker.

Despite rebuffs, Governor Lehman kept on patiently pushing aid for Poland and now his efforts have succeeded. Since the Yalta conference ironed out the status of the Lublin Poles, Russia has consented to have UNRRA workers go to Poland, and supply ships have already departed.

Who's a Liar?

Senator Bushfield, South Dakota republican, recently rose on the senate foor and called this columnist various brands of liar because he reported that the Duponts, the Mellons and the Pews of Pennsylvania had contributed heavily to the senator's 1940 election campaign.

If the senator wanted to indulge in name-calling (incidentally he wasn't very original in his epithets) he might also have included G. O. P. Treasurer W. H. Burke of Pierre, S. D., who filed a sworn statement on campaign contributions with the secretary of state of South Dakota.

They included: Lammot Dupont, $4000; Irenee Dupont, $2500; Alfred Sloan, $2500; Donald Brown (Dupont), $2000; Ailsa Mellon, $5000; Sarah Mellon Scaife, $4000; Col. McCormick of the Chicago Tribune, $5000; Mary Ethel Pew, $1000; Earle Halliburton (Pew), $5000; Joseph Pew, $1000; Mabel Pew Myrin, $1000.

Commenting on these generous gifts from folks who lived a long way from South Dakota, Senator Bushfield gratefully said (Congressional Record, page 5849, June 12, 1943):

"We are tremendously inspired that we have a government in this country which permits individual Americans to accumulate and make enough money so that they can give this sort of contribution to their friends throughout the country."

Wonder what is Senator Bushfield's definition of a liar?

The definition of a Japanese island: a body of land entirely surrounded—or occupied—by Americans.

It won't be long till we'll be wanting our garden to turn green with envy over the garden next door.

Saving up for a long vacation drive which you won't be able to take is a good way to accumulate money for war bonds.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Under the newspaper picture of the young and beautiful wife of an engineer-gunner on a Flying Fortress was the announcement that she had been voted most beautiful wife in her husband's unit, a heavy bombardment group in Italy.

Their dangerous jobs must have made those men completely reckless. Else why would they ever voluntarily have taken on a job as full of dynamite as voting on which one of them had the best looking wife at home.

Surely, being married men, they must know that while a woman may not expect even her best friends to go around describing her as beautiful, she believes it is her husband's duty to regard her as the most beautiful woman in the world.

So each wife naturally would expect to get her husband's vote—if not the vote of any of the other husbands—who might be prejudiced, naturally, in favor of their own wives.

And that would make the contest something of a farce—unless unmarried members of the unit were allowed to cast their honest ballots.

It looks as though men whose lives are just one bombing mission after another, have enough troubles without getting themselves into a jam where they have to figure out what to say in a letter o pacify the wife who was an also-ran in a "most beautiful wife" contest.

But then maybe living dangerously has become a habit with them.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The accepted rule in this grabby and power-hungry capital is that every individual or group seeking to exert its will on congress has some selfish motive behind its efforts. There is a notable exception to this rule, however, in the background of the current movement for congressional reform now being studied by a non-partisan, joint committee headed by Sen. Bob LaFollette of Wisconsin and Congressman Mike Monroney of Oklahoma.

This example of disinterested public service is worth knowing about because it shows that enlightened public opinion, intelligently directed, can exert a wholesome influence to right the wrongs of government in a democracy, even in time of war. And it is a good case history to show what it takes to make the wheels go round in Washington.

The study of congressional organization now begun in open hearings before the LaFollette-Monroney committee is really the result of four years of behind-the-scenes preparation by a number of individuals, congressmen as well as private citizens. Spearheading many of these efforts has been the American Political Science association, which in 1941 set up a committee on congress to see what might be done about correcting the growing disrespect into which the legislative branch of the federal government was rapidly falling.

Committee Tries New Tack

Instead of doing the usual job of research, and writing another book which would soon be forgotten, the Political Science association committee on congress decided on an unique experiment. It would seek to stimulate congressional interest in self-government and to arouse public interest in legislative reform at the same time.

Dr. George B. Galloway was named chairman of the committee of 10 well-known political scientists. Galloway, after a short business career with American Telephone and Telegraph company, had been connected with the bureau of municipal research, the Twentieth Century Fund, National Planning association, and Brookings Institution. For two years he had been in the national recovery administration, so he knew his way around Washington. He began his congressional reform activities with a series of small informal dinner meetings with congressmen from both political parties, at which the problems and practices of congress were sympathetically explored and discussed. These dinner meetings were held on the average of once a month over the past four years, and covered perhaps 20 per cent of the congress.

Enlisted Public Support

The Galloway committee also stimulated forum discussions and radio round-table debates, magazine articles and books. Late in 1944 they organized a national commission on the organization of congress to enlist public support for modernizing congressional machinery and methods. National Planning association had an indipendent study of congress made by the Cleveland engineering firm of Robert Heller and associates. League of women voters put congressional reorganization on its "must" list. Galloway's committee made a report of its own. Newspapers supported the idea from the very beginning. Gradually, the ball began to roll. It was the congressmen themselves, however, who carried the ball for the big gains.

Nearly 100 congressmen have been asked to give the joint committee their ideas on how congressional procedure might be improved. Then other government officials will be heard and representatives of civic groups and private individuals interested in government reform. The hearings will run over several months.

A mass of suggestions for strengthening congress is piling up. The committee will make its first report April 1. Dr. Galloway, who inspired much of this activity, is the joint committee's chief of staff.

Side Glances

"Twelve years old and I can't go to a boy-girl party! I'm glad they are fighting this war to free the world of tyrants!"

• McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

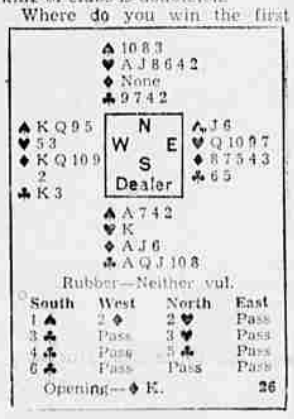
By WM. E. McKENNEY, America's Card Authority

"WRONG" DEFENSE STYMIES SIX CLUBS

Have you ever met Sylvia at the bridge table? Sylvia is the girl who does the wrong thing but it always works out right.

You might say that you can make six clubs on this hand if you know where all the cards are. Therefore I want you to play the hand knowing that the king of clubs is doubleton.

Where do you win the first



diamond trick? Well, if you trump it, you cannot make the hand. You must win it with the ace. Your next play is the king of hearts and now you must lead the queen of clubs. West wins this with the king and supposing he returns a club. You win it with the nine spot in dummy, lead a small heart and ruff it, ruff a diamond in dummy, lead another small heart and trump it.

Now you can still get into the dummy by ruffing another diamond and all the hearts are good.

Looks simple, but Sylvia did not take the king of clubs when the queen was led. She played a small club. Now try and make it. Sure, you can pick up Sylvia's king of clubs with your ace but you have not enough entries into dummy to establish that heart suit.

Questions & Answers

Q—Are the nazis still using Norway as a naval base?

A—Some 300 U-boats as wel as surface vessels are reported based in the fjords, mostly at Bergen, Trondheim, Narvik and Oslo.

Q—Have any governments-in-exile left London for their liberated native lands?

A—The Greek, Belgian, Yugoslav, Czech and Luxembourg governments have gone home.

Police seized $10,000 from owners of an Illinois gambling spot. Customers likely laughed up their sleeves—if they had a shirt left.

• IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

Mac Wood, manager of the Golden Rule, went to Flora today on business.

Pat Foley, L. M. Hoyt, Fred Henning and S. D. Crowe went to Baker on business.

Winfield Eckley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Eckley of this city, ranks high in academic work at O. A. C. Recently he was elected to an honorary engineering society on his merits as a student.

Gaining his objective through competitive examinations, Fred Kiddle, La Grande high school graduate and a junior at the University of Oregon, was elected one of four university guides in the Oregon building in the exposition in San Francisco.

15 Years Ago

The La Grande municipal band which ranked high among organizations of its kind in the northwest, was invited to enter the northwest amateur band contest in Portland in July. The band was directed by Andrew Loney.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Evans and daughter, Norma, returned home from a three-week visit in Colorado.

Frank Cullen, Leslie Keffer and Gene Anderson spent the weekend in Portland.

10 Years Ago

With Eastern Oregon Normal school auditorium stage packed to capacity with young vocalists from nearly a dozen high schools in this section of the state, the fifth annual music festival came to a close, with two massed chorus numbers directed by Paul Pratt, guest critic from Oregon State college.

Ed Pratt, former east of Imbler, started a new business. He received a shipment of 12 bullfrogs from the south. He planned to sell the bullfrogs raised to a cannery.

This Curious World

NEXT: The high jumping tarpon.