

country of the Washington side of the Columbia. The time is 1900-1920. The historical is subordinated to the characters. Chris, daughter of a minister, who was also postmaster and ferryman, grew up loving the Columbia and the country. She married a young rancher, brought up her family and became orchard manager after her husband's death. The book closes with Chris's second marriage. While she is the main character, there are many others whose lives intertwined with hers. The spotlight finds each in turn. Their fortunes intermingle until they become the valley people who have staked their lives upon success in virgin territory.

*The Bridge of the Gods* by F. H. Balch, was written in 1890 and was one of the first novels about the Oregon Indians. Mr. Balch visited the Indians in their homes, heard their legends and watched their games. From them he learned that there was once a great natural bridge which spanned the Columbia. According to tradition it was destroyed by an earthquake. Around this tradition he built his romance. Mr. Balch worked on the manuscript for two years before he thought it good enough to submit to a publisher. The book made many trips to publishers and was steadily rejected. At last, and considerably to the author's surprise, it was accepted by A. C. McClurg. The first edition of 1500 copies gained favorable attention. Ten years later the publishers spoke with satisfaction of its steady sale. *Bridge of the Gods* has now reached its twenty-ninth edition and is still a "steady" in reading and sale.

"This is not a historical novel. It is a novel which uses certain events of history to serve the ends of the characters who are, for the most part, entirely imaginary." Thus reads the introduction to Armstrong Sperry's *No Brighter Glory*. Mark Denny, M.D., was summoned to John Jacob Astor's office in Manhattan one day in 1810. He was invited to join an expedition to the wilderness of the Columbia River and

a trading post to be called Astoria. There is plenty of adventure and excitement before the story is done. The voyage of the Tonquin to Hawaii and the Sandwich Islands, its return to the U. S. in storm and fear of a mad captain, and attacks by the Indians make good reading. Through it all runs the romance of Mark Denny and India de Chambard, the woman without a country.

The trek over the Oregon Trail in the 1850's is the theme of Archie Binns' *The Land Is Bright*. It is a colorful dramatic account of the never-ending search for a newer and better land in which the reader identifies himself with the girl from Iowa and the boy from Kentucky. The hardships seem endless, but there are also scenes of gaiety to be remembered. Perhaps symbolic of a bright future is the little apple tree which survived the long journey.

These are but a few of the many books about Oregon. The Oregon State Library has compiled a list "Read About Oregon" which is free to the citizens of this state and may be obtained from the State Library in Salem.

Books mentioned in this article—Balch, F. H., *Bridge of the Gods*, McClurg 1902, \$2.00; Binns, A., *The Land Is Bright*, Scribner 1939, \$2.50; Jones, N., *Swift Flows the River*, Dodd 1940, \$2.50; McKay, A., *They Came to a River*, Macmillan 1941, \$2.75; Sperry, A., *No Brighter Glory*, Macmillan 1942, \$2.75.

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#### DEDICATION:

##### TO SUMMER VACATIONS

My work just worried me today  
So that I couldn't do my best,  
Until I had this lovely thought—  
The world can stand it, if I rest!

—Borrowed from Salem YWCA  
*Monthly Bulletin.*

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You can get out of life only what  
you put into it. So now you know the  
difference between life and the laundry.

—*Dublin Opinion.*