

RELEASE WEEK OF JANUARY 15 - 21, 1961:

THIS WEEK IN
WASHINGTON HISTORY

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The eighty-ton stern-wheeler Josephine was launched at Seattle in 1878 and fitted up for the Skagit river trade. Five years later on January 16, 1883, her boiler exploded, instantly killing six members of the crew, including the captain, and several passengers. The steamer was about a mile off shore when the explosion occurred, sending the crown sheet up through the pilot-house. The boiler was blown entirely out of the bottom. A quantity of wood in the hold kept the hull afloat which was later found upside down about four miles from the scene of the disaster, and towed into Tulalip Bay, where it was repaired. Six passengers and one crew member survived. They were rescued and cared for by Indians living on the shore, until the Politkofsky picked them up for Seattle. The rebuilt steamer was purchased by the Moran Brothers.

RELEASE WEEK OF JANUARY 22 - 28, 1961:

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The Puget Sound Iron Company erected a furnace for smelting iron ore near Port Townsend and the first iron was made January 23, 1881. The ore was obtained from iron beds under a farm in Chimacum and from an island in the Gulf of Georgia. The Chimacum mine was a stratum of bog-ore twenty-two inches thick, lying two feet beneath the surface and extensive enough to keep a forty-ton furnace running for twenty years. That of the Gulf of Georgia island was a vein eighty feet wide, inexhaustible in quantity and the quality excellent. The ores delivered to the furnace cost about two dollars a ton, which included a royalty to the owners. The Chimacum iron was soft and the other hard, but mixed, obtained the proper density: charcoal was made from nearby timber: lime was brought from San Juan and Orcas Islands: - all of which cheapened the production of the iron: and its worth was \$30.00 per ton. After the turn of the century the company removed to Seattle.

RELEASE WEEK OF JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4, 1961:

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Pacific county was created on February 4, 1851, by an act of the legislature of Oregon Territory, two years before Washington became a territory. The county can well be proud of its historical heritage. Here Captain Robert Gray landed and gave to the river the name of his ship Columbia, and the claim for his country of this great northwest. From here Lewis and Clark first saw the vast Pacific Ocean, and made camp near what is now Fort Columbia on the river of the same name. The 'seat of justice' for the new county had been that of Pacific City, but in a year the United States Government had named Cape Disappointment a military reservation which also included the town. The county seat was then transferred to Chonookville, but since Oysterville had become the center of the oyster trade and attracted nearby settlers, a vote by the people in 1855 designated Oysterville as the county seat. South Bend, the mill town, began to boom and in 1892 won the county seat from Oysterville.

RELEASE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5 - 11, 1961:

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The Pierce county school superintendent's report for 1872 was published in the Puget Sound Express at Steilacoom on February 6, 1873. It showed that there were 535 persons between the ages of four and twenty-one years in the county and about 55 per cent attended school during the year. Only 20 per cent of those between sixteen and twenty years attended the length of time required by law. There were twelve school houses, some were quite well finished and comfortable. Others were rather indifferent. School libraries were non-existent. A total of \$1,959.10 had been paid to teachers, with the average of \$43.50 per month. There was no uniformity of school books in use. In some instances two and three sets of books were reported as being used in the same room, which produced inconvenience and confusion for the teacher and pupils. Merchants had declined to keep school books for sale until the county adopted a series proposed by the territorial superintendent.

RELEASE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12 - 18, 1961:

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Chief Moses was the head of what was called "non-treaty" Indians. He was tall, intelligent and considered a greater diplomat than a warrior. Though he had participated in the 1858 Indian war, he refused to fight the white men anymore after James H. Wilbur (affectionately called Father Wilbur) became Indian agent. Moses had also refused to go on a reservation with Indians he did not know. His band was suspected of being accomplices to the murder of the Perkins family, but Moses denied all complicity and offered guides to assist in their apprehension. His camp fires were mistaken for those of the enemy by volunteer searchers, and he and his men were taken prisoners and lodged in the Yakima jail, but through agent Wilbur were released and taken to his agency. The murderers were apprehended and found not to have been of Chief Moses' tribe. On February 12, 1879, the U. S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs sent an order for Moses to go to Washington (D. C.), for a conference, and Moses was assigned a reservation for his people which adjoined the Colville reservation on the west. It was named Columbia, but by 1886 this reservation was thrown open to the public.

RELEASE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19 - 25, 1961:

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An act that resulted in the building of the University of Washington in Seattle had been passed which authorized the selection of lands from the public domain and the sale of same. A board of commissioners was appointed, and met to organize just 100 years ago on February 22, 1861. A significant date to patriotic citizens of Washington state - it commemorates the birth of the father of our country: the Florida Treaty between the U. S. and Spain, who relinquished its claim to the Oregon country in 1819: and the date of the enabling act for statehood of Washington Territory in 1889. To clear it of the tall timber, the cost was six times the value of the land - rather disproportionate, but the clearing contracts had a clause in them for such discrepancies, and stated that should the sales not equal the clearing cost, they would receive their pay in additional land. Everyone did their bit and the university was opened in the fall of 1862.

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Back in the 1860's the dearth of marriagable white women was acute in Washington Territory as is shown by the following ad placed in the Steilacoom newspaper, its precise, stilted working is characteristic of the time: "Attention Bachelors! - Believing that our only chance for a realization of the benefits and early attainment of matrimonial alliances depends upon the arrival in our midst of a number of the fair sex from the Atlantic States, and that to bring about such an arrival, a united effort and attendance of all eligible and sincerely desirous bachelors of this community to assemble on Tuesday evening next, Feb. 28th, (1860), in Delin and Shorey's building, to devise ways and means to secure this much-needed and desirable emigration to our shores." Nine signed their names "and 87 others" (sic.). When Asa Mercer came the next year and in 1862 became the first president of the University of Washington, he decided to try to do something to encourage cultured single women to come west. The civil war was responsible for many widows and orphans who met his challenge and accompanied him from New York in 1864. The following year he brought a larger contingent of cultured young women - one of whom became his wife.

RELEASE WEEK OF MARCH 5 - 11, 1961:

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The mysterious disappearance of the S. S. George S. Wright on her return trip from Sitka to Portland was noted by the Steilacoom newspaper on March 6, 1873. The ship had been built ten years previously for John T. Wright who named it for his brother. Her framework was originally designed for service on Puget Sound, but Mr. Wright had it lengthened for an ocean-going steamship. She was placed on the Portland-Victoria run and later secured by the Russian-American Telegraph Company who sent her to Siberia where she operated until their project was terminated. After this, she carried the mail on the Alaska route and on her last trip left Portland in January, 1873, and proceeded north to make the regular stops. From Sitka she made two stops to pick up passengers and freight, then headed for Nanaimo. As time passed for the ship's arrival, relatives and friends of the passengers and crew became alarmed for their safety and appealed to the government to send a steamer in search of the missing vessel. Weeks later some pieces of wreckage were located which indicated that the ship had struck a rock and if any survivors reached shore, they probably were disposed of by the natives.

RELEASE WEEK OF MARCH 12 - 18, 1961

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Following the treaty of 1846 with Great Britain, Amos Short, an American, settled on the Hudson's Bay Company land, now the town site of Vancouver, which resulted in much controversy, with Mr. Short dying in the meantime. When the Donation Land Act became a law, his widow, Esther, employed James C. Strong and George P. Porter as surveyors to plat the east portion of her property into city lots and streets. The first Washington Territorial Legislature passed an act on March 15, 1854, naming this land Columbia City and making it the county seat of Clark County, with Mrs. Short's house the legal place of holding court until the county should provide a more suitable building. She dedicated the public square, now known as Esther Short Park, and the waterfront to the townspeople forever. The second legislature in 1855 changed the name of Columbia City back to the old name of Vancouver.

RELEASE WEEK OF MARCH 19 - 25, 1961:

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Spokane women met March 21, 1894, for the purpose of considering the feasibility of establishing a system of free kindergartens in their city, which resulted in the organization of the Spokane Kindergarten Association. As their work progressed a broader field opened in the way of providing food and clothing for many destitute children as well as the needed instruction. During its fourth year of existence the organization joined kindred societies of Seattle and Tacoma, and succeeded in having a law passed by the State Legislature allowing the kindergarten system to become a portion of the public school education in cities of more than 10,000 population. By 1898 experimental kindergartens were established and proved successful. To Spokane belongs the credit of opening the first free kindergarten in the State of Washington.

RELEASE WEEK OF MARCH 26 - APRIL 1, 1961:

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The settlements at the upper, lower and middle Cascades were simultaneously attacked by a large band of Indians on March 26, 1856. Col. Wright, with four companies, had just moved toward Walla Walla, when, without warning, the massacre began. Two moored steamers quickly lighted their engines to get up steam and succeeded in making their get away to the Dalles for help. The morning of the second day Lieut. Phil Sheridan, with forty men, arrived on a steamer from Fort Vancouver and held the place with a small cannon. On the third day the two steamers returned from the Dalles, blue with soldiers commanded by Col. Steptoe, and towing a flat-boat with dragoon horses. At the sound of the bugle, the Indians fled like deer to the woods, and though their retreat was followed for ten miles, they were not overtaken. From the appearance of their camps it was judged that there were between two and three hundred Indians in the attack which left seventeen whites killed and twelve wounded during the three days of fighting at the tree points.

RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 2 - 8, 1961!

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An Olympia newspaper of April 2, 1880 announced that a group of prominent men had organized a company the year before to preserve clams by the process of canning much like the method used in preserving beef and salmon. This shell-fish was found in inexhaustible quantities in Washington of which there are several species. There is the immense 'geoduck, Nisqually for "dig deep", found only at low tide where it burrows in sand to a depth of four feet, its syphons often extend over the surface; its meat weighs up to three lbs. the solid portion is usually fried. Another of medium size, similar in shape and shell, but which is now fast disappearing, is the butter clam - so called by the Indians - its delicious solid meat is used for chowder, soup and fryin g. Then the prevalent hard-shell, little-neck clam is steamed and eaten whole with butter (probably why this clam is erroneously called the butter clam.) The ocean beaches contribute the long razor clam with its rather thin shell. Another very large clam is the thin-shell horse clam. It would seem that the above cannery was of short duration as some of its promoters had removed to other towns within a couple of years.

RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 9 - 15, 1961:

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Thurston County was named in honor of Samuel R. Thurston, first delegate from Oregon Territory to Congress, who died at sea on April 9, 1851 while returning from the session at Washington (D.C.). He worked solely for his constituents while in Congress and succeeded in securing the passage of the Donation Land Act. His body was interred near Panama, but the Oregon Legislature authorized his remains to be moved to Salem, where the people erected a monument, inscribed on one side, "Thurston - Erected by the people of Oregon;" with a facsimile of Oregon's great seal; on another side is his full name, his age, date of death; and on a third side, "Here rests Oregon's first Delegate, a man of genius and learning, a lawyer and statesman, his Christian virtues equaled by his wide philanthropy. His public acts are his best eulogium." The county was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1852, before Washington became a territory.

RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 16 - 22, 19 61:

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President Monroe's seventh annual message to Congress stated in part, "...the occasion has been judged proper for asserting, as a principle in which the rights and interests of the United States are involved, that the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by European powers." He also said that the imperial government of Russia had invited both the United States and Great Britain to open negotiations with a view of coming to an understanding about the northwest coast of America. The United States minister at St. Petersburg followed instructions and concluded a treaty on April 18, 1824, by which each power agreed that the parallel of $54^{\circ} 40'$ would be the limit of their respective claims. The next year Great Britain concluded a similar treaty with Russia, and with the United States occupied jointly the area known as the Oregon country. This embraced the lands from 42° to $54^{\circ} 40'$ and from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean and was in effect until the joint boundary of 49° was established by the treaty of 1846.

RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 23 - 29, 1961:

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The wooden steamer City of Kingston was run down and sunk by the Orient liner Glenogle early the morning of April 23, 1899 between Browns Point and the Tacoma dock. She was cut almost in two by the crash and within five minutes began to settle, but miraculously her sleeping passengers were rescued by the Chinese crew of the big liner with no loss of life. A strong ebb tide was running which caused the Glenogle to behave badly as she put out to sea, although this was corrected before the collision. The City of Kingston was built in 1884 at Wilmington, Del., for the Hudson river trade and brought around the Horn in 1889 to Puget Sound and placed on the Tacoma-Victoria run. She was a three decker with staterooms to accomodate 300 passengers and with the crew of 70 was truly a luxury steamer of the 1890's. At that time the Glenogle was one of the largest steamships ever on Puget Sound.

RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 30 - May 6, 1961:

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On May 2, 1670, the Hudson's Bay Company was chartered by Charles II of England. The original incorporators numbered eighteen, headed by Prince Rupert. The announced object of the company was "discovery of a passage into the South Seas" - the Pacific Ocean. During the first century of its existence the company really did something along the lines of geographical discovery, afterward its identity was purely commercial. Twelve hundred miles from Lake Superior in 1778 a trading post or "factory" had been established at Athabasca, which was abandoned ten years later when Fort Chipewyan was built. It was from here MacKenzie made his two overland trips to the Pacific 1789 and 1793 and thus he became the first white man to cross the American continent.

RELEASE WEEK OF MAY 7 - 13, 1961:

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Capt. Wood of the U. S. S. Massachusetts safely piloted the combination sailing and steaming transport over the Columbia River bar on May 8, 1849. The ship was regarded as an extensive piece of marine architecture, it was 161 feet long, 31 foot beam, 20 foot hold, and registered 779 tons. The orders were to use steam in smooth water only, as the coal supply was limited and no authority had been granted the captain to purchase coal at stopping places. She carried two companies of U. S. troops commanded by Maj. J. S. Hathaway and Capt. B. H. Hill destined for Fort Vancouver, but Capt. Hill's company took up temporary quarters at Astoria. Shortly before they arrived, Fort Nisqually on Puget Sound had been attacked with one casualty, and an appeal from settlers was made to the military commanders, who dispatched Capt. Hill and his company on the British schooner Harpooner to the sound. They were billeted in the buildings on the Heath land, leased from the Puget Sound Agricultural Co., and which company now rented to the United States and became known as Fort Steilacoom (now Western State Hospital). The Massachusetts became a part of the Pacific Coast Survey and played an important part during the Indian uprisings and later the San Juan controversy.

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An unusual coincidence of dates marked the second arrival of Capt. John Mullan at Fort Dalles on May 15, 1859. He had left New York on the same date in 1858 as he did in 1859, and arrived on May 15. The war department had instructed him, as a topographical officer, to build a wagon road from Fort Walla Walla to Fort Benton. The earlier Indian war that had converted each man's home in Oregon and Washington into a block-house, caused the upper Columbia region to be opened wide, and though quelled, the Indians east of the Cascades were not subdued. As Capt. Mullan marched toward Fort Walla Walla news reached him of the defeat of Col. Steptoe on the Spokane plains, a point directly on the route of his intended construction work. He then was assigned to Col. Wright's staff and remained with him until his successful campaign terminated. With the approach of winter, Mullan returned to Washington City to personally solicit the aid of friends of the wagon-road project to further legislative action for additional funds necessary to complete the work. Gov. Stevens, then a member of Congress, was instrumental in securing the appropriation of \$100,000, and Mullan set forth the second time to begin the successful construction of a military road from Fort Walla Walla to Fort Benton.

RELEASE WEEK OF MAY 21 @ 27, 1961:

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Rev. Samuel Parker held a public worship for a number of Spokane and Nez Perce Indians the evening of May 27, 1836, while en route to Fort Colville from Fort Walla Walla. The Indians, who had seen him on his way learned that he was a minister passing through their country and as it was the first time one was ever among them, they wished to see him and hear what he had to say. Spokane Garry, educated at the Red River settlement, was interpreter for his people; a Nez Perce chief who understood the Spokane language, collected his people nearby and retranslated the discourse, as it was delivered, into the language of his people without any interruption to the service. This plan was of their own devising and unusually interesting. The Indians accompanied Rev. Parker to Colville, and were so impressed that upon their return home they erected a church in their village so that when the next missionary should arrive, a place would be available for services. In the meantime Spokane Garry endeavored to teach the Indians the rudiments of the Christian religion from his Bible.

RELEASE WEEK OF MAY 28 - June 3, 1961:

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The townsite plat of Pomeroy was filed for record on May 28, 1878, and included the land owned by Joseph Pomeroy, who had settled there some ten years earlier. He was born in Ohio and when quite young accompanied his parents to Oregon in the early 1840's. The town was on the stage route to Lewiston and a stopping place for the six-horse stage coaches - a real frontier town. When Garfield county was created in 1881, it became the center of the controversy locating the county seat. The election gave Pomeroy the highest vote, but later it was declared void. So it went, until as a last resort, an appeal to congress was made, and in 1884 they passed an act validating a number of bills passed by the Washington Territorial legislature the previous year which were questioned because of defects. One of these acts was the bill establishing Pomeroy as the county seat of Garfield county.