

## NEWS DEPARTMENT

### *Mullan Road Markers*

Eight miles east of Cheney by the side of the state highway between Spangle and Cheney stands a beautiful marker of the famous Mullan Road. The unveiling ceremonies took place on Wednesday, September 30, 1925. The program on that occasion consisted of the following:

1. Invocation by Rev. H. M. Painter.
2. Remarks by C. S. Kingston, of the State Normal School at Cheney, Chairman of the Day.
3. Address by N. W. Durham, of Spokane.
4. Brief remarks by President N. D. Showalter of the State Normal School at Cheney; W. P. Bonney, Secretary of the Washington State Historical Society; Edward E. Lane, Chaplain of Fort George Wright; D. T. Ham, former Spokane County Commissioner; and Louis Yale, a pioneer stage coach driver.

About 150 persons were present at the ceremonies.

The marker consists of a pyramid of field stones set in cement and resting on a concrete base. Into the side facing the road is set a table of dark gray marble. At the top are engraved the initials "M. R." for Mullan Road. Below the initials is engraved the following record:

"Military Wagon Road. Located by Captain John Mullan, 1858-1862. Crossed Highway Here. Pyramid Erected by Cheney Post No. 72 American Legion, Assisted by History Department State Normal School. Tablet placed by Washington State Historical Society, 1925."

Mr. Durham in his address and the other speakers in their brief remarks made clear the meaning of the Mullan Road from Fort Benton to Fort Walla Walla in the history of the Northwest. This same service was rendered by the newspapers of Cheney, Spokane and other cities in that neighborhood.

Mention should be made here of the fact that Montana is greatly interested in the work of marking the Mullan Road. State Historian Frank D. Brown was especially active in the placing of monuments. When the monument was erected at Mullan, Idaho, on September 22, 1918, a pamphlet was issued reciting the

history of the famous road. Other markers and monuments have been placed along the road in Montana and Idaho.

The prime movers in the work of placing this new marker near Cheney were J. Orin Oliphant and Rev. H. M. Painter. They are already at work on other markers to be placed along the road. Mr. Oliphant is a member of the History Department of the State Normal School at Cheney and Mr. Painter, pastor of the Congregational Church at Cheney, is the son of W. C. Painter, a pioneer and volunteer in the Indian wars of 1855 and 1878. On his mother's side, Mr. Painter is a great-grandson of Robert Moore, who came to the Oregon country in 1840. By birth and breeding Mr. Painter is thoroughly imbued with a love for the history of the Pacific Northwest.

The same men, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid of Lamont and the Washington State Historical Society, unveiled a similar monument on the Mullan Road at Lamont, Washington, on Saturday afternoon, December 5, 1925. Mrs. W. W. Shields presided and addresses were delivered by Rev. H. M. Painter, E. W. Truitt, Richard Millman and Robert Wallace.

Prescott, Washington, celebrated Admission Day, November 11, by erecting a Mullan Road marker at that place. The ceremonies were under the auspices of the Prescott Board of Trade and the principal address was delivered by T. C. Elliott of Walla Walla, the great authority on Columbia River history.

These Mullan Road markers are in line with others of a similar nature and show that the people of the Northwest are awakening to an important service. While discussing another occasion, the *Oregonian*, of Portland, Oregon, said:

"By neglect to localize outstanding episodes, the Northwest has fostered the illusion that the romance of history is peculiarly associated with older countries. It is measurably true of the entire region that there has been failure to act in this regard until opportunity to obtain verifiable data has forever passed."

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*Twenty-first Annual Historical Meeting*

The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association held its twenty-first annual meeting in Seattle on November 27-28, 1925. The general theme was the Pacific Rim, following the impulse of the Institute of Pacific Relations held in Honolulu during the summer.