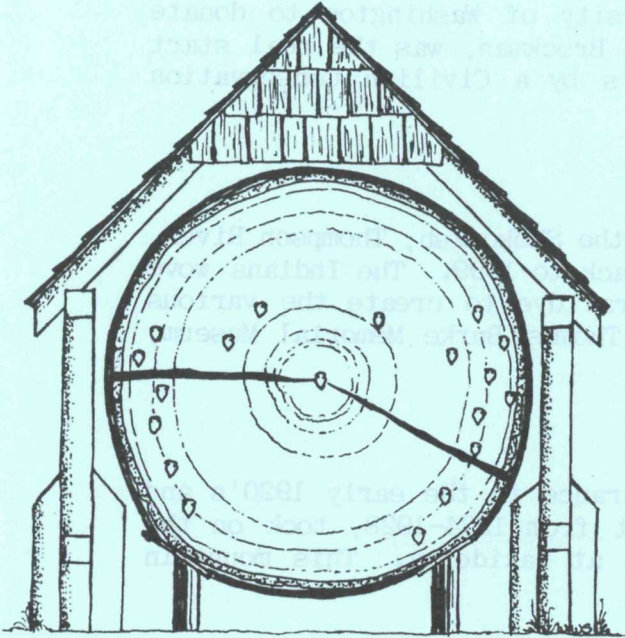


Welcome to the...

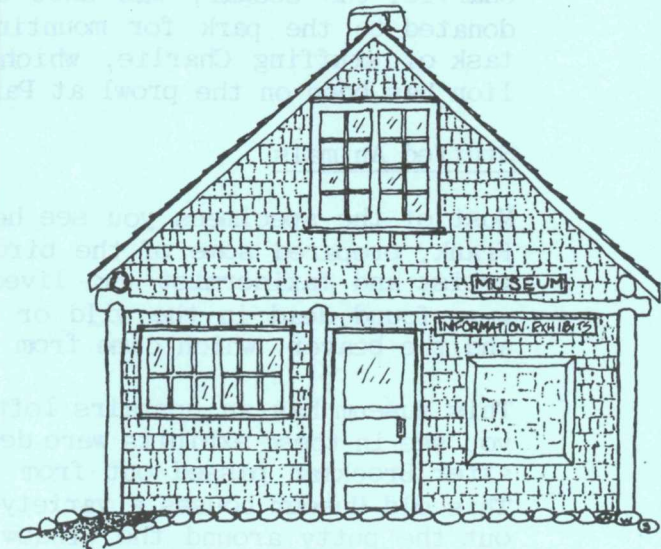
# LONGMIRE MUSEUM



This Douglas fir tree was just a seedling back in 1293. It lived for 670 years in the Snoqualmie National Forest before it was cut in 1963 and donated by St. Regis Paper Company.

Written by: N.G. Pierce  
Drawings by: W.W. Swift  
Special thanks to C. Frank Brockman for his assistance.

N230 (7/83)



If you were visiting this building 67 years ago, you would probably be talking with one of the early park rangers in Mount Rainier's first park headquarters. Twelve years later, in 1928, a new park headquarters building was constructed, leaving little need for this building which was then scheduled for demolition. Frank Brockman, Park Naturalist at that time, pleaded with the park Superintendent to retain the building and use it as a Museum and a naturalist's office. Permission was granted and Brockman spent the next several years constructing and designing the exhibits you see here today. The original shelves and exhibit cases were built from scavenged wood found in the Longmire area. Brockman used whatever materials he could find within the park to complete these exhibits as well as convincing the University of Washington to donate surplus materials to help with the mounted animal exhibits. This, according to Brockman, was the real start of the Longmire Museum. These exhibit cases were rebuilt in the early 1930's by a Civilian Conservation Corps work crew.

### Indian Baskets

The Indian baskets you see in the upper exhibit cases represent handiwork from the Skokomish, Thompson River, and Klickitat tribes of Washington and British Columbia. These baskets date back to 1899. The Indians wove these baskets from cedar wood and root and used cherry bark and black mineral dye to create the various patterns and colors. These beautiful Indian artifacts are on loan from the Thomas Burke Memorial Museum, University of Washington.

### Charlie the Cougar

Charlie, the cougar, was shot on Forest Service land near the Nisqually entrance in the early 1920's and donated to the park for mounting and display. Floyd Schmoie, Park Naturalist from 1924-1928, took on the task of stuffing Charlie, which proved to be Floyd's first and last attempt at taxidermy. This mountain lion has been on the prowl at Paradise, Sunrise and now at Longmire.

### Stuffed Animals

Most of the specimens you see here today were prepared and mounted in the 1930's. William Brockman, son of Frank, prepared some of the birds. Many of the mammals were prepared by Ottmar F. von Fuehrer, a Hungarian artist and taxidermist who lived at Paradise while working as a seasonal naturalist. Most of the animals were found dead in the wild or on the road, including the porcupine which was found in the Stevens Canyon, and the beaver, which came from the Tipsoo Lake area.

This Museum has an upstairs loft which serves as a naturalist's office and includes a darkroom. The photos you see in these exhibits were developed in this darkroom in the 1930's by Brockman. A vent was later installed after Brockman passed out from lack of ventilation while smoking a cigar during a film developing session. This old Museum houses a variety of tales like the one about the pileated woodpeckers who would come and pick out the putty around the window panes while the naturalists worked at the information desk..tap..tap..tap.. Or how 'bout the cold winter day when the snowblower blew snow at the Museum and broke all the windows...

Enjoy your visit. If you have any questions, the ranger at the information desk will be happy to answer them for you.