

### Rarest Book in Library Tells Sad Story of Early Life in Oregon

By Ben Maxwell

Rarest book in the Oregon State library, because no other copy is now known to exist, was written by an Oregon missionary woman to inform the world of her agonies as wife of Dr. W. J. Bailey, executive and legislator in the provisional government, and to tell all who cared to read her confession why she divorced him.

"The Grains, or Passages in the Life of Ruth Rover With Occasional Pictures of Oregon," was written by Margaret Jewett Bailey and published in Portland by Carter and Austin in 1854. Originally the work consisted of two parts. The first is now lost, and the second, somewhat damaged by rodents, survives. It is one of Oregon's early literary efforts and the first to be written by a woman.

Margaret Jewett Smith was born near Boston about 1812 and came to Oregon with a Methodist mission reinforcement arriving in September, 1837. Here she was a teacher to Indian children, the second in the country. Miss Smith was selected because of her piety but, for some indefinite reason, does not appear to have retained her popularity with mission associates. In 1840, before her term had expired, she severed mission connections and married Dr. W. J. Bailey.

Now Dr. W. J. Bailey was no saint, though during a mission revival in 1839 he professed a change of heart. He was English born in 1812, later studied medicine and acquired an insatiable thirst for spirituous liquors. The family emigrated to America where Bailey continued his dissipated life. When severely rebuked by his mother he fled from home and signed on a ship bound for the northwest coast. Rough life in the forecabin and on deck did not suit his refined tastes so he jumped ship at a California port. Here he remained for some years wandering with dubious associates, leading a loose life.

During the summer of 1835 Bailey joined a group of kindred spirits headed overland to Oregon. Four survived Indian attacks though all were wounded.

Bailey and John Turner arrived at the Willamette, across from the mission, in a most distressed and forlorn condition. Bailey's wounded face was bandaged with rags ripped from his shirt; his shoes were worn out and he had no clothing except a tattered vest and pantaloons. A contemporary mission writer says Bailey "had received a deep cut with an axe in his lower jaw which severed his lip and this writer had the honor to perform the office of surgeon and barber to the doctor's neglected face." Neither Bailey nor Turner appeared happy with missionary treatment and soon went along to Vancouver.

When Margaret Jewett Smith married Bailey in 1840 he had a claim upon which was a house with a chimney for which he was to pay \$100. He also had two horses, a few articles of clothing, a few dishes, two chairs, two blankets, a kettle and a frying pan.

In "The Grains" Mrs. Bailey becomes Ruth Rover and Dr. Bailey is thinly disguised as Dr. Binney. Reviewing the marriage ceremony, with but one witness in attendance and he thought it was a funeral, Ruth found herself sad. "Did she love him?" We think not particularly, says Ruth Rover. But she anticipated great pleasure in religious exercise with him as a "young convert."

There is where the trouble started. Dr. Bailey was neither young in experience nor firm as a convert. He resented reformation and soon told Mr. G. Bailey that he neither could nor would pray and, despite frequent resolutions about abstinence, continued to guzzle at John Hord's saloon in Champoeg.

Separations followed dramatic rows and reunions of brief felicity followed separations. Mrs. Bailey was an intelligent, sensitive, persevering and self-righteous woman, sharp tongued and shrewish. Dr. Bailey asked her to forgive him at one moment, threatened to kill her the next.

### Yamhill Girl Prize Winner

A 17-year-old school girl from route 1, Yamhill, Eleanor Mitchell, won the coveted first prize in the annual essay contest for all Oregon Green Guards, according to Judge Grant Murphy, Marion county chairman of the Keep Oregon Green association.

Judges gave cash and other valuable prizes to 22 boys and girls throughout Oregon, all members of the junior division of the fire prevention association. The contest was open to every one of the thousands of Green Guards and the theme was—"Why I Am a Green Guard."

Miss Mitchell won a Bulova watch. Winners of second prizes were: James Spores, Crow Stage Rt., Eugene; Charles D. Colegrove, Junction City, and Margaret C. Colegrove, Junction City, who each received \$10 in cash.

In the intermediate division these girls each won a new bicycle: Mary Jo Bean, Route 1, Woodburn; and Darlene Owen, Route 3, Junction City. A \$10 second prize went to Robert Hewitt, 145 Wander Way, Salem and a third prize of \$5 was awarded to Darlene Buxton, Wilma Emerson, and Carole Lee Moore, Richland; Freda Swanson and Hilda Irene Swanson, Swissgosh, and Frank Wiley, Route 17, Portland.

Fourth prize winners of \$3 in the intermediate division were: Pearl Edith Forsee, Ronald Halley, and Terrel McCormick.

"A sick hoosier, under Dr. Binney's care, whistles between pauses of conversation. He might as well be a Yankee and whittle away his time."

Again she says, "A hoosier family came to visit me, and certainly I was glad when they were gone. The lady exercised herself by walking to and fro upon the carpet, shuffling her feet each step, possibly the better to enjoy its softness. The gentleman sat most of the time tipped back in his chair, with his pipe, and showed his good manners in not spitting upon the carpet by spitting between it and the wall as nearly as he could."

A squaw, dying despite Dr. Binney's best efforts, said she did not want to go where God was because she knew nothing of him. She wanted to "go to sleep."

Dr. W. J. Bailey married again regardless of harrowing matrimonial experiences. He died February 5, 1876, and is buried in the St. Paul Catholic cemetery. Mrs. Bailey likewise remarried though a few years later she was again seeking a divorce from her obscure husband and alleging him guilty of gross immoralities.

Tolmie-Minto Letter  
Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, a respected, scholarly pioneer

### Church Council Sets Its Dates

The Oregon Council of Churches will hold its annual meeting in Eugene February 25 and 26, Charles A. Sprague, president, announced Saturday.

Sessions will be held at the First Methodist and First Christian churches. Theme of the meeting will be "The Church's Witness in Our World."

Sprague said the program was prepared by a committee headed by Dr. Francis T. Cooke, Portland, secretary of the council. The opening address of the meeting will be "The Witness of Christian Democracy to Our World," delivered by Dr. Henry Atkinson, New York, general secretary for World Peace Union and World Alliance for International Friendship Through the Churches.

The conference, which will close with a banquet, will include sectional meetings for pastors, laymen, and the Oregon Council of Church Women.

### Justice's of Peace Hold Sunday Meeting

The Oregon Association of Justices of the Peace and Constables met Sunday at the office of Justice of the Peace Joseph B. Felton, re-elected all officers and appointed a legislative committee to advise the association concerning bills of interest in the 1947 legislative session.

Re-elected were: President, G. W. Thiessen, Milwaukie; vice president, M. L. Boyd, Newberg; secretary-treasurer, T. H. Arestad, Canby.

The legislative committee is: Justices of the Peace Joseph B. Felton of Salem, chairman, Alf O. Nelson of Silverton, Walter Bell of Stayton, G. W. Thiessen of Milwaukie, and Constable Earl Adams of Salem.

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### Income Tax Troubles

Under certain conditions farmers and small business men should file a return by January 15, 1947. If in doubt, consult us.

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