

TO: The State Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: ~~Albert H. Culverwell~~ ~~Rothschild~~ Albert H. Culverwell

SUBJECT: The Interpretive Program within Our State Parks

1. History of the Program:

Since 1949, the Commission has had the responsibility of acquiring, preserving, marking, and maintaining historical and geological areas in the State. The work embraces phases of history, geology, anthropology, and archeology. It follows a pattern which includes as a first step the acquisition of the site. Historic buildings are then preserved or restored in keeping with extensive research on original conditions. Where the property has no buildings, we have undertaken archeological work to study evidences of past life and possible location of structural foundations. The work is all preliminary to the compilation of data and presentation of the material to the public. We have erected interpretive markers to explain the various sites and in five areas we are proceeding with the construction and development of Interpretive Museums.

Previous to 1949, there were only 6 geological and historical areas under the control of the State Parks. Since that time, the program has so increased that today there are 28 historical and geological areas controlled by the Commission.

2. The Program of Interpretation during 1959:

You, undoubtedly are most interested in what has been accomplished this past year. Briefly, the following is a summary of the work.

a. The Film: "Lava and the River"

Interpreting the numerous lava flows of Central Washington, the petrification of ancient trees, the entombing of a prehistoric rhinoceros and the story of water action which gouged the Columbia Plateau has been effectively portrayed in this 20 minute, sound and color film. It has received a superior rating by the Educational Films Evaluation Board. The film is being used in schools and colleges and is a part of our interpretive program at the Ginkgo Museum.

b. Developments at Gardner Cave:

This limestone cave has the best stalactite and stalagmite formations found in Washington. A lighting system was installed and a guide employed during the summer. In spite of the fact that it was the middle of the summer before the improvements were satisfactorily completed, there were over 4,000 visitors. Additional improvements and the installation of ramps to facilitate walking within the Cave will be done this summer.



3. The Rothschild Home (1864):

In cooperation with the people of Port Townsend, the Rothschild home built in 1864 was completely restored. This old house furnished in period furniture and a well preserved example of our territorial architecture was a gift, along with its 2 city lots, of Mr. E. E. Rothschild of Seattle.

4. Archeological work and the continued restoration and interpretation of Old Fort Simcoe (1856 - 59)

A complete program of archeological research was done, revealing the foundations of all the Old Fort buildings. We have outlined, using earth cement 2 ft. in width, the building sites in order that the visitor may easily visualize how extensive were the military operations. Agency buildings are now being removed to complete the outline of the Fort. The 4th blockhouse will then be reconstructed as an Agency Building now occupies the site.

Restoration of the north Captain's house has been completed and will soon be redecorated. The Museum or "Visitor Center" is now almost complete and will be readied for the summer visitors. The State Highway Department has constructed a modern highway to the gate of our property. This will cause a tremendous increase in visitors this summer.

Note: It is difficult to contrast the expense of a project such as this with the costs of other park developments. A few observations might be made: We hold a 99 year lease on the Simcoe property at no cost to the Commission. While it is true that the restoration program has been costly, we are now nearing the completion of our development program and expenses at the site will ultimately be limited, in the main, to the salaries of the personnel engaged in administering the area. Contrast, if you will, the initial cost of purchasing such property as Dash Point or even Fort Ward with out the planned expenditure for the development of such projects and the cost of developing the Fort Simcoe Park appears small.

5. Petroglyph and Pictograph salvage from Columbia River Sites owned by the State Parks:

These interesting items of early Indian Art, (500 to 1,000 years old) to be covered by the backwater of the Wanapum Dam, have been removed from their original locations and relocated next to the Ginkgo Petrified Forest Museum. They offer an added attraction to visitors at the site.

6. Archeological work in the Sun Lakes Area

Through a contractual arrangement with the State University Archeological research was done in the area of our Park. Its purpose was to trace the life of early man in the vicinity. A complete report has not as yet been received from the State University.



7. An Archeological Research near Nahcotta on the North Beach Peninsula in South West Washington:

The work was done by contract with the University of Washington, Department of Anthropology. The project had the interrelated aims of providing materials for exhibition in the Fort Columbia State Park Museum and the interpretation of the pre-historic past of the region. A preliminary report on the project has been received from the University and a final report is now due.

8. Erection of a marker at the Lewis and Clark Campsite:

Lewis and Clark reached the end of their Mission in 1805 at a spot (according to their Journals) adjacent to our Fort Columbia State Park. We own an acre of ground which includes the location of their campsite. We have now erected an appropriate marker recognizing the event.

9. The Willie Keil Marker:

Two acres have been given along the highway 3 miles east of Raymond by Mr. and Mrs. Buell where people may turn off the road to park and visit the grave of Willie Keil (owned by the State). The story of this boy is unrivaled in the history of the Westward Movement. We have constructed a sign and developments are now being made for its erection.

10. Development within our Museums and Museum Areas:

a. Fort Columbia: A new exhibit on James Scarborough, early resident at the Fort Columbia Site, has been developed.

b. Sacajawea Museum: This Museum of Indian materials has been completely redecorated and new exhibits on Lewis and Clark, and Sacajawea are planned.

c. In the Ginkgo Petrified Forest at the "Roadside" area, display cages have been repaired and the trails to the petrified logs in their natural setting have been surfaced with asphalt.

11. The Fort Okanogan Museum:

You all have followed rather closely the development of this unique Museum. The building is now finished by the contractor and we have designed display cases and the plans will soon be available to contractors for bids.

12. Public Relations:

Through the past year your Historian has spoken on an average of at least once each week to various groups --- Service Clubs, Historical Societies, College and School groups, etc. Under the sponsorship of the Seattle and King County Schools, sixteen, twenty minute shows were prepared on film for an educational television :



series on the history of our State which was presented last year over KCTS, Channel 9 in Seattle. It is now being re-run on this station for School children in Seattle and vicinity.



Welds =

10 - 5 -

Sunday =

( 40 Monday )

John Parton = (Supt) =

---

and Virginia.

to the people. It is now being taken up on this station for school children to receive