

Page 2
Address By
Senator Henry M. Jackson
Marmes Rockshelter
June 3, 1967

I am pleased to have this opportunity to join with you today for this dedication of the Marmes Rockshelter as a National Historic Site.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, I have been following the intensive program of archeology that has been carried out in the river basins of the United States.

These programs are designed to salvage an important resource--an understanding of America's historic and prehistoric cultural heritage. We are accomplishing this here, while we are, at the same time, creating a new resource, a large, multi-purpose hydro-electric dam, which is so important to our region and nation.

The programs of salvage archeology are administered and funded through the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. The Federal government invested some \$45,000 in this project.

The Park Service utilized some of the finest minds--and, obviously, some pretty strong backs--in bringing about this success story. Dr. Dick Daugherty and his people at Washington State University have done an outstanding job. The result is that WSU has, here in Franklin County, one of the finest archeological and geological field laboratories of any university in the country.

They have proven that there has been continuous human occupation here for 10,000 to 11,000 years. Of the 17 human burials found, they have discovered some of the oldest such burials in the new world, dating back about 8,000 years.

These scientists have established a complete geological record of climatic change in the post-glacial period. Large assemblages of animal bones hauled here for food provide a record of the changing fauna in the post-glacial period.

Here at Marmes Rockshelter, thanks to the combined efforts of Dr. Daugherty's group, Washington State University, the National Park Service and the National Science Foundation, which assisted in the analysis of the material, the most complete record of human cultural development in the Pacific Northwest has been obtained.

Recognition of these efforts in the Northwest--and the unique talents of one man--was made recently when Dr. Daugherty was named to the Department of Interior's National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. He is the only archeologist on this distinguished panel, which includes cabinet members and leading historians and scientists of the country.

Water is a controversial subject, one that has occupied the minds and energies of Congress in recent years. We in the Northwest are particularly aware of our blessings and are anxious that we make the best possible use of our water resources.

Man's utilization of water resources over the more than 10,000 years of his residence in the Americas is a common theme, uniting the programs of archeological salvage in the river basins of the nation.

It is no accident that we are gathered here in the lower valley of the Palouse River, close to its junction with the Snake. One of the principal reasons that Marmes Rockshelter was selected for habitation long ago was its proximity to water and the resources which water provides. From the

stratified cultural deposits here at Marmes Rockshelter to the huge dams that span the Snake and Columbia Rivers, we have a record of man's dependence upon the water resources of this region. In early times he simply used the water for the food and transportation which it provided and the game and vegetation it supported. With the development of human culture we have learned to control our resources so that this water provides a vast source of energy.

A fundamental change of a different order has come about in this and other regions of the nation with respect to man's utilization of his water resources. At the time Marmes Rockshelter was first occupied, the population of this region consisted of a few small bands of people ranging over large territories, and to them, water was available in unlimited quantities. At the present time, with a large and rapidly-increasing population, fixed in its location in towns, cities, and on farms, the water resources no longer appear to be bast and unlimited. As the population and industrial needs for water have increased, the per capita amount of water available has decreased at an alarming rate. And now we are confronted with new demands upon the water resources of our region. Other regions now want to share our water.

The archeological resources of the Pacific Northwest are vast. Notwithstanding the impressive salvage programs that have been carried out along the Snake and Columbia Rivers, we have only begun to do the job we should be doing--the job of inventorying, investigating, interpreting, and developing these sites and locations for the benefit of the people in our state and nation. The scientific benefits to be derived from such a program are obvious. Perhaps not so obvious, but of great importance, are other benefits to be derived from an expanded program of investigations

Page 3

stratified cultural deposits here at Marmes Rockshelter to the huge dams that span the Snake and Columbia Rivers, we have a record of man's dependence upon the water resources of this region. In early times he simply used the water for the food and transportation which it provided and the game and vegetation it supported. With the development of human culture we have learned to control our resources so that this water provides a vast source of energy.

A fundamental change of a different order has come about in this and other regions of the nation with respect to man's utilization of his water resources. At the time Marmes Rockshelter was first occupied, the population of this region consisted of a few small bands of people ranging over large territories, and to them, water was available in unlimited quantities. At the present time, with a large and rapidly-increasing population, fixed in its location in towns, cities, and on farms, the water resources no longer

aimed at developing a greater understanding of this nation's cultural heritage.

Tourism is a major industry in Washington. Yet we have scarcely begun to exploit the potential offered by a sound and expanded program of interpretive development of our historic and prehistoric resources. Interpretive development of archeological and historical sites, including the construction of visitors' centers, is of great educational value. It permits the visitor to view the item of importance in its natural setting. It also provides an economic asset of major proportions.

Another value to be derived from such a program, somewhat less tangible but none-the-less real, is the sense of identification, or belonging, that comes from learning more and more about the locality, region, and country in which a person lives.

Through the creative development and interpretation of prehistoric and historic sites and localities, through the establishment of parks and recreation areas, our citizens can come to know, first-hand, about the cultural history and natural history of this nation. With this knowledge will come the sense of identification that is so important.

Congress has become aware of this and aware of the fact that the expanding programs to control our water resources, are endangering and destroying much of this nation's historic and prehistoric cultural heritage.

I urged legislation passed by the 89th Congress which created a National Council on Historic Preservation to which Dr. Daugherty was named. This act, which will be administered by the National Park Service, also provides grants to states, on a matching basis, to be used to inventory their historic and prehistoric resources, and to develop these resources for the public good. I am very enthusiastic about this program and I believe that it will

go far toward arousing local, state, and national interest in our cultural heritage.

The excavations here at Marmes Rockshelter and the plans for the future which will include trails to the site and a visitors' center to be located at the mouth of the Palouse River after the reservoir is flooded, are an excellent example of what can and will be done on a wider basis. This site was excavated because it was endangered by the construction of the Lower Monumental Dam and the resulting reservoir. Through the excavations we have learned about human activities, geology, climate, animals, and plant life. We have learned about man's cultural adjustments to his changing environment. This information will be available in scientific and popular publications. Developments will be undertaken to provide trails and facilities for those who wish to visit the site, and an interpretive center is planned for the recreation area which will be developed at the mouth of the Palouse River. In this visitors' center the 10,000 years of culture history, geology, and biology will be interpreted for the visitors to the area.

Idle for all these years, Marmes Rockshelter will be alive with people again. Just as it was 10,000 years ago.