

From Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Walla Walla, (Special)--A Centennial Program, observing the 100th anniversary of Lyons Ferry is scheduled Sunday, June 5th, at 2 p.m. at the ferry site on the Snake River.

Lyons Ferry, as part of the old Mullan Road, was a major link in the opening of the Pacific Northwest. The Mullan road was under construction from 1858 to 1862 and was a major route of travel for some twenty years until the coming of the railroad. Over it traveled the military establishing forts, the pioneers, the miners going from Walla Walla, the supply point, to the Idaho mine fields. Over much of its routing was to follow in the 80's the transcontinental railroad lines.

Speaker at the observance will be Dr. Herman Deutsch, professor of history at Washington State University. Also on the program will be John Vanderzicht, director of the State Parks and Recreation Commission, William Bugge, Director of the Washington State Department of Highways, and Col. Paul Symbol, Walla Walla District Engineer.

The governors of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington have been invited to attend the historical program.

Sponsor of the program is the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce. Dr. George Wood, Chamber president, announced that the centennial program will be chiefly historical in nature, but will give some emphasis to future recreation, transportation, and industrial development in the immediate area.

Communities, organizations and individuals from throughout the Northwest are being invited to attend the program. The site of the program will be in the extreme northwest corner of Columbia County.

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WALLA WALLA _____ A dark-haired Indian girl from Lapwai, Ida., descendant of a Nez Perce Indian who went to St. Louis 125 years ago in search of the "White Man's Book of Heaven," will make the same trip in search of the same book.

Norma Jean Blackeagle, 18, also known as "Princess Blackeagle", daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Blackeagle, will leave Walla Walla early Sunday morning by plane on the long aerial trek of Lewis and Clark 150 years ago.

She will be accompanied by Dr. C. Don Platner, Walla Walla, pilot of the plane and James Durgan, publicity director of the Washington State Advertising Commission who will represent Governor Arthur B. Langlie at all stops with invitations to visit the state of Washington.

Twenty-six years after Lewis and Clark penetrated the Northwest wilderness on their 1805 expedition, three Nez Perce Indians and a Flathead Chief went to St. Louis in search of the White Man's Bible. Not only did they seek religion, but they thought the power in the Bible would enable them to make gunpowder and other instruments of war.

Two of the Indians died in St. Louis during the long winter when a priest read and translated the Bible for them.

The 1955 "Expedition" will arrive in St. Louis Monday morning and will be honored by the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce and the Metropolitan Church Federation of Greater St. Louis. This group will present a Bible to Princess Blackeagle. The three will fly back to Walla Walla with The Book to be used in a religious observance here Sunday, June 12 in connection with the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Stevens Treaty Council of 1855.

On the way back, they will follow the route of Lewis and Clark as nearly as possible, going through Iowa, South and North Dakota and into Montana.

Arriving at Missoula June 9 they will precede 100 or more Northwest flyers who will fly over the remaining segment of the Lewis and Clark route from Missoula to Astoria, Oregon.

The Air Tour group will arrive in Walla Walla June 11 for an overnight stop and to participate in the Indian Centennial observance.

Norma Blackeagle is well known throughout the Nez Perce tribe. She was a princess of Chief Joseph Days, Joseph, Oregon in 1949 and in 1953 was a princess for governors' interstate conference in conjunction with Nevada Days at Carson City. She represented the Nez Perce tribe in this event.

Born at Lapwai, she is a junior in high school and is interested in Indian affairs. She hopes to follow in the footsteps of her father in tribal government. She is a drum majorette in school and is a member of the Girls' League.

Notice: Norma Blackeagle picture in Indian costume is available upon request to the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce, Walla Walla, Washington.