



THE WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tacoma,
Washington

30 March 1968

SUBJECT: Northwest Forts and Trading Posts Exhibit.

FROM: Washington State Historical Society - Tacoma.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The historic forts and trading posts of the Pacific Northwest are featured in an exhibit by the Pacific Gallery Artists, which opens April 7th in the gallery of the Washington State Historical Society museum, in Tacoma.

Forty-four oils, watercolors and drawings present a widely varied and colorful depiction of life at frontier posts in the wilderness era of the northwest. Famed trading posts operated by the Hudson's Bay Company in the heyday of the western fur trade include Fort Walla Walla, Fort Vancouver, Fort Victoria, Fort Nanaimo, Fort Colville and Fort Nisqually. The Pacific Fur Company is memorialized in a painting of Fort Spokane, which was founded in 1812 by Ross Cox, agent for the John Jacob Astor enterprise.

Russia's successful penetration as far south as Bodega Bay in northern California, the headquarters of the Russian-American Fur Company, is depicted in two portrayals of activities

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at Fort Ross. This post, as well as several others mentioned above, is maintained today as a historic site. Fort Vancouver, for example, is being restored and operated by the National Park Service. Fort Nisqually, though moved from its original location some ten miles away, was restored and is kept open for the public in Point Defiance by the City of Tacoma.

The vast influence exercised by several of these posts during the fur trade era of the early nineteenth century is pointed up in "The History of Fort Vancouver", which was published by the Washington State Historical Society. The book tells how Fort Vancouver served as the power center for a vast empire which included most of the Pacific Northwest. Even trade with Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands was controlled from Fort Vancouver when Dr. John McLoughlin served as Chief Factor of the HBC post. The military history of the Pacific Northwest is delineated in pictorial studies of Fort Simcoe, near present-day Yakima; Fort Dalles, on the Columbia River in Oregon; the blockhouse erected by the English during the celebrated "Pig War" on San Juan Island; Fort Bellingham, erected by opposing Americans during the "Pig War"; Fort Townsend, built in 1857 near present Port Townsend; Fort Lewis, erected in 1917 near Tacoma to serve as a training camp for World War I troops.

Several forts and blockhouses, erected by settlers as strong protection points during the Indian Wars of the 1850's, include Fort Borst, near Centralia; Fort Sales, in Parkland, Fort

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Hennes, near Grand Mound. Fort Borst has been restored by the city of Centralia and is maintained as a historic site.

An illustrated catalog of the show is in preparation and will be available in May. Historical vignettes concerning the subjects pictured will be included. The pamphlet will be the fourth in a series on Pacific northwest historical art, edited with introductions by Bruce Le Roy and published by the Washington State Historical Society. The series includes "Northwest History in Art"; "Early Washington Communities in Art"; and "Historic Ports of Puget Sound". The latest in the series will be the new pamphlet titled "Northwest Forts and Trading Posts". Except for the first pamphlet in the series, all are still available from the Washington State Historical Society.

At the conclusion of the current exhibit, the historic show is scheduled to travel to Seattle, Olympia, Spokane, Yakima, Walla Walla and Vancouver. Following the state-wide exhibit, the show will travel to Oakland, where it will be displayed in the new art museum; the Amon Carter Museum, in Fort Worth, Texas. According to Bruce Le Roy, director of the state society, arrangements are being made for additional showings in the midwest and in New York City.

The Washington State Historical Society Museum is located at 315 North Stadium Way, in Tacoma. Museum hours are 2:00-5:00 p.m. on Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays.

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BL/am

Bruce Le Roy
Director

May 7, 1968

FROM: Washington State Historical Society
Tacoma, Washington

FOR: Immediate Release

At the Annual Meeting of the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, officers and members of the Board of Curators were elected. They were Dr. Roe E. Shaub, Tacoma, Vice-President; Dr. Eva Anderson, Wenatchee; Mr. L. E. Dawley, Olympia; Mrs. Della Gould Emmons, Tacoma; Dr. Robert Mortvedt, Parkland; Dr. Keith A. Murray, Bellingham; Mr. Click Relander, Yakima; Mr. Cameron Sherwood, Walla Walla; Dr. R. Franklin Thompson, Tacoma.

Members heard a report from the director of the Society, Bruce Le Roy, on the progress being made in the fund drive to build a new wing for the historical society museum in Tacoma. President Reno Odlin predicted that the \$500,000 goal required to match a state appropriation of \$339,000 and to equip the new structure would be met by the Society sometime this year. Ground will be broken for construction of the new wing immediately after this goal is met. Director Le Roy reported that substantial gifts were coming from all over the United States. Already raised toward the \$500,000 goal is \$385,000. Still needed is \$115,000.

The Annual Address was given by Dr. J. S. Holliday, director of the new Oakland Art & History Museum. The \$7,000,000 complex was illustrated in slides. The City of Oakland contributed \$1,000,000 toward the Oakland Museum. Dr. Holliday announced plans for cooperative exhibits and publications programs between his organization and the Washington State Historical Society. The first

exchange exhibit will be the "Ginther Collection of Depression Paintings", first shown by the Tacoma organization this spring. Another will be the current Pacific Gallery Artists exhibit "Northwest Forts and Trading Posts" which will travel the country and be shown at the Oakland Museum.

The first awards by the Washington State Historical Society of the "Captain Robert Gray Medal" were made to Dr. Clifford Merrill Drury, of Pasadena, California, and the Reverend William L. Davis, S.J. of Gonzaga University. Dr. Drury was saluted for his many books portraying the Protestant missions in the old Oregon country. Drury, former historian for the U. S. Navy Chaplain Corps, is a retired professor of Church History from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Father Davis was honored for his historical collecting activities which culminated in the discovery of the papers of Pierre-Jean De Smet, pioneer Jesuit missionary, which were found in a remote village in Chile and returned to the United States. The Spokane priest is at work on a biography of De Smet.

Special exhibits at the meeting included historic sculpture from the James Wehn Collection; paintings from the current Pacific Gallery Artists exhibit on "Northwest Forts and Trading Posts"; Civil War manuscripts; and photo albums of the Yukon gold rush. All were recently acquired by the Washington State Historical Society.

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Tacoma,
Washington

4 December 1968

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dual honors were awarded to James A. Wehn, Seattle sculptor, at a special meeting in Tacoma sponsored by the Washington State Historical Society. Reno Odlin, Society President, presented an award naming Mr. Wehn a David Douglas Fellow of the Washington State Historical Society. President Odlin cited the award "In nomination of your contribution to scholarly research and the preservation of Pacific Northwest history." The award was voted at a meeting of the Board of Curators of the state society.

A national Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History was bestowed upon the leading western historical sculptor "For creating a distinguished sculptural record of the history of Washington Territory and State. The artist's sixty years of research which went into the creation of sculptural masterpieces set an example worthy of emulation by young artists throughout the country." The award was presented on behalf of the national organization by Bruce Le Roy, Washington State Awards Chairman.

Among the many letters of congratulations which accompanied the award presentations was one from Mr. William Trees Louth, president of the Medallion Art Company, of New York, the leading numismatist authorities in the United States. He said, "In these days when the traditional artist is not receiving due credit for painstaking research, as well as painstaking

WASHINGTON STATE
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WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3 December 1968

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A collection of "Folk Art of the Pacific Northwest" is on display in the gallery of the Washington State Historical Museum during December. About half of the paintings on display are from the private collection of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Le Roy. Mr. Le Roy is Director of the Washington State Historical Society.

The emphasis on this special exhibit is upon the history of the Pacific Northwest. Subjects covered include fur traders, emigrants crossing the plains, Indian buffalo hunts, pioneer settlements, prospectors, western ghost towns, early shipping on Puget Sound and Northwestern rivers. Among the outstanding examples in the collection is a large oil painting "Driving Shingle Bolts on the Nisqually". The artist was M. L. Marsh, who painted the colorful logging scene in 1880. Another oil depicts the battle of White Bird Canyon, which marked the beginning of the Nez Perces War in 1877. It is the only known artistic reproduction of the famous engagement between dragoons and the Indians who fought under Chief Joseph. Orlan Coughlan, Tacoma artist, is represented by several oil paintings. One of these shows the pavilion at Point Defiance Park in 1890. One of the Puget Sound stern wheelers approaches the dock in the picture. The Puyallup Fair is represented by a picture of a six-team wagon from the Meadowbrook Dairy.

Two pastels by C. G. Ayres, a veteran resident of the Soldiers' Home at Orting, depict Indians on their way to the Puyallup hop fields and an excursion on Puget Sound organized for the Soldiers' Home in July, 1906. A notation from the artist states that the frames for both of the Ayres pictures were made from the first homestead fence in the Puyallup Valley.

John Savage, of Seattle, is also represented by several pictures of early mining at Monte Cristo, logging on the Skagit River, and the first lumber mill (1875) at Utsaladdy. A primitive painting of elk grazing in an Olympic Peninsula meadow shows the Olympic Range and the Sol Duc River about 1885. According to Mr. Le Roy, an oil by an unknown artist of an Indian homestead in Alberta is a rare representation of the famed "Red River Cart". The "Red River Cart", with its high wheels, was characteristic of those used by the migrating Hudson's Bay settlers, who came from the Red River colony to Puget Sound. Several pioneer Tacoma families, such as the descendants of John Flett, had their beginnings in this famed migration. Max Meyer, a Tacoma artist who achieved some fame in the 1890's, contributed a romantic painting of an Indian encampment near Beacon Rock on the Columbia River.

The exhibit will remain during December. The museum is located at 315 North Stadium Way. Museum hours are 9:00 - 4:30 on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; Saturday 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Sunday 2:00-5:00 p.m.; closed Mondays.