

THE OMAHA GUIDE

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ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual, National and International Problems Inseparable From Local Welfare

The main purpose of any military force, naturally, is to fight if it has to, and to maintain itself in a state of constant readiness for whatever is to come. However, on occasion, the fighting arms can be used as an instrument of high diplomacy as well. They can implement and advance, by purely peaceful means, the policies decided upon in Washington in this time of delicate international balance.

As everyone knows, military figures have been called upon to fill a number of positions of vast importance, which normally would be held by civilians. General Smith, who was Eisenhower's brilliant Chief of Staff, represents us in Moscow. General Marshall, the architect of our war strategy, holds the most vital and most difficult job in the nation next to the Presidency. General Clay carries the burden of responsibility for us in Germany. General MacArthur is practically all-powerful in Japan. Officers of the U. S. Navy have been entrusted with the complex task of administering the Pacific Islands and strengthening the primitive economies of their peoples, which in many instances were disrupted by the last war.

There has been much argument, pro and con, concerning the wisdom of giving men, whose sole prior experience has been in the profession of arms, such appointments as these. The American tradition is that the military shall be apart from and subservient to the civil authority. Regardless of that, almost everyone agrees that the soldiers and sailors have done exceptional work. There are no saber rattlers among those in the key spots. And they have all shown the qualities of mind, character and decision that are new necessary.

So much for individuals. How an actual military body can be used to forward our diplomatic policy is vividly described by Demaree Bess in a recent Saturday Evening Post article. Called "Our Navy in Striped Pants," it tells how our big task force in the Mediterranean has turned it into an American lake—and has done it without land bases, without straining our ties with other countries, and without getting us too deeply involved in the internal affairs of Western Europe.

The attitude that governs this mission was obliquely expressed to Mr. Bess by a chief petty officer of long experience. "In the war, every sailor was a fighter," he said. "Now they tell us we are diplomats, and it is our business to be friendly with foreigners."

This is pretty largely true—though our Mediterranean task force, like all other naval units, is always in readiness for trouble. Today, our foreign commitments are greater and more involved than ever. We are the leader of a Western bloc of large and small powers which is being cemented together in opposition to the Soviet Union's Eastern bloc. In Mr. Bess' accurate phrase, "Our Navy is the visible symbol of our participation."

This is a ticklish business, but the Navy seems to be executing it effectively and with tact. Visits to foreign ports are always arranged for well in advance. If the local authorities feel that a visit would be impolitic at any time, it is canceled and the fleet goes somewhere else. Now and then, a government will request a visit on some particular occasion, and the task force obliges.

American officers are careful to avoid political discussions when they gather ashore, with their counterparts from Italy, France, Greece and the other countries. Shop talk—the problems that are common to every navy—dominates. This makes it possible for people of all points of view to get along fairly amicably.

As Mr. Bess points out, there are times when "our Mediterranean task force is required to show a sterner aspect." A while ago, for instance, bomber and fighter planes from the carrier Midway flew over and around the principal cities of Italy. They did this for three successive days, returning to their floating base between trips. This show of American strength was, of course, of great service to an Italian government which was trying to stop the communists.

Mr. Bess sums up our great naval policy in the Mediterranean in these words: "...first, to show Europeans that we do not intend to desert them while they are comparatively helpless; second, to treat them in the meantime as allies, not as dependers. That policy has worked well, and our naval commanders see no reason to believe that it will not work equally well in the future."

The nation recently witnessed another and somewhat different kind of military diplomacy when the Russians made their effort to drive us out of Berlin without actually going to war. A weak and vacillating American commander might have let the Russians succeed; a firebrand might have chosen a course leading direct to the consequences. General Clay, as almost everyone seems to agree, acted flawlessly. He made no threats—but he was completely firm. He made it clear, in polite language, that we would remain in Berlin unless we were pushed out by force. He won.

This concept of diplomacy through the military in a new thing in the United States—at least, on so large a scale. But it seems to be here to stay.

Alcohol From Bananas
Alcoholic beverages have been made from bananas. Some years ago banana whisky experiments were conducted in Guatemala. Banana wine from fully ripe fruit allowed to ferment in water was known in the West Indies island of Barbados as early as 1657. Denatured alcohol from bananas is an age-old possibility.

Bass Are Heavy Eaters
After young bass leave the spawning beds their foods consists of minute crustaceans and insect larvae, and as they grow older they devour worms, tadpoles and small fish. In later life they take crawfish, frogs and minnows. When they attain a weight of two or three pounds they will bolt anything from a worm to a young muskrat.

MAKES THE WHEELS GO ROUND By MACKENZIE



This Machine Age
With new coin machines designed for air terminals, travelers may shove themselves, press their ties and dine on hot sandwiches and coffee while a robot bootblack shines their shoes.

Floating Fruit
Fruit may float in jars because the pack is too loose or the syrup too heavy, or perhaps air in the tissues of the fruit has not all been forced out during heating and processing.

MIRTHQUAKES

Eddie Dunn: "My wife wanted to be in Congress once. Then she found out they already had a speaker there."
"True or False," MBS

Morey Amsterdam: "I wonder where do mothers learn the things they tell their daughters not to do."
Lew Lehr: "A man should be the law in his house. I tried it yesterday and it brought my wife her knees—daring me to come out from under the bed."
"Stop Me If You've Heard This One," MBS

Binnie Barnes: "Few men remember what their wives wore to the last party. They only remember the bill."
"Leave It To The Girls," MBS

THE WAITERS COLUMN

By H. W. Smith
Blackstone Hotel waiters are serving all their guests with a smile.

Waiters at the Hill Hotel and Highland Club topping the service in a very friendly way. Waiters at the Legion Club with the pointer John Evans going good on Service.

R. K. Boys are very careful Served the Presidents Special train in a very fine way.

Omaha Club waiters with Capt Earl Jones in the front line on service.

Waiters Key Club extends a Welcome to all.

Paxton Hotel waiters are improving on service to all their guests.

All Country Club open and the boys enjoying the fine breeze from the green leaves an grass.

BOOK REVIEW

Come and here a Book Review by Mr. Leo Bohannon. Sponsored by the George Washington Carver Study Club, At the YWCA 22nd and Grant Sunday June 13, 1948 at 4:00 o'clock.

Mr. Bohannon is reviewing the Enchanted by Martin Slav-in. A program will be rendered by the following:

Mrs. Ruth Williams, Instrumental Solo
Ronald Coleman, Vocal Solo
Mrs. Eula Garner, Reading
Refreshments will be served.
Mrs. A. W. Anderson, Pres.
Mrs. L. Flawkins Jr, Chairman
Mrs. J. Cooper, Reporter

My Neighbors

By BILL PAULSON



"Profits is a bad thing if it's what Perkins Hardware makes. But if it's what Sam makes, it's hard-earned money from gainful employment."

NEWS-ODDITIES By Fox



ERNEST R. WHITMAN, "BEULAH'S" BOYFRIEND, BILL, EXCELLENT ATHLETE, SINGER AS WELL AS ACTOR

Bill the romantic interest on CBS' "Beulah," is an amiable guy whose mind works at a snail's pace—except when he's dodging Clarissa, Beulah's rival. In real life, however, Bill played by radio-screen stage actor Ernest R. Whitman, is an energetic, alert individual who has distinguished himself in several fields.

Whitman was the first Negro boy born of Oklahoma City, where he lived until he entered show business at the age of 16. His theatrical career began with traveling tent shows, from which he graduated to vaudeville and stock.

A graduate of Tuskegee University, where he got his early dramatic training in collage shows, Whitman excelled in football and basketball. Today, he stands at 6' 2" and tipping the scales at 247, he's a whiz on the wrestling mat. His favorite hobby is bowling, at which he is an expert instructor. His fine baritone voice has mastered songs and operatic arias in seven languages. Moreover, he is an ordained minister in the African Methodist Church and active in Los Angeles religious circles.

He is married and the father of two children, one of whom, a daughter teaches school in Oklahoma. At home, he likes to read and listen for hours to his collection of classical recordings. When he finds the time, he works with little theatre groups around Hollywood. His movie credits include "Jesse James," "Third Finger, Left Hand," "My Brother Talks to Horses," "Gone With the Wind" and "Green asturers."

Navigated Lake Michigan
Jean Nicolet is credited with being the first white man to navigate Lake Michigan, according to Encyclopaedia Britannica. Sent west by Champlain on a voyage of exploration, he treaded his way in a birch canoe through the Straits of Mackinac and discovered Lake Michigan in the summer of 1634.

"Old at 40, 50, 60?" — Man, You're Crazy

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HINKY DINKY

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