

10/30/74

LATAH COUNTY MUSEUM SOCIETY

Quarterly Bulletin
Kenneth B. Platt, Editor

October 1, 1974
Vol. 3, No. 4

Mark October 17 on your calendar. That's the date the Society is having a joint potluck dinner with the Genesee Civic Club, at Genesee, 6:30 p.m.

The September date previously considered was found to be too busy with seasonal work as farmers finished another bountiful harvest and prepared fields for fall seeding. The dinner now planned is open to all Society members and friends and will take the place of the usual October all-member potluck usually held in Moscow. Transportation will be arranged for those who need it, but get your ride request in early to Lou Cormier (882-1004) so that plenty of cars can be lined up.

The Genesee meeting will be the third in a series of around-the-county meetings in which the Trustees are taking the Society and its program to the people. As in the meetings at Potlatch in February and Kendrick in April, the Board will explain the purposes and work of the Society and explore possibilities for local pioneer history preservation projects. There will be several added features:

First, the meeting will be a joint affair of both the Society and the Genesee Civic Club--our meeting will be their main program for the evening.

Second, Prof. Wm. B. McCroskey of the University of Idaho, who has specialized in studies of pioneer farm buildings in the Palouse country, will speak on what is being done to preserve such buildings and what might be done along this line at Genesee.

Third, the potluck dinner, combining both Genesee and visiting delegations, is sure to be an unusually enjoyable social event.

Three possibilities for historic preservation at Genesee that seem particularly worth exploring are 1) the

railway depot, 2) a collection of early farm equipment, and 3) preservation of a typical horse barn of pioneer vintage. The Genesee depot, built in 1888, is the oldest building in the town, which relocated from Old Genesee and grew up around the railroad terminal. Besides being of historic interest for its own sake, it could serve to house the many pioneer items of clothing, household articles, etc., customarily displayed in vacant Main Street buildings on Community Days. Since the railway company no longer maintains an office in Genesee, presumably the depot could be acquired by the community at token cost. With the depot just across a street intersection from the city park area, the cost of moving it to city property would be minimal.

Genesee is the logical place in the county for a collection of early farming equipment. Farming has been virtually the one occupation of the community from its inception. The area has seen every step in farm modernization from hand cradling and flailing of wheat to the latest combine harvesters, and from horse-drawn to ultra-mechanized tillage equipment. Along with the earlier equipment, there should be preserved model layouts of typical farm plans of various periods, showing cropping practices, kinds of livestock, etc.

A large enough new building to house such a collection and display would cost a considerable amount, even in a simple Quonset-type structure. However, many barns in the area large enough for this are little used today. A good example is the Rudolph Nordby barn, only one mile from town. Built in 1875, this barn still is in sound condition and would require only moderate renovation. Its use for historic display purposes would preserve a fine pioneer period structure--certainly among the oldest major buildings in the county--in a convenient location for the community and for outside visitors.

The barn itself is a gem of pioneering structure, the support timbers being all hand hewn and dowel joined. Some of the original roof shakes are still on it, though now overlaid with metal roofing. The original wooden track and carriage for Jackson fork lifting of hay into the mow are still serviceable. Horse stalls, mangers,

harness, and other barn items still witness to its original purpose, for which it was used more than 60 years.

Mr. Nordby has indicated he is open to possible arrangements for placing the barn in some sort of historic-preservation keeping. The possibility that the Museum Society might take charge of the building under long-term lease or donation arrangements is being explored. These possibilities deserve careful study.

Genesee's Christmas Card Church

Though small in structural size and membership (75), the Genesee Valley Lutheran Church possibly is more widely known than most others in this part of the country. A few years ago Leon and Evelyn Flamoe Danielson, whose farm home is nearby, obtained several hundred Christmas card prints of the church, which were used by themselves and friends for greetings across the United States and in several European countries. Framed in trees on a gentle hill beside the old Genesee-Moscow highway some six miles north of Genesee, the steepled white building typifies the traditional church seen on millions of Christmas cards every year.

The Genesee Valley Lutheran Church also is among the oldest continuing churches in northern Idaho. Having decided in December, 1877, to have a church, the founding congregation called Pastor Emil Christenson from Astoria, Oregon. On March 17, 1878, he conducted their first service, in Norwegian. The next day the church was formally organized with the signing of a constitution by 32 members. It thus became the first church of the Norwegian Synod in the Rocky Mountain district of the Lutheran Church.

The Rev. Christenson solved the parsonage problem by homesteading 40 acres and building his own house. This property was sold to the congregation when he left in 1883, and in 1889 was exchanged for a nearer 40 on which a new parsonage was built. This parsonage, 24' x 25' and two stories high, cost \$138.00 for new materials, plus materials salvaged from the old parsonage.

The first sanctuary was a 19' x 25' log structure erected in the summer of 1880. To quote a 1955 history of the church:

"The first wedding performed in this log church was the August Halvorson wedding. The groom forgot to remove his overshoes and started down the aisle. His best man, Detlif Smith, thought it was not quite proper as the groom was wearing white gloves, so he politely reminded the groom that his overshoes should be removed for such an important occasion."

The present church was built in 1911 by a congregation of the former United Lutheran Church synod. In 1917, upon merging of the Norwegian, Hauge, and United synods, the Norwegian and United Lutheran congregations of Genesee Valley merged to form the present church body. The other church building was sold for \$100. Its bell was sent to Kennewick, where former members had organized a church, and its organ to Park (near Deary), where other former members also had organized a church.

In 1895 the pastor of the original church still was the only one of his denomination in Idaho and was called on to serve other churches over a 250-mile radius from Genesee. Quoting again from the 1955 history:

"He would travel by train and at times with team and buggy, taking two weeks to make the round trip. He also had services in school houses and lumber camps to reach as many of the Lutherans as possible who were moving into this new country. His salary was \$100 per year.

"Thanksgiving services were scheduled. It was bitterly cold and lots of snow. They had previously asked the Superintendent of the Genesee School to speak for the evening program, and he walked the 6 miles to the church from Genesee. Since there was no transportation back, either, Mrs. Christenson invited him to the parsonage for the night. Before retiring she asked him if he might like a little lunch before going to bed. His reply was in the affirmative, adding that he had not eaten since breakfast. To her dismay, everything had

frozen up--even to the teakettle on the stove."
(Editor's note: The above information was gleaned from a scrapbook kindly lent by Rudolph Nordby.)

Oral History Project Exceeds Expectations

When our Oral History Project was begun in July, 1973, it was hopefully expected to run for about a year. Favorable circumstances have combined to extend the work by nearly half. Careful use of project funds by project leaders Sam Schragar and Rob Moore, together with their willingness to work for low wages (\$300.00 a month), deserves first credit. Second, provision of a full-time project secretary by the State Employment Office under a training grant, at no cost to the project, enabled them to stretch funds further for other purposes. Rob Moore's recent decision to leave the project in September now has cut monthly wage and travel costs in half, leaving enough money to carry Sam Schragar to the end of the year, and possibly into January, 1975.

As previously reported, transcribing the oral tapes into final written form has required far more time than expected. This has held down the number of people who could be interviewed. It is apparent now that many more tapings of pioneer recollections than remaining funds will allow, would be desirable. No additional funds for this work are foreseen at this time, however.

Fair Exhibit Wins Second

Arranged by Harry Sampson and Lou Cormier, the Society's display of pioneer pictures and scrapbooks prepared by Cliff and Peggy Ott drew many viewers and won a second prize ribbon at the Latah County Fair in September. The photo of a 1920's threshing crew in action array beside a stationary threshing machine seemed to be the main attraction. Visitors with enough time browsed lingeringly through the scrapbooks filled with pictures and newsclips from early years.

Unfortunately, this year's booth was too small for more than one or two viewers at a time, despite a written request, sent in after last year's fair, for a larger booth. Now that the Society has publications to sell and a much increased treasury of historic items to exhibit, consideration might be given to taking a commercial booth in 1975 so as to present our programs more effectively.

Pioneer Accomplishments Shown in Fix Ridge History

Most Latah County residents know of the ridge country which makes up the southeast quarter of the county. Reaching north to Moscow Mountain and Bovill, it comprises the main drainage area of Big Potlatch Creek, or Potlatch River as it is sometimes called. The six named ridges in the county--Fix, American, Little Bear, Big Bear, Texas, and Cedar--lie between deep canyons cut by the Potlatch and its tributaries, rising 1000 to 2000 feet above the canyon bottoms.

The physical hardships imposed by these canyons on pioneer settlers have been noted in Anna Smith Mitchell's Homesteaders and Early Settlers of the Cedar Creek Ridge Area, reviewed in the July, 1973, Bulletin. Despite such hardships, the fine farming land covering the ridges attracted settlers as soon as the more open Palouse country lands had been filed on. Thus the first homesteaders reached Cedar Ridge, the most remote and inaccessible, only five years after Eleazer Fix filed the first homestead on the ridge stretching southeast from Joel which bears his name today.

The history of the Fix family is an unusually wide window on our pioneer beginnings in Latah County, as well as a detailed index to the settling of one section of the ridge country. But of even deeper interest is its record of individual achievement by family members as they "grew up with the country." We quote from the record written in 1964 by Mrs. Ira Fix, a daughter-in-law of Eleazer Fix, and published in Early and Present History of Fix Ridge, Latah County, Idaho:

"The first homestead claim was filed on Fix Ridge in 1878 by Eleazer Fix, who was born in Ohio March 12, 1825. It is the farm where the Anderson brothers now live.

"In 1854 he crossed the plains by ox team with his brother, Jack Fix. He lived one year in Sacramento, California, and ran a ferry boat on the Sacramento River. He then came to Walla Walla where he lived four years and hauled freight with an ox team from Walla Walla to Pierce City, Idaho, by way of Lewiston, Idaho.

"Fix and his boys went to the timber and made rails to build fences around their place to protect their crops from the wild horses that roamed the hills from Spalding to Moscow. The land wasn't too hard to break as it was mostly covered with bunch grass and some rose bushes which was the only brush and scarcely a tree. In 1879 Louis Taber homesteaded the Macie Nye place.

"Fix's crops consisted mostly of Corn and Barley and he raised a lot of hogs. The first year they lived on the Ridge the Indians were somewhat on the warpath and everyone had to go to Genesee and build a fort to defend themselves. However, the Indians found they were outnumbered so much they decided to pass them up and went on up to Steptoe where they later did some fighting.

"During the Indian scare one night when Mrs. Taber was alone with her two children, just babies, an Indian came to her door and told her the Indians were coming through that night and he feared they would kill everyone and burn their houses. He told her to lie on her porch and he would hide in some brush on the hill and whistle like an owl if they came, and for her to take her babies and hide in the brush below the house. Needless to say, she didn't sleep any that night. However, the Indians never came--it was only a threat. The Indian who warned her was very friendly with the Fixes and his tribe had threatened to do this, so he only wanted to help. He came early the next morning and told her they had gone through the country, camped on Sam Taber's place south of Tom Dennler's, and gone on without harming anyone. . . .

"In 1885 Fix took a load of bacon to Pierce City where the miners paid a good price for it. There was no

market at Moscow or Lewiston.

"In 1885 Gracie Fix was born to Eleazer and Cathern Fix. She died of scarlet fever in 1888.

"In 1890 Fix and sons, Sam and Ira, walked and drove 30 head of hogs to Moscow and were three days on the way. At that time Ira was 11 years old and he thought it was a mighty long way.

"At that time Lewiston was only a few tents, one small grocery and one saloon located on Snake River Avenue. People thought it never snowed in Lewiston and Fix would turn his oxen loose to graze on the large bunch grass when he would stop over. However, 1862 was a very severe winter and deep snow. Fix got as far as Lewiston but the snow was so bad he could get no farther. Due to the deep snow the oxen couldn't get to the grass and he couldn't buy feed. It was below zero so his oxen all died of starvation or froze to death. Fix spent the winter in Lewiston in a tent.

"In the spring of 1863 he bought ten mules sent in by boat and continued his freighting with a ten mule team. In the meantime he had bought a farm between Dixie and Walla Walla and in 1865 moved to his farm. While living there he became acquainted with a family by the name of Taber who had crossed the plains by ox team in 1865, coming from Missouri. They were five and one-half months on the way. Tabers had three boys and one girl. The girl died at the age of 17.

"This family of three boys consisted of Louis, James, and Samuel Taber. The father, John Taber, died in 1870 and in 1875 Eleazer Fix and Cathern Taber were married. In 1876 Lillie May Fix was born--now Mrs. Lillie Hall of Moscow, Idaho. Sam Taber was born October 28, 1866, and was 11 years old when his step-father, Eleazer Fix, moved with his family to Fix Ridge in the fall of 1877, where he homesteaded a place on Fix Ridge joining the Tom Dennler place on the south. He built a log cabin, then left his step-son, Louis Taber and Tom Pettijohn to batch in it until spring when he moved his family up. There were no roads or bridges, so they had to come through Genesee and nearly to Moscow to find a place to

cross the Potlatch River [Little Potlatch Creek] and get on the ridge.

"On July 9, 1879, Ira Wilbur Fix, the first white child to be born and reared on Fix Ridge, was born in a one-room log cabin with a dirt floor. He weighed 12 pounds and they had no nurse or doctor. Mrs. Fix's only care came from her 18-year-old daughter-in-law, Mrs. Louis Taber.

"In 1891 Fix moved to the place where Rex Taber now lives and lived with his step-son, Sam Taber, as he was getting old and was having arthritis quite bad.

"There was no cemetery on the Ridge for some time and finally Charlie Headrick was murdered by a man named Stevens and he was the first to be buried in the Fix Ridge cemetery. The story goes that it was such a healthy country that they had to kill a man to start a cemetery.

"Mrs. Theodore Schetzle died about the same time Headrick was killed, and [there] being no cemetery, Theodore Schetzle said he would donate an acre; Fred Ernest donated an acre, and they started the cemetery. . . . A small girl, Margaret Davis, was snake bit and died in 1890. Willie Dew ate lye and died. John Richardson was shot accidentally. Of course, there was a few others buried there in the early years, but not many. After all these years it still is not a very large cemetery.

"The first school house on the Ridge was a log school located a quarter mile north of the George Giese place. The first teacher, who taught two terms in 1881-82, was James Taber, step-son of Mr. Fix. The next teacher was Miss Thatcher from Moscow.

"The first preacher to preach on Fix Ridge was Will Berriman, a Baptist Missionary, in 1891. At that time all the Tabers and Fixes united with the church. In 1892 Rev. John Black came to the Ridge to preach and held a three weeks' meeting, organizing the first Sunday School with Sam Taber as Superintendent; Mr. Fix as Class Leader, and Lillie Fix as Secretary. In 1893 Rev. Michael Pearson came to Fix Ridge, held a three-

weeks' meeting and organized a class of the United Brethern. Several joined the church. From then on there was always church and Sunday School on Fix Ridge. Michael Pearson was pastor several years; then his brother, Jimmie Pearson, came, and after that various ministers.

"In 1897 Ira Fix was elected Sunday School Superintendent. He was 18 years old and served as superintendent for several years. Pearl Dygert was elected secretary and served for seven years.

"Pearl Dygert and Ira Fix were married February 17, 1907 by Rev. James Hatfield. They had first met at the Fix Ridge school house in 1891. They went to this school together the rest of their school days, except that Ira went two terms to a United Brethern college in Albion, Washington.

"After their marriage they lived a short time with Ira's half brother, Sam Taber; then moved to their own farm joining the Tabers on the east.

"Eleazer Fix died in March of 1906--age 81 years. Cathern Whetstone Fix died in 1926.

"Pearl and Ira continued to live on their farm until 1936 when they moved to Juliaetta and operated a chicken ranch until 1945 when they moved to Lewiston. Ira, having worked hard all his life, was unable to settle down to full retirement, so he worked for a time in a grocery on Main Street operated by Herman Giese. He then took employment operating the elevator in the Weisgerber Building where he continued working to within a week of his death. Ira Wilbur Fix died February 16, 1959.

"The eight Fix children, all born on Fix Ridge, are as follows: Orton Wilbur Fix--born January 24, 1908; Frank Henry Fix--born June 16, 1909; Elsie Alberta Fix Clark--born April 20, 1911; Lester Jackson Fix--born December 3, 1912; Arlee Pearl Fix Nye--born October 28, 1914; Macie Rose Fix York--born August 27, 1916; Amelia Vera Fix Lintz--born July 25, 1918; Mary Cathern Fix Atkinson--born March 25, 1922. There are 21 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

"My children's histories are as follows:

"Wilbur, the oldest, was born and raised on the Ridge, attending grade school in the Fix Ridge school house. Since the high school in Juliaetta was not accredited at this time, he decided to further his education at the Lewiston Business College, where he graduated and then went to work as manager of the Piggly Wiggly store in Clarkston. A year later, in 1928, he moved to Kendrick and started a grocery store for Morgan Brothers, where he worked for a year. Returning to Lewiston he then worked for the Nez Perce Roller Mills.

"He was married to Virginia Boyd (now deceased) in Clarkston, Washington, in 1927 and they had one son, Oliver Wilbur.

"Wilbur decided to become a minister, so after saving his money for college he quit his job at the Roller Mills and left for Nampa, Idaho, where he attended the Northwest Nazarene College; later going to Huntington College, a United Brethern school in Huntington, Indiana, and Fuller Theological Seminary in Los Angeles.

"He married Grace Hoskins of Myrtle, Idaho on October 26, 1932. They had three sons. . . . Wilbur held his first pastorate for the United Brethern Church in Juliaetta, Idaho in 1934. He and Grace then moved to California where he was State Superintendent for the United Brethern Church from 1936 to 1939, and has pastored several churches in Southern California since that time.

"In 1941 he entered the International Oratorical Contest and won. In 1948 he delivered the Keynote Address for the Optimist International. He was Past-President of the Glendale Symphony Association and has served on numerous other civic organizations in the Southern California area.

"Wilbur and Grace have had the privilege of traveling extensively in Europe and the Middle East, visiting the Holy Land in 1957. This past summer of 1963 he was selected as one of 57 United States clergymen to study advanced theology in Oxford University.

"He is presently pastor of the Grand Avenue Church in Santa Ana, California, having taken this pastorate for the Evangelical United Brethern Church in 1961.

"Frank . . . was one of the ornery ones, always climbing trees, breaking the other children's toys, jumping off barn roofs with homemade parachutes, etc.

"He was very musically inclined. I taught him originally on an old pump organ when he was 5 or 6 years old. He used to ride a mule 5 miles once a week to Juliaetta for piano lessons when 7 or 8 years old. He always tied the mule in the pines and walked the last mile since he was too proud to have the people see him riding a mule. We would not let him ride one of the faster saddle horses at that age that far. Father bought him a saxophone (second-hand) when he was 12 years old. He immediately gave up the piano for the love of the sax. He started his own little dance band when going to high school in Juliaetta. He rode horseback to school--would ride home every night--on week ends put his sax under his arm, ride six or eight miles through blizzards sometimes, to play for the entertaining, etc. Then back home afterwards.

"Frank left the farm in 1928 to go to Lewiston, Idaho, to pick cherries, since no rain came in time and the bean crop, which his father always split proceeds with the boys, could not be put in. This was the boy's income for 14 hours of hard work each day for six months out of the year or more.

"Frank always was thrilled when we would take him into the stores to buy their fall wardrobes for school. He liked to see the dressed up clerks taking money for merchandise. It looked so easy and exciting and like such clean work. So as soon as the cherry harvest was over, Frank decided maybe he would try to find a job in the city. The first job he found was with the Getty Ice and Coal Company where he drove an ice truck up and down the alleys delivering ice 12 and 14 hours a day. After three months he decided one day to try to get one of those fancy clerk jobs in a store.

"He went to work at C. J. Brier Company that same year,

1928. He worked there for two years, and in 1930 went to work for the R. C. Beach Company, which was a much finer and bigger department store. He was always in the men's department. He spent 5 years with the R. C. Beach Company, 1930 to 1935. However, during this period he still was running his orchestra. So in 1932 he took leave of absence from his job and contracted with the Dollar Luxury Liner out of Seattle, Washington, to the Orient, which included Yokohama, Tokyo and Kobe, Japan; Shanghai and Hong Kong, China; and the Philippine Islands, returning in 1933 to his job with the R. C. Beach Company and continued through 1935.

"In 1935 the C. C. Anderson chain of stores purchased the R. C. Beach Company and inherited Frank as one of their men's wear assistants. In 1937 Allied Stores purchasing corporation purchased the entire C. C. Anderson chain and they in turn inherited Frank and he worked up to assistant manager of the same store that he had started in in 1930. This was the year 1940.

"In 1941 he went ot Boise, Idaho, as buyer for the C. C. Anderson chain for all men's and boy's wear for the 33 stores, and made many trips to New York and other markets.

"In 1944 he was promoted back to Lewiston as Managing Director of the C. C. Anderson store where he had former-started to work in 1930.

"In 1950 he was promoted to Managing Director of the C. C. Anderson store in Boise, the largest department store in the state of Idaho.

"In 1952 he was requested to go back to Lewiston to expand and remodel his first love, the original C. C. Anderson store which he started in when it was the R. C. Beach Company.

"In 1955 he resigned and went to Salt Lake as sales representative for Day's Tailor Clothing, H. & L. Block, and Seattle Woolen Company, covering the states of Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Nevada.

"In 1956 in cooperation with his superior, Mr. Hollis

Day, they formed a corporation and purchased the Brownson's Men's store in Grand Junction, Colorado. He completely remodeled the store, trained an organization, and in the meantime his group purchased the Danielson's store in Eureka, California. Frank went there in 1958, remodeled the store, trained an organization and during this period he and his partners purchased the Harry Yesness store in Casper, Wyoming. Frank spent three or four months in Casper, making the transition, training management, etc. During this same year, 1959, he went to Spokane, Washington and purchased an interest in the Emry's men's store and is now President of Emry's in Spokane and Managing Director and coordinator of all four of the corporations.

"He has always been very active in civic affairs, having served on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce in Boise and Lewiston; having served two terms as Chairman of the Retail Trade Bureau in Grand Junction, and is now President of the Executive Retail Trade Bureau of Spokane. He was just recently elected as trustee of the Chamber of Commerce of Spokane."

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Space does not permit our giving detailed biographies of the other six children of Ira and Pearl Dygert Fix. Suffice it to say that in 1964 the third son was a successful United Brethern minister, the oldest and youngest daughters were wives of other successful United Brethern ministers, and the three middle daughters were, respectively, forelady in an industrial plant, a state-level occupational research director, and a highly placed electronics worker. All eight children have successful families.

The above account has been given in detail to illustrate the point that pioneer privations and the so-called "substandard" educational facilities that so often accompanied them by no means precluded distinguished accomplishment in rising far above these beginnings. The same devotion to duty, integrity and hard work that pioneer life so often demanded, appears to be at least one essential ingredient for success in general and one which can bridge many apparent deficiencies in other aspects of life.

Apologies and Announcements

Two corrections are noted for typographical errors in the July Bulletin: On page 13 the teacher referred to was a man, Mr. Monroe, not Mrs. On page 15, the year the railroad reached Genesee was 1888, not 1889.

* Some Pioneer Glimpses of Latah County was published early in September as Local History Paper No. 1 of the Latah County Museum Society. Printed in the same page size as the Quarterly Bulletin, it has 32 pages, including 8 full-page photo illustrations. The booklet is bound in an attractive green paper back with a print of the McConnell Mansion on the front cover. It is on sale at the Museum for \$1.25 per copy. Downtown stores also selling it at this price are Ken's Stationery, Bookpeople, Owl Drug, and Carters Drug.

* This is an expansion of the paper given by Mr. Platt at the Latah County Pioneer Association meeting in Moscow last February. It is hoped that the many requests made then for copies will lead to brisk sales now. All proceeds will go to the Society to begin a publications fund for assisting in financing other local history publications in the future.

Other publications of special current interest to readers of the Quarterly Bulletin are the summer issue of Bunchgrass Historian, published quarterly by the Whitman county Historical Society, P. O. Box 447, Pullman, Wash. 99163; and a book on horses in agriculture soon to be published by Thomas B. Keith, 933 East 7th Street, Moscow.

The leading article in the Bunchgrass Historian, "The Development of Railroading in Whitman County," is especially timely in that it parallels the review of railroad development in Latah County given in our own Local

History Paper No. 1, mentioned above. Copies of this issue are available from the Whitman County Historical Society for \$1.00 each. The title, expected publication date, and price of Dr. Keith's book are to be announced soon. Dr. Keith was ranch-born and raised near Colfax, Wash., and is retired from the Animal Science Department of the University of Idaho. Much of his book will deal with horse farming in the Palouse country.

A history of the Moscow Fire Department is being compiled by Mrs. Kenneth O'Donnell and is expected to be published some time in the next few months. The problem in bringing it to completion, says Mrs. O'Donnell, is that she keeps striking new rich veins of background information that must be followed up. Many human interest anecdotes have surfaced, and many more are to be had for the digging. With good luck, maybe this will prove to be Local History Paper No. 2 in the Society's series!

The republication of Whispers from Old Genesee and Echoes of the Salmon River, by John A. Platt, pending since last spring, finally is in sight. At last report printing was to be completed in September, leaving only binding yet to be done. This was targeted for completion in October, with a goal of getting the book into dealers' hands for the Christmas season. Pricing of the book must await determination of binding charges.

A printing of 1000 copies is planned, of which 250 copies will be routed through the Museum Society for retail selling. An outlet for nearly 100 of these is assured by the Platt family. Leads or inquiries for other possible sales should be referred to the Society office, 110 South Adams, Moscow. As with the Local History Paper mentioned above, all proceeds from sales of this book by the Society will go to its publication fund.

Society Affairs

Curator Lou Cormier reports 550 Museum visitors during July and August, compared with 248 for the same months last year. There were some visitors from all sections of the country, Lou reports.

Of special note was a visit by Mrs. Tage Ott of Claremont, California. Mrs. Ott was born the youngest child of Charles Munson, of Moscow. Mr. Munson was State Representative from this district when the University of Idaho was founded and had a hand in locating it at Moscow. He served several terms and is remembered as a constructive legislator and a highly respected public figure in this area. Mrs. Ott, after seeing how the McConnell Museum is being managed, announced her intention to place her father's official papers and other historic items from his career in the Museum.

Lola Clyde's old time candle-making demonstration at Expo '74 through the week of September 8-14 brought widely expanded awareness of our Museum and the Society's programs, as the many hundreds of visitors watched and listened. Many former Latah County people now living in Spokane came by, Lola reports. The nature of the demonstration tended to attract especially people interested in pioneering techniques and their preservation. Candles replaced the hominy-making demonstration that was postponed last June.

Society Treasurer Leora Stillinger reports the financial situation as follows:

Balances as of October 1:

General Operating Fund	\$1388.47
Oral History Fund	1182.82

The operating balance on hand will require continued careful management to pay costs to the end of the year. The new storm windows now ready to be installed should substantially cut heating costs next winter and give us some savings in future years for other uses.

A proposed new membership fee schedule has been put forward by the committee named for this task last April. Existing membership fee levels now provide only nominal income for Society operations. Since these fees were established costs have risen sharply and the Society has greatly expanded its public service programs. Publication of the Quarterly Bulletin, though done as inexpensively as possible, has added a service to members that deserves further development and increased support. Neighboring Whitman County Historical Society, for

example, charges \$4.00 a year for its quarterly publication, apart from membership.

Considering these facts, the committee has recommended keeping the present individual annual membership fee of \$2.50 only for persons 65 and over, that fee to include subscription to the Bulletin. Annual memberships for persons below that age would be raised to \$4.00 or \$5.00, with family memberships at some amount less than twice the individual fee. At the same time the life membership category would be closed and a new schedule of supporting memberships would be established.

In proposing to close the life membership category, the committee noted that the term "life" is misleading when we are seeking continuing support. The life memberships served to bring in substantial early funding which was much needed for restoring the Mansion and has been greatly appreciated, but our ongoing programs now call for continuing support. The committee therefore proposes that this class of memberships be replaced by supporting memberships of a continuing nature. A sponsoring membership of \$25.00 a year and a sustaining membership of \$50.00 a year have been proposed. Larger amounts would be welcome and would be credited as patron donations not expected to be continued from year to year.

In view of the "honor roll" recognition that has been given life memberships, all present annual members who might wish to become life members would be offered this opportunity up to the end of 1974. Those requesting this would be credited for annual fees already paid and would pay only the difference to make up the full \$50.00 life membership fee. Beginning with 1975, all individual memberships other than life memberships would be annual and would be categorized as "Regular," at \$2.50 or \$4.00, or as one of the supporting memberships noted above. The present schedule of membership fees for firms and institutions would remain unchanged. Contributions apart from specified membership fees will continue to be most welcome. The many public service programs carried on by the Society merit and need substantial additional funds.

The Trustees solicit your views on these proposals to aid in their decision on whether to adopt them.

Late News from Oral History

Sam Schrager, co-director of the Museum's Oral History Project, addressed Washington's first Aural History Seminar in Olympia on September 20. Sponsored by the Washington State Library and the Washington State Archives, the conference drew more than 150 people who are interested in the techniques and development of oral history in the state. Sam and William J. Langlois, chairman of the Aural History Institute of British Columbia (which has one of the largest collections in North America), jointly discussed oral history methods during both morning and afternoon sessions, and answered many questions from the audience. Other featured speakers at the conference were Bruce LeRoy, director of the Washington State Historical Society, and Dr. Earl Glauert, who teaches history at Central Washington State College at Ellensburg.

Sam found that Latah County is a pioneer in the field of oral history in the Pacific Northwest. According to others at the conference, our Oral History Project is the first full-time effort to be undertaken in Idaho, Washington or Oregon, and may well be the largest project collection in the three-state area. Sam was pleased to see that his interviewing experience can be helpful to others who are trying to save their communities' heritage. He left the conference convinced that oral history is rapidly becoming a widely used research technique and a highly significant development in our ways of preserving the past.

Oral History Project secretary Sherrie Fields is leaving the project on October 7 to become secretary in the financial aid bureau at the Latah County Courthouse. Sherrie has worked for the project through the WIN program of the Idaho Department of Employment since last October. Because her Museum job would have expired in a few months, she is obliged to accept this permanent position, for which she is well qualified.

Sherrie has made a very important contribution to the preservation of our local history. She has shown great patience and persistence in producing accurate transcripts from informal conversations that would have

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confounded many experienced secretaries. Her finished transcripts are nearly flawless. To process our tapes she has had to spend seven hours daily at the typewriter, when almost any other work might have seemed less demanding and more immediately rewarding. Her co-workers owe her a debt of gratitude, and will miss her.

The project staff will now have to reassess what the project can accomplish in its concluding months. Without a regular secretary, the production of transcripts will have to be shifted to other sources, and fewer will be completed because of financial limitations.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual business meeting of the Latah County Museum Society will be held at the McConnell Mansion at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, January 4, 1975. The meeting agenda will include the annual reports of officers and committee chairmen, election of officers for 1975, and such other business as may be appropriate. Potluck dinner--bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert sufficient for six people.

Wanted: Copy of Western Historical Publishing Company's 1903 History of North Idaho. \$25.00 if complete and in good condition. 882-0234.