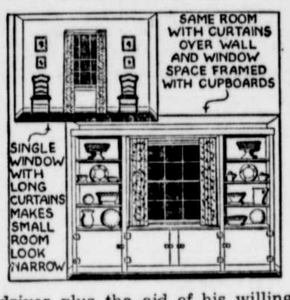
Accenting the Width Of a Narrow Room

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

ON A Thursday afternoon the south end of a certain dining room was as shown here in the upper sketch. The following Monday it appeared as shown below. Cupboards had been added to display china and give storage space, yet the room actually seemed wider and more spacious than before.

The transformation was made by the handy man with no tools but a hammer, saw and screw



driver plus the aid of his willing helper with needle, thread and paint and a brush. The cupboards were eight inches deep and made of one-inch lumber with doors of plywood for the lower part.

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NOTE: Mrs. Spears' Books 1 and 3 are full of other practical ideas for making and hanging curtains. Each book has 32 pages of pictures showing you how to modernize and beautify your home. Send order to:

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Crowned Before Born

Shapur II of Persia was the only king who was crowned before birth, the coronation, which consisted of placing the royal circlet on the head of his waiting cradle, taking place three days before he was born in 310, says Collier's.

Inez de Castro of Portugal was the only queen who was crowned after death, the coronation, for which her body was exhumed and set on the throne, taking place two years after she was murdered in 1355.

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FEEN-A-MINT 10¢

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A dictatorship is a nation where men once had freedom but didn't use it.—A. Brandon.

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

"Overage" destroyers raise question of keeping U. S. navy up to date . . . Guarded talk shows Administration holds ban on Japanese silk as reserve weapon.

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WASHINGTON.—There has been so much talk about "overage" destroyers, and so much about the necessity of "capacity" to build as being more important than actual ships or planes, on the theory that the actual fighting craft might soon become obsolete, whereas the capacity to produce them would lend itself to improvements in construction, that a little study should be given, before the next armistice, to what course should be followed when the shooting stops.

The keels of 97 of these much talked about "overage" destroyers were laid AFTER the armistice of November, 1918! They cost the government $181,000,000.

Now everyone at the time, if anyone had stopped to think, knew that was a foolish thing for the government to do. Actually it was against the old practice of the navy department. It was only a few years before that happened that the navy had delayed awarding contracts for new battleships for several years in order to take every possible advantage of newest developments.

But the point here is that the naval officers responsible for this delay—the same men who permitted the laying of the keels of 97 unnecessary destroyers after November, 1918—knew perfectly well that the destroyers they were permitting to be built were headed for storage in grease, and nothing else.

RESTRICTED CONSTRUCTION

Their mere presence, in grease, in the years that followed prevented the navy from getting modern destroyers.

And notice that at the time all this post-war construction was rushed through, there was not the slightest notion that an arms conference was coming which would stop new construction and freeze navies at their existing strength. That did not come until the winter of 1921-22, though quite possibly the greatly added strength of the U. S. navy caused by this construction made other nations the more willing to stop the armament race.

But few naval officers have ever thought anything except that the arms conference was a disaster for America! Which again does not attribute wisdom to that feverish post-war construction.

So it is to be hoped that at the close of THIS war a more sane policy will prevail as to the use of the enormous capacity we will have on our hands for the construction of both ships and planes.

• • •

U. S. THREATENS SILK IMPORT BAN

The most significant thing in our foreign relations at present is not the nature of the repercussions from the menace to Germany and Italy in President Roosevelt's address to congress, but a much less publicized activity of the government regarding restricting or banning imports of silk from Japan.

Publicity about this is perhaps even more interesting than the threat itself. No one is shouting it from the housetops, but apparently every government official involved, from the White House down to the humblest clerk in the department of commerce, is under orders to say practically the same thing. That same thing is, boiled down, that there is no economic necessity for restricting or banning imports of silk at this time—that such an action would be purely POLITICAL.

In short, the administration wants Japan to know that this government has had the banning of silk imports under serious consideration; wants Japan to know that there is no economic reason why this should become a necessity, but that some POLITICAL motive might bring it about overnight!

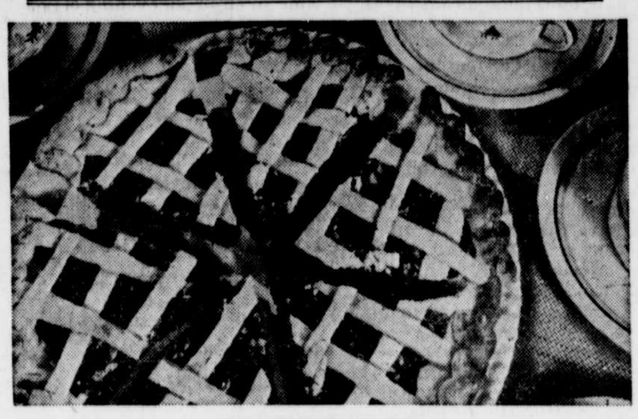
If Japan should attack the Dutch East Indies, for example, that just MIGHT be the spark that would start the ban against silk imports.

'INFLUENCE' JAPAN

The hope of the administration, incidentally, is not to crush Japan economically, but to detach Japan, partly by blandishments but mostly by threats, from the Nazi-Fascist group.

Which brings us down to the question of just how seriously the sudden stoppage of silk shipments to the United States would affect Japan. From the ordinary business standpoint, the blow would be terrific. Japan's sales of silk to this country are far and away her best source of the exchange she needs so badly to pay for imports she must make.

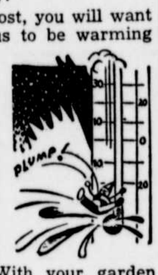
But, once the step were taken, the United States would lose its chief weapon for keeping Japan in line. Japan then would have nothing more to suffer from any further economic step by the United States.



MID-WINTER MENUS
(See Recipes Below)

You may have a mental filing system for your menus, or you may jot down your meal ideas and slip them into a recipe box. Either way, the chances are that mid-winter finds you in the market for some fresh and workable ideas for what to feed the family.

First and foremost, you will want your winter menus to be warming and heartening. The calorie content may be a little higher because more energy is needed to supply heat and because the cold stimulates us to more activity. Vitamin suppliers need to be carefully watched. With your garden adrift with snow, not so many fresh vegetables and fruits will find their way to your table without a special effort on your part.



Even if fresh peas, green beans and vine-ripened tomatoes are out of reach, almost any market boasts whole bins filled with apples, sweet potatoes, cabbage and carrots—all of them potent sources of vitamins. Plenty of grapefruit, oranges and tomato juice will help to replace the fresh tomatoes.

But now for the menus! Two are dinners—one built around a fragrant, red-brown dish of Hungarian goulash served with plenty of hot buttered noodles; the other, sausages baked under a covering of Yorkshire pudding. The third meal is a hot soup luncheon.

Hungarian Goulash
Buttered Noodles
Salad Bowl
(spinach, carrot, raw cauliflower)
Brazil Nut Cherry Pie
Coffee Milk

Yorkshire Sausages
Canned Green Beans with
Mustard Butter Sauce
Whole Carrots
Red Cabbage Salad
Honey Spice Cake
Coffee Milk

Tomato Chicken Soup
Swiss Cheese Sandwiches
Grapefruit and Apple Salad
Frosted Ginger Bars
Tea Milk

Red Cabbage Salad.
(Serves 5 to 6)

2 cups red cabbage (shredded fine)
3 tart, red cooking apples (unpeeled) (diced)
1 cup grated carrot
4 tablespoons brown sugar
3 tablespoons vinegar
2 tablespoons French dressing (prepared)

Buy a small, solid young head of red cabbage, one with thin, tender leaves. Remove core, and shred very fine. Place shredded cabbage in ice water for 30 minutes to crisp it. Combine cabbage, diced apple and grated carrot. Mix brown sugar, vinegar and French dressing and pour over salad. Toss lightly, until dressing is thoroughly mixed with salad.

Hungarian Goulash
(Serves 4 to 5)

1½ pounds beef round (cubed)
3 tablespoons fat
3 beef bouillon cubes
3 cups hot water
½ clove garlic
½ bay leaf
½ teaspoon salt
Few grains cayenne pepper
2 cups cubed potatoes
1½ tablespoons butter
1½ tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon paprika
1 cup canned tomatoes (sieved)

Have beef cut in 1½-inch cubes. Brown on all sides in hot fat, then add bouillon cubes dissolved in hot water. Add garlic, bay leaf, salt and cayenne pepper and simmer the mixture for 2 hours. Remove garlic and bay leaf, and add potatoes cut in ½-inch cubes. Cook 30 minutes, then remove ¼ cup of broth from pan and cool. Combine with melted butter, flour, and paprika and blend into a smooth paste. Add to goulash, stirring constantly; cook until thick, about 5 minutes. Add sieved tomato and cook 10 more minutes.

Brazil Nut Cherry Pie.
(Makes 1 9-inch pie)

2½ cups sour, red cherries (canned)
1 cup cherry juice
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon butter
½ cup sliced Brazil nuts

Drain cherries, and set aside the juice. Blend cornstarch and sugar in a saucepan; add cherry juice. Place over heat and cook, stirring constantly until thickened, about 3 minutes. Remove from the heat, add drained cherries, butter and Brazil nuts. Pour the filling into a 9-inch pie plate lined with pastry. Moisten the edge of the pie with cold water; arrange lattice of pastry strips across pie. Press down rim with fork. Bake in hot oven (450 degrees Fahrenheit) 15 minutes, then in moderate oven (350 degrees Fahrenheit) for 30 minutes.

Honey Spice Cake.

3 cups sifted cake flour
3 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon soda
1½ teaspoons cinnamon
½ teaspoon cloves
½ teaspoon nutmeg
¾ cup butter or other shortening
⅓ cup sugar
¾ cup strained honey
2 egg yolks, well beaten
½ cup chopped nut meats
1 teaspoon vanilla
¾ cup water
2 egg whites (stiffly beaten)

Sift cake flour once, add baking powder, salt, soda, and spices and sift together three times. Cream butter thoroughly, add sugar, and cream together until light and fluffy. Add honey gradually. Beat after each addition. Add egg yolks, nuts, and vanilla; beat well. Add flour, alternately with water, a small amount at a time. Beat after each addition until smooth. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Bake in a paper-lined greased loaf pan (9 by 13 by 2 inches) in moderate oven (350 degrees) for 50 minutes.

Tomato Chicken Soup.
(Serves 6)

2 tablespoons onion (finely chopped)
1 tablespoon butter
2 No. 1 cans condensed chicken soup
1 No. 1 can condensed tomato soup
1⅓ cups water
1⅓ cup light cream or milk
¼ teaspoon salt
⅛ teaspoon white pepper

Saute onion in butter until yellow and transparent. Add chicken soup, tomato soup, water, milk, salt and white pepper. Stir thoroughly and heat to serving temperature.

Apricot Sweet Potatoes.
(Serves 6)

6 medium-sized sweet potatoes
½ pound dried apricots
¾ cup water
¾ cup sugar
½ teaspoon salt

Peel sweet potatoes and cook in boiling salted water (1 teaspoon per quart) until tender, about 35 minutes. Mash with a potato masher. Cover apricots with water and let soak for 30 minutes. Then simmer until tender, about 25 minutes. Mash the fruit to a pulp and add sugar and salt. Whip apricot pulp with sweet potatoes until very well blended. Serve very hot. Apricot sweet potatoes are especially good with ham and broccoli.

WHEN DAUGHTER LEARNS TO COOK

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(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WHEN talk began of 50,000 airplanes a year, the American public was surprised to learn that it takes at least five men on the ground to keep one man in the air, but the picture makers of Hollywood considered the number rather small; you see, they use anywhere from thirty to forty persons behind the camera to keep one actor in front of it.

In a scene made for "That Uncertain Feeling," in which Merle Oberon appeared alone before the camera, there were 35 persons on the set to help her make a shot which will last 15 seconds on the screen. If you're interested, the list included two assistant directors, a cameraman, a camera operator, two camera assistants, ten electricians, three carpenters, two property men, four sound men, a painter, a wardrobe woman, a makeup man, a body makeup woman, a hairdresser, a still photographer, a playback operator, a pianist for off-stage sound and a stand-in. The thirty-fifth was Director Ernst Lubitsch.

Betty Brewer's ship has really come in at last. Betty's the attractive but not beautiful youngster who made such a hit in "Rangers of Fortune," remember? She's been the bread winner for her family of five for a year—she's 13 now. Her family migrated from Joplin, Mo., to Sacramento, Calif., in a flivver, but her father couldn't find work there and Betty began singing at conventions and banquets.

Betty Brewer

She went to Hollywood, sang on the radio, lost her job and had to go on relief. She was singing on the streets for pennies when Sam Wood, the director, discovered her. Her second picture was "The Roundup"; she's working now in "Las Vegas Nights," and next will do "Two Bad Angels," and she's just signed a brand new contract with Paramount.

Katharine Hepburn has had her revenge on the people who not so awfully long ago considered her "poison at the box office"; her new Metro picture, "The Philadelphia Story," topped all records for New York's huge Radio City Music Hall for the last five years. Cary Grant, James Stewart, Roland Young and Ruth Hussey give her perfect support. Miss Hepburn evidently knew that she had a good thing when she found "The Philadelphia Story"; she is still starring in the stage version—she is part owner of the play—and she is full owner of the picture, as well as its star.

The success of "Teeny," Fibber McGee and Molly's little "I betcha!" girl, is no flash in the pan. Marian Jordan, who plays "Teeny" as well as "Molly," was one of radio's pioneers in adding a child's voice to her repertoire of characters. She did her little-girl routine fully 12 years ago in Chicago as part of Kaltenmeyer's Kindergarten, one of radio's first network children shows.

Marian Jordan

Fibber McGee and Molly weren't even names on a radio script until six years later, when Don Quinn, the Jordans' script writer, thought them up.

If the "Quizz Kids" are among your radio favorites prepare to see them on the screen before long. They're making a series of shorts at Paramount's Long Island studios. The star performer is sure to be that very young man, Gerard Darrow, who ranks with John Kieran of "Information Please" when it comes to natural history.

Don't be surprised if you happen to meet your favorite radio stars and discover that their voices sound altogether different than they do when you hear them on the screen or radio. Rudy Vallee, John Barrymore and Billie Burke are outstanding examples of this difference in voices; theirs are all pitched lower naturally than they are when they come over the air.

ODDS AND ENDS

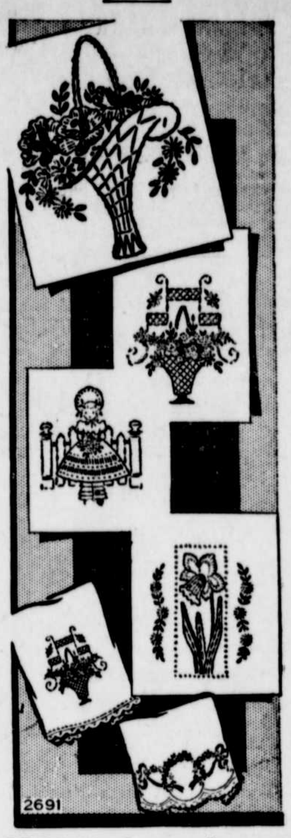
Franchot Tone has signed up to make two pictures a year for five years for Universal.

Charles Boyer co-stars with Deanna Durbin in "Ready for Romance"—which Deanna is.

James Cagney and the newly-wed Bette Davis will co-star for the first time in "The Bride Came C. O. D."

Bing Crosby and Bob Hope are going to play golf for Britain. They've announced that they will begin a golfing tour in March, teamed with two golf professionals, the proceeds going to British war relief.

Various Motifs for Embroidering Linens



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