The President They Adored

Washington State Welcomes Theodore Roosevelt in 1903

by Michele Bryant with Candace Brown

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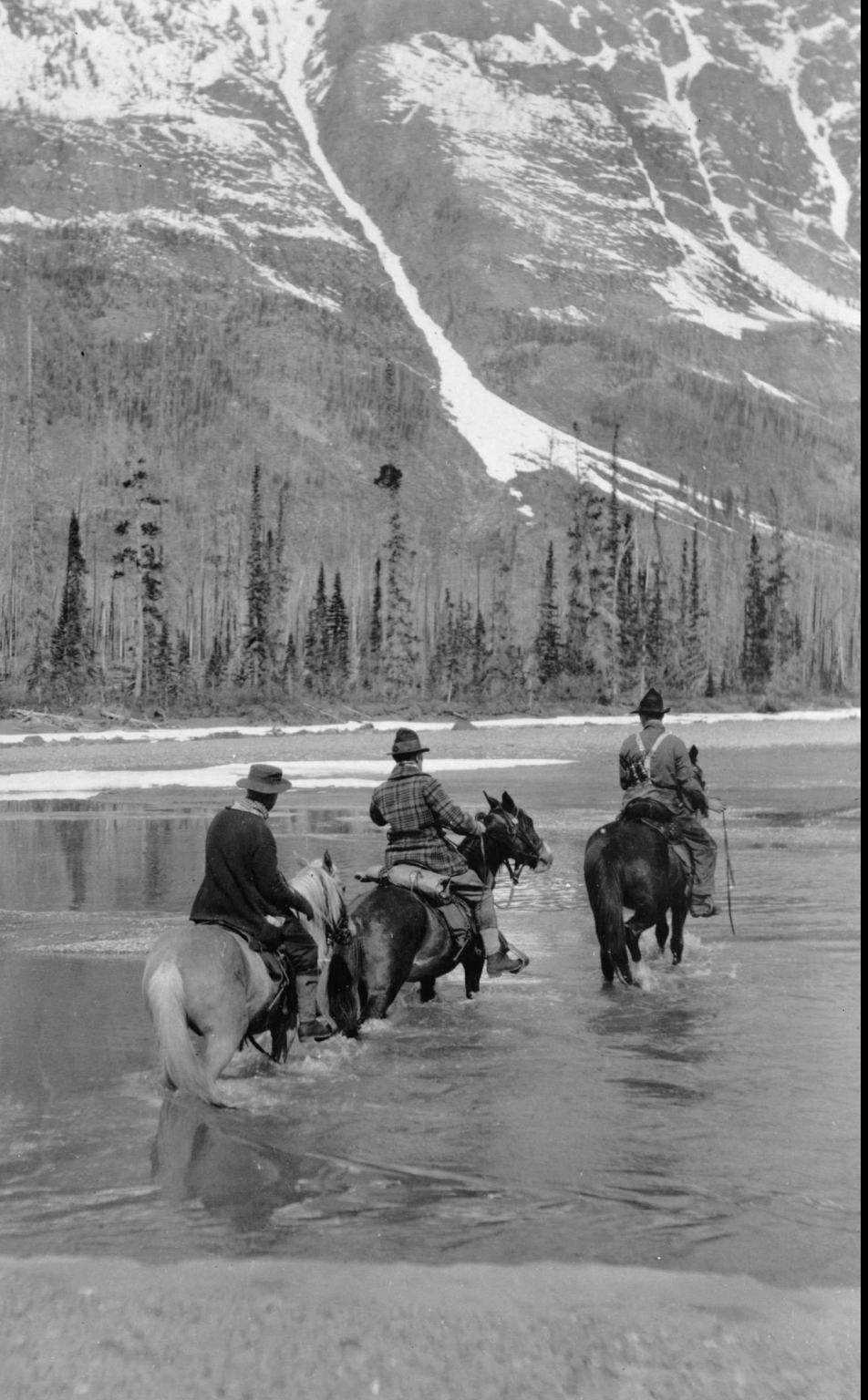

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Columbia River in Washington, 1903.

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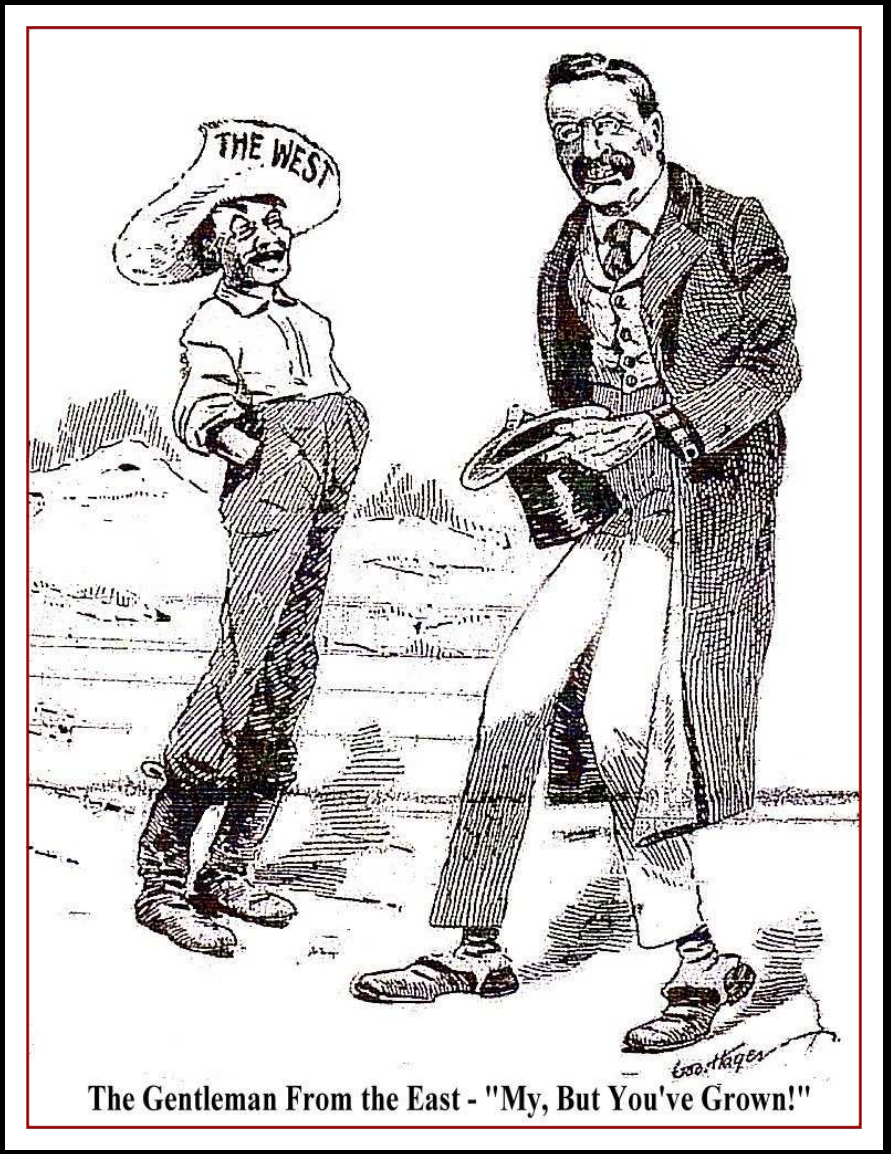
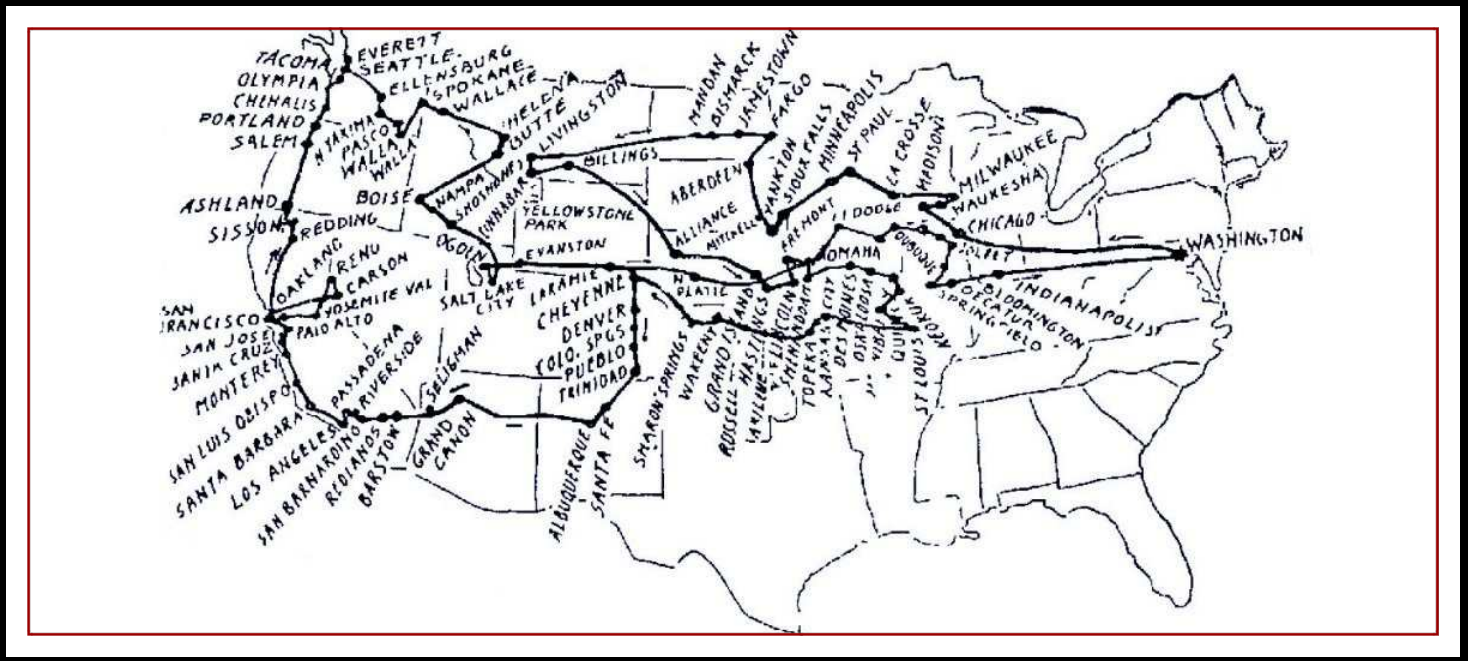


Newspaper cartoon of President Roosevelt.

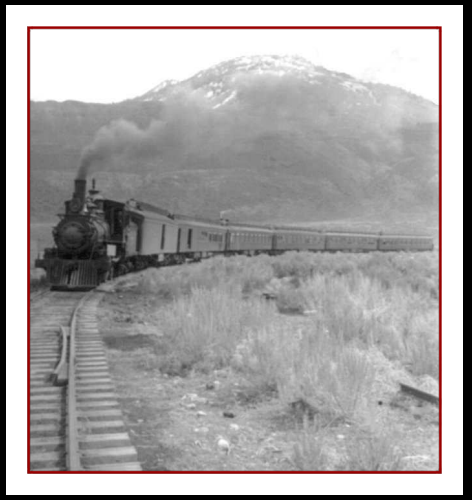


Newspaper map showing President Roosevelt's route.

OVERVIEW

On the morning of April 1, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt left Washington, D.C. on an unprecedented train trip, distinguished by the size of its numbers. The Western Tour, as it became known, covered fourteen thousand miles, carrying him across the nation and back in nine weeks and three days, the longest continuous trip ever taken by a president of the United States at that time. He made over 250 speeches in more than twenty states and territories, to tens of thousands of people. Whether from the back of his train in a five-minute whistle stop, or in a carefully prepared address of five thousand to seven thousand words, Roosevelt wanted to speak face-to-face with the nation's citizens on important topics of the day. No less remarkable than this endeavor, was the spirit of nonpartisanship displayed by the people he met at every reception, everywhere he went.

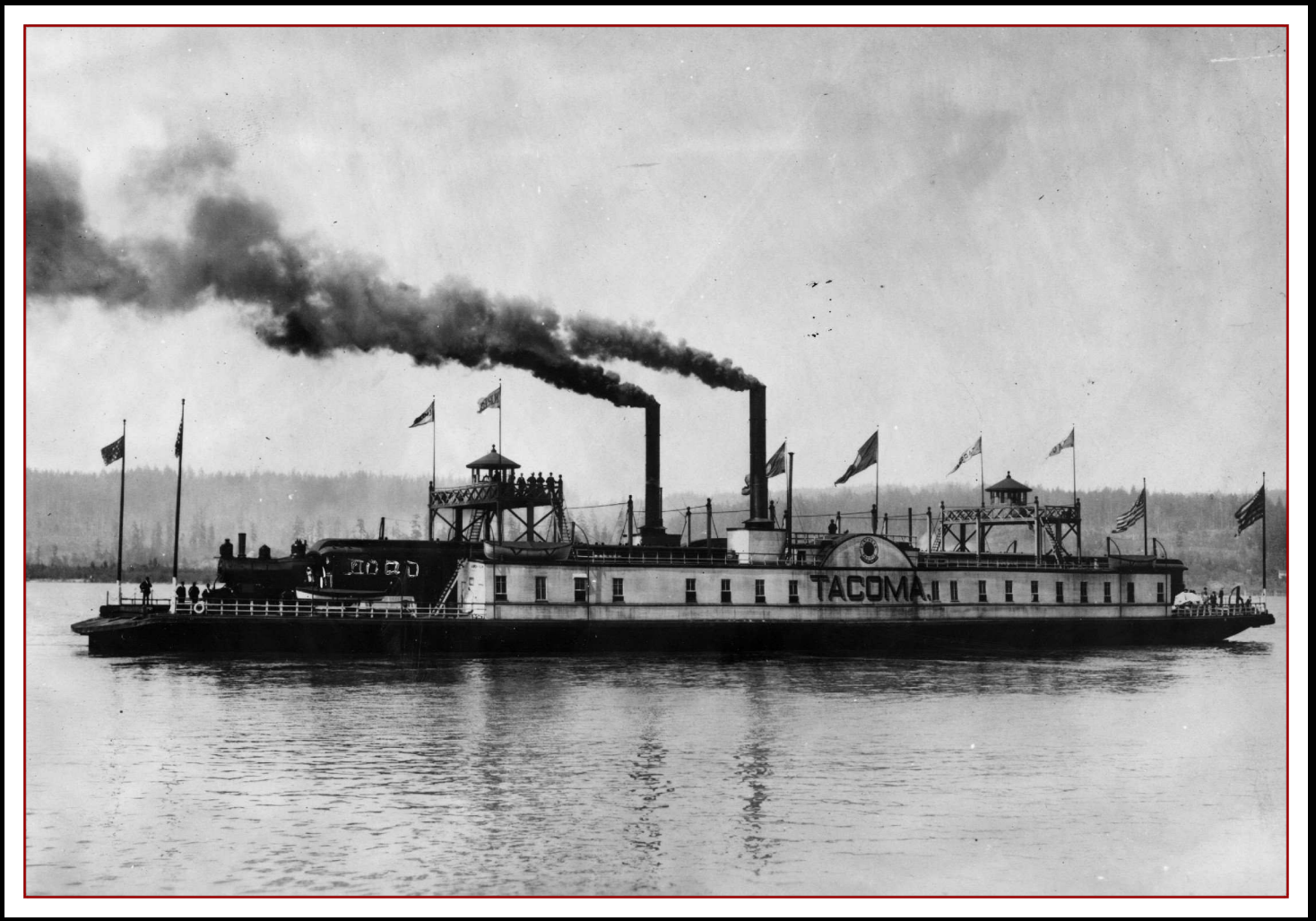
The six cars of the traveling White House cost one million dollars.



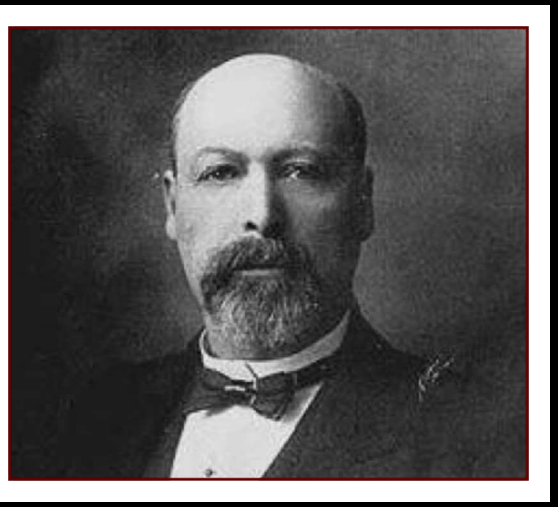
The president's train drew great attention during the entire tour.

THE MOVING PALACE

President Roosevelt traveled in luxury during the tour, in a six-car train supplied by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. It boasted an observation parlor, a dining room in two sections, a kitchen, three state rooms, servants' quarters, and even a barber shop. The first two baggage cars carried souvenirs and gifts presented to the president as he journeyed onward around the country. The diner and buffet car, considered a traveling Delmonico's, came next. With the exception of his own quarters, this was the only other car Roosevelt would normally frequent. The fourth car carried members of the press, photographers, and other individuals with sufficient reason to be traveling with the president. The best car came last, the ultimate example of elegance in train accommodations. Called "*Elysian*," it provided private quarters for President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Loeb, and Assistant Secretary Barnes, pampering them in surroundings rich with mahogany, velvet, and furniture worthy of a mansion. The *Elysian* functioned well as a moving White House, with the president's secretary, assistant secretary, three stenographers, various clerks, and his own telegraph operators on board. Considered one of the finest railroad cars ever built, it enabled Roosevelt to deliver short speeches from the rear platform, a convenience crucial to the journey's itinerary.



In 1884, the Northern Pacific started a ferry service to transport entire trains across the Columbia River, using Tacoma, a side-wheel steamer. It was the second largest in the world, brought out from New York in 57,159 pieces and reassembled in Oregon. By 1908, a railroad bridge connected Portland, Oregon, to Vancouver, Washington, ending the need for the ferry service.



Washington State Governor Henry McBride.

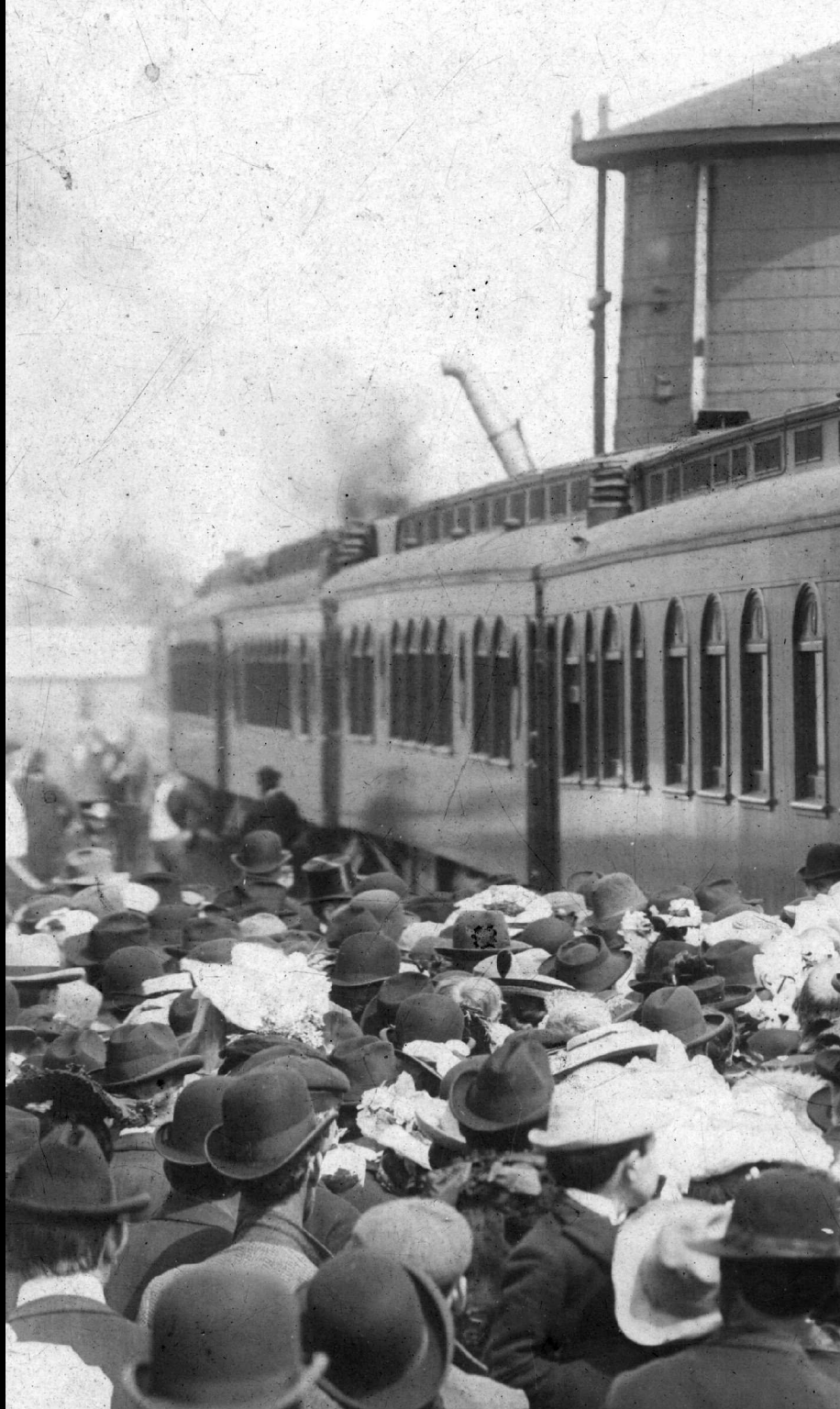
KALAMA

President Roosevelt's planned route called for entering the state of Washington by crossing its southern border, a curving, water-filled line, etched into the earth's surface by the mighty Columbia River. There would be no bridge built until five years later, but a train ferry made it possible to cross at Goble, a small Oregon town on the river's west side, along the stretch where it flows north from Portland before turning west again toward the Pacific.

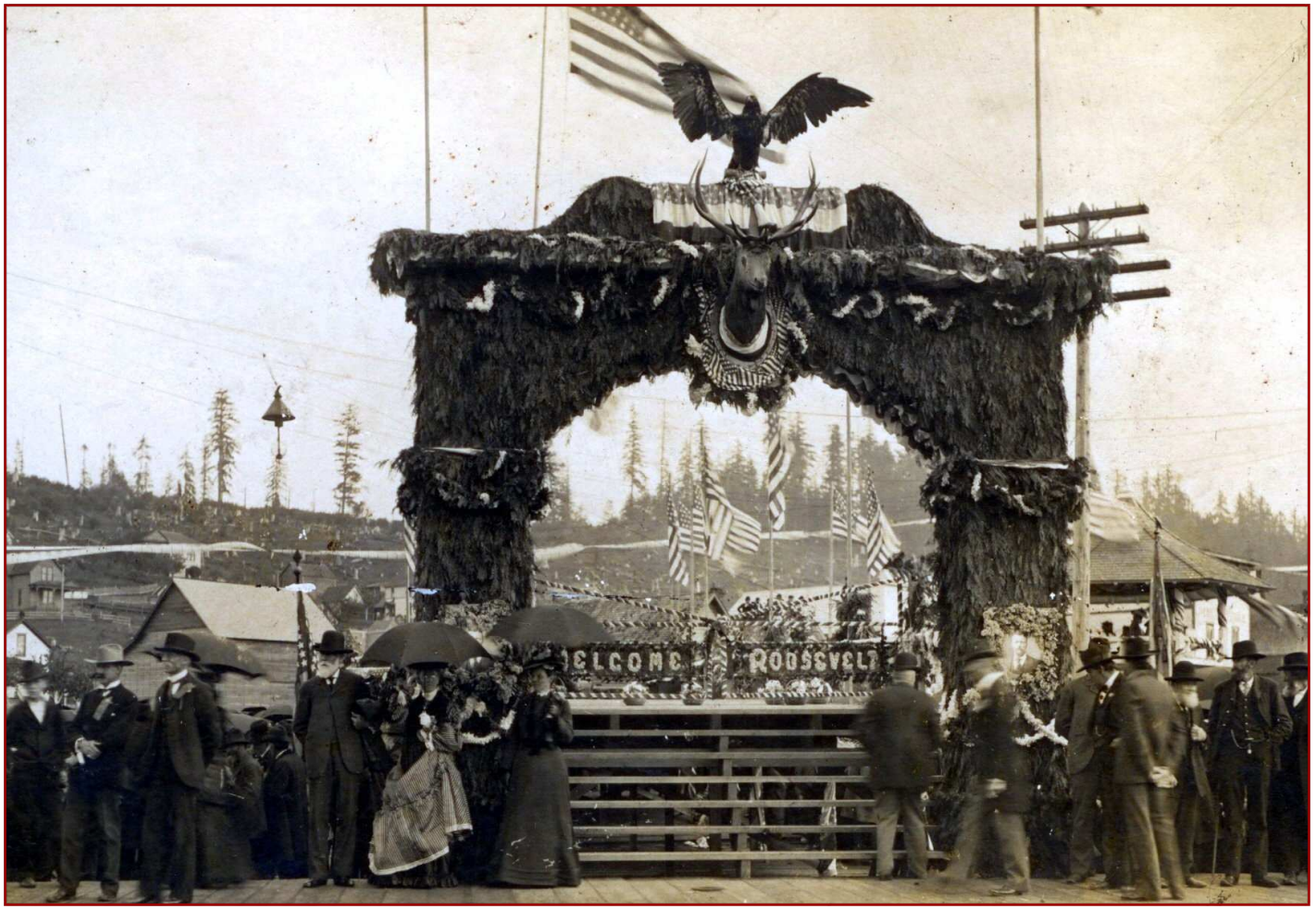
On that cloudy morning of May 22, 1903, the engine that pushed the president's train onto the steam ferry Tacoma had a live bear cub tied to a pole on the ferry's tender, intended as a gift. Roosevelt climbed aboard the engine to see the little creature up close and patted him on the head. But the poor bear cub no doubt craved his mother's company far more than the president's, and according to the local newspaper, "reciprocated by squalling dismally and attempting to bite his hand." The bear was returned to its captor. Roosevelt explained that he had been given a badger during a previous stop in Kansas, and he thought that if he kept the bear, chances were that the badger would disappear. The badger, named Josiah, remained with the president throughout the tour and became a Roosevelt family pet at the White House.

At 9:30 a.m. the president's train backed off the ferry onto Washington soil, entering one of the nation's most picturesque areas. The threatening sky gave way to pleasant sunshine for the eager crowd. Every available space, including the Northern Pacific depot's rooftops, was taken up by the three thousand people in attendance, estimated to be one hundred percent of the population of the vicinity, less one man known to be visiting in Oregon because he was sick at the time.

President Roosevelt stepped out onto the platform of the *Elysian* to a cheering crowd and then bowed right and left. Governor McBride welcomed him to the state that had been admitted to the Union only thirteen years earlier, by President Harrison's proclamation. The president addressed the crowd, congratulating them on their agriculture, commerce, mining, lumbering and good citizenship, commenting that, "a good American is a good American from one end of this country to the other." The train was already moving at the close of his address, causing Roosevelt to interrupt himself by saying, "But, well—we are going," then expressing his wish to remain there "indefinitely." Regardless of his wishes, they needed to stay on schedule. Kalama was only the first of five cities to be visited on that day.



President Roosevelt speaking from the rear platform of "Elysian" to the large crowd at Kalama on May 22, 1903.



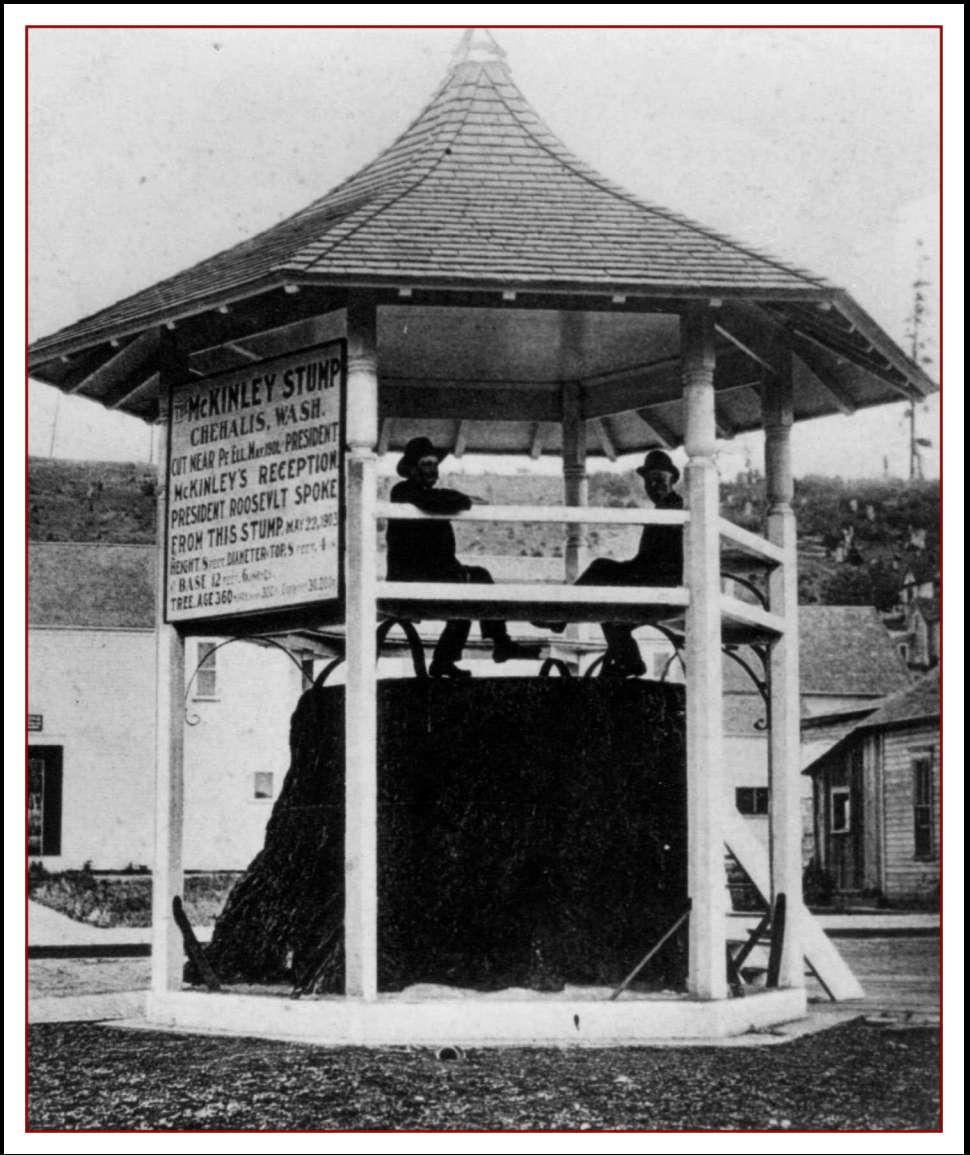
The arch built for Roosevelt Day featured elk antlers mounted on the front of the framework and was covered in evergreens, flags, and bunting. The gateway was adorned with the words "Welcome Roosevelt" made from thousands of white and pink daisies with yellow centers. The gateway represented the opening of the gates of the city to the president. An elevated passageway led from the arch to the McKinley stump.

Roosevelt exiting the elevated passageway.

CHEHALIS

The largest crowd ever before assembled in Chehalis greeted Roosevelt on the day of his arrival. Even with special trains for the event, it was still impossible to take on all the passengers who wanted to be there. As the president's train came steaming around the bend, their cheers combined into a mighty roar, continuing as the locomotive entered the station. A band played, and thousands of flags waved, as everyone waited. A special place had been reserved for the children, so they could hear the president's message. When Roosevelt complimented the city on the quality and quantity of its children, everyone, youngsters included, broke into loud cheering again and he remarked that the children's lungs were "all right."

According to the local newspaper, "He laughed—one of those hearty laughs where he showed his teeth.... He said he liked children—he has six of them himself." He said to the children, "When you play, play hard; when you work, don't play at all." The president spoke for twenty-three minutes, and his voice remained in excellent condition, never climbing into a high pitch as it occasionally would. On his way back to the train, the local miners presented him with a beautiful souvenir: a large piece of copper and pyrites of iron, mounted on a sterling silver plate.



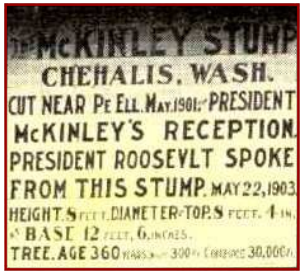
At a point eight feet above ground level, the circumference measured twenty-eight feet.

THE MCKINLEY STUMP

Our President came to Chehalis,
And glad was the welcome we gave;
For loyalty never will fail us -
We bow to the true and the brave.
The thousands assemble to meet him
Gave proof of devotion sincere;
Their shouts, that did joyously greet him,
Proclaimed that we honor him here.
- Louis Kownty

President Roosevelt stood on a novel platform to address the crowd in Chehalis: the stump of a colossal fir tree. It had grown to a height of three hundred feet in the woods of the Chehalis Valley, near Pe Ell, about twenty-five miles west of the city. Estimated to be up to six hundred years old, the tree contained thirty thousand board feet of lumber, valued at $250 at the time. It is hard to imagine the job of cutting it down by hand, or securing the stump to a flatcar to be shipped to town, a cargo so massive that the road had to be widened in some areas to allow it to pass. Citizens set it in place and a pagoda roof built over the stump protected it from the rainy Northwest weather.

The stump was originally cut in preparation for McKinley's visit in 1901. President and Mrs. McKinley were in San Francisco, en route to Chehalis, when Mrs. McKinley was taken seriously ill and the trip to the Northwest was canceled. Even though the platform is named McKinley's Stump, he never spoke from it. On September 6, 1901, a few months after the cancellation of the Northwest tour, anarchist Leon Czolgosz assassinated McKinley at the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. The assassination of McKinley catapulted Theodore Roosevelt into the presidency.

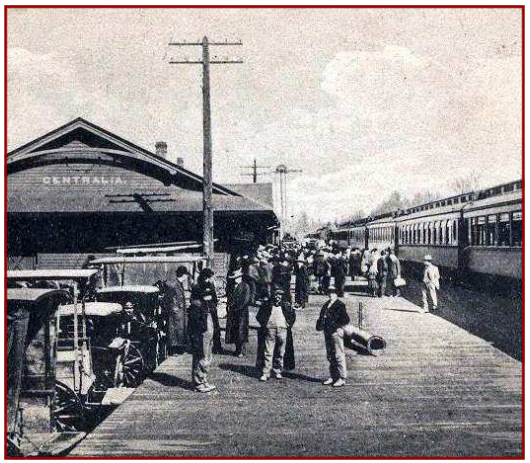



GREAT NORTHERN
HOTEL

President Roosevelt giving a "stump speech" from the McKinley stump. Extra trains and a continuous succession of wagons, carriages, and horsemen brought people into the city. The railways were loaded beyond capacity. Some passengers even rode on the top of train cars, or on the cowcatchers, in their determination to come see the young president.

The events of the last few years have shown that whether we wish or not, we must play a great part in the world. It is not for us to decide whether or not we will play it. All that is open to us to decide is whether or not we will play it well.

-Tacoma May 22, 1903



Northern Pacific depot in Centralia.

CENTRALIA

The president's special train continued north on that long day. When it reached Centralia, it stopped behind city hall, the only space large enough to accommodate the ten thousand people who showed up to hear him speak for twelve minutes from the rear end of the train car. The town had designated May 22 as "President's Day." As in Chehalis, the best position was reserved for the school children, and one little girl, who was the granddaughter of a Civil War veteran, presented him with a large bouquet of flowers. He also received a mounted elk's head from a local taxidermist. In an inspiring conclusion to his speech, Roosevelt said, "Any division between man and man on the grounds of wealth, occupation, or locality, is false and un-American."

The twelve minutes ended, and it was time to continue on to Olympia, the state capitol. The governor, other officials, and thousands of citizens waited to honor the president and hear him speak. It seemed fitting that this place where new laws were made should be visited by a president whose legacy as a conservationist would directly benefit the state. Through the Antiquities Act, and other legislation inspired by Roosevelt, Washington State acquired the Mount Olympus National Monument, eight of its fifty-one federal bird reservations, ten of the nation's 150 national forests, and two of the twenty-four reclamation projects.

Roosevelt speaking from a stand erected in front of the Capitol building.

Old Washington State Capitol Building.

OLYMPIA

The state of Washington officially welcomed Roosevelt at a reception in its capital, Olympia. President George Washington, the state's namesake, had laid the foundation for a great republic, but even in his most ambitious dreams for the country's future, he could not have imagined how the West would become so vital to a great nation stretching "from sea to shining sea." Fully eight thousand people lined the streets as President Roosevelt made his way from the depot to the Washington State Capitol Building. There he was presented to various officials at a brief reception in Governor McBride's suite of offices.

In front of the building, a stand for him to speak from had been erected to extend out to the street. So fired full of enthusiasm by his own words, the president continued to talk right through the time set aside to give him a tour of the city. His speech stirred the people. "We have not the opportunity to do the hard, the tough, the infinitely valuable work of the early pioneers," he said, "but we have our own problems, and we must approach them in the spirit shown by the pioneers, in the spirit shown by the men of the Civil war, if we are to ... make this nation what it shall be made, what it will be made—a nation great in its past, but in its future, ... the greatest among nations of all time."

THE ANTIQUITIES ACT

The Antiquities Act grew out of concern over the looting of archaeological sites in the American Southwest in the late 1800s, particularly the Casa Grande ruins in Arizona. There and elsewhere, sites were being ransacked and artifacts sold to overseas museums or into private collections.

Under President Theodore Roosevelt's aggressive conservationism, the Antiquities Act was signed into law on June 8, 1906, initially intended to protect small historical sites. The Act contained language that provided a broad interpretation, allowing the president to proclaim large areas as national monuments since they were “objects of scientific interest.” These included the Grand Canyon in Arizona, El Morro in New Mexico, Cinder Cone in California, and the 12,000-foot rock monolith called Devil’s Tower, in Wyoming, the first national monument. On March 2, 1909, two days before leaving office, he reserved more than 630,000 acres of the Olympic Peninsula, in Washington State, as Mount Olympus National Monument, to protect the endangered Roosevelt elk.

The Antiquities Act is considered to be one of the most important pieces of preservation legislation ever enacted by the government of the United States, recognizing by law that the remains of our past are a valuable part of our heritage and should be preserved for present and future generations. During his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt signed proclamations establishing eighteen national monuments.

"...the aim should be not to exhaust the resources of the state, but while utilizing them to the fullest extent to so preserve them that those who come after you shall share in the benefits."
-Tacoma May 22,1903

"What we want is a population of homemakers - a population intending that their children's children shall occupy the land and shall receive it - not impoverished, but enriched."
-Everett May 23, 1903

A Roosevelt elk, named for Theodore Roosevelt, grazing in Olympic National Park.

BIRD PRESERVES

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the designers of ladies' fashions imposed a new fad, one with devastating consequences; suddenly women demanded hats adorned with feather plumes or even the entire bird. In 1886, Frank Chapman, ornithologist from the American Museum of Natural History, noted that during two Manhattan walks he counted forty species of birds, not in the trees, but on three-quarters of the seven hundred women's hats that he saw.

Plume trading became a lucrative business with feathers bringing twice their weight in gold. Worried about the danger of mass extinction, President Roosevelt created the nation's first federal bird reservation on Pelican Island in Florida on March 14, 1903. By declaring the island a wildlife sanctuary, Roosevelt provided protection from professional plume hunters who routinely slaughtered flocks of the nesting birds. It was the first time the federal government had ever set aside land for the sake of wildlife. Roosevelt would create fifty-one federal bird reservations, including eight in Washington State: Flattery Rocks, Copalis Rock, Quillayute Needles, Keechelus, Kachess, Clealum, Bumping Lake, and Conconuily.

On February 25, 1909, President Roosevelt established Kachess Reservation in Washington State.

"The entire bird is used, and is mounted on wires and springs that permit the head and wings to be moved about in the most natural manner."
- Harper's Bazaar

A young buck stands in a meadow near Mount Olympus and neighboring peaks at Hurricane Ridge.

NATIONAL FORESTS

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, our rapidly growing nation needed lumber. Logging became a lucrative business and a grave example of greed and sheer disregard for the depletion of forests. During his stop in Tacoma, Theodore Roosevelt described the timber profiteers who pillaged the forests as men whose only aim was "to skin the country and get out."

Roosevelt and professional forester Gifford Pinchot took bold strides to form an agency to provide the lumber needed yet still protect the nation's forests from exploitation and development, and in 1905, the U.S. Forest Service was created. The president signed proclamations establishing 150 national forests nationwide including ten in Washington State: Colville, Wenaha, Olympic, Columbia, Rainier, Washington, Chelan, Snoqualmie, Wenatchee, and Kaniksu.

Roosevelt established Snoqualmie National Forest on July 1, 1908.

RECLAMATION ACT

Inadequate precipitation in the West required settlers to find ways to irrigate the land. Some diverted water from streams or carried buckets, but as demand for water increased Westerners put pressure on Congress to undertake storage and irrigation projects. Reclamation projects were based on the idea that irrigation could "reclaim" arid land for human use as well as encouraging "homemaking," furthering western settlement by making homes for Americans on family farms. With the support of the president, Congress passed the Federal Reclamation Act of 1902, a crucial factor in support of commercial-size crop production and area development in the American West. Roosevelt created twenty-four reclamation projects, including two in the state of Washington, in the Okanogan and Yakima areas.

The Reclamation Act of 1902 encouraged "homemaking" and development in Okanogan, Washington.

The stand from which Roosevelt would speak during his visit to Tacoma awaited him dressed with flowers, vines, and grasses, and on each side of his seat stood an immense vase. But nothing drew more attention than the seat itself; an elk horn chair. The city's unusual gift had been custom made for the president from five pairs of antlers shed by a large Roosevelt Elk living in captivity at Point Defiance, and it represented seven years of the animal's growth.
While he spoke from the stand, Roosevelt made his characteristic gestures with his right hand only, uplifted or thrust forward to make his point. His left hand remained in his trouser pocket or resting on the handrail.

Bull elk showing the horns used to make the chair.

The elk horn chair presented to the president.

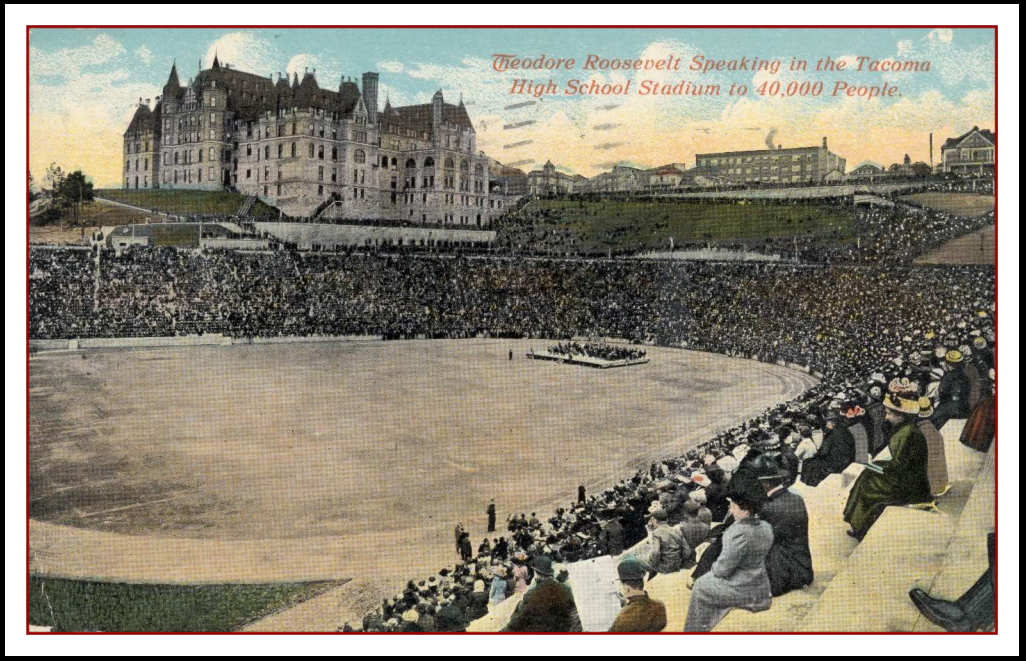
Here comes the President!

TACOMA

All of Tacoma waited for the president's train that afternoon of May 22, 1903, with citizens crowded into all possible vantage points, “above the housetops, or dipping from every window," according to the Daily Ledger, a copy of which cost a nickel at that time. Men swung their hats and women and children waved their flags. A twenty-one gun salute fired from Puget Sound as the Commander in Chief stepped from his train.

Soon, a procession rolled toward Wright Park with the president in his carriage, sometimes standing, sometimes sitting, talking, laughing, always smiling and showing his teeth. He stepped onto an elevated platform to address a sea of thirty thousand upturned faces. The newspaper reported, “Here was the man before them who had brought the word ‘strenuous’ into vogue.” Roosevelt’s vitality showed in each word he pronounced “with incisive distinctness,” snapping his jaws with “an evident satisfaction over a well turned and concluded sentence.” He asked people to ensure peace by giving the government an adequate Navy, in order to be prepared against any great power that would throw off “the restraints of international morality and take some step against us."

From Wright Park, the procession approached the Masonic Temple building site, so the president could

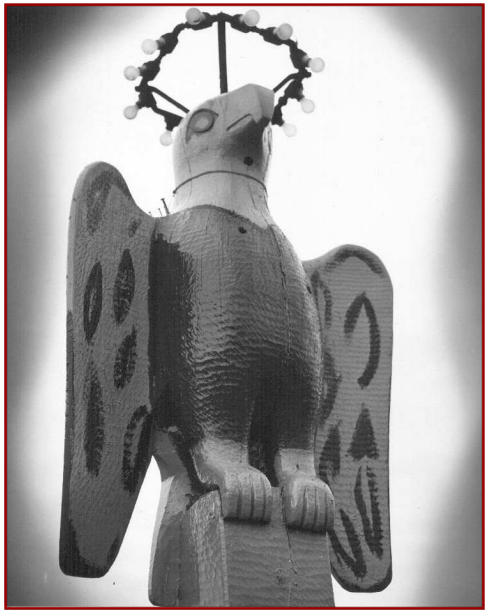


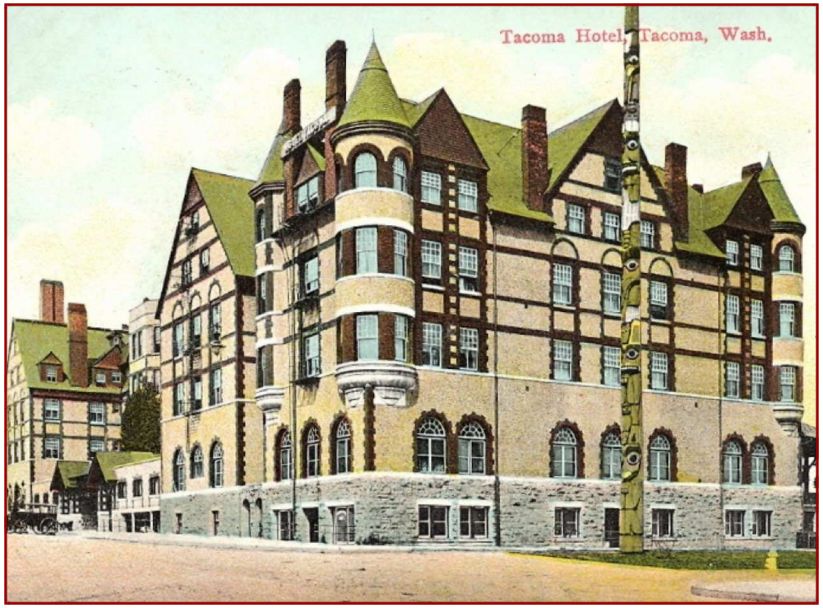
Roosevelt returned to Tacoma in 1911 and spoke in the Tacoma high school stadium.

lay its cornerstone. The stand was decorated with bunting, and a large American flag stretched over the president's chair. Hundreds of Masons, wearing their traditional white aprons, watched as Brother Roosevelt stepped from the platform to the stone, picking up the trowel and placing some mortar on its underside, his inexperience causing laughter and words of encouragement. After a short speech and the traditional scattering of corn, wine, and oil—emblems of plenty, joy and peace—the Tenino sandstone cornerstone was swung into place.

The masses cheered as the president's carriage approached the Tacoma Hotel with many following the procession along the guard ropes. The banquet reception boasted Northwest floral beauty at its finest, with decorations of pink roses, Solomon's seals, asparagus fern, huckleberry, Oregon grape, white lilacs, kinnickinnick, tall palms, and rhododendrons—the Washington state flower. Outside the hotel, dogwood and Scotch broom framed a large American flag draped over the doorway.

The day before President Roosevelt's visit to Tacoma, a totem pole was erected in front of the Tacoma Hotel, where he would stay that night. Seattle had gained notoriety because a group of prominent citizens had stolen a sixty foot totem pole from Fort Tongas, Alaska, and unveiled it in Pioneer Square. In an ongoing war between the two cities, two Tacoma citizens—Chester Thorne, a prominent banker, and William Sheard, a





The totem pole erected in front of the Tacoma Hotel had a circle of eighteen electric lights at the top.

hunter—commissioned native carvers to come down from Sitka, Alaska to create a totem pole for Tacoma. The work took place on Vashon Island, along the shore of Quartermaster Harbor. The end result, carved from a single cedar tree, measured 105 feet in length and was claimed to be the largest in the world at that time.

The totem pole captivated Roosevelt with its distinctive carvings and enormous size. As his carriage passed by, he raised his arm, pointing at the pole's features from top to bottom and seemed to honor it by removing his hat. In 1935, a fire consumed the Tacoma Hotel. The totem pole survived but later began to rot. Restored in the 1970s, it became the focal point in Fireman's Park, a block south of the hotel's original site.

The president admired all objects of beauty and fine workmanship, including an elaborately embroidered silk cloth that was draped over his carriage. This relic, dating from the 16th century and probably made by nuns as a cover for a catafalque, survived as a 400-year-old heirloom passed down through the family of Mr. Joseph Moore of Tacoma. Even in 1903 it was valued at thirty thousand dollars.

A salute of twenty-one guns was fired again the next morning as President Roosevelt left Tacoma aboard the luxurious steamer *Spokane*. It flew the dark blue presidential flag with its golden eagle as they headed north to Bremerton, two hours away.

"The Official Itinerary of the President's Tour" booklet listed the debated title of the mountain as "Mt. Tacoma".

While in Tacoma, Roosevelt must have enjoyed the view of Washington's tallest mountain, but at the time, no one could agree on its name. A major dispute arose over whether to call it "Mount Tacoma" or "Mount Rainier." Roosevelt preferred "Tacoma," but the city of Seattle adamantly opposed it. The fight lasted fifty-six years, 1883-1939. The question went before the U.S. Board of Geographic Names three times—in 1890, 1917, and 1924. It was also debated in Congress and newspapers took sides.

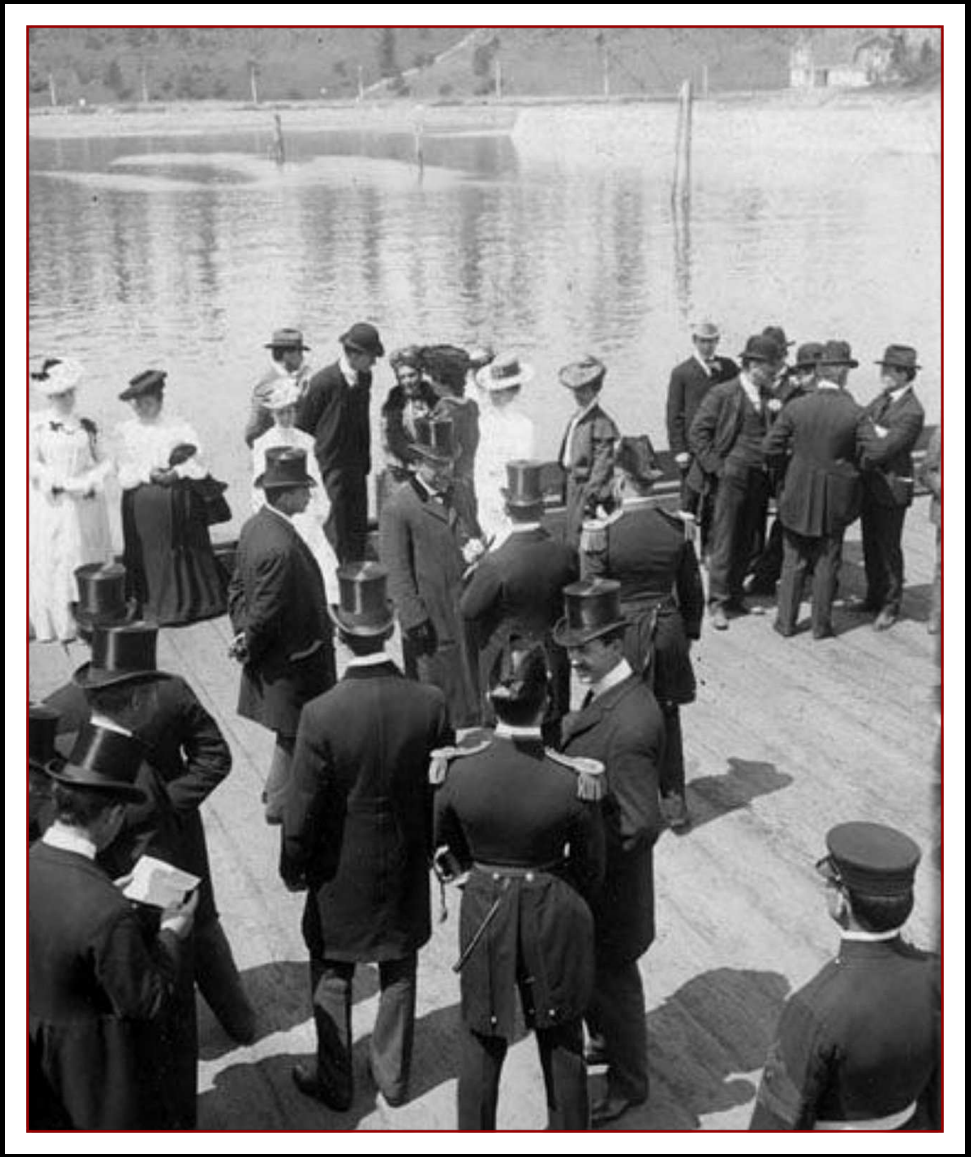
Those fighting for the name "Mount Rainier" cited the journal of the British explorer, Captain George Vancouver, who on May 8, 1792, wrote "The round snowy mountain . . . after my friend Rear Admiral Rainier, I distinguished by the name Mount Rainier." In 1883, the Northern Pacific Railway—whose director was also the president of the Tacoma Land Company—changed all their maps and guidebooks, replacing the mountain's name with "Tacoma," a version of an Indian word also pronounced "Tahoma," claiming that Mount Tacoma was the aboriginal name. They cited a passage in Theodore Winthrop's book, "The Canoe and the Saddle," a

Mt Rainier with Tacoma in foreground.

recounting of his 1853 journey through the Northwest. There he wrote, "Mount Regnier, Christians have dubbed it. . . . More melodiously, the Siwashes call it Tacoma—a generic term also applied to all snow peaks."

Bitter arguments ensued. One side claimed Admiral Rainier was an obscure British villain who had robbed and killed American citizens and ravaged their shores, not worthy of having this landmark named after him. They also claimed that it was not the name Vancouver mentioned in his journal, which was Regnier, not Rainier. The other side declared that to change its name from Rainier to Tacoma was merely a scheme by real estate developers to turn the landmark into a profitable advertisement. An article in Time magazine, December 22, 1924, called it the "biggest land grab since Noah homesteaded Mount Ararat."

On December 6, 1939, the battle ended. Tacoma's Chamber of Commerce gave up the fight after realizing the harm it caused to business and the city's reputation. The fortunate result of so many years of wrangling was the delay in development, leaving the mountain as natural as when all the trouble began.



President Roosevelt on the Puget Sound Navy Yard wharf, May 25, 1903.

Puget Sound Navy Yard, c. 1903.

BREMERTON

The president would spend eight hours on the water that next day, aboard the luxurious steamer *Spokane*. First on the agenda after leaving Tacoma on the morning of the May 23, was a two hour run to the Puget Sound Navy Yard at Bremerton. By day's end he would have steamed from Bremerton to Seattle, north to Everett and then back to Seattle, to be welcomed a second time.

As he arrived in Bremerton, a band played on the wharf and military men lined up in honor of him. President Roosevelt was greeted by Secretary of the Navy William Moody, as well as the Navy yard commandant and other officers and ladies. The foreman of the yard presented the president with a plate made from the steel keel of the battleship *Oregon*, engraved with its picture. This was the famous ship that made the historic 14,700 nautical mile, high-speed voyage, around North, Central, and South America to participate in the Spanish American war, after news that the *Maine* had blown up. The plate was enclosed in a case made from rosewood taken from the captain's cabin of the *Oregon*. The president walked up the wharf to the dry dock, made a short inspection, and then returned to the ship, which started for Seattle amid the thundering of the great guns of the naval yard, firing their presidential salute as the steamer passed.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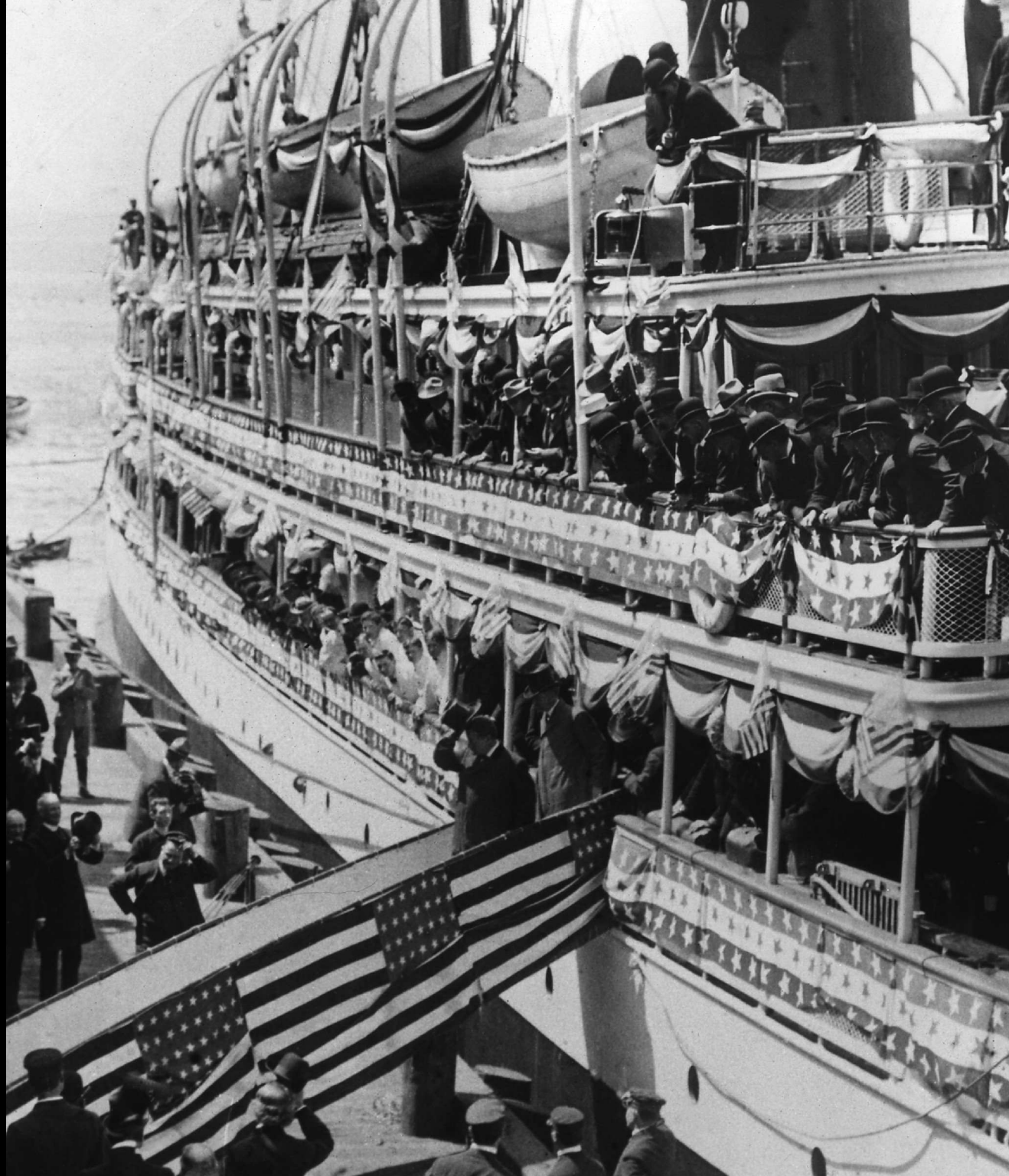
Men's dorm decorated for Roosevelt's visit.

SEATTLE

President Roosevelt arrived in Seattle on the steamer *Spokane* on May 23, 1903, exactly fifty years to the day after the filing of the first plats that officially created the "Town of Seattle." Those present witnessed a most impressive sight: the vanguard of the Navy's escorting fleet. The Seattle Daily Times reported, "Today the Queen City sits with smiling face on her throne of seven hills and stretches out her hands in hospitable welcome to the nation's chief executive."

A grand parade through thirty-five blocks drew masses of people—pressed so tightly together—even beyond the sidewalks, that they completely blocked the streets and had to be forced back to clear a path for the procession. It wound along First, Second, and Third Avenues as far north as Pike and as far south as Jackson and eventually reached what had been the original grounds of the University of Washington. Along the way, the president observed a huge banner that said "Remember San Juan." And as they approached the totem pole in Pioneer Square, he saw that the well-respected old chief of the Muckleshoot Indians, "Nelson," sat in a chair at its base. According to the newspaper, "Nelson gravely rose to his feet and waved both flags with all possible energy." Roosevelt gave him a personal salutation.



The steamer Spokane, which carried the president around Puget Sound, was a modern passenger carrying vessel, one of the most comfortable and luxurious available in the area at the time. Designed specifically for the Alaskan excursion business, it carried hundreds of tourists to and from Alaska during the travel season. Most of the visitors came from the East Coast. During Roosevelt's visit, the Spokane was patriotically decorated, stem to stern, as were other vessels on Puget Sound.

A conservative estimate of 150,000 people came out to see the president that day, many bringing camp stools and boxes to sit on as they waited hours for his arrival at the university grounds. They peered from every window in both the public library and the law school and assembled on the law school's roof as well. Men and boys filled nearby trees. The cheers from onlookers during the parade were nothing compared to the roar of welcome given at the old university grounds by the forty thousand that were within the president's view and the other ten thousand behind the stand and to the sides.

Just as Roosevelt began to speak, he noticed the crowd craning their necks as if struggling to hear. He turned around, pulled up his chair, and stood on it, so that everyone would have a comfortable view of him. The crowd responded by cheering even more loudly. He enunciated each word of his speech with care as he spoke about the great future of the state, complimented them on their citizenship, and praised the men of the Grand Army of the Republic, or GAR, Union Army veterans of the Civil War.

Soon the steamer *Spokane* cast off once again to bring the president back from the city of Everett after he traveled up there by train. Six hours later, it returned to Seattle in time for the Alaskan reception at the Grand Opera House on Cherry Street. Guests at the event included students from the University of Washington, GAR and Spanish American War veterans, and Alaskans. Behind the chairs set up for the presidential party hung a large banner which read, "Alaska Greets the President." He took the opportunity to discuss the question of territorial expansion and the extension of representative government to the district, two of his favorite themes. Then he received gifts of a gold pan, engraved on the back with an invitation to visit Alaska, a gold tablet containing ten passes to steam from Seattle to Alaska, and an official written address from the Arctic Brotherhood, bound in pure white calfskin, with corners turned down with solid gold and decorated with the President's raised initials, also of solid gold.

At 11:30 p.m., after giving a total of five addresses during a very long day, the president returned to the Washington Hotel, bathed, and went to bed. He was the only one unaware of a banquet being held there, in honor of Secretary of the Navy Moody. But after the secretary explained to the president that the people were expecting him, Roosevelt got out of bed and proceeded to put on his evening clothes in order to make a quick appearance and recognize the guests. Secretary Moody—a man who could pass for Roosevelt's twin—appeared first on the balcony to explain what had happened, and a mistaken roar of applause ensued. A few moments later, Roosevelt himself appeared. This time the people leapt to their feet, welcoming him with enthusiastic cheers, clapping, and waving napkins. He acknowledged everyone in the crowd with his all-encompassing smile. At last, Roosevelt raised his hand for silence and then retired for the evening, ending one of the most strenuous days of the entire Western Tour.

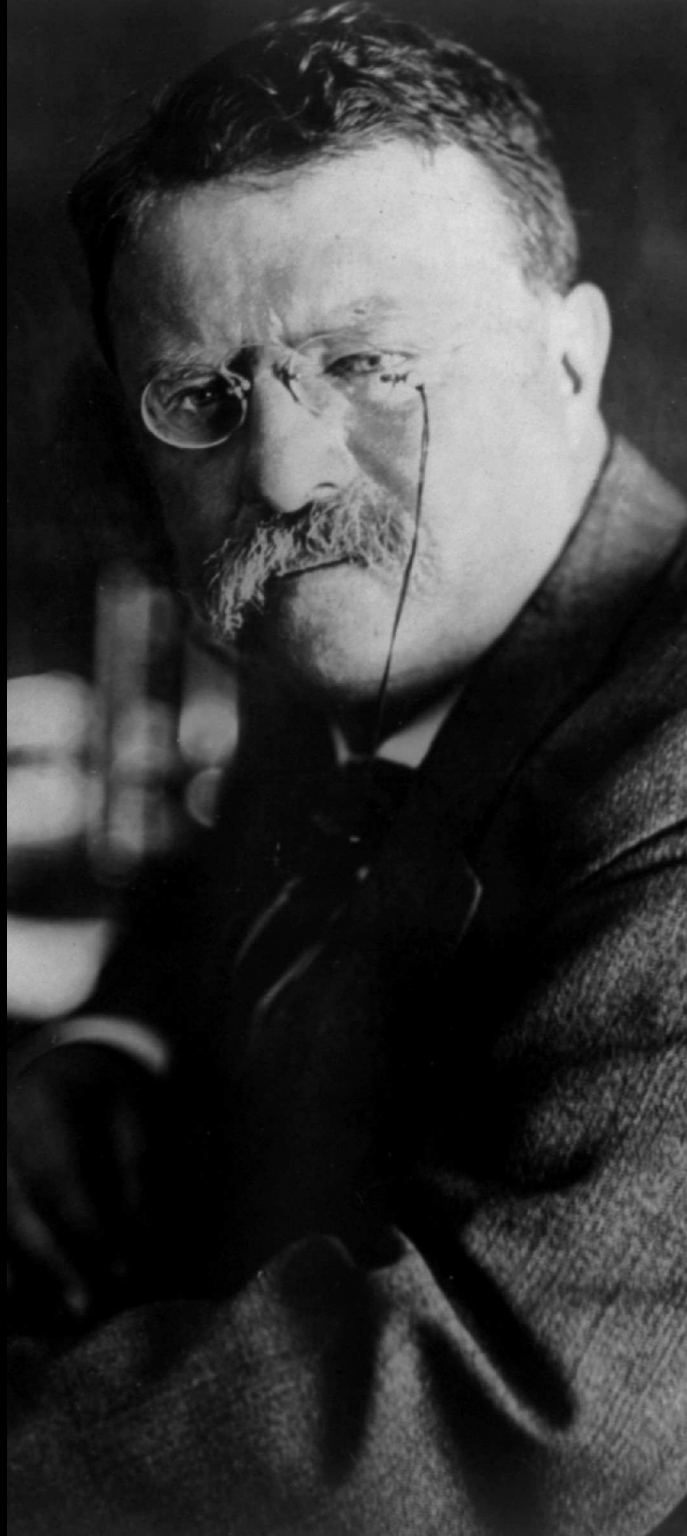
Waking early the next morning to a beautiful and balmy Sunday, Roosevelt had a hearty breakfast of cereals, fried chicken, potatoes and coffee. He left the hotel a few hours later, pausing with interest at the main corridor to look at the massive stuffed bison and caribou specimens. As Roosevelt's carriage proceeded to the opera house for a memorial service for war veterans, he rode with the top down in order to enjoy the weather. Back at the hotel, the president asked to be left alone to read Stewart White's recently published book, "Conjuror's House."

Later that afternoon, Roosevelt wanted to go riding. He borrowed a spirited horse named Bess and rode about eighteen miles, making a surprise stop at Fort Lawton where he briefly watched the enlisted men play ball. That evening after dinner, he received callers, including the local Harvard Club. It was close to midnight when Roosevelt's special train puffed out of Seattle, marking the turning point of the tour as he headed east, toward home.

THE WASHINGTON,
AS ILLUMINATED DURING THE STAY
OF THE PRESIDENT AT THIS
MAGNIFICENT HOSTELRY.

Each generation has its difficulties. In each generation, those difficulties, those problems take new shape, but the spirit necessary for the solution of the problems does not change from generation to generation.

-Olympia May 22, 1903



On April 6, 1911, former president Theodore Roosevelt returned to Seattle, speaking in full academic regalia at the open-air amphitheater on the University of Washington campus, originally the site of the Alaska–Yukon–Pacific Exposition.


ELK APARTMENTS
PACIFIC COAST CLOTHING
WHOLESALE AND RE
CLOTHING HO
THE BLUE

PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY

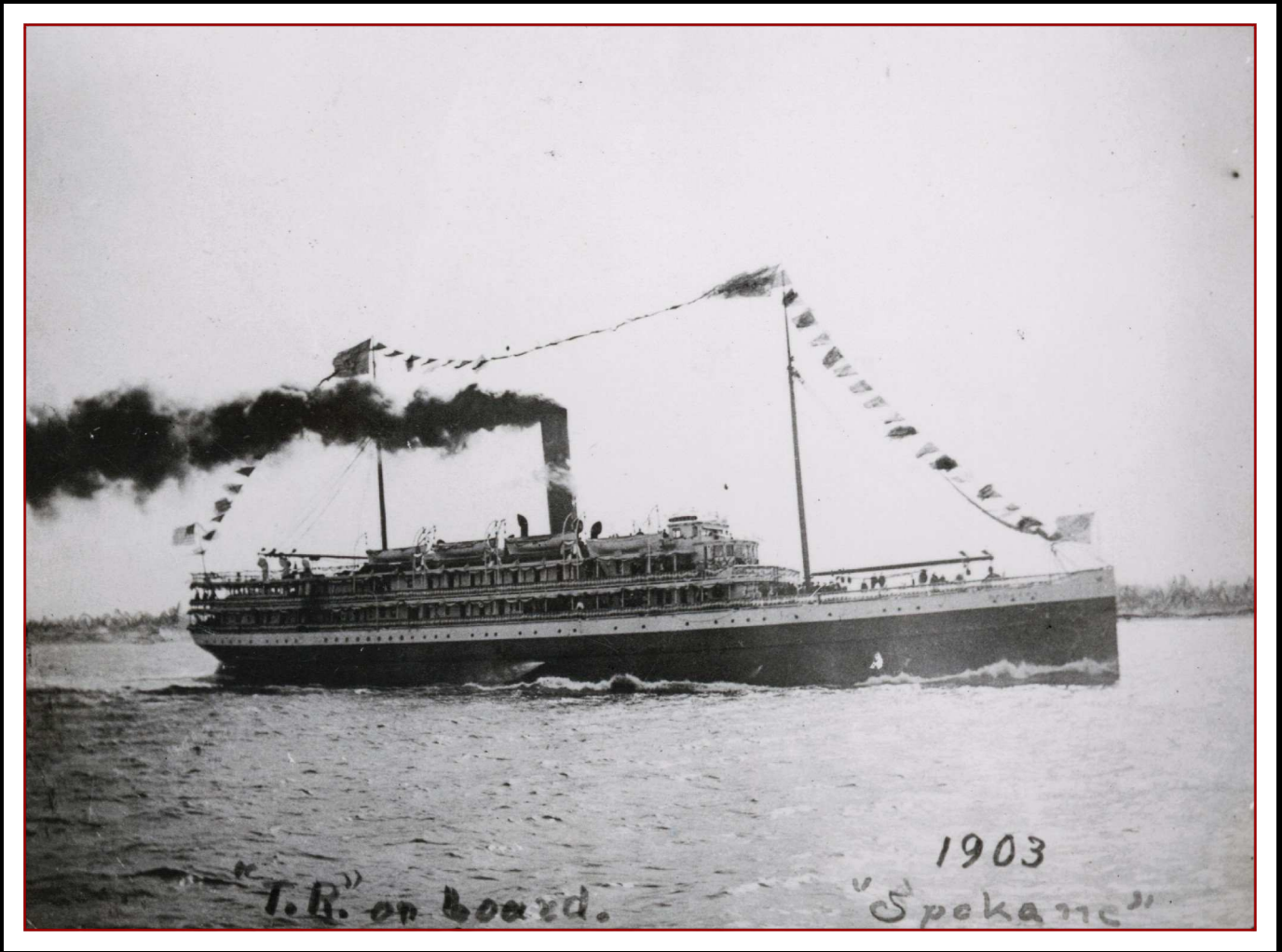
Following the assassination of President McKinley in 1901, a system for guarding presidents became quite sophisticated for the time period. The safety of the Chief Magistrate was entrusted to the Secret Service, dedicated to thwarting all assassination attempts and avoiding recurrences, as in the case of Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley. The job required steely nerves and perfect aim. These men blended in with the general populace but with watchful eyes. They were hard to detect, though always there, and would not hesitate to shoot if anything threatened the president.

President Roosevelt resented being guarded, considering it an "infringement" upon his personal liberty and was known to carry a large revolver in the outside pocket of his overcoat. Notwithstanding all this, he was considered the most guarded monarch on earth during that time. Whether walking or on horseback, a "dead shot" always remained nearby.

Two or three Secret Service men routinely traveled ahead in order to coach the town's policemen. They would go over every route the president would take. His carriage always stood on the side closest the train depot, while all other carriages would be on the other side. Secret Service men inspected every hall and hotel where he would speak, and when the president entered the train or a carriage, one of them would be either directly in front or behind him while watching the street crowd. They sat close to the president during a banquet and on stage with him during a speech.

While in Washington State, Roosevelt had five Secret Service men on the train and an additional two who traveled on ahead, securing the next city for his visit. When the president was transported by carriage, two carriages ahead of his, and two after, contained guards. Sometimes they rode with the carriage doors open or rode standing on the steps.

Train security was also extremely tight throughout Roosevelt's tour when traveling between cities. Northern Pacific president Charles Mellen traveled fifteen minutes ahead of the president's special train, onboard a pilot train, to ensure that the road was "locked," guaranteeing no movement of trains in any direction. Additional security forces, consisting of one or two men, were assigned at be at any place where an accident might occur, as well as near every bridge.



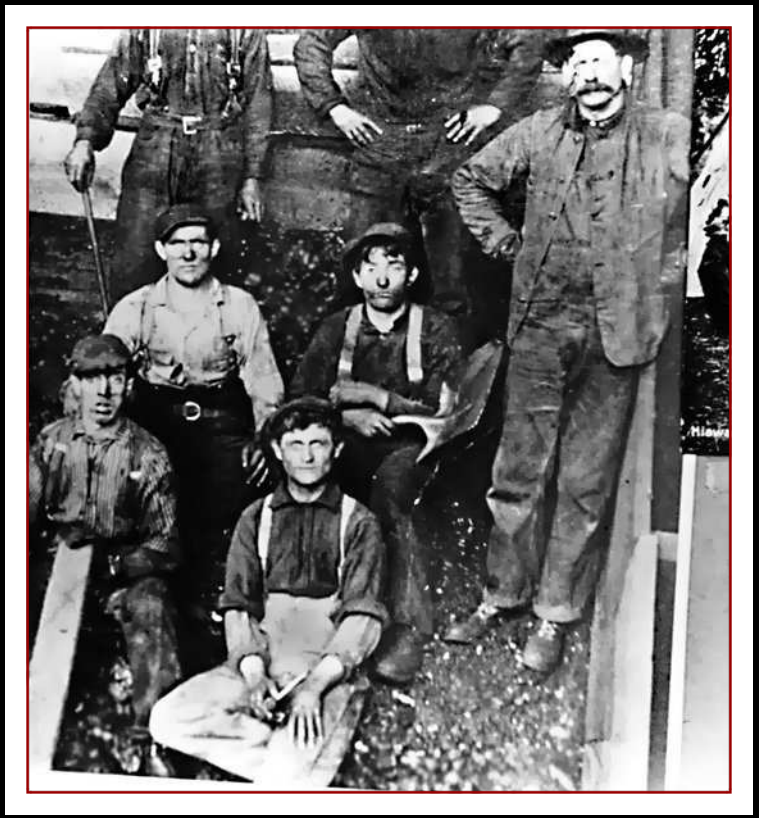
The president's steamer blew its whistle in greeting, and was answered by the whistles of every other vessel on the waterfront. For the first time in history, the city of Everett was honored with a visit by a president of the United States, and the citizens of this young and thriving center of industry disregarded expense during their preparations. They festooned the whole town with flags and bunting, more than seen on the 4th of July.

Canoe racing is traditional in Pacific Northwest native cultures.

EVERETT

President Roosevelt boarded a special train and remained outside on the rear platform for the entire trip to Everett, cheered on by the thousands who lined the Great Northern tracks. The presidential party was then ushered into carriages as part of an impressive parade. It progressed toward a grandstand decorated with flags and rhododendrons and offering a breathtaking view of the Olympic Mountains, one hundred miles west across Puget Sound. To everyone's delight, Roosevelt gave a much longer speech than expected and only once glanced at his notes, to check on a statistic.

One of the most novel features of his visit was a canoe race on Puget Sound. The president's steamer pulled out of the dock and came to a standstill to watch the event. Five Indian canoes, each manned by eleven natives, raced out about a half-mile to a stake boat. President Roosevelt started watching the race on the steamer's bridge, but ran aft and stood on the stern to follow the excitement. Two canoes capsized into the icy waters, while two others rounded the stake, neck and neck. The winning oarsmen brought their paddles onboard as a gift to the president. As the sun set behind the mountains, the *Spokane* carried Roosevelt back to Seattle to be welcomed a second time. The next day, he would head on through central Washington.



Roslyn coal miners c. 1900.

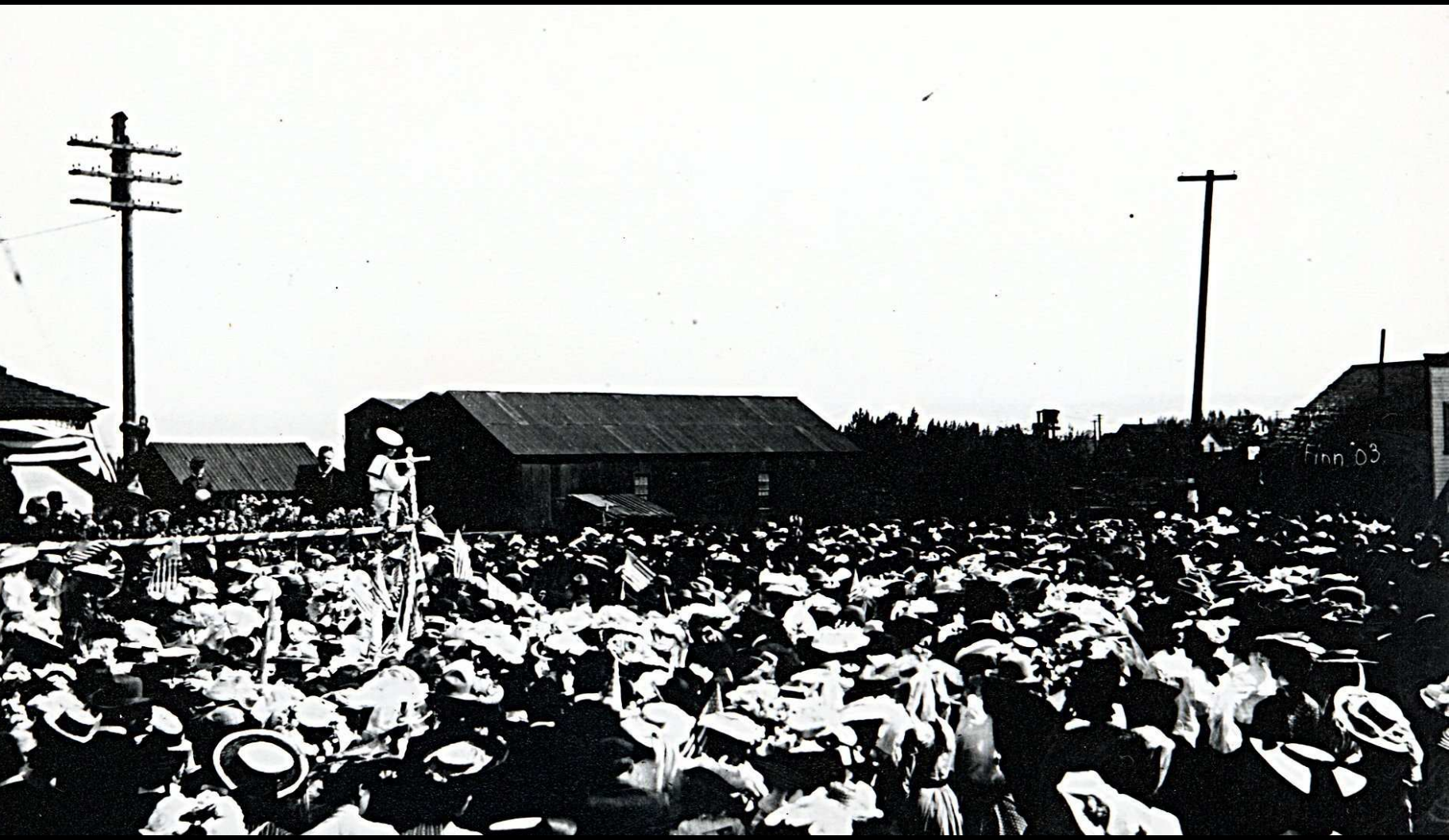
In May 1902, nearly 150,000 miners struck for shorter work days, higher wages, and other demands in the anthracite coal strike in Pennsylvania. Roosevelt insisted on a square deal for both business and labor and became the first president to intercede in a labor dispute. The president's threat to seize the mines and operate them with federal troops resulted in a compromise between the two sides.

Cle Elum c. 1903.

CLE ELUM

As the president's train traveled east on the twenty-fifth, it was the town of Cle Elum's good fortune to end up being the first stop. Three days earlier, Charles Sanger Mellen, president of the Northern Pacific Railway, had been notified that Roosevelt would make an unscheduled five minute stop at this small town, just east the Cascade Mountains. In spite of the short notice, four thousand people showed up at the depot to hear the president congratulate them on the wonderful resources of the state, comparing it to an empire.

Arrangements had been made for two thousand miners to be brought down to Cle Elum from the mines in nearby Roslyn to show their appreciation for the stand Roosevelt took in settling the Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902. With no legal right to do so, Roosevelt had intervened because of the urgent need for coal as winter approached. He believed citizens would riot if they could not obtain fuel and that it was a matter of patriotism for the opposing parties to find a way to agree, thereby preventing the suffering of the nation's people. He called an unprecedented meeting, and on October 3, 1902, ten men gathered, representing government, labor, and management. For the first time, the government acted as catalyst for peace, investigating conditions, pointing out the vital interests of the public, and bringing all parties together to reach settlement.



Businesses closed that morning, allowing everyone in the city to participate in giving President Roosevelt a royal welcome.

Ellensburg residents, c. 1903.

ELLENSBURG

An immense crowd of not less than ten thousand people greeted the president on the historic day of his stop in Ellensburg. They marched from the city to the depot, a route of half a mile, along which every child carried a flag. This impressive sight included the city band, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Woman's Relief Corps, and the local schools' students and faculties. As soon as the train stopped, the crowd began cheering and did not cease until the president appeared and bowed to them as he stood on the platform they had erected at the depot. The weather was perfect and a slight breeze carried Roosevelt's message to the crowd as if amplified. He could be heard clearly by all. His fifteen minute speech so moved, inspired, and captivated his listeners that their enthusiastic responses interrupted him many times.

"No men do their duty . . . if they simply think of their own interests," he said, "if they do not shape government policy, their social policy, for the country as a whole, the country that is to come after them. Exactly as every man worth his salt, or woman worth her salt, will care even more for the future of their children than for their own well being . . . we are bound in honor to shape our present policy with a view to the nation's future needs."

6 - PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S CARRIAGE. 5-25-'03.

Roosevelt leaving North Yakima.

NORTH YAKIMA

People crowded into North Yakima from all around. Some reports said fifteen thousand waited to see the president, four times the normal population. When he appeared, their cheers grew into a roar. They shouted out "Cowboy President," "The Hero of San Juan Hill," and "Teddy," as he made his way along the parade route from the train station to the speakers' stand. Flags fluttered everywhere, including one thousand in the hands of eager school children assembled to greet him, yelling their own rousing cheers as he drove by. The president responded by waving his hat and bowing again and again. Over five hundred members of the Yakima Indian tribe, wearing war paint, eagle feathers, and colorful blankets, came to see the man called “the Great Father,” or the “Hyas Tyee," a phrase in Chinook jargon meaning “Grand Chief.”

The president’s speech went on for twenty-five minutes before he turned to Secretary Loeb to ask how much time he had left, only to learn his time was already up. But that didn’t stop him from talking for another ten minutes. He spoke of the national importance of irrigation, crediting it with the development of their arid part of the West. "Coming to this valley in this region, which you have made blossom like the rose,” he said, "I am inevitably impelled to think of . . . the greatest instrument to bring about that fertility: irrigation."

Passage of the National Reclamation Act of 1902 inspired local confidence, settlement, and investment, and put the burden of watering the land on the shoulders of the federal government. “And it seems to me,” he went on, “that . . . the national irrigation act marked the beginning of a policy . . . more important to this country's internal development than any other since the Homestead law was first put upon the nations statute books." Then he accepted a gift of several boxes of Yakima's choicest apples, individually wrapped in paper, each piece printed with the words, "Yakima Valley Apples, Grown by Irrigation."

Parade down Yakima Avenue in honor of President Roosevelt.

GAR was a powerful veterans' organization.

PROSSER

President Roosevelt's train stopped only briefly in the city of Prosser, but approximately five hundred people were waiting at the depot to see him. Senator Ankeny introduced the president, who remained on the *Elysian's* rear platform to give a five-minute speech. He congratulated the citizens on how they had transformed the area's desert into productive farmland. As proof of the miracle of irrigation, proud members of the farming community reached up to him with the gift of a crate of strawberries grown there. A little girl was lifted as well, to present a bouquet of flowers, for which he thanked her nicely.

Always fond of children, and recognizing their importance to the nation, the president said, "The future of this country, of course, depends fundamentally upon the type of citizenship you get out of the next generation." He went on to point out that if they turned out to be "the right kind of men and women of tomorrow, we are going to go up as a nation ."

On that day, as he did during the entire Western Tour, Roosevelt took great pride in acknowledging members of the Grand Army of the Republic. The GAR, as it was called, was a powerful organization of Union veterans that formed at the close of the Civil war, based on three objectives: fraternity, charity, and loyalty.

Immense crowds gathered in every city during the Western Tour.

PASCO

During the day of May 25, Roosevelt's Western Tour progressed through Eastern Washington, hour by hour. Shortly after 2 p.m., his train reached Pasco, the seat of government for Franklin County. About 750 people, three times the normal population, had gathered to greet him. Surrounded by fertile land awaiting water, they made an eager audience for the president's thirteen-minute speech stressing irrigation.

The president said to them, "No more important law has been put upon the state books of recent years than the National Irrigation Act." He further explained that local reservoirs would be built to conserve the water previously going to waste in the Columbia and Snake Rivers, which would turn the area into a "veritable Garden of Eden." The city of Pasco presented Roosevelt with a box of fruit grown in the surrounding area, as a testimonial of what the normally arid land could produce when water was available.


O.K.SALOO
RESTAURANT

Newspaper cartoon during Roosevelt's visit.

WALLULA

At 3:50 p.m., Roosevelt's train arrived in the town of Wallula, a place with a long history of human habitation, beginning with native tribes. A century before the Western Tour took place, the Lewis and Clark Expedition passed through this vicinity. The area's first settlement by Caucasians occurred in 1819 with the establishment of a fur trading post called Fort Nez Percés, later known as Old Fort Walla Walla. Wallula's location on the Columbia River made it an important stopping point for the steam boats that carried freight and passengers.

About five hundred people had assembled to welcome President Roosevelt, including a large number of school children who presented him with flowers. He spoke in complimentary terms of the resources of the country and its potential for agriculture, once it could be improved through irrigation. He also spoke directly to the youth, encouraging them to keep striving toward getting an education. To Wallula's citizenry in general Roosevelt said, "I thank you all for coming to greet me, and I thank especially the school children. I have been particularly pleased all through Washington at seeing the attention that is being paid to the development of your school system, and to taking care of the next generation."

Walla Walla as it looked in 1903.

WALLA WALLA

The town that called itself “the Garden City” proclaimed May 25, 1903 as “Roosevelt Day.” An estimated ten thousand visitors from surrounding areas came into town early, some on special excursion trains, joining the residents to wait for hours. Many wore their finest clothes. At 4:30 p.m. they heard the toot of the train’s steam whistle as it pulled into the depot and responded with jubilant shouts. When the president came into view, a sea of waving silk hats and ladies’ handkerchiefs greeted him, soon followed by a twenty-one gun salute. Officials quickly ushered him into a carriage decorated with large white blooms of snowball bushes and drawn by two pure white horses. They moved along the route through a twelve-foot-deep, columned arch, measuring 46-by-44 feet and resembling white marble. It bore an American flag and the words, "Walla Walla is Yours.”

Flags waved and cheers continued as they headed toward Whitman College, where students greeted Roosevelt with their college yells, as well as those from Harvard. For a full thirty minutes, he addressed a crowd of six thousand. Then he stopped briefly at the courthouse to greet three thousand school children before moving on to Fort Walla Walla to review and inspect the garrison. Later, he dined with government officials in the home of Senator Ankeny. It had been a long day and he would be back on the train around nine that night.

"I have one bullet for President Roosevelt and one for Emperor William."

A Plot to Kill the President in Walla Walla

A plot to kill President Roosevelt originated in Pendleton, Oregon, about thirty-five miles from Walla Walla. Joseph Barker, a radical socialist, was working in Oregon for a butcher named Pat Kine, who grew worried when he heard Barker say, "I have one bullet for President Roosevelt and one for Emperor William," meaning Kaiser Wilhelm. Kine's concern took on more urgency when Barker left town carrying a .44 Winchester rifle. He followed Barker to Walla Walla and alerted the police there. As a result, Kine and three officers searched the city and found Barker at work in a butcher shop. They arrested him only four hours before the president was to arrive and held him behind bars during Roosevelt's entire visit. While in jail, Barker confessed to planting his rifle in a barn along the parade route, a vantage point from which Roosevelt could be seen when passing by. Once the president's train was safely heading down the tracks again, Barker's captors returned his rifle and told him to get out of town.

In 1912, the one-time "Rough Rider" would not be so lucky. During a campaign stop for the new progressive "Bull Moose" party in Milwaukee, Roosevelt was shot at close range with a .38-caliber revolver by a psychotic New York saloonkeeper, John Shrank. The bullet went through his fifty-page, single-folded speech and hit his metal spectacle case before entering his chest. With the bullet still in his chest, and blood soaking through his clothes, Roosevelt refused to go to the hospital and proceeded to speak to the audience for more than an hour, proclaiming, "It takes more than that to kill a bull moose."

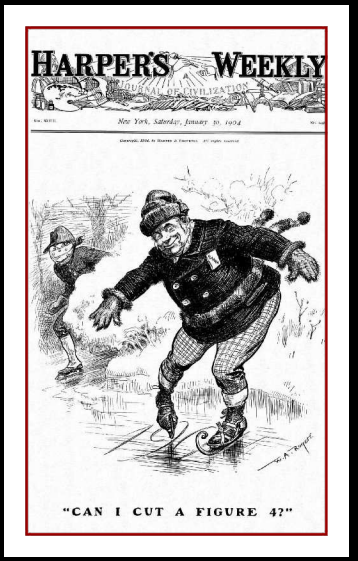
The Fight in Ohio Unfolds in Walla Walla

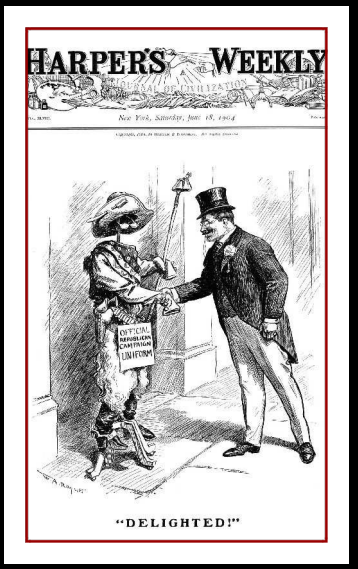
It became clear in early 1903 that Roosevelt would be the Republican Party's first choice when determining their candidate for the presidential election in 1904. The only possible challenger was Ohio Senator Mark Hanna, a political rival, who in the past, had called Roosevelt a "madman" and a "damn cowboy."

With the Ohio convention coming up in June of 1903, Ohio's other U.S. senator and political foe, Joseph Foraker, announced that the state convention would naturally endorse Roosevelt, and furthermore, intended to support him in 1904 as their candidate for the presidency. Senator Hanna responded to this press announcement, explaining that such an action would be premature and that the 1903 convention had no right to bind the state's 1904 delegate. He sent Roosevelt a telegram while the president was in Seattle, telling Roosevelt that he would oppose a resolution to endorse him for the Republican nomination.

On May 25, during the president's visit to Walla Walla, Secretary Loeb gave the following statement: "In speaking of the sudden political developments in Ohio, the President this afternoon said: 'I have not asked any man for his support. I have had nothing whatever to do with raising the issue as to my endorsement. Sooner or later it was bound to arise; and inasmuch as it has now arisen, of course those who favor my administration and my nomination will indorse them and those who do not will oppose.'"

The statement from Roosevelt officially announced that he intended to run for the presidency. This cornered Hanna into either siding against his administration or giving up on his own intentions of running. Hanna then responded to Roosevelt in a telegram, saying he would not oppose the adoption of a resolution calling for Roosevelt's nomination in 1904. Hanna died of typhoid fever in February of 1904, a few months before Roosevelt was unanimously nominated for president at the Republican National Convention.





President Roosevelt giving his address in Walla Walla, May 25, 1903.

President Roosevelt's reception at Tekoa, May 26, 1903.

Tekoa residents gather to listen to speech.

TEKOA

Night had come to Eastern Washington by the time President Roosevelt's train left Walla Walla to travel east into Idaho. On that day of May 25, Roosevelt had visited seven cities, given seven speeches, and met countless people before he settled into bed. But instead of blissful slumber, the "Cowboy President" soon experienced some Old West excitement, even wilder than when cowboys rode alongside his train for a couple of miles as it left Wallula, earlier that day.

Just after midnight, at 12:30, they stopped at Starbuck, Washington, to take on coal and water. It was a tiny town, but at one time as many as twenty-four trains had passed through it daily. Never before, however, had one carried the president of the United States. The Arizona Journal-Miner reported that after the president retired, he was "awakened by the discharge of firearms, the blowing of horns, and the shouting of the people. The secret service man who was on duty attempted to quell the noise but was powerless to do so." Roosevelt remained inside his quarters.

After visiting the Idaho towns of Wallace and Harrison, on the morning of May 26, the train returned to Washington to stop at Tekoa before heading to Spokane. Tucked between the rolling farmland near the state's


LUNCH

eastern border and the forested mountains of Idaho, the small town of Tekoa had grown up near the site of the Connell farm and trading post, started by F.P. Connell and his wife Mary Welch only twenty-eight years earlier, in 1875. It was incorporated as the City of Tekoa in 1889 and now awaited a visit from President Theodore Roosevelt.

Visitors from surrounding communities arrived early, and children were let out of school. With decorations of red, white, and blue everywhere and four brass bands providing music, they were ready to celebrate. A newly built platform at the depot awaited the nation's leader, and as his train pulled into the station, four thousand people stood ready to welcome him.

Roosevelt energetically mounted the steps to the speakers' stand, repeatedly bowed, and raised his hat. His five-minute speech thrilled the crowd with words like, "We belong to a nation which we hold now to be the greatest upon earth, and we are bound to make its greatness grow steadily as the years pass."

The center of attraction was a stand erected on the depot platform.

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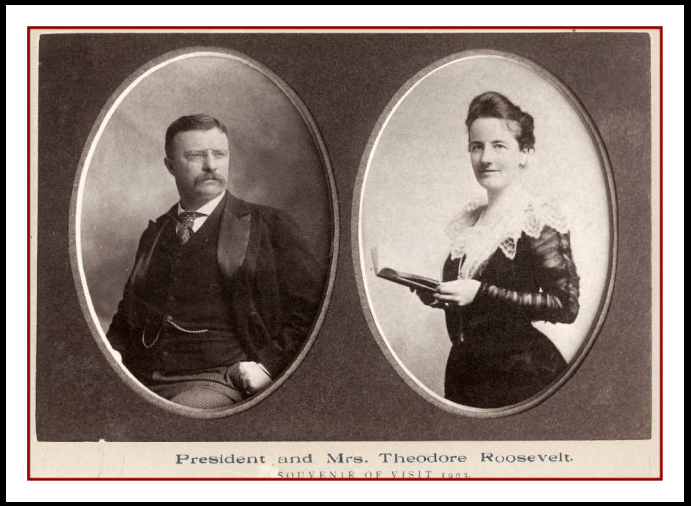


Souvenir of Spokane visit 1903.

SPOKANE

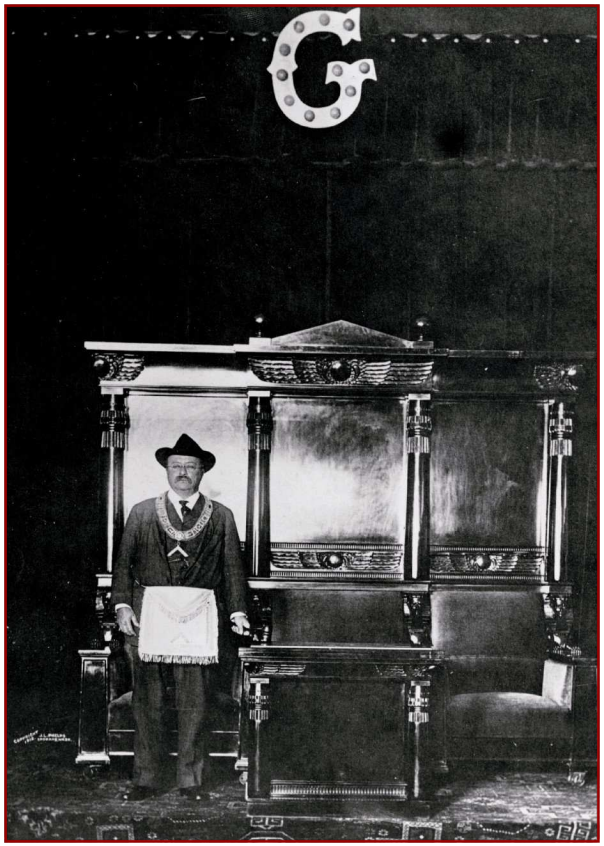
At the time of President Roosevelt's presence in the city of Spokane, it was said that never before had so many people assembled in the vast region between the two mountain ranges of the Rockies and the Cascades, and no one there ever expected to see anything like it again. As the first president ever to visit the city, and with his extreme popularity, he attracted a crowd of 25,000 to 35,000 people. They arrived by means of every available type of transportation: horseback, wagon, or special trains. The Empire City turned red, white, and blue in preparation, with even the telegraph poles adorned. One bank displayed a sixty-foot flag.

Two thousand were on hand to see the train arrive, and many more waited elsewhere to hear him speak. People stood shoulder-to-shoulder, covering every square foot of ground within sight of the grandstand, which itself was packed with twelve hundred individuals lucky enough to acquire tickets. Although Roosevelt's powerful voice could be heard a block away, it could not possibly reach those on the outer edges. Yet even knowing this, they had chosen to be there, some waiting for hours.

Most, however, were within earshot of this dynamic speaker, who captivated them with the intensity of his eyes and the peculiar way he had of showing his teeth when he spoke, which could make him seem to be

smiling even when at his most serious. The crowd listened, mesmerized, as the president repeatedly extended both arms with his hands clenched into fists, sometimes giving a quick slap of one hand against the other. The Spokesman Review reported that "At times during his speech there was intense, dramatic quiet, only to be broken by a roll of applause, or a shout of laughter." At one point, out of concern that the staffs of two flags positioned in front of the stand might be obscuring the audience's view of him, he simply snapped them in half. The crowd cheered in approval.

Before his train could even come to a complete stop, Roosevelt stepped down onto the platform and



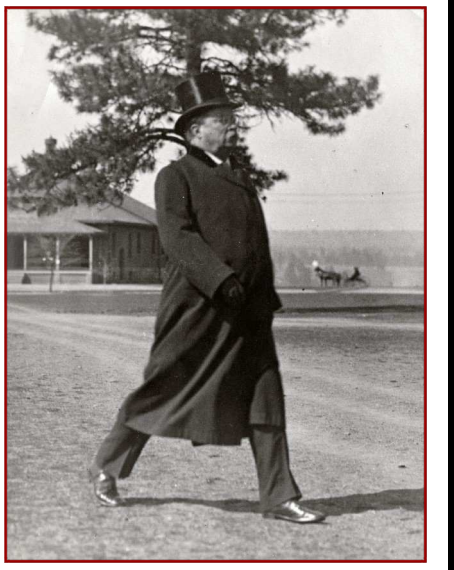
By 1912, an impressive Masonic Temple stood on the site where Roosevelt broke ground nine years earlier. He wore his Masonic regalia when photographed in the temple's Blue Room during his return visit. Theodore Roosevelt was originally initiated as a Mason on January 2, 1901, in Matinecock Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay, New York.

immediately entered his carriage, one of twelve, which was flanked by Rough Riders. They moved along the parade route in a procession filled with memorable moments. While passing the home of J.H. Sherwood, which was decorated with Harvard flags, the local Harvard Club gave Roosevelt their college yell. Fort Wright gave him a twenty-one gun salute as he passed by. At one point, a frightened horse, still attached to a buggy, charged the president's carriage but was warded off by the Rough Riders' guard.

During the procession Roosevelt saw a man, who had become ill while serving in Cuba and the Philippines, seated in a chair on a porch. The president had the carriage stop, got out, and ran up the steps to take the man's hand and wish him a speedy recovery. Roosevelt's carriage also stopped in front of Gonzaga College where its president, Father Raphael Crimont, presented a pamphlet containing an address in the form of a poem, accompanied by roses and carnations.

Later, a brief groundbreaking ceremony at the site of a new Masonic temple on Riverside Avenue honored the president. As a Mason himself, “Brother Roosevelt” was offered the opportunity of breaking the sod. A total of 437 Masons—346 members of the blue lodges led by 91 members of the Knights Templar—marched from the old temple to the site of the new one. After arriving at the site by carriage, Roosevelt was given the traditional pick and shovel the ceremony called for and said, "It is a pleasure to throw the first spade of dirt for your new Masonic temple.” With his typical energy, he struck the ground twice with the pick and wasted no time in turning over a piece of sod with the shovel. Afterward, the band played the "Star Spangled Banner" as his carriage drove away.

During the previous year, at the celebration of the sesquicentennial of Brother George Washington's initiation into Freemasonry, Roosevelt had said, "One of the things that attracted me so greatly to Masonry, that I hailed the



At Fort Wright's parade grounds.

Colonel Roosevelt at Fort George Wright in 1911.

chance of becoming a Mason, was that it really did live up to what we, as a government, are pledged to . . . treating each man on the merits as a man."

Several thousand people came to the train depot for Roosevelt's departure, after his intense visit of three hours and thirty minutes. As he was about to board the train, he saw two men he'd known during his days as a cowboy, out West. One handed the president a horse hair bridle made by a cowpuncher in Montana, and another old friend got his attention by yelling, "Miles City, 1884." He greeted them warmly and shook their hands. Then, as reported in the Spokesman-Review, "Again the president waved his hat and cried,

Roosevelt with Senator Poindexter, Secretary Elliot, Governor Hay, and Mayor Hindley during his visit to Spokane in 1911.

Roosevelt returned to Spokane on April 8, 1911.

On the back of his train, 1911.

In 1911, he laid the cornerstone for the Lewis and Clark High School.

'Goodbye, boys' and the train pulled slowly eastward amid the farewell cheers of the crowds." Roosevelt was heading home, and also heading for a victory in the presidential election of 1904.

In 1911, Theodore Roosevelt, or Colonel, as he preferred to be called after he left office, reviewed the troops of the 25th Infantry at Fort Wright. Many of the troops there were African-American soldiers who participated in the Santiago campaign with the Rough Riders. He would also be the guest of honor at a banquet with Washington State Governor Hay and Senator Poindexter and would lay the cornerstone for the Lewis and Clark High School.

Spokane gave Roosevelt a warm welcome again when he visited for the third time in 1912 as the "Bull Moose" candidate for the presidency of the United States. Considered to be one of the most significant presidential elections in American history, this was the first to include presidential primaries. Fraud, rough behavior, and disputes typified the political scene at this time, with 254 delegate seats at the Republican convention contested. The Republican National Committee, controlled by Taft supporters, had the power to decide the disputed seats. Consequently, they awarded Roosevelt only eight percent of the delegates, causing an outcry that the delegates had been stolen from him.

Roosevelt's delegates broke from the Republican Party and founded the new Progressive Party, with Roosevelt as their candidate for president. His third-party candidacy split the Republican vote, allowing Democrat Woodrow Wilson to win the presidency with only 41.8 percent of the popular vote. Roosevelt came in second, garnering more electoral votes than any third-party candidate ever. He won in six states, including Washington, where the people had never forgotten the man whose powerful oratory had carried on the open air, who shook their hands, spoke to their children, inspired them, moved them, and filled them with American pride during the Western Tour of 1903.

Roosevelt returned to Spokane in 1912 as a candidate for the Progressive Party. On September 9 of that year, he delivered a speech from the balcony of the Masonic Temple, built on the site where he turned the first sod in 1903. The day began with an automobile parade.

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