

I AM aware of the fact that too frequently the column is autobiographical. But this will have to be about myself. Only today I find that Broun is swatted in *Esquire* and in the *Daily Worker*. I have a right to reply. On the subject of Broun I remain the best informed authority.

Not long ago I compared myself, ineptly to be sure, to trooper of the light brigade. I merely meant that there seemed to be shot and shell coming from the right and from the left. I am oppressed with a sense of being crushed between Mr. Scylla and Mrs. Charybdis which makes me wrong whichever way I turn.

At this point the column will have to go anecdotal as well as autobiographical.

About two years ago a fat columnist and three acquaintances sat in Barney Gallant's place on Washington Square. The fat columnist was on the pan. Jim and Carl and I called him a fake and a trumper.

I defended myself as best I could and asserted that what I wrote, not or cold, represented what I thought.

I thought "Natural" man wants to go to the length of saying that never did he pull a punch. In this case, I have no mortality about the most which should be required of any contender is that he might be in there trying.

"That sounds very pretty," said Jim, sticking a stubby forefinger under my nose, "but I notice that you always manage to stay on a fat pay roll." At this point the party broke up and two years elapsed.

'You Can't Do That'

I WAS mad at the paper which employed me. The issue involved did not concern any major point of political or economic belief. There was no crown of thorns handy and shaped to my head. Call it temper, if you like. Call it temperament. Call it Jack and Charlie. But just the same I was good and mad. My impulse was to go off in a high dudgeon into an even taller tower. It took me only six years to find out about Santa Claus and almost four times as long to discover that not every newspaper publisher is invariably perfect. I mean in agreeing with me.

And so I was going to sit in my tower, far from the maddening grind, and write that novel, and the book about Pontius Pilate, and the play built around St. Peter and Johnny Boyle. I was going to starve and slave and be completely my own master. Gaugh or Jeremiah or Elmer Rice or something like that.

I went down to see Carl, who is now a close friend and associate. When I came in I also found Lucy and Jim. It was the same crowd which had run me ragged at Barney's. Just to make the pattern complete and far too perfect for fiction, Barney, himself, happened in two minutes later.

I spread my story. I told them that I was through with newspaper work for five years or forever. I was going off on my own to be beholden to no one. I was going to stand with the guinea pigs, the saints and the martyrs. And Jim struck that same forefinger under my nose and said, "You can't do that."

"Who says I can't?" I answered belligerently.

"You've got to get back on that job," Jim insisted. "If you don't fulfill your contract you're a faker and a trumper and a traitor to the newspaper guild."

'He Would Have Missed It'

WELL, if I had gone to that ivory tower or to that attic or garret, I would have missed on the very same morning Ernest Hemingway's attack on me in *Esquire* and Mike Gold's swat at me in the *Daily Worker*. Perhaps it isn't quite fair to refer to Michael's comment as a swat. It is rather in the nature of a southpaw compliment.

Mr. Gold says that Broun's economic beliefs are about as close to reality as those of Upton Sinclair and Father Divine, but he does add, "maybe there is some hope for this ex-pal of Texas Guinan and Morris Hilquit." And that's some comfort.

Ernest Hemingway doesn't mention me but I suppose I have a right to bow and blush when anybody writes of "The good gray baggy-pants of the columnists." I learn further that "It is enough to have a big heart, a pretty good head, a charm of personality, and a facility with the typewriter to know how the world is run and who is making the assists, the put-outs and the errors and who are merely the players and who the owners. Our favorite never will know because he stayed too late and because he can not think clearly with his head."

Then I discovered that Mr. Hemingway, who lives way off in Cuba, thinks I'm a Communist.

I don't figure now that I'm going to get to the top of my tower or ever see the other side of the moon. It can't be done with a two weeks' vacation.

Bitter grapes grow along the walls of the mansions of the isolated. The towers are too tall and their dwellers can't keep up with the things which happen in the alleys and the side streets. Still sometimes one of the recluses writes a lovely book like "A Farewell to Arms."

I couldn't do that. It isn't that it's too late. I never had it in me. My possessions are a job, a pretty good head, an obligation and a hair shirt.

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Today's Science

BY DAVID DIETZ

LINKING stars are the lighthouses which guide astronomers upon their journeys through the depths of the universe. Stars whose brightness changes in regular cycles—known technically as variable stars—have made possible the major contributions to our present-day understanding of the galaxy.

How variable stars have enabled astronomers to ascertain such things as the diameters and masses of stars as well as their distances from the solar system was explained in a recent address by Dr. T. S. Jacobsen, professor of astronomy at the University of Washington.

Variable stars, Dr. Jacobsen points out, may be divided into two classes, long-period variables which repeat their light changes somewhat irregularly in cycles from fifty to six hundred days, and short-period variables which fluctuate with remarkable precision in cycles of less than fifty days.

These short-period variables must in their turn be divided into two classes, each one of which has its own particular message for astronomers. They are the eclipsing binaries and the Cepheid variables.

As its name indicates, the eclipsing binary's really a double star. Actually neither star varies in light intensity. The change in light occurs when the dimmer of the two components gets in front of the brighter one, eclipsing its light.

EVEN the telescope fails to reveal the eclipsing binary as a double star. The spectroscope, however, gives away the secret, for the binary's spectrum is a double one, containing the lines of both stars.

The spectroscope reveals the temperature and chemical composition of the component stars, their period of rotation of the two stars, and their motion in the line of sight. For this reason, eclipsing binaries are the astronomer's best source for data on stellar masses and densities.

The star concerning which astronomers know more than any other star in the heavens is an eclipsing binary, the bright star Capella. This star has not only been studied with the spectroscope but with the Michelson interferometer at Mt. Wilson. Sir Arthur Eddington made use of this star in working out his theory of the internal constitution of stars.

The Cepheid variables are true variable stars, individual stars which grow brighter and then dimmer.

THE Cepheid variables get their names from the fact that the typical ones first studied were in the constellation of Cepheus. It was the study of stars of this type in the Magellanic Cloud which led to the discovery of the most important fact about them. This was the so-called period-luminosity curve formulated by Dr. Harlow Shapley, the director of the Harvard Observatory.

This discovery was that there was an unfauling relationship between length of the period of variation and the absolute or real brightness of the star. The Cepheids of longest period are, on the average, fifty times as bright as those of shortest period, and 20,000 times brighter than our own sun.

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THE NEW DEAL AND THE JONESES

PWA Money Is Well Spent, Young John Informs His Father

The mysteries which shroud the New Deal for the average man and woman are cleared a little further in this article, fourth of the series in which the Joneses, typical American family, talk the whole matter over in the simple language that everyone can understand. They get a new insight into every phase of the recovery program as they discuss it at the supper table and in the living room.

BY WILLIS THORNTON CHAPTER FOUR

"I SEE they're going to dedicate the new postoffice next week," commented Pa Jones, running down the headlines in the evening paper. "You know, all through this last year I believe that was about the only building job in town."

"I don't know what bricklayers and the other building trades workers would have done in this town if it hadn't been for that."

"We needed a new postoffice, anyway," chimed in John Jr. "That old relic we had dated back to the Civil war, and it looked it. And over at McKinley that new waterworks is certainly going to be a help."

"That's one thing about the PWA—you get something, at least, for your money."

"Are those both public works administration jobs?" asked Pa.

"Yes, sir," responded John Jr., "part of the public works program that's now right at its height, with more than 500,000 working directly on its jobs. Secretary Ikes thinks there are two or more people at work supplying materials for these jobs for every man directly working on them, and that pretty near 2,000,000 men are working because of PWA."

"So you can quibble all you want to about the absolute necessity of some of the jobs—I'd hate to think where we'd be right now without 'em."

The public works administration is the practical working out of the idea that when private capital is not spending and building, then is the time for the government to do it. This keeps people able to buy things when they otherwise couldn't, and helps keep all industry going as a result."

THE PWA program began soon after the Roosevelt inauguration, added young John, "and the secretary of interior was placed in charge. It was very slow in moving off, because of Ikes' care in moving out money from the \$3,300,000,000 fund that was placed at his disposal."

Naturally, the pouring out of any such huge fund into public works was bound to bring a swarm of dizzy ideas, such as to dredge Goose Creek for ocean vessels—in short, pork.

"Somebody really suggested building a 1,000-bed hospital in a crossroads town, and somebody else the rearing of a circular tower in the Nebraska prairie so autos could climb to the top and their occupants admire the scenery."

"Out of all these brainstorms, Ikes had the awful job of sifting the same ones. So the start of the program was much delayed, and reaches its peak now only after two years, pouring out near-

ly \$40,000,000 a week from taxpayer to workman."

THE PWA now has decided on the spending of \$3,700,000,000. And here is an idea of where some of the money went: For 1,170 street and highway jobs, about \$540,000,000. For utilities, such as sewer and water systems, about \$260,000,000. For 580 buildings (schools, hospitals, municipal and federal buildings), \$362,000,000. For some 200 reclamation and flood control projects, \$250,000,000. For navigation aids (dams, canals, seaways, light-houses), some \$170,000,000.

The navy got \$238,000,000 for new ships, and the coast guard about \$24,000,000.

The CWA was operated last winter with PWA money at a cost of \$400,000,000, and the CCC has taken so far about \$470,000,000, including some money spent to buy waste land.

The housing division was given \$127,564,000 for slum clearance and low-cost housing. Odd tens of millions went into such things as viaducts, wharves, swimming pools and other recreational equipment, airports and landing fields, plant disease campaigns.

More than half the schools being built today are being financed and reaches its peak now only after two years, pouring out near-



"Secretary Ikes thinks that pretty near 2,000,000 men are working because of PWA."

I ADMIT it's better to spend that all that money and have something to show for it in the form of dams and channels and lighthouses and roads and sewers—and even battleships—than it is just to pass it out for nothing at all," mediated Pa Jones.

"But, Pa," Prated, "we've got four billion dollars is a lot of money to blow inside of two years' time. You can't keep that up forever. You can't even keep it up for more than a few more years!"

"It hadn't ought to be necessary," retorted John Jr. "You've got to assume that sooner or later private industries are going to open up jobs for most of these men. You've got to assume that houses and buildings are going to

need rebuilding and that their owners will replace them by themselves."

"You've got to assume that states will get on their feet and start carrying their own weight."

"No plan will succeed permanently if that doesn't happen. Besides, some of that money's coming back into the treasury."

"How's that?" Pa Jones queried.

"It's spent, isn't it?"

"Certainly. And the money for battleships, and federal postoffices, and the CWA and CCC is just spent. But a lot of the rest was loaned."

"Usually PWA said to a city:

"We'll give you so much outright and loan you so much at 4 per cent if your plan looks sound."

LABOR SITUATION IS PEACEFUL IN INDIANA

Board Director Visits Local Relations Office.

There is no major labor trouble imminent in the district comprised of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. H. L. McCarthy, national labor relations board director for that area, said today.

Mr. McCarthy, who is visiting the local board, is a paradox in appearance, with an unruly shock of black hair and a mild, soft-spoken manner. He aided in the settlement of labor difficulties in the violent labor outbreaks in the model community of Kohler, Wis.

The function of the labor boards is to preserve industrial peace, Mr. McCarthy said. He declared that both labor and industry are learning to bring their problems to the boards set up by the federal government.

SHIP COLLISION PROBED

U. S. Inquiry Opens; 16 Rescued, 4 Killed in Crash.

PORT HURON, Mich., Nov. 22.—Complaints of the freight steamers W. C. Franz and Edward Loomis, resulting in four deaths and the sinking of the Franz was investigated today by the federal steamboat inspection service.

The Loomis docked here last night with the sixteen members of the crew which it rescued after the collision yesterday morning.

It is pointed out here that the thing which saved the Washington of 1912 was the Pacific and Far Eastern conference of 1921 was the Pacific and Far Eastern conference which, in effect, preceded it. Before Britain, America, Japan, France and Italy came to an understanding on battleships, they reached a political agreement purporting at least to safeguard the peace of the Orient.

TODAY, the practical school of

diplomats here, both American and foreign, agree that the whole post-war peace structure is a shambles. Since the political pact signed at Washington has been scrapped, it is only natural that Britain, America and Japan have not made an inch of progress since they began talking naval tonnages weeks ago at London.

Litvinoff himself is held up as

example of the present drift.

A decade ago he startled Geneva

by proposing that every nation

disarm in toto. Today he is at Geneva, side by side with France, upholding the thesis that security must precede disarmament.

The reason is that today Russia fears war with Japan, just as France fears war with Germany.

The Litvinoff demand, therefore,

is considered here as far

from inconsistent or visionary.

On the contrary it is thoroughly

consistent and practical. Until

the principal nations feel a rea-

sonable security against being

drawn into one of the constantly

threatening wars, realists here

consider it a waste of time to talk

of disarmament.

In other words it is held that

the causes of wars must be re-

duced or reduced before abolition

or even any drastic limitation

of the tools of war will have a

chance.

Opinions of Krebs' power as a player vary.

Frank Parent, a substitute quarterback, and Dr. Naismith, who ran the gymnasium class, agree that he individually

beat Nebraska and Mr. Parent recalls him as a

mad giant in the victory over the Missouri team

which also had a ringer, a tackle of enormous size

and strength.