

# The Record

## 1976

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Friends of the Library  
Washington State University

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1976



LEE GALE  
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Essays in this serial are abstracted and indexed in *Historical Abstracts* and *America: History and Life*.

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*The Record* is published annually by the Washington State University Friends of the Library, Pullman, Washington 99163.

Friends of the Library was organized in 1938. Membership is open to all persons wishing to participate in its activities. The purpose of the organization is expressed in the 1967 revised Constitution that may be obtained from the Secretary.

Subscription to this serial is included in the membership dues. Classes of membership are: Annual, \$5.00; Sustaining, \$10.00; Patron, \$25.00; Life \$100.00; and Honorary. The fiscal year is October 1 to September 30.

Additional copies, \$5.00 each.

OUR AUTHORS and SUCH

Secretary and Editor Earle Connette retires June 30. "It has been a pleasure to serve in both capacities and I surely wish to thank all who have contributed so generously to the publication of *The Record* and arrangement of our annual program meetings. I must mention and thereby advise the membership of the extensive clerical work involved in the business of the organization that has quite rightly been superimposed upon the regular work of the Manuscripts-Archives Division staff. Without the support of the Library in these respects, *The Record* and our program meetings would not have been possible."

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Dr. G. Donald Smith, Director of WSU Libraries since November 1, 1946 will retire June 30. Dr. Smith was Secretary of Friends of the Library until Earle Connette was appointed Secretary in 1965. The membership owes much to Dr. Smith's guidance over these past years. Several years ago the membership contributed generously in a special solicitation to purchase some papyrus specimens to acknowledge his quarter century of distinguished service.

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The membership must know that *Annual Dues* over the years have risen from \$1 in 1938 to \$5 at this present accounting. While *Annual Dues* are most welcome, the income is insufficient to keep the organization financially healthy. Consider now \$1,400 for printing, \$200 for postage, \$400 for our program meeting speaker, and another \$100 for other services, totaling \$2,100, against an annual operating income of less than \$1,000. Members who are concerned should consider *Sustaining* membership at \$10 or *Patron* class at \$25. Both are tax deductible. Unless funds for operations are increased the demise of *The Record* and

a down-grading of the quality of our program meetings are certain. Both would be a tragedy, especially *The Record* that enjoys wide popularity in homes and libraries and is nationally indexed and abstracted. Our annual program meetings serve both the community and the membership and on the campus have become an annual institution. For members who are unable to attend, the lecture and illustrations are reproduced in *The Record* that follows the next year.

Interest from our dedicated funds in the invested amount of \$21,270.60 may be used only to purchase materials for the library collection; these funds *are not* available for operations. The General Memorial fund to which contributions are made as memorials is spent annually for books. Even so, inflation in all cases of purchasing materials for the Library has been affected by inflation. A monograph that cost \$9.95 a few years ago now sells for \$19.95. Editorial services, printing and labor, paper and binding, graphics, and transportation make all the difference!

As a budgetary account, Friends of the Library will exist "forever." But as an active organization, engaged in our publication of *The Record* and annual program meetings it is simply going to peter out.

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Virginia Paul's illustrated essay on cattle ranching and trade in Washington was the illustrated lecture that was presented last April 17 in the Fine Arts Auditorium, sponsored by Friends of the Library and open to the public. Mrs. Paul herself is a cattle rancher and is presently administrative secretary of the Washington State Beef Commission, headquartered in Ellensburg. At the time news releases were being prepared for that meeting, your Secretary made extensive inquiry as to any previous appearance of a women as the speaker. There were none. So in addition to having a splendid program, Friends of the Library also embraced women's liberation.

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Mr. Ray K. Harris retired from the Spokane public school system as an instrumental music instructor and band director in 1965. The essay here reprinted is from *Pacific Northwesterner*, vol. 20, no. 1, winter 1976. This quarterly is published by the Spokane Corral of the Westerners. Copies of this essay that contain addition illustrations may be obtained at \$1 by addressing the Spokane Corral of the Westerners, P.O. Box 1717, Spokane, WA 99210.

Mr. Harris advises that he is presently working upon an extension of the Potlatch story and will have it ready for publication a year hence.

Copy for the Potlatch Lumber Company folio herein reproduced in facsimile was provided by Walter Judson Gamble (1884-1976) an employee of the Potlatch Lumber Company 1910-1951, serving first as an auditor for its subsidiary, the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway. This short line railroad consisted of 49.37 public carrier miles of main line running between Palouse, Washington and Bovill, Idaho with exchange at Palouse with the Northern Pacific Railway and the Inland Electric Railroad that later became the Great Northern Railroad, and, in 1910, with the Milwaukee Railroad at Bovill. He began his railroad-ing career in the shops of the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia and came to Montana in 1907 as a telegrapher for the Great Northern Railroad, working at Havre and Shelby. A true boomer, after two years he "landed" in Spokane and was hired by the WI&M at the age of 26 to handle the financial facets of its traffic — the business of rates, tariff schedules, and taxes. In due course he became General Manager, taking on additional duties of supervising the entire operation — power, rolling stock, maintenance, and public relations. During these years he was also vice president of the American Shortline Railroad Association and lobbyist in Boise for the North Idaho Forestry Association.

Organized in 1905, capitalized at \$5,000,000, and incorporated in Maine, the WI&M rolling stock and power consisted initially of 295 freight cars, 2 passenger coaches, and 5 road locomotives. Three Shay locomotives worked the spurs that ran up and into the cutting areas. In 1916 the gross earnings were \$336,162; the net earnings were \$78,087.

In an interview with Mr. Sam Schragger in December, 1973, recorded as an oral history project by the Latah County Museum Society, the eighty-seven year-old Mr. Gamble was asked. "What was the reason for the company town?" He replied, "Well, there wasn't a thing there, there wasn't a thing there — all it was, trees and stumps at Potlatch, with the river meandering through the place. And when they decided to put the mill there, they figured how many employees they'd have to have. Well, they were gonna bring most of those men to start with out from Cloquet and Chippewa Falls, all experienced men. But he [C. A. Weyerhauser] couldn't ask those men to come out here and spend money and build their own homes. So they [the directors] decided to build a company town.

"And their idea was that a company town, properly run, was better than the average town, which it is. Anything of that kind, that's the economical way to do it, if it's handled by the right kind of people. Of course it can be a monopoly, and then that would be bad. So they decided to build a company town. So they did. Their idea was that their men should not be burdened with excessive rates, rentals, that you should have good schools for them, you should have a company store where they can buy things at a fair price. And they followed that procedure from the time the first house was built until they sold them [in the early 1950s]. Nobody ever paid any taxes over at Potlatch, and

our rentals were ridiculously low, and they kept our houses up for us. The store was outstanding up there; they made money but they didn't charge excessive prices. Had the best schools in the state of Idaho.

"And it was run very good. I think that the caliber of the people; I don't suppose I'd get very far if I'd make this statement to the Chamber of Commerce in Moscow — but I think the caliber of the people, from the workingman clear down at the bottom to the president [general manager] on top, were a preferred class. We were singled out as the one company that made the most money for the Weyerhaeusers, the Potlatch Company, when the Potlatch was by itself. And we made good lumber, because we had men that knew how to do it. All experienced men — they were all happy, they were all satisfied. Don't need to have a union. The union couldn't get a foothold in there: 'Potlatch treats us better than you would.' That's the kind of an outfit the Potlatch was. I look back at them now, more so than I ever did before, and figure out how good they were to their men, and the profits they reaped from that. Now they spent money on their men all right, but they made money too, 'cause they had, like Carnation Milk Company, milk from contented cows. That's the theory of it. A very, very good group of people. Oh sure, you have rotten potatoes in a sackful once in awhile. But we had nothing. We didn't even have a policeman over there."

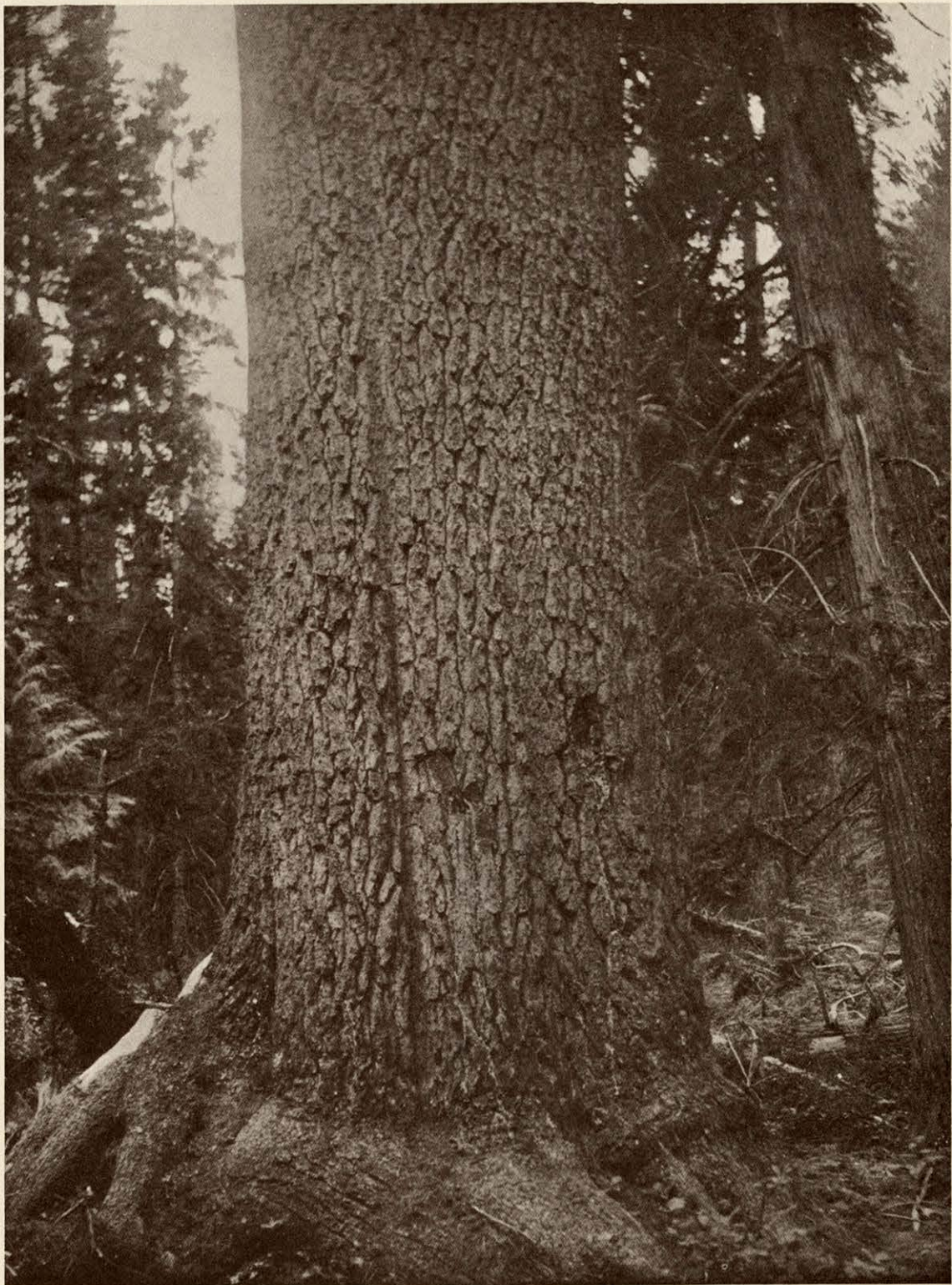
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Photographic copies of the illustrations of the Potlatch Company folio are available from Washington State University Library at \$1.50 each, glossy; or, \$1.75 each, matte, in 8 X 10 size. Address Manuscripts-Archives Division.

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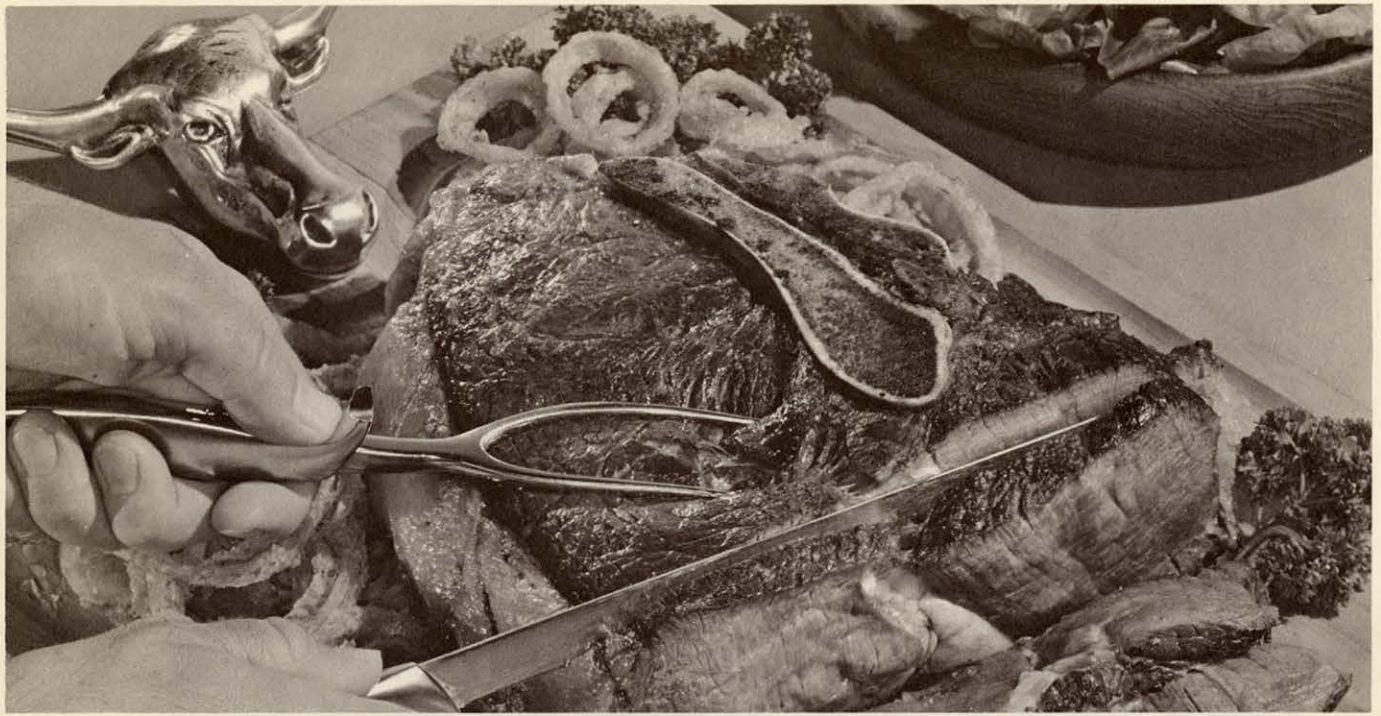
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