

Annual Program & Social Meeting of the State Capitol
Historical Association.

Members of the State Capitol Historical Association at their Annual Meeting Tuesday afternoon, June 30th, heard the story of what is being done to preserve and promote our heritage by the Washington State Parks. The speaker, Historian Albert Culverwell, dispelled the too prevalent misbelief that state parks are maintained only as roadside picnic grounds and camp sites. Their chief purpose is to restore, preserve, and exploit places of historic, scientific and scenic interest.

Mr. Culverwell explained that, although on a lesser scale, the same painstaking and exacting archeological techniques and methods made famous at Williamsburg, Virginia have been employed in this state in the restoration of Fort Simcoe, near Yakima, Fort Spokane, and Fort Okanogan near Brewster, Washington. These forts were built years before any attempt was made to settle this part of the country. They were built by the fur traders who came West not to settle it; but as a phase of the famed and somewhat fabled search for a Northwest passage to the Orient. They date back to 1810 and 1811 and are a part of the history made by the Northwest Fur Company, John Jacob Astor Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. Restoration of these old forts has cast much light on the habits and characteristics of the Indian tribes whose beginnings in the Pacific Northwest goes back many centuries. Another restoration is at Fort Columbia near the mouth of the Columbia river which was a part of the early settlement of this area.

Other state parks are of special scientific interest like the petrified forest, largest in America and Dry Falls created by the pre-

historic break-through of the Columbia River in its westward sweep to the Pacific Ocean. Then there are museums like the one at Vantage which are rich in relics of the past both of Indian and early settler life. The entire cost of state parks maintenance and development is paid by funds derived from automobile drivers' license fees.

Mr. Culverwell was accompanied and presented by Mr. John R. Vanderzicht, Director of State Parks, who in turn was introduced by State Treasurer Harry Tom Martin.

The meeting could not have been held in a more beautiful and appropriate setting. It was outdoors under sunny skies on the beautiful grounds of the Peter G. Schmidt home in Tumwater, Washington, the end of the old Oregon Trail.

The brief business session which preceded the speaking and social program was presided over by President G. Noyes Talcott assisted by First Vice President Judge Matthew W. Hill of the State Supreme Court. Report of the Nominating Committee, presented by its chairman Mrs. Birdie Longaker was accepted. This elected officers, Trustees of three-year term of the State Capitol Historical Association and continued Curator-Director Mrs. Ida N. Burford and her staff.

The hostess Mrs. Peter G. Schmidt was assisted by chairman of the Social Committee Mrs. Adolph D. Schmidt, Sr. with the following members: Mrs. Carl Donworth, Mrs. Herndon Maury, Mrs. Talcott Ostrander, Mrs. G. Noyes Talcott, Mrs. Ida N. Burford, Mrs. Henry McCleary, Mrs. Harry Lindley, Mrs. A. R. Gardner, Mrs. Otto Bertils, Mrs. Harry Tom Martin, Mrs. Birdie Longaker, Mrs. Miriam Houseworth, Mrs. Ben Peck and Mrs. Jerome T. Heermans.

Tours of the beautiful grounds and gardens were conducted by Miss Susan Pat Bevan of Dallas, Texas and Miss Kittie Barkley of Palo