

EDITORIAL

A Strong Ticket

In Dewey and Bricker the Republican party has the strongest ticket offered to the voters of the country in several elections. It is seldom that two men of such outstanding executive ability have been teamed to lead the party in the national campaign and the G.O.P. is justified in launching the drive to recapture the reins of government with full confidence that it offers leadership that will meet the demands of both domestic and war conditions.

It is too early to get a line on Republican strategy. That will come right after the Democratic formality of placing Mr. Roosevelt at the head of the Bourbon ticket (he having already placed Mr. Wallace in nomination as his running mate), but doubtless the fallacious slogan of "don't change horses in the middle of the stream" will be worked overtime in the coming campaign. It creeps into almost every political discussion between partisans and can be expected to be the main issue. It is a handy gadget for continuing the program of fear that if the Roosevelt regime is not retained in office the country and a large portion of the world will go to pot. There are many people who believe we will lose the war if Roosevelt is removed as commander-in-chief, not realizing that our trained military leaders are actually planning the strategy and putting it into action.

It will be up to the Republican high command to refute these fallacies and give the people of the nation assurance that conduct of the war will be just as safe in the hands of Dewey and Bricker as in the hands of Mr. Roosevelt. We have ceased to be a democracy when we come to believe that one

man and one man alone holds the destiny of the land in his hands.

Besides—It's Healthy Exercise

Anyone seeking a brief respite from steady work with only a day or so to spare from duty should consider offering assistance in the fruit harvest in the Columbia district of Morrow county. This does not mean that one must hire out as a fruit picker, for such is not necessarily the case. You can pick for yourself, paying the orchardist a nominal price for his product.

Just now the apricot harvest is on at Irrigon and Boardman. Orchardists over that way are having difficulty in procuring help to save their crops. Without some volunteer assistance they will suffer heavy losses. And this is unnecessary, or would be if people wishing the fruit would take the time to drive over there and pick it. It is not a long drive and it does not take long to gather a good supply of the luscious fruit.

By way of adding interest, permit this newspaper to state that this year's crop is superb—great big buttery balls of liquid sunshine that just melt in your mouth! You'll hate yourself if you don't drive over there and pick a few hundred pounds for you winter's supply of sauce, marmalade, jam or what have you.

Don't Get Stung

From time to time septic tank and cesspool cleaners come to town and usually find plenty of work, inasmuch as Heppner is dependent upon this type of sewage disposal. This newspaper has no information relative to charges made by these

operators and would have nothing to say about it now but for receiving a bulletin from the Portland Better Business Bureau, Inc. warning that exorbitant prices are being exacted for this type of work. According to the bulletin, the average private dwelling tank has a capacity of 500 gallons, that approximates not more than two tons of fluid sludge. Cost for cleaning should not exceed \$35. Operators have been known to charge as much as \$85 for cleaning a tank of this size.

Facts obtained from the Oregon State Board of Health about septic tanks include the report that the overflow from the septic tank is not pure and there is more bacteria in it than in raw sewage. It is not necessary to add yeast or similar materials to start bacterial action, as that action is automatically caused by bacteria in sewage. The kitchen and laundry wastes from the ordinary household will not harm the action of the septic tank and should be discharged into the tank along with other sewage.

The Merchant Marine Was There, Too

The value of the role of the American Merchant Marine in the war has been dramatically demonstrated by the armada of 4,000 merchant ships that was assembled to transport the invasion army to Normandy. Millions of men and tremendous quantities of supplies were carried from England in a shuttle service that will continue as long as it is necessary.

But it should not be forgotten that a most essential part of the Merchant Marine's task in the invasion had to be completed even before D Day could be set. For months, the Merchant Marine maintained a never-ending supply line from this country to the British Isles. Convoy after convoy sailed from the United States with soldiers and their equipment. Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll, commander of the Atlantic Fleet, stated that had this vital line of supply been broken, the invasion would have been impossible.

While most eyes are on the grim fighting in France, the Merchant Marine is also serving the other theatres of war and bases essential to defense. There are some 55 fighting fronts and military bases scattered about the globe—from lonely Greenland in the Arctic fastness to sun-seared ports on the Persian Gulf. All must be supplied regularly and a transportation job of incredible magnitude must be accomplished.

It is only because we finally have a merchant fleet of sufficient size that we are now able to wage simultaneously several full scale campaigns in widely scattered areas such as Northern France, Italy, India and the South Pacific. These offensives, all carried on at the same time, help to shorten the war. As one objective is gained it means that more ships are available for the others that remain.

In each successive invasion there has been an increased display of Allied maritime might. North Africa saw 600 merchant ships while some 2,000 took part in the amphibious assault on Sicily. Keeping in mind that 4,000 ships were used in the current invasion, it is gratifying to contemplate the size of the fleet that will set sail when D-Day comes for Mt. Tojo and Japan.

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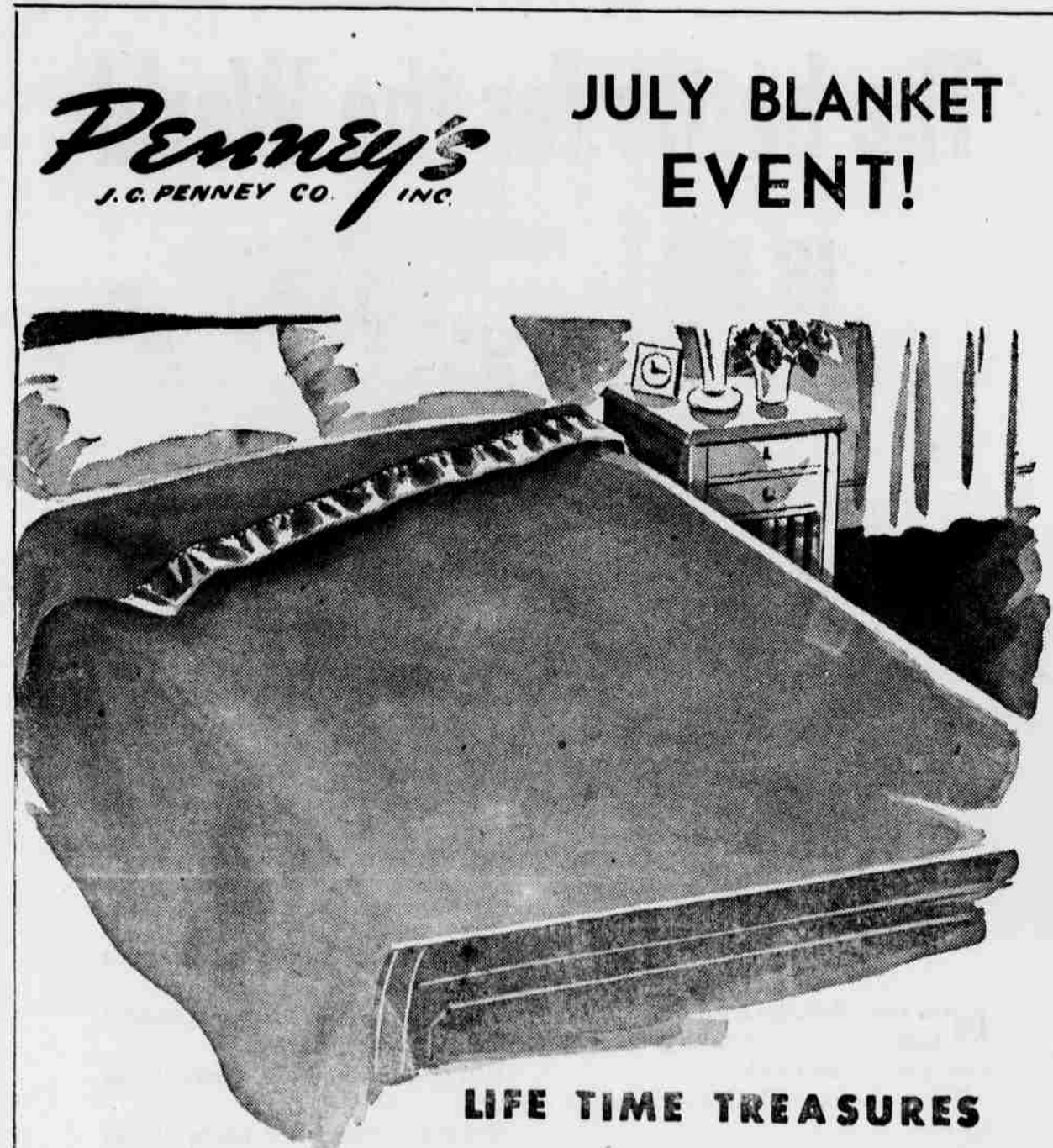
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