

### Kami-Krazi



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

### Same Old Aims, Not The Same Old Plan

For more years than the country cares to remember the government has been trying to hit upon an agricultural program which will satisfy all concerned: the farmers by giving them adequate and equitable income without regimentation; the rest of the public by keeping the prices of farm products within the reach of the consumer and by not levying too much tax for the aid of agriculture.

Comes now the new member of the agriculture department's reorganization committee, one W. R. Ronald of South Dakota, with a proposition which, in the modest manner usually adopted by the originators of such plans, is designed to add 15 billion dollars (maybe even 25 billions) to the national income. The best part of the deal, however, (be sure and get this) is that the thing could be accomplished and still eliminate at least half the agriculture department, and thus reduce the tax bill by that amount.

Ronald calls the farmer a "poor relation" because "he has not even received the cost of production." To labor the obvious, Ronald says "give the farmer a fair price and a large part of the department of agriculture may be abolished."

Ronald says he would replace the AAA with a national conservation association, to be entirely farmer administered and supported by assessments of the membership. This, at least, is something new. No one has ever before suggested it might be logical for the farmer

er himself to run and support his own agency; previously, it has been customary to have a political appointee in the high job in the farm program and to support it out of general taxation.

What Ronald would have the farmer do in the way of program is pretty much what has been attempted with varying degrees of success for the last 15 or 20 years. His plan calls for conservation payments, government commodity loans and an acreage allotment program.

One thing in his dream will not appeal to a large number of rugged individualists and there seems to be no particular reason why it ought to: He would make membership compulsory after it had been established and approved by 70 or 80 percent off the farmers. "Compulsory" never is a pretty word.

Further provisions of Ronald's plan merit study, including the proposals to finance the program by taxing the farmer on his own produce. He would get the tax back by complying with conservation regulations. If he had a penchant for conservation and rated more than 100 percent he'd get back all of his tax, with a bonus. Where the bonus would come from, Ronald didn't say; probably from the usual source of bonuses.

Other parts of the program include the "ever normal granary" — which has been standard for years; the commodity loan — but made through private banks with government guarantee; and the blended prices for exportable commodities, to enable the farmer to meet the world price — a scheme which needs looking into.

All in all, the plan seems to be a mixture of old and new; new methods of putting into practice old ideas which have proved more or less sound in the past. One of the most attractive features of the plan, of course, is the reduction of the department. Here, indeed, is something different, even revolutionary.

### Funny Business



### SO THEY SAY

Ship-dash legislation is a poor way for congress to show its appreciation of the veterans of this war.  
 —Houston, Texas, Press.

Both Britain and the United States realize that in the case of Japan, as in the case of Germany, half measures would be fatal.  
 —London Times.

The Dutch are naturally democratic. They have been so for centuries. That was one of the reasons they were able to become so united in resistance to the Germans, who are naturally the opposite.  
 —Dr. E. E. Menton, chairman of the Netherlands Foundation for Recreation.

The people of South America like the air age. It is bringing them new high standards of living.  
 —Mrs. Lydia Van Zandt, Washington, D. C.

Investigation shows this argument is no

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—John L. Sullivan has gone about his new job of being assistant secretary for naval aviation in a refreshing manner. Even before he took the oath of office, he went out on Adm. John McCain's flagship during one of the biggest operations against Japan, cruising within 170 miles of the Jap coast.

Part of the time, Sullivan held no official position (not yet having taken the oath), so lolled around on the carrier's deck in a khaki uniform with no insignia, getting acquainted with the men. He came back with a heartening conclusion.

"The chief American weapon of this war," he said, "is not any new invention, but the ingenuity and courage and especially the spirit of these kids. It's the most inspiring things in the world, the way they operate—as inspiring as a religious service. They will be loafing on deck as if they hadn't a care in the world."

"Then, suddenly, the planes start coming in, and they are right on the job—just as efficient as clockwork. And if one group is having trouble with its planes, you'll see another crowd rush over to help them. There never was a greater job of teamwork, ingenuity and especially spirit ever seen in this country—and that's true of all the navy."

Sullivan pointed out that out of 399 officers aboard his carrier, only five were regular naval officers.

"That," he added, "is a tribute to what youngsters can learn to do in an emergency."

In addition to the training of green officers and men, Sullivan, emphasized that every ship in admiral McCain's task force was almost new. "You look out over the horizon," said the assistant secretary of the navy, "and as far as the eye can see—ships, ships, and more ships, all their keels laid since Pearl Harbor—another great tribute to American industry, labor and ingenuity."

### Mrs. Truman Shadowed

When Mrs. Bess Truman and her daughter, Margaret, first arrived at the White House in Independence, Mo., close friends of the Truman family found it almost impossible to contact them except by mail.

Six secret service men who "lurked in the White House bushes," as the town folks put it, stopped anyone who attempted to

reach even the front porch of the Truman home at 219 North Delaware street. And every time the first lady or her daughter Margaret would drive to the town square or appear on the streets, secret service men shadowed them.

Folks in Independence didn't like this. Resentment ran high. After all, commented some of the citizenry, the days of Quantrill, Cole and Bob Younger (Missouri bushwhackers who headquartered near Independence and rode with the James gang) were over. Independence wasn't like what it used to be.

Eventually the first lady learned about this sentiment and it's almost a daily occurrence now to see either Mrs. Truman or Margaret on the streets unescorted. Anyone who cares to can stop and talk with them.

The secret service men have been relegated to their Independence retreat—the garage behind the Truman home.

### Naval Training

While most of the navy's operations have shifted to the Pacific, one of its most important though unheralded jobs is still being performed along the Atlantic coast—the training of pilots and carrier personnel. Seventy percent of all carrier personnel in the Pacific have been trained under "fleet air quonset," the Massachusetts headquarters for training on the Atlantic coast.

Murky weather frequently existing along the Atlantic coast is more similar to the rainy monsoon weather around Tokyo, and carrier personnel have to operate in bad weather as well as good.

Chiefly responsible for the A-1 job of carrier personnel training are Commodore Gordon Rowe and Vice Admiral Patrick Bellinger. They are now working to streamline the use of planes for training purposes, in order to keep as many planes as possible working every minute.

The plane didn't know about it at the time, but last fall a typhoon caused U. S. carriers to lose a disastrous number of planes, many of them swept off carrier decks.

Results was that planes used for training had to be rushed from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Despite this, however, the intensive training program continued at top speed.

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

A Wisconsin farmer has advertised for a wife who is willing to be a mother to his five-year-old son. He can't understand why he hasn't found a satisfactory answer to his ad since he has heard that there are "2,300,000 women between the ages of 20 and 34 without a Chinaman's chance of marrying."

Well, maybe here's the answer: The Wisconsin farmer's advertisement would naturally be regarded as another "help wanted," item since he stressed the fact that the woman he was looking for would need to be a successful farm wife, would have to understand children, be industrious, etc.

Women have been besieged by "help wanted" ads since the start of the war—and they have been promised a lot. Such things, for instance, as a five-day week, time and a half for overtime, a well-cooked lunch at cost, ideal working conditions, chance for advancement, and so on.

The farmer asks that his applicants be under 42 years of age, of good habits, even temper, intelligent, with an open mind, an understanding heart, etc.

But he doesn't promise much except himself. He rates himself as being healthy, having regular habits and average good looks.

Men who want wives have a lot of competition in these times when women can just about dictate their working conditions and pick their jobs. And there is the impression among the womenfolks that farm life isn't the easiest life in the world for a woman. They know that the average farmer, who has fancy equipment for the fields, doesn't always have it in the kitchen.

So if the farmer really wants a wife, maybe he had better figure out some inducements that would make the job of farm wife look as good as the jobs the city offers.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6—In these uncertain times of reconversion it behooves responsible public officials in charge of this shift from war to peace to know what they're talking about or else hush up. Two recent incidents illustrate the point.

A recent charge that the army was taking railroad battalions and converting them into combat artillery seemed worth checking. The charge was made by Col. P. Monroe Johnson, director of the office of defense transportation. Its apparent purpose was to show that the war department was resisting the efforts to get experienced railroad operations men discharged from the armed services. The conclusion drawn was that the army was thus contributing to the present U. S. transportation crisis.

Investigation reveals Colonel Johnson's charge is the truth, but not the whole truth by a long shot. The unit referred to consists of 115 men. They were members of the two railway operating battalions involved in the Paris black market scandals last winter. They stole army gasoline and sold it to Frenchmen for \$7 a gallon, cigars for \$10 a carton, chocolate bars at \$1 each. One hundred and fifty men were caught, court-martialed and convicted. Thirty-five got 20 to 50 year sentences.

The other 115 men were given a chance to clear their records by service in combat. All accepted and further agreed to forfeit their pay till value of stolen goods was made good. They were put in an artillery unit for combat training. Then the war ended in Europe and the unit which had seen no action was assigned to the Pacific to give the men a chance to win honorable discharges.

General Eisenhower made this decision and its wisdom is hardly open to question.

While the war department comes up with a clean nose in this first instance, the record isn't so good in the second case, which is this: principal reason given by war department spokesmen for unwillingness to discharge skilled workmen like lumberjacks, tool miners or railroad workers who may have jobs waiting for them is that the British tried this system after the last war and the troops mutinied.

Investigation shows this argument is no

good for two reasons. First because the British demobilization riots after the last war had nothing to do with the system of discharge by jobs classification. Second because the British now have another system of discharging men of certain skilled trades, and its working.

The British army today grants discharges on two bases. Class A discharges to the older men with longest combat service. It is similar to the U. S. system of discharge on points. Then the British have class B discharges for skilled laborers whose services are needed at home. By the end of 1945 the British hope to have 750,000 class A and 75,000 class B men discharged. In other words, one out of every 11 British soldiers gets an occupational discharge. The skilled laborers getting these preferential discharges are largely building and construction workers who can be put to work immediately in relieving Britain's admittedly huge war damage and rehousing problem.

The British experience and example would therefore seem to indicate that a system of limited occupational discharges will work. After a week's wrangling among U. S. government manpower authorities in Washington, the war department now seems to have come around to this way of thinking. This is indicated by the announcement that some 1,500 high point ex-railroad workers are to be given expedited discharges which will release them for civilian railway service by Aug. 10, while another 2,000 will be released by October.

The railroad discharges set no precedent for the army's granting occupational discharges to high point coal miners or lumbermen who are also badly needed in U. S. industry. But it is recognition that this kind of manpower problem can be worked out to keep everybody—armed services, war agencies and private industry reasonably happy.

And it should demonstrate that the spreading of misleading information about the background of these issues is bad business. It is a form of rumor mongering that signifies the existence of a home front industrial fifth column. There will be trouble enough in this period of readjustment from production for war to production for peace. Creating distrust will only make it worse.

### Side Glances



Now here's a lovely one—this is really super-sloppy!

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

### BIDDING, PLAYING EQUALLY IMPORTANT

Every day someone is sure to ask, "Which is more important, the bidding or the play?" Both play an equally important part in your game. You cannot get very far in contract bridge if you do not get into the right contract; when you do, you must be able to play the cards well in order to make a large percentage of your contracts.

It was surprising to note in a recent duplicate match that today's hand was played by every pair except one at six hearts. Only one pair played it at six spades, which West doubled. Of course there was not much to the play of the hand. Declarer won the opening lead and then led the queen of trumps. West covered

♠ 10 6 5	♥ K 9 8 7 5 3 2	♦ 8	♣ A
♠ K 7 3	♥ Q 10	♦ K 10 7	♣ 9 2
♠ Q J 10	♥ K J 10 4	♦ A	♣ 6 4
♠ A	♥ A	♦ 8 5	♣ A 8 7 2
♠ J 8 4	♥ 9 5 3	♦ 8 6 5	♣ 7

Duplicate—Both vul.  
 South West North East  
 Pass Pass 1♥ Pass  
 1♠ Pass 3♥ Pass  
 3N.T. Pass 4N.T. Pass  
 5♣ Pass 5♠ Pass  
 6♠ Double Pass  
 Opening—♥Q.

## BARBS

This is August, hottest month of the year, when the ladies try on their new winter furs.

## IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago  
 Work has commenced on the new Methodist parsonage. It will be a six-room bungalow, with a large porch and will face on Spring street.

A new and natty line of Tam O'Shanter's has just been received at the Golden Rule store.

Members of the Neighborhood club have petitioned the city commission to provide a separate ward for women prisoners in the city jail. Some action to this end will likely be taken at the first opportunity.

Fifteen Years Ago  
 The Cemetery Memorial works has just recently moved into its new home at 2213 Adams avenue.

With the summer well under way, the Union county market road program is also making considerable progress.

Ten Years Ago  
 Safeway store managers and employers and their families enjoyed their annual picnic at Pine Cone yesterday.

Union Pacific and Greenwood kitten ball teams were deadlocked today for the leadership of division A in the city league play-off schedule.

## This Curious World



**Quiz Korner**

Today I saw the Great Eyer (an old type word meaning "suffling") and from this one all guesses in the world got their name.

—Yours Truly, Private Coner.

**CROSS-EYES**  
 WERE A SIGN OF BEAUTY AMONG EARLY MAYAN INDIANS, AND MOTHERS TRAINED THE EYES OF THEIR CHILDREN TO ASSUME A PERMANENT CROSS.  
 T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

**WHERE'S ELMER?**

ANSWER: Iceland. NEXT: Do orchids grow wild in the United States?