

## Out of the Woods

By JIM STEVENS

Ernest Haycox . . .

In the days of innocence before Pearl Harbor a bunch of us were planning for the annual meeting of the fir lumbermen in Portland. The main part of the program was to deal with the solemn mystery of modern business called public relations. For 40 years the men of lumber had been prodded on improvement of forest practices.

"This meeting is a good occasion for impressing lumbermen with what the public thinks of their industry," we agreed, "and at the same time to begin telling the story of industrial

forestry progress to the public."

A panel was arranged. It was to be made up of two weekly newspaper editors and two editors of daily papers, and a moderator.

For moderator I nominated Ernest Haycox. Each of the dozen men in the gathering had read Haycox stories in magazines and books and had seen Haycox movies. But few knew much about the man himself or his importance in the life and history of the Pacific Northwest. I was able to tell enough to put over my nomination. Mr. Haycox accepted and proceeded to do a memorable job of two-way interpreting between the public and the lumbermen.

With due shame I confess that he

was paid nothing for it. Author Haycox was long used to doing tough civic chores at no pay. He still is. Now we learn that Haycox will be a featured speaker at the Pacific Logging Congress session in Seattle on November 14-16 — for money, we hope.

Another Mountain . . .

The big all-over job that Mr. Haycox has done for this region, of course, has been in projection of its history and geography to millions of readers and movie-goers during the past 25 years and more. In this performance our author has accomplished more than all the other authors of the region put together—a really conservative statement.

No other writer of the West today that I can think of comes close to matching Haycox in terms of audience size over a long period. And he is not only a great popular storyteller but he is accurate in his history and his landscapes. He produces educational material.

At this point I rise to state that Ernest Haycox has suffered neglect. "Suffered" is not the word, however. The neglect has caused him no pain or worry. It is simply something for the rest of us here to be ashamed of. Here is a vastly popular writer who has been teaching Oregon country history to millions for many years and teaching them also the attractions of the region's land. The values of his instruction are nationally accepted.

And here at home the colleges and schools neglect them. Why?

The Author As Artist . . .

The answer no doubt abides in the

academic habit of rejecting popular writing in selecting literature for educational uses. The attitude does Ernest Haycox an injustice. He does not pretend to high art but there is high art in his work. "Stagecoach" holds its own with the best of American fiction in its field. The motion picture that John Ford made from it is generally recognized as one of the ten finest ever produced. Many more examples of the kind could be cited.

But my main argument is that, any way you look at him, Ernest Haycox has grown into one of our greatest northwest resources. He stands out in the way of Mt. Hood in Oregon and Puget Sound in Washington. I doubt if he'll like the idea of being compared to a body of water, but there it is. He is a resource that is not to be neglected.

All of this comes to a proposal. It is for an Oregon-Washington joint committee of authors and educators to plan for official acceptance and use of selected Haycox novels in the public schools, colleges and universities of the northwest corner states. Who will join me?

The violet is America's most popular choice for state flower. It is recognized as such in Illinois, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Rhode Island.

Edwin Booth is the only actor who has been elected to the Hall of Fame for Great Americans.

Mount Whitney and Death Valley, highest and lowest points in the U. S. are only a few miles apart in Calif.

The first free library in America was started in Charleston, S. C. in 1695.

## TRAILER COURTS

Butler's Trailer News, Gates

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Davidson spent Friday Christmas shopping in Salem. Mrs. Parr is living in Salem where she is employed.

Newcomers to the trailer court are Mr. and Mrs. Roland Long and their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Long.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Progue were initiated, Thursday evening, into the Ameranth Lodge in Portland.

Fred and Jean Wilson attended the dance at Jordan Saturday evening.

Visitors at Pearl and Art Durham's home over the week end, were their son Lowell Durham, Alice Jenkinson and Mr. and Mrs. Hershfeldt.

Mrs. Jim Libby left Sunday for her parents home in Bakersfield, California she awaits a visit from the stork in January.

Mr. Jaenicho spent the weekend in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Davidson took a group to Mill City to see "Voice of the Deep," Wednesday evening.

Santiam Trailer Court, Gates

By MRS. ALVIN HAMAN

Mr. and Mrs. John Bonham and children left Wednesday for their home in Klamath Falls.

Mrs. Ben Burch, Mrs. Duane Haman and Mrs. Clifford Haman spent Friday shopping in Salem.

Mrs. Sheldon Northrup and children of Hillsboro visited over the weekend with Mr. Northrup.

Mrs. Arthur Peterson and children, Mrs. David Luck, Mrs. Alvin Haman and Novey spent Saturday shopping in Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Woodward and daughter left Saturday for Texas to spend Christmas holidays with friends and relatives.

Mrs. Olive Barnhardt spent Saturday shopping in Stayton and Salem.

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