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EDITORIAL PAGE

LA GRANDE OBSERVER

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"Without or with friend or foe, we print your daily world as it goes"—Byron.

RILEY ALLEN, publisher

Grady Pannell, managing editor

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Mrs. W. H. Bohnenkamp, 1866-1959

Mrs. W. H. Bohnenkamp was laid to rest today in the valley which had been her home for nearly 70 years.

Residents of La Grande and the valley mourned more than the passing of a friend and neighbor. For "Mother" Bohnenkamp was one of the few remaining symbols of the pioneer courage and spirit which contributed to the growth and development of the area.

Mrs. Bohnenkamp and her husband came to La Grande from Iowa in 1890. Six years later they opened the W. H. Bohnenkamp Co.

The store remains today as a memorial to the couple who fought through years of hardship to build their firm into one of La Grande's leading businesses. Even a serious fire in earlier years failed to force them to close their doors.

Mrs. Bohnenkamp's sons, Lynne, Chase and Hal, remember their mother as a good homemaker as well as businesswoman. All three of the boys graduated

from La Grande High School and now operate the firm their parents founded.

But Mrs. Bohnenkamp found time for civic projects as well. Riverside Park she served on the municipal park board.

Mrs. Bohnenkamp wanted a place where families could gather for picnics on warm summer days and where children could play, free from the dangers of traffic.

As a result of her interest and efforts, Riverside Park was established and developed. A fitting tribute to a pioneer lady.

No more will she sit at the store and chat with her many friends. But Mrs. Bohnenkamp will not be forgotten. The park venture she inspired and the business she helped to build will remind future generations of this valley pioneer.

La Grande is a better place for her having lived here.

DeGaulle Wants First Fiddle Or Won't Play

What seems to be the matter with NATO? About all we hear of it concerns dissension and squabbling. The current fuss stems from a speech Gen. Nathan Twining, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, made in which he complained about France not carrying her share of the NATO load.

The speech was supposed to be behind doors, but it leaked out and the French are furious. Nevertheless what Twining says is true. DeGaulle won't allow NATO forces to function properly in France because he thinks France is not accorded a position of leadership in world affairs equal to that of other nations.

The big alliance, represented by NATO, suffers from more than DeGaulism, however. Sec. Herter believes the mood

of the peoples in the nations concerned has changed to the point where NATO is no longer considered essential. The alliance was born in the time of crisis—when the possibility of Russia attacking western Europe seemed imminent. Then the years went by and nothing happened. Each an attack now seems to be a remote possibility. Why, then, does NATO have to be continued?

This attitude is just what the Russians want, of course. NATO and its ring of air bases have always angered the Reds. Herter and other leaders are alarmed at the public's pathetic attitude toward the continued need for a defensive alliance. But they don't know how to change it.

Ike May Create New Cabinet Post

A national publication predicts that President Eisenhower intends to establish a new cabinet post. The person appointed to it would be "First Secretary of Government" and would rank above all existing cabinet officers. His field would be foreign relations, the State Department, foreign aid and related fields.

The prediction may be true. The President has seen this phase of government activity grow and no doubt foresees that it will become ever bigger in years to come. Therefore the organizational set-up of the past may not be adequate in the future.

Ike realizes how heavy is the responsibility that falls on a president in foreign relations. He wants to make the lot of his successor not merely easier, but to provide means for wiser handling of the

delicate problems that now must be handled by a president preoccupied with a great many other concerns.

Barbs

When more animals and birds than hunters are shot it's considered a successful hunting season.

Lots of people make churchgoing a habit — one YOU should develop, for goodness sake.

A shoe repair shop had an ad reading: "Tight shoes can be made comfortable." Just take 'em off!

When both drivers explain the crashing of their two cars there is no red light in the traffic signal.

DREW PEARSON SAYS:

Nasser Howling Mad Over 'Cold Shoulder' By Ike

EN ROUTE—When President Eisenhower flew almost over Cairo without stopping to call on President Nasser, going on to see President Bourguiba of Tunisia instead, it brought howls of rage and indignation from the banks of the Nile.

Colonel Nasser called in U.S. Ambassador Raymond Hare and demanded that Ike stop. He said it was an affront to the most important country in the Arab bloc and the leader of the Arab world. Ambassador Hare explained that if Ike called on Nasser he would have to balance the visit by calling on Prime Minister Ben Gurion of Israel. Nasser remained unmollified.

For President Bourguiba is just about as anathema to him as Ben Gurion of Israel. Nasser and Bourguiba are chief rivals for domination of the Arab world, and to make clear where he stands, Nasser has given asylum to Bourguiba's chief political rival Saal Ben Youssef, charged with attempting to assassinate Bourguiba.

This not the first time Bourguiba has narrowly missed death. During World War II he was arrested and ordered shot when French agents turned up a letter advocating open revolution against the French. At the last minute the execution was called off. Bourguiba was put on trial, finally proved the letter a forgery.

Again in Vichy, France, in 1954, he was ordered shot, just as he was being led to the wall, however, German staff officers stopped the firing squad.

Having saved his life, the Axis ardently wooed Bourguiba—with-out success. He remained loyal to the French.

U.S. Flag Flies High

President Eisenhower leaves Asia and the western Mediterranean at a time when American prestige and popularity is as high as any time since the war. He enters Africa when it is low.

In Asia Red China's bellicose bullying of Tibet, India, Indonesia all played into Ike's hands. In contrast, Asiatic nations hitherto suspicious of the U. S., have come to realize that no strings are attached to American aid. They saw also that the landing of U. S. troops in Lebanon was followed by early evacuation and that this intervention may have prevented a war.

On top of all this came the unprecedented visit of a president of the United States who traveled half way around the world to pay them the courtesy of a call. It was a heartwarming climax.

But in Africa the story is different. American prestige is low partly because Colonel Nasser has waged a relentless and effective campaign to keep it that way; partly because we have hitched our policy to the French. Even in Tripoli, where the United States operates the biggest air base in the world outside Patterson Field, Ohio, about 90 per cent of the population is pro-Nasser.

President Bourguiba and King Mohammed of Morocco, both of whom Ike visited, are two exceptions. Both are personally friendly to the United States and would like to be friendlier.

Habib Bourguiba has some of the characteristics of Dwight D. Eisenhower—a flashing smile and magnetism with crowds. Everyday crowds wait in front of his palace and at his mosque to shout "hi-yah-Bourgee-bah" as he arrives. He holds up his hands for quiet. They only shout more loudly.

Somewhat like Eisenhower before he became president and had to be surrounded by the secret service, the president of Tunisia mingles with his people, kisses children, back-slaps workers, listens to complaints, lifts a Moslem woman's veil, advises her "to show her pretty face."

Bourguiba is a glutton for getting to work on time and demands others do the same. He even makes whirlwind inspections of government offices. There are only four million people in his desert country with an area about the size of New York state, and he knows almost every official in it.

Bourguiba is 57 years old, is married to a French woman, studied in Paris, yet has spent a good part of his life bucking the French. Like Prime Minister Nehru he has also spent a good part of his adult life in jail—French jails—or in exile.

One of his mottos is: "To treat with today's enemies never forget that they must be tomorrow's friends." He is trying to follow that policy toward the French, but constant border forays and airplane bombing into Tunisian territory from Algeria have made that impossible.

Tunisia lacks oil or other abundant resources and has balanced its economy largely through a \$100,000,000 grant from the French. That is now cut off, and Bourguiba is going to look to Ike for help.

So far the United States has tried to sit on the fence as between Tunisia and its unpopular onetime sovereign France. The Eisenhower visit, however, should end the straddle. It should put the U.S. squarely behind the most dynamic pro-Westerner in Moslem Africa who believes that the future of North Africa is to put Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Libya all under one country.

U.S. Ambassador in Role Of Santa Claus

HELSINKI, Finland (UPI) — U. S. Ambassador Edson O. Sessions played Santa Claus today for a score of Lapp orphans who live north of the Arctic Circle.

Sessions and three members of his staff flew 400 miles to Inari to deliver gifts collected by members of the 604th U. S. Air Force squadron to the children at a Finnish YMCA home.

Gifts for the waifs, who range in age from 2 to 12, included a record player, a slide projector, woolen clothing and toys.

This was the fourth Christmas that the 604th squadron, based in Ramstein, Germany, had sent gifts to the youngsters in the Finnish Arctic.

REMEMBER WHEN

... 25 years ago, an auto show was being planned here by the Mt. Emily Post Veterans of Foreign Wars. The event was to be held early in the new year and would feature the latest models in showrooms of local auto agencies.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Shafer, Island City, announced the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their pretty daughter, Pluma Shafer, to George Courtney, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Courtney, La Grande.

... 15 years ago, savage fighting all along the Ardennes Forest on the German-Belgium border was taking place, with several spearheads of German armor 30 to 40 miles deep. The drive was known as the "Battle of the Bulge."

The Elgin Masons installed new officers for the year. They were Harold Oliver, worshipful master;

QUOTES IN THE NEWS

United Press International

TUCSON, Ariz. — Highway Patrolman Jimmy Williams, describing the rescue efforts of police and doctors at the scene of a big-truck collision that killed nine persons:

"Heroin? Well, I saw Patrolman (Carlton) Jones tear some metal like it was a toy to get to a 2-year-old child."

BLOOMFIELD, N.M.—A young child, one of about 1,000 at a huge Christmas party, breathing a sign of relief after Santa Claus emerged uninjured from a plane that had crashed landed:

"It wouldn't have happened if he'd used his reindeer and sled."

HAVANA — Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, asserting that one of his major accomplishments was making the world aware of Cuba:

"Previously, North Americans would ask 'what state does Cuba belong?' Other people would ask 'where's Cuba?' Now they know because of our revolution."

WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower, in a statement issued in Washington on the death of Walter W. Williams, last veteran of the Civil War:

"The hosts of Blue and Gray who were the chief actors in that great and tragic drama... have all passed from the world stage."

Robert Gee, senior warden; Thom Brown, treasurer, and Joe Hall as Burton, junior warden; J. W. Garth, secretary.

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