

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Horace Chapin Henry

Early on the morning of June 29, 1928, Horace Chapin Henry passed quietly away at the advanced age of eighty-three years. He had lived in Seattle for many years where his benefactions and his modest leadership in art, culture and civic enterprises earned for him the love and esteem of his fellow citizens. The local newspapers have fully expressed the sorrow of the community over the loss of his attractive and helpful personality. Brief acknowledgment should be made here of his munificent gifts to the University of Washington. These took the form of statuary for the ornamentation of the new library, a large collection of rare and beautiful books from his private library and, greatest of all, his collection of fine paintings and works of art together with a beautiful building to house them. This building and its prized contents are now affectionately known as the Henry Art Gallery. Works of art collected over a long term of years cannot be definitely valued even if the original purchase prices were known. It has been frequently estimated that the money value of the building and its treasures is about half a million dollars. In such a case estimates are futile except as estimates. The gifts and the spirit that prompted them are beyond price to an institution of learning.

As the years pass on, appreciation will not only endure but it will increase and the personality of Mr. Henry will be magnified as greater knowledge clarifies the truth of how a vigorous builder of railroads found a way to preserve and project so much of the beauties of civilization.

Morse and His "Northern Star"

Acknowledgment is here made to Mr. Ed. C. Morse of Seattle for a highly appreciated gift of twelve scrapbooks uniformly and neatly bound. The books contain all the reading matter carefully clipped by his father, Eldridge Morse, from his pioneer newspaper, *The Northern Star*, published in Snohomish City from January 15, 1876 to May 3, 1879. The books are convincing evidence of the editor's thoughtful and methodical personality. The twelve books are in six pairs headed "History," "Science," "De-

scriptions," "Essays," "Poetry" and "Miscellany." Each clipping is dated and put in its proper place.

The first issue contained the editor's Salutatory and the last issue carried his Valedictory. It is a completed record of one of the most remarkable journalistic ventures in the history of Washington, Territory and State. Even small pioneer newspapers could make much trouble for the editor-publisher-printer—he would have to be all three—but Mr. Morse started out by spurning all such economies as "patent insides" and he plunged into the wilderness. The *History of Skagit and Snohomish Counties*, page 432, says: "Imagine, then, the surprise of one who peruses the files of the *Star* and finds that in the town of Snohomish, in January, 1876, when the dense forest was scarcely a stone's throw from any part of the village and the stumps were still standing in the streets, a paper began to make its appearance which, for literary excellence, variety of subjects treated and general ability might safely challenge comparison with the best and brightest weekly papers of the present time."

Although *The Northern Star* published from six hundred to eight hundred copies per issue there is probably not a perfect file now in existence. The University of Washington Library has a file from No. 1., January 15, 1876 to the issue for December 22, 1877. This condition, of course, gives added value to these twelve scrapbooks. Students of history, journalism and literature will find in them a rich field to cultivate.

The editor, Eldridge Morse, was an unusual man. He descended from John Moss (the family name being thus spelled originally) one of the early Puritan settlers in Massachusetts. It is claimed that the famous artist and inventor, Samuel F. B. Morse descended from the same ancestor. Eldridge Morse was born in Wallingford, Connecticut on April 14, 1847. He was not old enough to participate in the heavy fighting of the Civil War but enlisted near its close. At the end of his enlistment, he entered the University of Michigan, studying law, medicine, and geology. He received there a degree in law in 1870. He practiced law in Iowa for two years and then moved westward settling in Snohomish on October 26, 1872. There he lived until his death on January 5, 1914. He was an omnivorous reader and an industrious writer. While Hubert Howe Bancroft was preparing his western history he obtained from Mr. Morse more than

three thousand pages of manuscript. In Bancroft's bibliography for his *History of Washington, Idaho and Montana* is found "Morse, (Eldridge) Notes of Hist. and Res. of Wash. Territory 24 vols. ms." Mr. Morse also wrote reams of Indian legends which have disappeared from the keeping of the last known custodian.

His newspaper venture exhausted his savings and during the last years of his life he maintained himself by selling the products from his loved gardens near Snohomish. His son Ed. C. Morse is a mining engineer well known in Alaska and other parts of the Pacific Northwest.

Fort Nisqually Markers

On June 9, 1928, appropriate ceremonies commemorated the placing of markers at Fort Nisqually, first home of white men on the shores of Puget Sound. The settlement by the Hudson's Bay Company was begun there on May 30, 1833. The property now belongs to E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Company which corporation has sought to save and to mark the old buildings. The Washington State Historical Society, deeming this act worthy of public recognition, prepared a program of dedication.

The presiding officer was President C. L. Babcock of the Washington State Historical Society. Music was furnished by the Fort Lewis Military Band. The address of welcome was given by Manager F. T. Beers of the Du Pont Powder works and at the request of President Babcock the response to that address was made by State Senator Walter S. Davis. W. P. Bonney, Secretary of the Washington State Historical Society, read from the old Hudson's Bay Company records the first day's entry in the daily journal of Fort Nisqually. Rev. C. C. Barnes was chaplain of the day and addresses were made by Professor O. B. Sperlin, D. S. Robinson, General Robert Alexander, George F. Cotterill and Hillman F. Jones. The weather was perfect for the out-door meeting and several hundred people were present.

Old Puget Sound Directory

Acknowledgment is here made of the receipt of a well preserved copy of the Puget Sound Business Directory for 1872. The book was presented by Mrs. M. R. Whipple and was from the library of her father, Judge Roger Sherman Greene.