

MARCH 25, 1939

Shardon Maple Festival

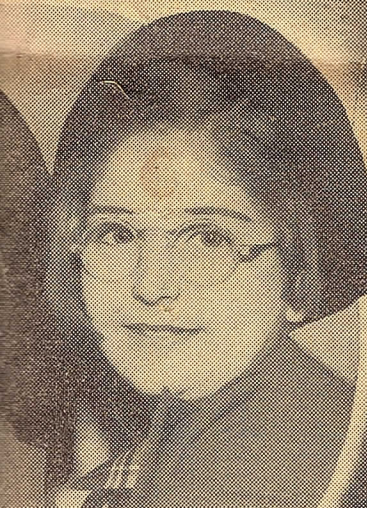
BOAKE CARTER

War in Europe Depends On British



By Boake Carter

Two to 79! Young and old fought it out in the twins contest



Rose Marie Fletcher (left) ... n Fletcher, eight



Oldest and youngest twin ... Jennie P.

BECAUSE Europe is a madhouse of fear, there is no reason why we in the United States should go crazy, too.

Let us not be panicked off into the deep end by the kind of hysteria common to Senator Pittman, of the Senate foreign relations committee, nowadays — whose latest fit is a wild dive to knock down the Neutrality Act. Instead, let us get some basic facts into our heads and then consider their probable implications.

The first all-important thing to remember is that responsible statesmen of the world do not expect the recent events in Europe of themselves will produce a general European war.

IT is to be expected that the average American considers the actual developments startling news. But remember, most responsible statesmen have special sources of information and, privately at least, discount most events long before the public learns about them. The British government learned long ago what Hitler's general trend was to be. Had the government intended to take drastic action, it would have done so long ago.

The French government and people have realized for years that they can take no serious step without British support. This explains the comparative silence of the French government in the last two weeks. The key to the situation is Great Britain. Until Britain turns the key, there will be no drastic steps taken to bar German expansion.

Again, this also explains why those nations who fear Hitler and want him stopped, put responsibility on the British government.

It is, in fact, an open secret in Washington that President Roosevelt has been completely disgusted with British inaction. Which again may explain, in part, Chamberlain's sharpness in his March 17 speech.

FURTHERMORE, this column may record now a confidential incident which tends to show how long ago interested nations in Europe knew of the impending dismemberment of Czecho-Slovakia and discounted it.

Five years ago, Mussolini held a private and personal interview with a distinguished American specialist on in-