

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## On The Credit Side

So much of American naval strategy of World War II already has been disclosed that it seems only fitting now to bring out a major instance which shows how the utmost use was made of the fortunate code-breaking early in the hostilities of the Pacific.

The Pearl Harbor probe in Washington has brought out testimony to the effect that Admiral Halsey's fleet—if it could be called such, when compared to the immeasurable greater strength later in the war—was 3000 miles or more from Midway when first knowledge was obtained of Japan's plan to conquer that strategic island.

As a matter of fact, the fleet—barren of battleships and with hardly a fourth of the strength of the east-bound units of Nippon—was more or less idling off the coast of the New Hebrides, on the edge of the Coral sea. It had arrived in the area some 72 or more hours too late to get in that fracas several hundred miles to the north and west.

Four days after the Coral sea battle, Halsey's units were joined by a few ships which had participated. The combined force then moved northward until one afternoon in mid-May, 1942, Tokyo radio was heard broadcasting a surprisingly accurate description of the fleet and its location. A high-flying Japanese plane from the Solomons apparently had sighted it, and it is probable Halsey had deliberately moved within Jap-patrol distance to make such possible.

Anyway, American fleet units then steamed directly south and for all the Japs knew—or even the correspondents aboard, for that matter—it was heading for Noumea or Australia. At least it seemed to pose no threat to the Japanese plan at Midway far to the north.

But the southward course was changed late one night. In a wide sweep to the east, and then north, the fleet raced to Pearl Harbor, dropped off Admiral Halsey, who was ill, spent 36 hours refueling and taking on supplies—then steamed northwest of Midway to lay the ambush which paid off in a major Nippon disaster when ships of the Rising Sun were battered and sunk in a flaming attack by planes from American carriers while the Japs' own air strength was being fought by the army and marines based on Midway.

If ever there was coordination of cryptography and all our service arms, it was at Midway where strategy and the will to gamble against great odds kept the mid-Pacific secure and paved the way for the great offensives later on.

The Pearl Harbor probe so far is succeeding mostly in rattling a lot of skeletons and giving away a lot of vital information without bringing out specifically the accounts on the credit side of the ledger. It's about time some black ink showed through the red.

## Chance in a Million—Lost

The court martial of Capt. Charles McVay of the lost cruiser Indianapolis apparently points out that the impossible can happen and that someone must be blamed.

It is too early in proceedings yet to judge whether the captain disobeyed specific orders to zig-zag or whether such orders provided him with a legal latitude for personal judgment in the matter. He must have erred, all right, as the tragic deaths of more than 800 men bear mute testimony, and little sympathy for him will go out from the families so sadly bereaved. But navy men will watch the trial with keen interest as a guide to the future.

Zig-zagging was a common practice in the combat zones throughout the war. It made a ship far less a target, forced a submarine to revealing maneuvers, cut the chances of leaving a too-clear trail with debris. But it also reduced compass speed, was a hazard with other ships in the immediate vicinity when the visibility was zero, frequently was halted during darkness if fleets were moving at a pace faster than a submarine could follow.

If failure to zig-zag is blamed for the last July 30 loss of the Leyte-bound Indianapolis, considerable blame also could attach itself to many another commander who was more fortunate in bringing his ship through. Zig-zagging was mandatory during the most dangerous hours of dawn and dusk, in almost all areas, when ships were all-too-well silhouetted against the sky. But ships other than the Indianapolis have weathered a straight course at night in many instances.

If the captain is convicted of a direct disobeying of orders it probably will go hard with him. If his actions after the ship was hit were not in the best keeping of naval traditions, he won't escape punishment. But many a navy man still would like to know just what mathematical chance there would be for a fast ship to be hit on a dark night in an 87,000,000-square-mile ocean.

The Klamath Falls Herald-News praised its community for reaching its victory bond quota but tempered its praise with a scolding over its failure on the war chest campaign. Remarkably that the KF state liquor store was about the best patronized of any in the state, the H-N proposed that store patrons match the cost of a quart of liquor with a check for the war chest, and offered to duplicate the contribution of the first ten to respond. To date it has had no takers. Vice and virtue do not seem to be at all neighborly. But looking at the crowds about the liquor stores at this season of the year one easily can agree with the Herald-News that the money is here to meet the quotas of the war chest; only the will to give is lacking.

## Truman Favors Unification

President Truman has sent a very strong message to congress in support of the proposal for unification of the war and navy departments into a single department of national defense. Thus he takes a stand alongside the army and in opposition to the navy which has fought strenuously against consolidation of the departments. The navy has feared it will be swallowed up or minimized in such a combination and is said to fear also possible loss of control of its air arm. Truman proposes a single department with equality of rating among land, sea and air forces.

The weight of opinion seems strongly to favor consolidation, although the navy's many friends hate to see it come. The experience of the last war has proved pretty well that too great division of responsibility and authority prevents the proper coordination of effort needed in military operations. Cases have been cited where unity of command in the field did not work well, but this does not deny the value of unity; instead it emphasizes it.

The admirals, loyal to their branch of the service, are doubtless entirely sincere in their opposition to unification, but what must be considered is the national defense as a whole. That, it seems, would be strengthened greatly by consolidation of the services into a single department.

Consolidation will not do away with jealousies and contentions. We have plenty of those within a department or bureau now, but it should under able administration coordinate operations with resulting great savings of money and increase of effectiveness of the military forces. The recognition proposed for the air forces is timely, because all signs point to the probability that the next war, if it comes, will be primarily a war which uses the air as its chief medium.

Congress will do well to complete its hearings on the unification measure and adopt it at an early date, so the necessary reorganization may get under way.

## Second City

Did Vanport City ever become the second largest city in Oregon? It was built on a scale to accommodate between 30,000 and 40,000 persons; but as we understand it was never completely occupied. We question therefore if it ever exceeded Salem in population. Now of course Vanport's population is declining. Salem needn't be too smug, however, for Eugene has been barging ahead due to expansion of the lumber industry there.

The circulation manager of the Medford Mail-Tribune computes Medford's present population at 16,812, which brings the city up to where it thought it was in 1910, if the circulation manager has a better grade of veracity than CMs did in 1910.

## Interpreting The Day's News

By John Roderick  
(Substituting for James D. White)

YENAN, China, Dec. 19.—(P)—The "inscrutable" Chinese? That's just another old, romantic notion—a myth that westerners have taken far too long to correct.

Listen, with us, to Ko Chungping, and watch his Yangko dancers perform. You'll realize, as we did, that Chinese are people, after all; and they laugh and cry just like people in Kennebunk port or Santa Barbara.

Ko, the 45-year-old chairman of cultural groups in this border region, is shy but warm and vivacious. Above his straggling beard and thin mustache he peers with bright, merry eyes. When he smiles, his mouth widens over rows of uneven teeth, and when he talks his voice is low, almost inaudible—as though he were apologizing for presuming to make his opinions public.

That is the Ko of everyday life.

Poetry Major Love

But as we sit in a Yenjan guest house with our feet toasting on a charcoal brazier, the idle talk turns to poetry, his major love, and Ko becomes a new man. He talks now without hesitancy; his thin, expressive hands punctuate his speech as he tells of his poems, "Songs in the Night," and others, written for the communist party.

Finally, shyness overcome by urging, he agrees to recite. And in the wavering light of the candles he begins the first stanza of "To the Comrades."

We forget we are in one of the most desolate regions of the world, a few hundred miles from the Gobi desert. Ko's voice rises loud and clear into song—then breaks, like water against a rock, to the still level of ordinary speech. To the western ear, this half-song, half-recitation to which the Chinese language is so admirably adapted is strange and compelling.

His listeners feel that here is a medium new to European and American art. In Ko's mouth it is powerful. His hearers join in his urge to rally against the Japanese, to die defending the land—and then he sits down, half-smiling, half-afraid he has been too obtrusive.

Adapted Folklore

Cultural workers of the communist party of China, when they first came to this region in 1937, found farmers still enacting the old Yangko dances, interwoven with folklore thousands of years old. The dances were adapted to the needs of people working in communist production for the war, and social motifs were woven into the fabric of the pageantry.

Thus the colorful dances tell stories of a wounded soldier, hidden by peasants from the Japanese; of the manufacture of 12 sickles by peasants for the communist army; and of the difficulties farmers meet when they cannot read and write.

While they absorb these themes, the farm folk laugh or applaud—just as the Americans do—when they can grasp the point!



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He Knows What He Wants

## News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 19—Does Russia want war? I am confident she does not. The inner portent of events clearly says she wanted to conquer Europe and Asia for communism, or her current arbitrary socialist equivalent. We can only judge by what she has said and done, plus her apparent self interest.



Paul Mallon

She has pursued the policy of taking as much as she can get without stepping over the line into overt belligerency. She has used her troops in the Baltic and Balkans, revolution in Iran, treaties in China and diplomacy in Japan, Italy, France and our occupation areas. Her purpose does not vary; her tactics are adjusted to locale.

I do not for one moment believe any Russian official considers capitalist democracy superior to arbitrary socialism. I think they expect the world to come to dictatorial socialism.

Capitalism Has Troubles

But they also see democratic capitalism is having its troubles. Britain is bent upon a labor party socialism under modified capitalism and a parliament—for the next step at least. (Churchill claims they will have to make it dictatorial eventually in order to make it work.)

We have a debt around 300 billion dollars, a drag which capitalism has never tried to carry before, and we have a confused people. The Russians may well figure they can wait as far as we are concerned while picking up power in Europe and Asia.

Our foreign policy has hewed to one line. We have defended our hopes for postwar through United Nations organization and its modified Atlantic charter background; and we have resisted encroachments upon this hope by Russia or Britain. We have tried appeasement, waiting, money, gifts and pressure with limited, if not discouraging results. Peace has not been fulfilled.

Isolationism, War "Out"

We have not tried isolation or war, and will not voluntarily. Russian diplomacy is not likely to force us into either eventually, for plain reasons, namely these:

In the final depth of our own ideology we represent in this world a basic God-fearing principle. In us, it manifests itself generally as a belief in Christian social faith.

But the confucianists and the Mohammedans are also God-fearing. They have leaned sharply toward our political policy in the postwar events. In the matter of communism or Russianism they are naturally our diplomatic allies.

Marx fundamentally and rightly realized the state ideal could not be erected among the God-fearing. Russia uses the orthodox politically, alternately as a football and foreign prestige builder (Balkans), but basic arbitrary socialism holds for the long run with Marx.

Pressure Is Upon Us

There are said to be 220,000,000 Mohammedans in this world; 338,000,000 Roman Catholics; 135,000,000 Protestants, and 15,000,000 Jews, (with majorities naturally antagonistic to state dominated religions).

Certainly a great many people like our world influence more than any other, and appreciate that upon our leadership rests the world hope of all the God-fearing. We can hardly return to isolationism, if we wished. We have assumed a world responsibility, and the pressure of it will be upon us.

Our desire for peace, based on freedom of the individual, has thrown us into conflict with the policy of Russia and involved us in incongruities which bewilder our people.

Mr. Truman told China he would keep our troops there only until the Japs were demobilized, warning Chiang Kai-Shek to take the revolting communists and other parties into the Chinese government, promising credits and economic help if this is done.

Revolution Successful

Contrariwise and simultaneously, Moscow announces successful conclusion of a commun-

ist revolution in Iran, a nation she occupies. The difference in procedure is otherwise apparent.

Mr. Truman denounces "one-party government," rightly considering it dictatorship, in China, while one-party rule still controls Russia and is being extended by Russia through the Baltic, Balkans and a one-party revolution in Iran. Is it possible for our people to be other than confused?

What do we do then? Appaise? or war? Both courses are unthinkable. We cannot win Russia by appeasement, and know this. We can buy delay; we cannot purchase devotion to our principles. On the other hand, we could not conquer Russia, if we wanted to, and we do not want to. How then?

Course Seems Clear

The course required of us seems clear. We must defend our principles and resist Russia politically—with politics. By superior statesmanship, ingenuity and by all other means in accord with our principles, we must resist.

We must resist Britain when she deviates from our principle (Java). Above all, we must resist ourselves, when our people wish to escape principles for peace.

This nation desires to go back to sleep in peace, more than anything else. If we could just have world disarmament and get our boys back home and safe we would be happy and world politics could go hang. We all want this.

Peace of Responsibility

Yet do you not plainly see the peace to which we have come in our victory is not that kind of peace? By its very nature it has become a peace of responsibility; an unfulfilled peace; a peace to be maintained.

You and I did not make it this way. We cannot un-make it. The world is that way. It can be different in the future only as we work to make it different.

Truth does not jump out eager to confront you at every corner. You must seek to find it. Propaganda, deception, delusions, artifices—these devices are not only served to you freely; your hopes can be played upon against your own interests.

We must daily establish more firmly an American foreign policy based on our agreed principle alone, and pursue it without apology or exceptions.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

NO MAN KNOWS MY HISTORY, by Fawn M. Brodie (Knopf; \$4).

Joseph Smith, businessman, drinker, wrestler, politician and, the author claims, a husband many times over, is the subject of this biography.

Mrs. Brodie had the advantage of working with extremely colorful and dramatic material. But she has made the most of it; she documents her findings with scholarly thoroughness and then lets us have the story raw and strong right in the face, as it were. It's like something followed tensely across the footlights, and every curtain is a thrill.

If Latter Day Saints... they number 1,000,000... dislike some of the things she says about Smith, Americans regardless of religious beliefs will dislike, will indeed be shocked by what they learn about themselves, or their ancestors, who in Illinois and Missouri persecuted the seer and his hapless people with an unbelievable ferocity.

The lay reader will be interested in the facts about Smith: birth in Vermont, removal to upper New York state, search for treasure with the aid of

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



Gotta go, boys—the wife might start worrying—and when she sees I'm all right, the relief she feels will be terrible!

## Roseburg Man Starts Sentence for Assault

ROSEBURG, Dec. 19.—(P)—George E. Pankey, 35, was at Salem today for the start of a three-year penitentiary term for assault with a dangerous weapon.

Pankey pleaded guilty to the charge filed after he fired a rifle bullet at a restaurant waitress as she fled during a quarrel. The bullet grazed her clothing.

## Services Held for Halsey Banker

Funeral services were held Wednesday at Halsey Methodist church for Douglas Taylor, 86 years old, resident of Halsey. Taylor was born near Salem, May 12, 1869 but had lived in Halsey for the past 50 years. He was president of the Halsey State bank which he had helped organize in 1910.

In June, 1895, he was married to Etta May Drinkard who died last July. The couple had observed their golden wedding anniversary last year, while both were confined to a Corvallis hospital.

magic, the Book of Mormon and its authorship, the settlements in Independence and Far West and Nauvoo, run-ins with the law, presidential campaign, belief in plural marriages despite Smith's first wife's objections... Mrs. Brodie says Mormon leaders now prefer to "forget the magnificent immorality with which he fulfilled the new marriage covenant."

But this book is important not merely as biography but also as a picture of a lurid, violent, heartless and intolerant frontier. Americans could be vicious and brutal; what they did to Mormons was what Hitler did to Jews.

The author worked on an Alfred A. Knopf fellowship; it paid off handsomely.

## Salvation Army Colonel Talks To Rotary Club

It is merry Christmas because of the "Babe of Bethlehem," Col. P. L. DeBevoise, field secretary of the Salvation Army for the 11 western states, told members of Salem Rotary club Wednesday noon.

The weekly luncheon meeting was held at the citadel of the Salvation Army on State street where a turkey dinner was served by the army women. A girls' sextet sang Christmas songs.

Special guests included Lt. Col. James Dee and Maj. F. W. Stevens, both of Salvation Army. Major Stevens was formerly the Salem representative and a member of the Salem Rotary club.

The Rotary club "father and son" luncheon program will be held December 26. It was announced. Ruth Bedford, for many years accompanist for singing at the weekly luncheon club meeting, was called to the head table by R. L. Elfstrom, president, to receive the club's Christmas remembrance.

## Civil Service Exam Complete

Written tests for a full-time director of the state civil service commission have been completed and selection of the official probably will be announced within the next two or three weeks. J. N. Chambers, commission chairman, reported here Wednesday.

Oral examinations will follow shortly. There originally were 36 applicants for the job but this number later dwindled to 22. The director will be selected from the three applicants scoring highest in the examinations. The office will carry a salary of \$5000 a year.

Gems of watches that tell her it's Christmas-time

Gem-like wrist watches—some set with diamonds, some demurely Victorian, others gaily modern. They're made by famous American and European watch houses.

Give her one of these perfect little gold watches, beautiful as jewelry in their exquisite cases, but with fine mechanisms on which she can rely.

Extended Payments

STEVENS & SON  
MANUFACTURERS JEWELERS  
229 Court Street