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EDITORIAL

The importance of a high school diploma to Oregon's returning veterans cannot be over-emphasized because of the many jobs, both in private industries and in civil service in federal and state agencies, which require that the employee be a high school graduate. For this reason it would be wise for the veteran who in so many cases was called into the service before he completed his secondary education to look carefully into the possibilities offered him to secure that much needed diploma.

The ex-warrior can return to high school, of course. But so often he feels that he is too mature for the classroom after several years of army or navy life. Further, he may have to go to work to support himself and quite possibly a family. For these and other reasons, it is recommended that he look into the examinations offered by the U. S. Armed Forces Institute, under the guidance of the American Council on Education, which may enable him to secure his diploma without need of further study.

As D. A. Emerson, assistant superintendent in charge of secondary education for the State Department of Education, points out, the veteran certainly can't lose by taking the tests, even if he fails. In one case, a veteran in Coquille successfully passed the exams recently, with only one year in high school prior to several years' army service. The all-round experience and knowledge he had picked up in the service were, in his case, the equivalent of about three high school years.

These examinations are not a hit-and-miss proposition. The Northwest Association of Secondary and High Schools, which includes the school systems of Oregon and five other Northwestern states, have spent approximately \$1500 investigating the effects and the results of these Armed Forces Institute tests, and the Association has approved them fully. The American Council on Education, before its endorsement, used the examinations on a representative body of high school seniors and worked out its norms for the GI tests from the results of these. It is a sound, approved plan conceived on the principle that a veteran's store of useful information and his ability to reason should have increased considerably during his time in the service. And it appears to be working out that way.

Yes, We Should Be Happy This New Year

By Chesley E. Corbett

Those of us who are fortunate to be spared to see 1946 ushered in should feel proud and should rejoice and give thanks to God for the coming New Year.

War is a thing of the past. The oppressors, who reigns of terror, torture and slavery, were blots on civilization, have been conquered; many tried and executed while others, the main culprits, are now facing trial charged with the most heinous crimes in the annals of history.

Our boys are returning home by the thousands; they no longer have to fear the submarine,

the sniper, and other horrors of war.

Our loved ones are no longer prisoners of war with their emaciated forms, their bodies covered with scars showing where the lash of their keepers had been effective.

Mothers in foreign lands can rejoice that their daughters can now enter into legal wedlock and bring legitimate offsprings into the world and will not have to be a victim, as in the past to brute force and illicit relations.

The ministers can rejoice that the real unadulterated religion can be preached and men and women everywhere worship God without restraint and directions of any one.

Yes, we have many reasons to rejoice. We hope and trust that the day is not too far distant where there shall be universal peace and good will to all men.

Author, Critic and Audience Clash Over "Strange Fruit"

NEW YORK (ANP)—In the last book forum of the year of the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature of the New York Public Library last Tuesday Lillian Smith, Abe Hill and the audience clashed in a vigorous debate over the merits of "Broadway's misunderstood play," "Strange Fruit." The discussion was well-mannered but the differences of opinion were sharp and serious.

Dr. L. D. Reddick, who presided, opened the meeting by pointing out that the sincerity and high purpose of Lillian Smith were not debatable in that her consistent fight against racial segregation, her refusal to join with fake southern liberal organizations and her record as editor of the South Today had established her as a champion of human democracy; however, writing a successful play for Broadway may be something else entirely.

Miss Smith told the audience of her motive in writing the play; that she did not intend to do a drama of Negro life but of life in a small southern town. She insisted that her characters were real and true to life.

Abe Hill, director of the American Negro theatre and drama critic, replied by saying that the play was sprawling, that the characters were not "explained" and that in contrast to his excitement when he had seen "Deep Are The Roots," he felt indifferent when viewing "Strange Fruit."

The audience then jumped into a free-for-all discussion, alternately hurling praise and blame at both critic and author.

The general consensus at the conclusion of the meeting was

that Lillian Smith was a staunch foe of segregation and an unshakable advocate of human democracy but that she should have called in a professional playwright to make "Strange Fruit" the Broadway hit it deserves to be.

Negro Commands Tank Battalion

WITH THE 761ST TANK BATTALION IN EUROPE—(ANP)—Capt. Ivan H. Harrison, 3399 Scovel place, Detroit, became the first Negro commander of the 761st Tank battalion when he succeeded Lt. Col. Paul L. Batos, white, of Boonton, N. J., on Nov. 3.

The new commander is 26 and was born in Detroit. He is married to the former Miss Juanita Edwards of Detroit, and is the father of a son, Ivan, Jr., age one and a half years. Prior to coming into the army he was engaged in business work in Cleveland and also served as a postal employe at the Cleveland Post Office.

Capt. Harrison graduated from the armored force officer candidate school at Fort Knox on July 4, 1942, joining the 761st, then a light tank battalion, at Camp Claiborne, La., as a tank platoon leader on July 16, 1942.

On Oct. 30, 1943, he became the second Negro to ever become a company commander in the battalion, when he assumed command of headquarters company. It was in this capacity that he came overseas with the 761st and entered combat. A month before the end of hostilities in Europe, he took command of the service company.

BETWEEN THE LINES

By Dean Gordon B. Hancock

It is doubtful if this country ever had a more uncertain, vacillating leadership than today. We are beginning to miss Roosevelt. President Truman is making heroic efforts to carry on; but Roosevelts are hard to find! When in her sorrow, Mrs. Roosevelt said that she mourned not so much for her husband as for the world, she was going to the very heart of a very vital matter and that was the matter of national leadership.

Truman has grappled very courageously with matters of state and has made some splendid maneuvers politically and some fine gestures diplomatically, but Roosevelts are hard to find! The GOP political hounds are hot on the trail of Truman and he had better beware. Harry Flood Byrd, about whom we heard so little when great Roosevelt lived, is itching back into the spotlight of the nation's notice. Lindbergh, who has driven into exile after he had lost caste because of his pro-Nazi dispositions is attempting to come back. Not only is Lindbergh heading back, but a movement is gaining ground to have his commissions formally restored. Such is the subtle attempt to discredit Roosevelt by undoing what he did at a time when nobody dared to lift an opposing head. Roosevelts are hard to find! Now that our great chief has passed on, lesser breeds are sneaking out and scenting for the spotlight. The old proverb, "when the cat is away the rats come out to play," is today assuming a very real meaning. The great danger hinges about the possibilities that the rump leaders long on rabble-raising and short on constructive statesmanship, will gain the political ascendancy in this country and the world.

I have long seen in the Gallup poll a very real danger to national leadership. Somebody has said that a politician is one who can sit upon a fence and hold his ear to the ground. The politician depends upon sensing the desires of the people and catering to those desires. In

other words, they propose to give the people what they do not necessarily need. In an age of propaganda it is not easy to tell what people need, although quite easy to tell what they want.

They are poor parents indeed who are governed in their dealings with their children by what the children want, rather than by what they need. If all children had been given what they wanted they all would have been either dead or disgraced. It is even so with the fickle masses of mankind. One of the worst curses that could be visited upon men is that they be given what they want rather than what they need.

The Gallup poll is supposed to sample public opinion and thus determine what the people want at a given time. It has little or no reference to what they need. The extent to which our political leaders attempt to cater to the wants and whims of the masses is the extent to which the nation will be led by a lagging leadership. Leadership of the constructive kind depends upon the ability of leaders to look over the shoulders of their constituency and take long time views of situations which involve not alone what the people want but what they need.

The football player who pays too much attention to the grandstand will hardly make a touchdown. The great debacle in which the world finds itself today hinges about the conflict between what the people are clamoring for and what they need. Suppose the Pilgrim fathers had taken a Gallup poll or that the colonists had "sampled" by means of some variety of poll, the opinion on going to war with England. Imagine Abraham Lincoln waiting for the Gallup poll when Fort Sumter was fired on.

One of the things that is de-vitalizing democracy is this self same attempt to go by what the people think. How can confused people think straight in the face of highly financed propaganda? How can the people think clearly when the Babel of tongues rocks with diverse doctrines. Unless we can bring up a more stalwart leadership for these perilous times, the end of civilization is near at hand. It would appear that the weakened leadership which is evolving in this age of "polls" will sooner or later hurtle us into dictatorship in sheer self defense.

"Me... I'm staying in the Army!"

THERE ARE PLENTY OF REASONS... AND HERE THEY ARE!"



1 "First, I keep my present grade. That means a lot.

2 "By reenlisting for 3 years I can pick my own branch of service in the Air, Ground or Service Forces, and can go to any overseas theater I wish.

3 "I get my mustering-out pay, even though I'm reenlisting. Also, I get \$50 a year reenlistment bonus for each year I've been in the Army. My dependents receive family allowances for the full term of my enlistment. And I'll be eligible for GI Bill of Rights benefits when I get out of the Army.

4 "My food, clothes, quarters, medical and dental care are all supplied to me. And I can learn any of 200 skills or trades in the Army schools.

5 "All of us who are reenlisting are going to have from 30 to 90 days' furlough at home with full pay and our travel paid both ways. And we'll have 30 days' furlough every year with pay.

6 "Any time after 20 years I can retire at half pay increasing year by year to three-quarters retirement pay after 30 years of service. And the time I've already served in active military or naval service counts toward my retirement time. Added up—reenlistment seems pretty sound to me!"

JANUARY 31, 1946

AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR MEN IN THE ARMY

MEN now in Army who reenlist before February 1 will be reenlisted in present grade. Men honorably discharged can reenlist within 20 days after discharge in grade held at time of discharge, provided they reenlist before February 1, 1946.

You may enlist AT ANY TIME for 1½, 2 or 3 year periods. (One-year enlistments for men now in the Army with at least 6 months of service.)

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Starting Base Pay Per Month	MONTHLY RETIREMENT INCOME AFTER:	
	20 Years' Service	30 Years' Service
Master Sergeant or First Sergeant	\$138.00	\$89.70
Technical Sergeant	114.00	74.10
Staff Sergeant	96.00	62.40
Sergeant	78.00	50.70
Corporal	66.00	42.90
Private First Class	54.00	35.10
Private	50.00	32.50

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Sermon 11:30 A. M.
Evening Service 7:30 P. M.
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Sister Naomi Williams, Sec.

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Tue. 8:00 P. M.—Evang. Service
Thur. Prayer & Bible Band—8:00 P. M.
Fri. Healing Service—8:00 P. M.
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Sermon 12 Noon
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Evening Service—7:30 P. M.
Tue. Ser. 11:00 A. M. & 7:30 P. M.
Thur. & Fri. Eve.—7:30 P. M.
All Invited—Rev. H. D. Williams, Pastor

WILLIAMS AVE. CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Elder Claud L. Lampkin, Pastor
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ORDER OF SERVICES:
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Come One! Come All!
Mrs. Lampkin, Reporter.

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