

# Reviewer Finds 'Sublimity' and It's Author an Interesting Pair

(Editor's Note: The book "Sublimity" will be available soon at the Salem public library and, for those eligible, at the state library. Several Salem bookstores report they have ordered copies.)

By Loretta E. Dehler  
Statesman News Service

MT. ANGEL—When I learned that a new book had been published here this month and that the author lived right in Mt. Angel, I was curious to know what it was about and what he would say to a newspaper reporter.

So I went to the nearby college and without much ado was ushered into the private workshop of Mark Schmid, college librarian and author of "Sublimity." It is an interesting room that doubles as cataloging room and book bindery, where fancy, hand-tooled leather covers—like those of the Middle Ages—are still made by the author and students with a leaning towards the unique and artistic in books. Schmid has been librarian for many years and is custodian of the rare books, centuries old, that make the library on the hilltop such a priceless treasure.

I found the author a pleasant person, friendly and unassuming despite his scholarly records and degrees, looking younger than his 50 years and with little traces of gray in his fair hair.

I asked "Did he spend much time on this new book?"

## 'Let Old Grand-daddy Rest in Peace'

His reply was, "It is not the writing of the book that took the time but rather the research that was necessary to make sure the facts and dates were authentic. I spent over ten years gathering data from every source possible—even from tombstones in old, deserted burial places and from fallen-down houses. Photos and interviews with the grandchildren of the pioneers helped a lot, but it wasn't always a pleasant task. Some told me to let the dead rest in peace—that they didn't want anything told about their grand-daddy."

"Well, what would you say was the hardest thing to find?" I queried.

He smiled. "Yes, there was one time when I just had to get a certain date to make certain facts jibe, but search as I might, I just could not get a lead on anything. In desperation, I drove out into the Sublimity countryside one morning and scouted around until I found an old tumble-down barn. I had once been told it was very ancient and had some history connected with it. In the roofless interior, I discovered a cupboard in one corner which looked somewhat intact. It was papered on the inside with old newspapers. I peeled off one layer; nothing yet, but below was another; so I pulled off the second one carefully, and there on the third layer was the date and place I was searching for."

## Historical Author Faces Arduous Task

Then I asked to see some of these interesting records. For the first time, I got an inkling of what a task confronts the historical author before he can even hope to start writing. Even in a humble reporter's work "gathering the dope" far outmeasures the writeup, but this was that situation magnified hundreds of times.

There were stacks of old letters, photos, newspaper clippings, manuscripts, bits of information supplied by friends and relatives, others gleaned from chance acquaintances, facts dug out of libraries in many cities, and personal archives from far and near.

An especially interesting bit was a questionnaire filled out by Sister Cecilia Boedighelmer, a 90-year-old nun of the Sublimity country, shortly before she died.

Not quite satisfied, I asked the sixty-four-dollar question, "What do you do with your spare time?"

"Oh, I've been working with ancient manuscripts for years—13th and 15th century stuff; it's sort of hard to read, but fascinating. It is astounding to find how much work went into a book in those days before printing presses when practically a lifetime or more went into the making of just one book—all done by hand."

Then he went on to tell me he had once been an editor and taught history for many years. He had written several other books. One, a history of philosophy, published in New York, had made the best-seller brackets in 1948.

"And how did you acquire this wide interest in books?" I asked.

## Travel Stimulated Interest in Writing

"It all began with travel and study abroad. I spent three years in European universities and libraries. You get the atmosphere of history that way. It comes natural after that. I have been traveling ever since—Canada and the U. S., east, south and north."

And now appears this book—"Sublimity, the Story of An Oregon Country"—in which Mark Schmid has set down for posterity the beauty and history of the town of his boyhood. In his preface he tells that Sublimity is apparently the only town in the world by that name and also how the rare beauty of the valley with its surrounding hills and mountains inspired John Denny, one of the founders, to give it the name.

The book, perhaps the first local history about Marion county since Down's "History of the Silverton Country," supplies many little known facts about the eastern part of Marion county. It covers the period from 1850 to 1950, and the various people and religions that succeeded each other.

## Sublimity College Once Beat Willamette

Few people know that Sublimity was a thriving little city and the political center for 1,500 people as far back as the Civil war, that it was the home of Sublimity college, and that in those early days it had a baseball team that defeated Willamette university.

The author, in 160 pages, also touches on many facts of other Oregon settlements that give that intimate and human-interest contact with our early settlers that far outweighs the more abstract interest aroused by the general histories of the state.

The book mentions that the Oregon Statesman was the only newspaper available to the pioneers of these parts in those early days. And it was The Statesman of Dec. 22, 1854, which announced the grand opening of Sublimity college.

Added features of the book are rare old maps and 20 pictures of early scenes and the beautiful valley itself.

# THE VALLEY NEWS COLUMNS

From The Oregon Statesman's Valley Correspondents

## Close Call for George and His Dad



MIDDLE GROVE, Nov. 13 — It was a close call for George Darland, 12 (above, right), and his dad, Ray (left), when a baby twister demolished their garage here during the week-end storm. George is pointing to where he was standing when the wind struck. Both leaped to safety. They live near the Middle Grove market. (Statesman photo.)

## Fire Interrupts Ticket Selling For Firemen

Statesman News Service

LIBERTY, Nov. 13—A fire at the Harold Rosebraugh residence on Liberty road interrupted Liberty-Salem Heights firemen Monday night while they were out selling tickets for the department's annual ball.

The blaze apparently started from a defective electric switch in the dwellings sawdust burner, according to Fire Chief Norval Hyrons, and prompt action by the department was credited with preventing a disastrous fire.

Firemen doused the blaze with 400 gallons of water under high-pressure fog which Hyrons said kept water damage slight. The department also gave its recently-bought tank truck a test, pumping water from it through the pump-truck.

Rosebraugh was with firemen when the alarm was sounded by his son, John, 12, and Billy Emery, a friend, after the house filled with smoke.

Fire damage reportedly was confined to walls near the sawdust burner.

## Valley Briefs

Statesman News Service

Middle Grove—Open house will be held at Middle Grove school Friday, November 16, from 7 to 8:20 p.m., followed by the showing of a colored film, "Oregon and its natural resources". At 9 p.m., the Middle Grove Associated clubs will hold a business meeting.

Fruitland—The missionary society of the Fruitland E.U.B. church will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday, November 15, at the church annex. Mrs. Carl Conner of Albany will be guest speaker.

Amity — The Amity Women's Civic Improvement club will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday, November 15, at the Methodist church. It will be Booster Day and every member is expected to bring a guest. "Holiday Suggestions" will be the topic. Hostesses are Mesdames Van L. Lawson, T. V. Newman, Grace Glahn, Olice Wood and G. B. Abraham.

Middle Grove—Boy Scout committee of Middle Grove troop 42 will meet Wednesday night, November 14, at the home of Ted Kuenzi.

Dallas—The Dallas WCTU union will meet Friday, November 16, at the home of Mrs. Harry Markwart, 607 Hayter st. All interested in the work are invited to attend.

## SALLY NOLAN HEADS CLUB

BROOKS — A fourth-grade health club has been organized at the Brooks school, known as "Health for Happiness" club. Officers elected were Sally Nolan, president; Candice Ramp, vice president; Michael Hawley, secretary.

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## Kin of Silverton Folk Stars in Portland Play

Statesman News Service

SILVERTON—Of interest at Silverton is the announcement of the selection of Camilla Kleeb, ten-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kleeb (Eunice Maulding) for the title roll in "The Princess" appearing at the Port-

land Civic theater each Saturday and Sunday afternoon through November 18. Many Silverton relatives and friends have attended the show.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Maulding, Silverton, are grandparents of the little girl, and the Kleeb, too, were former Silverton folk.

"Co" is the chemical symbol for cobalt.

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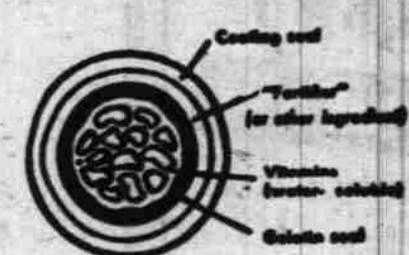
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