

# EDITORIAL PAGE

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## Might Be a Good Trade to Learn



**EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM**  
**IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.**  
**LA GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.**

### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The soul would have no rainbow had the eyes no tears.—John Vance Cheney.

### Compulsory Training Poll

The suggestion of Reps. Lawrence H. Smith of Wisconsin and D. P. Taylor of New York that a nation-wide poll be conducted on compulsory peacetime military training in the United States is likely to appeal strongly to many of the citizenship of this nation.

Certainly this proposed legislation has been among the most controversial that has been considered in congress in a long time. Opponents and champions of compulsory training include leaders of outstanding distinction. As groups, there is nothing to choose between them insofar as sincere patriotism is concerned. The record of one group in its proved devotion to country, taken as a whole, is about as good as that of the other.

Fundamentally, the only difference between them is that they disagree as widely as the poles on whether the future security of the United States demands compulsory training. And it is not possible for anyone to say with any assurance which group may be speaking for the majority sentiment in this country.

In view of that uncertainty, what could be more democratic in this American democracy than to put the question

to a vote of the people? Assuredly it is a proposition of vital and direct personal concern to practically every family and every individual in the nation. No family and no taxpayer would escape the effects of a compulsory military training law.

So, why not let the people express their attitude through the ballot box? If the majority favors compulsory training, then congress would have no reason to hesitate in the enactment of the necessary legislation. If the majority vote should be opposed to such training, then that view should prevail. The minority might still disagree with the majority opinion. But minorities in the United States, taken as a whole, accept the principle of majority rule.

It is true, of course, that congress might consider the calling of such an election an objectionable precedent. Members may argue that, if a poll is taken on compulsory training, citizens will expect a similar test of opinion on controversial legislation in the future. And, unquestionably, that might happen. But, what of it? What could be wrong with giving the American people opportunity to express their attitude toward any proposed legislation of vital concern to them?

No one can tell with certainty as yet what may become of the proposal by Congressmen Smith and Taylor. Probabilities doubtless are very much against the poll they suggest.

But the fact still will remain that, if congress really wants to know how the American people feel about compulsory training, no better way can be found than to give them opportunity to express their opinion.

### Funny Business



"And now tell me how much canning sugar I'll get!"

### SO THEY SAY

The question now is not how long can China stand the strain — it is how much can Japan take and how soon will she collapse.  
—Dr. Wei Tao-Ming, Chinese ambassador to the U. S.

We should never forget the mass slaughter of Nanking and other cities, and the bestial bombing of Chungking... we should follow the trail marked by the blood of the fallen, and rise to meet home mighty blows and hasten the enemy's doom.  
—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

That's not my racket.  
—Frank Sinatra to Pope. Plus when latter suggested The Voice take up opera.

The people of Yugoslavia are doing their level best to get back on their feet, but the road to economic recovery will be long and hard, and they will need help.  
—Richard C. Patterson, jr., U. S. ambassador to Yugoslavia.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Harry Truman, farmer boy and haberdashery salesman from Independence, Mo., this week sits down to negotiate with a member of the British aristocracy whose ancestor was the Duke of Marlborough, and with the steely-eyed product of the Georgian mountains whose offspring are as tough as the granite hills which tower above them.

It will be President Truman's greatest test. In addition to sitting down between two men of opposite temperaments and background who don't particularly like each other, Truman will find himself embroiled in the clash of two great empires.

One of the men—the revolutionary—represents a country with the world's greatest land mass which has been straining at the leash to get a warm-water seaport for a hundred years. His predecessors, the czars, built the trans-Siberian railroad to Vladivostok in order to reach out to the Pacific. They seized Manchuria to get ports which were not ice-bound in the winter, only to find Japan blocking their way.

They started down through Iran to the gulf of Persia and the Indian ocean, but a British sphere of influence was in their path.

The other man—the aristocrat—helped send allied troops into Archangel and Siberia after the last war to encourage the white Russian generals to overthrow Stalin's new Bolshevik regime. His friends in the British cabinet also carved out Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia from the old Russian empire.

The British aristocrat's friends and predecessors also helped write the Anglo-Japanese alliance, aimed at boxing Russia from the Pacific. They followed a policy of making the Mediterranean a British lake, of controlling both its ends, with strategic bases in the middle.

### Stalin's Demands

But now the man who sits down on the other side of Truman wants Russia to have a voice in the control of Tangier, the African port just opposite Britain's famous base of Gibraltar. Whoever controls Tangier can partly neutralize Gibraltar.

This man on the other side of Truman also wants Russia to have a representative sitting on the board which controls Suez, jugular vein of the British empire. And finally he wants Russian dominance of the Dardanelles, the narrow passageway by which Rus-

from the Black sea.

### Truman in Middle

Truman, the man who sits in the middle, is no revolutionary. Neither is he an aristocratic stand-patter. He is a common-sense, middle-of-the-road man, who believes in changes when the majority of the people favor change. He doesn't speak with the same broad "A" of Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt, and he does not have the same knowledge or background of European affairs.

There's nothing wrong with Truman's basic ideas. The big question is whether in sitting down with two old hands skilled at playing international poker of the most ruthless sort, Harry will have the finesse and background.

One thing he may have to watch is his temper. He is a little short. So is Justice Byrnes. Both are quick on the trigger, shoot fast, and straight from the hip. In international discussions where big things are at stake, this tendency can break up a poker game.

Here are the main points on the agenda which the big three will talk about.

1. Agreement for an early peace conference for Europe.
2. The war with Japan.
3. The Dardanelles; whether Russia will finally realize her century-old ambition to control this vital waterway.
4. A permanent site for the new united nations organization.
5. Recognition of the leftist-controlled governments of Finland, Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary. (Great Britain and the United States so far have refused recognition.)
6. Bringing Italy into the united nations, and finally settling Italian peace terms.
7. Guaranteeing free elections in various controversial parts of Europe, including Poland, where the U. S. is watching Russia, and Greece, where Russia is watching the British.
8. Feeding Europe next winter.
9. Regional treaties, such as the Anglo-French treaty and Soviet-Czech-Polish treaty; how are they to fit into the united nations security plan.
10. World aviation bases and routes; many of these problems still remain left over from the Chicago air conference.
11. Organizing a world police force to be used by the United nations to keep the peace.

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Without any speech-making the American wife of the soldier who fathered an English girl's quadruplets has made a stand against the "boys will be boys and you mustn't expect a husband to be faithful in wartime" attitude that is being too generally accepted today.

She has stood her ground, refusing to give her husband a divorce. And she has maintained her dignity by refusing to try to compete with the other woman for her husband's affection.

Wives have been sold a bill of goods during this war. On the one hand, they have been told that the wife who has an affair with another man while her husband is overseas is a complete no-good.

In England the other day a soldier, accused of strangling his wife when he returned to find her bearing another man's child, was acquitted of a murder charge. Said the court: "The provocation was such that an ordinary, frail man might have done what

he did. While her husband, a very excellent man, was overseas fighting, she was consorting with other men."

That is one side of the picture that wives are shown. The other side is that the war weary soldier is entitled to love wherever he can find it, and that wives mustn't get upset over that.

So it is heartening to find a woman who hasn't been taken in by any one-sided set of wartime morals; one who stands up for the belief that separation brought on by war doesn't give a man the right to be unfaithful to the wife who is waiting for him, and that "the other woman" has no real claim on a husband.

Marriage hasn't been helped or dignified any by the too common acceptance that in war time only the wife is expected to be faithful. And women are the ones to make it clear that such marriages aren't good enough for them, and that they expect faithfulness even when it isn't easy.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Cutting off Pullman service for rides of less than 450 miles is just the first bite, says J. Monroe Johnson, office of defense transportation director.

Next bite will be to cut Pullmans off runs of say 750, 900, or 1,000 miles or under. Next bite will be a straight percentage cut of all remaining sleeping car service. Maybe both these bits will be taken at once. Should these cuts still not provide enough sleeping cars for the movement of troops, then get ready for travel rationing of some kind, possibly a system of priorities such as is used by the airlines.

If travel rationing comes, it will probably be before the Christmas holidays rush. If the railroads can just manage to squeeze through the holidays with their peak travel loads, there may not have to be travel rationing.

As far as holiday travel rush is concerned, says Col. Johnson, paraphrasing the once-popular song, this is "Where Every Day's a Holiday," only instead of the next line being "and skies are always blue," it's "rush, multiplied by two."

Best guess is that U. S. rail travel may be tight for another two years. Only escape is for the war against Japan to end in less than a year. What most people don't realize about this crisis is that it takes seven long train rides to get a soldier re-deployed from Europe to the Pacific. He lands at an Atlantic port. First ride is to the staging area, prior to furlough. Then ride home. Back to assembly center a month later; move to base camp; to training area, to staging area, to port of embarkation. Peak of all this travel will come in February and March. Moves one and two will end in April; three and four should be completed by June 1. The others will go on for another three months.

What is happening is that all the troops that were moved to Europe in the 40 months after Pearl Harbor, are being brought back home and moved to the Pacific in 10 months.

And, this involves moving all these troops all the way across the continent west-bound instead of just part way across the continent as they were when east-bound.

This puts a burden on the seven western trunk line railroads which they are not able to bear. While the excess in both was supplies and troops might move through gulf ports and the Panama canal, this is too slow. An estimated 15 percent of the Pacific war traffic will move over this southern route, but even so, it won't relieve the pressure on the continental rail lines.

Add to this burden a further ball-up. Originally it had been planned to string this re-deployment over 18 months. Some place along the line, the army decided this time should be cut practically in half. So, instead of handling the scheduled 150,000 troops in June, 205,000 were unloaded at Atlantic ports. That was when ODT had to get tough.

In July, the same kind of jump is being made. Instead of a mere 250,000 troops to be returned from Europe, the number will be over 350,000. The only way to handle this increased burden is take more pullmans away from their regular runs.

The real cause for sorrow in this predicament is what to do about the absolutely essential civilian travel. If business men can't move freely, the war effort, the government and the whole civilian economy will suffer. But how to give them travel priorities and keep unessential travelers off the railroads is the great unanswerable. It's no job for OPA, which has enough things to worry about. Travel rationing is the problem of the railroads and the ODT. Railway ticket agents now unofficially give preference to business men wanting preference and are getting by. But barely.

ODT's Col. Johnson makes these statements not with any idea of throwing a scare, but simply to state the facts in another effort to make people stay home. Or stay off the railroads, at least. As far as the railroads are concerned, the war is just beginning.

### Side Glances



"Are you pre-Pearl Harbor?"

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

### REFUSING TO TRUMP

#### OFTEN BREAKS BID

The team-of-four event at the Detroit tournament was won by a Chicago team consisting of Al Weiss, who recently lost the world championship masters' individual by one-half match point. He was playing with his favorite partner, Arthur Glatz. Their teammates were Jules Bank and Maynard Adams.

The runners-up in this event

♠ 8 5 4 3 2	♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 6	♥ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ 9 8 3	♦ 8 5 4 3 2
♣ 8 5 4 3	♣ 7 6 5 4 3 2

Dealer: Dealer  
 Opening: ♠ 8. 17

South returned the ace of clubs after winning the first trick, even though there had been only one in dummy. Weiss, however, wisely refused to trump, but instead discarded a low diamond, and South now led a diamond. As it happened, the queen could have won, but that was no part of the planned play. The ace won, and three round of trumps were played. Then the ace and king of spades were cashed, dummy entered with the seven of trumps, and the losing diamonds were discarded on the spades in dummy.

## IN FORMER YEARS

### 30 Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. L. Knapper and party of Joseph and Mr. and Mrs. L. Caviness of Joseph returned to their homes after spending a few days here and taking in the Liberty Bell celebration and the Cove cherry fair.

The new rim to the city reservoir has been tested out, a brim-full supply having been allowed to run into it. It will be emptied again and some further repairs done in spots.

### 15 Years Ago

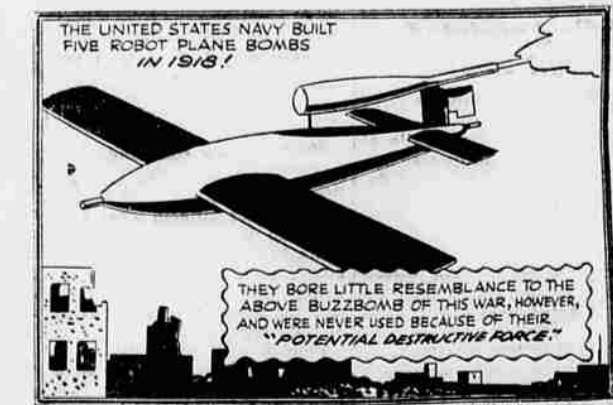
Comparing the divorce and marriage totals for the first six months of the year 1929 and 1930, the latter year shows a decrease of eight in marriages and two in divorces. From January to June 1929, a total of 73 couples secured licenses to enter matrimony; in the same period this year, 65 applied for the licenses. Fifteen divorces were granted the first quarter of 1929 and only 10 in the second quarter, making not much less but a decrease nevertheless.

### 10 Years Ago

A hot weather record was established in La Grande the 14th, the highest since the recording of weather was started back in 1886, with the mercury at 108. A heat wave was experienced throughout the northwest.

A thick bank of clouds in the south covered the first two stages of the moon eclipse here last night, but La Granderers were able to see the spectacle shortly after the earth's shadow started leaving the fact of the moon.

### This Curious World



### Quiz Korner

This is the north pole of the earth... not the geographical pole, but the magnetic pole, where the compass points down.  
Yours,  
Private Elmer

WHERE'S ELMER?



ANSWER: On Boothia Peninsula, in northern Canada  
NEXT: A robin that stopped the army.