

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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### Better Be Careful With That Bottle, Brother!



#### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Fear is not a lasting teacher of duty. —Cicero.

#### Back to the Party Line

It wasn't surprising to learn that the American communists have switched back from a "political association" to a political party. The change had been expected ever since a French communist attack on Earl Browder's wartime policy of capital-labor collaboration set the stage for the American party's repudiation of its veteran leader.

The American CP's plan for revolution here seems as hopeless as ever. In spite of grievous inequalities in our society, which can and should be corrected under our own system, the American way of life and standard of living surpass anything that the communists can offer to the great majority of American citizens.

Yet the American CP probably figures that this is a ripe time to get back to the party line. And there are reasons to support this conjecture.

First, the defeat of Germany ended Russia's great war crisis. And since American communists' allegiance is to the Russian government, they can resume their divisive and subversive work here without being concerned with its effect on our prosecution of the Japanese war.

Second, the American people realize that the need for close and friendly relations with Russia is of the utmost importance today. Because of this, and because of admiration for the Red army, many seem to have the idea that any

opposition, or even criticism, of American communists is unfriendly to the Soviet government, even though the American communists' avowed goal is the overthrow of our capitalistic economy and the government under which it functions.

Third, we are nearing the end of a great war which has thrown our economy out of gear and strained our tempers as well as our resources. The American CP undoubtedly hopes that the readjustment and temporary unemployment which are inevitably ahead will produce the ferment of discontent in which class warfare breeds.

But, for these advantages to the communist party, its timing hasn't been perfect. For it may very well prejudice American opinion against Russia at a time when, for all her strength, she will need help in the form of American skill, American materials and American dollars.

The American communists have always shaped their policy on orders from Russia, and it can scarcely be considered that the present move was not dictated from the same source.

And it might strike the American government as a little cynical, to say the least, if polite requests and friendly gestures from Moscow were accompanied by the efforts of a cell of Moscow's political adherents to antagonize and, if possible, destroy the system under which were produced the materials, dollars and skill Russia needs and the United States, under the present cordial Russo-American co-operation, is happy to give.

#### Funny Business



"Halt, or you'll be pork chops!"

#### SO THEY SAY

An editor or writer or speaker who is conscious of his lofty vocation and its responsibilities always is alive to the obligation he has to thousands or millions of people who may be strongly affected by his words to give them the truth and nothing but the truth.

—Pope Pius XII.

Synthetic rubbers already are out-performing natural rubber parts on specific applications.

—Elwood F. Riesing, chief engineer, Firestone Industrial Rubber Products Co.

Democracy as a form of government is suited only to a devout and disciplined people.

—Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy.

While he (Uncle Sam) will continue to share everything he has, there will be a point where he has to tighten up a bit.

—Pomona, Calif. Progress-Bulletin.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—The first lay of the land, like a lot of other people, is having servant troubles. Just at the moment, Harrison J. Irving, 24-year-old negro of 501 West Mill ave., Independence, Mo., is threatening a walkout.

Irving has served as caretaker of the Truman lawn for the past eight years. But with the weather hot and the Trumans risen in the world, he has been thinking seriously of bolting the summer White House staff because the ante is too low.

"I cut the lawn eight years ago, when I was a boy in high school," confides Harrison Irving. "And I got \$4 for the job. That was big money then, 'cause I lived with my folks. But I think I should get more money now and I'm gonna quit."

"Besides," he added as if he had almost overlooked one grievance, "Mr. Truman forgets to pay me."

Gardener Irving looked down at the lawn he had just finished cutting. He was in contemplative mood.

"She wants me to dig dirt and weeds away from the sidewalk," he continued, now more plaintive than contemplative. "But I'm afraid some car will hit me. There's nobody gonna look after me after a car hits me, and besides I think the city should take care of these weeds."

Irving was referring to a strip of sidewalk that runs parallel to west Van Horn road on the north side of the Truman estate, where in order to pull the weeds, he has to stand on the edge of the street.

However, this was not all of Irving's troubles. He complained that before the president arrived in Independence, Mrs. Truman had asked him to whitewash the basement. But workmen, then painting on the outside of the house, warned he had better not do it or he would get in trouble with the painters' union.

However, Irving, no great believer in unions, waited until the painters had left and then whitewashed the basement.

Irving says he does not intend to leave Mrs. Truman in the lurch. He is going to find somebody else to cut the lawn, then he will turn in his resignation. Working for important folks holds no glamor for Harrison Irving. It's the wages that count.

**Churchill Bucked U. S. Military**  
Though they admired his great force of

character and revelled at his wit, Winston Churchill's passing as prime minister brought no great regret from top U. S. army and navy strategists.

Too many times they felt they were overruled by Churchill. Too many times they left military meetings with the fear Roosevelt was too much swayed by Churchill's dominating personality.

Some of the secret battles waged between Churchill and U. S. generals and admirals can now be told. One of the most important was Churchill's adroit move to transfer Gen. George Marshall out of the job of chief of staff. Another was to transfer Gen. Al Wedemeyer out of Washington. The latter succeeded; the first failed.

First military clash with Churchill took place at Casablanca in January 1943. Churchill wanted to strike from North Africa against the soft underbelly of the axis—through the Balkans. The U. S. general staff wanted to invade on the shortest road to Berlin—across the English Channel to Normandy. It was not a question of invading at once, but of beginning preparations at once for invasion.

The argument lasted for hours. Churchill stood out for the Balkans. He was almost unmovable. Finally he played his trump card. He announced Britain could supply only 30 percent of the troops against 70 percent U. S. troops in any cross-channel invasion. Britain, he said, was not willing to lose "the seed" of her manhood.

Since it would have taken too long to transport enough American troops across the north Atlantic for an early cross-channel invasion, a compromise invasion of Italy was agreed. We already had the troops in north Africa to handle Italy, and so did the British.

#### Argument at Quebec

The men who stood up to Churchill strongest during that Casablanca discussion were Generals Marshall and Wedemeyer, the latter a member of the U. S. general staff.

Another vigorous discussion over war plans took place at Quebec in the summer of 1943 at which time General Marshall stood up before the general staffs of both nations and vigorously rebuked Field Marshal Sir Allan Brooke, British chief of staff, for permitting publication of the appointment of See WASHINGTON . . . Page 4

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

A bill has been introduced into the senate to designate Oct. 31 as National Arthritis Day.

It gives you aches and pains just to think what that kind of thing might lead to. If National Arthritis Day—why not National Common Cold Day? Or National Diabetes Day? Or even National Hangover Day?

If we get started naming special days for the focusing of attention on the disease man is heir to, there will be no place to stop. Every day will be a special day for some dread disease. And instead of curing the world of its ills, we'll probably just turn into a nation of hypochondriacs—waking up each morning to the problem of one disease or another.

Can't you picture us slowly dragging ourselves out of bed to face—not a glorious

Tuesday or bright Wednesday—but National Headache Week or National Fallen Arches Day?

Haven't we got enough National Days already without taking on any more? Don't we need all the plain Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, etc. we have left just for the working out of our own individual problems?

How are we ever going to solve these, if we are asked to take more and more days for the contemplation of problems that should be in the field of specialists, anyhow? After all we've got doctors. Let them worry about our diseases for us.

If we're going to have any more National Days it looks as though what we harassed human beings need sorely now is a National Don't Worry About Nothin' Day.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, July 30—One of the most intensive manhunts in U. S. criminal history has been the nine and a half year search for the kidnaper and murderer of 10-year-old Charles Fletcher Mattson of Tacoma, Wash. In federal bureau of investigation records and in local police headquarters all over the country this Mattson kidnaping has become known as the Matnap case. FBI hasn't given up trying.

There are three slender clues to go on. When the kidnaper broke into Dr. Mattson's home Dec. 27, 1936 and abducted his oldest boy, a note demanding \$50,000 ransom was left on the chair. That provides a handwriting specimen. The kidnaper left fragmentary fingerprints on the glass of French doors through which he entered the house, and again at a phone booth from which he called to make a second ransom demand. The kidnaper was seen by the other Mattson children who were in the room listening to the radio with their brother at the time he was kidnaped. A sketch was made from composite descriptions of the Mattson children and that has been used for a guide in examining suspects.

In all the years since Charles Mattson's body was found murdered in the snow near Everett, Wash., two weeks after the kidnaping, 25,402 suspects have been reported. Of these, 23,833 have been eliminated. But the remaining 1,569 suspects are still pending in an open file. A steady flow of handwriting specimens, finger print records and photos comes into FBI and local police crime laboratories for comparison. Some of the suspects have been taken to Tacoma for possible identification by the other Mattson children, now nearly grown up but still remembering that face.

While none of these suspects has thus far been linked with the Matnap case, the dragnet of 25,000 possibilities has brought in hundreds of criminals wanted for other crimes. Hobo towns and jungles and shacks all over the country have been combed and the combings have brought in men wanted for arson, larceny, bank robbery, and nearly every crime on the calendar. This is one of the incidental reasons for keeping the Mat-

nap case open. It has yielded a rich haul of men wanted for other offenses.

The Mattson case is one of the two unsolved kidnapings to come within FBI jurisdiction since the federal kidnaping act was passed 11 years ago. The other unsolved case is the kidnaping of 12-year-old Peter David Levine of New Rochelle, N. Y. in February 1938. A squad had been kept working on this Levine case in the intervening years, but so far entirely without success. There is no clue, no scrap of evidence on which to go. It will be solved only by a confession or by an informer who was in on the crime.

While these two cases have remained unsolved, 277 other kidnapings since the passage of the so-called Lindbergh law have been solved. The back of the racket which once made the country's most glaring headlines has now been broken. In all, there have been only 16 kidnapings involving ransom. In the 12-month period ending July 1 there were 18 kidnapings, none of ransom and all solved, with the conviction of 34 kidnapers for terms averaging better than 15 years each.

Such kidnapings as are reported today are usually accessory to other crimes. Robbery is ordinarily the first motive. Usually there is an automobile involved. The cases are pretty sordid, the victims average people going about their everyday business or pleasure. They just happen to cross the paths of lowlife characters who take their money away from them, then steal their car and take the owners along for the ride. When they cross a state line their troubles begin for that permits the FBI to move in and work with local police.

The Lindbergh law has unquestionably been a good thing. It has put teeth in prosecution before federal courts. By providing for heavy sentences it has discouraged "snatching" as a crime that pays. Since 1934 there have been 577 convictions. Sentences have averaged better than 10 years. Life imprisonment was given 44 and the death sentence to 12. In addition, eight kidnapers were killed while resisting arrest, seven were murdered by other gang members, two were blinded and one was declared insane.

#### Side Glances



"Well, miss, it was real pleasant for a while there, but since they increased the gas allowance I've got to jump up and wait on folks five or six times a day!"

#### McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

#### HERE'S NEW ADD TO WARREN SLAM

In accordance with my practice of presenting any new developments in bidding, I have written many articles on the Warren Slam Convention, which today is used by many players throughout the country. A couple of additions to this convention have now been

♠ A 2	♥ 10 6 4	♦ K Q 9 8	♣ 10 9 8
♠ Q J 4	♥ K 8 7	♦ A 10 5	♣ A Q J 4
N W E S Dealer			
♠ K 10 9 8 6 5	♥ A Q 9 5	♦ 3	♣ K 2
Duplicate—Neither vul.			
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	Pass
Opening—♦ K. 1			

bid is one spade, a response of two no trump initiates the convention.

Today's hand was sent by C. Emerson Metzger of Warren, Pa. The response of three spades showed a count of four in aces and kings and the four no trump rebid asked for queens. When South responded with five diamonds, showing one, the final contract became six spades, and the ace of trumps was the only loser.

#### Questions & Answers

Q—For what is July 17 noted?  
A—Spain formally ceded Florida to the U. S. Andrew Jackson was its first American governor.

Q—How much damage did the Japs do at Pearl Harbor?  
A—Official navy report says they temporarily disabled every battleship and most of the aircraft in the Hawaiian area. Eighty-six ships of the Pacific Fleet were moored there, including eight battleships, seven cruisers, 28 destroyers and five submarines.

Q—When was the first mobile torpedo successfully demonstrated?  
A—In 1866, by its inventor Robert Whitehead, at Flume, where he was designer for an engine works.

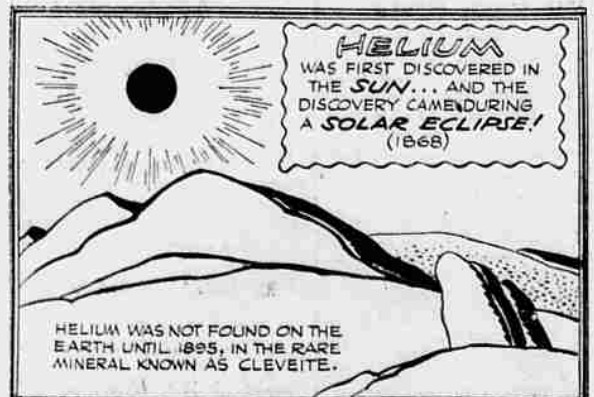
Q—How much aid will the 70,000,000 inhabitants of the Dutch East Indies need after the war?  
A—Already The Netherlands has bought more than \$350,000,000 worth of goods for the relief of those island people.

Q—Why are Philadelphia and a number of other cities attempting to rid themselves of pigeons?  
A—Philadelphia health officials say many pigeons there are infected with pneumonia-like ornithosis.

Q—How many unexploded land mines did the Germans leave in the soil of France?  
A—It is estimated more than 100,000,000, especially thick along the Atlantic coast and bordering the Pyrenees mountains, hindering agricultural operations.

Q—What percentage of the South's cotton is shipped by water?  
A—Fifty percent.

#### This Curious World



NEXT: The shortest line between two points.