

Prosperous Front
des Japanese
Economic Illness

By JIM BECKER
of The Associated Press

Nine years ago the defeated nation of 1945 was a spectacularly rebuilt, economically and militarily strong, and to its former enemy, the United States. The scars of a devastated island have been almost entirely healed. The island empire broke. The United States was gravely concerned. Rebirth of the United States was complete. Nine years ago this Sunday, Hirohito broadcast a surrender in a quavering voice. Japan was like a soap bubble. Within 40 days of Japan's cities were leveled, two by atomic bombs. Millions of Japanese in uniform in apathy in the years and seen the Japan of 1954 they would have called it a miracle.

Japanese walking the streets or working on farms and in the fishing villages look well fed and healthy. Stores are crammed with attractive goods. But the prosperous facade hides a deep economic illness inevitable in a nation shorn of its overseas conquests and forced to support a population half as large as that of the United States on four home islands whose total area is about that of California.

Japan must trade to live. It is spending twice as much as it earns. Substantial aid probably must come from the United States to see Japan through the next few years.

RED WOOLING
Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida's pro-American administration has adopted a tight austerity program to force Japan to live within its income. This austerity has caused business firms—most of them fly-by-night—to collapse right and left.

Japan's old market in China has gone behind the Bamboo Curtain. Communist China offers all manner of trade bait to woo Japan from the United States. Some business leaders are interested.

The markets in Southeast Asia are partly blocked by a lack of diplomatic relations. This is due to slow negotiations over the war reparations Japan is to pay the Philippines, Burma and Indonesia.

EBBING INFLUENCE
Yoshida's administration is beset by growing criticism aimed both at him and the United States. The steady stream of criticism of the United States in press and radio suggests U.S. influence in Japan may be at its lowest ebb since the war.

The Japanese are just as critical of the Soviet bloc and the Communist party in Japan has little influence. But a trend toward "neutrals" in the manner of India is apparent.

A storm has swirled about Yoshida. The left and right wings of the Socialist party accused him of covering up the shipbuilding bribery scandals. They demanded he quit.

The right wing Socialists called for peace treaties with both Red China and Russia. There is much hope in Japan that co-existence with the Red nations is possible.

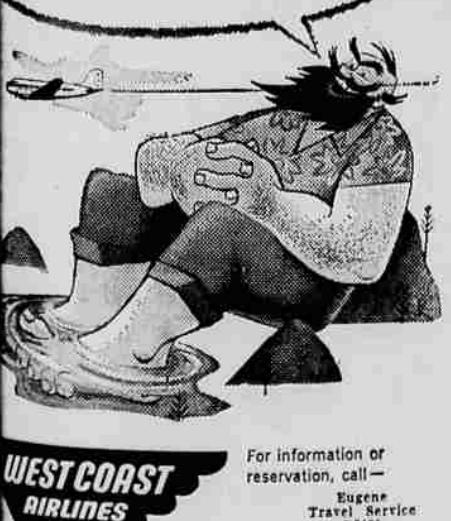
ATOM ACCIDENT
A heavy strain on U.S.-Japan relations this year was the accidental dusting of 23 fishermen in the U.S. hydrogen bomb tests in the central Pacific in March.

The incident boiled to mammoth proportions. Japan, the only nation ever to be atom bombed, is touchy about the big bombs. Slow U.S. apologies and a statement by a congressman that the fishermen might have been "spying" on the tests did not help matters.

The Communists have missed none of this and have combined attacks on Yoshida with propaganda designed to woo Japan. However, the outpouring of sweetness upon Peiping and Moscow has had little visible effect as yet.

Despite all the stresses, the United States is Japan's best customer. Its army, navy and air force remains under a treaty agreement to defend the home islands. The United States spends important money here.

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PLAYTIME AT THE ZOO — Peanuts, a three-year-old chimpanzee, pulls the ear of a young lion cub after a game of tug-of-war with a broom at the St. Louis zoo. Jimmy, another chimp looks on as another of the set of four-month-old lion cubs walks up on the scene. The cubs and chimps romp together daily in an outdoor playpen outside the lion house.

Spelunkers Claim Mark

VERONA, Italy (AP) — Italian cave explorers who groped their way 570 meters (1,869 feet) into the earth for what they claimed was a new descent record said Saturday no animal life existed in the eerie depths of the abyss.

But curious bats followed them down nearly to the bottom of the grotto, dodging waterfalls, tumbling rocks and springs of water that spurted sideways from the walls.

The 14-man team reached the surface Friday after 45 hours underground. The party claims to have set a world record, discounting a French descent of 658 meters (2,152 feet). They said that climb in the Pyrenees cave was not all down—some was horizontal.

Poultry Skin Sandals
BUDAPEST (AP) — The Hungarian shoe industry will use the skin of turkey and poultry legs as ersatz for women's sandals, the Budapest newspaper Magyar Nemzet reported. Such ersatz-leather has "an amazing resemblance" to reptile skin, like crocodile or tropical lizard, traditionally used for women's shoes. Sandals manufactured from goose-leg skin were "satisfactorily tried for four months" and will be exported now, the newspaper reported.

Bethel Teacher Workshop To Stress Public Relations

"Public Relations for Better Schools" is the theme of the annual teacher workshop for School District 52 at Bethel which will be held Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.

A tentative program has been prepared by the administrative staff. It is designed to improve all areas of relations between school personnel and the public and to familiarize professional personnel and Parent-Teacher Assn. members with methods for informing other citizens about what the schools are trying to achieve.

A number of key lay citizens in the community will participate, and consultants will take part during the two days from radio, newspaper, and television firms in the Eugene area. Sessions will be at Willamette High School.

Among consultants and speakers are Dr. John Richards, vice-chancellor of the Oregon State System of Higher Education; Dr. Paul B. Jacobson, dean of the school of education of the University of Oregon; Tom Powers, superintendent of Bethel Schools; Hal McAbee, assistant superintendent of Bethel Schools, and Harold Jensen, chairman of the Bethel School Board.

One Dahlia, Two Faces

Not two-faced but double-faced is E. R. Kilpatrick's challenge to Route 66's dahlia fanciers.

Kilpatrick has on display at his home, 1448 E. 22nd Ave., Eugene, a Dixie Wine dahlia which has a face facing in both directions from a single stem. It's about 12 inches in diameter.

It's not two flowers but one, Kilpatrick reports, and one face is just as good as the other. He invites the public to come and see the posy. Anytime but Thursday.

9 Feared Drowned

LA HAVRE, France (AP) — A fishing boat capsized Sunday in the English Channel off Villerville and only nine of the 18 persons aboard reached shore. The others were presumed drowned. Two of the survivors died later in a hospital at Honfleur.

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