

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Published every evening and Sunday... EDITOR AND PUBLISHER... MANAGING EDITOR... NEWS SERVICE... MEMBER... Entered at the Post Office at Eugene Oregon as second class matter.

The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page the editors of The Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

IN THE INTERESTS OF "REALISM"

In all that we have said recently, urging the realistic view that the war is much closer to us than the politicians at Washington dare admit, we have risked the charge of "war mongering" in the hope that the actual danger of war will perhaps be less if we face certain facts.

Take this little matter of President Roosevelt's pledge to the Latin Americas and Canada that our Monroe Doctrine shall be expanded into a policy of "hemisphere defense."

We wonder how many Americans who accept the Monroe Doctrine as a matter of course realize what it is or how it came about.

While Europe was very busy with Napoleon, South and Central American neighbors "upriz" and threw off the yoke of Spain, or perhaps exchanged that poke for local dictatorships. After Waterloo, the Spaniards made a deal with the Bourbons in France under which they were to unite for reconquest of the Latin Americas and split the loot.

Things came to a head about 1823 when Monroe was president and shrewd old John Quincy Adams his secretary of state. We had recognized the Latin republics; nobody else had. Tory Britain didn't want to, but Britain had a growing trade in South America and most of all did not want to let Spain or France regain a foothold in the western hemisphere.

There were conversations between Canning, the wily British foreign secretary, our minister at London, Richard Rush and through Secretary Adams it was proposed that President Monroe should "issue a strong statement" warning "furriners" to keep hands off.

It is of record that President Monroe's first reaction was that we might be taking on a pack of trouble. Adams was able to assure him that Britain was in on the deal, and that the mighty BRITISH FLEET would back us up. The partnership which began then has endured since; it probably saved us one war at least.

A world without a British fleet or with the Sea Power in the lands, say, of Adolf Hitler would be quite a different place. In the last week we have seen our Secretary Hull move into the open with the warning to Japan not to get too ambitious in the Pacific.

Now we have no thought of trying to defend British imperialism nor do we relish any more than anybody else the idea of "pulling British chestnuts"; we even share some of the schoolbook antagonisms to "redoats". We think the whole "war method" is insane, and we accept the principle that we should not make war unless our own interests are affected.

However there is a fact which needs to be faced—especially by those of us who are or who have sons of military age—and that is that whether we like it or not, the United States and Britain have been partners, if not avowed allies for this last 120 years, in that not-completely altruistic compact which we revere as the Monroe Doctrine, and if that is now to be expanded into the still more grandiose scheme of hemisphere defense, (including maybe Greenland and Iceland) we should at least realize what we are doing.

Britain is still a more dependable support than the whole kit and boodle of Latin Americas, and sentiment-be damned, we can hardly afford three cheers for her destruction.

In the Mailbag we print another brisk letter from our critic, N. H. Morris in which he deplores the scaring of old women and children and likens the planning of preparedness and defense to the hilltop watches of patriots in 1917 and 1918. Nice going, Morris, but we weren't in the hilltop guards. We were in the waterbucket corner for the great bout between British propaganda and German sabotage in 1914 and 1915 and we had front row for the great "Villa chase" of 1916 at which a ragged militia was transformed into an AEF while the "Keep Us Out Of War" campaign was raging.

We have no respect for President Roosevelt's brand of "neutrality" and we have less for Pretty Boy Dewey's glib promise that he can keep up out of this mess. We have com-

plete respect for earnest pacifists, but we do not believe in their formula which is so much like old Doc Coue's rigamarole:

"Every day in every way, we are getting better and better."

We have been and still are partners in certain world arrangements. Our pals, the British, French, Dutch, Scandinavians have been pretty decent thugs. Now we have Angry Adolf, Bumbling Benito, Big Joe Stalin and the Little Brown Man muscling in.

It's very distasteful, but our published foreign policy is about as silly as that of the pious Chicagoan who said he didn't mind Capone so long as he kept out of Evanston, and Winetka. Mister, these little pledges for hemisphere defense and status quo in the Pacific are QUITE AN ORDER. If our pals fail to win their fight!

FREE SPEECH FOR NEUBERGER

For some time now our old pal Dick Neuberger has been trying to get a speaking date at Salem to tell "Why I Am A Liberal," but first the Salem Chamber of Commerce and then the Salem Realty Board turned him down. This leads the broad-minded Salem Statesman (Governor Sprague's paper) to protest, saying:

This paper does not mind saying that it would like to see Neuberger speak in Salem on his liberalism topic or any other reasonable one; it hopes that he will be magnanimous in overlooking previous blunders and accept a future invitation to speak if one is given and maintained as it certainly should be. Yet in making this statement it does not regard itself as proposing revolution; nor if it made a contrary one would it believe itself reactionary. It does believe that what Neuberger has to say will be the product of skillful and well-read mind, and will very probably be worth hearing, whether one agrees or not with the statements made and the faiths propounded. In a sense this is a liberal attitude; in another sense it is reactionary, since even the Tsars read revolutionary pamphlets that they might better deal with their authors. One prefers in this case to believe that it is common sense, which might well have been adapted earlier.

Un-huh! Salem might as well get it over with, because if Salem doesn't cash in on the situation the astute Dick will. Salem business men might even learn a few tricks. Considering the volume of inaccurate and misleading tripe on Bonneville and public ownership which the ingenious youth has peddled to eastern editors, Salem should ask him to expand the subject to "Why I Am A Liberal and How I Get Away With It."

PRICE OF SPEEDING UP

Safety of American railroads has been one of our boasts since the turn of the century. All steel trains, heavy rock roadbeds, automatic signals and stop devices, the uniformly high character of railroad personnel—all these things have made American railroading a pattern of safety, despite an occasional wreck.

However, the speeding up in recent years to meet motor and airline competition has brought new hazards. There is no evidence that Friday night's wreck of the New York Central's Lake Shore Limited was the result of sabotage as was the case in the wreck of the Union-Southern Pacific streamliner in Nevada last summer, but the heavy death toll in both of these wrecks emphasizes the extraordinary hazards of extra speed.

These wrecks seem to say that roadbed construction and maintenance has not kept pace with the new motive equipment. Time was when a skilled and alert engineer could nurse his train to a safe stop after derailment, even at 50 miles an hour. At the new high speeds, the smallest rail break may mean a disastrous pileup on account of the added momentum.

All same with your own car. At 40 or 50 miles an hour on a dry road and with modern brakes in good condition you can stop in a few yards. At 80, you can't stop in a city block.

Ajax McGurk says this war is setting a new record. Both sides are wining. Nobody except "the other fellow" is getting hurt much.

As we understand President Roosevelt's generous offer of hemisphere defense we're going to protect the Latin Americas whether they like it or not.

Mussolini's position is described as highly strategic just like that of the guy who had a bull or a rattlesnake on either side of the barbed wire fence on which he sat.

The fishing weather hasn't been so good, too cold, but Blue River Bill says that's one way to escape the candidates.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

JUST ANOTHER PACIFIST

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—As a fairly wide reader of editorials and articles on all sides of this war situation, I want to congratulate you on the Sunday's editorial so vehemently criticized by another reader. I happen, also, to have heard the Barnes "wise-cracking" lecture referred to. I suspect Mr. Barnes had no idea of being taken seriously—except to urge our keeping out of this war. We seem pretty well agreed upon that objective.

He was quite clever, and got the laughs and applause he worked for with his warped handling of truths and half-truths; but like you, Mr. Editor, there were many in that audience who had to grit their teeth and hang onto their seats to permit him a continued oratory hearing. Actually the "masteriff" mentioned by Mr. Morse, got that respectful hearing by virtue of the self control rather than the timidity of many present. For there are those of us whose sense of humor doesn't tickle into hilarity at mention of what is happening in Europe and China, no matter how cynically the subject is treated.

Like you, we will agree that much of Britain's imperialistic past has been tainted with cold self interest, but anybody, laugh off if you can, the fact that where her flag has gone, there, too, was planted the Englishman's hard won institutions of free speech, free press, religious tolerance and trial by jury. Were Mr. Barnes forced to quit America, where then would he choose to dwell? In Hitler's Germany; in Nazi terrorized Scandinavia; in the Balkans where three war-mongering dictators cast their shadows; in Japan, or within striking distance of her cruel bombers? Or would he be more likely to take root again in one of those freed but loyal portions of the British Dominions?

But returning again to your editorial, many of us are with you 100 percent. As fathers and mothers of soldier-age sons, we too say "Let's keep out of this war," but we do not agree that successful peace-keeping is best accomplished by a meek acquiescence in the hellish tactics of sword rattling dictators. Surely the fate of the Finns, Danes, Norwegians and various other minority groups, argues that consistent and inoffensive neutrality—peoples minding their own business, if you please—is no guarantee of peace. It would seem, rather, to invite aggression.

On the other hand, a UNITED and voluble anger on the part of America, even if it doesn't immediately halt Hitler's spread of hell, may at least help somewhat to keep his would-be pals thinking instead of shooting.

Sincerely yours, A. T. OSBORNE, 1860 Onyx, Eugene.

MORRIS AGAIN

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—Congratulations! You have at last discovered that Americans can delude themselves, but did you ever stop to consider that they can do it without help. Hard realism is fine, let's talk a little of it for a change.

Let's go back to elementary military science, even the greenest freshman learns in the basic course at the University that the difficulty of invading a foreign country increases more than proportionately with the water borne distance. My map tells me that it is less than three miles from Germany to Norway, but it over twelve hundred miles or more than four times as far from Germany to the closest point on the American continent, which is a barren waste mistakenly named Greenland by some "Norsk" who must have been snow-blinded by the glare from the coastal glaciers.

Germany has not been greatly successful in overcoming the resistance of Norway, though the total Norwegian army wouldn't have greatly outnumbered Washington's little band of patriots. Would it be easier for Hitler's boys to cross some twelve hundred miles of Atlantic in a crippled merchant fleet defended by a navy scarcely equal to our Asiatic fleet? Maybe they would sail right up the Potomac to Washington. According to the Arms and Ammunition Year Book of the League of Nations for 1938 the entire German fleet, built and building at that time, totals only 351,529 tons, of which only 152,000 tons are battleships. At the same time the United States fleet consisted of 1,427,155 tons, of which 534,000 tons were battleships and 351,700 tons were cruisers many of which are equal in size to the famous "pocket" battleships. The ratio of our fleet then to their is 4.06 to 1, the battleship ratio 3.51 to 1, while the ratio of submarines, Germany's most highly touted weapon is 5 to 1. We have 107,805 tons of undersea craft while Germany had 21,963 tons in 1938. These figures are the latest available accurate one and would accurately measure the relative size of the fleets at the outbreak of the war. (It takes about two years to build a war ship you know), and do not take into consideration the loss of the Graf Spee and a number of other German ships in the present war.

I can picture this great fleet standing down in the Caribbean to defend F. D. R.'s fishing grounds while the Germans sailed the Graf "Whoosis" right up the Potomac to bombard the Whitehouse. I have always liked the Register-Guard and your policy of having your paper open to all sides of a question. Likewise your news stories seem to fit the later documents better than those of larger more important papers. All of which fits the test of true realism, which according to my meager training consists of facing facts and calling a spade a spade.

Some how or other your attitude reminds me of that small band of brave "patriots" who kept watch for German air raids on the hills surrounding Eugene in 1917 and 1918. If you must scare little children and old women please, or please, get something more plausible than this impending "blitzkrieg" or for cats sake call Orson Welles. Sincerely, M. H. MORRIS, 480 East 15th.

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DISAGREES

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—Your recent editorial flourish calling for crisis consciousness concerning allegedly ominous deportment of certain bad boys in Europe sounds repeated pleas that we "face the realities." Very well, let us face the realities and in view of them examine the consistency of some of your statements.

In your editorial "Will the U. S. Enter This War?" you call for an unmistakable, if not unescapable, declaration that "we do not countenance outlawry." In the same editorial you call for a similar declaration that "the whole weight of this nation's influence is with the allies." In order to reconcile these two recommendations one must ignore the reality that the dictators do not stand alone in sin.

Who forced on a vanquished people one of the most cruel and unjust treaties in all history? The allies. Who committed what Kirby Page calls the worst atrocity of the century, namely, starvation of the German people by blockade for seven months after the signing of the armistice? England and France. Who broke promises as to the booty Italy should get for helping the allies in the World War? England and France. Who by repression of the German people smothered a republic that otherwise probably would have survived and prevented the rise of a German Messiah? England and France. Who blocked the chance for disarmament in Europe in the mid-20's? England and France.

Who maintained high tariffs that helped drive such countries as Italy to economic desperation nurturing dictatorship. The United States. Who is the recognized master of intrigue and propaganda? England. In the present war, who planned or contemplated invasion of the Scandinavian countries for the purpose of gaining an advantageous stronghold from which to strike the enemy? Not Germany alone, but the allies as well, according to an editorial in the Jan. 17 issue of the Christian Century. Incidentally, who prior to 1914 contemplated invasion of Belgium as an avenue to enemy territory? Not Germany alone, but the allies as well. In the present war, who have violated the rights of Scandinavians under international law? Not Germany alone, but England as well. Who in the present war has trespassed more upon American interests than any other country in such matters as seizure of mail and detention of ships? England.

If, therefore, we follow your advice of refusing to countenance outlawry, not only must we cross the Atlantic and cleanse of sin those beneficent allies to whom

you recommend lending the full weight of this country's influence; in addition we must linger in western Europe long enough to lift Italy's and Spain's faces to respectability; proceed to Germany and Russia for further clean-up; board the trans-Siberian railway for eastern Asia and there sweep Japan out of China; and finally return home and with our inexhaustible energy clean our own house, for by that time we will have a dictatorship that will owe apologies to no one. ORVAL ETTER, 2200 Willamette.

Lines From The Library

LEWIS JACOBS has written a critical history of the American movies called The Rise of the American Film which has been purchased by the Public Library. The story of the film is presented as a commodity, as an art and as a social agency. The history begins in 1896 and is carried through to the present time. The evolution of this industry as a social force is one of the most original and better parts of the book.

Of Human Kindness by Ruth Comfort Mitchell is a story of drama on a California dairy ranch. It is primarily the story of Mary Banner who comes of an old aristocratic family in San Francisco. She meets the hardships of ranch life and the threats to her family happiness with great fortitude. There is a picture here of ranch life and the Okies who came to California which is not pictured in Grapes of Wrath. Many people will read the book because it does give the other side of that story.

Clarence L. Andrews who worked for years as a teacher and as a government employee in Alaska has written The Eskimo and His Reindeer in Alaska. Since the scarcity of food for the Eskimos in Alaskan waters, the reindeer is the main means of subsistence for the Eskimo. The problem there is a serious as that of the Indian in the United States. A well studied and well pictured account of Eskimo life is given, including information on his foods, his arts and crafts, his religion and superstitions.

Elizabeth, whose real name is Mrs. Mary Beauchamp Russell, will probably be remembered best for her Enchanted April. She has again written a novel after five years of silence and titled it Mr. Skeffington. Lady Skeffington had been one of England's beauties, had divorced her wealthy Jewish husband, and then joyfully abandoned herself to enjoying life. At fifty, she finds old age catching up with her and her mind goes back to her husband. The solu-

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tion is particularly well handled. The entire book makes enjoyable reading against an authentic background. Book-of-the-month selection for April.

We, The Parents by Mrs. Sidonie M. Gruenberg is the winner of the Parent's Magazine's annual award for the most outstanding book for parents published during the year just past. The book offers parents constructive help in working toward solutions and an understanding of their basic problems.

A delightful and charming book which gives a chronicle of herbs and savory seeds is Rosetta E. Clarkson's Magic Gardens. The history of more than two hundred plants is given. Practical details of old time gardens is presented and many old recipes and household hints are included.

In a recent listing of the best sellers in England at the present time, we note the following familiar titles which are also in demand at the Public Library: Vera Brittain, Testament of Friendship; Richard Ligon, How Green Was My Valley; Priestly, Let the People Live; Hermann Raushning, The Destruction (Published in this country under the title Hitler Speaks).

REBEKAHS MEET OAKRIDGE April 20-21 (Special)—Elm Rebekah Lodge regular session this week. S. L. Derflinger of Corvallis a visitor. The degree lesson was given in preparation for the team they will put on in Cottage April 27. The degree class Mrs. Viola Flock, announced the team would practice next Tuesday evening and the team be present at the of the evening, a potluck was served in the lodge room. The committee in charge was Mrs. Grace Jensen, Mrs. Orr and Mrs. Katherine D...

There's No Harm In Trying! You May Be A Winner Any woman (15 years and older) can enter The Carrie Carter Talent Contest

Grand Prize Class A (Girls 15 to 25 years) A Farnsworth Radio, value \$28.95 from the Garrett Appliance Store. Plus the right to enter the regional finals for the National Prize. Grand Prize Class B (Women over 25 years) A Dormyer Electric Food Mixer, value \$22.50 from the Rubenstein Furniture Co. plus the right to enter the regional finals for the National Prize.

OTHER PRIZES: A \$7.95 G. E. Electric Clock from Lyons and Peters. A Woman's Locket, value \$5, from the Jewel Box. A Modernistic Kai-Klock, value \$10, from Everybody's Drug Store. Any pair of Collegienne Shoes from the stock of the Burd Shoe Store . . . value \$7.95. A \$5 script book of theater tickets from the McDonald Theater.

HERE ARE THE RULES: This contest is open to all girls and women 15 years of age and up, of amateur standing, except employees of the Wander Company, their advertising agencies, the Mutual Broadcasting System, KORE, and the families of these employees. This contest is being conducted solely to discover and encourage new dramatic talent. Contestants will be allowed to use their own dramatic material or will be given scripts of the "Carters of Elm Street," from which they can choose material. Prizes: In addition to the local, there will be two national prizes in age category of 15 to 25 (class A); and one in age category of 25 and up (Class B) each to get a role, specialty written into the script to suit the winner's talent, on the "Carters of Elm Street" for two weeks at the rate of \$12.50 per week. Travelling expenses of winners to and from Chicago to be paid by the Wander Company together with living expenses during stay in Chicago. KORE will record voices of winners in both Class A and B and these recordings will be sent to the regional finals for judging there. Local auditions will be held up to and including May 11 (All applications will have to be in no later than May 8th). Local elimination audition to be held week of May 13th. Final eliminations from the seven semi-finalists (semi-final auditions to be made in the KORE studios), will appear on the stage of the McDonald Theater May 17th for final judging for representation in the regional auditions. The judging will be done by well known citizens of Eugene.

Enter Today—Send Your Name and Address to The "Carrie Carter Talent Contest," c/o KORE Eugene Ore. 9460 TELECYCLES