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YAMS BY THE BUSHEL

We are beholden to the OPA for anything it can do for the price of sweet potatoes and are downright grateful for the approximately 17 cents per bushel increase granted in the ceiling price.

We hope that the effect of this OPA amendment will be just what the district director, Theodore S. Johnson, thinks it will; that is an incentive for more production, if more production is what we need.

But there is one thing about the amendment which does not strike our fancy. It does away with bushel pricing and places all potatoes on a per-pound basis. Theoretically, of course the farmer will come out at the same place with potatoes priced by the pound as by the bushel; that is if he is familiar with how many pounds there are in a bushel.

To our notion, however, this per-pound business smacks too much of the retail instead of the production end of the game. If the merchant wants to divide a bushel into pounds for the benefit of his small volume trade that is O.K. by us. There is no need to carry this long division back to the man who digs the yams and more than likely puts them in bushel baskets or bags.

What he wants to know most of all is how much money he will receive for a bushel just as he knows how many bushels he can raise on an acre. He ought to be able to learn this without too long calculation or an overworking of the multiplication tables.

THE BRIGAND ASSOCIATES WITH ROYALTY

If Spain, by accepting a return of the Monarchy complete with the essentials of the Falangist movement, as Generalissimo Francisco Franco says she is preparing to do, is not jumping from the frying pan into the fire at least she isn't improving conditions in the pan to any great extent.

The Spanish dictator has already decreed that the royal regime is his only possible successor. "The best law will be of no avail if the Falangist spirit weakens," declared the man who has had Spain under his thumb.

From this distance, we would say there is too much fraternizing between the plunderers and the royalists. Everyone knows that the Franco dictatorship was raised to power on the bayonets of the nazis and the fascists. The forces of nazism have already been totally defeated and fascism is retreating everywhere.

But we don't fancy allowing Spain's rapist, Franco, to be allowed to name his own successor. Not only should the country be rid of this brigand but neither should she take any truck with an incompetent royal family.

Let the people establish the kind of government they desire. That was one of the guarantees of the Atlantic charter, was it not.

A GENEROUS PEOPLE

North Carolinians are a generous people to worthwhile causes. This is evidenced on many occasions when drives and campaigns are waged in behalf of our service men, the sick and crippled, community enterprises and other causes.

A final report has been issued on the Mother's Day contribution to the Baptist Hospital at Winston-Salem and it amounts to \$103,000 which is by far the greatest amount ever contributed to this institution. The Mother's Day pledges have been a custom in the Baptist churches since 1925 and each year the amount has exceeded the previous year.

Every hospital is called upon to do charity work. The expense must come from some source. Fortunately in the Carolinas the Duke Hospital Fund contributes \$1 a day for each charity patient taken care of in a publicly owned institution, but this does not cover the whole cost. Operating hospitals, like everything else, is more expensive, even to charity patients.

When the Cleveland county hospital system is available, we should have many men, women and institutions willing to make contributions to help support the broader services offered.

Our people gladly share with others more needy than they and get joy out of their giving when it relieves suffering humanity and aids in developing a stronger civilization, morally and physically.

NOTE ON POULTRY PRICES

Complicating the current high cost of poultry is the report from London of the increasing demand for good quality parrots. These talking birds are bringing almost fantastic prices due in part to the demand among the services and also due to the fact their import has been banned for several years owing to the risk of psittacosis.

A couple of "pftts" from us. There is enough conversation in this world, it seems to us, without having to go to a bird cage for any more. As a matter of fact we are not deeply interested in any feathered animal whose drumstick is not fit for human consumption.

SUPPORT IT!



Merry-Go-Round

Peace Feelers From Japan

By DREW PEARSON
(Lt. Col. Robert S. Allen Now On Active Service with the Army)

WASHINGTON—It's being kept very hush-hush, but something important is brewing behind the scenes regarding peace with Japan. Highest officials won't say a word about it, not even to some of their cabinet colleagues.

However, peace feelers which have come from the Japs have been much more than feelers—despite Secretary Grew's denials. One of them was debated by the combined chiefs of staff for more than a week. It proposed that the Japs withdraw from Korea and Manchuria and all China if (1) They could keep the emperor, and (2) They would not be invaded.

Meanwhile, Joe Grew and the army and navy have prepared a directive outlining the minimum terms we would accept from the Japs. This is one of the most highly guarded documents in the government. However, it can be stated on high authority that the Grew peace plan would permit the Japs to retain Emperor Hirohito.

It can also be stated that there is considerable difference of opinion inside the administration regarding the Grew memorandum, and some of his colleagues in the State department, including Assistant Secretary Will Clayton and Assistant Secretary Dean Asheson, are vigorously opposed.

The whole situation is in a state of flux, and anything can happen overnight.

WHAT GERMANY PAYS

Completely obscured by the Big Three conference are the reparations talks now taking place in Moscow. Upon their outcome will partially depend whether Germany will be permitted to rise to power again.

Already the cards have been laid down as to what we want Germany to pay. Here is the inside story of the proposed terms: The Soviet delegation proposed (1) That Germany pay \$20,000,000,000; (2) That this be paid off in a five-year period; (3) That it be paid in the form of labor, goods and factories—the factories to be exported from Germany to other countries, not left in Germany.

The Russians also proposed that this \$20,000,000,000 be divided as follows: \$10,000,000,000 to the Soviet; \$4,000,000,000 to the U. S. A.; \$4,000,000,000 to Britain; and \$2,000,000,000 to be divided among the other European war victims.

The American delegation headed by handsome Ed Pauley, the big oil and tire operator, proposed somewhat similar terms, except that the U. S. A. would receive a larger share of Nazi reparations.

Note—The British delegation, when called upon to give its proposals, replied that it would like to have permission to fly back and forth to London each week to consult, since it did not trust its communication lines in Moscow. Apparently Washington isn't the only place where wires are tapped.

BUSY MR. FORRESTAL

Insiders have been joshing Secretary of the Navy Forrestal and White House Naval Aid Capt. James K. Vardaman ever since President Truman's fishing trip to Washington state.

Truman was relaxing with Governor Mon Walker and Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington one day when Magnuson picked up the phone and called the Navy department in Washington, D. C. He wanted to get Forrestal to come out to Seattle to speak at a Fourth of July celebration.

But when he asked the Navy department for Forrestal, Magnuson was told:

"The secretary can't be interrupted now. He's conferring with the Presidential Naval Aid."

Whereupon another voice cut in on the conversation saying: "Then let us talk to the Presidential Naval Aid."

It was Harry Truman himself, on a phone extension. However, Forrestal's aids were not inclined to interrupt the conference with Captain Vardaman, and since neither Truman nor Magnuson were in a hurry, they didn't press the matter. Thirty minutes later Forrestal called back.

"Hello, Mr. Secretary," greeted Truman jokingly, "this is the President. How come that when a United States senator and the President of the United States telephone you, you can't speak to them because you're conferring with my Naval Aid?"

Forrestal laughed, and accepted the invitation to come out and speak in Seattle on July 4.

INSIDE JAPAN

Jap prisoners taken in Burma, Indo-China and the Dutch East Indies haven't the ghost of an idea as to what is happening in Japan. They can't believe that U. S. forces are steaming close to the Jap mainland, still believe the Jap navy will reopen supply lines to the South Pacific. . . . Japan's domestic situation is increasingly desperate. Last week Tokyo ordered a further 10 percent cut in all basic rations, including staple items like fish and rice. . . . The Japanese railroads are being torn to pieces by B-29s. Rail junctions are clogged for days before the traffic can clear through them. . . . The entire Jap administrative system has broken down. The Japs have now decentralized their government so every area has its own war production board, its own local defense system, even its own local tax collections.

Jap workers are now being drilled for home defense at noon hours, some even using pointed sticks as spears. There is considerable debate inside the U. S. high command regarding the necessity for landing in China. Some think a Chinese invasion is necessary.



Behind The FRONT PAGE

By HOLT McPHERSON
Managing Editor

THOSE INDEFATIGABLE TRADERS, THE BEAMS, AREN'T above taking a profit off anybody—indeed, one of them sold his house to another brother the other day, but, when the seller's wife demurred, he succeeded in buying it back by paying \$500 profit to the brother who had snapped it up. I suppose I'm no exception, for I've just bought one of their lots.

All this talking I've been doing about how folks ought to buy their lots and get to planning that post-war house caused me suddenly to realize that I had done nothing of the kind myself. So, with the help of a good real estate agent I located a lot I felt answered requirements, found it belonged to the Beams and told the agent to go make the best deal he could to buy it. Both the buyer and vendor were fairly treated, which makes a really good deal.

It has been, from beginning to end, a satisfactory transaction, but one of my friends has chided me for not dealing directly and thus saving the commission. I think that commission was the best investment in the deal; the services of a good, conscientious real estate agent, when you are buying or selling real estate, or of a lawyer, when legal services are needed, come cheap, if you buy well. I have seen too many individuals suffer and pay excessive prices when they thought they were saving a commission or a lawyer's fee they later wished they had paid a hundred fold and more.

HEARTENING REPORTS COME FROM THE HOSPITAL THAT under the new county structure, both patient and doctor are doing well and working together harmoniously. That is well. The doctors are actively giving thought to the need of extending their staff to include to active status those outside Number Six township who have enjoyed heretofore only honorary status, and they expect to have a meeting to consider that problem shortly.

PEACHES ARE POURING IN FROM NEARBY ORCHARDS as well as from the more distant ones, reflecting the bumper crop. Golden Ebertas, Georgia Belles, Hales, and some Sleepys are present in abundance, the last named being more popular over in Gaston; it is a deep, yellow peach, much sweeter and more delicious than the showy Ebertas which sacrifices taste a bit for color. Many folks consider the Georgia Belles the best all-around peach of this section, good for eating, canning and preserving. The peach crop in this section is the best in five or six years, according to D. R. Washburn who expects to harvest 200 bushels of peaches from a single acre of young orchard.

Last year peaches commanded a price of \$8 to \$10 a bushel here when they were scarce; this year they're selling for \$1.50—just as pretty and as good. That, in a simple, understandable way, tells the pricing story generally—its supply and demand!

A SOLDIER IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC WANTS A CAMERA AND his wife directs an appeal here—the three he had been disposed of, so another will be appreciated. . . . A lady wishes a share expensive ride to Columbia or Myrtle Beach the first of next week.



TEEN TALK

Dear Judy:

Have you gotten any snazzy back-to-school clothes? Was over to Jeanie's yesterday and she was making with the needle and thread, fixing up some last year's stuff. You should see the snappy job she did on her old black wool. She yanked the sleeves out and made a jumper out of it and it looks like new.

Here's a solid tip for a formal. Take a pair of long pastel gloves and cover them with sequins. If you make your own gloves you can make a little evening hat or bow to match.

Yep, Ann is just about recovering from her poison ivy but the poor kid is missing all the fun. We had a platter party and played some new records. All Ann could

do was sit on the wall and watch. Have you heard the new Duke Ellington record, "The Miner Goes Muggin'"? And then there's a new dance Kathy tried to teach us called the rumba-lindy or sumpin' which she said she learned at her dancing school. As near as we could learn it's just jittersbugging with a Latin bounce.

Remember, I told you about the single-binge we had last week.

sary to protect our invasion flank when we land in the main Jap islands. Others believe a Chinese invasion would only use tight shipping and result in unnecessary casualties. The easiest way to aid China, they argue, is to defeat Japan quickly, not get bogged down with a long fight on the Chinese mainland. . . . The Japs are having trouble moving troops and supplies from Manchuria. B-29s have mashed up harbors in Korea and Manchuria so it is difficult to dock. . . . We have also mined Jap harbors so Jap merchant vessels can hardly get through. . . . Despite the claims of cleaning up northern Luzon, stiff fighting continues. The Japs are beaten but they don't know it. They are still making things tough for MacArthur's men—despite official communique.



VOCABULARY FOR SQUARES

On the Wall Wallflower
Single-Binge Wiener Roast
Super-Fluous.....More Than Enough
Swellegant Tops
Joe's The Crowd

(You can write Vivian Brown in care of this paper if there are new angles in your own gang.)

Mrs. Hattie R. Whisonant Dies in Blacksburg

BLACKSBURG, July 21.—Mrs. Hattie Ratterer Whisonant, 86, widow of Albert Whisonant, who was a prominent Blacksburg merchant for many years, died about 1:30 o'clock Thursday morning at her home on Pine street. She had been in declining health several years.

Mrs. Whisonant, who was a member of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church, was born in Chester county. She had lived in Blacksburg more than 50 years.

Funeral services were conducted at the home at 11 o'clock Friday morning by the Rev. F. W. Sherrill, pastor of the A. R. P. church, and the Rev. H. B. Hardy, pastor of the Methodist church. Interment was in Mountain View cemetery.

Mrs. Whisonant is survived by two daughters, Miss Mary Whisonant, Blacksburg school teacher, and Mrs. Clarence Newberry, of Fayetteville, N. C.; a son, J. T. Whisonant, of Washington; and a sister and brother, Mrs. Essie Weir and S. C. Ratterer, both of Kings Mountain, N. C.

Shirts and dresses are now being made from a Florida weed, known as ramie, originally imported from China.

A Daily Prayer In War Time

FOR THE HUMBLE VIRTUES

In this great hour Thou hast called most of us, O Master, to carry on in humdrum daily duties. Touch our eyes that we may perceive the use and glory of these.

We pray for the humble, everyday virtues of faithfulness, cheerfulness, comradeship and helpfulness. May our home and our place of work be glorified by the knowledge that they are the sphere appointed to us, as truly as the soldier is assigned to his place by orders.

In our little lot may we grow great lives. Exalt us in our spirits by the knowledge that we are where Thou wouldst have us be. Grant that our hearts may be so heroic that we may meet with smiling patience all the annoyances of life's routine; and that we may shed the glow of consecration upon the lowliest task. This we ask in the name of Him who lived the greatest life amidst the lowliest circumstances. Amen.

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

The Fates Are Laughing, by W. P. Crozier (Harcourt, Brace; \$3)

The Rome of the Emperors Tiberius, Caligula and Claudius, of Pontius Pilate and the doughty Peter, is the scene of this love story of Lucius and Metella.

We think of our world as being pretty messy, but ancient Rome was a match for it. Overrun by mobs, ravaged by fire, subjected to the rule of such despots as the trio of little Caesars who had a shilly-shallying Senate to do their bidding, the Eternal City in the First Century B. C. seemed nothing but eternal.

Tiberius has fled from its mire to Capri and friends and relatives of Sejanus expect him to succeed the aged ruler. As those who know their history will recall . . . and few know it better than Crozier . . . Sejanus missed the royal purple.

The fate of the lovely Metella, for whose hand Aulus is a persistent suitor, is bound up with the royal succession. Her father consults his learned slave, Pericles; consults soothsayers; consults wife, daughter, friends. The suitors argue; slaves talk; the learned dispute; Jews tell of the new Christ; letters are written; verses are quoted interminably.

It is, in short, or rather in anything but short, a garrulous novel, more erudite than fictional, more admiring than imaginative. I admire it, I must say, more than enjoy it. The characters who quote so intelligently from Horace and Virgil are praiseworthy, but uninteresting.

Crozier, who before his death last year was editor of the Manchester Guardian, has done a scholarly job. But that is a sorry recommendation for fiction.

Iwo Jima, text by Capt. Raymond Henri, USMC (U. S. Camera; \$5.00 and \$1.75).

In nearly 100 dramatic photos and a terse and gripping narrative, this is the fearful story of the capture of Iwo Jima, from the day the landing craft touched shore to the time when American planes took off for Tokyo. The book includes Associated Press photographs by Joe Rosenthal's famous shot of the flag raising on Suribachi.

Alcoholics Anonymous Formed In Morganton

MORGANTON — A preliminary meeting was held Tuesday evening in the Sunday School building of the First Presbyterian church to make further plans for the organization of a local chapter of "Alcoholics Anonymous," a national organization of "cured" alcoholics. Ten representatives from Asheville and Shelby chapters met with six local men who had signified their intention of becoming charter members of the Morganton chapter. The visitors explained the organization and gave personal testimonies.

Three cotton-growing states—Arizona, Florida and New Mexico—have no cotton-spinning mills.

One 80-mile pipeline constructed by the army in Italy handled 4,500 barrels of gasoline daily.

The Everyday COUNSELOR

By DR. HERBERT SPAUGH

Habit forges a chain which enslaves millions for good or evil. Most tyrannies have begun from benefits bestowed. Then comes the habit of expecting the benefits to continue. All of which often leads to despotism followed by oppression.

It was so that the Hebrews were enslaved in Egypt, and it was so that the German people succumbed to Nazism. Here lies the terrible danger which faces this country as we increasingly look to the government to provide for the people those things which we should achieve by our own efforts, initiative and sense of decency and righteousness. What about the thousands now on the government payrolls in war-time agencies, and not in the armed service, who will expect to remain there after the war, or in some other government job?

What about the increasing amount of regulation of our personal lives by the government, because we have to be compelled to cooperate for the common good? We complain about government regulation. We ask for it by our own acts. The good man does not have to be compelled to consider his neighbor's welfare. St. Paul writes, "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil."

Keep the churches filled on Sunday, and the jails will have many less occupants. The farther we get away from God, the more laws and regulations will be required to hold us together as a nation. The habit of looking to the government for regulation of those things which should spring naturally from a citizen of industry and righteousness is exceedingly dangerous. We are slowly forging the chains for enslavement.

In personal living, the slavery of habit is more apparent, for good and for evil. There are those unfortunate habits which children acquire, which if not broken, carry into maturity, as finger sucking, temper sulking; politeness which if acquired in childhood prove invaluable in manhood.

Marriage is in many cases unhappy because of tyrannical habits. A demanding and tyrannical husband or wife drives happiness out of the lives of all members of the family. Instead of submitting themselves one to the other, as the Christian marriage ceremony urges, granting the rule of their home to God, one or the other partner commences to demand more than he gives. As the other yields to those demands, they become more exact until they finally develop into tyrannical cases which have under my observation I have seen domestic tyranny.

When a man, woman or youth forsakes that early natural instinct to follow God's leading, slip his hand out of His hand, and starts on his own independent way, he breaks the best habit he ever had, one with which he came into this world emotionally and spiritually prepared.

What may be a blessing or a tyranny. Which are yours?