Salem Market Quotations

FRUITS
(Buying Prices)

(The prices below supplied by a local grocer are indicative of the daily market prices paid to growers by Salem buyers but are not guaranteed by The Statesman.

Apples—extra fcy Delicious	$1 35
fcy. Winesaps, $1 05; orchard run Romes, 75c; orch. run Delicious	
Bananas, lb., on stalk	.06
Hands	.06½
Grapefruit, Calif., Sunkist, crate	2 00
Dates, fresh, lb	.14
Lemons, crate	5 50 to 6.50
Oranges, crate	2 65 to 3.15

VEGETABLES
(Buying Prices)

Asparagus, Calif., lb.	.13
Beets, doz	.50
Cabbage, lb.	.03
Calif., new crop	.03
Carrots, Calif., crate	2.50
Cauliflower, local, No. 1	1 25
Celery, Utah, crate	2.50
Lettuce	.75
String beans, Calif., lb.	.14
Broccoli, doz.	1.30
Hearts, doz	1 25
Lettuce, Calif	6 00
Onion sets, lb.	.03
Onions, No. 1, cwt.	2.50
Boiling, 10 lb., No. 1	.20
Radishes, doz	.40
Peppers, green, Calif	.15
Parsley	.40
Parsnips, lb	.07
Green Peas, hamper	3.75
New potatoes, 50 lbs.	1.75
Potatoes, local, No 1, cwt.	.85
No 2, cwt., bag	.50
Rhubarb, lb.	.02½
Rutabagas, lb	.01½
Spinach, local	.90
Hubbard Squash, lb	.01
Turnips, doz	.35

NUTS

Walnuts 1937, lb.	.10 to .16
Filberts, 1937 crop lb.	.12 to .15

HOPS
(Buying Price)

Clusters 1936, lb. top	.12 to .15
Fuggles, top	nominal

WOOL AND MOHAIR
(Buying Price)

Wool, medium, lb.	.18
Coarse and fine, lb.	.16
Mohair, lb.	.15

EGGS AND POULTRY
(Buying Price of Andresens)

Large extras	.16
Medium extras	.15
Large standards	.15
Medium standards	.13
Pullets	.10
Heavy hens, lb.	.16
Colored medium, lb.	.15
White Leghorns, lb. No. 1	.12
White Leghorns, lb. No. 2	.10
White Leghorns, frys	.15
Stags, lb.	.05
Old roosters, lb.	.04
Colored springs	.18

MARION CREAMERY Buying Prices

Butterfat, A grade	.24½
Butterfat, B grade	.23½
Colored hens, under 4½ lbs.	.15
Colored hens, over 4½ lbs.	.15
Leghorn hens, light	.08
Leghorn hens, heavy	.11
Colored fryers	.16
Leghorn broilers	.16
Roosters	.05
Rejects	market value
Stags	.06
No 2 grades, 5 cents less.	
Large specials	.18
Large extras	.16
Medium extras	.15
Large standards	.15
Undergrades	.12
Pullets	.12

LIVESTOCK
(Based on conditions and sales reported up to 4 p.m.)

Spring lambs, lb.	.07
Lambs, lb.	.05 to .05½
Yearlings, lb.	.04
Ewes, lb.	3.00 to 3.50
Hogs, top, 150-210 lbs.	8.00 to 8.10
130-150 lbs.	7.25 to 7.75
210-300 lbs.	7.00 to 7.50
Sows	6.00
Dairy type cows	4.00 to 5.50
Beef cows	5.50 to 6.50
Bulls	5.00 to 6.00
Heifers	5.50 to 6.50
Top veal, lb.	8.50 to 9.00
Dressed veal, lb.	.13

GRAIN, HAY AND SEEDS

Wheat, white, bu.	.75
Wheat, western red, bu.	.75

Grade B raw 4 per cent milk, Salem basic pool price $2.22 per hundred. Surplus $1.36.

Co-op Grade A butterfat price, FOB Salem, 24½.
(Milk based on semi monthly butterfat average.)
Distributor price, $2.34.
A grade butterfat — Delivered, 24½; B grade 23½c; C grade 18½.
A grade print, 28c; B grade, 27c.

Barley, brewing, ton	nominal
Barley, feed, ton	25.00
Oats, gray, ton	26.00
Oats, white, ton	23 00
Alfalfa, valley, ton	16 00
Oat and vetch hay, ton	12 00
Clover hay, top	12 00
Alsike Clover Seed, lb.	.24
Red Clover Seed, lb., top	.25

Gardeners' and Ranchers' Mart

PORTLAND, Ore., April 20 —(AP)—Apples—Oregon Newtowns extra fancy, 1.35 1.50; fancy, 1.15 1.25; Delicious, extra fancy, unquoted; Washington Delicious, extra fancy, 1.50-1.75, fancy 90-1.10; Romes, extra fancy large, 1.25-1 50; fancy, .85 1.00; Winesaps, extra fancy, 1.10-1.20; fancy, .90 1.00; loose, 60-80; choice .75 80.

Artichokes — California, 4 6 dozen, $3.00-3.25.

Asparagus—California, pyramid crates, loose, medium to large $1 65-1.75; poorer unquoted; Wash., Binger, 12 and 20 lb. boxes, 7-9c lb.; Oregon, Irrigon, 7-8c.

Avocados—California, Fuerte, fancy, $2.45-3.00.

Bananas—Per bunch, 5¾ 6c.

Beans—Florida, $2.25-2.50 per hamper.

Cabbage—90 100 pound crates: Local ball head, old crates, .90 $1.00, poorer low as 75c; new crates, trimmed, $1.25-1.50; red cabbage, 3 3½c.

Cauliflower, crates: Roseburg No. 1, $1.25-1.35— Calif., No. 1, $1.40-1.50.

Celery—Calif., hearts, $1.25-1.40 per dozen; heart material $1.50 1.75 per crate; California, Utah type, $2-2.25; few best high as $2.35; white $2.25-2.50.

Grapefruit—48 100's, Arizona fancy, $2.00 2.10, choice, $1.65-1.75; Texas, marsh seedless, $3.75 3.50; pink, $4.00-4.25; Florida, $3.75 4.00.

Lemons—Fancy, all sizes, $4.75-5; 90 $4.25-4.50.

Oranges—California, navels, fancy, all sizes, $3.00 3.10; choice, $2.50-2.75.

Cucumbers — Hothouse, per dozen, fancy, 90c-$1; extra fancy, $1-1.13; 3½-4 doz., $2.25 2.50.

Lettuce—Calif., 5 doz., $5-5.25.

Onions—Oregon, yellows, U. S. No. 1 50-pound sacks medium, $1 50 1.60; 10 pound sacks, 27 30c; No. 2, 50 pound sacks, 50 75c; commercial, 50 pound sacks, 90c $1 00; boilers, 10 pound sacks, 15 17c; poorer low as 10c; onion sets, yellow, 2 3c pound; Yakima 50 pound sacks, large, $1 65 1.85.

Peas—30 lb. $2.25-2.75.

Potatoes—Oregon, local sacked per hundredweight, long whites, U. S. No. 1, 80 90c; 50 pound sacks, U. S. No. 2, 25-30c. Deschutes sacked per hundredweight, russets U. S. No. 1, $1.20-1.30; 25 lb. sacks, 35-40c; 50 lb. sacks, U. S. No. 2, 35-40c; Bakers, No. 1, $1.50-1.65, Yakima russets, $1.25-1.35.

Rhubarb—Field grown, 30-35c; apple boxes, 60-65c.

Strawberries—24s, $3.25.

Sweet potatoes—California, 50 pound crates, $2.35; Louisiana yams, $2.10-2.25.

Spinach—Washington, unquoted; Oregon, 75 85c.

Squash—Hubbard, 2 2½c lb.; Zucchini, lug, $2 50 2 75; summer and crookneck, 9 10c.

Tomatoes—Florida, repack, $2.50 2.75.

Bunched vegetables—Oregon, per doz. bunches; green onions, 25-30c; parsley, 30-35c; radishes, new, 35-40c; mustard greens, 25-30c; leeks, 25 30c; California: Beets, $2.25 2.35, 60c dozen; broccoli, $2 00-2 25 crate; carrots, $2.25-2.65 crate; poorer, low as 50c; 50-55c per dozen.

Root Vegetables—Sacked, carrots, $1-1.25, lugs 35 40c; beets, $1 15 1.25, lugs 30 35c; rutabagas, $1.25-1.50 per hundredweight, lugs 45 50c; turnips, $1.00-1 25 per hundredweight, 30 35c lug; turnips, $1.00 1.25 per hundredweight, 30 35c lug; parsnips, 45 50c lug, sacks $1.35-1.50; horseradish root, 25c per pound.

Air Stocks Enjoy Boom

Report of Probable Order From British Hoists Aviation Group

NEW YORK, April 20—(AP)—A boom in aircraft shares in the stock market today helped check a flight of other groups to lower levels.

Spotlighted by reports a British commission was en route to the United States to inspect airplane manufacturing facilities, perhaps with an eye to placing orders for England's rearmament needs, the aviation group had the speculative stage pretty much to itself in demonstrating climbing prowess.

Car Report Encouraging

Preliminary car loading reports indicated a gain in traffic last week but trade news as a whole failed to offer bullish incentive to supplement the revival of inflationary sentiment which had motivated recent rallies.

Transactions increased to 777,540 shares from 571,680 yesterday. The Associated Press composite price of 60 stocks dipped .4 to 39, the third consecutive decline.

Results Thrips Control Will Be Shown on Friday

There will be a result demonstration on the control of prune thrips on Friday, April 22, announces Robert L. Rieder, assistant county agent. The demonstration is set for 10 a.m. at the Louis Lachmund prune orchard, five miles north of Salem in Keizer bottom.

The purpose of this meeting will be to demonstrate to growers the value of spraying to control prune thrips.

The county agent's office, in co-operation with the Oregon experiment station, has sprayed several plots of severely infested trees at the Lachmund orchard and some of the plots were left unsprayed.

Anyone who is as yet unconvinced that thrips cause damage should see these plots, says Rieder. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Quotations at Portland

PRODUCE EXCHANGE

PORTLAND, Ore., April 20 —(AP)—Produce exchange:

Butter — Extras 25; large standards 24½; prime firsts 24; firsts 23½; butterfat 25 25½.

Eggs—Large extras 19c; large standards 18c; medium extras 18c; medium standards 17c.

Cheese—Triplets 13½, loaf 14½.

Portland Grain

PORTLAND, Ore., April 20 —(AP)—Grain:

Wheat	Open	High	Low	Close
May	79	79½	79	79½
July	76	76½	76	76½
Sept	76½	77	76½	77

Cash grain: Oats No. 2-38 lb. white 25.50; No. 2-38 lb. gray 25.50.

Barley No. 2-45 lb. BW 28.00.

Corn No. 2-EY shipment 28.75.

Millrun standard, unquoted.

Cash wheat (bid): Soft white 80½; western white 80½; western red 79.

Hard red winter ordinary 79; 11 per cent 82½; 12 per cent 84½; 13 per cent 88½; 14 per cent 92½.

Hard red spring ordinary 79; 11 per cent 80; 12 per cent 83; 13 per cent 87; 14 per cent 91.

Hard white-Baart ordinary 81; 11 per cent 81½; 12 per cent 82½; 13 per cent 84; 14 per cent 85.

Today's car receipts: Wheat 47; flour 9; corn 1; hay 2; millfeed 5.

Portland Livestock

PORTLAND, Ore., April 20 —(AP)—(US Dept. Agr.)—Hogs: Receipts 600 including 302 direct; market active strong to 10 higher; good-choice 165-210 lb. driveins 8.25-35; 1 lot up to 8.50; carload lots quotable to 8.50 or above; few 220-70 lb. 7.75-8.00; light lights mostly 7.75; packing sows 6.50-75; choice feeder pigs quotable up to 8.00.

Cattle: Receipts 250 including 89 direct; calves 50 including 18 direct; market active fully steady; scattered lots fed steers 7.50-8.50; common 6.50-7.00; common-medium heifers 5.50-7.25; cutters down 4.50; low cutter and cutter cows 4.00 5.00; shelly kinds down 3.50 and under; common-medium 5.25-75; outstanding Holsteins up 6.25; good beef 6.25-7.00; bulls mostly 5.75-6.50; good beef up 6.75; common-medium 325-75 lb. calves 5.00-6.50.

Sheep: Receipts 150; market about steady; good head good spring lambs up 8.00; demand limited; few medium-good wooled lambs 6.50; shorn 6.25; odd yearling 5.00; good slaughter ewes 4.25-50; common down 2.00.

Portland Produce

PORTLAND, Ore., April 20 —(AP)—Country meats—Selling price to retailers: Country killed hogs, best butcher under 160 lbs., 11-11½c lb.; vealers, 14½-15c lb.; light and thin, 9-12c lb.; heavy 10c lb.; bulls 10c lb.; canner cows, 8-9c lb.; cutter cows, 9-10c lb.; spring lambs, 16-18c lb.; old lambs, 13-14c lb.; ewes, 6-9c lb.

Live Poultry—Buying prices: Leghorn broilers, 1¼-1¾ lbs., 15-16c lb.; 2½ lbs., 15-16c lb.; colored springs, 2 to 3½ lbs. 17-18c lb.; over 3½ lbs., 18-19c lb.; Leghorn hens, over 3½ lbs., 14-15c lb.; under 3½ lbs., 12 13c lb.; colored hens to 5 lbs., 18 19c lb.; over 5 lbs., 18-19c lb.; No. 2 grade, 2c lb. less.

Turkeys—Buying price, breeder hens, 20c lb.; selling price, 22 24c.

Hops—Nominal, 1937, 15c lb.

Mohair—Nominal, 1938, 15c lb.

Sugar—Berry or fruits, 100s, $5.05; bales, $5.20; beet, $4.95.

Cascara bark—Buying price, 1937 peel, 6c lb.

Domestic Flour—Selling price, city delivery, 1 to 25 bbl. lots: Family patents, 49s, $6.05-6.65; bakers' hard wheat, net, $5.15-6.40; bakers' bluestem, $4.85-5.20; blended hard wheat, $4.95 5.45; soft wheat flours, $4.75-4.85; graham, 49s, $4.95; whole wheat, 49s, $5.55.

Onions—Dry $3.00 3.30.

Wool—1937 nominal: Willamette valley, medium, 17c lb.; coarse and braids, 15c lb.; eastern Oregon, 16-18c lb.

Hay—Selling price to retailers: Alfalfa, No. 1, $18-18.50 ton; oat vetch, $14 ton; clover, $12 ton; timothy, eastern Oregon, (—) ton; do valley, $15 ton Portland.

Turkeys—Buying price: Hens, 24c lb.; No. 1 toms, 22c lb. Selling price: Toms 24c lb; hens 26c lb.

Potatoes—Yakima Gems, 2s, 70c; local, 60-70c cental; central Oregon, $1.25 cental; new Texas, $1.60.

Wool in Boston

BOSTON, April 20—(AP)—(US Dept. Agr.)—Numerous inquiries were being received in the Boston market for fleece wool and a few sales were being closed today. The volume of sales, however, was not large.

Bright graded ¼ blood and graded ⅜ blood fleeces of the old clip have moved at 26 to 27 cents, in the grease, for each grade. Country packed mixed grade lots of ⅜ and ¼ blood average bright fleeces have been sold through Boston houses around 25 cents, in the grease, delivered east.

Stocks & Bonds

April 19
STOCK AVERAGES
(Compiled by the Associated Press)

	20 Indus	20 Rails	15 Util	60 Stocks
Today	57.2	13.8	28.6	39.0
Prev. day	57.9	13.9	28.7	39.4
Month ago	57.0	13.8	28.1	38.8
Year ago	96.8	47.2	46.0	71.6
1938 high	68.2	21.6	34.9	47.9
1938 low	49.2	12.1	24.9	33.7
1937 high	101.6	49.5	54.0	75.3
1937 low	57.7	19.0	31.6	41.7

BOND AVERAGES

	20 Rails	10 Indus	10 Util	10 Frgn
Today	51.0	96.3	88.2	62.2
Prev. day	51.6	95.7	88.3	62.1
Month ago	54.5	94.0	89.8	63.3
Year ago	94.2	102.9	99.8	71.9
1938 high	70.5	98.0	92.2	67.3
1938 low	49.7	93.0	85.8	61.6
1937 high	99.0	104.4	102.8	74.7
1937 low	70.3	95.5	90.3	64.2

Initiate new Member

AMITY — The Post Noble Grands club of Industry Rebekah lodge of Amity, meeting Saturday, initiated Mrs. Binnie Broadwell of Newberg, a past noble grand of Industry lodge.

Hunt Bros. Will Curtail '38 Pack

Heavy Holdover, Same as in Rest of Industry, Is Chief Reason

Hunt Brothers' Packing company will materially curtail its 1938 packing operations, according to statement of G H. Bradt, president, released in San Francisco and appearing in the coast edition of the Wall Street Journal.

Reasons for the 1938 reduction in pack are the result of heavy inventories of 1937 canned fruits and vegetables, together with restricted sales of wholesale buyers and 30 per cent wage increases in 1937 over 1936.

Closing inventories were heavy, not only in this company but in the entire industry. The Hunt Bros., inventory at February 28, 1938, is reported at $2,106,306 compared with or nearly double the $1,110,725 a year earlier.

An independently audited report of Hunt Bros. Packing company for the year ended February 28, 1938, shows net loss of $50,044 after all charges, including depreciation, interest and $108,000 write-down in year-end investory values, compared with a net profit of $80,762 a year earlier. Bank loans were about twice as large last February 28 as on the same day in 1937.

Italy Crop Loss Ups Wheat Here

CHICAGO, April 20—(AP)—Suggestions of crop failure in Italy, together with notable revival of North American export business, served to make Chicago wheat prices average moderately higher today.

Late estimates were more than 1,000,000 bushels of wheat, chiefly from the United States, had been bought for shipment to Europe. An equal amount of corn was also reported as taken to go abroad.

At the close, Chicago wheat futures were unchanged to ¾ up compared with yesterday's finish, May 84-84¼, July 82¼-⅜; corn unchanged to ⅛ lower, May 59¾, July 61½.

Closing Quotations

NEW YORK, April 20—(AP)—Today's closing quotations:

Air Reduc	45	Consol Oil	8⅝	Penn RR	16
Al Chem & Dye	141	Corn Prod	62¾	Phillips Pet	34½
Allied stores	6¼	Curt Wright	5	Pressed Stl Car	7
Am Can	83¼	Douglas Aircrft	43⅜	Pub Serv NJ	27
Am & For Pow	3¼	Du Pont	102⅛	Pullman	27
Am Pow & Lt	4⅝	Elec Auto Lt	16⅛	Radio	6
Am Rad & St	12	Elec Pow & Lt	8	Rem Rand	11⅞
Am Roll Mills	17⅛	Erie RR	2⅝	Rep Stl	14¼
Am Smelt & Rf	37½	Gen Elec	33⅞	Sears Roe	57⅝
A T & T	126¾	Gen Foods	26¾	Shell Union	14
Am Tob B	69	Gen Mot	32½	So Cal Ed	20½
Am Wat Wks	7⅝	Goodyear Tires	19½	Southern Pac	10⅞
Anaconda	28⅝	Gr No Ry Pf	15	Stan Brands	7¾
Armour Ill	4⅞	Hudson Mot	6¾	St Oil Cal	29⅞
Atchison	26½	Illinois Cent	7¾	St Oil NJ	47¾
Balt & Ohio	5⅝	Insp Copper	11¾	Studebaker	5⅛
Barnsdall	13⅞	Int Harvest	59¼	Sup Oil	2½
Bendix Avia	11⅞	Int Nick Can	46⅞	Texas Corp	38½
Beth Steel	48⅝	Int Pap & P Pf	26¾	Timk Det Axl (unqtd)	
Boeing	28¼	I T & T	8	TransAmerica	10
Budd Mfg	4⅝	Johns Manv	66	Union Carb	66½
Calif Pack	19⅞	Kennecott	33¾	Union Pac	60½
Callahan Z-L	1½	Lib O Ford	29⅜	Unit Airlines	7⅛
Calumet Hec	7⅝	Lig Myers B	93¾	Unit Aircraft	27¼
Canadian Pac	6⅝	Loew's	40½	Unit Corp	2⅝
Case (J.I.)	73⅞	Monty Ward	32¾	Unit Gas Imp	9⅝
Caterpil Tract	41½	Nash Kelvinator	8½	US Rubber	26⅝
Celanese	13¾	Nat Bisc	19⅛	US Steel	46
Certain-Teed	6½	Nat Distill	19¾	Walworth	6¾
Ches & Ohio	26½	Nat Pow & Lt	6	West Union	23
Chrysler	45⅛	NY Cent	12¼	White Motor	8½
Col Gas & Elec	5½	North Am	16⅝	Woolworth	42
Coml Solv	7⅝	Northern Pac	7¾	(Curb)	
Comwlth & Sou	1¼	Packard	4¼	Cities Serv	1¼
Con Edis	19½	J C Penney	62¾	Elec Bond & Sh	6½

Dried Prune Deal Reported Pending

Possibility of cleaning up the dried prune holdover to pave the way for stabilization of the dried fruit market was reported yesterday when dried prune packers and members of the Northwest Dried Fruit association were in conference in Portland with G. A. Nahstall of the AAA in an attempt to put over a deal to clean up the dried prune stocks.

About 700 tons of old stocks are still held by growers, it is estimated.

Early Spuds Are Planted, 'Louis

ST. LOUIS—Farmers here planted early potatoes last week.

Many are planting more loganberry and boysenberry plants this week.

Alex Manning recently had a little over an acre of gooseberries planted on his farm. The evergreen berry growers have completed training these vines.

Entrants Selected for Music Contest

DALLAS—Students from Dallas high school who will enter the annual music tournament at Forest Grove April 30 have been elected.

Hubert Springsteen will enter the division for boys' medium voice; Miss Mildred Eastman, girls' high voice; Miss Leeanna Severson, girls' medium voice; Miss Mary Margaret Livesay or Miss Viola Hiebert, girls' low voice. The girls' chorus from Dallas high school will also be entered in the tournament.

Bruce Eckman, supervisor of music in the schools here, is directing all of the entries.

"LOVE I DARE NOT"

By ALLENE CURLISS

SYNOPSIS

Alec Graham, 36, is a successful playwright, and Gina Warren, at 31, has matched his success in her own field, portrait painting. Ten years ago, they had been in love, but the demands of their careers had become so pressing that, finally, they had drifted from the idea of marriage into an almost casual friendship. Dining with Barry Bedard, art critic and old friend, Gina confesses to him her regret that she and Alec allowed ambition to become more important than love. Believing that Alec shares her feeling, she resolves to discuss their future with him later that same evening. While Alec is waiting for Gina at her apartment, her 19-year-old cousin arrives from Maine to study dramatics. Though disappointed at finding Gina out, Caroline is thrilled to meet the noted Alec. They talk of the theatre and Alec—interested in Caroline's unusual personality and intelligence—promises to help her. A few days later he places her with a dramatic coach, Rose Martell. One night, not realizing that he is falling in love with Caroline, Alec asks if she is in love with anyone. He is glad, for her career's sake, when she assures him she is not.

CHAPTER VIII

"You're not what, darling?" asked Gina, coming in at this point in the conversation, looking very lovely and festive in a frail black dinner dress.

"Alec," said Caroline, with her quick, wide grin, "has been trying to pry into my love life."

"Has he?" said Gina, and felt that swift, painful stab at her heart that Caroline so innocently and so frequently gave her. Then she said, wondering why, in spite of everything, she liked this child so very much, "And what did he manage to discover about it?"

"That I haven't one," grinned Caroline. "Excuse me, you two, while I get my lipstick and my coat," and she went off blithely and left Gina alone with Alec.

Alec said, "Sit down, darling, and let your elderly dinner date wait. I haven't seen you for days, and it is much more important that we have a few minutes together occasionally than that you be on time for a tiresome engagement."

"But, Alec," protested Gina, urging soft black gloves swiftly over slim, ringless fingers, "it's terribly important for me to persuade him I should go to Pittsburgh next week and do his portrait."

"Good Lord!" Alec looked genuinely distressed. "You wouldn't go tearing off to Pittsburgh, darling? You're only this minute back from Ohio. Damn it, I wish you were going with us tonight."

She looked at him, her heart beating swiftly, and thought, "He really means it . . . he would like me to go with them. I am probably unduly alarmed about his interest in Caroline. It probably isn't what I think it is, at all." She thought then, "Perhaps some time very soon now, I will talk to him about us, after all."

But a week later it looked as if she would leave for Pittsburgh without even seeing Alec again, much less talking to him.

Then he called her up and arranged to take her to dinner and to the train.

They went to a small quiet restaurant and he ordered dinner carefully and then sat looking at her as if among all the people in the world, there was no one he had rather be looking at, at the moment, than her.

Gina meeting his eyes, thought, "Anyone seeing us would think we were lovers . . ." and she found it a little ironical and painful to think how wrong they would be.

She said, "Be nice to Caroline while I'm away, won't you? It's going to be a bit lonely for her alone in the apartment."

"Don't worry, she's working much too hard to be lonely. When she gets through with a day with Rose, I imagine she's ready to crawl into bed and sleep the clock around. By the way, I saw Bernstein today. He was pretty difficult at first, but in the end he promised to look out for something for her after Christmas. Some small walk-on part with a few lines, perhaps."

In spite of herself, Gina felt her breath come faster. She said, forcing herself to speak calmly, "That means that she'll be leaving town, I suppose?" And saying it, she realized how exquisitely relieved she would be to have Caroline out of town for a while, to have Alec once more to herself.

But Alec was frowning. "No, I don't mean stock. I'm talking about a New York production."

Gina's gray eyes flew open incredulously. "But Alec," she protested softly, "do you think that's advisable? I thought—"

"I know," said Alec, "you thought that no one could possibly appear on Broadway until they'd had at least two years in stock."

"Well," said Gina, "do you think it's wise for Caroline to attempt it without having any experience at all?"

"Do you think," asked Alec impatiently, "that I would suggest it, if I thought it wasn't?"

"No, of course not. All the same—"

"I know. It isn't done. Two years in stock. At least one season with a summer theatre. The old Broadway formula. But this time we're going to break the formula. Create a new one. And if I tell Bernstein to find a part for her, he'll damn well have to find one."

"There's no doubt about that." That half smile on Gina's mouth and in her eyes. That smile that was so hard to define.

She knew that the last four of Alec's plays had appeared under Bernstein management and that they had made the producer thousands of dollars. He could afford to risk a dozen unimportant parts in as many plays, rather than risk incurring Alec's displeasure.

So she said now, "You probably know best . . . and it was presumptuous of me to speak as though you didn't."

"For God's sake, darling, don't be humble with me. I can't bear it . . . and don't you know that you can always say anything you like to me?"

Gina's lips quivered again into that sweet, light laugh. "Can I, darling? That is a great comfort to me. But in the meantime, I have to catch a train to Pittsburgh."

Alec said, "Damn Pittsburgh . . ." and felt that old sense of loneliness descend upon him that he always felt when Gina was to be out of town for any length of time.

But he paid their dinner check and later, in the compartment which he insisted upon her having, he put his arms around her neck and kissed her.

It was an old and perfectly natural gesture. For years when either of them had left by train or boat or plane, they had kissed good-by.

But tonight Gina clung to him in her soft tweeds and silver foxes, and to her great horror found herself crying.

Reaching blindly for his handkerchief, she said, "Don't pay any attention to me, Alec. I'm all tired out and coming down with a cold. I'd cry if a cat looked at me. . . ."

He wiped her eyes and said, scowling at her, "When you come back we must arrange a vacation for you. A month at least, without any work at all . . . Bermuda, perhaps, or the South of France. . . ."

"It's funny to think," Gina's laugh was shaky and muffled in the handkerchief, "that we always meant to got to both those places together when we were rich and could afford it and that now we never will—but not because we can't afford it. . . ."

It was a silly speech and clumsily worded, and once it was out she would have given anything not to have said it.

But Alec seemed to find it neither clumsy nor silly. He merely said, "I don't see why you say that we never will. As a matter of fact, I don't see why I couldn't arrange to get away for a month a little later in the year, and there's no reason in the world why we shouldn't take a holiday together if we want to. . . . Work hard in Pittsburgh, darling, and perhaps we can manage it, not the South of France but Bermuda. . . ."

The train was about to pull out and he had to go. He kissed her again and hurried to the platform to wave to her. Her face, pressed against the compartment window, looked young and more beautiful and less tired than it had looked in months.

Or perhaps it was the hat she was wearing, a new and this time becoming one, or the silver fox furs that framed her lovely face so charmingly.

"Anyway," he walked off thinking, "I suppose in a certain quiet way I shall go on loving Gina to the end of my life. . . ."

But he knew now, beyond all doubts, that he would never do anything about it, and he was glad that her dinner engagement with Barry Bedard that afternoon a few weeks ago had prevented him from suggesting to her that perhaps he should.

He thought now that even if he had suggested it nothing, probably, would have come of it. She would doubtless have laughed that sweet, fluid laugh of hers and said, "Don't be an idiot, Alec . . . we were finished with that part of our lives years ago."

(To be continued)

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