

Authors Flourish

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The opinion has been given that Oregon, and Portland in particular, ranks high as a writing center. Some authorities have estimated that, if such statistics were available for comparison, Oregon's number of publishing authors in proportion to the population would place it third or fourth in the nation.

Whatever the actual rank may be, we at the State Library have been amazed at the enormous number of Oregon writers we have located, and believe there are many more unknown to us.

As a part of a project of the Pacific Northwest Library Association for gathering data on current Northwest writers, the State Library has since the first of May sent out 400 questionnaires to Oregon authors known to have had material published. To date 214 forms have been completed by the writers and returned to the State Library which has been made the Oregon center for collection and deposit of the authors' data. We have had excellent cooperation from the writers on this project and feel that eventually a large portion of the completed questionnaires will be returned to us.

Through the work of a committee, a collection center was selected for each state and province in the Pacific Library Association (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia) and a questionnaire compiled to be sent to all the authors. The Oregon State Library was issued 100 copies of the questionnaire, but we immediately realized that we would need many more for our numerous authors.

Oregon State Library was the logical collection center for Oregon, since this library has for many years maintained an Oregon author collection of books and an index to available biographical information. Too, the State Library

compiles the **Who's Who of Oregon Authors** for the **Oregon Blue Book**.

All completed questionnaires, photographs and other material, submitted by Oregon authors, will be kept on file in the Oregon State Library. However, the name of each author, from whom we have received a questionnaire, will be sent to the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center in Seattle, so that there will be a record of information available at each center.

Three items on the questionnaire on which librarians of the Northwest felt special need for information, because these things might well be reflected in their writing, were birth place and occupation of the authors and birth place of their parents.

A good many of the authors, as indicated on the questionnaire, write only as a hobby or to supplement their income. But many report that writing is their occupation. This includes authors whose works appear frequently in national publications, such as **Saturday Evening Post**, **American Mercury**, **American Magazine** and **Readers Digest**. Among this group is Robert Ormond Case, who has recently had a serial in *Saturday Evening Post*; his sister, Victoria Case, the brothers Hawkins, John and Ward; Steve McNeil; Stewart Holbrook; Roderick Lull; and Richard Neuberger, who is also a state senator.

Several Oregon housewives have received national recognition for their books. Ardyth Kennelly of Portland, who is Mrs. Egon V. Ullman in private life, wrote **The Peaceable Kingdom** which appeared on the "Best Sellers" list of 1949. Her second novel, **The Spur**, was published this spring.

Martha Ferguson McKeown, who lives on a ranch near Hood River, has reported the adventures of her "Uncle Mont" in **Them Was the Days** and **The**