

Nothing is so great as fear; its counsels very rarely put a man at arms; it is sure to aggravate the evils from which it would fly.—Burke.

# EDITORIAL AND FEATURE PAGE

PAGE TEN THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1941

THE BREMERSTON SUN stands for those principles which it regards as beneficial to the welfare of the community, for honest journalism in news and editorial columns

## The Bremerton Sun

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### War That Was Not a War

Many people are disturbed today by the fact that the present position of the U. S. in relation to the war in Europe is neither traditional neutrality nor war. It is described as "non-belligerency," "armed neutrality," "not-war" and other phrases, and we think of it as something utterly strange and without precedent.

That is because we incline to think of today's situation in terms of the World War. If we would go back again a little farther in American history, we could recall that there was a period (1798-1800) when the U. S. did not know whether or not it was at war. War was never formally declared, but it had a lot of similarity to war when the new American frigate, Constitution, was savagely fighting and capturing the French ship-of-war L'Insurgente off the island of Nevis in the West Indies.

Historians usually refer to this as "The Quasi-War With France." The Latin term means, "just about, but not quite" a war.

It is interesting to reflect that President Roosevelt is especially well informed on the period of American history, and was instrumental a few years ago in having published an absorbing collection of papers relating to it. Here is how the U. S. once fought in what was almost like, but never formally, a war.

Relations with France had been unsatisfactory, and President Adams called home American diplomats who had been pushed around and very badly treated in France. "I will never send another minister to France," he said, "without assurances that he will be received, respected, and honored as the representative of a free, powerful and independent nation."

French naval ships seized American vessels carrying supplies to England, which was at war with France. American indignation mounted, and a frantic preparedness campaign was launched. Three frigates and 30 smaller vessels were built, and ordered to protect American commerce, even if that implied fighting with French ships. An army was hastily improvised, and Washington was recalled from retirement to command it.

In a little more than two years, 81 French ships were captured, mostly privateers, in sea fights to protect American commerce. Yet neither country formally declared war on the other. In 1800 a treaty accepted by both nations put an end to the controversy.

Has President Roosevelt's careful study of this period convinced him that there would be nothing new, nothing without precedent, in a decision to protect American ships sailing to a belligerent country? It was done in 1799, and done without formal war resulting.

Could it be done again? And is the possibility now revolving in the mind of the president?

### Room for Improvement

Two chickens in every pot, two cars in every garage, have vanished into history. Perhaps Americans now can set themselves a new goal and measure of their national welfare: A new suit for every man every year.

It doesn't sound excessive. Yet the average man bought only a third of a suit in 1940, a clothing authority said the other day. In reverse English, the average man buys a suit of clothes only once in three years.

The American standard of living still is the highest in the world, but it is obvious that in some ways there still is room for improvement.

## IN HOLLYWOOD

By JIMMIE FIDLER

EN ROUTE MIAMI, Jan. 30.—Hollywood's fade-and-hot spot crowd—those lads and lassies who seem to think that being seen in the fashionable nighteries is a prerequisite to screen success—are kidding themselves. And, as exhibits to prove my contention, I can cite 90 per cent of the industry's really big stars—notably the two who are high-rolling in the picture, "Back Street," which we're trekking all the way to Florida to see premiered.

Charlie Boyer, who could be one of our most potent light-acts, is actually an inveterate stay-at-home who shuns crowd-pleaser appearances in public with his charming wife, Pat Patterson—a few violins and a few wood-fusion—and still can't find enough time in the year to light all of the roles offered.

Marvath Sullivan also happily married; she probably believes in fewer swags and more-and-less resorts than the average Hollywood shop girl. She's seldom bothered among those present at a camera party—but her salary nevertheless, runs to a considerable sum.

When all's said and done, the final voice in awarding any player the "breaks" is the voice of John Public. He, being a man of good sense, prefers to stop his ballots for ability and personal charm—without once stopping to top up the number of times each candidate has been

## Getting Nowhere Fast



## The 'Round Towner' By The Staff

Round town with the 'Round Towner': Whitey Domstad talking about his record-breaking bowling game—Dey Benter in the city hall—Fred Green well busy at work—Mac McQuay driving a new model—Ernie Dye over from Seattle—Orville Chase greeting a friend—Russell Kraft telling about his boyhood in Hoquiam—Mack Smith also reminiscing about his boyhood in Tennessee—Mrs. Anthony Serina hurrying along 4th st.—Vine Little outside his beauty salon—Charles McLaughlin driving toward Erling's Point—Garry Mason walking downtown on his crutches—George Beaswick on the telephone.

### FOND HOPES OF A HOUSEWIFE

A housewife, ardent reader of this little department, contributed this item, she lists herewith some of the things she'd like to do, but never gets around to doing:

"Pack a picnic lunch, dress the children and ourselves in stacks and tennis shoes, and go for a hike over nearly a forgotten tract.

"Take a boy or a boy, and go complete we always wanted to go, just for the ride—and forget that it might be Monday and the laundry isn't done, and the windows need washing, and that friend whose hand will probably give the children fried eggs and nothing else for dinner.

"Take a day off and cook one of those extra special, delicious, easy-to-prepare dinners you hear so much about on the radio, invite a group of friends over to eat, and then have them tell us it's as good as the radio said it would be.

"Follow up on a series of those slimming, body-building, beautifying exercises every housewife is supposed to have the time and energy to do, and see if they would result a bulge here and there."

LYWOOD: Norma Shearer cancelled plans to accompany ailing Irving Thalberg to a German health resort... Ramon Novarro, kidding in pictures, attempted a new career as a concert singer... Hollywood mourned the death of Walter Hiller, screen comic boomed to success "Patty Arducke"... Artie Judge and Wesley Ruggles (then Mr. and Mrs.) celebrated receipt of a gift from the store... Natalie Talmadge was married in Mexico to May Scriven... Lewis Stone, summoned to the D. A. office to confront a woman who claimed he was her long-lost husband, proved it wasn't him when she produced a photograph of him.

IDOL CHATTER: Miss West is the kind of mathematician who, after adding the one and one, invariably gets six... Personal Observation: In all Hollywood, no matter set of ankles than those supporting Mary Martin... Makeup maestro Percy Westmore, who should know, says West-

### ABOUT MAGAZINES

It is probably against all rules of journalism for this column to applaud any other publication, but we can't resist saying a good word today for Liberty Magazine.

We don't particularly care for Liberty's editorial policy, its style, its humor or its contents in general. But we must confess that we like its movie reviews and—what is far more important—its policy of printing all stories and articles on consecutive pages. You will never find in Liberty one of those lines at the bottom of a page which read: "Continued somewhere among the soap ads on Page 64."

In Liberty, you merely go from page to page to finish the story or article which happens to be holding your interest at the moment.

Those "jump" lines, as we call them in the newspaper industry, wouldn't be so bad if they didn't have the ulterior motive of directing the readers' attention to the ads in their parts of other magazines.

### TOO MANY COOKS

This U. S. defense effort is a mighty big thing. Lots of people are getting jobs—in armories, shipyards, offices, airplane plants, etc. Here is a sidelight on some of the newly-employed government office workers:

A friend of the 'Round Towner, writing from Washington, D. C., tells of the horde of young people who have been employed for stenographic work in the war department. "You should see the disorder," he writes. "One young fellow told me that he's been here for a week, and his only job was to sharpen three pencils!"

We hope Mr. Roosevelt get around to straightening out this matter pretty soon.

strokes, completely changed the wife's appearance. Misses later, the same child returned the big smile, and for another try and—over with the job!

CUFF NOTES: Chuckie if you recall the solemn burning of Dorothy Lamour's sweater; her next opus, "Alma of the South Seas," will open with Dottie in the burlesque, who's filling strong and two o'clocks!... Here's the kind of determination that's needed to be a successful "movie mamee". The other day, stopping at Columbia, I found the aisle room crowded with moppet applicants for a minor lead role—such a prospect, of course, by a millitant mother. As I watched, a pretty, young-old was dismissed from the producer's mansion with a few words of consolation. Craftily, her mama took her away, produced a comb and brush, and, with a few det-

### The Skeptics



## Capital Comment

By BRUCE GATSON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—An eight-year-old fight between liberals and conservatives in the department of agriculture is ending at last with the liberals winning all along the line.

Symbol of the liberal victory is the retention of Claude Wickard as secretary of agriculture in the third-term cabinet. In previous years, the victory means a defeat for the AAA group, led by such men as AAA Administrator McMeen and James W. Duggan, head of AAA's southern division. The victors' leaders are Milo Perkins, head of the federal surplus commodities corporation; B. B. Malinin, chief of the farm security administration; and Howard Tolley, head of the bureau of agricultural conservation.

The decision will mean less emphasis on crop restriction and more emphasis on raising and increasing consumption—less of the shrewd and more of things like the stamp plan and the farm tenant program.

WYBACK Two actions by Secretary Wickard recently gave the tip-off on the victory.

First was his public statement urging farmers to raise more hogs to take advantage of rising pork prices. This was a move toward conservatives in the department, who argued it was simply a means of looking down pork prices all over again.

Second was Wickard's announcement of a supplemental cotton program, which in effect will give cotton growers more aid rather than cash for making further reductions in cotton acreage—a measure aimed at increasing consumption of cotton goods at the same time that it cuts production of raw cotton, thereby biting into the surplus from both sides.

The program is making the two wings of the department date back to the original New Deal. In the main, the conservative group stood for the theory that the farm problem should be solved by cutting production and raising the price of the commodity to retain agriculture's foreign markets, via export subsidies. In cutting the domestic market, they have consciously or unconsciously followed the lead of the international scale farmer, the farming-is-a-business school.

"PURGE" REVERSED From the start this brought about a scrap. The other group in the department protested that the AAA program was making the plight of the tenant and the sharecropper worse. It was a broadening of the domestic market offered any rest hope, and that the farmer should be able to compete at all costs would utilize the "B" with the nation's foreign policy.

Several years ago the conservative group wanted to cut production of raw cotton, thereby biting into the surplus from both sides. Wickard followed the famous "triple-A" purge in which such men as Jerome Frank and George Nathan helped. But events played into the hands of the liberals, and they helped kill the reliance on export markets. The existence today of a surplus of raw cotton, which has stimulated the effort to broaden the domestic market, and with President Roosevelt giving the go-ahead to the liberal wing, has stimulated the effort to broaden the domestic market, and with President Roosevelt giving the go-ahead to the liberal wing, has stimulated the effort to broaden the domestic market.

### Pointed Paragraphs

We must bring Christian truths to men today in the terms of their social needs and their social experience.

—Archbishop Samuel A. Stritch of Chicago.

I count it a joy and a privilege to help feed the flames of liberty, or to rebuke it wherever it has been quenched.

—Helen Keller, blind writer.

THAT WAS NO CALAMITY. I was just a little worried. Miss Carter" asked one colored woman of her neighbor across the street. "I was just a little worried. Miss Carter" asked one colored woman of her neighbor across the street.

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## Hold Everything . . . by Josh



## SHE WED WINGS BY EDWARD CHURCHILL

A feud starts between Kay Falconer, girl flir, and Bill Wakeman, pilot for Intercontinental Airlines, after the pilot is called above the airport outside Los Angeles. When he arrives, he's flying solo, she determines to get a solo flight from Honolulu to the United States. The wealthy Miss Mathilda Butherford, known as "Aunt" Mathilda, is assigned the train her, and she's again humiliated when she discovers how little she knows about transport planes. When she's again humiliated when she discovers how little she knows about transport planes.

"Well, it's all about time you turn me to see me!" she exclaimed. "Where've you been?" "He's been teaching me to fly," Kay said, indicating Wakeman. "I thought you knew everything," Aunt Mathilda observed. "He's been finding things out about myself and finally transported," Kay admitted. "Bill's a very good teacher."

"OH, he has a right to now, Aunt Mathilda," Kay told her. "You're a teacher. He's asked me to marry him."

"What?" Mathilda grabbed the arm of her chair and let her cane fall. Wakeman rescued it. "You mean to say my job's done?" Wakeman asked her a puzzled look. He looked from her to Kay. "You mean to say my job's done?" Wakeman asked her a puzzled look.

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