

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES EDITORIALS

Celestial Navigation in 18 Weeks

EVERY U. S. bomber needs a celestial navigator, and that calls for thousands.

Lt. Dan Hall, former Times sports writer, is not only a navigator, but has taught scores of others now at battle fronts. Dan, you remember, was fairly good at golf, but he could not have navigated a fish class sloop from here to Port Tampa by dead reckoning and a radio beam to guide him. Today Dan can hit a pin point with a bomber in the middle of any ocean with only the sun and the stars to guide him. He is so proficient that he was retained to teach others in a Texas navigation school. It takes Dan only 18 weeks to make a celestial navigator of any youngster with an alert mind and who can add and subtract. In other words he does not need a mathematical genius to make a navigator. If all the navigators had to be—well we just would not have enough navigators.

One of the reasons for this is that much of their mathematics has been worked out for these lads who blandly fly U. S. bombers all over the world. Hundreds of years have passed since the Phoenicians first worked out some crude tables to enable mariners to guide themselves by the stars. As recently as 10 years ago these tables had been so little improved that elaborate, time-consuming calculations were required of navigators. Even a fast steamship found such tables inadequate. A fast plane would find itself a hundred miles or more off course because of such sketchy tables.

But during the period of great unemployment, the American taxpayer had an institution called the WPA, or Works Progress Administration. Its job was to employ those who could not find private employment, and who had been compelled to go on relief in order to eat. Many gags developed about leaning on shovels and raking leaves. One of the toughest assignments of WPA was to find worthwhile jobs for unemployed school teachers, accountants and others of education who could not find work. The "White Collar" projects were instigated to employ such people. One of these projects was to expand navigation tables. These tables were improved so enormously that navigators can fix their positions almost instantaneously in most parts of the world.

Dan Hall used to read about "boondoggling" in WPA. He has a different attitude toward some of the projects today when his students head westward from the coast for a pin-point island in the Pacific in a bomber traveling 300 miles an hour. We have forgotten just what this particular WPA project cost but we don't know of any taxpayer who will say it cost too much in comparison with the lives of the lads in that bomber.

An "economy" minded congress cut off the funds for such WPA projects long before the war. When bombers operate in extreme northern areas they need navigation tables that don't exist, because of such economy.

We mention all this merely to illustrate how much of the world's work remains unfinished. After the war if private employers do not have jobs for all of us—then public works must provide jobs. Most of them can be real bargains for the taxpayer. The billions that were "wasted" during the thirties now have their backs in the war in the work of airports, power projects that are turning out munitions, rehabilitated boys now at fighting fronts who were in CCC camps, NYA youths who learned skills now

put to use in war factories, small farmers increasing the food supply. Hundreds of thousands of houses were built through government loans that reduce the present housing shortage. Tampa shipyards were revived long before the war through the RFC.

Today we are getting huge dividends from the "waste and extravagance" of the "boondoggling era."

If you are skeptical—ask Lt. Dan Hall.

Let's Keep After It

WHEN the civil aeronautics board heard a petition in New York last week for a United States terminal for the Panagra air line, serving the west coast of South America, a delegation from Pinellas county was on hand to make a bid for our master airport to be the terminal.

This show of alertness on our part is a good sign. It is also the way to get St. Petersburg and Pinellas county back into the air line picture.

We must let no chance slip by. Panagra may or may not get a United States terminal, but if it does we are right in their pitching for the opportunity to make it here. It would be swell to have airplane passengers from South America landing here and planes for South America taking off from here.

Let's keep up the good work.

We don't know how Hitler plans to play his cards from now on, but he ought to be warned that Maj. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, one of the U. S. Fifth Army's cracker-jack officers, is also a famed contract bridge expert.

After trying to shop at the grocer's and coming home empty-handed, Grandpappy Jenkins says that sometimes he wonders if there really was such a thing as a big butter and egg man.

In Arabia, according to Factographs, the average adult drinks 30 cups of coffee a day. What a swell spot in which to open a donut shoppe.

Neutral Switzerland has taught embattled Europe one thing—a high mountain range is worth more than a hundred non-aggression pacts.

A candidate for mayor of that city promises the voters a "new Philadelphia" if elected. O. K., that's fine—but what's he going to do about the Phillies and Athletics?

It pays richly to serve
thee do I wait all the day.

SCHEDULE R



TIMES FORUM

Why Do We Allow High School Groups

Editor, The Times:

Senate Bill No. 7, passed by the Florida state legislature last spring prohibits fraternities, sororities or other secret organizations in the public schools of the State of Florida. This act not only prohibits any secret organizations, but makes it unlawful for any pupil enrolled in any public school to be a member of such. This act states that it is unlawful to pledge members, or to be a pledge of a secret organization. The act gives the county board full power for not only suspension, but also expulsion.

In spite of this state law, fraternities and sororities have continued to exist in our local high school. If there is any doubt of this on the part of any members of the faculty or of Dr. Geiger, I will be glad to provide the names of these fraternities and sororities, the names of some of the members, the names of some of the pledges, the names of some of the officers, and of the doctor's house where a rush dinner was held, but was very disappointing because only doughnuts and marshmallows were served. I can furnish also the names of one or two students who turned down one of the secret organizations and has become a heel of the first water, because of this act. And last, but not least, how about the little girl who, because she was not taken into one of the secret societies quit the public school and entered a private school.

I do not have a son or daughter in high school. I have belonged to a secret organization both in high school and in college. It is not the ones who are "in," that I feel sorry for but the ones who, because of circumstances over which they have no control, are unable to be in the same social group as the chosen few.

I am sorry for the little girl who perhaps has been rushed and has attended the dinner parties and is then turned down. Lying

Post-War Jobs Seen Chief

NATIONAL POLL

MOST VITAL ISSUE AHEAD AFTER THE WAR



By GEORGE GALLUP

Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N. J.—When John Voter steps up to a booth to cast his ballot in next year's presidential election, he is likely to be thinking more about the problem of jobs for the years than about the problem of mapping out a last

At least that is what he says today. While he is not discounting the importance of settling international affairs in order to prevent another war, he believes that the problem of his own economic security at home is going to cause him more permanent worry than any question of foreign policy during the years that lie ahead.

Whether he is right or whether he is wrong in sizing up the future, the fact that the question of jobs gives him so much concern is bound to have its effect on the presidential campaign. The question in the minds of voters will be: Which party and which candidate is best able to handle the problem of post-war jobs?

At the present time, a survey has been conducted, and the voters

going to be much polling between the two that very issue, with trying to convince that it can handle post-war problems better than party. Moreover, voter is likely to sit possible nominees before time in terms of to handle the job is much as their ability foreign policy.

To test out public day, field reporters institute have talked of voters in a nation from Maine to California of all political parties walks of life. Ever remembered war, pri-