

Novel-Atlas-History Volume Of Dream Country Came Out Of Professor's Imagination

By JOHN SELBY

NEW YORK (Wide World)—Many a person has created a dream world and mentally peopled it with strange characters. But Austin Tappan Wright went a long step further. His dream world developed with astonishing detail in his inventive mind, and he brought it to life...

Professor Wright died in 1931. For 20 years before that he had been locking himself into his study at the University of Pennsylvania, quietly working out his dream of an entire country all his own, a place called Islandia, and his ultimate object was to make this country live in a great novel. He did it before he died, and "Islandia" was recently published.

But the painstaking details this professor of law dreamed up are the remarkable thing about it all. Carefully, without telling his wife or his daughter what he did, Wright first wrote a 75,000-word history of his dreamland. He began it with the dawn of the world, and carried it down in enormous details to the year 1909—not in general terms, but complete with names, dates and what-not.

He placed his country on an imaginary continent. He provided it with a climate all its own, and worked out the meteorology to the minutest detail.

He created a language for Islandia, too—you make the plural of Islandian words by adding an R.

He surrounded Islandia with neighbors, and worked out a set of foreign relations covering a thousand years.

He gave his country a people, carefully created. He provided a literature, and developed characteristic art forms—Islandians were given to writing fables, for example, and carving was their favorite among the plastic arts.

Professor Wright also developed a calendar for Islandia, and a complete system of mathematics—this was based on a system of 12 instead of a system of 10.

He had a religion for his people, and a national character as distinctive as that of the Chinese, for example.

Sports, dress, a complicated system of family traits which appeared in successive generations and interwove themselves as in the real world—even a complete schedule of steamship and cable rates with the known world were provided.

He then worked out a bibliography of works about Islandia by outlanders, and this is one of the most fascinating of Wright's fancies. The Germans were the ones who wrote the long, serious tomes about Islandia, for example. And the missionaries, who failed uniformly to impress Islandians, wound up by defending and condemning one another.

And finally, he reduced the whole thing to maps. He drew 53 of them, and very beautifully. He went so far as to plot carefully such details as a university; there is a plan showing the location of all the university buildings, including dormitories.

Everything in Islandia built up to a great climax. Traditionally, Islandia through the centuries had refused to admit outlanders, and fought fiercely to keep itself to itself. But at last an experiment was to be tried; certain relations with the world would be tried, and a few consulates were established.

The novel begins where the history leaves off, and it centers about the American consul, a Harvard man named John Lang. It is a whopping novel—almost as long as "Anthony Adverse."

The strange thing is that it also is a moving piece of writing, not at all the meticulous, involved product one would expect from a mind that could devise such a complicated background.

But even so, it almost missed publication. When Professor Wright died in a motor accident in 1931, it existed in a tall stack of folders, 5000 pages of longhand. It was all new to Mrs. Wright (who died recently) and her daughter, Sylvia, but they decided to type it, and they did.

By chance Leonard Bacon, the poet, was a friend of the family. He suggested that it be shown to Farrar & Rhinehart, and they agreed to publish, provided Miss Wright would help in the editing. She, with Mark Saxton, worked two years at the job.

Printed, Austin Wright's only novel runs 1013 pages. Nobody really knows—since the author has been dead 11 years—but it looks as though he may have intended to write (in addition to the unpublished history, and the novel) all the books he mentions in that bibliography.

And while he lived, the author never even showed this vast project to his wife!

Pastor Leaves for Convention

WOODBURN—Rev. Olaf Asper of Woodburn and the Monitor churches has gone to Minneapolis where he will attend the biennial convention of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

He also will visit relatives and friends in South Dakota and will be gone three weeks.

Fall Garden Is Held Need

Victory gardeners should begin thinking about the fall vegetables they are going to have in their garden and begin securing the seed and preparing the soil, advises Robert E. Rieder, acting county agent.

For instance, beets planted about June 10, with reasonable care, will be ready for use about August 1 to 10; lettuce, August 10 to September 15; carrots, August 25; cabbage, September 1 to 30; turnips, August 10 to 20; rutabagas, September 10; tomatoes, September 10 to 30; sweet corn, August 25 to September 15 and bush beans, August 10 to 30.

Plantings of leafy green vegetables may be continued throughout June, July and August.

For further information on planting schedules in your victory garden, inquire at the county agent's office.

Oregon Vehicle Population Up

Motor vehicle registration in Oregon continued to show a slight increase for the first five months of 1942 as compared to the same period in 1941, Earl Snell, secretary of state, announced Thursday.

There were 394,511 vehicles registered in this state at the end of May while at the same time last year, there were 394,284 vehicles registered.

Registration fees this year total \$2,796,890.33 compared to \$2,707,272.29 last May.

Willamette Valley Briefs

Child Recovering

SILVERTON—Small Lila Hansen of Mt. Angel Thursday was reported as getting along as well as could be expected following an accident Wednesday in which her dog had bitten through the child's upper lip. She was rushed to the Silverton hospital where she is being cared for.

Small Girl Hurts Eye

SciO—Judy Martin, 6 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Martin, injured her eye in a fall at Bilyeu Den a few days ago.

Aumsville News

AUMSVILLE—Mrs. Constance Pio and Mrs. Addie Barker of Portland, were here Wednesday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Nellie Newcomb.

Reverend and Mrs. Snyder, from Calif. have rented the O. A. Lesley house and will take possession soon. They have three daughters. He is a minister in the Dunkard church and is a brother of Oakie Snyder of Salem, who formerly lived here.

C. D. Boone has rented his property adjoining the O. A. Lesley home, to Mr. and Mrs. Bass and six children of Mehama. This place was recently vacated by the Makinson family.

Farmers Union News

SCIO—Oyster supper climaxed a recent meeting of the Jordan farm union, which initiated 12 members at the meeting. The union meets on the first and third Thursday each month. John Silbernagel is president and Ed Foltz, secretary-treasurer.

We Shall Be Strong to Run the Race.

We shall, indeed, be strong... and our strength and our victory will come from united effort. We must work and produce... make every minute of every day count. And what we spend for food, clothing and home needs, must be spent with care; the more wisely we buy—the more we can invest in war bonds, in security for our future. Everyone must realize that ceiling prices are not the same in every store. Make sure you buy at the lowest ceiling prices you can find.

PENNEY'S

Thin Peaches By Crop Yield

Peach growers should thin their peaches according to stage of fruit development rather than by calendar date, states Robert E. Rieder, acting county agent. This has been proven to be the most effective method for peach thinning as tested by recent experiments.

Thinning should not be done on a certain uniform distance between fruits put on the basis of estimated total crop which the tree might properly mature. It should be remembered that excessive thinning reduces the yield so much that often growers actually incur considerable losses by such practices. The distance at which to thin is controversial. Thinning from four

to six inches between fruits is about the general rule however. In recent years it has been shown that better results have been obtained by thinning peaches to 30 or 40 leaves per fruit in order to get the size and color. It should be remembered that the fruits get their size in direct proportion to the number of leaves and the amount of leaf surface per individual fruit.

This has been a good year for Marion county peach orchards and many have set a tremendously heavy crop. It is now time to thin these trees in order that they may mature the proper amount of peaches for each individual tree. This is particularly important in wet seasons where brown rot is likely to be a problem. The closer together the fruits are, the more apt brown rot is to become serious

Marvin Thomas Named by USDA

Marvin W. Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Thomas of Scotts Mills, has been named assistant agricultural statistician in the US department of agriculture.

Since his graduation from Oregon State college in 1937 he has been employed in the college extension service. One of his first duties in the new work was compiling an estimate of the Oregon strawberry acreage.

Peaches should be thinned as early in their development as possible but it has been shown that actually it is of value to thin peaches up to within three weeks before picking time.

Test Changes Speed Seeds

CORVALLIS, June 11.—(AP)—Revised testing arrangements have been completed to speed up shipment of Oregon's winter cover crop seed to southern states, the state AAA office announced Thursday.

Seed will be shipped on a purity test alone, eliminating the germination test. The AAA estimated this would cut the waiting time from two weeks to two or three days.

Eighty per cent of the possible top price will be paid by the Commodity Credit corporation on basis of the purity test with additional payment to come after germination has been determined. At least half of Oregon's yield

Brush Creek News

BRUSH COLLEGE—The annual Brush College home coming picnic was held Saturday at the local schoolhouse, instead of in the park as usual, because of the bad weather. Superintendent Bennett of Salem spoke, others on the program were Glenda McAllister, Josephine Singer and Elva Lough.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Adams were appointed delegates to the state grange meeting at Milwaukie next week by local grange master A. E. Utley at the last meeting.

A picnic will be held in the community grove July 3.

of cover crop seed from 350,000 acres will be purchased by the AAA for shipment to cotton-growing states this year.

Safe in Shanghai

Hazel Green—Mrs. Hattie Van Cleave has received word from the Red Cross that her sister, Miss Grace Wormoth, is safe in Shanghai, China. The last letter had been received in October. Miss Wormoth taught for 20 years in Shanghai, a term in a Baptist mission school and 13 years in the International settlement. She visited her sister here during her sabbatical leave.

Loggers Get Tires

SCIO—Tires and tubes recently issued include Don A. Tarpley, Frank S. Parrish, Roaring River Logging company, C. E. Kendle.

Valley Events

Central Townsend club No. 6 will meet in the courthouse Friday night, at 8 p. m.



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Heavy Canvas Work Gloves
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Good heavyweight canvas. Comfort cut. Buy today.



Leather Palm Work Gloves
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For longer wear. These are built for good to tough usage. Economy priced.



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Durable on any job. Fine cotton colors—grey, natural or brown.

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New Store Hours
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Saturdays—
9:30 A.M. - 9 P.M.



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COMFORT CUT HICKORY STRIPE
Big Mac Work Suits
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