EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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A Change of Taste

A Veteran's Hospital For Eastern Oregon

For almost four years now, a committee of the La Grande chamber of commerce has been working for the establishment in this area of a veterans' hospital to serve the needs of its soldiers.

Complete brochures and information have been submitted to various governmental bureaus and to our representatives in congress. Sometimes authors of these have been told that every consideration will be given this area should the need arise, but to date nothing has been done and no encouragement of definite nature has been received.

Lowell Stockman, to whom the matter was presented immediately after his first election more than three years ago, the late Senate McNary and former Senator Holman, and now Senators Cordon and Morse have taken some interest in the matter and have presented the situation to the proper authorities, but to no avail.

Stockman, particularly, feeling the need for a veteran's hospital in eastern Oregon and recognizing the priority of the La Grande claim, in view of the availability of a site and all the necessary appurtenances and requirements, has made effort to get some sort of action which will lead to ultimate result.

We note now that Portland is emphasizing its claim for additional hospital facilities for that community in urging the expansion of its present hospital at the Sam Jackson park, and points out the increased need for facilities there.

Portland's claim, is, of course, justified and our needs here conflict in no wise with hers. However, it can be pointed out that several points in the western part of the state have facilities for veterans' hospitalization at present in Roseburg and projected in Medford, but no where in eastern Oregon are such facilities available.

This is a matter which needs immediate attention.

Eastern Oregon has provided more than its quota of men and women for the armed services, perhaps as many per capita as any section in the nation. Eastern Oregon now deserves consideration in the establishment of hospital facilities for those servicemen. There is no reason why our servicemen should be forced to go elsewhere to receive the medical attention which the people of this nation owe them.

A veterans' hospital here will be of great convenience to the men — and more important perhaps from point of view of peace of mind — to their families who will not be forced to travel long distances to visit them.

Here in eastern Oregon they can be given every advantage they have elsewhere, including the therapeutic advantage of being close to home and family and being in their own area.

We believe our representatives Lowell Stockman, Guy Cordon and Wayne Morse should take immediate steps to investigate our needs and to present them most forcibly to the governmental agencies which have the final say. If our soldiers are to have every benefit—let us see that they get them, and in their own area.

Funny Business

"A little thing he thought up so he can relax when he's talking to the girl friend!"

● SO THEY SAY

We hire war veterans only, and if they are disabled, that doesn't matter. If a man can't stand, we find him a bench job.
—Maj. Douglas Yule, Quincy, Mass., plant operator.

The WRA (War Relocation Authority) officials have so often acted arbitrarily and without regard for local public opinion in their management of alien Japanese that their rulings are now generally under suspicion.
—Ontaria, Calif., Daily Report.

The Jap is a tough, determined soldier. Japs will not surrender in masses like the Germans. We must even count on fanatical opposition from the civilian population.
—Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell.

It looks like Japan is going to have a corner on the scrap iron supply in the Orient as the pressure of the air war continues. It is a corner no one covets.
—Danville, Va., Register.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—One of the greatest economy-howlers in congress is Rep. Jed Johnson of Anadarko, D., Okla., who, chairman of the sub-appropriations committee, insisted on cutting the interior department so drastically its officials can scarcely make a long-distance phone call.

Johnson, however, when it comes to a little trip to Alaska at the tax-payers' expense, is not so economy-minded. Johnson was appointed last winter to be judge of the customs court in New York City, a job which pays him $10,000 and a fat pension for life. He has been officially confirmed by the senate, and New York customs court officials long have been waiting for the Oklahoma solon to take his job.

However, Jed is in no hurry. Not only did he sit out the current session of congress, but he is taking one last fling at the taxpayers' expense before donning judicial robes. He and his sub-committee on interior department appropriations are now in Alaska on a so-called "inspection" trip. The sub-committee includes Mike Kirwan of Youngstown, O., John Rooney of Brooklyn, N. Y., Ben Jensen of Exira, Ia., and Henry Dworshak of Burley, Ida.

Congressmen Love Alaska

President Truman has cracked down on congressional junkets when taken free in army planes, but Jed Johnson has got around this. His committee traveled to Alaska on "official business" and congress is footing the bill.

In fact, there is a lot of official business up in Alaska this summer. Three congressional committees is enjoying the cooling breezes, the fine fishing, and the lovely scenery.

Rep. Hugh Peterson of Alley, Ga., is going to Alaska in style. Peterson is chairman of the house territories committee, and is takin gwith him Mrs. Peterson, their son, Hugh, jr., and their nieces, Sue Smith Peterson. They are going by boat along with 11 other congressmen; some, members of the territories committee; some, members of the public roads committee.

The congressmen scheduled for the Alaska junket include: Will Robinson of Provo, Utah, chairman of the roads committee; eJnnings Randolph of Elkins, W. Va.; Paul Cunningham of Des Moines; Ed Gosset of Wichita Falls, Tex.; Gus Kelley of Greensburg, Pa.; Homer Angell of Portland, Ore.; A. L. Miller of Kimball, Neb.; Harold Hagen of Crookston, Minn.; Charles Robertson of Bismarck, N. D.; and Marion Bennett of Springfield, Mo.

In addition, Reps. Henry Larcade, jr. of Opelousas, La., and James Greelan of New Haven, Conn., got a head start, along with Harden Peterson of Lakeland, Fla., by stopping in Texas and California to inspect beach erosion as members of the rivers and harbors committee. After this, they headed for the cooling breezes of Alaska.

Why the three committees couldn't pool their efforts, instead of all taqing up valuable travel space, is a question to be answered only by congress.

Merry-Go-Round

Watch Publisher Manchester Boddy of Los Angeles as the next probable Democrat candidate for senator from California.. Roosevelt once invited him to Washington, asked him to become civil defense administrator for the nation, later wanted him to be commissioner of internal revenue. But Boddy couldn't leave his Los Angeles Danly News . . . Now, with aged Senator Hiram Johnson ailing, Democrat leaders both in Washington and California hope Boddy can be persuaded to run . . . Once before, when Hiram Johnson was under an oxygen tent in the naval hospital, word that Governor Warren would appoint Herbert Hoover to his senate seat caused the spunky, cantankerous California senator to recover. This was the story carried to FDR by naval doctors Ross McIntire . . . Emil Schram, one-time head of the reconstruction finance corporation, now head of the N. Y. stock exchange, was invited to take Jesse Jones' old job as federal loan administrator. Schram came to Washington to look things over, went away shaking his head. Tenure of office was too insecure in Washington, he mumbled.

Jim Farley Mourns Churchill

Jim Farley came back to his old haunts last week-end and had lunch with, among others, Tommy Cochran, head of the older FDR brain trust with whom he did not always agree. A dozen senators also were present, guests of South Carolina's Burnet Maybank.

Chief topic was the defeat of Winston Churchill. Several senators blamed the defeat on Beaverbrook. Some said Churchill was too old and too tired, hadn't sensed the temper of the British people, was a victim of his incompentent friends.

Jim Farley deplored Churchill's defeat, but dropped this warning to his senatorial friends: "You are going to get some real competition now."

Jim went on to explain that previously the only radical ideas came from Russia, but now American politicians would have to compete with radical ideas from British politicians.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Here's good news for G. I. Joe. Some of the concern over his future welfare has understandably been a trifle annoying to him. After all, he doesn't want to be regarded as a case problem when he gets home. But he'll certainly be pleased to hear that his little woman is getting some sound advise on how to make his home, even if it is just a two-room apartment, comfortable enough to make him forget the discomforts and regimentation of army life.

One decorator, with G. I. Joe's comfort in mind, is telling wives the living room ought to be built around a piece of furniture as comfortable as a day bed or couch, with books and a radio within easy reach. Here a tired husband can rest when he gets home from a hard day at the office.

This same decorator is rooting for twin chests in the bedroom so that the man who has been used to having a place, however small, for his own things won't have to crowd his clothes into the bottom drawer of a dresser—which is unfortunately what happens to most husbands.

If wives take such advice seriously, G. I. Joe is going to be a lucky man. For most of the new ideas in the furnishing and decorating of homes have in the past been designed to please women, not men.

It is women who go for tricky ideas that make a house look like a page out of a woman's magazine. And it is women who benefit from stream-lining of kitchens.

But it is the men who will enjoy a living room furnished so that a man will have a comfortable place to stretch out while he reads the evening paper or indulges in an after dinner snooze.

And it is the men who will be made happier by more storage space in the bedroom—since women usually manage somehow to get at least three fourths of any closet or dresser they share wtih a man.

That's one way women might profitably spend their time while they wait for their men to come home—in making sure their homes are comfortable from a man's point of view. Then home will be something Mr. Jones instead of Mrs. Jones will envy.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

(Editor's note: The following analysis of building and building costs, prepared from various sources, is substituted today for the usual Washington Column by Peter Edson.)

In 95 percent of our cities, houses are selling for 50 to 80 percent more than they cost in 1939. Typical is a Kansas City house built for $8,300 in 1938, sold for $11,000 last year, and on the market now for $13,000.

In the five years from 1931 to 1935, we built fewer houses than in one year of the twenties—and our population incerased nine million in the thirties. Result: one of the most critical housing shortages in our history.

To get a house that's fit to live in, a man is often forced to buy. Since you haven't been able to build in the last three years, building costs haven't held down the sale price on old houses as they do in normal times. So you pay $8,300 for a 12-year-old $4,480 house and hold your peace.

From the studies of the national housing administration, it is concluded it will take two or three years after victory over Japan to reach the million houses a year rate that is necessary to fill the demand. With an income twice that of 1940—a boom year—100 billion in their bank acounts and 45 billion in war bonds, the American people have the money for these homes. Their income has bee nalmost double the output of consumer goods—the rest has been war material. Price controls and ration points have held off a violent rise in price, but haven't completely held off inflation. When we do go back to strict dollar economy, we will have even higher building costs.

Because of building's dependence on skilled labor, the long-range costs trend is decidedly upward. The result is that even if we do have a slight inflation, building costs may still go up a little.

Some analysts anticipate a rise and no dropping off for at least five years. Buy now? If you're living in a crowded city where houses are selling for half again more than before the war, and you must buy to get a place to live, then buy, for used house prices will be high until building gets under way. If you don't need to buy, keep in mind that recently built houses are selling at 30 to 40 percent more than it would cost to build them.

In a war boom town like Bridgeport or San Diego, two things can happen when war contracts are canceled. Postwar increase in families may take up the slack as workers leave or the dislocation may be severe and the scarcity will turn into plenty.

If your town has never boomed with war work and has never been short of houses, better buy now, unless folks are moving away, for prices will go up with building costs.

Over the long run, this is not a favorable time to buy or build anywhere. Prices drop, and you're still paying for your home at a high rate, it will be tough. But if you have to have some place to live, you can't wait years for costs to hit bottom again.

Selling also depends on where you live. To get top prices, hold on until scarcity and inflation have carried prices to the peak, but sell before new building gets under way and knocks scarcity values for a loop. In a boom town, prices may drop with the cancellation of war contracts, but if your town will hold its own in postwar life, hold on—the value of your huse will rise with building costs.

Side Glances

"With all the great engineers this war has produced, wouldn't you thing they could figure out some way to do away with these traffic lights!"

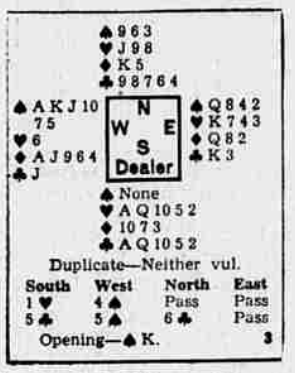
● McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. McKENNEY — America's Card Authority

ONE CRAZY BID PRODUCES OTHERS

Sometimes one who tries to push someone else around may get himself into trouble. That happens in bridge, too. We can blame West for trying to shut everybody out of the bidding with his jump to four spades. South was afraid that West could make four spades, and bid five clubs. If West had bid five diamons he might have scared North out of the bidding, but North, with his perfectly worthless hand, except in clubs, made what he thought was a sacrifice bid.

In the actual play, South made six clubs. He trumped the opening lead of the spade king and led a small diamond. West went in with the ace and returned another spade, which South trumped. Now a diamond was played to the king, a small club led, and the queen finessed. The ace picked up the trump, a diamond ruffed in dummy, and the heart finesse taken.



● BARBS

Postwar homes will have every modern convenience—except low rent.

An ad offers a woman a job in an orchestra playing second fiddle. They don't come that way!

Over a million musical instruments have been sent to our boys overseas. We'll sure hear about it when all of them are brought back home.

The Jap radio has admitted that the nation is doomed unless the American offensive can be stopped. They've been reading our mail.

An elevator in a building in a Missouri city dropped three stories and the operator was fired. He fell down on the job.

Give a man enough rope and he'll smoke himself to death.

Gunder Hagg may run the four-minute mile this year, equalling the record set by several housewives from home to butcher shop.

Night football probably won't be very successful this year—too many day coaches.

● IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago

Dr. Joseph Ingles, lately graduated from a Los Angeles Osteopathic college, has been granted a certificate to practice in this state.

"The Clemenceau Case" starring Theda Bara is advertised at the Arcade theater.

Fourteen chickens have been brazenly stolen from the John Ladd coops on the north side of town.

Fifteen Years Ago

Water pressure has been unusually low in Union for several days and a crew of men has been employed to put a new cement floor on the intake tank.

A large delegation of people trekked to the La Grande airport to see the air circus today. Business was unusually dull for a few hours with some of the business houses shutting up shop for a time.

Ten Years Ago

Women's summer vacation camp which was to be held in Mill Creek canyon above Cove has been indefinitely postponed because not enough women have signed up for the camp.

The only new construction work being done on county roads this year is the work that is now progressing on the Pumpkin Ridge market road between Summerville and Elgin.

This Curious World

NEXT: The daily diet of a dinosaur.