

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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### Just Like Any Other Cornered Rat



#### 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

And God saw every thing he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.—Genesis 1:31.

#### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Look forward with hope for tomorrow.—John Collins.

#### 'Coddling' Vindicated

Our so-called "coddling" of German war prisoners has saved the lives of many American prisoners in Germany, the International Red Cross reveals.

A Swiss Red Cross official has stated that when Hitler ordered the execution of American and British aviators last March, his officers disobeyed him because they knew that both allied countries had lived up to the Geneva convention covering treatment of prisoners of war. Thus 90 per cent of American prisoners survived Hitler's intended vengeance.

This does not condone the Germans' unspeakable treatment of political, as distinct from military, prisoners. There was no Geneva convention for Dachau and Buchenwald and Maidanek. But it does vindicate the humane treatment of prisoners, in accordance with an honorable pledge, which apparently appealed

#### Funny Business



"It keeps the burglars guessing—they won't know which lock to pick!"

to the remaining vestige of decency in the German army.

#### Suicidal Stupidity

The Jap war machine teaches a young student the rudiments of flying, seals him in a plane and sends him on a suicide mission against American ships. It hops up a young soldier with crackpot patriotism, straps his body with explosives, and sends him hurtling into the American lines. This country, on the other hand, is constantly improving equipment with a view toward saving more lives and planes and ships.

The Jap suicide pilots cause serious damage—when they hit. The suicide infantrymen do likewise—when they reach our lines. But whether they succeed or fail at life is expended in both instances and, in the first, a plane is lost as well.

American pilots sink ships, too. American infantrymen have wiped out half-dozen and dozens of Japs single-handed. And in the majority of such cases they have lived to fly and fight another day.

The Jap is not only inhuman, he is also inefficient.

#### The Bill for War

None of us can appreciate the actuality of a trillion dollars, which American university researcher estimate is the cost of the war to date. But the least imaginative of us can take that inconceivable figure, add the destruction of public and private property which the estimate does not include, and add to that the yet-uncounted millions of lives lost since Sept. 1, 1939.

The result will not give us an accurate total, but it will give us an inescapable conclusion: Civilization cannot again indulge in such staggering, insane extravagance and survive.

#### SO THEY SAY

When a woman gives a butcher a big tip, the poor can't match it, consequently the well-to-do get what meat there is.  
—Henry M. Brundage, New York City markets commissioner.

We need bureaucrats, but they must be intelligent.  
—Rabbi Rudolph M. Rosenthal, Cleveland.

Our best judgment is that we can defeat Japan quickly and completely with an army which, a year from now, will be 6,000,000.  
—Adj. Gen. James A. Ullo, army personnel director.

Our flag will be planted in the heart of the empire of our last remaining enemy.  
—President Truman.

Depressions, like wars, are not acts of God. Man makes them. If we make them, we can unmake them.  
—Fred M. Vinson, director of war mobilization and reconversion.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By BREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—It came as something of a shock to Washington dowagers and socially-minded young naval officers when attractive, dynamic Margaret Truman suddenly was whisked out of Washington at the very height of the gay June season and went back to Independence, Mo.

After all, June in Washington is full of weddings and romance, and with the war over in Europe, a lot of cave-dwellers were just beginning to hit their stride.

However, a very wise presidential papa wasn't happy about the featured newspaper pictures of his daughter shagging at this party, cocktailing at that, and fitting merrily through Washington society with the war still bitterly contested in the Pacific. It was only natural exuberance on the part of a young college girl who suddenly found herself the first daughter of the land.

But all this didn't jibe with the president's own ideas or his pleas to the nation to get the war over in the Pacific.

So came the back-to-the-earth-movement and Missouri immediately after Margaret's college term was over.

As Margaret herself explains: "Father says I have to finish college. I have one more year at George Washington, and father considers college important."

#### Washington's Sacred Cow

Meanwhile Washington has been getting a real kick out of the way Margaret has been putting Washington dowagers in their places and running rough-shod over that most sacred of all capital sacred cows protocol—the ritual of where who should sit where at dinner.

The other day Margaret telephoned Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean, owner of the Hope diamond and the only Washington hostess brave enough to entertain much during the war. Mrs. McLean, who goes in for John L. Lewis, the British ambassador, the Senator Burt Wheeler and a various assortment of bigwigs, has been making a special play for the Trumans; so Margaret asked if she could bring Reathel Odum to dinner. Mrs. McLean said, "Delighted."

Then an hour or two before dinner, Margaret called a second time to ask if she could bring Edward D. McKim, her father's new secretary. Again Mrs. McLean said, "Delighted;" and the social secretaries began rearranging the place-cards, which at a dinner of 200, featuring senators, cabinet members and supreme court justices, plus Washington formality which is some job.

Finally the Truman contingent arrived. McKim had a marvelous time. In fact he had started having a marvelous time well before he arrived.

But several ladies of rank and distinction did not have such a marvelous time—among

them was Mrs. Walter George, wife of the senator from Georgia, Mrs. Millard Tydings, wife of the senator from Maryland and Mrs. Joseph E. Davies, wife of the former American ambassador to Russia.

For Reathel Odum, the extra guest brought at the last minute by Margaret Truman sat at the honored table. Perhaps Mrs. McLean didn't know who she was, perhaps she did. At any rate one distinguished lady remarked:

"Does Mrs. McLean take dope? Then why does she seat that little Odum stenographer at the head table with Senator George and Justice Murphy?"

Reathel Odum happens to be Mrs. Truman's secretary. According to capitol protocol she does not rank. So the ladies glowered while she sat at the head table, and even Joe Davies sat at the second table. "In the old days of the Dolly Gann-Alice Longworth social war," whispered on guest, "people have been known to walk out of dinner parties for less than that."

Anyway Margaret Truman, dressed in black chiffon and orchids looked lovely and had a lovely time. And when someone asked, "Where are your father and mother tonight?" she replied a little pityingly: "Oh, they're just sitting at home alone." That is one penalty of being president. You can't go out to dinner; other people must come to dine with you.

#### Army Shake-up

During the Roosevelt administration one sure way of top promotion in the army was through general "Pa" Watson, the late president's genial military aide and secretary. Pa, whom everybody loved, but who had a hard time getting through West Point, had a host of army friends and he did not forget them.

One of those friends is Virgil L. Peterson. It was Peterson who coached Pa in West Point and finally got him through with the graduating class of 1908. Peterson graduated the same year.

So more than 30 years later, Pa Watson, then in the White House, didn't forget his friend. Virgil Peterson became inspector-general of the army with the rank of major general—a most important post.

But now some of Watson's classmates of 1908 were finding themselves out in the cold, and General Peterson is going to be one of them. Not a brilliant success, he is being dropped as inspector-general.

Most people don't realize it, but General George Marshall largely owes his appointment as chief of staff to Pa Watson and Senator Carter Glass of Virginia, who gave the push necessary to put Marshall over the heads of General Hugh Drum, backed by Jim Farley and General John L. Dewitt.

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

The USES domestic headquarters in New York recently turned out a group of certified housemaids who had completed a course in scientific methods of housework.

One member of the group summed up their attitude toward employers with: "Now that I know how to walk in and take over I won't go back to the lady who forgot the time, didn't have the money for an extra hour, and got it as charity."

It looks as though they are needlessly asserting their new independence. The "ladies" they are talking about haven't had maids or cleaning women for so long they are by now used to doing their own work.

The only women who have maids now vie with each other in making the lives of their "help" as pleasant and as soft as possible.

They put ads in the papers asking for

maids who won't have to do the washing, needn't wait at night to do the dinner dishes, have a day and a half or two full days off each week, etc.

And once they lure a maid to their door and get her promise to take a job on trial, they whip their families into line so that Susie or Mary isn't imposed on in any way.

If Mary scowls at the mention of dinner guests—they get taken to a restaurant. If Mary doesn't like fish, she can cook something special for herself. If the children bother Mary when she is cleaning they are whisked out of doors.

For Mary is the family's star boarder today—instead of the disregarded drudge she so often was in the past.

Household workers don't need to assert their rights and take a stand today. Mrs. America is eager to please.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO—The future of any established, privately owned electric power company in any part of the United States marked for possible development as a river valley "authority" is something on which there could well be a national policy determination before this government dam building business goes much further.

John S. Black, president of the Pacific Gas and Electric company, says the people of California do not want public power. To prove it he points to the record of the last 15 years in which the public power issue has been defeated in over 25 special elections, eight of them in San Francisco.

Active boosters of public power will differ with the conclusion to that flat statement, saying it merely proves how much influence P. G. & E. still has in California affairs. For P. G. & E. is an \$800,000,000 corporation with an income of \$150,000,000 a year, a combination of some 450 companies doing 90 per cent of the electric power business in the northern part of the state.

It is tough competition to beat. Competition from private business hasn't a chance and even publicly-owned competition finds the going difficult.

Rural electrification administration power cooperatives haven't been able to make a beginning in this area. There are less than 30 municipally owned distribution systems, all small. The city of San Francisco owns the power production facilities at its Hetch Hetchy water supply system in the Yosemite national park and the bureau of reclamation owns the power produced at Shasta dam. Both of these producers of big power now have to sell to P. G. & E., yet both are ambitious to get into the power distribution business on their own account and in what they conceive to be the public interest, be-

lieving they can sell cheaper and force the private utility to lower rates.

Furthermore, from Washington, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes is making noises like wanting to get complete control of all the valley authorities—Tennessee, Missouri, Columbia and California's Central valley project. Ickes being a great advocate of public power, private power operators in all these areas have reason for stopping and thinking about what may hit them next.

In the Tennessee valley, private power companies had to knuckle under and sell out to the government.

A Columbia river authority, using power developed at the government Bonneville and Coulee dams could probably force the same thing.

In northern California the situation is different because here P. G. & E. is bigger than the government power interests, a well-managed private business that admittedly gives good service.

In all the hullabaloo about saving private business and letting private business do the job of providing full employment, is there more to be gained by setting the government up as a competitor? Or should public works projects, which the taxpayer must eventually finance anyway, be planned to fit into the private business pattern?

The drawback to the latter is that it permits private business to make profits off the public taxpayer's investments though the public can get its money back through taxes levied on private business.

This is an endless argument with many fine points of balance which make snap judgment impossible. But it all shows how even the biggest of these projects are finally reduced to an issue affecting the daily affairs of every citizen who pays a tax or buys a kilowatt.

### Side Glances



"What's the use of the world having a peace meeting in San Francisco with umpires like you around?"

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

#### HEART FINESSE WINS OR LOSES CONTRACT

Leave it to Harry Fishbein to dig up these hands over which the argument goes on far into the night. Harry is associated with one of the country's finest bridge clubs, the Mayfair, and you should have heard the discussion on this hand the other night.

The opening lead was won by

♠	A Q J 10 9 7 3		
♥	6		
♦	A		
♣	K 8 4 2		
♠	K 6 5 2		
♥	9 5 3		
♦	10 8 3		
♣	J 9 5		
W	N		
E	8 4		
S	K 10 7 2		
Dealer	K 9 6 4		
	Q 10 6		
	None		
	A Q J 8 4		
	Q J 7 5 2		
	A 7 3		
Duplicate—Both vul.			
South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
Opening—♠ 6			
12			

discard one of his losing clubs? Fishbein's contention is, no. The small diamond should be played, because now you may drop the diamond king as a doubleton, and if the king does not fall, there is still the possibility of a squeeze. Bear in mind that you must always assume that the heart finesse is going to be successful. You will find if you ruff that small diamond and now lead out all of the trump, East cannot protect the king of hearts and the king of diamonds and you will make the contract.

## IN FORMER YEARS

#### 30 Years Ago

Dora Lindsey left for Salt Lake to spend a few days with friends. Miss Ruth Newton went to Portland to spend the summer with relatives.

Mrs. R. M. Allen went to San Francisco.

Lee Reynolds, retiring captain of the OAC track team and a graduate of that school, returned home, having finished his college course.

#### 15 Years Ago

The thirteenth birthday of Truman Irwin was the incentive for a birthday party at his home on the Cove highway. Eighteen guests were in attendance, and games and music were enjoyed. A two course luncheon, with a color scheme of pink and white, was served by Mrs. Irwin assisted by her daughter, Mrs. Marion Stoddard.

Miss Stella Bloch left for Portland to participate in the Eastern Star grand lodge session and to visit friends and relatives.

#### 10 Years Ago

Four forest fires, all of a minor nature with the largest one covering only half an acre, took place in Union county during the weekend, L. C. Morehead, district fire warden said. The fires were caused mostly by campers and fishermen.

Miss Eileen Waldroff, who had been attending Marylhurst college and normal school in Portland the past year returned home for a visit with her parents.

### This Curious World



ANSWER: In Athens, Greece. NEXT: Mosquitoes aren't so dumb.