

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Newspaper Round-up

The newspapers of Oregon, mostly republican in their political complexion, took the results of Tuesday's poll "in stride." From the laconic "Well, that's that," of the Bend Bulletin to the refurbished editorial of 1940 used again (and again and again?) by the Medford Mail-Tribune editors acquiesce in the anticipated result with generally an attitude of joining hands now for attack on the nation's problems.

The Oregon City Enterprise, rep., remarks that power is entrusted not so much to the democratic party as to "the wisdom and power of one man—to us still an ominous situation."

The Dalles Chronicle, rep., sees only this fourth term for Roosevelt, figuring not only on his age but on the "next tumultuous four years" which it thinks will be enough to defeat any man for reelection. It is pessimistic about impending inflation and socialism: "In other words it may be: 'After me, the deluge.'"

The Coos Bay Times, ind., whose editor Sheldon F. Sackett was Roosevelt's most ardent editorial supporter in 1944 as in 1940, finds, in the language of Rodney Alden, its editorial contributor, "no time for either gloating or recrimination." It condemns republican practice in crucifying Wendell Willkie and in the Dewey campaign assertions which Alden says, "come under the head of brazen deceit."

Frank Jenkins in his Klamath Falls Herald and News comments that "the instinct of the people is still to distrust the republican party, which held too much power too long and abused it."

Stalwart Claude Ingalls of the Corvallis Gazette-Times, rep., glooms: "It is clear that the communist-fellow-traveler - CIO - federal employe-socialist-citizens-of-foreign-extraction plus the solid thinkless-south-ticket won again and next January we will have another coronation." His forecast: "So we are in for four years deception, secrecy, falsehood, wisecracks and opportunism," but Ingalls finds a grain of comfort in this: "Benton county is one of the sanest spots in the country in which to live."

The more temperate Eugene Register-Guard, ind., which again (third "again") opposed FDR, anticipates that his "regime" will be "more arrogant and cocksure than ever before." But it sees for republicans "the hour of opportunity... If they can lift their own party out of petty obstructionism." It thinks that it is the democratic party "which must view the future with grave concern," because its success is built around "one man."

The East Oregonian, traditionally democratic but which supported Willkie four years ago, pursued the same course as the Portland Journal this year in backing the president for a fourth term, largely on account of the war situation. It sees in the large popular vote for Dewey a warning to the president and his followers not to get "puffed up." The election, it feels, gives "the president a plain mandate to go ahead with our war plans and with plans to insure future peace."

The larger number of Oregon daily papers, as in previous years, opposed Roosevelt. That was true the country over where the Editor and Publisher survey showed that 68.5 per cent of the press opposed and 17.7 per cent supported Mr. Roosevelt. This gave Mr. Ickes the opportunity to job again at the newspapers, inviting editors to explain this situation which, Ickes thinks indicate "a progressively unhappy and dangerous decline in reader confidence." This was the contention in 1936 and 1940. But measured by the declining popular majorities for the president it is less true today. If the press line-up remains the same and republicans win in 1948 will Ickes then regard that as proof of the restored influence of the press? We doubt it.

Newspaper editors are no longer the dictators to the voting public and do not pretend to be, nor is their judgment infallible—nor is the judgment of the people infallible either. Roosevelt's personality has impressed the voting public more favorably than the more critical members of the press.

One of the knotty problems which the administration postponed till after the election is the fate of the Little Steel formula. The war labor board passed over to the president the decision on whether it should be scrapped and steel wages raised. If this is done railway workers and other branches of labor will demand similar wage advances. It will tax the president's ingenuity to hold the roof on the economy and hold down wage increases and at the same time satisfy the workers who after all turned in the winning votes for him.

When the "waitress wanted" signs come down from restaurant windows then we may know the war is about over.

Editorial Comment

THE MARINE BIRTHDAY

Marines, proud, cocky and just a thousand miles from Tokyo, make their annual entry Friday in the log they have been keeping for 169 years.

For the historical year ending November 10, they can write "Mission Accomplished" after Bougainville in the Solomons, Tarawa in the Gilberts, Cape Gloucester on New Britain, Roi and Namur in the Marshalls, Saipan, Tinian and Guam in the Marianas, Peleliu and other assorted islands in the Palau group.

In these 12, swift months, marines have been the spearhead in performing what has been called by the Commandant, Lt. Gen. A. A. Vandegrift, "the amphibious miracle of our time."

These men, who boast they can land on the beachhead to Hell against the Devil himself, have bought with their lives and blood the islands from which the U. S. navy now dominates the Pacific ocean areas, including the front and back doors to Japan itself.

Soberly and with full realization of their sacrifices, the Leathernecks will enter the names of those who gave their lives, or suffered grievous injury in the thunderbolt drives to the north and west. Since their last anniversary, 6,946 marines have died in combat and over 28,000 were wounded. These casualties have raised the total for World War II to 6,837 marines killed and some 25,000 wounded.—Corvallis Gazette Times

Local Rights and Federal Power

The Eugene Register-Guard, agreeing with the recent addresses of Dr. Paul Raver of the Bonneville administration calling for public approval of federal construction and operation of dams and power transmission lines, questions the administrator's disclaimer of federal participation in retail distribution.

It asks if Dr. Raver is going to continue to demand the say in retail rate structures both for private and publicly operated facilities. It asks if the government agency is going to keep its hands off and let localities make their own decisions as to type of ownership, and then asks if the people of the northwest will have any "say" in case a regional authority is set up for the Columbia basin.

These questions, as has been previously noted in The Statesman, have worked to retard public acceptance of the Bonneville program, because the people are jealous of local rights. To quote the concluding paragraphs of the R-G's editorial:

The surplus power from Bonneville and Grand Coulee (and contemplated dams) MUST be marketed. People of the Northwest would be foolish not to want to make maximum use of that resource. BUT—what are going to be the boundaries between federal and local authority? Do we have to sell the American birthright to get AVAILABLE POWER? Are these proposed "valley authorities" going to demand control over every trickle of water on the vast watershed—a paramount question for farmers and ranchers? Are they going to demand the right to enforce their notions of "planned economy" down to the tiniest business and the last tillable acre? Are these proposed "valley authorities" going to be political instruments, or will they be agencies which the people control?

Eugene gets great pride in its municipal power plants, built from the ground up, boasting lower rates even than Bonneville, but Eugene will not be immune from grasping "authority" programs. Some day, not so far distant, Eugene will have to decide whether to build more plants of its own or to draw on that great surplus from Columbia river. What will be the terms?

Fighting at Ormoc

General MacArthur tells the people frankly that the Japs have succeeded in landing 35,000 veteran troops at Ormoc on Leyte island to oppose the Americans. They have succeeded in spite of American control of the air and the constant efforts of PT boats. The general says that our initial advantage of surprise in our landings is now used up, which indicates heavy fighting before the Japs are ousted from the Philippines.

The Japs have the advantage of shorter lines of communication. Their boats and barges can creep along through the narrow seas, hiding by day and traveling by night. They have a huge reservoir of manpower on their home islands with large forces on Luzon and in south China.

What we need is to get hold of a good harbor like Manila where we can base our navy. Then it can control the waters, with the aid of air power. Airplanes alone cannot prevent enemy reinforcement because they can't hover over the seas and watch movements. Ships with planes for observation, can do the job. Until we get Manila we will have steady fighting, and subs, PT boats and aircraft will have to fight hard to keep off enemy reinforcements.

General MacArthur is confident of his ability to handle the situation on Leyte, but this experience shows what he will be up against in moves against Luzon or Formosa.

The army wanted 4000 nurses in September; it got 600. In the summer months the call of the army and navy was for 1500 a month; they never got over 900. This explains why the recruitment of nurses is being pushed and why women are recruited for the divisions of the service for assignment to hospital duty. The nursing job begins when the shooting starts, and doesn't stop when the guns do.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

The widening scope and deepening bite of General Patton's Third army drive is beginning to warrant Berlin classification of the operation as a major offensive.

It covers an estimated 75-mile wide front in the Metz area as last reported with indications that eight or more divisions including at least two armored units, have been employed.

There are also signs in field reports that due to weather conditions and probably to a serious lack of air power the enemy may have been caught napping to some extent. The 10-mile depth to which Patton's troops had penetrated in less than three days leads to that conclusion.

If Patton has achieved substantial surprise to threaten the powerful Metz-Thionville redoubt with isolation so quickly, it must be largely due to enemy lack of information and to his own accurate knowledge of Nazi deployments on that front.

It still seems that the immediate purpose of the Third army drive, now expanded to a triple front attack, is to slash across enemy communication links with Metz and Thionville rather than to storm forward to the German frontier and the Saar. The closing jaws of the trap are taking shape on the map both east of the Sella river crossings below Metz and in the wide and deep bridgehead beyond the Moselle to the northeast of Thionville.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the Third army offensive, however, is the evidence it gives of General Eisenhower's ability to make good his statement that there would be no winter lull on any sector of the western front. At the time he spoke two weeks ago there was much to suggest that British-Canadian forces and the American First army to the north held priorities on ammunition, tank fuel and other items, essential in quantity for any such large scale operation as the Third army has now launched.

If that is true, it seems clear that despite long communication lines and weather-bound roads to French coastal areas Patton has now been supplied sufficiently to resume the offensive on a broad front. Eisenhower's logistics problem so far as the left flank of his line in Germany and Holland is concerned will be completely solved when the Antwerp base gets into full action. It would not very greatly lessen the supply difficulties of his troops farther south, however.



The Palm Reader

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY

Two books for the youngsters—Pigeons never meant much in my life until I read a book called "Couriers of the Sky," by Mary Graham Bonner. In the old days, a pigeon was just a bird that emitted a curious cooing-clucking sort of sound at intervals, and was occasionally served as food when very young. Now I know a lot better.

Pigeons have been one of man's closest friends since history began, Miss Bonner writes, and probably long before that vague date. The friendship has never been altered, nor has the usefulness of the pigeon in other than gastronomic fields lessened. Even today, when we have everything from the international cable system to walkie-talkies, pigeons still are useful as message bearers.

Nor is just any pigeon adequate for just any task. Racing pigeons should never be white, because hawks can see them too easily. Pigeons used for racing, or homing pigeons, must have all twelve of their tail feathers to fly efficiently, and should you want to buy a start of homers, you should make the purchase when the birds are not more than four weeks old. Otherwise you are quite likely to have nothing left but a nest when they are first given liberty.

Miss Bonner gives more than the history and habits of the birds — she tells simply, and very well, how to care for pigeons and how to house them. It is interesting that the Chinese used to tie whistles and bells to pigeons to frighten away hawks, but it is probably more important to modern youngsters about to raise pigeons that under no circumstances must their owner forget to keep iodized salt where they can get at it. (Knopf; \$1.50).

I can't say how James Thurber's juveniles appeal to children, but certainly they are amusing for an adult. The new one is called "The Great Quiltlow," it is about toymaker who saved his village from the depredations of a giant named Hunder in a very special way, and the book is illustrated wonderfully in plentiful color by one of our most gifted painters — Doris Lee. (Harcourt, Brace; \$2).

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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NEW YORK, Nov. 10—Sharp changes in inner political management of this nation are likely to evolve from the election results.

Gov. Dewey naturally will go back to Albany for the two more years of his term and there will wield whatever leadership he chooses to assume over the tremendous number of people who voted for him. But Gov. Bricker chose to relinquish his Ohio job, and the returns were not fully tabulated before a movement was started in the party to get him to go on to Washington to take over the chairmanship of the republican national committee.

Bricker has always been popular within the party and the influence he wielded successfully in the election, in Ohio and less successfully in the far western states, makes the idea of him assuming the fulltime job of party organization management rather obvious, especially as Chairman Brownell made personal sacrifices to take the job during the campaign (he was doubtful about it until pressed by Mr. Dewey) and has intended to retire.

The republicans were not discouraged by the result which caused only the deflection of Senator Ball. Actually the tabulation of votes induced most of the party leaders to predict an easy national victory, when, if ever, the vote-magic of Mr. Roosevelt is eliminated from the picture, as the popularity of democrats drops, sharply after his name is passed.

On the democratic side, the victory healed no wounds, put no bandages on any and left some enigmas. Obviously there is going to be an immediate start of a movement to control the party for 1948, on the ground that "surely" Mr. Roosevelt will not run again (the word "surely" being used by democratic supporters of the president current-ly.) My guess is he may make some effort soon to control that result but how long he can hold together such uncompromisable elements as the south and the Wallace-Hillman group will depend upon his ingenuity. Retaliation against Senator Byrd for failing to declare for Roosevelt may be attempted by the northern element (I mean Senator Guffey in particular) but the astonishing size of the anti-Roosevelt vote in Virginia puts Byrd beyond anything more than some trouble. The Texas Senator O'Daniel who led the anti-Roosevelt forces at home may not fare so well.

Vice President Truman is CIO but less ideologically bent than Wallace and in a more machine-like sort of political way. He is a good natured and an exceptionally modest person (he actually still blushes.) As senator he had a habit of turning things off in a half joking manner, a trait which got him into much trouble in the big-time campaign circuit, particularly in Massachusetts. He lost prestige within the party during the campaign, although he performed well enough, or at least successfully, his main job of stressing the fight against "isolationists." He was nervous in the east because of the Ku Klux Klan charges, and it was the democratic high command which required him to say again, again and again in his Madison Square Garden speech the phrase "regardless of creed or color." His chief brain trust was Hugh Fulton, counsel for the Truman investigation committee, who wrote his speeches as a good lawyer rather than an adept politician, which he is not.

Wallace seems to want to carry on his ideological leadership in or out of the government and may become a more acceptable leader than Hillman of the Hillman groups, acceptable, that is to all these elements.

But democratic eyes are also on Frank Lasche, the Cleveland mayor, who was called to the White House twice before he entered the Ohio gubernatorial campaign to run far ahead of the ticket. While he denied he was the Washington candidate, there seems to have been some connection there, which may bring forth future democratic fruits.

Safety Council Activity Saves 310,000 Lives

CHICAGO, Nov. 10—The lives of 310,000 Americans have been saved since the national safety movement began in 1913.

This is revealed in the 1944 edition of "Accident Facts," the statistical yearbook of the national safety council.

A box score of accidents contained in the book shows that the death rate has been lower than for 1913 each year in the 30-year period from 1914 to 1944, except for 1917 and 1936. In 1913 the rate was 85.5 per 100,000 population. Last year it was 72.3.

During the triple decade there were 2,508,000 accidental deaths. If the death rate had been as high each year as it was in 1913, this death toll would have been 3,119,000.

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT
Best Behavior
Town in Occupied
Germany Found

By Wade Werner
(Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon)

MONSCHAU, Germany, Nov. 8—(Delayed)—(AP)—The best behaved town in occupied Germany is this storybook town on the U.S. first army's front line southeast of Aachen.

One enters it over a hill road from which a wide sweep of German-held territory and the smoke and flames of burning buildings is visible. American outposts here look out over a no-man's-land.

But Monschau itself is the exact opposite of the shattered, charred, dead city of Aachen. This picturesque and enchanting town, snuggled deep in a rocky gorge, was evacuated relatively unscathed by the wehrmacht. It seems to be a small, sheltered nook of the old pacetime Germany. The immediate impulse is to wander about quaint winding streets and gather a pocketful of

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued from page 1)

war would not have come. That is doubtful, for Versailles itself became enmeshed in power politics, and postwar Europe paid little attention to treaty engagements for disarmament.

Again we heap criticism on ourselves for not marching through to Berlin and giving the Germans a taste of defeat on their home soil. There is no way of proving that doing so would have taught Germany its lesson any more than the capitulation at Compienne did. Our soldiers wish now they had done so, but that is out of their bitterness over Germany's treachery, not because they are confident it would have provided a needed cure.

We abuse ourselves also for our part in the disarmament conference which gave the world a naval holiday for 10 years and caused nations to sink many of their warships. Yet that was hailed as most enlightened statesmanship at the time, as was the later Kellogg-Briand pact to outlaw war.

For my own part I have not been satisfied with claims that ever since the first world war Germany plotted for a second trial at arms. True, the Germans wanted a larger army than the 100,000 authorized in the Wehrmacht, and a greater naval and air force — their national pride demanded them. But until the freak gangster Hitler came along and whipped up their war spirit, I believe the German people were content to work out their destiny without resort to arms. Hitler by his propaganda fanned into belief the false story that the German army was not defeated but stabbed in the back by revolution at home, and inflamed the people with his denunciation of the "crime of Versailles" and its war-guilt clause. When Hitler pressed farther than appeasers would go, war came.

You cannot safely predict the future of nations over a long span of years. Circumstances which we call accidental or fortuitous occur which are unpredictable. Most of all it is impossible to predict the kind or quality of the leadership a quarter-century ahead when social conditions are in flux.

The only thing as individuals and as a nation we can do is to exercise the best judgment we can on each issue as it arises, trying to relate it to the stream of history, so our decisions will prove wise. That done, there is no use in lamenting errors of judgment which only time will reveal.

There is nothing to be gained in self-condemnation over the what-might-have-beens growing out of the first world war. They are so purely speculative there is scant foundation for regret.

Let us try then today to catch again something of that original glow of joy which flushed our faces that historic day 26 years ago.

picture postcards like a tourist. This enchantment—increased by the gay ignorance of children playing noisily in the streets—contrasts with the strained faces of middle-aged townspeople and the rumble of nearby battle.

All traces of the nazis seem to have vanished. The town now is run by a military government detachment commanded by Capt. Robert A. Goetschus, a former Indianapolis lawyer. Credited by first army headquarters with an exceptionally well-run community, Goetschus says this is largely due to civilian cooperation.

"These people are tired of war," Goetschus said, "and would welcome peace at any price. Peace with American occupation seems to them to be much preferable to continued resistance. I believe they are not unhappy to see us here. No case of sabotage by an inhabitant has yet occurred."

The inhabitants are known to have foiled several attempts by nazis to organize sabotage. When the nazis at Aachen sent a former citizen of Monschau back to his hometown as a refugee with instructions to wreck its central telephone exchange, the hometown boy merely removed vital parts of the exchange and hid them, telling others where they could be found. When the Americans came, the equipment was restored.

Before evacuating Monschau, the nazis also planned to destroy its fire-fighting equipment. Townspeople, hearing this, hid the community's fire engine in a cave. After the Americans arrived, they hauled it out again. Capt. H. M. Tibbitts, a former Chicago banker, attached to Goetschus' staff, pointed out that when the Yanks arrived they found 76,000 reichsmarks in the local bank, now under American control. So on a new deposit brought this up to 100,000.

"Those depositors certainly must think the Americans are here to stay," said Tibbitts, "otherwise they wouldn't put themselves on record and risk nazi reprisal."

Nazi propaganda inadvertently helped Goetschus get local cooperation. Radioes were not confiscated and the people were encouraged to listen to any broadcasts they heard. Once they heard a nazi report that Monschau had been retaken by the Germans. This drew a laugh. Another broadcast told that the Americans were killing and raping the citizens. This sharply reminded the people of the correct treatment they were getting under the military government.

There is a food problem here, but, paradoxically, there is plenty of meat. Steak is easier to find than fresh vegetables, since the nearby pasturage area is limited and it is necessary to slaughter a portion of the livestock.

The police chief and six unarmed patrolmen keep order among the civilians. In nearby villages, a German burgmaster appointed by the military government also acts as local constable. Monschau is the administrative center of the landkreis (county) of Monschau, but most of the landkreis remains to be cleared of enemy troops.

Construction Record for October High

Outstripped by one permit issued the first day of this month (representing an anticipated expenditure of \$115,000 in construction of a new Dairy Cooperative association plant), building permits for October were higher than for any earlier month in the year with the exception of January. During the first month of 1944 permits were issued for approximately \$34,000 worth of construction.

Permits issued in the office of the city building inspector last month were for expenditures totaling \$33,760, of which \$21,765 was earmarked for new construction, \$11,995 for alterations and repairs.

September's permits represented \$11,252, with \$1615 for new building and \$9637 for alterations and repairs.

October, 1943, permits represented \$10,461, of which \$850 was for new building and \$9611 for alterations and repairs.

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"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"I'm busy of those whitewash courtesans... they're liable to end up in court!"