

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

1959-60

"THE NEW LOOK" Approaching the Museum from the outside one can note many new improvements in keeping with the coming of Spring. The grounds beautification program, begun last Fall with the help of the Washington Federation of Garden Clubs, Capitol Branch, is well under way again. Several Tacoma nurseries have given many flowering shrubs and bedding plants to aid the work. A local contractor contributed concrete blocks for building paths where trails existed before. One local society member has been extremely helpful in this work of securing donors. She is Mrs. Philip M. Frederick of Lakewood. From such devoted effort does the Society grow.

A new floor has been laid in Washington Hall, replacing the old cover which had become loose and dangerous to the unwary visitor. The old floor cover was converted into a protective cover for the stairways leading to the lower levels of the Museum, - a suggestion from staff member John Gipple who performed the renovation. The offices and the restrooms have been repainted.

To help with storage problems, new shelves are being installed in a stairway off the Library wing. This will take some of the load from overburdened present storage facilities.

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN During the past year the Society coordinated statewide
SESQUICENTENNIAL observance of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial at the request
OBSERVANCE of Governor Albert D. Rosellini. A special report of the
year's observance has been compiled and distributed to
official agencies. A few copies remain and will be passed out on request.

One of the new Lecture Series programs, AN EVENING WITH MATTHEW BRADY, was one Society contribution to the Lincoln Sesquicentennial. An overflow audience were treated to a showing of the rare Matthew Brady slides of Lincoln and the Civil War. This program may be repeated in the future as part of the upcoming Civil War Centennial.

A census of all Lincoln and associated items in the hands of private parties in the state is being compiled for publication. One of the interesting side-effects of the census was the discovery and acquisition of several manuscript collections in the area.

Many local historical societies held special Lincoln programs during the year at the instigation of the state historical society.

A LINCOLN MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST held nationally found the Society participating at the state level with the Director serving as state chairman for the sponsors, American Association of State and Local History and Broadcast Music, Inc. The state winner, Mrs. Carol Beardsley, of Richland, came to Tacoma for the presentation of a Lincoln gold medal, designed by James Wehn, Washington sculptor, and presented by President Reno Odlin in a special ceremony.

The Lincoln year closed fittingly with another program at the Museum which featured Judge Matthew W. Hill as speaker on Lincoln and his contemporaries. Several Lincoln and Civil War exhibits were on display in the Museum during the year and received wide publicity and high visitor response.

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST LECTURE SERIES

An innovation in the past year was the beginning of the new Lecture Series. Monthly programs were held in the Museum (or at the University of Puget Sound) which ran the gamut from Matthew Brady to early art in the Pacific Northwest. Speakers were chosen from fields in which they were outstanding authorities, such as Dr. Erna Gunther on "Early contacts with the Indians of the Northwest Coast", etc. The programs will continue for every month of the year except July and August. A "Calendar" was published in the March issue of NEWS NOTES. Members in the Puget Sound area are urged to take advantage of this new program. The lectures are open to the general public, at no charge, and are proving extremely popular.

PUBLICATIONS:

Though the Society has not published a book in the past year, several fine projects are under way and will soon assure our publications program the continuity it deserves. The Publications Committee, under the able chairmanship of John M. McClelland, Jr., has planned a series of pamphlets on Pacific Northwest history. The first is at the press at this writing. It is THE GUNS OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION, by Ruby El Hult, well-known Northwest author. Nine other pamphlets are scheduled to appear in the next year and will cover many important phases of regional history. A biography and collection of the pictures of James G. Swan is being edited by Dr. Franz Stenzel. This will fill an important gap in the literature of the Pacific Northwest as Swan is one of the most important and neglected figures of early Washington history. Other books have been planned and are being discussed with potential authors for the Society's new publications list.

ACCESSIONS

Because the list of accessions to the Society is being run from issue to issue of NEWS NOTES no effort will be made to reproduce the list in this report. So many fine accessions are coming in that the list is several months behind in NEWS NOTES. If you find your gift is not listed as yet, please be patient, we will catch up with you! Meanwhile, thanks to all of you who have helped to bring in some memorable collections this past year.

For the Library, several major collections have been added and dealt with in NEWS NOTES: The Perkins collection of books, the Landis collection, the Karshner collection, have been added to the recently acquired Kibbe collection to assure a rapidly growing research center of which we can all be increasingly proud.

As a result of the Lincoln census, the papers of William Hunter, assistant secretary of state of the United States for 59 years (off and on - a record still unbeaten) containing letters from nine Presidents and many secretaries of state, were acquired. Also the papers of William Burr, self-styled inventor of the first iron-clad ship, submarine and floating dry-dock, containing plans, drawings and correspondence, were added to Society collections. The papers of General H. M. Chittenden, fur-trade authority, engineer, historian, were given by the Chittenden family. The papers pertaining to the voyage to the Northwest Coast of Captain John Kendrick, luckless colleague of Captain Robert Gray, were rescued from Mid-Western oblivion. The papers of Ralph Chaplin, labor historian, were acquired and set off a chain reaction of acquisitions in early labor history of the Pacific Northwest. (The Society has been fortunate to have the services of Mr. Chaplin in the capacity of research consultant - a fact which has not hindered further acquisitions in his particular sphere of regional history!) The Chaplin papers are as rich

in literary history as in history straight, since they contain letters from such figures as Jack London, George Sterling, Upton Sinclair, William Riis, and Carl Sandburg, and many others.

The diaries, letters and pictures of Major A. B. Rogers, explorer and surveyor for the Canadian Pacific, and then for Jim Hill (which led to the Great Northern Railway) were a major recent acquisition. Maritime history in the form of Captain Furlington's whaling logs, records of the Alaska Steamship Company during the gold rush period, and history of the waterfront in Tacoma and Seattle have been acquired.

Some of the papers of George Washington Troupe, deputy prosecutor in the trial of John Brown of Harpers Ferry, were acquired upon the 100th anniversary of the trial, which has been called the opening gun of the Civil War.

The only complete edition of the NORTHERN LIGHT, published in what was then a staging center for the Fraser River gold rush, was presented by the Bellingham Herald.

The above outstanding examples are a far from complete record of the magnificent source materials which have gone into our library during the past year.

CATALOGUING KIBBE AND CURTIS COLLECTIONS

Two of our fine collections: one, the Asahel Curtis collection of negatives and prints, the other the L. A. Kibbe Collection of Pacific Northwest history, have been catalogued. The Curtis collection is not completely finished-- it contains more than 40,000 items, but the Kibbe Collection is catalogued and ready for use. Miss Mamie Engbretson worked on the Curtis pictures as part of her work for a Master's thesis. The results were published by the University of Washington in a Selected Checklist of the Curtis Collection of Negatives in the Library of the Washington State Historical Society. Mrs. Helen Bumgardner worked on the Kibbe collection and did a fine job of putting these important source materials in an accessible position for the visiting scholar or student of Northwest history. Mrs. Bumgardner is now performing the same job on the Landis and Perkins collections.

Recent visitors to our Library have included many outstanding authorities in American history. All have commented favorably on the progress being made at Washington State Historical Society in our transition toward a great center for regional research. We have a long way to go yet - but we are headed in the right direction and the tempo is good!

EXHIBITS The Museum cannot remain static or it will lose its value as an educational center as well as its importance as a great tourist attraction. The last report to the Legislature stated that more than 85,000 people a year pass through the Museum. Many, of course, are repeat visitors. To these and to everyone, we owe a job of rotating the exhibits which are not of a permanent nature. As such, some of the outstanding exhibits this past year have included: exhibits of Civil War ordnance, prepared with help, advice and physical labor of the Rev. Andrew M. Prouty, of Tacoma. This dedicated gentleman took on the job of cleaning, classifying and arranging an outstanding chronological display of the weapons of the Civil War. (A similar major program is that undertaken by Dr. Erna Gunther and her graduate students who are doing the same thing for our collection of Indian baskets.)

Other outstanding exhibits were: A SALUTE TO ALASKA AND HAWAII- cases of artifacts and written and pictorial materials related to the two newest states which pointed up our strong ties here in the Pacific Northwest; the Alaskan exhibit donated by Mrs. Otilie Markholt; the Apple Doll show, from Mrs. Earl Grannis; special Abraham Lincoln exhibits; the exhibits of notable manuscripts, maps and pictures in two new manuscript cases near the Library; the "Hunters in the Snow - or Stalk by Moonlight"; a case showing two bobcats stalking a hare in the wintry Cascades, prepared by John Gipple and Kenn Johnson; changes and improvements in the Rockhound Fluorescent show under the capable hands of Charlie Robinson and assistants; new maritime exhibits in the pioneer wing; a "History of Flight" exhibit prepared by Barry Bidwell, etc. There were others, some equally fine, but this gives some idea of what happens in a sample museum year.

The Gallery of the Museum featured a continuous succession of notable monthly art shows. These have been planned a year in advance with the capable assistance of Edward Shell. A "Calendar" of Art Shows can be found in the March issue of NEWS NOTES.

PUBLIC RELATIONS The Society is grateful for the continued fine publicity given to its program by newspapers of the state and particularly by the Tacoma NEWS TRIBUNE. Radio and television has been equally helpful. An example: Tacoma commentator Murray Morgan has consistently publicized the Lecture Series on his show over a local station, with good results. Several television programs have featured one aspect or another of the museum or society work. A new series being planned by Tacoma public schools for classroom consumption is getting under way. Seattle schools have already seen three programs filmed in the museum. A number of newspaper and magazine articles have been published, all on the Society's program. The Director and several members of the staff (Ralph Chaplin, Alta West, Elizabeth Taplin) have spoken before many regional and local organizations as well as local historical societies around the state.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST HISTORY CONFERENCE The Washington State Historical Society is permanent sponsor of this annual conference which embraces states of the northwest and western Canadian provinces. The Conference this year will take place in Seattle, at the University of Washington and the Museum of History and Industry. With your Director as chairman of this year's conference and the notable assistance of Dr. Charles Gates, Dr. Herman Deutsch, Robert Hitchman - from your Board of Curators, plus others from Seattle, a fine program has been planned for April 14-16 in Seattle. The themes of the Conference are two-fold: "the writing of local history" and the "planning of small museums". Speakers of national and regional prominence will include Alvin Josephy, Jr., an editor of AMERICAN HERITAGE, Jim Holliday of the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, the directors of all the state historical societies of the Northwest, and many others. Plan to attend if you can. Programs are available for distribution now, as well as advance registration blanks.

MEMBERSHIP
CAMPAIGN

The results of the first phase of the Society's drive to increase its membership are gratifying. The membership has almost doubled in the past year but this is no more than a beginning. This Annual Meeting will consider the advantages of an Associate Membership to extend the privileges of membership to all members of local historical societies in the state. This will permit us to work together for the common historical goals we are all striving toward. To any member who wants to perform a lasting service for his Society, let us say that this is one place where every member can do his important bit. The increase in membership is due to the help of a very small percentage of the Society's active members. If you all helped, what a Society we then might have! Please send us names of any person or persons who you think can make a contribution to the Society's outstanding program. We will do the rest. Thank you!

OUR PERSONAL
THANK-YOU

We hope you feel that the past year has been one of real progress for the Society. The Director and the staff think it has been a great year, but we may be too close to the proverbial trees to see the forest. We welcome all suggestions, comments and criticisms and will do our best to act upon them whenever feasible. Sometimes this means that we must reconcile opposing points of view. That is part of the job.

The Board of Curators of the Society has been unstinting in its support and encouragement. The members of the Society have helped in manifold ways, leading to new members, new collections, new sponsors, and, in many cases, new directions for the Society. May we thank you all most warmly for this help and for this deep spirit of cooperation?

If the Washington State Historical Society is to maintain the high standards set by previous administrators of the calibre of W. P. Bonney and Chapin D. Foster, and to move ahead toward its true function as a great research center and fountainhead of regional historical knowledge, then we must dedicate ourselves to a task of enlightened and vigorous effort. Here is a challenge to all of us truly concerned with the need to understand the roots of America's present greatness, her world leadership, and her future in the troubled years ahead. For it is certain that "we cannot know where we are going unless we first know where we have been" -- as scholars, as citizens, or as a state historical society worthy of the name.

Bruce Le Roy, Secretary

BML:
MFMc
3/28/60

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

1961

70th Anniversary of the Society

50th Anniversary of the Museum

This year, 1961, marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Washington State Historical Society. This year and decade mark a period in American life when the importance of every citizen knowing and treasuring his American heritage cannot be over-emphasized. Our very way of life is threatened by ruthless adversaries who are dedicated to spreading the sinister gospel of communism around the world. We have heard Mr. Khrushchev say, "Your grandchildren will be communists". If we are to preserve the traditions and ideals of democratic freedom then we must be prepared to support the institutions which are helping to educate American youth to an understanding of those precious traditions which have made America great. Thus, and only thus, can we keep this country great.

The work of the Washington State Historical Society is basic to this need. As its charter from the State spells out, the Society is always working to procure, to preserve and to publish historical materials pertaining to the growth of Washington state from great wilderness to a modern, industrialized complex.

The museum of the state historical society was constructed in 1911, just fifty years ago. The building was almost entirely a gift of citizens concerned with the preservation of our state's history. The staff of the historical society numbers seven full time people, two of whom are engaged in maintenance. In terms of numbers there has been no increase in personnel in twenty-one years. The work of the Society has expanded four-fold in the same period. May we call your attention to the various aspects of the Society's program.

INCREASED In the six years of school and tourist visits since 1955,
ATTENDANCE attendance has increased from 65,000 annual visitors to an
estimated 90,000 in the coming year. Residents of the state,
from the fifty states, and from foreign countries are visiting
the museum in rapidly increasing numbers. In the past year the United
States Department of State has added the Washington State Historical Society
Museum to its list of recommended places for distinguished foreign visitors.

School visits in the coming year will total nearly 900 groups of students and teachers from many parts of the state. The modern museum is one of the finest teaching devices ever developed. Exhibits related to every phase of Washington history from the days of the 18th century exploration, through the periods of the early fur trade, overland crossings, pioneering of agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, to present day industry are available for examination and study. These exhibits, frequently changed, are supplemented by a fine reference library and special programs which will be dealt with in other sections of this report.

RESEARCH The library of the Society contains large collections of original source material on the history of Washington and the Pacific Northwest. The Society, visited by increasing numbers of students and historical scholars from many places, is rapidly acquiring a national reputation as a center for important historical research. Many of the recent acquisitions of manuscripts (the letters, diaries, journals and records of pioneers and pioneering activities) include the names of some of the most significant figures in the history of this area. Such were the papers of Major A. B. Rogers, explorer and surveyor for the early railroads of the Pacific Northwest; the papers of General Chittenden, the builder of Yellowstone National Park, the Port of Seattle, the pioneering advocate of the Cascade Tunnel, and historian of the fur trade and early missionary activities in the Pacific Northwest. There are many others of equal importance.

Several collections of rare and useful historical books have been added to the library holdings in the past two years. In addition to the Kibbe library, previously reported, the Perkins, Landis, and other valuable special collections of books have been received and catalogued for use. All of the collections, book and manuscript, have been gathered by the Society without any state funds for this purpose. How long the State Historical Society can continue to compete with wealthy institutions in the East who have large endowments to build their collections of Western history is problematical.

Special equipment, including a microfilm reader, a photocopy machine, and a laminating machine have increased the ability of the library staff to fulfill the requests levied upon any historical research center.

COORDINATOR In 1960, the Society received a national citation for "Distinguished Efforts in the Direction of the Abraham OF STATE AND Lincoln Sesquicentennial Celebration." In 1961-1965 the Society will coordinate the Washington observance of the NATIONAL Civil War Centennial. Statewide recognition of the Boundary Centennial will also be directed by the State Historical CELEBRATIONS Society. These programs must be incorporated into the total planning of the Society's work without any additional funds from the state.

PUBLICATIONS In 1958, the Society published the History of Fort Vancouver, a joint effort with the National Park Service. The book received immediate national recognition, being honored by an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. Last year, as the first publication in a series of historical pamphlets, the Society published Guns of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. A review cited this book as a "model for all historical societies who contemplate historical publications." Nine more pamphlets and three books are under way to give the publications program the continuity called for in its original charter. The publication of the papers of General Chittenden is ready for the printer. Nothing so enhances the prestige of the state as such efforts to disseminate the state's history.

PACIFIC Every Spring the Society serves as permanent sponsor for a conference which brings together teachers and historians from the Pacific Northwest and Western Canada. Last year, NORTHWEST 1960, this conference was held in Seattle at the University of CONFERENCE Washington. In April of this year the conference will be held in Walla Walla at Whitman College. The Conference is held in conjunction with the Council for Regional Historical Research in Progress, a group which serves to encourage and coordinate all historical research projects in the region served by the Conference. The Council has served to stimulate projects which have resulted in the publication of many books and articles concerning the Pacific Northwest.

HISTORY A new service of the past two years has been the initiation of a monthly series of lectures and special programs on LECTURE Pacific Northwest history. Despite the lack of an auditorium, the public has responded enthusiastically in taking advantage of this new offering. SERIES Speakers have included many of the most distinguished authorities in various fields of regional history. Some of the programs have included such as AN EVENING WITH MATTHEW BRADY (part of the collection of original Brady Civil War photographs are in the Society's library); INDIANS OF THE NORTHWEST COAST; EARLY ART OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST; and THE GUNS THAT WON THE WEST, etc.

THE FUR In order to give the fur-trade pioneer the credit due him for the part he played in the history of this state and TRADE CENSUS region, the Society is conducting a census of the descendants of the employees of the early Hudson's Bay Company, and the Russian-American Fur Company. Information is coming to the Society from all over the country and from Canada, helping to bring light much important data which will serve to fill the gaps in the story of our early development. Cooperation is being given by the journals published by some fur-trade companies still extant.

VOLUNTEER Because of the expanding nature of the programs of the SERVICES Washington State Historical Society, it has been necessary to supplement the work of the staff through an increased emphasis on volunteer services. The artifacts which go to make up the exhibits for the museum are in nearly every case donated by public-spirited citizens of the state. Such displays as historical costumes, early American glass, ordinance, etc. have been arranged by specially trained volunteer groups. The beautification of the Museum grounds and interior has been greatly assisted by volunteer help and donations from local garden clubs and nurseries. Some of the maintenance work has been supported by the Washington Federation of Garden Clubs. Most recent was the planting of 36 prize roses on the lawns - donated by Dr. Paul Smith of Tacoma and Fred Edmunds of River Ranch, Oregon. Some of the programs have included such as AN EVENING WITH MATTHEW BRADY. Special events sponsored by the Society such as an Historical Fashion Show to be held this Spring, programs for special visiting groups such as the Consular Corps of the Pacific Northwest, the annual program of the Society, have all been more successful through the efforts of volunteers. A special training program for the Junior League of Tacoma has been established to provide certain skills essential in sorting, cataloguing and displaying special collections and will eventually supplement the program of educational guided tours. Information is coming to the Society from all over the country and from Canada, helping to bring light much

GIFTS AND The most substantial gift to the Society in recent years
 was a bequest of \$50,000 from the estate of Mr. S. A.
 BEQUESTS Perkins, former president of the Society. This gift is held in-
 trust as a nucleus for other gifts which will be used in
 building a new wing for the museum which will include an auditorium, new
 library quarters and badly needed storage space. The gifts and bequests
 to the local funds of the Society go to provide funds for those services,
 collections and publications which would be impossible to perform within
 the scope of appropriated state funds.

COUNTY The Society assists the organization and development of local
 and county historical societies in more than thirty Washington
 HISTORICAL localities. In the past year five new societies have been
 organized in the state and several more are in process of
 SOCIETIES organizing. Every local historical society functions
 under a constitution drafted by the State Society and is a member affiliated
 with the State Society. Members of the state historical staff are available
 for visits to and guidance for the local groups.

MEMBERSHIP The campaign has continued to bring new members to the roles
 of the Society. Many of the Society's present members have
 CAMPAIGN contributed mightily to make the campaign a success. Our
 membership is now approaching the 800 mark, and we hope to
 go over the magic "1000" before the year is over. This means we need
 continued help with names of good prospects from all of you in order to
 bring the Society to the place it should be. Here is one job which every
 Society member can perform--none more important in getting our story
 to the citizens of the state.

ANOTHER With the limited staff of dedicated workers we need your help
 in several other important ways. Ask yourself these questions:
 PLEA Do you refer people to the Society who query about the proper
 place to send books, pictures, pamphlets, manuscripts (letters,
 diaries, journals, early business records)? If someone has such articles
 or artifacts related to Pacific Northwest history do your job as a member
 and help us to see that these important items are deposited in the
 collections of the Society. There they will be preserved and made
 available perpetually to students of northwest history.

SINCERE The substantial progress which the Washington State Historical
 Society and the Museum have made in the past year is largely
 THANKS due to the unselfish and devoted labors of many people. Some
 of us do these things as part of our jobs, but many of the people who have
 contributed to the Society's progress are volunteer helpers.

To all of you, the Board of Curators which has provided continued
 support and encouragement, to the members of the Society, to staff and
 friends of the Society our warmest thanks and deepest gratitude.

Let us all work together to make the coming year one of
 achievement and lasting value.

Bruce Le Roy, Secretary-Director

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Washington State Historical Society

April 4, 1964

The past year has been one of continued progress. Our 1963 report stressed the rich new collections which the Society had gathered. Collections have continued to come but emphasis has been given to "processing" in the months just past.

Notable improvements include new equipment to aid staff members in accessioning, cataloguing and housing new collections. Storage rooms have been renovated and improved. The Library now has completed a transfer of major collections from obsolete cases to open shelves. Facilities for reproduction for researchers have been augmented.

MUSEUM FOR
WHOM?

From time to time we have to define our purposes again. Does this Society exist for luring the tourist who seeks entertainment? Does the Museum provide a workshop to which teachers of Washington history may bring eager-eyed youngsters to learn their heritage? Is our stress to be upon the research functions of a state historical society?

We are something of all these things. It is true that thousands of tourists visit the Museum, frequently staying over in Tacoma in order to spend more time with the exhibits. This, in itself, serves as a major boost to Tacoma's economy. More than that, many visitors prolong their stay in Washington State as a result.

To students and teachers of Washington history our Society has for many years been an important part of the state's educational program. So popular is our service of guided tours for classes that Elizabeth Taplin, educational guide leader, schedules classes nearly a year in advance. Mrs. Taplin and the Society receive hundreds of letters from grateful students and their instructors. Teachers are also bringing their classes to our Library where they work on special projects under close supervision. Here they learn research techniques and the importance of going to the original sources.

Professional historians, established authors, PhD candidates and enthusiastic delvers into state and local history are coming from the campuses and communities of America to search our collections for help with their individual projects.

To keep pace with the increased demand for services the staff of your Society works almost around the clock. New collections bring national publicity, the news generates more letters, more visits, and more tours. Our staff--7 full-time and 6 part-time people, is the same number it has been for 25 years. We hope to add 2 professional people in the near future. Our present staff, skilled in the capacities required to meet and master the overwhelming demands of expanded services, is the best. But they need more help. In the meantime, we try to supplement our various programs through the assistance of dedicated volunteers.

THE
LIBRARY

Francine Seders, our librarian, has completed transfer of the major manuscript collections from filing cabinets to standard manuscript boxes which are shelved. Finding lists and internal descriptive controls are being compiled to supplement listings in the Library catalogue. For projecting a manuscript, map or picture for study or special programs, the Library has acquired an opaque projector. To assist researchers and to eliminate much typing we now have a book-copying attachment for our photocopying machine.

We have added microfilms to 2 growing collection and tape recordings to supplement our audio-visual source materials. We have encouraged local societies around the state to step up their efforts in taping the pioneers of each area. A master list of these local resources will be compiled in a cooperative program between the state and local societies.

New manuscript collections of major importance have been gathered. We are responsible for the Civil War Centennial Observance in Washington State and are happy to report the acquisition of a number of important Civil War collections. These include the papers of Colonel John K. Laing, commanding officer of the 14th Maine Volunteers. The breadth of this collection is impressive, containing as it does many of one regiment's records in nearly three years of the Civil War. The diaries and letters of Glode Lewis have been deposited by Mr. and Mrs. John Wagner of Olympia. The Lewis Collection contains much more than Civil War history, inasmuch as it traces one family's history from the New England of 1814 to the Washington Territory of the 1880's. The Charles Sweet (Dodge) Collection of Civil War papers and pictures, also includes items relevant to post-Civil War Indian treaties. Kenn Johnson, our "artist-in-residence", brought to us a rare, annotated map of the Battle of Gettysburg, contemporary with the Battle. The director returned from a meeting in Washington, D. C. with a letter of General O. O. Howard which quoted Abraham Lincoln's letter to Howard a few days after Gettysburg, in which the President spoke his mind about the Union failure to follow through after that victory.

William H. Wallace, territorial Governor of both Washington and Idaho, is represented in a fine collection of letters and pictures, the gift of his grandson, Wilber Wallace, of California.

The sketchbook of Alfred Downing, soldier-artist on four major expeditions to the West of the 1870's and 1880's, added 144 original sketches and watercolors plus many reproductions to our growing collection of early art of the Pacific Northwest. An article about Downing will appear in American Heritage very soon.

Colonel Albert H. Hooker, of Tacoma, chemical warfare expert in two world wars, has given thousands of letters and documents concerning this sometimes secret part of military history. Letters to Colonel Hooker during both wars give a vivid picture of war-time activities on the home front.

The papers of William Hunter, assistant secretary-of-state, whose service of 59 years is still a government record, have now been donated to the Society by Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Simpson. The importance of this collection cannot be over-estimated. It contains letters from presidents, secretaries-of-state and

major national figures from 1829 to 1888. Hunter's letters from Washington and European capitals may write a new page in American history. The papers have been on loan here.

Files of professional historical journals have been presented to the Library by Mrs. Charles M. Gates, widow of the late, beloved Dr. Gates, long-time member of our Board of Curators and editor of the Pacific Northwest Quarterly.

Credits to the Washington State Historical Society in many new books appearing attest to the avidity with which scholars are searching the collections which have been gathered here in the past few years. We are playing a strong part in the definitions each generation brings to American history. Perhaps this will be our most permanent contribution.

PUBLICATIONS Though the Society did not publish a book in the year just past, our list will soon grow. John M. McClelland, Jr. has edited an important regional classic which the Society will publish this year-- **A PIONEER'S SEARCH FOR AN IDEAL HOME**. Originally published by the author, Phoebe Judson, in a very limited edition, this narrative has been recognized as one of the finest accounts of pioneer life ever written, symbolizing as it does the experience of all western pioneers. Another project nearing completion is **THE HISTORY OF FORT STEILACOOM**, by James Priest, which will become part of our Pacific Northwest Historical Pamphlet series.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS After the tragic events of November the John F. Kennedy Memorial Exhibit was opened. The Society has a fine Presidential Collection of which the Kennedy items are an important part. We have original signed speeches, campaign addresses, inaugural programs, medal and pictures. From the Macmillan and DeGaulle conferences in 1961, in Paris and London, there are speeches, programs, pictures and manuscripts. A gift from David Fogg has enabled the Society to acquire microfilm of newspapers from around the world. These have varied appraisals of the historic significance of the assassination and the orderly transfer of Presidential power.

A beautiful model of the "Flyer", famed Seattle-Tacoma ferry and holder of a two million mile record on this run, has been presented to the Society by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hitchcock, of Seattle. Two and a half years in the building, the model is a prized addition to our growing collections of maritime history. Mr. Hitchcock is at work on two more models at present, which will be of equal importance to Pacific Northwest history. The "Flyer" is exhibited today for the first time.

The **HISTORIC GUNS AND UNIFORMS** exhibit has been enhanced by the addition of rare Civil War and early 19th century posters and broadsides. Above the exhibit a representative display of the flags of the United States from the Colonies to post-Korean War is now displayed. Father Andrew M. Prouty, our ordnance consultant, has continued to work on the fine collection of guns owned by the Society.

McCormick Hall has undergone extensive renovation. The **ISAAC I. STEVENS EXHIBIT** has been enlarged, with additional items received from the Thomas Burke Memorial

Museum of the University of Washington. The Stevens exhibit will sport a colorful mural which Kenn Johnson is designing. It will be a chronological survey of Stevens' contributions as engineer, soldier, governor, congressman and Civil War hero. Also, in McCormick, the missionary exhibit has been refinished and moved to a better location.

In the Natural History Wing, a new steelhead exhibit and a scene of foxes hunting on a northwestern farm have been added, the work of John Gipple, with Kenn Johnson backgrounds. We need a sponsor for the farmland scene.

At the entrance to our Art Gallery, permanent additions to our collections now hanging, are two paintings by Kenn Johnson of Tacoma scenes, two by Hewitt Jackson, of historic ships, and recently, two historic scenes by O. T. Grunden were presented by Mrs. Grunden. Mr. Fred Haley and Brown & Haley purchased the Johnson works for presentation to the Museum. The Jackson drawings were purchased with the help of the Propeller Club.

SPECIAL Notable among the past year's exhibits were the HISTORIC MAPS
EVENTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, lent by Mr. Edward W. Allen; KENN
 JOHNSON PAINTINGS; ALASKA IN ART AND HISTORY, for which great
paintings, drawings and sketches were gathered from many sources. This last
show was supplemented by a showing of the Elizabeth Mosher Alaskan Artifacts
Collection.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry K. Todd donated a handsome pirate treasure chest which has been displayed along with items related to Sir Francis Drake and other famous buccaneers who roamed American coasts in the 16th century. This Pirate Chest draws comment from all the small fry who were devastated when the Mummy moved to the University of Puget Sound.

A new service was inaugurated for the Museum by Mrs. Ginger Ellison and Mrs. Janet Baxter, volunteers from the Junior League of Tacoma. These young ladies have a full schedule of visits to area schools. They take with them Indian and pioneer artifacts which they show to classes in Washington history, regaling the students with narratives of dramatic interest. We hope to expand this service as qualified volunteers become available.

THE A special Planning Committee appointed by President Odlin
FUTURE has been examining the total program of the Society. Fore-
 most is our intention to expedite plans for a new wing for
the Museum which will contain a new library, conference rooms, storage and work
space. We intend to broaden the base of Society activities by increasing our
membership; expanding services to the 3,000 local society members who look
to us for leadership; set up our publications program on a secure financial
basis through cooperative arrangement with a regional publisher. These are
just a few of the basic objectives toward which we are striving.

THANK To all of you--our Board of Curators, Society members and
YOU! the dedicated members of our staff--we want to express
 our deep appreciation for help toward the achievement of
Society aims. To the volunteers who give time and labor without compensation

other than the personal feeling of satisfaction which comes from such effort for the civic good, our thanks. With a cooperative effort from all of us who are concerned to conserve the history of the Pacific Northwest for generations of young America to come, we will succeed.

Bruce Le Roy
Director

BL/gf