

BAPTIST FEATURES

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THE BRAVE CAPTAIN OF THE COLUMBIA

By Olga Reh

As Robert Gray sailed his ship "Columbia" up a river of Oregon, excited Indians stood on the banks marveling that such a huge craft could get past the treacherous breakers at the entrance. They could not guess at the weight of the ship but it was well over 290 tons. They remembered well the Spanish Captain Heceta who had discovered the mouth of the river a good 17 years earlier but he was not the navigator this young American was and he could not make it past the foaming mouth of the river even though his ship was smaller. Admiration overcame their suspicions and the Indians came close to the "Columbia" in their canoes to trade furs and salmon for trinkets and beads brought all the way from Boston.

Captain Gray named the river after his good ship, and as he made note in his log that year of 1792, he modestly wrote his ship was the first to sail up the Columbia River. Because of his carefully kept records, the first accurate knowledge of this river was brought back by him, enabling America to establish a claim of the northwest coast which later paved the way for those brave explorers, Lewis and Clark.

America has produced a lot of men who were first, from George Washington to Charles Lindbergh. Young Robert Gray, who was born in Tiverton, Rhode Island was such a man.

Not only was Captain Gray the first to sail up the Columbia, but before that exciting adventure, he was the first man to sail the "Stars and Stripes" around the world. In those days that was quite a feat. He covered 40,000 miles from Boston to the northwest and back to Boston by way of China. America, as a young nation was able to establish a going fur trade with the north west coast of China because of the exploits of this young captain, carrying our Flag in friendship to an Asiatic country.

His bravery did not begin there. Previously he had distinguished himself in naval action during the Revolutionary War, and though still practically in his teens, he was a veteran navigator.

If it were not for Captain Robert Gray's venture up the Columbia River, perhaps some Spanish navigator would have been the one to sail up the Columbia River first, and the pages of American History would read differently.

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GOD'S WONDROUS WORLD

By Thelma Carter
Illustration No. 5 - Artist and Boy

Have you ever seen an artist's palette with its rainbow splotches of color pigment, the thin oval or square board with the thumb hole at one end for holding it? If you have, you cannot doubt how wide the selection of color is and how important are their combinations in portraying a story on canvas!

You'll also realize that a careless dabbler would be unable to produce a true landscape, a sincere mood, or an honest portrait!

Patience, understanding, and imagination are "musts" in creative painting. But it takes much more than these qualities in portraying scenes from the Bible. Perhaps this is why artists are reluctant to paint Bible stories.

An artist, asked to paint a water-color painting of the creation of light as it is told in Genesis 1:3, said: "Man cannot imitate or even imagine divine creation! How shall one portray the creation of light? A brilliant flash? A shimmering sunrise glow? A pure white light?"

The artist obviously knew something of the theory of light. White light is composed of the rainbow colors of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet! Light rays travel a straight path until they are broken up, bent or diffracted by the elements of the atmosphere, gases, atoms, matter, winds, and moisture. As the white light is broken up we begin to notice the range of its many colors. Thus we have the multi-colored rainbow and sunrise.

Even though we are unable to understand what actually happened when God said, "Let there be light: and there was light," we know that only His divine wisdom could have created the sun, moon, and stars as sources of light. Only God could hang them in the sky with eternal permanence and dependability!

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