

WASHINGTON



STATE FLAG

"The official flag of the State shall be of dark green silk or bunting, bearing in its center a reproduction of the seal of the State of Washington, embroidered, printed, painted or stamped thereon. When a fringe is used it shall be of gold or yellow, the color of the same shade as the seal. The dimensions of the flag may vary." (Chapter 85, Laws of 1925.)



EARLY HISTORY

WASHINGTON was admitted to the Union Nov. 11, 1889, as the 42nd state. Created a Territory March 2, 1853, it had been a part of Oregon Territory since 1848. Before the Boundary Treaty of 1846 it was included in "The Oregon Country," that portion of the Pacific Northwest which was under joint occupancy of the United States and Great Britain following the Treaty of 1818.

The search for the "NORTHWEST PASSAGE" to the Indies led to the discovery of what is now the State of Washington and the first white men to land on Washington soil were the Spaniards Heceta and Quadra in 1775. Soon British seamen were very active in Washington waters and by 1792 Capt. George Vancouver had explored Puget Sound and had given most of the permanent names to the principal landmarks. Overland explorations began with the Lewis and Clark Expedition which arrived at the mouth of the Columbia River in 1805. British and American fur-traders contended for control of the area for the next 40 years, but it remained for the land-hungry American settlers to turn the tide in favor of the United States.



STATE TREE

Western Hemlock (*Tsuga-Heterophylla*). Adopted by the Washington State Legislature, March 18, 1947. (Chap. 191.)

STATE NICKNAME

"The Evergreen State," typifying Washington's vast forests of fir and pine.

STATE MOTTO

"Al-Ki"—an Indian word meaning "Bye and Bye." This motto appeared on the Washington Territorial seal.

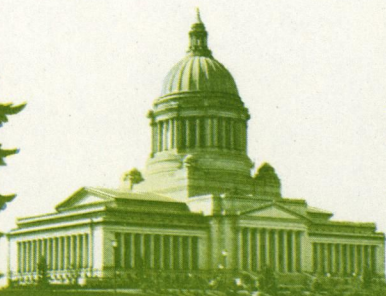


Compliments
Earl Coe
Secretary
of State

STATE FLOWER AND STATE BIRD

The rhododendron has long been acknowledged as the State flower of Washington. In 1892 the Women's Clubs of Washington decided that the State needed an official floral emblem and the coast rhododendron, which blooms in such magnificent splendor here during the month of May, was chosen. One house of the State Legislature ratified this choice on February 14, 1893. It was officially made the state flower under Chapter 18, Laws of 1949.

The school children of Washington in 1932 voted the willow goldfinch as their favorite bird. A familiar bird in Washington woods and fields, it was chosen for its characteristic flight, color and song. Four years earlier the meadow lark had received a plurality vote, but as seven other states had previously adopted it, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction called for another vote and the willow goldfinch won. In 1951 the State Legislature adopted the willow goldfinch as the official bird. (Chap. 249, Laws of 1951.)



STATE CAPITOL

Considered one of the most beautiful capitols in the United States, the Washington State Capitol was completed in 1928 at a cost of nearly \$7,000,000. The building is 339 feet wide and 235 feet deep. The lantern at the top of the dome towers 287 feet above the ground. The building weighs 74,500 tons.

STATE SEAL

The Seal of the State of Washington was adopted by the State Legislature in 1889 from a simple design made by Charles Talcott, Olympia jeweler, who drew a circle around an ink bottle, an inner circle around a silver dollar and pasted a postage stamp likeness of Washington in the center.

