

ON TO OREGON— The Way West

By A. B. GUTHRIE, JR.

SYNOPSIS: Life Evans, captain of the On-to-Oregon wagon train, is now sole leader by the strength of his arm and the power of his seldom used fist. Tadlock knows now that he can't lynch an Indian boy merely because his coat is stolen. But Life Evans' son, Brownie, is not so sure of his power. He has shyly proposed marriage to pretty Mercy McBee. Something tragic is troubling the girl. Meanwhile the little company of pioneers has a hard road ahead between the valley of the Bear and the promised land of Oregon. Although it is only August the snow will soon be flying in the mountains. Now go on with the story—

hundred, or horses at from fifteen to twenty-five each. "Some of you'll get through, and maybe some wagons," the man said and took the pipe from his mouth. "We done all right so far," Evans put in. "Shore you did, boy. Ain't quite the whisker of August, and here ye be."

"Well?"

"More this child thinks to it," Greenwood said, "more he almost takes to the ford twice, and for forty way is too tame. Nothin' the whole length of her to test a man. Nothin' to remember 'cept easy go-in.'"

The look of thinking ahead was on Patch's sharp face. "What did you say they raised in California?"

"Nothin'. Nothin' 'cept what's sot in the ground and whatever chews on grass. Shore a soft country, she is, and sunny a man wonders ain't there ever no weather there. It ain't like Oregon thataway."

"Let's talk straight," Tadlock said, hitching forward. "Why do you think we can't make it to the Willamette?"

Old Greenwood spread his hands. "Did this child say that, now? Said some of you would. Shore. There's no way to ford twice, and for forty way is too tame. Nothin' the whole length of her to test a man. Nothin' to remember 'cept easy go-in.'"

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Chapter 18
Mercy waited in the dark. She made herself a shadow in the dark so that people, looking, would take her for a bush or for a cloud across a state. The stars were cold and distant before the moon that would come later.

She pulled her coat around her neck and told herself to wait. Wait for the last look around. Wait for the last cheer before people took themselves to bed.

A dog came up, unseen, and nosed her hand, and she started and called and felt him to be Rock and held him with her white skin.

She knew him when she stepped out, knew him by the thin, clean shadow that he was against the shadowed night, and boldness died in her and her legs trembled to run. She said, "Mr. Mack," and heard her voice as no more than a whisper, drowned by the sh-h-h of the spring, "Mr. Mack."

"What's that? Who is it?" Then, lower-voiced, "Oh, hello."

"It's Mercy McBee."

"I see now. How are you?"

"Mr. Mack?"

"Yes."

"Could we get away a piece, so's to talk?"

He took her arm without answering and led her out from camp, down toward the steamboat spring. "It has seemed best not to try to see you, Mercy."

"I wouldn't try to see you but—"

"What is it?"

"I'm feared, Mr. Mack. I'm so feared."

"For God's sake!" he said. Then, "It's probably just your imagination."

"It's been tryin' to tel myself that."

"Well?"

"What kin we do?"

"Don't you see I can't do anything?"

While she wandered at it, he asked, "Have you thought about marriage, Mercy?"

"To who?"

"Well—to anyone?"

The voice in her said, "Talk don't seem to be no use. Must be your way expected you."

He cried out then, cried fierce but soft so that she felt the misery in him. "Mercy! I'm sorry. All I can say is I'm sorry."

He left without patting her, without touching her, without the kiss that she had thought would give her comfort.

She asked herself if she could wrong a boy like Brownie.

Curtis Mack didn't go immediately to his tent.

Thinking of her, he hated himself, hated his shabby answering to her need, hated the cheap suggestion that he marry. Curtis Mack had found comfort in hard work and unaccommodated patience with Amanda, after the killing of the Kaw.

"I was in the nature of things, he thought, that now, with a better understanding reached between his wife and him, the consequences of misunderstanding should cease. They were coming to adjustment, each trying to keep in mind the other. And he felt fulfilled and knew he loved his wife beyond all women.

Amanda's voice said in the darkness, "I almost went to sleep, Curt."

"It's such a grand night out." He sat down and started taking off his shoes.

"You'll have yourself a spree, I'm thinkin' the old outcounser said. This child's been that way, and it's some, that's what it is."

He was, Life Evans thought, about the age of a hillside, and a hundred years one way or the other—and he sat on the ground with the solid ease of a hill, as if he never needed a chair or back-rest for his carcass. Greenwood, his name was, "Ain't I right, Cap'n?"

There were eight or ten of them squatted around in the Port Hall yard, outside the dried-mud building that Captain Grant used for office and home.

Captain Grant was the only one who stood. He had England written all over him. He brushed his beard with his hand. "The Hudson's Bay Company never has tried to get a wagon train through," he answered.

Evans asked himself whether he was ready to dislike the man just because he was British. He had been good enough to the train, good enough to be better than you might expect from a Britisher. You could buy flour from him, brought by boat and horse from the Oregon settlements, at twenty dollars a

NOW GET THIS, BILLY! FROM NOW ON, RIBBER AND I WILL STAND GUARDED DRY-AND-NIGHT! AND IF YOU SET FOOT INSIDE THAT ROPE YOU'LL WND UP AS A COLD SNACK FOR SOME PASSING WOLF!

MR. BIGBRAIN, I'VE BEEN WORKING HERE THREE WEEKS AND I FEEL THAT I'M ENTITLED TO A RAISE!

THREE WEEKS! DO YOU KNOW THAT I WORKED HERE FOR YEARS BEFORE I GOT MY FIRST RAISE?

AH IS PURTY SHORE THET NOEL BATTLIN' M'NOODNIK WILL NOW RETIRE, FUM TH' RING ASSOOMIN' HE'S STILL ALIVE. SO NOW HE WON'T HAFTA TRAIN ANYMORE-AN' HE CAN SPEND ALL HIS TIME GOIN' STEADY WIF YO, TH' POLICE SOUL!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BEATIN' OFF TH' RAIDERS HOPPY. HOW'S TH' BOYS DOIN' WITH TH' FIRE?

HEY, POP, GIMME FOUR BITS—I WANNA GO TO THE MOVIES!

PATTY AND I WERE WALKING ALONG THE ROAD, FLIP RAN IN HERE AND PICKED UP THIS GLOVE!

DR. DAVIES PSYCHIATRIST

HERE'S COPY FOR YOUR NEWSPAPER ADS, MR. KALKENBROOM!

ROOM AND BOARD

By Gene Ahern

"MORTON THE MOUSE" WAS RAISED IN THE STALL OF A RACE HORSE—SO THE JUDGE, BEING A NATURAL KNUCKLE-YAWNER, BELIEVES THE MOUSE HAS MYSTIC POWERS TO PREDICT THE WINNING HORSE IN A RACE!

WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE THE CONTRAPTION HE KEEPS "MORTON" IN, AND HEAR THE SYSTEM HE DREAMED UP FOR TO PICK THE WINNER OF A RACE!

WELL, HE'S TRIED EVERYTHING ELSE TO PRODUCE A PROFIT, AND HE'S HAD A MOUSE WORKING FOR HIM!

HAW-W!

RADIO PROGRAMS

SATURDAY—P. M.

Time	Station	Program
5:00	KGW	Hands of Land
5:15	KGW	Hands of Land
5:30	KGW	Hands of Land
5:45	KGW	Hands of Land
6:00	KGW	Hands of Land
6:15	KGW	Hands of Land
6:30	KGW	Hands of Land
6:45	KGW	Hands of Land
7:00	KGW	Hands of Land
7:15	KGW	Hands of Land
7:30	KGW	Hands of Land
7:45	KGW	Hands of Land
8:00	KGW	Hands of Land
8:15	KGW	Hands of Land
8:30	KGW	Hands of Land
8:45	KGW	Hands of Land
9:00	KGW	Hands of Land
9:15	KGW	Hands of Land
9:30	KGW	Hands of Land
9:45	KGW	Hands of Land
10:00	KGW	Hands of Land
10:15	KGW	Hands of Land
10:30	KGW	Hands of Land
10:45	KGW	Hands of Land
11:00	KGW	Hands of Land
11:15	KGW	Hands of Land
11:30	KGW	Hands of Land
11:45	KGW	Hands of Land
12:00	KGW	Hands of Land

DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550

KOAC Saturday P. M.—5:00, Chh. (last 7:00), Light Opera Tonight: 8:45, Dubois: 9:30, 5:00 Sports Club: 6:00, News: 6:15, Lounge Letters: 6:15, 7:00 a. m., 11 p. m., KEX 6:30, 8 to 9 p. m.

SUNDAY

Time	Station	Program
7:00	KGW	Hands of Land
7:15	KGW	Hands of Land
7:30	KGW	Hands of Land
7:45	KGW	Hands of Land
8:00	KGW	Hands of Land
8:15	KGW	Hands of Land
8:30	KGW	Hands of Land
8:45	KGW	Hands of Land
9:00	KGW	Hands of Land
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10:00	KGW	Hands of Land
10:15	KGW	Hands of Land
10:30	KGW	Hands of Land
10:45	KGW	Hands of Land
11:00	KGW	Hands of Land
11:15	KGW	Hands of Land
11:30	KGW	Hands of Land
11:45	KGW	Hands of Land
12:00	KGW	Hands of Land

MONDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

Time	Station	Program	Time	Station	Program
6:00	KGW	Hands of Land	11:30	KGW	Hands of Land
6:15	KGW	Hands of Land	11:45	KGW	Hands of Land
6:30	KGW	Hands of Land	12:00	KGW	Hands of Land
6:45	KGW	Hands of Land	12:15	KGW	Hands of Land
7:00	KGW	Hands of Land	12:30	KGW	Hands of Land
7:15	KGW	Hands of Land	12:45	KGW	Hands of Land
7:30	KGW	Hands of Land	1:00	KGW	Hands of Land
7:45	KGW	Hands of Land	1:15	KGW	Hands of Land
8:00	KGW	Hands of Land	1:30	KGW	Hands of Land
8:15	KGW	Hands of Land	1:45	KGW	Hands of Land
8:30	KGW	Hands of Land	2:00	KGW	Hands of Land
8:45	KGW	Hands of Land	2:15	KGW	Hands of Land
9:00	KGW	Hands of Land	2:30	KGW	Hands of Land
9:15	KGW	Hands of Land	2:45	KGW	Hands of Land
9:30	KGW	Hands of Land	3:00	KGW	Hands of Land
9:45	KGW	Hands of Land	3:15	KGW	Hands of Land
10:00	KGW	Hands of Land	3:30	KGW	Hands of Land
10:15	KGW	Hands of Land	3:45	KGW	Hands of Land
10:30	KGW	Hands of Land	4:00	KGW	Hands of Land
10:45	KGW	Hands of Land	4:15	KGW	Hands of Land
11:00	KGW	Hands of Land	4:30	KGW	Hands of Land
11:15	KGW	Hands of Land	4:45	KGW	Hands of Land
11:30	KGW	Hands of Land			
11:45	KGW	Hands of Land			
12:00	KGW	Hands of Land			

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Ethereal salt

2. Palm hills

3. Howling tool

4. Exist

5. Strongly

6. Income

7. Formal presentation

8. Act of holding

9. Genus of ducks

10. Chinese

11. More certain

12. Pleasure excursion

13. Lamb

14. Public notices

15. Used in roll

16. Excitation

17. Larva

18. Oil

19. sumps

20. sumps

21. sumps

22. sumps

23. sumps

24. sumps

25. sumps

26. sumps

27. sumps

28. sumps

29. sumps

30. sumps

31. sumps

32. sumps

33. sumps

34. sumps

35. sumps

36. sumps

37. sumps

38. sumps

39. sumps

40. sumps

41. sumps

42. sumps

43. sumps

44. sumps

45. sumps

46. sumps

47. sumps

48. sumps

49. sumps

50. sumps

51. sumps

52. sumps

53. sumps

54. sumps

55. sumps

56. sumps

57. sumps

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

DOWN

1. Kind of grass

2. Dog

3. Long abusive speech

4. Obliterate

5. Color

6. English letter

7. Mashed fabric

8. Patron saint of lawyers

9. Bill of fare

10. Frog or toad

11. Enticed

12. Prophecy

13. Greenland

14. Game of cards

15. Abraham's birthplace

16. Fruit

17. Tune

18. Not profess

19. Draft animal

20. For lit in Texas

21. Distrust

22. In botany, a

23. Mother

24. Judge's court

25. Ascended

26. Companions

27. One

28. Artificial language from office; law

29. Commend

30. Great lake

31. Insect

32. Went ahead

33. Like