

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 5, 1945

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### A Lift Along the Road



#### TODAY'S TEXT

And David said unto God, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the Lord; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man.—Chronicles 21:13.

#### Living With the Atom

It is already evident that Americans are not going to be scared to death by the atomic bomb. Maybe we ought to be sitting in agonized uneasiness on this earth which has suddenly become a powder keg. Maybe we should shudder at the thought that no good which may come from the controlled creation of atomic fission can remove the threat of worse destruction than was dealt the Japs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

But Americans, by and large, are taking the atomic age in their stride. We seem to be accepting it as we accepted Communism, technocracy, mah jong, Mae West and the Dionne quintuplets. We are beginning to make jokes about it and exploit its commercial possibilities.

Puns are putting in an appearance—puns of such a nature as to make any self-respecting electron break loose from its orbit and run for cover: up and atom, Eve the first Atom-smasher, and so on, to the point where one has atomic ache.

The atom will inevitably appear in a popular song, if it hasn't already. Equally inevitable will be a lot of pictures of bathing beauties, pin-up girls and other curvy creatures, captioned "Anatomic Bombs."

At least one cafe has brought out the atomic bomb cocktail, price 75 cents, and positively only one to a customer.

The sober fact that one atomic bomb is more than sufficient for 50,000 customers is beside the point. For today the atom bomb is a catchword as well as a terrifying, mystifying result of man's wisdom. It has caught the public fancy, and so long as it holds that fancy it will help sell merchandise, from cocktails to adventure stories.

So what? It isn't that Americans, even the punsters and the promoters, don't realize that the harnessing of atomic power is no joke. It isn't that we are completely irresponsible and senseless. Rather it may be that we are showing realistic courage.

The bombing of Hiroshima was one of the stiffest, most sobering jolts that the world of thinking men ever received. Yet a couple of weeks later we Americans were making jokes about it. And perhaps that is just as well.

Atomic power is here to stay, for better or worse, and has got to be lived with. At its worst, it is only another threat of death. And men live with that threat every day, as they have since the beginning of time.

Men stand today on the threshold of what they hope will be a better world. To achieve it they need hope and courage as well as wisdom. And while wise-cracks and promotion may not be the ideal means of achieving those qualities, they are certainly preferable to utter discouragement and paralyzing fear.

#### Funny Business



"George got so used to hearing water dripping through a leaky roof at our summer cottage that now he can't sleep without it!"

#### SO THEY SAY

We certainly do not want to maintain expensive ships (in the navy) if their usefulness has been brought to an end by the atomic bomb.

—Sen. Brien McMahon, of Connecticut.

I am strongly in favor of inter-American co-operation. I believe that this is the only way for our hemisphere to overcome its difficulties.

—Raul Haya de la Torre, political leader in Peru.

We owe it to the world to conduct ourselves as a victorious nation resolved to maintain a peaceful world and end forever any chance of there being a World War III.

—Alton, Ill., Telegraph.

The interest shown in the new models indicates sales will soar to new peaks when the general public can obtain automobiles.

—I. L. Lanehan, automobile sales executive.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—If congress really looks into the Pearl Harbor disaster carefully it will uncover one of the most amazing detective stories in international diplomatic and military history.

Top officers who worked on the investigation state privately that despite all the polite eyewash about responsibility in Washington, there is uncontrovertible testimony that Admiral Husband Kimmel had concrete evidence seven days before Pearl Harbor that four Jap carriers were unaccounted for. These turned out to be four of the Jap ships which attacked Pearl Harbor.

The fact that they couldn't be located was so serious that Kimmel indicated to his intelligence officer, Capt. Edwin D. Layton, that he was aware of the possibility that the Jap carriers might be in sight of Pearl Harbor. Yet Kimmel did nothing to check up, and ordered shore leave on Saturday, Dec. 6, just as in normal times.

#### Part of Fleet 'Lost'

Capt. Layton had done an outstanding job of intelligence against great obstacles. More recently he has directed intelligence for the entire Pacific fleet with equal efficiency. Layton called on Kimmel on the morning of Dec. 1, 1941, and told him the Japs had taken an unusual step. He told Kimmel the Japs had changed all their naval radio calls. Kimmel ordered Layton to analyze immediately the whereabouts of the Jap fleet.

Layton put together all his secret information and reported back on Dec. 2 that he didn't know where two Jap carrier divisions were.

"What! You don't know where carrier division I and carrier division II are?" Kimmel asked.

"No, sir, I do not," Capt. Layton replied. "I think they are in home waters, but I do not know where they are. The rest of the units—I feel pretty confident of their location."

Testifying before the secret naval board of inquiry, Capt. Layton continued:

"Then Admiral Kimmel looked at me, as sometimes he would with a somewhat stern countenance and yet partially with a twinkle

in his eye and said, 'Do you mean that they could be rounding Diamond Head and you wouldn't know it?' or words to that effect. My reply was, 'I hope they would be sighted before now.'"

#### Carriers on Prowl

The officers who questioned Layton didn't understand what he meant by referring to the twinkle in Kimmel's eye, and they asked him if he felt the discussion had been serious. Layton replied that the question was absolutely serious and that failure to locate the four carriers was most important.

Later on, every day up to the Pearl Harbor attack, Layton sent reports to Kimmel pointing out that there was no knowledge of where the missing Jap carriers were. Layton also told Kimmel that 200 Jap naval calls had been partially identified and that not a single one was from a carrier. When ships are on a combat mission they maintain radio silence. Thus it was known that the carriers were up to something.

But Kimmel did nothing about the warnings. He never sent out a single plane from any fleet headquarters to look for the missing Japs. This was despite the fact that Washington had warned of a sneak attack from "Orange" (the secret code name for Japan), which had never declared war in her entire history.

#### SMALL ECONOMY

Reporters assigned to the treasury department in Washington have asked for a new press-room adding machine with more figures. The old one only computes in millions.

To taxpayers with a national debt in the billions, the cost of one new adding machine is infinitesimal. But we've got to start cutting down somewhere, so why not here?

Let the boys keep the old machine and add the three ciphers for billions in pencil. That will be occasionally inaccurate, to be sure, but it won't hurt to take the last three figures in round numbers for a while. It'll be time enough to worry about expenditures and incomes under a thousand when we get the public debt back into the millions.

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

There is one group of Americans who have a reconversion problem facing them in the near future—and perhaps don't even realize it.

The group? America's housewives.

Thousands and thousands of them soon will find themselves with more time to spend intelligently or to waste than they have had since the start of the war.

Many of them who have held down jobs while employers have been begging for help, or because keeping house with a husband overseas wasn't a full time job, are going back to being full time housewives.

And many women who have been full time housewives throughout the war are going to find themselves with time on their hands once their work is eased by such small but important time-savers as having the car for running errands, being able to shop without tiring searches for scarce articles, being able once again to get marketing done by one daily telephone call, and no longer being needed for volunteer war jobs.

Well, what are they going to do with the

time? Are they going back to killing it with long sessions in beauty salons, afternoon-long bridge parties, ineffectual women's clubs?

Or will they be too smart—now that they know how capable they are, how much satisfaction there is in using time instead of killing it, to go back to the old boring ways?

Now is the right moment for them to look ahead and make up their minds what they want to make of themselves and what they want to do with their lives.

If they can honestly say they want to go back to playing bridge four or five times a week, spending a whole afternoon finding just the right pair of gloves, listening to book reviews instead of reading books—then okay, it is what they like and what they want and that is their business.

But it would be a crime for them to drift aimlessly into that kind of life again, just because they don't see that now is the time for them to decide where they'll go from here.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Anyone who has the time and takes the trouble to read the 400 pages of army and navy Pearl Harbor investigation will come up more confused than when he began. Experienced officers who have carefully read every word come to the same conclusion—the reports settle nothing. And if the line of President Truman is to be followed, nothing is going to be done at this late date about the whole business. Court Martial could go on for ever, for every responsible big shot has his alibi and can put the blame on his subordinates. The only value of the Pearl Harbor reports, therefore, may be to serve as a warning so that the same mistakes are never made again.

One fundamental mistake in the Pearl Harbor record seems to have been an inability on the part of responsible officials properly to appraise such information as they had. Even worse than that was a complete lack of any coordinated intelligence service. Generals, admirals, and diplomats made the mistakes they made because each lacked full information as to what the other was doing.

Reading the record carefully will indicate that everyone of the departments of government involved at Pearl Harbor had sources of information adequate for its own purposes. The army has hung medals on its G-2 officers for the jobs they did in organizing intelligence and counter-intelligence work in Hawaii. Office of naval intelligence and federal bureau of investigation played their parts. There was no means of putting them all together to make one complete picture clear enough to determine a course of action.

Actually, it was not until six months after Pearl Harbor that anything like a coordinated U. S. intelligence service was organized. That was when the office of strategic services was created to collect and analyze strategic information required by the U. S. army-navy joint chief of staff.

Once the armed services get going on this

pooling of intelligence services, they functioned effectively. At one time, for instance, the anti-trust division of the department of justice was combing its voluminous records of German cartel agreements to find the location of strategic war plants for army air forces to bomb. And, the post Pearl Harbor analysis of all machine tool orders placed by Japanese firms in this country before December 1941 showed exactly where Japanese war plants were located.

Other government agencies developed information sources of value in their own special fields. Commerce knew trade and treasury knew fiscal affairs. Foreign economics administration knew more about the war production operations of the German general staff than did the army's own G-2 experts on Germany.

Demobilization of army and navy to peace-time strength and liquidation of many war agencies will of course, mean curtailment of the office of strategic services organization built up by Maj. Gen. William J. Donovan. It was largely an organization of civilians who want to get back to civilian life. Many of its operations have been under the raps of military security and aura of cloak and dagger mystery still surrounds it war record.

The important work of these lay not so much in romantic games of spy and counter-spy however, but in the dull grind of scholarly analysis and appraisal of every scrap of information available. It was not the work in any one field of army or navy espionage, state department politics and diplomacy, foreign commercial, and industrial intelligence—it had to cover them all and fit them all together.

If the United States is not to be caught short again in some international disaster, it must know what goes on in the world and be alert to its significances. It needs an information gathering service so good that it will not permit responsible heads of government to be caught off base as they were at Pearl Harbor.

#### Side Glances



"In a way I'm glad I can't go visit my cousin Effie this year—I won't have to think of all the dishes piled in the sink when I get home!"

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

#### OPENING LEAD TIPS OFF MANY A HAND

The war took many fine players away from tournaments and into the armed forces. However, at the recent summer session of the national championships at the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn, sev-

man von Zedwitz of New York.

Here is one of the hands played by von Zedwitz. Limited space prevents me from giving complete details on the hand, but you will see that there is a good deal of strategy in it. Von Zedwitz covered the opening lead with the ten, and East went up with the jack. The opening lead indicated to the declarer that West had four spades, and that West did not have the queen and jack of clubs. Von Zedwitz's next play was a small spade to the ace, a small spade was returned, East won with the king and led back the queen of clubs. Dummy's ace won, and a small club was led which West was allowed to win. After crashing his two clubs and the spade queen, declarer threw West in the lead with a spade, forcing him to lead up to the king of diamonds.

♠ A 4	♥ A Q 10 7	♦ 8 5 4 2	♣ A 6 3
♠ J 10 7 6	♥ 9 2	♦ A 9 7	♣ J 8 7 3
♠ K 3	♥ J 8 6 5	♦ 4 3	♣ Q J 6
♠ Dealer	♠ Von Zedwitz	♠ Q 8 5 2	♠ K
♠ K 10 3	♠ K 10 9 4	♠ Duplicate—E-W. vul.	
South Pass	West Pass	North Pass	East Pass
1 ♠ Pass	2 ♠ Pass	3 N.T. Pass	Pass
Opening—♥ 9.			5

## IN FORMER YEARS

#### Thirty Years Ago

Creation of a league known as the Union County Taxpayers' league, with the announced purpose of promoting economy in all public affairs, is taking place this afternoon in the city hall.

For Rent: A five-room modern house; \$16 per month including water.

#### Fifteen Years Ago

With hundreds of colorful flowers, varying from delicate roses to ruddy, glowing zinnias and brilliant gladioli—Massed in huge display, the annual La Grande Neighborhood club flower show was successfully launched this afternoon at 2:30 in the La Grande hotel.

#### Ten Years Ago

A 20-year franchise, to the E. O. L. & P. company, which provides for a 3 percent fee on gross earnings for the city, has been agreed upon by the city of Cove and the power company, according to Karl Stackland, mayor of Cove.

Clayton Fox, Union county 4-H club member, added to his laurels at the Oregon state fair today when he took a large number of prizes in the sheep division.

#### This Curious World



#### Quiz Kover

THE WORD "HIEMAL" REFERS TO WHAT SEASON? SPRING, SUMMER, AUTUMN OR WINTER?



ANSWER: Winter.

NEXT: There've been some changes made in army plans.