

Bound to Be Read

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As the year rolls toward vacation time there is restlessness in the air. The optimistic feel that the old tires will do a few more miles and the hopeful examine the family bus with an eye to load and mileage. For those who love the out-of-doors, here are some books to read before setting out on a long trip or just a week-end exploration.

Some people will wish to own titles such as *Oregon, End of the Trail*, which was compiled by the Federal Writers' Program a number of years ago. Those interested in geology will treasure Thomas Condon's *Oregon Geology* since it is now reported out of print. The *Scenic Treasure House of Oregon* by Warren D. Smith is a good book for the beginner. It is easy reading, nicely illustrated with photographs, and includes a surprising amount of information for so slender a volume.

On the subject of flora there are titles which not only include Oregon, but all of the Pacific Northwest, for plants and trees make their own geographic divisions. One of the most beautifully illustrated is *Forest Trees of the Pacific Coast*. The author, Willard Ayres Eliot, says the book "has been written to meet the increasing demand for a popular field book on trees of the coast. It is primarily for the amateur, for outdoor clubs, and as an introductory textbook for beginning forestry students, and as a convenient manual for nature teachers, forest rangers, park naturalists and lumbermen." It is certain that all of these people have used it with pleasure and profit.

As a companion volume *Wild Flowers of the Pacific Coast* by Haskin is suggested. It describes 332 flowers and shrubs of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Central and Northern California and

Alaska. There are 182 full-page photographic illustrations in black and white. A bit of human interest is added to the appreciation of this volume by the author's tribute to his wife. He says, "If I, by courtesy, may be called a botanist, she is that better thing, a flower lover. Not only is she responsible for the best pictures, but she has patiently carried heavy floral loads for me on many a steep trail—never down, she insists—her husband being the only person ingenious enough to leave camp and return in the evening, having gone up hill the whole day, both coming and going!"

Gilkey and Powell's *Handbook of Northwest Flowering Plants* is now out of print. The choice of plants included has been based on two conditions; whether the plants are sufficiently conspicuous, and whether distribution is general enough to attract the amateur.

If we are seeking handy pocket size books on birds there are two which are too bulky to carry on the trail or through the meadowland. One is *Birds of the Pacific Coast* by the same Mr. Eliot who gave us the "Trees" book. One hundred and eighteen birds are included. There are many colored pictures and both common and Latin names are given. The arrangement of the text follows the author's idea that the average person is interested first in the smaller birds which are found about home. The other book is *Field Guide to Western Birds* by Roger T. Peterson. The description of bird "voices" were checked against phonograph records made by Cornell University professors on trips to the west. Either of these books will delight the amateur Audubon.

Northwest Nature Trails by H. S. Lampman is a natural history of Ore-