

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Cowlitz Pioneers

On August 5, 1925, the Cowlitz County Pioneer and Historical Society was organized at Longview. Residence prior to the year of Statehood, 1889, was fixed upon as qualification for membership and it is reported that 250 men and women were present at the meeting as eligibles. Benjamin Franklin Huntington, of Castlerock was elected President. He is 76 years of age and crossed the plains as a baby with his father's family in 1852. Howard Huntington was elected Vice President and Mrs. Winnie Huntington Quick, Secretary. Both are also of Castlerock. J. E. Jones of Kelso was the oldest pioneer present. He is 96 years of age and is commonly called "Dad." John Plamondon was the oldest native son present. He is still living on Cowlitz Prairie where he was born in 1841.

The pioneers were honor guests at the first unveiling of forty-two historical paintings entitled "Conquerors of the Trail," in the new Hotel Monticello, Longview.

Okanogan Pioneers

The pioneers of Okanogan County celebrate Labor Day each year by a picnic in the grove at Conconully. This year there was an unusual attendance, some coming from a distance of 125 miles. One of the pioneers who attracted much attention was Mrs. Mary F. Malott, of Malott. She was the first white woman to settle there when that part of the Indian Reservation was thrown open for settlement in 1886. Jimmy Dorian first saw "Okanogan" Smith's ranch at Osoyoos in 1884, and has lived in that region since. He was counted the oldest resident at the picnic. One of the many interesting men and women present was A. J. Tugaw who has preserved on his Johnson Creek ranch the log cabin where the first meeting of the County Commissioners of Okanogan County was held. O. L. Woody's paper, the *Okanogan Independent*, in recording the reunion included this entry: "Mrs. R. L. Nash of the Chilliwhist did not come to Okanogan County with the first settlers, but remarked that she came to Idaho when cowboys tied the trains to telephone poles. John East, who was present at the driving of the golden spike on the Northern Pacific in Montana, and also an early settler here, told Mr. Oliphant that Henry Villard and General U. S. Grant each took hold of