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Ye Smudge Pot

By Arthur Perry

Federal employees are warned if they "dabble in politics they will be discharged immediately." It is little enough punishment with so much at stake in November. If they sweat, bleed, and bawl until it hurts, the reward will be the right to "dabble" four more years at the public trough.

The Navy has developed a fighter plane that goes straight up like a delegate to the democratic national convention when advised to vote for anybody but Roosevelt.

The "Atlantic Wall," behind which Tuetonic might and cussedness was supposed to make a bitter stand to the last man in repelling the Allied invasion, turned out to be as misty a myth as propaganda has created in this war. Hailed as the last word in defense, with every Jimson weed a mask for a machine gun nest, and strong enough to knock down a British general at 20 miles, it was about as impregnable as a paper "bunk." It was weaker than Singapore, than Hong Kong and the Maginot Line, historic fizzes all, in thwarting the foe. It makes the people of the United Nations lose faith in the Japanese boasts, "the modern building of Tokyo" will stand up unscathed when bombed. The rest of Tokyo would flame and fall, but not "the modern buildings," built to defy both war and earthquakes. In the light of the evidence, the answer is "Oh, Yeah!"

GRACEFUL YIELDING
(Pendleton East Oregonian)
"The East Oregonian said editorially: 'The enemy has captured the breastworks as well as nearly all the offices . . . The people have rendered their verdict and since we believe in the people and their judgment, we are satisfied; in fact, we have to be'."

When his neighbors complained, a Portland resident killed his chickens. Now he figures, robbins, who also raid gardens, should be exterminated. He avers this would be logic. A dead robin is a dead robin. A dead chicken can be fried chicken.

Finland (pre-war poor Finland) is now cashing in on the pro-Nazi bullheadedness of her leaders. Russia invades, America applies the economic blacklist, and Great Britain is not interested. Finland took the short cut to end of her rope.

"The prison coach has little or no difficulty in getting the boys together for practice, for he generally knows where to place a finger on them."—(Salem Capital-Journal)—Natural!

Piscatorial feats are now adorning sport pages. An eastern Oregon fisherman yanked a 34-pound bass out of the Pacific ocean, using a No. 8 hook, and last week's two gallons of gas.

TOUGH OLD DAYS

"When my wife agreed to marry me, partly for money, I was earning \$40 a month. Seven dollars was needed for rent and almost \$15 for food, including such luxuries as apples or bananas on Saturdays. Then there was the big clothing bill. I was proud of her and bought more pretty dresses than she needed. Every little while 50 cents was dug up for lovely calico, to say nothing of an occasional gingham dress costing upwards of a dollar. But in spite of all this expense I saved \$10 monthly, with the exception of the month the baby was born. This added expense made it impossible to save more than \$5."—(Claude Callan in K. C. Times.)

Fifty-five per cent of the employees at the Sunflower Ordnance Works at De Soto, Kas., are women. A year ago only 27.37 per cent were women.

Is the War Over?

Has Germany really started to crumble? There is precedent for it. In 1918 when the German general staff saw victory had become impossible, they squawked and quit.

Their armies had not been decisively beaten in the field, and could undoubtedly have fought on stubbornly for many months. But they didn't—they could dish it out but they couldn't take it.

THERE is no sentiment within the German general staff. They are all hard boiled, professional soldiers. When there is no longer chance of profit in fighting they just don't fight.

They call it a day, make the best bargain they can and prepare for the next war!

IS that what they are preparing to do now?

There are some evidences of it.

Ever since the allied channel invasion started the German war reports have been strangely frank and pessimistic. Most of the good news from the allied standpoint in fact has come from Berlin.

This is in striking contrast with the customary Berlin attitude of bravado, scorn and self confidence, an attitude which has held firm for nearly five years without a break until during the past week.

AND, according to allied reports all the German prisoners taken—several thousands of them—are equally down hearted and pessimistic.

They join in an amazing chorus of dejection and hopelessness, declaring Germany may fight on but they know, and everyone in Germany knows, the jig is up.

HOW come? Heretofore in Africa, in Italy, along the Russian front, the German prisoners have been reported arrogant, defiant, confident of ultimate German triumph. The German prisoners in this country have been notoriously cocky and complacent.

WHAT has caused this great and sudden transformation?

Is it a plot,—is it some cooked-up scheme, by the great "Master-Mind", to breed a feeling of overconfidence in the allied camp? Then when the FOE has been lulled into a sense of false security suddenly rise up and strike?

Or is it what it appears to be,—the beginning of the end as far as organized German resistance is concerned?

The usually omniscient prognosticator of this department pushes away the crystal ball and admits he doesn't know. He is stumped. Everything on the surface looks as if the Nazi edifice, built on the sands of bluff, buncombe and bluster had really started to slip (and when it once starts watch out, it will be some avalanche!) but hesitates to act upon appearances, and believes it would be foolish for anyone else to do so.

AT any rate this much is certain,—it is nothing to BANK on.

If the great Hitler stampede HAS really started, then that should be the signal not for relaxing and letting down, but turning on the heat and pressure harder than ever before, so the maximum advantage of the initial break can be taken.

Far better in fact to assume the worst rather than the best, to fight a bit harder than necessary rather than not quite hard enough.

When the Nazi rout is in full swing so all may see will be time enough to relax and send a few devout hosannas skyward!

What About Fishing Tackle?

Camp White is now operating as the Western Personnel Reassignment Center, one of three camps in the U. S. in which men, who have seen battle service and have completed a furlough at home, are assembled for assignment to new duties. This will mean that Jackson County will have as her guests in months to come hundreds of men who have seen the toughest fighting on distant fronts and have returned for richly deserved and much needed rest.

Of course, citizens of this Valley will extend fullest hospitality to these young fighting men who have helped so much to turn the tide in this conflict. Southern Oregon's many attractions—Crater Lake, Diamond Lake, Lake O'Woods, Lithia Park, the Oregon Caves and countless others—should be enjoyed to the fullest by the veterans who are awaiting their return to battle stations. Every effort is being made to place the full recreational facilities of this vacationland at the disposal of reassignment center officials.

MOST fighting men—and especially those from the South Pacific area—enjoy fishing more than any other sport. We have world-famous Rogue River, and countless other streams and lakes, to delight the most ardent nimrod. There is, however, a shortage of fishing tackle. Those who have an extra rod and reel, or maybe a few flies or "Ford fenders" can assure a lot of pleasure for re-assignment service men if they will give or loan these necessities of fishing fun.

Check over your outfit NOW, Mr. Angler, and telephone Camp White, 5221, extension 2128. Lieut. Boggs will see that your spare tackle is picked up and placed at once in the hands of men who, like yourselves, long for the music of spinning reels and swishing lines.—HG

FOUNDATION SET UP

Austin, Tex.—(U.P.)—Housing should not prove a difficult problem for postwar students at the University of Texas. University regents have approved establishment of a housing foundation, which is authorized to accept gifts to construct low-cost housing units for students.

QUITS RESEARCH

Cambridge, Mass.—(U.P.)—Because of the accelerated war program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology has abandoned its far-famed research activities, according to President Karl T. Compton. About 20 per cent of the faculty are working on war projects, he said.

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, June 12—A latent but tremendous popular interest out in the country over

the confused status of the Atlantic charter as it faces leftist ideologies in war-torn Europe has been freshly detected by the senate.

An astonishing number of requests have come in for copies of a

speech by New Hampshire's Republican Senator Bridges, made in the senate May 23. Recently the number was above 80,000, and it will run above 100,000.

About 40,000 of the first requests came from Protestant groups, 10,000 more from Catholics, the rest from other sources.

THE public may recall the address as a criticism of Mr. Roosevelt giving naval vessels to Russia when Churchill made it not let the Italian navy go, and inasmuch as we still face a great naval war in the Pacific in which Russia is not involved.

This was only the introduction of the Bridges speech which reached the headlines. The bulk of it was a less sensational inquiry into the status of the Atlantic charter and four freedoms directed to Mr. Roosevelt and asking him:

"Have you lost the initiative in Europe?"

The news from Italy lately has only added to the popular confusion. The withdrawal of the king in favor of Crown Prince Umberto as "lieutenant-general of the realm" has received varied interpretations. An Italian-American labor leader in Boston asserted the king was under Communist influence, but Umberto's position is being described as Fascist by the liberal press.

The pronouncements of the Vatican immediately after the freeing of Rome revealed no inkling of its political knowledge or intentions.

The Communist leader Browder has broadcast on our radio domestically an implication that some Catholic churchmen have accepted the validity of Russian indications of espousal of religion as against the atheism and agnostic ideologies formerly promoted and imposed on the Russians by the state. Incidentally, Mr. Browder closed his address with an appeal to God in some connection or other.

The only thing clear, therefore, is that there is confusion—therefore no agreement. Valid and authentic interpretations beyond this may be a long time coming.

THE Communists are in control of almost all the European underground movements, and are, therefore, the most active political influence we are facing not only in Italy, France and Poland, but throughout Europe.

Always in the past they have used the words "freedom" and "democracy" in a far different sense than we do, so documentary evidence thus far has done little to change the confusion. Most Communists still look upon freedom as meaning just one thing—freedom from Fascism if not capitalism, or, in fact, freedom from democracy as we understand it.

Also, Russia in the past has changed its ideological course temporarily, with its fingers crossed behind its back, solely to get its way, and when this purpose was accomplished it would revert to its original purpose. This is the precise official explanation of Stalin's friendship neutrality treaty with Hitler when Poland was invaded and Britain was drawn into the war.

SUSPICIONS, therefore, are natural and will not easily be dispelled. If the transferring of an unexplained title of "lieutenant-general" from the king to Umberto (later to be passed, some say, to Umberto's son) becomes a cover for an Italian Communist radical grasp for power, it is one thing. If it becomes only a cover for the confusion (as it most likely is), then the fruits of war are being ripened only on the outside peeling, and worms at the core will continue to work.

Certainly no evidence behind the news suggests anything more than dithering for control among the politicians of Italy now, evidence which has been available also concerning Poland, France, etc.

Yet in Italy there is one force which is certainly Christian in its ideals—the ideals which Mr. Roosevelt rightly described May 27, 1944 (quoted in the Bridges speech), as being "the dignity of the human being, of the majesty of the human soul, in a world where moral standards are measured by treachery and bribery and fifth columnists." (The president was then speaking of a Communist dictatorship.) It was this point of Christian ideology which brought so

Pacific Veterans Saved From Stricken Transport



Huddled in blankets, these U. S. Navy officers and men are brought ashore in San Francisco after they were rescued when the transport that was returning them from Pacific war theater ran aground on reef off Palomares Islands during heavy fog. Not a man was lost during rescue operations. U. S. Navy photo.

Forrestal Takes Oath of Office



James Vincent Forrestal (left) is sworn in as 48th secretary of the Navy at brief Washington ceremony. The oath is administered to the 52-year-old New York investment banker by Rear Adm. Thomas L. Gatch, judge advocate general of the Navy.

Californians Fight To Retain Guayule Experiments Alive

Washington, June 12—(U.P.)—House agriculture committee members joined California congressmen today in a fight to block a "death sentence" imposed by the appropriations committee on the \$35,000,000 experimental guayule rubber program.

A proposal to continue the program until the crop matured in from 24 to 36 months was rejected by the house recently on recommendation of the appropriations group. But the senate, after a lengthy committee investigation, reinstated the measure into the agriculture department appropriations bill and sent it to conference with the house.

The house is expected to act on the conference report late today. The senate conferees insisted that the program be retained, but the house appropriations group continued its opposition.

INTEREST ON ALIMONY

Salem, Ore.—(U.P.)—Divorced spouses in this state who become delinquent in their alimony payments must not only make up their back payments but pay interest at the legal rate on the deferred installments. So the supreme court of this state ruled in a suit brought by Sarah Elizabeth Kern against the estate of her former husband, Don Kern. Inasmuch as Mrs. Kern had been deprived of the use of the alimony money she was entitled to interest, the high court ruled in awarding her \$13,277.39 of which \$2,949.60 represented interest.

MID-AIR GREETING

Kilgore, Tex.—(U.P.)—It was almost a midair collision when Pvt. Barney J. Thurman, stationed with an airborne division in England, met up with a relative of his whom he hadn't seen for two years. Pvt. Thurman was floating down after making a parachute jump when he looked into a passing plane and saw the pilot was his cousin, Lt. Clint Cowden.

GRASS AND BRUSH FIRES GIVE STATE PATROL WORKOUT

With three grass and brush fires reported practically at the same time, the Jackson county staff of the state forest patrol spent a busy afternoon Sunday.

First call was to Spring street at the edge of Medford where a resident allowed a fire to spread from a pile of debris he was burning. The fire spread over 12 acres of grass before being controlled. While the crew was busy with this blaze, a second was reported from near Jacksonville, where an old campfire, thought to have been smoldering for nearly a week, spread to adjoining grass and brush fields. It covered some one and a half acres before being controlled.

Third of the calls, which followed close on the first two, was for a fire in the vicinity of Trail on the Long Branch creek. This blaze had spread from a brush fire, started by a resident of the district, and spread over about half an acre.

A. D. McReynolds of the state fire patrol, stated that an eight-mile wind and the extremely low humidity of 12 per cent was apparently the reason of the fires spreading and caused the crews considerable anxiety before all were controlled.

Saturday night the crew answered a call from the Immigrant dam area near Ashland where lightning had set fire to an old snag.

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Medford and Jackson Co. History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10 and 20 years ago

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY

June 12, 1934

(It was Tuesday)

Violence flared anew in San Francisco longshoremen's strike and police repel invasion of strikers with guns and clubs.

Deuel building at Main and Bartlett to be reconstructed and corner occupied by Luman Bros. grocery.

Fair with occasional cloudiness. High 88, low 55 degrees.

Southern Oregon auto dealers to keep NRA code rules.

Primo Carnera and Max Baer fight Thursday in championship fight in New York.

Flunrery bakery to barrel supply of berries for pies.

Twenty years ago today

June 12, 1924

(It was Thursday)

Congress kills \$100,000 road appropriation for Crater Lake.

Mayor E. C. Gaddis is given a warning for over-parking his auto in front of Mann's store.

President Coolidge is renominated by Republicans on first ballot at convention. Charles G. Dawes is nominated for vice-president.

Cloudy. High 81, low 52 degrees. Precipitation .01 of an inch.

Seventy-four members of Senior high graduating class receive diplomas at armory exercises. Edmund Morris presented the valedictory and Miss Alleen Crawford was salutatorian.

ELKS WILL HOLD FLAG DAY RITES

The Elks lodge will conduct the annual Flag Day exercises Thursday night, June 15. The services, open to the public, will start at 8:30 p. m.

Herman Furuecker and his troop of Sea Scouts will give the history of the flag and Otto Frohnmayer will give the Flag Day address. Sebastian Apollo will be in charge of the music. The Elks are particularly urged to attend.

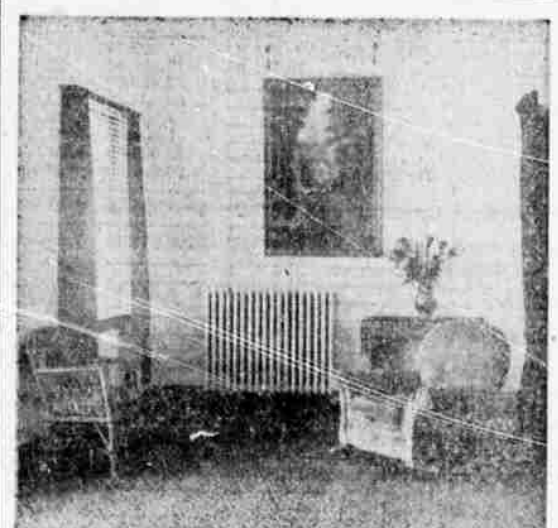
ORDER DISTRIBUTION ALTA WALBERT ESTATE

A decree calling for the final distribution of the estate of Alta Eliza Walbert, and the discharge of Eugene Thorndike as administrator, has been filed in probate court. Mrs. Walbert and her husband, C. E. Walbert, local residents, disappeared on a plane trip in November 1939 and no trace has ever been found of either plane or passengers.

They left this city for Portland, in the face of unfavorable weather conditions. Aerial search was made for the couple, including the offering of a reward by the Medford Flying club. The estate of Walbert is now in process of final probate court action.

WEATHER

Northern California: Fair today, tonight and Tuesday but with strong north wind interior valleys today. Cooler in interior.



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