

# Peggy Blocklinger Edits 'Amity Paper' And Writes Novel Every Two Months

By JAMES M. ALLEY  
Statesman News Service

AMITY—Some 80 published novels ago, Peggy Blocklinger, editor of the weekly Amity Standard, began her writing career in the second grade of Clinton Kelly School at Portland.

"I was seven years old at the time," Mrs. Blocklinger recalled merrily, "and I ate my meals off Grandmother Phebe Fausel's hand for a week afterward. I had used by uncle's new, expensive ledger for my first literary effort."

After finishing high school at Portland, Mrs. Blocklinger went to work as a reporter. She has worked on all kinds of assignments on papers in Galveston, Houston, Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Oakland, Sa: Francisco and the old Portland Telegram.

**Sold Fiction to AP**  
"In fact, it was while I was with the old Portland Telegram that I wrote and sold my first piece of fiction. The Associated Press Syndicate began buying my material regularly under the name of Jeanne Bowman. I took that name from my mother who was Iva Bowman of the pioneer Lane county family of the same name," she explained.

Mrs. Blocklinger's father was of an Irish sea-faring family. His people called her Peggy O'More. She uses this family pet name for her second writer's name. Then, when she married the late Charles Blocklinger, she added her last name, that of Betty Blocklinger.

**Uses Three Pen Names**  
Mrs. Blocklinger is such a prolific writer — she writes six published novels each year — that her publishers put her books out under three names. They can market more of them this way, as she produces a certain type of novel under each pen name.

The Peggy O'More novels are invariably humorous stories of alert, young moderns in a jam. Her Betty Blocklinger stories are light mysteries, very tightly plotted, with a clever twist at the end.

Under the name of Jeanne Bowman, she writes a modern love story, generally with a definite locale, and a real problem to be solved.

Perhaps it is the blood of both her sea-going forebears and her pioneer Oregon ancestors that gives Peggy Blocklinger such physical, mental and moral stamina.

**From Pioneer Family**  
Her great-grandfather Hathaway crossed the plains with Orin and

**Gardeners Hear Talk**  
MT ANGEL—A large turnout of Garden Club members Wednesday night heard Miss Juliana Dehler, last year's sweepstake winner, give a talk on grooming primroses for the annual show, April 24.

The Primrose Show has been a major Spring event in Mt. Angel since the Garden Club was organized seven years ago. As customary, the sweepstake prize or trophy will be donated by the city council who requested that the club decided on its selection.

A committee of Mrs. O. J. Williams, this year's general show chairman, Miss Dehler, and Mrs. George Schmidt was named to select the trophy.

Mayor Jacob Berchtold asked the Garden club to investigate what type of flower would be most suitable to plant in a large shaded bed on the city hall lawn and Mrs. Paul Sliffe was appointed to get the information and report at the next meeting.

**Salem Heights School Landscaping Finished**

SALEM HEIGHTS—Landscaping of the Salem Heights School grounds was completed this week. Ernest Iufer, landscape gardener, was in charge of the project which was sponsored by the Salem Heights Mothers Club.

The Idaka Wiggata Camp Fire group of Salem Heights School assisted with the planting by purchasing and planting a camellia bush in the landscape plan.

**COUNCILMAN SWORN IN**  
SHERIDAN—Matthew Krauthofer Sr. was sworn in as a city councilman this week, and was appointed chairman of the street and light committee, and a member of the water and finance committees. Mayor Fred Bozeman appointed Vincent Russell as a member of the budget committee for a three year term, and John Funk also as a member of the committee.

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Joseph Kellog, and later married the Kellog's sister, who became Peggy's great-grandmother.

Her great uncle Joseph Kellog, who became famous as a Willamette river steamboat operator, brought the first Masonic charter to Oregon for Multnomah Lodge No. 1.

Mrs. Blocklinger has never written an historical novel, but she intends "to do one on Great Uncle Joseph some day."

Peggy finds time to edit the Amity Standard, write her novels, crusade for clean literature, work for better libraries; to entertain, attend church and keep house for four "ancient" cats.

**Has Her Dislikes**  
Like all writers she has her likes and dislikes. In novel writing, she has no use for left-wing message writers, the economic dogooders, and the-world-is-slowly-but-surely-going-to-the-dogs school of writing.

However, Peggy likes "working writers." To her, anyone who writes and sells anything from a dollar filler to a best seller deserves respect.

She said "being a police reporter perhaps gave me—my story sense. Newspaper work trains one to think straight."

Three of Mrs. Blocklinger's latest novels have Oregon settings. "Letter to Annette" has a Portland and Oswego locale. "Horizon Home" has the Applegate country for a background, and "Gypsy Girl" is laid in the "Siskiyou."

Her newest book, "Two Strings to My Bow" has an upper Willamette Valley setting. Her publishers, Arcadia House, class it as a romance, but in reality it is a problem novel. The novel tells what poor leadership and smugness does to kill small towns.

**Crusading Editor**  
The yarn is built around a crusading young newspaper editor



AMITY—Books written by Peggy Blocklinger, one of Oregon's most prolific authors, nearly fill the above rack—and some of her 80-plus novels are missing in the picture. The Amity author writes under three names. The tries to write 5,000 words every day in addition to her writing as editor of paper at Amity, 20 miles northwest of Salem.

**Carnival Date Set at Keizer**

KEIZER—The Keizer Carnival, which will provide more funds for the Lions Club-Scout Building, is scheduled for August 5, 6, and 7. General community-wide participation is anticipated. The carnival will be an annual event, with proceeds offsetting indebtedness after completion of the building.

The very active Keizer Lions Club, headed by President Jim Morley, has been planning the construction of the building for two years. Original site was on Chemawa Road, west of Keizer School, but a more suitable location on Cherry Avenue was purchased by the planning board, which is under chairmanship of John Coomier.

**PARENTS MEETING**  
Middle Grove School's Parents' Club will meet at the school March 21 at 7:30 p. m.

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and the daughter of a pioneer family and their battle to save a fine old community from self-destruction.

The novel has been released in the East but is not marketed yet on the Pacific Coast. One prominent Yamhill County industrialist read an advance copy of the novel and ordered 20 copies for his friends.

Peggy's next novel, now over half-done, will be a humorous story



AMITY—A new novel every two months is the average for Peggy Blocklinger (above), who also edits and writes most of the news in the weekly Amity Standard. A veteran newspaperwoman, she became editor of the Amity paper six months ago. She and one printer comprise entire staff of the paper.



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of an opera singer trying to find rest at a modern dude ranch.

When asked how it felt to be the author of over 80 published novels, Mrs. Blocklinger laughed and said, "You feel pretty proud of yourself when you are the author of one novel. But after you have produced a dozen or more, you are like the woman with a very large family and another baby comes along. You just sigh and say, 'What! Another one?'"

St. Mary's Elementary School was closed Friday while Mt. Angel Academy for girls did not operate Thursday or Friday, according to Joseph Berchtold, schoolboard chairman.

Berchtold said about 100 of the 400 pupils at St. Mary's School had colds or other illness. Figures for the academy were not reported. Berchtold said classes are tentatively scheduled to resume Monday morning at both schools.

**Valley News Briefs**

ORCHARD HEIGHTS — Popcorn School District residents will vote on the annual school budget at 8 p. m. Monday at the schoolhouse. The budget has been increased, and voters are urged to be present.

Jefferson — Farmers in this area are busy trucking peppermint roots from Sunnyside, Wash. Driving trucks in the convoy are Bland Sheffield, Charles Henion, Dale Eisenmann, Mike Helms, Marion Towery, Louise Williams and Oliver Stephenson.

Lyons — A corsage was presented to Mrs. Inez Ring, 81, at Faith Rebekah Lodge meeting which was an anniversary of the lodge. She spoke on its history. The lodge also appointed Alice Huber as assistant drill captain.

Victor Point — A "white elephant" sale will be a special feature of the meeting of the Union Hills Home Extension Unit, Tuesday. The meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a. m. at the Waldo Hills Community Hall. The lesson topic "Color, Clothes and You" will be given by Mrs. Fred Jarvill and Mrs. Francis Miller.

Sheridan — Sheridan and Mill Creek school district voters will vote Tuesday, March 15, on the consolidation of the two districts. Sheridan voters will vote at the high school from 2 to 8 p. m., and Mill Creek voters will vote at their schoolhouse from 8 to 9 p. m.

Falls City — The Methodist Youth Fellowship Group of the Falls City Methodist Church will have a party immediately following the Sunday evening meeting.

Sunnyside — Mrs. Ermina Fisher, Marion County Home Extension agent, will be guest speaker at the meeting of Red Hills Agricultural Club on Tuesday. She will talk about "Health Insurance in the Home."

Jefferson — Kenneth R. Behrens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Behrens of Jefferson, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in biological sciences from Washington State College at mid-year graduation exercises.

Sunnyside — Mrs. Wayne Wendt was honored with a shower by the Friendly Hour Club Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Edgar Husted. Plans were made for the club's annual family-night dinner which will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Neuenchwander at 6:30 p. m. on March 23.

Sheridan — Pvt. Gerald F. Bowen, Pvt. Hugh K. Elliott and Philip E. Voorhees, all of Sheridan, and Pvt. Dan L. Haake of Willamina, are recent enlistees in Company A, 162nd Infantry, McMinville National Guard.

Falls City — Anyone interested in canvassing for the Red Cross is asked to meet with the women's committee on Monday at 2 p. m. at Odd Fellows Hall in Falls City.

Sheridan — The Sheridan High School music department, under direction of Gordon Pratt, music director, will present a musical program at the March 28 meeting of the P.T.A. The band, choral group, girls trio, boys quartet and several solo numbers will be included in the program.

**PRINCIPALS TO MEET**  
Secondary School Principals will meet March 21 at 10 a. m. in the Public School Administration Building board room, while elementary principals will meet at 2:30 p. m. in the same room.

**LOCKER BEEF**

Grain-Fed Beef	22c lb.
Double AA Young Steer Beef	30c lb.
Beef Roast	25c lb.
Beef Steak	35c lb.
Big Franks	25c lb.

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# 'Cold' Wave Halts School At Mt. Angel

MT. ANGEL—Classes at two Mt. Angel schools are expected to reopen Monday following brief closures due to colds that kept over 100 students from their classes.

St. Mary's Elementary School was closed Friday while Mt. Angel Academy for girls did not operate Thursday or Friday, according to Joseph Berchtold, schoolboard chairman.

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# Winner



STAYTON — Miss Carol Kruse (above) of Lyons, a junior at Union High School in Stayton, will represent this area in finals of IOOF United Nations contest. She won contest here Thursday.



**Our Valley**  
... By CHARLES IRELAND

With a touch of envy, we scribbled the by-line of The Statesman's able Amity correspondent, James M. Alley, on today's feature story about Peggy Blocklinger. . . Envy because the Amity author sounds like somebody that any newspaper person would delight in meeting and writing about. . . James is quite a free-lance writer himself, in his spare moments, and is quite proud of his middle name which quite appropriately is Matthew. . . Appropriate because his full title is the Rev. James Matthew Alley, pastor of the Amity Christian Church.

Odd twist that Dallas is getting so much publicity in connection with current gasoline price war, because the station involved reportedly was only one in Dallas that cut prices on gasoline when many Salem stations did.

Beachcombing is reported exceptionally good this month at Yachats, south of Waldport. . . Japanese glass floats of several colors have been drifting ashore. Most are round but some are of the "rolling pin" variety. A few are marked with the hammer and sickle, while the trademark of American glass companies is found on others. . . A real find is a float containing water. Such a float has probably been dragged into very deep water before breaking away from its net. . . The extreme pressure of the deep sea forces the water through the pores of the glass, but once landed, the float never loses its water by evaporation.

Deaths exceeded births at Silverton last month for the first time in eight years. . . There were 11 deaths and nine births there in February. . . 1950 census figures showed Silverton had more people "over 65" than any town in the state on a per capita basis.

Today Mt. Angel Catholic Parish repeats its annual sausage and fried chicken dinner, one of the truly huge events of its kind in the valley. . . The last time we ate some of that wonderful Mt. Angel sausage, we were sitting beside State Rep. Arthur Ireland, who lives just three miles from the Verboort Catholic Church. . . Now, it could be argued that Verboort's sausage is even more renowned than Mt. Angel's, so we asked him which was best. . . "I can't tell any difference," he replied. "They taste like they were made from the same recipe." . . (We should have known better than try to pin down a politician). . . Anyway, you can't even be nominated as a connoisseur of Oregon food if you haven't eaten sausage from Verboort or Mt. Angel.

What's the hottest mercantile item in Stayton this week? . . . That's easy—mail boxes. . . Mail delivery starts Wednesday and at last Stayton folks are going to learn whether James M. Cain was spoofing when he wrote "The Postman Always Rings Twice."

Of five Grand Finals in Statesman-KSLM Spelling Contest last 5 years, a boy won once (Mack Harris, Parrish Jr. High, 1951) . . . No school has won more than once. . . Winners have been Parrish, Broadacres, Woodburn, Hazel Green, Willard. . . Best school records are Willard—one first, one second; Broadacres—one first, one third; St. Paul, one second, one third.

As this is written, scalpers are faring well at the NCAA basketball tourney in Corvallis with \$2.50 tickets moving at \$10 a copy and even \$15. . . Scalping is dangerous business, however. . . Besides being illegal and immoral, sometimes the market collapses and it isn't even "fattening."

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