

# Wilmington Star

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R. B. Page, Publisher

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With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

Roosevelt's War Message.

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 1945.

TOP OF THE MORNING  
"Life is short, but there is always time enough for courtesy."  
—Emerson.  
To "be courteous" is a command of Scripture, as binding as any other command.  
"Be pitiful, be courteous."  
—I Peter 3: 8.

## Mosquitoes Happy

The only animals which have the appearance of especially enjoying this rainy season as far as we have observed, are mosquitoes. Certainly we mortals are getting no particular pleasure from it. But if mosquitoes had jurisdiction over the weather, it is just what they would order.

They are increasing at a great rate. And there is not a great deal we can do about it for they are prolific breeders in wet weather. But we can slow them down, if only partially.

We can do it by seeing that no water is left standing in low-drying puddles or cans. Mosquito larvae require standing, that is still, water to hatch. If puddles are drained and cans turned bottom up that no water can accumulate in them, the hatching of mosquitoes will be prevented to that extent.

The Wilmington area is fairly free from the malaria-carrying mosquito, but every one that finds a human victim is an enemy of community health. On the chance that this variety may be laying eggs in little pools among weeds in vacant lots, or in cans, which ought to be going into the nation's depleted tin stockpile but are not, it is everybody's duty to see that no pools or right-side-up containers exist.

## Latin-American Oil

Because more tankers have become available and production of crude oil in Venezuela has increased, 8 per cent of the oil now reaching the East Coast is arriving from Latin American sources.

The Petroleum Administration for War reports that during the six weeks ending on May 13, 9,865,000 barrels of crude oil from the sister republics reached Atlantic ports. For the corresponding weeks in 1944 the amount was 5,366,000 barrels, less than 18 per cent of the entire receipts.

With the Pacific war making the heaviest drain upon American production, this imported oil for the Atlantic seaboard has great value. Motorists will hope that more will come in, so that the ration limitations may be quickly lessened.

## Chennault

When the strategy against Japan in China was being drafted, General Claire Lee Chennault wanted a series of great air bases adequately equipped to wage persistent and unrelenting warfare on the enemy which at that time was moving very slowly as it desired and China, under Generalissimo Chiang-Kai-shek, was fighting a war of retreat. In opposition to this view, General "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell declared air power could not be effective and that the only way China could make an effective stand was to train ground troops, a task he undertook but finally gave up because he and the Generalissimo couldn't get along so well.

It now turns out that both General Chennault and General Stilwell were right to the extent that air power combined with land forces have been giving the Japanese along China's coastal area what a very dignified and Addisonian editor of a past generation called "unshirred hell," since General Wedemeyer took over top command of combined forces in association with Chiang Kai-shek.

While this was happening, and the attack expanding, General Chennault with an air force reinforced since the reopening of the Burma road and the creation of the Ledo road, has struck telling blows, although his Fourteenth Air Force is still undermanned and inadequately equipped. This is why his resignation is so widely regretted.

When China was all but at the end of her rope, it was Chennault who commanded the "Flying Tigers," a little group of planes and fliers, which flew the hump with supplies and accounted for hundreds of enemy planes aloft and on the ground. Without the "Flying Tigers" it is hard to see how China's military effort could have survived. With the 14th Air

force built around the "Flying Tigers" and Chennault in command, it is a fact for which too much credit cannot be given that Japanese planes are practically driven from China's soil and heavens.

Whatever the reason underlying Chennault's resignation, it is to be hoped that some new task up to the level of his ability will be found for him and that he will be persuaded to remain in the service.

## Truman's Position

President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin, having arrived in Berlin, are ready for the Potsdam conference which is expected to lay the foundation of lasting peace in a disturbed world. Their success will depend in large measure upon the willingness of all to meet each other half way in a program which is bound to involve much give and take.

It is inconceivable that these men, for convenience called the "Big Three," should agree offhand on all proposals. Mortal flesh is not constituted that way. But it is reasonable to believe that, in view of what their nations have experienced since Hitler threw the world into war, and the necessity of working out a schedule by which another war of world dimensions cannot be launched, they will gather at the conference table in the spirit of tolerance upon which, and which alone, brotherhood and friendship can exist.

Mr. Truman is concerned, not alone for world peace, but for bringing to an end the war in the Pacific, without which world peace cannot be effected. He will seek to learn the full limit of assistance in that effort which may be expected from the British Empire, and if the Soviet Union will lend a hand in its accomplishment.

A certain amount of bargaining cannot be avoided. Russia has no war with Japan. To come into it Stalin naturally will demand a voice in future policies especially as they affect Manchukuo and islands in which Tokyo and Moscow have territorial interests. But as we see the picture, Russia is no more liable to make what may seem to Mr. Truman excessive demands than Great Britain in the southwest Pacific. It would appear, therefore, that President Truman's position will in large measure be that of arbiter—a task in which he will need the wisdom of a Solomon and the Mis-sourian's outstanding characteristic of having to be shown.

In his senatorial career and also since he entered the White House, Mr. Truman has proved that he "has what it takes." With the able advisers he took with him, we may count upon his judgment and his unquestioned powers of tolerance and determination in combination.

## Caution Needed

The Winston-Salem Journal Sentinel points out that though the swimming season is young it has already been marred by many drownings, and attributes it in part to the fact that once in the water, "too many individuals seem to lose the sense of caution."

The newspaper's comments on the situation and obvious remedy are pertinent. It says: "They (the individuals above referred to) take big risks in the seeming faith that Providence will save them from the consequences of their own recklessness. Children and adults who cannot swim oftentimes go out into the water over their heads, or without adequate swimming or rowing experience go on boating trips.

"From the safety standpoint, the remedy lies not in forbidding the nonswimmers to become acquainted with the pleasure and health-giving benefits of water sports and recreation, but in the insistence that they take no unnecessary risks until they have learned how to swim, and that they observe sound rules of caution even when they have learned how. Boaters who know how to swim and who go out on boats wearing only swimming trunks are best prepared to deal with any emergency which may unexpectedly arise.

"Children, even though fairly good swimmers, should not be allowed to go in swimming at places where there are no life-guards or good adult swimmers at hand to safeguard them."

We are in complete agreement with the Journal Sentinel's conclusion that "during the water-sports season an ounce of caution may save a life."

## Editorial Comment

### NORTH CAROLINA TREES

North Carolina, which has the distinction of having the greatest variety of trees of any state in the union, is also the home of some of America's largest trees.

The Morganton News-Herald has just published a picture and story of a shortleaf pine in Burke county which was the national champion of its species—for size. The tree, recently felled because it was dying of old age, measured 10 feet in circumference, at breast height, and towered to a height of 135 feet—a veritable forest giant.

Other forest monarchs in the western North Carolina region include a sourwood, in Mount Pisgah National Forest, 5.4 inches in circumference and 80 feet high and a red spruce in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 14.1 in circumference and 75 feet in height. Both these would rate as mere saplings as compared with Burke's gigantic pine. In eastern Carolina there still remain a few of the huge longleaf pines and cypresses that were formerly so abundant there. And here in the Piedmont we still have—despite the inroads of lumbermen and of forest fires—many fine old forest giants, whiteoaks, hickories, etc. It is of deep gratification to nature lovers and to conservationists to note that greater popular interest is being shown now in the preservation and perpetuation of our forest resources.—Greensboro Record.

It is apparent that every German home, garage and barn was a potential warehouse or war factory.—Brig. Gen. Stewart E. Reimel U. S. Army Service Force representative.

## Fair Enough

(Editor's note.—The Star and the News accept no responsibility for the personal views of Mrs. Pegler, and often disagree with them as much as many of his readers. His articles serve the good purpose of making people think.)

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

(Copyright, 1945, by King Features Syndicate) NEW YORK.—In August, 1941, I received from a national women's magazine which employs Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt as a columnist an advance copy of a writing from the lady's pen, scheduled for the September issue, in which Mrs. Roosevelt said: "I, personally, do not think that earning a small or large amount of money is commercializing the White House."

That was the year when Mrs. Roosevelt, herself, was engaged by the Pan-American Coffee Bureau, an organization supported by the public funds of nine Latin-American nations, to promote the sale of coffee in the United States, by a series of weekly broadcasts. I have been told that her fee was \$1,000 a week and that Mrs. Betty Lindley, of Washington, Mrs. Roosevelt's agent, called on the National Coffee Association, an American group, composed of importers, roasters, jobbers and wholesalers, to learn its objections to this project. The Latin-American group, called the bureau, and the United States group, called the association, up to that time were collaborating in the promotion of coffee sales through advertising and propaganda in the United States. They had a joint committee of six men, to handle their activities, but the United States group formally dissolved the relationship because it objected to the deal for Mrs. Roosevelt's services.

In a formal letter to the members of the association, dated July 23, 1941, about the time that Mrs. Roosevelt was composing her defense of her commercial activities for sale to the magazine, George C. Thierbach, its president, announced the termination of the cooperative agreement, "to relieve our members of an embarrassing situation in which they must share responsibility as trustees of public funds without equivalent authorities over expenditures."

Prior to this time the advertising account of the coffee campaign had been handled by the Arthur Kudner Agency, a reputable New York firm, whose work today was recalled by an official of the coffee association as "an outstanding job if I have ever seen one." "It has been so regarded ever since," he added.

Arbitrarily the account was taken away from the Kudner agency and handed to the Buchanan agency. There were two interesting characters in the Buchanan agency, David Hopkins, the son of Harry Hopkins, of the White House, and John Hertz, Jr. whose father is the movie magnate race-track promoter and operator of one of the biggest racing stables and partner in the Lehman Brothers bank, in New York. Hertz, senior, dominates Paramount pictures and the Buchanan agency boasted that it "serviced" the Paramount advertising.

In going after the coffee account, amounting to about \$600,000 a year, of which the agency normally receives 15 per cent or, in this case, \$90,000 for its services, the Buchanan firm prepared a booklet called "a plan to increase the sale of coffee in the United States," urging the employment of a commanding American personality on the air.

The following are excerpts from the booklet: "We recommend to you as that radio personality a woman who stands forthright in her own life as the best example of the modern woman who gets more out of life by giving more to life; a woman beloved and respected because, in these most troubled times in the history of our hemisphere, she is the 'First Lady' of the United States, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"We have made the proper contacts. We have discovered that Mrs. Roosevelt is desirous of going on the air. We have ascertained that she will give first consideration to Buchanan and Company, as the authorized representative of the Pan-American Bureau. The matter has been carried even further. We have obtained preliminary 'carte blanche' from the State Department for Mrs. Roosevelt to broadcast for the Pan-American Coffee Bureau."

The accuracy of this claim may be doubted. A man entirely familiar with the affairs of the dissenting American coffee group insists that Sumner Welles of the State Department and even Leon Henderson, then influential in the new deal, opposed the engagement of Mrs. Roosevelt.

"But Harry Hopkins told me to 'lay off' he said, and the contract went to the company which employed his son, with Mrs. Roosevelt as the lure.

When I describe Mrs. Roosevelt as the lure I rely on the wording of the Buchanan prospectus which says further: "Your message becomes connected in the minds of millions of listeners with their personal and respectful admiration for Mrs. Roosevelt. What Mrs. Roosevelt will have to say will be news. The fact that you represent the most important commercial aspect of the Good Neighbor Policy of this administration leads us reasonably to believe that Mrs. Roosevelt will be more than lenient in helping you to sell your product.

"Through the fact that Mrs. Roosevelt is on the air for the Pan-American Coffee Bureau and the equally important fact that the bureau is the most outstanding economic unit in the whole American republics' hemisphere defense plan," we believe we can obtain, at no cost to the bureau, statements from leaders in public life. Here, as you will see again and again in our plan, we intend to make full use of the governmental bureaus created by Mr. Roosevelt for Pan American commercial relations and to utilize their power and prestige directly to help you. Mrs. Roosevelt probably can be prevailed upon to describe how the presidential cup of coffee is made and, of course, it will be made with a heaping tablespoonful of coffee and one for the pot.

"Life goes to a Hollywood coffee party—a publicity plan worked out through Paramount pictures for the Pan-American Coffee Bureau is typical of possible efforts in this field.

"The fact that Mrs. Roosevelt goes on the air is news. In addition to the listing in every radio column, Mrs. Roosevelt can be helpful in publicity breaks such as an opening broadcast in the Pan-American Union building in Washington which would, of course, be covered by newsreels as well as by the papers and magazines.

"At our suggestion, John Hay Whitney, through the office for coordination of commercial and cultural relations between the American republics of which he is a leading member, has agreed to do a most important work for the bureau. Mr. Whitney has agreed to see that interesting, delightful coffee drinking scenes are placed in a great number of the most important motion pictures to be produced in Hollywood through our own contacts with Paramount Pictures, Alexander Korda and James Roosevelt's Globe Productions,

## "BUZZARD'S ROOST"



## CIANO'S DIARY

### Graft Surrounds Family Of Duce Mistress; Nazis Agree U.S. A Bluff

March 19-May 2, 1942

As Italy blundered on toward ruin and collapse, the family of Mussolini's mistress, Claretta Petacci, emerged more and more as a sinister, selfish, thieving influence in the country's tottering society. It is plain from the diary of Mussolini's son-in-law and foreign minister, Count Ciano.

Even Mussolini's sister, the elderly Donna Evige, became alarmed to the point where she determined to speak out to Il Duce. Ciano admitted to the privacy of his own records that the family had become a "national problem."

International affairs continued to go badly. At Hitler's headquarters, Ciano heard it said repeatedly that "America is a big bluff." It was to him the whistling of small boys past the graveyard.

Ciano wrote: MARCH 19—"Pavoolini (minister of popular enlightenment) returns from a conversation with Goebbels (Nazi propaganda minister) and paints a dark picture of Germany's situation. He spoke of a crisis in the regime, and of 'walking on the edge of a razor.' . . . They no longer talk of beating Bolshevism. They will be satisfied if they reach the Caucasus.

"Pavolini related a funny story. When Goebbels sent Farinacci (Fascist secretary) a bust of Hitler, the bust was brought by the gaulster of Essen, who pretends to speak Italian, but doesn't. In delivering it, he said: 'Your excellency, Minister Goebbels has entrusted me to bring you questa busta (this envelope, something empty without original ideas). Goebbels is the first to laugh about it.'"

Nazi Planning For Defeat MARCH 24—"I brought Il Duce a report by Luciolli on Germany. . . . He explains how politics was unable to assist the military conquest. They talked much about a New Order, but did nothing to bring it into being. The whole of Europe languishes under German occupation.

"Luciolli mentions the fact that in Germany they now think of eventual defeat. For this reason they want all the countries of the continent exhausted, so that even in defeat the Germans will be relatively stronger. Il Duce was struck by the idea, and said that by the end of 1943 he intends to

have 15 divisions in the valley of the Po (northern Italy)."

MARCH 28—"Distribution of gold medals to fallen aviators. Balbo's son (Air Marshal Balbo was shot down by Italian anti-aircraft fire at Tobruk in 1941) who doesn't look like his father, but remembers him very well, received his father's medal without batting an eye, pale and proud.

"Then it was the turn of Bruno's widow (Mussolini's son, Bruno, was killed in an airplane crash, Aug. 7, 1941.) Mussolini's expression was stonelike and didn't change. He decorated Bruno's wife, the wife of his Bruno, as though she were any one among those who have been left alone. Someone asked if Il Duce superhuman, or inhuman? He is neither. He simply was conscious that any weakness on his part would have been echoed in a thousand hearts. . . .

"In Venice there have been the first popular demonstrations against the bread shortage. . . . Il Duce was resentful and sad, and ordered that the crowds be scattered by police using sheathed swords."

Petacci Family's Evil Influence MARCH 29—"Gastaldi, the former federal secretary in Turin, comes to me with a story of his arguments with a partner. Up to this point there is nothing bad, but as usual the Petacci family is concerned, and people gossip about it.

"The Petacci family meddles on one hand, gives political protection on the other, threatens from above, intrigues from below, and steals in all four directions. . . . This scandal will spread and will involve Il Duce. But what can one do to warn him, especially since two of his most intimate collaborators are making loads of money?"

APRIL 1—"Il Duce has learned from an industrialist that his saying is current in Germany: 'In two months we shall win the war against Russia, in four months against England, and in four days against Italy.'"

APRIL 5—"Del Drago returns from Paris. In Berlin there is nothing new on the surface. In some German circles he was told that after the offensive on the Eastern Front, which practically will liquidate the Russians, they are hoping for a compromise peace with the Anglo-Saxons."

APRIL 6—"When Goering was in Rome we spoke of the possibility of returning certain Italian paintings now in France, particularly those belonging to Jews which were sequestered by the Germans.

"Among the names mentioned was that of Rothschild who owned many Bolidis. Today Goering sent me a Bolidis as a gift, and his letter began as follows: Unfortunately, there was nothing left in the Rothschild home. . . . If this letter is found some day, it will appear that it was I who instigated him to sack the homes of the Jews and that he was sorry he had arrived too late."

Even Himmler Hopes for Peace APRIL 9—"Alfieri (ambassador to Berlin) has come to Rome on leave. He does not report anything especially important, but is less optimistic than usual. . . . On the other hand, the declarations made in the

Bismarck (Nazi minister in Rome) are most interesting.

"Germany must have peace by October, no matter how things go, he said. The army cannot and will not take the offensive at this time. . . . It has had its spinal column broken by the removal of its best military leaders. There is consternation in the party. Himmler himself, who was an extremist in the past, wants a compromise peace. England will be ripe for negotiations, especially if there is a possibility of collaboration by the Germans against the Japanese in Asia. Are those the imaginings of Bismarck, or do they represent German opinion?"

APRIL 10—"Host-Venturi explains the abolition of sleeping cars, dining cars and first-class cars on the railroads. It is Mussolini who wanted this provision purely social reasons. . . . In Trieste the other night, the under-secretary of the postal service had to be put into his train through the window. . . . The government hasn't gained in prestige."

APRIL 11—"Mussolini visits the Society of the Friends of Japan. More and more he likes to refer to himself as 'the first friend of Japan in the world.' . . . De Feppo (ambassador to Turkey) says the Turkish ideal is that the last German soldier should fall on the last Russian corpse."

APRIL 13—"Long conversation with Donna Evige (Il Duce's sister). . . . She wanted to relieve her heart on a matter which has now become a national question: The Petacci family. . . . She has made up her mind to talk to Il Duce about it."

APRIL 14—"The Japanese have proposed a tripartite declaration of independence for India and Arabia. First reactions in Berlin are unfavorable. The Japanese move toward Europe is unwelcome. Mussolini on the other hand would like to support the Japanese immediately."

APRIL 21—"Bismarck says the Nazi consul general in Milan receives many offensive letters. The last one ran like this: 'We hear you are looking for a new residence. We offer one which is very beautiful, and worthy of you, of your people, and of your leader. The address is such and such.' The consul went punctually to the address, and found himself at the doors of the jail."

APRIL 22—"Il Duce informs me that Marshal Kesselring, on his return from Germany, brought Hitler's approval for the landing operation against Malta. (The invasion never came off.)

APRIL 24—"The Japanese military attaché vented his criticism violently of the German attitude and their way of waging war. German political warfare is all wrong, according to the Japanese. . . .

Hitler Showing Signs of Strain APRIL 29—"Arrival at Salzburg. . . . Hitler, Ribbentrop, the usual people, the usual ceremony. We are housed at the Klessheim castle. . . . It is very luxurious: Furniture, hangings, carpets, all stuff which comes from France. They should not have paid too much for it. . . .

(Continued On Page Ten)

## Interpreting The War

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Associated Press News Analyst  
Conjecture varies as the compelling reason for Japanese failure to react in any substantial way to close range naval as well as air bombardment of her important northern coastal cities, but failing fuel supplies for enemy ships of air and sea is as good a guess as any.

Nor can it be doubted that aside from Admiral Halsey's hope of bringing Japanese fleets of both categories to action, further impairment of enemy gasoline and fuel resources was a prime objective of the bold venturing of Halsey's mighty Third Fleet into in easy medium range of the Japanese coast.

Recapitulations from Guam of the results of sustained sea-air strategic attack stress the fact three of the cities "erased" in the operation were oil centers. Lying far to the North on Hokkaido Island, the three cities blasted by Third Fleet guns or planes—Muroran, Sapporo and Kushiro—were not only steel production centers but links in Japan's oil reserve line never before brought under American fire. Oil reserves also were the main targets of far ranging simultaneous air attacks by land-based bombers in central and Southern Japan.

That what is left of Japan's once great surface fleet failed to put in an appearance to dispute Halsey's sea attack is not particularly surprising. There is every indication that the ships are holed-up in the Inland Sea far to the South. Its waters are deep to the shore line, serving much the same purpose as did deep and narrow Norwegian fiords in offering concealment for big German battleships and cruisers. They could lie close to high shores, screened from air scouts, and in channels too narrow for torpedo planes attacks if spotted.

Persistent mining of the entrances and exits from the inland sea by American mine-laying Superforts represented a further obstacle to Japanese fleet emergency escape to come only when amphibious invasion starts and the Japs obviously expect that to happen in the South, not the North.

Lack of fuel and conservation of air and sea power against invasion day can therefore partially account for lack of any reaction. It does not cover failure of enemy coastal guns to open up when Third Fleet battleships drove into a land-locked bay on Southern Hokkaido to batter Muroran. Eye-witness accounts say the big ships loosed their 16-inch gun broadsides from positions only 1,000 yards off shore and with land in close sight of three sides of them.

It is possible that Japanese defense concepts in the North relied so completely on air and sea outposts in the Kuriles to deal with any enemy advance on Hokkaido that shore batteries were never installed around Muroran bay or the great gulf that leads to it. Halsey's ships were in easy range of mobile light and medium enemy mobile field guns, however, and why they remained silent is difficult to explain. It could indicate that Japanese ground defense forces have been heavily concentrated to the South where invasion is expected and thus were caught napping by the fleet raid.

Whatever else can be read of the purposes prompting that most striking demonstration to date of American sea-air domination over Japan's own inshore waters it adds to the ever increasing strain on Japanese war nerves. Its psychological effect could be even more important than its direct military results. It brought home to the people of Southern Japan what those of Southern Tokyo boasts of Japanese immunity to attack by sea or air. Japan has already learned that amphibious invasion are meaningless.

## Daily Prayer

FOR INSIGHT AND TRUST

All power is Thine, O Christ, and we turn to Thee in our deep need for the succor that only Thou canst give. We lay before Thee the plights of our Nation, and of the United Nations. We reverently believe that we have responded to Thy call of duty in taking up arms against an evil foe, which has flouted Thy will. In the depths of our hearts we are sure that we are warriors of God. We should behave as such, showing Thy terrible might and Thy exhaustless mercy. Make sensitive, we pray, O Thou Shaper of hearts, our poor spirits that we may ever be aware of the sacredness of the Cause in which we have enlisted. May we take constantly to Thee in prayer our problems. Have mercy upon our enemies, and quicken them to seek an early peace. Our prayer is before Thee, our King and our Leader, in the confidence that Thou ever hearest those who truly pray. Amen.—W.T.E.

## OWI To Abolish Foreign News Bureau Services

WASHINGTON, July 16.—The Office of War Information has decided to abolish its Foreign News Bureau, which supplies the American press with news from foreign broadcasts, principally Japanese. Neil Dalton, director of OWI Domestic Operations, said today the decision resulted from the recent action by Congress in reducing the agency's appropriation. He estimated the step would save about \$10,000 a year.