Thomsen's Butter Gets Sweepstakes

Peter Reich, Dairy Co-op, Is First on Fresh Competition

CORVALLIS, Feb. 22—(AP)—The best buttermaker in Oregon is a Eugene stylist, Roy J. Thomsen of the Farmers' Creamery, who captured the sweepstakes award of the Oregon Dairy Manufacturers' association at the annual convention today, his second successive victory.

In token of his achievement, Thomsen gained permanent possession of a gold trophy.

Thomsen's combined score in fresh and cold storage contests was 94.11, with William McGhie, of the Farmers' Union creamery of Sheridan trailing closely at 94.00 and Pete Reich of the Dairy Cooperative association, Portland, in third place with 93.56. Reich won the fresh butter championship with a count of 95.00.

Runners-up in the fresh contest included H. R. Dugger, Medoland, Eugene, Thomsen, John W. Zimmerman, Carlton, and P. A. Balls, Corvallis, all scoring 92 or above for the highest average quality ever recorded in the contest.

Imitation Buttermilk

A method of making "imitation buttermilk" which actually has more butter content than the real churned variety was demonstrated by Dr. C. L. Roadhouse, of the University of California.

Winners of the fresh butter contest based on yeast and mold counts and composition besides regular standards were Fred Luscher, Loyd Jackson, both of the Dairy Cooperative association, Portland, Duane Ehres, Farmers' Union, Sheridan, Homer Durrah, Grays River, Wash., and Horace B. Johnson, Carlton.

The association awarded first prize to F. M. Kyte, Eugene Farmers' creamery, in the ice cream making contest.

Improvement in the quality of Oregon butter was shown when only 1 per cent of the 60 samples graded below 90 while more than 20 per cent fell below this figure 10 years ago.

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—All varieties, C grade, per bu.	.60 to .75
Bananas, lb. on stalk	.06
Hands	.06½
Calavos	1.65
Grapefruit, Texas pinks	3.75
Regular	3.00
Dates, fresh, lb.	.14
Lemons, crate	4.50
Oranges, crate	2.25 to 3.50

VEGETABLES
(Buying Prices)

Beets, doz.	.40
Cabbage, doz	.02
Carrots, Calif., crt., 6 doz.	2.75 to 3.15
Cauliflower, Calif.	1.50
Celery, Utah, crate	2.25
Celery Hearts, doz.	1.20
Lettuce Calif	2.00 to 3.00
Onions, boiling, 10 lbs. No. 2	.14
50 lbs.	.80
Green onions, doz	.40
Radishes, doz.	.45
Peppers, green, Calif.	.15
Parsley	.40
Potatoes local cwt	1.50
50 lb bags	.50
Rhubarb, hothouse	.70 to .90
Spinach, Texas, 1.50, Ariz	2.00
Danish doz.	.30
Hubbard, lb.	.01½
Turnips, doz.	.40

NUTS
(Price paid by Independent packing plant to grower)

Walnuts—Franquettes, fancy, 12c; medium, 10c; small 8c; orchard run, 8 to 10c. Walnut meats 25 to 30c lb.

Filberts—Barcelonas, large, 12½c; fancy 11½c; babies, 11c; orchard run 11 to 18c

Filberts—All moved out.

(Co-op Prices to Grower)

Walnuts—Price range, depending upon way nuts run in 14 different grades 11½-12c Duchilly 1 cent higher.

HOPS
(Buying Prices)

Clusters, nominal, 1937, lb.	7 to .08
Clusters, 1938, lb.	19 to .21½
Fuggles, top	.23

WOOL AND MOHAIR
(Buying Prices)

Wool, medium, lb.	.22
Coarse, lb.	.22
Lambs, lb.	.18
Mohair, lb	.23

EGGS AND POULTRY
(Buying Prices of Andresen's)

Large extra	.18
Medium extras	.16
Large standards	.16
Pullets	.12
Colored frys	.15
Colored medium, lb.	.14

Grade B raw 4 per cent milk, Salem basic pool price 2.18.

Co-op. Grade A butterfat price, FOB Salem, 27c.

(Milk based on semi-monthly butterfat average.)

Distributor price, $2.32.

A grade butterfat—Delivered 27c; B grade 26c; C grade 21c.

A grade print, 30c; B grade 29c.

White Leghorns, lb. No. 1	.10
White Leghorns, lb., No. 2	.08
Heavy hens, lb.	.14
Old roosters	.05

LIVESTOCK
(Buying price for No. 1 stock, based on conditions and sales reported up to 4 p. m.)

Lambs, top	8.50
Ewes	3.00 to 4.50
Hogs, tops	8.00
130-150 lbs.	7.50 to 7.75
210-300 lbs.	7.25 to 7.50
Sows	6.00 to 6.50
Beef cows	5.00 to 6.00
Bulls	5.00 to 5.75
Heifers	5.50 to 6.50
Top veal	9.00
Dairy type cows	3.50 to 5.00
Dressed veal, lb. (Midget)	.14
Hogs, top (Midget Market)	8.00

MARION CREAMERY Buying Price

Butterfat, A grade	.27
Leghorn hens, over 3½ lbs.	.12
Leghorn hens, under 3½ lbs.	.10
Roasters, 4 lbs. and over	.13
Fryers	.12
Colored hens, over 5 lbs.	.15
Stags, lb.	.06
Old roosters, lb.	.05

No. 2 hens 3c less; No. 2 springs, 5c less

EGG PRICES

Large extras	.18
Large standards	.16
Medium extras	.16
Medium standards	.11
Undergrades	.11
Pullets	.11

GRAIN, HAY and SEEDS

Wheat, per bushel, No. 1 white, sacked	.65
Red	.65
Oats, grey, ton	28.00
White	25.00
Feed barley, ton	22.00
Clover hay, ton	12.00 to 13.00
Oat and Vetch hay, ton	14.00
Alfalfa, ton	15.00 to 16.00
Alsike Clover, lb.	.09 to .11
Red Clover, lb.	.12½
Egg mash, No. 1 grade 89 lb. bag	1.60
Dairy feed, 80 lb. bag	1.30
Hen scratch feed	1.65
Cracked corn	1.75
Wheat	1.30 to 1.40

Cherry Situation Much Improved

The considerable quantities of distress merchandise, fruits especially, that have been hanging over the eastern markets, are moving much faster, according to brokers in New York, who have been working on the problem for some time, states the February Western Canner and Packer. This trade magazine goes on to say:

"The cherry situation in particular is reported to be much improved. During early January New York State cherries (four plus one grade) were selling at 5 cents in barrels and 5½ cents in cans. Point of significance regarding distress fruits this season is that the packs that have gone begging have been of quality varying from poor to fair. Top grades of nearly all items have brought relatively good returns to those who have waited out their markets.

"On January 1, canners stocks of RSP cherries were 325,757 cases of No. 2s, compared to 351,972 cases a year ago; and 468,783 cases of No. 1s, compared to 544,065 on January 1, 1938.

"National Canners association figures show that shipments for the last half of 1938 were 547,557 cases, No. 2s, and 510,491 cases, No. 10s."

Alfalfa Market Steady As Selling Pressure low

PORTLAND, Feb. 22—(AP)—Steadiness in northwest alfalfa markets in the past week with only small quantities in demand left the situation unchanged, the US department of agriculture said today. Lack of selling pressure offset moderate demand.

Study Club Meets

AMITY—The Amity Study club met Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. W. S. Fuller. Mrs. Howard Stephens gave an interesting lesson on the ancestors and early life of George Washington and Mrs. E. Waddell talked on Lincoln. Mrs. Julia Latimer told of the origin of St. Valentine's day.

The club will meet March 3 at the home of Mrs. Howard Stephens.

Quotations at Portland

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 22.—(AP)—Produce Exchange:

Butter: Extras, 27c; standards 26½c; prime firsts, 26c; firsts, 24c.

Butterfat: 27½-28c.

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

Cheese: Triplets, 13½; loaf, 14½c.

Portland Livestock

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 22.—(AP)—(USDA)—Hogs: Receipts, 300, market generally steady. Range: Barrows and gilts, gd-ch,

140-160 lbs.	7.75@ 8.25
do gd-ch, 160-180 lbs.	8.10@ 8.50
do gd-ch, 180-200 lbs.	8.25@ 8.50
do gd-ch, 200-220 lbs.	8.00@ 8.50
do gd-ch, 220-250 lbs.	7.75@ 8.25
do gd-ch, 250-290 lbs.	7.50@ 8.00
do gd-ch, 290-350 lbs.	7.25@ 8.00
do gd-ch sows, 140-160 lbs	7.50@ 8.50
Packing sows, good, 275-350 lbs.	6.75@ 7.00
do gd, 350-425 lbs.	6.50@ 7.00
do gd, 425-550 lbs.	6.50@ 6.75
do medium, 275-550 lbs.	6.25@ 6.75
Pigs, fdrs and stkrs, gd-ch, 70-140 lbs.	8.00@ 8.50

Cattle: Receipts, 50, calves 15; steady. Price range:

Steers, good 900-1100 lbs.	8.75@ 9.25
do medium, 750-1100 lbs.	7.75@ 9.00
do com (pln) 750-1100 lb	6.50@ 7.75
Heifers, good 750-900 lbs.	8.00@ 8.50
do medium 550 900 lbs.	7.00@ 8.00
do com (pln) 550-900 lbs	5.75@ 7.00
Cows, good, all wts.	6.75@ 7.50
do medium, all wts.	5.50@ 6.75
do com (plain), all wts.	4.50@ 5.50
do low-cut-ent, all wts.	3.50@ 4.50
Bulls (yrigs excld), good (beef), all wts	5.75@ 6.50
do medium, all wts	5.50@ 6.00
do cut-com (pln) all wts	4.50@ 5.50
Vealers, choice, all wts.	10.00@10.50
do good, all wts	9.50@10.00
do medium, all wts	7.00@ 9.50
do cull-com (pln), all wts	5.00@ 7.00
Calves, medium 250-400 lbs	6.00@ 7.50
do com (pln) 250-400 lbs	4.50@ 6.00

Sheep: Receipts, None; steady, price range:

Lambs, gd-ch	$8.00@$8.40
do medium and good	7.25@ 7.75
do common (plain)	6.50@ 7.25
Ewes (shorn) gd-ch	3.75@ 4.50
do common (plain) med.	2.00@ 3.75

Portland Produce

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 22.—(AP)—Country meats—Selling price to retailers: Country killed hogs, best butcher under 160 lbs. 10-11c; vealers 15-15½c lb.; light and thin 10-13c, lb.; heavy 10-10½c lb.; lambs 15½-16c lb.; ewes 8-10c lb.; bulls 10c lb.; cutter cows 6-8½c lb.; canner cows 7-8c lb.

Live Poultry—Buying prices: Leghorn broilers, 1½ to 1½ lbs., 20c lb.; 2½ lbs., 20c lb.; colored springs, 2 to 3½ lbs., 15-16c lb.; over 3½ lbs., 16-18c lb.; Leghorn hens, over 3½ lbs., 15c lb.; under 3½ lbs., 14c lb.; colored hens, to 5 lbs., 18c; over 5 lbs., 18c lb.; No. 2 grade, 5c less.

Turkeys—Selling prices: Dressed, new crop hens 26c lb.; toms, 26c lb. Buying prices: New hens 24c lb.; toms, 24c.

Potatoes—Yakima gems, 1.15 cental; local 1.00-1.10; Deschutes gems, 1.25 cental; Klamath Falls No. 1 Gems, 1.25 1.55; California sweets, 1.80-1.80 for 50-lb. crate; new Calif. Triumph (—); Fla. 2.40.

Onions—Oregon, No. 1, 1.35-1.50 per cental; sets 4½c lb.

Wool—Willamette valley, nomial; medium 22-23 lb.; coarse and braids, 22-23 lb.; lambs and fall 20 lb.; eastern Oregon 20-26½c.

Hay—Selling price to retailers: Alfalfa No. 1, 16.00 ton; oat vetch 12.00 ton; clover 11.00 ton; timothy, eastern Oregon 19.00; Do valley 14.00 ton Portland.

Hops—New crop Clusters 19½-21½c lb.; Fuggles 23c lb.

Mohair—Nominal: 1938, 26-27 lb.

Cascara bark—Buying price, 19½c peel 5c lb.

Sugar—Berry and fruit, 100s, 4.90, bale 5.05; beet 4.80 cental.

Domestic flour—Selling price, city delivery, 1 to 25 bbl lots: Family patent, 49s, 5.55 6.15; bakers' hard wheat, net 5.70 5.15; bakers' bluestem, 4.15 4.50; blended wheat flour, 4.35 4.60; soft wheat flour 4.00-4.15; graham, 49s, 4.30; whole wheat 49s, 4.75 bbl.

Gardeners' Mart

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 22.—(AP)—(US Dept. Agriculture).

Apples—Oregon Newtowns, med to lge ex fcy, 1.30-1.60; fcy, 1.25-1.35; unclass, f & f, 70-80c; Spitzenberg, fcy, 1.50-1.60; Wash. Delicious, ex fcy lge, 1.90-2.10; Winesap, medium to lge, ex fcy, 1.65-1.75; fcy, 1.50 1.60; combination ex fcy and fcy, loose, 3¼ 3½c lb.; Romes, C grade, f & f, 75-85c; small, 50 60c; fcy, 1.35-1.40, loose, 2-3½c lb.; Ore. Delicious, ex fcy, 1.90-2.10.

Artichokes—Calif., 3.75-4.00; 75-80c doz.

Avocados—Calif., fuerte, 24-30s, 1.35-1.40.

Bananas—Per bunch, 5½c lb.; small lots, 5½-6c.

Beans—Unquoted.

Brussels Sprouts—12-cup, 85-90c.

Cabbage—Oregon Ballhead, new crates, best, 1.50 1.75; ordinary 1.00-1.25; old crates, 75c-1.00; broken lots, unquoted; California, crates 2.10-2.50; poorer 1.20.

Carrots—Local, topped, 60-70c; sacks, 100-1.25, bunched, Calif., 45-50c; crate, 2.45-2.85.

Cauliflower — Local, No. 2, 50-75c; Calif., No. 1, 1.30-1.40; No. 2, 1.10-1.15.

Celery—Calif., Utah, 2.00-2.25; white, 2.50-2.75; hearts 1.25-1.50.

Citrus Fruit—Grapefruit, Texas marsh seedless, 2.75-3.00; pink, 3.00-3.25; Arizona fancy, 1.75-1.90, choice 1.60-1.75; Florida, ½ boxes, 54-64, 3.00-3.25; Calif., 1.80-1.90.

Lemons—Fancy, all sizes, 4.00-5.25; choice, 2.70-3.50; apple boxes, 1.90-2.00. Limes, 90c.

Oranges—California navels, 252-344s, 2.20-2.25; large, 2.35-3.50; choice and pp 1.70-2.00.

Cucumbers—Hothouse, doz., 1.25-1.75.

Eggplant—Calif., 11-12c lb.; lug. 2.00-2.15.

Lettuce—Calif., Imperial, iced 4-5 doz., 3.00-3.50; dry, 2.65-2.70.

Garlic—Ore., 8-10c; poorer, 6c.

Mushrooms—Cultivated, 1 lb., 30-35c.

Onions—Oregon yellows, 50-pound sks, US No. 1, 60-70c; larger 80c; 10-pound sacks, 15-16c; boilers, 10 lbs., 12-13c; sets, brown, 4-4½c, white 5-5½c.

Pears—Oregon, Bosc., loose, 50-60c; ex fcy, 1.25-1.35; Anjous, ex fcy, 1.60-1.75; Medford ex fcy, 2.50; Comice, ex fcy, 2.85-3.00.

Peas—Calif., 12-13c; hamp, 2-3.10.

Peppers—Fla., 12-14c; Mexico, 14-15c, crates, 4.50 5.00.

Potatoes—Oregon, local Russets and Long Whites, No. 1, 1.00-1.10; No. 1, 50-lb. sacks, 60-65c; No. 2, 35-38c; Deschutes No. 1 Russets, 1.15 1.25; No. 2, 2. 50-lb. 38-40c; Klamath No. 1 Russets, 1.25-1.40; Fla., New Bliss Triumphs 2.25-2.40 per 50 lbs.

Rhubarb—Ore., Wash. hothouse ex fcy, 1.00-1.10; fcy 90c-1.00; choice 80c; pie, 55-60c.

Squash—Oregon, Wash., Marblehead, 2-2½c; Hubbard, 3c.

Sweet Potatoes—California, 50 pound No. 1 grade, 1.50 1.60.

Tomatoes—Ore. hothouse, 16-21c lb. Mexico 2.75-3.25; repacked 3.50-3.75; Fla., 2.75-3.00.

Spinach—Texas, 1.25-1.35 basket.

Bunched Vegetables—Oregon, per doz. bunches: Beets, 40-45c; green onions 30-35c; Jap radishes, 35-40c; lugs 1.00-1.25 per dozen; radishes, winter, 20c; kale, 40-50c; leeks, 30-35c; mustard greens 35-40c; turnips, 30-50c; celery root, 50c doz.; broccoli, 50-55c; Calif., parsley, 35-40c; Swiss chard, 35c; radishes, 35-40c; turnips, 40-45c; broccoli, crates, 2.25; beets, 50-55c per dozen; crates 2.00-2.15.

Root Vegetables — Rutabagas, 1.25 1.35 cwt., lugs, 25 50c; beets, 1.25-1.50; 45-55c for lugs; turnips, 1.00-1.25 per sack, lugs, 45-55c; parsnips, 60-65c lug, sacks, 1.75 2.00; horseradish, 15c lb.

Quilt Show Is Dayton Feature

DAYTON—Winners in the Evangelical church Ladies' Aid quilting show, held at the W. S. U'Ren furniture store, were:

Best quilting division, first, Mrs. G. A. Ruring; second, Mrs. M. F. Peffer.

Prettiest appliqued, first, Mrs. M. F. Peffer; second, Miss Madalene Rossner.

Prettiest pieced, first, Mrs. J. Egger; second, Miss Madalene Rossner.

Knitted spread, Mrs. W. H. Erwin; crocheted spread, Mrs. M. F. Peffer; appliqued spread, Mrs. M. E. Pettit.

Friendship quilt, Mrs. Herbert Willard; oldest quilt, Mrs. George Burnside.

Crochet rug, first, Mrs. W. H. Erwin; second, Mrs. L. A. Rossner.

Ministers Meet

HOPEWELL—Rev. Charles E. Brickwedel, pastor of the Hopewell United Brethren church, accompanied by Rev. V. A. Ballantyne of Unionvale Evangelical church, and Rev. F. E. Fisher of Dayton Evangelical church, attended the monthly county ministerial association meeting held Monday in Newberg.

Brined Cherries Report Is Given

Marketing of brined cheeries from the Pacific northwest in the United Kingdom meets with little success not only because of higher price than the English pay for the Italian product, but because most northwest cherries are brined with stems still attached or machine pitted, which means two holes per cherry, Agricultural Commissioner F. A. Motz, USDA, in London has advised C. J. Hansen of the Portland bureau of agricultural economics.

Motz says the approximate price ruling today for first grade fruit is about 40 shillings cost and freight per cwt., and that the possibilities of marketing American cherries on the British market would depend upon whether the American stock could meet that market. American cherries are offered now at 50 to 60 shillings per cwt., for machine stoned fruit, considered inferior to the hand pitted.

Chicken Dinner Slated March 10

PIONEER—The chicken pie supper that was postponed will be held Friday, March 10. Proceeds will go for a lamp for the kitchen. A fine program will be given after the supper.

The 4H club boys and girls clubs met at the home of Mrs. Harry Wells, club leader, when Janice Garner and Vera Mae Pelky demonstrated making of cocoa and cookies.

Lila Walker of the Portland schools entered the Pioneer school Monday. Lila and her mother are living at the Leo Kilger home.

Club Does Sewing

STAYTON—The Happy Hour club, meeting at the home of Mrs. Leo Odenthal, Thursday afternoon, honored the birthdays of Mrs. Tony Minten and Mrs. Mary Dozler. The afternoon was spent quilting. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Harry Porter March 2.

SELECT CLASS PLAY

DAYTON—"Skidding" will be presented by the junior class of Dayton union high school Friday, March 10.

"KIT CARSON - Avenger"

By Evelyn Wells

CHAPTER I

The boy in the deep sunbaked doorway was small but strongly sinewed, with tawny hair that waved to his shoulders, a wide mouth that could be cruel as a trap and soft as a girl's, and eyes an incredibly honest blue. It was Kit's eyes that caught and held one, so that any man looking once would exclaim as Fremont the Pathfinder did later:

"Kit Carson and truth are one!"

At nineteen, the boy who would become the "Greatest of Western Scouts" was too manly to show wistfulness. But blood throbbed in his heart as he watched the forty buckskin-clad mountaineers preparing for a mysterious trail. They were lashing packs, testing saddles, etc., on the Plaza before the adobe house of Ewing Young in the gray flat-roofed pueblo of ancient Fernandez de Taos in New Mexico.

Captain Ewing Young came toward the casa with a broad Mexican saddle slung over one brawny shoulder. He smiled, noticing the glance of the lad who for the winter past had been his cook.

"You'd like to go, Kit?"

He was startled by the answering look of the boy.

"I was reckoning on asking, Cap'n."

The captain of trappers chuckled. His glance traveled over the boyish figure in woolen shirt and buckskin trousers. His leathery face was kind.

"No need of bread and venison stew where we'll travel. Riding for Indian vengeance we'll want no cook."

The boy flushed angrily. Kit Carson was not a cook by choice. In the Spanish he had mastered in Taos, in the many Indian dialects he would learn, Kit would be fluent. Given to soft speech in three languages would be this lad with the glance of flaming blue. Now he struggled for words in his honest indignation.

"I warn't asking to cook. As trapper . . ."

"Silence!" snapped the older man. He glanced hastily over his buckskin-clad shoulder. No one had heard. The blanketed Indians drowsed in the Plaza, as terraced Taos under its sacred mountain drowsed in the sun. A few dreamy-eyed senoritas hurried homeward from the old adobe church and trading post of Don Antonio Robidoux, for it was nearing siesta hour. And coming closer Young said in a low voice:

"Why talk of trapping! You know fur is contraband to us Americans in the West, under Mexican law. We're going out for vengeance. Some of my men were chased back into Taos two weeks ago by hostile Apaches—it's them we're after, gun and knife 'gainst arrow and tomahawk. If an Injun molests a white man, his whole tribe must pay. You know that—it's western law."

"Aye, the law of the West," answered the boy tensely, "but Dan'l Boone said I'd the sharpest eyes on the Kentucky frontier, and I see beaver traps in the packs you'll carry tomorrow out of Taos!"

Young started. He questioned himself rapidly. What did he know of Kit Carson? The lad had drifted into Taos three years before, in the spring time of 1826, over the dangerous Santa Fé trail.

But there was little mystery to Kit. His Scotch-Irish family emigrated to America in the mid-1700's. His father, a noted Indian fighter, one of whose hands had been shot away by Indians, had served as a dispatch carrier in the Revolution.

Kit had been born in Madison County, Kentucky, at the extreme Indian frontier, on Christmas Eve, 1809. The first nine years of his life were spent in the perilous shadow of the Fort Hempstead stockade. As a child he had moulded bullets during Indian attacks. He had seen relatives and neighbors killed and scalped by savages. He had met that awesome, bearded patriarch of the frontier, Daniel Boone.

Apprenticed by his mother to a saddler, Kit ran away. One Missouri newspaper carried the notice: "Christopher Carson, a boy about sixteen years old, small for his age, but thick-set, light hair, ran away from the subscriber . . . all persons are notified not to harbor, support, or subsist said boy under penalty of the law."

With a price on his head, Kit turned to the wide, vacant, savage West. He rode a mule beside the heavy Conestoga wagons, drawn by oxen, that drove four abreast for safety against Indians, over terrifying trails between St. Louis and Santa Fé, Taos and Chihuahua in Old Mexico.

But he would live to ride from the Rockies to Washington, D. C., by steam train! He would live, to have written of him, "Wherever railroads now run, and trails are followed, Kit Carson led the way!"

With a price on his head, the 16-year-old Kit fled astride a mule to the wide, vacant, savage West.

This boy with the high forehead and wide-set eyes would open the West.

Kit Carson! Lakes and towns, rivers and mountain passes, would bear his name!

He would stand on a peak in California with Fremont, defying all Mexico! He would help lift the flag that proclaimed California no longer a province of Mexico. He would be one of that mad and gallant handful that captured California.

He would be dreaded by all the tribes of the Southwest. Pawnee and treacherous Blackfeet, Sioux and dread Apache—he would fight them all. He would be famous as the conqueror of the Navajo.

He would fight Indian and Mexican and win the respect of both races. He would creep between enemy lines to the rescue of Kearny's army in California. As "The Avenger" he would ride against redskin savages who had killed white men, to rescue American women from unspeakable destiny at Indian hands.

He would rise from scout to general in the Civil War.

His friends would be Sutter and Robidoux, Benton and Fremont, Kearny and Sherman—men whose names are woven into the fabric of the West.

And he would love deeply and more than once, for behind that glance of incredibly honest blue there was softness and flame in Kit Carson. He would fight a duel on horseback over the shy maid Alice. He would defy the authorities of Mexican California for one last glimpse of the girl Teresita.

Kit Carson! Red hearts and white would beat faster at that name!

Now he was a freckled-faced stripling standing pleadingly before the trapper captain, hearing Young's questioning:

"I know you've seen Injun fighting, Kit. But what do you know of hunting?"

"All there is to know. I've hunted buffalo with the Sioux every year since I was twelve."

"But beaver . . ." said Young, craftily.

"I know of beaver, too. Habits and house building and dam making. I know how to lay all scent by stalking through water, and how to splice and set the traps above water line and bait with essence . . ."

"There!" interrupted the trapper captain. "What essence?"

Kit's wide mouth grew wider in a delightful grin. Beaver essence was made by a secret formula handed down from trapper to trapper. And Kit had the secret from an old Missouri trapper.

"If I tell you the essence rightly, can I go with you, Cap'n Young?"

The kind face under the broad beaver hat reassured the boy. Kit leaned forward and whispered the secret process of the essence—the scent of beaver mixed with the juices of roots and bark in careful proportions. He who had no pack nor trap nor horse of his own, triumphantly whispered his secret to a man he knew had it already, knowing it would win him a place in the buckskinned cavalcade preparing before Young's door.

Young lifted his head again.

"You can ride with us, Kit Carson. I'll advance ye enough for baggage and traps. For it's true, we're heading after beaver, as far as California."

"California!" Kit's glance sparkled. "Why, only three white men have entered California from this side; Smith and the two Patties. And old man Pattie died from the brutal ways of the Mexicans."

"We'll risk the California Mex and their ways," said Young grimly. "It's beaver we're after, and we ask no man's permission for fur. It's God's gift to white and red skin alike and if the pelts lead to California, there we go.

"But we must be cautious. Last year I had a license and the Mexican governor at Santa Fé confiscated $20,000 worth of fur. This year I go without a license, so first we hunt Apaches to hide our trapping and to get revenge. Have ye a rifle, son?"

(To be continued).

Courtesy by Evelyn Wells.

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