

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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Unholy Rivals



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

He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.—Ezekiel 33:5.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

From hence, let fierce contending nations know
 What dire effects from civil discord flow.—Addison

The Visit to Buchenwald

The American people have been accused of reacting coldly or indifferently to stories of atrocities, even of atrocities against their own countrymen. This is not wholly true. And, it seems to us, there is an explanation for the measure of truth the accusation contains.

First of all, it might be recalled that the atrocities of Hitler's nazis were what turned most Americans against the third reich in the days of peace, even when they were ignorant or incredulous of the sinister nazi plan for world conquest. It was Hitler's black heart as revealed through pogroms and concentration camps that first roused our indignation against him.

As for American coldness and indifference, it is likely that numbness would be a better description. We are all familiar with the fact and sight of death. We know how it comes on the battlefield.

But death by slow starvation and unspeakable torture we cannot visualize, even though trustworthy reports and photographic evidence of the re-

sult is before us. Nor can we visualize or imagine the inhuman cruelty that decrees it.

Hence our reaction as incredible story of atrocity is brought to us. Our indignation becomes impotent and intellectual. We are reluctant to credit such deeds to members of the human race. And, confronted with unassailable proof, we remain stunned and a little incredulous.

In that we are probably not too different from other peoples of the earth. Surely the middle-aged civilian German, even after 12 years of Hitler, has been reluctant to believe the bestiality of his own kind and kin. He may have had to turn his head to avoid the evidence before his eyes, and yet he might well persist in his disbelief—especially since the American invasion of his homeland, when the urge for fawning innocence has been upon him.

It was this German, his wife and young children and friends, to the number of 1200, who were made to journey from their homes in Weimar, hallowed city of German culture, to the infamous nazi concentration camp at nearby Buchenwald.

There they were made to look and smell and retch and faint at the evidence of the incredible, subhuman deeds of their "master race." Enough of the dead, dying and maimed remained there to convince the most stubborn "patriot" among them that there was not much use in lying any more.

We cannot expect a miracle from the visit to Buchenwald. But the tortured and forgotten there have not died without purpose if enough Germans can be brought to see the place of their pain and ignominy.

It is a profound pity that every German cannot be made to see Buchenwald as the Americans found it. But at least those who did can never again extol the German race with the same conviction, however fiercely they may try to forget.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

SAN FRANCISCO — The eyes of about 12,000,000 service men will be watching the conference that opens here today. So will their mothers. So will their wives, who wonder whether the children they bear in this war must be reared to fight another. So will the eyes of all the hungry, weary peoples of war-torn Europe, still hoping with a hope that flickers but never quite dies that finally we can construct a machinery for lasting peace.

And it is no exaggeration to say that the seeds of the next war will be nourished or rooted up at San Francisco. The events happening at this conference, in its backstage lobbies, and in the chanceries of Europe right now, can spell the difference between peace and war twenty years later.

Seeds for World War III Already Planted
 Actually the seeds have already been planted but the roots are not deep and they can be torn up.

The seeds have been planted by groups in England, the United States and Russia who already have begun playing the type of power politics which can only end in eventual war between the two strongest nations emerging from the present conflict—the U.S.A. and the USSR.

Already certain groups inside the state department and the British foreign office have begun jockeying to build up Germany after the war as a bulwark against Russia. Already U. S. admirals have focused the attention of the entire world on the island bases we are taking from Japan, so that Russia is becoming suspicious they will be aimed against her.

So no matter how high-g geared and beautifully perfected the machinery for peace devised at San Francisco, it cannot succeed unless it rests on a foundation of good will and mutual trust.

There will be a lot of argument here about three votes for Russia, six votes for Britain, and 20 indirect Latin-American votes for the United States. But the real fact is that the question of votes becomes pure theory if one big nation doesn't want to cooperate.

If the tremendous armed forces of the USA and the USSR get fidgety and looking for something to do; if the admirals and generals try to become statesmen; if the state department career boys begin playing balance-of-power politics, then all the votes and all the peace machinery arranged at San Francisco won't help.

The tragic fact is that already there is evidence that the brass hats in at least two countries, plus certain diplomats, are getting nervous trigger-fingers.

Already there is a strong suspicion that Stalin can't control his own generals. Already there is more than a suspicion that Roosevelt could not control his admirals.

"Trusteeship" a Hot Potato
 One such case concerns the Pacific island bases taken from Japan. For more than two years, the late president argued that all islands taken by the USA should be held by us, but under the United Nations trusteeship, whereby other nations were given airplane and shipping privileges on these islands—provided they give us reciprocal rights on their islands.

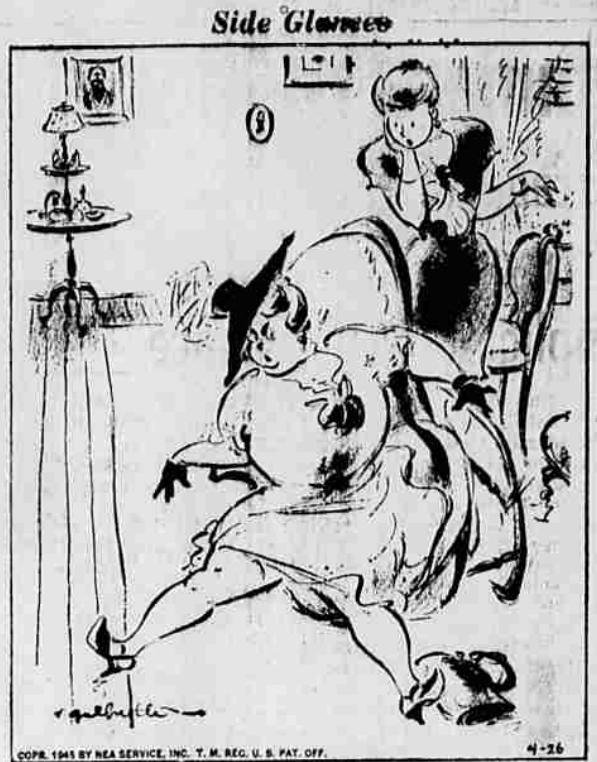
At Yalta something along that line was agreed to by Roosevelt personally. And when he returned, a directive to that effect was sent to the state, war and navy departments, plus the interior department which administers insular possession. But when the representatives of these four departments sat down to work out the details for carrying out the president's directive two departments—the army and navy—kicked over the traces. The third, the state department, went along reluctantly, leaving only the interior department to obey the directive wholeheartedly.

Finally, Admiral Ernest King, commander of the fleet, took things into his own hands and made a public statement against the president's policy regarding Pacific islands. In other words, he went over the head of his commander-in-chief. Although this was a most serious thing to do even domestically, its international repercussions were even more serious.

The Russians, whose intelligence is the best in the world, already knew that Admiral King is the man who has wanted to build up a big navy now as protection against Russia later. They also know that Admiral King has opposed Russia coming into the war against Japan, and wants the United States to do the job alone.

The Russians also know that certain number of professional U. S. military and naval brass-hats, side with King. (This is not true of General Marshall or General Eisenhower and the more responsible commanders in the army.)

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McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

7 IS MADE WITHOUT THE ACE OF TRUMP

Another old-timer who has passed away is Comdr. Winfield Liggett, jr., who was in my estimation one of the nicest partners at bridge. While his name is not so universally known as that of Work and Whitehead, nevertheless, many of the bridge books published during Liggett's day were ghost-written by him.

After receiving his medical discharge from the navy, he devoted most of his time to bridge and he was known as being a specialist in no trump.

However, I will never forget

Liggett now led the king of spades, on which West played the ace. Of course West had revoked and that gave the declarer the right to two tricks. West only took one so he had to give that trick back to Liggett and thus seven odd was made against the ace of trumps.

IN FORME' YEARS

30 Years Ago

Mrs. Turner Oliver was appointed by Governor Withycombe to attend the Mother's congress in San Francisco.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Ford entertained at five hundred. High score prize went to Mrs. W. H. Riley, and F. W. Pattison took consolation prize.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Larsen left on a pleasure trip to Salt Lake City.

The possibilities of the auto truck for delivery purposes is seen in the fact that Clyde Kiddle of Island iCity is able to make deliveries as far as La Grande with his delivery car.

15 Years Ago

Ellis Watkins and Vern Patten went to Pendleton to attend the DeMolay convention.

The birthday anniversary of Miss Muriel Webb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Webb, was observed when 12 friends surprised her with a party at her home on Fir street. Games, music and dancing were diversions.

10 Years Ago

In order that a closer contact may be established between the wool growers of Union county and the Pacific wool growers, Robert S. French was appointed official representative of the association.

Andrew Loney, jr., band director, returned from Boise where he accompanied Jack McClay, Katherine Scully and Helen Hendrickson to participate in a program presented by an all northwest band. Each placed in his or her section, with highest honors going to McClay who placed in the second chair of the first trombone section. Loney was elected secretary of the Northwest music educators conference.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Interviewed in Paris for the army newspaper, "The Stars and Stripes," the petite star of the Folies-Bergere said of American men: "They treat love too lightly. Love seems to be a little thing with them."

It could be that the girls of France just don't understand the young men of America as well as their girls back home understand them.

Maybe they don't realize that when a soldier whips out a well-worn picture of his girl back home and says, "Not bad, huh," he is as earnest in singing her praises as though he had spoken in the language of poet.

And maybe they don't know that the American soldier's light-hearted, irresponsible admiration for the girls in other countries isn't the same attitude he has for that certain girl back home.

Or that American men express the seriousness of their love in the luxuries they

give their wives and children and in the provision they make for their future—even if they aren't always adept at making pretty speeches about undying love.

And maybe the women of other countries don't see that the constant stream of gifts American men are sending to the girls back home is evidence of their deep-rooted desire to share the experiences they are having with the girls who are waiting for them.

Nor that American women care whether or not the women in other countries understand their men. It's perfectly all right with them if nobody but American women ever understand them.

And the French entertainer's statement that "it is hard for French girls to have a big, serious love with American men," won't make American girls mad, either.

They are all for French girls finding their "big, serious love" with the men of their own country.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO — Establishment of a United Nations charter and a United Nations organization that will be approved before the end of 1945 and ready to function by early 1946 is perhaps the most that can be expected from the San Francisco conference convening April 25.

No definite timetable can be made for creating a world peace organization, and the possibility that the whole thing may break down cannot be ignored. There are, however, three distinct phases to the task of making the proposed United Nations organization a going concern:

1. Rewriting the proposals agreed to by representatives of the United States, Great Britain, Soviet Russian and China at the Dumbarton Oaks conferences last summer, putting them into the form of a permanent charter which will be approved at San Francisco.

2. Submission of the San Francisco charter to the separate United Nations. There will be representatives of 46 nations at San Francisco — 47 if the new Polish government is ready in time, and 48 if Argentina gets there before the show is over.

The San Francisco conference may set up its own rule on how many nations must accept the charter before it shall become effective. Each government will be left to its own devices in deciding whether to ratify the charter and join the organization, or reject and stay out.

In the United States the charter will have to be submitted by the president to the senate and accepted by the senate before this country can join. If enough governments ratify within six months to put the organization in force before the end of 1945, that will be fast work.

3. When enough governments have ratified the charter to set up the United Nations organization, then the various governments will have to name their delegates to the assembly. The number of representatives for each country will be specified in the charter, if the Dumbarton Oaks proposal is followed.

In the United States these representatives will probably be appointed by the president, and confirmed by the senate. They will be men of ambassadorial rank.

The place of meeting for the first sessions of the assembly of the United Nations organization may be designated at San Francisco or may be decided later. There are arguments both for and against holding the first sessions in Geneva, Switzerland, seat of the old league of nations. Switzerland is a neutral not one of the United Nations. Convening in the United States is not unlikely. Time of the first meeting of the assembly will of course depend on when a sufficient number of nations shall have ratified.

But with time and place specified and a quorum of nations having named their representatives, the United Nations organization will be ready to set up housekeeping.

If the charter adopted at San Francisco follows the general outline of the proposals made at Dumbarton Oaks, the first business of the organization will include the election of a president, a secretary general, the adoption of the rules of procedure for the assembly, the making of a budget and apportioning of expenses among the member nations.

Next might come the election of the six nations whose representative will sit on the security council with the representatives of the Big Five—United States, Great Britain, Soviet Russia, China and France.

Then might come the election of the 18 nations whose representatives will sit on the economic and social council.

All these are functions reserved to the assembly by the Dumbarton Oaks proposals. If these things are accomplished within a year, the world can well consider itself lucky.

With these formalities out of the way, the United Nations organization would be ready to begin its business of maintaining peace and security . . . suppressing acts of aggression . . . settling international disputes . . . developing friendly relations among nations . . . achieving international co-operation.

Funny Business



SO THEY SAY

The enemy has made much in his propaganda of the sure death, sure hit suicide technique, which is simply an attempt to crash planes on the decks of our ships.

Some major units of the fleet have been damaged, but no battleship, fast carrier, or cruiser has been sunk.
 —Fleet Adml. Chester W. Nimitz.

The rich people go to the black market and the others go to beg, for they are starving.
 —Lily Pons, back from France.

The only way we can win the peace is to promote economic security throughout the world.
 —Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas of California.

The pilots can't find shipping to attack. You can answer the question of what it means to the Japanese. The enemy has to have these vital supplies, and he isn't getting them.
 —Read Adml. Frank D. Wagner, Seventh fleet air force commander.

This Curious World



ANSWER: Rembrandt was his first name. His full name was Rembrandt Hermanson van Rijn.

NEXT: Does it ever get too cold to snow?