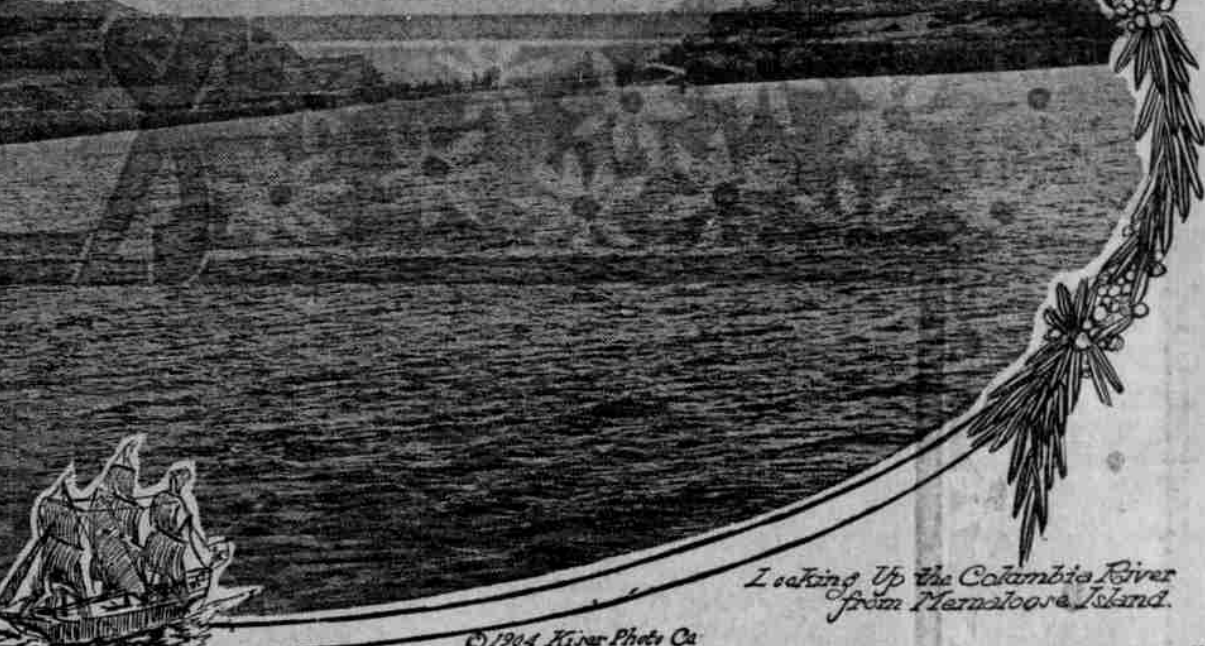
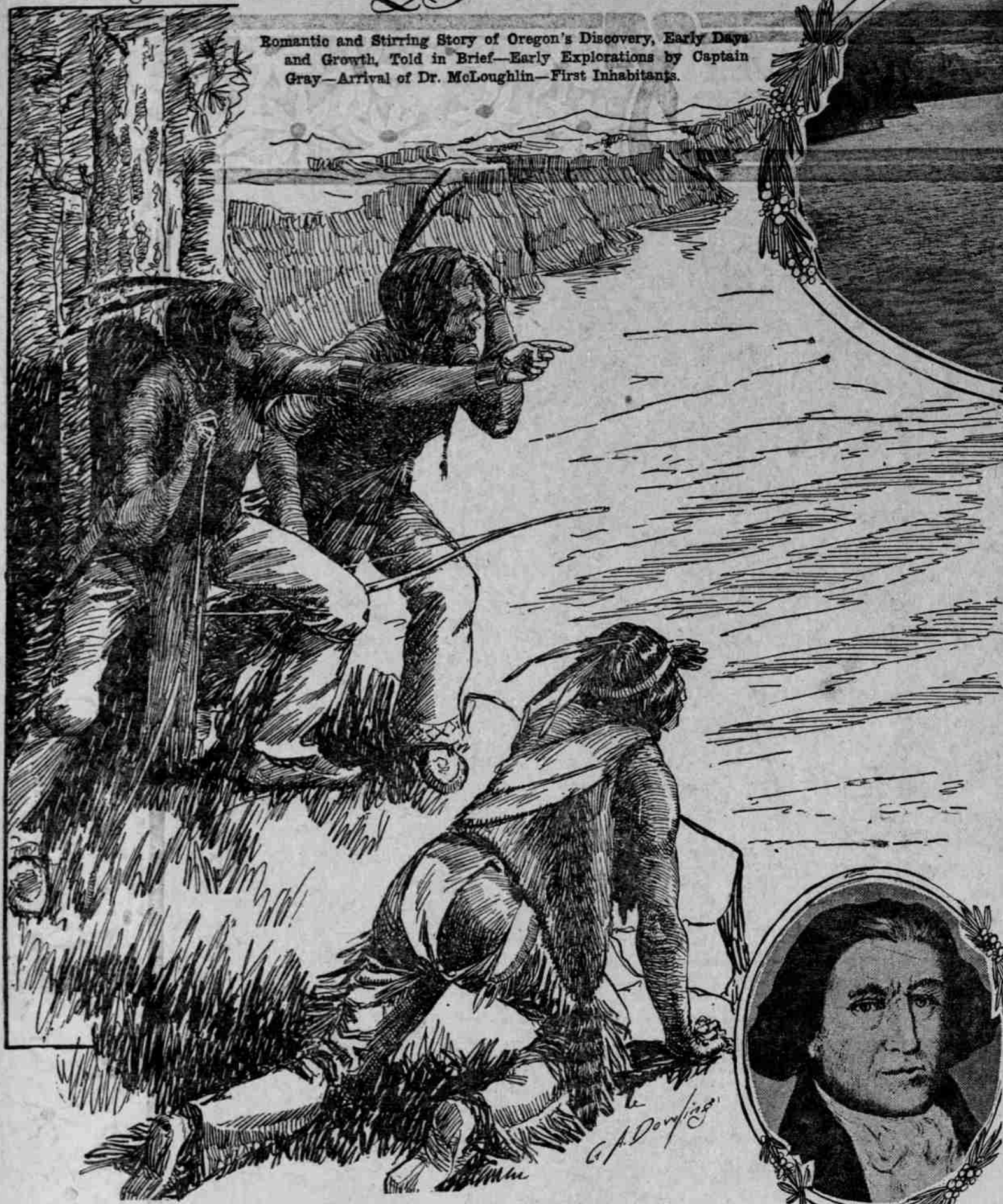


# THE WINNING OF OREGON

## An Outlined History of the State.

Romantic and Stirring Story of Oregon's Discovery, Early Days and Growth, Told in Brief—Early Explorations by Captain Gray—Arrival of Dr. McLoughlin—First Inhabitants.



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Looking Up the Columbia River from Horns Island.

sequence of this action has been the precipitation of a portion of this wall bordering the stream into its bed. \* \* \* these facts indicate some truth in that old Indian tradition.

### Indians Visit St. Louis.

In 1821 four Nez Perce Indian chiefs left their wigwams in the Oregon Country, on the Columbia River, their objective point being St. Louis. They wished to secure the "White Man's Book of Heaven," of which they had heard, and to know more of its teachings. Two of them were old and venerable, the others young and active. The older chiefs died and were buried in St. Louis. The names of the younger chiefs were "Ise-oh-ka-ta-kin" (the rabbit skin leggings), and "Ho-ah-ah-cotes-min" (no horns on his head). The last mentioned was the first white woman to cross the plains and over the Rocky Mountains to the great "River of the West." In 1814 an English woman named Barnes arrived here on the ship Isaac Todd, but did not remain long.

### Indians Are Suspicious.

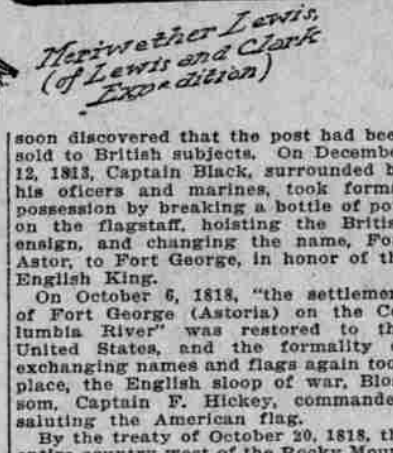
By request of the Hudson's Bay Company, the Roman Catholics sent their missionaries, Fathers F. X. Blanchet and Modest Demers, from Montreal, Canada, and they arrived in Vancouver November 24, 1837, after an overland journey of over 4000 miles. Upon their arrival at Vancouver, all of the above missionaries, Protestant and Catholic, received a most cordial welcome from Dr. McLoughlin. The Methodist mission was under the control of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Presbyterian mission, during these early years, was financed and encouraged by the American Board of Foreign Missions, the board at that time being under the joint control of the Presbyterian, Congregational and Dutch Reformed churches. The white man filled the Indians with mistrust. Some of them said that "they did not wish to go to war, but they would fight as long as they had a drop of blood to shed. As a result of this a superstitious belief in the power of the white man's gun would be given them by the Americans, there followed three Indian wars—the Cayuse, the Rogue River and the Yakima. The Cayuse war was the first and the most bloody. It was the first of a series of Indian wars which were the result of the white man's encroachment upon the Indian's territory. General Joseph Lane was Oregon's first Territorial Governor. His love and admiration for the Indians was so great that he was specially fitted to deal with the Indians.

### Wars With Indians.

The Yakima war (1855-56) was fought by the United States troops and volunteers under the administration of Territorial Governor George L. Curry. General Philip Sheridan, then a Lieutenant, had his first responsible command during this war. He was ordered, with a detachment, to proceed from Fort Vancouver to the Cascades. It has been estimated that 1895 white persons were killed by the Indians between the years 1825 and 1875 in the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Many immigrant families were killed, the men, women and children suffering fiendish and unspeakable outrages. One writer has said: "The perils and pains of the Plymouth Rock Pilgrims were not greater than those of the pioneers of Oregon, and there are few incidents in history more profoundly sad than the narratives of hardship undergone in the settlement of this country. The native race, dominating the country for ages, and in whose behalf the early missionaries came to Oregon, had practically disappeared within 10 years after Jason Lee's arrival in 1834. Only a remnant was left of the great multitude that Lewis and Clark had seen along the shores of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Their ancient camps and stone implements are found from the seashore to the mountain tops. Lewis and Clark estimated the number of natives in the valley of the Columbia to be 40,000. Others estimate the entire native population in the Oregon Country to have been over 100,000. In his report for 1868, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs reports the Indian population in Oregon to be 4691. One naturally asks the cause of this great fatality. There are two reasons given by their own descendants. One is the ravages of smallpox, and the other is the "cold-water cure" prescribed for ague, which sent many to the happy hunting grounds. This "cure" was the plunging of the entire body, when "broken out," in cold water. (To be concluded next Sunday.) (Copyright, 1912, by Robt. H. Blossom.)



William Clark of Lewis and Clark Expedition.



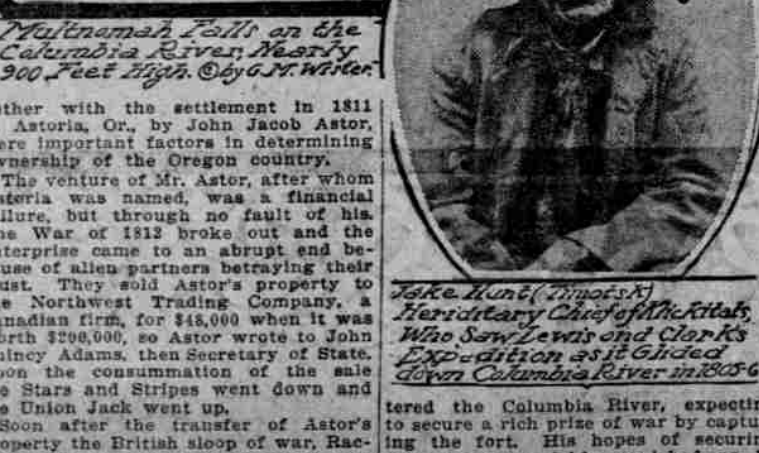
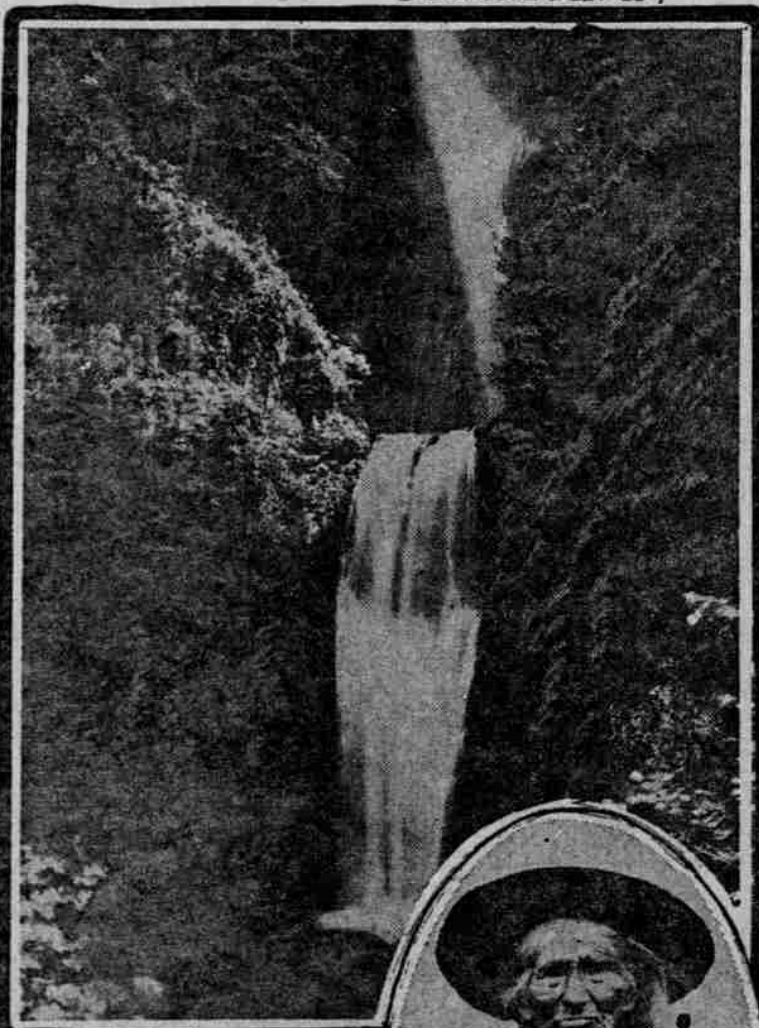
Robert Gray, Discoverer of the Columbia River.

soon discovered that the post had been sold to British subjects. On December 12, 1811, Captain Black, surrounded by his officers and marines, took formal possession by breaking a bottle of port on the flagstaff, hoisting the British ensign, and changing the name, Fort Astor, to Fort George, in honor of the English King. On October 6, 1811, "the settlement of Fort George (Astoria) on the Columbia River" was restored to the United States, and the formality of exchanging names and flags again took place. The English sloop of war, Blossom, Captain F. Hickey, commander, saluting the American flag. By the treaty of October 20, 1818, the entire country west of the Rocky Mountains was open to the settlement of both countries for 10 years, at the end of which time joint occupancy for an indefinite period was agreed upon. The treaty of August 8, 1827, continued the indefinite joint occupancy by the two countries, subject, however, to termination after October 20, 1828, by either party giving to the other 15 months' notice.

Arrival of Dr. John McLoughlin. On the consolidation of the North-West Trading Company with the Hudson's Bay Company, Dr. John McLoughlin was selected to come West and assume charge. He left Canada, accompanied by his family and a retinue of servants, destined overland to Astoria, and arrived there in 1824. He soon removed to the site where Vancouver, Wash., now stands, as he considered it a better location for a post. The Hudson's Bay Company was a powerful English corporation established in 1670, and organized for trading purposes only. Their business with the trappers and Indians was a large and profitable one. They did not encourage American immigration, as this meant settlement of the country and hence scarcity of wild animals from which valuable skins or furs were procured or which American competition would enter their field.

"The Father of Oregon." McLoughlin has been called by some the "Father of Oregon." His noble qualities of mind and heart are seldom equaled. F. X. Matthien, in an interview with the writer, speaks of him in the most glowing terms. He says: "McLoughlin was a large and powerful man, over six feet in height, and had a voice like a bull. These characteristics, even if he possessed nothing more, would command the respect of the rough and hardy trappers and the Indians, when inclined to be treacherous." He had the tenderest sympathy for the unfortunate immigrants who came down the Columbia River, bereft of everything pertaining to this world's goods, after their long overland journey across the plains. To all such he gave raiment, food and shelter. But being the chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, under a yearly salary of \$12,000, he could not consistently recommend the settlement of Oregon by Americans.

The early newspapers and Government documents would indicate that Jason Lee could be thus honored, if any one man is selected, because through his untiring efforts much of the early immigration was directed Oregonward. Joint occupancy with Americans could never have brought the change from "Joint Occupancy" to the "Provisional" form of government. And we repeat that the influx of Americans was largely through Lee's efforts. He also administered to the spiritual and physical welfare of the Indians and the immigrants upon their arrival. What more diversified and fatherly attributes in such a marked degree could one possess than those enumerated above? Then, why not Lee the "Father of Oregon?" It is believed however, that when justice is done, a "Round Robin" of appreciation and gratitude (not one of criticism and complaint) will be made in letters of gold, inscribing within an inner circle three names—Jason Lee, Dr. John McLoughlin, and Dr. Marcus Whitman. Around these great central figures will be written the names of



John Jacob Astor, who secured the Columbia River, expecting to secure a rich prize of war by capturing the fort. His hopes of securing prize money quickly vanished as he

BY ROBERT H. BLOSSOM.  
(Note.—The writer is indebted to Dr. T. L. Elliot, George H. Rippee and John Gill for valuable suggestions and criticism of manuscript.)  
Take the wings of morning, pierce the barren wilderness, Or lose thyself in the contiguous woods Where rolls the Oregon and bears no sound save his own dashings—  
Thus sang the famous poet in 1811, when but 17 years of age. "Thanatopsis" has won for its author an illustrious name. The early Oregon country was much larger in area than the Oregon of today; it then comprised the present states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and part of Montana—an empire of latent resources.  
**Early Explorations and Naming of State**  
THE naming of Oregon is linked in obscurity. Naturally we look to a country's explorers for an answer. As early as 1525 the Spaniards, starting from Mexico, made frequent northward explorations along the Pacific Coast. Their object was to discover a passage connecting the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Unable to discover this opening, the search was abandoned for over 200 years. In 1775 a Spanish navigator, Hoota, saw the mouth of the Columbia River, but he failed to enter the stream because of the strong tides or current. The early Spanish records do not disclose that any name was given to the river and country discovered.  
The first mention of the name, Oregon, appears in a book of travels published in 1783 by Jonathan Carver, of Connecticut. Carver left Boston in 1780 destined for the region of the Upper Mississippi, now comprising the States of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Carver states that he obtained the name of Oregon from the Indians there. He says: "From these nations, together with my own observations, I have learned that the four most capital rivers of the continent of North America, namely, the St. Lawrence, the Mississippi, the Bourbon (flowing into Hudson's Bay), and the Oregon, or River of the West, have their sources in the same neighborhood. The waters of the three former are within 30 miles of each other; the latter, however, is rather farther west."  
In his "History of the United States," John Fluke says that Oregon "may perhaps be the Algonquin 'Wau-re-gan,' 'Beautiful water.'" The Algonquin, or Algonkian were one of the North American Indian tribes. Various names have been suggested as to the name's derivation, but this one seems the most plausible because of the similarity in sound and Carver's report.  
**Arrival of Captain Gray.**  
On May 11, 1792, Captain Robert Gray, of Boston, discovered the mouth of the great "River of the West" and named it after his ship, the Columbia. The following extracts are taken from the log book of the Columbia: "At 4 o'clock in the morning of the 11th we beheld our desired port, bearing east-southeast, distant six leagues. At 8 A. M. being a little to the windward of

the entrance of the harbor, bore away, and ran in east-northeast, between the breakers, having from five to six fathoms of water. When we were over the bar, we found this to be a large river of fresh water, up which we steered. Many canoes came alongside. At 1 P. M. came to, with the small bower in 10 fathoms, black and white sand. The entrance between the bars bore west-southwest 10 miles; the north side of the river, distant a half mile from the ship, the south side of the same, two and a half miles distant, a village on the north side of the river, west by north, distant three-quarters of a mile. Vast numbers of the natives came alongside; people employed pumping the salt water out of our water casks in order to fill with fresh, which the ship floated in. So ends," Says Mrs. Victoria: "No, not so ends, oh, modest Captain Gray, of the ship Columbia, the end is not yet, nor will it be until all the vast territory, rich with every production of the earth which is drained by the waters of the new found river shall have yielded up its illimitable wealth to distant generations."  
The Columbia's first anchorage must have been in the vicinity of what is now known as Chinook Point, on the Washington shore, northwest from Astoria, Or. Captain Gray explored the river for a distance of 30 miles from its mouth, remaining in this magnificent stream for nine days.  
**Vessel Famous in History.**  
The Columbia was the first American ship to circumnavigate the globe. The Stars and Stripes which flew from its masthead on this notable occasion, was the first American flag to go around the world. The flag thus carried was the original flag made by Mrs. Betsy Ross, according to the design adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777.  
Captain Gray's old chest, a priceless relic, which was the repository for this famous flag, is now the property of the Oregon Historical Society.  
Gray's discovery was soon followed by the consummation of two other important events: The acquirement of additional territory through the Louisiana Purchase in December, 1803, whereby the United States boundary was brought to the crest of the Rocky Mountains; and the Lewis and Clark expedition from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean in 1805-6, this being the first and most important of our National exploring expeditions.  
An old Indian, Jake Hunt, formerly a chief of the Klickitat tribe, who now resides on Rattlesnake Creek, a tributary of White Salmon River, in Klickitat County, Washington, had the proud distinction of guiding upon the Lewis and Clark expedition as it slid down the Columbia River in 1805. He was then 14 years of age and hence is now 120 years old. Jake Hunt is the only known survivor on the Pacific Coast who witnessed this unique expedition.  
**British Secure Station.**  
The three events named above, to-