

MONUMENT UNVEILED IN PUYALLUP

On Friday afternoon, October 30, 1925, under the auspices of the Washington State Historical Society a monument was unveiled at the north end of the Meridian Street Bridge, Puyallup. Brief addresses were made by Steve Gray, Mayor of Puyallup; Charles H. Ross, Frank R. Spinning, Robert Montgomery and F. W. Griffiths. A statement of the reasons for erecting the monument was made by W. P. Bonney, Secretary of the Washington State Historical Society as follows:

Friends:—We are gathered here today to unveil and dedicate a memorial marker, a four-sided affair, with four inscribed tablets—North-East-West, South, the initial letters of these four cardinal points of the compass—spell our word N-E-W-S.. But the inscriptions on these tablets are not news today. They hark back to the news items of seventy years ago; back to the days when John Carson, with his family, came and established his home on this spot. This was a public highway then; crude, but it served a purpose. To add to the convenience of crossing the river, Mr. Carson built a ferry boat; attached it by guy ropes to a cable which he strung over the river, so that people might cross dry-shod. By the manipulation of these guy ropes Mr. Carson utilized the current of the stream to push his ferry back and forth across the river.

He had erected a cabin in which to house his family, and began clearing and cultivating the land on which he had settled. The Puyallup Valley in those days was inhabited mainly by wild beasts and the wandering Indian. These Indians were an unknown quantity; they had lived here for untold ages without interfering with natural conditions, they resented the activities of the white men, coming into their country and by civilizing industry usurping the homes of their fathers.

A school, District No. 3, had been organized here during June, 1854, and by vote of the School Board a school house was ordered built on the claim of John Carson. This house was to have been "24x34 feet with eleven foot story" and "to be built with lumber." The records show that "it was not built because of the Indian war." One night in October, 1855, Abraham Salatat, a friendly Indian, rode through the valley, and gave warning to white settlers of an Indian uprising. This warning doubtless

saved many lives; the words spoken by Salat at were earnest. They carried conviction and the people heeded. He is reported to have been at the home of Willis Boatman in the night, and after giving the warning promptly and rapidly rode away in the direction of Carson's ferry. About three o'clock next morning, Ezra Meeker and family, then living on the edge of the prairie, received their warning—by a man on horseback who called to them through the window, and then rode away.

We do not know just how many warnings Salat at did give; but the settlers of the Puyallup Valley, by promptly going to Steilacoom were saved, despite the fact that every home in the Valley, save one, was burned. Just how long Salat at lived after the war, we do not know. There is a record in the account book kept by Hugh Pattison, the Pierce County nurseryman, of an invoice of fruit trees purchased by Abraham Salat at on the 20th of November, 1857. By 1858 the Indians had quieted down enough so that some of the settlers, including the Carson family, felt that they dared come back to their homes. During February, 1856, under orders by Colonel Casey, the commandant at Fort Steilacoom, a blockhouse was erected on the banks of the Puyallup River, and garrisoned with regular soldiers, to protect this crossing of the river and the Carson Ferry. This was known as Fort Maloney. This building was occupied by the Carson family on their return to their home.

During the summer of 1861, Mrs. Carson taught school here. On November 11, 1861, the Board of Directors, by vote, ordered the clerk of the District to pay Mrs. E. L. Carson \$60.00; \$33.55 had been received by the clerk from the County Treasurer, S. McCaw, on the fourth of November and \$33.50 of this was paid to Mrs. Carson on the 11th, the day the order was issued. On August 5th, 1862, another sum of money, \$19.58, came to the district from the treasurer, this time J. H. Munson. The same day it was paid to Mrs. Carson, the record stating: "Paid to E. L. Carson \$19.58 on order of directors for \$60.00." The record also shows, on this date, that there was a balance on hand of \$.05. This left a balance still due Mrs. Carson of \$6.92 which was paid to her on August 9, 1863.

Through age the Carson ferry became inoperative, and during the year 1858, under Territorial charter, Mr. Carson constructed a toll bridge across the river. This bridge was carried away by river floods during the winter of 1862-1863.

In the meantime the highway here had been adopted as a military road from Steilacoom to Bellingham. During the year 1864, the first telegraph wire through the State was strung over this road.

Had there been room for one more tablet on the pyramid, we would have told of the first postoffice in the Puyallup Valley being established here through the influence of James P. Stewart. It was known as Franklin Post Office, and was the fourth established in Pierce County, the others being Steilacoom, Nisqually and Spanaway.

This Franklin Post Office was a migratory affair, sometimes on this side of the river and sometimes on the other. John Carson was the first Postmaster. Early in 1862, James P. Stewart was appointed. He named John Walker deputy, and the office was moved up the river to the Walker place. Walker donated eighteen acres of land to Stewart, with the understanding that he, Stewart, would establish a store, which he did, and moved the Post Office into it. Later the store was closed, and the Post Office was moved back down the river, just across from the Carson place. Mail was brought to Franklin from Steilacoom by horseback. A little later the line was extended to Seattle; from Steilacoom to Seattle via Franklin one day, back the next, once a week. Sam Bonney rode the line for a while. Later it was covered by Cornelius H. Hanford. By 1873, George T. Vinning, having established a store on the Carson place, was appointed Postmaster, and once more the office was moved, this time to the Vinning store, which was less than 100 feet from this marker. In November, 1875, Mr. Vinning started to San Francisco on the Steamer *Pacific*. The boat was sunk in a collision about forty miles out from Victoria. Out of 250 persons known to have been on board, only two reached shore alive. The Franklin Post Office was discontinued in 1876, Sumner and Puyallup taking its place.

W. P. BONNEY.