



Reference Series #1145

Cecil Whittaker (Ted) Trueblood: 1913-1982

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Ted Trueblood wrote for over forty years about natural resources and conservation. He was a reporter, an avid conservationist, and outdoor writer. His ability to attract readers from the entire country to explore the natural resources and physical challenges of the West were a unique contribution to the image and economic growth of Idaho, the state he loved.

Called “the Dean of Outdoor Writers,” Ted Trueblood was born in Boise, Idaho on June 25, 1913. He grew up on his parents’ farm near Wilder and attended the College of Idaho (now Albertson College of Idaho) for three years. He married Ellen Hinkson in 1939. Together they had two sons.

Trueblood moved to New York to pursue a career with *Field and Stream* in the early 1930's. He served as fishing editor for *Field and Stream* magazine, and wrote regularly for *True*. However, he returned to Idaho later in the 1930's after a close friend died of a sudden heart attack. His friend’s death prompted Trueblood to quit his job and return home “determined to hunt, fish, and write about it.” He wrote, “why work hard and save money and then die before I had a chance to enjoy the things for which I had been saving?”

Trueblood did write, and published seven books during his life in Idaho. *The Angler’s Handbook* (1949), *The Fishing Handbook* (1951), *Ted Trueblood on Hunting* (1953), *The Hunter’s Handbook* (1954), *How to Catch More Fish* (1955), *On Hunting* (1955), *Camping Handbook* (1955), and finally, *The Ted Trueblood Hunting Treasury* in 1978. His books and articles echo his personal philosophy.



[I find pleasure] in the simple things my ancestors did many centuries ago, such as camping out and cooking dinner over a wood fire. Then I like to sit beside it and watch the twinkling stars emerge and listen to the wavering call of a coyote while the clean, sweet smoke rises, like the wraith of some long-gone hunter, to vanish in the darkening sky.

Trueblood lived in Idaho until his death on September 12, 1982 as a result of suicide after a long bout with cancer at the age of 69. His legacy lives on in his books, his work with conservation issues, and a scholarship at Boise State University. The Ted Trueblood Scholarship is awarded through the Department of Communications for creative writing concerning issues of natural resources, conservation, and recreation.