PIONEER PAGEANT
HOW THE WEST WAS WON
JUNE 6-7
WALLA WALLA
WASHINGTON
The
Pioneer Pageant
"How the West was Won"

An Historical Review
reverently dedicated to
The Pioneers, who dared, who
suffered and sacrificed—and won

It is history in the making, the
march of civilization, the comple-
tion of the world's greatest
and mightiest nation

Walla Walla Welcomes the World
— June 6-7 —

To SEE, to LEARN, and to REMEMBER
"How the West was Won"
The Cradle of Pacific
Northwestern History

PROFESSOR W. D. Lyman in his history of the Walla Walla Valley writes, "Standing on the threshold of a material development whose possibilities dazzle the imagination, we are in some danger of forgetting the small and feeble advances of the first era of American settlement in this land; we are apt to forget the heroic striving which planted homes here and there in the wilderness. Walla Walla was the first settlement between the Rocky Mountains and the Cascades, being the scene of more tragic and stirring events than any other community in Old Oregon, having for years the largest population anywhere within the state, and in its later development possessing in some respects the highest results of industry and production."

So—because the history of this Valley is truly epochal—because the events that finally culminated in this Northwest becoming part of the United States, are part of the Valley history—because the firm foundation of American ideals was first laid here—because this Valley was the point from which radiated the influences that have borne us onward to our glorious present—because here was the homeland of that great soul, Marcus Whitman, whose vision and vigilance brought to this land the great Wagon Train of '43 which was, beyond doubt, the determining factor in bringing this domain under the Stars and Stripes.

Because of all this and more—it is fitting indeed that here should be commemorated in a worthy manner the deeds and the events that are of outstanding importance in the historical annals of this country.
Foreword of the Pioneer Pageant

In all the history of the North American Continent, there is no phase or period more dramatic, more thrilling or epochal than the history of the Pacific Northwest from 1805 to 1875. Prior to 1800 there went forth many bold explorers and adventurers to the Pacific shores of this great land. It was a land rich with promise but the early activities of the few who ventured were confined solely to the development of the fur business. They went by sea; only the coast was known to them. The great interior domain was looked upon solely as a source of fur supply. President Jefferson regarded this land as part of the Great Louisiana Purchase. American claims were fortified by the several explorations of the coastal waterways made by Americans. England, too, felt that her claims were equally valid because of explorations, and more strongly so because of occupation by the Hudson’s Bay Company. What decided the country’s national fate?

The Great Pageant Explained

The Pioneer Pageant is a huge dramatic, spectacular, outdoor production, realistically presenting the salient events in episodes, faithfully portraying history in all its stirring and vivid action. Shakespeare says “all the world’s a stage”—here the stage is a vast portion of the Pacific Northwest reduced to dimensions that make presentation possible.

Here is the largest Pageant field ever used in American Pageantry, 1000 feet in length, 350 feet in depth. Nature has provided much of the scenic investiture which is unrivalled for beauty. A glorious vista of landscape forms the background. Distant are the Blue Mountains cloaked in purple shadows, a sweep of green woodland and field ripples to the very edge of the scene of action, a colossal amphitheater permitting full sway of the vast and rapid movement necessary. The constructed scenery towers fifty feet in the air across a breadth of 300 feet and a depth of 125 feet. Actors and horses ascend to the very top. Pack trains climb up and down the trails. A river flows from the hills down to the level, rippling its way to the Columbia. Here Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Capt. Wm. Clark paused before embarking on their journey down the Columbia, and Capt. Lewis said, “We will pitch our camp here, yonder is the Columbia river at whose mouth we will pass the winter. President Jefferson would rejoice to know the progress we have made.” So the great drama unfolds before the eyes of the beholder; history, dramatic, thrilling, inspiring.
The Pageant Begins

Let us view the Pageant.- When President Jefferson concluded the Louisiana Purchase, neither he nor France, the vendor of the magnificent new world empire, knew its potentialities or riches. The President commissioned two American army officers, Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Capt. William Clark, to explore the western lands—to find the much talked of Columbia river. Westward they traveled—so the Pageant begins. Looking toward the Blue Mountains from our seats in the grand stand, we see the intrepid pair with their small group of followers coming down the mountain passes. Sacajawea, the Indian woman, wife of the interpreter, is with them.

That is "The Coming of the White Man," the first episode of the first movement of the Pioneer Pageant. They are approached by suspicious Indians of the Walla Walla tribe, there follows parley, exchange of good will offerings, mutual assurances of peace, camp is pitched, and later the dauntless Americans pass on down the Columbia river—to the Pacific ocean.

Walla Walla the Center of Events

Bear in mind, you residents of the Pacific Northwest, that you are living today under the American flag because of the train of historical events that this Pioneer Pageant portrays. There was a time when Old Oregon, now Washington, Oregon, Idaho and western Montana, was very near to becoming a British colony, there was a time when men’s blood ran hot, when the American cry was “54-40 or Fight.” Was this great territory part of the Louisiana Purchase?—none could say what the boundaries were. Which nation had the better claim due to prior discovery?—that too, was a disputed question. It remained for the sturdy and intrepid Pioneers to decide. It was their sacrifice, their faith and courage that raised the Stars and Stripes over this glorious empire of the Pacific Northwest. Men starved, fought bloody battles, many gave their lives, they persevered, they builted, they planned and dreamed, they worked—that was “How the West Was Won.”

Hence, following close on the Lewis and Clark episode, we see the coming of the Missionaries, the Fur traders and Trappers, The Hudson’s Bay Company.

Then appears on the great stage of empire the noble figure of Dr. Marcus Whitman and his heroic wife, Narcissa Whitman, Dr. and Mrs. Spalding and Mr. Gray. Follows the establishment of the Whitman mission at Walla Walla. Where the good missionaries brought the light of Christian teaching to the savages. Futile, to some extent, was their great labor but their mission and ideals were inspired by the highest emotional urge, true Christianity.

Quickly across the vast scene sweeps the “Great Wagon Train of ’43” which decided once and for all that this land was and should be American soil. What a scene for us of this day. Dusty, tired, worn, bedraggled after struggles with almost insurmountable difficulties, facing and overcoming danger in a hundred forms, so they came, The Pioneers.

The tragic death of Dr. and Mrs. Whitman with twelve others of the Mission group is to be portrayed by symbolism. The spirits of the fields, the water and the mountains, will change their joyous dance to one of grief and despair when the grim Shadow of Death appears among them from the burning mission and announce the tragedy. An impressive and beautiful scene that will tell the sad story in a manner that will make the vision more poignant and graphic than the blood and horror of actual reproduction of this climactic scene would be. Thus will end Movement One, so called rather than Act One, because in Pa-
geantry, the action and scenes are on such a big scale that the word "act" would seem puerile indeed.

Today, six miles from the city of Walla Walla, under the Whitman monument, sleeps Dr. Whitman and his wife, and the others who met such a tragic death at the hands of those whom they were striving to help.

The Period of Indian Wars

Movement Two carries us onward to the decade of 1848-1858. Here we see action and color; here we experience thrills and tense excitement; here we see the Indian of the Northwest as he was, not as he is today. This movement is called "Indian Wars." In the first episode we see The Great Council of 1855 presided over by Governor Isaac Stevens, first territorial Governor of the new commonwealth. First we see "The Meeting." Then comes "The Indian Holiday," this is action, fast and furious. The Indians play games, run races, for their own amusement and for the entertainment of the Great White Chief and his body of troopers. The Council Bower is erected wherein are seated the Governor and the Chiefs. A most impressive and interesting scene is that where the orators for the various tribes speak regarding the tribal views of the proposals made by the Government; there is argument for and against but the good offices of the Nez Perce prevail and the climax of this episode is the "Signing of the Treaty."

"WAR" is the second episode. The treaty has been signed by many of the chiefs with reluctance and mental reservations; they are not sincere, and in a ringing speech Ow-hi, son of Kamiahkin, the great war chief of the Yakimas, calls upon the Indians to go upon the war path; he harangues them vociferously ending his speech in a dramatic urge to kill! KILL! KILL! Then the Pioneers faced a long period of danger and bloodshed; sporadic outbreaks in many quarters took place for many years. The two scenes in this episode show thrilling battles with the Indians; Col. Steptoe's defeat following an attack made upon him while he was on a friendly mission is the first scene. Scene two, while of the same nature, shows a victory by the troops of Col. Wright. Here the Indians are defeated, signal ly so, the Stars and Stripes are raised in the Inland Empire to remain until this day.

The old life of the West is passing fast, soon there will be very few of the Indians to take part in such portrayals as will be shown in this great Pageant. It is worthy of notice that the Indians who will be in these scenes are descendants of those who participated in the original scenes, nearly 63 years ago. Many attempts have been made to re-enact these battles but rarely if ever has there been a field of action so suited to a big movement such as this must be to make it realistic and impressive. If one would clearly realize how much of history transpired in this Walla Walla Valley, history of an epochal nature, then one must have recourse to history itself and read assiduously; next to that is a dramatic presentation of the actual incidents, with faithfully reproduced surroundings, and carefully staged action, such as the Pioneer Pageant will present; once seen it is doubtful if it will ever be forgotten.

Frontier Town and Frontier Life

"The Building of Walla Walla," so the third movement is named. What an opportunity presents itself in this for a wonderfully colorful picture. There is an intangible something about the early days that holds the interest of all; what that is cannot be described so we must be content to look upon this picture that takes us back again to those wild and fevered days when the west was young and Walla Walla was even younger and find in the sight the satisfaction which we feel but cannot define. Here we will see the dash and go that characterized the frontier town, the town in the making, rough, makeshift to a de-
The Change Begins

As a climax and a fitting one, we will see a perfect replica of the famous Baker Railroad; engine and cars with passengers wildly greeting the townspeople who cheer and celebrate with a brass band when the train draws into the city. That railroad was the fruit of Dr. D. S. Baker’s energy and vision. He dreamed and then made the dream a reality. Is it not fitting that this Pageant should be presented here in Walla Walla, in the very cradle of Northwestern history? Here where was founded the first church, the first school, the first institution of higher learning, the first bank, the first newspaper between the Rockies and Cascades, and here came the first railroad in the state, from Walla Walla to Wallula on the Columbia river to which point it hauled the golden harvest of grain that was then beginning to be produced in quantities, and which before the railroad came, was hauled slowly through sand and dust by team.

Beautiful Allegory and Symbolism

Leaving this tense dramatic action with its vividness, we come into the Fourth Movement which is one of great beauty, and of a nature that thrills while it teaches, that inspires while it delights the eye with action and color, that uplifts while it pleases the ear with splendid, almost sublime, music. This movement, called “The Coming Day,” is made up of transcendental symbolism with four idealistic visions. These are “Fruits of the Earth”—Wheat, Water, Orchards—interpreted by nearly 200 dancers; “The Fruits of Civilization”—Education, Civics, Art—shown in great tableaux groupings; “The Fruits of the Spirit”—Faith, Courage, Vigilance, Hope, Fortitude, Sacrifice, Loyalty—radiantly revealed by seven mounted female figures.

The Fourth Vision, “The Future Glorious,” is a finale employing all symbolic
groups and choristers in processional, tableaux and recessional. Presiding over historical movements of the Pageant is "The Voice of the Valley," a beautiful woman enthroned on a dais. Three youths, an American, an Italian and a Russian question her, and in answer she unfolds before their young eyes the "Past." With the beginning of "The Coming Day," another majestic figure moves on to the great stage and dominates the scene thenceforth. "The Spirit of the Mountain Top," a striking male figure mounted on a white charger, convokes the glorious visions of the present and the future.

Thus is taught to youth, and all who witness this colossal production, "A Lesson in Americanism" that will be indelibly impressed on the memory of young and old alike, for all time. Thus will be shown what was necessary of heroic sacrifice in the past that we of this day might enjoy the peace, prosperity and plenty of this land. Here on the largest outdoor stage ever utilized in American Pageantry, with a background of natural beauty, trees, greensward, and the ever lovely Blue Mountains in the distance, will move again the figures that made our history. 2400 persons will participate in the many scenes; hundreds of horses, mules and oxen will be used, vehicles of the time depicted will add to the picture. More than 300 trained dancers will be required in the dance figures; a splendidly trained choir of 500 adult voices will sing the inspiring descriptive music accompanied by an orchestra of over 65 pieces. A band of 50 pieces will also furnish specially arranged music. The music alone will be a festival in itself well worth traveling many miles to hear.

A Vast and Impressive Panorama

Here is entertainment, here are thrills, here is excitement, here is color, life, beauty, action; here is inspiration, here is education, here is musical enjoyment and spiritual satisfaction. Here is a combination of all that is worth while in history of the past, all that can be graphically shown of the present, and all that can be visioned of the glorious future. All in one huge Panoramic Pageant, with speaking parts to carry the lesson in words, with unmistakable action to impress the eye, with music to delight the ear. It is the History of this Northwestern country presented in a manner that cannot fail to impress and delight; it is Walla Walla's offering to the world, sponsored and backed by her citizens with loyal support of her neighboring communities. A tremendous undertaking and a powerful production.

The Author is Dr. S. B. L. Penrose, President of Whitman College; the Director is Percy Jewett Burrell of Boston and New York. The Pageant is the result of painstaking research, indefatigable labor, and loyal cooperation. It is entirely a non-profit, community enterprise, underwritten by the citizens and employing no paid participants.

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Come—see for yourself

"How the West was Won"