

OREGON WRITERS OF TODAY

By HARRIET C. LONG
State Librarian

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discussed. *May 22 '34*
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Oregon Writers of Today

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In the fall of 1932 the Oregon state library assembled from its Oregon authors' collection, a group of 625 volumes to ship to the Northwest Book fair in Seattle. This splendid collection of books by Oregon authors was by no means complete, but it did serve to introduce Oregon writers as a group to the other states of the Northwest, and to show that Oregon authors now as in the past are writing books on a wide variety of subjects.

Indeed so many people in Oregon are writing that it is impossible in a brief article to do more than mention a few of the men and women living and writing in Oregon today whose work has received wide recognition. We cannot even mention the members of college and university faculties in Oregon who have written textbooks and studies widely used throughout the nation.

Writers of fiction are numerous:

Charles Alexander, author of *Bobbie, a Great Collie*, *Fang in the Forest*, *The Splendid Summits*, was born in South Dakota but attended the public schools at Albany where he still lives. He received the O'Henry Memorial Award in 1922 for his short story *As a Dog Should*.

Within the past few years B. M. Bower, the creator of those popular stories of life on the Flying U Ranch, *Chip of the Flying U*, *Flying U's Last Stand*, and others, has lived in Depoe Bay, Oregon. Here she and her husband, Bud Cowan (author of *The Range Rider*) have built a home in which she continues to write the novels of ranch life which have made her so widely known. Books published since she came to Oregon to live are *Rocking Arrow*, *Laughing Water*, and *Trails Meet*.

Agnes Dorena Campbell, now living in the family home in Monmouth, has the distinction of having her novel *Fragrance of the Sage*, with its setting in Eastern Oregon, published in England in 1930. Miss Campbell is the daughter and granddaughter of Oregon pioneers.

Robert Ormond Case, author of *Just Buckaroos*, *Riders of the Grande Ronde*, *Whispering Valley*, and *The Yukon Drive*, began writing fiction in 1925, and has gained a wide following. Mr. Case, who lives in Portland, came to Oregon in 1912 from Texas, and is a graduate of the University of Oregon.

Eli Colter, born and now living in Portland, has published about two hundred short stories, novelettes, and serials. Her three published novels are *The Adventures of Hawke Travis*, *Bad Man's Trail*, and *Three Killers*.

Sabra Conner, teacher of English at the High School of Commerce in Portland, has written stories which appeal to high school boys and girls as well as their elders. Her recent book *Fighting Starrs of Oregon* is a story of the Pudding river region while *The Quest of the*

Sea Otter is a tale of the fur trading days. Miss Conner has published two other novels *Sweet-water Trail* and *Captain Redlegs*.

Mrs. Eva Emery Dye of Oregon City, graduated from Oberlin college in 1882, married the same year, and in 1890 came with her young husband to Oregon City where she became keenly interested in the life of Dr. John McLoughlin. While rearing her four children she managed to find hours for study and research, to interview old pioneers who knew Dr. McLoughlin, and to write and rewrite material for her first book, *McLoughlin and Old Oregon*, which was published in 1900. This was succeeded in 1902 by *The Conquest*, a story of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Other books by Mrs. Dye are *Stories of Oregon* and *McDonald of Oregon*.

Sheba Hargreaves was born at The Dalles, graduated from the Oregon Normal school at Monmouth, and taught several years prior to her marriage. For the past fifteen years she has written newspaper feature articles and advertising pamphlets as well as historical novels of the early days in the Oregon country. Her novels, *The Cabin at the Trail's End*, *Ward of the Redskins*, *Heroine of the Prairies* are vivid recreations of pioneer life.

Theodore Acland Harper came to Oregon in 1912. Born in New Zealand, his life as a mining engineer and reporter took him to Arizona, Alaska, Siberia, Mongolia, Japan, Manila, and Central America before he finally settled in Portland with his wife, Winifred, who collaborated with him in five of his books. His life in far corners of the world gives unusual background to his stories which are especially popular with young people. Mr. Harper's books are *The Mushroom Boy*, *Singing Feathers*, *The Janitor's Cat*, *Siberian Gold*, *Kubrik the Outlaw*, *Forgotten Gods*, *His Excellency and Peter*, and *Windy Island*.

Ernest Haycox, of Portland, was born in that city, attended Reed college and the University of Oregon, served on the Mexican border and overseas. His published novels are *Free Grass*, *Chaffee of Roaring Horse*, and *Whispering Range*.

Alexander Hull was born in Ohio, received his bachelor of music degree from University of Pennsylvania, came to Oregon in 1908, and is now professor of music at Pacific college. Mr. Hull contributed more than 100 short stories to numerous magazines. His full length novel *Shep of the Painted Hills* is a delightful dog story, located in Oregon.

Alfred Powers came to Oregon from Arkansas in 1907, received his bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon in 1910, and since 1922 has been connected with the extension division of our state university. In 1930 the Metropolitan Press, Portland, published his

Marooned in Crater Lake, stories of the Skyline trail, the Umpqua trail, and the Old Oregon trail.

Mrs. Kay Cleaver Strahan was born in La Grande, married in 1910, and now lives in Portland. Her most successful work is in the creation of detective stories for one of which, *Footprints*, she was in 1928 awarded the Scotland Yard prize of \$2,500. Other novels are *Peggy Mary*, *Something That Begins with T*, *Desert Moon Mystery*, *Death Traps*, *October House*, *Oh, Happy Youth*, *The Merriwether Mystery*.

Albert Richard Wetjen was born in London, left school at 13, went to sea at 14, and was shipwrecked twice before his sixteenth birthday. He served with the British army in the world war, after which he emigrated to Canada and later to Oregon. His home is in Portland. His first story was published in January, 1922, since which time his stories have appeared in English and American magazines with some translations into other languages. His books, strongly tinged with his sea experiences, are *Captains All*, *Way for a Sailor*, *Fiddler's Green*.

George Ared White was born in Illinois but came to Oregon in 1904, and was for some years connected with various newspapers of the Northwest. Since 1914, with the exception of years spent in the world war, he has been adjutant general of Oregon. Many successful stories dealing with the world war and international intrigue have appeared in various magazines. His novel, *The Spy Net*, was published in 1931.

Oregon poets, too, have gained recognition. Howard McKinley Corning was born in Nebraska, lived in Ohio for a time, came to Oregon in 1919, and now lives in Portland. His work receives recognition in *Modern American Poetry* by Untermeyer and in *The New Poetry* by Monroe and Henderson. His two published volumes are *These People* and *The Mountain in the Sky*.

Anthony Henderson Euwer, author, painter, lecturer, was born in Pennsylvania, but has been a resident of Oregon since 1913. During the world war he served as an entertainer with the A. E. F. His published works are *By Scarlet Torch and Blade*, *Christopher Cricket on Cats*, *The Friendly Firs*, *The Limerotomy*, *Rhymes of our Valley*, *Wings and other War Rhymes*. Mr. Euwer now is connected with the radio service of the state system of higher education at Corvallis.

Ethel Romig Fuller has been a resident of Portland since 1906, although she was born and married in Michigan. Now that her two sons are grown she has turned her attention to the serious writing of verse and contributes frequently to a large number of publications both in England and America. Her first volume, *White Peaks and Green*, was published in 1928. *Kitchen Sonnets (and Lyrics of Domesticity)* appeared in 1931.

Frances Gill of Portland, grand-daughter of Dr. William H. Willson who was associated with Jason Lee, graduated from the University of California. Her verses of childhood are *The Little Days* and *Windy Leaf*.

Grace Hall came to Oregon from Illinois in 1894 and began to write verses as a pastime during lonely hours. Soon her poems appeared on the editorial pages of the Oregonian and she was for a time staff-poet. Her poems have been recognized in the Braithwaite anthologies. Her published works are *Homespun* and *Patchwork*.

Ada Hastings Hedges was born on a farm in Nebraska and educated in Colorado and Oregon, the state she has claimed for her home since 1910. She was always a writer of verse, but never with a serious intent until after 1924. The material for her volume *Desert Poems* came from a period of several years spent in the high desert region of Malheur county.

Mary Alethea Woodward, a resident of Portland since 1920, has won recognition in two international prize contests sponsored by the American section of the Poetry Society of Great Britain. Miss Woodward came to Portland from New York City. Her volume of verse is entitled *Songs of the Soul*. Miss Woodward is a frequent contributor to the poetry section of the Oregonian.

Essayists too find inspiration in Oregon. Anne Shannon Monroe is best known for her volumes of essays—*Making a Business Woman*, *Singing in the Rain*, *The Heart of Happiness*, *The World I Saw*, *God Lights a Candle*, although she has written several novels, *Eugene Norton*, *Happy Valley*, *Behind the Ranges*, and the biography of Oregon's Bill Hanley, entitled *Feelin' Fine*. Miss Monroe, a Missourian by birth, has lived in Oregon many years. Her home is at Lake Grove.

Ben Hur Lampman is a native of Wisconsin, but has been in Oregon since 1912. His keen appreciation of nature and his delightful style have been followed on the editorial page of the Oregonian for some years. His volume of essays and poems entitled *How Could I Be Forgetting?* was reprinted in 1933.

S. Stephenson Smith, author of *Craft of the Critic*, was born in Iowa, graduated from Reed college, attended Oxford as a Rhodes scholar, and is now a member of the English faculty at the University of Oregon.

Richard Gill Montgomery was born in Portland in 1897, graduated from the University of California in 1919, later studied in the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, and is now assistant manager of the J. K. Gil company in Portland. Mr. Montgomery's book *Pechuck*, based on the adventures of Lorne Knight in the Arctic, was published in 1932.

Oregon men and women have written many interesting volumes about Oregon:

Charles Henry Carey, an Ohioan by birth and education, came to this state in 1883, and has

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of Oregon, published in 1922, is the result of thoroughgoing investigation and research, as is *A History of The Oregon Constitution*, published in 1926. Judge Carey has also edited *The Journals of Theodore Talbot*, published in 1931.

Robert Carlton Clark, born in Texas, came to Oregon in 1907 as a member of the history department of the University of Oregon, with which he is still affiliated. His *History of the Willamette Valley* published in 1927, is a notable contribution. Professor Clark is also joint author with Robert Horace Down (author of a *History of the Silverton Country*), and George Verne Blue of *A History of Oregon* used in our public schools.

John B. Horner, since 1890 a member of the faculty of the Oregon State Agricultural college at Corvallis, came to Oregon from Texas in time to finish his education at Philomath college, and to receive later degrees from Willamette university. He has published *Oregon History and Early Literature* (a recent edition of his *Oregon: Her History, Her Great Men, Her Literature*), a *Short History of Oregon*, and *Days and Deeds in the Oregon Country*.

Mrs. Caroline Conselya Dobbs came to Oregon in 1925 when her husband became president of Pacific university. She grew keenly interested in the early struggle of Oregon territory and has published a much needed volume *Men of Champoege* containing biographical sketches of the men who participated in the historic meeting in 1843.

Fred Lockley came west from Kansas by mule team when a boy. He mined at Nome, Alaska, was war correspondent with the A. E. F., and since 1910 has been connected with the Oregon Journal in which many of the articles later gathered in book form first appeared. Among his published books are *Oregon Folks*, *Oregon's Yesterdays*, *Oregon Trail Blazers*, *History of the Columbia River Valley*, *Across the Plains by Prairie Schooner*, *To Oregon by Ox Team in '47*.

Lewis Ankeny McArthur, author and compiler of *Oregon Geographic Names*, was born at The Dalles and graduated from the University of California in 1908. Mr. McArthur, who lives at Portland, has been deeply interested in the historical and geographical features of his native state.

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John F. Garrison, was born in Michigan, spent his boyhood in Nebraska and Illinois, but came to Oregon at the age of seventeen to attend Oregon State Agricultural college. Later he studied at the University of Wisconsin, but on the outbreak of the world war he made persistent efforts to enlist and finally served at Camp Lewis. His book, *Before the Covered Wagon*, vivid sketches of early coast explorations in Oregon, first appeared in the Sunday Oregonian with which paper he has been connected.

Sarah Hunt Steeves, daughter of Oregon pioneers of 1847, has gathered data covering experiences of Marion county pioneers, and published it under the title of *Book of Remembrance*. Mrs. Steeves lives in Salem where her husband is a physician.

Nature lovers have written of their enthusiasms:

Willard Ayres Eliot has lived in Oregon about thirty years, although he was born in Iowa and reared in Florida. He has been a lifelong student of birds in the field and on the wing; has tramped thousands of miles armed with a field glass and note book, studying the birds of Florida, Iowa, Georgia, Massachusetts, Oregon and France. His *Birds of the Pacific Coast* has been accepted as an authoritative manual.

William Lovell Finley was born in California, but has lived in Oregon since 1887. He has held numerous public offices such as state game warden, state biologist, and has received national recognition as a naturalist. His *American Birds* was published in 1907. Collaborating with his wife, Irene, he has published *Little Bird Blue* and *Wild Animal Pets*. The Finley home is at Jennings Lodge.

Ira Noel Gabrielson, biologist, was born and educated in Iowa, but came to Oregon in 1918. His *Western American Alpines*, published in 1932, has received the attention of garden enthusiasts in both England and America.

Stanton C. Lapham, minister, now residing at Marshfield, has written *The Enchanted Lake*, an account of Mount Mazama and Crater lake.

Mrs. Frances Staver Twining was born in Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin, married in 1909, came to Oregon in 1913, and now lives near Oswego. She has written many articles on flower gardening and bird observations for newspapers and magazines. Her *Bird Watching in the West* was published in 1931.