

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Many Things Can Happen While One Is Vacationing



TODAY'S TEXT

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.—Isaiah 1:15.

Getting Acquainted With the Japs

We began the war against Japan with an appalling lack of understanding and interest concerning our enemy. The end of the war finds those deficiencies only slightly remedied among the stay-at-homes. What knowledge civilian America has acquired has been supplied by the Japs themselves in a series of painful lessons.

It now seems necessary that those lessons continue. Americans in and out of government might well bone up on Japanese history, economy, character and thought. With the help of the press there should be plenty of opportunity to acquire some belated knowledge, if we only take heed.

We were fooled by Japanese industrial capacity and by Japanese military efficiency and long-range planning. We laughed at the little buck-toothed, bespectacled Jap soldiers. We thought that because the allied high command chose to "beat Hitler first," the Japanese war was a secondary matter.

A lot of things corrected these misconceptions. Among them were the series of sweeping Jap conquests from the Aleutians to the approaches of Australia, and the fantastically determined defenses of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo and Okinawa.

And we are still learning, as occupy-

ing forces uncover new facts within the Japanese homeland itself. They have discovered the elaborate defenses of the Tokyo area that would have made a Japanese invasion perhaps the bloodiest operation of its kind in history.

They have learned from rescued prisoners a depth of Japanese cruelty which matches the bestiality of Himmler and his kind, and the barbarism of Dachau and Buchenwald. They have heard and we at home have read stories of torture, starvation, incessant beatings and criminal neglect which disclose an insatiable sadistic appetite on the part of soldiers and civilians alike.

This much at least we have learned of the baffling, ambitious, proud, half-savage people who, having been defeated, must now be trained to live in a world that likes to think of itself as civilized. There will be more to learn of the recent enemy who still shows himself to be deceitful, dishonest and vindictive.

There may be many redeeming qualities in the native Japanese which will show themselves in time. But before that happens their minds must be freed from the shackles of a feudalistic, emperor-worshipping society which persisted throughout the country's economic modernization.

That process is going to take understanding, tact and firmness. It will be accompanied for a long time by danger. Meanwhile the American people, helped by returned servicemen who have known the Japs at first hand, can actively strive to rescue themselves from the ignorance which once gave rise to an almost fatal complacency.

Funny Business



SO THEY SAY

The many problems accruing through our transition from wartime economy to one of peace cannot be solved successfully if the 48 state legislatures adopt widely conflicting or competing methods of assistance and control.

—Gov. Walter E. Edge of New Jersey.

The United States stands alone among the great powers as still firmly committed to individual initiative in the economic field.

—Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Knowledge has become so vast that no one mind can comprehend it, and it is well for a person to content himself with competence in one great field.

—Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, president, Vassar college.

Mexico is awake and Mexico will carry on her revolution.

—Manuel Avila Camacho, president of Mexico.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Even the army's friends on Capitol Hill say the brass hats are killing any chance for public support they might have had by their autocratic disregard for civilian needs in such fields as coal mining, steelmaking and railroading.

One of the busiest railroads in the country today is the Southern Pacific, which has handled most of the east-west traffic to the busy port of San Francisco. The S. P. is a single-track line able to carry its huge volume only by scheduling trains at 10-minute intervals round the clock. In order to maintain this schedule, it requires a huge crew of crack trainmen, repair men and other skilled workers. It has done pretty well even in the past year, although there was a recent bottleneck near El Paso which resulted in the holding up of 75 trains.

Southern Pacific officials have been begging the army to release skilled railroad men with the 80 points required for discharge, or to furlough railroad men in this country with less points.

Finally in mid-summer the army agreed to release 4,000 railroad men, with 2,400 of them assigned to the S. P. But then the army began going back on its promise and said it could discharge only 1,300 men. A few weeks ago, the army released 230 men to the Southern Pacific and said no more were available. The joker is the 24,000 men have gone into the armed forces from the S. P. employment roster.

Finally, war mobilizer Snyder stepped in and forced the army to release 4,000 railroad men, amidst loud squawks from brass hats that this action would destroy morale.

Here is one illustration of how the discharge of high-point veterans was being held back in the army—in this case Morrison Field, at Palm Beach, Fla. Morrison Field happens to be under the command of Col. Richard T. Knight, the pilot who flew Wendell Willkie around the world and who also flew Henry Wallace through Siberia to China.

Colonel knight is 32 years old and an excellent pilot. And apparently he liked the army—which, considering his age and rank, certainly has treated him well. So he thinks

enlisted men should stay in the army too.

For on Aug. 21, when Colonel Knight got orders from Washington that all 85-point men should be discharged regardless of their technical specialty, the 32-year-old commander hit the ceiling. The rest of the day he spent burning up the wires to Washington, contending he could not operate if he discharged 85-point men.

Many men at Morrison Field, who had not done one real day's work a week, were furious. Colonel Knight is supposed to repair planes brought back from India for the air transport command. But enlisted men say his operation is so disorganized they are idle half the time and some of the planes have to be flown all the way to Long Beach for repairs instead.

Capitol Chaff

When radio station WOL, Washington, advertised for a new radio personality to broadcast a news program to be known as "the Voice of Washington," a Latin-American diplomat and a representative of the French government were among the large number of important government personnel, cab drivers, theater managers, servicemen and others who responded. Francisco Banda, until recently Ecuadorian consul-general in New Orleans, was one of the applicants.

President Truman will soon issue a statement favoring federally-sponsored scientific research. The British plan to help occupy Japan with a division composed of top English officers, enlisted men from Canada, Australia and South Africa, has been knocked into a cocked hat by the Canadians. So now English officers will command Australian and South African troops with the Canadians absent.

On Pennsylvania Avenue

Army training films and educational films, which were being burned until this column exposed the practice last May, will now be distributed among the nation's schools. Along with them will go millions of dollars worth of surplus projection equipment, sound equipment and other apparatus used to have a great effect on the little red schoolhouse of the future. Valuable army radio equipment will also be offered the schools

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Paris has made an unconventional concession to the current housing shortage, which apparently is as bad there as in the overcrowded cities in the United States.

The Paris Court of Appeals has ruled that divorced couples can continue living under the same roof so long as one of them is unable to find separate quarters.

That sounds like good, practical common sense.

A man and woman who once lived as man and wife ought to be able to share a house or apartment without difficulty.

For unlike most people who are forced to share the same roof with others because of a housing shortage—the divorced couple already know the worst about each other.

The woman knows the man's taste in radio programs—and whether or not he plays the contraption far into the night.

The man knows whether or not the woman hangs her washed and dripping unmentionables all over the bathroom. And she knows

whether or not he hangs up his towels and scrubs the tub.

It is such petty things that make trouble between apartment mates.

Furthermore, if the two are amiable a shared roof could work out advantageously for both. In return for the woman's continuing to look after the man's laundry, perhaps even continuing to cook his meals, he could mow the lawn and fix leaky faucets and do other such odd jobs about the house. With the "help" situation being as bad as the housing shortage, that ought to be quite a consideration.

Only trouble is, it will probably be hard for the average couple, used to the casual or complete lack of manners in marriage, to start treating each other with deference and consideration without which no two persons not tied by the bonds of holy wedlock can manage to get along under one roof.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—For a true gauge of the difference between Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, get out Roosevelt's message to the first session of 79th congress last January and compare it with Truman's message to the second session eight months later.

There wasn't anything in Truman's message that Roosevelt hadn't advocated before. But oh, what a difference in the emphasis and in the way of saying it. The literary styles of the two men are as different as day and night, and that gives an insight into their characters. Roosevelt's sentences were apt to be long, with a lot of dependent phrases and clauses—some of them set off by dashes—and a good many semicolons; for Roosevelt was rather proud and conscious of his style, and the fine images and flights of fancy with which he polished off the work of his ghosts.

Truman's sentences are short. Few sentences run over 30 words. Truman's paragraphs are short, often single sentences.

He uses few adjectives and they're the first ones within stab of his pen. It's an economical style. "This flies in the face of sound public policy," is the most extravagant figure of speech you'll find in the message.

Keeping in mind the radio voices of Roosevelt and Truman, contrast the way they express similar ideas. Last January, Roosevelt said this:

"Peace can be made and kept only by the United determination of free and peace-loving peoples who are willing to work together—willing to help one another—willing to respect and tolerate and try to understand one another's opinions and feelings—international cooperation on which enduring peace must be based is not a one-way street."

Truman says it like this.

"We must turn from economic cooperation in war to economic cooperation in peace. Our objective is to enable the peace-loving nations of the world to become self-supporting in a world of expanding freedom and rising standards of living."

Get the difference in emphasis. That stands out still more than when their ex-

pressions on full employment are compared.

Roosevelt—"After the war we must maintain full employment, with government maintaining its peace-time functions. . . . We must make sure that private enterprise works as it is supposed to work—on the basis of initiative and vigorous competition, without the stifling presence of monopolies and cartels."

Truman—"To provide jobs we must look first and foremost to private enterprise—to industry, agriculture and labor. Government must inspire enterprise with confidence. That confidence must come mainly through deeds, not words."

Roosevelt on housing—"The provision of a decent home for every family is a national necessity, if this country is to be worthy of its greatness; and that task will itself create great employment opportunity. Most of our cities need rebuilding. Much of our farm plant is in a state of disrepair."

Truman on housing—"There is wide agreement that, over the next 10 years, there should be built in the United States an average of from a million to a million and a half homes a year. Such a program would provide an opportunity for private capital to invest from six to seven billion dollars annually. . . . We must make it possible for private enterprise to do the major part of this job. . . . federal aid should be extended only to those communities which are willing to bear a fair share of the cost."

Roosevelt on tax reform—"As an integral part of this (tax modification) program to maintain high employment, we must, after the war is over, reduce or eliminate taxes which bear too heavily on consumption."

Truman on tax modernization—"Major objective of this modernization should be the encouragement of business incentives and expansion, and of consumer purchasing power."

If you will compare closely the philosophies expressed in these and other passages in the two messages, it may strike you forcibly that the country has come a very long way in a very short time.

Side Glances



"No, Steve never has led the class like you did, Oscar, but he's my choice for quarterback—he owns the football!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

COUNT, SQUEEZE HELPS THIS HAND

While Sylvester Gintell of New York has won some team championships in the past, his first major pair victory was in the national men's pair championship this year with Lee Hazen.

Hazen		Gintell	
♠ 43	♠ A J 10 5	♠ K 10 2	♠ A Q J 9 5
♥ 63	♥ J 4 3 2	♥ K Q 9 8 7 2	♥ K 10 9 6
♦ 87	♦ A Q 5	♦ A Q 5	♦ K J 8
♣ 10 9 7 6	♣ 3 2	♣ 4	♣ 4
Duplicate—Both vul.		Duplicate—Both vul.	
South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	Pass
Opening—♠ 8.		13	

Gintell certainly counted today's hand down nicely to execute a good squeeze play and make this contract.

East won the opening spade lead with the ace and returned the trump. Dummy's 10-spot won and the ace picked up the other adverse trump. At this point Gin-

BARBS

As Yanks roll into Tokyo the Jap citizens are beginning to realize that they've been whitelined down to their own sighs.

Now if they would just add another ingredient to DDT that will keep fingerprints off the wallpaper.

General MacArthur made clean, clear, blotless signatures with all five pens he used on the Jap surrender terms. None of the pens came from the post office department.

Towels are coming back on the market. Good news for the hotels and the Pullman washrooms.

The boys who went to war gave their country first consideration. Their return calls for the same from their country.

tell took the diamond finesse. When it held, he decided he could not be lucky enough to have the club finesse work too, so he played out all his trumps. East found himself squeezed. In order to hold diamonds, he had to blank down to his king of clubs. Gintell led the club, went up with the ace, dropped East's king, and the club queen again squeezed East.

IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago—

Some 75 couples were shrewd enough to foresee a very enjoyable evening on the La Grande tennis club's court last night when that institution gave an informal dancing party. The event, the first of its kind ever presented in La Grande, was a success from every angle.

A map showing considerable detail about auto roads in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada, with a large map of California, has reached the Observer office and may be consulted by anyone contemplating a trip to any part of these states.

Fifteen Years Ago—

The purchase of the Enterprise city park by the county for delinquent taxes and the subsequent sale of the tax title to F. R. Asher for \$55.25 was all based on an error in county records, and is wholly invalid, it was announced today.

Ten Years Ago—

The roads and highways committee of La Grande Commercial club yesterday afternoon submitted five proposed road improvement projects in this section to the state highway commission and engineers. In the main, the commission took the proposals under consideration for future decision.

Sounding an aggressive call for Oregon to unite and rally fully to its industrial, economic and agricultural possibilities, and in almost the same breath, assuring this section that it will receive its share, Gov. Charles H. Martin last night addressed more than 300 Union county people at a dinner given in his honor.

This Curious World



ANSWER: An insect pest. NEXT: The hot-foot alarm clock.