

Wise or Otherwise

By ETHAN GRANT

M'Goobar is back. In case you've forgotten, M'Goobar, until he joined the navy a year or so ago, was my vicarious leg and idea man. He's currently on leave from where they loaded him down with campaign ribbons and enough bronze to recondition a spent torpedo.

He was standing on a downtown corner, deep in the shadow of his own hat, serious as men are who've been assigned the heavy roles in our theatres of war. Having once spent a hitch in the navy myself, I couldn't help noticing the rating on his sleeve, an eagle, a pair of anchors and a trio of chevrons — boatswain's mate first class. It properly belongs on the right arm. M'Goobar wore his on the left.

"It's a technicality," he explained surreptitiously from a low corner of his mouth. "I'm disguised. Temporarily assigned to investigatory detail."

"I see," I said. "You're with Intelligence."

"Nope," he said, "all alone. I'm spending my leave looking into this high rent situation. Cases involving temporary widows and orphans of men in the service."

"A laudable endeavor," I said. "Are you finding out anything?"

"Plenty," he said. "Grant, you wouldn't believe what I'm finding out. I mean about landlords. They're like mother-in-law. Nearly everybody's either got one or has had one. Most are okay, I guess, but some act like varmints. It's these, as a species, that give the whole mother-in-law tribe a black eye. Personally, when I'm ready to tie on the ball and chain, I'm giving some mighty careful scrutiny to the prospective little woman's old lady. I'm—"

"But you were speaking of landlords," I horned in. "We're well satisfied with ours, and—"

"You're lucky," he horned back. "But I'm not speaking of that type. I'm referring to those entomological creatures that crawl out from under the porch every so often and hit the rent on families that really can't afford it, particularly servicemen's families. Here," he said, handing me a package he'd had in the crook of an arm. "Hold this and I'll tell you things."

It was an elongated package, shaped like a quart of—well, a quart of ink. M'Goobar finds it difficult saying precisely what he thinks with any degree of emphasis, unless his arms are free. He tipped his hat forward until it rested on his eyebrows, hitched up his multi-buttoned sailor pants and eased into a gesturing, acrimonious condemnation of certain currently alleged house rental abuses.

Such unusual antics on a downtown street corner would naturally attract a crowd of curious on-lookers. And you can readily see my own predicament, standing there as I was holding his unmistakable quart of something. But I couldn't leave him, for he was rapidly working himself into a state of spoplexy. So I just stood and took it.

"In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen," he finally said, now addressing the crowd, "let me say this: every dog has his day. They're getting away with it now, but you wait till those of us who're in the service get this other thing over with and come back home. There'll be a lot of us, and we'll be organized. Among other things, we'll be organized against a certain class of landlords."

"We'll get a law passed, a post-war manpower commission rental stabilization plan law. Then we'll have the say."

"For instance, it'll be us who'll say how much rent we'll pay. We'll tell them. With all these housing projects completed, there'll be plenty of places to rent. Houses to burn. The landlords will have to advertise for us. We'll have their wartime records and we'll be in position to ask some pretty embarrassing questions. We'll make 'em fill out long questionnaires. We may even set up some intelligence tests."

"We'll also set up a board, like selective service, and make 'em take physical examinations. We'll classify all the landlords, like 1A, 2B and 3C. We'll set up standard housing conditions which they'll have to meet or land in 4F. Some will be handed dishonorable discharges and told to scram."

"Those who're now refusing to rent to women with kids will get the biggest families. Those who've raised rents the highest will get the cheapest renters. Those who've refused to make repairs will get only the hardest-boiled ex-boat-swain's-mates and sergeants."

"We'll question each landlord till his tongue hangs out. If he can meet all the requirements and convince us he really wants to contribute to the post-war effort, we'll issue him a certificate of availability. If he violates the post-war manpower rental stabilization law, we'll crack down and send him to Leavenworth or Alcatraz."

"I'm first son of a—"

COLD
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666 TABLETS, SAME, NOSE DROPS

The Washington Outlook

By the Washington Staff of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16.—(AP)—First problem of the American-British-Russian conference will be to clear away suspicions.

Since doubts and uncertainties are the big obstacle to free exchange of views, one of the first aims of the conference undoubtedly will be to demonstrate their goodwill in collaboration.

Diplomatic experts generally concede that the three powers could agree on any international arrangement which serves their common national interests.

Therefore, discovering concretely what those national interests are—to what extent they coincide and how far they conflict—is a principal objective of the Moscow meeting of Secretary of State Hull, Britain's Foreign Minister Eden and Russia's Foreign Commissar Molotov.

They have in common the desire to avoid a repetition of world conditions which have produced two great wars in this century. In addition, Russia will urgently require US and British manufactures and technical services to rebuild devastated Russian cities after the war; the English-speaking nations will need Russian markets and Russian raw materials.

Civilian goods: prospects for any widespread resumption of civilian durable goods production are gloomy. The experts haven't figured a way to bring together labor from non-shortage areas and the factory facilities released from war production. Most of the released factories will be in critical labor shortage areas, and the labor released with these factories is expended to be absorbed in other factories in the same critical areas.

Puzzle: President Roosevelt's delay in sending a promised message to congress on the food situation and subsidies has insiders puzzled. A prospective message, drafted by Judge Samuel I. Roseman, has been on the president's desk for days. Some advisors thought it too long, suggesting editing out 10 pages. The president agreed, but the edited version still is being held up.

Liquor drought? You can't convince the office of economic warfare. It has just included whisky, wines, rum and other liquors as commodities in what it calls "free supply." These liquors have been listed by OEW among hundreds of other items which now may be shipped to 16 Latin American countries without previously required rigid wartime controls.

Honoring newsmen: the maritime commission plans to name merchant ships for the first 12 correspondents, radio reporters and photographers to lose their lives in the war.

Highlights of the week: Italy becomes co-belligerent against Germany, as forecast in this column last Sunday. . . . Most restrictions on weather news lifted, indicating

Was Writer's Biggest Thrill

By ROBERT BUNNELL
AP Features

diminished danger of attack. . . . President says Azores islands bases to be available to US as well as Britain. . . . Last of coal mines returned to private owners. . . . Food output reported rising to record level. . . . Far west's gasoline ration cut to match other regions.

Life in crowded Washington: one Washington housewife figures she's found the solution to the domestic help problem. She's giving her maid free piano lessons in an effort to keep her happy.

LONDON — It was mid-August, 1940, and the Battle of Britain was on full blast. I stood with Associated Press cameraman Eddie Worth on Shakespeare Head on the south coast of England, a couple hundred feet below some heavy guns which were blasting away over the strait of Dover.

The day was so clear you could see a church spire in German-occupied Calais 28 miles away,

Gardening Today

By LILLIE MADSEN

The more you do in October, the less you'll have to do next spring. I have said this before, but it really bears repeating, particularly in these extraordinarily busy times. Of course, as many of you write, you are now extraordinarily busy harvesting your walnuts, your apples, the grapes, the late tomatoes, and even a few "town gardeners" are digging their potatoes to store for winter use.

But in the time between—and there always is some if one looks about for it—one might find time to stick in a few additional spring flowering bulbs. Bulbs, as a whole do not take a great deal of spring work, and they do repay one for just planting them.

For instance, in a sunny location in the shrub border, you might plant a half-dozen tulips—choose one kind and one color for such a planting. This proves much more effective. Or you might still plant a few clumps of narcissuses. King Alfreds give a cheery note. The little butter-yellow Sol de Orr, if you can use a smaller one, will give you both fragrance and brightness.

The blue grape hyacinth should also go in this month, as should other hyacinths, if you can find them. However, you'll probably have considerable difficulty in finding them, and when you do, you'll likely hesitate in purchasing them because of their price. Irises, the Dutch or the bearded, while they should have been planted during the summer months, will still produce if planted now.

Autumn is a good time to add a few calla lilies. I planted my first out-of-door callas between Christmas and New Years last year, and had blooms in early summer.

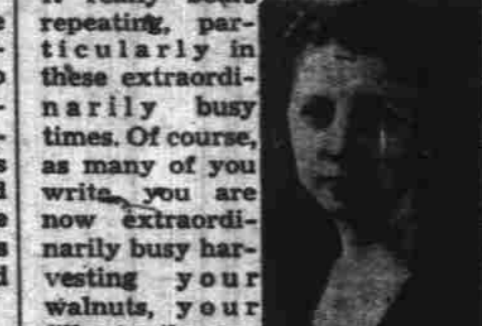
Lilies-of-the-valley should be planted now, if they haven't already been planted.

Many local folk have enjoyed huge bouquets from the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Standard, who have grown calla lilies out-of-doors here for years. The Rev. and Mrs. O. C. Olson have also had a very beautiful calla lily bed here at Silverton.

Scatter some bonemeal—if you have it—over the bed where the daffodils and hyacinths, and even the tulips, are growing. If you haven't kept your bulb beds weed-free during the summer, pull out the weeds now and scatter a thin layer of leaf mold over it—I am not including the trilliums, the lilies-of-the-valley or the callas in this group.

There are new shrubs to plant in autumn, too, and there are things to do to the shrub bed before winter starts in, but that will have to wait until next Sunday.

Lillie Madsen



Lillie Madsen

ned a barrage balloon just above us. The balloon fell burning a few yards off trailing its lethal wires almost over our toes.

We were so caught up in the sky scene to the left that we forgot to watch our right. Suddenly the deep roar of many planes jerked our eyes around to a formation of twelve flying low and leisurely toward us.

"They surely must be ours," said Eddie. They were flying line astern out of the sun, and you couldn't see their markings until the leader cocked his wings in a shallow dive at the guns behind us, the others following.

"They're Jerries!" Eddie yelled. "See the crosses on the wings!" Bareheaded and without cover, we leaped together for a shallow foxhole we'd dug in the chalk. We reached it neck and neck as bombs and geyzers of smoke and earth shot skywards.

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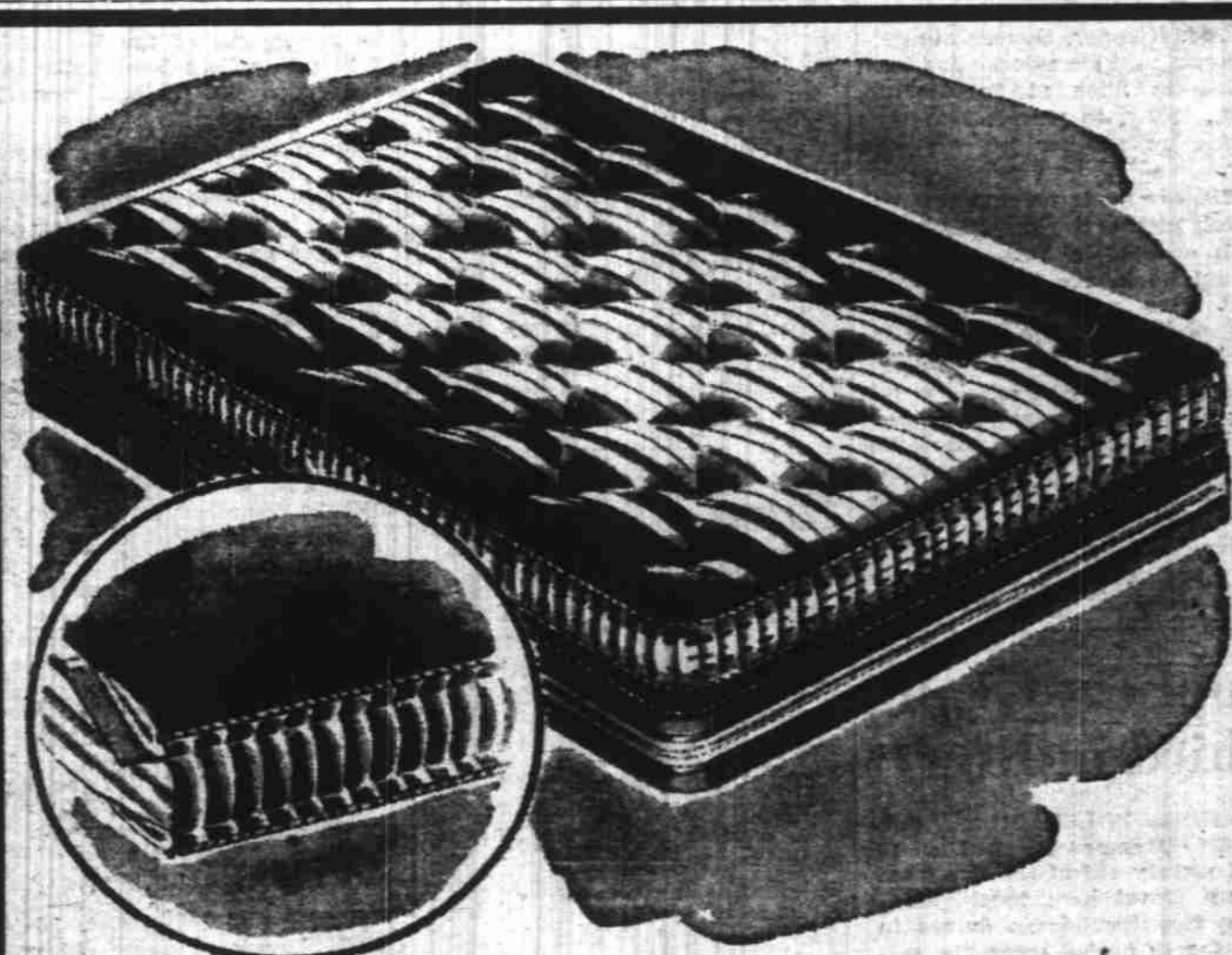
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