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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.

RECEIVERS IN BANKRUPTCY

The war is not won, yet! On all the world-wide "news fronts" the only really good reports are from the battlefronts. That is where the only whole-hearted, purposeful job is being done. Here in Oregon, spring is in the air, in the sunlight, in the new green of grass and buds, but too many men will never live to see it.

The spring drives are about to begin, and thoughtless people are making bets on how long it will take to get to Berlin, or Tokyo. Too many are figuring the fighting in terms of "how it will affect the elections."

We talked the other day with a lad home from nearly two years of real fighting and we asked him that stock question:

"What do the boys out there think they're fighting for?"

His answer was a gem of brevity:

"So's it won't happen again!"

Needless to say, this young man (he was in Africa and Italy) is amazed at the failure of most Americans, or their leaders, to comprehend what goes on:

"Maybe the spring casualties will sober 'em."

This chap's view of the week's news also was interesting—strikes, bickering, politicking, ballyhoo. He was fascinated by the hubbub over the Moscow stories indicating lack of trust between the Russians and United Nations:

"Fighting for democracy? When we get into Europe we're taking over a bunch of bankrupt nations. Not just in a money way. You can't find a hatful who know what democracy means, but there's a gang of politicians in every block that thinks Uncle Sam's there to back their racket."

This fighter thinks it is high time for Americans to get down to cases on post-war preparedness and practical planning, but he thinks most of us talk of the post-war both at home and abroad with very little understanding of what it will be like:

"It will take a long time before there's any real peace in Europe or anybody who can do business with in any ordinary way. Things better be in pretty good shape at home when the boys get back! Europe's a long job. I guess Asia's worse."

We agree with the fighter that except on the fighting fronts the news is not good. And we concur in his definition of Europe as "a state of bankruptcy." Uncle Sam and his co-partners John Bull and Uncle Joe are taking on a tough "receivership." All these "governments in exile" are pretty much like the old owners who scramble to get their property back, and the people who have stayed and faced the Nazis are like the stockholders who demand an equity.

There is something profoundly disturbing in that succinct definition of what fighting men want:

"So's it won't happen again!"

There is a tinge of bitter realism in a man who has been lousy and hungry, who has shared his battle ration with hungry Italian kids, who has seen the would-be "rebuffers" strutting and squabbling in Naples and Algiers. We are going in as "receivers," with a slight equity of our own in American blood.

MEETING THE NEWSPRINT RATION

Beginning Monday, this column will go into "two column 10 point" instead of this "18 em spread" you have been getting for many years. That is just another way of "saving 1 column per day," which in the course of a year runs to quite a few tons of newsprint.

Why? Well, because in spite of all previous space economies, such as smaller headlines, narrower margins top and sides, smaller "pics" and comics, smaller type in many parts of the paper, the warning is up:

"We're about 8 pages over quota since January 1."

Many months ago, we told you that we would do our best to meet all the demands for wartime paper saving without cutting NEWS CONTENT, and that is still the aim.

Take this immediate change. If we can pack editorials, Washington Letter, and Olive Barber into two columns instead of three, maybe we won't have to hack war news, national news and news of Eugene and Lane county, nor such features as Soldier Page which we regard as a necessary service.

Fact is, we think editorials will be a little more readable if shorter and snappier. Reporters with a tendency to literary style are also warned to "tell it faster and better."

Our problem is a little tougher than with some papers because circulation continues to increase, but so far we have not had to refuse service to anybody, and we hope we won't have to do that.

Patrons have been most helpful and co-operative when we explain that we just can't give the "publicity" we used to give to all kinds of community and social projects; in most cases one story or picture in advance of the event is "all." Likewise our advertisers, both classified and display are co-

operating with earlier deadline, and many other squeezes and shifts and transfers which save paper.

When we see British papers boiled down to a skeleton, we think we are still pretty lucky in the USA. Of course when we get one of those 24-page, three color propaganda jobs such as Mr. Morgenthau got out to congratulate the press on its help in War Bonds we do a little plain and fancy cussing, but:

"Ours not to reason why..."
Honestly we think you'll like it.

"THAT MAN IS HERE AGAIN"

This is the time of year when the Glee-men remind their long-time friends and patrons to send in that \$5 which gives the "non-vocal" Eugenean the right to hear the home concerts and to feel that he also "belongs" to one of the finest community musical enterprises in the United States.

We were reminded by seeing George Miller parked at Marian Lowry's elbow. George says all the "old timers" are coming through fine, but each year sees some losses and there is always need of reinforcements and replacements:

"Lot of new folks don't quite understand yet what it's about."

To all who have recently moved to this community, know George Miller by these presents, sheet metal man, red headed (getting almost white), slightly rotund, uniformly genial, absolutely irresistible where the Glee-men are concerned.

George was a Glee-man when there was only John Stark and a handful of "barbershop chorus." He has helped in the work of building them into a great male chorus of more than 80 voices, known throughout the land, and it is an organization which patterns the whole business of "democratic process."

Rich men, poor men, bosses and employed, "intelligentsia" and "unintelligentsia," young and old, farmers, businessmen, skilled craftsmen, working stiffs—you might think the Glee-men are not discriminating. On the contrary they are most selective; they require the applicant to have a zeal for singing and a voice. Maybe you and "we," who have only 5 bucks and a croak would like to get in but we can't; however, we can send the 5 bucks, and own a pair of season tickets and feel that we belong.

That "redhead" will be seeing you, if you hold out.

OREGON DADS HERE AGAIN

Some years ago somebody coined the slogan: "Once an Oregon Dad, Always an Oregon Dad" (which is almost indisputable biologically), and it may be that slogan which brings 'em back again, in spite of gas rations, in spite of the fact that most of the sons are far away—What was that loud yell? Oh yes, the daughters! Sure, they count, too. And they haven't all gone to the WACS and WAVES. Quite so!

Anyhow the Dads are back to plot and plan some more to make the University of Oregon better. One way of looking at it, these wartime meetings are more important than ever before. The University and all other schools will face the greatest task in educational history when the war is done, and "rehabilitation" begins.

Those wrought iron gates which stand in the middle of the lawn were a gift of the Dads to the University. They wait for the war to end so that the highway can be completed to the place where the gates were put with great foresight (which did not foresee wars). Gates are symbolic. Perhaps for the post-war the Dads will decide to help complete that Memorial Union (which some of the daughters and the late Don Erb have set forward).

The Dads are here again from all parts of the state, and their interest and loyalty give us the feeling that wars are not entirely disrupting. Some things continue. The University of Oregon continues. The future will be met. The Old Man is still sorta keeping an eye on things.

"Democrats Draft Roosevelt For Fourth Term," says headline, and McGurk remarks that "they didn't even have to wait for Congress to pass the universal service measure."

The Democrats back the Fourth Term, but the Old Black Republican says: "Huh, they didn't have any place to back up to."

The esteemed New York Herald Tribune cracks that GOP's national chairman, Mr. Spangler "may not be the most unfortunate chairman the GOP ever had." Can't we even give him a blue ribbon?

Paul Campbell, whose war housing promotion has stirred up such a fuss, says he's going to ask the Realty Board to elect him "First Goat" for 1944, but some of the boys at the coffee klatch say no guy should be allowed to hold that honor for more than 30 days, without another general election.

Pre-war industrial methods are gone forever says Undersec. of War Bob Patterson, but we still see a lot of fine old museum pieces among the industrialists.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

AGIN' VIVVEN

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—I wish to nominate for the service man's pin-up girl, Miss Vivven Kellems. While she neglected to invite service men and war workers to join her, along with big and little business, in pulling their chips out of the national pot, I am sure she is too broad-minded to exclude them.

So now the fellows making bombers, ships, and munitions can scoot for home and get back that local job or put in a crop; and the boys overseas can grab the first ship back so as to start getting ready for the post-war years. I suppose their theme song should be changed to read "Praise the Lord and Pass the Post-War Reserves" since, if no one pays taxes there will be no ammunition to pass.

As Miss Kellems so proudly points out, no one need be afraid to follow her example as it is modeled on a distinguished historical precedent. Of course some narrow-minded people might insist that there is some difference between a tax levied on an unrepresented people by a foreign power and the public defiance of a tax law passed by properly elected representatives of the people, who will pay the tax and that only after months of public discussion. Indeed, some people might go so far as to say that her action more closely parallels that of certain members of the continental congress, whose bickering over who should pay how much and when left Washington's men to go barefoot, starve, and freeze at Valley Forge.

File on such quibbling! She's a success, isn't she? Besides that, she's America's best dressed woman. I'm thinking of holding up some governmental agency to get back the 1943 tax withheld from my pay check so I can afford to have that horse blanket I wear for a coat re-lined. I too, must get ready for post-war years. I do hate to be so far behind Miss Kellems' shining example of pure patriotism.

Wasn't her fearless action and the attendant publicity a perfect kick-off for the fourth war-loan drive? Eugene must be proud of her moral courage or, immoral brass, depending on one's viewpoint.

HARRIET HARPER

THIS WARTIME IMBROGLIO

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—"Is This Trip Really Necessary?" Such is the query propounded by the War Price and Rationing Board. But, despite this timely warning, Mr. Average Motorist, heedless of aught but his own trivial devices and desires, fares forth amid the murk and reek of nauseous gasoline fumes.

And it came to pass that, unmindful of these warning stickers confronting the collective gaze of millions of disdainful bons vivants who thread the avenues of frivolity and frolic in unnumbered hordes, sped on to countless football arenas where hulking gladiators waged plegkin war on the football fronts. Of such is the mawkish abandon of the sports world the while the needs of the armed conflict languish.

Why are not more of these husky athletes in the armed services? Forsooth, they must needs finish their college courses! Why did not prep scholars finish their more vital courses? Because, they rightly hold the patriotic view that the peace and security of the home and fireside transcend all other earthly considerations.

Why do motorists, now so plethoric of purse, flout the admonition that the gasoline reserve is all but exhausted? Because they assume that the pursuit of pleasure is all that counts in their vapid lives, and so they worship at the shrine of the fickle god Mammon, the while the "strong arm of the law, oftentimes a mere figure of speech, stretches out to gather in their delinquent offspring, the logical outcome of broken homes.

Is this not a drab picture of frivolity? You will realize the truth of this indictment were you to stroll down town at nightfall. No doubt this selfsame condition exists to some extent, all over the nation—people purse-drunk—vapid idlers whiling away the hours in nocturnal revelry oftentimes with ribald song, amid the copious libations of the amber fluid.

"Is This Trip Really Necessary?" —OTTO GILSTRAP.

THE "OLD FOLKS"

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—The recent newspaper comments on the projected recreation program for youth of Eugene and environs have been quite critical of teachers and parents. I happen to be both a teacher and a parent. I'll leave the defense of the former to someone else, but let me speak a word for parents.

There was a time when school nights, school plays, school dances, athletic contests, and other

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school affairs were events for dad, mother, son, daughter, and the entire family. The high school play was the event of the year, the opera house was sold out in advance, and usually the play had to run two or more nights. The school entertainment was a signal for the community to get together and a good time was had by all.

But, times have changed. Now we read of youngsters talking about snoozing parents, and reports tell us that young people do not want parents lining the walls to see the boys and girls do their rug-cutting.

What is the origin of this attitude? Certainly our school curriculum has striven to emphasize home and family relationships. Parent-Teacher associations have had their programs that emphasize home and family as a unit. And yet, we find ourselves in a society where parents rear their children through the tender years only to find them prematurely cutting off home ties, shelving mother and dad, and becoming socially independent before they have reached maturity.

My acquaintance with parents leads me to believe that the large majority of them have a deep and continuing interest in their young people. They come to their plays, dances, athletic contests because they enjoy youth activities.

If the present plans for the recreation of youth shall succeed, very little is gained by maligning parents or any other group. Rather their favor should be solicited, for eventually they will be the main support of the program. The time comes in every young person's life when mother and dad are very handy to have around.

Sincerely,
HARRY B. JOHNSON,
Principal,
Eugene High School.

TO MY LITTLE NIECE
BY SGT. DALE HARRIS
Springfield

You are just a little tot,
As you sit upon your mother's knee;
And I always loved little children,
I wonder if any were ever meant for me.

I well remember carrying you,
How I packed you in my arms;
I sometimes wonder about you,
Will you be good looking, with charms.

You used to have your crying spells,
But other times you were good,
too;
When you hit me in the eye,
I sometimes felt like spanking you.

They say you have a temper,
And that you whip your brother,
too;
But while you are at it,
I hope he gets in a lick or two.

You may grow up to be rich,
Or again it may be fame;
But one thing that I will bet,
You grow up and change your name.

CENTURY PROGRESS

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—I wish to express my views this way in regard to the new Century Progress Fund Organization. In my way of thinking it is one of the noblest means of education.

We all know the coming younger generation of the earth in a few years will be handling the reins of all governments, and the education they have been subjected to in their early life will determine the condition of the Human race in the not far distant future.

We read in the papers of the juvenile court reports of 43 per cent more juvenile crime this year than last; 69 per cent more arrests of the early teen age girls and no

telling how many more approaching the border line; and Eugene isn't the only place. I venture to say it is now, not by force but by proper education. The archaic history of the human race, called theosophy—says there is a remedy.

Idea bring forth thoughts, thoughts grow into actions, actions develop habits, habits form character and character determines our future destiny. So if we direct our thought, deeds and actions—in other words desire—toward the highest spiritual part of our constitution, our future destiny will be, purity, beauty, love, wisdom and truth.

O. F. BEVERE,
Rt. 4, Eugene.

WILKINS BLOCK

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—I was much interested in the letter in the "Mail-Bag" of your paper Sunday, in which the author suggests the Marion Wilkins property for a park. No doubt there are many things that should be done for the benefit of the city, but I can think of nothing that would be of greater or more lasting satisfaction to the community than something of this kind. I believe that if you and your paper get behind it, there are enough people who feel the same way about it to put it over. This piece of property seems to me already almost a monument to Mr. Wilkins, and I for one would feel very badly about seeing it turned to commercial uses. I will surely be glad to do my little bit toward this enterprise.

Thanking you for any assistance you could give in this matter, I am,

Sincerely yours,
CARL H. PHETTEPLACE,
(Editor's Note: It is our under-

standing that this property has already been sold for post-war commercial development. That illustrates why this paper has advocated systematic planning for expected industrial and commercial growth in which traffic management, parking, open spaces are practical factors.)

Two-thirds of the population of the United States is now of the Mississippi river.

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