

LATAH COUNTY MUSEUM SOCIETY

McConnell Mansion 110 South Adams

Moscow, Idaho

Quarterly Bulletin  
Kenneth B. Platt, Editor

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A Wave to the Old

The 1974 attendance level of 2,526 visitors, up 27% from 1973, indicated corresponding growth of community interest in the activities of the Society. The 1,055 students in this number, from all schools of the county except Genesee, Juliaetta, and Kendrick--up 65% from 1973--also showed increased appreciation of the unique educational value of the Museum. Previous Bulletins have mentioned most of the year's activities, but a brief resume is justified:

--The 1974 room exhibits, featuring a trapper's cabin, an 1890s bedroom, and pioneer Idaho cattle ranching equipment, reflected growing staff skills in display layout and content. If you haven't seen these exhibits so far, you may still do so through February, after which new ones will replace them.

--Continued improvements of the Museum premises and equipment included installation of storm windows; planting of yew shrubs along the south wall of the Mansion; a fine new flagpole on the front lawn, donated by the veterans' organizations of Moscow; and four new showcases for display items.

--Board meetings held in Potlatch (February), Kendrick (April), and Genesee (October) increased awareness of the county-wide scope of the Society's programs.

--Some Pioneer Glimpses of Latah County, published in September as Local History Paper No. 1 of the Society, launched the publications fund project first visualized two years ago. Proceeds from sales of this booklet

(selling for \$1.25 a copy) are accumulating to help finance other local history manuscripts in the future. Our book review in this issue introduces an account which we hope will become Local History Paper No. 2.

--The possibility of the Society's acquiring the Rudolph Nordby barn at Genesee to house a museum of pioneer farming equipment was introduced at the Genesee meeting in October and is still under consideration. Built in 1875 and thought to be the oldest major structure in the county, this barn deserves special place as an item for historic preservation. An application is being filed to place it on the National Register of historic buildings.

--The Oral History Project gained wide recognition as the most successful of its kind in the western U.S., bringing an invitation to leader Sam Schragger to describe his methods as guest speaker at a regional conference on such projects in Olympia in September. Sam intends to continue working on the collected information to bring out one or more publications as originally planned, after the remaining funds for this project run out in February. The possibility that the Board might budget limited additional funds to help Sam buy tapes and meet travel costs for selected additional interviews is being studied.

--New acquisitions of the Museum included 116 items from 15 persons. Specially notable among these were: a cast iron teakettle from Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wallace; a genuine beaver hat from Larry Gustin; a dress of Mrs. Borah's and archive materials of the E. T. McConnell family from Frances McConnell; 2 embroidered pillow shams of about 1900 vintage from Mrs. John Milton; early home pictures of the former Day family of Moscow from Mrs. Harry Marsh; a book, Universal Classic Manuscripts, for the period from Henry V to Queen Victoria, from Ione Adair; a scrapbook of pioneer state senator John W. Brigham from Mr. and Mrs. Burnis Brigham; 13 items of clothing of her mother and grandmother from Mrs. Mabel Walters.

In sum, 1974 was a notable year for the Society, with worthwhile progress on many fronts.

A Bow to the New

The following officers for 1975 were elected at the Society's annual meeting on January 11:

President: Leonard Ashbaugh, Moscow

1st Vice President: Carol (Mrs. M. M.) Renfrew, Moscow

2nd Vice President: Edward H. Nygaard, Moscow

Secretary: Gertrude (Mrs. W. L.) Lundquist, Moscow

Treasurer: Leora (Mrs. C. R.) Stillinger, Moscow

Trustee-at-Large: Grace (Mrs. Gerald) Ingle, Kendrick

Trustees-at-Large whose terms carry over from previous election are:  
Nancy (Mrs. R. E.) Hosack, Moscow  
Jess C. Johnson, Genesee

The immediate past President, Dr. Ray Berry of Moscow, continues as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Trustees designated by the groups which they represent are:

Historical Club: Mrs. Cora M. Knott, Moscow  
Mrs. W. L. Lundquist, Moscow

Pioneer Association: Melvin Alsager, Moscow, and  
another person yet to be named

County Commissioners: W. C. Jones, Moscow

The professional staff is made up of:

Larry French, Potlatch      Museum Director  
Lou Cormier, Moscow      Museum Curator

The new administration will not lack for challenges. Two good ones carried over from 1974 are a) to put out a 15- or 16-month engagement calendar featuring historic pictures and dates of Latah County, to go on sale at the beginning of the 1975 fall school term as a money-raising project of the Society; and b) to form

an auxiliary to the Society to promote Society interests in ways not readily usable by the Trustees. The calendar project was fully worked out in 1974, but too late for printing. The main challenge remaining is to organize sales outlets and followup well in advance. The auxiliary project is entirely untried.

A continuing challenge is to greatly expand membership in the Society, particularly among younger people and those living outside Moscow. Our membership gain of 11% in 1974 is appreciated but not too comforting in view of the 217-member total. This number is far too low. In contrast, membership in the Whitman County Historical Society is 467 after only 2½ years of operation. That membership is widespread over the county and outside it, with only about 30% in Pullman, compared with 65% of the LCMS membership in Moscow.

The greatest challenge--one not to be met fully in any one year--is to raise enough money to provide the added space needed to receive, protect, display, and exploit the historic value of the host of Latah County historic items still not in the Museum. Now that county tax support (\$9,000 a year) provides adequately for operating costs of the Museum, attention can be given to starting a drive for funds to fully excavate and equip the basement area of the Mansion and to build an underground storage vault for articles needing controlled temperature and humidity conditions. Closely related to physical development is the need to finance year-round services of a director. The two go together. Adequate space will call for expanded educational programs, and these will require more time of the Museum director to plan and carry them out.

Can the Society generate enough support in Latah County to pay a full-time professional museum director? If not, can we join with the Luna House Society or the Whitman County Historical Society to jointly hire a full-time director? These are some of the questions that lie between us and the enlarged public services we propose for the Society.

Where the Money Went in 1974

Treasurer Leora Stillinger's records show total receipts of \$7,770.99 in 1974 (exclusive of a beginning balance of \$269.96), an income of \$2,395.82 above 1973 receipts. An additional \$3,500 was approved by the County Commissioners for major maintenance on the Mansion and was paid directly by the county for storm windows. Following is the Treasurer's summary of the Society's receipts and expenditures.

Balance on hand January 1, 1974	\$	269.96	
Received during 1974:			
Membership fees		455.00	
Publications		119.00	
Donations		1,134.70	
Door fees		239.50	
County tax allocation		5,500.00	
Miscellaneous income		<u>322.79</u>	
Total			\$8,040.85
Expenditures during 1974:			
Salaries	\$	2,821.00	
Utilities		1,402.06	
Office equipment		377.50	
Office supplies		660.04	
Taxes and insurance		136.11	
Permanent fixtures		466.48	
Maintenance		266.93	
Display		592.68	
Publications		305.88	
Miscellaneous		<u>308.59</u>	
Total expenditures			\$7,297.27
Balance on hand January 1, 1975	\$		743.68
Dedicated account at Bank of Idaho			\$1,372.50
Interest from above certificate in savings account			660.85

The Budget for 1975

For 1975 the Society has been told by the commissioners to submit for approval a budget using the full \$9000 of anticipated tax allocation now authorized by law. That budget, as prepared by a committee consisting of Leora Stillinger, Lou Cormier, Leonard Ashbaugh, and Larry French, and as approved by the Society at the annual meeting January 11 is as follows:

Office	
Equipment	\$ 275.00
Supplies	600.00
Taxes and insurance	1,018.00
Salaries	
Director	1,500.00
Curator	800.00
Secretary @ \$2.30/hr. \$500.00 to 700.00	
Utilities	1,600.00
Permanent fixtures	600.00
Maintenance	400.00
Display	300.00
Publications	200.00
Miscellaneous and petty cash	<u>300.00</u>
Total	\$8,293.00

The balance of the \$9000 received from the county will be placed in a contingent fund to be used at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

1974 Membership Changes

Membership Chairman Lillian Otness reports a net gain of 22 members during 1974, to a new total of 217. All of this gain was in life memberships, as 18 annual memberships were lost by non-renewal to offset the 18 new annual memberships. We now have 133 life members, or just over 61% of the total.

The request of the Trustees in the October Bulletin for members' views on the membership changes proposed in that issue brought no response, which suggests that there are no objections to the proposal to raise the annual dues

and to eliminate new memberships in the life category. The Board of Trustees is continuing study of possible revision of the dues structure.

### Hall of Pioneers Gains

Cliff Ott reports three new panels of pioneer family pictures hung in the Pioneer Hall section of the Museum during 1974, making a total of seven panels there now. Although progress on these and on compiling area albums of pioneer pictures has not moved as fast as he would like, new albums for the Genesee-Juliaetta-Kendrick area, the Potlatch-Princeton-Harvard area, and the Moscow area are approaching completion.

### Historical Paintings on View

During the remainder of January residents of the Moscow area have the opportunity to see a unique group of paintings of old trading centers in Latah County on display in the lobby of the Moscow branch of the First Security Bank of Idaho. The artist is an LCMS member, Ann (Mrs. Dennis) Driscoll, of Troy, who is well known locally as the author of They Came to a Ridge. In Mrs. Driscoll's statement accompanying the display she writes, in part,

"When I began oil painting my interests grew towards the historical theme. I enjoy mostly painting our old trading posts. Some of them I've done were painted from composites of old photos, but in a number of cases there were no pictures, and I then relied on historical witnesses to assist me. I've substantiated these paintings by asking the person or persons to sign an affidavit to the effect that the painting of the old town site is as historically accurate as possible."

In addition to the scenes in the bank's display Mrs. Driscoll has completed paintings of Jansville, Helmer, Brickaville, Joel, and Howell. She has had showings at the Valley Art Center in Clarkston and the Palouse Room at the Bon Marche in Spokane. She has a revolving showing in the Reserve Section at the University of Idaho library.

BOOK REVIEW

Fields and Pine Trees, by Mrs. Tracy Ross, is a nugget of history covering a thumbnail community in the extreme northwest corner of Latah County, first known as Pine Creek, now as Evergreen. It was one of Latah County's 42 rural school districts in the years before consolidation. You might call it the Idaho half of Farmington, Washington.

Pine Creek, on the Idaho side, was a recognized settlement area as early as 1869. The completed public survey plat of the Idaho lands was approved in the Boise Land Office on December 26, 1871, Mrs. Ross tells us. On January 1, 1872, Lyman Davenport filed the earliest recorded land claim in Latah County at Pine Creek on the NE 1/4 of Section 13, Township 43 N, Range 6 W, Boise Meridian. Washington-side surveys were not made until 1876.

Latah County's official records show the area today as Farmington Precinct, but General Telephone Company lists it as Evergreen, and when you read Mrs. Ross's description you can see why its residents still think of it as Evergreen:

"Evergreen has a spectacular setting. The foothills of the Coeur d'Alene Mountains range in a semi-circle in the east. These mountains are almost entirely covered with trees which spill over the top to border with green the steep fields on the hillsides. . . . The district has a few square miles of farmland, some farm homes and many Ponderosa pines. Its dimensions are three and one-half to four miles from tree line to state line, and three miles north to south."

How could so small an area, whose pioneer dreams of future greatness\* evaporated with a dying puff of locomotive steam in the 1890s, justify the efforts of

\*See Charles A. Chandler's "Alas, Poor Farmington," The Pacific Northwestern, Vol. 15, No. 4, Fall of 1971.

a historian and the interests of readers? The answer to both questions is in the author's handling of her subject--in her going back to first names on the land and tracing the changes of ownership from then to now. This is historic documentation at its best. All the other essential "firsts" are recorded, too.

But Mrs. Ross has not merely produced a worthwhile historic record and given a basis for continuing local pride and interest. In revealing and clarifying her community's beginnings, she has also had a lively eye for the quirks of humanity that endear any tale and give it wider interest. For example:

"West of Evergreen, Mr. George Truax was creating a town from part of his homestead. He made maps and plans. March 19, 1877 he filed with the county auditor a plat for a town site.

An historian who studied the situation has said that Mr. Truax was arbitrary in drawing his lines. He arranged to leave out of his town those he didn't want. Even today some homes that look as though they should be within the town are not. The residents of these homes never vote with the townspeople but have a separate polling place of their own. When the town developed a piped water system the left-out homes were left out.

Mr. Truax named the town Farmington in honor of his native town of Farmington, Minn. He was ready to sell lots."

Out on the homesteads the hard life of first-settler pioneering mocked the 1873 depression--how could "hard times" come to a dugout shelter where the total wealth was the product of one's own hands? The people of Evergreen persevered through the 1877-1878 Indian uprising that killed one too-confident homesteader. They drove out the Mastersons' interstate horse thieving gang that headquartered there briefly in the '80s. They successfully battled the mighty N. P. Railway Company's grant claims on land they already occupied. But when the multiple disasters of 1893 struck, even they buckled

to the blow. As Mrs. Ross writes:

"An old timer recalled, 'It started to rain on the 28th day of August and she just kept raining for four months, steady. The sky never seemed to clear and the sun didn't shine. Everything that was planted either rotted where it stood or became so water logged that it couldn't properly develop.

'In November the snow began. It grew colder and continued to snow and the ground froze solid. There were no places to spread out and dry the small lots of wheat that were saved. Snow covered all natural feed and stock died of starvation. Panic and depression made hard times worse. It was a tragic year. The country was a long time recovering.'"

But now, back to the main theme of the author's efforts, the record of individual settlers and their holdings. Here is where Mrs. Ross's work is unique, at least in this reader's experience. Section by section, family by family, she gives the record of settlement of the Evergreen community and carries it down to present ownerships. This record is the more valuable because so many "first settler" names have disappeared from the community. As Mrs. Ross points out:

"Nowadays you often hear some person say with great pride, 'My father, my grandfather, homesteaded that place.' He may well be proud to have such an ancestor. To obtain a parcel of land with your very own name on the [original] deed was no small project. Courage was needed to hang on through all the deprived years of the contract.

In 1914 only five parcels of Evergreen land still carried the name of the homesteader-- Adin Davis, Herrider, Boots, Rees, and W. H. Davis. Now in 1974 only two places belong to descendants of first owners--Benjamin Boots and Adin Davis."

There is more than a hint of nostalgia in the author's summary of the Evergreen experience, typifying the Palouse country farm town experience in general:

"Evergreen population was large in the 1890s and early 1900s. The phrase so often repeated in this account, 'no one lives there,' 'no home is on the place,'--these words describe what has happened in Evergreen. It has gone the way of all farming communities. There are nine homes and one house which is rented part of the time. Two other homes are not in the district but the families living there are Evergreeners anyway.

By 1904 homesteading days were over in Evergreen. All the available land was staked, filed, fenced, cultivated and otherwise improved. It was 'a heap o' livin'' in thirty-two years."

Mrs. Ross closes her account with short histories of eleven Evergreen families, of which the following is a sample:

"The Boyers came from Indiana in 1901. They were six: Grandfather Boyer, George and Rose, and their children Bernice, Guy and Cletus. Another daughter, Doris, was born in Idaho.

The grandfather bought a quarter in Section 7 in Evergreen District. On the place was a one-room log cabin with a single two-by-two-foot window. The Boyers moved in and later rebuilt the house, adding more room. George and his friend Mike Torpey hauled lumber from a saw-mill over the hill. Mike was also an Indiana man.

The Boyer children went to school at Evergreen and Farmington. Guy was a soldier and served his country in France in World War I.

At the present time, 1974, Bernice and Cletus live in Spokane, Doris and her husband, Fred Cam, are living in Moscow. Guy has passed

away. The Boyer land was sold to the August Wagner family. Bud Wagner lives in the home."

Fields and Pine Trees is not now available for general distribution, but possibilities of publication are being studied. Bulletin readers who would like to see it become Local History Paper No. 2 of the Latah County Museum Society, please let the Editor know.

### Hands Across the Canyons

To the generation that settled northern Idaho the precipitous river canyons of the region were just part of a package of hazards that somehow cemented frontier relationships into a code under which open-handed living and mutual aid in emergencies were implicit. Each frontier area in its own way produced the same code, and LCMS readers will recognize it as part of their own heritage even though lived out in a different setting. With this in mind we present below a brief sample of pioneer ranching experience in Nez Perce County as recorded in two letters written by Mrs. Lucille F. Clark, who lived as teen-ager and ranch wife in the canyon and ridge country of upper Tammany southeast of Lewiston from 1898 to 1910. The letters were written in response to her reading of John Platt's Whispers from Old Genesee and Echoes of the Salmon River when it was first issued. They reveal many facets of Idaho ranch living around the turn of the century.

"Santa Monica, Calif.  
10/21/62

"Dear Mr. Platt--

I have just finished reading the book and it was like getting a letter out of the past. The Clarks went to Idaho from California in 1878. The farm was at the head of the Clark Gulch. The farm land was level, and joined the Jap Mounce place. We had quite a lot of pasture in Ten Mile joining the farm. George's headquarters was at Frenchie. After he sold his cattle, I think the Fountain boys took over. I never was there but there was hay land, and the farm machinery had to be packed in on pack horses.

"Some of the people you mention I knew, others I have heard George speak of. . . . Bill Forgey was a close friend of my Husband. You might like to know what become of Bill. We went to Alberta and bought railroad in 1910. Bill quit the harness in Asotin a few years after that, and the C.P.R. agent sent him up there alone. He bought land near Bassano in a very dry part of the country. The grass was so high he couldn't see the rocks. . . .

"About the time Bill had a cabin up the agent came up from Lewiston with a crowd of speculators, and when he found out where Bill had located he went over and told him to get out of there. He found land for him near our place. The C.P.R. Land Company transferred his payment to the other land. . . . Mrs. Forgey . . . finally got Bill to sell out and go to Oregon. He hated to leave as he was doing very well. His health failed and they sold out and come down here where the two youngest boys were located. Bill did not live very long. . . .

"I remember that you and one of your friends stayed all night with us once. You said that you and your mother cast your first votes the same year. . . . We were always glad to have the people from the Salmon and Snake Rivers stop with us on their way to and from Lewiston. George had many a meal with the folks up there. On the roundup of course they had their camp. . . .

"My family come from western Oregon to Tammany in 1898. Mother's parents crossed the plains from Ohio in 1852. My grandfather used to tell me it took them six months, and that I would live to see the time that we could make it in two hours. I am the last of my family, and there are very few of my old friends living. . . .

Sincerely, Lucille F. Clark"

"November 5, 1962

"Dear Mr. Platt--

Your letter was here when I returned from Riverside a few days ago. Every two months my grandson goes to Arizona, New Mexico and Texas for the Sunkist Company,

and he likes to have his 'pistol packin' grandma' stay with his wife. Olive says she is not afraid, but gets lonesome. This is the first place that I have ever lived where I have been afraid to step outside at night. We lived here two years in 1921 and 1922, and never thought about locking our doors in the day time. . . .

"I never knew any of the Caldwells, but did know John Cambell and his beautiful white horse. When they were shipping cattle from Lewiston once, Hawley Wickham of Grangeville, George's brother-in-law, roped one of Caldwell's steers and sheared the brand. Cambell called him a name that no man takes, so they had a fight. Both had been drinking. Hawley had old John down and had his thumbs in his eyes. Bill Caldwell was outside the fence, but reached through and knocked Hawley off, then the crowd stopt the fight. As they were leaving the corral Cambell jerked Lafe Mounce's gun out of the holster; George was right behind him and grabbed the gun. That must have been in the late nineties. . . .

"On one of their trips to Alaska, my son Ted and his wife stopped at Bearer-lodge in northern Alberta to visit a friend. While there they met a man just back from a trip to Lewiston. His name was Brown, and he told Ted that he had rode for his father, and he had never known anyone that could throw a rock like George Clark could. That was a name I had never heard George mention, but I told Ted that the man knew his dad all right. I think I would have rather had George take a shot at me than throw a rock at me. He had a lot of practice bringing cattle up out of Snake River. An old cow would get below one and just look at you. Without a good dog the next best thing was to bounce a rock off her back. . . .

"During the Indian War the government sent out a lot of old Civil War guns to the settlers and the people of Lewiston. The guns had been converted from muzzle loaders but still were a one shot gun. When George was running cattle in the mountains he bought three of those old guns to set for bear. He sawed the stocks from two. The other one we still have. One year the bear had been bad, and Jim Lambert, George and two other men were in the woods looking for a place to build a pen

where they could set the trap. In setting a gun they always built a pen, so as not to endanger a man or livestock.

"They came onto a grizzly eating on a steer that he had killed. The only gun they had was that old Civil War gun. George shot him and killed him with the one shot. I thought they took quite a chance. If he had wounded the bear he could have been onto them before George could have got another cartridge in the gun. Lambert hit the bear over the head with the back of an ax, which was another bad chance. George said he yelled at him not to go near till they made sure he was dead, but should look for a tree that was easy to climb. It was summer, but Lambert wanted the hide so they skinned him out, and there wasn't a bullet hole in the hide. I told George that was bad shooting, if he shot at the chest and hit the bear in the mouth. . . .

"We still have the Winchester shotgun that George bought in 1885. I used it quite a bit in 1914. We had built a house that summer and moved out of the shack that we had been living in since 1910. We had planted shrubs and trees but they were not large enough to give protection to the chickens. I had raised 300 chickens and wanted them for harvest. The hawks started carrying them off. I kept the gun in the kitchen, not loaded, but it was a pump gun and could be loaded fast as I dashed for the yard. The hawks were like Gen. Chennault's Flying Tigers, if they missed they did not make another try for an hour or so. There are two breeds of hawks that we try to protect, a big gray and the red tail. They never bother chickens, but would follow the men at haying time and grab mice out from under the pitch forks. I had to kill the chicken or Cooper hawks, I believe they are called, or I would not have had a chicken left.

"One day I heard the chickens squall and dashed out the kitchen door, to meet a Blackfoot Indian. They were haying for a rancher north of us. He could not speak English and I could not talk Blackfoot. All he could say was, 'Bassano me.' There were only trails across the prairie. I pointed to the gate that would take him out of our pasture onto the Bassano trail. Three days

later I heard the chickens at the front and run for the door only to meet the same old Indian. All he said was 'Pony me.' I thought he wanted to feed them and pointed the way to the barn. When he got there he could see the watering trough. All he wanted was to give them a drink. I wondered what he thought to be met twice with a shotgun.

"I have never been past the old Clark ranch since a new house was built. I always wanted to build above the small orchard where the ground sloped, and get out of the mud. I believe that Lafe Mounce Jr.'s son-in-law owns that part of the ranch [now]. The Lloyd Bros. have the Tenmile part, and the 120-acre field that joins the Jap Mounce place. My father-in-law scripted that field. They may have the west field that George bought from Frank Kettenbach, before George was of age. His sister held the deed till George was old enough. There was 90 acres of farm land on it, the rest a rocky pasture that run down into Tenmile. That part of the pasture could be used in the winter, while the other side, where there were no rocks, the cattle had to be taken out of there before the frost.

"George rolled three horses on the brakes of the Snake River. One was stepping up over a rock and got his foot in the ring stirrup. The last one was after we were married and was one of my favorite horses. George called that a case of horse suicide. His hind feet slipped off the trail and he made no effort to get back, but just sat down. George hung onto the bridle reins as long as he could. The horse went over backwards end over end. George borrowed a pony that was just about big enough to carry the saddle, which could be repaired. He walked the rest of the way home. However the cattle thought he had a horse, so went along without giving any trouble. . . .

"When my folks lived on the old ranch from 1902 till 1905, Warren was still running a stage to Cottonwood. He used a spring wagon and not a stage, with only two horses. The horses would be played out by the time they got within a quarter of a mile from the house and the driver would be up to get someone to pull them out.

My job was to go bring a team in from the pasture and Dad would pull the stage out. It got to be such a regular thing that we would keep a team up till after stage time. We would take them to the top of the gulch, then they were on the level and could go on to Jap Mounce's place where they changed horses.

"In the spring when the snow went off with a rush, so much water went down the road that holes were washed out deep enough to bury a horse. I may have had something to do with having the road changed. When that highway district was formed two of the commissioners were Jack McCormack and Horace Nelson. I told Horace that the road should be changed, that in the long run it would be cheaper to make that grade than to build up a grade in the gulch and have to repair it every spring. . . . I never could see any reason for opposing it. It did not take any farm land. In fact it would have benefit to the ranch back in the days of the freighters. There was a wide place in the road where they could camp over night.

"Most of them were all right, others helped themselves to a horse collar and a few halters from the barn. One man and his wife that both drove a six-horse team often camped there. One evening she came to the house for a little flour to make gravy. The next morning we saw where they had picked one of our chickens and never bothered to burn or bury the feathers. It used to make me sick to see those people go past the house, and hear the horses groan when they went up against sore shoulders, and see the blood on their sides where the black-snake whip had been used. No S.P.C.A. there in those days, and the poor beasts had no redress. . . .

"We were never bothered with cattle thieves in Canada. I guess in the real early days they were, but when they started sending them up for 21 years it stopped it. The wolves were bad when we first went there, and the stockmen put such a large bounty on them that it brought in expert hunters. They are not like a coyote, they never come back to a kill. I don't know if the hunters got them or they couldn't stand civilization. A few years ago the government sent in men to poison the coyotes. It is a method that I never heard of. The bait

sticks up on something and when the coyote takes it a needle hits him in the mouth and he gets a dose of cyanide. They were good mouse catchers, but were getting too many calves, and some of the farmers wanted to keep a few head of sheep. . . .

"I always liked the old ranch in Idaho and hated to see them sell it, but we could not run the two places so far apart. George never wanted to go back to it. As cold as it got in Alberta, he liked it better. The barnyard was never muddy. We had storms at harvest time but it was never hot. He said, too, that it was nice to be able to pick up a board and know that there was not a rattle snake under it. Snakes must have been a worry to you and Mrs. Platt with those young children on the River.

"A cousin of my mother's lived on the Oregon side of Snake River. They had a two-year-old child bitten by a rattler, and the Nez Perce Indians saved her. Their cabin was on a hill a quarter of a mile from the corrals on the river. The mother heard the child scream. She had been hitting at the snake with a short stick and was bit on the thumb. She panicked, put the child in the house and told her to stay there, and ran to where she could see the men at the corral, where they were branding, waved her apron and screamed. The three men rode their horses up over the rocky trail as fast as they could. It was hot and they met the baby coming after her mother. Sam picked her up and sucked the wound, told one man to go across the river and ask a camp of Indians for help, and the other to ride 20 miles to a phone and call a doctor from Lewiston.

"An elderly squaw and her husband took charge, the others took sacks and started gathering cactus. The Indian would burn the thorns off and split the cactus, and the squaw would slap it on the baby's thumb. She also kept the baby's body wrapped in hot towels. They kept that up for three days and nights without a rest. The third day the squaw said, 'She live now.' It was 75 miles from Lewiston and the doctor told the rider that unless the Indians could save the child she would be dead before he could get there, but he would send

out a rider with medicine that might help if she was alive. . . .

"I have been writing at odd minutes and will not read this over or I probably would not send it. November 7th. Election over and it did not go to suit me here in California. Only four that I voted for were elected.

Sincerely, Lucille F. Clark"

### Publications

It's been a bad year for printers--at least for Ye Gal-leon Press of Fairfield, which has spent the last nine months struggling with unforeseen delays in reprinting Whispers from Old Genesee and Echoes of the Salmon River, by John Platt. First targeted for August deliv-ery, then for October, the book now seems fairly sure to be in our hands in February. The Society will re-ceive 250 copies, all net profits from which will go to the publications fund. The total possible from this source is \$695. A special announcement on the book will be sent to all members of the Society, and to other prospective buyers, as soon as a firm date of delivery is known.

Some Pioneer Glimpses of Latah County, published by the Society in September, has been selling much slower than was expected in view of the interest expressed last February by listeners who heard the original paper pre-sented at the Latah County Pioneer Association meeting. The printed version contains much added information, and is a bargain at \$1.25. It is available either at the Museum or at Ken's Stationery, Carters Drug Store, Bookpeople, or the Owl Drug Store in downtown Moscow.

Other publications for sale at the Museum are John Mil-ler's The Trees Grew Tall (\$4.50) and Lee Gregory's Verse from Appaloosa Country (\$3.95). Any of these books makes an excellent gift for relatives or friends who are interested in Latah County and its history, and members are encouraged to buy them and help the publi-cations fund along. Through this fund we hope, within

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- 20 -

the next year or two, to be able to help local authors publish many historic manuscripts now existing only in scarce mimeographed copies, or maybe only in unfinished form. There will never be a better time than this bicentennial period to get these stories into print and onto the market.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ANN DRISCOLL!

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LCMS members should not miss seeing her paintings of early-day trading centers in Latah County: Anderson, Nora, Lenville, Taney, Troy (Vollmer), Bovill, Cornwall, Kendrick, and Blaine. All are on display until February 1 at the Moscow branch of the First Security Bank of Idaho.

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See story on page 7 for further details.

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