

Centennial Department, Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, Washington.

Suggestion: If you have a cut of Gov. Langlie, use it.

RELEASE THURSDAY, MAY 25.

I thank you. CHAPIN D. FOSTER,  
Director.

Washingtonians should be thinking of 1953 - Territorial Centennial Year - with a view to making it the most outstanding year in Washington history to date.

This is the opinion of Governor Arthur B. Langlie, who sees in the centennial year an opportunity for Washington to sell itself more firmly, not only to the nation but to her own citizens.

"Centennial Year can be just 1953 or it can be one of the great years of Washington history", said Gov. Langlie in a statement to the Washington State Historical Society, centennial sponsoring agency by legislative resolution. "What the year becomes rests with our citizens. Washington has a rich heritage of history, and we will do well to realize that there are many thousands of our people who know practically nothing of that heritage.

"Washington's role in Northwest history in the past has been important. It will be important to the state in the future but still more important to the nation. I sincerely hope that our centennial program will reach every home and every citizen of Washington and certainly that is a goal not too difficult of attainment. Our state came up the hard way but in doing so our pioneer founders left us a wonderful heritage of the qualities of character which make a state great. It will be necessary for organizations and individuals over the state to give the Washington State Historical Society their best cooperation in developing our centennial program.

To some, 1953 may seem too far away to give concern to a centennial program, but experience of other states teaches that it is impossible to get too early a start. This is why the historical society is getting as much as possible of its program under way during 1950. While the historical body is planning at the state level, every community in the state should begin planning its own participation in the centennial program of 1953.

## WASHINGTON EVENTS

(Murray-Centennial-19)

### WHAT WAS VANCOUVER'S GREAT "VISIT"?

Washington residents are well reminded today of a voyage made on Puget Sound in 1792 by an English naval officer.

Captain George Vancouver, sent to the Pacific Northwest to attempt settlement of England's dispute with Spain at Nootka Sound (on the west coast of what is now Vancouver Island) also found time to explore Washington waters. Pointing to the fact of his visit are the many place names left by Vancouver, including Puget Sound, which was named for one of the explorer's lieutenants.

Other names given by the Vancouver expedition, and now over 150 years old, are Whidbey Island, Mount Baker, Hood's Canal, Port Orchard, Port Townsend, Admiralty Inlet and Mount Rainier.

Completing his survey of the entire sound, Captain Vancouver landed near present-day Everett, where on June 4 he celebrated his king's birthday. In ceremonies, he claimed the surrounding country for England and named it New Georgia.

Earlier, on April 29, Vancouver had met Captain Robert Gray, an American, near the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Gray told of locating a river mouth on the coast which a strong outset prevented him from entering. Vancouver was apparently not impressed and pushed off on his survey of Puget Sound.

Gray, however, sailed south again, this time crossing the bar of "his" river on May 11 and voyaging inland. He named the river for his ship, the Columbia, and left his country an historical claim to the mighty waterway.

WASHINGTON EVENTS

(Murray - Centennial --20)

WHAT WAS THE "SOFT HEARTED HANGING OF TEXAS JACK"?

One of the most persistent horse thieves in Washington Territory was a resident in the 'eighties of Rattlesnake Canyon, near the site of Grand Coulee Dam.

Texas Jack (seems his name and sobriquet were one) got along by eating his neighbor's cattle and ridding them of a horse now and then which he exchanged for pocket money.

Jack soon earned the status of a living legend. A strange sentiment among the settlers spared him from the noose.

This attachment, however, was taxed to the edge when the outlaw made off with the Coulee country's prize horse. An angry group met Jack when he returned from selling the animal and a rope was produced. But the settlers' wrath quickly subsided. No one had the heart to hang a legend.

Jack evidently had some misgivings about the extent of his luck because he left immediately for British Columbia. His first act there, however, was theft of a horse. No legend in those parts, he was promptly hanged.

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WE'VE TOLD THE STORY OF WEEK NUMBER SIXTY-FIVE.

It hardly seems possible that this little feature was started February 26, 1956. I use the word "little" as to size only for this feature represents a great deal of work.

Our Librarian has to do a lot of research, then write the first draft and revise it several times to get it down to the size we've adopted.

In this office we feel "This Week in Washington History" is a very valuable feature for every paper in the state, for no Washingtonian knows too much about the state and there are probably a lot more than a million who know next to nothing about our early history because they have come to the state in recent years.

We don't know just how many papers use the feature, although we get checks from time to time and they're not always too optimistic. Some of our Board members wonder if we should spend so much time unless the feature is really used.

Another item, which probably seems small, but some of the operators drop the By-line. Papers today are full of By-lines and in this case the By-line really is important because it shows that the State Historical Society is trying to help in preserving Washington history. Set the By-line in 5-point if necessary but by using it you'll help keep the feature coming to the papers. I know of no other state historical society supplying such service, also that no single paper could take the time necessary for preparation.

Several editors have visited our building lately. I hope more will do this; I think you'll be impressed by what you see.

3/7/57  
MFMc

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FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

APRIL 21, 1959

THE WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY has just discovered that it possesses two of the rarest items in Pacific Northwest Americana, Director Bruce Le Roy announced today. These are two booklets in the Nez Perce language, SHAPALITAMANASH SUYAPU, and MATTEWNIM TAAISKY, printed at the Lapwai Mission by Henry Harmon Spalding, early missionary and colleague of Marcus Whitman. The eight booklets which issued from the press constitute the earliest printing in the Pacific Northwest, and possibly on the Pacific Coast.

The little printing press at the Lapwai Mission, an ingenious wooden contraption, operated by hand and barely large enough to handle a sheet of foolscap paper, reached the Oregon Territory by way of the Sandwich Islands (present-day Hawaii). According to Rev. Myron Eels, author of MARCUS WHITMAN, PATHFINDER AND PATRIOT, the press was first on the Pacific Coast. It also performed the first printing in Hawaii. E.O. Hall, a practical printer, journeyed from the Hawaiian Islands with the press, arriving in Lapwai after a harrowing trip up the Snake River. The press was set up and on the 18th of May, 1838, the first proof sheet was struck off. On the 24th, a small booklet of 8 pages in the Nez Perce language was printed on now obsolete denry paper. Eight booklets in all were printed -- hymn books, spelling books, and finally, the Gospel according to St. Matthew. The two booklets owned by the WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY were seventh and eighth in the series.

Yale University possesses seven of the eight booklets in the series. Yale has offered \$10,000 for a copy of the missing booklet, THE NEZ PERCE LAWS. Whitman College and Pacific University in Oregon, share the honors with the state historical society for possessing the only known copies of Lapwai imprints in the Pacific Northwest. The printing press itself is an honored exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland.

NEWS RELEASE CONT...

APRIL 21, 1959

The two booklets discovered in Tacoma were found catalogued with early Indian materials. Assumedly, the titles SHAPALITAMANASH SUYAPU and MATTHEWNIM TAAISKI, were confusing to the early cataloguer. Several editions of Smith's checklist PACIFIC NORTHWEST AMERICANA contain no mention of the treasures housed in the historical society library. Too rare and flimsy for exhibit, the booklets are being photostated with the originals to be stored in a downtown Tacoma bank vault. The photostatic copies will soon be placed upon exhibit at the museum, together with other important examples of early northwestern printing, Le Roy stated.

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FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY:

Highlighting the April 4th meeting of the Washington State Historical Society was the welcoming of its new director, Bruce Le Roy, by President Reno Odlin, and the presentation of a hand lettered plaque of honor and appreciation to Frank Anderson, Director of the Community Development Program of the University of Washington. Also of importance was an attractive arrangement displaying progress resulting from the development program's fostering of historical research and recording on the local level. These were exhibited in brand new glass incased cabinets together with a well documented maritime history collection sponsored by the Propeller Club of Tacoma.

The Director reported on the Society's recent activities and future plans, listing among other important acquisitions, the original drafted plans for the first ironclad ship, the first floating dry-dock and the first submarine--the one that was rejected by the Top Brass of the Navy of the day as visionary and unworkable! Evidently, the daring experiment was a sort of Civil War I.C.B.M. which had to make good or else. It did make good; it also made history. So did the Society's recently acquired Civil War diaries and the journal of one of Daniel Boone's pioneering explorers, the Kibbe Memorial Library, the collected Manuscripts of General H.M. Chittenden, and the autographed menu of the dinner that celebrated the signing of the Atlantic Charter. All these were there and many similarly important items indicative of history in the making.

"Our job", said Director Le Roy, "is to resurrect such treasures from dusty attics and old trunks and make them available to the ever increasing number of researchers, writers and students who are in need of available and well organized documentation."

Frank Anderson's remarks about the background of community development were an example of the end product, laid on the line for the benefit of future generations. "It is a teamwork job", insisted Le Roy, "and teamwork pays off."

The Community Development Department of the University of Washington held a panel discussion under the chairmanship of Frank Anderson, Director of the Community Development Program. The Panel included Norman Porter of McCleary, Mrs. Jeanette Hlavin, Tacoma; Dr. E.W. Gwinn of Centralia, Mr. C.W. Wall, Winlock; and Mr. Curtis Gardner of Woodinville.

Re-elected to membership on the Board of Curators of the Washington State Historical Society were Roe Shaub, Vice-President; Mrs. Eva Anderson, Harold Barto, Arthur S. Cory, Della Gould Emmons, Charles M. Gates, Click Relander, Dr. R. F. Thompson and Stanton Warburton, Jr.

April 3, 1963

The Annual Meeting of the Washington State Historical Society will be held in Tacoma on April 13, 1963, beginning with a luncheon at the Museum at 12:30 P. M. The meeting is open to the public.

The results of the annual election of officers to the Board of Curators of the Washington State Historical Society will be announced. The Annual Address will be given by Robert Hitchman, a member of the Board of Curators, who will speak on the subject of THE STORY OF THE COLLINS OVERLAND TELEGRAPH. The famous line was being strung from the United States through British Columbia, Alaska and headed for Siberia when the successful laying of the Atlantic Cable brought the massive project to a halt. Mr. Hitchman, an authority on the place names of Washington, regional chairman of the Bibliographical Society of America, and author of articles on northwest history, is executive secretary of the Northwestern Mutual Insurance Company in Seattle.

Following the annual meeting a large exhibit titled NORTHWEST HISTORY IN ART will be opened at the Museum. Covering historical paintings, sketches and drawings from 1778 to 1963, the exhibit features such rare examples as the original drawings of John Webber, official artist for Captain James Cook's third voyage - - that in which he visited the Pacific Northwest. Other artists represented will include Gustavus Sohon, artist who accompanied Washington's first territorial governor, Isaac I. Stevens, to treaty councils with the Indian tribes of Washington territory; James Alden, artist for the Boundary Survey between Canada and the United States, etc. A catalogue of the exhibit is being published for public distribution by the Washington State Historical Society at the time of the Annual Meeting and the Pacific Northwest History Conference to be held in Tacoma one week later.



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WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Immediate Release

March 21, 1964

Historians from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, western Canada and Alaska will gather at Western Washington State College in Bellingham April 10th and 11th for the 17th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest History Conference.

This year the Conference has two themes: the "Archival Resources of the Pacific Northwest" and the "Diplomatic History of the Pacific Northwest". Leading archivists from the United States and Canada who will address the assembled historians include Mr. Elmer Lindgard, Chief of the Federal Records Center of the National Archives, Seattle Branch; Mr. Richard Berner, Archivist, University of Washington Library; Mr. Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Supervisor of Collections, University of British Columbia Library; Miss Elizabeth Walker, Vancouver Public Library. Dr. W. K. Lamb, National Archivist of Canada, will come from Ottawa to address the Friday luncheon.

Experts on different phases of diplomatic history will be Professor Milo C. Bell, of the Collection of Fisheries at the University of Washington, who will speak on "The International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission". Mr. Lloyd R. Bell, of Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, will speak on "The Lewis and Clark Trail Studies".

At the Annual Banquet Friday evening, Dr. Verne Carstensen, of the University of Wisconsin, will address the Conference on "The West that Mark Twain Did Not See".

On Saturday morning the Council on Regional Historical Research in Progress will present academic papers under the chairmanship of Dr. Peter Ristuben of Pacific Lutheran University. Other chairmen of panels include Dr. Harley E. Hiller, Western Washington College; Dr. Walter Schnackenberg, Pacific Lutheran University; Mr. Bruce Le Roy, Director of the Washington State Historical Society.

The luncheon which concludes the two day Conference in Bellingham will feature as speaker Dr. George Frykman, Washington State University, speaking on "A Philosophy of Western History".

Since the Conference is attended by northwestern professional and amateur historians, any person interested in attending is invited to communicate with the director of the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, which organization is the permanent sponsor of the annual Pacific Northwest History Conference.

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An American settler on San Juan Island shot a pig owned by a Canadian citizen just 105 years ago to set off an international incident called the Pig War.

Saturday at Friday Harbor, informal hearings will be conducted which may lead to the establishment of a National Historical Park at the site of the pig slaying.

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, said National Park Service officials, Washington State Historical Society officers and interested local citizens will participate in the hearings to make known their views on the new park. Jackson will conduct the hearings, and Clark Stratton, Associate Director of the National Park Service, will be on hand.

The Pig War incident occurred in 1859 when an American settler named Cutler killed the pig, leading to a confrontation of United States and British troops in the Washington islands. The ownership of the islands was disputed by the countries.

A British man-of-war appeared as did a company of United States infantry. American General Winfield Scott met with British Admiral Bayne and they agreed to prevent hostilities until the issue could be negotiated.

Both British and American troops established encampments on the island and remained there until 1871 when by arbitration it was ruled the islands would become part of the United States.

The proposed Pig War historical park would include 1800 acres of land and involve a federal investment of more than \$3 million over a five-year period.



Jackson said that on completion of the hearings and receipt of a final report from the Department of Interior, he would introduce legislation in the 89th Congress to authorize the new facility.

Jackson said the Interior Department's advisory board on national parks and historic sites had approved establishment of the new park.

The Senator said he had received a letter from Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall stating that "appropriate recognition should be accorded the site because of the outstanding importance in the history of our nation of this boundary dispute."

Saturday's hearings, to be held at the Friday Harbor American Legion hall, will start at 2 p.m. A tour of the site will also be included, Jackson said. Those to appear at the hearings in behalf of the Washington State Historical Society will include Director Bruce LeRoy of Tacoma, Robert Hitchman of Seattle, John McClelland, Jr. of Longview, and Click Relander of Yakima.

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