

THE AMERICAN HOUSE

BY the end of August the summer people had gone, and the season was past for boarders. We still owed the bank \$200. Outwardly my mother showed no discouragement. "We've decided to stay here a little longer," she would say pleasantly when people asked about our plans. But she didn't fool us girls or my father, either.

Early in September he had an idea. "The government is taking bids for the stage line," he said. "There's no reason why someone on this end shouldn't have it." Until now it had been held at the Junction.

The stage carried not only mail, but express and passengers as well. We had a covered double-decked wagon (which we had every reason to believe would hold out until snow), a pung, and two horses that would otherwise be idle now that the summer was over. It meant only buying another pair. The stage line, he said, was a government project, and the checks from the government would be clear profit, my father argued.

My mother offered no opposition. Perhaps she thought it would do no good. Perhaps she was desperate enough to try almost anything.

My father's bid was accepted, and on the very day he got the news, he hired Jay as a driver. Jay had been working in the quarry, but he was equipped for greater things. He was young, ruddy, and substantial. He had bright, joking eyes and a quick, lively speech. Before he had been on the route a week, every man, woman, and child was his friend.

His job wasn't easy. He had to start out at 6 in the morning in order to connect with the 8:40 train. Then he had to change horses, turn back, and get in at noon. He left again at 1, changed horses for a second time, met the 4:15, and headed home. "You could set your clocks by him

when he drove up to the Post Office at 7.

HE made good time, too, considering what happened along the way. There was the mail to sort. People wrote letters in those days, and every family took some kind of paper. Then there were the catalogs—Charles Williams, The National Clock and Suit Company, Sears and Roebuck, Montgomery Ward. And there were the errands. If you couldn't get out to make a purchase, you paid the stage driver 5 cents to make it for you, either in the village or at the Junction. He would get you anything you wanted—needles, pins, buttons, medicine, packages of seed for your garden. Or if you had run out of something, he would match it for you—thread, crocheted cotton, brand. You could even trust Jay to pick things out. A pattern. Dress goods.

He took messages, too—invitations, reminders, greetings. It was easier to tell Jay than to bother to write out a card. It was pleasant, too, for Jay added something to every word he spoke. Not all of the messages were social ones. "Bill Leach wants to know when he should take off his bandage," he might say to my father. Or "Bert Billings can't figure why his burn don't heal." Sometimes the stage came dashing in a good half-hour ahead of schedule to announce a birth that was imminent.

People who had never trusted things to the stage before trusted them to Jay. Sometimes he had more of a load than the wagon could manage, even with ropes to hold it on. An organ might come along the same day as a plow, and there were always perishables to consider—crates of chickens and tubs of mackerel. Half the time something had to be left behind. Jay was smart in handling this problem. A box marked "Millinery Do Not Crush" must be delivered at once. A wash tub

could wait until the end of the week.

PEOPLE always wanted Jay to see what they had bought, and somehow before he was on his way again, a rug was unrolled, a sofa uncrated, or a knitting machine set up. He had carried these machines to almost every house on his route, and women seemed to take it for granted that when they gave any trouble, Jay would repair them. It was a wonder how he managed to keep his schedule.

He couldn't have done it without the help of his passengers. This was something he never had to ask for. It was an honor to help Jay. If you sat in the front seat, you sorted the papers, if you sat in back, you watched to see that the ropes didn't slip, and, if the load was bulky, as likely as not you held a crate of chickens in your lap.

People who had their own teams often preferred to go with Jay. The return trip cost only \$1, and when you drove yourself, you had to stable your horse for the day, they reasoned. Besides, Jay could always show you things you wouldn't otherwise have seen. A flock of bluebirds migrating. A maple beginning to turn. An owl no bigger than your fist right out in the daylight. The red, bushy tail of a fox disappearing into a thicket. A pair of moose eyes through the alders.

The first month Jay carried 38 passengers and 402 pieces of express. That had brought in \$88. The check from the government had been \$90. Of the \$178, \$40 had gone to Jay, \$35 to the stable at the Junction for the board of the horses, and the remaining \$100 toward the horses themselves. Since they had cost \$200, this left us, as far as the stage line was concerned, only \$100 in the red.

My father was delighted. At the end of November we would be breaking even, he said, and from then on we would show clear profit.

"We will be home by Christmas, easy," he promised.

(To Be Continued)

Our Boarding House

With Major Hoople



Boots and Her Buddies



Freckles and His Friends



Red Ryder



Wash Tubbs



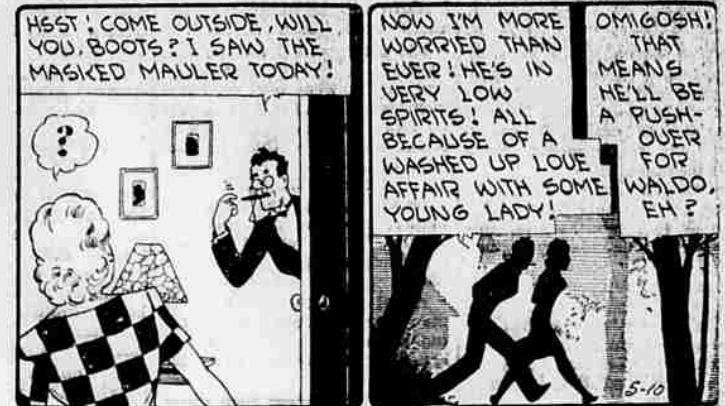
Alley Oop



Out Our Way



By Edgar Martin



Merrill Blosser



Fred Harman



By Leslie Turner



By V. T. Hamlin



By MRS. ANNE CABOT

She is much too cool and comfortable to care what the temperature is! Lucky little girl to have such sensible, practical and pretty play suit. The ric-rac trimmed bolero can be slipped on to prevent too much sun-tanning on a tiny back and shoulders.

To obtain complete pattern, cherry applique pattern for pocket, finishing instructions for the sunsuit and bolero (pattern No. 5883) sizes 2, 3, 4 years included,

City News In Brief

Several La Grande Masons will attend a meeting of the Baker Lodge of Perfection, Scottish Rite Masons, tonight in Baker, at which degree work will be conducted.

Official Records

Water turned off, May 7.
W. B. Dobson, 306 Fourth street; Wayne R. Stickney, 2401 Ash street; C. E. O'Neal, 1217 U avenue; H. D. Johnston, 1303 Tenth street; L. Kingsley, 303 Spring street.
Water turned on:
John R. Galbreath, 1604 K avenue; Wayne R. Stickney, 1502 X avenue; Mrs. Ben DeBorde, 608 F avenue; Mrs. L. D. McCoy, 906 G avenue; Mrs. E. R. Quinn, 1703 W avenue; Allen Peters, 2004 O avenue; D. E. Elam, 1217 U avenue; Mrs. Helmer Johnson, 1208 Y avenue; H. D. Johnston, 304 Main street; Donald B. Hough, 2401 Ash street.

LEAVES FAMILY OF 78

FALL RIVER, Mass. (UP)—Mrs. Adeline Monty, who died recently at the age of 100, left 78 descendants, including two sons, two daughters, 29 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, nine great-great-grandchildren, and three great-great-great-grandchildren.

send 15 cents in coin, plus 1 cent postage, your name, address and the pattern number to Anne Cabot, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif.

Pretty and Cool



8857 1442

By SUE BURNETT

So cool for summer—and so easy to make, you'll want to run up several of these pretty house dresses. This week's ABC special.

Pattern No. 8857 is designed for sizes 14, 16, 18, 20; 40 and 42. Size 16, requires 3 yards of 35 or 39-inch material; ric-rac for trimming, 3 yards.

For this pattern, send 20 cents, in coin, your name, address, size desired, and the pattern number to Sue Burnett, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif.

Ready now—the spring issue of Fashion, Just 15 cents. A complete guide in planning wardrobe needs for all the family.

MEAT TAX NETS 2½ MILLION

BOSTON (UP)—Massachusetts' meat tax will net the state \$2,600,000 during the current fiscal year, according to an estimate by State Tax Commissioner Henry F. Long. This is a 3 per cent tax on all meats costing more than \$1.

Hold Everything



U. S. Ambassador

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| HORIZONTAL | 32 Silkworm |
| 17 Pictured U | 54 Symbol for S. ambassador |
| to China. | 55 Traps |
| Maj.-Gen. | 56 He formerly served as President Roosevelt's |
| | envoy to Chungking |
| VERTICAL | 11 Asiatic country |
| 12 Alleged force | 37 Coal residue (pl.) |
| 13 Norse god | 39 Asiatic kingdom |
| 14 Peer Gyn's mother | 41 British account money (pl.) |
| 15 French article | 42 Father |
| 16 Rodent | 43 War god |
| 18 Without end | 44 Musical instrument |
| 20 Aggregate | 47 Malt drink |
| 21 Heroic | 48 Bird |
| 23 Lampreys | 51 Either |
| 24 Be carried | 53 Symbol for |
| 25 Leather strip | 54 |
| 27 Alluring | |
| 28 Caterpillar hair | |
| 29 Minked | |
| 30 Court (ab.) | |
| 31 Symbol for germanium | |
| 32 Pain | |
| 34 Son of Seth (Bib.) | |
| (?) Land measure (pl.) | |
| 36 Type of fortification | |
| 40 Heavenly body | |
| 41 Fish | |
| 42 Lady | |
| 43 He | |
| 47 Biblical mountain | |
| 48 Race course circuit | |
| 50 Daybreak | |
| (atom's force) | |
| 51 Palm tree | |

Answer to Previous Puzzle

