

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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### Every Big Spree Has Its Hangover



**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 an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.—Exodus 23:20.

#### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

That which makes the vanity of others unbearable to us is that which wounds our own.—La Rochefoucauld.

#### Syria and San Francisco

The deplorable Syrian "incident" offered an object lesson to the UNCTO delegates trying to solve the equally deplorable veto dilemma at San Francisco. Here was a made-to-order illustration of how the United Nations organization would have met a crisis under the Dumbarton Oaks proposals and the subsequent Yalta agreement on the veto.

Under the proposed charter, France could have fought on in the Middle East until every Syrian and Lebanese was killed, if the French government so desired. For France would have been able to forestall any interference by the organization through her veto power as one of the big five.

The entrance of British troops into the Levant states, which halted the fighting, would have been impossible. Such an independent act would have been branded by France as an act of aggression. Britain then would have vetoed any forcible action against herself in the unlikely event that it was

threatened.

The inescapable result would be that either the United Nations organization would lapse into a state of impotence, as the League of Nations did after the Manchurian and Ethiopian invasions, or that it would disintegrate completely. And the stage would be set for world war III.

It is unhappily evident that the present solution of this Middle Eastern crisis, though achieved by old, unsatisfactory and potentially dangerous means, is infinitely better than would have been possible under the charter with its big five veto power.

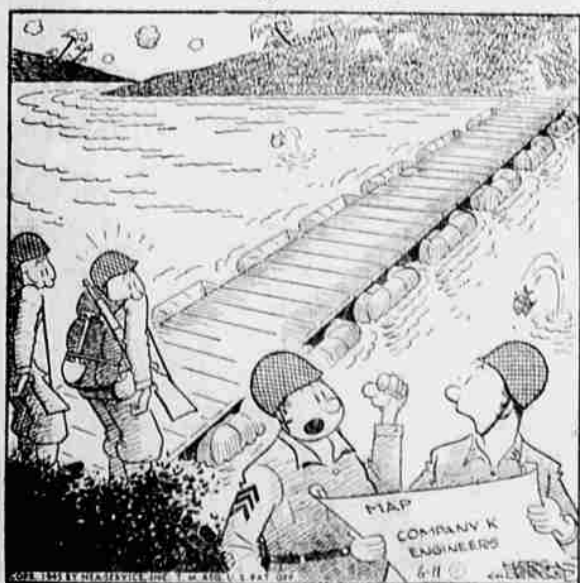
The only hope for success for the United Nations organization, as presently constituted, rests upon the responsibility as well as the strength of the big five. Yet France has shown herself neither right nor responsible in this instance.

The United States and Great Britain have rebuked France sharply. But, at the same time, they have presented a common front with France, Russia and China in support of a veto proposal which would permit any one of the five to conduct similar acts of aggression without fear of retaliation.

The great weakness of the Soviet-sponsored veto system is that it confuses a monopoly of power with a monopoly of wisdom and virtue. It argues that the big five are the only countries strong enough to safeguard world peace, without admitting the obvious corollary that they are the only ones strong enough to start a world war.

It may be that the San Francisco conference must accept the charter with this veto proposal in order to get anything. But the small powers should insist, and the big powers should recognize, that the only hope of real success lies in an untrammelled opportunity for the charter's further revision on the basis of sovereign equality of the United Nations.

#### Funny Business



"He wants a railing, sir!"

#### SO THEY SAY

Manufacture of prefabricated houses is only one thing. Kaiser (Henry J.) has a whole slew of items in mind.

—R. J. Thomas, president, United Automobile Workers, commenting on reconversion.

I wouldn't be surprised if we sang the emperor's hair a little.

—Pvt. Billy Spencer, Gladewater, Texas, tail gunner on Tokyo-bombing B-29.

Mutuality and cooperation must replace egoism if we are to build a new kind of community.

—Dr. Charles T. Hovnan, University of Chicago.

Lessons of the war did not change some politicians to the new course in the reorganization of free Europe, but have given them new desires for their old plans of Balkanizing Europe.

—Konstantin Hoffman, Red Star (Russia) columnist.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Some time ago, this column told how the Nazis had sent out a propaganda broadcast to the European war theater claiming that Colonel John Hay "Jock" Whitney, husband of the ex-Mrs. Jimmy Roosevelt and a close friend of Harry Hopkins, had been critical of President Roosevelt while in a German prison camp.

The Nazi radio told how Jock Whitney first refused to talk, later was placed with a German posing as a British officer, at which time he loosened up and, according to the Nazis, was critical of the president. The Nazis used this to try to show how politics perverted the U. S. army.

Colonel Whitney managed to escape from the German prison camp, when the box car in which he was riding was bombed and wrecked. He has since written this columnist a letter denying that he ever criticized the president, and has also set forth the interesting circumstances surrounding his capture.

In fairness to Colonel Whitney, whom this columnist holds in the highest esteem, the pertinent portions of his very interesting letter are published below, together with a transcript of the Nazi broadcast.

#### Whitney Kept Name Secret

Colonel Whitney writes: "I have your reference of March 4th to the effect that I fed anti-Roosevelt propaganda to the Nazi machine while I was their prisoner. You got the wrong dope from somewhere and I'll tell you why.

"1. Since my one chance of escape depended on the enemy's not knowing that I was of any value to them, I remained anonymous, even to my fellow prisoners. I was very careful not to talk familiarly about my name in order to avoid the slightest association with importance.

"2. Even if I had shot my mouth off to them, my conversation could not have been recorded since we were never in a prepared camp, but always on the move, and mostly always under fire.

"3. The only British-uniformed soldier I saw was well known to me.

"4. I escaped without the Germans having a clue as to my identity.

"5. If I had talked about the president, which I didn't, it would have been only in terms of the highest admiration for himself and his leadership."

#### Nazi Broadcast

The Nazi broadcast, illustrating the extent to which the enemy went to try to confuse American troops, follows:

"Broadcast by DNB in German language, by wireless, to Europe on November 3, 1944, at 6:34 a. m., EWT, quoting I. I. B. (international information bureau) under Berlin

dateline. "Berlin—Statements made by Colonel John Hay Whitney, American banker, after he was taken prisoner throw an interesting light on the American conduct of the war in France. IIB has received the following extract from a report on the questioning of this American, Whitney, a prisoner-of-war, which took place on August 13.

"Situation in northern France—the colonel who throughout the questioning was very reticent, became later very talkative and jolly in the company of other captured officers. He played poker with them and talked, among other things, about military and political questions. The discussion then turned to the situation in northern France. This was the most remarkable of his utterances:

"On August 20, the U. S. First army, concentrated at Vernon as focal point, was supposed to ford a crossing over the Seine. In view of the disorderly condition in the German rear, it was expected that a quick thrust would be possible, and at least nine German divisions would be cut off. According to American calculations, resistance on the German northern flank would then completely collapse, and the way would be open through Belgium into Holland."

"Changed orders—Colonel Whitney emphasized that this plan was cancelled at the last minute on orders from the highest authority (meaning President Roosevelt), and the focal point was shifted to the right flank so as to encircle Paris from the south. In his opinion, this was a complete mistake because a delay of at least ten days was unavoidable.

"Political reasons—He has the impression, which was shared by many high American officers, that, quite intentionally and for political reasons, offensive operations were stopped. In the course of a later discussion, Whitney mentioned the name of General Patton who, if he likes to admit it, knows very well why the thrust at Vernon was not carried out."

#### Lincoln-Roosevelt Birthdays

The question of making Feb. 12, Lincoln's birthday, a national holiday has now been put up to the senate by North Dakota's Senator Langer in a manner difficult to dodge. Hitherto, southern legislators have opposed any national holiday for the Civil war president, but when Senator Downey of California introduced a bill to make Jan. 30, Roosevelt's birthday, a national holiday, Langer immediately introduced the Lincoln birthday bill and insisted that the judiciary committee could not report one out without the other. Both bills will probably die in committee.

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

The height of the "anything to oblige a landlord" situation was reached the other day.

A corporal, back from the battle front and looking for a place to live in Denver with his wife and small son, was told of a house whose owner wanted to rent it to a couple with two children.

"Tell him we'll take it," said the corporal, and then added dutifully, "If he insists on two children we'll have another one."

OPA has limited what landlords can ask in the way of rent. But not what they can demand in other ways.

Eager to get a roof over their heads couples will promise just about anything.

Some promise high-minded landlords not to have drinking parties.

Others promise to take care of a victory garden. Or to keep the landlord's dog during their stay in his house. Or even to give up their own dog.

Others hold out the lure of being "permanent civilians."

Others brag they have no children in a manner that conveys they wouldn't think of having any, if it made them less desirable as renters.

Still others get references from former landlords to prove they don't break up furniture, disturb the neighbors, and always pay their rent on time.

And in return, what do they demand to know of the personal life of the landlord? Nothing. Nothing at all.

If he has a house or apartment to rent, he's the boss. At least for the duration.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco employers council, handling labor relations problems for 2,000 business firms in this area, now believes it has developed collective bargaining for management to the point where it takes most of the monkey business out of labor contract negotiations.

This process is of interest to the whole country because any employer, any union representative, any working man or woman, any newspaper reader who follows the endless bickering which goes on when a labor dispute is in the air knows how these things upset a whole community.

When a new labor contract comes up for negotiation in San Francisco today and the demands of the unions are presented to the employer, they are first tossed into the research department of the employers council. Here a staff of experienced labor economists takes the demands and analyzes them. Arguments are developed on each point—its merits and demerits—and the case is prepared for management.

The council does not attempt to dictate labor policy for any employer-member, but it does advise the employer on what demands are fair and just, what may lead to trouble, what should be resisted even to the point of accepting a strike to force a settlement, what company labor practices should be changed to improve employee relations.

When the demands have been analyzed in this manner, there is a meeting between negotiators for the union and the management. This first meeting is pure window dressing. The demands are formally presented and an equally formal reply is made for the management. This satisfies the union members that their demands have been given consideration. Then the business agent for the union and the negotiator for the employers council get down to brass tacks.

Negotiation for management is not carried

on by the employer but by one of a half-dozen staff negotiators employed by the council. These negotiators are not lawyers because usually the unions don't trust lawyers. Negotiators are just smart fellows with good personalities, having the knack of establishing confidence of the unions and conciliating differences between employer and employee.

So experienced have the San Francisco employers council negotiators become in the last five years that many times new contracts have been agreed to at the second meeting. Sometimes negotiation is reduced to less delay than that. A union business agent in presenting new demands will say in effect, "On this sheet of paper is what we're asking for, but on this other sheet is what we'll take." If the "what we'll take" is satisfactory to management, the contract is signed then and there.

No stenographic records are kept on any meeting, but negotiators make full notes which are always referred to in determining intent whenever any controversy arises from a grievance after the contract is signed. Servicing these contracts—settling the disputes that inevitably arise in all labor relations—provides one of the most useful functions the council performs. Of equal importance is the job which the council does in representing employers before the war labor board, manpower commission, national labor relations board, wage and salary stabilization units, and state labor agencies.

In all this collective action for employers there is no intent to break the unions. The San Francisco employers council got over that when it realized the Wagner act is here to stay. But in taking a lot of the grief of labor relations off the neck of individual management and reducing labor negotiation to sound business methods, collective bargaining has been dignified and it is now accepted by the unions.

### Side Glances



"George says he'll be the first one in town to buy a television set—he wants to see what sort of funny looking people sing those soap commercials!"

#### McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

#### REFUSAL TO OVERTRUMP WINS BID

When Sgt. Phil Abramsohn, one of the country's outstanding life masters who is now stationed at Grenier Field, Manchester, N. H., teaching blind flying in the air transport command, was in town the other day, he said: "Now West could have beaten me

happen; instead, he returned the four of heart. West won the trick with the queen and led back another heart which East trumped with the eight of spades.

Now, here is the nice play. Abramsohn refused to over-trump, because if he did, he would lose the contract. He discarded a loser on a loser. He threw away his nine of diamonds. When East tried to cash the king of diamonds, he trumped it with a little spade, picked up the trump and made his contract, even though West held five trump. If West had cashed his club ace and shifted to a diamond when he was in, he would have defeated the contract.

Hand analysis table showing cards and scores for a bridge game.

#### IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago, June 9

Claude C. Cate, county farm expert, was conducting examinations for employees of creameries, in compliance with the new creamery law. Each creamery was required to have at least one employee who could pass an examination for fitness to properly test for butter-fat.

Lester Stoddard, who had been attending the Utah Agricultural college at Salt Lake, returned home.

15 Years Ago, June 9

Elmer Moon left for Oakland, Calif., to visit relatives for about two weeks.

Phillip Walnum left for his home in Yakima after spending a week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Y. Walnum.

Mrs. Harry Gibson returned from Pendleton where she spent a week visiting her daughter, Mrs. N. D. Johnson.

10 Years Ago, June 9

Two double decks of lambs were sold here to Couper Brothers of Weiser, to ship to the Denver market, bringing \$7.30 a hundred, live weight. This is the highest price received for lambs since June, 1934, when two cars were sold to the same company for \$7.75.

Crystal Plunge swimming pool opened with a large crowd present. The pool was open Tuesday's and Thursday's without charge.

#### This Curious World



#### Quoting Odds

"WHEN A TOOTH IS GROWING IN, IT'S COMING OUT," SAID NEIL H. SHIVELY, Goodman, Wisconsin.



BY THE TIME 14,800 A.D. ARRIVES, THE STARS WILL HAVE CHANGED IN POSITION AND THE BRIGHT VEGA WILL BE OUR POLAR STAR.

NEXT: When is our earliest sunrise?