of the

# STATE CAPITOL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

of the

# STATE OF WASHINGTON

TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE MEMBERS OF THE

# THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

1954 - 1956

FOREWORD:

November 2, 1956

This report is compiled as representing the 14th anniversary of operation, and to present the completion of vast tasks, requiring never-failing responsibility and diversity by the staff.

The Executive Board hopes you ponder well the results and fulfillment of trust. We are aware that a recent sage may be right when he concludes that "A knowledge of history is vital and that nobody has the right to question where a country is going unless he knows where it has been."

We might venture the suggestion that this same edict might apply to a <u>museum</u> in the estimate of "where it is going." It is certain that when knowledge is obtainable as to how it has arrived to its present state, with few errors of judgment, then it is certain that anyone may decide it deserves a careful estimate of why it should be given a vote of confidence as to its future.

We hope you approve of "where we are going" in our expanding Public Relations in the increasing splendid exhibits, in our careful and potent community and local service, as well as our basic national, regional and state affiliations.

Your consideration of these points, as well as the <u>national award</u> we have been given, may bring your decision that we merit your confidence to pursue our course with the assurance that state support and future increase in staff assistance may be given, commensurate with our progressive expansion need.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS:

THE FOLLOWING PATTERN IS UNDERTAKEN TO EDUCATE AND ENRICH.

We work upon an informed stable base. We have established Public Relations upon a National, Regional, State and local level by taking memberships in various associations. We did so, that we might gain, share and give. Gain in basic museum procedures in these fields, share our support and to give our resultant area research. Our plan has been persistently followed year by year. We have succeeded in arousing reciprocal respect, friendships, and a splendid amount of cooperative confidence with all agencies..

# NATIONAL FIELD PARTICIPATION:

THAT WE MIGHT BE KNOWN BY OUR WORKS.

In May 1954 the CALL TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS was sent to, as a member. This call was answered by the Executive Board of the State Capitol Historical Museum, by a decision to send the Curator-Director as its first representative to a National Convention. Since the meeting was to be held on the West Coast, at Santa Barbara, California, and another National Convention might not be allotted the Pacific area soon, the budget was stretched to include this venture.

Page 2 The inspiration, contacts and ideas which were garnered have paid dividends, as enlarged vision has come in keeping pace with all activities now given in the various museums described in the "MUSEUM NEWS" published and sent to member museums and to the Directors who carry their own personal membership. American Association of Museums unifies, and leads the way nationally. NATIONAL TRUST: An Association for Historic Preservation in the United States. Our interest is pronounced in this field, since we note how our historic sites in the west need restoration. This organization is a federation of individuals and organizations that encourage participation of the public in preserving our American historical inheritance. Chartered by Act of Congress on October 26, 1949, as an educational and non-profit organization. It is a national, non-governmental organization safe-guarding America's heritage of sites, buildings and objects of significance in our history and culture. Membership privileges, either organizational or personal, are available. Subscription in the National Trust Quarterly, Historic Preservation, Consultant Service; Lecture Bureau Service. Members may attend annual meetings where many experts in various fields of preservation are present for consultation. Professional forums and tours of historical buildings are offered. Individual memberships are \$5.00 for Associate Membership. Organizational memberships are \$25.00 - Address: National Trust, 712 Jackson Place, N. W. Washington, D.C. We carried membership in 1955 and are becoming firm and ardent supporters of their objectives. AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY: This organization issues "HISTORY NEWS" a monthly bulletin of activities of many historic fields in America. Subscription inquiries should be addressed to William Powell, Drawer 870, Chapel Hill, South Carolina. The President is Howard Oeckham, Director of William Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. You become a subscriber to the AMERICAN HERITAGE BOOK-MAGAZINE, through the above named channel. This magazine lifts the fascinating story of America from the musty archives to make it live again. It is the belief of the sponsors that, "history, if properly presented, tells a story of the American people as human beings; doing, thinking, hoping and dreaming." This magazine gives this presentation in a fine manner. It is the opinion of the members of our State Capitol Historical Association's Executive Board that this American Heritage Magazine, lifts our American History to the heights to which it belongs. Each Annual Convention grants awards for outstanding museum performance. At the 1955 Annual September Convention at Williamsburg, Virginia, the State Capitol Historical Museum was given a national award! HIGHLIGHT OF ACHIEVEMENT --NATIONAL AWARD Dr. Louis C. Jones, Chairman of the Awards Committee for the American Association of Stato and Local History, makes this statement:-

CLEARING HOUSE FOR WESTERN MUSEUMS:

This is located at The State Museum, East 14th and Sherman Sts., Denver 2, Colo.
Their office sends out fine, and very informative bulletins which give reports on forums and programs of all their meetings each year, with belieful charts.

This is located at the State Museum, East 14th and Sherman Sts., Denver 2, Colo. Their office sends out fine, and very informative bulletins which give reports on forums and programs of all their meetings each year, with helpful charts, graphs, etc., upon basic problems. Also, new methods in the museum fields are published. If you wish to develop cases, rooms for typed exhibits, you have your roward by membership in such an association. Up-to-the-minute procedures are constantly published.

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST HISTORY CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Washington State Historical Society (Washington, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia.) We had no budget in 1955 to send a representative to Spokane On May 4-5, 1956, the Washington State Historical Museum was the host museum for this conference in Tacoma, Washington. Two banquet sessions, at which we were well represented, featured two splendid speakers. Mr. Stowart Holbrook, the noted author, reviewed his latest book, "The Columbia" on May 4th, and Mr. Minor Baker, Vice-President and Economist of the Seattle First National Bank, gave a most interesting talk entitled, "Today is History." In his talk, Mr. Baker encircled the possibilities of progress for one hundred years ahead. His amazing crystal-ball vision and prognostications of the scientific changes due for a century ahead, were most challenging. We have on file, a copy of "Today is History" and I highly recommend that you read this most creditable and probable accumulation of the happenings ahead for the next hundred years, and you will be most stimulated to believe that 'you have not seen anything yet.'

We also attended the Annual Meeting of the Washington State Historical Society at Tacoma, Washington.

# STATE PARTICIPATION:

Your Director and some of the Board members and Trustees have personal memberships in the following organizations:-

Daughtors of the Pioneers of Washington State Thurston County Historical and Pioneer Society

Washington State Pioneer Association, with headquarters in Seattle, Washington.

A A M and the Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, Washington.

American Association of State and Local History, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Western Museums Clearing House Association, Denver, Colorado.

### TOURS:

School tours and out-of-state visitors, bless them, give a constant inspiration to our staff for their flow of interest. Here is a partial list of some of the tours we have entertained and instructed:-

Wives of the Presidents of West Coast Colleges, on July 29, 1955 Daughters of the Pioneers of the State of Washington, on May 16, 1956 Foreign Exchange Students of the University of Washington, March 23, 1956 Rotary Club of Tumwater, Washington - to mention just a few of the tours.

Several Convention tours of various groups came through the courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce; also innumerable school classes and groups, many Girl Scout, Boy Scout, Cub Scout and Brownio groups visited us, and many Sunday School classes.

Groups meeting at our Assembly Room in the Coach House' consider the museum as a center for community service. Intermittently the following groups have been with us:

Amorican Association of University Women's Forum and Panel Discussion Group

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

# Territorial Contennial Treaty Signing Programs

Daughters of the Pieneers of Washington, Olympia Chapter

### INDIAN CEREMONIALS

COMMEMORATIVE CENTENNIAL PROGRAMS, 1855 - 1955

Special Programs sponsored by the State Capitol Historical Association in 1955 NUMBER ONE:

THE "KICK-OFF" PROGRAM of our Association for the State of Washington Jade Room, Hotel Olympian, January 16, 1955 performance.

The Indian Centennial Commemorative Ceremonials Program, of Jan. 16, 1955 was held in the Jade Room of the Hetel Olympian and will long be remembered as a 'history-making' program, by all of our members and all who witnessed it.

Mrs. Melba Miller, the Assembler and Producer, has given the museum a most excellent file report which you are invited to read in its entirety, at our office. Briefly she states that she has made up a complete script for the State Capitel Historical Association, giving a step by step series of the scenes of various ceremonials of different tribes. Mrs. Miller expresses her appreciation of the priviledge of having the young people of Olympia High School assist her in the production, and gives praise for the infinite pains and leadership given by the students and their parents in cooperation with Miss Mary Ewen, Drama Ceach of the Olympia High School.

Tom Turya, student of Indian dances and a senior of the High School, gave his halents, furnished the costumes most willingly, and showed considerable skill in directing the very intricate symbolic dances. His own specialty dances crowned the Indian Coremonials with realism and enjoyment.

You will all recall the show in its entirety, how professionally it was done, how well conceived and executed. How there was no director or ceach in sight, no prompting from the wings and how magnificently the children performed their routines with precision and professional decorum. The Jade Room was full and standing room to an inadequate extent. Scores of late comers had to be turned away. For days there were the complimentary requests, "You must give a repeat performance with larger accommodations." The outcome of such imperative sincerity was very fortunate. Mrs. Molba Miller came up with an excellent solution in the form of an invitation from K I N G - T V in Scattle to give the show over Channel 5, sometime in April, as a part of the community work-shop.

Pago 6

NUMBER TWO:

Indian Coromonials "TELEVISION SHOW" - April 6, 1955

In a review of this wenderful T. V. show, Mrs. Melba Miller stated that "a cut version of the Indian Ceremonials went on T V over Station K I N G, Seattle, on April 6th, on the Community Workshop Program. The Olympia Schools cesponsored with the State Capitel Historical Museum, and through the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Leland Brown, the students were transported to Seattle and return by a school bus."

"The original show of one hour had to be cut to a half hour program, which meant re-writing the script and blocking each scene, showing where each child should be placed, and so on. Our President, Mr. W. J. Miller, of the State Capitol Historical Association was the commentator. The Director of K I N G Station was most complimentary upon our performance."

### HISTORY WAS MADE FOR OUR MUSEUM WITH OUR SECOND TELEVISION SHOW:

We were invited to participate in a T V session in Scattle, and Mr. Phil Spicer, our Curator of Sca Shells was presented by Station K I N G, T V, Scattle, on July 1, 1955 as an educational feature on the Community Work Shop period, for a fine half hour program. The famous Spicer Collection of Sca Shells, which is being installed in 1955-57, as a project for the State Capitel Historical Association's major exhibit, was introduced on this show. Mr. Spicer described his world-wide collection, showing splendid specimens already entered, as well as outlining the installations which were to follow quarterly. As a result of this T V program, this museum has already become a mecca for college students working on a Master or PHD degree thoses, using the SPICER ROOM for much reference work.

### ANNUAL PROGRAM OF THE STATE CAPITOL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, April 14, 1956

For the first time in our Association we opened our festivities with a No-Host Dinner at the Hotel Olympian, Olympia. During this time many people attending the dinner enjoyed meeting informally our Guest Speaker, Mr. Guy Allison.

### PROGRAM:

Mr. Guy Allison, Honorary Life Member of the State Capitel Historical Association, lecturer and noted historian, made the address of the evening for our members and invited guests assembled in the beautiful Jade Room. The lecture, so well chosen by Mr. Allison for our enjoyment, was -

### "THE GEORGE WASHINGTON YOU HAVE NEVER KNOWN."

The audience had come, knowing full well that there was a feast of history to be given. Students from several colleges and a number of students of the Olympia High School history courses were present.

Mr. Guy Allison is nationally renowned as an intensive research master. As one scanned the faces of the audience, it was very evident that appreciation and interest were parameunt. The unusual facts which Mr. Allison gave of various phases of George Washington's life span were ones that few persons had known or encountered. Many were the expressions of warm understanding and gratitude for having such an absorbing theme for the address, which gave all present the intimate and human insight into the life of the first President of the United States. Mr. Guy Allison scored another conquest with all of us.

# WASHINGTON STATE PIONEER ASSOCIATION,

Seattle, 1955 Annual Meeting.

Curator-Diroctor Ida N. Burford, Mr. and Mrs. Noyos Talcott, Mrs. Jessic Mills and Mrs. Edna Ostrander were representatives at the day session. The Contennial of the signing, the Treaty Signing of Indian Treaties was accented in the fine program given at the Arctic Club. Mr. Joseph Hazard gave the address which told of the part played by Isaac Stevens at this period of time.

# LEWIS AND CLARK EENTENNIAL RECOGNITION.

Octobor 1955.

It was good fortune to have the Curator-Director register at the Fort Clatsop restoration, as well as to accept the invitation to visit the Clatsop County Pioneer Museum; also to visit the Lewis and Clark Salt Cairn at Seaside, Oregon and the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum in Tillamook, Oregon.

The Lowis and Clark Return Trip which began March 23,1956, from Fort Clatsop furnished projects for organizations, service clubs, school programs and others along the route across the state, a wenderful centennial observance and trip.

# FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SEATTLE ASSOCIATION OF HISTORY AND INDUSTRY PUGET SOUND MARITIME SOCIETY

Those meetings were held at the Scattle Museum of History and Industry on Feb. 12, 1956 and there was a vivid discussion of the colorful and competitive era of Puget Sound steamboating of the '80s, by Gordon Newell, the noted author. Rare exhibits of ship models, parts of ships, drawings and many photographs were on display. Following this tour, the Curater-Director attended a dinner meeting of the Museum Committee at the Officer's Club at Fort Lawton.

### THURSTON COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

March 5. 1956

Representatives attending this meeting were President W. J. Millor, our publicity chairman A. R. Gardner, and Curator-Director Ida N. Burford. Our members were called upon to give explanations of the policies of the State Capitol Historical Association in various fields.

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

March 23, 1956

A delegation of several members of the Association, headed by Ida N. Burford, Past State President of the A.A.U.W. attended the banquet. The honor guests were a score of foreign exchange students at the University of Washington. The program of talks by the Foreign Exchange students revealed their evaluation of the Student Exchange System and the privileges enjoyed by those attending college in the United States.

### WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Tacoma, Washington, April 7, 1956

Representation was sent to this meeting and tea. Following the business session, the program speaker, Mr. Jack Wright, manager of the University of Washington Community Development Frogram, cleverly explained the process to be followed in his plan to direct a 'face lifting' for cities applying for his diagnosis and his service for the rejuvenation, as well as re-adjustments. He pointed out that his plans had inevitably and intentionally preserved Washington's history.

# DAUGHTERS OF THE PIONEERS OF WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION TOUR OF MUSEUM

May 16, '56

Two special exhibits were arranged in the Museum to honor this convention tour. The 'Pioneer Sitting Room' of the Territorial era, 1853-1889, and the Clarence Garmer Art Exhibit of 23 oil paintings arranged in the Art Gallery in sequence, giving the 'History of Logging' very completely. The State Capitol Historical Association has many members who also belong to the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington, thus our museum was well represented throughout the Convention sessions by their attendance.

Judgo Matthow W. Hill, Vice-President of our State Capitel Historical Association was a most captivating speaker at the Banquet Session of the Daughters of the Fiencers of Washington. He spoke of the historical changes in territorial transportation. He handled the subject so trippingly and with such whimsical wit that his voice was halted several times, to await the cessation of laughter and applause.

### CHIEF JOSEPH DAM DEDICATION.

June 12, 1956

Roprosentativos for the State Capitol Historical Association at this program were President and Mrs. W. J. Millor and Curator-Director Ida N. Burford. The best part of this event was to stand where history was being made each day.

# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.

## SPICER COLLECTION

(Plans were consummated in July 1954 to accept the exhibit.) This collection was developed through 1953-4-5 and 6 and may be completed in 1958. The gift collection, which any Museum in the United States might well be proud to have granted them, consists of three thousand sea shells! This collection is the gift of Mr 'Phil' Spicer, retired U.S.N., and was acquired during more than a thirty year period of collecting.

Collection Most Raro: - Scientific, Geographic and Educational.

A like collection has been installed in the Smithsonian Museum, Washington, D.C. and also in Harvard University. Our Museum was chosen by Mr. 'Phil' Spicer as his choice upon the West Coast, to receive his third and last gift collection. The Spicer Collection comprises world-wide land, fresh water and marine mollusca, and a display of shells of mollusks indigenous to the West Coast and the Northwest.

Honorary Life Membership given to Mr. 'Phil' Spicer.

We are happy to announce that Mr. Spicer has been given this recognition, as well as the title of "Curator of Sea Shells," by the State Capitel Historical Association. His plan is to label all specimens as to genus and specie, thereby giving added value as a select 'Students Collection.'

Thus you may readily onvision that our museum shall be a meeca for many college and university students of marine and anthropological subjects to pursue their data for writing Masters or P.H.D. theses. Students of special promise should be encouraged to use museums. So you may well deduce that this exhibit carries vast potentialities for the diffusion and advancement of knowledge for all visitors, and especially for the students of the future.

Page 9

### SCENIC SCENES OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST AS A LONG-RANGE PLAN.

A swinging frame exhibit is being supported by various chapters of the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington. Steilacoom, Spokene and Yakima have installed pattern collections; Olympia and Seattle are working on their installations, as are many other chapters.

Territorial and State Governor's photograph swinging frame display comprise a 1951 - 1956 addition.

## ART EXHIBITS:

The art exhibits are planned to rotate every six weeks.

### INDIAN EXHIBITS ARE OUTSTANDING.

Indian exhibits are slowly being added. There is a possibility of our receiving a collection of Chehalis Indian baskets, and blue Indian Trade beads from a well known patron.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS:

# Salute to the NEW WEAPON ROOM - Project 1955-1957

Our Annual Program Meeting of the State Capitol Historical Association on April 3, held especial interest for us all in that we were able to express our appreciation to Mr. William Cox, noted gun authority of Seattle, for his loyalty and efforts to bring our Weapon Room into the focus we had so long sought to achieve. The climax of our gratitude came when our President formally presented Mr. Cox with an Honorary Life Membership. Don Brown then presented the film, "History of Transportation" as exemplified in historical sequence, giving the glorious proof of the incomparable success of Washington State Highways, from 1910 to 1956. As a further tribute to the memory of the intrepid engineering responsible for the mighty forward steps in the development of our Highways, acknowledgement was made with deepest gratitude for the framed photographic record which exhibit was presented to our Museum through the courtesy of Highway Director, W. A. Bugge. The excellent musical program, climaxing the evening, and arranged by our Program Chairman, Mrs. Melba Miller, was very well received.

A special program was held in the foyer, May 20th, arranged by Mrs. Melba Miller to honor Armed Forces Day and National Music Week. It was the first patriotic program presented by the school children in the museum, thus making history for our museum. A Flag Ceremony, by Boy and Girl Scouts, presentation of the fine Lincoln School Honor Chorus, and a musical program by two talented accordionists of Washington Junior High School completed the event.

#### INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM WEEK OBSERVANCE

October 1956

Word came from the U. S. Commission, International Museum Campaign Chairman, W. Stephen Thomas, giving suggestions for the observance for October 7 - 13, 1956, by museums in some forty countries simultaneously. Since the notices came to us late in September, we decided to follow the suggestion which was sent through from the Washington State Historical Society.

Page 10

# COLLABORATION PLANS FOLLOWED:

For the week of October 7 - 13th, therefore, a plan was carefully out by President W. J. Millor, Curator-Director Ida N. Burford and Mrs. Melba Miller as Acting Chairman for the program, International Museum Observance to comprise newspaper, radio and membership round up recognition. Our permanent file has been established showing results. Spot recordings were given each afternoon for six days over KGY, Olympia. The Mayor of Olympia, Mrs. Amanda Smith, proclaimed International Museum Week, on the first program on the radio. The Associated Press and United Press were given releases. The Daily Olympian and The Olympia News were furnished with news stories. The Daily Olympian ran a full-page advertisement (underwritten by business firms, at no cost to us) and our program was most successfully carried out on the evening of October 18. Since our file carries the outline of our program, I shall not repeat it here. As the curtain came down upon our successful program and plans, one and all joined hands in perfect accord that a most unusual public relations production had been performed.

# UNITED NATIONS DAY PROGRAM:

Oct. 24, 1956 - Supervision of J. C. Long, Extension Service.

### TREE PLANTING CEREMONY:

Stato Capitol Historical Museum Grounds.

At this coremony a Rod Oak from the Capitel Lake Nursery, Olympia, Washington was planted on the museum grounds. Mr. Carlton Sears, State Senator, was Master of Coremonies and Mr. W. J. Miller, President of the Executive Beard of the State Capitel Historical Association accepted the tree for the museum. Guests were Mrs. Ida. N. Burford, Curator-Director, friends and members of the Association and school children. A fine recognition program, appropriate to the occasion was given by the participants.

### IN MEMORIUM:

Mrs. V. M. Bridenstine

Mr. Fred Carlyon

Mr. Lloyd Crosby

Mr. Frank Edwards

Mrs. J. W. Grisdale

Mrs. Charles Lincoln

Mrs. Charles Maybury

Mrs. Frank Morris

Mr. John Peterson

Mr. Archie Spencer

# TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF THE STATE CAPITOL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Words cannot encompass the deep appreciation felt by the staff for the willing and ever-present support given throughout the whole scope of our intricate operation this biennium.

The committee chairmen, chosen for their specialized abilities have given hearts and hands, at all times, in gracious efforts. We thank them for their loyalty and proof of interest.

### CONCLUSION:

Page 11

# COME INSIDE - SEE YOUR MUSEUM:

This watchword and welcome awaits the legislators. We want you to become more fembliar with the measure of our progress.

Evidence of our excellent accessions, which are mounting month by month, are present to confront you. Come and study our success. Come and learn our needs. Come that we may reason together.

Our back-log of work must be caught up by arranging an increase in the number upon our staff. Why? Because in learning the scope of the opportunities at our door for accepting items of priceless and irreplaceable worth you may readily realize the one answer for the acceptance of such material is a budget for such installations. We feel confident that you will feel repaid by seeing your present museum and be refreshed in knowing how sure may be the MEASURE FOR YOUR MUSEUM'S FUTURE.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. Miller, PRESIDENT

Ida N. Burford CURATOR-DE