EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

Frank Schiro, Publisher

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There's No Place Like Home

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

Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father. — Proverbs 28:7.

Another 'Patton Incident'

The extraordinary sentiments which General Patton expressed in his first interview as military governor of Bavaria were disappointing, to say the least, but they are not entirely surprising.

War is quite a different thing to the military careerist. It is the field of an exacting profession, scientific in theory but individualistic in actual operation. As in any other profession, success demands certain natural aptitudes as well as thorough training.

Many professional officers have these qualifications. But only a comparative few combine with them an ability to see the broader aspects of war. These men realize that their own field of military science is simply the instrument by which political, social and economic differences are usually badly settled, and new political, social and economic resentments are usually born.

They are able to evaluate the causes that lead to war. They are able to gauge the desires and intentions and temperaments of enemy politicians and civilian populations as well as of enemy commanders. They are men of broad wisdom and broad sympathies, capable of being able statesmen as well as able soldiers.

We are fortunate in having some men of that sort in our army and navy. But General Patton obviously is not one of them.

Competent reporters credited the general with some statements at his Bavarian conference which, coming from the military governor of a recently defeated enemy, are frightening to read. He is quoted as having said that as far as he was concerned the Germans could run things as they saw fit politically, and as having implied that he would as soon have reactionary nationalists and nazis dominating Bavarian life as "a bunch of communists."

According to a New York Times correspondent, the general said he had "never seen the necessity of the denazification program," and that "this nazi thing is just like a democratic and republican election fight."

General Patton played a significant part in achieving victory in Europe. But it is clear from his statements that all underlying causes of that war were removed and all problems resolved with the signing of the German surrender.

If his present appointment was intended as a reward for his military services, it was an ill-advised gesture. His attitude is an exaggerated repetition of attitudes which led to the rise of Hitler. For the sake of the grateful esteem in which the American people have held him and, much more important, for the sake of peace in the future, General Patton should be given a different job.

Funny Business

"We don't need any gates since we bought that army jeep!"

● SO THEY SAY

The only possible way that Britain can obtain her place of world importance will be through shining as an example of freedom, of democracy and of fair-dealing.

—Sen. Robert F. Wagoner of New York.

If the program of rehabilitation is going to mean anything, it has got to come first from those bound by allegiance to God.

—Rev. Dr. Frederick S. Fleming, New York City.

Nearly 200 children of school age were killed in Ohio traffic accidents last year. Drivers, take it easy and safeguard our children!

—Cambridge, O., Jeffersonian.

If the world is to be comfortable and prosperous, industry and labor must produce to the best of their ability. Production, in the final analysis, is the key to full employment.

—Jacksonville, Fla., Journal.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — The fast-growing labor crisis presents Harry S. Truman with the first big problem he has faced. Up until now, most policies, especially those dealing with war and peace, had been pretty well established. In settling the current labor turmoil, however, Harry is on his own.

For some time, labor advice from White House insiders has differed. Truman's labor department has argued labor troubles after wars are inevitable, that both Wilson and Harding had to call out U. S. troops after the last war, that labor has been in strait jacket since Pearl Harbor, is bound to feel its oats now; finally that big business was equally in a strait jacket and equally willing to row with labor especially if it could get labor in wrong. Advice to Truman: Don't stick your neck out; let both sides battle it out for a while.

Opposite advice came from another wing of the White House . . . While admitting that all the above is true, other advisers urged both labor and industry needed guidance. For four years both labor and industry have had the little steel formula as their guide. They were supposed not to go above this . . . Now labor finds itself losing its overtime wages, with take-home pay dropping way below lush war days, yet with the cost of living still high. Therefore, Truman was urged to step forward and set a national policy, suggest a wage increase which would partly offset the drop in take-home pay . . . It is this group of advisers which Truman finally has decided follow.

Farmers vs. Labor Unions

Last week Florida citrus growers came to Washington, worried sick over the future market for grapefruit and oranges. They feared a return of the old days when their fruit was dumped into Florida rivers . . . The army has just cancelled orders for several million cases of orange juice. Simultaneously it has turned back on the civilian market several million more surplus cases. This backlog is bound to have a depressing effect on citrus fruit . . . Citrus fruit growers know that with wages dropping, the civilian demand for oranges and grapefruit will also nose-dive. When workmen get paid less, first thing they quit buying is fruit . . . Cattlemen also figure on a drop in prices. Not only will the army buy less, but workmen eat less meat when wages are cut . . . Same is true of many other farm commodities . . . Never before has the average American eaten so well—despite rationing— as during the war years, largely because wages were high . . . Seldom before also have farmers been so prosperous . . . Seldom before, however, have farmers been so sore at labor unions. They were looking forward to buying new autos, new farm machinery. Now all this is delayed by strikes. Also they were looking forward to the return of cheap labor. So far this hasn't materialized.

Unions Lose Money

Big industrial unions naturally don't want any trek back to the farm. It means loss of dues. The United Auto Workers' 1,000,000 dues-paying membership has now dropped to about half of that. The drop was so severe the cost of running the union went in the red . . . Some union leaders prefer strikes. It helps increase their power in the union . . . In Schenectady, General Electric's Charles E. Wilson long has advocated higher wages. He says it helps him sell electric refrigerators, electric irons, etc. He has been ready to make upward wage adjustments voluntarily, just as Standard Oil of N. J. increased its pay immediately and automatically at the end of the war . . . However, certain CIO electrical workers seem more interested in a strike than a voluntary or negotiated wage boost . . . Some labor leaders, unfortunately, seem deliberately looking for strikes—among them John L. Lewis. They bring disfavor on the heads of other labor leaders, have given the entire labor movement a bad setback with public opinion . . . Public opinion in some areas is now so anti-labor Truman would get thunderous applause if he called out U. S. troops as strike-breakers.

Profits Soar

Auto workers averaged $58 weekly in 1944 under a 48-hour week. Elimination of overtime now brings this down to $40 a week . . . In addition, now that government no longer foots the entire production bill, management is down-grading jobs, thus reducing higher-paid jobs . . . Incentive payment plans also are being dropped.

Average weekly wage in the oil refining industry was $58.23 in 1944. Most oil workers were on a 52-hour week, so are taking a bigger cut than auto workers as they go back to a 40-hour week . . . Many oil men got double pay for each hour after 48 . . . No one expects these lush wages to continue, but on the other hand, profits run up by certain war industries are on the books for everyone to see, and they irk labor . . . General Motors, now threatened with a strike, earned $244,000,000 in 1940. This shot up to $435,000,000 in 1944—before taxes . . . While taxes were heavy, General Motors net worth increased $235,092,444 during the war years . . . Steel profits weren't meager either. Between 1940 and 1944 they climbed 113 percent as against profits earned between 1935 and 1939 . . . During the war the steel industry made $1,225,000,000 compared with only $576,000,000 during the previous five years—after paying taxes . . . Phil Murray, CIO chief, also head of the Steel Workers union, has circulated these profits among his union members where a showdown is due soon.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

In a recent divorce case that received considerable newspaper publicity the wife charged that in her opinion her husband had a "dual personality."

Don't most husbands give that impression?

The clothes Jim encourages his wife to buy are quiet, sensible and practically guaranteed never to turn a masculine head.

But, "Not bad; not bad at all," he says when a girl in an eye-catching little number walks by.

Good old Bob thinks woman's place is in the home. At least that is what he tells his wife. He also says he doesn't know what he would do without his gem of a stenographer—who just happens to have beauty as well as brains.

Charlie puts up a good line about how he is going to miss the little woman when he goes to a convention in a far-away city. But he never misses one—and never has had the happy thought that he might take the little woman along.

Joe says he doesn't see why women like to get together and gossip at bridge parties. But he never misses his weekly poker game.

Dick is a genial host and a free spender away from home—but at home he doles out money with a reluctant hand and his wife doesn't dare say "It's a nice morning" until after he has had his second cup of coffee.

Herb says "Why did you let us in for that?" when he wife tells him she has accepted a dinner invitation—and then says "What's the hurry?" when she tries to get him to go home.

Dual personality a cause for divorce? Why there is something about marriage that makes a husband feel he has a perfect right to at least two personalities—one for outsiders and one for the little woman.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—So you're confused about the way things are going. So you'd like to get a picture of where you are at. So, you pick up the new quarterly report of the director of war mobilization and reconversion—meaning John W. Snyder—who is supposed to know and who is ordered by law to tell the president and congress what's what every three months.

The answer to "Where are we now?" is, unfortunately, never as simple as, for instance—up in Mabel's room, down in the cellar behind the axe, on top of cloud number eight, at the bottom of the deep blue sea, bound for heaven in a chariot or headed for hades in a hack. It would be a relief if one of these top drawer officials would some day pull out a report as understandable as that. This new report is shorter than most—which is a break—but still report with the usual economic palaver. As such, it is another report which congress will file and forget.

Trying to find the one key phrase that tells all, you come upon this:

". . . We are emerging from a taut economy into an economy of mobility."

Now you know. Or do you?

This economy of mobility apparently has no reference to the fact that Oct. 1 is national moving day or that on Oct. 1, the clocks were all moved back one hour. There's a lot more to it than that. As the report says, this is the period of paradoxes, business expansion while business contraction is going on; increasing employment while there is increased unemployment, inflation where there is deflation. In short, nobody knows where we're going but we're on our way.

As a matter of fact, farther back in the report there is one section, Chapter V, which is headed "On Our Way." But, it says right in the first paragraph that with only 47 days having elapsed since the capitulation of Japan, "It is too early to make a definite progress report."

Right below that is a sub-heading, "Clues to Progress." So that's the way it is. They don't come right out and tell you where you're going. They just give you clues and you have to figure it out for yourself by recognizing the surroundings. Two of the clues are worth special mention:

"Industry has not been hampered by red tape or the continuance of production controls."

That'll be news to some of the industry boys still hanging around Washington to spray DDT on OPA and WPB.

Then it says, "Washing machines, refrigerators and even a few automobiles have been put on display."

Well, you can look at 'em and order 'em, even if you can't yet buy 'em.

Strikes aren't mentioned in this report, so they probably don't exist. It does say, though, that with collective bargaining being increasingly restored, it is to be expected there will be "differences."

The report makes another nice distinction by referring to "disemployment." That's a lot politer than saying "unemployment."

Elsewhere the report admits frankly there may be eight million unemployed.

But on the whole it is optimistic. It says the peace time goal is full employment . . .

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Side Glances

"How much good did this algebra do for Pop? He doesn't remember enough of it to know he ever even took it!"

● McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. McKENNEY — America's Card Authority

COUNT YOUR TRICKS! BEST BRIDGE BET

One of the most difficult lessons for players to learn is the simple one of counting tricks. They will try all kinds of complicated plays to make the contract, when the simple principle of counting is all that is involved. Today's hand is an example.

North: ♠ A J 6 5 ♥ A 7 ♦ 4 ♣ K J 8 7 5 2

West: ♠ 9 8 2 ♥ 3 ♦ K J 9 7 ♣ 5 3 2 ♣ A 4

East: ♠ 10 7 4 3 ♥ 8 5 4 2 ♦ 6 ♣ Q 10 6 3

South: ♠ K Q ♥ K Q J 10 9 6 ♦ A Q 10 8 ♣ 9

Dealer: South. Rubber—East-West vul.

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	Pass

Opening—♣ A.

On the second club trick, declarer made the natural discard of a diamond, then led the ace and another diamond, ruffed with the seven in dummy, and East overruffed with the eight.

If South had counted his tricks, he would have known that he could make six heart tricks, the ace of diamonds, the king of clubs, a diamond ruffed with the ace of heart, and three spade tricks. He could not make more, because the opponents had cashed the ace of clubs. His correct play at trick four, therefore, was to lead the diamond, trump with the heart ace, pick up the trumps, cash the king of spades, then lead the spade queen and overtake with the ace. The last diamond can be discarded on the jack of spades.

● BARBS

An auto salesman is the only one who can make a car climb a hill backward in neutral.

Britain hasn't had a shipment of bananas for five long years.

Imagine learning all over again to try and avoid slipping on the skins.

In these days of meat rationing, never leave undone today what should have been cooked.

A movie strike in Cleveland left would-be theater goers in the dark. Just like the plots of some some of the movies we've seen.

● IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago

La Grande felt little of the earthquake which last night distinctly rattled houses and trembled trains at Baker, hit Spokane and a dozen cities in California, as well as Huntington and Ontario.

Wallowa river is to have irrigation right adjudicated shortly. Water Commissioner James Chinnock of Salem was in La Grande this morning on his way to Enterprise to initiate further steps toward this end.

Fifteen Years Ago

Bids were opened last night at the city commission meeting on paving district No. 201, providing for the paving of the alley in the block bounded by Depot, Fourth, Washington and Adams.

La Grande high school, at the beginning of October, shows a gain of 48 students over the same period last year, according to a report made by Principal E. D. Towler. Of the 649 students now enrolled, 331 are girls and 318 are boys.

Ten Years Ago

The new 11,000 feet of metal pipeline installed on the Beaver creek pipeline this summer is to be hooked into the system within the next few days, City Manager Angus McAllister stated today, although he added that the flow of water from Beaver creek will be shut off completely for several days to allow the hook-in.

A city budget, calling of $1,192.50 less taxes than were levied for 1935, was tentatively adopted by the budget committee following the city commission meeting last night.

This Curious World

Kwiz Korner

MANY TOWNS HAVE NAMES INDICATING THE FACT THAT THEY ARE ON STATE LINES!

ARKANA, LOUISIANA
CALEXICO, CALIFORNIA
ARKOMA, OKLAHOMA
TENNGA, GEORGIA
TEXHOMA, OKLAHOMA
KENOVA, WEST VA.
TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS
TEXICO, NEW MEXICO
... AND OTHERS

10-4

DO ALL INSECTS HAVE FOUR WINGS?

ANSWER: No. Some have four, others have two, and still others have none at all.

NEXT: Wild geese and their flying wedge.