

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Culture Flowers

"Know thine enemy" is an admonition that now can be changed to "know thine ally," for the nations which were now are, and the avenues of cultural exchange by which we may come to a better understanding of these new allies are busy again.

Italy is experiencing a genuine cultural renaissance that is both exciting and inspiring. The Italians have their political and economic troubles still, but out of the post-war poverty and bitterness and confusion has risen, Phoenix-like, an artistic passion that has produced first-rate literature, music, motion pictures, art and fashion and industrial design. Today Americans and Italians are probably more simpatico than ever before.

Germany's development since the war has been more economic and political than in the fields of the arts, although there have been valiant efforts to revive the great opera houses and music festivals of a more Gemutlich Deutschland. Postwar literature has leaned rather heavily to memoirs, but a few novels have received critical attention here — some of them blatantly pro-Nazi. The very slightness of Germany's cultural output helps us to understand this ally-better, although what we have learned is not always reassuring.

The least-known of our former foes is Japan. As part of its extension program "to increase mutual understanding among free nations and thus to strengthen the bases of world peace," the Ford Foundation has established Intercultural Publications Inc. This organization presents in the January Atlantic Monthly a worthy selection of essays, stories, poetry and pictures that are representative of Japan.

In the foreword, Noel Busch points out that, when an American studies about or travels in Europe, he is, in a sense, going home. "Japan provides no such parental or narcissistic inducements" but "some knowledge of Japan is precious now not only for itself but also because it gives us what we sorely need — a means of understanding all of Asia, of which Japan is, in a way, the essence."

All of which is charming and educational, leaving the reader with the feeling that now he understands Japan better, or at least is amiably intrigued by that contradictory country.

Cultural exchanges to promote "understanding" are fine per se, but we must not make the mistake of thinking that peace and good will must logically follow. Cultural appreciation in its full sense is a mental exercise of the intelligentsia; to the average American Joe Blow those "furrin'" things are just curios and he does not love the Japanese one whit more for their exquisite brushwork.

And even if he did, that would not affect the course of future relations between the nations. When has cultural understanding been a factor in diplomacy, except insofar as it served pragmatic ends? American civilization is greatly indebted to Germany, for Protestantism, for music, art, printing, foods, holiday customs, etc., but this close relationship did not keep us from knocking the tar out of the Germans (though it may have influenced our postwar leniency). We can be glad to share our allies' artistic accomplishments but that is no guarantee we will get along otherwise.

British in Singapore, Malaya More Aware Of Danger Than in Pre-Pearl Harbor Days

By JOSEPH ALSOP

SINGAPORE, Malaya — Just under fourteen years ago, this reporter first came to Singapore on a special job for Gen. Chennault and his Flying Tigers, who were training in those days in Burma.

It was already night, and the rain was coming down in heavy, impetuous sheets, but the young British pilot of the very old Wellington bomber was as contemptuous of the weather as he was of the enemy. (He blew himself up with his own bombs, a few weeks later, attacking the attackers of the Prince of Wales.) So we landed somehow, taxied to a halt before a lighted hangar, and were pleasantly greeted by a heavily mustachioed R. A. F. group captain.

Getting out in the rain was a hurried business, but no one could have avoided a glance at the object in the hangar entrance. It was a biplane with no cowling to streamline its vast radial engine and a total armament of two small machine guns. The group captain was asked just what was this thing that seemed to have come out of a boys' aviation annual for 1925.

"Haarrumph," said the group captain, blowing the raindrops out of his mustachios, "Haarrumph! Why that's one of our fighter squadrons. Jolly maneuverable little aircraft too, old boy."

This rainsoaked recollection recurs at the moment because it points a contrast. This year in a situation of much more remote peril, the British authorities in Singapore and Malaya are immeasurably less complacent than they were in the time just before Pearl Harbor. In fact if anyone succeeds in waking up the

British and American governments, the able soldiers and civilians at the head of affairs here will have a large share of the credit.

The peril in Malaya is still distant in time, but its outlines are already obvious. It results from the Asian Munich which was signed at Geneva. The triumph of the Viet Minh in Indo-China is having two kinds of effects here.

On the one hand, there are the direct effects. Last year, the brilliant Gen. Sir Gerald Templer could reasonably hope that another twelve months of hard pressure would change the whole dimensions of the problem of Malaya's Communist guerrillas. He did not expect mass surrender, but he did expect an epidemic of local surrenders that would restore security to big areas of Malaya that have not known full security for many years. But the watchword that keeps the guerrillas in the jungle going is, "Father Mao Tse-tung is coming so hang on a little longer."

The events in Indo-China seemed to give reality to the slogan. So the problem of the jungle guerrillas not only remains exactly what it always was in Malaya. In addition, a new zone of complete Communist control, no less than twenty miles wide, has been significantly established just across the border in Thailand.

In addition, the Viet Minh triumph has importantly assisted the Communist effort of underground infiltration. In this Chinese city, somewhere between sixty to eighty per cent of the Chinese students have joined or are deeply influenced by the party.

Since half the population of Singapore is under twenty-one, the student attitude is more than normally meaningful. Furthermore, the newspapers of the greatest Chinese millionaires in

Singapore are beginning to tend toward the Peking line. And there are many other signs that the Chinese, who form nearly half the total population of Malaya, are now watching and waiting for a Communist bandwagon in Asia.

These direct effects of the Geneva-Munich are trifling, however, compared to the indirect effects. These comprise the mournful calculations of the British authorities in Malaya as to what will happen if the Communist bandwagon in Asia really gets rolling.

From this vantage point, the situation in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand is being watched with anxious attention and a realistic absence of optimism. It is admitted, moreover, that if Thailand falls, the situation in Malaya will be untenable on the present basis. A bold rectification of the Malayan-Thai frontier, to give a defensible line on the Kra Isthmus; at least three more divisions of ground forces from Britain, Australia and New Zealand — these may well be the minimum requirements to keep Malaya under control, even if no Communist forces cross borders aggressively.

To guard against the latter danger, the British would also frankly like an American military guarantee of Malaya, and would like that guarantee spelled out in the form of a promise of air and naval aid in event of war.

Despite these worries at the top, of course the surface of life in Singapore is pleasant and untroubled. The bandwagon has not yet started rolling. But since it is extremely lively to do so unless serious efforts are made to stop it, an idea of the problems that may result is not without considerable current value.

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First Things for Junior VIPs

Industrial development holds the promise of the future for Oregon, and "as far as I can see a very prosperous period" is ahead, Dr. A. L. Strand, president of Oregon State College, told his audience at the Salem J. C. Junior First Citizen banquet Thursday.

The development of Oregon during its brief century of settlement parallels the evolution of the Age of Technology which has brought the "quality and quantity of our material life to something never before seen in the history of man," he said.

Only a hundred years ago Indians camped about where the Junior C of Cs — in their trim flannels with the TV-type handkerchiefs in the breast pocket — sat over their fried chicken and peas. In that time Salem has grown from an Indian mission to a frequently sophisticated state capital.

And looking about him at the leading young men of this city, with their fine looking wives, Dr. Strand warned that "urban people are apt to become complacent, and to think that they generate the forces of their prosperity."

So he reminded them that the sources of prosperity are the fields, forests and rivers of Oregon — not just capable advertising copy writers. We owe the flourishing businesses in Salem partly to the technologists who apply the principles of science to the problems of everyday living: Soil men, the foresters, the hydroelectrical engineers, and so on.

Too often, civic-service and booster-type organizations are subjected to the trite and shallow onward-and-upward orations of the professional optimist, designed to make each listener feel he is the most-likely-to-succeed. A group like the Junior Chamber is made up of men who have already had a measure of success and to whom the prosperity of the community must seem a logical reflection of their own well-being. Since these men are the very ones who are moving into positions of political influence, the learned Dr. Strand could not have picked a better audience or a better topic.

Streets Poorly Marked

Of all times of the year when lane stripes should show plainly, it is now. And yet on a good many Salem streets there isn't enough paint remaining to show even when the surface is dry, let alone on a rainy night. The same situation has obtained for some time, and there is a real danger in some areas, such as midtown 12th Street, where drivers unfamiliar with the terrain find themselves practically "lost."

It would be criminal negligence to let the status continue, no matter what color is to be used to renew the stripes later. The current yellow is barely discernible under the best of surface and light conditions and there have been several dry days recently — days on which there was no apparent reason why work could not have progressed.

Editorial Comment

GREEN PETER MOVES UP
A pleasing bit of news in the President's budget was the mention of the Green Peter and Cougar dams in western Oregon, for which appropriation is asked — \$1,000,000 for our Santiam project (Green Peter) and \$2,000,000 for Eugene's Cougar dam.

These are both partnership projects, and they are included among other projects of the kind in which the federal government will co-operate with either local public utility agencies or private enterprise.

Credit for the inclusion of the two important projects in the program goes to former Senator Guy Cordon and Representative Harry Ellsworth at the Washington end and to a good many local workers, including the Albany Chamber of Commerce, the South Santiam Development committee, Albany's mayor, and others.

The partnership idea comes at a time when a good many congressmen were beginning to drag their feet on expensive federal projects, such as Hells Canyon. The smaller the sum asked, the easier it is going to be to get — which is one good reason behind the new financing method.—Albany Democrat-Herald.



Comes the Dawn

The other day on this page Marguerite Wright broke out editorially with a piece extolling the hard-working housewife. Hinting, in that sly way women have, that it is the wife's apron strings which really bind the modern family together into one confusing whole. This moved News Editor Wes Sullivan to retaliate with an editorial upholding the man of the house. The sturdy, diligent, seldom-rewarded male parent. Wes intimated that Daddy's head is the block so to speak, on which the average home is built.



Well, research has convinced us they are both wrong. Who really keeps the average family from falling apart at the budget? Who is it who is always ready with a helping hand or a guiding foot? Who keeps home, hearth and health together? That's right. None other than Grandma! What would lots of families do for baby sitters, if it weren't for Grandma? Theatres the country over would have to close down on Saturday nights if Grandmas ever went on a stand-up strike.

And who always thinks the new baby is the cutest ever? If it were not for Grandma's keen eyes who would notice that the latest grandchild has Mother's eyes, Daddy's chin, Uncle Herman's nose and Grandpa's hair? Who do the kids go to when they're faking a stomach-ache to keep out of house chores? Whose card tables, dishware, big coffee pot, table silver and turkey roaster does Mother borrow?

Who outfits the kids with pajamas at Christmas-time? Who does a lot of extra sewing, making over and patching for the family? Who seldom forgets the kids' birthdays and usually comes through with shirts, jeans, gun-and-holster sets, etc.? When Mother and Daddy get into an argument over who should go on a diet, who is it who usually steps in and settles it — by agreeing with both sides and yet disagreeing with nobody? Grandma, of course. And who is it who has enough grit to hear the first grader's reading lesson — over and over?

Of course, Grandpas are in there, too, pitching away as silent partners to Grandmas. But Grandmas, by and large (and some are large) run the show. Grandpas, when they get to be Grandpas, are not usually as vocal as back when they were just family heads. Grandpa is pretty handy for getting to help with renovation work around the house, as a fishing or hunting companion, for using his car or for Daddy to argue politics with. Yes, sir. The average household would a rough time without Grandma. And while Mother and Daddy have only one family to stew about, many Grandmas ride herd on three or four families — and several generations.

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Time Flies:

10 Years Ago
Jan. 23, 1945

An attractive oil painting of the late Sen. Charles McNary was presented to the Oregon house of representatives by Mrs. A. Rose Twing, postmaster at Dorena near Cottage Grove.

Adolf Hitler proclaimed to the world that Germany would fight to the finish—"Fight on no matter where and no matter under what circumstances until final victory crowns our efforts."

The Salem Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis club and Retail Trade bureau were among those organizations definitely on record favoring the city-acquisition of the Bush's pasture tract, which would be up for vote Feb. 9.

25 Years Ago
Jan. 23, 1930

France gained a technical victory on a point of procedure for the formal agenda of the five power naval disarmament conference after a meeting of the chief delegates at Number 10 Downing Street.

Complete and final plans for the Oregon-Washington Water Service company's proposed filtration plant here, were filed this week with the Public Service commission by J. T. Delaney, vice-president of the company. Mrs. W. W. Rosebraugh was

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

that would bring about not only a cease-fire but a lot of other developments as well.

From information that has come to me I believe the administration is trying desperately to bring some resolution of the impasse in the Orient. As was true with Truman and Acheson, its problem is not only how to deal with the Reds in Asia but with the staunch supporters of Chiang Kai-Shek in this country. Many of these are loyal Americans who are intense haters of Communism and put no trust in any agreement with the Reds. What in my judgment they fail to see is the cold reality of our situation in the Orient both from a military and a political standpoint. Certainly the ultimate alternate of war is undesirable to them as well as to those who seek a settlement.

Having for years advocated a different approach in our dealings with Red China, since the collapse of the Chiang regime on the mainland, I welcome this sign of a shift in Washington. A change of direction will be harder now in some respects than back in 1949 or early 1950. However, I think more Americans realize how our position in the Far East is becoming increasingly more difficult to sustain. We may now have to swallow some pride; but the longer we wait and the more friction we stir up the bigger gulp we may have to take—unless, of course, we have military action definitely in mind, and I do not think the American people will swallow that without far greater provocation than now appears.

Hunter Pleads Guilty to Charge Of Manslaughter

MEDFORD (AP) — A hunter who shot at what he thought was a deer and killed a boy instead, pleaded guilty Saturday to manslaughter.

The hunter, Fred Warden, 31, Medford, was continued free under \$7,500 bail pending pre-sentence investigation.

Last October 16 his shot killed Philip S. Minear, 12, and the same bullet wounded in the arm Sharon Ruth O'Connors, 12.

LUMBER PACTS SIGNED
SPOKANE (AP) — Six Spokane lumber plants signed agreements with the CIO woodworkers Thursday. The contracts, following the general pattern suggested by the governor's fact-finding panel, call for 7 1/2-cent hourly wage increases retroactive to Jan. 1.

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Central American Public Apathetic as Revolutions Flare

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
AP Foreign News Analyst

A small war flares on Costa Rica's borders. Rebels strike suddenly in Guatemala. A President is slain in Panama. Is there a common thread linking these sudden eruptions of violence in Central America or at its edges?

These explosions, like those of much of the rest of Latin America, would seem to have little in common save the culture, language and history of the area.

Yet they are connected by the fact that the future of Latin America must loom large in the long cold war between the Communist and non-Communist worlds.

There are other common features, too. There is little mass participation in such upheavals. Public apathy, total public concern with the problems of bare existence in these countries—with the possible exception of Costa Rica—tends to lead to government by small cliques and contests among these cliques for the right to rule. Such governments are constantly prey to easy capture.

In addition, these countries all are dependent economically upon the United States. They are all in the same boat, as producers of raw materials who do not have the industrial capacity to exploit their own natural riches, and Uncle Sam is their principal customer.

During World War II, these countries piled up some backlog of dollars, but when the war boom ended and inflationary prices came the backlog dwindled away and the constricting effect had its impact on the politics of the area, a contest of cliques from the educated upper layers of the population.

There has been growing realization in the United States that Latin American politics would continue for a long time to be unstable and potentially dangerous in a turbulent world unless something was done to broaden the base of rule.

American technical assistance has been attempting to help, always fighting the Latin American bogey of "Yankee imperialism" which is a primary weapon for both Communists and dictators.

Thus, even though Communists and communism may not be directly involved in a Central American eruption, the United States must always be concerned with the question of who will come out on top. It must always keep in mind the possibility of a Red foothold in the Western Hemisphere.

Latin America's 20 republics—a third of the votes in the United Nations—figure large in terms of the cold war.

The Soviet Union demonstrated in Guatemala that it was far from disinterested in Latin American events. Every flareup, therefore, is examined closely by Washington for traces of the alien hand.

The common characteristics of the upheavals end about here, however. The assassination of President Jose Antonio Remon in Panama seems to have been an event which took place in Panama's own vacuum, a struggle between two contending cliques for power. There is no evidence of outside political forces.

The cases of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala are different. Years of feuds and intrigues across borders are involved. And at least in the case of Guatemala, international communism plays a role.

Since Jose Figueres assumed the presidency of Costa Rica, he has

loomed as a threat to the dictator of his neighbor country to the north, President Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua—and vice versa.

Figueres became president of the little country—it has less than a million people and is only half the size of Kentucky—in 1953. He took office with ambitious plans for social reform in a country already more advanced in that respect than its neighbors.

His experiments with reform and liberalization could be an example which could start a Latin American prairie fire. Figueres therefore could expect to be a target both of a harsh dictatorship representing the tiny minorities which long ruled Central American countries, and of the extreme left which abhors social reform while purporting to uphold it.

Nicaragua, more than twice the size of Costa Rica in area, is ruled by a tight police dictatorship. Somoza has been feuding with Figueres ever since the latter helped toss out the Costa Rican dictatorship of President Teodoro Picado in 1949.

Now Figueres charges that the sudden warfare on his border resulted from plotting in Nicaragua between Somoza and remnants of the former Costa Rican dictatorship which took refuge there.

Guatemala is a case unto itself, having been within a breath of becoming the first Communist "people's democracy" in the Western Hemisphere.

The armed uprising last week against President Carlos Castillo Armas indicated that the Communists have not yet given up the struggle there. It can be expected they will do all in their power to torpedo any real reforms.

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