

The Centre Democrat

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Issued weekly, every Thursday morning.
Entered in the postoffice at Bellefonte, Pa., as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION
\$1.50 per year, if paid in advance
\$2.00 per year, if not paid in advance

The date your subscription expires is plainly printed on the label bearing your name. All credits are given by a change on the date of label the first issue of each month.

All reading notices marked (\*) are advertisements.
Legal notices and all real estate advertisements, 10 cents per line each issue.

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 1940 Active Member

EDITORIAL

1940 AND 1941

Old 1940 has been gracefully bowed out and 1941 has entered to take its place. The past year has been an eventful one in many respects, as every reader well knows, hence we will not eulogize it. It has been a fairly prosperous year in comparison to some of the years through which we have passed.

The most outstanding blot on its pages to be recorded in history is one of the most appalling wars the world has ever known. The conflict in the Eastern hemisphere goes on unabated in its disastrous sacrifices of human life and waste of treasure.

Our own land has been marked by peace and a generous share of prosperity, for which every reader should be extremely thankful. The prospect for young 1941 may be somewhat doubtful as to a continuance of peace, but there can be no doubt of its final triumph when universal peace is once more established.

Providence has been conspicuously kind to America. The rest of mankind view our land with wonder and astonishment, being so democratic yet so great and powerful and rich.

The Centre Democrat has the utmost faith that our country, whatever betide it, will be able to overcome its adversities.

So we say—goodbye old 1940—welcome 1941.

Hitler, having won his war, is now trying to keep from losing it.

Newspapers, we are glad to state are unanimous in support of Roosevelt's plan.

C. Harold Wills, who designed the Model T Ford car, is dead. Some of his old jalopies, however, are still rolling along.

A record total of 31,950,000 automobiles are registered in the nation. That's about three for every parking place.

Hitler says he never undertakes anything he can't put through, which may explain quite a bit about the invasion of Britain.

If the people of the United States have learned anything from the past twenty years, they will build a two-ocean navy and keep it after they get it.

If there is a citizen in Centre county who is willing to believe the word of Hitler, when it relates to the peace of other nations, we would like to have his name.

Between five and six million new jobs are expected to break the back of the unemployment problem before the end of 1941, according to those who know labor conditions.

Oiaf, Crown Prince of Norway, now in this country, says: "The Germans are taking food out of Norway. We have, however, enough food to feed our own people and that is about all."

We fail to understand why the press associations quote German and Italian newspapers, which are under strict censorship and can only publish what the government approves.

The Defense Commission says that our nation is now producing 240 aircraft engines, 700 planes, more than 10,000 semi-automatic rifles and 100 tanks a month, and that is only the beginning, Adolf, only the beginning.

A preliminary examination of Britain's financial condition, by United States Treasury experts, establishes the fact that the British will run out of cash to pay for purchases of arms and munitions in this country "in the early autumn" of 1941. The report shows that the British will be able to pay cash for tremendous orders which they are anxious to give immediately.

In tens of thousands of homes in Europe and Asia, millions of men, women and children long for the peace America at present enjoys. Once they also lived in peace. But because they were weak and unprepared, they lost it. When making our New Year's vows, it is well to remember two famous American sayings: "In time of peace, prepare for war." "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute."

Publication of diplomatic documents of the United States for the year of 1925 disclosed that Secretary of State Hughes, with the approval of President Coolidge, referring to the possible use of economic and other sanctions by European nations, warned that this might be antagonistic to the interests of the United States. He told foreign diplomats that this government had been insistent upon the rights of neutrals and would continue to maintain them. Interesting is the observation that our so-called neutrality legislation marked the practical abandonment of neutral rights in times of war so far as the United States is concerned.

Let's keep war out of America by giving Great Britain all the help it needs to defeat the Axis aggressors in the shortest possible time.

Farmers are looking forward to more favorable conditions during the next few years. Increased industrial activity, partly as a result of the defense program, is expected to bring higher average prices for farm products, and thus give farmers better incomes.

AGAINST FEEDING EUROPE

Robert C. Dexter, executive director, Unitarian Service Committee, explains why his organization has decided that it should not engage in sending food or supplies to France, or to any of the other occupied countries.

Primarily, the decision was based upon the conclusion that the supplies sent, even to unoccupied France, much less to the occupied countries of Europe, would actually add to Germany's resources and thus increase her fighting strength.

Illustrating the point, he says that one of the committee's representatives returned a few days ago from France to tell that only one-third of the preserved fruits, canned in Southern France this autumn, were allowed to remain there. One-third of the supply was taken by Germany and one-third sent to occupied France, where a good portion of it will be consumed by the German Army of Occupation.

Another factor, which, he said, bore considerable weight, was evidence to the effect that food and supplies can be created in occupied Europe provided the manpower is left free for agriculture and manufacturing. Thus, if the blockade is broken and supplies are sent into occupied countries, it only means that more men are free to devote their energies to manufacturing munitions of war.

Mr. Dexter says that there is no question but that there will be hardships in France and throughout the continent of Europe this winter. And, "while under normal conditions, we should wish to use America's resources to alleviate these hardships, they are perhaps no more serious than the hardships being inflicted on the British people." In the judgment of the committee, "every ounce of supplies sent to France and the occupied sections of Europe may increase the hardships which the British people are undergoing."

He reports that his committee, composed of men and women with a religious and humanitarian motive, having the advantage of first-hand daily contact with the situation on the other side, arrived at its decision after considerable reflection and a searching of hearts. None of them wanted the children of France, or any other European country, to suffer.

Frankly, however, the committee felt that, in the long run, "the sum total of suffering, spiritual and physical," would be greater if the British blockade were broken by this tide of American kindness than would be the case if Great Britain as the leader of democratic nations were able to shake off the domination of the totalitarian states and restore freedom once more.

NAZI EUROPE MUST SECURE OIL

One of the major questions, concerning the European war, relates to the possibility of an oil shortage by the Axis powers.

It is impossible to ascertain the facts for obvious reasons. Nobody knows the size of German oil stocks when war began, or the consumption of the fluid by the German and Italian war efforts. Even figures upon the production of synthetic substitutes have been scarce and there is little accurate information as to imports that the warring nations have received.

Some light on the problem comes from Rome, Italy, where Il Telegrafo, the newspaper mouthpiece of Count Galeazzo Ciano, Foreign Minister, discusses the oil problem from the standpoint of Europe. The writer of the article says that Europe normally needs 22,000,000 tons of oil yearly and produces under 9,000,000 tons, both natural and synthetic.

Rumania, says the writer, can provide about 7,000,000 tons, Poland 500,000; Germany 650,000; Albania and Italy 150,000; France 70,000 and the Hungarian-Czechoslovakia area 40,000. This totals 8,500,000 tons, equal to 7,500,000 tons of finished products, excluding sold by-products, gas and residues.

The writer states that "Europe cannot count for any of its oil supplies on Soviet Russia. The Russian output is approximately 29,000,000 tons, but it is entirely absorbed by domestic consumption, so that exportation, today, has been reduced to a negligible figure."

Naturally, the writer has an idea where Europe can get its oil supplies. It is in the Near East, where total Axis control could secure an additional yearly net of 12,200,000 tons of combustible and lubricating oils to make up its normal deficits. Consequently, he argues that the Near East must become an integral part of Europe and be included in the sphere of Axis colonizing activity.

GREAT MAN

(Altoona Tribune)
"Speak softly but wield a big stick."
The United States is attempting to turn out a national defense program which will give it a "big stick" at the present time, and some of its citizens are making every effort to see that the nation speaks softly until that time.

Just 22 years ago Monday, Jan. 6th, the man who first uttered that advice died in his sleep at Oyster Bay, New York.

Two presidents of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt was a statesman, author, soldier, hunter and explorer. His aggressiveness brought about a great and unique career.

In many instances "Teddy" was ahead of his time. His fight against monopolies occurred even before big business became a monster which endangered itself.

While citizens of this nation now are striving to create a spirit of goodwill with South American nations, the country's twenty-sixth president long before had "discovered" the Latin American nations. He engaged in an exploring expedition in 1914 in South America, discovering the large tributary of the Madeira river named for him—the Roosevelt river.

Colonel Roosevelt, as leader of his Roughriders, a volunteer cavalry outfit, in the Spanish-American war, was a great soldier. Like veterans of the World War, he was keen enough to benefit from his experiences in actual conflict and in 1915 he vigorously advocated national preparedness.

Americans love a leader with the color. Teddy had. On this twenty-second anniversary of his death, many will pause and pay respect to one of America's greatest leaders.

EXPECT ATTACK WITHIN SIX WEEKS

While the American people engage in a debate over methods to assist the British, we should not forget that most experts are looking for a German attempt to invade England within the next few weeks and that what we send the British before the attack is about all that will count.

W. L. White, writing from London for The North American Newspaper Alliance, says that Nazi tactics in the air indicate that the real purpose of the flights may be to train German pilots to find key objectives and to familiarize them with night-flying. He says that the small amount of actual military and industrial damage and the use of not more than one-half or one-third of German's available planes supports this belief.

According to Mr. White, neutral correspondents in London think there is better than a forty per cent chance that the Germans will attempt an invasion within the next six weeks and that the Germans will have less than a forty per cent chance of succeeding. While an attempted invasion will inflict heavy damage upon Britain, he believes that an unsuccessful attempt will mean the loss of the flower of Germany's highly trained manpower and may be the turning point of the war.

THE OFFICE CAT
"A Little Nonsense Now and Then, Is Relished by the Wisest Men"

The Doctor's Revenge
There was a young couple named Slightham,
Who were afraid that disease germs would bite 'em.
They ate an apple a day,
To keep the doctor away,
But he came and brought twins just to spite 'em.

The Sports Writer's Dream
The sports writer of a certain newspaper, after eating a heavy meal at a baseball club banquet, went to bed and dreamed he was writing the story of a baseball game. Here it is:

The game opened with Molasses at the stick.
Smallpox was catching.
Cigar was in the box and had plenty of smoke.
Horn was playing first base and Fiddle was playing second base.
Corn was in the field.
When Ace came to bat he chopped and Cigar let Brick walk and Sawdust filled the bases.

Then Trees began to wind.
Knife was put out for cutting first base.
The crowd roared Peanut all through the game, and they kicked when they put Lights out.
Apple told Fiddle to take his base. Oats was shocked.
Song made another hit and Tombstone tried to slide but was put out.
Then Meat was put out at the plate.
The score was still I to O and the game was over.
Door said if he had pitched he would have shut them out.
There was lots of betting on the game and Soup cleaned up, but Egg went broke.
The police arrested the Cabbage brothers who were trying to get their heads together.

Rule For Drivers
If you are in line of traffic and see an arm protruding from the car ahead it means that the driver is—

- 1. Knocking ashes off his cigarette.
2. Going to turn to the left.
3. Telling a small boy to shut up, he won't buy any pop.
4. Going to turn to the right.
5. Pointing out a scenic spot.
6. Going to back up.
7. Feeling for rain.
8. Telling his wife, yes, he's sure the kitchen door is locked.
9. Saluting a passing motorist or going to stop.

Figure It Out For Yourself
Passenger (to negro porter while on train to New York)—"What time do we get to New York, George?"

Porter—"We is due to get there at 1:15, unless you has set your watch by Eastern time, which would make it 2:15; then, of course, if you is gain' by daylight saving time, it would be 3:15, unless we was an hour and fifty minutes late—which we is."

Look Out Below
Head Clerk—"Did you hear the ladder fall, Joe?"
Clerk—"Yes, I hope the boss didn't fall too."
Head Clerk—"He hasn't yet. He's hanging to the top shelf."

Good Reason
Pat, deciding to sell his business and move to another town, put this advertisement in the local newspaper:
"FOR sale, baker's business; good trade, large oven; present owner in it for seven years. Good reason for leaving."

Some Speed, Boy
Wash—"Yo' hear 'bout dat new car ah got? Boy, she got some speed."
Mose—"How fast is she?"
Wash—"Boy, she's so fast dat when ah streaks down de lane all de hogs side de road looks like link sausage."

Terrible, Wasn't It?
They say that when the flood was over and Noah had freed all the animals, he returned to the ark to make sure that all had left. He found two snakes in the corner crying. They told him their sorrow. "You told us to go forth and multiply upon the earth, but we can't. We are adders."

Sticking to Port
Every navy has its own favorite drink. The English prefer gin, the Americans take whiskey, and the Italians stick to port.

The Compromise
A young married couple argued for months what kind of a vehicle they would buy with their savings.
Wife wanted a sedan. Dearie wanted a roadster.
So they compromised and bought a baby carriage.

All the Details
"Would you swear," asked the judge sternly, "that you saw the late Mr. Brown shot from ambush?"

That Put Her Out
"Do you think I look all right in my new dress, dear?" she asked.
"Hm, yes," replied her husband, "but I would suggest that if possible you get in a little further."

That Funny Lulu
Little Lulu (after long contemplation of the fat lady opposite)—"Mummy, when I've grown long enough, shall I start and grow sideways, too?"

That's all, folks. Some guys in Bellefonte are so dumb that if they stood around in a circle the Federal government would raid them for being a dope ring. —SCAT.

Coleville School Christmas Party
The annual Christmas party of old schoolmates was held December 11 in the Odd Fellows' Hall, Bellefonte. A roast chicken supper was served. The evening was spent in playing games and singing Christmas carols, with Lenice Ziegler, of Altoona, presiding at the organ.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Ziegler, son Lenice, Miss Maxine Toar, of Altoona; Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Drake, Mrs. Lena Gault, son James, Tyrone; Mrs. S. S. Leizell, Port Matilda; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Stover, Mrs. Emma Nelson, daughter Leota, Mrs. Esther Schrad, Mrs. Bella Thomas, daughter Alma Louise, Mr. and Mrs. Womer, Mrs. Ray White, daughter Jean, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. B. Lee, Clayre Nelson, Ellen Grove, Eva Alter, Nan Sweitzer, Harry Rhoades, and Harry Postman, all of Bellefonte.

Firms Get U. S. Contracts
The War Department has announced award of the following contracts to Philadelphia firms: MacLaren Sportswear, Ltd., Philadelphia, khaki trousers, \$35,982; S. S. Shirt Company, Philadelphia, khaki trousers, \$29,985.

LOUISA'S LETTER

Dear Louisa:
I am a girl of 19 in love with a boy of 22. He has been dating me on and off for about three years. I don't know how to take him. He is always nice to me and says he thinks a lot of me but there is another girl who is trying to win him. Do you think it would be better for me to get interested in some other boy or do you think I can ever win this one.

Anxious.—Ala.
ANSWER:
I think your worst trouble can be explained by the way you sign your name. It never pays to be too eager to win a boy who has not definitely declared himself. Go on being nice and attractive to this boy but don't give him the idea that you are just waiting around until he can make up his mind. It certainly doesn't pay to confine yourself to one boy when he plays the field.

Dear Louisa:
I am in love with a married man although he is not living with his wife. He hasn't lived with her for some time and yet he does not have a divorce. My people are bitterly opposed to my going with him. I love him and I don't see any reason why I shouldn't go with him as long as he isn't living with his wife. What should I do?

ANSWER:
I agree with your family. If the man doesn't intend to live with his wife any more and wishes to go with other girls, he should get a divorce. If he intends to return to his wife eventually or is just trying to make her jealous he is doing you a poor trick. At any rate, in the eyes of the law and the world, he is a married man and you are risking your reputation by going with him. If his intentions are honest he will get a divorce and not place you in such an awkward position.

In answer to Anxious of Virginia I would let the man go ahead, get his freedom and get settled before I gave up my job. He certainly should have enough backbone to stay away from you for a few months if it means happiness for the both of you later on. From your description he sounds a little wishy-washy so I would be sure of my future, if I were you, before I made a break from my present way of living.

Gems of Thought
GREATNESS
Nothing can be great which is not right.—Samuel Johnson.

Great minds had rather deserve contemporaneous applause without attaining it than attain without deserving it. If it follow them it is well, but they will not deviate to follow it.—Colton.

Every huminary in the constellations of human greatness, like the stars, comes out in the darkness to shine with the reflected light of God.—Mary Baker Eddy.

The workshop of character is everyday life. The uneventful and commonplace hour is where the battle is lost or won.—Halbtie D. Babcock.

The final proof of greatness lies in being able to endure contemptuously without resentment.—Ebert Hubbard.

Woodrow Bierly Joins U. S. Army
(Continued from page one)

of the openings was at the Harrisburg center where draftees are being inducted. It was of a clerical nature.

The combination seemed to strike a responsive chord, Bierly said. He had had two years of R. O. T. C. training while a student at Pennsylvania State College; he had registered for the draft (he is twenty-three years old) in Local District No. 1 at State College, had been assigned order No. 258, and was expected to be called soon.

The more he thought about it the more attractive the possibilities seemed.

Over the weekend he made up his mind, and Monday applied for enlistment. The papers were completed Tuesday, and he became a soldier in the United States Army for three years.

He chuckled as he reported to the office that "the city editor gave me the assignment—but he didn't know he couldn't trust me."

A son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis M. Bierly of Rebersburg, Pa., he attended the Miles Township High school in Rebersburg, graduating in 1934. In 1933 he graduated from Pennsylvania State College with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

Three brothers are draft registrants. They are Stanley C., of Millheim, Pa.; Paul W., of State College, and Eugene T., of Philadelphia. All hold higher order numbers than their brother.

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Query & Answer Column

PROBLEM—What is wrong with this statement: "In 1776 George Washington was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence." (Answer elsewhere in this department.)

Reader—Is a woman of good character (but whose husband served a minor prison sentence in Canada) eligible for citizenship?

Ans.—Yes, if she otherwise qualifies. A husband's deeds or misdeeds, no matter where committed, is no barrier to the woman's eligibility for citizenship in the United States.

E. M. S.—What are the age limits for men and women to get married in Virginia? Do they have the three-day law there?

Ans.—In Virginia, both of the contracting parties for marriage must be 21 years of age or over, or else get parent's or guardian's consent. All marriages are null and void if it can be proved that the girl was under 12 years of age at the time of marriage, and likewise if the male was under 14 years of age. The three-day law prevails in Virginia.

W. F.—What is the name of the greatest volcano? And where is it located? Also which is the smallest?

Ans.—The largest volcano in the world is the Bolshama, located in Peru. It is not known which is the smallest as they vary from a mere mound of a yard or two and are not recorded. Among the 40 most noted volcanoes Vesuvius in Italy is the smallest.

G. M.—To settle an argument will you please answer on what day of the week was the Boston Tea Party staged just prior to the Revolutionary War?

Ans.—The Boston Tea Party, composed of a group of Patriots, disguised as Indians, staged their daring performance of dumping a cargo of chests of tea overboard on the night of Thursday, Dec. 16, 1773.

D. B.—In what years did United States skippers lose the International yacht races?

Ans.—None. American yachtsmen with American-made yachts have been the winners in every event for the past 88 years. They first lifted the cup in England in 1851.

J. E.—What is "calcium carbonate?"

Ans.—Just common chalk.

H. N.—How was Magellan and his crew killed when they attempted to sail around the world? Did he succeed in the attempt?

Ans.—It is correct to say Magellan succeeded in circumnavigating the globe. On a former occasion he had sailed to Banda Island at 130 degrees longitude east of Greenwich, and when he was killed by natives on Macian Island he had sailed west to longitude 124 degrees east. Part of his crew and one vessel escaped from the belligerent natives and returned safely to Europe. The islands mentioned were part of the Philippine group.

W. U.—What is the correct pronunciation of "pianist?"

Ans.—The preferred American pronunciation of the word is "Pee-an-ist" with accent on the second syllable "an."

A. T.—May a President of the United States resign if he wants to?

Ans.—Yes. It is provided by law that if the President wishes to resign he must deliver a written instrument of resignation into the office of the Secretary of State.

C. J.—When did the custom of papering walls of houses originate?

Ans.—It is not known definitely. It came into notice about the middle of the 16th century, but the idea did not become popular until about 100 years later.

W. D.—What is the size of the Yellowstone Park?

Ans.—About three times the size of Rhode Island. It has 3,312 square miles, or 2,142,700 acres.

D. L.—If a man who registers in October is thirty-five years old and becomes thirty-six in January following, is he still in the draft?

Ans.—The conscription bill applies to men twenty-one through thirty-five years of age. If you are ordered to one year of duty after your thirty-sixth birthday it is up to you to notify the local draft board of the change in your age status. It is necessary for you to register.

J. D.—How many buggies and carriages are manufactured?

Ans.—In 1939 only 592 horse-drawn carriages, buggies and sulkeys were manufactured in the United States.

E. T.—What President was the first to exercise his authority as Commander-in-Chief of the field of battle?

Ans.—President Madison. During the Battle of Bladensburg, August 24, 1814, Commodore Barney, commanding the American forces, was shot from his horse. President Madison assumed active command.

C. D. M.—Is it proper for a mother or sister of the prospective bride to give her a shower?

Ans.—The shower is in better taste when given by a friend.

H. B. C.—What is the greatest solvent?

Ans.—Water is the greatest of all solvents. It dissolves to a greater or lesser extent almost all substances with which it comes in contact.

W. F.—Is Chinese tea ever flavored with any flowers except jasmine?

Ans.—The Chinese have teas scented with oleanders, gardenias, peonies, and roses, but these are rarely exported.

S. D. E.—Does Mussolini drink or smoke?

Ans.—He never smokes and does not drink hard liquor. Occasionally at official dinners he drinks a little wine.

F. M. S.—How many hours does an electric refrigerator have to operate to equal the cooling efficiency of a block of ice?

Ans.—The National Bureau of Standards says that based on some tests of several years ago, one kilowatt hour applied in an electric refrigerator is approximately equivalent in cooling to twenty-five pounds of ice used in an ice refrigerator of comparable size and equally well insulated.

Answer to Problem—George Washington was not a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

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