

Regular Diary of the Life of a Girl's Dog



"Beau," the 8-month-old Welsh Terrier playmate of little Mary Frances Matthias of Woodside, L. I., N. Y., starts the day with a kiss. Lower left, Beau is furnished with a babushka. Upper right, time for tea, and Mary does the honors. Lower right, after a hard day at play the two pals retire for the night. Mary does not care for dolls, finds that she has more enjoyment with her faithful pal, Beau.

Star Dust

STAGE SCREEN RADIO
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

By VIRGINIA VALE
UNIVERSAL has given us something more than a topnotch picture in "The Suspect"; we get food for thought right along with abundant entertainment. A man commits two murders, and has such good reasons for doing so that you can't bear to have him punished. You keep rewriting the ending, figuring out ways of saving him. Charles Laughton gives one of the best performances of his life; Ella Raines is excellent, Molly Lamont caused men spectators to ask



CHARLES LAUGHTON

"Who is she?" Robert Siodmak's direction couldn't be improved upon. It's a picture with murder but no horror, a picture with charm and beauty. No matter what movies 1945 brings, "The Suspect" will be one of the best.

Bette Davis is back in Hollywood after quite an absence, to begin story conferences on her next picture, "Stolen Life." The picture is set to go before the cameras early in February, with Curtis Bernhardt directing.

When Martha Holliday reached Hollywood, after dancing in night clubs, she was made assistant dance director. She had to give up the job and go over to RKO to satisfy her desire to act; she'll act and dance too in "George White's Scandals," starring Joan Davis and Jack Haley. RKO likes to push promising newcomers along, and give them a whack at really important roles.

Lauritz Melchior, who makes his screen debut in "Thrill of a Romance," Metro picture starring Van Johnson and Esther Williams, has signed a new contract with the studio. The famous singer has an important singing role in "Brighton Beach."

Shortly before the war, when the U. S. fleet was on maneuvers, Art Linkletter ("House Party," CBS) almost broadcast a unit of the navy into a general court martial. When word came that the fleet was due in San Diego harbor, he arranged to broadcast its arrival from a motor launch. Fog delayed the fleet some miles away, and it anchored, but Art didn't know that. He broadcast his script—and the Admiral, listening in, thought his orders to anchor had been disobeyed, and was ready to court martial all offenders. Art can laugh about it now.

Boris Karloff recently completed "The Body Snatcher" and "Isle of the Dead" for RKO, and is booked to go right on scaring us into shivers. The studio has signed him to make three horror pictures during the next two years.

When Phil Kramer, NBC comedian, tried out for his first radio show, with Edward G. Robinson in "Big Town," Robinson stopped him and said severely, "Don't clown, young man. Use your natural voice." The only trouble was that Kramer was using his natural voice. He was doing all right in pictures till his vocal chords tightened up, the after-effect of an illness; his comedy voice resulted.

That baby on the "Eddie Cantor Show," "Eddie Cantor Von Zell," is a handsome chap of about 30, who's probably the only male baby impersonator on the air. His name is Billy Gray, and as a pioneer in his profession he deserves a rattle, at least.

Barry Fitzgerald played his role as Bing Crosby's father in Paramount's "Duffy's Tavern" with his hand in a cast; he broke a finger the night before he started work on the picture. That man could give a fine performance even if he had a broken neck!

ODDS AND ENDS—Ellery Queen, gentleman sleuth of the CBS series bearing his name, has a new "Nikki," Barbara Terrell. . . . When Lieut. Robert Taylor was a guest on the Kate Smith hour, his wife, Barbara Stanwyck, watched the program from the client's booth. . . . One of New York's big department stores is featuring a dress named "Caslight Coyotes," named for the radio show starring Beatrice Kay and Michael O'Shea. . . . Sonja Henie's highly-trained feet are among the smallest in Hollywood; she wears a size 3½ shoe. . . . Alan Ladd once played six characters in a radio show, that was when he was trying to get his start as an actor; and he did it well, too.

Kathleen Norris Says:

Is Absent Husband Still the Boss?

Bell Syndicate.—WNU Features.



"I am a nurse and do part-time duty in the hospital."

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

HOW much should the wishes and opinions of a man who is overseas influence his wife here at home? demands Anna Sawyer of Seattle. "I am 28, have been married six years and have two little boys," her letter goes on. "My husband has now been away for almost two years. We had been making payments on a house when he went away, but it was not a house I had ever especially liked. It is too large for us, and stands on too small a lot; it has never seemed home-like to me. Tod's father found it for us and made the first payment.

"About eight months ago I had a good offer for it, and I sold it, beginning again to make payments on a far more attractive one-story house, which was not too much for me to manage. I am a nurse, and do part-time duty in the hospital. My boys, four and three, were in school from nine to four. For this I pay \$70 a month; they love their school, are safe and happy, and it is a chance for me to do my bit of war work.

"Last month I was offered a handsome rent for my house, which I decided to take, moving in with my stepmother, who is also, incidentally, my husband's aunt. We met in her house. Tod loves his aunt, and is glad we are friends, but he writes me angrily that he thinks I made a terrible mistake combining households. He says it never works, with two women. He doesn't want the boys to be in that expensive school, he resents my selling the house, says he has no interest at all in the new house, and that as he feels now he'd just as soon not come home; wife working instead of caring for her children, home sold, and family moved in with his aunt.

Directions for Afar.
"Now what I want to ask you," the letter goes on, "is just how much right a man has to send directions home from the war zones. Aren't we wives entitled to use our own judgment and live in our own way, while the men are gone? Wouldn't it be ridiculous for Auntie and me to write him obediently that because he disapproved we had changed all our plans? We love each other; she is a widow of 38, has a boy of 15, teaches school, and loves me and my children. Her home is comfortable and spacious, with plenty of playroom and garden.

"A letter received from my husband today ends with this remark: 'please write me at once that you have abandoned all ideas of combining households with Auntie, have given up your nursing and taken the boys out of that expensive school. Otherwise I will feel very differently about this war that we are supposedly fighting to protect the homes we left behind us.' What shall I write in answer?"

My answer, Anna, is that Tod is taking a most unfortunate and unjustifiable position. In plain words, it's none of his business what you decide to do while he is away. Men are totally incapable of visualizing



"The boys are safe and happy..."

A WIFE'S DECISIONS

While her husband is away at war, Anna has had to manage the home, making her own decisions as well as she could. She has two sons, four and three years old. Recently she sold the house at a good price and has moved in with her husband's aunt. The boys have been placed in a private school. This arrangement seems quite satisfactory to everyone except Anna's husband, Tod. Tod writes from overseas that he doesn't like it at all. He didn't want the house sold; he doesn't want the boys to be in such an expensive school. Lastly, he fears that his wife and his aunt will eventually quarrel—that no household is "big enough for two women."

what these lonely, strange war years mean to women, and consequently can't imagine why women do what they can to make home conditions bearable.

Go straight ahead as you are going, and don't make any explanations or excuses in your letters to Tod. Continue to write him cheerful, gossipy letters full of the children's affairs, news of his old friends, with clippings from newspapers and magazines that are of interest to him. Don't argue the matter at all, or excuse yourself.

Wiseest Course.

It seems to me you are acting very wisely. You are helping with the great need of nurses; you are certainly saving money; you have worked out an excellent solution for the boys, and have found yourself a congenial comfortable home and a beloved companion. If every woman in your predicament could solve her problems as simply there would be much less straightening out of tangles to face after the war.

Of course, always keep on the note that when Tod comes back you will be together again with the boys, and with nobody else, for housemates. Meanwhile consider your home problems as much your own affair as war problems are his. You are not writing him directions as to what hours to keep, what friends to make, what food to eat. You know that the dread machine of war has gripped him, and that until it lets go he must do the best he can, and like all the rest of us get through these awful years day by day, with whatever philosophy we can muster.

Certainly we want to write the boys good news, to keep them from whatever distresses them, to assure them that while they are doing their job so magnificently, we are handling ours courageously, too. But to suppose to take directions affecting your personal life from a man thousands of miles away, a man who naturally has no idea of what is meant by shortages of gas and domestic help, butter and shoes, commodities generally, would be to show yourself too weak a woman to be of any use in the heroic postwar world we must so soon construct. And you don't sound like that sort of a woman.

Sink of the Future.

A prominent plumbing manufacturer is asking the women of America to make suggestions for the kind of sink they want when the war is over. Some of the questions asked are: Should faucets be hand operated or knee operated or have foot pedal control? Is an exposed swing faucet or a pull-out rubber hose with spray preferable? Should there be a built-in rubber covered drain rack, an electric towel dryer, a pull-out bin for pots that would raise to table level during working hours?



Rural Telephones May Get Federal Loans

Bill Would Provide For Private Expansion

By WALTER SHEAD
WNU Washington D. C. Correspondent
WASHINGTON D. C.—"The Party Line," long the butt of jokes and ridicule, may be on its way out if a bill intended to "provide or improve telephone service in rural areas" becomes law under the new 79th congress.

Considerable interest has been aroused in the measure introduced by Senator Lister Hill (D., Ala.) which would provide for a special fund of 100 million dollars and create a federal agency to be known as the "Rural Telephone Administration."

This administration would administer the law and the fund with authority to make loans to telephone companies, or to individuals, corporations, states, municipalities, utility districts, or to non-profit cooperative associations, also to the Rural Electrification Administration for the purpose of financing the construction, rehabilitation, modernization and operation of telephone systems, exchange lines, or other facilities for furnishing telephone service to persons in rural areas who are not receiving adequate service. The measure also provides for improvement or betterment of existing service to persons in these areas.

Senator Hill, as a result of considerable study on the rural tele-



phone problem asserted that in 1920 almost 2½ million farm homes had telephones and that by 1940 this number had decreased to about 1½ million, a decrease of about 40 per cent. Rates for farm telephone service have increased from about \$1.30 to an average of \$1.80 at the present time. He also pointed out that 75 per cent of the nation's farms numbering 4,166,000 still do not have telephone service.

Some 30,000 smaller telephone companies in the nation would be the chief beneficiaries under the bill as borrowers from the fund to modernize their plants, rebuild existing lines and construct new ones. Loans would be made on a self-liquidating basis at an interest rate of 1½ per cent with 35 years in which to repay the principal.

Handy Milk Stool



The strap-on milk stool will save considerable time as well as provide another step forward in proper sanitation. After the stool has been strapped on, it need not be touched again until milking is finished.

Strap the stool around the waist, wash hands, then start milking. Bacteria count will be reduced considerably. If more than one leg is desired, the conventional three legs can be added to this type of stool.

Few Cheese Bandages

Shortage of cotton cloth for manufacturing bandages for cheese threatens to cause serious damage to the cheese industry. The bandage around the cheese makes the rind, explains W. W. Price, of the University of Wisconsin.

Without the bandages, cheese cannot be pressed or the rind formed without cracks. If the cheese has cracks, molds form in the air pockets and the quality of the cheese is considerably lower.

Army Malaria Control Program Proves Effective



Lower left, American soldiers spraying sides of streams and checking for isolated pools that might breed the deadly malarial mosquito in Corsica. Upper left, this A-20 bomber is laying a dust of paris green over the swampland territory near 12th air force fields on the island. Upper right, Corsican marshes are cleared by native laborers to eliminate the breeding place of the "Spotted Wing" mosquito.

Fighting Admirals of Pacific



From left to right, upper, three naval fighters, Rear Adm. Frederick Carl Sherman, Rear Adm. Gerald Francis Bogan and Rear Adm. Harold Bushnell Salada. Lower, left to right, Rear Adm. Joseph J. Clark and Vice Adm. John S. McCain. These five admirals are writing new and glorious pages of American naval history.

Bombsight Aids Accurate Hits



Maj. William E. Smith, Hapeville, Ga., is seen with the Norden bombsight with which he has accurately dropped 4,000 tons of bombs on enemy targets in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He is bombsighter of a U. S. Army 9th air force, B-29 Marauder, with one of the best records of accuracy among many excellent records.

Car of Tomorrow?



This is the before-and-after of how a plain, garden-variety U. S. Army jeep was transformed into the "jeep of the future," by men of the 8th air force in England, using only salvaged material from crashed-up jeeps and junk piles. A large number of the first-made jeeps have already been offered for sale to the public. Many servicemen desire postwar jeeps.

Wants Nurses' Draft



Maj. Gen. Norman T. Kirk, surgeon general of the U. S. Army, has asked congress for immediate passage of a law authorizing the drafting of nurses.