

LATAH COUNTY MUSEUM SOCIETY

Quarterly Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 2 July 1, 1973  
Kenneth B. Platt, Editor

The changed name you see above was voted in at the May 5 annual meeting of the organization, formerly titled Latah County Pioneer Historical Museum Association, Inc. The new title will save much frustration in check writings, billings, and correspondence. The change from "association" to "society" puts us in line with the naming of similar organizations elsewhere.

Official approval by the Secretary of State of this and other changes in the original Articles of Incorporation adopted at the annual meeting is still pending, but no impediment to approval is foreseen. When official confirmation is received, the Articles and Bylaws will be reproduced in full and provided to members.

The Oral History Project announced in the April Bulletin now is operating. Both Rob Moore and Sam Schragger are hard at work gathering data through interviews with selected pioneer citizens of the County, tape recording as they go. As of this date about \$3,250 in cash and pledges has been collected by the Society in support of the project. Since April, the full amount of \$5,750 requested for the project from the Bicentennial Fund has been approved by the State office of the Fund. However, the project can use the granted funds only up to the level to which matching funds have been collected locally. The Society, therefore, still must round up some \$2,250 in additional contributions. Individual donations so far have been \$100 each in most instances, but with 1 of \$300 and 2 of \$500 each. By the time the next bulletin is published we hope the full amount will be subscribed so that an appropriate credit list may be published.

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Larry French, Museum Director      Lou Cormier, Curator

All members of the Society are asked to help as they are able, keeping in mind that the project is accomplishing one of our main objectives. Further, it is an objective we had found no way of attempting until this project was conceived. Leaders Moore and Schraeger are working at subsistence wages (\$300 per month each) in order to move the project ahead. If these young newcomers are willing to make such a sacrifice by asking so much less than their true earning capacity, surely we native sons of the local pioneer heritage can support them in their efforts.

This was the view of the Board of Trustees at its June 7 meeting, when it pledged the Society to raise the remaining funds needed to match the State grant. Most outlying communities of the County have not been approached as yet for contributions. Members with time to go there and explain the project should find many receptive listeners. It is important, irrespective of this aspect, that interest and participation in the project be made countywide. Let's have at it! All donations for this project should be referred to Bill Jacobson.

### WHO'S RUNNING THINGS NOW?

Election results at the May 5 annual meeting were:

President	Wm. T. Jacobson
1st Vice-president	Kenneth B. Platt
2nd Vice-president	Cletus (Mrs. Ed) Morken
Secretary	Mary (Mrs. Wm.) Banks
Treasurer	Leora (Mrs. C.R.) Stillinger
Trustees at Large	Dr. Ray Berry Earl Humphrey
Trustee ex officio	Grace (Mrs. Guy) Wicks
(As ex-President, for one year after leaving office)	
Trustees designated to represent other organizations closely associated with the L.C.M.S. were:	
County Commissioners	Wm. C. Jones
Historical Club	Mrs. Cora Knott Miriam (Mrs. W.W.) Shelton



information booth at Rosauer's this summer. The booth is to be manned by young people paid from funds of the federal public employment program under a project locally represented by Edith (Mrs. Arthur) Partridge of Moscow. At the University of Idaho information booth, Lee Perryman also will be referring visitors our way.

Both booths will be dispensing the new Museum brochure just now available. Planned by Director Larry French, the brochure was printed in 4,000 copies under direction of Mrs. Carol Grupp of the Idahonian staff, at no cost to the Society. Costs were met by advertising tastefully arranged along the margins. The brochure contains pictures of the three historic owners of the present Museum premises--Governor McConnell, Dr. Adair, and Dr. Church--along with brief information on each. A map of Moscow shows routes to the Museum from each of the four incoming highways. Hours of operation and highlights of the Museum contents are shown. Done in two shades of blue in a fold-out design, it is an eye-catcher that visitors will want to both read and keep.

Notable improvements in the Museum condition and appearance are being wrought by Curator Lou Cormier, assisted by Charles Morrison, a University student working under the Youth Development Program at no cost to the Society. Charles is interested in learning all aspects of museum operation, and the program Lou has laid out will give him a well-rounded introduction. Window washing, yard work, painting, paper hanging, furniture refinishing, and visitor guiding are among the work planned. Major items will include sanding and painting the porch floors and steps, scraping and repainting the porch overhead structures, painting the fire escape, pepering the kitchen, and antiquing the kitchen furniture. If time allows, the window shutters will be refinished with a fire-resistant clear covering. A special project Lou has set himself is the refinishing of an old walnut chest of drawers left by Dr. Church.

Another Youth Development Program assignee is Miss Debbie McNeilly, a student from Colfax who is serving as full-time secretary at the Museum during the summer months. Debbie covers the usual office routines, helps with visitors, and provides typing service for Moore and Schrage on the Oral History Project.

A third contribution to our good fortune is the two days a week work of Sid Halmar, a U. of I. doctorate student majoring in history and planning a career in museology. Sid already has his name in at various museums for a job as curator, but for this summer is assigned by Professor Ellis Burcaw to help with organizing files and records of items accumulated at the McConnell Mansion, as part of his practical training. His special assignment for now is the large aggregation of old photos and other pictures which need identification, dating, labeling, indexing, etc. Of continuing benefit to all Museum staff is the personal oversight and counsel of Professor Burcaw given in connection with this and other student assignments at the Museum.

While no major changes in exhibits are planned for this summer, some valuable new exhibit items will be added. A beautifully carved wooden high chair in excellent condition has been donated by Miss Ella Olesen, Moscow, from her family heirlooms. From Mrs. Johanna Hooker Nelson of Kendrick have come a barrel churn, butter bowl, paddle, and molds, all hand made in the pioneer period. Mrs. Nelson's mother, Carrie (Mrs. Abraham) Hooker, worked several years for the McConnells in the present Mansion.

#### BOOK REVIEW

Homesteaders and Early Settlers of the Cedar Creek Ridge Area, Latah County, Idaho is the longish, but truly indicative name of a devoted pioneer record compiled in 1961 by Anna Smith Mitchell, one of its subjects. Mrs. Mitchell has since moved to Montana.

Dedicated to the preservation of every name that attached to her beloved Ridge in the pioneer period, the 107 book-size pages speak volumes for the zeal of the author for her task. With a separate account for each family, the book details names, places and dates of birth and death, marriage records, community locations, occupations, experiences, and present (1961) whereabouts of all those who settled there from the first four homesteaders in 1883 through the many who later bought and further developed still raw resources in a tide carrying into the 1920's.

Far from being a mere tabulation of "begats," however, Cedar Creek Ridge conveys also the essential flavor of the times: first school, first post office, first child born, first cemetery; Indian scares, primeval fears of coyote and cougar, hardships of travel and of everyday existence; the matter-of-factness of clearing and home building, ways of doing and of doing without, joys of living, the close-knit loyalties of a remote and self-reliant community in both triumph and tragedy; the shortened pioneer lives, the hard-won achievement of later comforts. In short, these straightforward pages give us the full panorama of pioneering, as experienced right here in our own county.

With regrets that the book itself is out of print, but with hopes that enough interest may be found to enable a republication under Society sponsorship, the following selections are offered to illustrate its style and content:

1. "From a virgin wilderness of the 1880s the Cedar Creek area, along with its neighboring communities, has been transformed into a fertile farming country with modern homes. Cars, trucks and tractors have replaced horses; wide graveled roads, the narrow rutted trails; electricity has replaced the kerosene lamps, the sadirons and wood stoves, and has provided refrigeration, heating devices in winter and cooling fans for summer. . . . Plumbing, with hot and cold water; plug-in washing machines replacing much

carrying of water and rubbing on the washboards, will surely lengthen the life span of all housewives!

"The younger generation seeing the beautiful fields, modern homes, good roads, postal service, in fact most of the modern conveniences found on the Ridge in 1961, will have no idea of the toil, sweat, back-aches, and hardships our pioneer homesteaders and settlers endured to make this possible."

2. "Henry L. Patterson, with his wife, Susan, and four little daughters, Emily, Carrie, Mabel and Lillian, came from near Augusta, Maine, to Tybo, Nevada, by train in 1877, where Mr. Patterson worked at a mine. Mrs. Patterson, with the help of a Chinaman cook and an Indian woman, ran a boarding house.

"While there, the oldest son, Harry, was born in 1878. In the late summer of 1879 they, with a family by the name of Cummings, and John Brookings, who in the meantime had joined them, he being an acquaintance from Maine, came by covered wagon to Cove, Oregon, where they spent the winter. While there, James, better known as Jim, was born.

"Between Nevada and Oregon they had come upon a deserted camp where they found a man's head stuffed in a ripped-open feather bed. Presuming it to be the work of a small band of Indians, they moved on as quickly as possible. The gruesome incident always remained a mystery.

"The spring of 1880 the Patterson family and John Brookings headed for Idaho Territory, again by covered wagon. They landed at the Cylear home on Little Potlatch Ridge, not far from Genesee, where they stayed till the spring of 1881.

"Meantime Mr. Patterson filed a pre-emption claim on land near Cameron, Idaho Territory, and moved to their pre-emption home in early spring, crossing the Potlatch

River near Juliaetta. The water was so high they had to swim their horses across; unload the wagons and winch them across with block and tackle; and by building a sort of trolley line across from tree to tree managed to send their household goods over on it. In sending one washtub of dishes across, it tipped over, spilling the dishes into the water--a total loss.

"Edwin (Ed) was born in the spring of 1883. In 1886 Mr. Patterson filed on a homestead on Cedar Creek, a man being allowed both a homestead and pre-emption in those days. They moved to their homestead that spring, and in 1888 their fourth son, Burt, was born. This was their home until about 1905, when they sold to Mr. and Mrs. John Crocker.

"Harry, Jim and Ed attended school in a little log cabin on the Bill Benner place, with Mrs. Clugston as teacher, who also taught in the new log schoolhouse which was later built on the hill south of the present frame school house.

"Henry L. Patterson died at Southwick, Idaho, 1910; his wife, Susan A., at Ustic near Boise, Idaho, in 1923; their daughter, Lillian Whiting, at Southwick, 1915; Emily Patterson Oylear at Nampa, Idaho, 1932; Mabel Patterson Jackson at Ustic, Idaho, 1936; Harry at Salmon, Idaho, 1938; Edwin at Klamath Falls, Oregon, 1953; Carrie Patterson Hughs at Nampa, Idaho, 1955; Burton at Boise, October, 1960. James is still living and resides with his daughter, Wanda Bushness, near Grand Pass, Oregon."

3. "Grandma Barbrah Michael was one of the tiniest women I have ever known. She, her son John, and her granddaughter Annie Woodard, lived together when I first remember them. Her daughter Sarah married Robert Holtz, but passed away before my recollection. Later Annie Woodard married Jim Morrison, whose homestead was close by.

"'Grandma' Michael, as she was called by the neighborhood, smoked a corncob pipe,



### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You are invited to join us as a member. Membership is for the calendar year (from January 1 to December 31) and is open to all interested persons. There are no requirements of residence or place of birth.

Please return the blank with your remittance to Mrs. H. R. Otness, P. O. Box 336,  
Moscow, Idaho 83843.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (please check):	Individual 1-year	\$2.50	_____
	Individual 5-year	\$10.00	_____
	Individual life	\$50.00	_____

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to Latah County Museum Society.  
A receipt will be mailed to you.

which she carried in a pocket on one side of her skirt, her tobacco and block of matches in a similar pocket on the other side of her skirt. If there was no fire going in the stove from which she could light her pipe, she would use a match. When at our house we children gathered close around and watched her every movement, eagerly awaiting the privilege of blowing out the match. She lived to be over a hundred years old, and was loved by the whole community.

"John broke a team of oxen to use in clearing the land in early days--the only oxen used on Cedar Creek. He told me of walking the thirteen miles to Kendrick one time to get some needed groceries, and asked the merchant for credit. When the merchant asked what security to pay he would give, John was so offended to have his honesty questioned he turned around and walked the whole way back up the mountain without buying a thing.

"'We went short on some things,' he remarked to me, 'but we got by, and I never again asked credit of anyone.' When he died he had money in the bank--and certainly no one ever questioned his honesty that I ever heard of."

4. The Frenches Move to Cedar Creek, as told by Mary French Ruberg:

"It was in the spring of 1891, when Mary was four years old, that her father took a notion to move from Palouse, Washington, to the wilds of beautiful, yet fearful Cedar Creek. There were three wagons to move us and our possessions. Father had gone up to the Gold Hill or Cedar Creek country a few weeks earlier and found the place he bought from a man who was sick of it. He had taken Burton, Carlton and Frank up with him and left them there when he returned to Palouse for his wife and girls.

"The boys were set to work cutting down small trees and brush, piling it up into big heaps to be burnt after father got back. Strick orders had been given Burton about matches, and he was the only one that had any, and they were allotted out just enough to make fires in a small boxstove in

the cabin for them to cook their breakfast and dinner on--supper they ate cold.

"Father had hired Mr. George Lyons and Mr. Jim Langdon to take their teams and wagons to Palouse with him to get us. The upheaval of tearing up everything from home was a fearful thing to Mary, not yet four years old. One thing especially was dreadful. Her father took her little red cradle she had always slept in, took off the rockers, and then nailed the box part to the back of the wagon for a feed box for our horses. Mad, Mary was mad as thunder, but all she could do was bawl and storm. It provoked Mr. Lyons until he turned to father and said, 'If that was a young one of mine, I'd whip her until she knew what she was bawling about.' Well, Father did just that, and I--I was so mad at Mr. Lyons I hated him and I never got over it; I would not go near him. But I fell in love with Mr. Langdon, he was so kind to me, picked me up and comforted me, gave me a bit of candy, and even told me about his little girl, Gladys, and boy, Henry. I was eager to see them.

"We moved by way of Moscow, Kendrick, Leland, Southwick, and on past what became the Darby place, then down into Lepold Canyon. The road was not wide enough in some places to let the wagons go through, so the men had to cut down some trees, and I remember they cut big notches in others so the hubs of the wagons could slip through. Later, Father cut those trees down and improved the awful road.

"We came to our place (which later became the Sanitor place) in mid-afternoon. How glad we were to see Burton,\* Carlton, and Frank, and they were no less glad. We found our home was just two little log cabins; one was only big enough for the big bed and to hang up clothes above it and sneeze in. The other cabin became the living room, bedroom, and kitchen. It had a crazy, tipsy floor of rough lumber and wide cracks between the boards; if we

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\* Burton L. French, later U. S. Representative in Congress for 13 terms, beginning in 1913.

dropped anything like a knife, spoon, spool of thread, etc., it was gone. So we learned not to drop things.

"The boys slept in the barn on the hay when they could, for we were close to thick timber and the coyotes and other animals made bedlam at night. There were too many for our dog. He would bark but not go away from the house. Father would take the shotgun and fire it into the woods, and for a while all would be still--then a wilder, fiercer cry would break loose. So it went until father and the boys cut down the timber back of the house and along the brook.

"The next summer the first schoolhouse was built at Gold Hill and my brother Harley taught school--year of 1892. I was eight years old in the spring when I started to school. I had not been so strong and rugged as the others, and it was some task to go to school. My first teacher was Mrs. George Lyons; she was a widow then. Then the next teacher was Mr. Faznett, a man I was deathly afraid of. . . .

"I was twelve years old the summer we moved to the Miller place, and I consider myself quite a carpenter, for I helped father a lot in the building of that house. I held boards in place, drove some of the nails in, and also did a bit of sawing.

"We lived there three years then moved to Gold Hill. The new schoolhouse must have been built in 1902 or the spring of 1903, for in the fall of 1903 father sold the Lepold or Miller place to Mr. Miller and we moved into the Clugston place until he got the old schoolhouse moved to our property on Gold Hill. . . . I graduated with the class of 1904."

5. The Park Community is remembered by Clara Torgerson Sneath:

"Ole H. Torgerson and family came to Boulder Creek in May, 1889, the first family to homestead in that community, although there were several bachelors ahead of them, including Nels Matson. With no road or bridges, the trip across the Potlatch Canyon was a

torturous one. When the hills were too steep and not safe with brakes alone, father and the boys would cut a small tree and chain it to the back of the wagon to drag so it wouldn't crowd the horses.

"In a short time several more families came over the same route, among them Sundbys, Dahls, A. R. Swensons, Jellebergs, Engars, Hellruds, Lars Kaains and Bohns. The men went together to build a road, using plows and teams to make a grade. Next a bridge was built across the Potlatch River which could be used the year around, even when the water was too high for the horses to wade. It was a rough ride across! Mr. Torgerson was an experienced woodsman; he placed logs on both sides of the river until they were the right distance in width; others felled and smoothed small trees to use as flooring, which were made fast to the stringers. When finished I am sure each man was proud of his achievement.

"Next came the school. A district was organized and the neighbors united in cutting logs and building a log schoolhouse. Mr. Swenson made the cedar shakes for the roof and to put on the cracks between the logs. First the cracks were filled with a stiff mud, then the shakes nailed on to hold the mud in place. Mr. Bohn, a carpenter, made the desks and seats from lumber bought at Troy, and hauled in over the new Road. Buildings were cheap in those days in comparison to present day requirements, yet were adequate. About forty pupils attended.

"Mail was brought in from the postoffice at Genesee, about thirty miles away. Again the neighbors united in asking for a postoffice, which was granted by the Federal Postoffice Department, with the name of Park. Mr. Andrew Hellrud was appointed the first postmaster. Mr. Lars Kaain carried the mail horseback across Boulder Creek from the Linden Postoffice for 18 years. Mr. George Leith was the first to carry the mail on the route from Southwick to the Crescent, Linden, and Park postoffices.

"Ole Torgerson became postmaster at Park in 1898. He built a small building to house the postoffice and a country store, which his daughter, Clara, took care of for twelve years. Business was good when the timber claims were taken up in the white pine sections.

"The Linden postoffice burned in 1928, so was discontinued and the rural route established direct from Southwick to Park. The Crescent and Park postoffices were later discontinued. In 1942 a route out of Deary was established for Park residents."

### WHAT'S NEW?

This will be a short year in Society operations. By action of the May 5 annual meeting, the Society year was changed to agree with the calendar year from now on. Thus the terms of present officers, committee assignments, etc., will expire next December 31, or as soon thereafter as the next annual meeting and election can be held.

Twenty-two new members have been entered on the Society roll since our last membership list was compiled in February. They bring our present paid-up listings to 169, of whom 96 are life members and 63 are annual members, according to the records of Lillian (Mrs. H. R.) Otteness. New members are as follows: (L) indicates life:

Mrs. Leonard J. Ashbaugh, Moscow; Frank Brocke, Troy; Mrs. Cedric G. d'Easum, Boise (L); Mr. Thomas P. Dowdy, Moscow; Mrs. Dora Fleener, Moscow; Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Hoffman, Moscow; Mrs. Gerald Ingle, Kendrick; Mr. and Mrs. Jess Johnson, Genesee (L); Mrs. Cora M. Knott, Moscow (L); Mrs. W. R. Lemke, Potlatch; Mrs. Eva L. Maize, Moscow; John B. Miller, Daly City, Calif.; Rob Moore, Troy; Floyd M. Reeves, Chula Vista, Calif.; Sam Schrage, Troy; Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Shelton, Moscow (L); Edna Sturman, Clarkston, Wash.; Miss Margaret Waller, Moscow; Robert Walker, West Lafayette, Ind.; Miss Laura

A. Waterman (L); Mr. and Mrs. Merton B. Waterman, Moscow (L). Mr. and Mrs. Waterman have held annual memberships until now. The membership for Miss Laura A. Waterman is in memory of a deceased sister. The plaque record of life memberships at the McConnell Mansion has been corrected recently to include the name of Bruce Shelton, omitted when his membership was paid some years ago.

The current visit of Dr. Clifford M. Drury, former Moscow pastor and now nationally known historian of early missionary work among the Indians of the Inland Empire area, would justify a banner "extra," if we could afford it. Dr. Drury's schedule in Moscow on July 1 includes preaching the 10 a.m. sermon at the Presbyterian Church, an open reception there from 11:15 to 1:15, and a lecture there at 7:30 that evening. His lecture will be drawn from his new two-volume treatise on Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and the Opening of Old Oregon, just now off the presses of the Clark Publishing Company, Glendale, California.

Should you miss these appearances, you may hear Dr. Drury at a dinner lecture sponsored by the Luna House Museum of Lewiston at the Lewis-Clark Hotel on July 2. He will also be speaking at the Talmaks summer camp meeting of the Nez Perce Tribe on July 3 and 4, near Craigmont.

A new and charming personality in our midst was seen by those who attended the Museum visits of state legislator's wives on June 21-22, in the appearances of Miss Janice Smith, talented Nez Perce Indian college student who is here helping with the Upward Bound program. In a singing voice as soft as moonlit velvet, and with gestures natural in flow as a meadowed brook, Janice told her hearers:

"Long ago an Indian war chief counseled his people. He wisely told them that education is the ladder to reach happiness. 'Go and climb that ladder,' he said in the following song:

"Go, my Son, go and climb a ladder.

Go, my Son, go and earn your feather,  
And go, my Son, and make your people proud of you.  
Work, my Son, get an education.

Work, my Son, learn a good vocation,  
And climb, my Son; go and take a lofty view.  
From on the ladder of an education

You can see to help your Indian nation,  
And reach, my Son, and lift your people up with you."

Following her song, Janice eloquently portrayed with voice and gestures the following poem written by a 16-year-old Yakima Indian girl, a friend of hers:

"Live Proud and Free"

"I am a young Indian. My hair is black, my skin  
is brown;  
But I feel no inferiority before the white man.

"Brown is the color of the earth;  
Black is the color of the sky before the life-  
giving rain falls.

"As the soil and rain bring forth food for life,  
materials of worth, beauty for pleasure,  
So must I, as the lord of nature, bring forth  
good into this world.

"All Indians are blessed at birth with the precious  
heritage of independence and pride.  
Like a costly gem, this precious heritage must  
be treasured,  
Lest it become a dull, worthless stone.

"God gave all his children talents to use for him.  
He gave to Indian youth a special mission, as  
first Americans,  
To pursue and cherish America's freedom,

"And to hold themselves, and others, proud and free,  
As it is meant for all God's children to be."

LATAH COUNTY  
MUSEUM SOCIETY

110 South Adams Street  
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Non-profit Organ.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 161  
Moscow, Idaho

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WANTED FOR THE MUSEUM

\* 1. A rectangular oak dining table, with \*  
\* leaves, on a divided square center pedes- \*  
\* tal. Both the McConnell family and the \*  
\* Adair family had such tables in the Man- \*  
\* sion, so one now would be especially \*  
\* suitable. \*  
\*

\* 2. Other furniture modish in the 1880- \*  
\* 1900 period. \*  
\*

\* 3. Other household items from the period. \*  
\*

\* Possible donors of large items should \*  
\* call the Museum office, 882-1004, for \*  
\* someone to come and judge their suitabil- \*  
\* ity before bringing them. \*

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