

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
Published by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
Daily Except Saturdays
Subscription Rates:
By Mail—In Advance
Daily and Sunday—three months \$7.50
Daily and Sunday—six months \$13.00
Daily and Sunday—nine months \$18.00
Daily and Sunday—one year \$22.00
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Another Armageddon

The crossing of the Saar and the capture of Saar-leutern by U. S. forces is an important advance. But the Ruhr basin farther north is the spot to watch. For there is Nazi Germany's HEART—her industrial heart. And when that area has been lost it is difficult to see how German resistance—at least effective organized resistance—can continue.

FOR there the German steel mills, and munition plants are concentrated, and it is not at all likely they have been removed or the munition business transferred elsewhere, because Germany's only adequate coal supply is only a few miles south and coal has always been the main source of manufacturing power in the Third Reich.

So we have the two main allied thrusts: No. 1 from Aachen by the U. S. 9th army toward Cologne and the Rhine, and the other by the British first and second armies toward the Rhine from the north, with Essen, the home of the famous Krupp works, in between the pinchers.

YES THERE is the spot to watch. When THAT portion of the German defense line breaks, then look out!—there will be nothing from there to Berlin to hold up the Hitler house of cards.

UNLESS, of course, some industrial and geographical miracle has been performed—a heart operation as it were. That is if by some legerdemain or secret process the heart of the German steel and munition production has been moved from the Rhine to the central or eastern part of Germany, in anticipation of this allied push in the west.

The Germans are a resourceful and painstaking people, and one would hesitate to declare such a feat impossible. But from what is known of war torn Germany—and a great deal is known over here—it is certainly highly improbable.

FAR more likely Nazi Germany realizes the supreme importance of holding this vital production area, and intends to throw everything she has, and can get together, to protect it, to the last gun and the last man.

Which is the reason one can expect to see some of the most bitter and relentless fighting this war-torn world has ever seen, between now and Christmas, north and south of the River Ruhr!

Saving Face and Losing a War

"Which I wish to remark, And my language is plain, That for ways that are dark, And for tricks that are vain, The heathen Chinese is peculiar."

We trust that jingle from the far and distant past will not be considered unkind to a valiant long-suffering and hard-pressed ally, for it seems peculiarly "a propos" at the moment.

Brete Harte saw a lot of the Chinese in the old gold mining days of California and he never understood them, nor is it easy for any Caucasian today, to do so.

FOR they are "peculiar." At least peculiar from any Anglo Saxon viewpoint. They are never direct or frank. They never—or almost never—say what they mean. It is not dishonesty so much, as a profound and weird sense of pride—"saving-face" it is called. It appears to be the corner stone of all Mongolian psychology.

TAKE the Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek for example. China today from a military standpoint is in something the same position England was in at the time of Dunkirk.

From all sides, within China and without, the Generalissimo is being pleaded with to take drastic action, clean out his government, kick out the defeatists and dead timber, go to the front if need be in person and rally his scattered forces before it is too late.

BUT what does he do? He replaces H. H. Kung with foreign minister T. V. Soong—both members of his official family—as acting president of the Yuan; and then issues a manifesto declaring the present situation is not as bad as it looks, difficult but not alarming, concluding with the following amazing UNDERSTATEMENT:

"The penetrations by the enemy were within our anticipation and while the present situation is difficult we are near the stage of final victory. The enemy within Kweichow must be given a crushing blow and completely annihilated."

How nice! Saying which the Generalissimo no doubt returns to his headquarters, orders a shot of his most precious tea and a dish of pickled whip-poor-will tongues or what have you.

COMPARE that typically oriental proclamation with the call to arms issued by Winston Churchill under similar conditions—nothing to promise but blood, sweat, toil and tears.

Compare them their backgrounds and content and you will see why Kipling was entirely correct when he remarked, "East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet."

PLANE WRECKAGE FOUND IN BAKERSFIELD AREA

Kakersfield, Cal., Dec. 5.—(U.P.)—The wreckage of a plane believed to be a C-80 army cargo transport plane carrying nine persons, and last heard from at 7:30 p. m. Friday night, was spotted today by a searching plane near Bear mountain, 22 miles southwest of Bakersfield, Cal. Maj. Jay Montgomery, commanding officer of Kern county air base, who found the wreckage, said there appeared to be no sign of life at the scene of the crash or the surrounding area. A rescue party was reported en route to the mountain with the hope of discovering survivors.

News Behind The News By Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 5.—There is no use in trying to deny that much of business swallowed its hopes hard last election day. A quiet pessimism in those ranks has been evident since then. One nationally known corporation head expressed a widespread viewpoint when he said: "We have accumulated reserves and if Dewey had won we would have spent these in expectation of postwar expansion; now we will have them for taxes and eventualities which may be imposed upon us."



OPENLY the big record-making companies (C. B. S. and R. C. A.) threw up their hands and granted Petrillo of the Musicians' union a bounty up to 5 cents on the sale of every record for no good reason except that the government had failed to bring Petrillo to terms in a long strike. The musicians do not need the money and Petrillo has only promised he will expend it to further the appreciation of music. The public, of course, will pay for it, as usual.

A wave of strikes and greatly increased wage demands are expected by all after victory in Europe has relieved somewhat the patriotic pressure upon the unions, etc., etc. But there is another side to the story, not being told. This country always has run to extremes. Thirty years ago it was dominated by selfish financial cliques without any sense of social responsibility or the good of the nation or its people. They got theirs in 1929. They got it because they became too big, took in too much territory. Men never seem to know how to use power wisely.

THE Fascist movement in Germany and Italy would today be strong had it not taken in too much territory. Napoleon committed the same error. History is unanimous with evident proofs that those who feed on power always commit suicide by their unwise excesses. The unions are now at the crossroads. Obviously they must change from the Petrillo attitude (radical czarist leadership) so prevalent among them or they will kill themselves. Their tendency to dominate the whole policy of the country in the past few years cannot continue indefinitely without building up a public resentment, which will engulf them, and no doubt lead to the opposite extreme. Some wise men I know, give them another year at most on their present line. I think the time depends on how they are led. But their bankroll is getting too big, the messes on their hands are increasing, their power is growing too great.

I THINK therefore there is more than an even chance that events will mitigate current fears in this respect, a far better chance than the obvious one indicating they will increase wages continuously to the point of devastating inflation, ruin business and cause socialism.

which is no doubt the goal of communists in their ranks. So also with the fear of the great war debt which hangs over us. This country has the stuff with which to make good. It has manpower, resources, production and efficiency beyond any other nation. If we do not become too soft after the war, we can become a great trading nation. If we are skillful in developing foreign trade routes and trade compacts in the wise exchange of our surpluses for what we need, we can find a new international life. We can pay our heavy taxes, carry our heavy debt, maintain our democratic free enterprise at its current war superlative if we do not run to extremes, if we have a mind to do it, but particularly if we do just one thing—hold out the hope of success and soundly maintain that prospect.

Flight o' Time
Medford and Jackson Co. History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20, and 34 years ago.
TEN YEARS AGO TODAY
December 5, 1934
City decisively votes bonds for sewage disposal plant and work on project to start in January.
Hunt continues for trans-Pacific plant forced down near Hawaii.
Fair, but with early morning fog. High 48, low 25 degrees.
F. D. R. firm for continuance of acreage control.
Ashland highway underpass ready for travel soon.
High school basketball squad starts practice.
Russia fears agreement between Germany and France.
TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY
December 5, 1924
Blizzard rages over Middle Western States.
Secretary of Treasury Mellon predicts "an extended era of prosperity for land".
President Coolidge urges more pay for farm help, and aid to Europe.
German minister of defense scores "sabre rattling against France".
Rain. High 50, low 40 degrees; precip .33 of an inch.
Los Angeles school authorities insist 16 year old bride of Charlie Chaplin, movie comedian, attend school regularly.
Oregon has 191,550 automobiles state records.
Christmas trees attached to lamp posts on Main street.
December 5, 1910
(Tuesday)
Teddy Roosevelt no longer serious factor in national politics.
Train conductors seek higher wages.
Government to protect Siskiyou (Oregon) Caves.
U.S.W.V. ELECT
Grants Pass, Dec. 5 (U.P.)—P. M. Casp was elected commander of Rogue River camp No. 22 of the United Spanish War Veterans when they met following a turkey dinner held with members of the auxiliary on Sunday.

COMMUNICATIONS
Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although the use of a pen-name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarity and condensation.
And She Signs Her Name
To the Editor: Mrs. E. F.'s letter made me pause for a while. With the question she asks, and her name on file. Don't worry about Dewey, he said his way. And truth is stranger than fiction, any day. It is none of my business where ever he is at; he is spending no taxpayer's money on fireside chats. We must judge him not, for he had no show—to prove his theories so we don't know what he might have done if put up to bat. The majority voted for "Falls" and that is that. If twelve hours for six months he is on bended knee, think what the wear on his pants will be. And shopping for, ah, clothing is not the fun it was before nineteen-forty or forty-one. I'm no crystal gazer, so I wish I could see some intelligent person to explain to me when four years sneak by will the war still be on. And the presidential election again will dawn. Will we have to abide by that old moth-eaten theme, "You mustn't change horses in mid stream." Well I guess I'm so ignorant I have no shame, and to prove the point I will sign my name.
Ada Weitz,
Jacksonville, Ore.

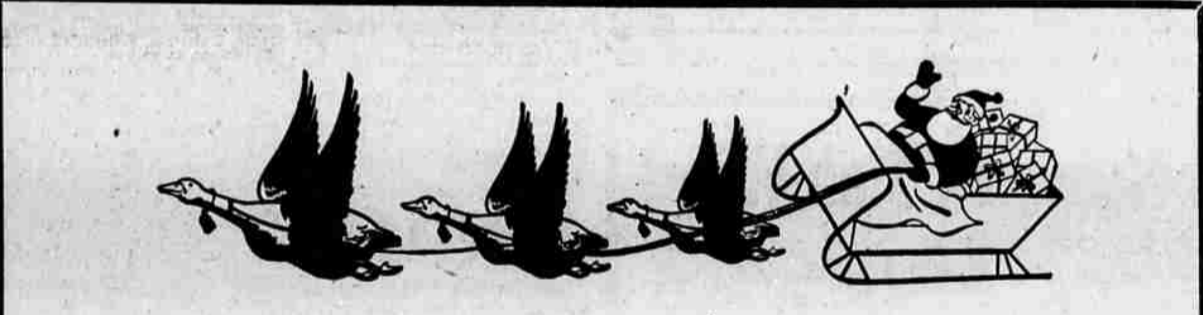
The San Blas Indians of Panama live on islands having no fresh water other than rain and water brought from the mainland.

CAMP PLANNING WAR BOND DANCE
Camp White — Marking the third anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, civilian personnel of Camp White will attend a "War Bond" dance at Service Club No. 2 Thursday night, 1st Lt. John B. Cowan, post bond officer, announced today.
The dance, conducted as part of the program for the Sixth War Loan drive, will be for all civilian employees of the camp. There will be a small admission charge, receipts being converted to war bonds which in turn will be given away to dancers.
A similar dance was held for enlisted men of the post last Thursday at which four war bonds were given.
Enlisted men also will be able to attend the dance.
College Women's Club Will Enjoy Christmas Party
The Rogue River Valley College Women's Club will have a Christmas party at the home of Mrs. G. S. Jennings on Saginaw Drive, Saturday, December 9 at 2:45 p. m. "Old St. Nick," says the announcement, will be present and has asked each member to bring a gift for the exchange. "Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Koyle, Mrs. Campbell and other committee members have planned a fine old fashioned Christmas party," the announcement concludes.
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