

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Pictorial Record of Puget Sound Steamers

Willard C. Johnson, of Tacoma, a student in the University of Washington, has for years pursued a useful hobby with remarkable results. He inherited a love for sea-going crafts and early began to collect pictures of all such known to have plied the waters of Puget Sound. Such pictures (many rare ones) now run into the hundreds. Following this work he began to make models, true to scale, one-eighth of an inch to the foot. He now has in storage at Tacoma 307 such models. It is hoped that there may be provided a marine room in some museum to properly house this valuable record of an important phase of northwestern history.

Railway Survey of 1853

In the September, 1929, number of the *Colorado Magazine* there is an article entitled "The Explorations of Gunnison and Beckwith in Colorado and Utah, 1853," by Leland Hargrave Creer, Assistant Professor of History, University of Washington. The story is gleaned from government documents and is made valuable as well as interesting by the manifest fact that Professor Creer is quite familiar with the ground covered and the history involved in that early surveying expedition.

The Qivira Society

A group of investigators engaged in research pertaining to the early history of the southwestern part of the United States and of northern Mexico have organized The Quivira Society. There are no initiation fees, dues, or responsibilities. The members, libraries, clubs, or individuals, simply agree to purchase English translations of old Spanish documents of historical merit as they are published, one or two a year. The high quality of the enterprise is assured by the following list of sponsors: Arthur S. Aiton, University of Michigan; Lansing B. Bloom, editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review*; Herbert E. Bolton, Director of the Bancroft Library, University of California; Charles W. Hackett, University of Texas; George P. Hammond, University of Southern California; Edgar L. Hewett, Director of the School of American Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico; F. W. Hodge, Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York; J. Lloyd Mechem, University of Texas; Agapito Rey, Indiana University; A. B. Thomas, University of Oklahoma, and H. R. Wagner, San Marino, California. Of these, Mr. Hammond is managing editor, while Mr. Bolton and

Mr. Hodge will serve as advisory editors. The publications will be available only to members of the Society.

Wyoming Landmark Commission

The State of Wyoming is rich in old trails and historic sites. The people are showing determined interest in the plans for placing permanent markers. In 1927 the Legislature enacted a law to provide for the Historical Landmark Commission of Wyoming, clothing it with ample power to acquire the necessary lands even to the extent of condemnation, known in some laws as "eminent domain."

The Commission has just issued its first *Biennial Report* showing a commendable amount of work already accomplished. One of the sites sought as a permanent possession of the State is Old Independence Rock, spoken of as "one of the great natural monuments along the old Oregon Trail." Names of hundreds of emigrants are still discernable, though many of them were traced on the old Rock in the early '40's. The natural monument, and the site of old Fort Laramie (as well as the sites of other frontier forts) are in private ownership. Efforts are being made to acquire them for the State.

The members of this first Commission are R. S. Ellison, chairman; J. S. Weppner, secretary, and Warren Richardson, treasurer.

John C. Lawrence

Mr. J. Orin Oliphant of the State Normal School at Cheney, received in trust from the late John C. Lawrence, a carefully prepared manuscript entitled: "The Story of My Life." It was to be given into the custody of the State Library at Olympia. Mr. Lawrence has there recorded his forty years' of experiences in and around Garfield, Eastern Washington. He was a pioneer in educational work, an officer in the United States Land Office in Waterville, and later a member of the Washington State Railroad Commission. His last work was begun on January 2, 1922, with the Washington Co-operative Egg and Poultry Association at Winlock. In the last part of his book, Mr. Lawrence had placed twenty-one poems he had written from time to time.

Sixty-five Years of Wedded Life

On August 18, 1929, felicitations passed between Olympia and Portland while two pioneer couples were celebrating the sixty-fifth anniversary of their weddings. Mr. and Mrs. William M. Blakeley