

The Diary of Amelia Stewart Knight

The University of Washington Library has received, as a gift, the diary kept by Mrs. Amelia Stewart Knight while crossing the plains from Iowa to Oregon in 1853. This diary was printed in the *Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association* for 1928, pages 38-54, but the manuscript original constitutes a most welcome addition to the archives of the University. With the Diary has been presented also the wooden writing desk upon which the day by day account was written. This desk is a home-made box with space for paper, pens, and ink. It is so hinged as to open out into a writing desk to hold upon the lap.

The Library is indebted for the gift to Dr. N. R. Knight, a grandson of the diarist, who told Professor Meany of this prized document, then in possession of his uncle, Mr. "Chat" Knight of Vancouver, Washington. In October, 1934, Professor Meany wrote to Mr. Chatfield Knight suggesting the gift, with the result that the latter directed that the diary be presented to the University of Washington. Mr. Knight's death occurred in December, 1934, before the transfer had been made. His daughter, Miss Amelia Knight, has now sent both the diary and desk for safe-keeping in library archives. These two memorials form an unusual exhibit of covered-wagon days.

The Completion of Sabin Insured

Students of American History will be glad to learn of the encouraging outlook for the completion of Sabin's *Dictionary of Books Relating to America*. A year ago, it looked as though it would be hopeless to bring the work to a successful termination. An additional grant of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation, however, insures the completion of the compilation. The editor, Mr. R. W. G. Vail, reports the volumes as nearly finished and the titles under George Washington are virtually done. He sees no reason why subscribers should not receive their final installment of the publication before the end of 1936.

Biography of Asa S. Mercer in Preparation

Miss Dorothy Weintz of Hyattsville, Wyoming, is actively at work securing material for a biography of her grandfather, Asa

Shinn Mercer, historic figure of the West and first president of the University of Washington. In addition to diaries and unfinished manuscripts already in hand, she has added much data from the manuscript collection in the University of Washington Library and from private records held by relatives in and near Seattle.

Conference of the Pacific Northwest Library Association

The twenty-sixth annual conference of the Pacific Northwest Library Association was held in Portland, Oregon, on August 29-31, 1935, with approximately two hundred and fifty librarians in attendance. Mr. Carl H. Milam, Executive Secretary of the American Library Association, was present throughout the Conference. Miss Althea Warren, Librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library, was present as a representative of the California Library Association. The following officers were elected: President, Constance Ewing, Library Association of Portland, Portland, Oregon; First Vice-President, Mr. John S. Richards, University of Washington Library, Seattle; second Vice-President, Miss Julia C. Stockett, Vancouver, B. C. Public Library; Secretary, Miss Edna Jarboe, Pocatello, Idaho, Public Library; Treasurer, Mr. M. Hale Douglas, University of Oregon Library, Eugene, Oregon.

Death of George M. Allen

George M. Allen, for twenty-four years publisher of the *Topenish News*, died on September 9. Mr. Allen was reared and educated in Seattle and was a graduate of the University of Washington. In 1898 with his brother, Eugene Allen, he established the *Klondike Nugget* in Dawson, Yukon Territory, packing his press over the mountain trails. He stayed there six years. Another brother, former Senator Pliny Allen, is a well-known resident of Seattle.

Insurance Firm Acquires Leary Mansion

A recent press dispatch states that the General Insurance Company of America will convert the famous Eliza Ferry Leary mansion into general executives offices and build upon the same tract of land a five-story office building for employees. Mrs. Eliza Ferry Leary, who died on March 8, 1935, at the age of 83 years, was a daughter of the first governor of the state of Washington and was for many years a well-known resident of Seattle. The Leary mansion, completed in 1910 at a cost of \$250,000, is a historic landmark of Seattle.