

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Great, Great Grandson of the Argonauts



Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

"Things I Remember About President Roosevelt"

WASHINGTON — The town seems very empty today—and a little numb. Actually Franklin Roosevelt hasn't been here much this winter, and things are really no different. He went to Warm Springs after his reelection, then to Hyde Park for Christmas, then, after the inauguration, to Yalta, then back to Hyde Park and Warm Springs. I doubt if he had been in Washington a total of two months since election day. But people always felt that he was here, that he had his hands on things, and so the town seems empty.

Even the guards around the public buildings, the folks who sit on the park benches, the elevator operators, the taxi drivers, seem a little lost. More than any other man, Roosevelt was their president. They felt he was working for them. And he was. They know it will be hard for them to get another such friend.

It is hard to write about Roosevelt now that he is dead. It was easy to write about him when he was living. He was vivid, colorful copy. And batting out one column a

day, seven days a week for thirteen years, I have probably written more about him than any other man in America—some things he liked, some he didn't like, and some he criticized quite frankly in public.

But not everything was written. And here are some of the unwritten things I remember about Franklin Roosevelt.

FDR Emptied Arsenals

I have always thought that Roosevelt turned the tide of the European war by a daring move in the late spring of 1940, when France fell and it looked as if England were about to be invaded.

The British had lost most of their arms at Dunkerque. Their arsenals were almost empty. Ours were none too full, but the president, in one bold stroke, emptied them. He knew that if he waited, Hitler would invade England. He knew what the consequences were to the United States if that happened.

He knew also that if he went to congress, it would debate pro and con for weeks, and the isolationists might defeat him. So he took the law into his own hands. Probably he

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WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

When Barbara Hutton's personal maid married her chauffeur the heiress threw a champagne party for them, and afterward she and a friend, the Baroness of Rothschild, washed up the dishes.

Which just goes to show that even heiresses are having to work hard these days to hold on to their "help."

Even women with a great deal of money—who can afford to pay their servants any amount necessary to hold them—are discovering, along with Mrs. Jones, that now that servants can have their pick of jobs, good pay isn't enough to keep them happy. They want something more—consideration, recognition, and to be treated like human beings, and not as though they had no private lives of their own and lived just to make life more comfortable for an employer.

Mrs. Jones, of course, isn't throwing champagne parties for her cleaning woman or laundress or maid of all work. But she is

putting herself out just as much in smaller ways—and often in ways she never thought about in the days when she knew that if she lost one cleaning woman she could always hire another.

She is saying "When can you come?" instead of "Be here Monday at eight." She is saying "Of course, you can't come then," when the woman who works for her calls up to say she has sickness in her family, instead of wailing, "But Dora, you've just got to get here somehow; you know I'm having dinner guests."

If Mrs. Jones has any help at all she is lucky and she knows it. And she doesn't intend to lose a maid or cleaning woman to someone else, because the woman is unhappy. So she tries her best to keep the woman working for her happy and contented with her job.

And apparently even heiresses feel the same way.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

With the whole world wondering what kind of president Harry Truman will make, this is the estimate of the man's measure as given by people who have worked with him closely.

They admit frankly that Truman will have to be a great president to be considered even good, but that is more of a reflection on the time than on the man.

Comparisons always being odious, it is perhaps impossible to try to stack up Truman beside Roosevelt. They are two entirely different types of men. There are millions of men like Truman. There was only one Roosevelt. But Roosevelt had his weaknesses and Truman has his strong points which Roosevelt did not have. Truman's admirers say these characteristics might even give their man the capacity as well as the opportunity to be a better chief executive than Roosevelt for the job ahead.

The political election campaign alarm of "Think of Truman in the White House!" which was a natural enough reflex reaction when the shock of Roosevelt's death was first felt, is therefore said to be entirely a false alarm by the people who know Truman's Washington record and should therefore be in a position to judge his capabilities.

This is admittedly a prejudiced appraisal. But at the time when all eyes are on the man from Missouri, wanting him to succeed, anxious to give him every encouragement in assuring the world's greatest responsibility, this is the only fair appraisal to give Truman the chance he deserves.

There is no question of Truman's honesty or sincerity. He works hard. That, plus a large share of good luck, have put him where he is today.

He is vigorous and alert. His health is good. He will be 61 years old May 8, making him two years younger than Roosevelt.

He is decisive. When he finds a bad situation he moves in on it before it gets worse, instead of just letting it ride. When he thinks he has the facts on a case, he goes ahead.

He does not try to do the whole job himself. He sub-lets responsibility, trusting the people who work with him and relying on them to do the jobs he has given them.

He does not hesitate to fire men or call them to task after they make mistakes.

He is fearless, and in carrying out his own convictions with courage he sometimes lets his imagination rise to give vent in magnificent displays of wrath.

In sponsoring the senate war investigating committee he tackled a tremendous job. That is pointed to as an indication of his foresight. He saw what the big need of the time was—to prevent mistakes instead of investigating them after they happen. He acts on it. In carrying out the work of the Truman committee he did not hesitate to move in against sacred cows—business or political. On his carpet were called U. S. Steel, Curtis Wright and Alcoa, Basic Magnesium. He reeled the army on Canal and the navy on its initial landing craft bungles. He went after Donald Nelson for supporting Philip G. Reed of General Electric and subpoenaed cabinet officers and other top administrators when they were reluctant to give information he thought the senate was entitled to know.

He will not hesitate to hold labor leaders

to their responsibilities, either. In the Currier housing project case in Detroit, he tore into Sidney Hillman, then co-chairman of OPM, telling him to either to do his job or else get out and let someone else do it. When John L. Lewis said he would appear before Truman's committee if he could, two years ago, Truman answered with a subpoena. He is considered pro-labor, but has stated frequently that labor has duties as well as rights.

All of Truman's Washington experience having been in the senate, he is thoroughly impressed with the importance of congress and may well be expected to return to congress many of the controls that have gradually been shifting to the executive. If he follows this pattern he should work more closely with congress and try to avoid the petty fighting that has always characterized relations between the White House and the capitol.

On post-war domestic issues it can be claimed that Truman is far better grounded than Roosevelt was because Truman has the time to study these issues while Roosevelt was preoccupied with the war and international affairs. The Truman committee's third annual report, issued in 1944, is now pointed to as one of the first analyses on the problems of reconversion.

While his dominating interests with the senate war investigations were production, supply and maintenance of a sound national economy on the home front, Truman was also a member of the senate committee on military affairs. That gave him the opportunity to follow closely the planning and strategy. So he does not go to the White House a novice on military matters and besides, the war is going to be won no matter who is president.

Truman is perhaps weakest on foreign affairs, but it is claimed for him that he may be counted on to continue the course set by President Roosevelt, who was in many respects his own foreign secretary and made his own policies and plans for organizing the peace.

On all three of the main Roosevelt objectives—winning the war, securing the peace and providing post-war employment—Truman is set to follow the administration policies. They are now his policies because they have been his policies in the past.

Every effort will be made to give the impression that the United States will go marching on as usual, in spite of the loss of its great leader. And to show that the country is rallying behind its new commander-in-chief is considered highly salutary for the rest of the world.

For some weeks at least, there may be no changes in top Washington personnel. Truman will of course move into the White House with a new personal secretarial staff of his own choosing. His acquaintance with Harry Hopkins, Judge Samuel N. Rosenman and others of the Roosevelt White House staff is slight. There is known to be no love lost between Truman and several members of the old cabinet and changes there would come as no surprise.

But even if changes should be made in the cabinet and other administrative posts, they would be presented as not necessarily a change in Roosevelt policy—merely a change in the men selected to carry it out.

Side Glances



"I'm not worrying about my grades, but if the war ends, instead of a marine I'll be just another sophomore!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

IN N. T. SET UP LONG SUIT EARLY

As a finesse has only an even chance to win, you should resort to it only when necessary. It was surprising to see a number of pairs lose the contract on today's hand simply because they made up their minds that the

ten of spades, which South won with the jack.

Now South should have stopped to count—three spade tricks, two hearts, three diamonds and a club.

But in a number of cases, South just laid down the ace, king and queen of diamonds. When that did not work, they played the king, then the five of spades. When the spades did not break, they took the heart finesse. West won with the king, cashed the jack of diamonds and returned a heart, thus defeating the contract.

When South won the jack of spades, he should have laid down the ace and queen of hearts to establish his ninth trick.

▲ A 7 6 4	▲ Q 8 8 3
♦ J 6 4 2	♦ 10 8 7 3
♠ 10 5 3	♠ 9 8
♣ 7 4	♣ A 8 2
102	W
▲ K 9 5	N
♦ J 7 4 2	E
♠ Q J 6 3	S
	Dealer
▲ K J 5	▲ K 9 8 3
♦ A Q	♦ 9 8
♠ A K Q 6	♠ K 10 9 3
♣ K 10 9 3	

Duplicate—Neither vul.

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

3 N T Pass Pass Pass

Opening—♠ 5 18

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago, April 17

Charles F. Roberts, president of the La Grande motorcycle club and assistant chief dispatcher for the O.-W., at this point and Miss Gladys Lloyd of Imbley were married April 15 by Rev. W. H. Drahn of the Lutheran church in the home of E. I. Shepard. The bride was an employe of the Home Independent Telephone company for the past nine years.

15 Years Ago, April 17

Eastern Oregon was having its own gasoline "war" and motorists were buying motor fuel for as low as 18 cents a gallon. A total of 6,799 citizens of Union county were eligible to vote in the primary election to be held on May 16. These include only Republicans and Democrats, as members of other parties do not vote in the primaries. Of the total 4,299 were registered republicans and 2,500 as democrats.

10 Years Ago, April 17

Mr. and Mrs. N. K. West took the Harry Pattison home at 402 Main street and planned to move into La Grande soon.

The La Grande Gun club rifle team entered 22 bore outdoor competition under Oregon State Rifle association rules, with one shoot completed and three more due before May 6.

Two sturgeon, one weighing 10 pounds, were on display in the show window of the Roy Farnam Supply Co. They were caught by Fred Henning in Hell canyon of the Snake river.

Questions & Answers

Q—Has any reparations figure been fixed for Germany?

A—\$4,000,000,000 annually for 20 years has been reported, probably in goods and services.

Q—What is the average length of men's feet?

A—10.3 inches. Longest on record is 12.4.

Q—What city is known as the "Queen of the Black Forest?"

A—Baden Baden, known to the Romans as Civitas Aurelia Aquensis for its 25 hot springs, which they used.

Q—How many hospitals does the Veterans Administration operate?

A—94.

Q—Where did the term Nazi originate?

A—Apparently from the word Nationalsozialist, says Dr. Edwin H. Zeydel, U. of Cincinnati language professor.

Q—About how much has weight of commercial airplanes increased in the past decade?

A—650 per cent.

This Curious World



NEXT: Sending messages by honeybees.

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

Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house. — Proverbs 24:27.

Hail! Independence, hail!
Heaven's next best gift,
To that of life and an immortal soul! —Thomson.

Philadelphia and San Francisco—

Suppose it became known on the eve of the San Francisco conference that all sessions would be conducted in secrecy behind locked doors, and all information kept from the press.

Suppose it should also become known that all delegates would be chosen from among the wealthy, the richest among them to be the presiding officer.

And suppose that, once the conference was under way, it was learned through news leaks that a lot of hard things were being said about democracy and that there was much talk about ways and means of checking any agitation for a fairer distribution of wealth.

If these incredible things came to pass, the results would be catastrophic. There would be a great cry for calling the whole thing off. Cynicism would fall like a pall over most of the world, and many disillusioned countries (this one surely among them) would probably retire into bitter isolation.

And yet these impossible things

Funny Business



SO THEY SAY

The threat from the east has been considered much worse than the threat from the west, and as many troops as possible have been committed against it.
—German prisoner on western front.

It (United Nations conference) is no longer a body for gate-crashing by smaller powers. It is a body which has a special duty for world peace, for world security, and great powers on it have special duties thrown on them, such as they never had under the old league.
—Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, Union of South Africa.

What we have to do is to match our need for full production with the world's need for our products in such a way as to reach and maintain over the years a permanently higher level of international trade, and to maintain it on a sound and profitable basis.
—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr.

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