

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 29, 1945

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The Inevitable After Every Big Party



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

Men do therefore fear him; he respecteth not any that are wise of heart. —Job 37:24.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Each one to his own trade; then would the cows be well cared for. —Florian.

Second Guessing

Now that Germany has capitulated, the military experts are revising the second guessing that began long ago, and are revamping their lists of the errors by which the nazis beat themselves. Most such lists continue to include at least two fatal mistakes—one, Hitler's failure to invade Britain in 1940; another, his treacherous attack on Russia.

Monday-morning quarterbacking is often justly derided. It is much easier to decide correctly after a decision has been tested by an event. And Hanson Baldwin, the New York Times' capable military writer, points out that wars never do go according to plan, notwithstanding claims made in official communiqués. The best of generals make mistakes.

The importance of current second-guessing on German errors in World War II is that everybody agrees that,

except for them, Germany would have won the war. Britain could have been defeated before American weight could be made fully effective. By this time an axis "new order" would have ruled the world.

Put it another way. Germany and Japan were strong enough, in the opinion of informed critics, to have conquered the remainder of the world. They failed only because of a series of errors. It seems far from impossible that they could have won in spite of several of their mistakes, but they could not overcome all of them.

If they had invaded England in 1940 they would have found less than one fully equipped division available for defense. If they had not turned on Russia they could have devoted to western enemies the entire strength that almost conquered the continent. If they had not forced the United States into premature belligerency they might still have won.

The more those ifs are emphasized, the better. We can not remind ourselves too often of the narrow escape we had. We must realize and never forget that the nazis are beaten today and the Japs will be beaten eventually by their own mistakes—not by our foresightedness.

Twice, now—each time by a narrow margin—we have retrieved victory from defeat. A third time, led by a military technician more competent than Corporal Hitler, Germany probably would conquer us before we could take two or three years to build and equip an army and navy.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — The gentleman isn't shouting about it, but among the four members of the state appropriations committee who voted against the \$2,500 extra expense allowance for senators and congressmen was Tennessee's venerable Senator Kenneth McKellar, now president of the senate.

McKellar's negative vote came after he had won the appropriations committee's okay on a \$15,000 office expense allotment for himself, making him the highest paid member of the senate. As senate president, the Tennessee solon receives vice-presidential pay of \$10,000; also has the use of the vice-president's big limousine plus chauffeur; and according to the new legislative appropriation bill, can now hire additional clerks up to \$15,000. This is in addition to the allowance for help he gets as senator from Tennessee.

The subcommittee which worked on the appropriation bill didn't know what to do with the customary provision of \$15,000 to hire office help for the vice-president, since there is no vice-president. So it was decided to leave the matter open, offering McKellar a chance to volunteer to cut out the allowance from the bill. McKellar has his regular senatorial staff and it was not believed he would require the additional \$15,000.

When subcommittee Chairman Overton of Louisiana read the bill before the full appropriations committee, he paused meaningfully when he came to the \$15,000 item, waiting for McKellar to speak. McKellar didn't hesitate.

"I think you'd better leave in that allowance," he said. "Of course, I won't use it unless I have to, but it's just as well to have it in."

His slightly embarrassed colleagues complied.

This made a total for the senator from Tennessee of \$5,000 pay increase, \$15,000 for office help, plus the vice-presidential limousine and chauffeur, plus \$7,000 paid to his brother, Hugh C. McKellar, as postmaster at Memphis, plus \$4,500 paid to another brother, Don McKellar, as his secretary, plus \$2,000 paid to Mrs. Don McKellar as clerk on McKellar's post office committee. Total net take of the McKellar family, \$44,300—not

counting chauffeur and limousine. In spite of which, McKellar turned around and voted against letting his colleagues have \$2,500 extra expense allowance. Probable reason: Tennessee's boss, Ed Crump, has come out against the \$2,500 increase.

New Secretary of Agriculture

Tall, curly-headed Clint Anderson, newly appointed secretary of agriculture, nearly left Washington for good last year. Determined not to spend more than two terms in congress, Anderson sold his Washington home, shipped his saddle horses back to his New Mexico ranch and told friend he would not run again for congress.

It was when he returned to New Mexico a few weeks later that he was finally convinced he would stick it out for one more term. Anderson was the most popular Democrat in the state, and there was grave concern that Republican money pouring into New Mexico might turn it against Roosevelt.

This argument was a potent one, for Anderson has long been a devoted admirer of the late president. Even before coming to congress, he spent his spare time collecting all sort of literature about Roosevelt. In his office today are two large book shelves containing books and articles on FDR. His collection of Roosevelt documents at home is one of the most complete in any private library.

"I never went in for special printings and private editions," says the new secretary of agriculture. "What motivated me in the case of Roosevelt is that 50 years from now he will be as important in our history as Lincoln or our other great leaders—possibly more so. I simply felt that a library of what is written about Roosevelt by his contemporaries will be of great value a generation hence. Just think how interesting such a library on Lincoln would be today."

Book collecting is not new to Anderson. Ten years ago, when he was traveling New Mexico as assistant WPA administrator, he began to hunt bookstores, browsing through old volumes on cattle-raising, banditry in the wild west, gold strikes, etc. As a result, the new secretary of agriculture now has a library of over 3,000 volumes, generally considered one of the finest private collections on the history of the west.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

A 19-year-old co-ed was talking about the way she and her friends had missed much of "the fun of dating and falling in love" because there just haven't been any boys around since they reached the dating age.

She said, "Everybody feels sorry for the wives whose husbands are gone and for the girls engaged to men overseas. But nobody thinks about girls our age, who haven't even a chance to fall in love."

There is something sad about seeing these young girls, going to movies together, having cokes together, when in peace time they would be dating and having the fun girls their age should have.

But they might not feel quite so woe-begone, quite so much like the over-looked generation if they would keep this thought in mind: Their young men, their future husbands are also overseas.

And even though they don't yet know the

name of the man they are waiting for, they are only waiting just like the war wives and the girls engaged to servicemen.

If they look at it that way, the picture is a little brighter. For they can think, like the girls who are already engaged or married to servicemen, of the things they can do to make themselves into the kind of young women the men will want for wives when they get home.

The single young men overseas are thinking a lot about these "typical American girls" who speak their language. They are anxious to get home and look them over and find the right one. So life isn't actually passing these girls by, because of the war.

It is just making them go through a period of waiting. And waiting is what most women have to do in war time—even the ones that the teen-age girls regard as lucky, because they have already found their men.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO—One of the most pathetic aspects of this United Nations conference has come from a lot of half-lost little people, who, not belonging to any organization and not representing anyone but themselves, have nevertheless come here because they want so very desperately to help make the peace.

How they get here, where they stay, who pays their bills, nobody knows. But somehow they think that their lone voices crying in the wilderness of international sin on the Barbary coast, will start something. And they are living proof to the delegations from 48 other nations here gathered that in a democracy where freedom of speech is a gospel, every man is indeed a king even when he's a crackpot.

In the kaleidoscope of San Francisco memories there will always linger the image of a lean faced ascetic passing out little slips of paper on which was printed the breath-taking news that A. C. S. Raymond of Orange, N. J., had come to San Francisco for just one purpose—to put GOD into the United Nations charter.

"Al Raymond will be alone at the San Francisco conference for the liberty of man, woman and child," said the printed slip and towards the end there was the telling confession that, "I am a free moral agent, as was Daniel in the lions' den."

Another memorable character was an unsuspicious looking female who walked the sidewalks in the vicinity of the delegates' hotels, waiting till someone came along wearing a conference button. Then from her handbag she would produce a four-page leaflet advocating amendments to the United Nations charter to provide for "CSAA." This, it was explained, stood for constitutional social security amendments. The general idea was to confiscate all wealth and all income from labor, then divide it up and pass it out as uniform social security benefits all over the world.

The prize handout of all, however, was the work of one C. Townsend Tucker of Los Angeles, self-styled "Founder, organizer and author of 'The Evolution of Civilization,' a

revealer of truth and one endowed with understanding." A chart, big as a tabloid newspaper page, showed his scheme. On it were a hundred stars and a lot of connecting lines, one across, three ships, the statue of liberty, nine assorted sheds and outhouses, a curve labeled "love," a diagonal labeled "Grace" and a horizontal line near the top indicating there was a 4,000-year plan to work all this out.

Most ambitious undertaking of the lot was an attempt to put over a "Provisional World Council of Dominated Nations." It sounded tremendous, but the first San Francisco meeting of the organization, held in the basement of a liberal church, shed a strange light on the half-dozen founding fathers. The president, Ramkrishna S. Mbdak, turned out to be a Burma Christian who had married an American missionary, come to the United States and hadn't been back to Burma for seven years. The secondary general, Julio Pinto Gandia of Puerto Rico, hadn't been home since 1937 and boasted that from then to 1943 he had been in prison for advocating overthrow of the government. Most intriguing character of the organization didn't show up. He was Major Honore Jaxon of Portland, Me., self-styled leader of the Metis nation. Nobody present knew where the Metis nation was. There was a vague idea they lived some place in Canada, but no doubt at all they were dominated. Of course all these people get a terrific run-around. They write letters to the secretary of state, who writes them back thank-you and refers them to the secretary general of the conference, who writes them to suggest that they tie on to one of the 42 duly accredited organizations having an official consultant. These consultants can't be bothered by lone wolf cranks and pests.

So they end up running around in a "little man what now" fog of futility, talking to themselves. They'll probably go home frustrated and sore and forever after they'll be telling anyone who will listen, "Now when I was in San Francisco for the peace conference, I tried to warn everybody about these situations, but they just wouldn't listen, and see what's happened as a result."

Side Glances



"The roof leaks, the floors are all scratched and the outside is crying for paint—how do you think my husband will like this after living in ruins in Europe for two years?"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

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

Julius C. Bank of Chicago said the nicest hand he saw in the masters' individual was the one

ably only make four. When the eight spot was played on the opening heart lead and it forced East's king, Mrs. Sobel ruffed. She then took two rounds of diamonds and ruffed the third diamond.

Now she played the ace and one spade. West was in and you can see that he was end-played. If he comes out a heart, dummy's nine will force East's ace, while if he leads the ace of clubs, Mrs. Sobel's king will be good.

The play of this hand can be explained in a few words, but Mrs. Sobel took quite a while to study out the play, which is one of the secrets of her success.

Bank	Q 10 8 2	J 9	
	Q 10 9 8	A K 4 3 2	
	A K 9 5 2	10 7 6	
	None	Q 5 3	
	None		
Dealer East			
Mrs. Sobel			
	A 7 6 5 4		
	None		
	4 3		
	K 10 8 6 4 2		
Duplicate—N-S vul			
East	South	West	North
1♥	1♠	2♥	4♠
5♥	5♠	Double	Pass
Opening—♥5.			

Mrs. Sobel played with him. Now if you look at the hand, you might say that it does not look too difficult to make five odd, but if you play it out you will prob-

Questions & Answers

Q—Who originally ruled the Adriatic port of Trieste, not under dispute between Italy, Austria and Yugoslavia?

A—Until 1919, when it was given to Italy. Trieste fell under Austrian rule for 500 years.

Q—What is the nearest universe to our own?

A—The Andromeda Nebula, in which over 2500 stars have been counted; thousands more are too faint to number.

Q—How has the time required for building a Liberty ship been reduced?

A—First Liberty ship, "Liberty," took 234 days; by end of 1945 average building time was 40 days.

Q—What is so unusual about the oil from the fields of Brakan, the island off Borneo recently invaded by the allies?

A—The wells are a series of raw petroleum so fine that it can be piped from wells to ship bunkers without refining.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

A large number of merchants agreed to close their places of business for the afternoon, Monday, May 31, to participate in Decoration day exercises at the Baptist church.

Colon R. Eberhard was appointed district attorney for Union county by Governor James Withycombe.

15 Years Ago

When commencement June 10 completes the first year of the Eastern Oregon Normal school, the records will show that a total of 457 students were enrolled during the summer, fall, winter and spring terms, according to a check just completed at the school.

H. E. Brady will serve as president of the La Grande Rotary club during the coming year. Francis Greulich will serve as secretary.

10 Years Ago

Harvey Carter, teacher at Central school, has been named director of the summer playground for this year. There will be two assistants chosen at a later date, one to be at Greenwood and one at the high school stadium.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Strieff, who have been in Indiana and several eastern states, have returned to their home here.

Mrs. Lee Bostwick of Portland is in La Grande to spend Memorial day with her mother, Mrs. J. B. Stoddard.

This Curious World



Quoting Odys

"A MAN MAY BE TAKEN AWAY BY AN AFFRONT," Says V. C. DOTT, Break's New York.



NEXT: Where is the U. S. center of population?

Funny Business



SO THEY SAY

Ribbentrop was a scoundrel. Reichsmarschal Hermann Goering.

There will be time enough later to consider the long-range problem of the regeneration of the Germans. Our stay in Germany is likely to be long.

—Lt. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, deputy military governor in American-occupied part of Germany.

To quit before Japan is utterly crushed may get our sons back sooner, but as sure as fate our grandsons will fight and bleed and die, just as our sons are doing today, if we stop short of complete victory.

—Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.

There is not one single instance so far as I know where a Jap military unit—squad, air-crew, garrison or ship's crew—has ever surrendered.

—Lt. Col. Selby Calkins, American air force, Detroit.