

FRIDAY, OCT. 7, 1949

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It Happened Last Night—

No School For MargaretMother Wants to Drop Tutor
But Child Star Is the Boss

By Earl Wilson

NEW YORK, Oct. 7—Margaret O'Brien and I are in love again.

For a couple of years, I couldn't stand her. Nothing personal? The heck it wasn't personal.

At 9, she'd become a competing columnist and was trying to take the pumpernickel out of my mouth.

It was sort of funny that the very day she became a columnist, her movies became inferior to me, anyway. My, they got bad.

Somebody brought a typewriter to a party they had for Margaret the day before her column started.

She began playing with the new toy and suddenly squealed, "Oh, look, I can write my name."

So, one day after learning to write her name, she became a columnist.

I DIDN'T like it. I was worried about what might happen to Winch and Peg if she put them out of work. Personally, I can always make a living running a gift shop for Joe DiMaggio.

Margaret's mom and aunt wrote the column for a couple of years, then Margaret gave up columning, having written herself out.



The other day I called on her and let her draw my picture. "Margaret isn't up yet," her mother, Gladys O'Brien, said.

Margaret's now at a crossroads.

She's 12 1/2, weighs 90 pounds, and has been tutored to a 7B grade standing in school.

BUT WHAT now? MGM (her employer since she was 4) didn't pick up her option at the end of her seven-year contract.

It had no stories for her, but Margaret won't lack jobs. She's got more work waiting for her than the Republican National Chairman.

Columbia Pictures has tagged her for one movie already, and she's wanted for a stage show, but she says to her mother, "Please, mummy, don't ask me to do a play."

"I tried hard," her mother said, "to talk her into going to school for two years but she said no."

"She's very happy taking three hours a day with her tutor on the patio at home."

MARGARET, in a red dressing gown, came in, and drew my picture, making me as lean as my B. W. wishes I were.

"Margaret," her mother said, "has made an awful lot of money."

"Her commercial tieups"—gloves, hats, shoes, slips, etc.—"brought her in \$250,000 in the last three years."

"Of course she keeps very little of it in the bracket she's in."

"Margaret has five dolls in there," her mother said. "To her, they're characters and she's playing show. She plays Vivien Leigh by the hour. When she grows up, she wants to fix her eyebrows like Vivien Leigh's."

MARGARET'LL always do good, I predict. When she was four, Lou Irwin, the famous-for-his-enthusiasm Hollywood agent, spotted her.

"I'll take her to a studio and get her a contract this very day," he promised.

Off they went to MGM studio. Though Irwin later got her her first job there, this particular day they were busy and couldn't see her.

As they left the studio, Margaret, only four, remember, stared up at Lou's kiss, and demanded, "Where's the contract?"

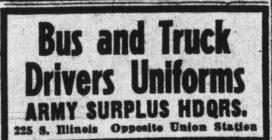
Margaret's been the boss ever since.

The Midnight Earl

OUR TOWN: Quentin Reynolds and Moss Hart are discussing writing a play. Shelly Winters was put on a milk diet. Gertrude Lawrence and Gloria Swanson

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**B'way Bulletins**

THE LUCKIEST single gal in town is visiting Hollywood. Blond actress Myrna Dell, ex-G.F. of Jimmy Stewart, whose new steady escort is Joe DiMaggio. (He's the guy who races her motor.) . . . Nick the Greek (real name Dandolos), most spectacular gambler of this era, arrived from L. A. with a bundle to bet on the Dodgers. . . . Our Daily Double: Anatole Litvak and Nancy Oakes, at the Colony . . . Luck of the Irish: Pat O'Brien got paid to come cross country to appear on Milton Merle's TV show, right at World Series time. Lou Walters opens new Alex D'Arcy-Frank Libuse show at the Latin Quarter Sunday. . . . Lauren Bacall is not barred from El Morocco, but she knows somebody who is.

Jack Prince, portly singer at Cafe Society, chants "Old Man River" this way: "He keeps on rolling, and rolling, and rolling—he must have a tough point" . . . A Shakespearean play is the rich man's Ovaltine.

SON APPRECIATED Kitty Kallen at the St. Regis' Masionette . . . The Gagwriter's Institute honored Herb Polesie at a luncheon at Headquarters Restaurant.

WISH I'D SAID THAT: Hot Lips Page speaks of the man who's very big in the garment industry—at least they all say he's a tremendous fabricator.

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THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES**Explorer Faces Trial In Slaying of 2 Friends**

CANTON, China, Oct. 7 (UPI)—Authorities said today Leonard Clark, 42, San Francisco explorer, will be tried on manslaughter charges of killing two friends, if police can gather enough evidence.

Clark is accused in the fatal shooting of Willard Freeman, 41, formerly of Bridgewater, Mass., and Harold Harris, 45, Shanghai-born British subject, after a drinking bout Sept. 8 in Mr. Freeman's home.

He has been held as a material witness.

All 9 Aboard Dead Find Missing C-47

MT. MITCHELL, N. C., Oct. 7 (UPI)—The wreckage of a C-47, plane missing since Wednesday with nine men aboard, was found today near the summit of 6684-foot Mt. Mitchell. There were no survivors.

A search party toiled up the craggy peak, highest east of the Mississippi River, several hours after the mass of tangled wreckage was spotted with field glasses.

Student Can Enter U. S. But His Beard Can't

SEATTLE, Oct. 7 (UPI)—University of Washington student Hal Wales today reported that U. S. immigration officials wouldn't permit him to bring his beard into this country.

Mr. Wales' luxuriant growth, raised during a tour of 11 European countries, caused immigration officials to detain him because they didn't think his bearded face and the one on the passport were the same.

Mr. Wales snipped his way back into America.

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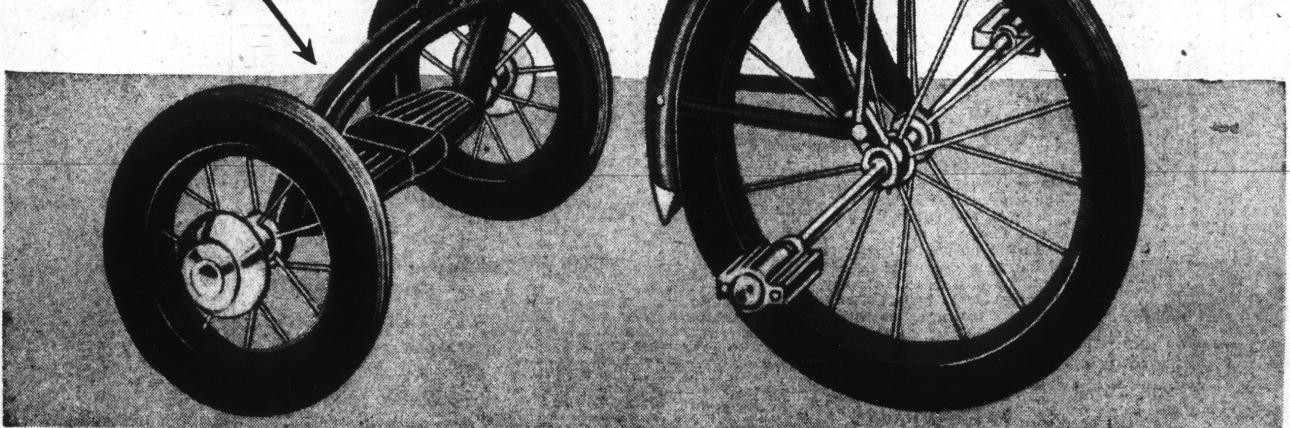
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