

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Fruit's Almost Ripe



Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Over in the Pentagon building, the military problem which the generals are watching and worrying about most today is supplies. Actually it's not the production of supplies on the home front which so much concerns the army, but getting them from the channel ports to the fast-moving western front. If gasoline, bread and bullets can keep up with the tanks and armored cars of Generals Patton, Simpson and Hodges, then not much in the way of German resistance is expected.

But the inside fact during Patton's lightning advance was that he ran out of gas and supplies; and he stayed out of gas and supplies for 42 long days. He was powerless to move. That was the turning point in the war last year.

This hitherto untold chapter of the western front campaign occurred in September, after Patton's spectacular tank dash across France to the edge of Germany. It reveals one of the sore spots in the European picture and one reason why the military schedule, which called for victory last autumn, got sidetracked.

General Patton, whom the Germans fear most, had been rushed out ahead and was being used as a decoy to divert attention from the First and Ninth armies, which were scheduled to mass against the more vulnerable northwest German border. But Patton ran out of gasoline, and had to wait, chewing his nails, with empty fuel tanks.

General Eisenhower ordered mountains of supplies sent direct from the United States. But although civilian production at home got the blame, the real bottleneck was not in the United States, but with the entire distribution system in France. In fact, this has been the subject of drastic inside investigation by top generals in the Pentagon building.

Red Ball Highway

In the last war, U. S. transportation in France was under W. W. Atterbury, president of the Pennsylvania railroad. In this war, transportation and supply distribution have been kept under professional army men. Instead of recruiting railroad and trucking experts, two West Pointers, Lieut. Gen. John Clifford Hodges Lee and his deputy, Brig. Gen. Royal B. Lord, took over the job.

Criticism of supply has been such inside the army the General Marshall ordered a personal probe, and even Gen. B. B. Somervell, in command of services of supply, wrote a critical four-page report and sent Maj. Gen. Leroy Lutes to France to report on the situation. Lutes took with him a staff of colonels, made a thorough survey, and submitted a blistering report urging that the entire supply set-up in France be revamped—including those in command.

Endless meetings followed in the Pentagon building at which efforts were made to patch up the mistakes. This was at the time when an army propaganda drive talked about failures on the home front and said that men in the front lines were left without supplies.

Meanwhile a representative of Time magazine was taken in General Lee's special airplane for a tour of the supply front, and later published a glowing description of the supply job. That description, however, did not correspond with the highly critical report of General Lutes.

One criticism was that the much-advertised "Red Ball Highway" under Maj. Gen. Frank S. Ross was not sufficient to carry war goods from the channel ports to the front. Meanwhile, insufficient railroad troops and equipment were taken to France to repair the battered French railroads.

Supplies Get Mixed

Another criticism was that supply officers had mixed up the bills of lading, so that some ships had to sit for days while a complete inventory of cargo was retaken. Also, supplies got so mixed that a front-line commander needing 104 mm. shells would get carloads of 155 mm., while an outfit wanting C rations would get a mountain of K rations.

As a result, front-line commanders complained that they couldn't start an offensive for fear their supply lines would fail to keep up with them. This situation is believed partly responsible for General Bradley's inability to launch a full-strength general offensive simultaneously along the western front last fall.

General Somervell himself made a personal inspection of the situation and assigned Maj. Gen. Thomas B. Larkin to drop up Lee and Lord. Meanwhile, the *Post*—See WASHINGTON... Page 6

Side Glances



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McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

WARREN BID MAKES SLAM CHOICE EASY

(This is the third of three articles on the Warren slam convention.)

As already stated, most slam conventions show aces first, then in a later rebid disclose the kings which the responder holds. However, using the Warren slam convention, these key cards are shown in the same response, and thus, upon the basis of the response to the slam convention,

♠ A 6 5	♥ K 4 2	♦ K 5 4 3	♣ K
♠ 8 7 4 3	♥ J 10 9 8	♦ J 10 9 8	♣ J 10 9 8
♠ 7	♥ 7	♦ 7	♣ 7
♠ 3 2	♥ 3	♦ 3	♣ 3

W N E S Dealer

♠ A Q J 7	♥ A Q 2	♦ A Q J 6 3	♣ K
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

South West North East

♠ Pass	♥ Pass	♦ Pass	♣ Pass
♠ 4 N T	♥ 5 N T	♦ 6 N T	♣ 7 N T

Opening—♠ J

When the opening lead was made, South was able to spread his hand and claim all the tricks. His fortunate choice of no trump rather than hearts avoided the only possibility of disaster.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

Members of the farmers' union have drafted resolutions asking the city commission to provide hitching racks near the business district.

John Costello, who at one time was a brakeman for the O.W., was ordained a priest at Mt. Angel college. He is the nephew of Martin King, who with Costello will go to Alexandria, near Omaha, where Father Costello will celebrate his first mass.

Fred Bock of La Grande bought the only butcher shop and meat business in Condon and is at work in his new location. The family remained here until school closed.

15 Years Ago

Claude C. Pratt and his family returned to La Grande after having been away a year and a half, during which they traveled more than 17,500 miles. Pratt operated a lumber company in La Grande for many years.

Climbing to 78 degrees, Old Sol gave the Grande Ronde Valley a summer day, a record breaking temperature for this time of the year.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Hanks and son, Ho, drove to Salt Lake City to attend the centennial celebration of the LDS church.

10 Years Ago

The first carload of vinegar from La Grande was shipped east by the Blue Mountain Vinegar company, in a special car with 8,000 gallons capacity. Upon its return it will again be filled and reshipped. The plant started operation in August. All apples used for the making of vinegar were obtained in this valley.

Eddie Hofmann caught the limit, 20 trout, at Catherine Creek, the first day of the season. Steelhead fishing continued popular despite the opening of the trout season.

It may be easier to decide whether to stop at a sure six or try for a certain seven. In today's hand, after North's trump response to the heart bid, South was not fearful about the safety of a contract of six, but when he bid four no trump, and his partner responded with five no trump, showing five points, South could safely contract for the grand slam, and rightly chose no trump as the final contract to avoid the possibility of a first round ruff, as thirteen tricks could be counted in top cards.

Questions & Answers

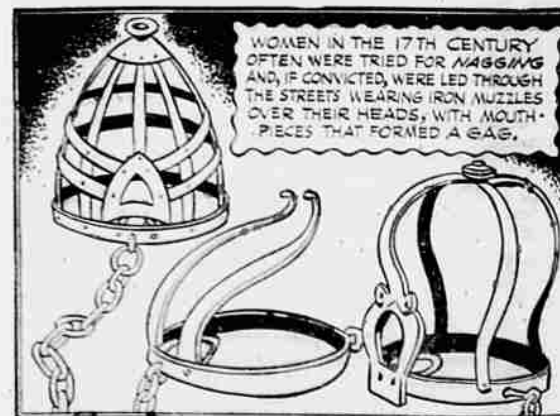
Q—Why is Speyer, Germany, noteworthy?

A—It is the oldest city on the Rhine, dating from the 5th century B. C. Speyer has been invaded by Caesar, Attila, Louis XIV and Patton. Pre-war population 30,000.

Q—Does liberated Albania have its own government?

A—There is a government headed by Col. Gen. Enver Hoxha; he asks recognition from the allies.

This Curious World



Kwiz Korner

THE PHILIPPINES WERE DISCOVERED BY MAGELLAN COOK TASMAN



THIS BOOK, PUBLISHED IN 1881, IS STILL RECOMMENDED AS A TEXT-BOOK, BECAUSE IT TEACHES NAVIGATORS TO THINK.

ANSWER: Magellan, in 1520
NEXT: Why we must conserve fuel oil.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

In Toledo, Ohio, a woman who charged that her husband frequently fell asleep while smoking cigarettes received a divorce on grounds of "gross neglect."

Isn't that setting a dangerous precedent?

Think of all the wives—When we again have good cars and good tires—who could charge their husbands with "gross neglect" because they drive too fast and don't listen to the advice of the family's back seat driver.

And think of the men who could bring divorce proceedings against their wives for the "gross neglect" of the woman who backs into other cars when trying to park and tear off garage doors.

And the bridegrooms who are sure their health is suffering from the meals they get at home. Poor cooking could be gross neglect, too, couldn't it?

Furniture-Moving, Too

And so could a wife's moving the furniture around so often that a man always stumbles over it in the dark. And a husband's insisting on driving home after a cocktail party at which he has done a little too much celebrating.

Couples—even the most happily mated—have a tendency to blame all their accidents around a house on each other. "If you just wouldn't insist on putting these blamed little rugs around everywhere," a man says when he picks himself up after slipping on a scatter rug.

And, "I told you you ought to fix that back porch step," a wife says after she trips on a loose board.

See how busy the divorce courts would be if husbands and wives were encouraged to get divorces for "gross neglect" which is nothing but everyday carelessness.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Anti-Trust division of the Department of Justice will soon enter the picture as an active factor in determining who can buy what surplus government property, if its original cost was more than a million dollars. Now in preparation for issuance in the near future is a Department of Justice memorandum which will be a guidebook on what conditions of the Sherman Anti-Trust Law a prospective purchaser will have to meet. And what he will have to do or be to get approval. Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, in charge of the Anti-Trust division, has already started to train a staff to process these proposals.

First principle will obviously be that no sale will be approved if it will tend to give anyone a monopoly in anything.

A secondary will be that sales of surplus war plants will be frowned on if the buyers intend to shut them down just to remove their productive capacity from competition. This represents an interesting tie-up with the administration's free enterprise, small business, full employment policies. The continuation any sale will make toward post war employment will thus become a test of merit for any prospective purchaser.

Aluminum Plants, At Test Case

As an example of how these anti-trust restrictions may be applied, disposal of surplus aluminum producing and fabricating facilities may offer early test cases. The government now owns nearly 100 aluminum plants valued at over \$40 million dollars. The government's main aluminum ingot producing plants now represent 42 per cent of the total industry capacity. Aluminum Company of America owns 37 per cent, Reynolds 18 per cent, and other corporations the other 11 per cent.

Only one of the government's 62 plants have been sold to private concerns. Both the Army and Navy are now selling the New York plant, and the Navy has taken over the Burlington, N. C. plant as a test case. The government is now disposing of the aluminum plants which might be used

private industry, a couple of complicating factors enter the picture.

First, the Small Business Committee of the senate has launched an investigation of the light metal industry. That lends another decidedly anti-monopolistic cast to the proceedings.

Second, the U. S. Circuit Court of New York, acting for the Supreme Court, has ruled that the Aluminum Company of America did formerly have a monopoly on ingot production. The point generally overlooked was that the Circuit Court withheld judgment on whether the Aluminum Company should be dissolved, saying in effect that this should wait on disposal of government facilities to see what the pattern of post-war ownership might turn out to be. The implied threat here is that if the Aluminum Company acquires such additional ingot producing capacity, it will have to be dissolved as a monopoly.

Asks Government Guarantees

A recent government witness before the Small Business committee, Samuel Moment of the Booneville Power Administration, even went so far as to say that the government should make such favorable terms of sale or lease to new producers that their market would be guaranteed for five years, through purchases for a government stockpile.

Department of Justice gets its authority to advise an surplus property disposal from two sources. Congress reserved to itself the right to approve sales of properties costing more than five million dollars. But in the Surplus Property Act the Department of Justice was given authority to pass on the disposal of all properties costing more than one million dollars, and in the War Mobilization and Reconversion Act Justice is required to report to congress on the growth of competition.

Attorney General Francis Biddle has also submitted two such reports to congress. He has announced other reports on surplus property. The Anti-Trust Division considers it has a mandate from congress to serve as a watchdog on the whole surplus property disposal program.

EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

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

TODAY'S TEXT

And David took all the flocks and herds, which they drove before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil. — I Samuel 30:20.

United We Stand

Sunday, April 8, there will be at Elgin under the auspices of the Rod and Gun club of that community, a meeting of representatives of 20 sportsmen's organizations from four eastern Oregon counties, Union, Wallowa, Baker and Umatilla.

Purpose of the meeting will be the formation of an eastern Oregon sportsmen's council to tentatively stated:

"Foster, increase and propagate the wild life of eastern Oregon, and to act as a medium for passing on to the state game commission the sentiments of the sportsmen of eastern Oregon relative to the fish and game laws of this section of Oregon.

"To cooperate with all conservation organizations in the propagation and conservation of game, to the end that there shall be an abundance of game for our sportsmen and returning soldiers.

Every sportsman in the area should rally to the cause, with particular reference to those of Union and Wallowa counties, sports centers of this state and potentially the greatest sports region in the United States.

Eastern Oregon has much to offer sportsmen, if its natural resources in the way of fish and game are properly developed. Proper development falls on the shoulders of the state fish and game commission.

Our lakes and streams are a potential veritable paradise for the sportsman—when they become properly stocked and receive full attention from the fish and game commission.

These lakes and streams can serve not only the fishermen of eastern Oregon but of the entire state of Oregon. Equally important, they can become a highly attractive drawing card for tourists of this nation.

In the post-war future, Oregon expects to draw heavily from the tourist trade. Sports and other recreation facilities will do more to bring them than any other single factor.

Our forests are a good haven for game—game which is properly protected from the predator hunter and from the ravages of nature.

Setting of deer and elk seasons on an overlapping or consecutive basis has not been to the best interests of our game. Cries of our sportsmen have gone unheeded—because the sportsmen were not organized sufficiently to make their voices heard.

Deer and elk hunting and all other types of hunting, too, will draw many tourists to Eastern Oregon and further on into Oregon if they are propagated and protected from the point of view of offering the greatest amount of hunting to the greatest number of people, without jeopardizing the existence of the game.

There are many other problems, too many to state here.

The sportsmen of the area are on the right track. Organization of a strong sportsmen's council will enable them to study the fish and game situation from the point of view of the best interests of all.

Further and equally important, it will enable them to speak with force and authority, making it mandatory for the fish and game commission to listen to their counsel, rather than merely to the voices of the strongly organized forces west of the Cascades.

SO THEY SAY

I wish people over here would get over and live in the British Isles for a month. They'd be glad to leave here. —Mrs. Roosevelt.

If the larger nations of the world do not get together, the outlook is too grim to bear thinking about. —Miss Ellen Wilkinson, British M. P.

If the war industries of the victorious nations return to full activity, the arms limitation will shower down on the continent with all their productive capacity, causing foreign and official conflicts. —President Alfons Lopez of Colombia.

Another source of trouble is the German people that are being stamped out. They would be another source of trouble. —Assistant Secretary of State James C. Duggan.

Funny Business



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