

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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### Don't Let Him Down!



**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

In all labor there is profit; but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.—Proverbs 15:23.

#### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The least strength suffices to break what is bruised.—Ovid.

#### Presidential Succession

While no one knows what eventually may be done with President Truman's proposed changes in the presidential succession, the fact that he has proposed it is serving its constructive purpose. It is resulting in widespread discussions which cannot do other than broaden general knowledge of the workings of a highly important detail of government — something desirable in any democracy.

Under present laws, the next in line for the White House, after the vice president, are cabinet members in this order: secretary of state, treasury and war, attorney general, postmaster general, and the secretaries of the navy and interior. The departments of agriculture, commerce and labor had not been created at the time the law was enacted.

Mr. Truman's idea is that the order of succession, after the vice president, should be, first, the speaker of the house of representatives; next, the president pro tempore of the senate, and then the cabinet members in the present order. Actually, under such a plan, the succession probably never would go beyond the speaker. The house almost certainly would lose no time in

electing a successor to any speaker who might be elevated to the presidency.

It is true that succession to the presidency never has gone beyond the vice president. But 14 times during American history, the secretary of state has been next in line for the White House—seven times each due to the death of a president or a vice president. Thus it is a wise precaution to decide whether it is desirable for this condition to continue.

One persuasive argument in favor of Mr. Truman's proposal is that such a line of succession would tend to insure that the new head of government would represent the party in power. This, in theory, is desirable in a government which operates under the principle of majority rule.

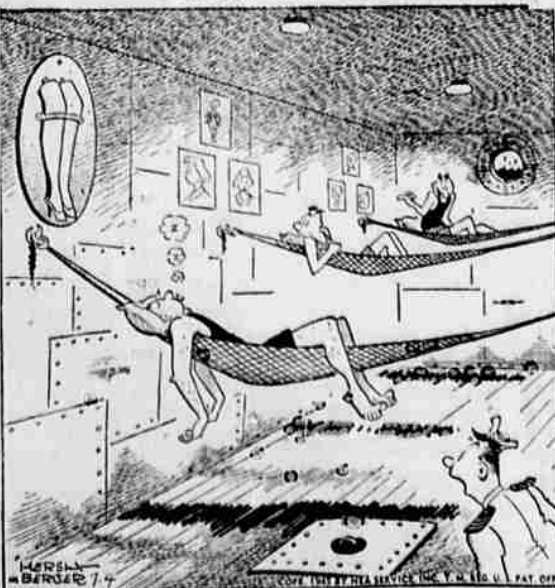
On the other hand, American secretaries of state, taken as a whole, have been men of such outstanding ability and distinction that there is little reason to suppose that the nation would have suffered under their guidance. Among the 48 who have served in the office were six men who became presidents. Others in the list included Cordell Hull, Charles E. Hughes, William Jennings Bryan, Elihu Root, James G. Blaine, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, John Marshall and John Jay. There is no reason why any secretary of state ever should be of less than presidential quality.

However, the decision on this question is in future. Regardless of what that decision may be, many Americans likely will know more about their government than they did before—which is all to the good.

#### Ominous Addition

The Japs' apprehensiveness must have increased with the redoubtable General Stilwell's assumption of an active command in their near neighborhood. They must realize that now the ominous initials V-J stand not only for Victory in Japan, but also Vinegar Joe.

#### Funny Business



He was a window trimmer!

#### SO THEY SAY

I would favor a 30 or 40-hour working week if all the countries would agree to such a plan and thus eliminate the possibility of unfair competition.

—Gen. Francisco Franco, dictator of Spain.

By keeping his car in safe operating condition and by driving it with the utmost care, every motorist can help in relieving our serious transportation problem and thereby aid further in the whole war effort.

—President Harry S. Truman.

No matter in which direction the enemy's next move is, there will be innumerable graveyards awaiting him.

—Editorial in "Mainichi," Tokyo newspaper.

Small business is in the most precarious position it ever has been in. I view the future of small business with apprehension.

—Sen. K. S. Wherry of Nebraska.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — Farm lobby chiefs, among the most powerful in Washington, were put in their place during a hot, behind-the-scenes fight inside the war mobilization advisory board last week over the question of giving the secretary of agriculture super power to regulate food prices.

The war mobilization advisory board, chaired by North Carolina's former governor, O. Max Gardner, is composed of farmer, business, labor, and public representatives. Usually Gardner has reconciled conflicts and recently the board passed a resolution okaying the extension of OPA for another year with no crippling amendments.

But when the board session opened last week war mobilizer Vinson immediately challenged barren-beaned Ed O'Neal, head of the farm bureau federation, and Albert Goss, head of the National Grange, for going counter to the board's resolution and favoring the crippling OPA amendment by which the secretary of agriculture could override OPA prices on food.

Ed O'Neal murmured something about not having favored such an amendment, but Judge Vinson immediately challenged him.

"Oh, yes, you did," he shot back. "You sent a telegram to the hill (Capitol Hill) supporting that amendment."

"It seems to me," replied Eric Johnston, president of the U. S. chamber of commerce, coming to Vinson's support, "that if any group represented on this board agrees to a resolution adopted by the board, it should not go out and inform congress to the contrary without coming back and telling us that it has changed its mind. That is the only fair way of doing things."

#### Farm Bloc Defeated

"We passed a resolution that the economic stabilization act should be continued for one year without any crippling amendments," reminded Nathaniel Dyke, who represents small business on the board, "and then you turn around and urge congress to pass a crippling amendment."

"We didn't propose a crippling amendment," replied Albert Goss of the Grange, who by this time was getting a little huffy. "We just wanted to see the OPA act was ad-

ministered more efficiently."

At this, non-farmer members of the board snorted, but kept their tempers.

"How would you like to have business go over the head of OPA and set its own prices?" replied Eric Johnston.

"Yes, how would you like the U. S. chamber of commerce to be able to override OPA when it comes to setting business prices?" asked Nat Dyke. "And how would you like to have Phil Murray over there set wages, regardless of the stabilization act?"

That ended the argument. Except, Fred Vinson put the same general thought before congress and finally succeeded in eliminating the amendment whereby the secretary of agriculture could put farm prices in a preferred position. Vinson has done more to cement relations between congress and the executive branch than any other one man, not excluding Jimmy Byrnes.

#### Churchill's "Memoirs"

Friends of the late president who are anxious for Truman to go over big at his forthcoming Big Three talk tell this story about the Yalta and Tehran conferences.

Roosevelt, when he returned, told friends how, in discussing different topics with Churchill and Stalin, he would usually make the first presentation of the case. This took three to five minutes. Then Stalin would give his views, which also took three to five minutes.

"Then," said Roosevelt, "Churchill would present his memoirs—lasting 30 minutes."

White House advisers are wondering how Truman can avoid the Churchill "memoirs" when he goes to Berlin.

#### Capital Chaff

Maj. D. C. Jernigen, commander of U. S. base post office one at Sutton-Coldfield, England, has been relieved from duty as a result of publicity given to the army's burning of packages sent to U. S. killed and missing soldiers. The packages were burned instead of being returned to the U. S. A., and according to British papers contained cigaret lighters, canned goods, chocolates, biscuits, cakes and other delicacies in such "staggering quantities" British children carried many of them home . . .

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

The man who said "Never expect gratitude" was talking to and about individuals.

But women should realize that the advice also holds good for a class. When the war came women pitched in and took over all of the jobs left empty by men who donned uniforms. They have played an important role, not only in keeping the machinery of war going, but in keeping civilians fed, clothed, and many a businessman from having to close down.

Early in the war they reaped a lot of praise and got their pictures in the paper for the unusual jobs they were doing—and doing well.

They've been well treated during the war and their services have been fought for.

But unless they want to be bitterly disappointed they had better not expect any gratitude—not even from the employers who did the most to coax them to work.

As soon as the men are back these women

are going to find out once again that the world of business is a man's world. And that few men really believe that women should be given equal breaks when it comes to pay, chances at promotion, responsibility, recognition, etc.

There is going to be very little gratitude for the thousands of women who helped to keep the country going in war time—once the war is over.

If they face that fact now, then they won't be disappointed.

There is only one place where women have the say about how things are run or stand on an equal footing with men, and that is in the home.

It's still a man's world outside the home—as women will discover, when they again start to compete with men for jobs. And all the thanks they can expect for the help they gave their country during the war is the personal satisfaction it gave them to have a chance to serve.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, July 3—When American, British, French and Russian supreme commanders in the allied control council get to work in Berlin, one of their first concerns will be to round up and wipe out the German general staff. In the declaration of Yalta, it was stated that this was one of the primary objectives to insure Germany would never again be able to threaten war.

This highly specialized job will consist of settling the fate of what's left of a select corps estimated at 2,200 to 2,500 officers, most of whom are believed to be still alive.

In the World War I period, they would all have come from the old German Junkers class. A few of the top men, the generals in the staff corps, are still hangers on from this old aristocracy, but for the most part, the young men, who might be considered dangerous enough to start World War III, are soldiers who have come up from the ranks.

Before any soldier could become an officer in the German army of World War II, he had first to pass a week's psychological examination which was intended to show his fitness as officer material. If he passed, he then spent his first year as a private, his second as a corporal, then eight months in an officers' candidate general service school and six months in the school of the army for which he was best fitted. After this training of three years, he was second lieutenant.

When he rose to the rank of captain, he could become eligible for the general staff. First, however, he had to pass a competitive examination which was a stinker. Many candidates failed.

If he passed, the young captain went to general staff school in the Institute of Technology at Berlin-Charlottenburg. Here his courses were highly specialized. His classes were small. There was one instructor detailed to every 10 men, and this instructor stayed with his charges all through a stiff two year course, coaching them, cramming them, making out their efficiency reports. Those who passed became members of the select general staff corps, for life, entitled to wear a red stripe down their pants legs and be the envy of all the army.

First assignment of a general staff officer, however, was with troops. Two out of ev-

ery six years of the staff officer's life had to be spent in command of troops, and his efficiency rating and advancement, though on promotion lists separate from those of the line officers, were rated on ability to command in the field. The theory was that if a staff officer could not command, he could not plan for others to command.

Actually, the war planning grand strategy was not the work of the entire general staff corps, but of the wehrmachts oberkommando, a group of not more than one percent of the total.

Keitel was the man at the top during most of the war, but towards the end, Guderian, Wenck, Krebs and Jodl headed this oberkommando.

Weak spot in the German general staff set-up, according to U. S. military authorities, was that it was never able to keep ahead of Hitler. The German general staff took Hitler to its bosom when he became political leader of the reich, but thereafter, it was never able to keep him in control. He moved into Austria, before the general staff was ready, he moved against France before the general staff was ready for the next logical step, an invasion of England.

To find where the once-proud wearers of the red striped pants are now will take some searching. Some are in Russian, British and French hands. Those taken prisoner by the U. S. are kept segregated in Germany, can easily be treated as they deserve.

What their potential is for making another war is unknown. Some U. S. staff officers consider this potential nil. The war ministry has been bombed to dust, many of its records destroyed. Some moved to Silesia, have been captured, and German industry has been wrecked.

The one possibility for a German come-back in war will be for some other government to create it. That is what happened the last time U. S. loans helped Germany finance a new start after World War I, and Great Britain and France sold Germany many of the raw materials they needed. All three—and Russia—helped German industry to prepare for a new war. As long as one remnant of the German general staff corps personnel or spirit is kept alive and free to plan such a come-back, it can happen again.

### Side Glances



"If General Eisenhower could see how these kids behave, he'd send Gorge home instead of keeping him over there to discipline the Germans!"

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

#### DON'T TRY FINESSE IN SPOT LIKE THIS

Today's hand, played by Miss Constance Little, helped her team tie the winners for the eastern states mixed team-of-four

♠ 10 8 7	W	♠ 5 4 3 2	
♥ 9 3	N	♥ A 7 2	
♦ 10 6	E	♦ 7 5 2	
♣ J 8 5 2	S	♣ 8 4 3	
Miss Little	Dealer		
♠ A K 9			
♥ K J 5 4			
♦ A 8 3			
♣ A K Q			
♠ J 6			
♥ 10 9 8 6			
♦ K J 9 4			
♣ 10 9 7			
South	West	North	East
Pass	2 N T	Pass	3 N T
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♠ 7			

she had to bring in one more heart to make her contract. The average player would take the heart finesse, but this is wrong. If the hearts break three and three it is easy to make the contract, but if they break four and two, you can guard against the queen and one on the left. Miss Little made the correct play when she led the king of hearts and then returned a small heart to the ace. Of course, when North's queen dropped, it established the jack.

## IN FORMER YEARS

#### 30 Years Ago

John Walden, deputy game warden, Fire Chief Benham and P. A. Foley drove to Union yesterday to catch some of the big salmon that are running.

Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Donohue are planning to leave soon for San Francisco and San Diego. On the trip he will attend the Elks conclave at Los Angeles.

Mrs. L. M. Hoyt entertained children of her neighborhood at a surprise birthday party on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of her 11-year-old twins, Mildred and Myrtle.

#### 15 Years Ago

Marcus C. Jones, professor of botany at Pomona college in California, is in La Grande doing research work and also visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Headley. Professor Jones is a national authority on botany and is doing considerable research work in this state.

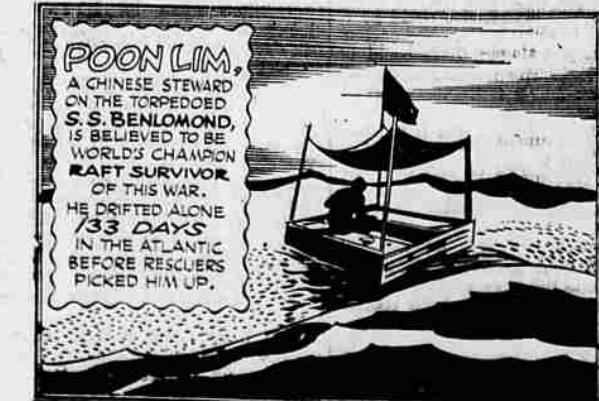
Mr. and Mrs. John Stoddard are making a 10-day trip to Yellowstone national park.

#### 10 Years Ago

Kenneth Flanery, who turned in 230 crows feet during the two weeks of the contest, won first prize of \$20 cash in the annual La Grande Gun club predatory bird extermination campaign.

Miss Dorothy Mills, Cove, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Mills, is said to be the first girl to win a master's degree in chemistry at Whitman college. Miss Mills has been a student at Whitman for six years, the last two years having been spent in part-time teaching at the college.

### This Curious World



NOT ALL WOOD ALCOHOL IS MADE FROM WOOD.

PERSONS WHO TALK THROUGH THEIR NOSES DON'T SAY BARBARA WELLINGTON, Fall River, Massachusetts, COWBOY SONGS.

NEXT: Spotting wild animals.