

# EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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Page Two

## Un-High-Horsed



### EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

**IRRIGATION**—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.  
**LA GRANDE**—A city of 10,000—Extend the city limits.

### EDDY'S TEXT

See then that ye sit, as unpolluted as flocks, but be wise.—Ephesians 5:15.

### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Our peace must be a peace of victors, not of the vanquished.—Foch.

### '... But Names Can Never Hurt Me'

"The Soviet people are surprised at many fantastic statements of Soviet life and ways appearing in the foreign press," says the Russian magazine "War and the Working Class." "For a quarter century a considerable part of the American public and falsified information about the Soviet press."

Although expressed with the magazine's usual candor, the charge is one to which the American press should probably enter a general plea of guilty. Even by unbiased standards, American information on Soviet Russia is poor because the information comes from observers who seldom can regard the USSR as just another country.

Communist Russia is a way of life and a state of mind as well as a nation and its government. Few Americans could honestly say that they are without bias and preconception as far as Russia is concerned. That includes American reporters. And while "War and the Working Class" obviously regards any unflattering mention of the Soviet Union as "fantastic" and "falsified," there is enough American confu-

sion about the country to warrant its statement.

Of course, some Russian reports on the American way of life are a little fantastic, too. One thing that puzzles our Soviet allies apparently is our politics. They were hard put to understand opposition to President Roosevelt in the last campaign as anything short of fascism, pro-nazism, or at least reaction.

It must be hard for the Russians to realize that we Americans can differ violently and bitterly and still remain friendly and tolerant—enough so, at any rate, to unite in support of those things that affect our deepest welfare.

We differ about other things than politics, too. Capital and labor quarrel. So do races and religions and regions. The north and south are diametrically opposed on several issues. Yet while we bicker and insult and threaten, we can also face the same perils with common courage, share the same sorrows, and rejoice in the same victories equally won.

It might encourage the Russian man in the street and factory and field to know these things about us. For if we can differ among ourselves and remain friendly, then it is quite possible that the American and Russian people can do likewise.

The two nations have united to win the war without denouncing mutual admiration of Marshal Stalin, Thomas E. Dewey, Earl Browder and Sewell Avery by their various peoples. It is not beyond reason that they might unite to preserve the peace under the same arrangement—complete with the privilege of calling names.

### Tough Situation

We can't understand all this excitement over porcupines eating synthetic rubber tires. After all, a lot of humans these days are eating tripe, which yields approximately the same gustatory delights—but no publicity.

### Funny Business



"Okay, Egg-nog—beat it!"

### SO THEY SAY

We've got to export (after the way three times as much as we exported just before the war) if we want to keep our industry running at somewhere near capacity.

—Assistant Secretary of State William L. Clayton.

The German soldier has acted in such a way here that these borderland Germans no longer attach any value to being or remaining Germans. So low can a people sink.

—Unmailed letter on German captured on western front.

Victors won't terminate our obligations. It will mean, rather, that having disposed of the predators who tried to impose their own quick remedies, we will have earned anew the right and the obligation to discover and apply solutions better adapted to human needs.

—Dr. Everett Case, president Colgate U.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — It has now been over a year since this column exposed army tardiness in ordering the quick-release parachute, but unfortunately the old-fashioned triple-release harness is still dragging some victims to death.

Latest tragedy was Lieut. Joseph H. Burton Jr. of Los Angeles, drowned in the Warwick river Virginia after he was unable to unbuckle his parachute. The body, when found last week, showed that Lieutenant Burton had been able to unfasten one buckle, but not the other two. The parachute was wrapped around his legs and had dragged him under the water.

The quick-release parachute features a little metal box worn on the chest, permitting the parachutist to get out of his harness in ten seconds, instead of laboriously unfastening three buckles under the thighs and over the shoulder. Though the army at first denied statements in this column that quick-releases are necessary, they have now been ordered. But production has been slow, and men on the home front are not yet sufficiently equipped.

### Bretton Woods Veto

Despite the overwhelming vote of the people last November for international cooperation, a majority of the house banking and currency committee is preparing to report unfavorably on the Bretton Woods agreement — first test of the willingness of congress to participate in international organizations.

There has been overwhelming support of Bretton Woods from church, labor and business groups, but the 12 republicans on the committee and two democrats are ready to vote against the agreement as it now stands. The democrats are Barry of New York and Baldwin of Maryland.

Lobbying against Bretton Woods has been conducted by the top layer of the American Bankers association — which wants bankers free to make both long and short-term loans abroad without any government control. The attack has been leveled against the stabilization fund, without which the international bank would be largely futile.

The committee majority will probably not vote against the entire agreement, voting instead to tag on various amendments which will necessitate another international conference. Treasury and state department of-

officials are doubtful if, once we have rejected the Bretton Woods proposal, another agreement can be worked out.

### Roosevelt and Al Smith

It was the late Al Smith who more than anyone else persuaded Franklin Roosevelt, then discouraged by his physical setback, to run for governor of New York in 1928. The race gave FDR his real start toward the presidency. Later Smith was bitterly critical of Roosevelt's domestic issues, but with the war they became more friendly. And when Al died last October, Roosevelt paid him a great tribute in his Boston speech.

Today a modern housing project is being built near Oliver street, the humble east side district where Al Smith was reared. And to commemorate the man who came out of the slums to be governor of New York, a committee is raising money to build a plaza in the center of the housing project. It will contain a fountain and a plaque to the memory of Alfred E. Smith.

### UNRRA Confirms

This column recently told how a British colonel, posing as an UNRRA worker in Greece, had been found with receipts showing British payments to Greek right-wing factions to encourage them to fight the Greek left wing. Simultaneously, the British information service issued a denial.

Later in the day, however, Reuters, the British news service, telephoned the UNRRA public relations office and asked for comment on the story.

"What comment?" asked the UNRRA representative.

"You're going to deny it, aren't you?" said Reuters.

"No," replied UNRRA, "the story's true."

### New General Handy

Least-known of the newly promoted full generals is Gen. Thomas T. Handy, deputy chief of staff. If you look him up in who's who, you will find that he merely says he was born in Tennessee. He does not say where, and he does not list his father or mother.

Fact is that the general's father was Rev. T. R. Handy, an itinerant Methodist preacher who spent fifty years shepherding his flocks in the mountains of southwestern Virginia and eastern Tennessee. His father sent young Handy to college at Emory and Henry, a church school near Bristol, because

(Continued on Page 6)

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

In naming this year's best-dressed women, New York's fashion academy awarded to every woman in the uniformed services the title of "best dressed woman in public life."

That is a gesture in the right direction. But what about Mrs. Average America? Shouldn't there be a place for her in the best-dressed ranks?

She is wearing a new spring hat with last year's suit, because the suit is "just as good as ever," and besides she doesn't go to a lot of parties any more.

That hat she is wearing with the old suit is pretty giddy. She bought it one day when her morale was low, and though now she suspects it is really kind of silly looking, still it DID lift her spirits the day she bought it, instead of the bedspread she had meant to purchase.

She has on rayon stockings, of course—for she wouldn't touch black market nylons with a ten foot pole or a ten dollar bill.

She is wearing sensible shoes for two reasons—because she can't waste ration points on frivolous ones and because she is doing more walking and standing in line than she has done in years.

On Easter morning she'll wear flowers to perk up last year's suit—because of the thoughtfulness of a son or husband thousands of miles from home.

But best of all—and why she deserves to get in the best-dressed ranks—she is wearing a smile. She does a lot of worrying in private, but she isn't unloading her troubles on the world, and when she starts out for the bus line she has a ready smile for everyone she meets.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Without prejudice and just for the fun of it, there are here set down a number of recently observable trends in what is known as "the labor movement," so that he who reads may also run his finger down the list and make his own conclusions on where this labor movement might be headed.

Union membership is now close to 14 million, or roughly one out of every four persons in the labor force, one out of three industrial or non-farm workers.

There are five principal groups within the movement, A. F. of L., C. I. O., Railway Brotherhoods, John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers, and the Independents. Though these groups get together in various combinations for specific purposes, general unification of the labor movement in a common front seems to be making no progress whatever. A postwar economic setback might provide impetus for bringing them closer.

In the meantime, lack of organic unity provides comfort and strength for other elements of the population which may have cause to fear the growing power of organized labor.

The need for a department of labor to serve as labor's spokesman in the halls of government has ceased to exist. Organized labor itself is interested and active in every phase of government activity. The labor lobbies are as powerful as any pressure groups ever established in Washington by industrial groups.

Both A. F. of L. and C. I. O., and the Railway Brotherhoods to a lesser degree, have complete legislative programs. U. M. W. goes after the things that affect the coal industry, but the other three have interests as broad as the national economy, covering education, taxes, racial discrimination, appropriations.

Practically no proposal comes up in congress, practically no order is issued by an executive agency without drawing some comment of endorsement or disapproval from A. F. of L. President Big Green or C. I. O. President Phil Murray.

Union officials sit at many war agency advisory groups. Union representatives sit on the national war labor board, passing

judgment on its own controversies, though not always winning majority decisions to labor's liking.

The federal government has become so thoroughly saturated with the organized labor point of view that anti-labor forces have in many instances turned to the state legislatures to enact curbs on labor activities. In turn, the labor organizations are showing a greater interest in state and local government.

Activities of the C. I. O. political action committee are well known to everyone who showed any interest at all in the last national elections. While openly opposed by leaders of the other big labor groups, the P.A.C. program was unquestionably followed by many rank and file members of those other groups.

Many labor policy decisions on both international and national affairs are made by labor leaders and executive committees before reference to union membership. This has led to charges of dictatorship of the rank and file by its hierarchy. If such dictatorship exists, it can be viewed as a healthy thing in attempts to enforce such decisions as the "no-strike pledge." It can be viewed with alarm if it suppresses the freedom of thought or action of the rank and file.

Among the debatable major objectives of the labor movement, these trends are worth watching:

Postwar full employment and increased social security. More and better public housing. Broader public health measures, including health insurance, hospitalization and even socialized medicine. Royalties on production to provide worker benefits.

Increased minimum wage and guaranteed annual wage. More maintenance of membership and closed shop agreements. Elimination of geographic wage differentials leading to more national bargaining on an industry basis. Organization of foremen and supervisors. More labor-management cooperation in war production, perhaps leading to greater labor participation in management.

Add it all up and what have you?

## Side Glances



"When we get a nice, shiny, spring day like this I still imagine I can see him flying home through those lovely clouds!"

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

### ADVICE: CUE PLAY FOR WORST BREAK

You know, we would all be better bridge players if we would follow a theory of B. Jay Becker, one of the country's outstanding life masters. "B. Jay" says "Why not provide against the worst possible break? Do not take a chance that your are going to get a good break."

For example, take today's hand. "B. Jay" says that with a spade opening the hand is auto-

shows out so the declarer leads the queen of clubs.

East is forced to cover, the declarer trumps, cashes the ace of diamonds, discarding dummy's deuce of spades, and now the only trick that East can win is the queen of clubs.

## IN FORMER YEARS

**30 Years Ago**  
Interests of the government, the state, the big sawmill concerns in eastern Oregon and individual timber owners were considered at the annual meeting of the Union-Wallowa county fire protective association. President George Palmer presided.

Enterprise high school took a decisive step forward toward the state debating championship when it defeated Pendleton. The team previously won from La Grande and took the championship of eastern Oregon in winning from Pendleton.

**15 Years Ago**  
The Union Pacific depot was moved to make room for the construction of the new \$140,000 union station.

More than 30 men, members of the La Grande country club, worked with shovel, rake and wheelbarrow, improving the golf course.

A gasoline war was in full progress in La Grande with the majority of the dealers listing gasoline at 25 cents a gallon with a few selling at 23 cents.

One of the first shipments of Bob White quail, about a dozen pair, was liberated in Union county, along with 84 Chinese pheasants and 28 mallard ducks.

### 10 Years Ago

The city declamatory contest finals for grades 3, 4 and 5 were held at Willow school and winners were Lois Stein, in the non-humorous group, and James Anderson in the humorous division. Winners will participate in the county contest later in the spring.

George T. Cochran was named chairman of the Union county Red Cross for the ensuing 12 months. Victor Eckley was elected vice-chairman, Mrs. R. W. Eakin, secretary, and Chester Thompson, treasurer.

## This Curious World

IF YOU LIVED ON THE PLANET JUPITER YOU'D BREATHE AN ATMOSPHERE COMPOSED LARGELY OF METHANE AND AMMONIA



KAWA KOBORI IS THE JAPANESE VOLCANO FUJIYAMA STILL ACTIVE?



ANSWER: No. This, the highest peak in Japan, has been extinct many years.



NEXT: Going overboard for parachute jumping.