PRIORITIES HAVE HIT THE STRIP TEASE BUSINESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 29 (UP)—To that bald headed fellow in the front row, the war may hit home in a way he never believed possible.

Backstage at the nation's burlesque houses, there is consternation. Priorities have hit the strip tease.

Because the government needs the metal, there probably aren't going to be any more zippers for strippers, and perhaps no more hooks and eyes and snaps. And the country's strip queens rely on those items for the quick changes from respectability to nudity.

To Stripper Hinda Wassau, who was one of the earliest professionals at the art of disrobing gracefully and publicly, this may mean a return to slower methods of taking off one's clothes.

"The tease," she said, "may become more important than the strip."

Miss Wassau has exposed herself to backstage drafts and public delight from coast to coast for many years, but, as she points out hurriedly, she started when she was only 15 and she is still a junior in years to many of the other top-notch strippers.

"We'll get along without zippers and snaps," she said. "We can use our heads, too, you know. We'll figure out a substitute. For instance we can use buttons. It doesn't take much longer to unbutton a couple of buttons than it does to unsnap 10 or 12 snaps.

"We'll have to use fewer buttons than we did snaps and that may mean a little more exposure during the early stages of the act—but I guess that won't hurt the show any."

Personally, Miss Wassau wouldn't be seen in a zipper. She's strictly an unsnapper.

"Those zippers sometimes get jammed and then the act is all shot to hell," she said.

There is another possible substitute for zippers and snaps. It is glue. Some of the girls, she pointed out, already use glue. They just paste their costumes together at the proper places and then when the right cue comes along—rip, and the dress, or, if the act has proceeded farther than that, the unmentionable comes right on off.

"But glue is kind of messy and it takes longer to get dressed when you use it," Miss Wassau objected.

The substitute will be found, however, because the show must go on, particularly in wartime.

Miss Wassau—born Catherine Wassauskas to a Lithuanian farmer in Connecticut who has not spoken to her since that day she left home to disrobe for art's sake—firmly believes that burlesque is necessary for the nation's morale.

"Where can a war-torn country find a better escape from all these communiques and worries than in a burlesque theater?" she asked.

There was no answer.

Hood River First To Finish Report On Bond Pledges

PORTLAND, Jan. 29 (AP) — Hood River was the first county in Oregon to complete its report on defense bond purchase pledges, Deputy State Administrator George H. Godfrey said today. The county turned in 2431 pledges for purchase of $176,256 worth of bonds and stamps.

Ninety-three per cent of the income-earning population signed pledges.

Columbia county was the second to report with $376,850 pledged by 5686 persons, 27 per cent of the county's population.

Portland's results were still being tabulated today. In one district, Godfrey reported, 1212 individuals pledged $292,000.

The pledges were obtained in last week's state-wide house-to-house canvass, conducted experimentally in Oregon, to be followed next month by similar canvasses in the other states.

COURTSHIP ODDITY

The girl of Bonda Porjas, in southern India, takes her chosen man into the jungle, where she applies fire to his bare back. If the pain draws a yell from him, he is rejected.

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Contributions Received by Red Cross in War Relief Campaign

The following employes of the Pelican Bay Lumber company contributed at least a half-day's pay each to the Red Cross war relief fund, to make up a total of $1286.74—the contribution which put Klamath over its $10,000 quota. Of this sum, the general plant contributed $909.72 and the woods operation crew, $376.99.

In addition, substantial contributions were made by the Pelican Bay Lumber company and by H. D. Mortenson, president.

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