

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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And It's About Time!



### 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

For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy; but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.—Ecclesiastes 2:26.

### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

These riches are possess'd, but no enjoy'd! — Homer.

### Our Community Cannery

With food supplies in the nation declared tighter today than for a year, it becomes imperative that some community action be taken to retain the community cannery in our city and county.

In the two seasons of its operation nearly 60,000 cans were processed by several hundred county families. That this did much to alleviate the food situation is obvious. In addition, the cannery has provided housewives with an opportunity to practice some of the finer arts of homemaking.

The cannery hitherto has been operated as a cooperative affair between the war food administration and the La Grande public schools through the vocational education system.

The school system has announced itself as perfectly willing to continue to provide the teaching staff, sponsorship and maintenance for the project, but the government insists it be housed permanently as a condition of allowing it to remain here. Immediate action is

necessary as many other communities have already made application for similar projects as soon as they became available.

The cannery can be located anywhere in the community, but a building with boiler and water must be provided for housing. To meet similar situations Corvallis and Myrtle Point constructed permanent housing for their units.

Equipment consists of three 200 quart size pressure cookers, three cooling vats, specially built canning tables, four electrically controlled sealers and other miscellaneous articles.

It has been suggested that if no other convenient means of housing can be acquired, the city and county governments can cooperate in the construction of an inexpensive unit for permanent housing.

Loss of the cannery will be a loss to this county. It is our hope that some means of holding it here can be found.

### Infantry Day is June Fifteenth

On June 15, 1944, the army and citizens cooperated in the celebration of the first Infantry Day. This June 15 will mark Infantry Day II. During those 12 months the war has taken a decisive turn. Germany as a military power has, for the time being, been defeated. Some day the full story of that achievement will be told. When it is told, the longest, though not necessarily the most glamorous chapter in it will deal with the weary, heroic, anonymous, unshaven, griping, determined foot-soldier.

It's the infantryman who takes the hiss and holds the hill and dies holding it. It's the infantryman who mops up and occupies. It's the infantryman who, when all the scores are added up, wins the war.

### Funny Business



A little ever-drip attachment to prevent those terrible squeaks while he's practicing!

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Despite all the ballyhoo about grandiose plans for the trial of war criminals, the real fact is that, as of this writing, not one Nazi has been listed for trial by the American section of the war crimes commission.

The British have proposed names. The Russians have gone ahead with an undetermined number. And the United States army has tried and punished various Nazis who committed crimes against American soldiers. But not one name so far has been listed by the United States section of the war crimes commission under United States Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson.

Furthermore, at a secret meeting held in Washington a few days ago, Justice Jackson would not be pinned down to conviction of any large group of Nazis, such as the Gestapo or SS elite guard, before Christmas. He even said he wasn't sure they were guilty under international law.

How peculiar the whole runaround regarding the trial of Nazi war criminals is, has just been emphasized in a confidential report to the White House by Herbert Bell, former minister to Portugal and Hungary and until recently United States chairman on the war crimes commission.

Mr. Bell reveals in his report that some state department officials did not agree with him that Hitlerites who beat up and killed victims because of their religion should be considered guilty of war crimes. Bell took a vigorous stand on this and eventually his differences with the state department caused him to be ejected out of the war crimes commission.

### Nazi-U. S. Cartels

Not much has been in the papers about it, but a significant lawsuit is now being fought out in New York between the United States government and Standard Oil of New Jersey. It involves 2000 German patents, which the justice department claims were turned over to Standard by the Nazis for safe-keeping during the war. The government has seized them and Standard is suing to get them back.

The patents are some of the most valuable in the entire war effort, including those for making synthetic rubber, which Standard Oil held back from the American public for a year and a half after the war started in Europe.

One of the most significant pieces of evidence is a letter taken from the company's own secret files, dated October 22, 1939, a little over a month after the war started. Standard's Frank Howard had gone to Holland to arrange various deals with I. G. Farben. This is the Nazi cartel with which Standard formed its patent partnership.

The letter, signed by Howard, told how he arranged to take over Nazi patents and hold them, apparently for safekeeping, even if the United States came into the war. Howard reported:

"Pursuant to these arrangements, I was able to keep my appointments in Holland, where I had three days of discussion with the representatives of the I. G. They delivered to me assignments of some 2000 foreign patents and we did our best to work out complete plans for a modus vivendi which would operate through the war, whether the United States came in or not."

If this document is not sufficiently convincing, however, the justice department has another ace up its sleeve. The United States army has captured three high-ranking officials of I. G. Farben in Germany, President Hermann Schmitz and Managers Max Ilgner and Dr. August von Knierim. Their testimony, if given, may be very interesting.

Not only are many industrialists watching the Standard Oil suit to see whether they get the I. G. Farben patents back but, according to Attorney General Biddle, several companies are already negotiating with German industrialists to work out new cartel deals for after the war.

### Capital Chaff

When a newsreel tried to get Representative Clint Anderson (secretary of agriculture-to-be) to pose with a pitchfork or on a tractor, the genial Anderson declined. "I remember when Cal Coolidge posed in a teggall hat," he said. "You can't do that to me. I'm just an insurance man." AP reporter Ed Kennedy, the boy who broke the armistice story ahead of his pals, got chided by the capital branch of the newspaper guild, "Kennedy should come to Washington," he was told. "With the vast number of advance 'hold for release' stories here, it should take no time at all for him to make Richard Harding Davis look like a cub when it comes to getting scoops."

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

The short news item that told about a man being fined \$10 by a six-man jury for being cruel to a rat, raises the question of whether or not the American mind will ever know how to cope with the Nazis, now that they are conquered.

The man fined for cruelty allegedly trapped a rat and tied him to a tree, so that his two cats could practice rat catching.

Maybe it wasn't a pretty sight. But if a man's abode is infested with rats—a loathsome animal without any lovable or redeeming qualities—it seems as though he might use any method possible to get rid of them.

But a rat tied up—in the sentimental American mind—isn't a rat at all, but a fellow creature that deserves fair play and a sporting chance.

That kind of sentimental bosh makes us lose sight of the fact that a rat, trapped, is

just a rat—and what becomes of him doesn't matter, so long as he isn't allowed to live and reproduce his kind.

And so is a defeated and captured Nazi a Nazi still. Let's hope that our sentimental pity for anything caught or captured won't let us forget that or start talking about compassion and fair play.

An American editor, back from a tour of German concentration camps, has declared that the whole German people should be held responsible for war atrocities, and that until we have eliminated the German general staff, we are going to have the seeds of another war.

Undoubtedly that is a hard-headed, practical, sane view of the matter. But will we carry it through—we, a people who can be so sentimental and forgiving that we worry over what becomes of a captured rat?

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO—With some 40,000 to 45,000 native born American of Japanese extraction still to be released from war relocation authority centers in the west, the problem of refitting these U. S. citizens into civilian life is being looked on with growing concern. They have perfectly good legal and constitutional rights, yet because the United States is still at war with Japan there are some elements of this population who seem to believe that anyone of Japanese ancestry must be kicked around.

In the first five months of 1945 there have been 70 "incidents" of threats or terrorism against Japanese-Americans who have attempted to return to their pre-war homes after being released from the war relocation authority centers. Sixty-five of the incidents have been in California.

Nineteen of these cases have involved shootings. Ninety per cent of the shootings have been in four central California counties—Merced, Fresno, Madera and Tulare.

None of the shootings have been fatal but there have been several near misses, an attempted dynamiting, several cases of setting fire to houses in which the Japanese-Americans were living, labor disturbances in which men refused to work alongside descendants of Japanese, and a number of visits by local citizens who have threatened bodily harm to the Japanese-Americans if they remained in the areas where they formerly lived or now wish to take up residence.

The significant thing about all these incidents is that there have been no convictions of the offenders. In the few cases that have been brought to trial the accused have been set free or given suspended sentences.

W. R. Cozzens, deputy director of the war relocation authority in charge of its western operations throughout the war, looks upon these incidents as the possible beginning of what he calls "local option on citizenship."

Cozzens himself is a native Californian and probably the most experienced of all WRA officials in dealing with the problems of American citizens of Japanese extraction. So there is no long-distance, social workers' mollycoddling in his point of view.

In themselves the 70 incidents may not be considered terribly important, says Cozzens,

but if this kind of terrorism is allowed to go unchecked; it can easily lead to excesses.

Hitler got his start, Cozzens points out, by sanctioning abuses against one group of native-born German citizens. First they were deprived of their citizenship and denied its rights. Then there was terrorism against them and confiscation of their property. These abuses grew until they became the atrocities committed against the Poles, the Dutch and all the German-enslaved people of central Europe.

The time to check such violation of the rights of citizenship is obviously before the practice gets out of hand. None of the victims of the 70 incidents has been a Japanese citizen that could in any way be classified as an alien enemy. Some have actually been discharged U. S. servicemen. All have been American-born citizens who happen to have had Japanese ancestors.

Analysis of the motivation behind the incidents reveals several curious factors. Only a few of the acts of terrorism have been committed by outright hoodlums, though such incidents have been perhaps the worst. In a majority of the cases there has been a motive of selfish economic gain, the perpetrators being other American citizens who have been profiting by war-time operation of land or property belonging to the Japanese-Americans while the owners were detained in war relocation centers. As soon as the rightful owners return to reclaim and resume possession of their property or their jobs the trouble begins to brew.

Another curious fact is that there appears to be little real resentment against the people coming from the relocation centers by the families of service men or by the service men themselves. American soldiers and marines who have been taught and have natural reasons to hate and kill all Japanese might be expected to be hostile towards Japanese-American civilians, but aren't. The reason is simply that over 10,000 of these American born citizens of Japanese extraction have made combat records in Italy and France and in the army intelligence services in the Pacific of which any American soldier or sailor who knows the facts can well be proud.

### Side Glances



My horoscope says this is a good day for important meetings, but I wish we had time to sit down in comfort while we tell each other our troubles!

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

### COURAGE IN OPENING BRINGS SEVEN ODD

In the recent southeastern sectional championships in Miami, Ned Tobin, the league's first secretary, and I were pressed into the game at the last minute to fill out a table and at the end of

quite a stunt. I will look forward to defending with him next year.

He certainly got the maximum out of today's hand. On the opening lead, he had the choice of making a safety play and refusing to win the first diamond, or going up with the first ace and trying for seven odd. Ned is no coward, and up with the ace he went. He then pulled a small club from dummy. East went in with the ace, which Tobin trumped. Now he took three rounds of trump, finessed the heart. One losing diamond was discarded on the king of clubs and the other one ruffed for seven odd.

▲ 9875	▲ 6		
♥ AQ9	♥ 643		
♦ A93	♦ 765		
♣ K109	♣ AJ754		
▲ 432	▲ 3		
♥ K2	♥ 3		
♦ KQ108	♦ 3		
♣ Q862	♣ 3		
W	E		
S	D		
Dealer			
Tobin	AKQJ10		
	J10875		
	J42		
	None		
Duplicate—Both vul.			
South	West	North	East
1▲	Pass	2 N.T.	Pass
3♥	Pass	4▲	Pass
Opening—♦ K.			

the three sessions of play, were out in front. I got quite a thrill out of winning with Ned. He is one of the old-time fine bridge players and winning a major championship at around 80 is

### Questions & Answers

Q—Who is the heir apparent to the throne of Iraq?

A—Prince Abdul Ilah, regent of Iraq, and direct descendant of the prophet Mohammed.

Q—President Truman recently set up a special division for home food supply as part of the war food administration. Who heads it?

A—Paul C. Stark, Louisiana, Mo.

Q—When is Father's Day this year?

—Sunday, June 17.

What color pennant indicates the approach of a storm at sea from the northwest?

A—A red pennant below a square red flag with black center.

Q—At what altitude do cirrus clouds occur?

A—At 30,000 feet or above, just at the base of the stratosphere.

## IN FORMER YEARS

### 10 Years Ago

Sherman Harer of La Grande was graduated with the class of 1935 from Oregon State college at Corvallis, where he majored in electrical engineering. He was affiliated with Theta Xi. His mother, Mrs. W. S. Harer, attended the graduation exercises.

Miss Donna Feik went to Rexburg, Idaho, to join her sister and brother-in-law and accompany them to Salt Lake City.

A. W. Nelson and family left for Portland to witness the Rose Festival.

### 15 Years Ago

Two hundred dollars were donated to the La Grande municipal band by the American Legion post to pay expenses on the contest trip in July.

Mrs. W. H. Bohnenkamp, Mrs. Chester Newlin, Mrs. F. S. Ivanhoe, Mrs. Anna Pollock and Mrs. Chase Bohnenkamp drove to Baker to visit Mrs. C. Bohnenkamp's mother, Mrs. R. Johnson.

### 30 Years Ago

Miss Irma Martin, daughter of J. H. Martin, storekeeper for the O.-W. for many years, and Miss Nell Kennedy, daughter of an old-time employe of the company, were chosen by the railroad to be its guests at the Portland Rose festival.

Pouring of cement into the framework about the city reservoir was started, on a project to increase its capacity by almost one-half.

### This Curious World



ANSWER: Bern, not Geneva, as commonly believed.

NEXT: What is a Louisiana marsh here?