

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
(Published Every Evening and Sunday)
Editor and Publisher: William M. Tugman
Managing Editor: Associated Press, United Press
News Service: Audit Bureau of Circulation
Entered at the Post Office at Eugene, Oregon, as second-class matter.
The Register-Guard's policy is to be 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.

STRICKEN FRANCE REVIVES

One of the toughest and most thankless jobs in connection with the invasion of France is the task assigned to the civil affairs administrators. Not only must they restore order and provide food and shelter for the civilian populace, but they must also use all their powers of tact and persuasion to rebuild morale.

French cities have been devastated by heavy artillery fire, bombing, house-to-house fighting. Homes have been demolished, farms ruined, livestock slaughtered. Tragically, innocent civilian bystanders have been counted among the dead and injured.

Frenchmen are human, and being human, they must feel a sense of frustration and bitterness at the unhappy turn of events that has brought havoc to their country. Many of the areas over which our invasion armies are now tramping have not felt the full devastation of World War II before now.

Moreover the Nazis, schooled in continental ways, have had a long time in which to infiltrate their propaganda, and the carefully disciplined German army of occupation has undoubtedly been cautioned to guard against incurring displeasure of the French populace. The underground has bitterly fought the Nazis, and there are unquestionably thousands of Frenchmen who hate the Boche, but reports have indicated that the Allies did meet with some popular displeasure.

Wisely, American and British civil affairs administrators have named a De Gaulle representative for each detachment, thus gaining the confidence of minor officials in many towns. Administrative rifts have been avoided and the military authorities are proceeding cautiously on a "wait and see" policy. Unhappy France, suffering humiliation, defeat, and now destruction of many historical towns and cities, deserves our sympathy and all of the help we can give her. Her lot has not been a pleasant one. Her only consolation is that happier days are not far distant.

POSTWAR BUSINESS LOOKS GOOD

Amid the din of prognostications on whether Russo-American relations after the war, Eric Johnston, president of the U. S. chamber of commerce, seems to have put his finger on the governing factor when he brought up the question of postwar trade on his trip to the U.S.S.R.

Johnston, first private citizen to visit Moscow by official invitation, told a press conference that Foreign Trade Commissioner Anastas Mikoyan had authorized him to say that the Soviet Union wants to buy many billions of dollars' worth of American goods on purchase terms mutually advantageous to the two countries.

Logically, the Soviet Union should offer a big postwar market for American products. Russia's victories have not been won cheaply. Her scorched earth policy and the fiendishly systematic devastation of Russian property by the Nazis has left Red industry crippled and much food-producing soil barren. One American correspondent reported that not a single enterprise in south Russia's iron and steel industry escaped damage.

To set its industry in motion again, Russia will need to import capital goods. We have the machine tools for railroad, automobile and air transport equipment, the latest machinery for producing high octane gasoline and the oil well and refinery equipment and other producers' goods that Russia needs.

Harry Hopkins has estimated that American exports to Russia after the war will amount to \$750,000,000 annually.

In return, Russia will send us manganese, platinum, iridium and chrome ore, and the skins, furs, bristles and tobacco that have always been in demand here.

Regardless of differences in political ideology, business relations between our country and the Soviet should be most cordial in the postwar period.

GOLDEN DAYS FOR THE THEATER

"Oscar," famed movie award, will have a worthy colleague in the new Lambs Club trophy to be presented each season to the actor most worthy of the honor.

This recognition of Thespian excellence is made possible by John Golden, widely known Broadway producer who has set aside a fund of \$100,000 for the advancement of the theater. His gift will provide in addition, funds to aid young aspiring playwrights, fellowships and awards "for the general advantage of the theater," assistance to the needy in the entertainment field, and the organization of a standard repertory group as the initial step toward establishment of a national theater.

Golden recognizes the need for more good playwrights and more good actors. The pro-

gram he has inaugurated should go a long way toward advancing the dramatic arts.

OH, NUTS!

"Oh for the days of Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt!" exclaimed a New York judge in ruling against a printer of V-mail forms who was hauled into court by neighbors' complaints that the "unnecessary noise" of his presses irritated them.

Both the judge and the sensitive neighbors should be given a nicely fenced-off area some place far from the maddening crowd, where they could ride their bicycles and carriages, read by gaslight, live in mid-Victorian houses, and wear celluloid collars.

On second thought, maybe they'll settle for some comfortable wheel chairs.

An optimist is a person who believes flies are looking for a way to get out.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON
(Register-Guard Washington Correspondent)

"Revolt" Can Un-Do South

This so-called plot of the anti-New Deal forces in the southern states, seeking to defeat Franklin D. Roosevelt for re-election by forcing his election out of the electoral college and into the House of Representatives, has some intriguing long range political implications. Not the least of them is possibility that even if such an entirely legal though tricky maneuver could be put over, it might eventually lead to the destruction of the south's poll tax system, which is now the basis of strength of the southern democrats in the party.

As expounded by political leaders in Washington, this situation could develop as follows: Constitutionally, the President of the United States is elected not by popular vote of the majority of the people but by the electoral college. Thus Roosevelt was elected in 1940 by the votes of 449 electors, against 82 for Wilkie. What the voters elected were the 531 electors.

But suppose that the anti-New Deal state conventions were able to force nomination of sufficient electors who would be pledged not to vote for Franklin D. Roosevelt or any other democratic nominee not to their liking, just as Texas has done. That, under the constitution, would move the election into the House of Representatives and conceivably might lead to the election of a president other than Roosevelt—no matter how large his popular vote.

There Would Be a Loud Howl

Such a maneuver would be entirely constitutional, but what would be its consequences?

First and most likely would be a great popular demand for the abolition of the electoral college, which has long been a dead duck but is still kept hanging around as decoration because it is a traditional part of the constitutional procedure established by the all-knowing founding fathers.

Putting the electoral college in the ash can would have tremendous effects on the south, for the reason that the southern states have greater strength in the electoral college than they would have if their numbers of votes cast were counted in direct election of a president.

In the electoral college, the 12 southern states in 1940 cast 135 electoral votes, or a little over 25 per cent of the total of 531 electoral votes cast.

On a popular vote count basis, however, these 12 southern states cast only 5,642,000 ballots in 1940, or a little over 12 per cent of the total popular vote of 44,548,000.

Killing off the electoral college would thus cut the power of the 12 southern states almost exactly in half—from 25 to 12 per cent—in any presidential election.

A Texas Vote Is Triple an Ohio Vote

The reason for this difference is to be found in limitations which the southern states put on suffrage, through the poll tax. In apportioning congressional representatives and electors in the electoral college, the southern states like all the others get credit for their total adult population, though only those who can pay poll tax get to vote.

Texas, for instance, with a 1940 population of 6,400,000, had 23 votes in the electoral college—though its popular vote was 1,041,000, or one out of every six inhabitants. By comparison, Ohio with a population of 6,900,000, had 26 votes in the electoral college and a popular vote of 3,320,000, or three out of every six inhabitants. In effect, therefore, one vote in Texas had three times the power of one vote in Ohio as far as the electoral college was concerned.

If the electoral college were abandoned, the only way the southern states could regain their advantage would be through enfranchising more voters. In other words, by abandoning the poll tax.

The Texas plot to throw the next presidential election into the House may therefore be looked upon as being too smart. In the long run, it might break the south's present political power.

OLIVE BARBER'S OBSERVATIONS

THE CASE OF RUTH

Ruth is a pretty woman, with a hearty, full blown physical perfection given to few. I have for her the admiration, not unmixed with envy, which most women not so blessed usually have for her kind.

Ruth rather prides herself on being a sophisticate. She's "lived a full life," she's fond of saying, and knows the members of the human race for the low creatures they are. There is no such thing, she will tell you, as loyalty between husband and wife; honor is a word without meaning; and as for the sacredness of the marriage vows, well any one old enough to have cut his teeth knows that is the most outmoded illusion of them all.

Her laughter as she so expresses herself is hard and brittle; laughter in which there is no mirth. She has, toward her little neighbor woman's serene faith in men and women, an amused tolerance, such as one has toward a child who still believes in fairies. "You'll learn," is her caustic prophecy.

I can see that because she is both beautiful and widely experienced, her pronouncements affect her neighbor; are body blows to a faith in mankind which until now had never wavered. It has hurt me to see the old time serenity on her friend's face break a little, there are times when I could shake the sneering Ruth for her deliberate attempts to destroy her most endearing quality, her trust in the goodness of people.

But as I've grown to know Ruth better, I sense her ceaseless restlessness; sometimes see something akin to agony deep in her eyes. And I see this plainest right after she's got through dripping her verbal vitriol on the trusting little neighbor.

Now I do not know the way of Ruth's life or what fouled the clear waters of living for her. But something did. She has an inward deformity, whatever her outward perfection. And it is so much more natural for us to feel pity for those who are physically handicapped than it is for those who are spiritual cripples. Remembering this, I've tried to reach through the hard shell she's built around her but with little success. Once I asked her if she herself were not honorable, having integrity and loyalty. She was rather insulted that I asked this. Yet there is, to me, a strange conceit in her belief that she has all the virtues. For the sake of her little neighbor's peace of mind, I wish she'd move away.

Writer Witnesses Heroic Marine Occupation Of Hill On Saipan

By MAC R. JOHNSON
United Press War Correspondent
WITH U. S. MARINES AT GARAPAN, Saipan, July 3—(ELT)—(Via Navy Radio)—U. S. Marines charged with fixed bayonets across the last 200-feet of a barren and exposed ridge to the base of Sugar Loaf hill and then scaled its summit in a brilliant, daring maneuver that sealed the fall of Garapan town.

The marines reached the summit at 4:46 p. m. July 2 and I could see them drop grenades and demolition packets in caves and installations as they cleaned out the enemy.

I sat in a small grove of rubber trees on a hill overlooking Sugar Loaf and watched the preceding battle and the final marine charge that resulted in the occupation of the last key hill guarding Garapan.

Charge Toward Death

It was a charge in the face of death—demanding the utmost courage from every marine rifleman. Every man in the line was offering his life for his country, but the only thing I heard said as the marines pushed up the hill was: "God! What guts!"

The Sugar Loaf is a gray, flat topped 400 foot rocky knob at the end of the ridge. It drops off in a sheer cliff and below is Garapan town. It was important as one of the defense points of Garapan, being located on the eastern edge of the city, but overlooking

the entire community where 10,000 people once lived. Tough fighting preceded the capture of the southern half of Garapan and Sugar Loaf hill. Marines pushing through the debris filled streets and burned and flattened buildings first captured the city and pier and then pushed on. Heavy opposition was met in the woods below Sugar Loaf.

Marines Take Ridge

Meanwhile, east of Sugar Loaf toward Mt. Tapotchau, other marines were occupying the ridge of which Sugar Loaf is part and other high ground east of the city. Here the heavy fighting was at its worst.

Lt. Col. William Jones, Joplin, Mo., of the second marine division, told me his men found five light machine guns hidden in the vines and underbrush that shrouded the slope of one high cliff.

"These Japanese machineguns were arranged in stepped-up fashion, each one on a separate terrace at a higher level," Jones said.

Almost Wiped Out Japs

"We wiped them out with flame throwers but found only six dead Japs. The Japs are not wasting men. Each Jap had plenty of food, water and ammunition, and had been left there alone to fight until killed. There was one man at each gun plus an extra man who probably was in charge."

Jones said the foliage was so dense that "one Jap pushed his gun out through some vines, put the barrel to a marine's head and pulled the trigger. The marine couldn't even see the Jap and was killed."

One Japanese tank was knocked out behind Sugar Loaf by marine half tracks mounting cannon and the Japs trying to flee the hill under marine pressure were plastered by mortar fire.

McNutt Says Oregon Needs 23,000 Workers

WASHINGTON, July 6.—(AP)—Washington state will need 21,000 additional fulltime workers and Oregon 23,000 to pack the 1944 crop of fruits and vegetables, Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the war manpower commission, asserted last night.

McNutt made the assertion in a statement estimating the total fruit and vegetable canning manpower needs as 700,000 for the nation.

Shasta Dam Generators To Turn July 14

SACRAMENTO—(AP)—Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes will inaugurate the production of electric power at Shasta dam in a radio-broadcast ceremony to be held at the dam July 14, the bureau of reclamation announced here.

Following addresses by Secretary Ickes and Assistant Commissioner William W. Warner of the bureau of reclamation, Ickes will press a button putting one of two new 75,000 kilowatt generators in action.

Gov. Earl Warren of California has been invited to represent the state.

Shasta dam will be the newest project of the central valley project to be put into operation—projects already operating are Friant dam and Contracosta canal.

Power from Shasta dam eventually will be carried on a government-owned line from the dam powerhouse to Oroville where it will be fed into the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. system. Pending completion of the Shasta-Oroville line, the P. G. & E. will receive the power at its Shasta substation, bureau of reclamation officials said.

Hengyang Assaults By Japs Repulsed

CHUNGKING, July 5.—(AP)—Repeated Japanese assaults against the important city of Hengyang on the Canton-Hankow railroad have been repulsed by the Chinese defenders, Dr. P. H. Chang, councillor of the executive Yuan and government spokesman, announced today.

Hengyang, scene of bloody fighting for 10 consecutive days, still is in Chinese hands, Chang said. Chinese also hold Letyang, 40 miles south of Hengyang, which yesterday was reported by-passed by Japanese columns rushing southward to meet other forces moving northward from Canton.

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Alaska Air Future Bright

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, June 6.—(AP)—Expanded airways operations in Alaska with American, British, Russian and Chinese airlines operating flights from New York to New Delhi and Moscow were visualized Thursday by Marshall C. Hoppin, civil aeronautics authority superintendent for Alaska, in discussing construction of 31 far north airports "large enough to handle any plane now in the air—or yet on the drawing boards."

The amount of international air traffic over the routes still is a military secret, but Hoppin revealed that the territory—exclusive of the Aleutian chain—has 8,165 miles of federal airways available for post-war use, complete with radio ranges, weather reports and point-to-point flight information such as that provided by the CAA in the United States.

"When the present program is completed, facilities will be available for any type of commercial air operations," Hoppin said. "We do not expect to reduce the present airways facilities after the war—we expect to expand those facilities."

Since the program was started in 1939, 13 major airports and 18 intermediate landing fields have been built by the CAA in Alaska with many others built under military direction in the Aleutians, he explained.

"Many of the intermediate fields could be classified as major airports," said. "None is less than 5,000 feet long and the runways have a minimum width of 300 feet and range up to 600 feet."

The present Alaska airways system, a mainstay in our northern offensive and defensive war plans, was started long before war was declared, Hoppin explained.

"We were planning for war up here long before war started," he said. "In fact, the facilities we had completed between July, 1939, and the time when war was declared, were what the military

used to protect Alaska. "As far as international aviation goes, Alaska stands as a cross roads of world air making it one of the States' most valuable terms. We may expect traffic to China, Japan and India to be this way. British, Russian, Chinese airlines may desire to operate in Alaska, and I can see three of our own domestic lines operating international here."

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