



FROM THE COLLECTION

The Nation's Playgrounds

The introduction of the electric "magic lantern" projector in 1892 ushered in a new era of public entertainment. The projection of images was certainly not new, but the electric projectors made it safe and easy to "take the show on the road," in order to reach a large audience. In 1917 Charles Norton Hunt traveled the Midwest presenting a series of magic lantern shows augmented with the young technology of motion pictures. His topic, "The Nation's Playgrounds: Rainier, Yellowstone, Alaska," almost certainly used tinted glass lantern slides from well-known photographers Asahel Curtis of Seattle and F. Jay Haynes of St. Paul, both of whom produced massive numbers of slides for the commercial market between 1892 and 1930.

Artist Louis Moen's colorful 1917 poster, advertising Hunt's travel talks and depicting the accessibility of Mount Rainier National Park by automobile, is a recent addition to the Washington State Historical Society's Special Collections. Thus far, both Hunt and Moen elude identification. ❁



THE NATION'S PLAYGROUNDS
RAINIER, YELLOWSTONE, ALASKA
TRAVEL TALKS *By Charles Norton Hunt*

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COVER: Bill Holm's paintings reflect his artistic and scholarly interest in Native American culture and his dedication to representing it with accuracy and authenticity in every detail. This Holm painting depicts a Kwakiutl canoe traveling down Vancouver Island's Kingcome Inlet near the mouth of Wakeman Sound sometime in the mid 19th century. Another canoe is seen some distance away. The Sisiutl, a legendary serpent-like creature, is painted on the near canoe. The bowman wears a white Hudson's Bay Company blanket around his waist, but some of the crewmen are wearing cedar bark robes, suggesting that it is early in the trade period. See related story beginning on page 24. (Collection of Don Charnley, courtesy of Bill Holm)