

### Naval Might in the Pacific



Powerful ships of a US navy task force stand at anchor in a harbor somewhere in the Pacific ready for further attacks on Japan's elusive fleet. Carriers, more than nine of which appear in the group, dominate this force. (AP Wirephoto from navy.)

### Wise or Otherwise

By Ethan Grant

My explorations during the past fortnight (whatever a fortnight is) have been confined to that region between the Coast range and the coast of China, but principally in western Oregon.

Among the more beautiful of my discoveries, geographically, was a river a predecessor explorer seems to have named the Umpqua. Except that its castles are conspicuous by their scarcity, the Umpqua is more like the Rhine in Germany than any other river in captivity.

In fact, along the hunkier length of the Umpqua, from the hamlet of Drain, where the bridges pause for ten minutes, clear to the port of Reedport, I saw not a single castle. Nor, for that matter, did I see any castles along the Rhine. This, to be strictly honest, is because I've never seen the Rhine itself, although I have been up and down the Elbe, the Weser and the Oder, which, below Stettin, should be the Oder.

During the past two months, I've seen most of Oregon's larger rivers, but to my way of thinking, no other can compare favorably with the Umpqua. Don't ask me why, for I don't know. It's pretty, and for some reason I feel sort of sentimental about it. It's one of those majestic streams along which you'd like to go to sleep at night and wake up and find in your back yard next morning. Which may sound silly, but isn't.

I've made a number of notable discoveries, both minor and major. In the major category is US Highway 101. I consider it a major discovery not only because of its location and condition, but also be-

cause of its significance as a potential post-war problem. Trying to describe US Highway 101 would be like a man without arms trying to describe an accordion. You must see it yourself.

The distance as a blimp would fly from Astoria to the California border is 295 miles. The distance along the winding ribbon of US 101 is 404 miles. That, ladies and gentlemen, means 109 miles of curves, and it seems to me to represent a considerable amount of crookedness.

Few persons have ever found it out, but many of the curves just don't make sense. Most drivers are too busy negotiating the curves to look. But I happen to possess the peculiar faculty of dual eyesight, a condition which naturally developed after many days of travel up and down the curvy coast. The ability to drive with one eye on the road and the other on the adjacent area has enabled me to make a fairly thorough survey of things the ordinary driver never sees.

Seeing what I saw, it was only natural that sooner or later I'd get to wondering. At many points, following the appearance of a "Sharp Curves" sign, you seize the wheel with both hands and begin swaying like a drunken hoot-owl on roller-skates. With the scenery eye you can't help noticing that a short fill here or a few scoops from the bank there would have straightened the road. And it could have been done with even less work than was required to curve the banks and bank the curves.

Or am I cockeyed? But here, along the coast, is a

prospective major post-war project, unbending the curves of US Highway 101. If it could be done as a length of wire is straightened, simply by holding both ends and stretching it out, we'd not only straighten it, but we'd have 169 miles of spare pavement, which Uncle Sam's roads administration could certainly use here and there as detour patching.

After nearly two months in eastern Oregon, my favorite city is Marshfield. No matter what the climate is elsewhere, it's God's own air-conditioning at Marshfield. A citizen told me so. And I notice the nights are cool, the mornings overcast and sometimes at noon the sun shines. By dusk the clouds are back. By 10 o'clock you're ready to crawl in under the blankets. The curfew rings, and you'd better crawl in under something.

Another thing about Marshfield, everybody knows who you are even though you haven't told a soul. The other day I attempted to introduce myself to the postmaster.

"Yes, I know," he said affably, even before I'd told him my name. On the street, people I never saw before speak to me. It's nice, having everybody know you like that. Or is it simply an old Marshfield custom, everybody saying hello to everybody else?

Anyway, it's pleasant. And it does sort of make a fellow behave himself.

### Girl Starves Self to Death

JONESVILLE, Mich., July 15—(AP)—The case of Mary Ellen Gries, 21, whose death was attributed to "psycho-neurosis with self-starvation," was described today by her physician, Dr. Luther Day, as one of the strangest in medical annals.

Miss Gries, an honor student in high school, first complained two years ago that she couldn't eat because she was "filled up" and couldn't swallow. Her fast, broken on few occasions since then reached a climax two weeks ago, when she began accepting nothing except water. At the time of her death last night, she weighed only 40 pounds.

Dr. Day said an autopsy showed nothing wrong with the girl excepting a lack of nourishment.

### Knee Is Injured in Nine Foot Fall

SILVERTON HILLS — Donald Maulding, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Maulding, suffered a fractured knee cap while employed at the Portland shipyards. He fell nine feet from a scaffold where he was working.

### Family Group Hospital Plan

Covers Entire Family for Hospital Care, Sickness and Accident; Also Funeral Plan Adaptable to Individuals or Entire Family

Salem, Oregon, July 16, 1944—A new hospital care plan has just been made available to every family, at special group rates. Also individual hospital care with individual rates. The plan covers hospitalization, room and board, nursing care, operating rooms and ambulance. The plan also provides for surgical operation, appendicitis, tonsillitis and female diseases. It also covers childbirth and pays double for twins. No medical examination is required and the cost is as low as 25c per month for children and 75c for adults.

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### Washington Outlook

By the Washington Staff of The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, July 15—(AP)—German peace moves may be expected from now on. The enemy may hint peace in an effort to lull the allies into over-confidence, but it's a double-edged weapon. Germany's bomb-dazed populace probably is more anxious for peace right now than any other.

Anglo-American and Russian leaders are believed to have taken careful precautions against any German effort to split and defeat the allies in their very hour of triumph.

In Washington and London, probably in Moscow, it long has been suspected that if Germany loses by surrender (rather than by uncontrolled collapse) the high command will try to surrender to only one front. The Germans would hope to gain favorable treatment from the armies on that front and weaken allied cooperation at the last minute.

Such a breakdown would create distrust, hamper organized security and possibly give the Germans another crack at a more successful war in another quarter century. To counter this, the allies hold rigidly to the formula of unconditional surrender. Beyond that they are agreed that no surrender will be accepted without full agreement by the commanders on all fronts.

Wait a minute—Behind sober warnings against hoping for an early internal collapse of Germany lies evidence that German war factories still put superior workmanship into what they produce. While this is true generally of Nazi equipment, experts who have taken apart late versions of German aircraft engines have found them amazingly well built.

Food front—Next year's production goals will aim at raising enough food to feed 200,000,000 people. This would be about 25,000,000 more—presumably in liberated areas—than at present. It would leave the American diet relatively unchanged.

Government officials figure, meanwhile, that the US could feed twice as many people as now if it had to, but the diet would be plain and monotonous with little meat, very little butter, and no white bread.

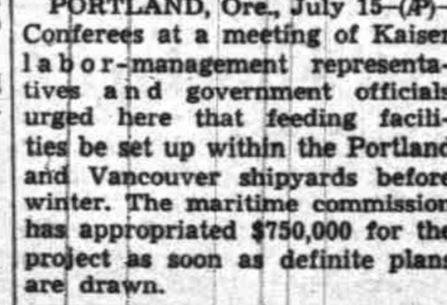
Fair share—The senate small business committee plans a staff of its own to see that small business gets a chance at surplus government property. Disposal of this surplus promises to be a major problem facing congress after the summer recess. The committee wants to see small business get a crack at left-over plants, land, materials and unattached patents.

Political calendar, July 17-22: July 19—State nominating primaries in Wyoming, Arizona and Montana. July 19—Democrats national convention opens in Chicago. July 22—Texas democratic primary to nominate candidates for 21 US representatives; governor (seat of Coke R. Stevenson, Dem.) and full state ticket. (Republicans nominate in state convention).

Feeding Facilities At Shipyards Urged

PORTLAND, Ore., July 15—(AP)—Conferees at a meeting of Kaiser labor-management representatives and government officials urged here that feeding facilities be set up within the Portland and Vancouver shipyards before winter. The maritime commission has appropriated \$750,000 for the project as soon as definite plans are drawn.

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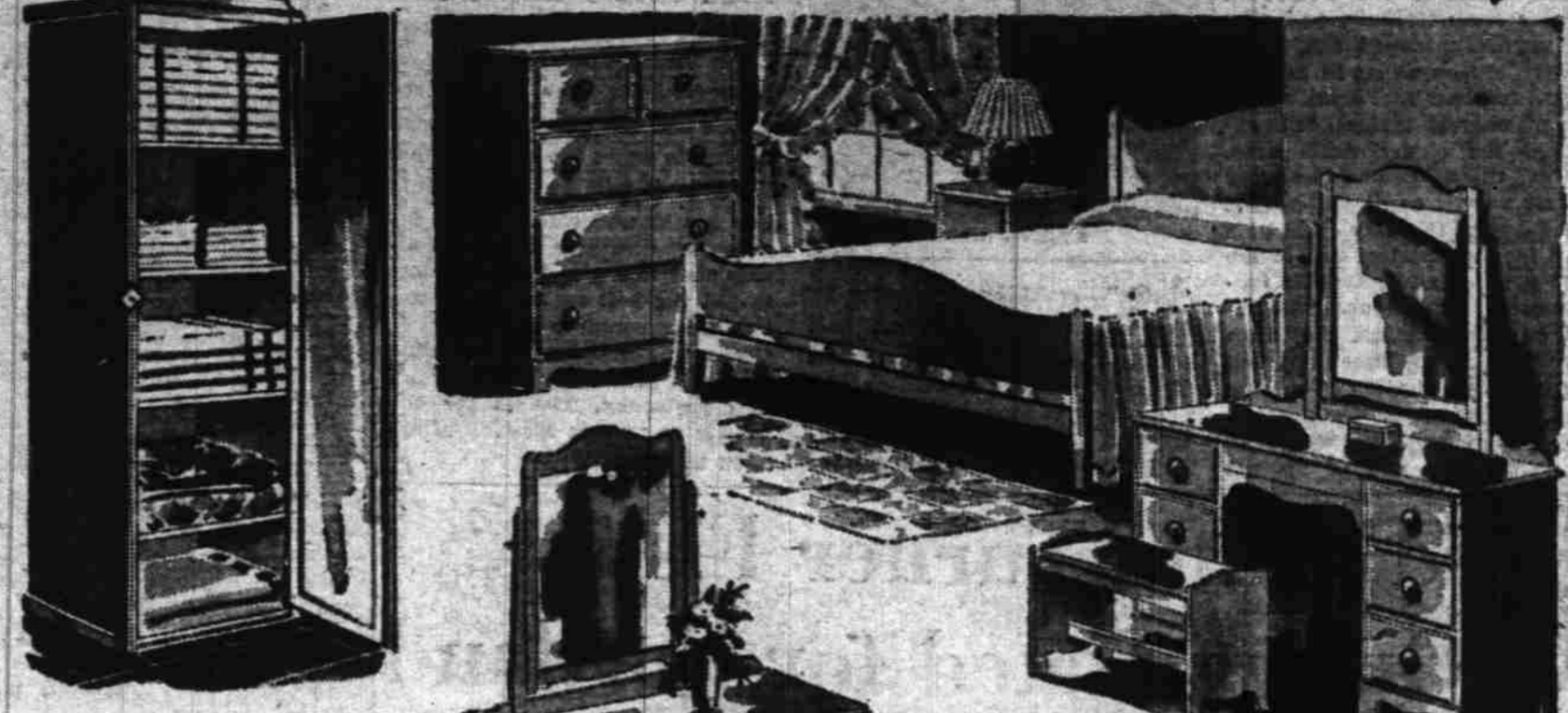
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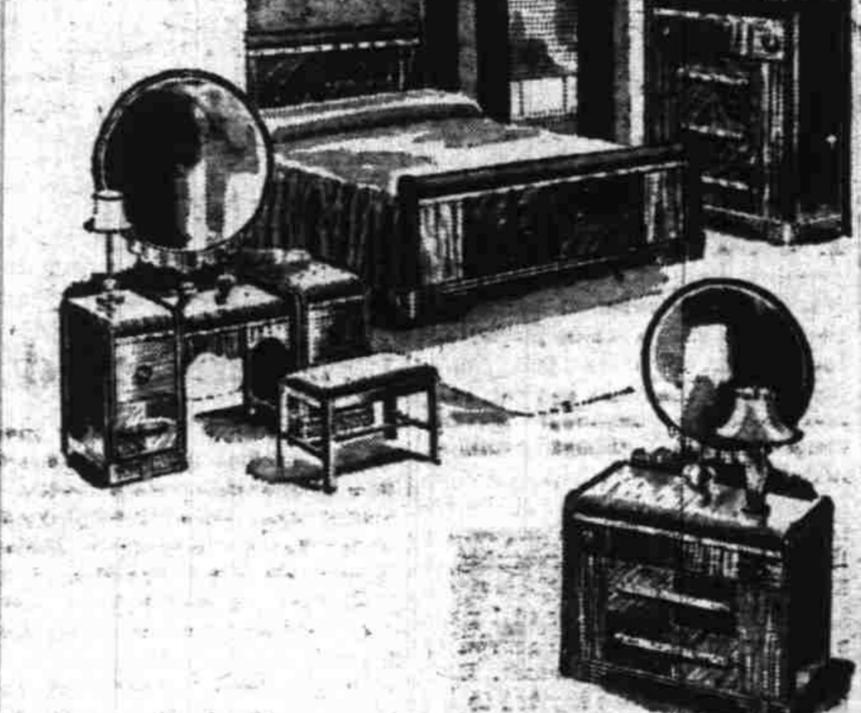


Utility Cabinet \$8.95

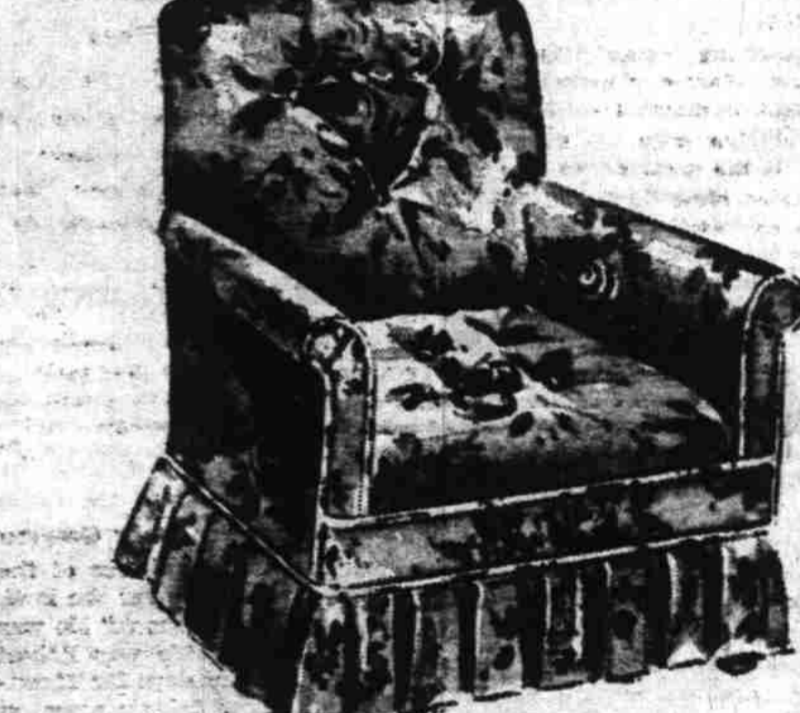
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### Gardening Today

By LILLIE MADSEN

Three pictures stand out sharply among a lot of childhood memories in Michigan.

In the backgrounds of the two pictures I was not at all interested. In fact, they seemed very unreasonable. Why shouldn't I use my grandfather's very fancy and very handy tools to open my hickory and butter-nuts? And why Lillie Madsen shouldn't I swing on the lovely red gate with its very wide "swing"?

But the background of the third picture intrigued me even then. This included two or three brightly potted geraniums growing in my grandmother's dining room window and the immense amount of very large tomatoes in her garden. Because my grandmother used to speak of her native New England states, I was full convinced that all people from New England could grow anything.

But it is true that our grandmothers were exceptionally good at "slipping." We were almost reared to believe that "slipping" is an art that died with our grandmothers, and that "cuttings" were something that came in with professional gardeners.

When we refer to "slipping" as done by our grandmothers we really mean what modern gardeners now refer to as "softwood cuttings." Softwood cutting is one of the finest ways of propagating provided we take the necessary time to do it right. July is known as our "softwood cutting month."

Cuttings of this type should be taken when new growth is at a certain intermediate stage; neither too soft and succulent nor too hard. Cuttings should not, when bent, snap off like glass or crush without breaking. However, a few plants do not abide by this rule. Both lilacs and azaleas root most readily when cuttings are very soft, while weigels and hydrangeas are better when the cuttings are almost mature.

Choose healthy shoots, but not the most vigorous growing ones. A side shoot cut directly at its base is the best. But if side shoots are not available, take the tip of a longer shoot and make the cut-

ting about 1/2 inch below the leaf or pair of leaves.

After the cuttings have been made, do not put them into water but get them into the cutting bench as rapidly as possible before they have a chance to wilt. Putting the ordinary softwood cutting into water makes it susceptible to rot. If you have to take your cuttings an hour or two before planting, wrap them in a damp cloth.

After they have been planted, keep them in the shade and keep them moist. It is absolutely essential that they be not allowed to wilt. Rooting takes place much more rapidly in an electrically heated bed.

A mixture of half sand and half peat is said to be the very best. I know experts say this can't be true, but the best success I have ever had in rooting cuttings was when I used sharp sand which I brought home from the beach. I was told that the salt in the sand would kill the cuttings. Perhaps it should have, but at any rate it didn't and all the cuttings I ever "stuck" (which is the right word for it in my case) into that sand grew. I know magnolias do root better in sharp sand.

If the sand to be used is soaked 24 hours prior to the placing of the cuttings, with a solution of one ounce of potassium permanganate to five gallons of water, slow-rooting cuttings may be somewhat speeded up.

### Rationed Motorists Now Get Extra Gasoline Mileage

All over the country, thousands of rationed car owners, truck fleets, taxicabs, motorcycles and tractor owners report gasoline savings up to 30%. These people have been enjoying extra gasoline mileage by installing a Vacu-matic to their carburetor. This new device is entirely automatic. Nothing to regulate or adjust and can be installed in 10 minutes. The Vacu-matic Co., 7817-980-D State St., Wauwatosa (13), Wisconsin, are offering a Vacu-matic to anybody who will install it on their car and help introduce it to others. Write them today for particulars as to how you can get your Vacu-matic or just send your name and address on a penny post-card.

Pd. Adv.