

The Evening Herald

HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY, Publishers
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Published every afternoon except Sunday by The Herald Publishing Company at Esplanade and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls, Oregon

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice of Klamath Falls, Ore., on August 26, 1909, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

Delivered by Carrier in City

One Month	\$ 75
Three Months	2.25
Six Months	4.00
One Year	7.50

MAIL RATES PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

Three Months	\$ 2.25
Six Months	4.00
One Year	7.50

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SIDE GLANCES



"To think of meeting on the street after 12 years! Let's just run into a movie and have a quiet little chat!"

Messiah Complex

(Editor's Note: Herewith is the last of the Chicago convention dispatches from Robert W. Ruhl, editor of The Medford Mail-Tribune.)

CHICAGO, July 19—It looked for a few minutes last night, as though the Democrats, in spite of everything, would end up in a blaze of glory—put on one of their super-shows, for which they are so justly famous, and indulge in what most delights the true Democratic heart, a good old rough-and-tumble, bare-knuckle fight.

But it was not to be! What started as the greatest and tamest one-man-show in the history of American party politics, ended as one—on a note of sordid sadness—at 2 o'clock this morning! From the standpoint of genuine showmanship and true drama, the Democratic convention of 1940, therefore, goes down in history as a dud and a wash-out!

Yes, it was a one-man show by remote control throughout. Not only did that one man determine his own nomination, but the nomination of his running mate, the temporary chairman, the permanent chairman, the platform and everything else, including what the speakers should say and what they should not, as far as the main roles were concerned.

But Democrats are not only natural showmen, they are natural rebels. Many were irked by these steam-roller tactics, which nominated their leader for a third term, and refused to give a respectful hearing to his opponents. As a whole, however, they meekly and uncomplainingly swallowed THAT.

After a troubled night's sleep, and thinking it all over they were not so disposed to swallow Mr. Henry Wallace! So all during the day there were sub-rosa gatherings of malcontents—very largely grass-root Democrats of the old, declamatory school—damned if they were going to submit to this latest ukase from the White House.

No Sir! The Democratic party was at least deserving of a DEMOCRAT, not a back-sliding Republican, to complete the party ticket, and they positively refused to submit to it!

Then "foxy grandpa"—(we hope that won't be considered disrespectful, for the President IS foxy and he is a grandfather)—started in to work!

And HOW he did it! He could say nothing publicly, at that stage of the game, of course—it was bad enough to have one vice presidential candidate after another admit over the air, so all the world could hear—that HE was submitting to presidential dictatorship!

But Mrs. Roosevelt—the deservedly popular, sincere, completely simple and completely honest, first lady of the land—COULD—and at PRECISELY the right psychological moment Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt DID!

Oh, not a word about the vice presidency. Not a suggestion of partisanship—perish the sordid thought—all praise for that loyal servant, Jim Farley (who had just been kicked down stairs, by express order of the master of the White House) and a high-minded and disinterested appeal to the people of the United States, regardless of politics, to support their harassed and patriotic President in his hour of need and trial.

Just that and nothing more—with Senator Barkley, his head bowed reverently as if listening to prayer from on high, and Secretary Robert, in the limelight on the other side—a soulful expression on his handsome, histrionic features, like the faithful Moslem turning his eyes toward MECCA!

We said there was no showmanship—no drama. Well there wasn't as far as the long-suffering delegates on the floor were concerned. But there was plenty of both in that tableau on the rostrum—just before the delegates started to vote.

And did it work? Don't ask silly questions—it worked precisely as the master mind, at the other end of the long distance wire in the White House, KNEW it would work.

And here is how sweetly it worked—Before Mrs. Roosevelt appeared, the boozing which greeted the mention of Secretary Wallace's name was increasing by the proverbial leaps and bounds. It was largely because of this that the states like Ohio, Texas and Massachusetts passed—spurred for times in a desperate effort to look before they leaped—to see the bandwagon before they had to jump on it.

But how was it AFTERWARD?

There was not a "boo in a car load" when the Wallace name was mentioned, from the basement bar of the stadium to the roof—NOT ONE! Either all the boozers left the building, or that picture of a fine, unselfish, devoted first lady of the land, pleading for unity and support with an earnestness and sincerity that could not be feigned—kept them silent.

We doubt if a more startling and complete psychological flip-flop has ever been witnessed in party politics than what transpired just after the stroke of twelve last night—and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was solely responsible for it.

(And if she is really as simple and ingenuous as she appears, she never realized it—for while others may shadow box and fake—put this down in your note book—the wife of Franklin Delano Roosevelt DOESN'T!)

Yes, it was an exhibition of consummate political skill—great political showmanship—master mind at work.

And then to make the One-Man performance complete, the ONE Man closed the four-day endurance contest, as only he could do it—with a fire-side chat to "MY FRIENDS," which will go down in history as another of his great POLITICAL masterpieces.

(We would underline the political, because in politics it is not what is TRUE, but what the people can be made to BELIEVE is true that counts.)

Now we shall not deny the "greatness," for that is, and for many years has been, the present writer's belief. (Nor shall we deny any such question is primarily a matter of opinion and, therefore, subject to debate.)

But we WILL deny, that last night's speech, moving and inspiring as it was, represented the truth, the whole truth, and nothing BUT the truth.

No, not THAT!

Take the President's rationalization of his own silence these many, many months, for just one example.

That silence, according to his own thesis, had no selfish personal or political aspects—none whatever. He wished to step out, he intended fully to step out, BUT—

Considerations of public policy and the welfare of his coun-

try, made it impossible for him to do so, and further made it impossible for him to so DECLARE, until the permanent organization of his party convention had been perfected.

Now, we submit that just ISN'T correct! Had the President's intention been to retire, and refuse a third term—YES. Both from the standpoint of the world situation and his country's part in it, such an announcement would have thrown the fat into the fire with a vengeance—the President would have virtually abdicated, and set the ship of state adrift on the seas of violence and disorder without a rudder—and with no one in the pilot house. That no RIGHT-THINKING President could do, under conditions which had come to pass.

But that, as he now admits, was NOT his intention, and since the outbreak of the war, became less and less his intention. He came to feel—and we DON'T doubt his sincerity in this—that regardless of his personal desire for a change and a rest it was his patriotic duty not only to stick to his post for the remainder of his term but for four years longer—that the welfare of his country and the world demanded it.

Those who do doubt the President's sincerity in this fail to appreciate, we believe, that F.D.R. is a ROOSEVELT—and just what it means to BE—a Roosevelt.

T. R. was the same. It was often said of him he never really enjoyed a funeral because he couldn't be the corpse. It wasn't so much megalomania or egotism, in the common accepted sense, as a very deep and sincere conviction that no one could do the job as it should be done, but a Roosevelt.

That was the reason T. R. broke with his party and launched a new one—the Bull Moose. That is also the reason today that F.D.R. breaks with the long-established third term tradition, and starts out on his solo course—the first President in 150 years TO ASK A CONTINUOUS TENURE of a decade and one-fifth.

Now, it isn't true that he alone can properly do this job—it is true (at least as we see it) that a man who ISN'T tired out, who ISN'T disposed to megalomania, who ISN'T bound to any traditional policy or party, is better qualified to do it.

But that isn't Franklin Delano Roosevelt's view, and we repeat the President is entirely sincere—and for that matter, entirely disinterested—regarding it.

He HONESTLY believes not only that no one else can do the job as he can do it, but that if Mr. Willkie and the Republican party should be chosen for the task, it would be a calamity for the country and the world, and so in the spirit of the most exalted self-sacrifice, he is willing, himself, to essay it.

It is called the Messiah complex—and every 100% Roosevelt has it. R.W.R.

Roosevelt Renomination Lengthens 8 Year Trail Of Broken Precedents

CHICAGO, July 23 (AP)—President Roosevelt's renomination for a third term lengthens the eight-year trail which he has strewn with broken precedents.

He began it in 1932 by flying to Chicago to accept his first nomination on the spot. Previously, the nominee had been notified by a committee a few weeks after the convention—and he had to appear surprised.

But Mr. Roosevelt had deliberately set out to break what he called "foolish traditions."

Once again in Chicago, he is the central figure of the democratic party's breaking of one of the oldest traditions. Never before has a major party favored a president for a third consecutive elective term.

No sooner had Mr. Roosevelt first been elected than he began the "fireside chats" to the nation which he has kept up periodically. He has been the most-traveled president, and in a dozen different ways he has broken with custom. One of the latest occasions was his nomination of two republicans—Col. Frank Knox and Henry L. Stimson—to cabinet posts.

The president took little formal notice of the third term campaign, joking with reporters about the subject every time they brought it up, but declining to be drawn into a statement.

In recent months Mr. Roosevelt has devoted much of his attention to the international situation. Before war swept over Europe, he made peace appeals to Adolf Hitler five times in one year, twice within 24 hours.

When his efforts failed, he withdrew with a promise that there would be "no blackout of peace" over here.

At the president's behest, congress opened American mun-

itions resources to the allies. He denounced Russia as an aggressor, encouraged non-military loans to invaded Finland while holding conversations with neutrals, he sent emissaries to Europe to coordinate peace efforts and gather information. Meanwhile, he met with charges at home that he was leading the nation into war.

Germany's invasion of western Europe brought a series of presidential messages calling for a huge American defense program. Congress already has enacted most of it with little opposition, although republicans charged that the administration had not made a quick enough start on preparedness.

When Mr. Roosevelt stepped into office March 4, 1933, he undertook a program designed to bring about quick economic improvement. In a memorable "100 day" session, congress gave him a farm relief program, revamped national finance, curbed stock speculation, insured banks, provided mortgage relief, voted prohibition repeal, started a vast unemployment relief program, and created the NRA to revive business.

'Tobacco Road' Closes Run On Broadway

NEW YORK, July 23 (UP)—"Tobacco Road," which has been running on Broadway longer than any other play in history, will close on August 17 after 2847 performances, the management announced today.

In the fall the play will be taken on the road, opening at Buffalo September 16.

"Tobacco Road's" run is some 500 performances more than the previous record of 2317 set by "Abe's Irish Rose."

GARNER TAKES PARTING SHOT ON WAY HOME

WASHINGTON, July 23 (UP)—Vice President John Nance Garner went home to Uvalde, Tex., tonight and perhaps bowed out of public life—50 years of it—after taking a parting shot at President Roosevelt.

Breaking his long silence, "Cactus Jack" seized upon a reporter's question to criticize, in effect, Mr. Roosevelt's failure to reveal his third term intentions to the democratic national convention "until the last moment."

The question was whether Garner planned to return to Washington after going to Texas for the primary there Saturday.

Reserves Decision
 "I will reserve my decision on that," he snapped. "I have a leader who waits until the last moment to make up his mind."

Thus spoke the man who twice was elected on the ticket with Mr. Roosevelt, but who subsequently came to the parting of the ways with his chief and himself became a candidate for the democratic presidential nomination.

As Garner spoke, some friends speculated it may have been his valedictory to Washington political life—that he might take the occasion of the primary election to stay at his Uvalde home and thus retire.

But he would say nothing beyond the cryptic remark he would "reserve decision" on his plans. Although in the past he has refused to give any kind of statement to the press, he told reporters today to write whatever they pleased when asked if he could be quoted.

There was no fanfare as Garner boarded his train. He had sent word he did not want anybody to see him off.

Garner's visitors before his departure were understood to have included Sens. George W. Norris (Ind-Neb.), John Townsend (R-Del.), and Carter Glass (D-Va.).

Townsend is manager of the senate republican campaign committee. Glass is an anti-new dealer and anti-third term. Presence of these two men in the office of the vice president aroused speculation attempts might be made to enlist Garner, an old line democrat, into an independent democratic movement to support Republican Presidential Candidate Wendell Willkie.

Norris is a third-term, and it was thought possible he might have urged Garner to back Mr. Roosevelt.

But Garner wouldn't talk.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Pelican Post 1383

There will be a district picnic in Lithia park, Ashland, next Sunday, July 28.

The four posts, Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland and Klamath Falls, which comprise district No. 8, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, will participate. Those attending are asked to bring basket lunches.

Coffee and ice cream will be furnished and there will be signs in the park the same as last year to direct the picnickers to the meeting place. Pelican post 1383 never fails to be well represented at these annual affairs, and this year, owing to our greatly increased membership, the local delegation is expected to be much larger than in former years.

The next regular meeting of Pelican post 1383, VFW, will be Thursday evening, August 1, KC hall, "over the Rainbow."

Engineers who met on a single track before the advent of railroad signals had to argue it out, a vestige of which old civilization may still be recognized in any two cab drivers.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

WASHINGTON, July 23 — A public tendency to be patient with the national defense commission is being encouraged by a group of national leaders. I think this is the most dangerous kindness that could befall this country. Britain was patient. This is our test.

Mr. Roosevelt has already publicly proclaimed to have noted some fascist tendencies developing in this country. He may only have been talking politically. Certainly the thoughts emanating from the leading minds in this country were never more unified in the eagerness for democracy. No fifth columnists are noticeable in high places in any formidable political movements. This country clearly intends to make democracy work.

But in these roundtable discussions on the radio, in dinner conversations, and even in some writings, vague initial lines of thought are being suggested in the groove toward totalitarianism. Most of it appears to be unwittingly done. For instance, intellectuals now publicly discuss whether Hamilton was not right in his strong federalist position which the Jeffersonian leaders declined to let this country follow.

In other words the mental leap back to Hamiltonianism which would have been an unmentionable jump a few months ago is now considered a possible casual side-step.

HUMAN THREAT

In my equally casual opinion the only plausible development that could throw the United States into further fascism—that is, stronger centralized government at the expense of individual liberty—would be the failure of the re-armament program. It might be a human failure, not the failure of democracy, but democracy would suffer.

Physical difficulties in the way of the program are extremely formidable. The Ford-Packard experience is one of the obvious, publicly understood examples. Skilled labor, financial red tape, lack of adequate earlier preparation, politics, or any number of other difficulties have arisen in some degree or other to some phase, important or unimportant.

DELAY DANGEROUS

Popular opinion is not apt to be satisfied with anything less than results. The problem is admittedly so grave an involvement of our world position that failure or delay in this one effort could easily destroy major democratic advances of 150 years.

It may make no difference whether Hitler ever is to attack and defeat us. The time limit against which we are working is not the day of prospective, Nazi conquest, but the day when our world position may be challenged in any form.

If we fail to make ourselves impregnable, we shall have lost our status as a world power, and with it the superior standard of living of our people.

Patience with the national defense commission now, therefore, is courting disaster.

LABOR VITAL

The obligation of labor leaders in this crisis is no less vital. The experience in France has impressed all those who study government from within or without here of the necessity of wise labor leadership.

Labor must avoid not only the responsibility but the appearance of responsibility for any failures in this program.

The sit-down strike originated in France. With it came the 30-hour week, later gradually increased through necessity of producing the goods to sustain the country. But when

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the time came for arming the country for the mutual safety of both free employer and free employee, the corruption of the economic system by personal greed on both sides, thwarted the effort and brought them both to their present subservient status.

The failure of France was not a failure of democracy but of the calibre of the people who were in control of that democracy. It was a human failure traceable to the human instinct for self-care among employers and workers at the expense of their well-being and that of the nation. They, not Hitler, really killed democracy in France.

POLITICAL THREAT

A bitter mud-slinging presidential campaign in this country might help the cause of fascism, too. Exhibitions of the lower tricks of political deception will tend to weaken confidence in democracy. No form of government can be more sound, fair, just or sincere than the political leaders who operate it. We will make democracy work.

Courthouse Records

(MONDAY)
 Marriage Applications
 GREGG-UPDEGRAVE. Robert James Gregg, truck driver. Resident of Chiloquin, native of Iowa. Dorothy Eunice Updegrave, 18, housewife. Resident of Chiloquin, native of Oregon.

Complaints Filed
 J. Frank Bryant versus George D. Findley. Philena C. Findley, Erwin Edge and Nora Edge. Suit for balance of contract. William Ganong, attorney for plaintiff.
 Clarence S. Magee, also known as C. S. Magee, versus Grace Kokroski, W. C. Ramsey, and Jane Doe Ramsey, husband and wife, and Pacific Auto Exchange and Repair works, a California corporation. Suit to quiet title. D. E. Van Vactor, attorney for plaintiff.

Decree Granted
 Iva Johnson versus William H. Johnson. By default. Plaintiff awarded return of maiden name. Edwin E. Driscoll, attorney for plaintiff.

Justice Court

Lawrence Wray Aylsworth. Speeding a truck. Fined \$10.00.
 James G. Poretton. No operator's license. Fined \$5.50.
 Steve Manfull. No license on truck. Fined \$5.50.
 Herbert M. White. Vagrancy. Sentenced to 10 days in the county jail.
 James D. Foulter. No license tags. \$5.50.

Looking for Barkin? Turn to the Classified page.

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 Take the NEW
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 WEAVER BROS. & ELVY
 LOIS PARNON
 2ND HIT
 Inspector HORNLEIGH
 ON HOLIDAY
 GORDON HARKER • AL FARM SIM
 VOX

TODAY!
 YOUR MONEY
 or your heart!
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