

# An Interview With Buster Rogers

by Michael Sroufe

In the first issue we published a story about how fast the forests of Oregon are being logged. Here is a similar story from Buster Rogers who worked his entire life in the woods around Vernonia. He was a whistle punk, among other jobs, with timber companies.

"Before 1914 all of this here was heavy timber from Banks and Buxton clean through to the coast, and they logged all of that off in about 50 years; logging and fire burned it out together.

"The mill went out in September of 1957, and they started to dismantle the mill sometime in '59, and then in '60 they had it all cleaned up. And then after they got practically all the old growth out, well then they started to truck the small patches and stuff. There was a lot of corners what they fell and bucked but they didn't have line enough during the high lead days to reach back. Maybe there'd be 30 to 40 logs back in the space they didn't have line enough to reach so they just moved off and left it.

"Since they got to using cats and logging trucks and equipment, they cleaned all of that out. But it's been only the last 10 to 12 years that they've really got into logging the second growth. Before that when they got into a patch of second growth, why, they'd just log right through it, wouldn't even think about it. Whenthey had the old growth here you couldn't even hardly give any of the second growth timber away."

"What happened to Vernonia after the mill pulled out?"

"Well, people started to moving out and it dropped down to pretty near like it was during the depression. Now the older people who are retired have started to movin' in here to make a retirement town out of it. Since the older people started to movin' in, more younger people moved in because they could get rent in houses cheaper in the valley here than out around Portland or Hillsboro or out in there. People from California started to comin' in here; they started givin' big prices for the places, and now it's clean out of reason. The county has raised the valuation of the property and it's just taxing the people to death, pretty nearly, to keep the taxes paid up. It's like that from what I can find out pretty near all over the United States."

"How's the logging going here now? Are they starting to cut the second growth pretty fast now?"

"Yup. Yeah. They're getting pretty well cleaned out on the second growth."

"Have you heard any of these stories that if they don't start slowing down pretty soon they're going to run out of trees?"

"Well, yeah, a few, not not too many. I don't see where they can figure on keeping enough timber growing to keep the loggers a goin' the way they're logging it out, 'cause it takes about 50 years to get a new crop crop."

"And you think they're cutting faster than that?"

"I think so. Well,

out there on (highway) 47 you know, as you come to the top hill, that's where I started to punk and whistle out there in 1918. Well, they finish finished up in the fall of 1925, and they're getting that pretty well cut out if it's any size at all. I never thought that I'd see that ground out there logged twice, but I have. I was 17 years old when I started working in the logging camp. When you take and figure that it takes at least 50 years for a tree big enough to harvest, that's half a century, and you take the way they're logging, how can they keep a growin' that fast? I don't think that's possible to do."

"How do they treat the land when they log--streams and things?"

"Well, that's another thing. After they cut the old growth timber off--before that, there was a lot of these canyons and draws, you know, where streams of water come down, winter and summer--and now, after they cut the old growth off, there's just any amount of them dried up after the second growth started to grow and the water's never come back in. There's no sign of any water left."

"What's it do, just run off real quick?"

"Yea, yea

"Yeah, yeah."

Writer's note: Bill Smith, forester with Crown-Zellerbach's Clatsop Tree Farm, says Crown is reforesting its lands at a rate equal with cutting. --Michael Sroufe

In interviews with Vernonia-area older people are being gathered for a historical record of the region. For information call Janelle Wiggins at the Vernonia Freedom newspaper, 715 Bridge Street, Vernonia 97064, 1-429-8111.

# Books



**A MARRIAGE OF TRUE MINDS**  
An Intimate Portrait of Leonard and Virginia Woolf

By George Spater and Ian Parsons

Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich Publishers

Paperback

\$5.95

In his introduction to the first of these volumes, Quentin Bell quotes himself from another preface of yet another and previous work on Bloomsbury; 'Haven't you had enough?' One would think so. There has been his own two-volume narrative of his Aunt Virginia's life. Her letters and her diaries have been coming out in annual installments. Leonard's five volume autobiography has been out many years. There have been literary criticisms laced with biographical detail. There have been biographies of various hard-core Bloomsbury and side-show Bloomsbury personages. Even Carrington has had her day. Why are they still putting forth this stuff...and why are we still eagerly reading it?

by Barbara Freeman

**BLOOMSBURY, A HOUSE OF LIONS**

By Leon Edel

Lippincott Publishers  
Cloth  
\$12.95.

There are at least two easy answers. One, we probably haven't had enough. As Leon Edel makes resoundingly clear in his more graceful study, these people, this collection of personalities and talent, held together by love and friendships formed in college-age times, held much of the power in the politics and the literature and the art worlds of England. They were foremost. They changed things. They were intelligent and perceptive and they took themselves and their work seriously.

Leon Edel, considered by many to be the current Master of the Biography, takes these facts and weaves a telling whole. He looks at more than their private lives; he assesses the public impact of their lives, their

**TELLING LIVES** The Biographer's Art

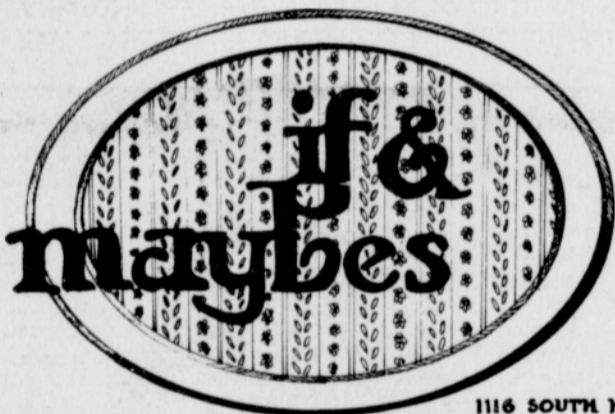
By Leon Edel, Justin Kaplan, Alfred Kazin, Doris Kearns, Theodore Rosengarten, Barbara Tuchman, Geoffrey Wolff

Edited by Marc Pachter  
New Republic Books/National Portrait Gallery  
Cloth  
\$9.95.

ideas, their art. How can we not be fascinated by such hard and successful workers.

The second answer is provided by the Spatter/Parsons book. New material has been unearthed. More sources are available than before--among them 84 letters from Lytton Strachey to Leonard Woolf. Corrections can be made of errors in Leonard Woolf's autobiography. I found the corrections pedantic and needless (Leonard sailed for Ceylon in October, not in November, etc.). The book is primarily a reworking of much of the material found in Leonard's Autobiography, with the same heavy reliance on accounts kept by him of expenditures and income. It is not a particularly graceful

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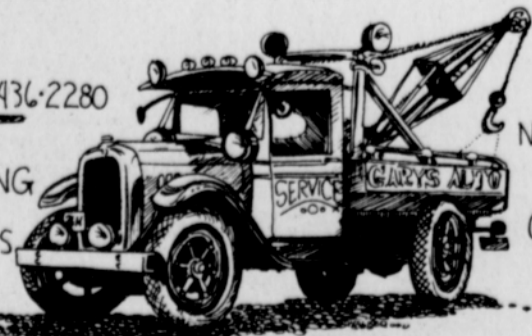


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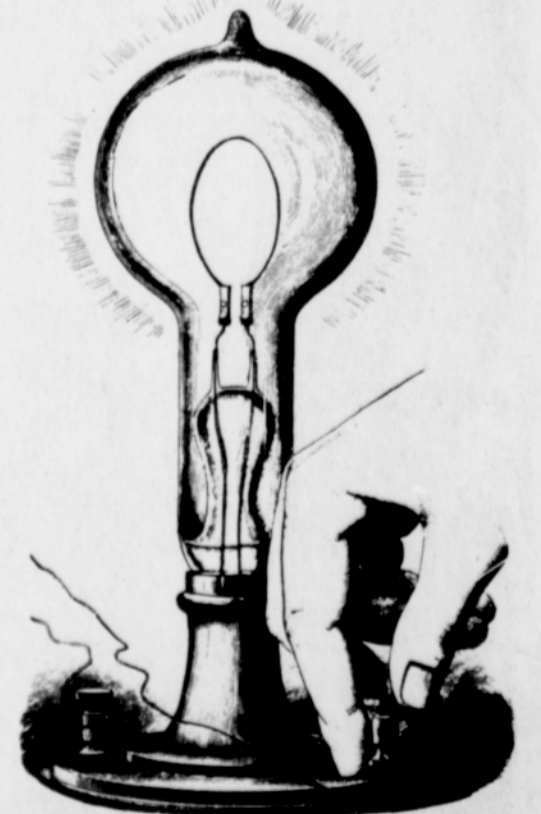


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