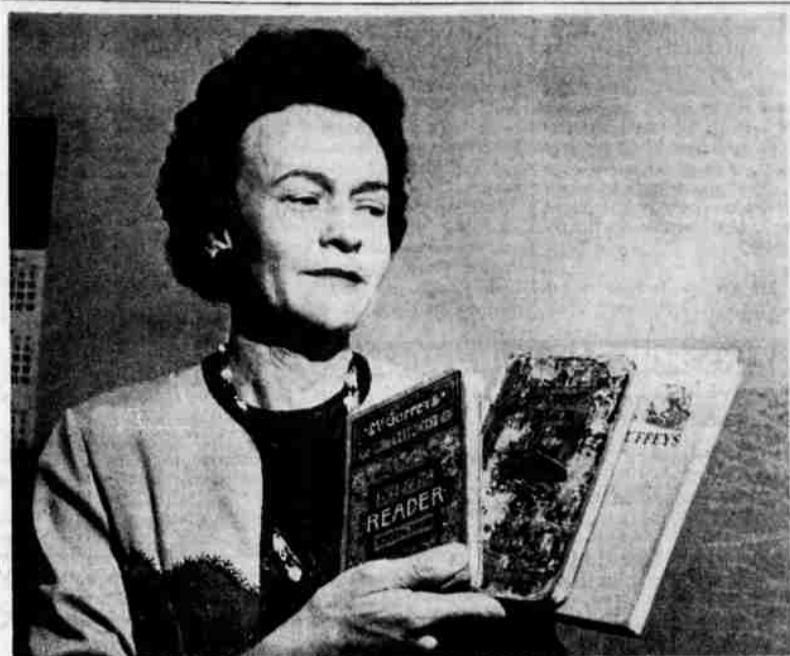


KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1963

Many Still Fondly Recall McGuffey's Famed Texts



A DESCENDANT — Mrs. Loren (Mildred) Binney, 724 Mitchell, is a descendant of two hardy men of the great clan of the fighting McGuffeys who migrated from Scotland to contribute to education in America.

By RUTH KING
The beloved old school books, the McGuffey's Readers and the McGuffey's Speller, are known to many persons of an earlier generation, but to the younger, they are names rarely mentioned, seldom seen.

They are linked to Klamath Falls through Mrs. Evelyn Loomis, 216 Pine Street, who owns the Third Grade Eclectic Reader and the Eclectic Spelling Book, and Mrs. Mildred Binney.

Mrs. Loren (Mildred) Binney of Klamath Falls is a direct descendant of the McGuffey family of whom Alice McGuffey Ruggles writes in a charming narrative of the family that came to America from the mountains of northwestern Scotland.

It was Billy McGuffey "who attended strictly to his own business, farming and cobbling," and his wife Ann whom he adored.

They sailed in a small brig which took the better part of three months to reach America.

Supplies of food, issued once weekly, were cooked over open fires in an open galley.

Billy was educated. He wrote a fine hand and read all the books he could gather.

Ann often killed and cooked a pullet for General Washington who stopped at the McGuffey home for rest and relaxation.

They emigrated again, following the Daniel Boone Trail through the Cumberland Gap and young Elizabeth died and was buried without shroud or coffin beneath a high bank of laurel.

and Ann McGuffey, son of Sandy, was named William Holmes McGuffey by his mother Anna. He was a "plain-faced infant," but a precocious one.

His parents fought the unfriendly wilds. His mother was dedicated to the task of building a road that would lead her children to education, to power and position.

He, with his brothers and sisters, walked to a small school, miles from home, to learn from a Presbyterian minister.

William learned Latin. At 16 he was given a certificate and became a roving teacher.

He was both ignorant and indifferent. Children were unruly. He determined to become a Presbyterian minister, a secret kept with his mother.

He tramped the frontier, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Kentucky in patched clothing.

He was torn with concern for the backwoods people, lonely and hungry for something besides their daily grind.

Since her husband would not help her, Anna turned to the Lord, "Ask and it shall be given unto you."

Next morning during breakfast, a stranger in clerical dress knocked at the cabin door.

William earned his tuition, 70 cents a week by hard labor in the principal's home.

The first grandson of William McGuffey became one of the foremost American educators and ministers.

meal for the principal's family and his mother and sisters knitted him stockings and mittens, and a comforter for his neck.

"Aim high," his mother told him, "second bests aren't worthwhile." He enrolled at Washington College, and spent six years there, working his way.

His courses were Latin, Greek, Hebrew, ancient history, and philosophy—no modern studies.

By 1834 public schools were being opened all over the frontier.

William McGuffey fought for his beliefs in education, uncompromising and, because of this, left Miami University where he was an administrator.

It was at Cincinnati College and at Woodward that the famous "Readers," which he had long envisioned, came to light.

The Readers were to lay the foundation of correct spelling, pronunciation and usage and exemplify American ideals of work, education, character.

The contract for the first series was signed by William on April 23, 1836.

The historic little books — a Primer, four Readers and a Speller, appeared in 1837.

What backwoods child could fail to learn? It unlocked the gates of learning.

The second Reader led the child into the enchanted garden; the third contained unforgettable stories and the Lord's Prayer in verse.

"The Old Oaken Bucket," and "George Washington and His Little Hatchet." Alexander, in addition to the Speller, compiled the Fifth and Sixth Readers.

Shrines and monuments were erected to his name but William McGuffey has a living shrine in the hearts of millions of old school boys and girls.

Smith's publishing business grew. He grew richer year by year. William Holmes McGuffey had sold his copyright for a mess of pottage.

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He held his tongue on States Rights during the Civil War. He grew old and sad.

When the war ended, the publishers of the McGuffey Readers urged William to tour the South to gage the effects of peace on their sales.

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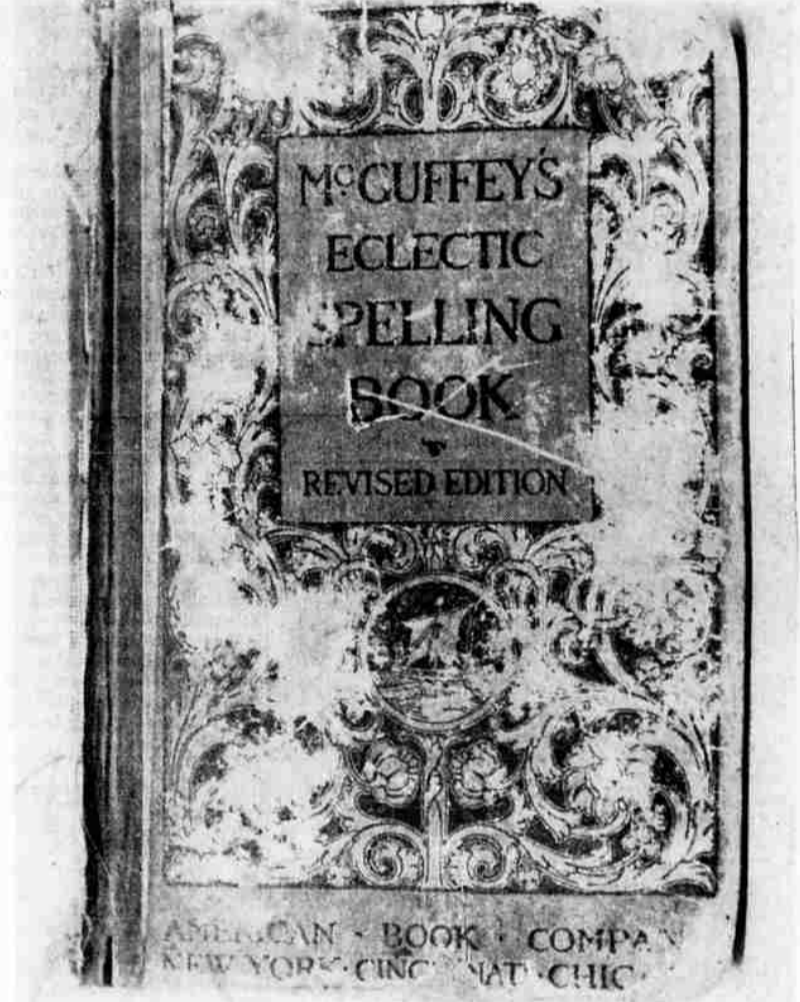
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at least 10 millionaires "were made" from the McGuffey series. Alexander was not one of them. He outlived William 23 years.

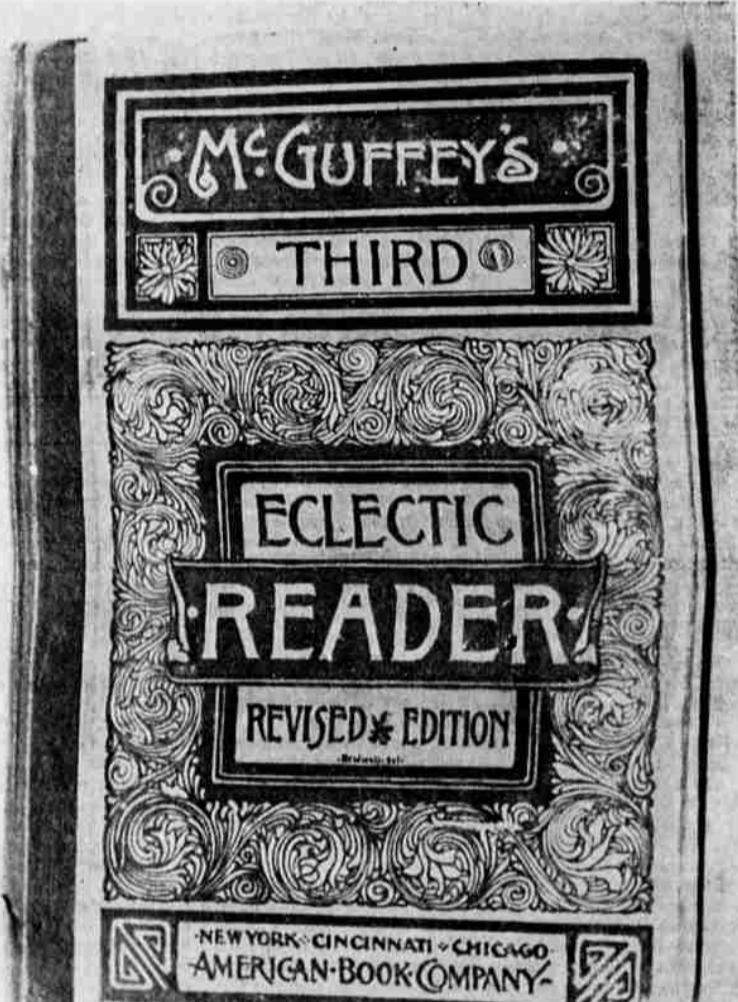
Both men lived and died unconscious of their real contribution to posterity.

Mrs. Binney, Klamath County deputy treasurer, as her illustrious forefathers has taken a continuing interest in education, politics and civic projects.

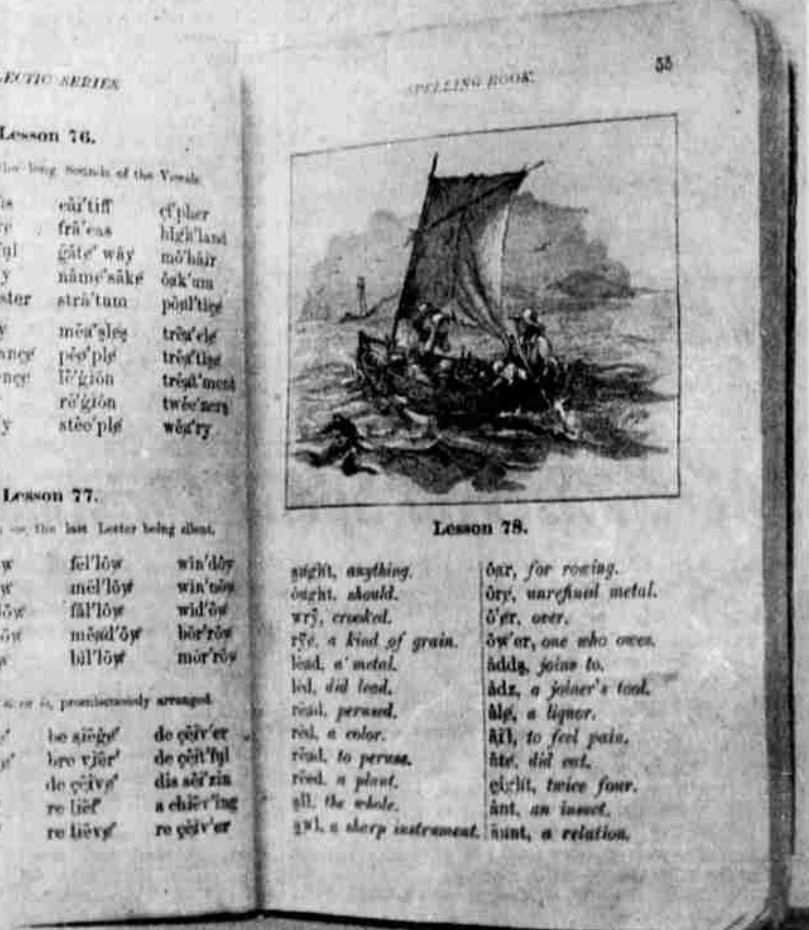
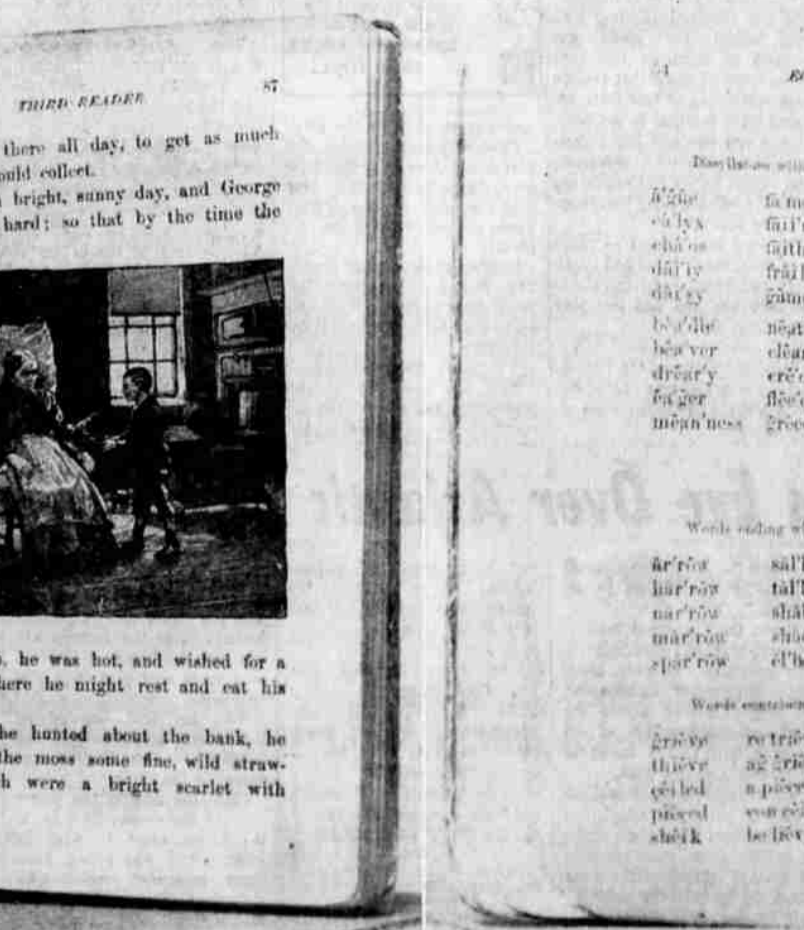
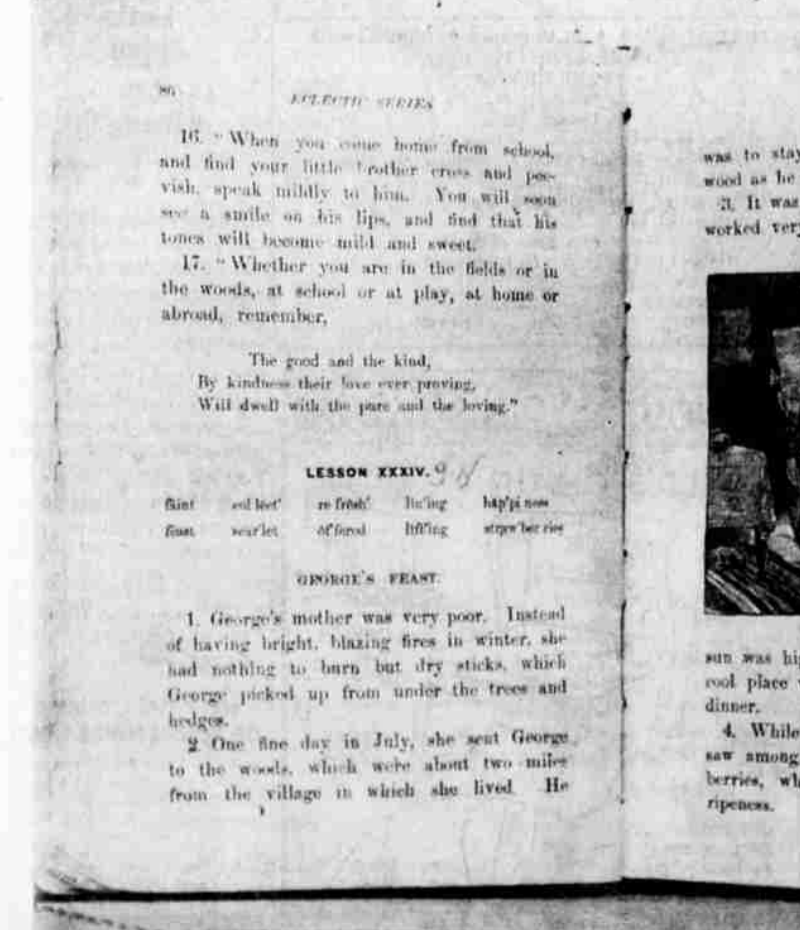
She is a past precinct committee woman, serves on the elementary school budget board, is a past president of Oregon State University Mothers, and is serving this year on the state board.



MANY LESSONS LEARNED — School books were used over and over in the early days of education when school and family funds were low. Numerous children learned from the same speller and reader, and the volumes soon became dog-eared and worn.



QUAINT TITLES — Third grade pupils who studied the McGuffey's Readers, repeated "The Lord's Prayer" from its pages, and read a story a day — The Young Teacher, A Walk in the Garden, Bird Friends, Weighing an Elephant, The Echo, Finding the Owner, Beware of the First Drink.



THE TORCH OF LEARNING BURNED BRIGHT — In those early days of American Democracy when men toiled to open new frontiers, it was usually the mothers of growing children who were dedicated to give the young the advantages of an education, meager at best in those days when food and shelter came first.

newly arrived from the mountains of Scotland, who followed her husband Billy from new land to new land, mothered the authors of the McGuffey's Eclectic Readers and McGuffey's Eclectic Speller, William and Alexander. When mortal man failed, she sought divine help, and sometimes used a woman's wiles to gain an advantage.

McGuffey became one of the foremost American educators and ministers. The brothers gained little from the publication of their school books while the publishers reaped riches. Both men lived and died without knowledge of the great contribution they had made to education in this country.