EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 27, 1945 — Page Two

"Well, Well! Imagine Meeting You Here!"

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

Party honesty is party expediency—Grover Cleveland.

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Lumber and Housing For Europe

Everyone in America today knows that lumber is the most critical of all war materials, and that lumber has played and will continue to play a big part in the winning of the war; but when it comes to lend-lease lumber for the rehabilitation of foreign countries, then that is another story. Britain needs a minimum of five hundred thousand temporary dwellings now and immediately after the end of hostilities in Europe.

To help tide them over the emergency the war production board recently announced that thirty thousand such units have been authorized to be prefabricated in this country during the next seven months, requiring 164,000,000 board feet of lumber. Eighty million board feet of lumber is to be sent to England for repair of bomb-damaged existing structures. A total of 1,750,000 board feet of lumber has been authorized for previously occupied countries for the repair of damage wreaked by the evacuating nazi armies. WPB has authorized 5,600,000 board feet of lumber for the construction of barracks (to be prefabricated in this country) to house workers at French ports.

While this is only a small part of America's lumber production, it is still lend-lease lumber being used to help rehabilitate foreign countries, and what commitments have been made by those in charge of lend-lease, no one knows, but it is time some of us are finding out before we wake up to find that billions if feet of America's forest products have been given away to foreign countries under lend-lease, and our natural resources dissipated.

America's farm buildings and homes should be preserved and kept in good repair. Homes for the returned soldiers must be provided. Homes and new farm buildings for after the war must be provided. Will lend-lease lumber for the rehabilitation of foreign countries deprive Americans of the homes and farm buildings we will need? Ask your congressmen about this problem.

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Kamerad!

Nazi thought is mystifying at best, and when expressed in a smattering of English it becomes even more so. Thus we can't be sure what was going through the mind of the German soldier we read about who gave himself up to the Americans with these words:

"Surrender — New York — Detroit —John L. Lewis — Surrender."

We can scarcely hope that nazi education taught and identified those names in a very flattering light. But still there's an outside chance that what he was really trying to say was this:

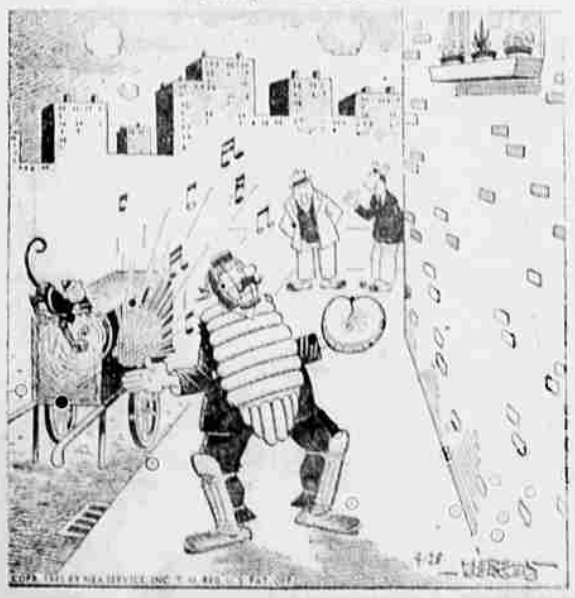
"I surrender to the people who piled on a narrow island the world's most imposing mass of masonry to house a great, rich city which stands today, unbombed and unharmed.

"I surrender to the people of another great city, one of many arsenals, whose planes and bombs and guns have blasted our own great arsenal of the Ruhr to rubble, and all but leveled our once proud capital of Berlin.

"I surrender to a country where a strong man can defy the orders and wishes of his government, wrongly and in time of war, and still live.

"In short, I give up."

Funny Business



"He's not so sure he's going to get contributions in coin at this place!"

● SO THEY SAY

It's a terrible thing to see how these Czechs are afraid to be seen talking to us in front of kraut prisoners

—Pfc. Frederic Schmidt of New York City, with Third army in Czechoslovakia.

Everything (in Greece) now costs 10 times more than normally. The pay of a workman is very high, while the pay of a civil servant is extremely low. A common laborer now gets more than the director of a governmental department.

—Alex Ladas, Greek air force liaison officer to Greek foreign minister.

I believe in democracy but I also believe in wary watchfulness of the enemy. If he is permitted to creep back, our own new promising civilization will be at end.

—Lady Sassoon, wife of Sir George Sassoon, British embassy attache.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

SAN FRANCISCO—When the American army swept into Germany it was fortunate enough to capture an interesting figure in Dr. H. J. Caesar, the counterpart of our alien property custodian, who had charge of all American banks and alien property seized in France.

Dr. Caesar was cross-examined at length. From him came highly enlightening and hitherto secret information about the manner in which certain British and American branch banks in Paris collaborated with the Germans after the fall of France. His testimony highlights the main issue underlying the problem of future peace—namely whether, despite all the plans worked out at San Francisco, certain allied business firms together with their friends in the state department, the army and the British foreign office are going to maneuver behind the scenes to strengthen Germany once again as a bulwark against Russia.

This largely lies at the root of the ticklish Polish question. Russia wants a Poland which will cooperate with her and be a buffer against another German invasion. If there were no fear of future Germany, there might be less insistence on a puppet Poland.

Ex-Justice Jimmy Byrnes describde this graphically to senators upon his return from Yalta. Telling how Stalin got excited on the question of Poland, Byrnes quoted Stalin as saying: "You speak of English honor, Mr. Prime Minister, and your desire to protect the safety of Russia. But twice in 25 years German armies have marched across Poland to taack Russia. If that happens again will the English armies come to our defense?"

Before Poland was invaded last time it will be remembered that British business interests were quite willing, even apparently anxious, to have the Sudetenland taken away from Czechoslovakia. President Benes complained bitterly regarding Lord Runciman's attitude on this but the British appeasers' policy was to strengthen Germany at the expense of Russia's friend and buffer ally, Czechoslovakia.

Finally, it was American and British banks which poured money into Germany for years before the war and then maneuvered to have reparations and war debt cancelled in order to protect their own loans. The Chase National bank was one of the worst offenders. That is why a lot of people in Washington, Moscow and the world at large are watching to see whether history will repeat. That is why the evidence unearthed from the secret files of German alien property custodian Caesar is so significant. It indicates that even during the present war, the Paris branches of Chase and J. P. Morgan were quite willing and anxious to do business with the Germans—though British banks were more so.

Dr. Caesar testified that "the protection afforded to Chase was justified on the ground that it had been active on behalf of Germany before the war in such matters as the German 'stand-still' credit negotiations.

"The British banks," he said, "were even more preferred by the Germans than the branches of Chase and the Morgans. The German occupying authorities decreed that British and Canadian banks in the occupied zone of France 'shall no longer be considered as enemy banks.' These branches provided long-term credits to assist the German war machine. They supplied the Germans with general economic information obtained through their offices in unoccupied France, and they were particularly useful as depositories to the German authorities."

But especially significant were some of the letters found in Dr. Caesar's files. One indicated that the J. P. Morgan company had gone out of its way to curry favor with the Nazis by showing that the Morgans had nothing to do with Jews. One memo sent to German-banking-czar Caesar by Mr. Lecestre, a high official of the Morgan firm, read: "On the attached sheet there is represented some information relative to the predecessors of Mr. J. P. Morgan, actual head of J. P. Morgan and Co., Inc., New York. Following the tradition of his father, Mr. Morgan never admitted Jews as associates or fellow workers.

"The Morgan house has been frequently found in its business in opposition to the great Jewish banking houses in the United States, such as Kuhn, Loeb and Co. As to Morgan and Co., Paris, the personnel, since the foundation of the bank in 1868, has never included a Jew."

The memo is dated Jan. 15, 1943, more than a year after Germany declared war on the United States. Another memo found in the files of the German alien property custodian, dated May 6, 1941, is signed by Berenberg-Gosler, Paris reprsentative of the reichskredit-gesselschaft. It reads in part: "Subject: Morgan & Cie.

"During a dinner to which I was invited by the French partner of this firm, Mr. Pesson-Didion, Mr. P. D. again spoke indignantly about the clique in America which contiually attempts to draw the United States into an unjustifiable as well as ridiculous war. He told me that I would know from my stay in New York and Boston, the views of the partners of his firm and also how they hate Roosevelt—that Roosevelt is driving America toward a catastrophe by his economic and foreign policies.

"With respect to England, Mr. P. D. hopes that the conservavtive party under Sir Samuel Hoare and Lord Londonderry will get that the conservative party under Sir Sam-

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WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

A major in the United States army hung onto the key to the front door of his home through three years of battle. He figured some day he'd come home unannounced, unlock the front door and surprise his family.

He finally made it home, walked up to his own front door and found it standing wide open.

Perhaps that story is symbolic of the welcome waiting for most returning servicemen.

Far from home they may sometimes wonder and worry for fear their families have learned to get along without them. They may wonder whether or not they are still important members of the family circle when they read cheerful letters from home saying, "Don't worry about us, we are getting along fine."

They may even search their minds for "keys" to unlock the closely-knit family uits they have had no real part in for so long.

They often worry about how to get a wife, who has gone home for the duration, to break away from the inflence of her family; how to re-establish a marriage that was barely started before the war interefered; how to become a real father to the child to whom "Daddy" is only a picture on the mantle.

And yet for all their searching for keys to open these doors to the lives they once led, most servicemen will probably come home to find the doors standing wide open, and the keys not even needed.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

Looking under the bed to see who might be hiding there to disturb the sweet dreams of peace being envisaged for San Francisco, the first thing that greets the eye is a scary spectacle so frightening it makes you want to dive for the pillows and pull the covers up over your head tight. It is the prospect of representatives from 42 U. S. clubs, societies and pressure groups who have been invited by the state department to send to San Francisco spokesmen who will serve as consultants to the eight-member official U. S. delegation.

The 46 United Nations may have their difficulties in agreeing how they will lie in the same bed of security, but their peaceful slumbers will not be disturbed nearly so much by a Soviet Russian with a secret veto plan, a temperamental De Gaulle Frenchman with a collection of trick amendments, two quarreling Polish factions, nor a half-dozen British dominions scheming quietly to rule the world, as they may be bothered by this fringe of 42 lobbyists.

Included in the 42 are four big business groups, two associations of lawyers, three labor organizations, four veterans' organizations, four farm groups, five women's societies, tow Catholic, two Jewish and two Protestant auxiliaries, six peace societies, four businessmen's luncheon clubs, three educational societies and the national association for the advancement of colored people.

If the object of San Francisco is to establish peace and keep the peace, why don't a lot of these people stay home? The fact that more than one of each of the pressure groups are invited to San Francisco is in itself evidence that in normal times they can't agree with each other on the same thing.

On the eve of departure for San Francisco, a new fear grows that the good old American love of a show with political convention torchlights, Ringling brothers, Barnum & Bailey and Hollywood touches thrown in, may so scare the delegates from the other 45 United Nations that they will revolt. They may rise in unison and say: "If this be the price of peace, give us war; if this be the higher standard of living to which you Americans wish to raise the rest of the world, led us back into slavery; if this be democracy in action, give us dictatorship. If this is what we have been fighting for, goodby."

Loving this country and not wishing any other, it is possible to enjoy the corn relish at high noon knife-and-fork deliberations of Lions, Rotarians and Kiwanis; to view with detachment the bickerings of A. F. of L., C. I. O. and N. A. M., to argue religious differences with tolerance; and to get some genuinely hearty laughs every now and then out of the women, God bless 'em, who will join clubs. All these things are as American as apple pie and ice cream and we understand them.

Why Secretary of State Stettinius invited them to San Francisco is understandable. Why they want to be there is understandable. They're all tremendously interested and they want to contribute their two cents' worth. Who doesn't?

As a demonstration of American public opinion expressing itself by insisting that the statesmen get together and for an organization that will stop war, this 42-act greater combined lobby of counsellors can exert a wholesome influence. But if the boys and girls get the idea that they are going to San Francisco to put over pet projects, to insist on patented panaceas of their own preparation, to stage demonstrations and raise holy Ned if their private, picayunish perfection is not followed to the last detail—

In the name of peace, sweet peace, they ought to stay home.

Side Glances

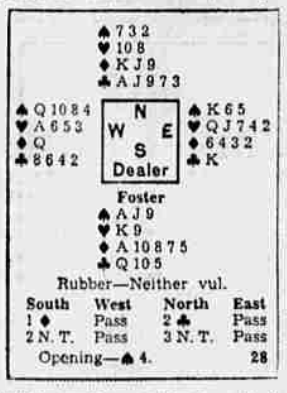
"My contract comes up for renewal next week—and do I wish I hadn't won all that money from the boss, taking his bets on when the war would end!"

● McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

HOW "RULE OF 11" CAN HELP DECLARER

No series of articles on great bridge leaders of the past would be complete without mentioning Robert F. Foster, a peppery little Scotsman now in his nineties. He was card editor of the New York Sun for many years and wrote scores of books on whist, bridge



whist, auction, contract and almost every card game.

His most notable contribution to the modern day game was his invention of the "rule of eleven."

As you probably know, this rule requires a player making a lead not from a sequence to lead the fourth best of his longest and strongest suit. While this rule is supposed to work to the advantage of the defenders, quite often it works to the advantage of the declarer. You can see that the declarer's problems is to keep East from getting into the lead.

A small diamond was played by the declarer, intending to go up with the king, but of course when West's queen drops, now you con read the whole hand. You know that East has a singleton club and it should be the king. Thus the declarer makes five odd.

If a heart had been opened, Foster by the same reasoning could have made 12 tricks.

Questions & Answers

Q—Have the Russians and Japanese had many clashes along the Manchurian border?

A—More than 2000. In 1939 the Japs lost 18,000 troops in an undeclared war that raged through the summer.

Q—What are gold seal dollars?

A—Dollars used in the north Africa campaign, with yellow ink instead of blue for the U. S. seal.

Q—What are the general dimensions of Okinawa?

A—70 miles long, 2 to 18 wide.

● IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

The junior class of the high school entertained the seniors at the annual banquet in the gymnasium of the high school. The reception room was decorated with pink and green crepe paper pennants and evergreens. Mattie Schofield was toastmistress and called upon the following: To the seniors—Stella Bodmer; senior response—Blanche Black; To the faculty—Helen Pierce; faculty response— Mr. Girdler; To the senior mascot—Alvin Jacobson; response—Earl Reynolds. Nearly 100 persons were present.

La Grande, Pendleton and Baker commercial clubs joined in a plan to provide uniform sign posts to mak the Old Oregon Trail from Huntington to the Columbia highway junction.

15 Years Ago

W. C. Perkins was elected president of the La Grande Rotary club for the year 1930-31 to succeed Dr. Ray Murphy. Fred Lanzer was elected vice-president, and Francis Greulich, secretary treasurer.

Ernest Burnett and family, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Burnett, drove to Baker to spend the day visiting at the J. E. Burnett home and to witness the Baker-Boise baseball game.

Carl Baum left for Portland on a business trip.

10 Years Ago

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs met to celebrate the 116th anniversary of the order. About 125 members were present.

Teachers from schools in Baker, Milton-Freewater, Cove, Union, Flora, Weston and La Grande met at the high school to discuss vocational and educational guidance in the schools.

This Curious World

ANSWER: Entirely in the torrid zone, lying between four and twenty degrees north latitude.

NEXT: Eskima house construction.