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Ye Smudge Pot

By Arthur Perry

Everybody now has a war map of Germany. To the surprise of one and all no shortage of red-headed pins has shown up as yet.

The Portland police now have in their possession a \$1000 bill left by a lady, who walked off and left it in the custody of a sailor she met by chance. Many people have seen that kind of money, but the banker was watching too close.

There are kid prisoners of war in camps of the land, almost old enough to enter junior high next Monday, had they been born in America.

"MALE QUARTET UNABLE TO SING"—(Redding Searchlight headline.) They seldom are.

Many of the fair sex are now sporting the "Care Free" hair-do. In a general way it resembles a pile of hay hit by a brisk and sudden wind.

EXTRACT OF BARBWARE

(Press Dispatch)

"This correspondent, sampling it in the interests of science, found that the Calvados of Rennes tasted faintly of old engine oil, while that around St. Lo had a soapy taste. The underlying flavor is apple, of which it is made. Calvados will, in the words of one soldier, blow a soft hat through a concrete building."

To Lady Phone Inquirer: Ben Hur Lampman of the Oregonian was born August 19. You tell your age first.

Poor Finland! Every time she gets out of a diplomatic mess of her own brewing, she finds herself in two more.

"The business of the ministry is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."—(Richmond, Va., pastor in Townsend Weekly.)—The same goes for federal bureaucrats.

"Carpet bombing" continues in Der Reich, or Das Wreck. It is different than what a brute husband, who wants to play golf, does to a carpet with a broom-handle, in spring housecleaning time.

Predictions of a dry winter are rife. Several plan to have their post-war arks ready before the late January flood.

Argentine continues to act up, as if inspired by Nazi monkey-business. The late fictitious good neighbor needs a dose or two of the convincing medicine Russia gave to Bulgaria. The same tonic enabled Rumania to pull herself over to the allied cause, by her own bootstraps.

"We had five weddings in a week here and not a single old shoe tossed at the newlyweds. Well, you can't throw them when you're wearing them."—(Lakeview Examiner.) Logical conclusion.

The first week or so of school, throughout the state, reveals no arrests for the little red school houses speeding past the little red automobiles, faster than the law allows.

THAT OPENING SCREECH

"Well, here's a new one. Gov. Snell has named Thursday as Star Spangled Banner day. All the male population would all have to wear high heels in order to reach the high notes or else get drunk as the tune is that of an old Irish drinking song. It is too bad that we cannot have a national anthem whose words fit all occasions and whose melody can be sung by everybody, not alone by coloratura opera stars."—(Corvallis Gazette-Times)

Glassmakers—1944 style—use an electrical color analyzer to check the color properties of specimens before making up batches of glass.

What Do You Believe?

This election year, more than ever before, people should vote their beliefs rather than their party affiliations.

And now is the time for each voter to think things over carefully and decide what he, or she, does, or does not, BELIEVE.

For above all the hula-baloos and flim-flam, which will descend upon us in the next six weeks, certain facts should be self-evident to any observing person and one of them is this:

If President Roosevelt is re-elected the country will continue to turn to the left.

If Governor Dewey is elected, the country will turn to the right.

Which do you Mr. and Mrs. Voter believe in?

DO you want MORE of the left,—more variations of federal control, more socialist leanings, more domination of and interference with business, or,—

Do you want less,—less of the New Deal, less of theorizing and less experimentation; more business in government and less government in business, more common sense and horse sense, in the administration of our post-war economy.

FOR as becomes more evident every day the next administration,—or the major portion of it,—will be a peace not a war administration. The outstanding problem will not be how to win a war, but how best to recover from the ravages of one, and resume, with the least shock and jar, the pursuits of peace.

DO you favor at that time a continued turn to the left or would you prefer to see your country take its bearings, find out just where the ship of state is "at", and then choose a course entirely different from the course of the past decade, as far as domestic policies are concerned.

That's all.

It is a matter of BELIEF. Thousands in this country believe one thing, thousands believe another.

What do you BELIEVE?

Decide that and there should be no doubt as to how you should vote.

Let's Try It

As a postscript to the above, it should be stated that "turn to the right" does not mean either a return to "the good old days" or "laissez faire",—i.e.: no plan at all.

It does mean a plan, and a federal plan,—but a plan based upon faith in the essential SOUNDNESS of what is popularly known as free enterprise, instead of a plan based upon a complete lack of faith in it,—and the conviction that free enterprise went out with Mark Hanna and the protective tariff.

There is a distinct line of cleavage here in all political thought. And we know of no political Supreme Court to decide which side is wrong or which is right. It is, as above stated a matter of BELIEF, and can only be decided by trial,—by experience.

As far as this paper is concerned we would like to see that trial made and only Governor Dewey and the Republican party CAN make it!

What's Doing in Finland?

How come, if the Nazis are on their last legs, that they proceed to attack Finland, and at this critical hour add one more to their towering list of enemies?

CERTAINLY Hitler would appear to have enough troubles without adding to them when his lines are tottering everywhere, and presumably his sole effort is to delay the inevitable collapse.

Instead of inviting trouble in Finland, one would suppose he would call all German forces from that country, send them to the tottering home fronts, and retain at least, Finland's neutrality.

But no, not only have the Germans attacked Finland, but according to latest press reports the attacks are continuing.

Is this merely the impotent madness of defeat, akin to the fatally wounded snake biting itself; or is there some deep dark design in it, not apparent at this distance?

THE skipper of this department doesn't know. But our guess is the situation in Finland, like the situation in France, can be traced directly to Nazi arrogance and stupidity.

There is no doubt the German High Command thought their defenses in France could never be breached, that the allied invasion would fail, and the attempt would prove a signal for Axis escape from defeat, instead of complete collapse.

SIMILARLY in Finland. In spite of that country's surrender to Russia, it would surprise no close students of German psychology to discover that Hitler really believed Finland would not observe Russia's terms and would give Germany ample time to withdraw her forces at Der Reichsfuehrer's pleasure.

BUT Finland surprised Hitler as the Anglo-Americans did, and instead of breaking faith with Russia, when the time limit expired, joined hands with that country, and opposed rather than aided the German retreat.

So while Germany WANTED no more trouble, she found she had to have it to get out. Her attack on Hoag Island was the start of her effort to retreat.

There are several holes in that hypothesis we admit, but at least it makes some sense. And of course, with his troops unable to get out of Finland except by fighting, such action by Hitler would tend to keep Finn and Russian forces in that country instead of allowing them to return to the eastern front and join in the Warsaw attack.

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, Sept. 18.—An extraordinary public interest in the postwar compulsory military training plan has been evident in mail reaction to my suggestion.



Paul Mallon

On August 31 that other more democratic means of raising and maintaining the needed army might be found. People generally appear to be thinking and searching for a plan, as indeed is the war department. There Gen. Marshall has amended or expanded War Secretary Stimson's simple youth draft proposition with a hunt for a program to build the postwar defense on a small standing army with a citizen reserve.

Marshall is sensible and practical in his approaches to these problems (to wit, the excellent demobilization point system), but he also wants to draft the youths through compulsion for a year of training.

The army bills in congress call for taking the youngster at 17 or upon graduation from high school. Officers in charge say they want all youths drawn in, rich and poor, prospective clergy men, doctors, lawyers, technicians as well as poets. They think that by taking in everyone under compulsion, they are following the democratic way. They are not.

THE compulsory draft is the theory of regimentation, dictatorship, totalitarianism. The voluntary inducement system is the democratic theory, and it always has proved more efficient when intelligently directed.

The army seems a little sheepish on this point. Slyly, it shies away from the title "Compulsory Military Training" to describe the plan, and calls it "universal military training." It is not to be universal, but it is compulsory.

These military statesmen are just beginning to get into the problem. They know European nations, with their deficient manpower, have long required a year in the army for youths. They have just jumped thoughtlessly (in my opinion) to the conclusion that this is the only way to get what they want. What they want—and what we need—is an army. It must be a sufficient and efficient army, capable of defending the country, else we might as well not have one.

It seems to me we have been doing it somewhat in Gen. Marshall's way all along, and this has not proved satisfactory. We had a small army (74,000 at the start of the war) and a citizens reserve (the national guard). In effect, we had nothing.

The army was not adequate or efficient. The national guard was a drill unit for parades and a month in summer camp. Both together could not defend Long Island against an invading foe. That system will have to be declared obsolete and a new plan adopted.

BUT will compulsory military training do the job? I think a fair, objective analysis of the facts will show that it will not, and furthermore, that it is not even important or material to the job.

Armies today are built on technicians. The foot soldier is not so often a fighter as a policeman. He mostly goes to the place led by the highly skilled gunner, artillery engineer, plane combat pilot, tank driver for the last fighting.

The point that war today is a complex cohesion of all the highly skilled scientific techniques needs no proof. A year in the army to make a soldier may have been all right in Napoleon's day when a man had only to learn how to shoot a musket accurately, drill formations, etc., but not today (and not 17-years-olds either then or now).

Not only are the combat men now long-trained technicians, but so are the equally important men in radio communications, engineering, bridge construction, and practically every line.

There were 1,081,852 males 17 years old in the United States in 1940. If all these had spent a year in the army, would they be what we must have or contribute materially to it? Do not these skilled technicians require more than a year of application and more maturity than 17?

In ten years you would have from them a force nearly as large as the military force we have in the field, but would they be an efficient army? Would you not have to build the army with other means? For war your 17-year-old graduates would have to be trained all over again.

Why, they would be worse than the national guard, only perhaps not as large when the unadaptable were weeded out. In short, a year in the army at

17 can be little more than a physical culture course, and is not material to the raising or maintaining of a defensive army.



Olive Barber's

Observations

Last night some thirty odd people gathered at Hillsdale for our bi-monthly funfest. With so small a house, it takes some conviving to make room for that many. But I connived; I took down the bed. Only to recall too late that there would be a number of babies. If we put them to bed in the attic, they might wake up and tumble down stairs. If parked in the cars outside, they could scream themselves hoarse without being heard above the din of bingo players and clatter of women enumerating their canning feats of the summer.

We solved the matter by taking turns holding the little tykes in our laps. Which didn't add to my popularity for I was too prone to heft the sleeping infant, then casually remark it was no job at all, my own grandson, the same age, or even younger, being so much the heavier. And only four teeth! My goodness! Scotty had eight at this baby's age. Well I waited long enough, they should remember, before I got a grandchild to boast about. I had some catching-up to do.

Maybe I'm a natural boaster and that's why I feel there are few communities which can mix a group with such a wide age range as successfully as our neighborhood can. Our young people keep the dates of our neighborhood parties free and each meeting finds them with us, not leaving until compelled to by their parents or hinted to do so by their hostess. Always, I find myself happily amazed that this is so.

At least half our group is made up of young people between the ages of 14 and 18. This is considered a hard age to entertain. Maybe part of our success in holding them is that we make no effort to entertain them. Rather do they entertain us. They can be as beguilingly crazy as a bunch of colts.

Last night I remembered how much is said about juvenile delinquency and of the counter charge that there is even more adult delinquency. So it could be that in our complacency at holding our young people we are deceiving ourselves. Maybe they feel the need to be present to keep us in line! Well as long as they attend, so will I. Though I did think it a little undignified of us to clap our hands to some of the songs just because they told us to. But I clapped.

Communications

He Likes Perry's Politics

To the editor: In answer to F. G.'s letter in the Tribune of September 11 will say I have read Art Perry's Smudge Pot for 15 years and really enjoy it. Lately I have been cutting out his clippings on politics and posting them on our bulletin board in the assembly building. Here in the ship yard you should hear the comment on them the boys really enjoy them. Yours for more politics in the Smudge Pot till we elect Gov. Dewey our next president.

C. W. Newland
4432 H. East 11th Way
Vancouver, Wash.

Boys Under 21 Can't Vote

To the editor: Can you tell us if our boys now serving in the armed forces who are under 21 years of age will have a vote in the coming presidential elections?

Butte Falls, Oregon.
Jack Turngate
Box 116

Ed. Note: According to local officials no boys under voting age, whether at home or abroad and in the armed forces, will not be allowed to vote.

THE GRANGE

Griffin Creek Grange will hold the regular meeting tomorrow evening at eight o'clock. Women attending are asked to bring a paper sack lunch for two.

ACTRESS TO WED

Hollywood, Sept. 18.—(U.P.)—Blonde Marilyn Maxwell, film actress, and John Conte, radio master of ceremonies and screen player, will be married tomorrow in New York. The actress notified Hollywood friends to-night.

ORDER RENT CONTROL

Washington, Sept. 18.—(U.P.)—The office of price administration today ordered rent control regulations put into effect on October 1 in Boulder, Colo. (Boulder county) defense-rental area. Rents are to be fixed at the June 1, 1943, level.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

Patriots Get Revenge



French patriots in Rennes mete out revenge and "people's justice" to civilians who collaborated with German Occupation Army. This collaborationist tries to defend himself from patriot on right while one on left aims revolver at his head.

Conjunction of Jupiter and Mercury In Morning Sky

By J. Hugh Pruett
(Astronomer, General Extension Division, Univ. of Ore.)

Have you sometimes hoped you might once in your lifetime spot Mercury, that elusive but charming little planet which so much of the time apparently nestles so close to the blazing sun that even those who best know where and when to look seldom see him? Well, the latter part of this week you may, providing the morning sky is clear. On September 23, Mercury will be well marked, for he and the brilliant Jupiter will be near conjunction above the eastern horizon and only a few minutes of arc apart.

Confusion is sometimes caused by the term "conjunction." Let us attempt to explain this in simple language. Conjunction primarily means "joined together." But astronomically it usually refers to the nearest apparent approach of two sky objects to each other. On rare occasions they might seem to fuse into one, but usually there is a clear separation between them, sometimes of several degrees.

The actual conjunction of Jupiter and Mercury on September 23 will occur around noon eastern time but earlier farther west.

They will then be only 0.10 degree apart but invisible, excepting in telescopes, because of daylight. But a few hours earlier in the dawn they will be as close together as 0.25 degree and will thus form a very conspicuous pair. Jupiter will be very much the brighter, yet Mercury will appear to be a luminous object.

Around September 23, the sun will rise sometime between 6:15 and 7:15 a.m. (depending upon your distance from a standard time meridian) and this pair of planets about one and one half hours earlier. Hills will delay the rising time. The first faint signs of dawn will begin at about the time the planets scale the horizon yet the sky will be sufficiently dark for some time thereafter so that they may be well observed. They will appear almost due east.

Although these planets will be closest together September 23, yet they will be no more than two degrees apart from the 21st to the 25th. Mercury will constantly grow brighter during this interval. Surely the sky will be clear one of these mornings. A rare sight it is to see Mercury, little messenger of the gods, conferring so confidently with regal Jupiter.

HURRICANE SINKS SERVICE VESSELS

Washington, Sept. 18.—(U.P.)—The U. S. destroyer Warrington and two 125-foot coast guard patrol craft were lost in the hurricane which swept up the Atlantic coastline last week, with "heavy" loss of life on the destroyer, the navy revealed last night.

Rescue vessels were said to have picked up some survivors, including the Warrington's skipper, Cmdr. Samuel Frank Quarles, of Nathalie, Va. Destroyers of the 1,850-ton Warrington class have a normal complement of 230 officers and men. The coast guard vessels lost were the Jackson and Bedloe, each carrying a crew of about 35. The Jackson was commanded by Lt. (j.g.) Norman D. Call Lakewood, O., and the Bedloe by Lt. (j.g.) August S. Hess Lohrville, Wis. The navy said it had not been determined whether either was saved.

New Correspondence Courses Offered by Educational System

Eugene, Ore.—Two new correspondence courses in education are announced for this year by Miss Morelle Hair, head of correspondence study for the state system of higher education.

Particularly interesting to teachers, the courses are "Primary Education" and "Intermediate and Upper Grade Education." The first, under Miss Ida Mae Smith, assistant professor of education and supervisor of primary education and

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Flight o' Time

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

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY

September 18, 1934
(It was Tuesday)
Fire wipes out Nome, and population left with no food or shelter.

Ogden L. Mills, in New York speech, declares "New Deal as proposed by Roosevelt is a path to dictatorship."

Jimmy McLarnin defeats Barney Ross to regain welter title.

Fair and mild. High 92, low 47 degrees.

First football practice brings out 35 high school boys.

Scientist discovers ultra-violet rays in onions.

Collegians start painting their toenails red.

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY

September 18, 1914
(It was Thursday)
Permission granted to build service station at Main and Front streets.

Great wall of China bombarded by planes of Gen. Lin in Chinese civil war.

Fair and warmer. High 75, low 37 degrees.

Rain general in northern part of state.

Sheriff's bloodhound is shot by mistake in leg, and will recover.

Weather turns chilly, and first fires of fall built in many homes.

State conference of Methodist church opens here with banquet.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.



When you are through with that match or cigarette, break it up!... That is another thoughtful way to prevent forest fires.

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