

The

Valley

Library

Courtyard

Quotations



The Valley Library Courtyard Quotations

The Valley Library Courtyard Quotations Project is a visible representation of the celebration of ideas.

In the fall of 1996, the University community was asked to submit quotations that represented a variety of subject areas, historical periods, and ethnic groups, and also had some special relevance to Oregon State University and the people it serves. Submissions were received from students, faculty, staff, and alumni and were evaluated by the Courtyard Quotations Project committee for their appropriateness to the project.

The forty-three quotations engraved in granite at the north entrance to the Valley Library create a mosaic of ideas spanning many decades, and are the legacy of those whose lives and words have had an impact on the Pacific Northwest.



*The Courtyard Plaza was given in memory
of Lora Laslett Kelley by her family.*

*They know enough who
know how to learn.*

Henry Brooks Adams

[*The Education of Henry Adams* (1907), p. xxi]

This is a reproduction of a quotation from the old Kidder Hall Library. Many alumni remember the quotation from their college days here. Adams (1838-1918) was an influential educator who wrote a number of books on the philosophy of education.

*I have always imagined that
Paradise will be a kind of library.*

Jorge Luis Borges

[from his *El Hacedor*]

Borges ("BORE-haze"), born in 1899, was a prominent Argentinean short story writer, poet, and man of letters. During his lifetime many critics considered him to be the greatest living writer in the Spanish language. His work is complex, delighting in "verbal trickery, elaborate conceits, sly and bewildering allusions." (John Wakeman's *World Authors*, 1950-1970, p. 187). Borges died in Argentina in 1986.

Ocean in view! O! the joy.

William Clark (1805)

[Gary E. Moulton, ed. *The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, vol. 6, p. 58]

This is the Clark of "Lewis and Clark" and this is what he wrote in his journal when he first saw the Pacific Ocean after trekking across the continental wilderness.



Ore. Hist. Soc. neg# 0104113082

My mother had this enchanted world of reading, and I wanted in.

Ore. Hist. Soc. neg# CN001274



Beverly Cleary

[*People Weekly*, Oct. 3, 1988, pp. 59-60]

Beverly Cleary has written many beloved children's books (especially the "Ramona" series) and was raised and still lives in Oregon. Her autobiography is *Girl From Yamhill*.

*Keep hope. What you see is not chaos shaking a world apart
Permanently; it is only change.
Disorder follows order.*

H. L. Davis

[*The Selected Poems of H. L. Davis* (Ahsakta Press, Boise State Univ., 1978), p. 39]

H. L. Davis (1896-1960) was born in Yoncalla, Oregon, (near Roseburg in the Coast Range). He is said to be one of the best "re-creators of the American West." He wrote novels, essays, and poetry, winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1936.

Do not yield to difficulties, but rise above discouragements.

Ore. Hist. Soc. neg# ORHI 37312



Abigail Scott Duniway

[*Path Breaking* (Kerns & Abbott: Portland, 1914), p. 11]

Duniway was a nationally known suffragette from Oregon who edited a "feminist" newspaper in Portland. Her lifelong efforts resulted in Oregon permitting women to vote in 1912.

*I sit in your
crowded classrooms
& learn how to read about dick
jane & spot
but
I remember
how to get a deer
I remember
how to do beadwork
I remember
how to fish
I remember
the stories told by the old
but
spot keeps
showing up
&
my report card
is bad*



Ed Edmo

[In OSU Press's *From Here We Speak; An Anthology of Oregon Poetry*, 1993]

Edmo is a Native American (Shoshoni-Bannock) poet and story teller living in Portland. He gives workshops in Portland-area schools and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The uppermost thought of a farm worker—and I know because I've been one—is to have something better for his kids.

Ramona Salazar Flores

[*The Oregonian*, Aug. 20, 1992, p. O1]

At the time of the statement in 1992, Flores was a Portland-area State Employment representative for migrant seasonal farm workers.

We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same.

Anne Frank

[*The Diary of a Young Girl* (1952), entry for 6 July 1944]

Anne Frank kept her diary between 1942-44 when she and her family were hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam. Her work is a monument to the human spirit. She died in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945 at age 15.

I've always argued that it is just as desirable, just as possible, to have philosopher plumbers as philosopher kings.

Edith Starrett Green

[In *American Political Women*, by Esther Stineman (Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 1980), p. 54]

Edith Green (1910-1987) was a powerful force for Oregon in the U.S. Congress during the era of the "Great Society" programs, affecting legislation on education, minorities, and women. She had 33 honorary degrees and dozens of awards.

*One by one, in the refuge of the mind,
We strive to give the understanding wings
And to make the brilliant flight of it
enough.*



Photo by Ron Finne

Hazel Hall

[In *Walkers* (NY: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1923)]

Hazel Hall (1886-1924) was an Oregon poet with 3 books to her credit, and poems in major periodicals. She was confined to a wheelchair at age 12 until her death at age 38 in Portland.

*Now I am all alone, I have been left alone.
All my people have died. I myself am all
alone now. When I have died, my tribe will
be quite gone. My own country is the
Kalapuya, my country is at Corvallis.*

William Hartless

[In *Kalapuya Texts*, ed. by Melville Jacobs (Seattle: University of Washington, 1945), Univ. of Wash. *Publications in Anthropology*, no. 11, p. 337.

William Hartless (1855-1920) was a Corvallis area Kalapuya Indian of the "Marys River" tribe. The tribe and the Corvallis area were called "Tcha Peenafu," meaning "Place Where the Elderberries Grow." Hartless was one of the last to speak his language. He related many Kalapuya myths to anthropologists who recorded his voice and native speech in 1914. He was a son of "Marysville Tom" who in the 1850s was forced with his family to relocate with other Oregon tribes to the Grand Ronde Reservation. Diseases in the reservation quickly killed many Native Americans. Only two of Hartless's seven children survived to adulthood.

The situation of Corvallis is remarkably handsome, having the river on one side of it, and the Coast Range sufficiently near it on the other to give the landscape the look of being framed in a semicircle of hills.

Frances Fuller Victor

[In *All Over Oregon and Washington* (San Francisco, 1972), p. 178.]

Frances Fuller Victor (1826-1902) came to Portland with her naval-engineer husband. She found herself captivated by the novelty, grandeur, and romance of the Pacific Northwest. She traveled extensively and met many of the Pacific Northwest notables, plying them with questions. She became a fine historian, writing the first two volumes of Bancroft's *History of the West*. Despite her talents, toward the end of her life she sold ice cream and other articles door-to-door to pay her bills.



Oron. Hist. Soc. neg# ORHI 5463

I pray for the integrity, justice, and courage to vote the correct vote, not the political vote.

Mark Hatfield

[*Christianity Today*, Oct. 22, 1982]

Hatfield was born in Dallas, Oregon, in 1922. He was an instructor and dean of students at Willamette University; a member of the Oregon House of Representatives 1951-55; the Oregon Senate 1955-57; Secretary of State of Oregon, 1957-59; Governor of Oregon, 1959-67; and U.S. Senator from Oregon, 1967-96. He is the author of several books on peace and world hunger.



*There are the years that ask questions
and years that answer.*

Zora Neale Hurston

[In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Greenwich, Conn.: Fawcett Premier Book, 1937)]

Hurston (1891-1960) was a prominent African-American novelist from Florida. She collected African-American and African-Caribbean folklore, and taught at college in North Carolina. However she is remembered for her novels. Her best-known novel is *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, the book from which our quotation is taken.

*Life is an unfoldment, and the further
we travel the more truth we can
comprehend.*

Hypatia (ca. 400 A.D.)

Hypatia, a Greek-Egyptian philosopher, mathematician and teacher, was murdered by a mob because of her neo-Platonic principles which the leading patriarch of Alexandria thought was threatening to Christianity. She wrote a 13-volume text on algebra, and invented an astrolabe, a planisphere, a water-distilling machine, and the first instrument for measuring the specific gravity of liquids.

*No wonder
he's smiling—
he's driving
a truckload
of tomatoes!*



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Lawson Fusao Inada

[In *Legends from Camp* (Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 1992), p. 124]

Inada is a poet and a third-generation Japanese-American. He was born in Fresno in 1938, and was interned in camps in Arkansas and Colorado during WWII. His poetry reflects his interest in jazz as well as his incarceration experiences. He has edited two path-breaking collections of Asian-American literature, published collections of his own poetry, and is currently a professor of English at Southern Oregon University.

*The desert spring is something very
special. The most beautiful things are
short-lived. Suppose a sunset lasted
forever.*



Courtesy OSU Archives #F89-1

E. R. Jackman

[In *The Oregon Desert* (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1964, 1971)]

Jackman was born on a farm in Minnesota in 1894. After serving in the Army in 1918-1919 he completed his college work at OSU (then Oregon Agricultural College). He was an OSU extension specialist for some thirty years. He is best known for his many essays, articles, and books dealing with the fragility, lore, and beauty of the Oregon desert. He died in 1967.

One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar.

Helen Keller

[From a speech, Mt. Airy in *The Story of My Life* (1903)]

Helen Adams Keller was born in 1880, and was struck blind and deaf by a raging brain fever nineteen months later. The story of Keller's remarkable struggles and success in learning to read, write, and talk was dramatized in the Academy Award winning film, *The Miracle Worker* (1955). She has been called one of the world's most admired women. She died at age 88 in 1968.

True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

[In *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story* (New York: Harper & Row, 1958), p. 40]

King, of course, was perhaps the most influential African American of the 20th century. His nonviolent techniques to protest segregation were instrumental in giving blacks the civil rights they had always been denied in the United States. He also advocated peace during the Vietnam war, and organized demonstrations in support of the poor. King was assassinated in 1969.

I learned to make my mind large, as the universe is large, so that there is room for paradoxes.

Maxine Hong Kingston

[In *The Woman Warrior* (Knopf, 1977), p. 29]

Maxine Hong was born in 1940 in Stockton, California. She has played an instrumental role in introducing Asian American literature to the United States and making Americans more aware of Asian American achievements. Her books, *The Woman Warrior* and *China Men* won the National Book Critics Circle Award. A recent best seller was *Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book* (1989). Hong Kingston lives in the San Francisco area and teaches at the University of California, Berkeley.

Stay joyous under the sun and moon, in the rain and out.

William Kittredge

[In *Who Owns the West?* (San Francisco, Mercury House: 1996), p. 7]

Born in Portland in 1932, Kittredge graduated from OSU in 1953. He was an Oregon rancher and the author of several award-winning books. Kittredge is now a professor at the University of Montana, Missoula.

Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing.

Harper Lee

[In *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Warner Books, 1982, c.1960), p. 18]

Lee's hometown of Monroeville, Alabama (where she was born in 1926), provided her with the setting for her only novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Her book was a bestseller and won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1961; it was later made into a popular movie.

The dance of renewal, the dance that made the world, was always danced here at the edge of things, on the brink, on the foggy coast.

Ursula Le Guin

[In *Dancing at the Edge of the World* (London: Victor Gollancz Ltd., 1989), p. 48]

Ursula (Kroeber) Le Guin was born in 1929 in Berkeley, California. Her father was an anthropologist, her mother a writer. She studied at Radcliffe College, Columbia University, and spent a Fulbright in France. Since the 1950s she has lived in Portland, Oregon. In her dozens of books, she has shown a preference for using science fiction and fantasy as vehicles for her imagination, politics, and moral issues. She is the winner of numerous awards.

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community.

Aldo Leopold

[In *A Sand County Almanac* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1949), pp. 224-5]

A Midwesterner, Leopold (1896-1948) was influential at raising the public's consciousness to the value of undisturbed wilderness. Besides being a fine essayist, he was an expert on wildlife management. His greatest work, *A Sand County Almanac*, is still a classic of conservation literature.

*We have to rediscover story—and music
and the theater and dance and painting
and photography—as sources of renewal,
not products.*

Barry Lopez

[In *Northern Lights Magazine*, Sept. 1995; the above from a reprint in *Earth Island Journal*, Fall 1995]

Born in 1945, Lopez describes himself as “a writer who travels.” The *Washington Post* calls him “one of the most fully involved and supremely articulate chroniclers of the land.” Two of his critically acclaimed books are *Of Wolves and Men* and *Arctic Dreams*. Lopez has lived in Oregon for the past 25 years in a house overlooking the McKenzie River.

*Levin walked in the cold rain, the wettest
dreariest he had ever been in. The town
was tight around the shoulders, the wet
streets long and dark, streetlights obscure
at corners. A man could drown mid-block
and nobody would know.*

Bernard Malamud

[In *A New Life* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 1961), p. 125]

Malamud (1914-1986) came to Corvallis to teach in 1949. He wrote four books while at OSU and lived here for 12 years. His first novel was *The Natural*, while his *A New Life* is set in “Cascadia College” (aka OSU). It pokes fun at the pretentiousness of academia. He won National Book Awards for his novels and short story collections.



Courtesy OSU Archives #P82.35 neg.2421

Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say: This is my community, and it's my responsibility to make it better.

Tom Lawson McCall

[In *American Dreams, Lost and Found*, by Studs Terkel (New York: Pantheon, 1980), p. 337]

McCall was one of Oregon's greatest, most controversial, and most influential governors. A maverick Republican, he fought to keep Oregon from being despoiled by developers and industry. During his administration he created the first "bottle bill" in the nation; made all Oregon beaches public land, thus protecting them from development; cleaned up the highly polluted Willamette River; allocated 1 percent of highway funds to bicycle paths; and unjustly became known as the governor who wished to turn away out-of-staters from Oregon's borders. He died in 1983.



Courtesy OSU Archives #P3.1823

It was good to feel the saw tear its way through tough wood and bark, see the chips fountain across the ground from his swinging ax. This was logging.

Walt Morey

[From 1941 story in *Argosy*, reprinted in *The World Begins Here*, OSU Press]

Morey was best known for his best-selling book, *Gentle Ben*. Before his writing career he was a millworker, prizefighter, deep-sea diver, and theater manager. He died on his filbert orchard in Wilsonville, Oregon, in 1992 at the age of 84.

When one does look, looks up at the grand trees growing almost to the sky, one does always have longings to pray.

Opal Whiteley

[In *The Story of Opal: The Journal of an Understanding Heart* (Boston: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1920), p. 119]

Whiteley was raised in lumber camps near Cottage Grove, Oregon. By age 5 she began a diary which relates her sense of wonder with the forest, as well as her conversations with trees, animals, and fairies. She displayed signs of schizophrenia, manic depression, and genius. At age 13 she was giving talks on wildlife and geology, and by 21 The Atlantic Monthly Press had published her remarkable child diaries which became a best seller. She traveled the world, but was found starving in a London apartment. She was committed to a tiny, dirty cell in a London asylum for the next 45 years, dying in 1992 in her 90s.

It is the personal obligation of every human being to work to abolish war.

Ava Helen (Miller) Pauling

[In OSU Libraries' Pauling Papers]

Ava Helen Miller was born on a farm near Oregon City in 1903. She met Linus Pauling at OSU (then Oregon Agricultural College) and they married in 1923. She became a lecturer and worker for peace and human rights, speaking throughout the U.S. and some 39 foreign countries. She died in 1981.



Courtesy OSU Valley Library Special Collections

*If I couldn't find a place for something,
then I would change my picture of the
world until I understood where it fit.*



© Joe McNally

Linus Pauling

[In *The Oregonian*, Aug. 21, 1994, p. D10]

OSU's most famous graduate (class of '22) was born in Portland in 1901. He was a renaissance man whose interests spanned quantum mechanics, the common cold, and world peace. He won two Nobel Prizes, one for Chemistry and one for Peace. He wrote several influential books and over 1,000 scientific papers, continuing to publish until his death in 1994.

*Yet, for me, the wilderness and the solitary
place have been glad, and Nature has not
betrayed the heart that loved her.*



Alice Day Pratt

[In *A Homesteader's Portfolio* (reprinted by OSU Press, 1993, c. 1922)]

A self-described "old maid" and schoolmarm, Pratt homesteaded 160 acres of land in Central Oregon in 1911. In her book, *A Homesteader's Portfolio* (1922), one can sense her courage, determination, and love for nature. She stayed on her ranch until 1950, and died in 1963 at the age of 91.

*If power must be hooked up with distortion,
I'd rather not be powerful.*

Primus St. John

[In *The Oregonian*, Sept. 23, 1973]

Primus St. John is an African-American poet as well as a professor of English at Portland State University where he has taught since 1973. He has published several books of his poetry, and his work is included in several anthologies.

*The Oregon day crowds in at the door,
its cool air and the smell of rain brought
all over as we tremble to smell
the fog in its paw, our breath moving to get
loose in the woods or over the restless water.*

William Stafford

[From "Out West" in *The Rescued Year* (Harper & Row, 1966), p. 50]

William Stafford is remembered as the poet laureate of Oregon who often used the backdrop of the American West for his examinations of nature and family. He did his graduate work at the University of Kansas in the 1940s, then came to Lewis and Clark College in 1948. He remained there as a professor of English until 1980. He won the National Book award for poetry in 1962 for his collection, *Traveling Through the Dark*. He wrote some 30 books, was poetry consultant for the Library of Congress, and became poet laureate for Oregon. He died in 1993.

The sand reflecting back the heat of the sun in your face and making the sweat trickle down oh this is going to Oregon

Helen Stewart (1853)

[In *Women's Voices from the Oregon Trail* (Boise: Tamarack Books, 1993), p. 80]

Helen Stewart was seventeen when she began the journey on the Oregon Trail with her family in a covered wagon. Her future husband (David Love) was in the same wagon train, and they married in 1855. The family settled in Lane County, Oregon, then in the 1860s moved to the Idaho gold fields. Helen died in 1873.

It is easy to become a human being, but it is difficult to act like one.

Tagalog proverb

[A version of this is found in *Philippine Social Life and Progress*, by C. Benitez, 1937, p. 358]

“Tagalog” refers to both a people and their language. They are a prominent native people of the Philippines, concentrated in metropolitan Manila. Until the 1960s, literature in Philippine schools was restricted largely to Tagalog classics.