



1853-Washington Territorial Centennial-1953

NEWS

State Historical Building
CHAPIN D. FOSTER, Director

315 No. Stadium Way, Tacoma 3
WALDO CARLSON, Associate Director

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In the early days of Lewis County there were no ferries. Men would unload the wagons and ferry across in boats and canoes. Then they would tie two canoes together, put two wheels in each canoe and take the wagon over. The wagons would be reloaded, and after swimming over the horses, they would hitch up and start again.

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In the early days, when the pioneers wanted to have a dance, a few of them would get together in a sailboat, take along a violinist and stop in at some logging camp along the Sound and dance all night, then come back by boat the next day. All transportation was by water.

St. Paul's School for Girls was opened in 1872 at Walla Walla with three boarders and twenty day pupils. Traditions and history of this school date back to the frontier days when gold dust and nuggets, cattle and wheat or flour were used as mediums of exchange or barter. A pair of gold scales was kept in the office to weigh the dust which fathers brought to pay for their daughters' board and tuition.

Dan Harris was one of the picturesque early settlers. In 1858 he went to the Caribou country. Returning here, he engaged in smuggling between Victoria and Bellingham Bay for a good many years. Later he worked around in the logging camps.

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NOTE TO THE EDITOR---This is an "Extra" offered with the compliments of Mr. Hazard. It is a timely piece, which I hope will be usable. C. D. F.

GOVERNOR STEVENS PROCLAIMS WASHINGTON TERRITORY By Joseph T. Hazard

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FOUR, EIGHTEEN FIFTY-THREE!

It was on that day, just a hundred years ago, that Governor Isaac Ingalls Stevens proclaimed the New Washington Territory and took over as its first Governor.

The scene, an impressive one, was at Cadotte's Pass on the Continental Divide of Montana's Rocky Mountains, for in the year 1853, that divide was the eastern boundary of a far-flung Washington Territory. While Washington Territory was created on March 2, 1853, when Pres. Millard Fillmore signed the enabling bill of Congress, it was not actually proclaimed until the day, Sept. 24, 1853, when an eager and ambitious Governor Stevens actually entered his domain.

All day, September 24, 1853, the aggressive little Governor had crowded the pace of his engineering train of mules and horses. He describes his approach from the semi-arid lands of Montana Territory in these prophetic words:

"The country is somewhat more broken today than it was yesterday; timber comes in view of the tops of the mountains, and the scenery becomes more grand with every mile as we proceed."

The progress of this rugged exploring and engineering train, upslope and into Cadotte's Pass of the Continental Divide, is told most dramatically by Governor Stevens in his journal, published by Congress in the year 1860.

"As we ascended the divide, a severe pelling hail and rain storm, accompanied by high wind, thunder and lightning, suddenly came upon us, and did not abate until we had reached the summit." "It was with great gratification that we now left the plains of the Missouri to enter upon the country watered by the Columbia; and it was the more especially gratifying to me, looking to my future duties in the Territory, I felt that I could welcome to my future home and the scene of my future labors the gentlemen of the party, which I did very cordially and heartily."

Almost four months earlier, on June 6, 1853, the tiny Governor had left St. Paul with the main party of his complex survey, which was composed of 200 half-broken Missouri mules, 40 horses and 111 men. To reach Cadotte's Pass and the Washington Territory, they had crossed from east to west all of Minnesota and North Dakota and the "plains" of Montana. They had maneuvered their way through thousands of "pacified" to "hostile" Indians, the last of them the 12,000 membered wild and warlike four tribes of the Blackfoot Nation. Still they had surveyed, for routes



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and resources, a broad path along the northern borders from 100 to 300 miles wide. No roads, no continuous trails, just wilderness!

It was a complex party, for a wide range of investigations.

There were sappers and dragoons; civil engineers and a surgeon; a naturalist and a disbursing agent; an artist, a topographer, and an astronomer; a magnetic observer and a meteorologist; a quartermaster and a commissary clerk; and, not least, seven young and active "aides", of whom Elwood Evans was a ring leader in prompt service and irrepressible mischief.

Less technical, but equally necessary, were a wagon-master, a pack-master, five half-Indian guides, a hunter and sixty teamsters, packers and voyageurs.

Among these 111 widely assorted, but carefully chosen, members of the main survey there were future generals, world scientists and many models of romantic adventure. No wonder the doughty Governor, leaving all wheels at Fort Benton, pushing up the Rockies with mules and men, was moved to celebrate with ceremonies at Cadotte's Pass!

That celebration was the real beginning of Washington Territory. Hazard Stevens, the son, tells the more serious part of it in these words:

"Governor Stevens issued his proclamation, declaring the civil territorial government extended and inaugurated over the new Territory of Washington. And then, as related in the narrative (Journal of Surveys), he heartily welcomed the members of the party to his new home."

While Isaac Ingalls Stevens did not arrive in Olympia with his new government and his vital administration of it until November 25, 1853, it was on its way from Cadotte's Pass of the Rockies on September 24 in the year 1853.

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The Seattle Assay Co. was established May 21, 1898. Immense shipments of gold came from the North with receipts often averaging a million dollars a month.

The winter of 1893 the Columbia River froze three times: November 1892, January 1893 and again March 3, 1893. This time Howard J. Marshall crossed to the Dalles and the mercury dropped to 30 degrees when he and Judge A. L. Miller returned, crossing on "rubber ice."

Diversified agricultural products not found in any other locality of the Pacific Northwest are found in Klickitat county. The fertile forest soil of the western part, with an elevation ranging from 101 feet on Bingen Flats to an altitude of 2100 feet in the Trout Lake Valley and 1900 feet in Camas Prairie and an annual rainfall of 40 to 50 inches, affords advantages for dairying, beef cattle, tree fruit, berries, vegetables, poultry, grains and grasses.

In pioneer days, clothing for the men and boys was made from "hardtimes cloth", while the girls' dresses were made of "ladies cloth". They wore big aprons to school to cover their pretty dresses.

The singing school at Custer was a popular institution and was taught by a singing master from Whatcom who also had classes at Ferndale and Blaine. It afforded the young folks an opportunity to acquire the rudiments of music; but what was more appreciated were the social advantages enjoyed.

The heaviest blow on the coast occurred on January 14, 1913. The anemometer at North Head registered 125 miles per hour before it blew down.

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RELEASE JULY 22

27-29

Northwest history's most spectacular incident--letting wagons down over "The Cliff" on the Naches Pass in 1853--will be re-enacted July 31st as part of the Naches Days celebration at Enumclaw.

Guests of honor will include the descendants of those who came over the trail on this first wagon train trip across Washington, before there was a trail, also members of the American Pioneer Trails Association, which is making a caravan trip across the country to hold their 1953 meeting in Washington.

There were 36 wagons in the original 1853 train headed by James Longmire, but this year only one wagon will be let down. This is the first time the scene has been re-enacted and probably the last time.

Back of the wagon project itself are Dr. and Mrs. C. J. Rose of Enumclaw, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Hamilton and Mr. & Mrs. Don King of Buckley. They have had the wagon for some time and have been training a team of horses for the descent.

There were nearly 150 persons in the original train and many of their descendants live in Washington. Several family groups hold annual meetings and it is expected they will hold their meeting this year as part of the event on the Naches Pass.

All of the newsreel men in the Northwest are planning to take in the descent as they recognize it as the most spectacular single event in Northwest if not Western history. Television companies will be on hand, to say nothing of regular newspaper amateur photographers.

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7/15/53

2-3768, Erickson -

Roy Longmire - 76832

Sell " buy " - 76833

RELEASE JULY 22

NACHES AT THE

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Guests of honor will include the descendants of those who came over the trail on this first wagon train trip across Washington, before there was a trail. Also members of the American Pioneer Trails Association, which is making a cross-country trip across the country to hold their 1953 meeting in Washington.

There were 30 wagons in the original 1823 train headed by James Longmire, but this year only one wagon will be let down. This is the first time the scene has been re-enacted and probably the last time.

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GDE:mks
7/25/53



PROGRESS REPORT

State Historical Bldg. 315 N. Stadium Way Tacoma 3, Wash.

CENTENNIAL SPONSORED BY WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHAPIN D. FOSTER, Director

WALDO CARLSON, Assoc. Dir. 10/16/53 JTH

RELEASE OCTOBER 21st:

LOG OF THE STEVENS SURVEYS

Week of Oct. 15 - 21

October 15: The Governor's party left Coeur d'Alene Mission (Cataldo) at 8 A.M., hurrying onward to the west. As a going-away present to Brother Charles, Gov. Stevens gave him all the party's spare lariats to help hoist timbers for the church of the Mission, then building high walls. The party met many Indians, Nez Perces, Spokanes, Coeur d'Alenes, "on their way to buffalo", and counselled with all of them. After 18 miles the party camped at Wolf's Lodge, with 100 Spokanes, who informed them that the great Spokane Garry was at his farm, four miles from Spokane House.

October 16: Broke camp at 8 A.M.; soon lovely spider-shaped Lake Coeur d'Alene to the south - Spokane River, sluggish channels broken by rapids, leaving Lake Coeur d'Alene - passed Indians, camped and fishing for trout - an Indian daughter "administering to her dying father" - wide prairies ranging hundreds of wild Indian ponies. The camp was at a spring with "sparse grass" while Spokane River, a mere two miles away, was discovered during the night by the roaming horses and mules of the train.

October 17: "The River (Spokane) runs over a rocky bed of trap." Lavatte, a voyageur, took the train to old Spokane House, while Gov. Stevens, with Plante, Osgood, and Stanley, "turned from the trail to visit the falls". This was, obviously, Nine Mile Falls, for, on this original trek, the Stevens train didn't make the south bend of the Spokane River, and missed the big falls, now a scenic marvel, within the City of Spokane. Engineer Stevens records Nine Mile Falls in these words: ".... two principal falls - 20 feet and 12 feet in the latter, perpendicular fall of seven or eight feet - in a quarter of a mile, an estimated fall of 90 to 100 feet." These falls stopped the misguided oncorhynchus tshawytscha, the King Salmon, who had turned by mistake up the Spokane from the Columbia into what was not the spawning stream of birth. The Nine Mile Falls had also determined Indian fishing encampments, and David Thompson's Old Spokane House, erected in 1810. The train, waiting a mile below the "Falls" camped 9 miles down Spokane River. Spokane Garry dropped into camp that evening, and "had a long conversation".

October 18: The first official visit and camp of Gov. Isaac I. Stevens, in today's State of Washington, was at Colville. The hurrying Governor made the last 18 miles to Old Fort Colville at nine miles an hour, on horseback, and arrived at Colville at nine o'clock that night of October 18, 1853. Angus McDonald, Hudson Bay factor, was generous in his welcome. He hurried George B. McClellan to the Stevens camp, the first meeting since the surveys began. The two young army engineers, Stevens and McClellan, sat up until 1 A.M. the next morning, joining survey facts to date.

October 19 and 20: These two days were spent at Old Fort Colville on the Columbia, relaxed by the luxury of Angus McDonald's hospitality, but possessed by a growing alarm as the tales of McClellan unfolded a dire record of dalliance and failure in

READ THIS TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND FILE 

McClellan's connecting western-end surveys, joined to the Governor's thorough eastern-end surveys at Colville.

October 21: Angus McDonald forced upon his departing guests "a keg filled with cognac to cheer the hearts" and "a supply of port wine". They passed Mill River and camped at twelve miles for "smoking steaks, and hot cakes, and the stories - McDonald again charmed us with a recital of his thrilling adventures".

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Washington Territorial Centennial

HEADQUARTERS:

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING

315 North Stadium Way

TACOMA 3, WASHINGTON





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LETTER COL. 344

CHAS. D. FOSTER, Director
 State Historical Building
 315 No. Stadium Way, Tacoma 3
 WALDO CARLSON, Associate Director

NEWS

1893-1903 Washington Territorial Centennial-1903



For Release After 2 P.M.,
Monday, March 2, 1953

FREEDOM AND PROGRESS
RALPH J. CORDINER, PRESIDENT, GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
WASHINGTON TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON
MARCH 2, 1953

The Washington Territorial Centennial is indeed a significant occasion in the progress of the Pacific Northwest. It is a time when we can take an inventory of our history, our accomplishments, our shortcomings, and our prospects. I am honored -- deeply honored -- in being asked to participate in this program sponsored by the Washington State Historical Society, and to address the State Legislature.

I have visited all the States in our Union and I have lived in a few. My Father, who is still a resident of Washington, first came to the Washington territory in 1876 and thus I was born here in the State of Washington and, in one sense, it shall always be my home. I left the State in 1929 but I keep returning to it. The General Electric Company's responsibility to the Atomic Energy Commission for the operation of the plutonium plant at Hanford, Washington, since 1946 is partially but not wholly responsible for my return visits. I like it here and, although I have a home in Connecticut and an office in New York City, I remain, at heart, a Rain Worshipper, a Salmon Eater, a Sagebrusher, an Apple Knocker, and possibly even, in the opinion of some, a Whistle Punk from the Big Woods.

(more)

These old fashioned phrases are colorful, but the Washington Story goes beyond this kind of description. There are three things to remember about our State. First, it is new. Second, it is a symbol of the pioneer. Third, it holds a promise, a unique promise for the future.

The State must be very new when we remember that only eighty-five years ago, as recent as 1868, there was but one house on the shore of Lake Washington. And, that the owner of that house, Judge McGilvra, reached the village of Seattle over an Indian trail that is now Madison Street.

A few years ago the Oregon Country was a place neglected by everyone except the pioneers. This neglect, both on the part of the Government, as well as the rest of the country, was due to ignorance. The reason for the ignorance was distance.

The distance from Washington, D.C. to Washington State, by foot and canoe, by horseback, or by wagon, is a distance that staggers the imagination. Now, by commercial air, it is a matter of a few hours. But much more important than the mechanical conquest of flight is the fact that the average man has learned to bridge this distance with his mind.

The important word here is the average man. The explorer, the scientist, the pioneer, have this quality by nature. There is nothing modern about spanning 3000 miles or more with your mind, but it is only recently that the average man has managed it. In this connection, it is interesting to speculate how long it will take before the aver-

(more)

age man can span both physically and mentally a distance, say, of 240,000 miles, the distance to the earth's satellite -- but that is another story.

Great obstacles either reduce men to nothingness, or provide them with a stimulus. In the case of our forefathers, obstacles turned out to be necessary stimuli for progress. When Mr. Charles Bulfinch of Boston financed and outfitted Captain Gray so that he might discover Gray's Harbor, and name the Columbia River, he certainly had the ability to span the continent with his mind. Thomas Jefferson had the same quality when he dispatched Lewis and Clark. Marcus Whitman put this quality into words when he wrote: "All my plans require time and distance."

The early story of the State of Washington is the story of a handful of men, and a few women, who had sufficient bravery and vision to convince the Federal Government that the Oregon Country was land worth retaining. When Marcus Whitman made his famous winter ride of 1843, from Walla Walla to Washington, D.C., he went to talk to President Tyler and to Daniel Webster. His mission, in his own words, was to report on the new land, and he said: "It is a country for settlers, for men with families. My home is there. My wife is there now, keeping that home."

His wife, Narcissa Whitman, was waiting for him upon his return. The story that follows is legend. The smallpox epidemics among the Indians. The Whitman massacre that was the result.

A few miles west of Walla Walla there is a granite spire on top

(more)

of a sandy knoll, and a marble slab at its base. Beneath the marble slab are the remains of all that could be found of the Whitmans and their friends. These were the real pioneers of America. Symbolically, they attempted what many people called the impossible. They lived and died in this environment, and the interesting thing is that they accomplished a margin of that impossibility.

The pioneer has none of the flat features of the mass-man. Whether he is a pioneer of virgin land, of science, or of industry, he is first of all an individual. Pioneers have certain character qualities and beliefs in common: the quality of courage and vision, and a belief that at the root of all progress is personal freedom. To a large degree these qualities have become national aspirations. This is important for the future of America. For the quality of freedom, or the lack of it, reaches down and touches the smallest detail in our day-to-day living, and reaches up and forms the cast from which our laws are made.

In the light of our distinguished pioneer background here in the Pacific Northwest, I think it is appropriate for us to take a candid look at our social, political, and economic travels over the past one-hundred years. In a brief talk, such as this, we have not the time to make an analysis of the trends of this type. However, we might raise a few long-range questions. For example:

Are our State laws designed to give the private citizen the maximum of freedom, or the maximum of security? And I want to make it clear that there is a vast difference between the two.

(more)

Are the laws enacted by the Legislature the type that encourage the fullest agricultural and industrial development of the State?

As citizens of the State are we still thinking in terms of the tradition of the pioneer? or have we chosen an easier course? Are we still in search of the rewards of freedom and incentives for personal risks? or have we altered our values, and now want in the place of freedom, an underwritten-gilt-edge security?

Freedom is a relative term, and although we are willing to die for it, we can have too much of it. Unrestrained freedom is anarchy. In the United States it is not unrestrained freedom that we seek, but a constitutional representative government. It is in this type of society that we find a balance between unrestrained freedom, on one hand, and a crushing governmentalism on the other. In our history, we have had so many freedoms that we have taken some of them a little too much for granted. At times, our freedoms have seemed expendable. We have had so much the sense of liberty unrestrained that it had seemed permissible to take liberties with our liberty. Our political heritage has been so rich that we thought we could afford to be careless and extravagant.

The West was developed through a minimum of Governmental control, and a maximum of freedom and enterprise. The West is still being developed but not quite along the same lines. Today, we seem to approach a maximum of Government.

In advocating greater personal freedom one is faced with additional problems. The 20th Century is considerably more complex

(more)

than any other man has seen. With this increased social and technical complexity there arises two great needs. The first is the need for simplicity -- simplicity in social and industrial organization, and simplicity in our personal philosophy. The second need is for more self-discipline.

Self-discipline is probably the greatest of personal responsibilities resulting from broad personal freedoms. This is a responsibility that applies to all members of our society -- from the taxpayer to the tax-collector. In fact, without a special self-imposed type of self-discipline, we cannot maintain a free society.

I believe that one of the aims of education in America is the development of young men and young women with a keen sense of this personal responsibility and self-discipline. In reality, these are social safe-guards -- for self-discipline involves a quality of mind that governs our behavior. It is a quality that goes beyond the printed letter of the law. It is that safe-guard that restricts one man, or group of men, from imposing upon the freedom and rights of others.

The intelligence of a country's people is obviously its greatest natural resource. But like any natural resource it must be developed. In this case the "intelligence" must be educated, and the optimum of the educational process is achieved only in a free environment. Recently, a great deal has been written about the inter-relationships that exist between Government, business, and education, and many large industries are looking into the matter of what their future

(more)

role might possibly be with regard to American education.

American business and American higher education have a common stake in America's future. Again, that stake is freedom. Business and education are each a different but essential manifestation of a free society. It is not the direct responsibility of the university or college to maintain business, nor is it the direct responsibility of business to maintain higher education. It is essential that both be devoted to the maintenance of a free society, and a free society cannot exist without the free self-development of youth.

Moreover, a free society cannot exist without free business enterprise dedicated to the constant enlargement of our material prosperity through competing units of productive effort. And once a segment of that business freedom is surrendered through the legislative or executive process, it becomes a near impossibility to recapture -- at least in its original form. Without freedom neither industry nor agriculture nor higher education nor America, as we know it, will survive.

From many points of view we live in an age of major problems, requiring basic and fundamental decisions. These decisions should be made by men of intelligence and great personal integrity, whose public responsibility will be to insure the national security, and to promote the national interest.

For more than the past decade, however, the national interest has not always been interpreted in terms of personal responsibility, business initiative, or business progress. There has been a belief

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on the part of some administrators that although big business was not actually illegal, it was, somehow, contrary to the public interest simply because it was big.

Some contemporary spokesmen have gone so far as to conclude that if an organization is big, it must be operated on the totalitarian or strong bureaucratic principles. This, I believe, is a completely false concept. Unfortunately, there is some evidence for this belief. The evidence is found both in industry and in Government, but I think the trend towards bureaucracy has been stronger in the Government. There is no reason, however, why this situation should continue in its present proportions, and I have strong hopes that a change for the better is in the making.

American business has been retarded in its growth by a series of obstacles. These obstacles are in themselves complex, and cut across several aspects of our social structure. They are road-blocks to industrial progress. Simply stated, they are: big Federal Government; big taxes; the power of the Federal Government behind big labor; and fear -- a fear that has been intensified over the past generation of bigness in business.

Possibly the most insidious of these obstacles is fear. For, in this case, fear is an attitude based not upon fact, but upon myth. The success and the growth of an industrial corporation is dependent upon the thousands of daily favorable decisions by individuals to purchase the products and services of the corporation at the market places in direct comparison with competitive products and services.

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Throughout the history of our Union there has been much public discussion about protecting our civil and political liberties. The basic law of the land, the Constitution, is very much concerned about this problem. So have been a number of Supreme Court decisions. But to suppose that our liberties are secure because they are abstractly defined is to mistake the legal form for the living substance of freedom.

It is both desirable and necessary to have a government of laws; but to assume that because we have a government of laws, we do not have a government of men, is a misleading and dangerous fallacy. No society can be better than the people elected to govern, and the people who cast the ballots to elect. In a Republic, such as ours, if we surrender our responsibilities and liberties through indifference -- or any other reason -- no type of law known to man will preserve those freedoms for us. A central problem in a constitutional government, therefore, is the inter-relationship between: intelligence, education, freedom, responsibility, and self-discipline.

When this relationship is in equilibrium, mankind goes forward and upward. Today, we look back a hundred years and re-appraise the importance of such events as: the Oregon Trail; the early stations at Wailatpu and Vancouver; the founding of Whitman College in 1859, only six years after an Act of Congress created the Washington territory. We ask ourselves the most interesting of all questions: What is the promise of the future?

To this question there could be as many answers as there are

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persons. But, to me, I think that part of the answer lies in the belief that mankind, by altering his environment, can, to a large degree, determine his future.

America is a land of many things, and high on the list are the pioneers. These men who crossed rivers, wrote the first chapter for the occasion that is this Centennial. The responsibility of the scientist, the legislator, the educator, the labor leader, the industrialist, the farmer, and the businessman is to look toward the future. Some people are frightened by it, some are elated, but I believe that a sense-of-the-future can be used to sharpen our senses as to what we are doing and where we are going.

For nearly eight years we have been living in the Atomic Age, whether we like it or not -- and there are some who do not like it. But the fact of the matter is, we cannot return to any other Age. Through science, we have drastically changed our environment. Therefore, we must change the manner in which we live to accord with these new conditions. Atomic power promises abundance as readily as desolation -- but only on the condition that we welcome and prepare for abundance.

We are gathered here together to honor a small group of pioneers from a time-distance of one hundred years. But we ourselves can also be pioneers. What could be more appropriate than to speculate on what our successors will be saying, and thinking, when they appraise us at the Washington Territorial Bicentennial in 2053? To our successors we owe a very great responsibility.

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Since all of you reside here in the State, you undoubtedly made a voluntary choice that Washington was to be your home. You are indeed fortunate to have made this decision. We have tremendous natural resources in the basic industries, in diversified agriculture, in lumber, shipping, and fishing. Our population per square mile is among the lowest of any State. Our towns are new and modern, and without slums. Our people are healthy and prosperous in a vigorous climate. We have the second largest river in the United States -- the Columbia. We are pioneers in the development of atomic power. To this, we add a scenic grandeur and a variety of climates probably equalled by no other State.

Beyond all this, we have a challenge for the next 100 years. That challenge is threefold: the intelligent development of our physical resources; the mustering together of our human resources; the preservation of the maximum freedom for the individual. Taken together, this challenge is a philosophy for progress. It is the kind of progress I believe in -- for myself, and for my friends in the State of Washington.

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