

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Ave"  
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## Ludwig on "Wilson"

The new motion picture "Wilson" is attracting much attention, not only from film reviewers but from politicians as well. The former judge the picture for its art, the latter try to measure its immediate political effect since the 1944 election sees a revival of some of the issues of the period of 1918-20.

Of all the comments on the film which have come to our attention the most original is that of Emil Ludwig, the famous German biographer who now lives in California as a political exile. In a letter to the screen editor of the New York Times Ludwig takes the film sharply to task as a dispenser of false propaganda. Ludwig denounces the idea prevalent in the between-wars period that Clemenceau was a sort of devil incarnate against whom Wilson fought as an angel of light. He says bluntly that at Versailles "Wilson was wrong and Clemenceau right."

This will not settle the argument by any means, but Ludwig's contention is of such importance that we quote his letter in full:

The Hollywood show now being presented under the great name "Wilson" has nothing to do with history. Only in its last half hour it develops two political problems: the League of Nations and Versailles. The first is given as it should be, but the second is handled in a way that represents a danger in these months of great political decisions.

When I wrote the play "Versailles," which was staged in Germany, Holland and London in 1932, at a time when Wilson was extremely unpopular in this country, I had three hours for that drama. The new picture, "Wilson," comes to Paris after two hours, and remains there for six minutes. It shows this most important event of Wilson's life in an entirely unfinished, even comic scene where the President, as the defender of justice, demands the ethical frontiers of defeated Germany from Clemenceau, who wanted to take the Rhineland for France.

This scene, as does the whole picture and the totally unimpeachable actor, shows your great President as a rather stupid, stubborn St. George fighting against evil, represented here by an ugly, diabolic monkey with Clemenceau's name and face, who, in the end, makes a cynical bow to the noble President. The public applauded Wilson. The whole picture—except for one scene—would be greatly applauded in Berlin too.

This legend of Versailles with the devil Clemenceau, who in fact was the only man who saw the Germans rightly, became the chief weapon in the hands of the German propagandists, and as it was believed by most Americans, it created sympathy for the "ill-treated" Germans and led to an American loan of \$6,000,000,000 to the Germans, who used most of it for rearmament and the financial and moral preparation of this war.

Today the same German propaganda, made by certain professors, industrialists and emigrants, is going on in this country with exactly the same lies and aims. It can easily lead to the same effects, creating sympathy with the "poor, misled German people," and making America lose a second peace.

The very contrary should be told and shown to the millions of Americans crowding to the movies—namely, that at Versailles Wilson was wrong and Clemenceau right. Wilson remains a great man, because he founded the League of Nations. But if the Treaty of Versailles had really been made against his proposals we would not have a war on today.

## Not All Dreams

A disciple of Dr. Freud could no doubt explain those dreams which involve a sleeper in embarrassing situations, as when one dreams he has gone to work without a necktie or perhaps is out on the street without his pants on. What a feeling of relief it is to waken and realize it was only a dream!

Well, the embarrassing situations are sometimes real. There was the man in Milwaukee Friday, who chased a thief running off with his pants and his \$698. This time, when he woke up he realized he was out in the hotel hall sans trousers, and to escape embarrassment let the thief go and went back to his room. Later he recovered his trousers, but not the money.

Then there were pictures of men in dishabille in Washington who were caught with their pants off at a press-your-pants-while-you-wait place, when it caught fire. That indeed was no place for a self-respecting fire to start. The sight of pants-less patrons running out of the pressery must have been ridiculous.

Embarrassing moments are not all dreams.

## Editorial Comment

### CARELESS REPORTING

This being the season of the year when every resident of this forested area should be unusually careful about fire, we, naturally, have had our attention drawn to stories of forest fires of other days.

One of these appeared in Western Outdoor Quarterly, official publication of the Federation of Western Outdoor clubs, and we were, we admit, somewhat surprised to read that "the Tillamook-Wolf Creek burn in Oregon in 1933 was the biggest forest fire ever to take place in the United States and comprised some 14 billion feet of timber."

We were surprised because we chanced to remember that we had read that probably the biggest fire ever reported in North America was in the Miramichi area, which swept through more than 3,000,000 acres of forests in Maine and New Brunswick in October, 1825.

When we first came to Oregon, one of our first trips took us into the southern section of what is referred to as the Yacolt burn, better known as the Columbia river burn of 1902, which covered more than 600,000 acres, much of it valuable timber. Other notable fires of history include: Idaho, 1919, 3,000,000 acres; Peshtigo, Wisconsin, 1871, 1,280,000 acres; Michigan, 1881, 1,000,000 acres; Big Horn, Wyoming, 1876, 500,000 acres; Yaquina, Oregon, 1848, 450,000 acres; Nestucca, Oregon, 1852, 320,000 acres; Coos Bay, Oregon, 1868, 300,000 acres and Baudette, Minnesota, 1910, 300,000 acres, all much larger in extent than the Tillamook-Wolf Creek fire.

For the benefit of the editors of Western Outdoor Quarterly, it may be stated that what it refers to as the Tillamook-Wolf Creek fire, was in reality two distinct fires which, however, were burning at one and the same time. At the closest point the two fires were at least 15 miles apart, and one was not, so far as is known, associated with the other.—Hood River News.

## Bradley and Montgomery

While General Eisenhower has emphasized that the raising of General Bradley to a command equal to that held by General, now Field Marshal Montgomery, implied no discredit to the latter, the fact remains that the colorful Montgomery has not repeated his performance in North Africa. For that matter he didn't do it with his eighth army in Italy. Somehow in Italy and Normandy Montgomery did not show the same flash he displayed in the battle of El Alamein and the race across Africa.

In Normandy the breaks didn't seem to be with him. His British and Canadian troops were facing the stronger section of the German line, apparently. The German idea seems to have been to head off a leftward swing around to LeHavre or a direct thrust toward Paris, and massed their troops across the northern end of the peninsula to block such moves. Bradley, commanding the allied right wing, broke through at St. Lo, Patton's fresh third army poured through the gap and its later achievements still seem almost incredible. At any rate the Bradley-Patton team became the free striking arm, and the British, failing in their attempts to crack the German line, served as a shoreward anchor.

The result was that Bradley and Patton immediately became popular heroes. The award was on the basis of performance, which in battle is the final test. Montgomery though is well entitled to promotion to the rank of field marshal. In the long annals of British military history few who have worn that title did so from greater merit than General Sir Bernard Montgomery, who outfoxed the desert fox, Rommel, and won one of the most brilliant campaigns in modern warfare.

Reichsmarshal Goering is said to be under house arrest at his home, Karinhall. That will give him time to enjoy the art treasures he has stolen from all over Europe. He had better get this done because it will not be long until he gets to study nature from behind the grid of a jail window.

Namur, Namur... Yank tank spearheads are said to be nearing Namur. It was the Namur radio in 1918 which reported that the Germans were ready to sue for an armistice. But the Yanks and their allies will not stop at the German border this time.

Senator Truman acknowledges his formal notification with a 22-minute address. Appropriate length for a .22 calibre man.

When fire destroyed Actor Wallace Beery's trailer he chirruped "I've burned my breeches behind me."

## Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Hitler's dream of world conquest was fast shivering into a hopeless fight to hold the Reich itself, this first week-end of a fateful September in Europe.

Utter chaos marked the German rout in France. There were credible intimations of Nazi retreat also from Italy, the Balkan peninsula, Denmark and Norway which could mean that everywhere but in the east from the Carpathians to East Prussia, German and Austrian armies were being called back to defend their own home frontiers.

And by every sign the retreat order again had come too late as it did at Stalingrad, in Africa, in Sicily and in northern Russia and the lost Baltic states. The inner walls of Nazidom's citadel, all that is left of the boasted fortress Europe, were quaking if not already breached in the west and rumbling with symptoms of impending internal explosions as well as actual revolt in Slovakia.

The portents for Germany everywhere were so sinister that Nazi radio spokesmen hardly sought to conceal them from home front hearers. They pointed in only one direction, due east, to claim a negative victory. Between East Prussia and the Carpathians, they said, the vast Russian steam roller had been stemmed.

Whether that was true or not events in Poland seemed apt to disclose within the next week. The mere fact that the claim was made by the Nazis at the very moment that allied forces in France were rolling practically unopposed into Belgium and to the gates of Germany itself is significant. It might furnish a clue to the desperate expedients to which German leadership, with or without Hitler approval, is preparing to resort to evade paying the full price for the nation's war crimes.

It will be recalled that in the wake of the army effort in Germany that narrowly failed to eliminate Hitler and his own top-flight military advisers, the new Nazi regime he set up scraped the German home-front manpower barrel to reinforce the eastern front against the Russians. It was done in the face of a warning by General Dittmar, spokesman of the German military high command, that the crisis for Germany lay in the west, not in the east. That military judgment has now been well proven by events. It is in the west, not the east, that Germany's own frontiers are most closely threatened if not already crossed by American forces. It is there, near the Saarbrücken Gap leading into the industrial heartland of Germany that massive Allied striking power is mustered for a knock-out blow.

The German flight from France has gone at a pace leaving no doubt that it lacks any semblance of plan or purpose.

Through it all in the west there has been little or any intimation of German reinforcement of that front by withdrawals from the east or elsewhere. Isolated divisions may have been brought up; but if so, they have not been built up into an effective force for counter action.

It seems incredible that such a total military misconception of the realities of the war in the west or even the ruthless fanaticism of Hitler and his Nazi leaders could account for the German debacle in France. Historians will seek some other explanation. They may find it in a deliberate policy of limiting the strength on the ground or in air to be committed to the French, Italian or any other theatre under pressure of the western Allies while straining every nerve to keep the Russians in the east at bay from Reich frontiers proper.



"Blind Date"

## IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

state board of health. That is as far as his reporting goes. The treasurer whose official concern is financial and not social merely reports the aggregate receipts in divorce cases, \$49,005 for the last biennium. The state board of health includes the marriage license figures in its report on vital statistics.

It seems to me there should be a comprehensive system of reporting particularly of marriage, divorce, and criminal cases for the state as a whole. Just who should assemble these statistics is less important than that they should be assembled. The reports on marriage and divorce might be collected by the state board of health or the secretary of state. Reports of criminal cases might go to the superintendent of state police or to the secretary of state. These statistics should cover the number and the nature of criminal cases, and their final disposition.

A comprehensive reporting system in criminal matters is highly important for proper law enforcement. At present the reporting is only partial. If fingerprints are taken the report goes in to the state bureau of identification; but unless there is a conviction and a commitment to the penitentiary the fingerprints may not be taken.

The superintendent of state police ought to have a steady flow of essential information respecting crimes and arrests, at least on felonies. The statistical information may be revealing as to trends in crime, and localities where the incidence of crime is greatest. Sociologists could have access to accurate information on which to base their studies in human behavior.

The material is all in the offices of the county clerks, but there is no provision in law for collecting the information from the 38 counties and making it available by publication. The cost would be very small, and I hope the legislature

## News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 3.—The Gallup poll claims Roosevelt leading by a small margin.

The commercial polls generally, in the past, have noted presidential races about even until two or three weeks before the real vote counting. A magazine poll of the political experts in the Washington press corps indicates a rather stronger expectation of a Roosevelt victory. This reflects, I think, the popular disbelief that anyone could ever beat Mr. Roosevelt, the natural sports notion that nearly always makes the champion the favorite. Generally, the public cannot conceive of a champ losing, as he has never lost before.

Yet the inside unquotable reports of the congressmen from back home actually give Dewey an even or better chance to win, as matters stand today.

Discard all republican reports, as these might be partisan. Consider only those of democratic legislators. They have been so discouraging as to alarm and even embitter the democratic political leaders, who are urging the president to drop his "non-partisan" campaign and start a partisan one—and he will September 23.

The spearhead of the fourth term movement was the Hillman-CIO political action committee, and all the politicians can see its effectiveness has been dulled, if not splintered. The other unions, and some CIO unions, would not stand for it. Wagering odds have dropped

gives early authorization for the making of such reports by county clerks to proper state offices, and for the information assembled to be included in official reports. I shall endeavor to find out what the practice of other states is in this respect. Perhaps we can find a good pattern to follow.

After all, 22,304,755 votes were cast against him four years ago (27,243,466 for him) and all symptoms of sentiment suggest this opposition has been greatly enlarged. These 22,304,755 are nearly as many as elected him president in 1932 (22,821,537.) Many a campaign has been won on Labor day only to be lost two months later on election day. I think Wilkie, for instance, was stronger at this stage of the race four years ago, than when the 22,304,755 votes were cast for him.

Also, I have seen Mr. Roosevelt completely turn over a campaign situation stacked mountain-high against him. He has been more clever as a campaigner than in any other phase of his duties. Yet nothing which has developed so far in this campaign yet points to that outcome again.

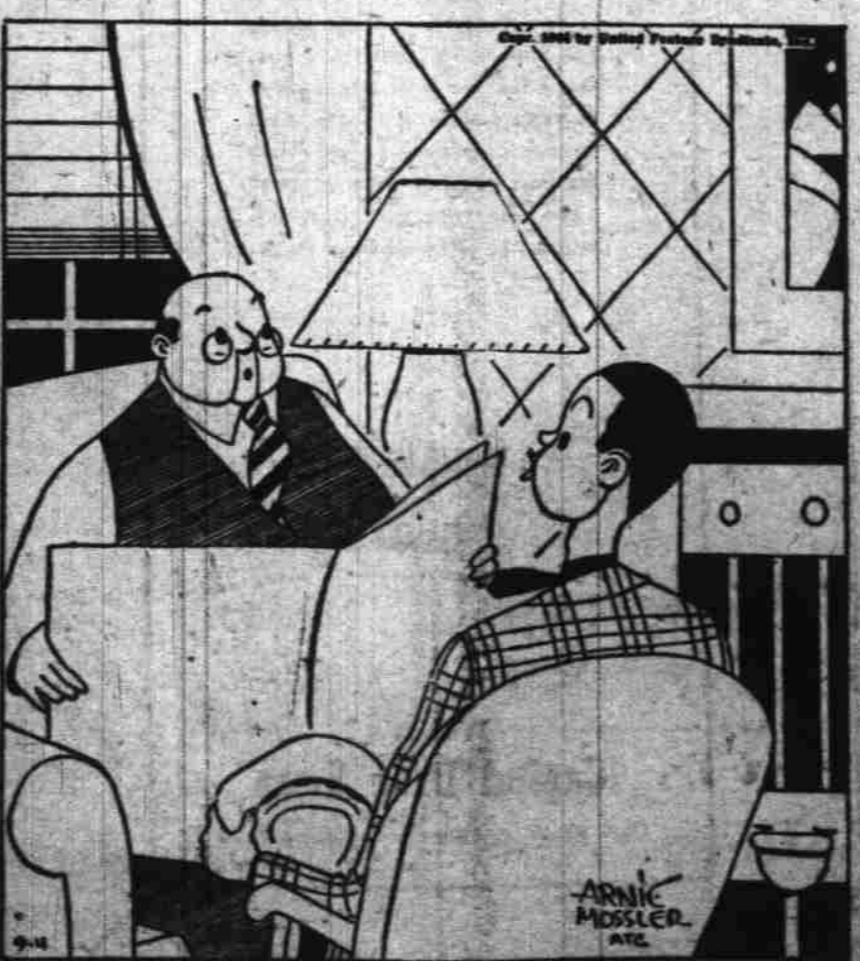
The unpopular Hillman spearheading, the Nelson-Wilson switch—the ineffective "non-partisan attitude" have not seemed to bring the results, compared with Dewey's organizing of the 26 governors in the only states he needs to win, his use of Dulles in the peace conference to kill the isolation tag on him and get the Wilkie support, his killing of the radical campaign which had built up an elaborate case, accusing him of

opposing soldier votes (he demonstrated that one-fifth of all soldiers so far registered to vote throughout the country, have registered under his New York absentee state law).

To date, the Dewey campaign has been by far the smarter. Anyone who thinks this brief citation is not objective reporting is merely deluding himself. There exists in this country a silent, strong opposition to Mr. Roosevelt, a resentful opposition which is not indulging much in political debate, which may not show itself at political meetings, or in press reports.

I think the fourth term will be gravely in doubt until these votes are counted.

## "THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"Frankly, Mr. Merton, do you consider your daughter a good matrimonial risk?"

## American Humor Sparkles Against Strange Setting

By Roger Greene  
(Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon)  
FRANCE (P)—American humor often sparkles against a strange background — like a star shell above the grim panorama of war.

I shall never forget Pvt. Bill Rosenberg of Des Moines, Iowa, as I saw him this afternoon in a battle-gutted French town.

Bill was bored stiff. With a bunch of other GI's he was sprawled in the back of a big, open US army truck which was jammed in the middle of a mile-long convoy that moved about 20 feet, stood 20 minutes, then moved again.

Bill and his outfit had been down the line all afternoon burying Germans. He slumped flies, yawned and, intermittently, dozed. Suddenly I saw him jerk awake and inspiration seized him.

"Hey, soldier!" he roared. "Down the road!"

Disconcertedly, on the stone doorstep of a cottage which had

been crazily tipped and shattered by bombs, stood another GI. For this area, the cottage was in fair shape—with its vacant-eyed window looking out from a part of the wall which still stood. Compared with the rest of the town, upon which some 2000 allied bombers had dropped about 8000 tons of bombs, it was practically a modern home.

So, there was Bill Rosenberg, calling in a bassoon bellow to the other soldier on the doorstep: "Hey, whyn'tcha try the FHA? Maybe they'll give you a loan on it!"

"Nuts!" came the retort. "Oh, wait a minute, chum," exorted Bill. "Don't give up like that. If you can show you're connected with war work in some way, they might even give you a priority on it!"

Hours later we jeoped back through the town's ruins, where the reek of death still was strong. The long line of transport moved slowly as night approached. At night the Germans venture forth. Nobody said much, because you keep quiet when you're caught in a slow, creeping convoy of ammunition trucks in a ghost town at night with black clouds rolling overhead to hide enemy bombers.

In that hushed atmosphere, I heard some GI's talking to a pretty blonde USO entertainer, Norma Browne of Chicago. They spoke softly, kidding a bit and whistling a little.

## The Literary Guidepost

By John Selby  
"OF MEN AND BATTLE," by David Fredenthal and Richard Wilcox (Howell, Soskin: \$3). "Of Men and Battle" is an out-sized book that might be passed over by a careless buyer because it looks a lot more like a juvenile than it does a serious war book. It is a very serious war book indeed, both text and illustrations.

The artist is David Fredenthal, who has painted under any number of fellowships, Guggenheim to Cranbrook Academy, since he was born 30 years ago in Detroit. His luck has held in war time; he was first chosen to draw (and paint) what he saw in the defense industries, and in 1943 the army appointed him a war artist and fired him off to the Southwest Pacific. He was in Australia when that project was discontinued, but again he was lucky—his contract was taken over by Life magazine, for which he continues to do assignments.

And the accompanying text (which is spoken of as a "sound track" by the way) has been written by Richard S. Wilcox, one of Life's associate editors who has seen action in both the Atlantic and Pacific. The book is formally a story of the attack on Arawa, New Britain, in December, 1943, when the United Nations were going over to the offensive in the Pacific and when much depended on the initial moves. Yet Messrs. Wilcox and Fredenthal have not tried to write history, but to describe moods and emotions. Many of the drawings were done under fire, all of them on the scene, and necessarily some of them are a bit on the scrappy side—to be quite honest, Mr. Fredenthal is an artist of the school which often eschews accuracy of statement in the service of some other attribute. I defy anybody to guess what the picture of landing craft on page 63 is, without Mr. Wilcox's "sound track" to help him.

But the effect of the drawings and the text is remarkable, and cumulative. The reader honestly is made to feel the terror of waiting at the jungle's edge, the fierceness of battle, the sick horror of the aftermath, and even something of the use of it all. This is not a soft book for soft readers, but neither is it a chiller. It appears to be the truth about one battle as one artist and one writer, remarkably congenial with each other, saw it at one time.

All reports agree the farm vote is lost beyond redemption and the business vote for Roosevelt was damaged by the departure of little businessman Nelson and big businessman Wilson from WPB in favor of a TVA engineer.

Earlier, a considerable portion of the business vote, and possibly all the top financial vote, would have gone to Roosevelt, on the spending-recovery promise plus internationalism.

On the other hand, New England is still classed as largely doubtful (by republicans) although Dewey has gone a long way toward satisfying the Wilkie elements there. Probably Wilkie expects to come out for Dewey just before election as he did on the eve of election of 1942 in New York.

These developments as a whole may explain Mr. Roosevelt's decision to make a labor speech in Philadelphia and follow with others.

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## Practical Religion

—by Rev. John L. Knight, Jr.,  
Counselor on Religious Life,  
Willamette University.

American life has had many prejudices — racial prejudice, class prejudice, and so on. In recent years another prejudice, just as dangerous as all others, has appeared. It is a prejudice against the commonplace.

Somewhat we have been putting an undue stress on the big, spectacular things—unusual inventions, skyscrapers, high honors, and all the rest. And, perhaps unconsciously, we have been discounting the commonplace to such an extent that many people have a definite prejudice against it.

One who looks at life realistically, however, will soon see the folly of such thinking. In the whole scene and plan of life the farm is as significant as the skyscraper, the laborer as necessary as the foreman, and the flowers of the field as lovely as the gallery's best art.

## Bus Operators Face Critical Tire Shortage

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2.—Faced with the necessity of being forced to curtail schedules because of the shortage of tires, officials of the National Association of Motor Bus Operators today made another plea for the elimination of all but the most essential travel over the Labor Day weekend.

"On some lines, one out of every five buses is out of service because of lack of tire replacements," said Arthur M. Hill, president of the bus organization. "So far, the intercity operators have been able to provide nearly normal schedules on most routes, but obviously they will not be able to run the multiple sections required if travel continues unabated. Some war-essential travelers may be stranded because a tire failure today, with no replacements, means another bus must be withdrawn from service."

The war production board's recent order for a drastic reduction in the quantity of heavy bus and truck tires that were to be made available for August and September was brought about to avoid a possible shortage of heavy-duty military tires.

Since tire manufacturers are meeting increased quotas, it is expected that the situation may be eased in the near future but any relief will not come in time to avoid Labor Day congestion.

# Stevens



**Diamonds**

Each beautiful jewel enthroned in a handsome setting has a personality of its own. Choose yours with care and confidence from our select collection of fine stones.

Credit  
If Desired

**Stevens**