EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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Monument to Stupidity

EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM

IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.

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

Polish Boundary

A great many well-meaning Americans, eager to avoid even good-tempered arguments among the international big three, now contend that the Polish boundary settlement isn't worth worrying about.

Says the well-informed, usually thoughtful New York Times, for example: "In our judgment the settlement of the Polish border problem made at the Crimea conference was neither unfair nor unreasonable . . . With the accession of some new territory in the west and north the settlement provided ample space in which a sturdy Poland can live and prosper."

Perhaps it is the stability of national boundaries in North America, and this country's massive impregnability and our generally fine relations with both Canada and Mexico, that caused the Times (and others who agree with it) to overlook a forensic parallel.

Suppose, in the interest of justice, that the United States had been overrun by a military alliance of which Mexico was a member, and had been liberated by Great Britain and Canada. And suppose then that Canada cast sheep's eyes at a strip along the northern boundary of the United States — a strip that took in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo, the Twin Cities, Portland, Seattle and way points.

Suppose, since we were defenseless and owed our liberation to Canada and Great Britain, that they met in Montreal and decided to give this strip to Canada, but to "compensate" by permitting us to take over an equivalent area of enemy Mexican territory.

We should then be as big as ever. We should have plenty of room. We could move the population from our lost northern area into our new acreage south of the Rio Grande, and build us up a new United States.

You say that couldn't happen? True enough. Yet that is exactly what is about to happen to Poland, and some Americans can't see anything wrong with it.

A nation isn't just so many square miles of land, to be jockeyed geographically at the whim of stronger powers—or is it? This war is in defense of democratic self-determination, and the right of small nations to live their own lives without fear of aggression from bullies—or is it?

We are no more eager than the Times to pick a quarrel with Russia over Poland or over anything else. Perhaps we have no option but to permit Russia to do as she pleases with Poland. But we do have the right to disapprove, and to argue—don't we?

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Sick Europe

Incomplete information from Europe, analyzed by Metropolitan Life Insurance company experts, indicates that among that continent's worst post-war problems will be the rehabilitation of public health.

Tuberculosis is rampant. In Germany it is up at least a third, in Paris and Brussels about a half, in the Netherlands even more, and in Rome tuberculosis deaths last year were over twice those of 1940. The disease is epidemic in Greece.

Typhus, cerebro-spinal meningitis and scarlet fever are high in Germany; perhaps 70 per cent of the Greeks have malaria; diphtheria in Germany is up about 50 pe rcent and throughout western Europe it is at peak levels.

Funny Business

"It's a dentist's chair—every time he sits in it his toothache disappears!"

• SO THEY SAY

Flourishing towns and villages throughout Europe have been transformed into fields of craters. The most outstanding civilization the world has ever seen is crumbling into ruins.

—Goebbels.

The plan for world co-operation is not a revolutionary process of thought for us in this country. The general pattern drafted at Dumbarton Oaks is something we have known in smaller uits of organized society for many years.

—Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde, United Nations conference staff members and former minister to Denmark.

The civilian must no longer have the choice whether he wishes to accept the responsibility of becoming a franc-tireur or not. We must put a rifle in his hands and if he refuses to shoot he must be shot down like the dog he is.

—Schutze Korps, Nazi SS publication.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco down by the waterfront where ships sail in from the Pacific, a long line of hospital trains wait in the railroad yards. Large red crosses are painted on the side of each car. Uniformed nurses are inside. Silently, carefully, the cars are shunted alongside incoming ships, ships from Okinawa, Saipan and Guam, bringing the wounded home.

Almost every day they come in and are rolled out, noiselessly, tenderly, boys who will never fight again, some boys who will never work again, all boys who hope there will be no war again.

A mile or so away from the waterfront, sit the representatives of 46 nations trying to make that hope come true. It is a conference which the world has awaited so eagerly; for which the state department has planned so carefully. Fifty officials have been here for a week oiling the diplomatic machinery. An unlimited budget has been at their disposal. The city of San Francisco has thrown all its hospitable energy into rooting for the conference.

Yet it got off to a discouraging start. There has been something lacking — no spark, no contagious enthusiasm, no great personality to lift things out of the doldrums of diplomatic routine.

Perhaps it was the absence of that magic personality, which even in his old age and ill-health, could inspire an assemblage to the heights of achievement. Perhaps it was the lack of a great, dynamic leader. At any rate the early sessions featured the same cut-and-dried formal futility as the frock-coated diplomats who mourned the league of nations to death at Geneva.

Rio Enthusiasm

Three years ago at Rio de Janeiro, another conference was held of American foreign ministers to solidify the new world against attack. There, nothing hinged on stiff-necked formality. Instead of three solemn speechs — as in San Francisco — dolefully opening the conference, any Rio delegate might take the floor and say what he thought.

Nobody cared about lunch. Nobody cared about the Rio reception scheduled for the late afternoon. Nobody cared about the heat. The conference was carried away with its own enthusiasm; with its own anxiety to achieve.

At San Francisco — how different. No delegate had a chance to speak at the opening session. He could not pour out to his colleagues his hopes and dreams for future peace. He could only sit and listen—listen to the solemn, carefully modulated voice of the far-distant president, listen to the perfunctory speeches of welcome reeled off by local officials.

It had the atmosphere of an undertaker's parlor; or perhaps a U. S. steep corporation directors' meeting over which Ed Stettinius once presided. Instead it was supposed to be a conference carrying with it the hopes, the ideals, the future of mankind.

Meanwhile, from incoming transports, cots laden with wounded men were loaded on hospital trains to roll away quietly—almost as if they did not wish to disturb the solemn serenity of the delegates by injecting any unpleasantreminder of war.

From West to East

The army is working today on a new film to accompany "Two Down and One to Go," a movie already prepared to help explain to war-weary G. I.'s the reason they must pack up their kits in Europe and go on to fight another war in the Pacific. The two films are intended to bolster morale, now considered far more important than the actual physical problem of transfer to the Orient.

"Greatest problem after the victory in in Europe," according to Colonel William Menninger, world-famed chief of the army psychiatrists, "will be that of persuading combat veterans who have completed one job to pack up and go on to another war in the Pacific." He anticipates a heavy rate of AWOL's.

This is the major reason that members of the senate military affairs committee argued last month against giving GI's on their way from Europe to the Pacific a 30-day leave at home. They are afraid civilian members of the soldiers' family will encourage them to defy orders to go on to the Pacific.

Many men whose morale is impaired but who are not actual neurotics will be pushed over the borderline by the Pacific transfer, Colonel Menninger fears, although he believes most reasonably well-adjusted men will be able to take the orders in their stride.

Excessive celebration here of the V-E day announcement will make the Pacific assignment a particularly hard thing for European battle vets to accept, he warns.

Note—Colonel Menninger is also worried about the relatively small number of psychiatrists now practicing — only about 4,000 will be available for post-war work, he estimates. And he is certain that at least twice that number will be needed to take care of servicemen after the war. Only practicable solution, he feels, is for medical

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WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

"The army is counting on a movie to tell the GIs who have finished with fighting in Europe why the battle isn't over and why many must still shoot it out with the Japanese." So says a recent Washington story.

From where I sit receiving irate answers from wives of men in the European theater to a column I wrote telling them that setting their minds against their men going to the Pacific would only make such a course harder for themselves and for their men—I think the army had better prepare another movie explaining to the women why their men are still needed.

Apparently many of them don't understand. All they know is how they feel. That is that their men have had a rough time in Europe, and that once their job is finished there they should be returned home to become husbands and fathers again.

Or in the words of one particularly emphatic war wife, the mother of three small children: "Our men have proven that they can take it, and we, their wives, have proven that we can. Now let some of the men who have been sitting at home getting fat and sassy prove that they can too, and let their wives who have had them at home all this time have a chance to prove their courage. Why should we and our husbands have to take it twice?"

Maybe the thousands of letters of protest going to congressmen from the wives and mothers of men now in Europe will make Uncle Sam understand that when he shows the GI in Europe why the fight isn't over he has only done half of a morale-building job. Through their letters women strongly influence their men. And if Mrs. GI is bitter and feels imposed upon and cheated, her man in uniform is going to find it hard to be a good soldier in a second war.

For his sake as well as her own she should be made to understand, too.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

When all the arguments are reduced to simplest terms, the present state department-senate foreign relations committee mix-up over postwar international aviation rights boils down to this:

Will the U. S. civil aeronautics board continue to have control over foreign airlines coming into the United States?

Or will the freedom of the air executive agreements, drafted at Chicago and now declared binding on this government, reduce the civil aeronautics board to a mere rubber stamp, requiring it automatically to approve the application of any foreign airline wanting to fly to the United States?

Sen. Josiah W. Bailey of North Carolina, chairman of the senate commerce committee and a delegate to the Chicago civil aeronautics conference last fall, is of the opinion that the executive agreements would destroy the jurisdiction of the CAB and give that jurisdiction to the state department.

What particularly bothers Senator Bailey is the so-called fifth freedom—the right to pick up traffic along the route in a foreign state and carry it to another foreign state. Under this policy Senator Bailey believes U. S. foreign air commerce might be "shot all to pieces," so he considers it bad policy for the government to pursue. But his objection to this fifth freedom is also based on his opinion that under existing U. S. law, the civil aeronautics act of 1938, this government does not have the power to make any such agreements with foreign governments.

Here the argument becomes something like that old squeeze about which comes first, the chicken or the egg?

The civil aeronautics act of 1938, which set up the civil aeronautics board as the governing body over U. S. civil aviation, has three sections which seem to bear on this issue:

Section 402 says that the civil aeronautics board shall examine foreign airlines for fitness as a carrier in the U. S. public interest.

Section 802 says that the department of state shall advise and consult with the civil aeronautics board on any negotiations with a foreign airline for establishment of a route to this country. "Advise and consult" aren't defined, so there is no clear-cut responsibility.

Section 1102 says that the civil aeronautics board, in exercising its powers, shall do so consistent with any obligation assumed by the United States in any treaty, convention or agreement.

Apply those stipulations to the present mix-up and see where it leaves you:

The White House and the department of state have put into effect an executive agreement granting the airlines of any foreign government which also approves this agreement, the right to operate in the United States. That is an obligation on the United States, and under section 1102 the CAB can't do anything inconsistent with that obligation.

Under this interpretation CAB might be reduced to rubber-stamping any civil aviation deals made by the state department, the degree of whose consulting and advising with CAB isn't prescribed.

But section 402 says CAB shall examine all these foreign airlines in the public interest. And if establishment of a British airline to Australia across the U. S. and by way of Hawaii were found to be against the public interest, CAB would be legally bound to repudiate the state department's agreement. CAB would do this by recommending to the president that he deny the permit to operate.

The amazing thing about this whole mix-up is that congress passed the law that way, so it is now fouled up on the horns of one of its own bull dilemmas.

Side Glances

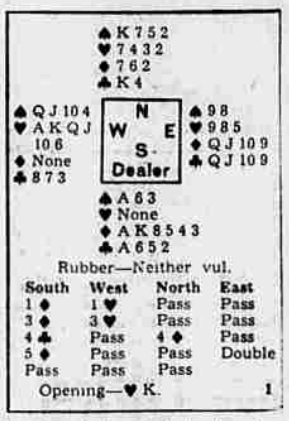
"I was kind of hoping you'd stay home tonight, Bill, and help me with my geography—you've flown over all the places I'm studying about!"

• McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

3 LOSERS CUT TO 2 BY DISCARD ON RUFF

I take time out each week now to go to the hospitals and do card tricks for our wounded soldiers. I thought the declarer in today's hand was somewhat of a magician. I think you will agree with me that there is no



Rubber—Neither vul.

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass	Pass
3 ♦	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening—♥ K. 1

question but what he has two losing diamond tricks and he has a losing spade trick.

Nevertheless, this declarer, by magic or otherwise, lost only two tricks.

He ruffed the opening heart lead and cashed the ace of diamonds only to learn that East held four trump. A small club was then led to the dummy and another heart trumped.

Now the ace of clubs was cashed and a club ruffed in dummy. The third heart was trumped and another club ruffed in dummy.

The ace of spades was cashed, followed by the king of spades. The seven of hearts was then led and when East trumped with the ten of diamonds, the declarer simply threw away his three of spades.

Questions & Answers

Q—What is Stalin's official title?

A—Chairman of the council of people's commissars.

Q—What was the origin of Leipzig, Germany?

A—It grew from the year 1015 on the site of a Slavonic castle named Libzi, from which the name Leipzig comes. The city's population was 701,600 before the war.

Q—What is the Shahnama"?

A—Iran's national epic, or "Book of Kings," written by the medieval poet Firdausi, Iran's Shakespeare.

Q—What is our life expectancy age?

A—In 1930 it was 62; but only 41 in 1840.

Q—Are there any male nurses?

A—There were 8169 registered in 1940.

• IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

Miss Helen Currey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Currey, was chosen Gamma Phi Beta delegate to the national convention of women's sororities in San Francisco. Miss Currey's scholastic standing was higher than that of any sophomore in her house.

Mrs. J. F. Corbett and Mrs. J. C. Gardner were elected delegates from the Central school parent-teachers association to the national convention in Portland.

15 Years Ago

A $50,000 building was issued to the La Grande Masonic building association, which announced that it has signed a lease with the J. C. Penney company for a building to be erected between the Masonic temple and the Granada theater. The new building gave the association property a value well above $100,000.

The use of smudge pots in orchards was being tried in this vicinity. J. A. Chandler, Fruitdale orchardist, purchased a number of smudge pots for his cherry orchard as protection from frost damage.

10 Years Ago

A number of local trapshooters attended a shoot held in Pullman, with A. Lee of La Grande winning first in class C. Lee broke 94 out of 100 and broke the second 50 of his string without a miss.

The La Grande high school girls glee club, directed by Andrew Loney jr., tied with Franklin high of Portland at Forest Grove for first place in class A. Salem high was second and Jefferson high of Portland, third.

This Curious World

ANSWER: In Minnesota, in Lake of the Woods county.

NEXT: How many words in your vocabulary?