EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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Going to Build Something, Uncle?

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

Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.—Jeremiah 2:32.

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY

To murder thousands takes a spacious name,
War's glorious art, and gives immortal fame. —Young.

The Farm Home

Heavy concentrations of population in the United States are likely to be affected by the war. Millions of young men and women who were reared in our large cities have seen another phase of living as the result of being stationed in various localities. More millions who dwelt in rural areas and in small cities experienced the crowding and inconvenience of metropolitan centers when they took jobs in essential war industry. Both situations reacted to the benefit of the so-called wide open spaces.

The big city young folk want first to go home when they obtain release from the service. After they have looked over familiar scenes, however, many of them are going to recall some locality to which their service introduced them. The more they compare, the more convinced are they going to be that their futures will be improved by making a new start where there is elbow room and a less killing pace day after day.

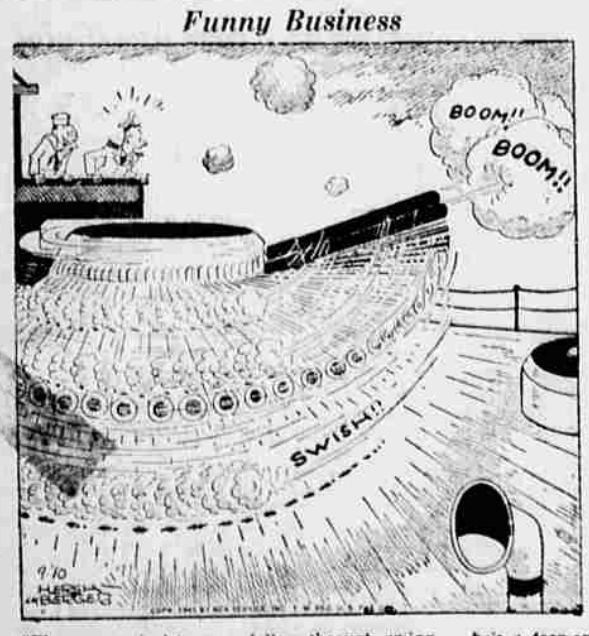
Many who originated on farms and migrated to populous centers are going to think again of rural life. And they will find it vastly improved in recent years. There are better roads, and the post-war era will add sharply to their number. Electrification of farms is proceeding rapidly and the comforts of the dwelling as well as the convenience of farm operations will be enhanced sharply by the extension of this service.

One-room rural schools are becoming scarce and the farm dwelling youngster of tomorrow will usually enjoy educational advantages equal to those of urban children, for they will more often than not be side by side in the same classrooms and laboratories.

Henry Ford began encouraging his workers, several years ago, to locate on small acreages, where many of the family needs might be provided and factory employment would supply the money income. Industry in this country will be decentralizing more and more in the future, giving rise to more opportunities such as Ford pioneered in Michigan.

A farm or an acreage will not run itelf, and a novice with no knowledge of crops, poultry or livestock, will find it necessary to learn how to make good. But when this has occurred, the farm dweller will be so far ahead of the fellow crammed into a city tenement, dependent solely upon the weekly paycheck, that no comparison will be pertinent.

Funny Business



"The gunner insists on a follow-through swing — he's a former golfer!"

• SO THEY SAY

Discussion is better than silence, reason better than violence, co-operation better than anarchy and democracy better than tyranny.

—Edgar S. Brightman, professor of philosophy, Boston University.

The people have surrendered liberties to win the war; they did not surrender them in imitation of or liking for the totalitarian governmentalisms against which they fought. They want wartime control ended as soon as possible.

—Danville, Va., Register.

Our political and economic system saved the world in two wars. It will save the peace if given a chance.

—Bernard M. Baruch.

A diplomat is a person who can tell you to go to the devil so pleasantly that you're anxious to get started.

—Waterloo, Neb., Douglas County Gazette.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Release of the Pearl Harbor reports now makes it possible to tell the long-withheld story of the battle of Midway and the reason why the Chicago Tribune was never successfully prosecuted for revealing certain war secrets at the time of that battle.

It has now been made clear through the Pearl Harbor reports the U. S. navy was in possession of the Japanese secret code and thus was able to break down messages sent between Tokyo and Washington and between various units of the Jap fleet.

That was how Cordell Hull knew at 10 p. m. on Dec. 6, the day before Pearl Harbor, that the Japs were going to hand him an abrupt note flatly refusing his peace proposals. That was why General Marshall was censured in the Pearl Harbor report for being out horseback riding on the morning of Dec. 7, so that word of this pending break in U. S.-Jap relations was not flashed to General Short at Pearl Harbor until such a time and through such a slow channel that he received it only after six American battleships were at the bottom of the harbor.

Advance Midway Preparation

That was also why, two weeks before the battle of Midway, the navy knew Japan was preparing a mighty attack on our key island base of Midway, which, if successful, was to be followed by a tremendous naval drive on the Hawaiian islands and the California coast. The information had been picked up from Jap radio messages immediately after the battle of the Coral Sea in the south Pacific, and gave time for the U. S. fleet to rush everything it had north to Midway and prepare a trap for the unsuspecting Japs.

Ships and planes from all over the Pacific were sent to Midway. The west coast of the United States was left almost unprotected. Had the Japs become aware of what was happening and shifted their tactics, the cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, etc., would have been almost defenseless. But the Japanese coded radio messages were unmistakable. They gave the name of every ship in the Jap fleet which was steaming to attack Midway.

The result of that battle is well known. Not well known, however, is the manner in which the Chicago Tribune's Stanley Johnston revealed the navy's secret, and how he escaped prosecution.

Johnston had been aboard the ill-fated Lexington which sank in the battle of the Coral Sea, was taken aboard another ship which rushed north to participate in the battle of Midway, and while on this ship he learned the navy knew in advance the Japs were preparing to attack Midway and that we even knew the names of every ship in the Jap fleet.

Chicago Tribune Prosecuted

After landing in the United States, where he was not subject to naval consorship, Johnston wrote and the Chicago Tribune published a story regarding this, even naming the complete list of Jap ships. This was information which U. S. naval officers obviously would not have obtained without being able to decode Jap secret messages, and the navy hit the ceiling.

Adm. Ernest King, commander of the fleet, called at the White House and demanded that the Tribune be closed down. He pointed out that the Japs were sure to change their code, and thus we would lose one of our most priceless wartime assets.

Secretary of the Navy Knox, owner of the Chicago Daily News, an opposition paper to the Tribune, was loath to prosecute. So was Roosevelt. He feared it would look like an attack on his severest newspaper critic. The navy, however, insisted. So William D. Mitchell, republican attorney general under Hoover, was selected to present the case to a Chicago grand jury.

What finally happened during that trial has never been revealed. The navy, which had been insistent in demanding the prosecution, suddenly backed down. It refused to let Mitchell tell the grand jury about the secret Jap codes and the fact that the Tribune's disclosure tipped off the Japs that we were breaking them down.

See WASHINGTON . . . Page 6

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

In California a former film star divorced her producer husband, charging mental cruelty. As proof, she told the judge her husband's bickering frightened away the servants and she had to do her own housework.

Now that—any housewife will agee—is cruelty of an extreme degree.

But the husbands who have had their home life run to suit one or more servants during the current shortage are bound to feel the Hollywood husband was something of a hero.

For the average man, whose wife has held help through the last few years, has found that he couldn't call his soul his own in his own home.

He was hushed promptly by a terrified wife if he started to complain because the new maid had hidden his shirts again, or straightened up his desk.

He didn't dare complain about a meal—no matter how poorly it was cooked. Not only that, he was prompted to "Say something nice to Susie about the dinner," and managed to do it even when the meat tasted like leather and the biscuits were light as a brick.

If he were to be an hour late to dinner, it was cooked at the regular time and served cold by the little woman. For after all, you can't ask a maid to stay over-time—not these days.

And he knew good and well he had better not bring an unexpected guest home to share the evening meal—not because of Mama's wrath, but because Susie wouldn't show up for work next day.

So a husband who dared to frighten servants must look to the average husband whose wife has kept a maid through the war like a man of great courage.

For he has been more considerate of Susie's feelings than of his wife's, because his wife has made it clear that however he might talk to her, he had better talk nice to Susie.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—P. S. On the army's Pearl Harbor investigation report. Cynical reserve and national guard officers say the findings simply show that the WPPA is still powerful in army politics. WPPA, in case you don't recognize the initial designation, stands for West Point Protective association. Neither Gen. George C. Marshall nor Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, who was in command at Hawaii when the Japs struck, is a West Pointer. Marshall was graduated from Virginia Military institute. Short was appointed a second lieutenant from civilian life, after his graduation from University of Illinois in 1901.

Back in private life, Nelson Rockefeller is expected to make some connection that will enable him to continue work in improving Latin-American understanding, in which he is sincerely interested. Truth is he would have liked it if Secretary of State Byrnes had asked him to stay on as an assistant secretary of state in charge of Latin-American affairs. Just before his resignation was accepted, a C. I. O. official came to Rockefeller, told him the C. I. O. leadership thought he was doing a good job, asked him if he wanted to stay in government. Assured that he did, the C. I. O. sent an emissary to Byrnes to recommend Rockefeller's retention. It was a bad political move, and it may have sealed Rockefeller's fate. The C. I. O. political action committee, alone, had been responsible for stopping Byrnes as a vice-presidential candidate.

G. O. P. National Chairman Herbert Brownell's recent speech, giving the impression that the republican goal in congress will be to "demand a full public statement on administration policies," then sit back and criticize—isn't the whole story. Republican congressmen will be expected to do much more than criticize the Truman program. G. O. P. strategists are at work on a program of their own, are expected to come out swinging to have as much of it adopted as they can.

John L. Lewis's statement before Senator Wagner's banking committee, suggesting reduction of the work week as one method of spreading jobs so as to obtain full employment, may indicate the line post-war labor demands may be expected to take. The present demand is to increase basic wage rates to give the war-time 48-hours pay for the 40-hour week. Next logical step would be to reduce the work week to the miners' basic 36 hours, or even to 30 or 32 hours, without reduction of the new 40-hour pay levels. Such a drive would be based on the assumption that technological advances have increased the productivity of workmen to such an extent that they can now turn out as much work in 30 hours as they used to do in 50 or 60. Back of all labor programs there is, of course, the drive for the guaranteed annual wage. Coupled with increased social security, it all sounds like something out of the millenium. Labor regards it as more protection against depression. Take your pick.

Secretary of State Byrnes, on the eve of departure for the London meeting of the Big Four foreign ministers, confided to correspondents he thought he was through with compromising when he left the senate, but had found he isn't. Byrnes has his own plan for London meeting proceedure, but may have to give ground on it. His idea is to let the technical experts work up data on the Italian situation, Germany, the Balkans and other questions, find all the points they can agree on. The points of disagreement can then be submitted to the foreign ministers for decision. Such a program, if adopted, would let the London conference wind up in short order. Trying to solve the whole European problem as one big issue might make the conference drag on for months.

Senator James E. Murray's small business committee now has a staff of nearly 50 economists and investigators. They have been at work all summer and may be expected to come up with any number of proposals. A sweeping report on reorganization of the aluminum industry is ready for submission to congress. For month's Murray's experts have been digging into the construction industry situation, hoping to find ways to stabilize its fluctuations. Chief of Murray's staff is Dr. Dewey Anderson, former secretary of the temporary national economic committee, who is being considered as a candidate for congress from California in 1946.

Side Glances

"I found out what that smell was in the cellar, dear—the dog probably has been watching you and he's hoarding some dead mice in the coal pile!"

• McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. McKENNEY — America's Card Authority

HAND WINS WOMAN MASTER TITLE

When Miss Ruth Sherman of New York won the national hixed team of-four championship, she collected all her rating points; and all together she gained enough points to become Life Master No. 45, the sixth woman to attain this honor.

North: ♠ 2 ♥ J 10 8 5 ♦ J 9 2 ♣ K Q 7 5 2
West: ♠ 6 5 4 ♥ Q 9 7 4 ♦ K 8 7 ♣ J 10 4
East: ♠ 10 9 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 10 6 5 3 ♣ A 9 8 6 3
South (Dealer): ♠ A K Q J 8 7 3 ♥ A K 6 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ None

Duplicate—Neither vul.

South	West	North	East
2 ♠	Pass	2 N. T.	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 N. T.	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening—♠ 6.

If Miss Sherman had attempted to play today's hand at six spades, she probably would have been defeated. While she held seven spades and only four hearts, she was correct in bidding the slam in hearts.

The opening spade lead was won with the jack and two rounds of spades, discarding two diamonds from dummy. Now the losing diamond could be ruffed and all West could make was the queen of hearts. At spades a diamond and a heart would probably have been lost.

Questions & Answers

Q—What is the estimated strength of America's peacetime navy?

A—Senator Walsh, chairman of the senate naval affairs committee, recently set the figure at 500,000.

Q—How do Japanese trace the lineage of the emperor they worship?

A—Japs believe Hirohito is the 124th direct ruling descendant of the Sun Goddess Amaterasu, a lineage that goes back over 2600 years.

Q—What percentage of increase did receipts of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis show this year over 1944?

A—More than 50 per cent — 1945 March of Dimes totaled $16,589,874, as compared with receipts of $10,973,491 last year.

Q—We know the southern European river as the "Danube." What other names is it known by?

A—Germans call it the Donau; Czechs the Dunaj; Hungarians the Duna; Yugoslavs and Bulgarians as the Dunav; Rumanians the Dunarea, and Russians as the Dunai.

• IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago

Workmen are repairing the swimming tank in the Y. M. C. A. and expect to be ready so that the ladies can resume their classes soon.

Excavation for the Beaver creek dam which will store flood waters next spring and every other spring thereafter to protect the municipal water service during the dry months, was completed last night.

Fifteen Years Ago

In a project that is in line with national and state government advice to face unemployment facts squarely, the La Grande Salvation Army will establish a free employment bureau here.

Feminine golfers from Baker took an emphatic beating from the La Grande team on the country club course here today.

Ten Years Ago

The latest developments in news transmission were made available today to the Observer and its many readers when the Associated Press practically doubled the speed of its circuits to the 12 leased wire newspapers in Oregon.

Heretofore Oregon members outside of Portland have received their telegraphic news on automatic telegraph circuits capable of only 35 words a minute. Today the transmitters and receivers were advanced to 60 words a minute, the speed at which the largest metropolitan newspapers on the circuit receive their copy.

This Curious World

NEXT: The disappearing whooping crane.