

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

MONDAY EVENING, MAY 28, 1945

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"It Was a Carrier, So Big, Called the U. S. S. Franklin!"



Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Senator Langer of North Dakota has written a scorching letter to Secretary of War Stimson criticizing the army's secrecy in connection with Jap balloons in the west and asking whether innocent persons have been killed, and if so, whether this was what finally caused the war department to lift its censorship ban.

Last January the North Dakota senator addressed a letter to Stimson calling his attention to the arrival of Japanese balloons in the northwest, and asking Stimson that the American public be notified in order to be on the alert regarding them.

"Long experience," Langer told the secretary of war, "has shown that the people, when aware of any danger, are the first to help the armed services guard against it."

However, Stimson sent an officer to see Langer and pleaded with him not to say anything about the balloons. Langer finally yielded.

Langer now takes the view that the war department's policy of secrecy is mere face-saving, and the public should have been warned long ago to look out for these balloons.

"There is no need to tell the enemy the exact location where these balloons drop so they can measure the drift of air currents," Langer told Stimson five months ago. "That can easily be kept quiet. But it is important that the public be warned to look out for the balloons and report them to the proper authorities."

Meanwhile, all sort of weird reports have spread through the west as a result of these balloons; and at one time the schools in one big city were nearly disrupted by exaggerated rumors.

Actually, there is nothing very mysterious about the balloons. They are believed primarily aimed to set fire to western forests. Several months ago when they first started coming over, it was rainy, and the rainy season has continued all winter. With approaching summer, however, large areas in the west are bone dry and there is more danger.

It is believed that the balloons are not launched from submarines, but from Japan proper and float all the way across the Pacific, carried by the regular trade winds which blow from west to east as a result of the earth's turning on its axis.

Had the allies needed to use them, similar

balloons could have been floated from Scotland to Germany. The winds blow from the British isles across the channel to the continent.

Connally and Reds

Texas' Senator Tom Connally recently held an important off-the-record meeting with the various advisers to the American delegation to discuss two important points at the San Francisco conference: (1) the veto power; and (2) the world court.

Only organization which wanted to retain the old world court were the National association of manufacturers and the American bar association. Other organizations representing labor, farmers, religious, racial and women's organizations favored the new system of regional courts, similar to our circuit court of appeals.

The manufacturers association and the bar association also took a stand against the veto power given to the big powers of the security council.

"It seems to us," said the national manufacturers' spokesman, "that the veto gives great power to Russia."

"Of course," he quickly added, "I don't want it understood that we're unfriendly to Russia. As a matter of fact, we've been doing a lot of business with them."

To which Tom Connally shot back with a quizzical inflection:

"And profitably."

Other observers roared.

The Chase bank is extending a brand new loan of \$10,000,000 to the Soviet government.

Backstage fact about the Joe Davies' pilgrimage to London is that originally he was picked to go to Moscow for an intimate talk with Stalin, but his doctor forbade it.

Davies was slated for the Moscow trip because he is the only U. S. ambassador since the United States recognized Russia who has been welcome at the Kremlin. This was primarily due to Joe's book, "Mission to Moscow" and the film by the same name, which gave a sympathetic portrayal of Soviet progress. Therefore, it was planned to have him impress on Stalin that recent diplomatic snarls had alienated American public opinion.

When Davies was unable to go to Moscow, it was decided that Harry Hopkins should do the job instead; while Davies would go to London and urge Churchill to stop needling Russia.

Side Glances 16



"I've been driving this bus for over a year but my husband still doesn't trust me to back our car out of the garage!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

SQUEEZE PLAY WINS THREE OVERTRICKS

(This is one of a series of hands from the recent world's championship masters' individual tournament.)

Losing a world's championship title by one-half point after five sessions of play is indeed very heartbreaking. However, Al Weiss of Chicago, who finished second to Charles Goren in the

six odd. North won the opening spade lead with the ace and returned a spade which Weiss won with the king. He then cashed dummy's king of diamonds. He returned to his hand with the heart ten and cashed the ace and queen of diamonds.

Now dummy's long heart suit was run. North could not protect the jack of diamonds and the queen of clubs. At the same time South found it impossible to hold the queen of spades and protect the king of clubs.

In duplicate bridge, match points are won by making those over-tricks.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

Schools in La Grande closed for the summer vacation.

Pat Foley went to Elgin to try to add another bear to his collection.

Mrs. F. B. Schilke and her daughter, Fredericka, went to Portland, aside from visiting with her daughter, she will attend the national club council convention.

15 Years Ago

Cecil Posey, Wallowa athlete, was elected president of the Eastern Oregon normal school student body for the following year. Other officers elected were: Lowell Fuller of Imbler, vice-president; Juanita Crawford, Athena, secretary-treasurer; Rulon Elvanson, Union, and Grace Herr of Freewater, members of senior council.

Miss Amaryllis Knight, was elected assistant Mimir editor at a student body election.

10 Years Ago

Word was received by J. H. Blunt, high school instructor in La Grande, that four of his students in the high school received a grade of "A" in the competitive examination on the league of nations. The Oregon committee of the League of Nations, Inc., awarded Betty Bohnenkamp fourth place in the state.

Miss Enid Happersatt left on a trip which will include visits at Brady, Nebr., Chicago and Kentucky, where she will visit relatives.

Q—What is the area protected and managed by the U. S. forest service?
A—Around 200,000,000 acres, many of which are patrolled by planes which are important aids in controlling fires.

Q—Who was the first woman registered air pilot?
A—Baroness Raymonde de la Roche, who received pilot certificate No. 36 from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale on March 8, 1910.

Q—In addition to being Italy's greatest port, what other distinction does the city of Genoa have?
A—Its Bank of St. George founded in 1407, is believed to have been the first corporation of stockholders established in Europe after the fall of the Roman empire.

Q—Who gets the trade in cheap cotton textiles which Japan formerly peddled throughout the Pacific islands to keep the populace in sarongs?
A—The whole pattern of Pacific trade is in for a major reshifting in just such fashion as this.

Q—Germany made a good thing out of those islands when they belonged to her. Japan didn't allow their resources to deteriorate, though no one really knows what the commercial resources of those islands may add up to. Some have rich phosphate beds which will increase the Pacific supply of fertilizer. Saipan had big sugar plantations. But will Hawaii and the Philippines stand for their development as competitors on the U. S. market? And how will Louisiana and the beet sugar areas of the west like that?
A—All these challenges offer an exciting though uncertain future to west coast shipping interests who are meeting them with characteristic energy and initiative.

Q—Automobiles, machinery, manufactured goods of all kinds are not expected to build up any great volume of freight for some time to come, due to U. S. shortages. Passenger traffic offers something with a more immediate future. Though all the fighting men in the Pacific want most desperately to come home, many of the people who have had to stay here throughout the war want to go home. Here the greatest ponderable of them all—how many passengers will want to go by air and how much of a competitor to the slower ocean-going ships is the airplane going to be?
A—Anyone who can answer all these riddles has a steady job waiting for him in the traffic departments of west coast shippers.

Q—The serviceman, many months overseas, listed some of the typically American things he was getting good and homesick for: The corner drugstore.
A—Magazine advertisements that can be read at a glance, instead of having to be laboriously translated.
A nice thick steak, smothered in onions. Breakfasts of bacon and FRESH eggs. Thick American newspapers.
Why disillusion him by writing that a lot of those good old American institutions aren't what they used to be? That the corner drugstore is now just the place where you can't buy cigarettes.
That the magazine advertisements still look good but the fine print usually says something like: "You'll have to wait until

after the war to buy our product." Or, "Don't become discouraged if you can't always find so-and-so on your dealer's shelves."
As for a nice, thick steak, well, that is just a pleasant dream of the past—even in this country.
Hens are still laying eggs—but try to get the bacon to go with them, unless you are a personal, under-the-counter friend of the butchers.
But we still have American newspapers, of pre-war standard, unrationed, not hidden for favorite customers, even delivered, and with the comic strip characters getting in and out of as many jams as ever.
That's one "American institution" on his list that the homesick serviceman wouldn't find disappointing.

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WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

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Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO—With from four to five times as many ships now operating in the Pacific ocean than before the war, one of the big riddles to west coast shipping men is how much traffic there will be to carry after the defeat of Japan.

The first few carloads of hemp from the Philippines came into San Francisco recently, to mark the beginning of restored U. S. trade in the Pacific but this was only a token. Most freighters hauling war supplies to the orient still come back light because there is nothing to carry. Foreign economic administration has several missions in the Pacific making preliminary studies, but thus far no reports have been made public.

First difficulty is that none of the big raw materials producing areas of the Pacific has as yet been liberated. And how much of a scorched earth policy the Japs will carry out as they retreat can't be measured.

There is an American demand for what the Pacific can produce which may take several years to fill. Tin from the Netherlands East Indies and Malaya. Rubber from the same areas. Vegetable oils, palm and coconut. It may take several years to get the world properly soaked up. Spices. Sugar. Quinine. Hemp and jute and silk. Australian wool. Copra.

War-time America has been able to get by without the usual supplies of all these things which the Pacific used to furnish. Rationing plus synthetics did the trick but the mere development of these substitutes may mean a revolution for Pacific shipping when the war is over.

What, for instance, is going to happen to the once profitable silk trade with Japan? Will China or the Philippines get it? Or will the development of nylon and rayon put them all—and the silk worm—completely out of business?

And how successfully will synthetic rubber be able to compete with the natural rubber formerly imported from Indonesia by the million tons?

Indian jute for bagging is another big pre-war import with an uncertain future due to the development of made-in-America substitutes of cotton and paper for bagging and burlap.

icans dies of cancer; that if this ratio continues, 17,000,000 of today's living Americans will die of cancer.

Think of that. He continues: "And that means Americans of all ages. For babies are born with cancer; last year 18,000 children under 14 died of cancer; cancer is the No. 1 killer of women in the 35 to 55 age group, the No. 1 killer of American men, and is surpassed only by heart disease in total deaths for all ages.

"The medical authorities of the American Cancer Society tell me that without the discovery of a single new cancer fact, 30 to 50 per cent of potential cancer victims can be saved.

"This means that thru an adequate educational program, adequate detection clinics, equipment and training, and periodical medical examinations, 4,000,000 to 6,500,000 of the 17,000,000 Americans now doomed to die of cancer can be spared the ravages of this disease. With a full-scale integrated research program also in operation, cancer can be made a minor cause of death."

These are the facts. Union county residents are asked to contribute only \$575 to the national total of \$5,000,000.

Already more than 50 per cent of our local quota has been raised, but it has been gathered very slowly.

The local committee, headed by Harvey Carter, Central school principal is putting boxes in stores of the area, to assist in gathering smaller contributions.

Those who wish to make larger contributions can do so by contacting Carter, Mrs. Anton Freisinger or at the chamber of commerce offices.

Let's put the cancer drive over quickly. It will be a step toward the welfare and happiness of a large part of our own citizens in our own area. According to national figures, nearly 13 per cent of our community population will suffer or die from cancer.

It must be prevented.

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
Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of the wolves; be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.—Matthew 10:16.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY
In Faith and Hope the world will disagree, But all mankind's concern is charity.—Pope.

Cancer Control Fund Needs Assistance

Underway in Union county at the present time, in conjunction with a national campaign, is a drive to raise \$575 to be used in the fight against cancer.

Eric Johnston, president of the United States chamber of commerce, who heads up the national drive, has compiled a number of statistics which show without room for doubt that cancer is one of the greatest threats to American welfare and happiness. He said:

"During the first three years of the war, with axis armies, navies and air forces turning upon our fighting men the full force of all the weapons of modern warfare, the total Americans killed or to die of wounds did not equal the number of Americans killed by cancer in any one of the three years from December 7, 1911, to December 7, 1914.

"It shocked me to learn that an estimated 600,000 Americans right now are suffering from cancer; that the annual cancer death rate in this country is 165,000; that one in every eight Amer-

Funny Business



"Hooray! Our best job—somebody swiped our furniture!"

SO THEY SAY

We need to think in terms of encouraging and rewarding the tremendous production, hard work and skill of the American farmer rather than paying him to suppress his ability and his skill.

—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York.

The archaic and obsolete treaty-making machinery of the senate is a menace to the peace and security of America.

—Sen. Claude Pepper, Florida.

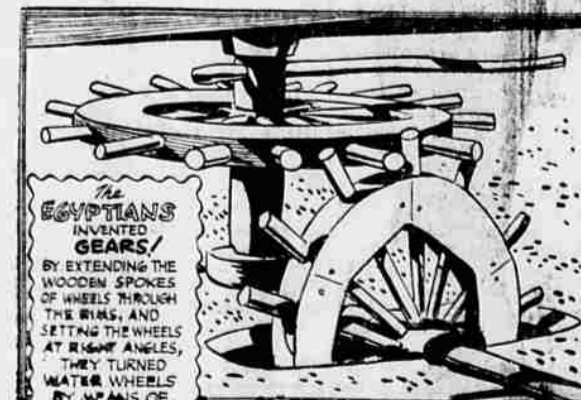
Unless the airplane can pick up its passengers and cargo from points close to their origin, and deliver them close to their final destination, air transport cannot perform its greatest service to the public.

—Civil Aeronautics Administrator T. P. Wright.

They Chinese are the soldiers, as God is my.

—Sgt. Harry J. Moley, Jr., Cleveland, O.

This Curious World



ANSWER: Rumania
NEXT: If all the humans on earth got together.