

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Moms and Crocuses and Spring

It was just a little crocus, and how it got in the middle of the yard would seem a mystery. But there it was, bravely bursting into flower in defiance of wind and rain and cold and the more imminent hazards of a little wagon and tiny feet which splashed among the grass between showers.

"Mommie, look!" The happy voice of a child vies with the struggling rays of a be-clouded sun in sudden appreciation. Childish hands eagerly press down the grass around the little flower. "Is it yellow or orange, Mommie, and can we have more?"

"Look hard and maybe you'll see some more," Mommie smiles watching the youngster tenderly. "Oh, Mommie, here's another." And there was, two or three of them. Mommie had put them out some time ago.

"Let's dig a garden, can we?" There was only one answer to that. We could, wet ground or no wet ground, and if conditions weren't right that day it's safe to say Mommie will do it all over so those wide blue eyes won't be disappointed as spring comes to the valley.

There are other Mommies, too, who have planted flowers for tiny tots no longer tiny, some of whom will rest eternal in foreign lands, and others still so far from the peace and beauty of a home's back yard. These Mommies will be planting flowers this spring. Maybe that boy in the far corners of a scarred earth, or that girl in the thick of war and destruction, would like to see them when they get home.

Would they like to see them? "Mom, you've got a new azalea since I've been gone. Your yard is so pretty. Please let's always have flowers."

There'll always be flowers, folks. And Mom will keep the sunshine of nature and love for you when you come back. So long as there are Moms and crocuses and spring, there'll be light in the darkest days on earth. There will always be a place to call home.

Secrets Decrease

The fact that Admiral Nimitz has seen fit to disclose that Guam is his new headquarters, 3800 miles west of Pearl Harbor, is in almost startling contrast to the navy's policy earlier in the war. Not that there is any quarrel with the early-day censorship when military information, due to our own deficiencies, was even more important than today. But few expected so frank a disclosure of the move so soon. It is a direct defy of the Japanese, and definite indication that American might in the Pacific has reached a point that shots can be called without fear of interception.

According to estimates of the war department 250,000 veterans will want to relocate on the Pacific coast when the war is over. They will make a counter tide of migration to the war workers who plan to return to their former homes. It's clear we will have a population problem in the early years of the peace, providing employment, permanent housing and community services. There will be a spreading of this population out from the overgrown war centers to the smaller cities and rural areas. Salem and other Oregon towns will be right in the path of this resettlement.

A "Free German" committee in Moscow which is headed by Field Marshal von Paulus, the German commander who surrendered at Stalingrad, calls for the German people to stage an insurrection and throw Hitler out. We wonder if this "Free German" committee will be set up to run the part of Germany which Russia liberates, like the Polish Lublin committee. At that the Russians seem to do a better job of propagandizing than do the allies. Our psychological warfare has pretty much flopped.

Editorial Comment

GIVE 'EM LAND LOTS OF LAND
We don't know how you feel about it, but listening to hot-house crooners singing "Don't Fence Me In" often gives us a feeling we would imagine is not unlike swallowing some bacon fat on the end of a string. Some of these gentlemen live like cats, or owls or bats—venturing out of their apartments only at night, and never getting further from downtown New York or Chicago than you could throw the Brooklyn bridge.

They stand before the mike in a smoke-clouded night club or on top of a 40-story building in a pile of brick-work called a big city, and bleat about how they'd like to "straddle their old saddle" and ride and ride 'neath starry skies above. Oh brother! Bing Crosby? Sure, Bing can sing it. He's western, anyway. Comes from Spokane. Besides he plays golf. Furthermore, he knows the difference between a horse and a chimpanzee, despite what Bob Hope says. Frank Sinatra, we don't think likes to sing it much, because the saxons don't squeal when he pleads for "land lots of land."

But, honestly, some day one of these cowboys is going to tie his Pinto to the bar in the Copacabana, and head out to God's country where land, lots of land means the great west. And we'll bet the fresh air kills him.—Astoria-Budget.

MOURNER'S BENCH
Dr. Clarence A. Dykstra, California educator, doubts that schemes to re-educate Germany into a democratic way of life will work. He says educational philosophy is developed from within a people and cannot be imposed forcibly from without. It sounds reasonable. Even in so axiomatic a matter as multiplication tables, modern educators have abandoned rapping on the knuckles to beat knowledge into young brains. The process seems even more dubious as a means of transferring the spirit of the four freedoms into the flux of a nation of several overlapping generations.

What Is Left of Berlin

It is going to be interesting, to say the least, to find out just what is left of Berlin—continental Europe's largest city.

There can be no sentimentalism in connection with its destruction—it brought it on itself. But those less militaristic, who in better times spread their culture over the city's 431 square miles along the river Spree, would find the change a bitter one.

Such buildings as the ministries of justice (a sad misnomer) and state, the University of Berlin, state library, protestant cathedral, the Kaiser Friedrich museum and university—what toll must thousands of tons of bombs have taken! And the Unter den Linden, Leipzigerstrasse, Friedrichstrasse, leading shopping zones, and the Brandenburg Gate, Opernplatz, Gendarmenmarkt and other notable parks and monuments—they won't all survive.

They must have suffered, even though major targets included huge factories turning out electrical equipment, machinery, chemicals, locomotives, furniture and scientific instruments—or perhaps the Tempelhof—one of the world's largest and best equipped airports—or the city's superhighways and 20 great railroad stations.

The Russians held Berlin for three days 185 years ago. Will they be the first now to tell us what happened to capital of chaos?

Moral Obligations?

So—the report of the Crimean conference frees Germany of "all moral obligations" to abide by the rules of war. That's what Paul Schmidt of the German foreign office said in an angry outburst yesterday. He also said Germans henceforth would conduct war "with all suitable means, no matter how grim the effect."

My, how Nazidom changes, or does it! Of course Germany was abiding by the rules of war when her warplanes started the murder of Britain's civilians. And the slaughter of Jews was done exactly according to Hoyle, no doubt of it.

The Stockholm dispatch regarding Schmidt's comment also said that the report of the Big-3 conference caused "by far the worst explosion" correspondents ever had seen at the Wilhelmstrasse.

From here, it looks like writhing would be a better word than explosion. And it still looks like the Yalta conference did the best exploding—of the fast-wagging German hope that there is any escape whatever from the folly of the way of the transgressor.

And if Schmidt was alluding to poison gas, there is reason to believe that perhaps there really is something behind the oft-repeated rumors of fanaticism borne of unstable minds in the party's high command. The Allies are on German soil. And it certainly can't be any secret that the Allies have poison gas, too. Things don't add up to much but the death rattle.

Maybe it's justice and maybe not, but there won't be much hue and cry raised because 73-year-old Benjamin Franklin Male of St. Helens isn't to pay a legal price for a slaying in West Virginia 40 years ago. Yesterday, in Fairmont, W. Va., Male was given an upbraiding for having remained away from the law so long, and then a suspended sentence on good behavior. We don't know the details of the original case, but at least Male has a long record of good behavior to rest on.

Interpreting The War News

Slow recession is reported of flood waters in the west still virtually immobilizing Allied striking power along the Roer and Maas. It encourages belief that General Eisenhower can soon throw his full offensive weight into action there to match new Russian penetrations in the east that double the threat to Berlin and menace Dresden.

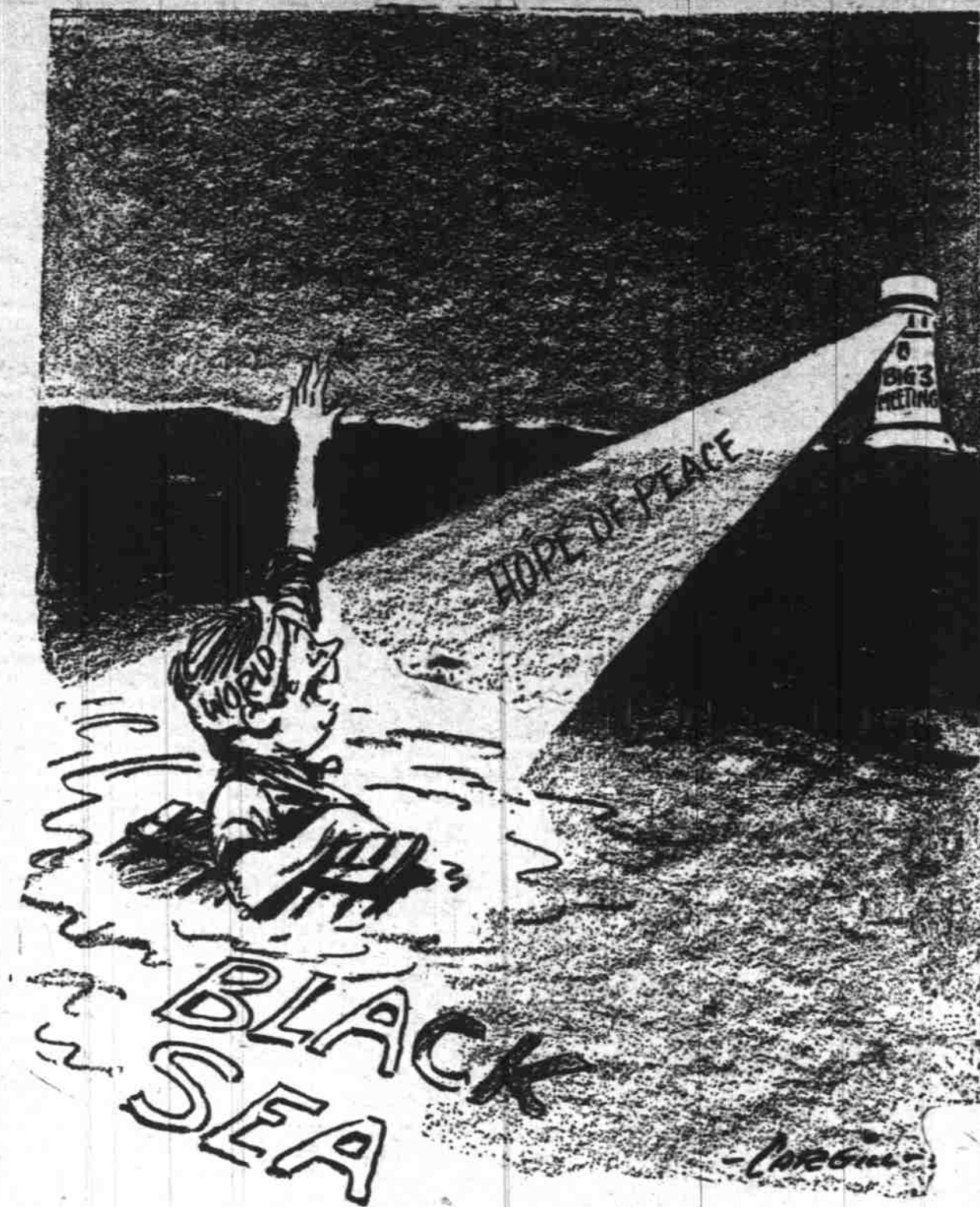
Field dispatches from the Allied command centers make no secret that preparation for a culminating pile-driver smash has reached a stage where only certain conditions are withholding it. The picture at least two powerful and all but inactive armies, the American Ninth and the British Second, fretting at the enforced delay until the flood runoff of combined thaw and Nazi blowups dams is complete enough to permit major operations again. Russian forces in the Oder valley are knocking at the gateways to Saxony north of the Sudeten mountains. Below two-thirds encircled Breslau, Ukrainian troops have expanded their trans-Oder bridgehead to the north, south and west to come virtually abreast of comrades to the north menacing Berlin along the middle Oder.

Konev's Ukrainians have swept beyond the Oder to the Sudeten foothills. They hold an 80-mile arc that reaches from captured Striegau, 35 miles west of Breslau, to the Sorau area due south of the left flank of White Russian armies at the Bober-Oder confluence where the Berlin siege ring begins. Within the arc lie the headwaters of the Bober and the Queis rivers, two of the three possible water barriers guarding the roads to Dresden, Leipzig and all Saxony and protecting Berlin from the southeast. Only the Neisse defense line remains and Marshal Konev's advance elements were within less than 20 miles of it in the Sorau region by Berlin admission. They are even closer to the west of captured Bunzlau along the direct Breslau-Dresden road.

Berlin broadcasts indicated Konev was swinging northward west of the Bober to effect contact with White Russian armies on his right, outflank the middle Oder defense line and join in the converging attack of Berlin. Moscow bulletins gave no intimation of that. The Russian silence as to recent developments on the middle and lower Oder sector continued, doubtless covering the bringing up of fresh troops and regrouping of forces for the final assault.

There is no doubt, nevertheless, that the Russian sweep across the Oder valley has brought Dresden into virtually as imminent a peril as Berlin. It covers not only every approach to the plains of eastern Saxony around the north end of the Sudeten range, but also every mountain pass route.

The Nazi plight on that sector fully warrants Berlin intimations that the situation there is even graver than that of Berlin.



On The Beam

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

"RETURN TO THE VINEYARD," by Mary Loos and Walter Duranty (Doubleday, Doran; \$2.50).

This looks like a book written with the aid of a wall chart and dozens of tabs. Take tabs for hero and heroine, skip two spaces and fight, skip one and love, skip three and enter jealousy, skip to the bottom and all is well.

Some 30 persons in the European village of Vineyard survived World War II and, at the start of the novel, have been herded together to return home.

They defy Ref Repat, a refugee repatriation board, quit Marktown where they would have been regimented and settle in a cave near Vineyard. They set out to rehabilitate themselves; one of them is confident all Europe will be inspired to hoist itself by its own bootstraps back to recovery if their experiment succeeds.

You have here, you see, attacks on bureaucracy and regimentation, criticism of too much international planning, a defense of rugged individualism and the hint that if we let Europe alone with her own post-war troubles, everything will come out for the best.

But there is more than rehabilitation. There is love, or more accurately, sex. Men and women, boys and girls, the blind, crippled, aged and infirm make love all over the place. It is described from the first gasp to the last gasp. What's more, love is used two ways in the plot: first, it drives crazy people sane and second, and perhaps the more usual order, it drives sane people crazy.

Besides rehabilitation and sex, there are extraordinary coincidences. The most amazing is the discovery of a family which retreated deep into the hills, let trees grow over the road and remained isolated and untouched by World War II. . . . a sort of Sleeping Beauty episode.

Besides rehabilitation, sex and coincidence, there is sentiment: a boy whose life is saved when he gets a darling pink-bellied puppy; a priest who loses religion and regains it; a German who proves that not all Germans

are evil. Finally, since nothing ever came out so well, the ending is perfect. This entire novel is made up. There isn't a thing in it that's real, nor a thing that's realized.

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 14. — Popular predictions that the end of Europe is a matter of days or a couple of weeks, are not justified by inner military facts.

They represent glib hopefulness of commentators, not the soundest American military judgment.

The Nazis show intention of fighting for everything, and particularly for Berlin, the capture of which may require more time than is being allowed for the end of the war. Nazi morale is weakened but not broken. More Germans are taking advantage of opportunities to surrender when confronted with an easy chance to escape from Hitler (or is it Himmler?), but not on a large scale.

Truth is no large force surrendered either to the Russian advance through Poland across the Oder, or to us. The bulk of their gang clings to the Goebbels idea that nothing can be gained by throwing down their arms. They display no desperate shortage of any line of equipment, except planes.

Periodic thaws already are developing to slow down the attacks. The Reds had to cross the Oder at Breslau in boats. The weather on our front can hardly become worse than it has been for weeks (bitter cold, snow and thaws) but at present thaws are creating natural floods to add hazards to the artificial dam flooding of the upper Roer. The Canadians are currently accomplishing great success around Kieve, but a few miles ahead is the difficult Rhine river and a little to the south, the Rhine water hazard is only 15 to 18 miles in front of us.

Their actions indicate that when the end comes, it is likely to take an unexpected form. The Nazis clearly intend to surrender only army unit by unit (as in our Civil War) rather than collectively as in World War I. This is likely to lead to a worse condition than after the Civil War and extend over a longer period. Each army unit may have to be chased down and captured. (Mosby's unit from our civil conflict has not surrendered yet.)

The Nazis look upon their movement as a world revolution which will one day revive, and their resistance also will surely be carried even beyond surrender. Already we have detected signs of their underground organization functioning thoroughly behind our lines in France, Italy and the lowlands. They will become the communists of the future with undercover workers in every country. (At the time of the Ardennes breakthrough they had precise and full information of our military condition from their invisible underground.)

Dumped out of Europe, in the end, they may well land in Argentina, the only nation favorable to their purposes (Spain being defunct) and thus we might well find them in our hemisphere, as our own major postwar problem.

This war is not like any other modern one.

PASADENA, Calif.—(P)—Walter Payne was perplexed by the constant attention of passing motorists as he drove to his butcher shop. Upon arrival he found that his pet pullet, Biddy, had hitched a ride on the front bumper from his home nine miles away.

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT!
Yank Correspondent Has 'Quiet' Weekend in Siegfried Line

By Thornburn Wiant
(Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon)

WITH THE US 30th DIVISION WEST OF PRUEM, Germany—(P)—Pat Mitchell of New York, an energetic Stars and Stripes correspondent who formerly worked for the New York World-Telegram, suggests a weekend in the Siegfried line so we take off in his beat-up jeep through a driving rain. Soon our arms are sore from operating windshield wipers which only slightly improve our vision for about two seconds per swipe.

En route to the 90th division through axle-deep mud we pass through St. Vith, a town in name only. St. Vith died a horrible death from allied bombs. It once contained 400 buildings but only nine are standing. The effect of the bombing was the same as a steamroller on a crate of eggs.

Rain and more rain. Passing vehicles throw mud over us. Mitchell resembles an African. "You should look in the mirror if you think I'm filthy," he says.

It is getting dark as we cross the German border. We are about reconciled to spending the night in the jeep when we spot a military policeman. "The next town," he says, when we ask for the 90th division.

We are so close to the Germans that we can't show any light. We grope around until we find Capt. James C. McNamara of Sioux Falls, SD, a public relations officer who formerly was a Los Angeles radio man.

Few houses of the little German town are still standing but McNamara finds a place for us to sleep. The next room is occupied by seven cows, one sheep, one dog and one cat.

"This isn't exactly the Wal-

dorf, but it's the best we have," says McNamara. Col. John C. Whitcomb of Durham, NC, chief of staff, has picked up a story about a replacement soldier found walking away from the front.

"You're going the wrong way, son," the commanding officer told him. "The front's the other way."

"I know it, sir," the replacement replied. "I'm within 200 yards of the krauts but my sights are set for 500. I'm moving back so I can start shooting."

LI. Col. Robert F. Booth of Eugene, Ore., reports his men working over one of more than 200 pillboxes knocked out by the 90th saw seven Germans come out with their hands up. The Americans searched them and went inside to check the pillbox. On the floor was a German officer with a bullet through his head. Under questioning, the soldier said the officer had refused to let them surrender.

Our animal neighbors start stirring at daybreak so it's useless to try to sleep longer. Then we hear some noise in another room. There are six GI's pounding typewriters and running off mimeographed copies of the "Sniper," the division's daily newspaper. McNamara's staff, headed by Pvt. James T. Deibel-

lo of Chicago, hasn't failed to publish since D-plus-18 although the outfit's always been in artillery range. They wore out their original mimeograph machine and now are using a "liberated" German one.

Deibel's assistants are Pvs. David C. Ratner of the Bronx, NY; Bernard Berlin of New York City; Pfc. Pierre Charpenier of Lynbrook, Long Island, NY; Cpl. Gerald Buckles of Glenwood Springs, Colo.; and Sgt. Herbert Peake of Chenango Bridge, NY.

Your Federal Income Tax

No. 34 INTEREST DEDUCTIONS

Interest on indebtedness, with certain exceptions, is an allowable deduction from income for Federal income tax purposes. In computing normal tax and surtax, deductible interest includes both interest incurred in connection with a business or profession, and interest on personal indebtedness. Whether you should deduct interest expenses in your return depends in part on the method you use in making your return, and in part on specific provisions of law.

A. Special Deductions
By special provisions of law you may deduct, in computing your adjusted gross income to which the tax in the tax table in the return applies, interest chargeable against rental or royalty income, and interest on business debts. Interest chargeable against rental or royalty income should be deducted in Schedule B, page 3 of Form 1040 for 1944, and interest on business debts should be deducted in Schedule C on the same page.

B. Other Deductions
Interest expenditures which are not deductible in computing your adjusted gross income may represent interest on personal debts, or interest incurred in the production or collection of income other than rental or royalty income, or interest incurred in the management, conservation or maintenance of property other than rental or royalty property.

If you use your Withholding Receipt Form W-2 (Rev.) as a return, or if you file Form 1040 and use either the tax table or the standard deduction, then you may not deduct any interest referred to in the preceding paragraph, because you will receive an allowance in lieu of such deductions. If, however, you file Form 1040 and itemize your deductions on page 4, then you may deduct these interest items on page 4 of the return, supported by an explanation attached to the return.

C. General Principles
Interest on personal indebtedness may include interest on a mortgage on a home, interest on the price of household goods purchased on the installment plan, as well as interest on personal loans. Interest paid on a judgment or on delinquent unpaid taxes is also deductible. It is not necessary that the indebtedness be secured by a lien or mortgage for the interest to be deductible, but there must be a legal obligation on the taxpayer to pay the interest.

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued from page 1)

a fixed limitation in the constitution. Congress is not dumb, and congress writes the tax laws. The congress is eager to reduce taxes as soon as the war conditions will permit. So why not leave the problem in the hands of congress?

There are numerous plans being worked on now for postwar taxation. They all contemplate removal of the excess profits tax and point toward reduction in rates for individuals and corporations. All the expressions of administrative heads acknowledge that taxes must be revised so as to encourage business activity, though it is admitted by all, both those in and those out of government, that taxes must remain high in order to carry our debt burden and meet the expenses of government.

Postwar finance is one of the most difficult problems confronting the nation. It would be a grave mistake to tie the hands of our elected congressmen and senators by a limitation such as is proposed by this self-constituted committee.

4-H Auditions Set Saturday

Auditions for the annual Marion county 4H radio broadcast over station KOAC at Corvallis will be held in the Salem YMCA Saturday morning, February 17, from 9:30 to 12 o'clock, according to James Bishop, county club agent. Try-outs will of necessity be limited to club members whose leaders or teachers reported them to the agent.

Opportunity is given each year to broadcast a county club program, which will be given this year February 26 from 7:30 to 8 p.m. at the Corvallis station. The auditions enable proper talent to be selected. E. A. Britton, KOAC agricultural programs manager, will be present to make the selections.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



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STEVENS DIAMONDS
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