

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

the handle but that it was a laborer who actually drove the spike."

At the conclusion of the picnic lunch, Judge William C. Brown, of Okanogan, called the meeting to order and presided over it in the absence of the President of the Okanogan Pioneer Association. The annual address was given by Professor Edmond S. Meany, of the University of Washington. Following the address officers of the Association were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President, Judge C. H. Neal; Charles H. Lovejoy, Secretary; and David Gubser, Treasurer. The Executive Committee consists of the above officers and Tom Roberts and Jimmy Dorian, of Conconully, and D. S. Gamble of Brewster.

Old Documents

T. C. Van Epps, of Los Angeles, California, was for many years a citizen of Olympia. He has found among his papers two old documents relating to the early history of Washington Territory. He has contributed them to the archives at the University of Washington. They will probably be reproduced in an early number of the *Washington Historical Quarterly*.

Colville Centennial

H. H. McCulloch, of Colville, sends a brief outline of events by which the people of Colville sought to recognize the centennial of the Hudson's Bay Company' old Fort Colville. On September 16 a parade of eleven floats portrayed the span of history as follows:

First—Colville Valley in 1825, the forest primeval. Eighty boys and girls arranged on a truck, each dressed in gunny-sack clothes and all arranged to represent a mountain. The result was surprisingly attractive.

The floats that followed were: Second—Indians making camp; Third—Explorers, canoe on a beach, two voyageurs in costume; Fourth—Adventurers, miners; Fifth—Hunters and trappers; Sixth—Traders, MacDonald of Hudson's Bay Company in costume and trading; Seventh—Missionaries, Father Eells and wife preaching to Indians in the woods; Eighth—Settlers, covered wagon with plenty of kids in it, old timer and wife driving and behind the wagon a cow is led; Ninth—Soldiers and representation of a blockhouse fort; Tenth—Home; Eleventh—Colville Valley 1925, the Colville-Spokane stage filled with school children.

In addition to the parade they have a local play, "Annette of Old Fort Colville," which has proved a success.