

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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The Light That Must Not Fail



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

If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.—Jeremiah 31:36.

Philadelphia and San Francisco—II

Nearly 30 years after the constitution of the United States was written and submitted to the states, Thomas Jefferson wrote: "Some men look at constitutions with sanctimonious reverence, and deem them like the ark of the covenant—too sacred to be touched. They ascribe to the men of the preceding age a wisdom more than human..." That reverence which Jefferson noted has grown through the years. Today we are inclined to be forgetful of the constitution's early history and of the amendments which we have seen fit to make in it. Because the constitution is great and impregnable today, we sometimes talk as if it had been conceived in harmony and born in triumphant strength and full-blown perfection.

So we should be vigilant against demanding the same impossible perfection of the document that will issue from the San Francisco conference. And perhaps it will increase that vigilance if we review a little further some of the circumstances of the constitution's birth.

The structure of free representative government explicit in its final form

was the fruit of expediency as well as idealism. Smaller states, bucking control by New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, the big three—and how modern that sounds—won such compromise victories as proportional representation in the house and the popular vote for presidential electors by threatening to walk out of the convention.

The constitution was presented to the people with considerable fear. Some of the delegates went home before the job was done. Three who remained refused to sign the document. Others were reluctant. Elbridge Gerry thought that it would provoke a civil war. Jefferson, in Europe, was astonished that it contained no guarantee of basic human rights.

At first the constitution found its support among the rich, and its opposition from the poor and a handful of rich, "visionary" champions of democracy. The series of federalist papers by Hamilton, Madison and Jay helped greatly in swinging popular opinion. But even so, Rhode Island, which had refused to send delegates to the convention, waited three years before ratifying the constitution.

The point is that the constitution has grown more democratic, stronger and more effective with the passing years. Today, thanks to the bill of rights and subsequent amendments, it stands before the world as a paragon of political right and wisdom, however short we may fall of fulfilling its letter and spirit.

The moral of this short refresher course is obvious. The San Francisco conference, also sailing an uncharted course, is bound to produce an imperfect plan. By refusing it we should have nothing to take its place. By accepting and amending and improving it we can look with confidence toward a world in which men may live out their lives in peace.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Politicians are pressing to get popular democratic treasurer Ed Pauley appointed secretary of the interior... should he get the job, he will replace the man who first pushed him ahead in Washington, Harold Ickes... Pauley was a California independent oil producer who sold out to Standard Oil of California, got to know Ickes, and introduced Ralph Davies, head of that company, to him. Through Pauley, Davies was made Ickes' deputy administrator for petroleum, the most important oil job in the country. He has the power of life or death over oil companies... Ickes and Pauley drifted apart, however, when the vivacious Ed tried to get government help on building a high octane gasoline plant in Mexico. His pal Davies boosted the plan, but the state department opposed, and Ickes finally sided against his old friend Pauley and with the state department... The two have not been chummy since. Now the oil boys plus democratic bigwigs are doing their best to have Truman put Pauley into Ickes' job... If so, Pauley and Davies will have a real oil monopoly. The Roosevelt administration already has undergone criticism because navy oil lands in Elk hills were leased to Ralph Davies' company, Standard of California.

Diplomatic Pouch

Ever since the Yalta conference, the Russians have had their U. S. experts busy studying Truman. Apparently they realized at Yalta that Roosevelt was fading fast, so wanted to know all they could about the man who might be president... The British also have been making a careful check on Truman's past speeches, past friends, past views on foreign affairs... (Foreign governments always do this. They made the same careful check on Roosevelt in 1932, one library of congress article in Asia magazine by Roosevelt on Japan being thumbed thin. The Jap embassy delivered the text verbatim to Tokyo)... Diplomats believe the Russian scrutiny of Truman helped influence their switch on Poland. Anyway, last Saturday the Russians suddenly agreed to welcome representatives of four major Polish parties plus the communists into the Lublin government. They also decided to send Foreign Minister Molotov to San Francisco, a move for which Roosevelt had pleaded... Here is one diplomatic line-up being discussed if Jimmy Byrnes succeeds Ed Stettinius as secretary of state: Stettinius to London as ambassador; John Winant from London to Paris; Ambassador Caffery, who muffed things with De Gaulle, to be trans-

ferred to Cuba; Ambassador Braden from Cuba to Argentina... Under Secretary Joe Grew would resign.

The men around any president can help make or break him. Here are some of the men around Truman who will help to shape American destinies for the next three years:

Hannegan—the man who nominated Truman at Chicago heads the list.

Banker John W. Snyder—will be one of Truman's closest monetary advisers, already has been made federal loan administrator. Born in Jonesboro, Snyder served as a captain of field artillery during the last war. Truman served in a different outfit, but later they joined the reserve, and trained together every summer. That was where they became close friends.

Hugh A. Fulton—Former counsel for the Truman committee, has had the reputation of being the brains behind Truman—but is overrated.

As counsel for the Truman committee, Fulton was a brilliant fact-finder and lawyer, but otherwise stodgy and conceited. He showed no aptitude for knitting his facts into the broad picture of political issues or social trends, and Truman seldom took his advice on policy matters.

Matt Connelly—Confidential secretary to Truman, is a native of Boston and a graduate of Fordham university. He got to know the president as an investigator for the Truman committee, having previously been a young accountant with the general accounting office. Connelly has become a favorite on Capitol hill, knows his way around, has a clever wit, and is on friendly terms with many senators. He will be a real asset to the new president.

Col. Harry Vaughan—was Senator Truman's secretary just before Pearl Harbor, then was called to active duty. He and Truman served together at Fort Sill in the last war, and have been close friends ever since. Since Truman became vice-president, Vaughan has been his military aide, which caused some eyebrow raising, because never before has the vice-president had a military aide.

J. Leonard Reinsch—Truman's press-radio aide, has been radio director of FDR's old friend and 1920 running mate, former Governor Cox of Ohio.

Few people know it, but right after election, Cox urged Truman to start improving his speaking technique. Result was that Reinsch returned to Washington and went to work with Truman day after day, teaching him the fine points of public speaking.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

The other day a housewife in a southern city was charged with trying to knife another housewife with whom she shared a house and kitchen.

In these times, kitchens often have to be shared by two or even more women.

That situation is always a potential trouble-maker, for there are some things women just can't share.

A kitchen is one.

A man is another.

Confidences shared between women friends is still another potential danger.

The right to correct their own children in their own way is another. And the neigh-

bor who takes it on herself to correct somebody else's child had better watch out.

Sharing the knowledge of their age and weight is something else women don't seem to manage gracefully. Nor do they like to share the knowledge of where they bought their clothes unless of course, they come from the most exclusive store in town.

So any time that a woman decides or is forced to share any of these things with another woman, they had both better watch out.

Though it is only occasionally that they result in anything so drastic as a knife attack, it's two to one the habit of sharing will result in a verbal knifing in the back.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — 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 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, realizing he must succeed, anxious to give him every encouragement in assuming the world's greatest responsibility, this is the only fair appraisal to give Truman the chance that 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 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.

In carrying out the work of the Truman committee he did not hesitate to move in against sacred cow—business or political. On his carpet were called U. S. Steel, Cur-

tiss-Wright and Alcoa, Basic Magnesium. He flayed the army on Canal and the navy on its initial landing craft bangles. 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 have.

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 either to do his job or else get out and let someone else do it.

On postwar domestic issues it can be claimed that Truman is far better grounded than Roosevelt was because Truman had 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 interest with the senate war investigations were production, supply and the 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 in military matters and besides, the war is going to be won no matter who is president.

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 between Truman and several members of the old cabinet and change 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



"Why, yes, mother, I fall in love with a different boy at the canteen every night! Why not? Aren't they all wonderful?"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

FOUR-SPADE HAND LEFT AT ONE N. T.

I may be leaving myself wide open on today's hand. It came to me from Pittsburgh, where they have a series of inter-club matches, with teams of eight which

♠ J	♥ K 6 5 4 3 2	♦ Q 4	♣ 10 9 8 5
♠ A 10 4	♥ A 10	♦ J 10 7 2	♣ J 4 3
♠ N	♥ E	♦ S	♣ Dealer
♠ K Q 7 6 5	♥ A 9 5 2	♦ Q 8 2	♣ 8 3 2
♠ 9 8 3 2	♥ J 9 7	♦ K 8 6	♣ A K 7
Duplicate—Both vul.			
South	West	North	East
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	1N.T.	Pass	Pass
Opening—♠K. 31			

meet every two weeks.

This hand was sent to me by one of the players, taken from one of their recent tournaments. He asked me to comment on the bidding. The hand does present an interest bidding problem.

In the first place, South passed

Questions & Answers

Q—Where does captured Paderborn, Germany (prewar pop. 37,000), get its name?

A—From the Pader river, which is fed by mineral springs. Paderborn means "Spring of the Pader."

Q—What has Mannheim, Germany, Rhine city of 263,000 (prewar), in common with Washington?

A—Streets are designated by letters instead of names.

Q—What is a Schmeisser?

A—A German machine gun pistol.

Q—What is the distinction of Mogok, Burma, captured by the British?

A—It is the center of the world's greatest ruby mining region.

Q—How many Italians are now serving against Germany?

A—The Italian government says 1,000,000 including service troops, combat troops and POW's in war work.

An opening bid. However, he does have a defensive type hand and should not be criticized. I

like West's second bid—the one no trump bid. He definitely tells his partner that he has the heart suit well stopped.

Now East should not pass. East should bid two diamonds. I would not severely criticize two spades, but two diamonds is the better bid.

West then will bid two spades, in which case, East certainly can bid three spades and West will take the contract to four.

It looks as if the loss should be held to two clubs and a diamond.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. Chase Bohnenkamp went to Wallawa county in their Cycle car, intending to transact business and discuss the forthcoming motorcycle races here.

Two score friends and co-workers of Commercial club circles in La Grande gathered at a luncheon to honor John Collier, veteran club worker and booster, who was to leave for Portland to make his home.

15 Years Ago

With a total of 138 citizens of the school district going to the polls, an \$8,000 bond measure to provide for the building of a high school gymnasium at Cove was approved at a special election by a vote of 107 to 31.

Mrs. C. C. Bull and her daughter returned from Dunsuir, Calif., where they visited for several weeks.

Adolph Siegrist, Mrs. Bonnie Nedrow, Miss Frances Richards and Miss Helen Newlin, accompanied by Miss Williams, high school instructor, went to Pendleton where the students participated in a typing contest.

10 Years Ago

Eighteen Union county boys left for Vancouver, Wash., to enter CCC camp work.

Claude Mackey was the winner in the second annual Observer trophy trapshoot held at grounds of the La Grande Gun club. It required a shootout of a three-way tie to decide the winner. Mackey, George Walker and John R. Garity tied in the 50-bird event with 42 each, and in the shoot-off Mackey broke 20, Walker 19 and Garity, 18.

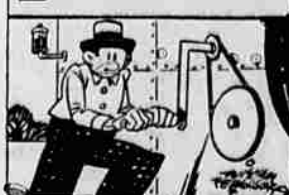
This Curious World



IF OUR EARTH SHOULD COME TO A HALT IN ITS TRAVELS AROUND THE SUN, IT WOULD BEGIN FALLING TOWARD THE SUN, AND IN TWO MONTHS WOULD CRASH INTO IT AND BE BURNED UP.

Kwiz Koznar

A SIDELINGER IS WHAT? A KIND OF WATNY TYPE OF RATTLE-SNAKE A SPECIES OF PLUM



INSECTS FREQUENTLY SPEND THE NIGHT INSIDE THE PROTECTING PETALS OF BLOSSOMS THAT CLOSE UP AT THE END OF DAY.

ANSWER: A rattlesnake named for its peculiar locomotion. NEXT: Where did cocker spaniels get their name?

Funny Business



"I can't use the act, but I think I can get you a job at a crowded hotel!"

SO THEY SAY

There is an overwhelming opinion throughout the world to settle differences by means other than war. We are going to insist on some form of organization. The exact form is not important. But we have got to make a start.

—Comdr. Harold E. Stassen, United Nations conference delegate.

What really stopped the Japanese from moving through the South China sea was the army's 5th and 13th air forces, which loosed large numbers of planes against enemy convoys, sinking them nearly to the last ship.

—Rear Adm. Frank D. Wagner, Seventh fleet air force commander.

I should be very greatly surprised if, before the San Francisco conference is called, the war in Europe will not have been officially declared to have been brought to a victorious close.

—Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King of Canada.