



NEWS RELEASE

Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission
P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501

Margaret E. Felt, Public Information Officer
753-5761 February 9, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

One of the several presentations to be made at the Lewis and Clark Trail Commission meeting in Portland, Oregon on Monday February 14 will be made by a Yakima Indian girl, Miss Lorintha Umtuch of Toppenish, Charles H. Odegaard, Director of Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, announced today.

Miss Umtuch will present a lavishly-beaded bag on behalf of the Yakima Indians to Sherry Fisher, Chairman of the federal Commission, to add a colorful touch to the meeting, Odegaard said.

A talented musician, Lorintha Umtuch is a freshman at Yakima Valley College and has won laurels in both dancing and music festivals throughout the States of Washington and Oregon. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Umtuch of Toppenish, Washington.

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CAPTION: MISS LORINTHA UMTUCH, of Toppenish, Washington will make a presentation to the chairman of the Lewis and Clark Trail Commission, Sherry Fisher, when that Commission meets in Portland, Oregon February 14. Miss Umtuch, a freshman at the Yakima Valley College, is a talented musician and has often represented the Yakima Indian Nation at festivals throughout Washington State. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Umtuch of Toppenish and descendant of Chief Umtux who once ruled the Yakimas.

PHOTO: Fern Studio, Toppenish



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P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501

Margaret E. Felt, Public Information Officer
753-5761 February 11, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Members of the Lewis and Clark Trail Commission or representatives will be arriving in Washington over the weekend to take part in a tour of Washington and Oregon and attend a business meeting in Portland February 14.

Among visitors to Washington February 12 through February 15 will be Sherry Fisher, of Des Moines, Iowa, Chairman of the Lewis and Clark Trail Commission; vice-chairman Marcus Ware, Lewiston Idaho; several representatives from federal departments... Stephen S. Jackson, Department of Defense, Alfred L. Edwards, Department of Agriculture, B. P. French Department of Commerce, Dr. Edwards C. Crafts, Department of Interior, Joseph T. Ventura, Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

U. S. Congressman E. Y. Berry of South Dakota will be among Washington visitors as well as several representatives of governors of the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana and Nebraska.

William Clark Adreon, great-great grandson of Captain William Clark will make presentations to Governor Daniel J. Evans and to Mayor L. D. Braman of Seattle from Mayor Alfonso Cervantes of St. Louis, Missouri.

In observance of the occasion of the first meeting of this federal commission on the sunset end of the Lewis and Clark Trail, Saint Louis, Missouri (with 750,000 population) proclaimed kinship with the tiny village of Chinook, Washington (population 250) by declaring Chinook as a "sister city". St. Louis was origin point for the famous Lewis and Clark Trail and Chinook was the point where they first sighted the Pacific Ocean

--more--

and thus accomplished their goal.

Members of the Commission will be entertained in Seattle by the Seattle Historical Society Saturday evening at a cocktail-dinner party at the Rainier Club. On Sunday they will be flown to the Tri-Cities area and after a tour of the parks will continue by bus down the Columbia River to Fort Vancouver and Portland. After a business meeting in Portland on Monday February 14 they will again tour down the Columbia River on the Oregon side to Fort Clatsop and take a ferry trip to visit Fort Columbia State Park on the Washington side.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is the coordinating agency in making arrangements for this visit.

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NEWS RELEASE

Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission
P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501

Margaret E. Felt, Public Information Officer
753-5761 February 21, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Even in mid-winter state parks show a 23.3 per cent increase of visitors over January of 1965. Of a total of 221,296 visitors during January 1966 some 60,227 were skiers at Mount Spokane, Mount Pilchuck and Squillchuck. Although Mt. Spokane led in attendance of the five top state parks with 42,828 there was considerable day use of Saltwater State Park near Seattle which showed a total of 18,067.

The hardy camping crowd totaling 1,032 was divided: 530 trailer campers, 449 moorage campers and 53 - the hardiest breed of all outdoor campers - were tent campers.

The five top state parks during January were Mount Spokane - 42,828, Saltwater - 18,067, Squillchuck - 9,354, Mount Pilchuck - 8,045 and Peace Arch near Blaine with 6,434.

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NEWS RELEASE

March 25, 1966

Margaret E. Felt
Information Officer
Phone: 753-5761

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FORT SIMCOE PLANS MOVE AHEAD

James Hovis, Yakima, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commissioner, has announced that its March 21 meeting the Commission approved the site plan in priority for development of Fort Simcoe State Park.

The Yakima attorney related that the old Indian Agency Commissary Building has been completely remodeled and now houses the interpretive center displays. This will be ready for the opening of the visitors' season.

He has also related that the Commandant's House has been restored and is ready for the Agency period furnishings which will be done in conjunction with the Mool Mool Society through the State Parks staff.

Construction of the first two priorities, the barracks building and the sawmill will start in September of this year, Hovis said. This work will be done in cooperation with the Fort Simcoe Job Corps Center at which Mr. George Davis is director.

At the recent Parks Commission meeting Chairman Joe Hamel, Sedro Woolley, expressed great pleasure at this announcement and praised the work of Commissioner Hovis who has personally been working on this project for several years.

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NEWS RELEASE

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501

Margaret E. Felt, Public Information Officer
753-5761
May 11, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Dedicatory speaker at the Dry Falls Interpretive Center dedication on Sunday, May 15, will be State Senator Nat Washington of Ephrata, Charles H. Odegaard, Director of State Parks and Recreation Commission, said today.

Senator Nat Washington, a native of the Grand Coulee area, has been representing his district at State Legislature since 1948. His father took up a claim in the Grand Coulee area in the early part of the century and was chairman of the first organization established to develop the Grand Coulee possibilities for irrigation and hydro electric power in 1918. Senator Washington has inherited his father's avid interest in the Grand Coulee exploring the area and carrying on the battle to get recognition for his favorite portion of Washington State. His legislative leadership was instrumental in obtaining approval of this center and the primitive caves.

Senator Nat Washington graduated with a degree in law from the University of Washington in 1938 and maintains a law practice in Ephrata.

The public is invited to the dedication to be held at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, May 15, Odegaard concluded.

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From: State Parks & Recreation Commission
100 Dexter Avenue, Seattle 9

Release: Thursday p.m.
November 7

At its recent meeting in Yakima, the State Parks and Recreation Commission authorized acquisition of the 495-acre W. A. Doty property at Satus Pass north of Goldendale. Purchase price was \$21,000.

The tract will become a part of Brooks Memorial State Park, according to John R. Vanderzicht, state parks director, bringing total acreage to 661 acres.

Acquisition of this tract is part of the Commission's long-range plan for state park development throughout the state. Partially timbered, and on Klickitat Creek, the area lies directly across U.S. Highway 97 from the present park. The Doty residence and other buildings were also included in the transaction.

Anticipated first development will be provision for overnight camping and group camps, according to Vanderzicht.



NEWS RELEASE

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501

Margaret E. Felt, Public Information Officer
753-5761
May 11, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Grand Coulee Area will be formally designated as a Registered Natural Landmark during the dedication ceremony to be held at Dry Falls Interpretive Center Sunday, May 15 at 1:30, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Director, Charles H. Odegaard, stated today.

Representing the U. S. Department of Interior in the ceremony will be Bennett T. Gale, Superintendent of the Olympic National Park, of Port Angeles. He will present a certificate and a bronze plaque designating Grand Coulee Area as a federally recognized landmark and heritage site to the Chairman of the State Parks Commission, Joe Hamel.

Bennett T. Gale was appointed superintendent of the Olympic National Park in March of 1965 having previously served in various capacities with the National Park Service since 1936. Before coming to Washington State he was Assistant to the Western Regional Director of the U. S. Park Service in San Francisco.

Washington State Parks Commission, Odegaard said, will act as custodian of the plaque and certificate, placing them for the public to enjoy at the Dry Falls Interpretive Center.

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NEWS RELEASE

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501

Margaret E. Felt, Public Information Officer
753-5761
June 7, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The tangled skeins of history will be explained to some extent when the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's newest interpretive center at Spokane House in Riverside State Park is dedicated June 19, Ted McTighe, State Parks Commissioner, said today.

Not only is the site of Spokane House important as the scene of the first permanent white settlement in Washington, but it also commemorates the one fort west of the Rocky Mountains that was kept continuously in operation by three different companies in the early years of the fur trade between 1810 and 1825.

The North West Company, a Canadian business firm, established and built in 1810 Spokane House and two years later in 1812 the Pacific Fur Company, an American firm formed by John Jacob Astor established another post nearby in competition with the North West Company. In 1813 the American firm was purchased by the North West Company and moved into their buildings shortly thereafter.

Much of this dramatic era of Pacific Northwest history will be portrayed by text, artifacts and diorama in the \$51,890 interpretive center in Riverside State Park, McTighe said.

The dedication ceremony set for 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 19 is open to the public.

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NEWS RELEASE

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501

Margaret E. Felt, Public
Information Officer
Phone 753-5761 June 9, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The soon-to-be dedicated Spokane House Interpretive Center in Riverside State Park will add considerably to the popularity of an already well attended park, Ted McTighe, State Parks Commissioner, said today. This new center, located near the site of the original Spokane House at the confluence of the Little Spokane and Spokane Rivers will be dedicated June 19 at 2 p. m.

Giving the dedicatory address will be Dr. Herman Deutsch, formerly professor of Pacific Northwest History at both the Washington State University and the University of Washington. He is also author of several well-known writings including the book HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. He has recently retired from his teaching duties at Pullman and is making his home there. Dr. Deutsch also serves as a member of the Board of Advisors of the Pacific Northwest Quarterly.

Ted McTighe will act as Master of Ceremonies. The public is invited to the dedication of Spokane House at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 19, McTighe said.

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NEWS RELEASE

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501

Margaret E. Felt, Public Information Officer
753-5761
June 14, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

* THE APPALOOSA HORSE AND SPOKANE HOUSE

There was a bitter trade rivalry back in 1812 and 1813 between the Pacific Fur Company at Spokane House and the North West Company at Fort Spokane. Spokane House, however, seemed to be the center of the local society with horse racing in the summer and dances and parties during the winter to entertain the traders and their Indian friends.

The pride of the Spokane House stables was Le Bleu, a sky-blue horse with a spotted rump standing fifteen hands and two inches high, somewhat larger than the usual Indian horse of his day. At the age of seven years he had beaten all the best horses raced at Spokane House for two seasons.

Then one summer morning the Spokane House factor, John Clarke, received a message from a party of his men in the Flathead country to the east. It seemed that a large party of Indians with a quantity of good furs had arrived and was camped between Clarke's trading party and a company of North Westers. The Indians refused to trade with either group, however, until they had received their customary treat of smoking tobacco. Since both groups of traders were entirely out of tobacco the trade would go to those who could secure the first supply.

When this message was received at Spokane House the same time it was received at Fort Spokane there ensued a turmoil of saddling horses, preparing riders, packing tobacco. Clarke chose one of his smallest men,

Ross Cox, and mounted him on Le Bleu. At the same time Cox started up the trail to the plateau above the posts another rider spurred out of Fort Spokane.

The trail led over sandy soil through scattered pines for many miles and from noon until nightfall the two riders raced, covering 62 miles by dusk. Le Bleu gained steadily on his rival and reached the thick timber near Lake Pend Oreille far in advance. Over the last ten miles, on forest trail and in pitch dark, Le Bleu chose his own gait and brought Cox in well ahead of the North Wester. Since his tobacco was presented to the Indians first they sold all their furs to the Pacific Fur Company.

Within a week, the story goes, Le Bleu had fully recovered from his run and later that summer he again won the local racing meet.

The Palouse Empire Appaloose Club will carry on this proud tradition when they represent the famous horse of the Indians of the Spokane area at the dedication of the Spokane House Interpretive Center on Sunday June 19 by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. A group of riders from this group will ride through the Spokane House grounds during the ceremony adding to the historical aspects of the occasion. This Club's avowed purpose is to promote the continual development of the Appaloosa throughout the region once dominated by the Nez Perce Indians and their spotted horses.

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*From "THE APPALOOSA HORSE" by Dr. Francis Haines, Historian of the Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc.



NEWS RELEASE

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501

Margaret E. Felt, Public Information Officer
753-5761
June 27, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Dear Editor:

This is the lead article of a series of six articles on the first fifty years of Washington State Parks....1915 to 1965. These articles will emanate from the various divisions within the Department: Planning and Development, Operations, Recreation, Youth, and Administration.

I think you will find them interesting from the standpoint of the evolution of the recreational concept and the story of Washington's progress from the days of primitive outdoor camping to today's modern campsite that has everything.... utility hookups, comfort stations with hot showers nearby amid carefully planned surroundings.

On Wednesday June 29th the article on STATE PARKS PLANS AHEAD will have a wide scope....from 1915 into the future. On Monday July 4 (to be sent July 1) you will find an article from our Operations Division with an insight on what makes a state park tick....the people who must operate and maintain a park, the equipment they need, etc.

And on July 7 the fourth article will deal with the Recreation Division that offers recreation consulting services to agencies desiring to set up a park system and supervises the group camps within state parks.

The last two articles will deal with the YDCC and NYC programs and with Administration and Policy....due to be released from this office July 11 and 13.

I sincerely hope that you will find them interesting to your readers and do not hesitate to phone if there are details you wish clarified.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Felt
Public Information Officer

MEF:clg
Enclosure

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

The first fifty years in the history of state parks in Washington were years of acquisition of suitable park sites, evolution of the concept of recreation needs and the development and improvement of facilities to meet the public's demand. Since the State of Washington contains an area larger than the New England states and Delaware combined with some 69,127 square miles....2,291 square miles of which is water....it provides a fit setting for the more than one hundred state parks that dot the scenic landscape.

Wherever there is a need for a facility to enjoy some outdoor sports such as boating, swimming or hiking you can very well expect to find a state park in the area. You can camp overnight in a Washington State park and then range out high, wide and handsome to discover the world of Washington in the immediate vicinity and when you have explored to your heart's content then you can move on to another one.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission realizes fully the responsibility it owes to the residents of this state to provide adequate state parks of every kind and description to meet every outdoor recreation need. They are cognizant of the great potential for recreational development in Washington and plan soberly for the future generations to come.

A recent users' survey made under the sponsorship of the Commission revealed detailed information and characteristics and attitudes of users of our state parks. For instance they found that some 75% of overnight campers and 53% of the day visitors came from the four counties of King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap Countiesthe most populous counties of the state. This can only lead to the assumption that each park, no matter where it is located, is of interest to everyone who visits a state park. Any development of any park anywhere means enrichment of recreational



NEWS RELEASE

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501

Margaret E. Felt, Public Information Officer
753-5761
June 29, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Dear Editor:

This is the second in the series of six articles on Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission entitled STATE PARKS PLANS AHEAD.

The next article will tell the story of operations and maintenance entitled FROM TENTING GROUND TO TRAILER SITES.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Felt,
Public Information Officer

MEF:clg
Enclosures

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501

Charles H. Odegaard, Director
Margaret E. Felt, Public Information Officer

STATE PARKS PLANS AHEAD

During the half century elapsing since the first state park was presented to the State of Washington as a gift, more than 73,154 acres of state park properties have been acquired from donors, by purchase or through reservation recreational land.

Larrabee State Park on Chuckanut Drive, south of Bellingham, claims the honor as the first recreation park, while John R. Jackson House, south of Chehalis, was the first historical heritage site. Both were established in 1915, three years after Governor Marlon Hay had appointed the first State Parks "Board."

From this humble beginning a widespread system of state parks now serves Washingtonians and their guests in every section of the state. In 1965 there were 124 state parks of which 28 are heritage sites, 12 are considered strictly marine parks and 84 are combination parks for camping, picnicking and other forms of recreation. The variety of recreation found in these parks ranges from skiing to saltwater fishing, from exploring the rain forest to camping deep within a scabland coulee, from oystering to water skiing on a vast inland lake.

Today the system is governed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission which was formed in 1947 by the Washington State Legislature. The seven members are appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate and serve six-year terms of office. Subsequent Legislatures have added to the duties and responsibilities of the Commission from time to time. The laws governing the Commission are coded under RCW 43.51.

Basically, the mandatory powers and duties of the Commission are: "Have the care, charge, control, and supervision of all parks and parkways acquired or set aside

by the State for park or parkway purposes." and to "Select and purchase or obtain options upon, lease, or otherwise acquire for and in the name of the State such tracts of land, including shore and tidelands, for park and parkway purposes as it deems proper."

Further powers include having the authority to accept funds and donations, make rules and regulations, hire necessary assistance, develop and maintain the park and parkways system, grant concessions and operate a youth development and conservation corp:

The Commission is also authorized to "Study and appraise parks and recreation needs of the state and assemble and disseminate information relative to parks and recreation and coordinate the parks and recreation functions of the various state departments, and cooperate with the state and federal agencies in the promotion of parks and recreational opportunities."

Slightly more than 13 million people visited these parks during the calendar year of 1965 and some 3 million of this number were from out of state. By dividing Washington's population of nearly 3 million into the remaining 9 million in-state visitors to parks it could mean that each Washingtonian visited a state park three times during the year of 1965. Such popularity naturally means greater responsibility to the State Parks and Recreation Commission and its staff.

The Parks system Planning and Development Division of 23 people is constantly building for this ever burgeoning state parks' attendance. Among the capital improvements during 1964-65 some 30 projects amounting to more than \$360,000 were completed on work carried over from the preceding year. In addition plans and specifications for about 70 other projects were prepared and construction completed on some \$672,000 worth of capital improvement projects. These included administrative units, comfort station, squad huts for group camps, boat launching, docks and floats, road and parking areas, new camping loops, water systems, power lines and trailer sanitary dumps....In addition to several

historical and interpretive and geological projects.

At state marine parks during 1965 more than 50,000 boaters used the park facilities for boatdocking and moorage as they "island-hopped" around Puget Sound and Hood Canal. They also found boat havens at Beacon Rock and Sacajawea State Parks on the Columbia River and at some 18 lakes upon which state parks are located. Boating families also found primitive camping facilities....pit toilets and water....on many of the 35 islands leased or owned by Washington State Parks system in the Puget Sound areamainly located in the San Juan Islands.

At the October 1965 meeting of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission the proposed 20-year State Parks Plan was approved. Within the \$144,572,388 total area acquisition and developmental needs, were the following: boating access - \$10,778,280; boating moorages - \$5,013,200; camping - \$59,191,200; horseback riding - \$545,100; nature walks - \$769,460; picnicking - \$10,034,200; swimming - \$17,426,920; water skiing - \$4,591,108; administrative units - \$4,350,000; special development in the San Juan and Puget Sound island groups - \$5,320,000. There also was approved \$17,552,92 for all other needs including historical, interpretive, etc., as well as \$10,000,000 on an immediate need to up-date existing facilities. The Commission hopes to finance this next 20-year program through outdoor recreation funding measures and other new sources.

State Parks has several sources of revenue provided by legislative act.... the Motor Vehicle Drivers License Law as amended by the 1957 Legislature, Laws of 1957, Chapter 294, provided that \$2.20 out of each driver's license fee be earmarked for deposit in the Park and Parkways Account. In addition, approximately 25 per cent of the money received from the State Highway Code Laws, Chapters 55, 187, 188 and 189, Laws of 1937 is allocated to the Park and Parkways Account. Additional revenue is derived through charges for services and concession and lease agreements with State Parks.

Ensuing articles on Washington's state parks will discuss the transition

from the days of "tenting grounds" to modern-day trailer sites; state parks and their youth programs of YDCC and NYC; the Recreational consulting services and group camps; future planning and development and State Parks administration and policy.

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