

Into Whose Hands?



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

'trouble me! many are they that rise up against me.—Psalms 3:1.
 Lord, how are they increased that

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

He who talks much cannot always talk well.—Goldoni.

This Shrinking World

President Truman took cognizance of this small and interdependent world when he announced, in his latest report to the nation, that we shall maintain and acquire such military bases as are necessary for our future defense.

Following and clarifying as it did the president's disavowal of territorial ambition, this statement also served notice that America has learned at least one great lesson from this war, and that the false security that dominated our thinking in the 1930s has been dispelled.

We can never again think of our oceans as impregnable bastions against invasion. And we can never again feel safe if any potential warmaker, however remote, finds inadequate foreign defenses along his borders.

It seemed of no immediate concern to the ordinary American of 1936 when Hitler marched his troops into the Rhineland. But if the invading Germans had been met there by French

guns and determined French courage, there might have been no European war and possibly no Pearl Harbor attack.

To many American of 1939 it was a source of positive pride that our armed forces were inadequate and our air force infinitesimal. We were determined not to be dragged into any European war—which was a blameless, though hopeless, determination. But we somehow thought that we could discourage attack by being ill-armed and ill-defended, and that by strengthening ourselves we should invite aggression.

The rocket, the jet plane, and now the atomic bomb have changed all that. Owo and Owinawa have become first lines of defense, not only for the American mainland, but for the peace of the world.

The decision to maintain these and other islands as military bases is the first step toward future military security. The second is to maintain them adequately. And that step is up to congress.

That is where congress stumbled badly in the years between the wars. With their heads burrowed comfortably in the topsoil of Capitol Hill, succeeding generations of congressmen cut and withheld military appropriations until, in spite of pleas from the Army and Navy, our farthest Pacific outposts became feeble and impotent.

This is not likely to happen again. For advancing science can scarcely have failed to convince even the most isolation-minded legislator that distance no longer means safety in this shrinking world.

Funny Business



'The wheelman's got a letter from his girl again!'

SO THEY SAY

I don't think any university in this country can be neutral as to religion is concerned.
 —Dr. Sidney Lovett, chaplain, Yale university.

It is indeed a heartening sign for the future of world-wide aviation when thousands of trans-Atlantic flights can be made almost as uneventfully as going to work in the morning—and, on the average, probably a good bit more safely.
 —Bisbee, Ariz., Review.

Man is at last well on the way to mastery of a means of destroying himself utterly (with the atomic bomb).
 —Manchester, England, Guardian.

The "food shortage" is like the panic of '29. We have everything to make us prosperous except the sense to use it.
 —Grand Rapids, Mich., Press.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Notes on two armistices—"The tumult and the shouting dies, the captains and the kings depart..." Vivid memories of people rejoicing; happy people, delicious people, dizzy people... telephone books and ticker tape... horns and more horns... the White House, stately, aloof, majestic, glowing with lights... the state department dark... the coded messages have all been sent... sailors kissing pretty girls, strange girls... Back on my desk a letter from an old classmate, his boy lost in action.

Philadelphia in 1918—dim memories of people milling around... the armistice came early in the morning giving us all day to mill... People got a little tired of milling... The whistles blowing while we were out drilling. People came up to tell us the war was over... Seemed funny not to have anything more to drill for. Like the bottom had dropped out of things... The fellows who had been selected for officer's training school at Camp Lee, Va., were sore. It was a dirty trick, the war ending when it did... Everybody else was happy. No more wars... The war to end wars. The war to save democracy.

If we could make certain that this would end all wars, that would be at least some consolation... Can't seem to forget Alfred Noyes' words in the last war: "We who lie here have nothing left to pray. To all your praises we are deaf and blind. We may not even know if you betray our hopes to make earth better for mankind."

Pennsylvania avenue—Military police almost crushed by the crowds... A sailor taking down "no parking" signs... A soldier wearing a WAVE's hat... A war department stenog singing: "I'm going back to Topeka, to sleepy, good old Topeka. I l-o-v-e Washington, big, bad wicked Washington, but the war's over and I'm going back home"... Jimmy Byrnes, immaculate, spotless, sprightly, coming out of the state department... A million pairs of eyes watching Jimmy Byrnes. Does he know they're watching him?... When he goes to London for the meeting of the foreign ministers, when he goes to Rio de Janeiro to sit with Latin American leaders, they will be watching him, praying for him, hoping for his success... John McCrae's words still ringing from the last war: "If ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep..." Telephone books and ticker tape... Paper, paper, ankle deep... Hectic crowds, hilarious crowds, happy crowds... Military police forced to retreat behind White House gates... the dark and gloomy state department... Majestic, stately White House... A radio blaring forth: "Hirohito broadcasts to people: 'We declared war on America and

Britain out of our sincere desire to ensure Japan's self-preservation and the stabilization of East Asia, it being far from our thought either to infringe upon the sovereignty of other nations or to embark upon territorial aggrandizement"... Sounds different from Hirohito's speech right after Pearl Harbor. But what a job for our military governors? What a job for our state department?... How can we reach down to the very roots of Japanese psychology?... There are some good people in Japan. Some of the more fearless spent the war in jail. They opposed the war lords... Some followed the war lords into battle because that was their religion, their whole training. They knew no better... How can we change that?... How can we undo that training?... Will we spend the money? Will we pick the men?... Alfred Noyes' words from the last war still ringing: "We have heard men say when we were living that some small dream of good would cost too much; but when the foe struck we have watched you giving and seen you move the mountains with one touch."

Little children in the crowds along the avenue... Some carried in the arms of soldiers and sailors... Sleepy children, not interested, not knowing what the shouting is all about... May you never know! May you never have to go off to war! May your fathers never have to sit waiting, hoping, not complaining, just anxious, weary from hoping, but still hoping... "Missing in action."

The sermon on the mount! What would happen if we tried it in our foreign relations? Hitherto other nations have been only too glad to watch another nation try it out. But when we've tried it with Latin American nations it's usually worked. We've made them pretty good neighbors... And if we don't get along with each other in this day of atomic bombs, we're finished anyway, so we can afford to be revolutionary. We can afford to try what no one has ever really dared try since the days of Christ... If we fail now... If Jimmy Byrnes fails in London, in the state department, in Japan... A million pairs of hands are stretched out to help him... "And while you deck our graves you shall not know how many scornful legions pass you by"... "When the foe struck we have watched you giving and seen you move the mountains with one touch"... "Short days ago, we lived, felt dawn and sunset glow"... "What can be done we know. But have no fear! If you fail now, we shall not see nor hear."

"The tumult and the shouting dies, the captains and the kings depart..." A great war is won. A greater opportunity lies ahead.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Okay, American women, it looks as though you've got a fight on your hands. You don't approve of American service men choosing brides from among the women of other countries, huh? Well, judging from my mail the foreign wives—and some of them are so burned up they write foreign in quotation marks—don't have too high an opinion of American women and the reception we have given them.

They say American women ask such questions as "Did you buy that coat or that hat in Ireland?" And then squeal, "Oh, look, Mrs. So-and-So, they wear clothes like ours over there."

And American women, they say, take the attitude that foreign girls are grabbing off American soldiers because they "are so poor in their countries. America seems a kind of paradise to them." You can bet the foreign wives—with or without quotes—see red when they meet that attitude.

Says one from the British empire: "Our own standard of living is akin to the Amer-

ican standard. True we did without many things in the last five and a half years, but that was war..."

One foreign bride living in a southern city says: "Wherever did that phrase 'southern hospitality' originate?" And adds, "Thank heavens, we won't be here long."

There is still another thing that gets them, and that is in the words of one: "I was taught in school that Americans, by that I mean those in the U. S. A., were a mixture, mostly of different European nations. But now it seems if a family has been here for two generations they forget where their grandfather came from. This is particularly true of women."

Says another, without prettifying up her sentiments a bit: "I believe that most foreign brides will, like myself, be keenly disappointed in America's womenfolks."

So the fight is on. And though the foreign brides are outnumbered, they are not taking what they consider the superior attitude of American women without talking back.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Several days ago the top army medical men from every theater of operation gathered here to swap experiences, bring each other up to date on the latest tricks they had discovered and lay plans for the Pacific campaign.

Most of what they discussed and decided is top secret but many interesting things came to light.

Incomplete figures announced to the assembled medical men revealed that for the first time in the history of war in Europe the American army had more men admitted to its theater hospitals for battle wounds than for disease. For this record the army medics are justly proud.

It's part of that record which is the basis for the standard gag among combat soldiers: "If you can take two breaths after you get to the hospital they can save you."

Among the doctors at the conference was Brig. Gen. Earl Maxwell, with the current title of chief surgeon of Okinawa island. He has been chief army medical officer on practically every Pacific campaign since Guadalcanal—Young, tall and broadshouldered, he looks more like a football player than a doctor.

At Guadalcanal, he tells, eight out of every nine soldiers admitted to the hospital needed treatment of some disease rather than for wounds. This rate has been going down steadily. He gives much credit for this decline to the use of the insect spray, DDT.

Two days after landing at Okinawa he asked the navy for the loan of two planes. They were loaded with DDT and for two

days flew up and down the island spraying it with insecticide. As a result, he says, Okinawa had less loss of men from disease than almost any other Pacific campaign.

The army medical corps in its advance planning for the invasion made one small mistake. Their studies showed that there were many poisonous snakes on the island. The invasion revealed there were only a few snakes, and they weren't poisonous.

For the first time in fighting against the Japs most of the wounds suffered by the men were from artillery and mortar shells. This meant the average man was wounded more seriously and a bigger percent of amputations resulted. It is this sort of thing that is taken into consideration in planning the rest of the war in the Pacific. In spite of the more serious nature of the wounds suffered by the men, only a little more than three percent of the men who were gotten to hospitals died.

Field hospitals were kept close behind the lines, usually three or four miles behind the artillery and in several instances, in front of the artillery.

General Maxwell was outspoken in his praise of the way whole blood was kept available. He said its use saved the lives of untold numbers of men. Never, during the entire campaign did they run short. A total of 40,000 pints of it were used.

Also high on his list to receive praise were the medical aid men who did such brave work in bringing the wounded back to hospitals.

Side Glances



"This book tells parents how to raise children without using force. Johnny—put it where they can read it and you can even play hookey without a licking!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

TRUMP PLAY FORCES KEY KING TO FALL

I don't suppose I will ever see the king of diamonds without thinking of the card drive put on for us by Bob Hawk on his "Thanks to the Yanks" program. I told Bob how badly we needed cards for our wounded boys in hospitals, and his appeal brought in more than a million decks! The Red Cross sorted and distributed the cards.

One day when we had about 200,000 decks piled up, a letter

▲ K Q J 10 8 6	▲ 2
♥ 5 3	♦ J 10 9 7
♠ J 5	♣ 8 7 6 4
♣ 5 2	♠ 9 8 7 3
▲ 7 4 3	▲ 2
♥ A K Q	♦ J 10 9 7
♠ K 10 9	♣ 8 7 6 4
♣ Q J 6 4	♠ 9 8 7 3
▲ A 9 5	▲ 2
♥ 8 4 2	♦ A Q 3 2
♠ A Q 3 2	♣ A K 10
♣ A K 10	♠ 9 8 7 3
Duplicate—N-S vul.	
South West North East	Pass Pass Pass Pass
1♦ Double 2♠	Pass Pass
4♠ Pass	Pass Pass
Opening—♥ J. 20	

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

Five business men of La Grande will, during the next six days draft a traffic ordinance governing all details of street traffic and will then submit it to the auto owners who will then in turn pass it up for the inspection and action of the city commission. This is the outcome of a meeting of 35 or 40 automobile owners, city manager and city commissioners last evening.

La Grande shippers will learn with interest that dismissing the complaint of the Columbia Gold Mining company of Sumpter against the interstate commerce commission reiterated its ruling that "originating lines generally are entitled to the longest haul they can perform where the transportation can be performed upon equal terms with reasonable dispatch and without undue discrimination."

15 Years Ago

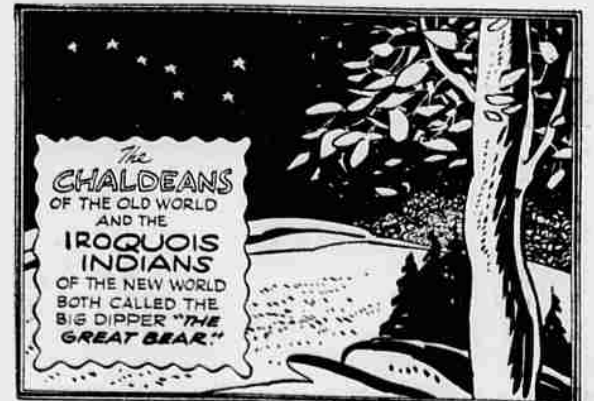
The building permit total for the city of La Grande totaled \$414,135 with the issuance of eight permits by City Recorder J. E. Stearns during the week.

10 Years Ago

Contrary to some press reports following the state board of higher education's meeting in Portland yesterday, there will be no delay in completing the training school and gymnasium on the Eastern Oregon Normal school campus. These two projects will be completed as soon as possible, it was announced today.

Greenwood's soft ball team, by virtue of two straight wins over the P. D. Q. club, today is city champion. The A division champions walked roughshod over the B division title holder at the L. H. S. stadium last night 8 to 1.

This Curious World



Quoting Odds
 WHEN AN AIRPLANE IS UNDER FIRE, IT IS OVER FIRE! Says J. F. CASPER, Chilton, Wisconsin.

The MAENOLIA
 IS NAMED FOR THE FRENCH PROFESSOR OF BOTANY, PIERRE MAENOL.
 CORP. 1945 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

NEXT: Why baseball dopsters get headaches.