



THURSTON COUNTY HISTORICAL JOURNAL



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The *Thurston County Historical Journal* is dedicated to recording and celebrating the history of Thurston County.

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Submission Guidelines

The Journal welcomes factual articles dealing with any aspect of Thurston County history. Please contact the editor before submitting an article to determine its suitability for publication. Articles on previously unexplored topics, new interpretations of well-known topics, and personal recollections are preferred. Articles may range in length from 100 words to 10,000 words, and should include source notes and suggested illustrations.

Submitted articles will be reviewed by the editorial committee and, if chosen for publication, will be fact-checked and may be edited for length and content. The Journal regrets that authors cannot be monetarily compensated, but they will gain the gratitude of readers and the historical community for their contributions to and appreciation of local history.

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Who/What/Where Is It?

On the cover, clockwise from top left:

Elizabeth McElroy (presumed to be third from left, front row) was on the staff of the Olympus, the Olympia High School's yearbook. Photograph from the 1918 Commencement edition, Olympia High School Yearbooks, Southwest Regional Branch, Washington State Digital Archives.

Elizabeth McElroy Allison inherited her grandparents' land on Harstine Island. Located on the property was a ten-ton boulder carved with various symbols by early Native Americans. The boulder served as a navigational landmark for people traveling by canoe. In 1963, Elizabeth donated the petroglyph to the State Capitol Museum; the boulder was moved by crane to Tumwater Falls Park, shown here, where it was displayed until 2008. The petroglyph was then repatriated to the Squaxin Island Tribe where it is now displayed at the tribal center. Photograph courtesy of the Olympia Tumwater Foundation.

On July 4, 1905, canoes were raced down Budd Inlet and the Deschutes Estuary. This photo was taken by the McElroy family. Photograph from MS086, Charles E. Williams Papers, 1852-1871, Washington State Library.

Benjamin McClelland taught music at Olympia High School; he is shown here surrounded by members of the high school band, circa 1915. Photograph C1943.2x.327, Washington State Historical Society.

IN HER OWN WORDS: THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH MCELROY ALLISON

Jennifer Crooks

Elizabeth McElroy Allison was born in Olympia to Harry and Carrie McElroy in 1900. Her family had long roots in the state's capital city. Her grandfather, Thornton McElroy, was a founder of *The Columbian*, the state's first newspaper. Elizabeth grew up in Olympia's high society.

Elizabeth attended Lincoln School and Olympia High School. In high school she was senior class treasurer, manager of the Girls' Athletic Committee, and chair of the Girls Club. After graduating from high school in 1919, she briefly attended Mills College in California before switching to the University of Washington. At UW she studied science and was a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and the Physical Education Club. Elizabeth married Charles Edwin Allison (1900-1973) in Seattle in 1933. The couple lived in Seattle where Charles worked in the financial department of Frederick and Nelson's department store and later as King County auditor. They had two sons: Charles Matthews Allison (1936-1993) and David Phillips Allison (1938-2004).¹

Elizabeth was active in groups such as the Women's University Club, Seattle Tennis Club, Orthopedic Guild, and

Elizabeth McElroy's graduation photo from the 1919 Commencement edition of the Olympus, Olympia High School's yearbook. Olympia High School Yearbooks, Southwest Regional Branch, Washington State Digital Archives.



Family Society of Seattle (a Community Fund Agency). In addition, Elizabeth was a member of the Denny-Blaine Guild at Epiphany Church. She also donated a recipe to the 1951 *Seafair Cook Book* for Chinese-style sweet and sour spareribs.²

Even when living in Seattle, Elizabeth Allison spent much time at "The Maples," her family's property on Harstine Island. Her grandfather originally bought beachfront property on the island in 1858. This land in turn was owned by her parents. After they died, she and her nephew Harry Strong inherited the land. Half the land was sold and the rest was deeded to Elizabeth in 1950. The Allisons

built a house there in 1940. It was the family's favorite place to be.³

The Allisons spent many vacations at their beloved "Maples" and eventually moved there after living over twenty years in Seattle. At her Harstine home she became a member of the St. David Episcopal Church, Shelton Bayshore Golf Club, and National Federation of Republican Women. Charles passed away February 15, 1973. Elizabeth died in Shelton on November 27, 1979.⁴

In the 1960s, Elizabeth donated a large Native American petroglyph located on her Harstine property to Olympia's State Capitol Museum. The rock was put on display at Tumwater Falls Park. Moving the petroglyph proved to be controversial. In 2008, after negotiations between the Squaxin Island Tribe, the Washington State Historical Society, and Elizabeth's descendants, the petroglyph was relocated to the Veterans' Memorial at the Squaxin Island Tribal Museum on the Squaxin Island Reservation. Elizabeth's descendants were pleased to see the rock returned. "My grandmother was very tied in with the tribe," grandson Peter Allison observed. "She wanted the public to see it [the petroglyph] and remember it, and for the rock to be in a protected location."⁵

Sometime in the 1960s, Elizabeth wrote two reminiscences about her childhood growing up in Olympia. Both reminiscences describe many of the same events, but each contains

other unique information. These papers were donated to the Washington State Library. This article is an annotated version of the reminiscences. The author has described individuals and places appearing in bold-type in notes (in alphabetical order) at the end of the article. Allison's reminiscences can be found at the Washington State Library, MS 0086 Charles E. Williams, 1856-1923 collection, folder 8 "Manuscripts by Elizabeth McElroy." Charles was her maternal grandfather.

REMINISCENCES OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1904

BY ELIZABETH MCELROY ALLISON

All I have to tell here I remember vividly, except from the day I was born on October 10, 1900 until about the age of four years. The event of my birth took place at 7th and Washington Streets in the house built by my Grandfather, **T. F. McElroy**. He came to Olympia in 1852 to publish and print the first newspaper north of the Columbia River. I was told in later years that on the 10th of October, my Father, **Harry Bates McElroy** sat nervously on the front porch waiting for the attending physician, Dr. Hugh Wyman, to come and give him the news he wanted so badly, that a son was born. No sounds came from the upstairs bedroom, so he felt sure his wife, Carrie Williams McElroy, was doing well. Before any news came to my Father, a close friend, Mr. **L. B. Faulkner**, Manager of Puget Sound Power and Light Company walked by and asked, "Was it a boy?" and my Father said, "Yes". The same answer was giv-



Thornton F. McElroy, Elizabeth's grandfather, helped found The Columbian, the first newspaper published north of the Columbia River. Photograph courtesy of State Library Photograph Collection, 1851-1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives.

en when our blind neighbor, **Bernice Sapps** [Sapp's] aged Father [**W.L. Sapp**] came by. He however, got more information, "His name is Willie". Ever after that, when I would meet Mr. Sapp I would say, "Hello, Mr. Sapp, its Willie". To this day, I do not know if he ever knew I was a girl.

Raised as a tom-boy I had many advantages. My Father taught me how to swim before I could walk, the ways of the woods, all about animals, flowers

and fauna, how to sail and row boats, and at age 12 I owned a twelve gage shot gun and went duck hunting on Nisqually Flats.

Olympia was a devine [divine] place when I was young. One of Father's friends, Mr. **A. J. Falknor**, a lawyer, gave me a **dog**, an English Cocker Spaniel. He grew to be a large and husky dog. Mr. **C. B. Mann**, owner of the Seed Store provided a box-like wagon, which had seed company advertisements on it. From this a harness out of broom sticks and gunny sacks were rigged, and in this dog cart I rode all over Olympia's unpaved streets and sometimes on the wooden side walks. I remember going down to **Talcott Bros. Jewelry Store** and the brothers four [three, but Elizabeth might be counting G. Noyles Talcott, son of brother George] all came out of the store to see me.

There was always something appealing for me to do in Olympia, out of doors and with my Father. My tastes were so different from most girls. I do not remember having many girl friends until I was about twelve years old and became interested, with the other girls, in boys.

The 4th of July was always exciting. The day before we would go to China Town, between 4th and 5th streets on Water Street. There we would enter Old Sam's Chinese Store [see **Locke, Sam Fun**] to buy fire crackers. It was a mysterious place, which reeked of incense. Thru the bead string curtains to the back room, could be seen men,

sitting around a large round table playing games. Sam's wife and many children were always about. I always received a gift of Leichee Nuts with the fire works. Early, before dawn, on the 4th we arose, took some powder out of some of the fire crackers, loaded the Civil War toy cannons my Father had used when a boy, fire the cannons in the Street and wake up everyone for blocks around. All the neighborhood dogs barked and then we would fly the flag. Later in the morning people came in from the country in their horse drawn buggies and tie up near Sylvester Park where a Band played most of the day in the band stand and the parade passed by. In the afternoon everyone went to Perdivals [Percival's] Dock to see Indian canoe races and watch water sports. One event was my favorite. They had a fifty foot pole, big around like a telephone pole. It extended out from Hoar's [Horr's] Dock, over the water, which was across from Percival's Dock. The pole was greased with lard. On the end was hung a Ham. Two men took off from Hoar's Dock and the first one to reach the Ham got the meat as the prize. Usually the two would fall in the water and then two others would try until someone won.

We did not go to Water Street just for fire crackers. Every Friday **Mr. Zamberlain's** [sic] Fish Market was one of the town's center[s] of attraction. Each week on Friday the train would bring in fresh fish coming up from Grays Harbor and some imported thru Seattle. Always Mr. Zamberlain had fresh Olympia oysters and clams from our

part of the Sound. Imagine! Olympia oysters at \$1.00 a quart. It was not just the fish that took us to Zamberlins, Mr. Zamberlin was such a dear, friendly and interesting man. When a boy, he came from the Adriatic Sea to Megler on the Columbia, where he worked for the Megler Cannery. I think they mostly salted fish for I do not remember the canned product. Mr. Zamberlin always had salmon bellies in salt brine in his Market. His daughter Mae Zamberlain Olson, is now an active member of DPW [Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington] #4. Mr. Megler was a member of our State Legislature from [Wahkiakum] County, back in the days when the Legislature brought together the most astute men in the State.

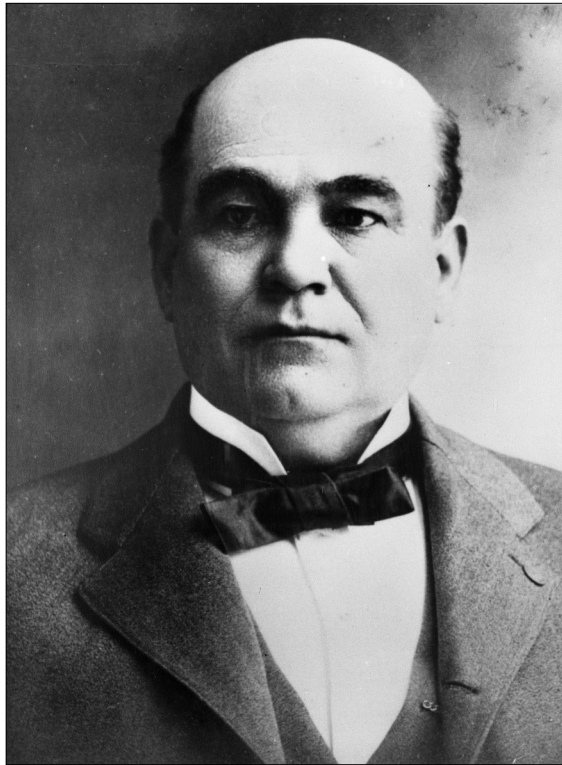
It was a gala time when the Legislature met every other year, finished up their business in the allotted time and went home. During their stay in Olympia, everyone called on the Legislators and their wives, who always accompanied them. Parties were frequent, but the Legislative Ball was a tremendous affair. I can remember hanging over the stairs to watch the beautifully gowned ladies wearing long kid gloves and the men in tails and gloves. After the dinner, in our house, they would walk the two blocks to the **GAR Hall** at 7th and Adams Street where the Ball was held.

Speaking of the Legislature. Before the present Capitol was completed, the sessions were held in the old building now standing between 7th and Legion Way, Washington and Franklin. My

bedroom was just across the street from the House Chamber. I remember Howard Taylor, of Seattle, was then Speaker and later Wee Coyle. I can still hear those Speakers calling the roll! In those old days they had, at the end of the Session, what they called, "The Third House". The wit was mostly past me, but I was allowed to go and I remember having a fine time.

During my early years, **Governor Cosgrove** died. His body was in state, on view, in the rotunda of our old Capitol building. After school we would go to one of the upper balconies in the Capitol and gaze down upon him. This was the first dead person I ever saw.

As I ramble on, I remember more about the old building. The local Banker's daughter, **Helen Lord**, gave a Treasure Hunt party for the local Grocer's daughter, **Beatrice Kearney**. The Treasure Hunt started in the Lord's house, new then and now the State Capitol Museum [the Museum closed in 2016]. One of the clues was to be found in the tower of the old Capitol building and permission to go up there had been obtained. The tower on this building burned off about 1928. The treasure dollar, in pennies, was found in the foundation of our present Capitol [actually the abandoned Flagg design]. It was built many years before the present building itself was constructed. Like a maze it was, and kids wandered in and out, often getting lost. [This foundation was built in the 1890s for a capitol building designed by Ernest Flagg. The project was abandoned due to an economic



Samuel C. Cosgrove in 1909. Merle Junk photograph, Susan Parish Photograph Collection, 1889-1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives.

depression. The current Capitol was built atop the old foundations in the 1920s.]

About once a year, in summer, a circus came to town. We would set the clock for daylight and the alarm always used to sound as the Circus Train was speeding down the gulch, across Moxley Creek and into town. We would be on the N.P. platform as the gaily painted cars screeched to a halt. Then it was fun to watch the shades in the cars go up and sleepy, tousled heads of strange people would

appear in the windows. Seems to me all the boys in town were there, vieing [sic] for jobs of watering the animals and helping to herd them to where the Show was to be held. The later morning parade always ended with the Cal-lope.

Church and School picnics were mostly held in Priest Point Park. Entire families walked to the Park carrying down baskets of goodies. Everyone seemed to bring fried chicken and stuffed eggs. I never saw a hot dog until high school days. Coming home, the family baskets were full of wet bathing suits, clams and rocks picked up on the beach.

Another walk, in Olympia, which always pleased me was down to Mr. **Phil Vincent**'s boat works, just north of Percival's Dock. He had some real eagles in a cage. He was building a boat to sail, one of the first on our Bay, the "Daphne" for Mr. and Mrs. **[W.] J. Foster**. Many trips were made to see the progress on this little sailing boat and we were threr [there] to see it launched in 1910.

Day long trips near Olympia were the greatest. We mostly went with **Dr. and Mrs. Wyman**. They had a lively pair of beautiful horses named McKinley and Red Jacket. They pulled a rig called a buck board. Three could sit in front and three in back. We would go about the County to visit friends or just picnic by the DesChutes River, far up on the way to Yelm. I liked it best when we went to visit the **Waldricks** near Offut Lake. They had a big farm and



Margaret McKenny making a radio broadcast circa 1940. Detail of photograph from State Library Photograph Collection, 1851-1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives.

lots of cattle. The family was part Indian. I was told that Mr. Waldrick worked for my Grandfather, **T. F. McElroy** on the Columbian. He was a very old man when I first saw him. In later years, I stayed for weeks with the Waldricks. Brother Charlie was the eldest, then came Chester and the daughter, Rhoda, was the youngest. There at the farm I rode a white horse bareback and helped round up the sheep and cows. I also learned to make bread. My Father paid me \$10.00 for learning something he thought every girl should know how to do. The Waldricks were a wonderful family. Now I have lost track of them and the Thurston County roads are so

cut up, I cannot even find the Farm.

If we did not go with the Wymans, we would hire a rig from one of the three Livery Stables, Mr. McBratney's, LaBrees or Hinchcliffs. A favorite trip was to Union on Hood Canal. We had to go down Webb Hill which had over thirty turns. I can remember the screech of the wheel brakes and the poor horses being reined in too severely [sic].

Miss **Margaret McKenny** lived with her widowed Mother in a house which stood on the southwest corner of the 7th and Main Streets for many years. Back of the house was a field which in the early days went down to the water's edge. She had a horse and two seated buggy sort of like a surrey with a fringe on top. As long as I knew Margaret, she was dedicated to nature studies. She organized a Botany Club and every Saturday, starting in the Spring, she would take six kids to the country for the day. The Club was most active when wild flowers were beginning to bloom. We went on these trips to areas where certain flowers could be seen and studied. In the Fall we made trips to gather and identify mushrooms. Sometimes the studies were on the beaches around Puget Sound. My association with Margaret was frequent thru the years. The last time I saw here [sic] was in 1963 when she came to visit me hereon [sic] Hartstine [sic] Island and gave a talk, on mushrooms, illustrated with colored slides, to the Harstine Island Women's Club. The meeting was held in my house. After Margaret's Mother

died and the down town home was absorbed by the town she moved to a cottage near 21st Street and Water Street. She became a skilled nature photographer and frequently lectured on mushroom fungi and other flora of the Pacific Northwest. She wrote several books on botany and wildlife. Birds were likewise of great interest to her. Two of Margaret's books are consulted as often as Webster in my household. They are "Nature Notes" and "The Savory Wild Mushroom". Miss McKinney passed away, after a short illness, only two years ago. It is my hope that the heir to her estate has deposited her papers in the State Library.

It was not long after the horse and buggy days that I remember the first automobiles. We used to rent one from **Mr. Ashley** before my family owned one. It was a Reo make. **Judge Dunbar**, Supreme Court Judge, had a Reo also. **C. J. Lord**, the Banker, had one with a door in the rear for entrance to the back seat. I think it was a Cadillac. We often had rides in these cars, but the roads were very dusty and rough. All the women wore linen dust-ers and big hats and veils to keep the dust out and the hats on. The men wore goggles and caps with ear flaps. If any of the early cars had tops, they were the kind that went down and that is the way they were mostly. A trip to Lake Cushman was a real event in the early car days. We parked the cars on the east side of the Lake and then took a boat to the Antlers, a charming Inn north, on the Lake, and stayed there for several days, leaving

the cars parked on the lower side of the Lake. This trip was made after we owned a car.

In those early days my Father owned a launch with a brass Naphth [naptha] engine which looked like a samovar and so was called "Samovar". We would take trips "down the Bay" to Harstine Island, to camp on the land my Grandfather acquired in 1859 and where I now live. Going, or coming by launch, we always stopped at Hunter's Point to visit with the Hunter family. Then we frequently stopped at Boston Harbor which was quite a village and had a store. If we could not get here in our own launch, we could get here in the Leota, or Mary Frances, two tugs active on the lower Sound. In 1912 the **Harry T. Heermans** family moved to Olympia from Hoquiam, across the street from us. They had a yacht named "The Seawolf". They loved our Maples on Harstine Island and took us here frequently. [Elizabeth was writing from her home at the Maples.]

Church Christmas parties were always an event in Olympia. Being an Episcopalian, I remember the ones best in **St. John's Church**. The ceiling-high fresh green fir tree decorated with stings [strings] of popcorn and cranberries. The sacks of hard candy and real lighted

candles burning, completed the tree. The hall was festooned with cedar boughs. It was the Christmas smell as well as look. The jeweled ornaments, strings of electric lights and other decorations will never take the place of the old time Christmas for me.

Looking back it seems to me I remember people as vividly [sic] as places and pleasures. I must have been about four years of age when **Hannah Carlson** came to live in our Washington Street home. She was from Finland and came steerage in a small ship. She could not speak a word of English and arrived with her possessions done up in a light cloth swung over her shoulder. Her Father had preceded her from the Old Country and was working in a logging camp. My Mother was an expert in teaching immigrants English and ways of house-keeping American style. Hannah lived



St. John's Episcopal Church as it appeared in 1891. Photograph from the Olympia Tribune Souvenir issue, 1891.

with us for six years when she married a young man who had come from her home town in Finland to work as a logger. I attended the wedding, my first, and can remember my reply when asked how the wedding was, "The bride had a lace curtain on her head."

Another Hannah in my life was Miss **Lena Hannah**, my kindergarten teacher. She held her school in the old **Christian Church** at 8th and Franklin Streets. Several of my classmates, in this kindergarten, went thru all grades of high school and college with me. **Leota Otis Kisor** and her late brother Virgil Otis were two of them. I remember all my teachers. Miss **Janet Moore** was the first grade teacher and was my Sister Hilda's teacher also, thirteen years before I came to the first grade. She seemed quite old to me then for she had grey hair. She was very strict and her way of punishing any naughty pupil was to shut him up for some time in the Tower Room, a little closet sized place adjoining each corner of the old Lincoln School. I think Miss Moore's Father was an early Territorial Governor. She lived in a lovely house reached by a wooden path on the spot where the green houses now stand on our present Capitol grounds. Back of her house was a little barn where Miss Moore's niece, Edna Earl [see **Edna Moore**] kept her Shetland Pony. They had a few chickens and a cow as most people in Olympia had, in the early days. Even my family, who lived down town, had a barn, chickens and cows grazed in the quarter block where the

present Christain [sic] Church stands.

Never will forget Miss **Amelia Dittman** in the 4th grade! She did the best she could with us annoying kids of nine years of age. Her method of punishing was "Hold out your hand", and wham with a ruler! She was the kind of harassed to death type, small, thin and red haired. A **Miss Mauerman** was the 5th grade teacher, and to this day, we who had her, take her off! She would come by your desk, and, if you were doodling, or not paying attention, she would set her jaws, and snap you on top of the head with her index finger hard enough to hurt. So it is today meeting an old classmate from 5th grade, "Remember Miss Mauerman?" Snap, snap on the skull!

In grade six we had Miss **Edith McKenzie**. She made such an impression on me, even today at the age of 70 that I think of her often. Her family home was a beautiful true Victorian house on Mud Bay. Recently remodeled to look like a modern Colonial, one sees it now going west from Olympia down the hill to the Bay, look left. The two stately Maple trees in front of the house still stand there. Anyhow, the summer before I came under Miss McKenzie's wing, she went to Europe in a party chaperoned and guided by Mrs. Diven, State Librarian. My Sister Hilda and her daughter Mary happened to be in the party also. This was in 1910. Miss McKenzie was greatly impressed by the Louvre Gallery in Paris. She brought back many copies of pictures hung there and can still be seen there. She told us 6th graders all

about them. So it was that when I finally visited the place myself I ran to see the ones whe [she] had told me about. Rosa Bon Heures, Horse Fair and the Mona Lisa. I looked and saw what I was told in the 6th grade, that her eyes really do follow you. Millets, Gleaners and the Angelus are in the Louvre, also Whistler's Mother and Gainsborough's Blue Boy. Also, the sculptures, Winged Victory and Venus de Milo.

In the 7th grade we had more than one teacher but the one I remember most was **Mrs. Hume** who taught spelling and made it fun! I went to the 8th grade in the old **OCI Building**, on the east side on the road going down to Priest Point Park. Apparently we had outgrown the Lincoln School building and all the town 8th graders were in the OCI. As I look back I remember the building was beautiful and one of those that should not have been torn down. A **Mr. Wallace** was Principal and we did not like him and put thumb tacks in his desk chair. **Miss Nelson** was dear and taught us too. She was a music teacher also. We had a girls chorus and learned many classical tunes. In grade school days I walked to and from school every day with **Catherine Mottman Johnston** who then lived across from the old St. Johns Church on Washington Street. We came home for lunch. Now Catherine is an active member of DPW #4 and I often talk about the days when kids knew how to walk and did not have to be driven to school.

Finally I was graduated from the 8th grade. I wore a white net ruffled dress and carried a bouquet of pink Cecil Brunner roses. The dress was made by **Miss Nommensen**. The performance took place in the **Baptish** [sic] **Church** at 10th and Franklin Streets.

In the Fall of 1914 I entered Olympia High School, which was then located on the present Capitol grounds. Mr. **Aiken** was the Principal and one [none?] of us like him. Reason, we had in OHS a tradition, "Old Clothes Day". Early on the day the boys all met at the YMCA, dressed in their worst hobo clothes and they were joined by us girls and then we all paraded up the hill to School. Mr. Aiken put out an edit [edict] the day before the March- "It's out!". But we marched anyway. Upon arrival at School we were refused entrance so we went across the street, made a huge bon fire [sic], in pouring rain, toasted weinies on sticks, sang songs and had fun! All the parents got in the act and tried to break it up. I can't remember how it ended except that we were all eventually back in school. [see "**hobo day**"]

Mr. McClelland was my Geometry teacher my Sophomore year. He was such a dear, called the girls Miss and the boys, Mister. It certainly made for respect in that class and we never had any discipline problems. Mr. **Thoma** was in charge of typing and shorthand. I went to school an hour early just to get in his class. The touch typing system I learned there and am using it today. During my Senior year, in



In a lighthearted moment, Harry McElroy helps his wife Carrie from their boat in July 1901. The vessel behind is perhaps their boat Samovar. Harry and Carrie were the parents of Elizabeth McElroy. Photograph from MS086, Charles E. Williams Papers, 1852-1871, Washington State Library.

1918, the OHS burned down. Classes were then held in the Olympia Churches until the new OHS was ready. The plaster was barely dry when we moved in the new building and my class of 1919 was the first class to be graduated from the new building.

The next Fall I went on to the University of Washington. Going back and forth to College in those days was quite a trip. We either took the train which made a trip from Grays Harbor to Seattle once a day, or took an early Steamer to Tacoma where we could

change to another Steamer or take the Interurban, a galloping street car like one car train. Once in Seattle it was then a long street car ride to the University District. Later they finally had the Jitneys, which were old large passenger cars. They ran from the old Post Office, at 3rd and Union, out to the University. Sometimes, being a classmate of Governor Louis Hart's daughter, **Ella**, we could ride in the State car to Seattle. This was rugged, too, for the roads were unpaved and dusty.

During College years, I brought many friends home to visit me in Olympia. They always loved to come for we had wonderful times, sailing, canoeing or rowing down the Bay. Sometimes we hired horse and buggy from Mr. Hinchcliffe, McBratney or Labrea's Livery Stables for drives in the Country, or if good snow was on, the stables had large wagon[-]like sleighs. Instead of hiking in winter weather we would go to Moss or Hicks Lakes and ice skate.

So it was in Olympia-1900 to 1923.

ELIZABETH'S SECOND REMINISCENCE

JULY FOURTH WAS A COMMUNITY AFFAIR IN THE EARLY DAYS (A WRITING TITLE I DO NOT LIKE) BY ELIZABETH M. ALLISON

In this mad world, the Space age July fourth seems to be just another holiday. Everyone eats and drinks too much and completely seem to forget

the significance of the day. Its hot dogs and hamburgers [sic], pop and cap guns for the kids. Grown-ups gorge on snacks, washed down with beer or bourbon. Families take off for a day in the country or get in a boat, go out to eat afloat. Few public landing spots are left and the State Parks with docks are few and far apart. Many carry on at home in patio with barbecue, then go out to see a public display of fireworks.



Sam Fun Locke, his wife Lay Shee, and their first child Loy Wing are pictured in 1905. Photograph courtesy of "The Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum, <https://olympiahistory.org/families/> (accessed August 19, 2021).

Perhaps children today, so well educated and sophisticated need not be reminded of the significance of July Fourth and the greatness of our nation, for which our forefathers fought. Community wise, few speeches or parades are held. Fireworks being outlawed, make it quiet. Except for the cap pistols and the old bang of a few bootleg fire crackers.

We seem to take our freedoms for granted. We should be aware they may be in grave danger. A higher courage might be expected of us, than shown by the men of the Revolution. It would be well to review a little history before the golf game of July Fourth outing. Point out to your young the important events of the past. Reading the Declaration of Independence and discussing the accomplishments of some of its signers might be a good idea. If any community celebrations have been planned, it could be rewarding to support them.

I doubt if children today ever experienced the excitement that swept over the youth of yesteryear. In an effort to picture the July Fourths of many years ago, I offer the results of my research and memory of the most exciting day of the year during my childhood in Olympia. . . .

Now down to my memories of the Glorious Fourth! The day before my father took me to China Town. That in itself was a great adventure. The three similar wood frame two story buildings between 4th and 5th Sts. facing Water St. and boarded in the rear by the Sound constituted China Town. On the first floor of one of these buildings, Old Sam the boss of China town had a shop. It reaked [sic] of incense

and in the dusty show cases, could be seen rare items: Chinese brocade slippers, chop sticks, boxes of tea, ginger and leichi nuts. I seemed to forget we came there to buy fire crackers for the glorious Fourth. Sam always had a big supply of crackers and as far as I can remember, they could not be obtained elsewhere. Maybe this was not true, but my Father was such a close friend of Old Sam's, maybe he wanted to expose me to the mysteries of Olympia China Town. Anyway between trying to peek into the back room of the Shop at Sam's beautiful wife, always in oriental dress, with a baby on her lap, I was allowed to get all the fire crackers I wanted, and always left with a gift of leichi nuts and other Chinese delicacies, the gift of Old Sam.

It was not difficult then to run the few blocks home, sink into bed and be asleep at once. Fully an hour before daylight on the 4th, my father would get me up, tho my mother had begged him not to do so. We loaded the Civil War toy cannon, he had used when a boy. Cannon was set off at daylight, followed by my being allowed to light one entire package of large firecrackers at once. Our flag was then raised. This noise started the big day in our neighborhood, followed by every ship in our harbor and all the mills blowing whistles long and loud.

In those days Sylvester Park had a Grand Stand and around it in the Park was the gathering place for the town people and the Country people as well. They drove in to town, dressed in their Sunday best. The wagons and

horses harnesses being decorated with some red white and blue bunting. Gathered in the Park, the day really began as the parade ended. A Band Concert followed by speeches that always seemed too long to me, but I was told I must sit quietly and listen. By afternoon in time for the ball game and other activities, all the loggers from the Camps near Bordeaux in the Black Hills had arrived and been in and out of the local saloons. They were singing their bunk house ballads in loud and discordant tunes.

Late afternoon all gathered on the docks. The big excitement was the grease poll [sic]. I remember that pole, as being about the size of a medium telephone pole. It was fastened horizontally out from the dock where the Olympia Oyster Bar now stands, on what was then known as Horr's Dock. Pole was greased with lard and it extended over the water about 15 feet above it. On the end was fastened a large ham, the prize for anyone who could get it. In bathing suits the contestants lined up on the dock to try for the ham. One after another they fell in the water, climbed up a ladder back on the dock to make another try for the prize. Usually some fully clothed inebriated logger or one who undressed down to underwear, would try his luck. We all laughed until our sides ached. Game ended when someone got the ham. The Indian canoe races seemed tame after the grease pole for Indians in canoes were a frequent sight in Olympia Bay.

Log rolling interested me, a large log

was towed by row boat in sight of the crowds, a fully dressed logger got on each end. The game was won when one man could roll the other off and remain standing.

People sort of rested, ate in **Doane's Oyster House**, visited a Saloon or picknicked around the park, after the day's activities. Then on to dancing in one of the lodge halls or in The Lobby. Some with small children went to Mr. La Breis or Hinchliffs stables where they had parked their horses. They then had to wend their way back to the farm, at Yelm, Roy, Tenino or Maytown, to milk the cows, feed the chickens and water the gardens. As for me, I could just run all over town until dark and then the day was over.

ANNOTATIONS

Aiken, Newton Jesse (1882-1967): Born to a farming family in Kansas, Aiken moved with his parents to Pullman when he was seventeen. In 1908 he graduated from Washington State College (now University) with majors in history and English. He worked as a carpenter to pay for his education. Aiken briefly studied to be a minister at Alleghany Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, but returned to Washington to teach history and English at Tekoa High School. In 1910 he was hired as principal of Olympia High School, a position he held through the 1917-1918 school year. Aiken was also active in education at a state level. He was secretary-treasurer of the Southwest Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association. While principal

he taught several years at the State College's summer school in Puyallup, covering the subjects of teaching theory and practice, as well as history. In fall 1918 he joined the faculty of the Washington State College. He continued working at the Puyallup summer school, becoming its principal in 1921. He taught at WSC for the rest of his career. According to the 1933 course catalog, Aiken was Associate Professor of Economics and Director of the Placement Bureau. In 1945 he was Director of the Placement Bureau, Acting Dean of the School of Business Administration, and Acting Head of the Department of Economics. On a personal note, in 1911 Aiken married Grace Lindsay Hays (whose father Rev. G. M. W. Hays had earlier been pastor of Olympia's United Presbyterian Church).⁶

Ashley, Wilbur Grove (1874-1950): Born in California, Ashley moved to Olympia when he was three years old. In 1891, he purchased the first bicycle in Thurston County. Together with pharmacist Charley Hewitt, Ashley opened a bicycle repair shop in Tumwater in 1902 (which relocated to Columbia Street in 1907). Ashley also owned the first motorcycle in the county, a Yale California, in 1903. He later became an agent for the motorcycle company. In June 1904 he bought an Oldsmobile, the first car in Tumwater. Ashley even used the car to help Albert Mead campaign for governor that October. Mead stood in the rear of the car to talk to crowds in Centralia, Grand Mound, Rochester, Littlerock, and Gate. Ashley started

selling and repairing motorcycles in 1906. The Ashley Motor Company later moved to 216 West Fourth Street. He heavily promoted his wares, serving as captain of the Olympia Motorcycle Club. Allison better remembers him for his car business. Ashley sold cars (Reos were advertised at \$1,100 each at his shop in 1908), but he also rented his car out for hire. In his later years Ashley operated a gas station at 1854 State Avenue. When asked by a reporter in 1917 "Would I like to have an aeroplane?" he laughed "Yes, but really I would rather ride in something where I am certain the wheels are on the ground." Ashley married Gertrude Bigley in 1912 and had two sons, Douglas and Donald.⁷

Baptist Church: What is now known as First Baptist Church was founded in 1871, making it the oldest Baptist church in Olympia. The first meeting was held in the Good Templars Hall. In 1894 Temple Baptist and First Baptist Church merged to form Central Baptist Church, which is the name the church had when Elizabeth celebrated her eighth-grade graduation there. The First Baptist Church moved into the St. John's Episcopal Church Building (where Elizabeth had attended) in the 1950s. This congregation celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2021.⁸

Carlson, Hanna (1881-1937): Hanna (sometimes anglicized to Hannah) Nylund immigrated to the United States in 1902 from Finland. She married fellow Swedish-speaking Finnish immigrant Victor Carlson. They even-

tually moved to Rochester where they raised a family of five children. While the 1920 census lists Victor as a carpenter, the 1930 census records the family as owning a berry farm. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Rochester area called itself the "Strawberry Capital of the World" and had 300 acres under cultivation. A weevil infestation and exhausted soil ended the industry in the mid-1960s. Historian Dick Erickson estimates that about 70% of immigrants living in the Rochester area were Swedish-speaking Finns, primarily from the west coast of Finland. Swede Hall remains a community gathering place in Rochester.⁹

Christian Church: The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) began in 1890 when a group of Disciples of Christ members first started meeting in their homes, Columbia Hall, and even at the Washington School. In November 1891 they dedicated a church at Union and Adams Street. In 1928 they opened the current building at 701 Franklin Street SE. Designed in Gothic Revival Style by Olympia architect Joseph Wohleb, the building is made out of concrete. An addition was constructed in 1963. Interfaith Works currently operates a large homeless shelter in the church.¹⁰

Cosgrove, Samuel (1847-1909): Born on a farm in Ohio, Cosgrove served in the Union infantry during the Civil War. After the war, he graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University. Cosgrove became principal of Brooklyn High School in Brooklyn, Ohio. At the

school's graduation ceremony, he married Zephorena "Zeffie" Edgerton (a graduating student). The couple had three children. Eventually they moved to Pomeroy, Washington, where Cosgrove became a successful lawyer. He became politically active, serving as mayor for five terms (as well as prosecuting attorney and president of the school board). But Cosgrove's ambition was to be governor. In 1892 he lost the Republican nomination for governor, but won it in 1907 after a vigorous campaign. By the next July, he became severely ill. Diagnosed with Bright's Disease (kidney disease), he left for California shortly after winning the November election. Cosgrove briefly returned for his inauguration, but went back to California where he died. He was nicknamed "governor for a day," since he spent only one day in active office. His funeral was held in the rotunda of the old State Capitol. This building is now the headquarters of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.¹¹

Dittman, Amelia (1866-1947): Amelia Dittman was a longtime Olympia teacher. Born in Chicago, she moved to Thurston County with her parents at age five. She taught in Mason and Thurston Counties (including Yelm), before being hired by the Olympia School district in 1893. She worked at the Washington School for eleven years and at the Lincoln School for 25 years. Dittman was a member of the Sunset Club and Thurston County Pioneer and Historical Society, and helped organize the Christian Endeavor group at the United Churches.¹²

Doane's Oyster House: Doane's Oyster House was located at 5th and Washington. This popular restaurant was founded by Captain Woodbury J. Doane (1825-1903). A sailor from Maine like his father before him, he came west with the California Gold Rush. He tried his luck in the Fraser River Gold Rush as well and worked as a mate on Puget Sound steamships *Eliza Anderson* and *Zephyr*. He settled in Olympia and opened a restaurant in 1880. It became famous for its Olympia oyster pan roast. Goldie Robertson Funk wrote a mouthwatering description of it: "A Pan Roast required a large cupful of oysters, frizzled in four tablespoonfuls of melted butter, a cupful of tomato catsup, one tablespoonful of Worcestershire sauce, one scant teaspoonful of Tabasco, salt and pepper, poured piping hot over oven toast. This was served on a large platter with pickles, coffee, or beer, and for many years the price was thirty-five cents for the Pan Roast and five cents for the beer or coffee. Years later the price was fifty cents." She continued that "The Captain was big and burly and handsome and the very soul of hospitality. He met and welcomed his guests himself with a warmth and friendliness they never forgot. The cook prepared the orders; Jack and Wood, the two Doane boys, served them. Sixty gallons of oysters a day was an average." Many of his employees were Chinese-Americans.¹³

Dog: There is one possible reference to Elizabeth's beloved dog in the newspaper. "Stayed with Friend," read a *Morning Olympian* headline on July 31,

1904, “Harry McElroy’s Cocker Spaniel refuses to Desert Crippled Setter.” The dogs had wandered off and were found by an E. Smith near the Northern Pacific rail line two and a half miles west of Olympia, where one dog became unable to walk any farther, probably from rheumatism. Smith recognized the dogs as purebreds and word eventually reached McElroy about his dogs. His setter might have died save for the “devotion of the little spaniel.” The article explained that: “When it comes to canine devotion a little Cocker Spaniel is at the head of ‘man’s best friends’ and Harry McElroy’s little yellow fellow has demonstrated that to a nicety. For four days and four nights he stood guard and watched over Mr. McElroy’s English setter which in some mysteri-



Pictured in the 1880s, Doane’s Oyster House is decked out in bunting to welcome BPOE guests. The restaurant was located at East 5th Avenue between Main (Capitol Way) and Washington. State Library Photograph Collection, 1851-1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives.

ous manner became partially paralyzed in the woods and could not walk. The little Cocker refused to leave his canine associate until Mr. McElroy carried the injured dog home yesterday . . .”¹⁴

Dunbar, Ralph O. (1845-1912): Dunbar was born in Illinois; the family crossed the Oregon Trail to the Willamette Valley in 1846. Educated at Willamette University, he taught there for two years before moving to Olympia in 1867 to study law in the office of Elwood Evans. Dunbar was admitted to the bar in 1869 and served as a clerk of the United States district court from 1869 to 1871. He moved to Eastern Washington and was elected to the territorial legislature in 1878. Dunbar also had time to be the editor and proprietor of the *Goldendale Sentinel* newspaper (1880-1886). He represented the 11th District at the 1889 Constitutional Convention and later became a member of the new Washington State Supreme Court, where he served three terms (including as chief justice) before his sudden death. Dunbar had a large farm near Goldendale but also bred horses in Olympia. His wife, Clara White (who he married in 1873), was the daughter of William White. William White was also the father of Ann Elizabeth, the wife of prominent early Olympia leader Daniel Bigelow.¹⁵

Falknor, Alonzo Jay (1866-1943): Son of Levi and Zipporah Lindsay Falknor, Alonzo was born in Ohio. After graduating from the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor, he

partnered with Olympia lawyer P. M. Troy in 1893. Falknor moved to Seattle in 1908 where he continued to practice law with business partners James B. Howe and C. K. Poe and later his son Judson. Judson became dean of the University of Washington law school. Alonzo specialized as a trial lawyer in personal injury law. He married Lola Fahnestock in 1895.¹⁶

Faulkner, Lester Bradner (1869-1959): Born in Rochester, New York, Faulkner moved to Olympia in 1889. He was first hired by the Olympia Light and Power Company in 1897, and went on to work as superintendent, manager and president of that business until it was purchased by the Puget Sound Power and Light Company. He continued to work at Puget Power until retirement in 1939. Active in the Olympia community, Faulkner chaired Thurston County's Democratic Party's central committee and was president of the Olympia Chamber of Commerce. He donated a herd of elk for the park at Tumwater Falls. His name was suggested for the Olympia High School athletic field in 1921, because the Light and Power Company owned the field and let the school use it for free. In the end, the name Stevens Field was chosen. Faulkner married Dora Sternberg in 1900. The couple had two sons.¹⁷

As Allison indicates, Faulkner loved dogs. Interestingly, Faulkner posted a notice in the *Morning Olympian* that he had found "a black cocker spaniel, female" on June 9, 1905. In 1906 he purchased "Champion Pera," who won

numerous prizes at dog shows across the country.¹⁸

Foster, William J. (1869-1952): Foster was born in Illinois; his family moved to Olympia when he was an infant. Foster was a banker with the Capital National Bank and Olympia Federal Savings and Loan. In addition, he partnered with his brother-in-law James K. L. Mitchell in an oyster business. A member of the Odd Fellows, Foster was also a charter member of the Harmony Masonic Lodge. Active in the Olympia Yacht Club, he spent much of his later years boating around Puget Sound. His wife **Anne (Mitchell) Foster (1877-1973)** graduated from the University of Washington and was active in social and community organizations, including the St. Peter Hospital Auxiliary. For more information about the *Daphne*, see the Phil Vincent entry.¹⁹

GAR Hall: Olympia's George H. Thomas Post No. 5 of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was founded in 1881. Together with its female auxiliary, the Robert H. Milroy Circle of the Woman's Relief Corps (founded in 1891), the post helped support Union veterans and their families. Among other things, the organization established funds to help veterans with medical, housing, burial, and emergency expenses. The GAR lobbied for government pensions and supported homes for elderly and ill veterans and their wives. The Olympia post maintained a large burial plot and memorial in Tumwater's Masonic Cemetery. The memorial still stands today. For its

hall, the GAR rented the former Central School Building, which was built in 1858 (a separate annex was built in 1884). The building was moved to its present location (1055 and 1059 Adams Street) in 1907, making way for the John and Ada Mowell House (200 Union Avenue). The former school/hall has been made into apartments.²⁰

Hannah, Lena (1881-1962): Lena's father was an Irish immigrant. According to the 1910 federal census, Lena "Hanna" boarded at Captain Samuel and Drusilla Percival's house with her brother Merle. A career teacher, she taught school in Seattle in the 1920s and 1930s. She passed away in Santa Cruz, California.²¹

Hart, Lou Ella (1901-1995): Born in Snohomish, Lou Ella was the youngest daughter of Governor Louis F. Hart and Ella James Hart. Louis Hart was elected lieutenant governor in 1912. The family moved to Olympia. After Governor Lister died in 1919, Hart filled the rest of his term. He was elected in his own right in 1920. Being the governor's daughter, Lou Ella arranged for the Olympia High School prom to be held in the mansion. She taught at Seattle's Garfield High School for many years, serving as head of their social studies department. Lou Ella was interviewed about life in the governor's mansion for Mary Lou Hanify's book *First Families*.²²

Heermans, Harry C. (1852-1943) and Annie (1865-1940): Harry Heermans was born in West Virginia. He attended Wesleyan University in Middletown,

Connecticut. In 1886 he married Annie Townsend (a graduate of Elmira College) in New York. Moving again, Harry formed the Ontario Land Company in 1886 in St. Paul. As a representative of the company, he moved to Washington in 1887. He settled in Hoquiam in 1908 and moved to Olympia in 1910. Through his business dealings he helped promote railway, electrical and water development in Western Washington and the Yakima Valley. Closer to home, in 1905 Harry obtained a controlling interest in the Olympia Water Works, which supplied the city's water supply, and ran the organization until he sold it to the city in 1916. Annie was socially active and volunteered for the Olympia Red Cross. The Heermans family rented the former Edmund Sylvester Home from Henrietta Wyman.²³

Hobo Day (October 25, 1917): This debacle started when Principal Aiken cancelled "loud sock day." For years male students had worn colorful socks to school on that day and the winner with the "loudest" socks would get a prize.²⁴ But in 1917 Aiken refused to allow the event. Some students had other ideas. The contemporary account in the newspaper is very close to Allison's:

"There will be no fo[o]tball game between the Olympia high school and Montesano Saturday and approximately 50 boys of the junior and senior classes are out on a 'strike' as a result of the decision of the boys to stage a 'hobo' day at the high school this morning.

"After failing to enlist the sympathies of N.J. Aiken, principal of the school, the boys lighted a big bonfire near the school this morning and at noon persuaded a number of other boys and several girls to walk out.

Asked for Permission

"Early this week a delegation of the boys waited on Principal Aiken and asked permission to hold a 'hobo' day in honor of the coming football game.

" 'I told them that there had been so much time taken out of classwork recently, especially because of the food drive, that it would be out of place,' said Mr. Aiken today.

Boys Hold Out

" 'Some of the boys insisted, however, and asked to be allowed to hold a 'hobo day' Monday. I told them to come and see me about it, but I would not promise. Last evening they planned to hold this affair anyway and when I heard about it, I told them that if they came to the school dressed in old working clothes, they would be suspended.

" 'I do not object to their holding a celebration to advertise their football game, but I do object to their detracting from the study time. The boys insisted on coming to school that way and they were suspended.'

Carry Out Plans

"The boys met at about 8:30 o'clock at the Y.M.C.A. and planned to march to the high school in their old clothes

and hobo regalia. They were met before they started and informed by Mr. Aiken that he would not deal with them at all if they appeared dressed as they were.

"They marched to the school, however, and paraded around the building several times. When they were suspended, they lighted a big bonfire and during the middle of the forenoon sent an 'arbitration' committee to talk it over with Principal Aiken. He wouldn't talk.

Boys Make 'Demands'

" 'We thought he would talk it over with us,' said one of the football boys this afternoon, 'but he wouldn't. Now, we want some things, and we won't go back until we get them. We want to be allowed to hold a 'Loud Sock Day' each year, and we want a student committee appointed to talk over the athletic situation with the faculty. We want some say in the athletics. We also want all the boys who took part in the affair today to be reinstated.'

"Mr. Aiken will leave this afternoon for Tacoma, where he will attend to educational work and will not return to Olympia until next week, when the suspensions may be taken up. C. E. Beach, the city superintendent, is out of town. The boys who took part in the outbreak are members of the junior and senior classes."²⁵

The defiant students had even had an article put in the paper that morning announcing their plans:

"No more 'loud sock' day at the high

school. That had been relegated to the past with the rest of the non essentials of peace times prior to the great conflict, when the youth of the land are not regarded as beyond the pale if they indulged their fancies for the extremes in 'screams' for ties and 'explosions' for footwear. Yes, the day of 'Loud sock' day is done. Nowadays it isn't just the thing. Most extravagant and out of place, you know, a bit off the proper. But look who's here? Now we have 'Hobo day.' Something old and yet the very newest. It's in line with the times, too.

"Everybody's doing it. The 'Bo's' the things. So significant of modesty, husbandry and centering on a single purpose. No time for side issues, what?

"Today is the day. The lads of the high school junior and senior classes will be the little observers and don't you forget it, all will be there. You wear your old clothes, the oldest you have. Your auto jumper will pass. It's the annual thing now and most commendable. You look such a man.

"And it is much more to the point than that 'loud sock' thing, don't you think? Why decidedly."²⁶

The situation resolved on October 30 with a return to normal. Principal Aiken met with parents of the suspended boys, and Olympia School District superintendent C. E. Beach agreed to reinstate the students. The students went back to class on October 30, and although they met with the principal again that day, he made no promises

for athletics changes.²⁷

Hume, Mary Ethel (1884-1972): According to Washington State school law at the time, school districts could make their own policies about whether or not to hire married female teachers. Many did. Ethel Cunningham married Bernie F. Hume in 1912. In 1913 she taught Medieval and Modern History at Olympia High School. Hume remained active in the community after retiring from teaching when her sons Don and Dale were born. She was a member of the PTA and Chapter Y of the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), and was elected president of the Thurston County Anti-Tuberculosis Society in 1922. Her husband Bernie was a leading member of the Olympia Chamber of Commerce, acting as its secretary for many years.²⁸

Johnston, Katherine Mottman (1901-1983): Daughter of George and June Mottman. Her father ran the Mottman Mercantile (101 Capitol Way N) in downtown Olympia, one of the city's longest-lasting businesses. In 1922 Katherine married Levy Johnston and moved to Raymond, Washington where he worked at the town's Standard Oil headquarters. They later moved back to Olympia. For a time, her husband worked as a salesman at her family's store.²⁹

Kearney (Bordeaux), Beatrice (1902-1982): The daughter of Joseph F. and Emma Kearney. Beatrice's father was a leading grocer in Olympia. She graduated from Miss Ransome's private

school for girls in Piedmont, California. In 1926 Beatrice wed Wilfred Bordeaux and moved to Malone, Washington where his family had logging operations. Elizabeth McElroy attended her engagement party. Beatrice died in Seattle. Her childhood home (220 Union Ave SE) is now the headquarters of the Olympia YWCA.³⁰

Kisor, Leota B. Otis (1899-1977):

Born in Olympia to John and Marie Otis, Leota graduated from the University of Washington. She taught school in Deer Lodge, Montana before marrying Orval G. Kisor (1899-1974), a 1919 graduate of Olympia High School, on Christmas Day 1924. Elizabeth McElroy attended her bridal shower. The Kisors had three sons. Orval was involved in the oil business in Olympia and in 1941 he became a partner in the Ordel Oil Company. The family moved to a farm near Chelan in 1952, but returned to Olympia after Orval retired in 1962. Leota was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church and Altar Guild, Chi Omega sorority, and P.E.O. She was also vice-president of the local Audubon Society and an expert lecturer on Pacific Northwest mushrooms. During World War II she trained as a volunteer Red Cross aide at St. Peter Hospital.³¹

Locke, Sam Fun (1857-1934): Locke emigrated from China when he was seventeen to work as a railroad laborer. He later became a partner (eventually senior partner) of the Hong Yek Kee Company in Olympia's Chinatown, a mercantile and labor contracting firm that supplied and outfitted

Chinese laborers for industries and work projects in Southwest Washington. He returned to China to marry Lay Shee. They had nine children and the family lived above the store. Locke also invested in Chinese-owned businesses in Western Washington and acted as a banker for the Chinese community. He was known locally as the "Mayor of Chinatown."³²

Lord, Clarence Jefferson (1863-

1937): Lord began his career in New York, as a business partner with his father's stock farm. He became the cashier at the Capital National Bank when it opened in 1890. Two years later he became bank president, a position he held for the rest of his career. Capital National Bank, commonly called "Lord's Bank" during his lifetime, is now part of Rainier Bank. Lord was Olympia's mayor from 1902 to 1903 and even ran for governor. He lost the Republican nomination to Albert Mead, who won the election. Lord also supported business leaders' efforts to keep Olympia as the state capital, and invested heavily in the Hotel Olympia when it was facing bankruptcy. Perhaps his most famous nickname was "The Man with the Marble Heart," which John Miller Murphy (the outspoken editor of the *Washington Standard*) gave him after Lord's bank denied Murphy a loan to help save his beloved Olympia Theater (also known as the Olympia Opera House).³³

Lord, Helen Elizabeth (1904-1987):

Daughter of Clarence and Elizabeth Reynolds Lord. She attended the Lincoln School. Helen also had Lena Han-



C. J. Lord was an Olympia banker and businessman, and owned the mansion at 211 21st Avenue SW. Photograph courtesy of the Washington State Library.

nah for kindergarten. During a Christmas program Helen sang a solo dressed as the Christmas tree. With her father being a banker, she was a social butterfly. She even ceremonially unveiled the End of the Oregon Trail marker at Sylvester Park in 1913 and in 1919 she christened the ship *Cabigan* at the Sloan Shipyards. Helen also got a chance to ride on a plane with her father and other prominent Olympia people in 1920. She attended the Castilleja School for Girls in Palo Alto, California. Elizabeth McElroy went to a farewell dancing party before Helen left for the school. Helen was a member of the Cheemaketa Campfire of the Campfire Girls. Like Elizabeth

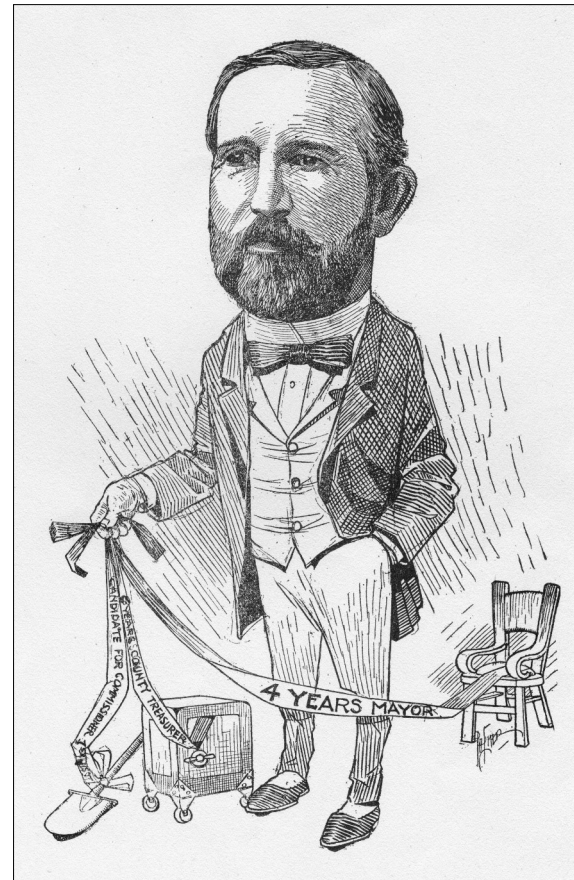
McElroy, Helen was made an associate member of the Olympia Woman's Club when she was an infant. Helen played a lady of King Arthur's court in a pantomime at the Children's Chautauqua in 1916. She married William Lucas in 1928 and had one son, Dennis.³⁴

Mann, Champion Bramwell (1844-1929): Born in Crawford County, Pennsylvania, Champion and his parents sailed to Oregon when he was twenty years old. He studied science at Willamette University and graduated from the Portland Business College. Mann taught school in Oregon before moving to Olympia in 1870. He was a teacher in his new home for only six months. Then he bought the former Puget Sound Drugstore, which he operated for 38 years, selling out in 1909. Mann opened a seed and feed store, for which he became more famous. This store was located at Fourth and Washington until 1925, when it moved to Franklin Street. His business continued decades after his death. Mann's Seed Store moved to 301 5th Ave E in 1945, and operated into the 1970s. The building is now home to Rainy Day Records. Mann married Evangeline Brewer in 1873. They had six children. Mann was active in politics, serving as mayor, city treasurer, county commissioner, and county treasurer. He was also a leader in the local Odd Fellows and United Workmen.³⁵

Mauermann, Bertha Marena (1883-1962): Bertha was the daughter of Robert and Barbara Mauermann (sometimes spelled Mauerman). Rob-

ert's parents, Joseph and Karolina, were Austrian immigrants who settled in Pe Ell, Lewis County, in 1855. A graduate of Bellingham Normal School, Bertha was hired by the Olympia School District in 1907. She obviously ran a very tight ship, as Allison writes. In 1911 her Lincoln School classroom (along with Allison's other teacher Amelia Dittman) had no tardy students during November. By 1919 Mauermann moved to Seattle and taught at several schools (including Washington Irving School and West Queen Anne School) before retirement.³⁶

McClelland, Benjamin R. (1858-1927): McClelland's teaching career extended over 50 years. Born in Cumberland, Ohio, McClelland became a teacher at age sixteen. He later graduated from Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio with a mathematics degree. He moved to Coshocton, Ohio where he was high school principal for eight years and superintendent of schools for four years. McClelland moved to Olympia to join the faculty of the short-lived People's University. Then, after a year in Everett, he returned to Olympia in 1905 and was hired as principal of Olympia High School. He also taught mathematics and physics. Eventually, being principal proved too exhausting and he resigned that position, but he continued teaching math and music. In 1912, he formed a twelve-piece (all male) band and orchestra after two years of work trying to get the program started. The band played at home basketball games. He also directed the YMCA



Champion Bramwell Mann is shown here in a caricature from a 1908 political campaign. Drawing of C. B. Mann, 1908, by artist Palmer, State Library Photograph Collection, 1851-1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov> (accessed August 16, 2021).

band. They performed frequently at events, including a circus put on in the YMCA gymnasium. When McClelland was forced to resign because of ill health, his students missed him so much that they sent a basketful of letters and cards begging him to come back. He did not recover and when he

died, a memorial program was held for him in the Olympia High School auditorium. The school's orchestra and trio played and then student representatives went to his memorial service at the United Churches down the street, where he had served as an elder.³⁷

McElroy, Carrie (1864-1937): Elizabeth Allison's mother was born in Napa, California to Samuel and Hilda Williams. The Williams family moved to Olympia when Carrie was six years old. Her father was a merchant and the Mottman Store would later be built on the site of his store. Carrie's grandfather David Phillips was one of the founders of Seattle's First National Bank and her aunt Dorcas Phillips has been credited as Seattle's first Sunday school teacher. Carrie graduated from St. Helen's Hall in Portland. She married Harry McElroy on her nineteenth birthday in 1883. They had two children, Hilda (Strong) and Elizabeth. Carrie was very active in Olympia society. With her daughter Elizabeth she was a founding member of the Olympia Red Cross. Carrie was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Woman's Club of Olympia, Civic Improvement Club, and Olympia Golf and Country Club (she donated war savings stamps as a prize for a woman's tournament in 1918). Carrie McElroy served on the refreshments committee for the housewarming party at the new Governor's Mansion in 1909.³⁸

McElroy, Harry Bates (1861-1928): Son of T. F. McElroy and father of

Elizabeth Allison, he was born in Olympia. Harry attended local schools before going to McClure's Military Academy in Oakland, California. He moved to "Old Town" Tacoma where he worked for Hansen and Ackerson's lumber mill, even living in San Francisco for a time where the mill distributed some of its products. He came to Olympia for a financial career, and married Carrie Marian Williams in 1883. Harry was a leader in the Chamber of Commerce (he was part of their welcoming committee when President Taft visited Olympia in 1911), wrote a number of articles for the *Washington Historical Quarterly*, and donated historical papers and early newspapers to libraries. He was active in the Olympia community. For example, McElroy headed the Olympia Red Cross during World War I. As his daughter mentions, he enjoyed hunting and the local newspaper frequently mentioned hunting trips he took with his friends. McElroy was a member of the Nesqually (Nisqually) Hunting Club. The newspaper also noted his frequent boating trips, from purchasing a naptha launch in 1895 to having the family's boat fixed up in 1909.³⁹

McElroy (Strong), Hilda (1887-1921): Older sister of Elizabeth McElroy Allison. Hilda attended Providence Academy (where she made the honor roll) and later went to Portland Academy in Portland, Oregon. She graduated from eighth grade in 1902 and from the business department of Olympia High School in 1911. A bit of a social butterfly, her name frequently appeared in local newspapers for at-

tending and hosting club meetings and parties. For example, she hosted the luncheon club at her parent's home in 1907, belonged to the Olympia Lawn Tennis Club and St. Margaret's Auxiliary Guild (St. John's Episcopal Church), and was invited to a luncheon hosted by Governor Hay's daughter Neva in 1911 at the Governor's Mansion. She married Harold Preston Strong, manager of Golden Rod Milling Company, at her parents' home in 1912 and moved to Portland. After the birth of their son Harry (1918-2004), Hilda's health declined. Three weeks after moving to El Centro, California, Harold died from complications from an appendectomy. Hilda passed away in California in 1921. Her son Harry was three years old. Hilda's funeral was held at her parents' house. Harry was then raised by his grandparents Harry and Carrie McElroy. He got a master's degree in business at Harvard University before serving with the U.S. Army quartermasters in World War II. Harry Strong returned to Seattle, working for Seafirst Bank. He later became a financial consultant. Strong married Dorothy Broadfoot in 1949. His family remembered him in his obituary as dedicated to his family (four children and many grandchildren). He was an active member of the Epiphany Episcopal Church in Seattle, where his aunt Elizabeth also attended, serving as vestry. He authored *Pioneer Families: Strong & McElroy: a search for history* (1996) and *A pioneer judge & his family in the Oregon/Washington Territories* (2001) about Judge William Strong.⁴⁰

McElroy, Thornton Fleming (1825-1885): Grandfather of Elizabeth McElroy Allison. Born in Pennsylvania, Thornton moved to Pittsfield, Illinois in 1843 to work as an apprentice newspaper printer. He married Sarah Bates in 1846, and crossed the Oregon Trail in 1849, intending to go to the California Gold Rush. Instead, McElroy settled in Oregon City and became a printer for the *Oregon Spectator*. Eventually he tried gold mining in California but returned to his Oregon job after getting ill. After the *Spectator* folded, McElroy worked for Portland's *Oregonian* before moving to Olympia to set up a newspaper. The inaugural issue of *The Columbian*, the first newspaper printed north of the Columbia River, was published on September 11, 1852. Having a newspaper was one of the reasons Olympia was chosen as the provisional Territorial capitol. The paper became the *Pioneer and Democrat* in 1854. McElroy served in the Territorial Legislature as a member of the Whig party and held various territorial offices, including public printer.⁴¹

McKenny, Margaret (1885-1969): Born in Olympia, Margaret was the daughter of General Thomas I. and Cynthia King McKenny. General McKenny came to Olympia in the 1860s as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, but later he became a pharmacist and developer. Margaret graduated from Providence Academy in 1902. She taught at a Montessori school in Olympia from 1913 to 1919 and even tried managing a bookstore and curio shop in downtown Olympia. McKenny

moved to the East Coast in the 1920s where she attended the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture in Massachusetts. McKenny worked for the American Museum of Natural History and the City Gardens Club of New York City before returning to Olympia in 1943. She became an advocate for environmental causes. McKenny was a driving force in the creation of Watershed Park, saving the former city water department's land from development. In 1955 she helped stop the city from developing Sylvester Park into an underground parking garage. Her last major project was fighting the creation of a deepwater port at the Nisqually Delta. It was later made into what is now the Billy Frank National Wildlife Refuge. McKenny was considered a regional expert on mushrooms, publishing *Mushrooms of Field and Wood* (1929) and *The Savory Wild Mushroom* (1962) among her more than ten books. She gave countless lectures to adults and children about mushrooms, wildflowers, and other nature topics. She even visited Madison Elementary School and gave a presentation to the author's father Drew Crooks' class. Several things in the area are named in her memory: Margaret McKenny Elementary School (3250 Morse-Merryman Road SE), Margaret McKenny Park (3111 21st Avenue SE), and Margaret McKenny campground in Capitol State Forest.⁴²

McKenzie, Edith (1879-1974): Edith was the daughter of Peter and Mary E. (Woodruff) McKenzie. Her grandfather Samuel Woodruff was active in local real estate. He platted Woodruff's Ad-

dition, helped develop the town of Gate, and had the Woodruff Block building (119 N Capitol Way) built in 1887. Edith became a teacher, working at McLane and Cedar Flats (both in Thurston County) before enrolling in the Ellensburg Normal School. She graduated in the winter of 1899/1900 and then worked in Mason County and later at Schneider's Prairie. She became principal of the Woodland Union High school in 1902. Edith was hired to teach seventh grade at Lincoln School in 1905. A dedicated teacher, she even taught summer school for high school students needing to make up credit in 1912. Edith was a founding member of the Olympia's Euterpean Society, a cultural/educational women's club. After leaving Olympia, she taught school in Tacoma and Seattle before marrying Lewis J. Morrison (1875-1928) in 1919. He managed a shrimp cannery in Petersburg, Alaska. They lived in Olympia for a short time in the mid-1920s, where Lewis worked as an insurance agent. The 1940 census records Edith, by then a widow, as owning a store in Chehalis. She died in Seattle.⁴³

Edith McKenzie's European tour, which Elizabeth's sister Hilda attended, was more extensive than Allison indicates. They visited Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, England and Scotland. One of the tour participants, Edith Lemon, wrote a series of letters to her family about the trip. Carefully preserved by her father Millard Lemon after her untimely death, the letters

are part of his collection at the University of Oregon.⁴⁴

Moore (Biffle), Edna Earl (1907-1974): Edna was the daughter of Robert and Ethel Moore. After graduation she was a stenographer for a newspaper in Olympia, working her way up to advertising manager. She married Roice L. Biffle in 1935 and moved to Montana.⁴⁵

Moore, Janet S. (1862-1940): Moore taught in Olympia schools for around 30 years. Born in New Jersey, she moved to Olympia at age two when her father P. D. Moore was appointed Collector of Revenue for Washington and Idaho by President Lincoln. Janet went back to New Jersey for her higher education. She taught school in Mason County, Montesano, and Port Townsend before being hired to teach at Olympia's Central School in 1885. The school moved into the new Lincoln School five years later. For 26 years she taught first grade in the same room, sometimes to the children of former students. Moore was noted for her love for her students (she had no children of her own) and worked to abolish the "common cup" in the classroom, as shared drinking cups spread disease. She helped create Olympia's Carnegie Library in 1913. Moore was a founding member of the Woman's Club of Olympia and later became president of the Washington State Federation of Woman's Clubs. She was also a member of the Eenati Club.⁴⁶



Janet Moore was a long-time school teacher and member of the Woman's Club of Olympia. Photograph courtesy of the Olympia Women's History Walking Tour.

Nelson (Bergman/Martin), Gertrude (1897-1978): Gertrude was born to Swedish immigrants in Montana. The family moved to Montesano when she was young. In 1909 she received a license to teach in Chehalis County. Five years later she was hired to teach at the temporary school in the Olympia Collegiate Institute Building. As superintendent of music and writing for the Olympia School District, she directed two operettas performed by the Olympia High School Girls Glee Club, *Priscilla* in 1917 and *Princess Chrysanthemum* in 1918. After leaving

Olympia, she taught elementary science at Washington State College in Pullman (where she had earned two degrees). She then studied vocal music at the Cornish School of Music in Seattle. In 1922 she was giving private vocal lessons in Olympia. After marrying Dr. George Bergman, she and her husband moved to Ethiopia as Seventh Day Adventist missionaries. Dr. Bergman opened the Taffari Makonnen Hospital in 1928 and the Empress Zauditu Memorial Hospital in 1934. The Italians expelled all foreign missionaries after invading Ethiopia in 1935. Although the church grew exponentially during the occupation, the Bergmans remained in the United States after missionary work was able to resume. In 1954, when Emperor Haile Selassie visited Glendale, California, Gertrude and her husband were in the party greeting him at the Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital, where he held a press conference. George died in 1957. In 1972 Gertrude married Henry W. Martin. She died in Riverside, California.⁴⁷

Nommensen, Marie (1860-1941): Marie Elizabeth Nommensen was a German immigrant dressmaker who worked in Olympia for decades. Marie was a resident of Olympia for over 51 years. Her brother Christian owned the Nommensen Furniture Store.⁴⁸

Olson, Mae Zamberlin (1909-1998): Joseph and Emma Zamberlin's daughter Mae was born in Olympia. She graduated from Olympia High School in 1927 and attended the University of Washington. Mae married Ernest Ol-

son in 1955. They were co-owners and proprietors of Ernie's Sport Shop and Lacey Hardware. Mae also worked for the Washington State Patrol and the Department of Licensing, and as a session employee for the Washington State House of Representatives. Mae was active in the community. A Republican precinct committee member, she was involved in initiative campaigns. She also belonged to the Olympia Zonta, Lady Lions, and the Daughters of the Pioneers.⁴⁹

Olympia Collegiate Institute (OCI): The Methodist Episcopal Church established the Puget Sound Wesleyan Institute at Washington and Union Streets. It was reorganized as the Olympia Union Academy in 1861, relocating to Olympia Street and East Bay Drive near the Daniel Bigelow House in 1869. Bigelow, a Methodist, was a major supporter of the school's creation. It became the Olympia Collegiate Institute (OCI) in 1883 and many local people attended it. OCI closed in 1893 during the economic panic. J. R. Chaplin used the building for his short-lived People's University. The building was used by the Pacific Lutheran Evangelical Seminary before the Olympia School District acquired it as a temporary school.⁵⁰

Saint John's Episcopal Church: Elizabeth McElroy's home church was attended by many of Olympia's leading families during her day. The first Saint John's Church was consecrated in 1865. The parish itself incorporated in 1866, making it the first parish in Washington. The first church was lo-

cated on the site of what is now the Governor Hotel in downtown Olympia. Elizabeth's grandparents were members of the church before her family joined. Her grandmother Sarah McElroy belonged to the "Busy Bees," a woman's group that helped raise money for missions and church expenses. The church that Elizabeth attended was built in 1891 at 904 Washington St SE. The church moved to its current location (114 20th Ave SE) in the 1950s and the old building was bought by First Baptist Church of Olympia.⁵¹

Sapp, Bernice A. (1881-1965): Daughter of William and Nancy Sapp, Bernice was an early collector of historical information. Her family moved from Illinois to Thurston County in 1887. She graduated from Olympia High School in 1900 and worked as a clerk for the State Supreme Court Reporter for many years. She was historian for the Thurston County Pioneer Society, involved with the creation of the State Capital Museum, and participated in the State Capitol Historical Association. She was active with the woman's suffrage movement. For example, in 1908 she spoke for the Capitol City Club at a Washington Equal Suffrage Association convention, before their campaign during the 1909 legislature. She served as state auditor of the Washington Equal Suffrage Association. Washington women won the vote in 1910. Sapp was a member of the Business and Professional Woman's Club and served as president of the Margaret Hazard Stevens Tent No. 8 Daughters of Veterans.⁵²

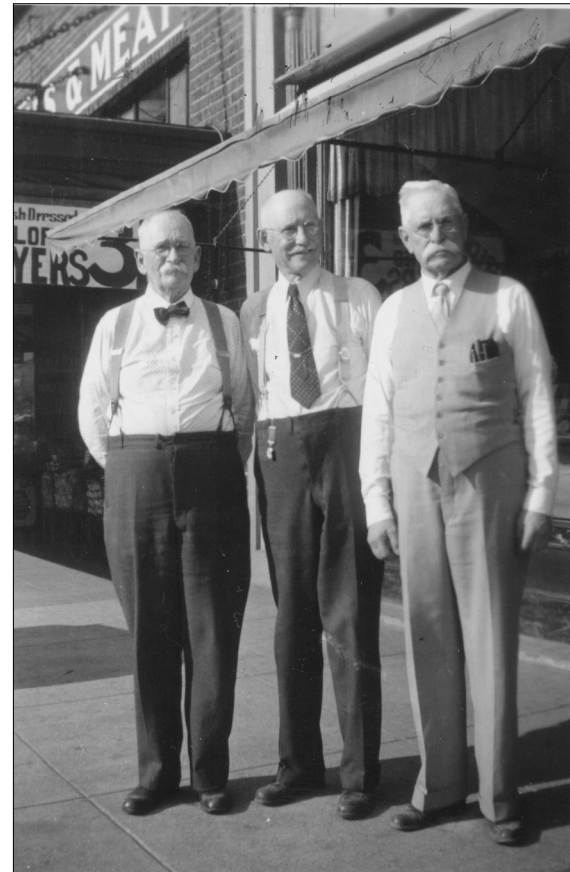
Sapp, William L. (1840-1922): Sapp was an early resident of Thurston County. Born in West Virginia, he served three years as a commissary sergeant in the 6th West Virginia Mounted Infantry during the Civil War. Sapp lived in Illinois and Kansas before moving to Thurston County in 1887. He and his large family had a



Bernice Sapp is shown here in 1909, while attending the National Suffrage Convention in Seattle. Photograph C1961.18.29, Washington State Historical Society.

farm near Olympia. His obituary states that he was blinded in an accident “fourteen years” ago, which would be well after Elizabeth McElroy’s birth. Sapp was active in the community. In 1907 he was awarded a contract to deliver wood to heat the State Capitol building. Sapp Road is named after the family.⁵³

Talcott Brothers Jewelry: The Talcott Jewelry store traces its history back to 1872 when Charles Talcott opened a small store in Olympia with his father Lucius Lord Talcott. His brothers Grant and George joined the business after graduating from the Olympia Collegiate Institute. The store burned down in a fire that destroyed much of Olympia’s commercial core in 1882. They rebuilt (at 420 Capitol Way S.) and their business became a community institution. The Washington State Supreme Court met on their second floor in 1891. The store sold a variety of goods: jewelry, watches, paints, rubber stamps, notary seals, groceries, sewing machines, lamps, silverware, china, crystal, cutlery, pianos, and organs. They were noted for their umbrellas with hand-carved wooden handles. In addition, the Talcott Brothers were opticians and made dental crowns. In 1907 the store was doubled in size. It suffered heavy damage in the 1949 earthquake and was remodeled by architect Joseph Wohleb, changing its original brick façade to sheet metal. After five generations, the Talcotts closed their business in 2003. The first three Talcott brothers also created the original Washington State seal.⁵⁴



Shown here in 1939, the three Talcott brothers (Charles, Grant, and George) stand in front of their jewelry store in downtown Olympia. Photograph Charles, Grant and George Talcott, 1939, State Library Photograph Collection, 1851-1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov> (accessed August 16, 2021).

Thoma, Earl Raymond (1886-1956): Thoma was the first head of Olympia High School’s commercial department. Born in South Dakota to Anthony and Ella Thoma, he attended the State School of Mines in Rapid City. After

working for about a year, Thoma attended the Fremont Normal School and Business College in Fremont, Nebraska, graduating in their amanuensis course (dictation and copying). He worked as a stenographer for the railroad in Nebraska before moving to Olympia in fall 1906. Thoma worked as an office stenographer before teaching commercial classes at the Pacific Lutheran Seminary. In 1909, he was hired to head the new commercial department at Olympia High School, teaching bookkeeping, penmanship, shorthand, typing, and commercial law to prepare students for business careers. He also taught night school, including a bookkeeping course. In 1915 Thoma's commercial classes won a banner from the Gregg Publishing Company for high tests results in their shorthand system. In turn, he won their gold medal for teacher. Thoma taught through the 1917-1918 school year before accepting a teaching position with the University of Washington. In 1920 he began teaching at Success Business School in Bellingham. Thoma was involved in his community. He was a member and secretary of the Olympia Motorcycle Club, and was also secretary of the YMCA and president of its tennis club. He married Mollie Bustrack in 1909 in Olympia. By 1930, Thoma and his family had moved to Yakima, where he continued teaching.⁵⁵

Vincent, Phil (1855-1934): Born in Nova Scotia, Phil apprenticed in a ship yard at Pictou before becoming a sailor. He eventually settled in San Francisco before coming to Olympia where

his brother Ben, a shoe merchant, lived. Phil opened a cabinet and boat building shop in Olympia. He maintained this business for the rest of his life, except for a few years he spent in Alaska during the Gold Rush (where he was once mistakenly reported dead). Phil's obituary credited him with inventing a self-dumping scow used on the regrade of Denny Hill in Seattle. His shipbuilding business went by various names and at different locations including Vincent's Pioneer Launch and Boat Building Works at Columbia and 2nd Streets and Capital Boat Works at Fourth Avenue and Tilton.⁵⁶

Allison was not the only person excited by the construction of the *Daphne*. The papers wrote a glowing article about its launch on March 10, 1912: "On Sunday morning at 9 o'clock the trim cruiser yacht of W. J. Foster, the *Daphne*, took to the waters of the Sound without a hitch consummating one of the most successful launchings ever held here. A large delegation of lovers of water sports and interested watchers were on the scene of the launching and expressed their delight. The boat slid from the ways as soon as the moorings were loosened without the aid of as much as the least little shove. Only a few hours after the craft reached the water she was placed under her own power, this feature marking another step in the placing of the art of boat construction on a perfect scientific basis."⁵⁷

Waldrick, Jacob (1826-1899): Jacob was born in Ohio to German immi-

grants. He came to the West in 1852, working at a sawmill in Port Gamble. Jacob married **Letitia Eaton** (1851-1919) in 1866 in Victoria, B.C. She was fifteen and he was 25 years her senior. She was the daughter of Thurston County pioneer Charles Eaton and Nisqually chief Leschi's daughter Kalakala. Eaton's Prairie is named after Charles Eaton who led the Eaton Rangers during the Treaty War (Puget Sound Indian War). Letitia and Jacob moved to Thurston County in 1867, where they raised a large family of four sons and four daughters. Allison writes about three of them. **Chester** (1889-1965) was born on the Waldrick farm near Offut Lake. He worked as a truck driver and logging operator most of his life. He lived in the Fir Tree community near East Olympia. **Charles** (1867-1948) worked as a logger before becoming a farmer. After retiring, he moved to Tenino. **Rhoda** (1886-1968) married Roy A. Speelman and moved to Tacoma where she lived for 53 years.⁵⁸

Wallace, Herbert M. (1872-1951): Wallace was hired as principal of the Washington School in 1911. Faced with overcrowding, the Olympia School District sent some students to the old Olympia Collegiate Institute building, which had recently been used as a private Lutheran school, which in turn had purchased it from the short-lived People's University. Wallace was made principal of this temporary school. He also worked hard as a teacher. Among other educational efforts, he started a French class for adults in 1914 and was in

charge of the summer school of 1916 for students to make up credit or graduate from eighth grade early. Wallace was also active in the community. He was elected president of a new interdenominational Christian Sunday school organization in 1917. Wallace left teaching, forming the Christopher Wallace Auto Top Company (later simply the Wallace Auto Top Company), with A. H. Christopher in 1919. His wife Lulie was active in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union's school outreach programs. Herbert died in Redlands, California.⁵⁹

Wyman, Hugh Sumner (1858-1913): Raised in Detroit, Wyman earned a medical degree from the Michigan College of Medicine in 1882. After moving to Olympia, he started a medical practice with Dr. Nathaniel Ostrander. Wyman became a surgeon for the Marine Corps, going to Alaska. He married **Hattie Cohen** (1864-1943) (daughter of Abraham and Bertha Daniels Cohen) in Treadwell. The Wymans returned to Olympia in 1892 where Hugh became a surgeon at St. Peter Hospital and had his own practice. He regularly attended summer courses in New York City. Their daughter Prudence married noted Olympia architect Joseph Wohleb. Joseph and Prudence later moved to her parents' home (114 Eighth Avenue East). This historic home had been built by Olympia founder Edmund Sylvester and was bought by the Wymans in the 1890s. Many people wanted to save the house and had it moved in the 1960s. Sadly it was later torn down after suffering an arson fire.⁶⁰

Zamberlin, Joseph John (1868-1955): Born in Austria, Zamberlin moved to Portland at age nineteen. He came to Olympia two years later. Zamberlin operated the Olympia Packing Company with George Bardsley during the early years, becoming sole proprietor and manager in 1909. In his later years he closed the market and worked as a laborer for the State Highway Department. The famous “fish merchant” ran for city council in 1910, but did not win. Zamberlin married Emma Helena Stuth (1872-1958) and they had several children, including Allison’s friend Mae (Olson).⁶¹

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This famous picture taken between 1880 and 1890 shows Mary Tyee and young “Master McElroy” (most likely Harry, Elizabeth’s father). Photograph courtesy of State Library Photograph Collection, 1851-1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov> (accessed August 17, 2021).

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This image shows the Thurston County Courthouse in 1895 before it was made into the Washington State Capitol. To the right is Elizabeth McElroy's childhood home. Photograph by Ida B. Smith, C1951.284.12, courtesy of the Washington State Historical Society.

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WHO/WHAT/WHERE IS IT?

This odd vehicle was called a “trackless train” and consisted of a train-shaped truck pulling a miniature Pullman coach, complete with hot and cold running water, sleeping accommodations for five people, kitchenette, buffet, electric lights, and radio communications. The vehicle was 53 feet long and weighed eleven tons.

The engine even produced steam by automatically dropping oil onto the exhaust manifold; the resulting white smoke was routed to the “smokestack” and came out in puffs, perfectly emulating a steam locomotive.

The trackless train was developed by Harry O. McGee of Indianapolis. He first used it as a promotional device for his auto painting firm. He sold one example to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, the film studio, which took it on a cross-country tour to promote “Good Roads and Good Movies.” Herbert Hoover, then the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, was advocating a national highway system. MGM jumped on the bandwagon, as it were, and joined the Good Roads movement.

MGM’s 1925-26 tour ran from New York City to Los Angeles, and also traveled north to Vancouver, British Columbia. It stopped briefly in Olympia, where Governor Roland Hartley (likely the man on the far left in the photo) and others had their picture snapped.

After its U.S. tour, the train also visited Canada, Great Britain, Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, South

America, and Australia. The tour touted various MGM movies such as *Ben-Hur*.

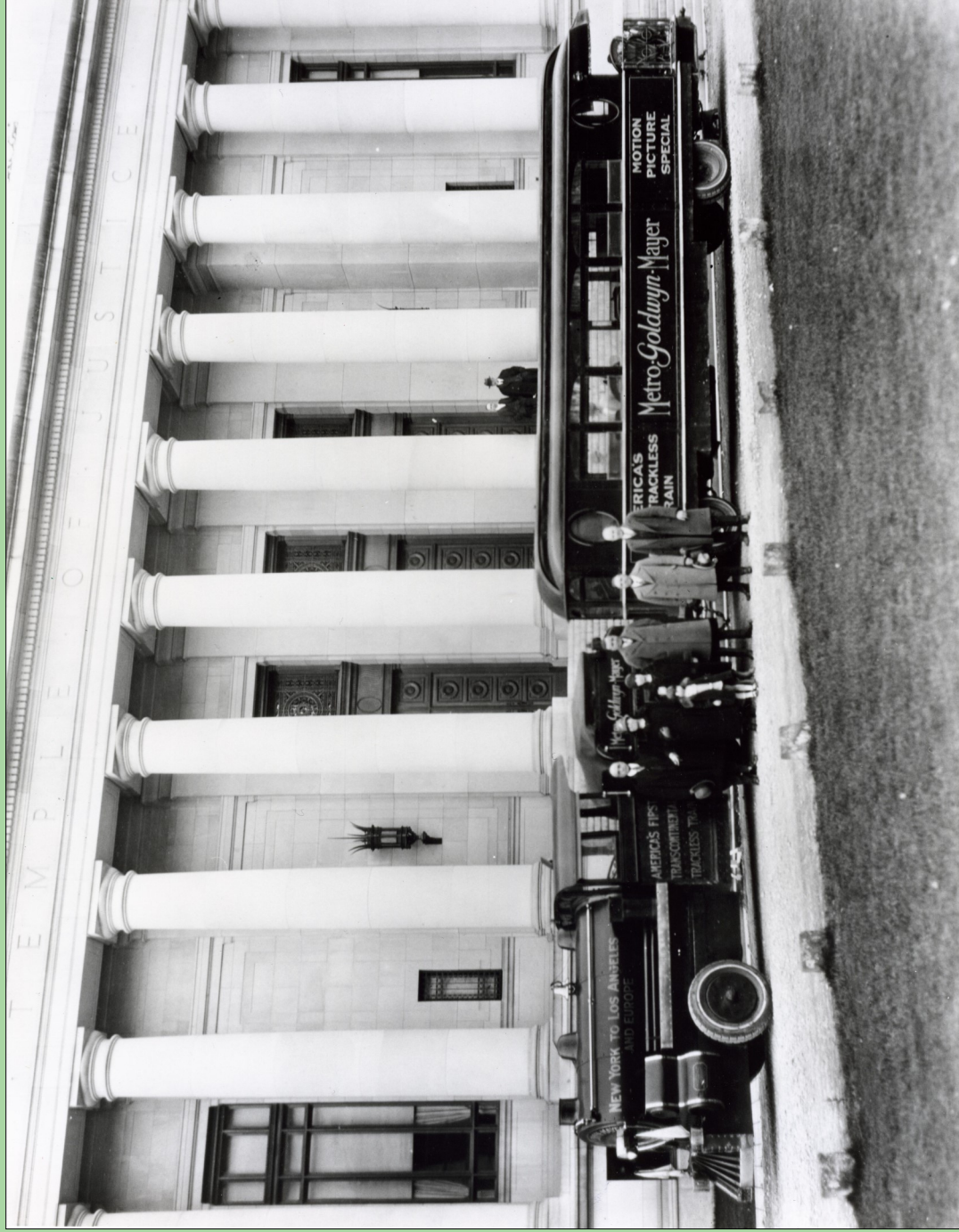
Following its service as a Good Roads ambassador for MGM, the train was used as a promotional vehicle for a beauty pageant, and after being fitted with sound equipment, toured cross-country again advertising the “Theater of the Air” radio program. The train then promoted a circus and wild west show and an oil refining company before doing a second stint with MGM.

The trackless train was eventually sold for scrap at the onset of World War II.

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On back cover: *Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer trackless train in Olympia, 1925, photographer Joseph McKnight, State Library Photograph Collection, 1851-1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov> (accessed August 18, 2021).*

WHO/WHAT/WHERE IS IT?



Shown in front of the Temple of Justice in 1925, this unique vehicle drew a lot of attention here and around the country. But what was it? See inside back cover for more information.