



# NEWS = LETTER

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHAPIN D. FOSTER, EDITOR

STATE HISTORICAL BUILDING

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 2.....APRIL, 1958

## RENO ODLIN RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: GOVERNOR HONOR GUEST

From every standpoint, the annual meeting of the Washington State Historical Society April 5 was a success.

The attendance set a new 'high'.

Governor Albert D. Rosellini was the honor guest.

More county societies were represented than ever before and they came from greater distances.

Societies represented included Clallam County, Jefferson County, Kitsap County, Cowlitz County, Walla Walla, Yakima County, Grant County, Chelan County, Fort Vancouver, Benton County, Pacific County, also Seattle, Eastern Washington, State Capitol societies, Fort Lewis, and Mercer Island.

In paying tribute to the work being done by the State and local societies, the Governor emphasized the importance of preserving Washington history.

Rev. Lorance Dossett of Steilacoom was heard in a group of baritone solos. Possessed of a remarkable voice, Rev. Dossett trained first for the concert stage and later transferred to the ministry.

Announcement was made of the election results.

Reno Odlin, Tacoma, was re-elected President and H. J. Deutsch of Pullman, vice president.

Members of the Board of Curators, class of 1961 include: Mrs. Thos. P. Gose, Walla Walla; Robert Hitchman, Seattle; Leon K. Jones, Seattle; John M. McClelland, Jr., Longview; E.K. Murray, Tacoma; Mrs. Byron D. Scott, Tacoma; Archie Shiels, Bellingham; Mrs. Pearl Wanamaker, Seattle. George H. Weyerhaeuser, two years.

A number of members of the Pierce County Legislative delegation, headed by Senator Reuben Knoblauch, attended the meeting, which was held at the 'Top of the Ocean'. A number of members of the Tacoma Daughters of Pioneers were in attendance.

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## WANT TO BE FLABBERGASTED? THEN SEE WHAT THEY'VE DONE IN BUILDING CHELAN MUSEUM

That word 'flabbergasted' is not an idea of the editor's.

It was in the letter from John McDonald, moving spirit in the museum project at Cashmere for the young Chelan County Historical Society.

The building is nearing completion and the work on it will have been donated.

Money is raised for materials but not for labor, and some 300 folks over there are supplying the labor.

The building is located in a new city park, near the main highway. It will be a very busy place. Most of the exhibit cases are already built.

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## SNOHOMISH COUNTY SOCIETY HOPES TO HAVE PERMANENT 'HOME' IN EVERETT PARK SOON

In the near future the aggressive Snohomish County Society hopes to gain possession of a building used by the U.S. Indian service up to a short time ago. It is being declared surplus government property.

Two active museum workers passed away recently, and Jack Irwin, art director has recently suffered a severe heart attack.

The Society now has permanent exhibits in the courthouse and Edmonds library.

Good meetings have been held monthly. Pictures of Everett and Snohomish County are being collected. Store window exhibits are planned for everett Maritime Days June 5-7. The Society will also have an exhibit at the Evergreen Fair at Monroe in September.

The Society has 300 paid-up members and and another 300 prospects.

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Membership in the State Society includes subscription to the Pacific Northwest Quarterly, also book discounts.

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## TWO NEW EXHIBITS IN STATE BUILDING HONOR EARLY FORTS: FT. STEILACOOM NEXT

Two new display cases honoring Forts Vancouver and Nisqually have just been opened in the State Society building.

Artifacts for much of the Fort Vancouver exhibit have come from Fort Vancouver headquarters, where Frank Hjort is curator.

Material for the Nisqually exhibit are from the Society's own collection. The cases flank the relief map of the early trails to the West.

## ONE MORE DISPLAY IS NEEDED-HONORING FORT STEILACOOM

The difficulty here is that sufficient material to fill the case is not available at present.

What is needed is authentic material from Fort Steilacoom. Not from the town of Steilacoom, but the Fort.

If any reader has such material or knows where any is available, get in touch with the State Historical Society.

Its fine to honor the two Hudson's Bay forts in Western Washington, but the U. S. fort also deserves recognition.

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## WELL, LOOK WHAT'S HERE

A few days ago two ladies from the Salvation Army Thrift Store in Tacoma called at the State Society building to say they had the funniest looking vacuum machine they'd seen and would we like it. We would. Its an "Improved Everybody's Vacuum Cleaner". No date on it. Anybody ever see one? We'd like to know more about this piece of home equipment.

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## SEATTLE ART MUSEUM TO SHOW MASTERPIECES FROM ITS COLLECTION IN JUNE-JULY

Masterpieces of the Seattle Art Museum's collections will be displayed in honor of the Museum's 25th anniversary.

The Museum was founded by Mrs. Eugene Fuller and her son Dr. Richard E. Fuller.

"Masterpieces of Korean Art" will be shown July 17-August 17. This will be seen in only seven U.S. museums, has never been shown in the Western World. It contains f fabulous golden crowns from 5th and 6th century tombs and palaces; priceless jewelry; sculpture and paintings; rare celadons prized through the ages for their color.

Admission will be 75 cents, children under 12, free. Take Seattle Transit bus No. 10 to Volunteer Park.

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## ANNUAL PACIFIC NORTHWEST HISTORY CON- FERENCE HELD AT VICTORIA IN APRIL

One of British Columbia's Centennial events this year was the annual Pacific Northwest History Conference, held in Victoria April 11-12, with Willard Ireland, provincial librarian, as host. The Conference opened on the evening of April 11, with the program devoted to the Centennial.

Conference sessions proper opened Saturday morning with a breakfast presided over by George Fryckman of Washington State College. This was a business session.

Speakers at the program session included Keith Murray, Western Washington College of Education; Merle Wells, consultant for Idaho Historical Society; Edwin R. Bingham, University of Oregon. Commentators were: Herman Deutsch, State College of Washington; Norman F. Thomas, College of Puget Sound; Nelson A. Ault, State College of Washington.

Afternoon speakers included: Reginald Roy, Provincial Archives; Dr. Douglas Leechman, Fort Langley Restoration; Dr. Stewart R. Tompkins, University of Oklahoma.

Banquet speaker Saturday evening was Dr. W.N. Sage, University of British Columbia.

Time was arranged so that visitors might visit museums in Victoria. The 1959 session will be held in Portland.

This Conference was started by the Washington State Historical Society and is still sponsored by that organization. It is being assisted in program, arranging by the Council for Research in progress.

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## JOIN 'EM BOTH

If your county has a local historical society, join it. Also, join the State Historical Society. They are both working for the preservation and dissemination of Washington history. There's no substitute for them.

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# FIRST OF SERIES OF PICNIC-MEETINGS HELD BY ADAMS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 20 saw the first of what is hoped to be the annual spring picnic-meeting for the Adams County Historical Society.

While the weather was not ideal, about 75 members and pioneer residents attended.

The affair was held at Washtucna, in the handsome new schoolhouse. Upon adjournment individual groups traveled by way of the Benge-Washtucna highway to view the site of the Lucas Corrals.

The Adams County engineer, Walt Athey, has contributed much of his time to the restoration of this early travelers' stopping point, and he announced that more volunteer work for a few days would see the completion of the project.

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# IMPORTANT ACQUISITIONS RECEIVED BY THE WALLA WALLA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Recent acquisitions to the growing collection of the Walla Walla County Pioneer and Historical Society include:

From Frank Parker of Santa Monica, Cal., grandson of William Newell, owner and publisher of The Statesman from 1865 to 1878, important pictures of the buildings and staff of the paper, also a copy of the paper which started publication Nov. 29, 1861. It was not only the first paper in Walla Walla but the first between the Missouri and the Cascades.

A rare book collection and a family Bible published in 1634 has been received from Fred McFadden of McMinnville, Oregon and Clyde McFadden of Walla Walla.

Indian War claims correspondence of William Gillian, who was a member of the Oregon Volunteers fighting in the Battle of Walla Walla, has been received from Mrs. Anna Gilliam Forquer of Walla Walla.

Walter Kimmerly, former county clerk, has given a large collection of early school and church material, also a writing case which crossed the plains in 1864.

Charles Dement, former county auditor, has given a picture of the Eureka Flour Mills, built in Walla Walla in 1865.

The museum space in the City Hall is filling up rapidly.

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The Tacoma Chapter Daughter of Pioneers has received a U. S. flag from Miss Zaidee Bonney, a State flag and an antique Bible from Mrs. Stella Daniels.

# VANCOUVER SEROPTIMIST CLUB DOING FINE JOB IN GRANT HOUSE, OLD BARRACKS ROW

By the Editor

A few years ago the Vancouver Seroptimist Club was looking around the city for a project, preferably historical.

Along Officers Row in the old Fort Vancouver Barracks, Grant House seemed to offer the right possibilities.

If Lt. Grant ever lived in the house it was for a short time but it has come to be known as Grant House.

When the women start in on a museum project something has to give and in this case everything that stood in the way of doing a complete job, had to give way.

A few weeks ago, while in Vancouver, a couple of the Club members gave me a guided tour of the House. To say the Club has rendered an outstanding piece of service is putting it far too mildly.

Chief workers have been Mrs. T. Robert Phelps, Mrs. John Powers, Mrs. Eva Burgett and Mrs. Mildred Arthur Riley. It is evident they have had help from many other members of the Club.

They have done a lot of painting all through the building, and the painting hasn't been easy, either.

A lot of historical material has been collected by the Club for the building and well arranged, under the circumstances.

Some remodeling was under way, preparing quarters for a custodian. He will have a very comfortable apartment.

Whenever the national Seroptimist organization is looking for someone to recognize for outstanding community service it won't be necessary to look beyond Vancouver, for the members of that city's club could qualify in the fastest competition.

Vancouver should be very proud of what these young ladies have done.

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# MUSEUM VISITS UNDER WAY

A story in a recent issue of the Kalama Bulletin tells of a visit which the school made to the museum at Kelso. The story was written by one of the students and was very complete. This indicates that school visits to the fine museum at Kelso are on the up-grade. A museum is a great asset to schools.

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THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR  
THE WORK OF WOMEN IN STATE'S  
LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

During the past ten years the Editor has had an opportunity to occupy a ringside seat in **watching** the development of county historical societies in Washington. Its really been a very thrilling picture, allowing for that word 'thrilling' being pretty well overworked. A climax was reached at the annual meeting of the State Federation of Women's clubs in Bellingham in early May. The importance of the work of women in this movement was emphasized. Let's not take anything from the work of men in this movement, their work has been remarkable. Its been team rk all the way but there is no substitute for the work done by our Washington women. This work has been particularly important in the development of museums. Name over Bellingham, Cowlitz, Callam, Jefferson, Kitsap, Yakima, Walla Walla, Vancouver, Wahkiakum, Stevens, Island, Orcas Island, Spokane, Seattle, Olympia, Chelan--take the work of women out of these museums and the re'll be a lot of work for men to do. Then there are county societies where museums are still in the planning stage. The State Federation has adopted a Resolution pledging that great organization of 11,000 women, to aid in the organization of societies in counties where there are none. The Federation takes that Resolution seriously. Its a safe prediction that the very near future will see a local society in every county and a museum. There is wealth of history in every county and it can be best preserved right there.

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MORE CENTENNIALS  
IN THE OFFING

Washington is coming into an era of Centennials. No year will be complete without one somewhere in our state. No community can afford to pass up the opportunity to observe a centennial. The State Society has some suggestions for such events--just ask for them. There will be a very important centennial in Lewis County, honoring the building of the Claquato Church. A church in Sumner is planning an observance and Westport is going to call attention to history as well as fish.

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PRESIDENT RE-ELECTED  
TWO ADDED TO BOARD

Members of the State Society have re-elected Reno Odlin as President for another term. Few men in Washington have a wider acquaintance than Mr. Odlin, and there are few more impressive reputations for leadership. Two new men have been added to the Board of Curators, George Weyerhaeuser of Tacoma and Archie Shiels of Bellingham. Mr. Weyerhaeuser is the son of the late J.P. Weyerhaeuser, Jr., who served as President and Board member for nearly six years.

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ANNUAL MEETING  
OUTSTANDING

The State Society's annual meeting set a new attendance mark but was outstanding in another respect. The date offered a good many conflicts but county societies from every corner of the state were represented. It was an honor to have Governor Rosellini as the Society's honor guest and it gave the Governor an opportunity to see that our state's history is being preserved at the local level very effectively.

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WELCOME TO THE  
HISTORICAL FAMILY

Benton County has a new county historical society and Island County has one re-activated. Both are going to be very active. The Island County society will join the State Parks Department in the sponsorship of a museu on the grounds of old Fort Casey. Word comes that other county societies are in the 'talk' stage.

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COMING SOON--The finest flourescent rock show in the world, in the State Building.

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# HISTORY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY IS BEING PLANNED BY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In an effort to gather material for the future writing of a history of Jefferson County, letters have been sent by the Society to each community club in the county, suggesting that they locate historical sites in their vicinity.

Lists of 'firsts' are desired, such as first settlers, buildings, postmaster, cattle, fruit trees, children, ferry, twins, store and the community name.

Community histories can be written and published in pamphlet form to preserve local history, and these will be invaluable in future compilation of county history.

Mrs. Lee Davis, president, first presented this plan to the Brinnon Boosters Club, and a committee was named to head up the work. Other communities will be contacted.

April 28, the Jefferson County society held a silver tea with Miss Sallie Hill as guest speaker. She outlined the work of scientific, art, and historical museums, with emphasis on the importance of being aware of the past in order to fit the present and plan for the future.

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## KARSHNER MUSEUM ACCESSIONS

Recent accessions at the Paul Karshner Museum in the Puyallup High School, include an Indian basket half an inch in diameter, a 1898 Oliver typewriter, a desert "sardine" Cyprinodon salinus, minnow from the Death Valley National Monument. This is Death Valley's one and only fish.

The basket is believed to have been made by Pomo Indians of California. The museum is always open to visitors.

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD STATE ASSOCIATION OF DAUGHTERS OF PIONEERS MEETS IN TACOMA

Fourteen state officers, two past presidents and 10 chapter presidents attended the Executive Board meeting of the State Association Daughters of Pioneers in Tacoma March 14.

Changes in the Association By-Laws were discussed, also preservation of Pioneer Hall on Lake Union, Seattle.

Miss Bernice Jones, Eastern Washington chairman of the Historic Sites and Markers Committee, gave an interesting report on the work of her committee, which co-operates with historical societies in search-

ing out and marking historic sites.

A number of the visitors spent time in the State Historical Society Building.

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## "PRINTING INDUSTRY HISTORY" FEATURES JUNE EXHIBIT SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Seattle Historical Society has a very interesting exhibit set for June-- "Printing Industry History".

Full-sized presses, type, samples of printing and lithography, plus other features of the printing craft will be on display. Members of the Seattle printing trade are assisting in setting off the exhibit.

New officers of the Society have been elected as follows:

President---H.W. McCurdy  
1st Vice Pres.---Chas. F. Clise  
2nd Vice Pres.---Stephen Chadwick  
3rd Vice Pres.---Victor Denny  
4th Vice Pres.---Mrs. Geo. C. Martin  
5th Vice Pres.---Robt. Hitchman  
Secretary---Mrs. Norman McCurdie  
Ass't Secretary---Mrs. Robt. Kummer  
Treasurer---Robt. E. Lewis  
Ass't Treasurer---Robt. D. Keith

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## MRS. C. P. McNABB HEADS TACOMA CHAPTER WASHINGTON DAUGHTERS OF PIONEERS

New officers of the Tacoma Chapter, Daughters of Pioneers, have been elected as follows: President, Mrs. C.P. McNabb; Vice Pres., Mrs. Leo Kobleski; rec. secretary, Mrs. Betty Vickery; cor. secretary, Mrs. A. McLean; treasurer, Mrs. J.I. Haines, librarian, Mrs. Roland Blackwell; historian, Mrs. Roland Blackwell. Trustees are: Mrs. Chas. Potter, Mrs. J. H. McAdams and Mrs. Wm. Sechler. Mrs. Sechler installed the new officers.

Chairmen of various committees are: Mrs. W. Hartloff, Mrs. T. H. Algeo, Mrs. Eugene Butler, Mrs. R. H. Holt, Mrs. John Hartl, Mrs. Leo Kobleski, Mrs. P. M. Simons, Mrs. Dwight Wells.

The Chapter added 11 members last year and 34 new Junior members. New members were lineal descendants of Judge Thos. McCutcheon Chambers, Augustus Simmons, William Leonard and Scott Robinson.

The party at the State Historical Society building for Juniors was a success.

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## FIFTEEN COUNTIES WAITING FOR ORGANIZATION OF COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Organization of county historical societies has forged ahead at a wonderful rate during the past 8 to 10 years. There are still some counties where organizations could be started with a little effort.

Any one of a number of organizations could start the movement, plus the local newspaper. Helps can come from the State Historical Society.

Here is a list of counties where a start can be made:

ASOTIN--First letters have already been exchanged.

COLUMBIA--Plenty of history here.

WHITMAN--This should be easy.

Klickitat--First letters exchanged.

SKAMANIA--Again, lots of history.

LEWIS--Easy, once a start is made.

SKAGIT--On its way already.

WHATCOM--Could be a great help to the fine Bellingham City Museum, Pickett House.

OKANOGAN--In the talking stage.

FERRY--Interesting history here.

DOUGLAS--Shouldn't be difficult.

PEND'OREILLE--No lack of history here.

FRANKLIN--They can build atomic plants, a historical society should be easy.

KITTITAS--Decidedly in the talking stage. "We will" said a Woman's Club member at Bellingham.

GARFIELD--In the talking stage.

Almost without exception, first steps have been taken, so the additional steps should not be difficult.

The State Federation of Women's Clubs has "RESOLVED" to help and that means a lot. Local newspapers will help so the problem isn't a difficult one. The start seems to be the most difficult problem.

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THANK YOU, SIR!

From Calgary, Alberta, comes the following paragraph from a letter: "I most sincerely hope that I'll be permitted to continue to be a member of the society. If my wish is in order will you kindly see to it that I am billed annually for my dues."

MR. C.M. McADDEN

Certainly nothing standing in the way of your continued membership in the State Society. Included is the Pacific Northwest Quarterly, which makes membership a splendid

'buy'.

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## TWO SPECIAL ART EXHIBITS ARE SET FOR MARYHILL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Two outstanding art exhibits are now on display at the Maryhill Museum of Fine Arts.

Both will run through June 29.

The largest is "The Hound of Heaven" by R.H. Ives Gammell. This consists of 20 panels, each 3x7 feet, and was inspired by Francis Thompson's poem of the same name. This is the third of a series of showings covering many states.

The second exhibit is by five of Mr. Gammell's students. One of these, Robt. Hunter, will have a show in the gallery of the State Historical Society in July.

Gammell is one of the outstanding artists of the country. Some of his work was shown a few years ago in the State Society gallery.

Six new cases have been built for this Indian Room at Maryhill. Director C.R. Dolph says these new cases will permit showing of artifacts now possible to display heretofore. He urges those who can to see the special exhibits.

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## WANTED! WANTED! WANTED!

In its last issue the Wisconsin Historical Society's magazine used several pages listing things needed by the museum. (most people probably thought they didn't need anything more.)

Here are some items the Washington State Historical Society could use--

Wooden dasher churn.

Postal Cards before 1895

Boys' clothes (3-10) before 1900

Mens' clothing, before 1900

Children's toys before 1900

Greeting cards, Valentine, before 1900

Tacoma items, before 1900

Drug Store items, Dispensers, bottles, advertising.

Entertainment: theatre programs, invitations to Washington social events.

Boxes--painted container boxes, tin containers from stores.

Items from grocery stores before 1900

Fort Steilacoom relics.

This isn't a complete list, just a starter. There is enough material in Washington to fill every possible museum, if it gets in the right place.



# ADAMS EAST MUSEUM COMMUNITY PROJECT, DEDICATED MAY 1st AT MOSES LAKE

Moses Lake, officially, has a new museum building in its civic center, and an outstanding collection--the Adam East collection of stone artifacts.

The building is modern and can be enlarged if necessary. The Adam East collection is one of the best known in the West. Unfortunately Mr. East passed away before completion of the building.

A volunteer committee of amateur mineralogists formed an action group which completed the museum in 1956 and 1957.

Cooperating with the Moses Lake city officials were the Grant County Historical Society, state museum anthropologist, Eastern Washington Archeological Society, Columbia Basin Rock Hounds and Moses Lake mineralogy club, with cooperation also from museum people over the state.

Mayor Marshall Burress presided at the dedicatory services held on the lawn of the new museum grounds. It is gratifying that the East Collection has a permanent home in the state, as he had refused to sell his collection to outside interests.

East died in 1956 and his body lay in state in the partially completed museum. In his last days he was happy that his collection would be preserved intact in the area where he had searched for ancient artifacts so many years.

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# SPECIAL EXHIBITS BEING FEATURED AT THE STATE CAPITOL MUSEUM IN OLYMPIA

Attracted by the Southwest Washington Art Show, many special school, art and Scout groups are visiting the State Capitol Museum in Olympia this month.

A new Southwest Weapons exhibit is also being opened, housing pioneer guns, and sword cases.

An outstanding exhibit includes gifts by Judge Beals, including dueling pistols, rare hand weapons, hand-carved ivory.

The annual meeting of the society will be held June 24.

Roger Richert of Shelton, has developed a novel display for his thesis at the State College. The exhibit is his dream art museum as it would appear on Capitol Lake. The scale model is complete with building, trees drawings and explanatory material.

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# BENTON COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMPLETES ORGANIZATION

The Benton County Pioneer and Historical Association was organized in March in Kennewick.

Ralph Reed, former editor of the Kennewick Courier-Reporter, was elected president. Others serving with him include: Vice President, H.E. Oliver, Kennewick; secretary, Mrs. J.C. Pratt, Kennewick; treasurer, Art C. Simsen, Kennewick; Four more vice presidents will be named later.

Click Relander of Yakima, members of the State Historical Society Board, attended the organization meeting.

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# FORT LEWIS HAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND A FAST-GROWING MUSEUM

Organization of the Fort Lewis Historical Society was completed a short time ago with the following officers:

President, Col. Virgil F. Field (ret)

Vice Pres., Mrs. June Fowles, Olympia

Secretary, Lyle Cox

Treasurer, MSgt. Morgan S. Speilman

Board, Col. Edgar Wright, Jr.; Chapin D. Foster; Worth D. Hecht; Lt. Col. Richard P. Gilbert; Capt. Stanley T. Linn.

Sgt. Speilman is in charge of the museum which is growing much faster than 'leaps and bounds'. If on the Fort grounds a museum visit is a 'must'.

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# FORT SIMCOE SOCIETY HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING AT THE FORT, APRIL 20

Improvements are still being made at the restored Fort Simcoe, under the direction of Albert Culverwell of the State Parks Department.

Two new blockhouses have been erected. The old guardhouse is now on the grounds. Ample picnic facilities are provided. Another fine side trip if in the Yakima Valley.

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# WE NOMINATE CULL WHITE AS BUSIEST HISTORICAL ENTHUSIAST IN STATE

Announce a historical meeting of some kind and Cull White of Ephrata will be there. He's the boss worker of the Grant Co. Historical Society, which is going ahead with museum plans at Soap Lake.



# ISLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RE-ACTIVATED: MUSEUM IS PLANNED

At an enthusiastic meeting at Coupeville the Island County Historical Society was re-activated.

Officers are: president, Mrs. Mel Neil, Oak Harbor; vice presidents, Mrs. Cecil Perkins of San de Fuca; John Hopkins and Mrs. Clark Sherman, Coupeville; secretary, Mrs. Floyd Wanamaker; treasurer, W.R. Thomkins, Coupeville. Six trustees were elected.

The Society will join with the State Parks Department in developing a museum at old Fort Casey, where a two-story building is available.

Chapin D. Foster, director of the State Society, attended the organization meeting. A "Pioneer Week" is planned in the fall.

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## KITSAP COUNTY ACTIVITIES

The Kitsap County Society had a float in the Armed Forces Day parade May 17. For J.C. Penny's 56th anniversary the Society put displays in five windows. Special museum visits are increasing.

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## MERCER ISLAND SOCIETY BUSY

Mrs. David L. Lee is collecting material for an Island history. Amos Woods talked at the last meeting on "History in the Making".

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The Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring "Ben Snipes Days" June 20-22.

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5/20/58  
CDF:PMc

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
315 NORTH STADIUM WAY,  
TACOMA 3, WASHINGTON.

MR. CLICK RELANDER,  
1212 NO. 32nd AVE  
YAKIMA WASHINGTON

## JUST BE PATIENT!

The Rock Hounds insist that the fluorescent exhibit in the State building be perfect so they are coming down the 'home stretch'. It will be the finest exhibit of its kind in the United States. They include the world. It won't be long before those long night hours will be a memory.

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## CLAQUATO CHURCH CENTENNIAL

The Centennial of the building of the Claquato, Lewis County, church will be observed August 10, with Stephen J. Chadwick as the speaker. Roscoe Doane is general chairman.

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## DAUGHTERS OF PIONEERS AT YAKIMA

Mrs. Maurice W. Kelley of Bellingham was elected President of the State Society at Yakima. Tacoma and Steilacoom chapters were well represented. A old-new style show was a feature.

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The April meeting of the Steilacoom Daughters of Pioneers honored the old church bell and food prepared from old family recipes. The May meeting, Guest Day, featured Northwest slides, and a Trading Post.

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## KITSAP IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Under the direction of Miss Chloe Sutton, the Kitsap Co. Society entered the WBC History Contest, via radio.

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\* U. S. POSTAGE PAID \*  
\* TACOMA, WASHINGTON \*  
\* NON-PROFIT N. M. \*  
\* PERMIT #302 \*  
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WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHAPIN D. FOSTER, EDITOR

STATE HISTORICAL BUILDING

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 3.....September, 1958

## TWO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AWARDS FOR 1958 ACCORDED TO STATE OF WASHINGTON

Out of 42 awards for the entire country, the state of Washington received two awards from the American Association for State and Local History, the announcement being made at the annual meeting in Salt Lake City August 20.

The Seattle Historical Society received an award for its historical kits which have proved so popular with the Society's junior division.

The State Historical Society received an award for its book "Fort Vancouver". This book was regarded as one of the outstanding entries in the book division.

Book entries set a new record this year.

The Committee on Awards was faced with a more difficult task than ever before, with a new record for entries.

Two county societies were nominated for awards this year. "With regret" the committee held them over for consideration another year.

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## MASON COUNTY TO HAVE A COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING AUGUST 10

A lively forest fire which called a number to the firing line, did not stop more than 70 persons attending a meeting in Shelton to take the first steps toward organization of a Mason County Historical Society.

D. P. Murphy, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, presided.

Chapin D. Foster, director of the State Historical Society, was the principal speaker.

All parts of the county were represented and officers will be elected at a meeting to be held very soon.

All were enthusiastically for the new organization.

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No future is safe where the past is forgotten.

## OPENING OF FLOURESCENT ROCK EXHIBIT IN STATE SOCIETY BUILDING SET FOR SEPT. 28

Its been a long time coming, with no one not close to the project realizing the number of hours involved, but the date for the opening of the Rock Hounds fluorescent exhibit has been set for Sept. 28.

Of the many details involved, one or two may not be complete at that time, but it will still be the finest exhibit of its kind in America.

C. H. Robinson, Jr., who has been the 'spark plug' on the project since the start a year ago, is putting in long night hours on the show, assisted by several other electrical experts, including Dave Brown and Chet Sander.

There are close to 1500 electrical connections in the exhibit. Its in a class all by itself.

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## TACOMA PROPELLER CLUB JOINS STATE SOCIETY IN DEVELOPING MARINE EXHIBIT

The marine section of the State Society museum is undergoing a facelifting. It is hoped to have the section ready for public inspection by September 28.

The Tacoma Propeller Club is joining forces with the Society in developing the new section. Exhibits will be changed frequently.

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## MR. AND MRS. ODLIN HOSTS

Mr. and Mrs. Reno Odlin were luncheon hosts to the Board of Curators of the State Society following the meeting August 9. Mr. Odlin is president of the Society and inaugurated this much appreciated custom three years ago. The Odlins have a beautiful home in North Tacoma overlooking Commencement Bay.

There were 45 in attendance.

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# MAIN BUILDING OF CHELAN COUNTY MUSEUM NEARS COMPLETION AT CASHMERE

The news from Cashmere is that the fine new Chelan County Historical Society museum is virtually finished. This represents one of the finest cooperative community undertakings in the state.

It's a safe guess that every community organization in Cashmere has had a hand in this museum project, and scores of individuals. Cases for the main hall have been completed. There will be three pioneer rooms on the lower floor.

Grounds around the building are being landscaped and will be planted as soon as practical.

An unexpected gift is being announced. Ernest Tonk, a well known artist and formerly a Cashmere resident, has offered the Society a 4-6 mural scene. This represents about \$800 and is very much appreciated by the Society.

No date for formal opening of the museum has been set but when it comes the citizens of Chelan County are in for a thrill.

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## HE DESERVES IT

If there is one man whose work is outstanding in connection with the new Chelan County museum at Cashmere it's John McDonald, manager of Western Stores in that city. Along with his work for the museum, John--and his wife--have had time to sell refrigerators and freezers. More than any other store in nine western states. So in January the McDonald family--Dad, Mother and the boys will let others run the Museum project while they cavort along the beaches in Hawaii. Congratulations to the McDonalds and Cashmere. It's a fine honor richly deserved.

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The past summer has been a great season for visitors to the State Society building--more visitors than any previous year, and from every state in the Union. Plus visitors from many foreign countries. American visitors are interested in knowing more about the Northwest and foreign visitors are anxious to learn all about the country of which they have heard so much.

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# HUNDREDS SEE HISTORICAL PARADE SPONSORED BY ORCAS ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For eight years the Orcas Island Historical Society has sponsored a parade in Eastsound. This year the event occurred July 19.

This parade is probably in a class by itself in many ways.

There are no commercial floats permitted in the parade. They all have something to do with history. That alone would make the parade unique.

First on the parade program was an organ recital from the Community Church with Mrs. Winifred Johnson of Upland, Cal., at the console.

John Harrison, society president, presided at the public address system and fittingly set the scene for the parade that was to follow.

Mr. Harrison said the present generation must do all in its power to preserve fast disappearing relics of the past. He told of the three-cabin museum already completed and filled with artifacts. Eventually there will be five cabins and a concrete block unit. Members of the society have donated both the time and money for the development of this fine project. There are several special exhibits in the buildings now.

One of the interesting floats of the parade was entered by the Deer Harbor Community Club and depicted Norton's Inn of 50 years ago. This depicted the beginning of the Orcas Island resort business which is flourishing at such a lively pace today.

There were some 15 floats in the parade--not a large number as parades go today but a record crowd got a thrill out of the procession. In addition to floats, there were a number of groups of pioneers, and marching units.

Altogether it was the most successful parade the society has sponsored and a credit to those who worked so hard to put it together.

The Orcas Society is undertaking a big job in preserving the history of that very interesting island. They're trying to get the history of each homestead of piece of school land, also the history to accompany it.

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Historical Societies preserve Washington history.



# 1959 WILL BE AN IMPORTANT YEAR IN WALLA WALLA WITH THREE CENTENNIAL EVENTS

Walla Walla, city and county, will be in for a very full year of activity in 1959 with three centennial events to be observed.

The Walla Walla County Historical and Pioneer Society will have a very active part in the development of these commemorative programs.

The first events will be the establishment of county government, also the beginning of the city of Walla Walla. Along with these will be the anniversary of the charter to Whitman College.

Miss Margaret Pettyjohn, president of the historical society, is working already on a historical parade that will tell the story of Walla Walla County.

Both Miss Pettyjohn and the Society can be depended on to do a good job at this point for the county has such an interesting history. The development of county, city and Whitman College has been such during the past century that any centennial observance will turn back some very interesting pages of Washington history.

It can be noted that Miss Pettyjohn is also a member of the State Beautification Committee for the Century 21 Exposition in Seattle. Her particular interest is the beautification of historical sites.

At the annual meeting of the society officers, in addition to Miss Pettyjohn, were elected as follows: Mrs. Frank Lowden, vice president; Mrs. Charles Dement, secretary; Miss Eloise Thomas, historian; Mrs. Sam Grant, Mrs. Emma Davis and Miss Arminda Fix, regional vice presidents.

Miss Thomas recounted the history of the Pioneer Association, organized in 1886 and now part of the historical society.

The society hopes to have a fine exhibit at the Southwestern Washington District Fair. Albert Culverwell, historian of the State Parks and Recreation Commission, was the principal speaker, telling of the work of the Department in preserving historical sites in Washington. He spoke particularly of the work at Fort Columbia, Fort Simcoe, and the forthcoming development at the site of Fort Okanogan, where a museum will be built.

The story of Felix Warren and early day staging was told.

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# WAHKIAKUM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S DREAM OF MUSEUM NEARS REALIZATION

For years the Wahkiakum County Historical Society has been dreaming of a museum.

The start, as recounted in News-Letter some months back, was hardly auspicious for a dynamite blast for the basement got out of bounds and just about wrecked the whole project.

That might have been true in some places but not Cathlamet. When the smoke cleared the society boosters took a deep breath and went back to work.

After eight months of volunteer work, principally under the direction of Chick Shannon and Frank Shuster, the work has progressed to a point where members of the society were promised a preview early in September.

Formal opening of the fireproof building is set for later in the month or as soon as possible.

Both the town of Cathlamet and county of Wahkiakum are giving financial assistance. This is one of the best investments the two branches of government can make.

The Society has taken over items stored in a barn erected in 1880. The items were saved from the time of the original settlers.

Tom McDonnell, Society treasurer, has undertaken the painting of the interior of the building.

R. G. Hughes, president of the society, has been BUSY on this project from its inception. Recently he paid a visit to the State Society building. Without his leadership it is doubtful if the project would have progressed so successfully.

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# SALMON BAKE AT VANCOUVER

August 19 was the date for the annual salmon bake for the Fort Vancouver Restoration and Historical Society. This is always an important event and 1958 was not exception.

Brig. Gen. Owen Summers, Ret., is president of the Society and is holding monthly meetings of the Executive Committee during the summer months. The society is planning an active program for the immediate future.

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Investment---State Society membership.



# Chats with the Editor—

THE EDITOR BRINGS HIS

"CHATS" TO A CLOSE

Not the close for News-Letter, just the close of the Chapter in which the present Editor has the privilege of putting issues of News-Letter together. It is 13 years since the first issue of News-Letter made its appearance as part of the program of the Washington State Historical Society. At this point the first copy was brought out from the files. We looked at the statement of the president, the late S. A. Perkins, in which he said the purpose of News-Letter would be to acquaint members of the Society and others with what the Society was doing. He stated that News-Letter hoped to be a clearing house for activities of all historical societies in Washington, that the little publication hoped to play its part in the preservation of Washington History.

"Chats with the Editor" was a feature of that first issue. The third paragraph said Washington is becoming more history-conscious. How true that has proven. The fourth paragraph stated that Washington should have a historical society in each county. Expansion of that statement has been one of the thrills of serving as Director for 15 years. We have passed the half-way mark with a rush and it should not be long before there actually is an active society in every county.

Minnesota now has a society in every county and the state society of that state is very proud of the part it has played in that development. The goal has not been reached in Washington but the second half should move ahead rapidly. That first issue of News-Letter couldn't tell of any county historical society. Just glance through this issue and see what has happened. The Editor will look back on this chapter of association with the State Society as one of great challenge and opportunity.

The Editor has enjoyed thoroughly his association with local societies, the other societies under state sponsorship. Its been a thrill to watch the development of local museums in the state and to have had a small part in this program.

On another page the new Director of the Society will have an opportunity to introduce himself to the readers of News-Letter. This little publication goes to members of the State Society, members of local societies, members of the State Legislature, editors of newspapers and to radio and television stations. To all, the Editor says, "Thank You" in 72-point type and expresses the hope that his successor receives the fine cooperation he has enjoyed.

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JOIN THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

FOR STATE & LOCAL HISTORY

Here's a suggestion for all local societies in Washington--join the American Association for State and Local History. The headquarters is at 816 State Street, Madison, Wis. The cost is \$2, but will be \$3 very soon. Its one of the best investments a local society can make. The Association is interested particularly in the work of local societies.

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CELEBRATE COMMUNITY ANNIVERSARIES

BUT DON'T FORGET THE HISTORY

Washington communities are going to face up to centennial possibilities with increasing frequency. That's all to the good, but in developing celebration programs don't forget the event that's being commemorated. In the rush its easy to take the historical background for granted, overlooking a most valuable phase of the observance.

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# JACK SPLAWN PIONEER CABIN RIDES IN SOAP LAKE PARADE: NOW HAS PERMANENT HOME

One of the important features of the big celebration in Soap Lake was the appearance of the Jack Splawn cabin.

Splawn was one of the most colorful characters of early Central Washington history. In later life he served as mayor of Yakima.

For a long time the Grant County Historical Society, led by Cull White, has been determined to save the cabin and place in the Society's museum grounds at Soap Lake.

Merritt-Chapman-Scott Corp., builders of the Priest Rapids Dam, spent \$1000 preparing the cabin for hauling and Consolidated Freightways spent \$500 moving it to Soap Lake for the parade and then placing it on the Society's site near Soap Lake Junction of Highways 11 and 7. Homer Splawn, Yakima attorney and son of Jack Splawn, rode a horse in the parade with Cull White.

The annual Indian Gathering at Soap Lake proved a bigger success than ever. Indians and the community want a full week next year.

White writes that Indians want 60 tepees next year and are anxious to hold a Northwest Indian Conference at the same time. Moses Lake wants to add 200 more tepee poles to the Society's growing collection.

Indians invite the public to see their decorated wigwams. They plan to invite the Coast Indians to participate in the races on Soap Lake next year.

The Grant County Historical Society is growing rapidly in strength and is doing a fine job in getting its museum program under way at Soap Lake.

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# ATTENDANCE AT COWLITZ COUNTY MUSEUM SHOWS INCREASE SINCE HOURS LENGTHENED

Keeping the Cowlitz County museum open for visitors more days and hours longer has resulted in increased attendance.

More than 1000 visitors were registered in the first five months of 1958.

Then the increase got under way. For June 543 visitors, 104 of whom were from outside the state; July 522 with 84 from outside the state.

In June there were 30 visitors from the Columbia County Historical Museum.

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The State Historical Society could make excellent use of wooden dasher churn.

# PIONEER PICNIC AT LA CONNER DRAWS RECORD ATTENDANCE: FINE PUBLICITY

The 54th annual meeting of the Skagit County Pioneer Association was held in early August in LaConner and proved another successful session.

One of the big assets of the Association in the publicity given it by the Puget Sound Mail, oldest weekly newspaper in Washington, now in its 86th year.

M. P. 'Pat' O'Leary, editor of The Mail, has been more than active in supporting the work of the Pioneer Association. Each year he puts out a special edition of The Mail and this year was no exception. The paper was well filled with pictures of early days in Skagit County.

Judge Chas. F. Stafford of the Island County Superior Court, son of a pioneer, was the principal speaker.

John Conrad, historian, paid tribute to pioneers who had passed on.

Luncheon was served by the LaConner Civic Garden Club.

One of the features of the meeting was the report of the Skagit County Museum Committee. The committee had met with enthusiastic response in its museum survey. The committee is headed by Francis Jensen of LaConner, and includes Mrs. Veda Faller, Wally Funk of Anacortes, Ann Harrison of Sedro Woolley, Claude Davis of Conway and Pat O'Leary of LaConner. There is considerable talk of a Skagit County Historical Society.

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# PARTNERS CONVERT OLD GIG HARBOR FARM TO SCANDIA GAARD MUSEUM; OVERLOOKS SOUND

Washington has gained another museum and a very interesting one. It overlooks the Sound at Gig Harbor and is the conversion of an old farm into the "Scandia Gaard" Museum by Wilber Johnson and Olaf Thorstenson.

They say the view from the museum is identical to southern Norway, plus Mount Rainier.

The two men have been working several years on the project. Farm buildings have been converted into museum units. More work is planned.

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Tacoma items before 1900--A State Society special case can use them.



#### SNOHOMISH COUNTY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION COMPLETES LEASE OF LEGION PARK BUILDING

For several years reports from the Snohomish County Museum Association have included the thought "We are going ahead with our museum dreams".

The latest report from President Loren Baker opens with the words: "This time I am pleased to send you the report".

The report is that the Association has completed lease on a building in Legion Park at the north end of Everett.

The building is one formerly used by the Indian Service, two stories and basement with large vault which will be excellent for the storage of valuable items.

City officials are working with the Society in the development of the project.

The building has an excellent location near the Junior College, adjacent to park buildings and property which is maintained by the park board.

Members of the Society are enthusiastic over the way the museum project has worked out.

The Society expected to have an exhibit in the Snohomish County Fair at Monroe.

In addition to President Baker, officers of the Society are: John Hall, 1st vice president; Alvin Petterson, 3rd vice pres.; Ralph Schaplet, treasurer; Board of Governor, three years, Dr. M. M. Stocker, Mrs. Lewis Palmer, A. M. Glassberg, Mrs. Martha Muckey, Alvin Petershagen, Lee McIntosh.

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#### JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GETS TWO EXCELLENT NEW EXHIBITS

Among new attractions at the Jefferson County Historical Society museum are an old collection of mounted pheasants and a fine collection of coral from the South Seas.

The coral collection was the gift of Mrs. Charles G. Campbell, long time resident of Port Townsend and dates back to the 1880's.

There are about 75 varieties of coral in the collection. It was started by Mrs. Campbell's father, Henry Bash, who was shipping commissioner at Port Townsend years ago. Ship captains sailing the South Seas, were asked to bring samples of coral, which they did, building up a remarkable collection.

Mrs. Campbell's brother, Alfred Bash, was in China in the early 1880's and

brought to the Port in 1883 a unique collection which included ring-neck and other varieties of Oriental pheasants. Another brother, Frank, was an expert taxidermist and in due time mounted the birds, making a very interesting exhibit which is now on display in the museum, a gift of Mrs. Campbell.

It is believed that the pheasants brought by Mr. Bash were the first to reach Washington. The bamboo case in which the pheasants were shipped, is also on display.

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#### IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY MARKS CENTENNIAL OF FAMOUS CHURCH AT CLAQUATO, LEWS COUNTY

A century ago pioneers settling at Claquato in Lewis County, erected a church.

Today it is the oldest church building which is still standing and usable.

August 10th, centennial of the building of the church was fittingly observed with an impressive service on the church grounds three miles west of Chehalis.

Roscoe B. Doane, president of the Claquato Association, presided.

Several years ago Lewis County, together with civic groups headed by Mr. Doane, restored the pioneer church and today it is in excellent condition for many more years of service.

During the afternoon of the service the church was open to visitors. The original organ, pulpit and pews are in the church.

County Treasurer Harold Quick rang the church bell at the opening of the program, Mrs. Robert Kennicott read a poem, "The Roadside Church", Mrs. O. W. Roundtree presented a plaque for the Daughters of Pioneers, and a mixed quartet was heard in two numbers. Invocation and benediction were presented by Rev. Geo. M. Shuman. Organ music was played by Ted Teitzel, Jr.

Stephen F. Chadwick of Seattle, whose father crossed the plains in 1851, was the principal speaker. He paid high tribute to the pioneers who had built the church and the ideals which they represented.

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The State Historical Society can use boy's and Miss's clothing before 1900.



# MRS. C. P. McNABB NEW PRESIDENT OF PIERCE COUNTY PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The annual potluck picnic of the Pierce County Pioneer and Historical Society was held July 9 at Lincoln Park in Tacoma.

Mrs. Mabel Fulton presided at the business meeting and officers were elected as follows:

President--Mrs. C. P. McNabb.

Vice President--Mrs. J. I. Haines.

Secretary--Walter Spinning.

Treasurer--Mrs. Mabel Fulton.

Trustees--Mrs. R. N. Herr and Mrs. Dwight Wells.

Mrs. McNabb is planning a very active program for the Society during the coming year.

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## PHONE COMPANY BOOSTS VANCOUVER MUSEUM

For several years the Seroptimist Club of Vancouver has been working on the Grant House museum and doing a fine job. This service has been recognized by the Telephone Company at Vancouver by using a picture of Grant House on the cover of the Vancouver Phone directory. The picture is printed in five colors. The last issue of News-Letter told of the work of the Seroptimist Club in developing a fine museum in this historic building on the Vancouver Barracks grounds.

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## PALISADES POTLATCH BROUGHT TOGETHER INDIANS AND PIONEERS, WAS BIG SUCCESS

With Cull White as the moving spirit, another Palisades Potlatch was held in May at Palisades.

The purpose of the gathering, started by White and Art Allen, is to bring pioneers together for an afternoon of story-swapping.

The Wenatchee World gave the affair three pictures across the top of Page 1, and also printed a lead editorial on Chief Moses.

White called on pioneers, white and Indian, to recall stories of the early days in Central Washington.

George Nanamkin introduced the tribal drummers and dancers, and with his grandsons, sang and drummed early songs.

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## W. G. DANEKAS, RITZVILLE, NEW PRESIDENT OF ADAMS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Officers of the active Adams County Historical Society have been elected as follows:

President--W. G. Danekas, Ritzville.

Vice President--Mrs. Joe Hays, Lind.

Treasurer--Lewell Eden, Lind.

Secretary--Mrs. Thos. A. Malone, Othello.

The Adams County Society is one of the younger societies of the state and is developing an active program of historical preservation in that area.

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## KITSAP COUNTY IN PARADE

Whether its County Fair or a community parade, count on the Kitsap County Historical Society to be in it. When Armed Forces Day was observed, the society had a float in the parade. A member dressed in fishing outfit was doing a fishing act, this time fishing for funds for the society's museum building, for which space has been set aside in a new Bremerton Park. The museum will come one of these days.

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## NEW OKANOGAN TOURIST BOOK PUBLISHED BY "CHRONICLE": FEATURES COUNTY HISTORY

Bruce Wilson, publisher of the Omak Chronicle and former publisher of the Journal-Times at Ritzville, where he was instrumental in organizing the Adams Co. Historical Society, has proven again his deep interest in history.

Wilson has published "Okanogan Vacationland", a county tourist book.

This is an outstanding piece of publicity for the county, but one of the features that appeals most to News-Letter is the amount of history Mr. Wilson has featured in the book.

Okanogan abounds in history and Wilson overlooks no part of it. He says "history adds an exciting fourth dimension to anybodys travels" and goes on to give the visitor to his county plenty of fourth dimension.

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A FINE INVESTMENT--Membership in the State Historical Society. Only \$4 and it includes subscription to the Pacific Northwest Quarterly.



# WINTHROP IN METHOW VALLEY HAS AN INTERESTING MUSEUM WORTH A VISIT

If you are in the Methow Valley in North Central Washington, you won't want to miss Winthrop for there's a lot of history in that district, and when you reach Winthrop don't fail to visit the museum.

The man in charge of the museum is Guy R. Cooper, whose first interest is writing a book.

That was his interest when he landed in Winthrop. The owner of the museum turned the building over to him as a place to live and he found his interest switching from the book to the museum.

In that country there's a lot of hunting and fishing, so Mr. Cooper has a number of interests tugging at his time schedule.

One thing seems pretty certain, that when he finishes the book the museum and Methow Valley are very apt to claim him as a permanent resident.

Mr. Cooper writes that the museum has a fine collection of tools, implements, cooking utensils, wearing apparel, old guns, jewelry, stage coach and narrow gauge wagon, furniture, wooden planes, spinning wheels, and other pioneer items. Well, what more does a small museum need. Most of the items were hand made.

There is also a collection of antiques and other items, all of which should prove that a trip to the Winthrop museum if in that district is a "MUST".

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## ADAMS COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING

The spring meeting of the Adams County Historical Society was held in Washtucna. A picnic and inspection trip to the Lucas Corrals followed the meeting.

Much interest has been shown in the society with all meetings well attended.

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## PROVING REAL INTEREST

Cull White of the Grant County Historical Society, writes that at the meeting at Mattawa there were two people who rode 76 miles each in order to attend. They were Helen Beck of Warden and Percy Penhaluric of Moses Lake. The Society is getting enthusiastic members in all towns in that area. At that meeting plans for the museum site at Soap Lake were discussed and real progress reported.

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## WASHINGTON REPRESENTED AT ANNUAL HISTORICAL MEETING IN SALT LAKE CITY

Three men from Washington represented the state at the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History at Salt Lake City August 17-20.

The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Association of Archivists.

Attending the sessions were Joel E. Ferris, Spokane, president of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Chapin D. Foster, director of the Washington State Historical Society, and Ralph Burcham, assistant state archivist.

The Historical Association held sessions Monday and Wednesday, with Tuesday given over to a field trip which included Great Salt Lake, the Kennecott Copper Mine and the Sons of Utah Pioneers Museum Village.

Horace E. Sorenson has this very interesting project as a hobby on grounds adjoining his beautiful home. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Sorenson entertained 300 guests at dinner on their lawn.

The Daughters of Utah Pioneers have a very fine Memorial Museum which was visited Monday morning and where the delegates were entertained at breakfast.

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## Klickitat County Expected to Organize County Historical Society During Fair

With preliminary steps taken, it was expected that the Klickitat County Historical Society would be organized during the annual county fair.

Interest in the organization of a society has been increasing steadily in recent years. Klickitat County is rich in early Washington history.

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## FROM THE EMPIRE BUILDER

"Dear Mr. Foster: This is just a hurried note as I travel to Montana to thank you for all the time you gave me at the museum this afternoon, and to tell you how interesting you made it for me".

THERESA REYLER, Lecturer.

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Any pioneer school relics? State Historical Society can use them.



# KITSAP COUNTY SOCIETY SHOWS OLD-TIME KITCHEN IN COUNTY FAIR EXHIBIT THIS YEAR

As usual, the Kitsap County Historical Society had a fine exhibit at the County Fair. This time it was a pioneer kitchen.

In the kitchen was an old time stove with cat asleep in front of it, kitchen sink with pioneer pump that pumped water, flour container, coffee mill, lamps, sewing machine, bread mixer, wall telephone, churn, table set with red and white cloth, mustache at "Father's" place.

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## VISITORS FROM EVERYWHERE

The register in the State Historical Society building this year shows visitors from every state in the Union and an unusually large number of foreign countries. A new record was set for the summer months.

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## FALL MONTHS SHOULD SEE ACTIVE PROGRAM OF LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

Last issue of News-Letter included a list of counties where local societies could and should be organized. We're taking Mason and Klickitat off as they're 'in'.

Remaining are Asotin, Columbia, Whitman, Skamania, Lewis, Skagit, Whatcom, Okanogan, Ferry, Douglas, Pend d'Oreille, Franklin, Garfield, Kittitas.

On the firing line--Present societies, Federation Women's Clubs, Daughters of Pioneers, Pioneer Associations, newspapers.

9/2/58  
CDF:PMc

## INTRODUCING BRUCE LE ROY WHO BECOMES DIRECTOR STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY JAN. 1

Acting Director Sept. 1, Bruce LeRoy becomes Director of the Washington State Historical Society January 1.

Mr. LeRoy is a graduate of the University of California, is a veteran of World War II, attended the Far Eastern School at Harvard, served as cadet instructor at West Point. He was manager of the College Department of Foundation Press of New York, with headquarters at Berkeley.

Since 1950 he has been West Coast representative of Houghton Mifflin Co. with territory from Alaska and Western Canada to Northern California. He has been an avid collector of Western Americana and has written on the North-West for the San Francisco Chronicle.

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The September Art schedule in the State Historical Society gallery brings an exhibit of paintings by Mrs. Winston Coy and Mrs. R. A. Campbell. The Pacific Gallery Artists in October and William Phillips, who has spent the past year in Europe, shows his new paintings in November.

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BULLETIN--Jack Irwin, one of most active members of the Snohomish Co. Society, candidate for the Legislature, dropped dead as he was being introduced at a political meeting August 28. He had suffered a heart attack in June.

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
315 NORTH STADIUM WAY  
TACOMA 3, WASHINGTON

MR. CLICK RELANDER,  
1212 NO. 32nd AVE  
YAKIMA WASHINGTON

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# News Notes Washington State Historical Society

Bruce Le Roy, Editor

March 1959

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## A PROGRAM OF TEAMWORK

When a new editor takes over the operation of a publication he is conceded the right to make a few remarks outlining the aims of the publication. Indeed — it is difficult to prevent him! It seems in order, then, to sketch briefly what road NEWS NOTES may be expected to travel with new hands on the reins.

The function of a newsletter from the State Historical Society is to keep the members informed of significant developments affecting the Society's growth. Our charter defines three distinct tasks which we are required to perform: to collect, to preserve, and to publish materials related to the history of the Pacific Northwest, and particularly the history of Washington State. With this as our guide, then, NEWS NOTES will report regularly on important accessions, both for the museum and the library of the Society. Information concerning changes and additions in the museum will be given. News about current and forthcoming publications of the Society will appear in NEWS NOTES. Reports of growth in membership (we hope!) will be made on a regular schedule.

We believe that the above is the primary function of NEWS NOTES. On the assumption that all local historical groups are interested in the activities of the State Society, valuable space will be allotted in that order. We will try to report some of the more significant activities of the local societies. We appreciate the help local societies have given in the past in the form of reports of local activities. We urge that you continue to send us such information. Most of the local societies publish regular reports for local consumption. NEWS NOTES will attempt to coordinate these reports in such a way as to furnish comparative suggestions for activities at the level of the local historical society.

The Washington State Historical Society is located at 315 North Stadium Way, Tacoma 3. The telephone number is FULTON 3-2509. The five-floor museum which is Society headquarters is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9-5; Sunday, 2-5. Closed Mondays.

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**IMPORTANT IN THIS ISSUE . . . PACIFIC NORTHWEST HISTORY CONFERENCE  
W. S. H. S. MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN**



## ABRAHAM LINCOLN SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Governor Rosellini has asked the State Historical Society to coordinate all Lincoln celebrations within the state during 1959. This is a year in which every facet of the great President's life and career is being pinpointed around the nation. Several notable memorial programs have already been held in Washington State. Lincoln's birthday was the occasion for a memorial service in the State Capitol. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Thomas A. Swayze, the program was highlighted by a fine address by Judge Matthew Hill. Whitman College, celebrating its centennial, furnished its choir for the service. At the University of Washington a choral reading from the works of Abraham Lincoln was performed. Various local historical societies have scheduled one meeting during the year for a Lincoln program. We urge all local societies to include one such meeting in their planning for 1959. The State Historical Society has on hand a manual of information which will help you in your planning. The handbook will be sent upon request, but because of a limited supply not more than one copy can be sent to any group.

In our Tacoma museum, a large Lincoln exhibit is on view for the year. Lincoln relics, pictures, letters, newspapers, and plaques have been gathered from our own, and private collections. As *its contribution to the national celebration, the Washington State Historical Society is making a census of all Lincoln materials in private hands*. The Society will publish its findings at the end of the Sesquicentennial year. Already, some remarkable manuscripts and artifacts have come to light as a result of the statewide publicity given to the Lincoln census. We urge anyone knowing of Lincoln materials in private hands to report such information to the Director of the State Historical Society to help make the census as complete as possible.

Before the Sesquicentennial year ends the State Historical Society is planning an **EVENING WITH MATTHEW BRADY**. We have in our collection many of the lantern slides which Brady used

in his lectures, together with the projector which he used. Lincoln pictures, Civil War scenes, contemporary pictures from the Lincoln era, some of which are believed unique, make up one of the finest collections of its kind in the United States.

### THE KIBBE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The most notable accession this year, or in many years, is the fine library of Pacific Northwest Americana collected by the late Professor Lynus A. Kibbe, of Bellingham. With the cooperation of Mrs. Pearl A. Kibbe and Mr. Merle A. Kibbe, the library has been transferred to the museum in Tacoma. Prof. Kibbe once received the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History for this magnificent collection. When catalogued, the Society will have available for research one of the finest gatherings of regional history in the West.

### MANUSCRIPT ACCESSIONS

Many notable manuscript collections have been added to the library holdings in the past few months. The papers of General H. M. Chittenden, author of **AMERICAN FUR TRADE IN THE FAR WEST**, surveyor of the Yellowstone, builder of the Port of Seattle, have been received. A biography and checklist of the Chittenden achievements appears in the current **PACIFIC NORTHWEST QUARTERLY**. The papers include unpublished manuscripts of real importance to regional history.

The papers of Ralph Chaplin, "poet-laureate" of the I.W.W., are a unique addition to our manuscript holdings. Chaplin, a remarkable and many-sided figure, exhibited his paintings recently in the gallery of the museum. The Chaplin papers cover much of the early labor history of the Pacific Northwest. In addition, there is correspondence with many of the leading literary figures of the 20th century. George Sterling, Carl Sandburg, Upton Sinclair, Jack London, and many others are represented. Rare pamphlets

and pictures on labor history have been gathered from other sources with Mr. Chaplin's help. The collection promises to be a treasure-trove for scholars when catalogued for use.

### Voyage of Fur Traders

An exciting find recently is a 112 page manuscript from a descendant of Captain John Kendrick, luckless colleague of Captain Robert Gray, discoverer of the Columbia River. Kendrick and Gray brought the earliest fur-trading expedition to the Northwest Coast, the first voyage being made in 1787-88. On a second voyage in 1793 Kendrick was killed accidentally. His ship, the **LADY WASHINGTON**, was lost soon after. The ship's log, Kendrick's journals, and other historic data, were lost as a result. Years after, a grandson of Captain Kendrick attempted a "gathering of the scriptures" concerning Kendrick's part in Northwest exploration and discovery. The manuscript contains copies of correspondence (not the originals) between Kendrick and Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams; memorials to Congress by the Kendrick family; records of the sale of lands near Nootka Sound to Kendrick by the Indians, and other fascinating materials. Together with the manuscript is the original medal struck by Paul Revere to honor the voyages of the **COLUMBIA** and the **LADY WASHINGTON** to the Northwest Coast.

### First Iron Clad Ship

As one exciting result of the new Lincoln census, the Society has acquired the plans of the first iron-clad ship, supposedly the forerunner of the Confederate ship **MERRIMAC**. A manuscript from the inventor, William Burr, descendent of Aaron Burr, reads like a cloak-and-dagger story. The plans were submitted to the Navy Department in the 1840's, disappeared, and when the **MERRIMAC** was built for the South in the Civil War, the two plans were almost identical. Burr also designed the first submarine (so the manuscript claims) and one of the first floating dry-docks. These plans, plus correspondence from Gideon Wells, Secretary of the Navy under Lincoln, are now in the Museum, soon to be displayed

in new manuscript cases sponsored by the Propeller Club of Tacoma.

### History in the Making

In December, the Society acquired the original manuscript of President Eisenhower's address to the **COLOMBO CONFERENCE** in Seattle. The first address by an American President to an international conference in the Pacific Northwest, the manuscript came to the Society through the good offices of Edgar Eisenhower, brother of the President, and Tacoma attorney. A presentation ceremony at the museum marked acceptance for the Society by Mrs. Byron Scott, chairman of the library committee. President Odlin, Chapin Foster, Alta West, Dutton Hayward, and the present Director, were in attendance at the ceremony. National publicity resulted when the story was picked up by the Associated Press.

To cheer the Democrats of the state, the scrapbooks and mementos of Harry Hopkins, Secretary of Commerce under Franklin D. Roosevelt, have been deposited with the Society by Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Hopkins, of Tacoma. Included in the collection are signed broadsides and memos from the **ATLANTIC CHARTER** meeting during World War II. Winston Churchill, Roosevelt, Hopkins, and all the notables present at the signing of the **ATLANTIC CHARTER** are represented by signed mementos.

### Gold Mine of Material

The Seattle **TIMES** of February 22nd carried a three page story about a rare file of **THE NORTHERN LIGHT**, first newspaper published in northwestern Washington Territory. The product of the rush to the Fraser gold fields, the newspaper file disappeared three times in its long history before finding a safe home in the library of the Society. **THE NORTHERN LIGHT** throws an interesting searchlight upon the rugged days of the 1850's in Washington Territory. Mrs. Byron Scott helped to negotiate the acquisition with the Bellingham **HERALD**, owners of the rare file.

Other interesting manuscript acquisitions include the reminiscences of a man



who recalled his boyhood with Daniel Boone in Kentucky, the great religious revival on the Tennessee frontier in the early 1800's, but never got around to recording his experiences in the westward migration with a Marcus Whitman wagon train, or his labors as a territorial judge in old Oregon. Also added to the collections in Tacoma were the papers of the Whitfield (early Snohomish historian) family; the D'Ablaing papers; the Painter papers (Indian war recollections); and a fine collection of Civil War diaries and journals to help us prepare for the coming Civil War centennial.

There have been other fine additions to the collections of the State Historical Society, but this gives you some indication of the gold mine of research materials for future historians and students which is now here. All will be catalogued and prepared for use in the library of the Society.

## **MUSEUM ACCESSIONS AND NEW EXHIBITS**

While the Library has increased its holdings of regional history, the Museum has not suffered. New at the Museum is a fine collection of Indian artifacts donated by the family of the late Hilden J. Pryde, Sr. of Hoquiam. Included are Indian baskets, carvings, beadwork, boat models, and many artifacts of value to our Indian and Alaskan exhibits. Robert Hitchman accompanied the Director to Hoquiam, and helped to sort and pack the collection for transport to Tacoma, a service similar to his help in the preparation of the Kibbe collection in Bellingham, for which assistance Mr. Hitchman deserves a public thank-you.

Another fine collection was the addition of the Barry Bidwell exhibit of the history of flight, represented in the fine models of airplanes to guided missiles which the Tacoma youth built. The Air Age is traced from the flight at Kitty Hawk by the Wright brothers, to the missiles of this fast-moving age of space. Throngs of boys and girls who visit this exhibit attest to its popularity with the younger set.

A striking addition to the natural history floor features two bobcats under a "hunter's moon" in the wintry high Cascades. Sponsored by Morris and Herman Kleiner, of Tacoma, John Gipple, taxidermist, and Kenn Johnson, staff artist, rate many bows for their beautiful production.

A large model of the clipper ship POTICIA which sailed in the nitrate trade from Chile to the Northwest Coast was presented by the Mountain View hospital to the Museum. Built by a patient some twenty years ago, the name of the builder is unknown today. A history of the ship, fortunately, came with the model, which was beautifully mounted in a large glass case.

The POTICIA will add luster to the wing of maritime history which is expanding with the help of the PROPELLER CLUB of Tacoma. These enthusiasts of maritime history are also sponsoring a manuscript case for the exhibit of manuscripts and pictures related to maritime history. Three cases are being constructed in the Museum workshop for installation in the wing leading to the library. Each case will be used to display manuscripts, pictures, and maps related to some important phase of Pacific Northwest history. By the time of the April Society meeting they should be in place and filled with important exhibits.

## **CATALOGUING THE CURTIS COLLECTION**

Miss Mamie Engbretson, librarian from the staff of the College of Puget Sound, is cataloguing the vast Asahel Curtis collection of negatives in the library. Her project for a master's degree in librarianship, Miss Engbretson hopes to make a substantial dent in the enormous task of cataloguing some 30,000 glass negatives of real importance to Northwest history.

## **INDIAN BASKET COLLECTION**

Under the direction of Dr. Erna Gunther, foremost authority on the Indians of the Pacific Northwest, graduate students from the University of Washington are cleaning, classifying, and cataloguing the large collection of Indian baskets in storage at the Museum. Already considered one of the finest collections of baskets in the United States, the work was enlarged by the recent addition of the Pryde collection from Hoquiam. The ultimate aim of the work is to present a comparative exhibit of the craftsmanship of the Indians of the Pacific Northwest.

For a general account of the attractions of the Museum for the school youth of the state, the forthcoming issue of WASHINGTON EDUCATION will carry an article tentatively titled MUSEUM BY THE BAY. School groups visit our Museum every day the Museum is open helping to swell last year's visitor total to about 85,000. To simplify the planning for school visits, the article points out what tours are suited to various age groups. Mrs. Elizabeth Taplin, competent staff member in charge of educational programs, may soon need substantial help to handle the work of guiding the tours.

## **ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING**

Soon the announcement of the annual meeting of the Society will be in the mails, together with the ballot for the election of members of the Board of Curators. Scheduled for April 4th, the annual meeting will be held this year at the museum. Many requests have been made that the Museum be the place of meeting so that the members will have an opportunity to visit the new exhibits. The Board meeting will be in the morning of April 4th. The general Society meeting will commence in McCormick Hall at the Museum at 2 p. m. An interesting program is planned, and your new Director is looking forward to meeting many members of the Society. Light refreshments will be served after the formal meeting is concluded, and an invitation to visit the five floors of exhibits extended to all.

## **PACIFIC NORTHWEST HISTORY CONFERENCE**

With the Oregon Historical Society as host, the Pacific Northwest History Conference will be held this year in Portland on April 9th, 10th, and 11th. Beginning with a smoker-mixer Thursday evening, the three day program will be highlighted by an address by Samuel Eliot Morrison, distinguished historian, whose naval histories of World War II are already considered definitive. Many interesting papers on various phases of Pacific Northwest history have been scheduled. The Council for Regional Research will hold its annual business meeting during the Conference. This is the group which is responsible for FORESHADOW, a report of regional historical research in progress. The report is under the editorship of Clarence Gorchels, Visiting Professor of Librarianship, at the Library School of the University of Washington. The Washington State Historical Society prepares the report for mailing, and the February issue was mailed recently to a list of about 250 scholars and writers. Anyone who has a project of Pacific Northwest historical research under way is urged to communicate this information to Professor Gorchels, or to the Director of the Society. Readers of FORESHADOW are generous in communicating significant information of help to individual researchers providing the individual project is made known.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

A campaign to increase the membership of the State Historical Society will soon be under way. We urge the readers of this newsletter to consider the importance of supporting your State Historical Society with active membership. This newsletter goes to more than five times the registered members of the State Society, and most of you who read it must do so because of a lively interest in promoting the work of historical preservation and the dissemination of historical information related to the Pacific Northwest. At this stage of significant growth, it would be tragic indeed if the people of the State of Washington do not come



forward to support the work of the State Historical Society — through personal membership, gifts, and collections for the museum. You will find an application blank which lists the various classes of membership on the last page of NEWS NOTES. If you do not wish to remove a page from NEWS NOTES, just make a facsimile of the application, or send the requested information, to the WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 315 North Stadium Way, Tacoma 3, Washington. Thank you for your consideration, and welcome to the team of active workers in Washington history!

### FOSTER ABROAD

By the time this is in print, Mr. and Mrs. Chapin D. Foster will be on a ship bound for the Mediterranean, the beginning of a three-month cruise which will take them to the Holy Land, Italy, England, Germany, France, Switzerland, and other points of great interest to a couple who have just completed fifteen years of service to the Society. The Fosters will return to their home at Wesley Gardens in Des Moines sometimes in June. Bon Voyage and Happy Landings!

### NEWS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES

We don't want anyone to feel slighted, but there was so much important news of State Society activity that we must mention just a few of the local society activities in this issue of NEWS NOTES. Next time we hope to have more space available.

#### Walla Walla

This historic town will celebrate its Centennial all during 1959. Whitman College has also passed its 100th year. Under the chairmanship of Margaret Pettyjohn, President of the County Historical Society, historic exhibits featuring the century of Walla Walla history, opened in February in the Museum at Walla Walla. Territorial Days will be the theme of celebrations during the month of May. W. A. Lacey is the coordinator of Centennial activities.

#### Spokane

The annual meeting of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society was held March 14th at the museum in Spokane. Bruce Le Roy, Director of the State Historical Society, spoke on THE CARE AND FEEDING OF HISTORY, a talk devoted to the importance of gathering and preserving materials of historic importance in the Pacific Northwest.

Mount Vernon and Cashmere were the settings for the formation of two new county societies recently. Cashmere is working on a new museum. More details on these developments in a later newsletter.

#### Vancouver

Fort Vancouver Historical Society held its first meeting of the year in January at historic Covington House. Dr. John Brouger was elected President of the Society to replace retiring President, General Owen Summers. Don Stewart and Howard Burnham were re-elected to the Board of Trustees. Bruce Le Roy, new Director of the Washington State Historical Society, was the principal speaker of the evening. He saluted Vancouver as the fountainhead of Pacific Northwest history, and pointed out that the first publication in the new series of Pacific Northwest history from the State Historical Society was THE HISTORY OF FORT VANCOUVER by John Hussey. The book received the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. General Summers spoke briefly on the potential of Vancouver Barracks as a historical center.

#### Goldendale

Klickitat County Historical Society was organized in the fall. Chapin D. Foster, Director Emeritus of the State Historical Society, spoke twice in the community. A total of 64 members were signed up for the Society. Officers elected to serve the new Society were: Al Mattsen, President; Ole Kress, Vice President; Mrs. Joe McCoy, Secretary; Carl Crooks, Treasurer. Every community in the county will have a representative on the Board of Trustees.

#### Shelton

The first meeting of the Mason County Historical Society in December saw the election of the following officers: President, Laurence Gosser; Vice President, P. B. Murphy; Secretary, Roy Gifford; Treasurer, Nellie Nelson. Plans are being made for participation of the Society in the 1959 Mason County Forest Festival.

The Grant County Historical Society at its last regular meeting adopted a motion that a recommendation be made to the State Historical Society through gift, legislation or other means for undesignated purposes that strong consideration be given to using such money for preserving the early county commissioners journals for the various counties in the State of Washington.

Entries in the early county commissioners journals were made in ink. These entries are fading. The pages are becoming brittle and they break.

It is our feeling that these journals up to the time the entries were typewritten in the late teens should be reproduced probably by someone in each county court house and the typewritten entries could be put out for public use since these are public records. Funds could be used to allot each county a small amount to help pay a county court house stenographer who might be designated to do this work.

We know of one county that has done this with its journals and that is Cowlitz County.

This is not the situation generally. Many of these records are fast becoming illegible. As time passes more names and hand written words are becoming unfamiliar.

Thank you for what consideration can be given to our recommendation.

Sincerely yours,  
Robert H. Ruby, M.D.

### A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE NEW DIRECTOR

We hope you like the format, coverage and flavor of NEWS NOTES as indicated by this first issue under new management. Warmest thanks are extended to each and everyone of our members who has cooperated so efficiently and generously in making this important part of the Society's activities possible. As I see it, NEWS NOTES, like any other practical effort, is a teamwork chore in which the team deserves most of the credit. In the present instance a lot of credit is due to all who pitched in and lent a hand during these first few months. We are off to a good start; but at best our first effort is only the beginning of even better results as time goes on. Once more, sincere thanks to all. Contributions and suggestions are always welcome. Now we're loggin'—lets keep up the good work!

BRUCE LE ROY, Editor

Enclosed copy of the Cowlitz County Historical Society Annual Report.

Also, the following named persons are the officers elected for the year of 1959:

Mrs. Elizabeth Boatman, President—  
Kalama  
Mr. Walter Trantow, Vice President—  
Box 92, Kelso  
Mrs. J. G. Hoffer, Secretary—511-25th  
Ave., Longview  
Mrs. William B. Blackstone, Treasurer—2308 E. Kessler, Longview  
Miss Joanna Boatman, Director —  
Kalama  
Mrs. Albert Insel, Director—Woodland  
Mrs. J. M. Sowders, Director—Longview

Sincerely,  
Beatrice Hoffer, Secretary

1959 new officers for Benton County Historical Society:

President, Mrs. Albert Kent, 414 W. Kennewick Ave.  
Vice president, Alfred Amon, 506 N. Mayfield  
Secretary, Mrs. Frank Mason, 26 E. Second  
Treasurer, Art Simsen, 3020 W. Seventh



## INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Date.....

Attention: The Director

Sir:

Please receive my application for membership in the Washington State Historical Society. I am interested in the history of Washington State and desire to help support the important work of the Society through my membership.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Enclosed is a check for the payment of dues in the amount of \$.....

*Classes of Membership—*

- 1) Annual: \$4:00
- 2) Sustaining: \$25 a year
- 3) Life: \$100
- 4) Corporate: \$100 a year

Your membership entitles you to the Pacific Northwest Quarterly, NEWS NOTES, and discounts on books and Society publications.

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