Salem Market Quotations

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

Bananas, lb. on stalk	.06
Hands	.06½
Calavos	1.40
Grapefruit, Texas pinks	4.00
Regular	3.00
Lemons, crate	4.50
Oranges, crate	2.25 to 3.50

VEGETABLES —
(Buying Prices)

Asparagus, lb.	.07
Beets, doz.	.40
Cabbage, lb.	.03
Carrots, Calif., crt., 6 doz.	2.50 to 3.50
Cauliflower, Calif.	1.25; local .90
Celery, Utah, crate	2.25
Lettuce, Calif.	2.50 to 3.50
Onions, boiling, 10 lbs., No. 1	.18
50 lbs.	1.25
Green onions doz.	.25
Radishes, doz.	.30
Peppers, green, Calif.	.30
Parsley	.40
Potatoes, local, cwt., No. 1	1.10
50 lb. bags	.85
Rhubarb, outdoor	.70 to .90
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.
(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	19½ to .21½
Fuggles, top	.23

WOOL AND MOHAIR
(Buying Prices)

Wool medium, lb.	.23
Coarse, lb.	.23
Lambs, lb.	.18
Mohair, lb.	.25

EGGS AND POULTRY
(Buying Prices of Andresen's)

Large extra	.17
Medium extras	.15
Large standards	.15
Pullets	.12
Colored frys	.15
Colored medium, lb.	.16
White Leghorns, heavy	.13
White Leghorns, light	.11
Heavy hens, lb.	.16
Old roosters	.05

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

Lambs, 1939, tops	8.25
Lambs	6.50 to 7.50
Ewes	2.00 to 3.50
Hogs, top	7.00
130-150 lbs.	6.50 to 6.75
210-300 lbs.	6.25 to 6.50
Sows	5.10 to 5.25
Beef cows	5.50 to 6.50
Bulls	5.00 to 6.00
Heifers	6.00 to 7.00
Top veal	9.00
Dairy type cows	4.00 to 5.50
Dressed veal, lb.	.12

MARION CREAMERY Buying Price

Butterfat, A grade	.28
Leghorn hens, over 3½ lbs.	.12
Leghorn hens, under 3½ lbs.	.10
Roasters, 4 lbs. and over	.15
Fryers, 2½ lbs.	.15
Leghorn brollers	.11
Colored hens, over 5 lbs.	.15
Old roosters, lb	.05

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

Grade B raw 4 per cent milk, Salem Co-op basic pool price $2.01.

Co-op Grade A butterfat price 23c; B grade 2c less.

(Milk based on semi monthly butterfat average.)

Distributor price, $2.32.

A grade butterfat—Delivered 23c; B grade 21c.

A grade print, 26½c; B grade 25½c; quarters 27½c.

EGG PRICES

Large extras	.17
Large standards	.15
Medium extras	.15
Medium standards	.12
Undergrades	.12
Pullets	.10

GRAIN, HAY and SEEDS

Wheat, bu Nok 1 recleaned	.70
Oats, grey, ton	26.00
White	25.00
Feed barley, ton	22.00 to 24.00
Clover hay, ton	12.00 to 13.00
Oat and Vetch hay, ton	12.00 to 13.00
Alfalfa, ton	15.00 to 16.00
Egg mash No. 1 grade, 80 lb. bag	1.60
Dairy feed, 80 lb. bag	1.30
Hen scratch feed	1.65
Cracked corn	1.65
Wheat	1.35 to 1.40

Favor Changing Butter Standard

Group at Hearing Believes Grades Should Line up With Federal Ones

The 35 Oregon creamery operators and producers who attended the public hearing held at the department of agriculture Monday, favored changing the state standards to bring them in line with more stringent federal standards. New federal scores went into effect April 1.

Members of the industry pointed out at the hearing that the lack of uniformity between federal and state grades and definitions works a hardship on the Oregon out-of-state trade. An annual loss of $100,000 will result unless this change is made, according to the estimate of Frank Hettwer, manager of a Mt. Angel creamery. He said that recent gains in quality improvement on butter are practically nullified by the present situation.

Specific recommendations were made for a lowering of the state acidity standard for grade A cream to 0.35 per cent and for adoption of the new federal system of butter scoring. No formal motion to this effect was passed, however.

The testimony will be examined by the state department of agriculture which may then promulgate revised state regulations.

Sharp Upturn Soars Wheat

Setback in Winter Crop Is Impetus for 1¼ Cent Market Climb

CHICAGO, April 25—(AP)—Definite signs of a setback in prospects for winter wheat in some districts of the southwest, the first really pessimistic crop news since the growing season began gave wheat prices the sharpest upturn in weeks today. July and September wheat rose as much as 1¼ cents to the best level in almost three months.

While reports of less favorable growing conditions have been coming over commission house wires for the past several days, today's news more or less confirmed trade belief that there has been some change in the winter wheat picture.

Wheat started steady, ignoring a ⅛-⅞ lower close at Liverpool, but soon developed strength and was up ⅝ cent at the end of the first hour. Thereafter liquidation of May Contracts prior to the delivery period next month depressed the market but the deferred deliveries continued to forge upward, closing at the day's best levels. Wheat was ⅝-1¼ higher than yesterday's close, May 69¾-⅝, July 69¼-⅛.

Students Appear At Aids' Tea

AURORA—The Ladies' Aid of the Presbyterian church held a musicale and silver tea at the church Saturday afternoon.

Furnishing the music were these pupils of Miss Lucy Case and Mrs. E. C. Diller: Shirley Mae Evans, Beatrice Nagle, Irene Stoner, Loyd Alice Diller, Eugene Manock, Leland Stoner, Clyde Diller, Marvin Evans, Charles Diller.

Quotations at Portland

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25.—(AP)—
Produce exchange:
Butter — Extras 23½c; standard 22c; prime firsts, 21½c; firsts 20½c.
Butterfat 23½-24.
Eggs—Large extras 19; large standards 18; medium extras 18; medium standards 18.
Cheese—Triplets 12c; loaf 13c.

Portland Grain

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25.—(AP)—

Wheat:	Open	High	Low	Close
May	69	69½	69	69½
July	67¼	67¼	67¼	67¼

Cash Grain: Oats, No. 2-38 lb. white, 27.25; No. 2-38 lb. gray, nominal. Barley, No. 2-45 lb. BW, 24.50. Corn, No. 2-EY shipment, 26.00. No. 1 flax, 1.77.
Cash wheat Bid: Soft white 70½; western white 70½; western red 70½. Hard red winter ordinary 69½; 11 per cent 69½; 12 per cent 71; 13 per cent 73; 14 per cent 76. Hard white-Bart ordinary 72; 12 per cent 72; 13 per cent 73½; 14 per cent 75½.
Today's car receipts: Wheat 90, barley 2; flour 8; corn 5; millfeed 6.

Portland Livestock

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25.—(AP)—(USDA)—Hogs, receipts 350, strong to 15c higher. Price range:

140-160 lbs.	$ 6.50@ 7.00
do gd-ch, 180-200 lbs.	6.75@ 7.25
do gd-ch, 180-200 lbs.	7.00@ 7.25
do gd-ch, 200-220 lbs.	6.75@ 7.25
do gd-ch, 220-250 lbs.	6.50@ 7.00
do gd-ch, 250-290 lbs.	6.25@ 6.75
do med, 140-160 lbs.	6.10@ 6.75
Packing sows, gd, 275-350 lbs.	5.50@ 6.00
do good 350-425 lbs.	5.25@ 5.75
do good 425-550 lbs.	5.25@ 5.50
do med, 275-550 lbs.	5.00@ 5.40
Pigs (fdr. & stkr.), good-choice, 70-140 lbs.	6.50@ 7.50

Cattle: Receipts 100; calves 50, active, fully steady. Price range:

Steers, good 900-1100	$ 9.00@ 9.40
do medium, 1100-1300	7.75@ 9.00
do com (plain 750-1100	6.75@ 7.75
Heifers, good, 750-900	8.25@ 9.00
do medium, 550-900	7.75@ 8.50
do com (plain) 550-900	6.25@ 7.75
Cows, all wts.	6.50@ 7.25
do medium, all wts.	5.50@ 6.50
do com (plain) all wts.	4.50@ 5.50
do low cut-cut, all wts.	3.25@ 4.50
Bulls (yngs. excld.), good (beef), all wts	6.25@ 6.75
do medium, all wts.	5.50@ 6.50
do cut-com (pin), all wts	4.50@ 5.50
Vealers, choice, all wts.	8.50@ 9.00
do good, all wts.	8.00@ 8.50
do cull-com (pin) all wts	4.00@ 6.00
Calves, med, 250-400 lbs.	5.50@ 7.00
do com (pin) 250-400 lbs	4.00@ 5.50

Sheep: Receipts 300. Steady. Few good choice. Spring lambs 72-77 lbs. sold for $9.00. Price range:

Spring lambs, good-choice	$ 9.00@ 9.25
do medium-good	8.25@ 8.75
do common	7.00@ 8.00
Lambs (shorn) gd-ch	8.00@ 8.25
do medium and good	7.25@ 7.75
do common (plain)	6.50@ 7.25
Ewes (shodn) gd to ch	2.50@ 3.25
do common (plain) med.	1.50@ 2.50

Portland Produce

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25.—(AP)—
Country Meats—Selling price to retailers: Country-killed hogs, best butcher, under 160 lbs., 9-9½c lb.; vealers 12½-13c lb. light and thin 10-11 lb.; heavy 10-11c; spring lambs 18-19c lb.; yearling lambs, 14-15c lb.; ewes 4-6c lb.; cutter cows, 10c lb.; canner cows, 9c lb.; bulls 11c lb.
Live Poultry—Buying prices: Leghorn broilers 13-14c lb.; colored broilers, 2 lbs. and over, 17-18c lb.; over 3½ lbs., 17-18c lb.; Leghorn hens, over 3½ lbs., 15½-16c lb.; under 3½ lbs., 13½-14c; colored hens to 5 lbs., 18-19c lb.; over 5 lbs., 18-19c lb.; No. 2 grade, 5c lb. less.
Turkeys—Selling prices: Dressed, new crop hens, 22-24c lb.; toms, 21-22c lb. Buying prices: Few hens 19-20c lb.; toms 18c lb.
Potatoes—Yakima Gems, (—) cental; locals, 1.00; Deschutes Gems, 1.25 cental; Klamath Falls No. 1 Gems, 1.25-1.55; Cal. yams, 1.50-1.80; Calif. Whites, 1.50-1.75.
Onions—Oregon No. 1 2.25-2.30 cental; sets, 3¾c lb.; Texas Bermuda, 2.60.
Wool—Willamette valley, 1939 clip, nominal, medium, 23c lb.; coarse and braids, 23c lb.; lambs and fall, 20c lb.; eastern Oregon, 20-22c lb.
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, Portland
Hops—1938 Clusters, 20-25c lb.; Fuggles, 23c lb.
Mohair—Nominal, 1939 clip, 25c lb.
Cascara Bark — Buking price: 1939 peel, 4c lb.
Sugar—Berry and fruit, 100s, 5.10; bale 5.25; beet 5.05.
Domestic flour—Selling price, city delivery, 1 to 25 bbl lots: Family patent, 49s, 5.70-6.35; bakers' hard wheat, net, 4.70-5.15; bakers' bluestem 4.25-4.60; blended wheat flour 4.40-4.70; soft wheat flour, 4.10-4.15; graham 49s, 4.50; whole wheat, 49s, 4.95 bbl.

Wool in Boston

BOSTON, April 25—(AP)—(USDA)—Boston houses were receiving numerous inquiries for wool today. Interest included both spot wools and wolls available for immediate shipment from the country. Spot fine territory wools of good French combing length were selling in original bags at 65-67 cents, scoured basis, while sales of similar wools to be shipped direct to mills from the country were closed at 63-65 cents, scoured basis. Mixed grade lots of three-eighths and one-quarter blood bright fleece wools offered from the country were quoted mostly 26-27 cents, in the grease, delivered to eastern users.

Stocks and Bonds

April 25
STOCK AVERAGES
Compiled by The Associated Press

	30 Indus	15 Rails	15 Util	06 Stocks
Net Chg.	A .1	A .2	D .1	Unch
Tuesday	61.9	16.9	35.2	43.8
Previous day	61.8	16.7	35.3	43.8
Month ago	68.5	19.8	36.8	48.3
Year Ago	56.8	14.2	29.6	39.2
1939 high	77.0	23.8	40.0	53.4
1939 low	58.8	15.7	33.7	41.6

BOND AVERAGES

	20 Rails	10 Indus	10 Util	10 For'gn
Net Chg.	D .1	A .2	A .1	D .1
Tuesday	55.1	98.2	93.1	59.2
Previous day	55.2	98.0	93.0	59.3
Month ago	61.0	100.2	94.6	60.7
Year Ago	52.9	96.3	88.4	63.0
1939 high	64.9	100.7	95.7	64.0
1939 low	53.4	97.0	91.9	58.2

Low yield 111.0.

Stock Revival Is Too Short Lived

NEW YORK, April 25—(AP)—Europe apparently looked a little better to the stock market today, and domestic business news was not so bad, but early recoveries of fractions to a point or so were reduced or cancelled in many cases at the close. The Associated Press average of 60 issues was unchanged at 43.8.

Some hope was pinned on the overseas picture as rumors were heard that Hitler's reply to the Roosevelt peace plea, scheduled for the reichstag Friday, might be less vitriolic than expected.

Helpful was the disclosure General Motors first quarter earnings were the best for this period since 1929, aggregating $1.18 a share against 14 cents a year ago.

Gardeners' Mart

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25.—(AP)—(US Dept. Agriculture)
Apples—Oregon Newtowns, med to lge ex fcy, 1.50-1.60, 1.25-1.35; ex fcy, loose, 1.15; fcy loose, 1.00; Wash. Delicious, med to lge, ex fcy, 1.75-2.10; fcy, 1.75-1.85; Winesap, med to lge, ex fcy, 1.60-1.75, fancy, 1.40-1.60; comb ex fcy and fancy, loose, 3½-3¾c lb.; Romes, ex fcy, 1.65-1.75; fcy, 1.35-1.40; 3c lb.
Artichokes—Calif., 1.25-1.50; poorer, 1.00.
Avocados, Calif., fuerte, 24-35's, 1.20-1.40.
Asparagus—Ore., Wash., green, 12-lb. No. 1, 65-75c; No. 2, 40-50c; 30 lb., 1.75-2.00. Strings, 1.25; bunched 2.00-2.25.
Bananas—Per bunch, 5½c lb.; small lots, unquoted.
Beans—Fla., 3.00-3.25, hamper.
Broccoli—Oregon, bunches, 40-45c.
Brussels Sprouts—Unquoted.
Cabbage—Calif. crates, 2.25-2.50; red, 3½-4c.
Carrots—Local, topped, 40-50c per lug; sacks, 1.00-1.50; bunched, Calif., 40-45; crates, 2.00-2.50; few high as 2.75.
Cauliflower — Crates, local, 1.00-1.25; No. 2, 60c; Calif. No. 1, 1.25-1.50.
Celery—Calif., Utah, 2.00-2.25; poorer, 1.75; white, 2.25-2.65; hearts, 1.50-1.75 doz.
Citrus Fruit—Grapefruit, Texts marsh, seedless, 3.00-3.25; pink, 3.50-3.75; Arizona, fcy, 1.75-2.00; choice, 1.60-1.75; Florida, 46-64s, 3.25-3.50.
Lemons—Fancy, all sizes, 3.50-4.75; choice 50c less.
Limes—Doz. carton, 20-25c.
Oranges—California navels, 200-392s, 2.10-2.75; large, 3.00-4.25; choice 25-50c less.
Eggplant—Calif., 1.75-2.00, lge.
Cucumbers—Hothouse, doz. 75c,-1.15.
Lettuce—Delano iced, 5 doz., 1.90-2.25; dry, 2.00-2.25; best 2.60; poor, 50c.
Garlic—Oregon, 8-10c; poor low as 5c.
Mushrooms—Cultivated, 1 lb., 30-35c.
Onions—Oregon yellows, 50 lb. sacks, US No. 1, 1.00-1.10; med., 95c-1.10; 10 lbs., 23-25c; No. 2, 50 lbs. sacks, 50-60c; boilers, 13-14c per 10 lb. sack; 50 lb sack, 50-60c; Texas white wax, 2.40-2.50.
Pears—Anjous, ex fcy, 1.75-1.85; Medford fcy, 2.75.
Peas—Calif., 5-6c; sacks, 1.60-1.80; hamper, 1.35; 46 lb. crate, 1.50-1.75.
Peppers—Florida, 22-25c.
Potatoes—Oregon, local Russets and Long Whites, No. 1, 1.10-1.15; 50-lb. sacks, 40-42½; Deschutes, No. 1, Russets 1.10-1.25; 25-lb. sacks, 32-35c; US No. 2, 50 lb. sacks, 40-45c; Klamath, No. 1 Russets, 1.15-1.25; fancy, 1.40-1.50; No. 2, 50 lbs., 45-47½c; bakers, No. 1, 1.65-1.75; Texas, No. 1 A's, 2.00-2.15; Calif. White Rose, No. 1 A's, 1.35-1.60; B's, 1.25-1.35.
Rhubarb—Ore., hothouse, outdoor, 18 lbs., 30-35c; apple box, 1-1½c.
Squash—Calif., Zucchini, 1.60-1.75.
Strawberries—Calif., 12s, 1.35-1.40.
Spinach—Ore., 35-50c; new crop, 60-75c.
Tomatoes—Mex. repacked, 3.75-4.00.
Beets—Oregon, sacks, 1.25-1.50; lugs, 30c; bunches, dozen, 20-25c; California, bunches, dozen, 50-60c; crates, 2.00-2.15. Broccoli — Oregon, bunches, 25c; California, crates, 2.00-2.25. Brussels sprouts—Oregon, nominal.
Cabbage—Oregon, Ballhead, new crates, 90c-1.00. Endive, 25c. Carrots, 40-50c.
Horseradish—Oregon, pound, 15c.
Leeks—Oregon, bunches, dozen, 25c.
Mustard Greens—Oregon, local, bnchs., dozen, 15-20c. Kale 25c.
Onions, green—Oregon, bunches, doz., 15-20c; The Dalles, 20-25c; California, 25-30c.
Parsley—Calif., bunches, dozen 25c.
Parsnips—Lugs, 40c.

Closing Quotations

NEW YORK, April 26.—(AP)—Today's closing prices:

Al Chem & Dye	153¼	Chrysler	62⅝	Natl Dairy Prod.	15
Allied Stores	7½	Coml Solvent	10¼	National Dist	24
American Can	89⅜	Comwlth & Sou.	1¼	Natl Power & Lt	7⅜
Am For Power	2½	Consol Edison	30	Northern Pacific	8
Am Power & Lt	4¼	Consol Oil	7⅜	Packard Motors	3⅜
Am Rad Std San	11⅞	Corn Products	55⅞	J C Penney	80
Am Rolling Mills	13½	Curtiss Wright	5	Phillips Petrol	33½
Am Smelt & Ref	39⅜	Douglas Aircraft	59	Press Steel Car	7⅜
Am Tel & Tel	158¼	Du Pont de N	138⅝	Pub Service NJ	34⅞
Am Tobacco B	81	Elec Power & Lt	7⅜	Pullman	25¾
Am Water Wks	9¼	General Electric	34⅝	Safeway Stores	32½
Anaconda	22⅜	General Foods	41½	Sears Roebuck	65¾
Armour Ill	4⅛	General Motors	41½	Shell Union	11½
Atchison	26¼	Goodyear Tire	24⅝	Sou Cal Edison	25½
Barnsdall	14	Great Nor Ry Pf	18⅝	Southern Pacific	12⅛
Balt & Ohio	5	Hudson Motors	5⅛	Standard Brands	6
Bendix Aviation	20	Illinois Central	11⅝	Stand Oil Calif.	26
Bethlehem Steel	55¾	Int Harvester	54	Standard Oil NJ	44½
Boeing Air	21	Int Nickel Can	45⅝	Studebaker	6¼
Borge Warner	21⅛	Int Paper & P Pf	28⅝	Sup Oil	2⅛
Budd Mfg	4⅝	Int Tel & Tel	6¼	Timk Roll Bear.	37
Calif Pack	15	Johns Manville	72¾	Trans-America	5¾
Callahan Z-L	⅞	Kennecott	30⅞	Union Carbide	70
Calumet Hec	5⅜	Libbey-O-Ford	39⅞	United Aircraft	34⅜
Canadian Pacific	3¾	Lig & Myers B	101	United Airlines	9⅝
J I Case	70⅛	Loew's	39⅝	US Rubber	35¼
Caterpil Tractor	41	Monty Ward	44⅞	US Steel	46⅞
Celanese	16⅜	Nash Kelv	6½	Walworth	5⅛
Certain-Teed	7⅞	National Biscuit	24⅞	White Motors	8¼
Ches & Ohio	31	National Cash	17½	Woolworth	43⅝

"MONEY In A Hurry"
STATE FINANCE CO.
A Home-Owned Institution
(Childs' & Miller's Office)
344 State St., Salem, Ore.
Phone 9261 Lic. No. S-216 M-222

"The Forgotten Fleet Mystery"

by VAN WYCK MASON

CHAPTER XVIII

There apparently was nobody aboard the *Mount Vernon*, for when he stepped out upon the bleached and sun warped deck only the faded red, white and blue funnels of the *Amerika* and the *George Washington* were to be seen, still towering above a tangle of cargo booms, bridges, lifeboats and ventilators.

A further careful reconnaissance of C deck showed the *Mount Vernon* to be indeed quite deserted save for themselves. Signs of recent activity, however, were abundant.

"Shall we—shall we see if there's anything in the smoking room?" he inquired at length. "Or would you rather wait?"

"Let's look while there's no one else around," she murmured and passed her muddied arm through his. "Somehow it seems right—it's our own secret after all."

As he quietly opened that same door through which a long lifetime ago it seemed he had followed Mears, the sun thrust a shimmering eclipse above a dim headland far down the gray Patuxent. Skilfully the dawn pencilled with fire the distant clumps of Octopus Oil tankers moored together in mid stream, dyed distant marshes a clear emerald and drew bright planes and squares from the still wet roofs of Patuxtown. It also endowed with a dreadful ruby brightness that pool of blood in the center of the smoking room which marked the spot where Mears had fallen under Colby's bullet.

Steadying the girl by an elbow, Colby hurried her past the gruesome souvenir and directed her gaze to the enigmatic, dust dulled features of the negro girl above the fireplace.

"Try," he cautioned when they halted before it, "not to let it be too big a disappointment if there isn't anything there. There may not be, you know—"

"I think," she said with a quick smile that warmed his heart, "I can bear it better today than I could have yesterday."

"Don't say that unless you mean it!" There was a fierce, insistent question in his sunken and bloodshot eyes as he stepped in front of her and caught her by the hands. "Do you—?"

"Oh, my dear—yes," was all Geneva could say, then his eager, hard-lipped kisses checked further speech. If she was surprised to find herself in his arms she did not betray it. It was rather as if she had been surprised all her life at not being in his arms and that that situation had abruptly come to an end.

"I—I'm glad you did that—before we looked," she breathed.

"I wanted you to know," he cried in a voice far softer than she had ever heard him use before, "that—that—oh well, you know I—" He kissed her again and yet again—they had been through so much together.

"Look here, young lady," he turned away, "you're corrupting me—I'd better be getting to work.

"But Don, I don't think it could be there," she protested. "Why would Kraus have hidden the jewels in a public room like this? It would have been hard for him to have worked undetected."

Colby paused, eyes wandering over the mantelpiece.

"I don't think your objection is well founded," said he. "I don't know of any more lonesome place than a ship's smoking room after one o'clock at night. Very likely Kraus picked a stormy night when people weren't moving about more than they had to."

"But wouldn't it take a lot of time to get one of those figures free?" Geneva insisted.

"Not necessarily. Look." He indicated the full bosomed figure upon which their attention was centered. "With half an eye you can see that the carved figure is simply set into the mantel frame like a sort of inlay. Probably one or two French nails are all that are required to hold it in place. You see it would never come under much strain."

"But I still don't see, Don, why he would pick a public room."

The ex-soldier's brown features contracted in thought.

"I think there are several good reasons. First of all Kraus wanted to put his loot in a place that would be always accessible. In other words, if he hid it in a cabin he might not be able to get that cabin just when he wanted it. And if he insisted too much on having a certain cabin, especially an unattractive one such as a man of his type could afford, it would arouse suspicion. Something he didn't want under any circumstances."

Colby cocked his head to one side and speculatively fingered the blunt tire iron which had served Vogel as a jimmy.

"Here in a public room he could always get at it. And then again there was no danger of the cabin plan being altered or renumbered. Something which happens quite frequently on a steamer. As a last argument," he said as he drew up a chair to the mantelpiece, "I think Kraus wanted to pick a distinctive hiding place—one that a confederate could recognize without difficulty in case Kraus couldn't come for the loot himself, which is of course what happened."

He swung up on the mantelpiece and began to examine the woodwork with great care.

"Do you see anything?" she demanded.

"Yes," he replied, "there are four or five faint marks on this side of the molding, but they may have been made by workmen when they installed the figure. We'll see in a minute now, anyhow."

Oblivious to faint voices sounding on shore and from the *Monticello*, Colby continued to examine the mantelpiece while Geneva meanwhile sank into a shrouded arm chair and sat quite still, ignoring the fact that a little puddle was forming from the drip of her wet skirt, looking up at him from adoring wide gray eyes. What a strange mixture was this man. Of him she even now knew nothing save that she was content to follow him anywhere, anyhow.

The crackle of splintering wood drew her attention as he applied Vogel's jimmy to the backing of the carved figure.

"She's fairly loose," he called excitedly. "I think we—" But just then the grinning negro girl jerked forward and came loose so easily that Colby had to clutch wildly at it and was barely able to prevent its crashing to the tile before the fireplace.

It was characteristic of Donald Colby that he said nothing when he found himself peering at a long slot into which the nymph's backing had been fitted. Now there was exposed a further space perhaps four inches wide by eight inches tall and, securely jammed into it, was a flat parcel done up in yellowed newspaper. Still silent, Colby got down and passed it to the seated girl, and she accepted it but with her eyes still fixed on his.

"That table please," was all she said. When he brought it she carefully slipped aside the cotton string securing the package and commenced to unwrap it, creating little crackling noises that filled the whole garish smoking room.

The sun, on rising a little higher, crept in through a leaded window and revealed in Geneva's cheeks color whipped back by an overwhelming excitement.

Towering above the wholly absorbed girl stood Donald Colby, feet a little apart and looking more like an Indian than ever. His lips took on a peculiar twist when the paper fell apart and a lance-like sunbeam leaped into a mass of diamonds, emeralds, sapphires and pearls, to escape again amid a maddening burst of rainbow hues.

"Thank God," murmured Geneva Benet, and then again very softly, "Thank God, Mother—darling!"

Suddenly, in a single gesture, she divided the glittering heap in half and held out a handful of gems to the spare figure before her. A strand of glorious emeralds throbbed with the verdant lights of a tropic jungle, a huge sapphire gleamed like the Caribbean, but the ex-soldier stood very still and slowly shook his narrow head.

"Thanks," he murmured, "I can't take them."

"But you must!" she pleaded and sprang up. "Here! Take them—You've earned them, I want you to have them."

"Sorry," he insisted earnestly. "There are regulations against it."

"Regulations?" she burst out. "Surely the rules of that funny little country you used to serve aren't binding now?"

"*They* aren't," he admitted, taking the jewels and replacing them with their fellows. "But the regulations of the Department of Justice are. They say in so many words: 'No Operative of this Department shall under any circumstances whatsoever accept a gratuity for the performance of his duty'."

Geneva Benet began to tremble a little.

"Then—then you aren't a soldier of fortune?"

"In one sense I was until about a month ago," he explained. "The Department, you see, sent me to join the Bolivian army in order to trace from that end certain illegal arms shipments being forwarded from the United States to a revolutionary force."

"And you found out what you wanted?"

"Yes." A wry smile flitted over Donald Colby's face. "Anyhow, I spent three months in the jungles of El Gran Chaco and nearly got killed first. Barely got away with my life at the end. You see I knew the agents were watching the big ships for me so I stowed away on a guano boat—never pick a guano boat, Sister," he added with a grin. "Limburger is heliotrope to guano."

He shrugged and made a little spreading gesture with his hands. "After that I thought I could take a furlough, but my ship had barely reached Savannah than I got instructions to go immediately to Solomon's Island. I was instructed to find out what had happened to those three missing watchmen."

"So you—you were from the Department of Justice all the time!" She was staring at him, quite forgetful of the fortune which glittered and throbbed before her.

"I was. I'm afraid I was pretty rough, but you see, dear, I had no idea what the situation was. I had to be suspicious of everybody—even you."

"Had you any knowledge of the jewels?"

"None. Though I realized, of course, something pretty valuable must have been on these ships to cause so much excitement in a backwater like this." He glanced out of a window and pointed to the shore. "By the looks of that I think this detail is almost at an end."

Somewhat unsteadily Geneva Benet rose and, standing beside him, watched Ehrenbreit, Ferguson and the rest step from a large rowboat onto the rickety pier. They stepped awkwardly, as men do when their hands are secured behind them. Standing about were half a dozen figures in the brown and black uniform of the Maryland State police. Others were hailing an ambulance which had run down to the shore.

"I see they have them all. That means that the case is at an end?"

"Very nearly."

"And then what?"

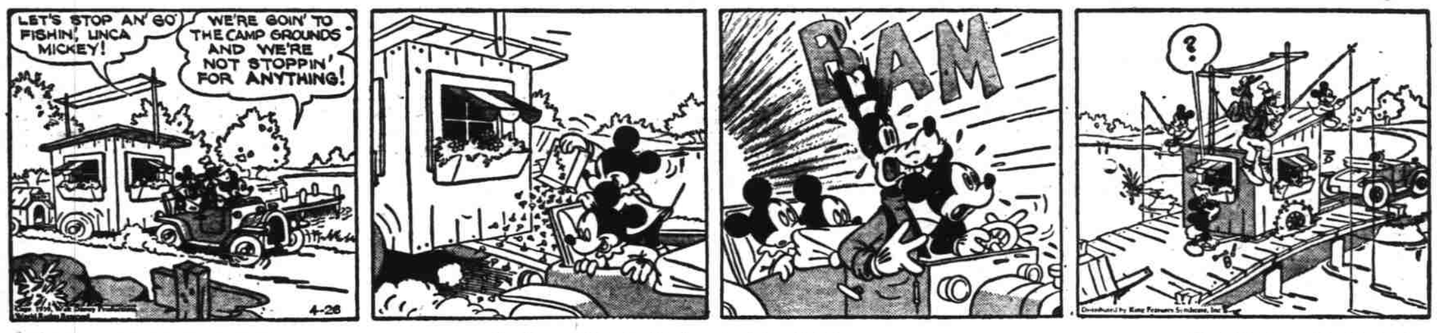
"Why, darling, I'm think of undertaking the pleasantest assignment of my life," he cried as he swept her into his arms again. On that nearby table the jewels shimmered, lovely but quite forgotten.

THE END

Copyright, 1938, by Van Wyck Mason.
Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

POLLY AND HER PALS — Feeding the Kitty — By CLIFF STERRETT

MICKEY MOUSE — Youth Will Be Served — By WALT DISNEY



LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY — A Stage "Mother" Counts Her Chickens— — By BRANDON WALSH

TOOTS AND CASPER — All "Headed" One Way! — By JIMMY MURPHY

THIMBLE THEATRE—Starring Popeye — "A Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss"