

ON TO OREGON— The Way West

By A. B. GUTHRIE, JR.

SYNOPSIS: Brownie Evans has married little Mercy McBee. Tadlock, Mercy's shiftless father and mother, and several other members of the party have broken away from the On-to-Oregon wagon train and are heading for California. Life and Rebecca Evans, father and mother of Brownie, Dick Summers, the guide, and most of the rest of the party are heading toward the treacherous Snake and the Columbia. Meanwhile Rock, the beloved dog of the Evans, seems to be lost. Soon snow will be flying in the mountains. Now go on with the story—

Chapter 20
Oregon had put a spell on them. It had put a spell on all of them except for Tadlock and Davisworth and Brewer and McBee except for one. Mercy McBee, and Brownie, try to act like real folkies to that one. McBee like Rebecca told him that Rebecca had taken the news of the wedding quiet, as if she'd seen it coming, and hadn't argued that he knew of, or scolded, or asked Brownie to wait. "Maybe it ain't the way I might hope, Life," she whispered so that Brownie wouldn't hear it. "I ain't the way I'd hoped." Her hand patted him. "We got to take what comes and make the best of it and not the worst. You be nice to Mercy." But in the morning—it was just this morning, come to think of it, what worried her was what the girl would wear. It turned out the girl was dressed all right. Had shoes on and a dress with a frilly collar.

Weatherly had done the trick quick, knowing the train must move, but still the knot was likely tight enough—too tight, it might turn out. It was a friendly train, except for one or two. Good wishing for the man and wife. Mack had even tried to give a yoke of oxen as a wedding present, and Brownie had refused it, acting not polite enough. By the time winter came, God willing, he would be in Oregon and have a cabin building. Evans could imagine himself in it. There he was and Becky with him, and Brownie and Dick and Rebecca and Evans, who had been Mercy McBee. He sat in the cabin while he rode his horse, and he saw a thing far off, toward the touch of law and life. He studied it, like his men sat in the new house on the Willamette. The could-be of it pinched him suddenly, and he pulled his horse back, not wanting to believe, while his eyes said no and yes. "Rock!" he said into the wind. "Hey, you, Rock!" He heeled his horse into a walk. He sat still in the saddle when he had come to him, seeing numbered by seeing, the big head knocked in and one eye pushing from its socket and the old muzzle stained by blood. For all his faults Tadlock was too much of a man for this. Who, then? He didn't need to ask again. He knew as well as a man could know. "Never can tell what'll happen." The flicker in the muddy eye, they were Mercy's way of letting him know, of making sure he wouldn't miss the knowing. They were the last laugh. They were the getting even for all the wounds to little pride. And he had taken them from their place, and he had taken them from the front of his mind. He made up for California, and seen the old dog dozing by the wagon. It could even be, Evans thought without believing that McBee was trying to excuse himself. He tried, trying to say he'd acted different if he'd known about the marriage at the time. Evans straightened up. The train had crawled closer, and there was just one thing to do. A door behind the best. Brownie mustn't even know, or Mercy or even Becky. Down toward the river there was a thick patch of woods. He rode to the far side of it and got off and carried the body deep in the woods. He laid it down. "I reckon you understand, Rock?" he said out loud, not caring if the words were foolish.

It seemed to Evans now that one day was like another and that all were bad. They were all work and worry and weariness, and dust and sun and wind and night and sun, and rain and work again. He tried to whistle up the old, bold hope, but it had disappeared. This sorry land was endless. Violent country. Land of fire and mud, broken when God first made the world. Range of rattlesnake and jackass rabbit and cactus hot as any hornet. The great gorge of the Snake, the churning cut so steep below a horseman couldn't ride to it, so far a walker would not be climbing down and back. Evans knew this time would pass. He was right to try for Oregon. It was partly that old Rock was dead and the place empty where he would have trotted. And partly it was Brownie's marriage, though not so much as once and the manner of the man and wife, as if they had to take their state dead serious. He couldn't believe it, back there at the fort, that the road would be so hard. For two days afterwards he couldn't believe it yet, while the train rolled to the Portneuf crossing and to American Falls. The next day and the days that followed showed him what his mind's eye could not see. A river out of hell, the Snake, or a river still in hell! Summers called him. He called to the man who had teetered on the great lip of its gorge and peered below and seen it like a frothy ribbon, and what it was was sweep and plunge and under like nothing that he could believe. He had pulled back, dizzy, and the question inside him must have shown for Dick had said, "We'll fer her just the same." And once, late starting after hunting, wandering crows, had camped entirely dry and found the stock more scattered in the morning. That was a thing that bothered man—the thirst and growing weakness and most of all the hunger of cattle and horses and teams. Coming on to good campfires, on

to grass and easy water, men and women always tried to believe the hardest miles were rolled. That was the way at Salmon Falls Creek, where everything was plenty, and at Salmon Falls. Though grass and fuel were scanty at the falls, the Indians had fresh salmon and cakes of pounded berries to trade for clothing, powder, knives and fishhooks. Seeing the Salmon Falls Indians, Evans knew why Summers spoke so low of the fish-eating tribes. They were friendly and talkative and sometimes funny, but childish-minded and dirty and naked except maybe for a rabbit skin, and they ate anything—birds and grasshoppers and crickets. The camp had been a good camp anyhow, or not so bad as some, no matter if grass and wood were scarce and the Indians pretty sorry. And the great springs that burst out of the solid north wall of the Snake gave the people something new to talk about. Spring after spring there was, like summer rivers pouring out, which Summers called the Chutes. More sand came afterwards, more sage, more rocks, more no-grass, more no-water, more worn-out stock. Now they were about to lower down the bluff and try the ford. Summers rode alongside to say, "We can make it, I'm thinkin', without hold-back ropes or anything. Steep but not too bad." "Maybe we better hitch a rope to the first wagon and some of us walk along, just in case," Evans said to Summers. Summers gave a nod. "The way was long and steep, but not so steep by meandering that two or three men, depending on the load and team, couldn't manage trouble if it came. Patch's outfit reached the bottom without real need of help. Still, it seemed wise to send men with each wagon. The crossing didn't look so risky, though, being broken by two islands that sat like low rafts in the stream. Evans tilted his head and saw the white sun veering down. "Dick," he said, "where's brass aplenty on these islands?" "Plenty." Evans spoke to the others as well as to Summers. "Let's push the livestock to 'em, let 'em get their fill and then lie out in the morning. They'll be rested and fed both." Summers was saying, "Good idea," and the rest were nodding. Evans laid the yoke down and let the team stop and saw his in-law daughter looking at him. "Worse outfit?" he asked, making himself smile. She gave him just the ghost of an answer, smile, "I'm all right." (To Be Continued)

Queen Sally Ruler Over Albany Fete

Albany — Selection of Sally Phillips to reign over the 1950 Albany high school spring carnival is announced. The 17-year-old senior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Phillips, will hold sway over a two-day frolic which this year will be known as "The Silver Scepter," April 28 and 29. Queen-elect Sally was chosen by a delegated committee from among a number of candidates. Attending the queen will be Donna Olson, Judy Gilchrist of the senior class, Joanne Corbett, Mildred Marshall and Janet Bussard, Juniors, and Jacquelyn Berry, Pat Donahue and Alta Sjoblom, sophomores.



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RADIO PROGRAMS
TUESDAY—P.M.

KGW	KOIN	KEX	KSLM	KOCO
630 NBC	970 CBS	1300 BC	1300 MBC	1400 Kc.
5:30 The 3 of Us	Feature Story	Green Hornet	Straitly Arrow	Swing Time
5:35 News	Little Show	Shy King	Swing Time	Swing Time
5:40 Fanny Brice	News	Key King	B-Bar-B Ranch	Band of Day
5:45 News	News	Key King	B-Bar-B Ranch	Band of Day
6:00 Bob Hope	Life with Lulu	Edw. C. Hill	Gabriel Heber	Candlelight
6:05 Bob Hope	Life with Lulu	Home Edition	N. W. News	Old Silver
6:10 McGee & Molly	Meditation	Mod. Romances	Sweet Test	Twilight Song
6:15 McGee & Molly	It's Mr. Belief	Mod. Romances	Serenade	Twilight Song
6:45 Male	Spotlight on Youth	Country	Drugs You Use	Dinah Shore
7:00 Male	Spotlight on Youth	Country	Songs of Times	Mus. Jacquel
7:30 Soap. are Funny	Excuse	Excuse	Peter Salem	Evelyn Knight
7:45 Sinatra, Kirt	Law, Thomas	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
8:00 News of World	Jack Smith	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
8:30 Cavalcade	Mrs. North	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
8:45 Ronald Coleman	Mystery Thea.	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
9:00 Big Town	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
9:15 Big Town	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
9:30 Sam Hayes	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
9:45 Sam Hayes	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
10:00 Mark Downey	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
10:30 Sports Pass	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
10:45 News Hour	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
11:00 Treasury Band	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
11:30 Wax Museum	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
11:45 Wax Museum	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
12:00 Sign Off	Silent	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse

7:00 P.M. KGW 100.3, 3-10 p.m., KOIN 101.1, 6 a.m., KEX 99.8, 8 to 9 p.m. WEDNESDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

RADIO PROGRAMS
WEDNESDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

KGW	KOIN	KEX	KSLM	KOCO
6:00 Hodge Podge	News	Farm News	Musie. Tim'pr	Music. Tim'pr
6:15 Farm Times	KOIN Clock	Keep Smiling	Morn. News	Morn. News
6:30 Farm Times	KOIN Clock	Keep Smiling	Morn. News	Morn. News
6:45 Early Bird	KOIN Clock	News	Hemmingway	Tex Ritter
7:00 News	News	Bob Garrod	Br. Most Gang	Br. Most Gang
7:15 News	News	Bob Hazen	Excuse	Excuse
7:30 News	News	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
7:45 News	News	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
8:00 Eddie Albert	Consumer News	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
8:15 Eddie Albert	Consumer News	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
8:30 Jack Bech	Grand Slam	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
8:45 Sam Hider	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
9:00 Second Cup	Wendy Warren	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
9:15 Second Cup	Wendy Warren	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
9:30 Homesteaders	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
9:45 News	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
10:00 Marriage for 2	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
10:15 Marriage for 2	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
10:30 Marriage for 2	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
10:45 Marriage for 2	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
11:00 Double or Nothing	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
11:15 Double or Nothing	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
11:30 Today's Children	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
11:45 Light of World	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
12:00 Kansas News	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
12:15 Road of Life	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
12:30 Lawrence Jones	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
12:45 Happiness	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
1:00 Backstage Wife	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
1:15 Stella Dallas	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
1:30 Aunt Mary	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
1:45 Widder Brown	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
2:00 A Girl Marries	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
2:15 For. Peace Life	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
2:30 Past	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
2:45 Fr. Peace Trav.	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
3:00 Welcome Trav.	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
3:15 Welcome Trav.	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
3:30 Welcome Trav.	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
3:45 Welcome Trav.	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
4:00 Woman's Secret	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
4:15 Life Beautiful	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
4:30 News	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse
4:45 Paula Stone	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse	Excuse

DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550
Tuesday A.M.—5, Children's Theater; 5:15, On the Upbeat; 5:30, 5:50 Sports Club; 6:00, News; 6:15, Organ; 6:30, Round the Campfire; 6:45, Evening News; 7:00, School of Air; 7:15, School of Air; 7:30, School of Air; 7:45, School of Air; 8:00, OSC Music Dept.; 8:15, Research Rept.; 8:30, Artillery in Classics; 8:45, News, Weather; 9:00, Music That Endures; 9:45, Evening Meditations; 10:00, Sign Off.

Club Honors Member
Sheridan — The Get-Together club met with Adriene Tyner with all members except Molly Ball present. A shower was given in honor of Millian Beck. Guests were Laura Holdgrafer, Ann Ryan, Patricia Otte, Corletta Williams and Marie McCord. The evening was spent playing games with Ruby Kunzler and Illa Black winning the prizes. Vivian Kunzler won the special prize. The next meeting will be March 10 at the home of Hazel Tyner.

Crossword Puzzle
ACROSS
1. Suitable
4. Centinal
8. Atlantic native
12. Automobile
14. River in Russia
15. Philippine tree
16. Land measure
17. On the ocean
18. Land measure
19. Send payment
20. Nerv. network
21. Prohibit
22. Lison native
23. Ura native
24. Caesar's native tongue
27. Extol
28. Forebear
29. Part in a play
30. Father
31. Word of consent
32. Fencing
33. Sword
34. Small wagon
35. Bury
36. Pure
37. Exposed
38. Famous opera
39. Wing
40. Historical period
41. Son of Adam
42. Four
43. Mole
44. Tree
45. Affirmative

ROOM AND BOARD By Gene Ahern

VERY WELL THEN HAVE YOUR CHORTLE! MY RACE BETTING SYSTEM WITH "MORTON THE MOUSE" MAY STRIKE YOU AS AMUSING AND FANTASTIC... BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT? ... OR BETTER YET... WHAT'S RIGHT WITH ANY SYSTEM? ... YOU CAN LOSE ON THE BEST OF THEM!

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