

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers
Bldg. 602, City-County Airport
Walla Walla, Washington 99362

OLDEST NORTHWEST INDIAN SITE DEDICATED

Walla Walla, Wash., 22 May 67: Marmes Rockshelter, location of the discovery of the oldest known human remains in the Northwest, will become a National Historic Site on Saturday, June 3.

U. S. Senator Henry M. Jackson, Washington, will dedicate the area in ceremonies beginning at 3:30 p.m., with its historic importance marked by the attendance of National Park Service and Washington State University officials. The public is invited.

Archeologists from WSU, under direction of Professor Dr. Richard Daugherty, have made excavations and studies at the site during the past three years, which establish that Northwest Indians definitely lived and hunted in the area at least 6,000 to 8,000 years ago, and possibly as long as 11,000 years back in time.

Marmes Cave is due to be inundated in 1968 by the rising waters behind Lower Monumental Dam, now being completed on the Snake River by the Corps of Engineers. The scientific excavations were spurred by the rising of the pool, although the region had long been suspected as an historic site of human habitation. Both public and private grants financed the digging expeditions.

The oldest human relics yet dated with certainty in the Pacific Northwest were actually removed from the Marmes Cave, where parts of a number of identifiable human skeletons and numerous artifacts were found, marking it one of the most important finds in the region.

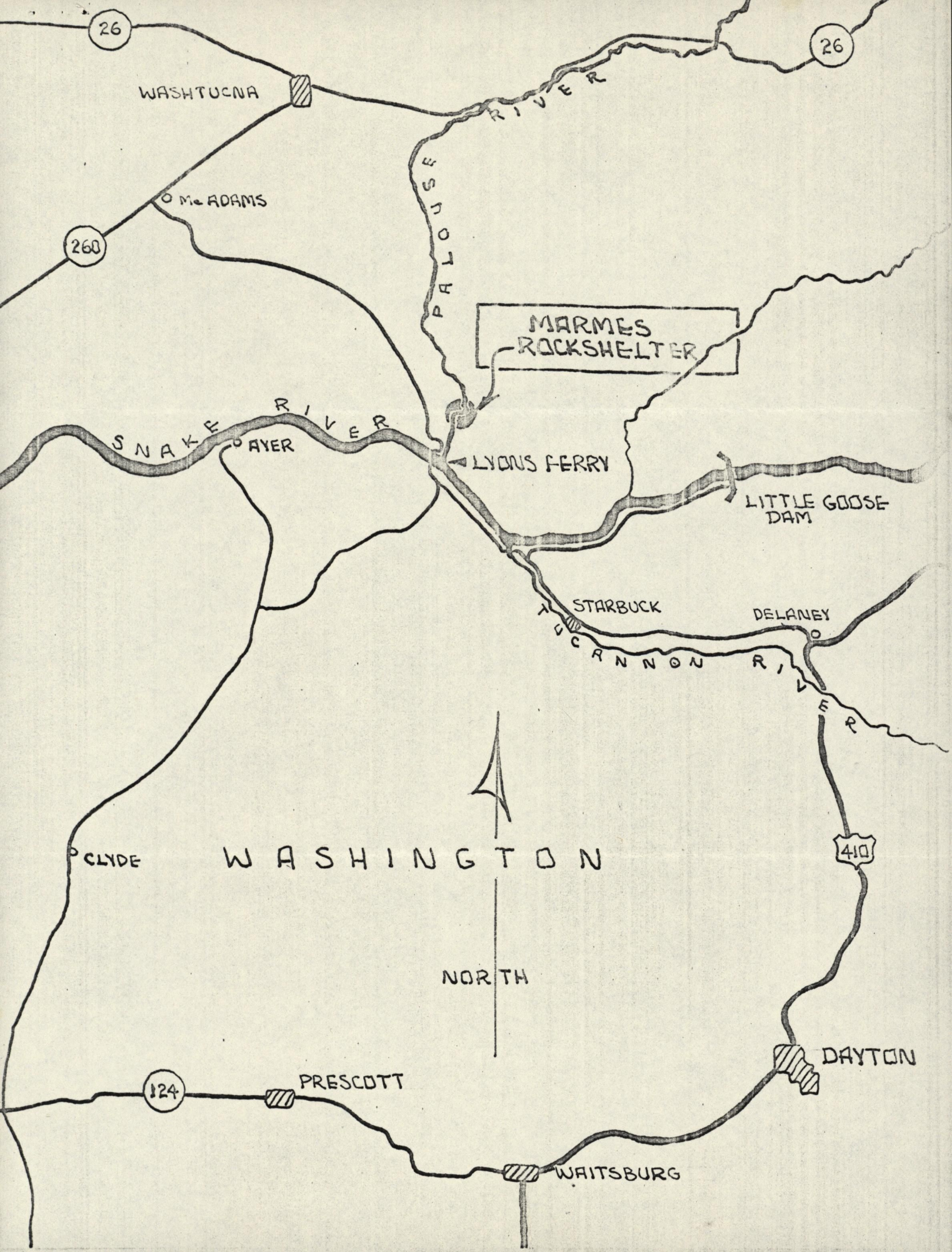
Besides Senator Jackson, Mr. John Corbett, Chief Archeologist of the National Park Service, will represent his agency in presenting a bronze

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Plaque to the Corps of Engineers, to mark their development of a permanent visitors' facility at the site.

Sponsor of the ceremony is the Spaulding Museum Foundation, which will be represented by Mr. Theodore H. Little, president.

The Marmes Rockshelter is near the mouth of the Palouse River on the North side of the Snake River. The site is accessible from Kahlotus by way of Lyons Ferry Road. Visitors from the South of the Snake should use Lyons Ferry, and follow signs about 1.5 miles up the Palouse River road to the cave. (See roadmap attached.)



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WASHTUCNA

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McADAMS

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PALOUSE RIVER

MARMES
ROCKSHELTER

SNAKE RIVER

AYER

LYONS FERRY

LITTLE GOOSE
DAM

STARBUCK

DELANEY

CANNON RIVER

CLYDE

WASHINGTON

NORTH

410

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PRESCOTT

DAYTON

WAITSBURG