

# EDITORIAL PAGE

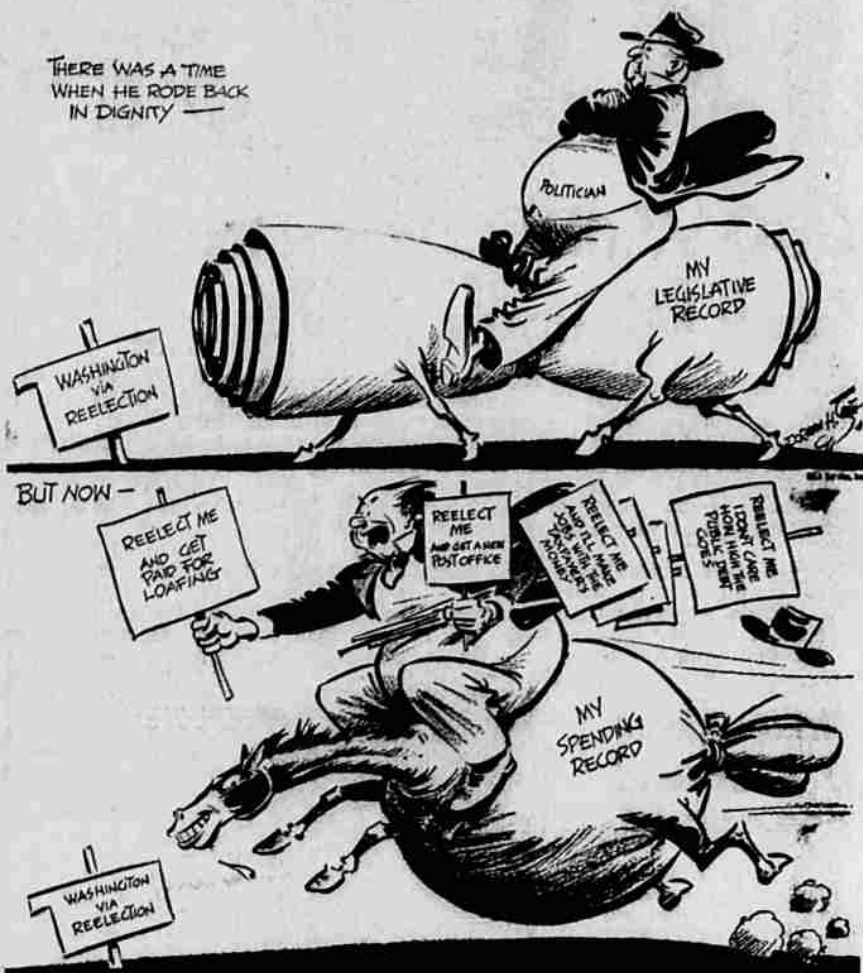
## La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

MONDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 24, 1945

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### Our Changing World



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

### The Twilight of Europe

When a head of state embarks on a rule-or-ruin project, as Adolf Hitler did, he has at least one comforting assurance: the project can't be entirely unsuccessful.

Hitler's war, while it failed to establish the rule of a "New Order," did a pretty thorough job of ruining Europe. It took a staggering total of lives, agricultural lands, raw materials and industrial installations. It caused social and economic upheavals almost as complete as the political disintegration of Germany. And in doing these things it probably finished off the continent of Europe and the British Isles as the financial, political and intellectual hub of the world — a position they held for 2000 years and more.

The twilight of Europe is painfully apparent today. It can be seen in Washington, where representatives of the once proud and mighty British Empire are pleading for the American money which might assure the Empire's economic survival. It can be seen even more clearly in London at the Council of Foreign Ministers.

There the conflict of prestige and political morals is between Russia and the United States — Russia, which Hit-

ler hated and feared even more than he hated England, and the United States, which he considered decadent and divided.

Today the magnetic attraction of Russia's social system, studiously exploited by Russia's government, has pulled eastern Europe into her orbit.

Today the United States, physically unharmed by war, is the world's financial center. However distasteful capitalism may be to Europeans today — and it has been bitterly and ungenerously abused from London to Moscow — the fruits of a prosperous capitalistic system, which did so much to save England and Russia in their days of greatest peril, are now as compellingly attractive to them as the Russian political philosophy seems to be.

And so, thanks largely to Hitler, the paths of wealth and power, and eventually of culture and civilization, have turned east and west from the familiar countryside of Europe.

Europe will retain her monuments and cultural heritage of antiquity, her pride and jealousies and discontent. But it is doubtful that she can ever again exert the power that has molded history since the Roman Empire.

So it behooves the dominant states of Russia and America to live and work together, to profit by the endless struggles which brought Europe to her present state, to reach an effective compromise in their possession of world power despite their ideological differences.

Otherwise Hitler will have won the war.

### Funny Business



"Could a man who's been splitting atoms get a cup of coffee?"

### SO THEY SAY

The family is the basis of society and it is to the interest of the government that the families (of servicemen) be reunited as soon as possible.  
 —Rep. John W. McCormick of Massachusetts.

Ninety percent of the people who come into Magistrate's court are not criminals. They merely are victims of our social-economic setup and only need our help.  
 —Magistrate Maurice Simmonds, New York City.

Ford should reach the low point of its employment within the next 10 days, and thereafter jobs should increase steadily until peak production is reached early in 1946.  
 —Henry Ford, 3rd.

Europe is a unit and must remain so. On no account must a system be evolved that would divide Europe.  
 —Georges Bidault, French Foreign minister.

# Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DEWE PEARSON

WASHINGTON—If congress is really interested in investigating military efficiency rather than in political recrimination, it will probe the disastrous Battle of the Bulge as well as Pearl Harbor.

Casualties at Pearl Harbor were only around 3,000. But casualties in the Battle of the Bulge totalled around 60,000. And just as Pearl Harbor set us back in the Pacific, so the Battle of the Bulge delayed victory in Europe. General Eisenhower had hoped to finish Germany in the winter, possibly by Christmas, but losses during the first two weeks of the Ardennes offensive helped drag out the war.

How many extra American lives were lost as a result is not known. But what is known is that U. S. supply officers immediately placed huge orders for more tanks, more artillery, more of almost everything as a result of the heavy supply losses in the Bulge. That is one reason why acres and acres of supplies are scattered over the country today.

What never leaked out at the time of the battle is, that 20,000 U. S. infantry troops were flown straight from the United States into the Bulge. Losses were so heavy and men so tired sufficient shock troops were not available in Europe. It was the longest air-borne troop carrying feat in history.

Also it never leaked out certain U. S. intelligence officers in Washington warned the Bulge attack was coming, and that nothing was done to prepare for it. These are a few of the things congress could investigate with profit to future military efficiency. Here are some more.

**Nazi Captives Talk**

Congress doesn't know it, though the army does, that captured German officers have now thrown significant light on the Belgian Bulge operation.

They have testified the Bulge operation was planned as early as November (though it didn't get started until Dec. 16). It was planned by Hitler himself. General generals were taken by a circuitous route to Hitler's headquarters, then near Frankfurt, where they were searched and placed in chairs four feet apart.

Remembering how one colonel brought in a bomb concealed in a brief case at the last staff meeting Hitler took no chances. His gестапо men wanted to be able to see both sides of the chair in which each general sat; also, didn't want the generals to

know exactly where Hitler's headquarters were.

Hitler then unfolded his plan. The generals debated whether the German army could squeeze enough gasoline and supplies from other operations to start the Bulge attack. Most of the generals were opposed. They thought the idea was sheer suicide. But Hitler's mad fanaticism decreed this one last attempt must be made to break the American line and get through to Brussels.

**Nazis Understood "Nuts"**

Lieut. Gen. Kurt von Manteuffel was among those who left the meeting heartsick. Before beginning the offensive he went to see his wife and children to tell them he never expected to see them again. Later he was to surprise himself by getting as far as Bastogne, where he sent the message to Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, to surrender. McAuliffe's now famous reply was, "nuts," and General Manteuffel has since told U. S. interviewers that he understood quite well what "nuts" meant.

Another German opposed to the Belgian Bulge campaign was the man generally credited with master-minding it—Field Marshal Kurt von Rundstedt. Last December, American correspondents cabled accounts of von Rundstedt had planned and led the Ardennes attack. But when interviewers asked him about the Belgian Bulge, he gruffly replied:

"Do not connect me with that operation. That was Model."

Von Rundstedt was referring to Field Marshal General Walter von Model, his colleague on the western front, who had been strong for Hitler's plan to catch the American army off-base.

Despite the opposition of regular German army officers, Hitler guessed shrewdly in picking the time and place for his attack. Tragic inside fact, however, is that U. S. forces would not have been caught napping if the advice of two war department colonels in Washington had been taken; also the advice of the assistant secretary of war, John McCloy.

**Washington Have no Advice**

McCloy, looking at the map of the western front several days before the Germans launched their surprise attack and noting the thinly spread American forces in the Ardennes forest, remarked that he thought this was taking a chance. Members of the

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"Pop, why don't you try to look like these Marines in the comic strips?"

### McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

**TOUGH NO TRUMP NEEDS FEELER PLAYS**

When Aaron Goodman and Samuel Gold of Montreal came to the summer nationals this year, we were reminded that only a few years ago a Canadian team won the national team-of-four title. Goodman and Gold made a fine showing in the World Championship Masters Pairs this year. With just a little better luck they

might have won it. They finished tenth in a field of 90 pairs of the world's outstanding bridge players.

In telling me about today's hand, Gold said, "When the dummy went down, I knew I had a difficult contract to make. When I won the opening heart lead with the jack, I knew I had to keep North from getting into the lead. First I cashed the king and queen of clubs to find out if the jack and ten would fall. When this failed, I decided to take the spade finesse. In order to do so I led a small diamond. I could not take the diamond finesse, because of the danger of losing all the

Goodman	▲ Q 8 4 2	▲ A 4 J 6
▲ K 9 7	▲ 9 5 3 2	▲ K J 6
▲ 8	▲ K	▲ J 7 5 4
▲ A Q 10 9	▲ 10 7 6	▲ 2
3	▲ 10 5 3	▲ K Q
▲ A 9 8 4	▲ A Q 10 7 4	
	▲ 8 6	
	▲ 5 3 2	
Duplicate—Neither vul.		
South	West	North
Pass	1	Pass
Pass	2	Pass
Opening—♥ 7.		
		25

### IN FORMER YEARS

**Thirty Years Ago**

The north side of town was reported building up as fast as other sections of La Grande, according to contractor George R. Lyman. Several new houses were at the moment in procession of completion, at Y avenue and North Ash, on north Birch and on Z avenue. Frank W. Pattison, A. E. O'Brien and W. A. Smeal were contractors.

Thirty-eight persons bought round-trip tickets to Pendleton to the Round-up.

Enough chicken and other delicacies to feed 20 persons were stolen from the K. of P. hall early in the morning after a banquet given by the Royal Neighbors.

**Fifteen Years Ago**

Gertrude Bell of Cove made an all time record in the open class of the Oregon state fair by winning highest honors senior and grand championship on her Jersey cow, Allen Mills and Herbert Blokland each won first in beef classes.

Four forest fires started earlier in the week in the county. The fires were below Cabin creek near Palmer Junction, near Glover crossing and west of Elgin.

**Ten Years Ago**

Rep. Walter Pierce, speaking at the Sacajawea, announced himself in favor of the Townsend plan. Registration at Eastern Oregon Normal indicated a large increase. Bids on regrading and surfacing 4.28 miles of the Rock creek-Wallowa section of the Wallowa lake highway were to be taken.

# WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Mrs. G. I. who was a good sport all through the war is about fed up.

While her husband risked his life overseas and she ran the risk of being left alone to support and bring up her children you didn't hear her complain.

She went about the job of being both father and mother as cheerfully as she could, all the while striving not only to keep up her own morale but the morale of her husband overseas. Without bitterness she accepted sacrifices that only part of the population was called upon to make.

But the war is over now, and she wants her husband back. She knows her children have suffered emotionally from having a father taken from them. She knows it is going to take plenty of time for the children and their father to become adjusted to each other, after a long separation during which the father has had no responsibility for the children and they have learned to

make a mother the whole center of their existence.

She knows that the sooner her husband gets back into civilian life, the better off the family will be financially. And a man's career is important when there are children to be educated.

So she is tired of being a good sport and putting her country ahead of her family.

She wants her man back home. And it burns her up to think she knows no more about when that will be than she did when the war was going on. "They don't tell us a thing," her husband writes. And, "I haven't the slightest idea when I will get home."

Mrs. G. I. is fed up with that kind of treatment. She figures that at this point nobody needs a father more than his kids. And if the government doesn't want a new pressure group on its hands it had better consider Mrs. G. I. Joe. Her patience can't be counted on indefinitely. In fact, it has just about run out.

# Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Everytime a newly-appointed public official comes to Washington, the quaint old capital custom is to stand the poor character up at a press conference so as to let the boys and girls look him over. It's an ordeal only slightly less trying than the death march on Bataan. The poor victim is propped up like a duck on a rock and trick questions are heaved at him like dornicks to see how he flinches. To keep him from being too badly bruised, he is usually surrounded by experienced hands in his department. But mostly the new man has to fend for himself. If he bounces back the brickbats as pearls of wisdom and in general, handle himself well, he's a good joe and he's in until further notice.

William Benton of Chicago was subjected to this hazing 24 hours after he was sworn in as assistant secretary of state. He turned out to be a medium sized gent with a nice voice, and a nice smile and a slight need of a haircut, unless he likes it that way.

The sour apple job that has been wished on Benton is to be in charge of public affairs. This doesn't mean he's to be in charge of public ceremonies. It means public relations, only to say it right out that way in the state department would never do. He is also to be responsible for supervision of the Office of international information and cultural affairs which hiccoughs into OIICA, and the interim international information office which stutters into IISO. What this all amounts to is that Benton's lot from here on is to sell the state department at home and abroad, and not short, either.

Judging from Benton's self-confessed record, he can sell anything—even the state department. The things he's sold before coming to Washington are unbelievable. He has sold advertising, the Encyclopedia Britannica, movies for school rooms, and muzac—the canned music they play at you with your meals to drown out the clatter of dish-

es and your own voice in restaurants that can't afford or haven't space for a live orchestra.

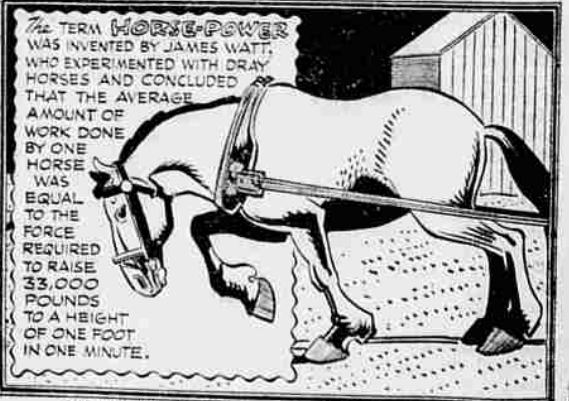
Benton's latest venture was in trying to sell "subscription radio," which is radio for entertainment and information only, without the commercials. It would have been a blessing if he had been able to put this over, and he would have been hailed as a public benefactor far and wide, but he was lured away from this worthy venture to go into the service of his government.

Benton is so good as a salesman that he even sold his name and got to keep it. That was when he pulled out of the advertising firm of Benton and Bowles about 10 years ago. His partner in this business, Chester Bowles, is the same Chester Bowles who has had to ell OPA. He's good too. But as to which is harder to sell—OPA or department of state, oh, you decide.

Benton says he has severed all his past and private business connections and from now on till he gets fired, or gives up, he will be strictly in the sales end of the diplomacy business. That's too bad. If he could have moved some of his past into that noble Victorian pile of building blocks which houses the department of state, think what an improvement it might have made. Every conference room wired for technicolor and sound advertising sale presentations for visual education on every wall. Lipstick, perfume and corset ad models all over the place.

Appropriate muzac for every international situation: Chopin's "Polonaise" while fixing the Curzon line. "Vienna Breeze" if the Russians weren't cooperating on Austria. A tango for the Argentine and "Song of India" when the independence issue comes up. Visiting diplomats might bring their own records. The British, here to negotiate a loan, could overture with "You Made Me What I Am Today, I Hope You're Satisfied."

### This Curious World



**Kwiz Komer**

I got my discharge papers yesterday and Am in civilian again at last! Today Am in the capital of the second smallest state in the Union. You're Elmer.

**WHERE'S ELMER**

ANSWER: Dover, Delaware.

NEXT: Where does the magnet get its name?