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John Willard to speak at 1964 Homecoming meeting of the Montana State University Friends of the Library

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

John Willard, director of the Montana Railroad Association, Helena, will speak on "Tracking down Pioneers" at the annual Homecoming meeting of the Montana State University Friends of the Library, according to Arthur Deschamps Jr., Missoula, chairman of the FOL Homecoming Program Committee.

The FOL Homecoming program will get under way at the MSU Library at 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, with open house and refreshments. Willard's speech is scheduled at 4 p.m. in the third-floor reading room. The program is open to everyone interested, Deschamps stressed.

Willard is secretary of the Governor's Committee on Economic Studies, director of transportation for the Montana Resources Priority Board and a member of the Executive Reserve Program of the Office of Emergency Transportation. He served on the Governor's Committee to recodify Montana fish and game laws from 1953-1955 and was chairman of the Montana Chamber of Commerce Industrial Committee in 1961.

The Montana writer and sportsman was born on a ranch near Augusta. He attended Montana State College and Montana State University, earning a bachelor's degree in journalism from the latter in 1938. As an MSU undergraduate he did extensive work in economics and in 1937 was one of the two founders of the MSU Business Research Bureau.

Willard worked on newspapers in Great Falls, Havre and Helena, edited the Montana Wool Growers' Association publication from 1941 to 1946, and published Outdoor Montana magazine from 1946 to 1949. He now writes an outdoor column in Montana dailies and a travel column in the publication of the Montana Automobile Association.

(more)
He is the author of a number of articles on natural resources and transportation in magazines and newspapers and of two books: "Game is Good Eating," a book on game and fish cookery, and "Adventure Trails in Montana," a series of historical sketches. In his foreword to "Adventure Trails in Montana," Michael Kennedy, director of the Montana Historical Society, calls the work "the most entertaining guide to Montana ... in print."