EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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Yeh, He Must Feel Pretty Low Today

EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.

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

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

For to give is the business of the rich.—Goethe.

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The Peaceful Okinawans

War, as Hitler or Mussolini or somebody once remarked, is the natural state of man. Homo sapiens et belligerans is never happy for any length of time unless he is belaboring his fellow being with mace, longbow, poniard, tommy gun, or whatever the lethal weapon of the moment may be.

Maybe so. But the theory didn't work out for the Japs on Okinawa — which must have been a bit of a disappointment to the buck-toothed sons of heaven, who are great drum-beaters for the glorious inevitability of war.

You probably have read the Amer-Japs, apparently expecting the American lightning to strike elsewhere, left Okinawa's defense largely up to the home guard, reinforced and led by a comparatively small force of trained troops. It seems they gave most of the able-bodied Okinawans a rifle, and trusted in their instinctive bellicosity to repulse the invaders.

Their defense was something new in the ancient annals of war, at that. Reporters on the scene tell us that though the Okinawans didn't know how to fight, they were equally ignorant of that less publicized but equally important branch of tactics known as surrender. So they just holed up in caves and had to be dug out.

This, as we have intimated, must have surprised the Japs. And they must have been equally disappointed in what appears to have been a complete unwillingness on the part of the Okinawans to defend the Japanese way of life, or Asia for the Asiatics. But from what Americans have learned of these people's history, the unwillingness will cause no surprise over here.

It appears that the Japs treated the Okinawans somewhat worse than John Steinbeck's Okies were treated in "The Grapes of Wrath." Although the Okinawans are blood brothers of the Japs, these country relations from the islands seem to have gotten a thorough kicking around for a long time.

The Japs have made the same mistake with other Asiatics. The most reprehensible example, of course, was their treatment of the Filipinos. Hence even the most backward islander must know by now that the real slogan of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere was Asia for the Japanese.

We should imagine that most of the fears for the twilight of Asiatic Co-Prosperity is being shed in the Japanese home islands.

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Honest Adolf

Honesty and nazism have so long gone their separate ways that it must almost have been a shock to the American army when they found Adolf Honnert of Saarbruecken. For he was the first of all the thousands of German civilians that the Americans have come upon who came right out and admitted that he'd been a nazi when being a nazi was fashionable.

Not only did he confess, but he repented. And in the face of his unusual honesty, that repentance may well have been sincere.

We cannot know if there was rejoicing among the angels over Adolf's about-face. But we do know that he got his reward here on earth. The Yanks made him acting burgomaster of his home city.

Funny Business

"Joe's setting an example to get him to wiggle!"

Questions & Answers

Q—Has inflation hit the Union of South Africa?

A—Living costs are up 32 per cent from 1938; food is up 40 per cent and clothing 30 per cent.

Q—What is Army's "Snake"?

A—An explosive-equipped vehicle which plows a four-foot furrow in mine fields and explodes mines by detonating its own charges.

Q—In U. S. Air Corps parlance, what is a penguin?

A—A non-flying officer who wears wings.

Q—Was the word Nazi used before Hitler's time?

A—Wilhelm Busch, German humorist, used the term Inter-Nazi to describe one of his characters. Nazi also is a South German nickname for Ignatz.

Q—What Arab state is more Christian than Moslem?

A—Lebanon: 53 per cent of its Arabs are Christians.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Resentment over U. S. coddling of German prisoners of war reaching fever pitch on Capitol Hill this week with the publication of two news pictures, one showing starved Yankee prisoners just liberated and the second showing the bodies of persons killed in a German prison camp. So horrible were these photos that Kentucky's Andrew Jackson May, chairman of the house military affairs committee, displayed them Tuesday before a meeting of his committee.

He spoke briefly and bitterly about the Nazis' inhuman treatment of prisoners. Representative Sikes of Florida seconded May's sentiments, then demanded: "When are we going to do something about our own coddling of German prisoners here? When will we get around to a sensible program of re-education?"

Chairman May fell back upon the old line about "adhering to the Geneva agreement."

"We are going far beyond the Geneva requirements," shot back Sikes, "while our enemies are failing to live up to those requirements."

Here committee counsel Ralph Burton chimed in that the army is doing a good job of handling war prisoners, maintaining that if we treat German prisoners well, they will treat our men well.

Sikes, however, attacked Burton's recent report on conditions at the Papago Park, Ariz., prison camp, and his more general report issued last December. The Florida congressman especially complained because they were issued as committee reports, when actually they were the work of a single investigator on the committee staff.

Burton sprang to the defense of his investigator, but Sikes made it plain he will not be satisfied until a full committee study is authorized.

Big Oil Scramble

Very quietly the big oil companies have already begun angling for one of the most coveted pieces of war property in the U. S. A.—the two pipelines built to carry oil to the Atlantic seaboard. On its disposal depends the price which the people of New York and adjoining areas will pay for their cooking gas during the next decade. On their disposal also depends the future consumption of soft coal in many eastern areas.

There are two pipelines, the big inch and the big little inch, rushed to completion during the submarine menace in order to bring gasoline and oil to the eastern seaboard. Altogether they total 2,729 miles of direct line and 453 miles of gathering pipeline.

The company or combine which gets this prize will have one of the most important war properties in the country.

At present the pipelines carry 500,000 barrels of oil or oil products to the east coast every day. After the war, it is expected that due to the cheapness of ocean transport, the big companies will go back to oil tankers and that the pipelines will carry natural gas from Texas to the great New York metropolitan area.

Today, considerable natural gas in the southwest oil regions is wasted—some burned just to get rid of it. However, its use in New York would disrupt a lost of entrenched interests, such as the artificial gas companies, plus John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers who supply coal to the New York gas companies.

Secret Contracts

The big inch pipeline, built by the government for $42,670,000, is operated by the following group: Standard of New Jersey, Shell, Atlantic, Gulf, Pan-American, Texas, Consolidated, Socony and Tidewater. Naturally the oil companies would like to get their hands on this great trans-continential artery.

And here is the joker. Although congress thought it was putting all surplus property in the hands of its specially organized surplus war property board, actually the White House can get rid of the pipelines at any time without consulting congress or the surplus property board.

This proviso was neatly tucked into the law which created the pipelines by Jesse Jones' RFC boys, nortorious for currying favor with the big oil companies. With the president away most of the time, the RFC had tremendous power in these things.

And here is another joker. Even today, the contracts between the RFC and the oil companies operating the government pipelines are kept absolutely secret. If you ask to see them, you will be told it's a' war secret. Meanwhile all other government contracts are open for any taxpayer's inspection. Obviously no military security is involved. If the Nazis were going to blow up the pipelines, they would have done it long ago for their location is plainly marked and is no secret.

Only the contracet between the operating oil companies and the RFC is secret. Meanwhile, the backstage jockeying for post-war control continues.

Why Russia Cracks Swiss

There is a great deal more than meets the naked eye in Russia's recent blasts against "Little Switzerland."

See WASHINGTON . . . Page 6

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

In a recent newspaper interview a successful New York woman banker gave business women some advice that is about as sound as any they'll ever get.

It didn't have to do with "getting ahead" —though indirectly it might help, in making a business woman more of a person.

It had to do with after-dark hours. Said the lady banker: "people tell me they don't see how I work all day and step out at night. But I have a theory on that. I think that is what's wrong with most business women. They go wearily home and think they're tired. And they give in to it and just sit there and coddle themselves."

She is righ in saying that most career women don't have full enough lives outside of their work.

And that is where men get the better of them. Men have their wives to drag them out in the evening—whether they protest that they're tired or not. And so they have their business and a social life, too.

But the career woman without a husband can easily make her work her whole life—often does.

And then is when she becomes a CAREER WOMAN in capitals—and not just an interesting, happy woman who happens to have a good job that keeps her busy during the day.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—End of the war in Germany will raise some intriguing problems on the handling of German prisoners of war in the United States.

There will be nearly 500,000 prisoners of war in this country before the crops are in this fall, according to the Office of the Provost Marshal General, Maj.-Gen. Archer L. Lerch. Over 400,000 will be Germans. Half of them will be employed on U. S. Army posts, relieving that many service troops for other duties. Perhaps 150,000 will be employed as contract labor, largely on farms and in factories, relieving U. S. manpower shortage. The remainder, less than 50,000, will be officers and non-commissioned officers who by the terms of the Geneva Convention cannot be given work unless they as kfor it, plus the service prisoners who keep camp for the other prisoners, and the disciplinary cases and irreconcilable troublemakers kept behind barbed wire.

The Geneva Convention, governing the treatment of prisoners of war by the captor country and accepted by the U. S. in 1932, provides that all captives shall be returned to their countries "after the conclusion of peace." That doesn't mean as soon as the fighting stops, but when the peace treaty is signed, which might be a year or more later.

The 60,000 to 65,000 U. S. soldiers held prisoner in Germany will be brought back home immediately, but shipping to take German prisoners back to Europe may not be available. The U. S. Army in Europe has to be moved to the Pacific first, the war has to be won there, and then the Army has to be moved back home. Those things get top priority, so the PW's will be around for some time.

There is no danger that German prisoner of war labor would be used in competition with U. S. labor temporarily unemployed by production cutbacks after V-E day. Before any prisoner of war labor can be used in this country, Manpower Commission officials must certify there is no civilian labor available to do the job.

There will be no backsliding by this government on the terms of the Geneva Convention, even after Germany collapses. There has been considerable pressure from some irresponsible quarters to have the United States treat all prisoners of war rough and tough, and the War Department has been criticized for "mollycoddling" its prisoners, feeding them too well and not stamping out Nazism as the Nazis themselves stamped out this opposition.

But from a standpoint of milltary strategy, it can be proved that abiding by the Geneva Convention has been good tactics. First, it is evidence that when this country makes an agreement, it will live up to it. If there is to be peace in the world, there must be sanctity of international obligations.

Second, following the doctrine of Stonewall Jackson that "It is cheaper to feed them than to fight them," the U. S. Army Psychological Warfare division has done everything it could to encourage the Germans to surrender. "Hogcaller" loud-speakers in the front lines have invited the Nazis to come on over for breakfast, and given them the menu. It has worked, as proved by the million prisoners taken since last June. The promises of good food and fair treatment must be kept.

Third, this has been a safeguard against reprisals on U. S. soldiers captured by the Germans. They number less than 65,000—one for every 15 Germans captured by U. S. troops. The Germans appeared to be living up to the Geneva Convention and treating them well, sometimes giving them more food than German civilians got. There have been exceptions—the massacre of 150 U. S. soldiers captured in the bulge, near-starvation in Bad Orb camp, mistreatment of the wounded in Heppenheim hospital, appropriation of Red Cross supplies. It is natural to want to get even for such atrocities, but think this one through and ponder on what might have happened to the American prisoners if this country had tried to obtain reprisal the Nazis

Side Glances

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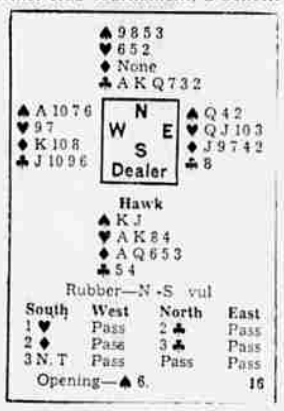
"I'm glad our boys are knocking off the Japs—if it wasn't for those sneaks, I'd be married now and have a family, instead of being a spinster 20 years old!"

● McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

A 'GIVE' ASSURES 9 TRICKS IN N. T.

Bob Hawk, radio quizmaster of "Thanks to the Yanks," won a warm spot in the hearts of New York bridge players when he recently acted as auctioneer at the Whist club tournament, a benefit



Rubber—N-S vul

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pase	3 ♣	Pass
3 N. T	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening—♠ 6. 16

of the A. C. B. L. Children's fund.

He sold the pairs at more than double what they sold for last year with the result that the children's fund benefited to the extent of more than $3000.

Bob played in the tournament with B. Jay Becker and handled the play of today's hand pretty well. Hawk won the opening lead with the king of spades after east went up with the queen. He now led the five of cubs and did not make the mistake of playing the queen from dummy, but let west hold the trick. A careless payer woud have figured the clubs would have to break three two, but of course you are not paid off on bad guesses.

Now, there is nothing the opponents can do to prevent Hawk from winding up with five clubs, the ace of diamonds, two hearts and a spade.

● SO THEY SAY

Although our air offensive is still only in its early phases, the citizen of Tokyo or Nagaya has already begun to have an inkling of the cost and destructiveness of modern war. In the not-too-distant future he will be impressed with its full meaning.
—AAF Gen. Henry H. Arnold.

The boss may be an eccentric fossil, the company rules may reek with age, but if "they" pay you a salary, it's your job to adjust yourself.
—"Retool Your Thinking," Labor Department Women's Bureau pamphlet.

Economic warfare, depressions, hunger, poverty and despair—these are the conditions that undermine democracy and block its development, that breed tyrants and aggressors and that turn nations against one another. These are the conditions that we must fight to master if any international organization is to succeed in preserving the peace.
—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr.

● IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

One of Union county's best equipped stock ranches has been traded for a concern in the north end of Wallowa county. The W. H. Bohnenkamp stock ranch on Little Catherine, about three miles from Union, better known as the Alexander La Buff place, has been traded for the Golden Rule general merchandise store at Flora.

Robert Blumenstein became postmaster at Elgin.

15 Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Reuter and son, Bobby, returned from Portland where they visited Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Bowen, formerly of La Grande.

Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Ralston and son, John, returned from a combined business and pleasure trip.

A. E. Hug, finished planting 250 apricot trees this week at his farm in Pumpkin Ridge.

10 Years Ago

John Hacker, farmer of the Summerville section, excelled local trapshooters at Lone Tree, winning possession of the George Walker trophy, at an event sponsored by the La Grande Gun club. Twenty-two shooters participated, and Floyd Lanning and Andy Alstott tied for second.

Arnold L. Gralapp, superintendent of La Grande schools, attended a conference on guidance held under the auspices of the school of education and Chi chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, while he was on a trip with the La Grande high school band.

This Curious World

NEXT: We shouldn't criticize the dinosaurs.