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.	
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, Ore., doz.	1.25
Asparagus, Calif., lb.	.07
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
String beans, Calif., lb.	.14
Broccoli, doz.	1.25
Celery hearts, doz.	1.25
Lettuce, Calif.	6.00
Onion sets, lb.	.03
Onions, No. 1, cwt.	2.50
Boiling, 10 lb., No. 1	.20
Green onions, doz.	.25
Radishes, doz.	.25
Peppers, green, Calif.	.12 to .15
Parsley	.40
Parsnips, lb.	.02
Green peas, lb.	.07
New potatoes, 50 lbs.	1.75
Potatoes, local, No. 1, cwt.	.85
No. 2, cwt. bag	.50
Rhubarb, lb.	.02
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, nominal, 1937, lb.	10 to .12½
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	.18
Medium extras	.16
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.	.05
Colored springs	.18

MARION CREAMERY Buying Prices

Butterfat, A grade	.24½
Butterfat, B grade	.23½

Grade B raw 4 per cent milk, Salem basic pool price $2.98 per hundred. Surplus $1.18.

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 23½; C grade 18½.

A grade print, 28c; B grade, 27c.

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	.13
Roosters	.05
Rejects	market value
Stags	.06
No. 2 grades, 5 cents less.	
Large specials	.19
Large extras	.18
Medium extras	.16
Large standards	.16
Undergrade	.13
Pullets	.13

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.	2.50 to 3.00
Hogs, top 150-210 lbs.	7.40 to 7.50
130-150 lbs.	6.65 to 7.15
210-300 lbs.	6.40 to 6.90
Sows	5.50
Dairy type cows	3.50 to 4.50
Beef cows	4.50 to 5.50
Bulls	5.00 to 6.00
Heifers	5.50 to 6.50
Top veal, lb.	7.50
Dressed veal, lb.	.11½

GRAIN, Hay AND SEEDS

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

Stocks & Bonds

May 3
STOCK AVERAGES
Compiled by The Associated Press

	30 Indus.	15 Rails	15 Util.	60 Stocks
Today	56.2	14.0	29.2	38.7
Prev. day	54.8	13.4	28.8	37.8
Month ago	53.8	14.4	28.1	37.4
Year ago	93.1	45.7	44.7	69.1
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	52.8	96.2	88.0	63.2
Prev. day	52.7	96.1	87.8	62.9
Month ago	53.1	93.7	87.1	62.1
Year ago	93.8	103.1	98.9	71.2
1938 high	70.5	98.0	92.2	67.0
1938 low	49.5	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

Walnut Spray Time Is Here

County Agent's Office Has Advice on Control of Blight

Warning that walnut blight is a serious disease which causes large losses each year in many plantings, Assistant County Agent Robert E. Rieder advises that now is the time to begin control measures to insure a good crop at harvest time.

Blight can be reduced by spray applications and now is the time to apply early pre-bloom spray of Bordeaux mixture, with 2-1-50 Bordeaux to be used at this time, Rieder says. This means two pounds of copper sulphate, one pounds of lime to 50 gallons of water and for pre-bloom spray, add a pint of mineral oil per 100 gallons to reduce the amount of foliage injury.

How Disease Works

Walnut blight, a bacterial disease, attacks the leaves, nuts, catkins, buds and shoots of current growth. The disease first appears in the spring on the young leaves as reddish brown spots. On the shoots the disease causes black, slightly depressed lesions which frequently completely girdle them and cause die-back. Buds infected with the blight turn dark brown or black and die.

The blight is most serious, however, on the nuts themselves, where it causes black spots of varying size, states Rieder. A nut that is infected soon after blossoming generally fails to mature as the bacteria almost always gain entrance to the interior where they cause death of the developing kernel and premature dropping of the nut.

Time now in Lowland

It is now time to apply the first or early prebloom spray of Bordeaux on plantings on the valley floor, while a week's difference in development is noted in the hill plantings and spraying should be delayed a few days in the higher elevations, the assistant county agent advises.

Oregon Extension bulletin No. 500 dealing with this disease and other pests of the walnut is available at the county agent's office and will be sent to anyone desiring it.

Brisk Rallies in Wheat Run net Gain to 2 Cents

CHICAGO, May 3—(AP)—Brisk rallies late today ran wheat values up to a net gain of 2 cents after earlier registering a four-year new low price record.

May wheat led the advance, helped by indications that deliveries on May contracts here would be loaded on boats for shipment. Further stimulus came from bulges in securities, and from estimates of North American export business totaling 500,000 bushels, mostly United States.

B. W. Snow, a leading unofficial authority, said the actual winter crop prospect was uncertain over large areas, and that sudden plant collapse would prove easily possible should May and June bring a heated term without more than normal rain.

At the close, Chicago wheat futures were around the day's top level, ½ to 1⅞ above yesterday's finish, May 80⅝-¾, July 78⅝-¾; corn ⅛-⅝ down, May 56¾-⅞, July 78⅝-¾; oats unchanged to ¼ up; rye showing ⅜-1¼ jump, and provisions unchanged to 20 cents advance.

Expect Bumper Crop

PORTLAND, May 3—(AP)—Canada should have a bumper wheat crop this year, S. H. Logan, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, said in an interview while on a visit here.

Quotations at Portland

PRODUCE EXCHANGE
PORTLAND, Ore., May 3 —(AP)—Produce exchange:

Butter—Extras, 25; large standards, 24½; prime firsts, 24; firsts, 23; butterfat, 25-25½.

Eggs—Large extras, 20c; large standards, 19c; medium extras, 19c; medium standards, 18c.

Cheese—Triplets, 13c; loaf, 14c.

Portland Grain

PORTLAND, Ore., May 3 —(AP)—Grain:

Wheat	Open	High	Low	Close
May	75½	76	75½	76
July	73	73½	73	73½
Sept.	73½	74	73½	74

Cash Grain: Oats, No. 2-38 lb. white 26.00; No. 2-38 lb. gray 26.00.

Barley, No. 2-45 lb. BW 28.00.

Corn, No. 2-EY Ship. 28.00.

Cash Wheat (bid): Soft white and western white 76; western red 75.

Hard red winter ordinary 74; 11 per cent 76; 12 per cent 80; 13 per cent 84; 14 per cent 88.

Hard red spring ordinary 74; 11 per cent 75; 12 per cent 80; 13 per cent 84; 14 per cent 88.

Hard white—Baart ordinary 76; 11 per cent 76; 12 per cent 77; 13 per cent 78; 14 per cent 79.

Today's car receipts: Wheat 13; flour 5; corn 1; millfeed 2.

Portland Livestock

PORTLAND, Ore., May 3 —(AP)—(US Dept. Agr.)—Hogs: Receipts 250, market active, mostly steady, good-choice 170-215 lb. driveins 7.75, medium 7.50, carload lots quotable 8.00, few 230-50 lb. butchers 7.25-35, light lights 7.00-25, packing sows 5.50-75, feeder pigs salable 7.25-75.

Cattle: Receipts 100 including 73 direct, calves 15, scattered sales steady, medium-good fed steers salable 7.50-8.25, top Monday 8.50, common steers salable 6.00-7.00, few common-medium heifers 5.50-6.75, good fed heifers salable 8.00, low cutter and cutter cows 3.25-4.25, common-medium salable 4.50-5.50, good beef cows 6.50 and above, bulls salable 5.25-6.00, few good-choice vealers 7.50-8.00.

Sheep: Receipts 200, market active, mostly steady, few good 53-70 lb. spring lambs 8.00, choice salable 8.25 and above, few good 80-85 lb. shorn lambs 6.50-75, 94-100 lb. wooled 6.50-7.00, small lot 139 lb. wooled ewes 4.25, medium shorn ewes 3.00-50.

Portland Produce

PORTLAND, Ore., May 3 —(AP)—Country meats—Selling price to retailers: Country killed hogs, best butcher under 160 lbs., 10-11c lb.; veslers, 12½-13c lb.; light and thin, 8-10c lb.; heavy, 9c lb.; bulls, 10c lb.; canner cows, 8-9c lb.; cutter cows, 9-10c lb.; spring lambs, 15-17c lb.; old lambs, 13-14c lb.; ewes, 4-7c.

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., 13-14c lb.; colored hens to 5 lbs., 19-20c lb.; over 5 lbs., 18-19c lb.; No. 2 grade, 2c lb. less.

Turkeys—Buying price, breeder hens, 20c lb.; selling price, 21-21½c; toms 15-18c lb.

Hops—Nominal, 1937, 11½-12½c lb. Mohair—Nominal, 1938, 15c lb.

Sugar—Berry or fruits, 100, $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 patent, 49s, 5.75-6.35; bakers' hard wheat, net, 5.15-6.40; bakers' blnestem, 4.85-5.20; blended hard wheat 4.95-5.45; soft white flours, 4.75-4.85; graham 49s, 4.75; whole wheat, 49s, 5.35 bbl.

Onions—Dry, $3.00-3.30.

Wool—1937 nominal: Willamette valley, medium, 17c lb.; corase and braids, 15c lb.; eastern Oregon, 17-19½c lb.

Hay—Selling price to retailers: Alfalfa, No. 1, $18-18.50 ton; oat vetch, $14 ton; clover, $13 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, 65c cental; central Oregon, $1.15-1.20 cental; new Texas, 90c-$1.00.

Wool in Boston

BOSTON, May 3—(AP)—(US Dept. Agr.)—Actual business on the Boston wool market was very slow today. A few mills continued to make inquiries for various grades of domestic wools but when they made bids on spot wools the prices offered were mostly so far below quotations that holders would not consider them. Limited quantities of quarter blood, light fleece wools offered from the country were being sold through Boston houses at 25 to 26 cents in the grease, delivered east. Interest in these wools, however, was narrower than a week ago.

207 Confirmed By Archbishop

MT. ANGEL — St. Mary's Catholic church was crowded with people Sunday afternoon to witness the confirmation ceremonies administered by Archbishop Edward D. Howard of Portland. He was assisted by Rev. Robert Keber and Vincent Koppert. Rev. Placidus Fuerst played the organ and St. Mary's choir sang.

The confirmation class numbered 207 people, 25 of whom were adults. The remainder were children from the local schools and from the Sunday school classes. Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Ebner acted as sponsors.

When the archbishop arrived, the band led the march to the church. There the archbishop questioned the class individually on various questions for a brief space and then addressed the assembly on the subject on knowing and defending one's religion. The confirmation followed.

Gardeners' and Ranchers' Mart

PORTLAND, Ore., May 3 —(AP)—(USDA)—Produce changes:

Apples—Oregon Newtowns extra fancy, $1.35-1.50; fancy, $1.15-1.25; Washington Delicious, extra fancy, $1.65-1.85, fancy 85c-$1.00; ones, extra fancy lgs., $1.25-1.50; fancy, 85c-$1.00; Winesaps, extra fancy $1.10-1.20; fancy, 90c-$1.00; loose, 60-80c; choice 75-80c.

Artichokes—Calif., 4-6 doz. $2.85-$3.

Asparagus—Ore., 12 lb. crate, 85-90c; The Dalles, 30 bunch, $2.15-2.25.

Avocados—California, Fuerte, fancy, $3.25-3.55.

Bananas—Per bunch, 5½-6c; hand cut 6¼-6½c.

Beans—Florida, 12-13c per lb.

Cabbage—90-100 lb. crates; local ball head old crates, 90c-$1.00; poorer low as 75c.

Cauliflower — Local, crates, No. 1, $1.15-1.25.

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 $2.50; white, $2.50-2.75, small low as $1.15.

Grapefruit—48 100's, Arizona fancy, $2.00-2.10; choice, $1.65-1.75; Texas, marsh seedless, $3.25-3.50; pink, $4.00-4.25; Florida, $3.75-4.00.

Lemons—Fancy, all sizes, $4.50-5.00; 50c-$1 less for choice goods.

Oranges—California, navels, fancy, all sizes, $2.50-3, choice, $2.15-2.60.

Cucumbers—Hothouse, per doz., standard, 60-70c; choice, 85-90c; fancy 90-$1; 3½-4 doz. $2.25-2.50.

Lettuce—California, 5 doz., $3.50-3.75; 90s, $2.00.

Garlic—Local, 5-6c lb., some low as 3c.

Mushrooms—1 lb., 30-35c.

Onions—Oregon yellows, US No. 1, 50-pound sacks medium to large, $1.25-1.50; 10 lb. sacks, 25-27c; No. 2, 50-lb. sacks, 50-60c; boilers, 10-lb. sacks, 12-15c; poorer low as 10c; onion sets, yellow, 2-3c lb.; Washington Yakima, 50-lb. sacks large, $1.65-1.85; Texas white wax, $3.25-3.50.

Peas—California Pismo, 50-lb. sacks, $2.40.

Potatoes—Oregon local sacked per hundredweight, long whites, US No. 1, 80-90c; 50-lb. sacks, US No. 2, 25-30c; Deschutes, sacked per hundredweight, russets, US No. 1, $1.15-1.25; 25-pound sacks, 30-35c; 50-lb. sacks, US No. 2, 35-40c; Washington sacked russets, per hundredweight, $1.15-1.25. New stock, Texas Bliss Triumphs, US No. 1, 50-lb. sacks, 85c-$1; California, 50-lb. sacks, White Rose, US No. 1, $1.25-1.30; egg size, 85-90c, sacked per hundredweight, $2.25-2.35.

Rhubarb—Apple boxes, 50-55c.

Strawberries—California, flovin 12-basket crates, $1.75.

Sweet potatoes—California, 50-pound crates, $2.35-2.50.

Spinach—Oregon, The Dalles, 70-75c per orange box.

Squash—Banana, 2c lb.; Zucchini, $2.50-2.75.

Tomatoes—Originals $2.50-2.50.

Bunched vegetables—Oregon, per doz. bunches: Beets, 30-35c; green onions, 20-22c; parsley, 25c; radishes, new, 18-20c; mustard greens, unpoeted; leeks, 30-35c; California: Beets, $2.50-3.00; 70-75c dozen; broccoli, $2.50-2.75 crate; 40-50c per dozen; turnips, 40-45c per dozen; carrots, $2.35-2.65 crate.

Root vegetables—Sacked carrots, $1-1.25; lugs, 40-45c; beets, $1.15-1.25; lugs, 40-45c; rutabagas, $1.25-1.50 per hundredweight; lugs, 45-50c; turnips, $1-1.25 per hundredweight; 30-35c lug; parsnips, 50-55c lug; sacks, $1.35-1.50; horseradish root, 25c per pound.

Closing Quotations

NEW YORK, May 3—(AP)—Today's closing quotations:

Air Reduc	43	Consol Oil	8½	Penn RR	15⅝
Al Chem & Dye	142	Corn Prod	62	Phillips Pet	33⅛
Allied Stores	6¼	Curt Wright	4⅞	Pressed Stl Car	7
Am Can	85	Douglas Aircraft	44⅛	Pub Serv NJ	27⅜
Am & For Pow	3¼	Du Pont	99⅜	Pullman	27
Am Pow & Lt	4⅝	Elec Auto Lt	15½	Radio	5⅞
Am Rad & St	11⅞	Elec Pow & Lt	8⅝	Rem Rand	11¼
Am Roll Mills	16¼	Erie RR	(unquoted)	Rep Stl	13⅜
Am Smelt & Rf	36⅝	Gen Elec	32¼	Sears Roe	55¼
A T & T	128½	Gen Foods	26	Shell Union	13
Am Tob B	69½	Gen Mot	30¼	So Cal Ed	21⅛
Am Wat Wks	7⅝	Goodyear Tires	18⅜	Southern Pac	11⅝
Anaconda	27½	Gr No Ry Pf	15⅜	Stan Brands	7¼
Armour Ill	4⅝	Hudson Mot	6¼	St Oil Cal	29
Atchison	27	Illinois Cent	8	St Oil NJ	46⅜
Balt & Ohio	5⅝	Insp Copper	11¼	Studebaker	4⅜
Barnsdall	13½	Int Harvest	57¼	Sup Oil	2⅜
Bendix Avia	10⅞	Int Nick Can	46⅛	Texas Corp	36⅞
Beth Steel	47	Int Pap & PP Pf	27	Timken Det Axl	9⅜
Boeing	26⅜	I T & T	7¾	TransAmerica	9¾
Budd Mfg	4⅛	Johns Manv	65½	Union Carb	65⅛
Calif Pack	20	Kennecott	33	Union Pac	60¾
Callahan Z-L	1½	Lib O Ford	27¾	Unit Airlines	7⅝
Calumet Hec	7¼	Lig Myers B	89½	Unit Aircraft	26⅞
Canadian Pac	6	Loew's	40½	Unit Corp	2½
Case (J.I.)	77	Monty Ward	31⅜	Unit Gas Imp	9⅞
Caterpil Tract	40	Nash Kelvinator	7⅞	US Rubber	26½
Celanese	13¾	Nat Bisc	21⅜	US Steel	44
Certain-Teed	6½	Nat Distill	19¼	Walworth	6¾
Ches & Ohio	27¼	Nat Pow & Lt	6½	West Union	21½
Chrysler	41	NY Cent	12⅛	White Motor	8⅛
Col Gas & Elec	5⅝	North Am	17¼	Woolworth	41¾
Coml Solv	7	Northern Pac	7⅝	(Curb)	
Comwlth & Sou	1¼	Packard	4	Cities Serv New	8⅝
Con Edis	21⅞	J C Penney	61	Elec Bond & Sh	6⅝

Market Picks Recovery Air

Selected Issues Climb One to Four Points but Dealing Slow

NEW YORK, May 3—(AP)—The stock market, for a change, picked the recovery side in today's market and selected issues retrieved 1 to 4 points at the best.

Traders cashed in profits now and then and best marks were reduced in some cases near the close.

Dealings were still on a restricted scale, although much better, comparatively, than yesterday's crawling proceedings. Transfers totaled 472,470 shares against 354,010 the day before. The Associated Press average of 60 issues held an advance of .9 of a point at 38.7.

Theory on Upturn

Market analysts were inclined to attribute the turn-about mainly to recent pronounced drying up of offerings which attracted some speculative forces to the buying contingent on the theory the erasure of about half the upturn from the March lows in the past several days entitled the list to at least a temporary comeback.

Aircrafts, coppers and utilities took over the advancing play after a mixed opening. These subsequently were joined by steels, motors, mail orders, farm implements and specialties.

Late Snow at Falls

SILVERTON, Ore., May 3—(AP)—The latest fall of snow in many years occurred Sunday and Monday at Silver Falls Logging camp when six inches fell.

"LOVE I DARE NOT"

By ALLENE CURLISS

CHAPTER XIX

And dancing with Alec, in a soft, ice-blue chiffon frock, that some time during the last hectic week she had found time to slip out and buy, she thought, "This is what I have always wanted more than anything else . . . I am going to have a career. This is a very little beginning but it is enough. I am going to have a great success." Then she thought, "But if Tommy Gale would come now and dance with me just once, I would give it all up gladly. . . ."

And Alec feeling her tremble in his arms, said, "Are you tired, dearest? Had you rather stop?"

She shook her head. "No, please. I am not in the least tired . . ." and she smiled at him because he loved her and had done so much for her. "Some day," she thought, and was a little shocked at how easily she accepted it, "and when he has asked me a sufficient number of times, I shall marry him. . . ." And she wondered, her eyes moving slowly around the crowded, brilliant room, how many women, in the end, did just that. Married men they liked and respected and wanted to make happy, because somewhere along the way they had lost the one man who could make them happy. . . .

She didn't know. At nineteen it was, she decided, too much to expect her to know. It was one of the things, probably, that you found out later. . . after you had stopped hurting so, after the ache inside of you had become less fierce and persistent.

Barry Bedard, watching Caroline dance with Alec, said to Gina, "You might have told me, my dear, and not let me stumble on it accidentally like this. . ."

She smiled at him. "I supposed you knew, Barry. I thought everyone knew. You can't see them together without seeing how it is."

"Perhaps I just haven't seen them together before." Barry's nice blond face was distressed. "So all that fine advice I gave you last fall wasn't any good after all?"

"It might have been. Only you were a bit late with it, Barry."

"I'm sorry, my dear."

"Don't be I'll be all right."

"I'm not so sure."

"But I shall be, really. Don't I seem all right?"

"Yes. But you would. You're too damn clever, darling, for your own good. You always were."

"Maybe you're right. But I haven't been very clever about Alec, have I?" She could still smile that half humorous little smile that tonight did not quite reach her eyes.

Music swirled and melted around them. Somewhere out there on that crowded dance floor, Alec held Caroline in his arms. Barry leaned forward and touched Gina's hand where it lay quietly on the wall seat beside him. "Can't anything be done, darling? Surely, this won't last?"

She shook her head. "I think it will. It's just the sort of thing that usually does last."

"Is she in love with him?"

"No. But she's very fond of him. And very grateful, of course. Successful marriages have been built on much less than that."

Because there was no answer to this, Barry said, "Why don't you go away for a while? Wouldn't it be easier for you?"

"Probably. But where would I go? It takes so much energy just to think of a place . . . and a reason for going. . . ."

"You have the reason and I'll think of a place. In fact I have one in mind now. I think I can get you on the committee that is going to Paris in June to judge an American exhibition there. How would you like that?"

"I don't know. I'll have to think about it. How soon must you know?"

"Oh, within a month or six weeks. And listen, darling, if I were you, I'd go—"

"Where?" asked Alec, coming back just then with Caroline.

"To Paris. The Henderson Galleries are sending over three Americans to act as judges. I thought Gina might be interested."

"Are you, Gina?"

Alec's eyes, resting on her swiftly, were aware of her acutely for the first time that evening. He saw that she was wearing a black tulle gown that he had never seen before and guessed that the gardenias clinging to her shoulders were Barry's. Looking at her, he realized with a little shock that she was still lovely but that in the years since she had worn his gardenias on her shoulder, something had happened to her face. It still had great beauty, but it was a beauty on which a shadow had been laid, dimming its radiance, dulling it ever so little. He thought, "Gina is growing old. She is no longer quite young. Well, I'm not either. But it doesn't mean the same thing to a man. . . ."

He said again, sitting down beside her, his eyes still on her, "Are you going away, Gina?"

She met his glance reassuringly. When she smiled like that her whole face changed, became gay and familiar. "I don't know. Possibly. But not for months, anyway."

And looking at him, she knew that hard as it would be to stay, it would probably be harder to go away. . . .

Tommy Gale had a good many things figured out by the middle of February, by the time that Caroline was getting good notices on her second play and being seen everywhere with Alec. He figured that from the way things looked, she and Alec would be announcing their engagement by early summer. But he also figured that by that time he would be well out of New York. Ferguson had promised him the first outside job that came along and wherever it was, Tommy knew he'd take it. He hoped it would be China or the Argentines or Addis Ababa. He hoped it would be as far removed as possible from the Island of Manhattan.

In the meantime he was seeing little or nothing of Caroline Hoyt and a great deal of Roxanne Talbot. Sometimes it seemed to him, as January slid forward into February and the winter grew old, that there had never been a time when the end of the day hadn't meant midnight blue and chromium bars, dance music, tall, cold drinks or short, quick ones, and Roxanne. Roxanne in shining metallic frocks and sleek dark furs, slim white hands with polished scarlet nails, the soft, white curve of her breast accented by the only flower she ever wore—a single, pale orchid that a single, clinging embrace must surely crush to death . . . a single, pale orchid that at the end of an evening always lay tenderly shattered with no one caring. Roxanne, who as the winter slid toward spring, became increasingly warm and fragrant and intoxicating to touch, who knew so well when to be softly acquiescent, when to be provocatively remote. Who knew, in short, all the facile woman tricks for making a man forget things he didn't want to remember. . . .

Things like how preciously slim another girl had felt in his arms even in a childish beaver coat, and how young and eager her lips had been, and how soft and hushed her laughter.

By the middle of February Roxanne was being definitely helpful about things like this. She was being sweet. Very understanding. But she was also being very possessive. Too damn possessive. Sometimes this worried Tommy vaguely. Sometimes, usually immediately after he left her, he thought that very soon now he must begin to taper off, to stop seeing so much of her. Because if there were times when this playing at love, at which she was so expert, was exhilarating, there were also times when it was horribly depressing.

But he was still seeing her when Alec telephoned him early in March and asked him if he would do him a favor.

It seemed he was supposed to meet Caroline at a mid-town hotel in less than half an hour and take her to dinner and a Sunday night Benefit. But now Pemberton, his London manager, had turned up unexpectedly on his way to the Coast and was only going to be in town for a few hours.

Alec said, "His plane leaves at midnight, and it's pretty essential that I spend the evening with him."

Tommy said, "Yes, of course. What do you want me to do, beat it over to the Astor and keep your date with Caroline?"

Alec said yes, that was what he had in mind, provided, of course, that Tommy didn't have another engagement.

Tommy said he had a tentative one but nothing he couldn't get out of . . . he said he'd be glad to do it. He said it calmly and matter-of-fact, as if the whole thing were of little or no significance.

He tried to tell himself that meeting Caroline at the Astor and taking her to dinner and the theatre was of no importance to him. That he was simply glad that Roxanne had been tied up with a family dinner party and that he had been free for the evening and able to do Alec a small favor.

He tried to think of spending an evening alone with Caroline Hoyt as doing Alec a small favor.

It didn't work very well. In fact, it didn't work well at all.

(To be continued)

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