

# W.F.G. Thacher To Leave University After 33 Years of Literary Teaching

By BARBARA HEYWOOD

"I hope I will have time to do some writing now, myself," said W.F.G. Thacher, professor of English, who is retiring in June from 33 years of teaching University of Oregon students advertising and writing.

Thacher, who owns a shelf of books either dedicated or inscribed to him by 13 authors, came to the University in 1914 when Friendly hall was a dormitory, Fenton hall the library, and the buildings on the new campus non-existent with the exception of Mary Spiller hall, and the president's house.

Before this time, he had been associate editor of the "Pacific Monthly," a now defunct magazine, and had done advertising work. He had also taught English at Portland academy, and in Jackson high school, Jackson, Michigan, where he met a young music student just back from her piano studies in Vienna with Leschetizky.

She later became his wife, the present Mrs. Jane Thacher, professor of music at the University. Thacher had graduated from Princeton university in 1902, and 1907 received his masters degree from there.

### Was at UO in 1914

"The University was very different in 1914," reminisced Thacher. "There were only 700 students, and I knew almost every one by name. The students did not seem so serious as those today, until the first World War brought a feeling of unrest to the campus." His writing classes after the war manifested the cynicism and disillusionment of the times, said Thacher, but some of his most successful writers went to school during this period.

Although Thacher has always been affiliated with the English department, his work, on account of advertising and short story writing, has been on the journalistic side. He was one of the four professors who occupied the four rooms which comprised the old Shack in which the school of journalism was housed while waiting for the present building to be erected. Making his alliance with this department even closer, his younger daughter, Janet, married Vinton Hall, 1930-31 Emerald editor.

Many magazines, from "Atlantic Monthly" to "Triple X" have published fiction works and articles by Thacher.

### Held World War I Commission

Thacher and the United States army have brushed elbows several times. During the World War I he was commissioned a second lieutenant, and was personal adjutant of the Student Army Training Corps at the University of Oregon. His promotion to rank of first lieutenant was waiting for signature, so it never came through.

Thacher said laughingly that he still feels very bitter about this circumstance. In World War II, Thacher, as a field officer, taught for a year in a University at Shrivensham, England, established by the U.S. army for the higher education of men who had come out of combat. Thacher loves England, and would like to return there sometime. Nostalgically he described the rolling downs, the copses, ruined castles, and lanes near Shrivensham, and said the occasional U.S. army ammunition dumps or quonset huts formed a jarring contrast.

### Ideas Come While Gardening

"I really haven't thought much about what I shall do after I retire," the 70-year-old professor said. "I shall always have some project on my hands, and then, I enjoy putting around the house. Often very good writing ideas come to me while working in the



W. F. G. THACHER . . . will retire in June after 33 years' service to the University.

garden." Thacher said when he was younger he had intended when he retired to bring back the scenes of his childhood by raising a garden and chickens in the country—but not in Oregon.

He has given up this idea now. At present Thacher is working on the script for the pageant held every three years at the Oregon county fairgrounds, for which he has written all the scripts since 1926. He will also go to Chicago this summer on business connected with Alpha Delta Sigma, national professional advertising honor society, of which he is national head.

### Professors Plan Big Meet

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Retail changes in Readjustment Period." Raymond L. Miller of Forest Grove will give the address. "Fair and Unfair Trade Practice Laws," will be the topic of the 3 p. m. conference, with the address to be given by Professor Robert C. Lee of Montana State university.

Open discussions will follow each speech.

At 4 p. m. questions will be answered by the question box committee, in which discussion of various problems will take place.

The conference will not only deal with the problems of the merchants, but will also give the students a chance to study the problems to be dealt with in the conference, and to give them an opportunity to get in touch with the merchants.

Phi Chi Theta, women's business administration fraternity, will assist with the registration.

Iran is the official name of Persia. The people refer to themselves as Irania.

# Neuberger Lashes Frustration Of Journalists; Offers Remedies

By BOBOLEE BROPHY

Every person in the newspaper profession should strive toward integrity in the press and reinstate the newspaper in the eyes of the American people, Richard L. Neuberger, Oregon writer and lecturer, said Thursday evening in his speech before the Theta Sigma Phi Matrix Table in the Eugene hotel.

"We do not have free press anyplace if news is suppressed whether by government, advertisers, or publishers," Neuberger said. "If newspapers have lost caste it is their own fault because they have made the people mistrust them."

Neuberger pointed out that publishers who have not been professionally trained are controlling newspapers for financial gain and are killing stories which will offend big business and advertisers.

In his travels around Oregon, Neuberger said he had met many intelligent newspapermen "frustrated in their desire to help the people of their community" because many of their stories "die on the publishers' desks." This creates a situation in which professional people are unable to perform the work for which they were trained, the writer said.

As possible solutions for this situation, Neuberger suggested the staff ownership of newspapers so that the people who actually do the work on papers can control the stock. Another solution proposed that the great universities of the country should publish the newspapers.

Neuberger urged the students to have faith in themselves and to broaden the horizons of their profession.

### 'Cut' Show

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University library. He said that dramatic possibility was a large factor in selecting scripts to be broadcast.

Marvin A. Krenk, instructor in speech and drama, earlier explained that many types of dramas had been broadcast on "The University Hour."

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