

Detailed, Extensive Plans Being Made for Oregon's Fort Clatsop National Memorial

Editor's note: The article is the result of cooperation between officials of the National Park Service and Senator Richard L. Neuberger. The original legislation proposing national establishment of Fort Clatsop as a historic shrine.

RICHARD L. NEUBERGER
(U.S. Senator from Oregon)

Oregon's people take a special pride in their wild and dramatic past. Few states can equal this Oregon to history. It is Oregon among the natives and newcomers, alike. That is why I believe my constituents are going to be deeply surprised by the detailed and extensive plans presently under consideration by the formal establishment of the Fort Clatsop National Memorial, near Astoria.

This unit of our National Park system of historic shrines was authorized by the bill signed into law on May 29 by President Eisenhower, after unanimous passage in both the Senate and the House. Of course, a great deal of preliminary discussion and effort preceded the active sponsorship of the legislation by Representative Walter Norblad in the House and by myself in the Senate.

Doubted qualifications of Fort Clatsop for national-historic shrine status. In fact, prominent figures in the service have assured me orally that, in their opinion, Fort Clatsop has equal historic lustre and significance with units of the system that have been commemorated for decades and even generations.

Preserved With Plans
This may help to explain why the National Park Service is proceeding with careful and painstaking plans for development of the site. At least \$30,000, for example, will be spent to assure adequate entrance roads and an ample parking area. This is expected to be one of the principal tourist attractions on Highway 101, between British Columbia and southern California.

Total cost of developing Fort Clatsop as a National Memorial will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$266,000. Probably this sum will be provided in the budget of the Federal government for the fiscal year 1960, which begins on July 1, 1959.

However, some of us are requesting the full amount to be appropriated in a supplemental money bill for the 1959 fiscal year, which starts a year earlier than this. The fate of this request is still in doubt.

Little Doubt
We have made it in hope that at least the land area at Fort Clatsop may be dedicated some time during Oregon's centennial year of 1959. There is little doubt that the full sum of \$266,000 ultimately will be appropriated by Congress, and the sole uncertainty is the year in which the amount will become available.

Minor Phase
Fort Clatsop National Memorial will do far more than preserve the rebuilt version of the old log Fort Clatsop, which was erected as part of Astoria's sesqui-centennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1955. Indeed, this is merely a minor phase of the preparations already begun by leading officials of the National Park Service.

These elaborate plans call for a permanent headquarters building and interpretive museum to be constructed at a cost of at least \$110,000, perhaps more. In addition, there will be built two staff residences at a combined cost of approximately \$36,000.

There will be continually on duty at the Fort Clatsop Memorial a superintendent who is qualified in both historical and administrative matters, as well as a National Park Service historian whose chief duty will be to deliver lectures to groups of visitors. He will cater particularly to tours of college and high-school students and others with a special interest in the significance of the winter bivouac in 1805-1806 of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Annual Budget
The annual budget for personnel at the Fort Clatsop National Memorial will be divided tentatively among a superintendent (permanent), \$7,029; historian (permanent), \$4,037; laborer (permanent), \$3,910; ranger-historian (part-time), \$1,878; and stenographer (part-time), \$1,017.

These people will operate a complete and integrated historical operation, so that visitors can obtain some genuine and authentic knowledge of the bleak and eventful winter spent along the shores of the Pacific Ocean by the first party of Americans ever to cross our continent.

The details of this operation represent the outcome of three years of careful and diligent investigation. It was in 1955 that my first bill on this subject passed Congress, directing the National Park Service to conduct a thorough survey of the possibilities of Fort Clatsop for national enshrinement. The eventual report was favorable, with the result that Representative Norblad and I sponsored this year the enabling legislation which officially sets Fort Clatsop to our National Park system.

Shocked, Disgusted
Yet it is fair to point out that the archaeologists and historians who studied Fort Clatsop for the National Park Service were shocked and disturbed by the way in which the site had usually been abandoned.

They had grown for the foresight and wisdom of the Oregon Historical Society in acquiring the immediate site of the ancient fort, but the report submitted to Congress stressed that even "the bronze marked plate was stolen at least three times between 1929 and 1942. Although recovered each time, it had to be removed entirely during World War II to save it from being taken and sold as scrap metal. The Oregon Historical Society was unable to obtain maintenance assistance during World War II, and the site was neglected. Complaints were made that it was being used as a garbage dump."

But the report of the National Park Service over-

Lewis and Clark Expedition itself still are available for museum purposes. Those in existence are jealously and militantly guarded by their present custodians. Readers will remember the desperate court fight waged several years ago in St. Paul over possession of certain original diaries of Lieutenant William Clark, which had been found in a dusty attic.

"It may be," Kahler told me, "that we shall have to furnish the museum, at least at the beginning, with modern materials which tell the Lewis and Clark story. I have in mind slides, brochures, dioramas and similar devices. From experience, we know that many tours and busloads of school children will be visiting the Fort Clatsop National Memorial. Therefore, we want to have on hand the sort of thing which will be sure to interest and fascinate them. That is why our historian at the site will be especially trained and equipped to give lectures that should have appeal for young visitors of school age. Furthermore, a booklet will be published—for free distribution—telling historically why Fort Clatsop has been saluted and honored."

Many Oregon residents have written letters, asking me why the new shrine will be Fort Clatsop National Memorial rather than Fort Clatsop National Monument. My original intentions, at the time the first legislation was drafted in 1955, were for a National Monument.

Find No Remnants
However, the archaeologists who dug at Fort Clatsop through a wet, cold winter found no remnants which satisfied them as stemming from the original fort erected by the explorers in 1805 and 1806. They even questioned the exact location of the site itself, but were assured by Thomas Vaughan, executive director of the Oregon Historical Society, that the location had been staked out by his organization after the most searching study and research.

In the absence of any original edifice to commemorate, the National Park Service usually establishes a memorial. When there is some existing structure for enshrinement purposes, a National Monument is more often characteristic. However, there is no real basic difference in the importance, scope or budget of the two different entities.

To cite one example, the only other park system unit

For example, one of their chief concerns is that comparatively few relics and memorabilia of the actual

associated with the route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is known as the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. It is located in St. Louis, at the very beginning of the great journey to the mouth of the Columbia river. This memorializes the westward movement generally and Thomas Jefferson's negotiation of the Louisiana Purchase. Of course, it was President Jefferson who dispatched Lewis and Clark on their epic pilgrimage.

Preserve Trail
As part of the Fort Clatsop National Memorial, officials of the park service hope to preserve part of a trail extending from the site of the fort westward toward Seaside. They believe this was the exact path followed by members of the historic expedition when they visited the salt cairns on the coast.

It is my plan to contact officers of the Crown-Zellerbach Timber corporation in an effort to secure for the Fort Clatsop National Memorial a segment of virgin evergreen timber stockading this trail, so that school children can see the identical trees which may have been standing when the first west-bound Americans passed this way with our flag.

The exact architecture for the headquarters building and

Lumber Wholesale Firm Gets New President

Portland—(UPI)—J. S. Heigel has been elected new president of Dant and Russell, Inc., it was announced here Friday. The firm, one of the world's largest lumber wholesaling and exporting companies, maintains its headquarters here.

Heigel succeeds George M. Syversen as both president and treasurer. He previously had been secretary-treasurer. He said there would be no basic changes in Dant and Russell policies.

museum has not yet been decided upon. As soon as the funds for developing the memorial have been appropriated by Congress, the San Francisco regional offices of the National Park Service will undertake to start upon the design of this and the other buildings.

I have been informed by Kahler that, on occasion, these edifices are adapted to the general atmosphere and traditions of the area in which they are located. For this reason I have suggested that some effort might be made to use in the Fort Clatsop museum Douglas-fir lumber or other materials indigenous to the timbered Oregon sea-coast. This recommendation, I have been assured, will be given serious consideration by the National Park Service — at least in part of the structure.

White Horse Park Opens in Josephine

Grants Pass—The White Horse Trailer Park on Lower River rd., near the Rogue river about seven miles west of Grants Pass will be formally opened and dedicated Saturday at 3 p.m.

The new park, first in Josephine county for the general public, has been developed under the direction of the county park commission.

Facilities include 21 trailer spaces, seven with water, electric, and sewer connections, and others with water and a dry-well for waste; a utility building with shower stalls, toilets, and lavatories; and a picnic area with table and bench units, and concrete cook-fire units.

The camp is named after White Horse rifle, about a quarter-mile away on the river.

Japanese Sailing Ship Scheduled in Portland

Portland—(UPI)—The Portland Chamber of Commerce announced Friday the scheduled arrival of the four masted Japanese training barque, Kaiwo Maru.

The colorful sailing ship will tie up at Swan Island at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

The Kaiwo Maru is one of six sailing vessels used by the Japanese Merchant Marine for the training of engineering and deck officers.

CUT Your Living COSTS! Locker Beef

On Approved Credit

1/2 BEEF	49c lb.
1/4 FRONT	43c lb.
1/4 HIND	37c lb.

25-LB. FAMILY ORDER \$12.98
Cut and Wrapped to Your Specifications

Budget Special

30 lbs. Roasts	10 lbs. T-Bone Steak
15 lbs. Short Ribs	5 lbs. Pork Shoulder
5 lbs. Boneless Roast	12 lbs. Pork Chops
20 lbs. Ground Beef	6 lbs. Ham
10 lbs. Round Steak	6 lbs. 1/4 Turkey
10 lbs. Rib Steak	6 lbs. Fryer

129 lbs. Meats . \$71.10
COME IN AND COMPARE OUR RETAIL PRICES

CHRYSTAL MEAT MARKET

CORNER of 4th and NORTH FIR PHONE SP 2-7315

WEEKS & ORR Southern Oregon's Oldest and Largest Furniture Store

Combines Volume Buying With Over 60 Independent Western Furniture Stores to Bring You

MORE for your dollars!

LIVING ROOM GROUPS! MODERN 7-PIECE GROUP

SAVE \$30.



All 7 Pieces for Only \$169.95



- includes:
- Sofa . . . opens to double bed.
 - Man-size platform rocker.
 - 1 coffee and 2 step-end tables in blond, mahogany or walnut finish.
 - 2 stylish table lamps complete with shades.

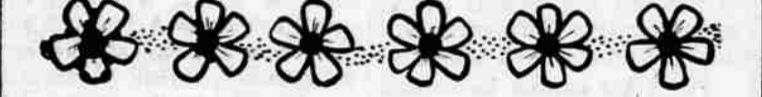
Glamorous sofa by day, luxurious bed by night. This finely tailored sofa opens to sleep two people comfortably. Quality built platform rocker with padded arms for extra comfort. Modern fabrics and choice of warm, decorator colors . . . coordinated tables and lamps.

You SAVE an Additional . . . \$13.75

in carrying charges when you purchase this group on Weeks' & Orr's Payment Plan!

EASY TERMS!

At Weeks & Orr You Pay Only for the Merchandise—NO Interest or Carrying Charges



Just add cream to Bisquick for REAL OLD-FASHIONED STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE



Now is the time!



SNIDER'S DAIRY and PRODUCE COMPANY

