

Herald and News

FRANK JENKINS Editor... MALCOLM EPLBY Managing Editor... A temporary combination of the Evening Herald and the Klamath News...

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Guest Editorial

Editor's Note: The following letter on Scouting was written by Colonel Van Orden when he was overseas. It has been widely re-printed.

By COLONEL GEORGE O. VAN ORDEN Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks

Hq., 3rd Marine Division, F.P.O. San Francisco, Calif., 10 September, 1944. Boy Scouts of America, New York, N. Y. Gentlemen:

"In the hope that you will humor an old marine who, after 21 years general service including two years in the Pacific, has at last come to a full realization of the value and importance of Scouting to the young men of our country, I am enclosing a check which I ask you to accept in payment of 'delinquent' dues from 1922 to whenever the funds run out. I would like to be able to say, in the spirit of 'Once a Scout, always a Scout,' that I have been a Scout since my 12th birthday.

Col. Van Orden

In Michigan, Washington, D. C., and New England I had a lot of fun Scouting. When I finally went off to the Naval Academy, I had become an Eagle Scout and had been a Senior Patrol Leader. Now I realize how much more I got out of it than just 'fun'; how much more all of us, and there were many, got out of it than we had before realized.

There are two aspects to it. One: in a battalion which it was my privilege to command for some time, we came to have some considerable reputation as jungle fighters. We knew how to 'get along.' These men were real woodsmen; they were good trackers. On patrol they were never once ambushed; in fact, on several occasions in one month my men turned the tables and bushwhacked the traps set for them—just because they knew how to read signs, detect camouflage and get around in the bush day or night. My men never suffered from diseases normally incidental to campaigning in the field; they knew how to be sanitary. Their camp craft was good. They knew how to feed themselves in the field. They knew all the little tricks that make the difference between being comfortable and being miserable, between being healthy and being sick, between being safe and sound in the jungle and being a sucker for the first Jap to cross their path. We used to talk it over; you learn about these things in the marines, to some extent, but not to the degree our lads knew and practiced them. Well, the answer was not too hard to discover; what our lads were doing was no more than any good Scout learns to do at the time he is First Class and has had a couple of summers' experience in the woods. And there were enough ex-Scouts in our outfit to show the greenhorns how to do it, how to get along—right from the start. That is angle Number One—Scouting has saved the health and lives of countless thousands of our young men in this war with the Japanese.

Number Two—and equally important—in my relationship with these men, over a period of two years, I observed a condition of 'morals' that was amazing to one who has spent a lifetime among hard, rugged, single-minded groups of men away from home and all restraining influences. This condition of morals was, of course, due to the morality of the subordinate leaders—the sergeants, the lieutenants, the captains; enlisted men of the Marine Corps always reflect the character of their immediate leader. With these lads we never had trouble with liquor, with women, with theft, with falsehood; with courage, nor with any one of the problems that come up in large bodies of men in the field. Considering that the quality of home breeding of all marines comes about equal, taking them in groups, there must have been a reason beyond that. There was—and you've guessed it—the great majority of my officers and non-commissioned officers were Scouts. They merely lived 'Scouting' as they had been taught to do, and in so doing set an example that the others followed. For this reason, if for no other, I hope you will reinstate me into continuous membership.

From what I have said do not think my guys are pantywaists; they're not—they're the toughest, most rugged bunch of fighting men the world has ever seen (ask the enemy in the Solomons and the Marianas, if there are any left to ask). You don't have to be rotten to be a fighting man. As a matter of fact, with the exceptions that merely prove the rule, men of bad character will not stand up in battle; they just can't take it and fold every time the going

gets tough. If you haven't got 'it' in your heart, you can't make the team and Scouting puts 'it' there—strength, determination, fortitude, endurance, loyalty, aggressiveness, courage, self-reliance. If a kid has his heart full of that sort of stuff, there's no room left for weakness. Put that with the discipline of collective Scouting and you're turning out a man—be he civilian or soldier. All that, then, is why, as my last act, so to speak, before leaving the Pacific for a visit home, I am writing you this letter. I just want to get back in ranks and help you keep the ball rolling."

Sincerely yours, (Signed) George O. Van Orden, Col., U. S. Marine Corps.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, July 13 — Senator Taft has been playing Horatius at the senate bridge, holding back the Bretton Woods world financial peace agreements, but soon he will have to swim for it.

Many objective men with thorough knowledge of the complex subject think he is right, but know he cannot stand against the avalanche of propaganda organized shrewdly by the treasury to thrust its program through.

The bankers, for instance, marched out openly demanding rather mild guarantees to safeguard the \$18,000,000,000 bank and exchange funds from abuses, and ran into a hurricane from the treasury wind machines, which blew their hats and nearly their businesses into the gutter.

Attacks upon "bankers" swept from a thousand mimeograph machines, and the impression was created that the only citizens who doubted that this Keynes-White scheme would provide a financial heaven on earth were—his this please—"bankers," "reactionaries," and "torians."

The Hillman CIO-PAC published an expensive booklet on this line, and Mrs. Roosevelt chimed in at the right moment.

The bankers retrieved their hats, announced the fractional acceptance of some of their points by the house committee would make the scheme acceptable—and retired from the fray. (They need not worry much, for selfish reasons, as all the bank does is to guarantee their international loans, and the exchange fund tends to guarantee them against loss in handling foreign exchange.)

Few Bankers Support Taft

THE dwindling crowd behind Taft does not include many bankers, but mostly economics and finance professors from the leading universities (Harvard, Chicago, California, Columbia, et al.), a class of citizens supposed to be above earthly political considerations when it was promoting the New Deal.

Many of these do not think it will work. In fact, the most objective experts I have consulted believe the basic theory was promoted by Lord Keynes to restore the British pound and world trade, which is a desirable ambition and necessary goal, but he and the treasury's White worked out the program in accordance with spending theories—free money, loose money, little interest, unbankable security, etc., on the principle that a bad loan is a good thing because it gives away money to spend. They really believe this.

The world political settlement at San Francisco gets away from that same old line in politics, which held "the United States cannot be prosperous unless the world is prosperous" (State Secretary Stettinius).

The final charter comes closer to the new and more popular theory of Admiral King, holding that the world cannot be prosperous unless the United States is kept prosperous (hence we should look to ourselves first, others next, watching the debt, keeping naval bases, not disbursing our resources loosely, etc.).

This change of line, represented in the charter, came too late to have any effect on the Bretton Woods financial agreements, made much earlier, in the midst of our war propaganda about us feeding everyone and saving everyone.

The charter keeps our conquering armies in position as the A-1 peace priority, lets the navy (they say) keep its Pacific bases outside the trusteeship system and does not give away much.

"Give It Away"

THE air agreement at Chicago, somewhat like Bretton Woods, proposes to give away considerable business to foreign airlines. It also was made earlier, when the nation was under the give-away spell, although it contains restrictions, and Russia refused to go into it (a separate agreement with her now is secretly in the making, and may be taken up at the Berlin meeting).

But Horatius himself with all his mythological powers could not swerve the Bretton Woods formulas away from their basic give-it-away plane today, without being labeled a "fascist" or something similar.

This is not an observation. It is a report on majority sentiment in the senate, where the inclination runs deeply in favor of letting the give-it-away boys get away with this one, largely because they believe in it so fanatically, and will murder a lot of senatorial characters unless they do.

As for Taft, he will await his reward in coming years when the \$18,000,000,000 runs dry and more money is needed, or the program otherwise disintegrates through its own looseness. That time may not be as far off as you might guess.

SIDE GLANCES



"Oh, so you're Marines! Well, the invasion is early, boys—the apples won't be ripe for another two weeks!"

Telling The Editor

Letters printed here must not be more than 500 words in length, must be written legibly on ONE SIDE of the paper only, and must be signed. Contributions following these rules, are warmly welcomed.

COMPLAINT ON OPA

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (To the Editor): On Monday, June 4, we went to the OPA office to make application for our canning sugar, and after making out the application to the 20 pounds allotted, to my consternation, I discovered that spare stamp No. 13 was missing along with the entire row, and the page of spare stamps was loose.

I took my application back to the desk, and stated my difficulty, and presumed I could only make application for No. 10, so would require another form.

The clerk informed me, after asking to see the book, that this would not be necessary, that the book was in a bad condition, and suggested I turn it in for replacement, and that the No. 13 sugar stamp would be included. We asked her how long it would require, and if I should call for it. She said the book would be mailed to me within a few days.

We did not receive this book until July 9, and all the valid stamps had been confiscated for the month of June.

After waiting two weeks for the return of this book, I called the OPA office, as all our stamps, from my book were used up, and then was informed that the book would be held 30 days, and when I asked what we were to do for red points, she giggled and said, "well that's just your hard luck," and added, "You know your ration book is more valuable than your money, yet you wouldn't treat your money as well as your ration book." 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