

## Out of the Woods

By JIM STEVENS

### The Way West...

The best seller of the hour among novels is a story of the Oregon Trail of the 1840's. Its title is "The Way West" and the author is A. B. Guthrie, Jr., who gave us "The Big Sky" a couple of years ago. Guthrie's new novel, like its older brother, brings forth the land, people and life of the West with a vitality and a story-telling power that go to make the book seem amazingly real.

This realism wobbles and fades somewhat in the final chapters, which bring the wagon train of the story into Oregon. The author, for example, in his narration, calls the

trees of the Douglas fir region "pines".

This and a few other items of the kind are small things in relation to the main values of a prime tale of the wagon-train beginnings of the Pacific Northwest. "The Way West" is a novel that will set a host of young people in our time dreaming of the Oregon country and start many this way. And why not? Much of the land is unchanged. It is a region of adventure and opportunity still. And now it is easy to reach.

### "Our People..."

It was my good luck recently to happen on another book of the wagon-train era of the Northwest, a factual record of the westward going

of the Fry family, who had a leading part in making logging and lumbering history on the Columbia River and Grays Harbor.

This book is entitled "Our People", and the author is Edwin Van Syckle, of the Aberdeen World. Here is another stirring story of the Oregon Trail, one that shows also the later growth of a clan that made the grade.

The historical record, "Our People" is a good book to read in conjunction with "The Way West". So I've found it, anyhow. The realism of fact matches the realism of fiction in a number of features. There is emphasis, for example, in both books on the important point that the real start of the wagon trains for the Oregon Trail of the 1840's was in 1836 and 1837. Those were years of hard times, with the later year running into a major panic.

In that same year the Amherst Fry family started west from New York state. There were many other outfits on the turn pikes, traces and mud tracks. Illinois, Iowa and Missouri were the farthest west destinations. The Frys settled in Knox County, Illinois.

Jason Fry drove an ox team on west from Illinois in a wagon train in 1849, when he was seventeen. The California gold rush did not tempt him. He took a job cutting piling on the Columbia for dock building at San Francisco. He wrote a letter to his brothers about the big timber, the kind climate—the Midwest was a fever country in the 1840's—and urged them to come on. In April, 1851, Jason's older brother, John

## Canyon Castle

Wes Payton has left Camp Mongold for Sacramento, where he has accepted a position with the Bureau of Reclamation.

A visitor last week was Glenn W. Shoemaker, chief of the appraisal branch. Glenn spent one night in camp and then left for Meridian.

Colonel Miles was down Tuesday with Messrs Hartman and Lee, looking over the job.

Ken Ramsey has been driving Claude Beck's sedan while Claude's

took the big trail with his family.

The trek of the Frys, with others coming later, led from logging and sawmilling on the Columbia to the making of more timber history on Grays Harbor, especially in Cosmopolis. Ed Van Syckle's book is a history of, by and for the Fry family, but he has made it also a rousing story for any reader.

### Farm to Forest...

The Frys were farmers before their coming to the big-timber country. It was a fairer way of farm life they sought in the western journey. But here were hedgerows of tall trees ready to drop into the waterways reached by ocean ships. California and foreign countries were markets for all the lumber that could be cut and shipped out.

So the Frys became people of the timber business. A huge share of the farmers who came over the Oregon Trail by wagon turned likewise to the forest. Mr. Guthrie's next novel may well be a tale of the woods.

## ANNOUNCING

VIV'S STEAK HOUSE HAS OPENED ITS NEW PRIVATE DINING ROOM; AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL PARTIES AND ALL ORGANIZATIONS.

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vacationing and Ken claims that the flock of gals he has been hauling came with it. How about it, Claude? Standard equipment?

The property gang has been running around here, picking up every thing they laid eyes on. Don't forget your hard hats, boys. They are a must down here you know.

CBT's Ken Walker has moved into his new warehouse. Nice setup and very efficiently staffed, too.

Atlas Vealey they call him now—the guy that's always moving the powerhouse around.

Ross Tasker had a surprise on his birthday as a whole gang showed up and gave him quite a party with lots of jello, coffee and ice cream.

We have our ambulance back in operation with a nice new paint job on it and all fixed up for the winter.

R. W. VanHatten is being replaced by D. W. Hess on the fire department and Van is now the painter of the camp. The gang wishes him success on his new job.

Lyle Warnicke dropped in to say hello to the fire crew and we sure did enjoy his visit.

Birthday greetings to Sam Wizer and to A. G. Bell both with birthdays next Monday.

Dr. Wilcutt has moved his family to Detroit. We are glad to know this and to welcome them to the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Fitzgerald entertained at dinner Friday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Rasmick, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford and Mr. and Mrs. Vealey partook of the delicious dinner and spent a pleasant evening playing Canasta.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. George Barker on the death of her only sister. She left for Seattle Wednesday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Pat Crawford are staying with George who is laid up with his leg. He says he is always glad to have his friends drop in for a little visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt have moved into their apartment in upper 304. He is employed in the Motor Pool and Mrs. Hoyt in the office.

### "MET" OPERA BROADCASTS

The Metropolitan Opera Company broadcasts will resume on KEX, Saturday (Nov. 26) at 11 AM, with "Samson et Dalila" launching the clipple roles in the Saint-Saens' opera will be taken by Rise Stevens, Ramon Vinay, and Robert Merrill.

### KEX BEGINS CHRISTMAS SERIES FOR KIDS, NOV. 25

program series will be ushered in by KEX with the initial broadcasts of two popular regulars, "The Cinnamon Bear" and "Letters to Santa", beginning Friday (Nov. 25). Broadcast Monday thru Saturday, "Letters to Santa" is aired at 4-4:15 PM, and "The Cinnamon Bear" is heard at 4:45-5 PM.

A special KEX Christmas production for over 16 years, "Letters to Santa" annually receives thousands of letters from youngsters who wish their Yuletide requests read over the air by "Santa", who is assisted by "Tinker" and "Gus the Goose".

Beginning its fourth year of broadcasting over KEX, "The Cinnamon Bear" is a children's fantasy revolving around the search for a greatly cherished Christmas tree ornament—a large Silver Star. In their quest of the family heirloom, the Barton twins discover "The Cinnamon Bear", Paddy O'Cinnamon.

Final broadcasts in the Yuletide series will be December 24.

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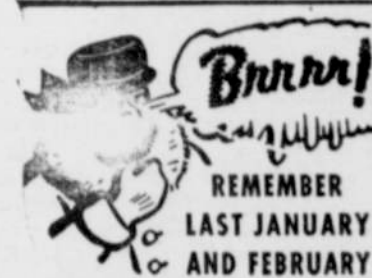
SUNDAYS and HOLIDAYS

9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

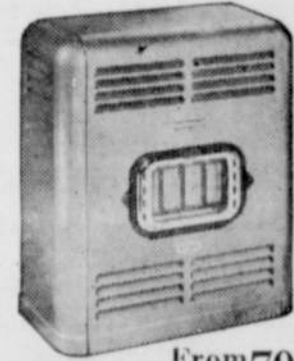


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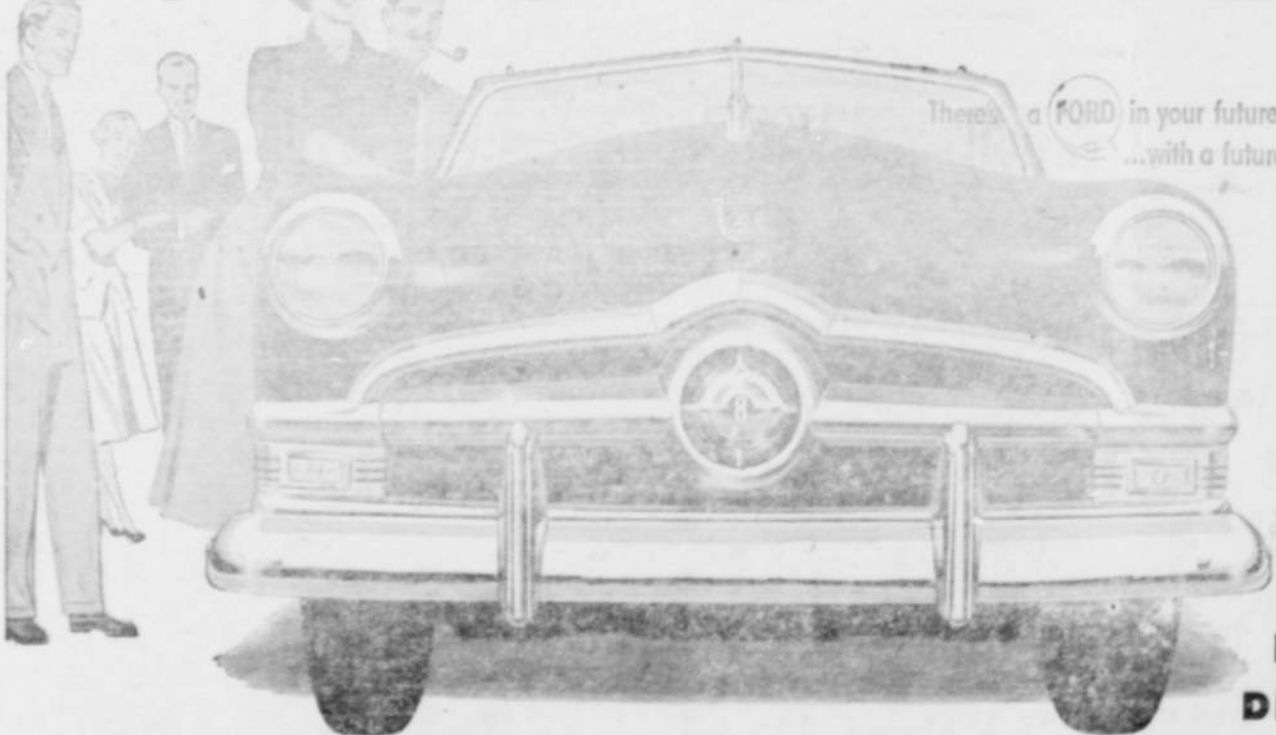
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