

LATAH COUNTY MUSEUM SOCIETY

McConnell Mansion 110 South Adams Moscow, Idaho

Quarterly Bulletin
Kenneth B. Platt, Editor

Volume 6, No. 4
October, 1977

Farewell to summer by no means marks the last rose of the season in Museum Society affairs. Though summer brought a rich bouquet, buds are in view for more to come. In the offing, for example, is the prospect of gaining title to the present city-county library if the new library now planned is built. Though not yet formally confirmed, transfer of the library either to the county or to the Museum Society on behalf of the county is understood to be intended by the city council. Confirming action by the council is expected shortly.

Actual use of the building for Museum purposes, of course, must await construction of the new library and the moving out of present contents. Fortunately the structure is in excellent condition, having been recently checked over and repaired wherever needful. The stone construction favors Museum needs by minimizing future upkeep costs and will also favor the building of a fireproof vault in a basement corner for safekeeping of items most vulnerable to fire.

Publications Take the Limelight

Another bud about to flower is an arrangement with Idaho University Press to publish the Charles J. Munson pioneer recollections, *Westward to Paradise*, on a shared-cost basis. A Munson daughter, Mrs. Tage Ott of Claremont, California, already has donated \$500, along with the manuscript, to help pay for its publication. The further help from the IUP will enable us

to keep enough money in the publications fund to go ahead with other manuscripts tentatively scheduled for our Local History Paper series, as listed in the July *Quarterly Bulletin*.

Brand new in our rose garden is the emergence of *Knight or Knave?*, by Gwendolyn Bovill, sole survivor of the family for which the Latah County town is named. Her book deals only briefly with her years at Bovill, but has strong human interest throughout. (See Book Review, elsewhere in this issue.) Published in England last December in only 100 copies for private distribution, the book became known of here a few weeks ago through a visit of John B. Miller (*The Trees Grew Tall*), who arranged for a donation of 12 copies by Ms. Bovill to the Museum Society. The Society then sought permission to distribute all available remaining copies in this area. Ms. Bovill responded by donating the remaining 36 copies not wanted for her own use!

With so few copies of this rare gem of local history, public and school libraries of the area will be given top priority. About 20 copies are expected to be available for individual ownership. Rather than try to fix a price, donors will be sought for all copies, the money to go to the Publications Fund to assist in publishing other local history. First to be sought are those who wish to supply a copy to a library.

The Publications Committee will welcome suggestions of names of possible donors.

PLEASE NOTE!

The white sheet enclosed with your *Bulletin* is a copy of one distributed to interested persons from the Museum Society's booth at the Latah County Fair, September 15-17. The orange sheet is the Moscow-Latah County Library's fact sheet designed to inform voters about the bond issue for the proposed new library. We urge all Museum Society members to work for and vote for the passage of the bond issue.

Magnuson Departs

At the end of August we regretfully said goodbye to Lee Magnuson, who had been our curator since June 1976. As noted in the July issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin*, Lee was leaving Moscow for employment on the office staff of Senator Frank Church. On August 25 he was honored at a potluck dinner in the garden of the Mansion and was presented with a gift of luggage. Lee brought to his work at the Mansion not only valuable professional training in museology but also a broad knowledge of Latah County and a deep understanding and love of our legacy from the past. We wish him all success in his new work.

Special thanks go to Grace and Jerry Ingle, who organized the dinner and stayed afterward to wash the dishes.

Our New Curator

Keith Petersen, new curator hired a week earlier, was introduced at the same occasion as the Magnuson farewell. Keith was selected from more than 20 applicants and comes to the Museum with excellent qualifications after three years at Madison, Wisconsin, where he took a master's degree in history while working much of the time in the Wisconsin State Historical Museum. His experience there convinced him that he did not want an academic career teaching or studying *about* history, Keith says. Instead he decided he wanted to be involved *in* history at the level nearest its actual happening. Our job was just what he was looking for.

A native of Battleground, Washington, just outside Vancouver, Keith graduated from high school there. He took a B.A. in history at WSU before going to the University of Wisconsin. Now 26 years old, he is unmarried. Like previous curators, he occupies the living area on the ground floor of the Mansion.

Along with his unusually fine training, Keith also has developed a real talent for writing in his field,

at both popular and professional levels. In taking the job of curator, he expressed an eagerness to establish close working relations with all schools of the county and to establish a regular flow of information about the Museum and its programs to both the schools and the public at large.

Also high in his priorities will be searching out historical records and effects of all kinds for preservation at the Museum. Members of the Society are urged to give him all leads and other assistance they can in this endeavor.

Made to order for Curator Petersen's program of collecting historic materials around the county is a current sorting out of objects and records of the old Bovill Inn. Known to be there are the old guest registers, possibly dating back to the founding of the inn. This information came to light in a chance conversation of Lola Clyde with a son of Mrs. Ivah Wandke, owner of the hotel. Now incapacitated by age, Mrs. Wandke lives at Paradise Villa, where the son was visiting recently and met Lola on one of her frequent calls there. He told her he was here to sell the inn and other property to settle his mother's estate, and wondered what to do with the old registers and other items no longer useful to a prospective buyer. Mr. Petersen is following up on this lead, even though Lola already has a promise of the registers for the Museum, as well as for one of the six silver cowbells which tinkled from the necks of the Bovill cattle.

Change of Address

If you are moving, please notify the Society of your new address. Mail sent under our bulk permit is not forwarded nor returned to us, so we have no way of knowing that you are not receiving your copies of the *Bulletin*. Help us to keep our mailing list up to date.

More About Publications

Several months in preparation, Carol Ryrice Brink's *Four Girls on a Homestead* arrived in finished form on September 17. Planned around its coming was a two-week "Local Authors Book Fair" sponsored jointly by the Museum Society and by Bookpeople, a Moscow bookstore. Reviews of *Four Girls* and other Brink books given by Lola Clyde on the opening day, September 19, and by Clarice Sampson on Saturday the 24th sparked sales of 64 copies in the first week.

Also launched at the Book Fair on September 24th was Opal Lambert Ross's *Fields and Pine Trees*. Although off the press last June, this book had little opportunity for sales during the summer months. Mrs. Ross reports she has sold most of the 200 copies she took as her half of the issue shared equally by her and the Society. Because so few people in other parts of the county know about the NW corner near Farmington, covered by *Fields and Pine Trees*, sales of the book in Moscow have been slow.

Besides the two above books, the Book Fair featured one or more other local authors each day for the two-week event, as follows:

Thelma Gray, Viola, nationally known inspirational writer, *Get Found! and Other Stories*, September 20.

Thomas B. Keith, Moscow, retired U of I professor of animal husbandry, *The Horse Interlude*, September 21.

Lola Gamble Clyde, area pioneer history source par excellence and widely sought reviewer of both historic manuscripts and finished works, reviewing Ann Driscoll's *They Came to a Ridge*, September 22.

Kendrick poets Rosalie Blankenship, *Patchwork Poetry*, and Lucille Magnuson, *The Ways of Days*, presenting their respective works, September 23.

Mary Banks, Moscow, presenting *Kites in the Emphyrean*,

a selection of personal letters from the hand of her deceased husband, William Carr Banks, longtime professor of English at the University of Idaho, September 26.

Elsie Nelson, Moscow, retired longtime dining room operator in leading places in Lewiston and Moscow, *Today is Ours*, September 27.

Earl Malcolm Hause, Moscow, retired U of I professor of history, *Tumble Down Dick* (fall of the House of Cromwell), September 28.

Kenneth B. Platt, Moscow, *Pioneer Glimpses of Latah County*, *Underneath the Bough* (poetry), and *Salmon River Saga* (in preparation), September 28.

Alma Lauder Keeling, Moscow, presenting *The Un-Covered Wagon*, pioneer history of the Taylor and Lauder families, September 29.

Florence Anderson, Potlatch, presenting *Glory Be! What a World*, collected poems of the Rev. Joe S. Anderson, deceased, September 20.

Rudolph Carlson, Moscow, presenting his book, *Artifact Chipping for You*, with accompanying demonstration, September 20.

Sam Schragar, Pullman, director of the Society's Oral History Project, 1973-77, on booklets based on tape-recorded recollections of Latah County pioneers, October 1.

The Book Fair was moderately successful and resulted in sales of over \$300 worth of Museum publications, the best sellers being *Four Girls on a Homestead* and the oral history booklets. The two-week schedule was planned so as to provide personal appearance times for local authors having books to sell. Although sales of some works were smaller than expected, the event brought many local authors to public attention for the first time. A bibliography listing

58 authors who have lived in and/or written about Latah County was prepared for distribution to interested persons at the Book Fair. Every community in the county was represented on the list. Leftover copies will be sent to all schools and libraries in the county and will be available at the Museum and at Bookpeople.

The Society wishes to thank Ivar Nelson of Bookpeople for being host to the fair, the *Idahonian* and other area newspapers, KRPL and other area radio stations --all of whom helped to publicize the fair. Especially we wish to thank the many local authors who participated.

Very promising prospects on sales of *Four Girls on a Homestead* also developed apart from local promotion. In the last week of September a contract was signed by the Publications Committee on behalf of the Society with Northwest Books Co., Medford, Oregon, to distribute the book to schools, libraries, and institutions throughout the United States. The distributor will take 200 copies immediately, to be supplied to these outlets on an introductory basis and to be paid for at \$1.50 per copy within 60 days after sale. Additional orders will be placed as demand develops. In addition, the distributor holds an option to buy other copies in quantity for cash at \$1.25 each. Since reprint copies will cost the Society about 75¢ each, both these prices promise good returns on the book.

For sales to book dealers and other outlets not covered by the Northwest Books Co. contract, Idaho University Press has agreed to assist the Society in preparing the most promising direct-order contact list.

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To order copies of *Four Girls on a Homestead* by mail, send \$2.50 for each copy to the Latah County Museum Society, 110 S. Adams, Moscow, Idaho 83843. Copies may also be purchased at the McConnell Mansion or at Bookpeople of Moscow.

Some First Impressions from Curator Keith Petersen

It is with a great deal of anticipation that I look forward to my time as curator of the Latah County Museum. Not only am I glad to be living in the Palouse country once again, but I am most happy to be a part of a thriving museum. I think all concerned can be proud of the course the Museum has thus far taken, and I await the opportunity to work with the membership to constantly expand and improve our facilities. I hope that all members will come by the Mansion at their leisure so that we might get acquainted. Any ideas on what I personally can do to improve the Museum will be gratefully accepted. I would also like to thank those members who have already been so kind as to make me feel immediately at home. Especially would I like to acknowledge the assistance of Lee Magnuson and Rachel Foxman in "breaking me in" to the routine here.

Perhaps the most important issue facing the Museum presently is the acquiring of new space. We are running out of room, and if we are to continue to grow, additional space will be needed in the near future. On that note, I would like to inform the membership of the current status concerning the placement of the Carnegie Library on the National Register. While attending a museum workshop in Boise, I talked to Arthur Hart, Director of the State Historical Society, concerning this matter. He explained that all of the necessary paperwork for placement on the register had been done, but that the State Historical Society was refusing to move until they received some feedback from the residents of Latah County that there was a genuine desire to preserve the building. The only mail thus far received had been in favor of destruction. I personally feel that the old library is too significant architecturally and historically to be destroyed, especially since it could be readily used as an expansion of our Museum should the November library bond issue pass and a new library be built. I encourage all members to write to Dr. Arthur Hart, Director, Idaho State Historical Society, 610 N. Julia Davis

Drive, Boise ID 83706 and make known their feelings concerning the preservation of the building.

Besides expansion of facilities, I feel that the one area where the Museum needs the most improvement is in research facilities. If we are to provide the best possible service to the residents of Latah County, not only must we have an attractive museum to look at, but we must have an adequate research facility to assist people doing work on the history of the county. Steps have been made in this direction. The oral history program is one of the finest in the Northwest. Plans are presently underway to make room in our library for oral history transcripts to be permanently on file. The family history program got off to an excellent start, but has slowed down. I encourage all members to complete the family history forms available at the Mansion and to ask friends to do likewise. Our manuscript facilities, however, are almost non-existent. I would like to ask that people make personal letters and memorabilia, diaries, memoirs, or unpublished manuscripts that pertain to the history of the county available to the Museum either in the original, or allow us to make permanent copies. Also, our book collection dealing with the history of Northern Idaho needs to be greatly expanded. Since September 1, the following volumes have been added to our collection:

Gwendolyn Bovill: *Knight or Knave? A Soldier of Fortune in China* (gift from the author)

The Highlands of Craig Mountain (gift from Lillian Otness)

Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971 (gift from the curator)

Carol Ryrie Brink: *Four Girls on a Homestead* (Museum publication)

Sam Schragar, ed.: *Guide to the Latah County Oral History Collection* (Museum publication)

Roy Mayo: *Gold and Strychnine* (Museum purchase)

Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology: *Gold Camps and Silver Cities* (Museum purchase)

Idaho State Historical Society: *The Nez Perce Indians*--24 photographs (Museum purchase)

Waletta S. Morrow: *Idaho's Century of Triple Links: A History of Idaho's 100 Years of Odd Fellowship* (Museum purchase)

Anyone knowing of books dealing with the history of the area which could be purchased or made available as gifts is asked to make such presence known to me.

New acquisitions: Since September 1, the following gifts have been made to the Museum:

Several items from the home of Robert and Christina Otness, including an oak table with claw and ball feet and two brass jardinières, donated by H. Robert, Clara, and Gertie Otness and Ruth Otness Nonini.

Young girls' clothing, including twelve magnificently preserved dresses, donated by Lillian Otness.

Six books in Swedish from the homes of early Troy residents by Henrietta (Mrs. Ardie) Gustafson of Lewiston.

Items originally belonging to Hugh and Charlotte Bovill, including photographs and Mrs. Bovill's citizenship papers, by Gwendolyn Bovill Lawrence, of Mercer Island, Washington.

One souvenir cup of the Methodist Church of Moscow, from about 1905, by Emmet Spiker of Lewiston.

A typewritten manuscript from the *Moscow Mirror* for the years 1885-1892 recording births, deaths, and marriages in Latah County for those years, by Gayle Oleksiak, research done by the donor.

A new bedroom exhibit has been placed on the downstairs level where formerly was the kitchen exhibit. In order to complete this exhibit, a chamber pot is needed. Anyone wishing to loan or donate a chamber pot to the Museum can contact me.

A special exhibit concerning the history of Moscow High School was placed in the southwest bedroom upstairs during the month. The local history class of MHS is in the midst of a year-long project of writing a history of the school. The Museum's facilities, which include published and unpublished manuscripts relating to the school, photographs, oral histories of local teachers, and personal letters of John Muerman, are being used extensively by the students. Anyone having information concerning the history of the school willing to make such material available to the students is invited to inform Stan Smith, the instructor, or me of such information.

Other special events which occurred during the month included the developing of a slide show depicting the "Latah County Museum Story." Thanks go to Clifford Ott, Henrik Juve, Sam Schrage, and H. Robert Otness for their assistance in preparing this program. The slide presentation was shown to the residents of Paradise Villa on September 22, and again to the All-Idaho Museum Workshop sponsored by the Idaho State Historical Society in Boise on September 24. The program is now available for use. Anyone knowing of a group which would like to view the presentation, about 30 minutes in length, should contact me.

Another new project during the month was the establishment of a "recycling center" so that the Museum can recycle our used paper materials.

Visitations for the quarter:	July	195
	August	113
	September	<u>92</u>
	Total	400

--Keith Petersen, Curator

Recent State Workshop

On September 24 a delegation from our Society attended the All-Idaho Museum Workshop, a one-day conference sponsored by the Idaho State Historical Society. Making the trip to Boise were Donna Bray, president; Keith Petersen, curator; Leora Stillinger; and Lillian Otness. Keith presented part of the program, a talk accompanied by slides taken at the Mansion to illustrate the development of a museum in a historic building.

Other speakers on the program were Tom Cunningham, of Lewiston's Luna House Museum, who related the trials and tribulations of bringing the steamboat *Jean* to Lewiston; Dewayne Wilding, who discussed the damage by the Teton Dam flood to the Upper Snake River Historical Museum and the plans to restore the Rexburg LDS tabernacle as a museum; and Dr. David Wright of the Idaho State Museum of Natural History. Dr. Wright spoke on the development of the state's only museum of natural history and on its plans for future service to the entire state.

Donna Bray presented a proposal for enabling legislation which would allow county commissioners to collect and distribute for museum purposes more money than the \$9,000 yearly limit they are now permitted. Raising the amount from the \$2,500 originally allowed to the present \$9,000 has helped museums a great deal, but inflation has so eroded the purchasing power of the dollar that many counties now find real difficulty in accomplishing valuable programs which would fill a real cultural need for the public. The proposed legislation would enable counties to levy up to .6 mill for museums. The decision on how much money to raise would be made at the local level by the county commissioners. Response from the group to Mrs. Bray's proposal was enthusiastic.

Participants at the workshop took the initial steps toward forming a state-wide organization, to be known as the Idaho Association of Museums. The following

officers were elected: Dr. David Wright of Pocatello, president; Jerry (Mrs. Bill) Neu of Sandpoint, vice-president; Toni Earl of Lewiston, secretary-treasurer. Though not yet formally stated, the objectives of the organization are understood to be to serve as a clearing house for information, to provide a means by which museums in the state can cooperate to their mutual benefit, and to represent the museums of the state as a group in matters which affect their interests.

Membership dues were set at \$5.00 for institutions, \$2.00 for individuals. Membership is open to all interested persons.

The meeting was held at the former Idaho penitentiary, which is now being developed as a museum by the state historical society. Those attending had the opportunity to tour the penitentiary site as well as to discuss museum problems with specialists from the state society.

Ice Cream Social

On July 31 the Society held an old-fashioned ice cream social. Open to the public, the event drew an estimated 150, who consumed the 8 gallons of home-made ice cream brought by members and made a good start on the 2 1/2-gallon tub of peppermint variety brought from Rogers to satisfy final appetites.

Setting a Gay 90's mode, Lee Magnuson sparked the occasion in derby hat and gartered shirt sleeves. Lucille Magnuson and other ladies graced some ankle-length dresses of the period, and Kenneth Platt looked almost authentic in his flat-crowned straw hat reminiscent of the old vaudeville circuit. A real note of period authenticity was supplied by Dawn Olson playing old jazz numbers on the piano just inside the Mansion window overlooking the back lawn where the picnickers were reveling. Although Mrs. Magnuson's Sweet Adelines from Kendrick could not make the scene as hoped, she and Lee entertained with appropriate songs to the accompaniment of two guitars.

Treasurer's Report
1-1-77 to 9-30-77

Income

County	\$9,000.00	
Dues	418.96	
Publication donations	1,100.00	
Publication sales	240.85	
Donations	307.60	
Door fees	283.45	
Reimbursement and refund	<u>160.72</u>	
Total income		\$11,511.58

Expense

Publications	1,170.55	
Utilities	1,263.71	
Office	797.97	
Taxes	166.82	
Maintenance	223.43	
Display	173.40	
Miscellaneous	642.71	
Time capsule	<u>101.75</u>	
Total expense		4,540.34

Savings \$10,322.23

Balance of funds

Publications fund	\$ 1,907.70
Oral history fund	783.51

--Tom Berg, Treasurer

Museum Hours

The hours when the McConnell Mansion is regularly open to the public are:

Wednesday through Friday	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed Monday and Tuesday	

Book Review

Knight or Knave?, by Gwendolyn Bovill, derives its title from the shadowed character of her British peerage husband, whose tangled affairs in revolutionary China during the 1920-1934 period left the question hanging. Although most of the book is about him--Major Louis Cassel--and about those affairs, a warm current of interest about the author also runs through it. Their separation over the last several years before his death is bridged by a series of letters he wrote, which carry the story through that period.

From carefree childhood (five years to early teens) in bustling pioneer Bovill, through hazardous adventures in western Montana, to World War I nurse training and service in Portland and San Francisco, Gwendolyn Bovill establishes her own engaging image in a way that sticks in the mind even through the years of the one-way letters, simply because they are addressed to her. Gradually there emerge the faint outlines of peerage backgrounds and attitudes in both her family and that of the Major.

Both her father and Cassel were products of the British primogeniture custom which cast younger sons adrift in the world. Hugh Bovill came to America with enough resources to set up sizable horse and cattle ranching ventures in Nebraska and Idaho. Louis Cassel came to the University of California for treatment of war injuries, from financial ventures already under way in China. Both men were to know the luxuries of transient wealth; both, the dispiriting miseries of later penury. Gwendolyn lived both experiences with each of these two dearest men in her life.

The following excerpts give some representative glimpses:

If you are interested in a tale of war and love, intrigue and politics from Nebraska to China during the years from 1920 to 1934, you will

first need to know something about the innocent victims. . . . The family involved: Hugh Bovill, born in London in 1860, the thirteenth child of sixteen born to Lady Bovill and the Rt. Hon. Sir William Bovill, M.P., M.L., Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas; Charlotte Robinson, born in York in 1861, the seventh child of nine born to Emma Chambres, a direct descendant of King Edward III of England, and H. G. Robinson, M.A., Canon of York Minster and one of Queen Victoria's Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

English law allowed only the eldest son to inherit, thereby forcing the younger children of large families to travel the world in search of a living. Hugh Bovill was one of these. He tried tea plantations in Ceylon, led the life of a cowboy from Texas to Montana and that of a horse wrangler from Colorado to Nebraska, where he stopped. . . . He got a homestead and started a stock ranch. In due course he met Charlotte Robinson, a proper young English lady who had come to America to visit her brother. . . . They were married right after the battle of Wounded Knee.

Crowding of the Nebraska ranges by settlers sent them on to Idaho, where Hugh bought good grazing land at Warren Meadows 48 miles east of Moscow in 1900.

In later years I, Gwen, remember it well; ponies, horses galore, farm animals, venison, fish, pheasant, bear, huckleberries, fields of hay and grain. It was a paradise for growing girls to roam. . . . Unfortunately, Dad was too English to have learned about American business tactics. It meant nothing to him when the government opened up a lot of surrounding land for homesteading. . . . Then came the day when some timber barons from Wisconsin and Minnesota dropped in. . . . Needless to say, in a few short years the timber claims were for sale. Later

came the cruisers to estimate the timber potential. Then followed loggers, engineers, prostitutes. The river was turned into a railroad right of way and the farm became a townsite. Paradise was lost. . . . The end came when the lumber barons and their cohorts condemned the meadows for a sawmill. . . . Dad could not find one attorney willing to take the case and fight for our home. . . . The Bovills could only depart. Selling what they could, they left \$150,000 in property behind them.

After a brief stay at Coeur d'Alene, the family settled again in Montana, where

My sister and I shared a tent that first winter, and it got so bitterly cold the potbellied stove didn't help much. When the wolves howled we couldn't face the walk to the "chick sales" alone, so we kept together. . . . Dad had found a neat little sleigh for me to use when a horse could travel. Wrapped in bearskins with hot rocks at my feet and sleighbells on the horse, I really enjoyed the drive [to teach school]. Every time I saw more wolves along the way, I would add more bells to the harness. . . .

My next school was at Philomen Spur. . . . It was an even longer walk to the school house, which contained a cast-iron stove, some rough benches and some tables. I was told that I was the first teacher to use it. "Use what?" I wondered. Well, orders went out and in time I had a blackboard, chalk, eraser, pencils, a few books and some writing paper. The children were excited, noisy and bright, but a trial, as the younger ones constantly had to go out to the woodshed where the facilities were anything but civilized--just a squatting hole with corncocks and a mail order catalogue.

Next came Newport, Oregon, and World War I.

Unfortunately, a disastrous flue epidemic broke out, spreading like wildfire and causing more deaths than could be coped with. Schools were closed, and I joined with Mother to help where we could. . . . There was little we could do except to try to feed the ill and keep the dying comfortable. . . . I joined the Army Physical Training course being given in Portland. Of the 48 girls taking the P.T. course, only 12 of us graduated. We then were sent to Letterman Hospital in San Francisco to await orders to go overseas. . . . The Armistice was signed soon, and we were released from the Service.

Continuing as a physical therapist at the University of California Hospital, Gwendolyn there met Major Louis Cassel as a patient. Mutual attraction followed. A gentle but persuasive suitor, he won her hand in 1923. They rented and furnished a house at Pebble Beach, then indulged themselves with training a carload of range horses, and entertained family and friends in open-handed luxury. All too soon urgent business demands took them away to Hong Kong for a life of shuttling to Shanghai or Tokyo and back as Cassel pursued the elusive development concessions for which he had been maneuvering for years.

At first all was luxury, with lavish surroundings and many servants. But ever-longer business absences by Major Cassel, and ever-poorer living accommodations each time they changed, in a few years made plain that the Major's affairs were going badly. Unable longer to provide comfortable quarters in Hong Kong, he allowed his beloved Gwen in 1927 to return to San Francisco with friends. Although neither of them intended it that way, she never returned to China, nor he to America.

The record from then until his death in London in 1934 is one of fading hopes, high-placed betrayals of trust in the British colonial establishment, official disregard of his long and distinguished military

service, and declining fortunes shadowed by failing health. All this is seen mostly between the lines of always-tender letters to far-away Gwendolyn.

He was defeated at last by a proud code of personal honor that proscribed him from complaining against official mistreatment and demanding his just due. *Knight or Knave?* Perhaps some of both in his lifetime, but knightly in his life with Gwendolyn Bovill and in his passing.

* * * * *

Gladys Jain Magee, a girlhood friend of Gwendolyn Bovill, recalls being at a dance in 1904 given by the Bovills in their home ballroom for the twenty-odd survey crew members then working in the area. A fireplace wide enough for five-foot lengths of wood added to the spacious atmosphere. She sat with Gwen and her sister Dorothy on a love seat at the edge of the floor. Too young to participate, the three girls watched the graceful swing of the dancers, the ladies' skirts whirling out into wide circles as they turned. It was a special treat when some swung close enough for them to reach out and feel the elegant materials as they passed.

New Look for the Bulletin

We hope that readers will enjoy the clearer, more readable, and varied type-style of this issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin*. The person responsible for the new look is Kathleen (Mrs. Robert) Probasco, who has done such an excellent job of typing the copy. In addition to Kathy, credit for putting out this issue goes to

Kenneth B. Platt	Editor
Lillian Otness	Layout
Ruth and Francis Nonini	Assembling and mailing

This *Bulletin* is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October for distribution to members of the Latah County Museum Society, 110 S. Adams, Moscow, Idaho 83843. Regular membership dues are \$5.00 yearly for individuals, \$9.00 yearly for a family.

LATAH COUNTY
MUSEUM SOCIETY
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Moscow, Idaho 83843

Non-profit Organ.
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COMING EVENTS

The Latah County Museum Society is sponsoring a second Evening of the Macabre, a Halloween happening on Sunday, October 30. The program will include readings appropriate to the season of ghosts and witches, and promises another spine-chilling evening, starting at 8:00 p.m. All Museum Society members and interested area residents are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Society will be Saturday, January 14, 1978, at 1:30 p.m. at the McConnell Mansion. It will be preceded by the usual potluck dinner at 12:00 noon. Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert sufficient for six persons. The meeting agenda will include reports of committees and others and the election of officers for the coming year. Mark the date on your calendar *now*. Friends of the Museum are welcome.

Conserving today builds a better tomorrow. The Latah County Museum is in the business of conservation. We preserve historical artifacts so that they might be enjoyed. We preserve books and archives so that researchers will better understand the development of the county. We preserve family records and pictures so that those wishing to trace their heritage will have a permanent record to draw upon. And we urge the preservation of selected structures which have significant historical or architectural value. One such significant building is the McConnell Mansion in Moscow. The Museum encourages you to stop by and see the Mansion, and see how historic preservation can be rewarding in terms of both entertainment and education.

In order to adequately serve the needs of the entire county as a cultural and historic resource, however, the Museum must constantly grow. We receive significant contributions from county residents each week. For these valuable objects, pictures and manuscripts to be properly preserved and exhibited, the Museum will soon have to find additional space. An ideal location would be the Carnegie Library, located near the Mansion in Moscow. A move to the Library building would provide more space for Museum offices and library, as well as room for storage. In addition, it would allow more room for changing exhibits of local history, enabling the Museum to better serve the needs of the entire county. Furthermore, such a move would make it possible to restore the entire McConnell Mansion to its Victorian splendor.

We encourage you to assist us in preserving county history in the following ways.

- 1) Vote in favor of the upcoming Library bond issue and encourage the preservation of the old Carnegie Library. Such support will benefit the county in several ways: it will allow the Library to expand, thus better serving the needs of the county; it will save a historic structure from demolition; it will allow for the expansion of the Latah County Museum.

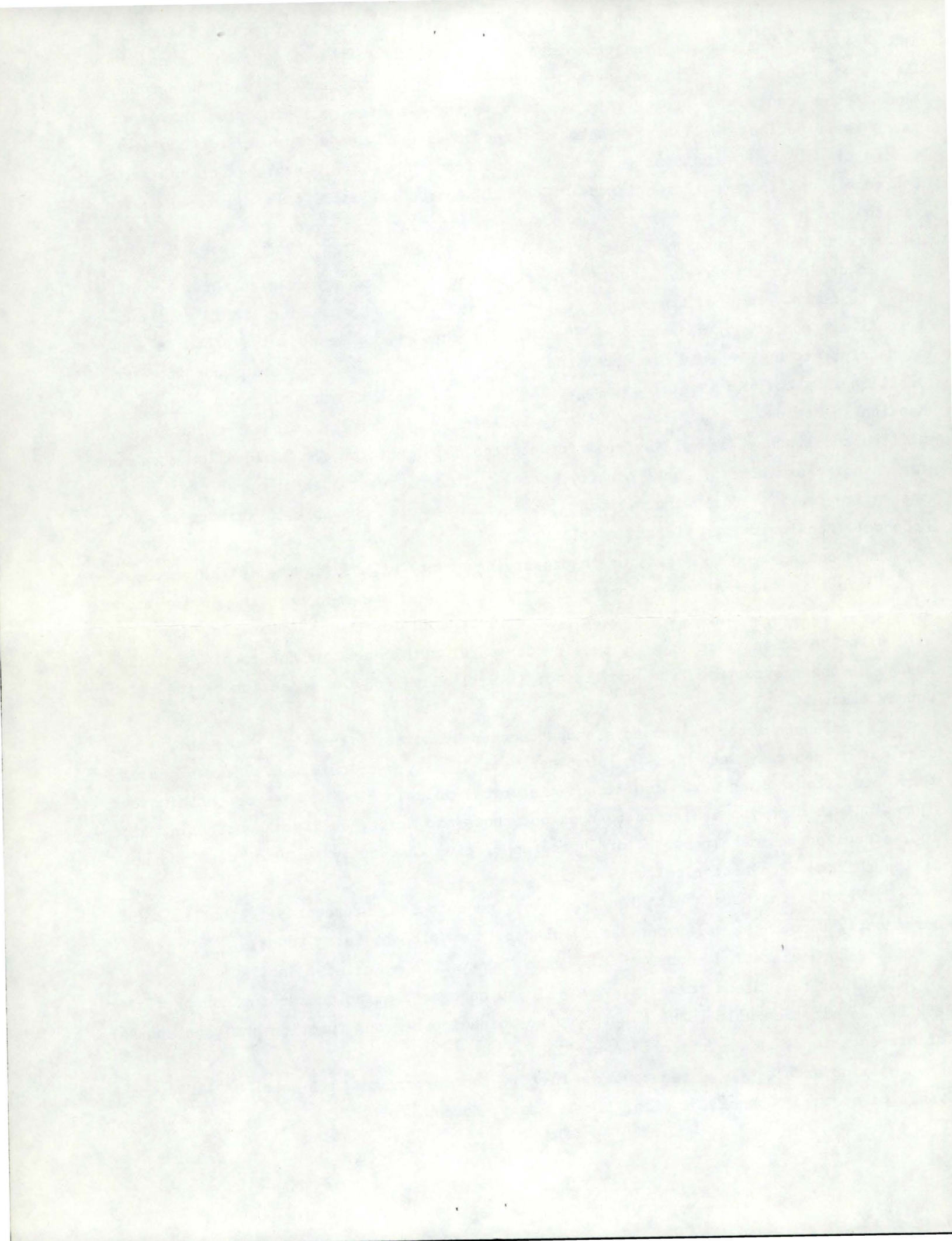
- 2) Preserve historical objects and documents by donating them to the Museum. This does not necessarily mean that you must part with family heirlooms. Oftentimes people throw away items which have significant historical value, thinking they are nothing but "junk." Next time you are about to toss out those old tools, or kitchen utensils, clothing, school or business records, or photographs, give the County Museum a call and see if these items have historical value.

- 3) Provide the Museum with family photos, geneologies and records so that we can permanently record the role your family played in developing Latah County.

- 4) Become an active member of the Latah County Museum Society, Inc.

- 5) Allow the Museum to assist you. If you have a question concerning county history, ask us, we might be able to help. If you are planning a group function and need speakers or presentations, we are oftentimes available.

Helping each other we can conserve history for tomorrow. Call us at 882-1004, or visit us at the McConnell Mansion, 110 S. Adams, Moscow.



Vote YES November 8

IN 1962 THE COMMUNITY FIRST REALIZED WE NEEDED A NEW LIBRARY TO PROVIDE:

Easy ground-level access for all citizens, regardless of age or handicap.

Adequate facilities for children's services, including study areas and program facilities.

Enough space for expansion of adult service areas including book and materials shelving, reference and magazine areas, and reading areas.

Adequate rest room facilities.

Meeting room for library programs and community organizations.

Adequate staff work areas.

Efficient arrangement of service areas on one floor to allow the best use of personnel and easier access for library users.

Storage areas for books and materials to be used for future library branch expansion in the County, current branches and bookmobile.

Space for the ever-growing field of audio-visual informational aids, such as records, tapes, films, etc.

An economically efficient building to operate in a time of increasing fuel and personnel costs.

NOW, 15 YEARS LATER you are asked to vote in either of TWO BOND ELECTIONS: one for the CITY OF MOSCOW, one for the area of Latah County outside of Moscow comprising the LATAH COUNTY FREE LIBRARY DISTRICT. These two elections, if passed by a TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN BOTH, would provide money to build a 13,800 square foot headquarters library for the Moscow-Latah County Library System. The split of the total cost of \$700,000 would be:

MOSCOW WOULD PAY \$400,000 to house 40,000 BOOKS and other library materials to serve the residents of Moscow; WORK AND OFFICE SPACE for the staff needed to acquire and process library materials and serve the needs of the people coming into the library; MEETING ROOM SPACE for a variety of library programs and organizations; SEATING SPACE for study and use of library materials.

LATAH COUNTY WOULD PAY \$200,000 to house 20,000 BOOKS and other library materials to stock the branch libraries and bookmobile for County service; WORK AND OFFICE SPACE for the staff needed to acquire and process new materials, staff the bookmobile and coordinate branch service; SERVICE AREAS to help the 20% of total patronage using the library who live outside the Moscow city limits.

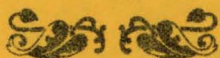
THE IDAHO STATE LIBRARY WILL PROVIDE \$100,000, if both bond elections pass, to furnish the new library.

IN TERMS OF YOUR COSTS,

A \$400,000 bond will cost approximately 30¢ per each \$1000 of fair market valuation in the City of Moscow. On a \$40,000 house, that would be \$12 per year for 20 years.

A \$200,000 bond will cost approximately 9¢ per each \$1000 of fair market valuation in the County. On a \$100,000 farm, that would be \$9 per year for 20 years.

Considering that a one year subscription to the DAILY IDAHONIAN costs \$36, the average cost of a hardback book is \$12, or the average restaurant meal for two is at least \$12--a new library is quite a bargain.



WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

In the City of Moscow, register to vote at City Hall or the Courthouse before November 5, 1977, and ask them about your precinct and polling place.

Advance registration is not needed in the County outside of the Moscow City Limits, but an elector's oath is signed when you vote. Polling places will be in the incorporated towns of the County and at the headquarters library in Moscow.

For further information, call 882-3925.



IT'S UP TO YOU!



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THE COMPANY FIRST...

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