

LATAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

McConnell Mansion 110 South Adams Moscow, Idaho

Quarterly Bulletin
Kenneth B. Platt, Editor

Volume 7, No. 1
January, 1978

Back to the drawing board go the planners when a first plan is turned down. Since county voters said "no" to the City-County library plan submitted to them in November, a new plan is being drawn, with hopes for favorable public action next time around. The Historical Society still hopes, also, to obtain use of--and possibly title to--the old library when the new one is built. With the effects of last year's short crops and poor farm prices now being felt by all businesses in the county, the time is wrong for the Historical Society to seek building funds of its own, so we must limit our programs to what can be done in present space, until better times allow expanded activities.

Publications Program Continues Strong

The publications program of the Society requires little space, so can proceed as fast as money is available for it. The Publications Committee reports encouraging response to its donation drive to put copies of the Gwendolyn Bovill book, *Knight or Knave?*, in all school and public libraries of the county. As of January 10 a total of \$660.00 had been received, with less than half the books allocated.

Book sales also have gone well since Carol Brink's *Four Girls on a Homestead* was released in late September, with \$472.65 collected during the Oct.-Dec. quarter. More than \$500.00 additional is due soon from book dealers who bought wholesale lots on 60-day deferred payment arrangements. Although the *Four Girls* book dominates, all other books published by the Society also have been selling steadily in smaller volume.

Present prospects are that by midyear the Publications

Fund will have accumulated \$2,500 or more. On that basis the Publications Committee has applied to the Idaho State Commission for the Arts and Humanities for a matching grant of \$2,500 to aid our publications program. Our own funds will meet the estimated publication costs of the Charles Munson book, *Westward to Paradise*, but a similar amount will be needed to pay for publishing Anna Smith Mitchell's *Homesteaders of Cedar Ridge* next summer.

Author Mitchell was visited by the editor in her home at Polson, Mont., last November. She had been busy for several months gathering further information from descendants of the Cedar Ridge settlers, she reported. Her aim is to finish these additions in time to enable publication of the expanded book for distribution at the annual Cedar Ridge old timers' get-together at Kendrick next August.

Still vigorous and alert in her late 80s (?), Mrs. Mitchell seated Mrs. Platt and me in her kitchen while she hustled up a mid-morning snack, talking Cedar Ridge history all the time. (Three neighbor couples were busy in the dining-living room shifting furniture and putting down linoleum for her while we visited.) The kitchen was a show place of pioneer home life, with her mother's complete set of cast iron cookware for fire-place use hanging from the ceiling, her own black iron range in the background, and other items of frontier equipment and furnishings on every hand. What an exhibit that kitchen, complete, would make for our museum, if only it were available and we had a place for it! As a more realistic second choice, we will try to get a good picture of that room and its hostess in her book.

Publications Committee Enlarged

The Society's original Publications Committee consisting of Jeanette Talbot, Lillian Otness and Kenneth Platt, finally had to call for help in handling the volume of work resulting from its activities. In response, the Board of Trustees in October named Marguerite Laughlin, Helen Cunningham and Kathleen Probasco to the Committee. The Committee met several times in November to set

up plans for the donation drive in connection with the Gwendolyn Bovill book, already mentioned. Individual letters to more than 40 prospective donors were typed by Kathy Probasco and signed by President Donna Bray. A list of more than 500 book dealers in the Western states was compiled, and copies of our brochure of books published by the Society, or planned for publication, were mailed to them. As further manuscripts are received, the work of editing, copying, proofing, cost estimating, and other preliminaries to publication, and sales promotion follow-up, will be made easier when divided six ways instead of three. Although no time records have been kept, by conservative estimate this work on publications to date has been in the hundreds of hours on each one.

Portable Displays Coming Soon

The idea of having a set of portable display cases in which to circulate a variety of small exhibits of Museum items among the schools of the county has been around for several years, but never acted upon. Now a prototype display case of 18x18x36-inch dimensions has been built by Don DuSault to test the idea. Except for its plexiglass front, the entire case and the stand to set it on was cut from one sheet of plywood. Cost of the plywood was \$17.85. Cost of the plexiglass and the interior light is expected to be under \$20.00.

With total cash cost of less than \$40.00 per unit, the Museum Board feels the construction of a set of nine of these cases would be a good investment. The plan is to put one case in each junior and senior high school in the county, plus one in St. Mary's Academy in Moscow, then rotate them each month of the school year, using the bookmobile for transportation. To check on school interest in the plan, a sample exhibit will be mounted in the sample case and taken to the schools for viewing by administrators. If acceptance is general, the remaining cases will be built.

Besides the schools, these display units can be placed in town libraries, retirement homes, and other favor-

able places for viewing. They will enable the showing of many items for which display space is not available at McConnell Mansion. At the same time, getting these displays around to all parts of the county should bring added interest in and support for the Society's historic preservation programs.

Curator Sees Many Opportunities

Despite present space limitations at McConnell Mansion there is room to greatly increase historic research materials and to expand the showing of relic items already on hand, believes Curator Keith Petersen. His views on these and other matters follow:

"With the failure of the Library Bond Levy the Museum must set expansion plans temporarily aside. However, there is no doubt about the need for additional space, and when that space does become available the Museum should be prepared to utilize it. This means that we should not neglect our responsibilities in continuing to encourage donations of museum objects. While we are rapidly running out of room in the Mansion, temporary alternatives exist, such as the leasing of warehouse space, or making use of storage space available in the homes of Society members. It is important that we not let the temporary setback in regards to the acquisition of the Carnegie Library building slow the progress that has been made in recent years in making this a museum capable of serving all county residents.

"One area in which we do have room to expand in our present facilities is our research collection. New bookshelves have been installed in the office, and books, pamphlets, photographs and archives/manuscripts are in the process of being organized and cataloged. While the majority of people who use our facilities do so because of the Museum exhibits, an increasing number are being referred to us as a research institution. It is necessary that we be as prepared as possible to meet the needs of those doing research on Latah County. Handling reference questions and providing research materials

should be considered just one of our many duties.

"In the last three months 25 local history books, plus several pamphlets, xerox copies, clippings and archival materials have been added to our collection through either purchase or donation. I would like to encourage all members who have local history materials to make them available to the Museum either by donation or by allowing us to xerox the contents. In this way it will be possible eventually for Latah County to have a central repository for historical research materials.

"Even within our present facilities we can continue to change the exhibits so that those who return to the Museum from time to time can see different things. In October a Victorian fashion exhibit, complete with jewelry and accessories, was completed, and in December a hunting and fishing exhibit displaying turn-of-the-century firearms and fishing equipment was assembled. After having read this column in last quarter's *Bulletin*, Edith Driscoll loaned us a chamber pot so that we could complete our bedroom exhibit.

"Plans for exhibits in the near future include a display of materials relating to Psychiana, the Moscow-based mail order religion founded by Frank B. Robinson, and a display depicting the importance of the Potlatch Corporation in the development of Latah County, including labor-management relations within the Corporation. Persons having materials relating to either area are asked to make them available to the Museum by loan or donation. The Museum has few logging tools of its own, virtually no labor union materials, and little dealing with Psychiana. In order for these exhibits to be successful we will have to have assistance from interested individuals.

"As always, the Museum will welcome suggestions for program ideas so that we can make our facilities available to as many people as possible. In the past quarter we have sponsored our second annual 'Evening of the Macabre' and a Christmas chamber music program; have

had a workshop on the preservation of paper items (books, diaries, documents, letters, etc.), and have made our facilities available for three public meetings, one concerning the proposed new Moscow-Latah County Library and two concerning historic preservation.

"In the new year, in addition to our periodic evenings of entertainment, we are initiating a monthly Historical Lecture Series, in which people with a knowledge of local history will present programs for public attendance. The first of this historical series will feature Dr. William Greever, who will speak Feb. 16 at 8:00 p.m. on Idaho mining history. Other programs are being planned. People interested in this series can call the Museum for further information. By making our facilities available for diversified programs we will be better able to serve the needs of Latah County.

"The educational value of the Museum facilities is reflected by the following log of visitations during the October-December quarter:

- Visitation totals: Oct., 142; Nov., 148; Dec., 116
- Group visits
 - Oct.: Cub Scout Pack 322, Den 1; U of I Social Studies Methods class; U of I Interior Design Class; American Field Service students.
 - Nov.: Students from Lena Whitmore School; Moscow High School local history class; U of I Museology class; Troy pre-schoolers; Cub Scout Pack 326, Den 1.
 - Dec.: Russell School 6th graders; Potlatch School 4th graders; U of I Social Studies Methods class

"The following gifts to the Museum were given during the October-December quarter:

- 50 cups to be used for Museum functions, from Mrs. Wilbur Shelton.
- A 1908 map of Latah County, mounted on cloth, from Mr. Ken Hedgelin.
- Materials from the 1900 U of I Commencement, four books, and typewritten reminiscences of Jay Woodworth, from Lillian Otness.

- 'Rub-a-dub' washboard and a bar of World War I Proctor & Gamble soap in the original package, from Jeannette Petersen, Vancouver, Wash.

"In addition, cash donations were received from Mary Banks, Robert and Nancy Hosack and Mrs. Wilbur Shelton, and \$105.50 in memorials for Ione S. Adair.

"Special thanks go to Mary Blanton and her Moscow High School Life Management class, consisting of Jan Archambault, Mike Carrico, Phil Cooper and Bud Nutterville, for decorating the Mansion for the holidays."

1977 Summary Impressive

The Curator's annual report summary for 1977 on Historical Society affairs, filling nearly three single-space typed pages, reveals surprising levels of public interest and Society accomplishment. Highlights from the report include:

- Total visitors 1949, with 1204 individuals and 745 in groups.
- Door receipts (entry contributions) \$357.85
- Cash donations, memorials, and usage fees \$492.60
- Book sales, not counting Bovill book donations \$713.50
- Books added to Museum's historical research library 32
- Slide show on "The Latah County Museum Story" developed - 120 slides - and shown at Idaho state conference on museum management.
- Six full-room exhibits prepared.
- Eleven special events or programs of historic interest presented, and 12 such events hosted.
- Seven presentations to professional groups outside the Museum made by staff members.
- One Idaho state museum management conference, and two area conferences attended by three staff and three Board members.
- Memberships taken in the Idaho Association of Museums and in the Idaho State Historical Society.

Editor's note: No new local history publication was found this quarter for review in the *Bulletin*. The following account was written as a last resort to maintain our practice of having some item of original historical nature in each issue.

Members and other readers are once more urged to send in or call to our attention local history materials of all sorts, so that they can be reviewed or reproduced here for the benefit of all. Pioneer diaries, even though brief, unpolished, or not continuous, are particularly desired.

If you like--or don't like--my little reminiscence below, why not write one of your own? We'd be tickled to get it.

Sleighbell Years At Genesee

by Kenneth B. Platt

I first saw Genesee in the fall of 1917. It was the biggest town I had ever seen up to that time. As a transplant from the Salmon River canyons south of Winchester, I was exceedingly green, even for a 10-year-old country kid. Along with my older brother, Tom, I had ridden horseback from Forest to Spalding the day before. We stayed in a hotel there that night--another "first" for me. Crossing the Clearwater River by ferry the next morning was yet another "first," and had there been a bridge, crossing it would have been a first experience for me, also.

We arrived at the old Platt ranch half a mile south of Genesee shortly before noon, delivering half a dozen head of work horses. Silage making was in progress. The engine-driven silage machine fascinated me by the power with which it swallowed a never-ending succession of bundled corn stalks and hurled the fine-chopped pieces up an 8-inch pipe into the top of the towering 32-foot silo. The accompanying roar of the whirling silage cutter's fan blades, like a modern fire siren at medium pitch, dominated the scene with a pressure of sound that defied all but shouted conversation, and

left my eardrums partially numb for minutes after it stopped for the noon meal break.

Dinner at the ranch house table was much like I was used to at home, except more elaborate. The table was loaded with steaming dishes of vegetables and meats which were passed from hand to hand, with each hungry diner helping himself. Bread and butter were in abundance, along with coffee, cool well water, and possibly milk and fresh buttermilk to drink. Though I don't remember specifically, I'm sure there were bowls of fresh applesauce, or baked apples, or fresh apple pie, and probably some hearty filled cookies for good measure. The whole feast was from the hand of Ilena Woods Vanouk, wife of Jake Vanouk, the ranch foreman.

A day or two later the rest of our family arrived in the Model T Ford sedan from our Salmon River ranch summer camp near Forest. The Lewiston hill spiral highway was just being completed. Pop aspired to be the first driver through on it, but got turned back just short of the top. The much steeper Middle Grade from Lewiston to Genesee, taking off near today's Potlatch mill, was a long grind in low gear for the Model T, but was climbed successfully with a load of two adults and four children plus luggage. With their arrival we all went on out to a newly purchased ranch six miles east of Genesee, which was to be our home for the next four years.

The Follett Ranch, as it was known, lay partly in and partly along the west side of the canyon of Little Potlatch Creek. Its 300 acres of farm land was the part on top, along the rim of the canyon. About 900 acres of unplowed brush and grass lands extended to the bottom of the steep 2000-foot canyon and a quarter mile up to the other side toward Fix Ridge.

The ranch had been bought to provide hay, pasture and feed grains for the purebred Hereford cattle herd started some years before at the Genesee ranch, which it had now outgrown. Formerly used for a horse breeding enterprise, the ranch had a barn with stalls for

six 2-horse teams on the uphill level and stanchion and stall space for about 20 cows and their calves on the downhill level.

When Christmas came that first year there was still no snow. To bring home my oldest sister, Mary, who had been going to school at the Catholic academy at Colton, the family went to Genesee in a wagon. She came the 12 miles from Colton by train, which then made daily runs to and from Genesee out of Spokane. We got to the Follett Ranch well after dark, the horses plodding slowly over the rutted and hard-frozen dirt road. The wagon had no springs and was floored with heavy planks that transmitted every jolt at full value. Our only protection was a not-too-deep layer of straw in the wagon bed and a thickness or two of the quilts with which we kept warm.

How soon after Christmas I don't recall, but snow did come that winter, and plenty of it. And with it came our first experience with hand sleds and horse-drawn sleighs. The snow over the frozen roads was a blessing for travelers. With it, teams could move easily at a trot, pulling bob-sleds that glided noiselessly and joltlessly along. The sleighs transformed the trips to and from town from endurance tests to pleasure jaunts, as far as ease of riding was concerned. The cold that came with them was a problem that could be met with plenty of woolen clothing and a well wrapped hot water bottle, or an even hotter cooking iron from the fireless cooker. These irons, circular flat slabs about 10 inches across by an inch thick, would hold heat for hours when wrapped in a gunnysack, and were great foot-warmers in sleighing season.

Every ranch had its string or strings of sleighbells, with which to cheer the winter trips. They varied considerably in pitch and tone according to size and the kind of metal in them. The brass ones were more musical than steel ones, having generally lower and mellower tones. In due time we learned to recognize what neighbor's bells we were hearing. The tempo of their jingling of course told the pace of the team,

whether walk, trot or gallop. In cold still weather the bell sounds carried far, and were often heard a mile or more away.

Our years on the Follett Ranch were marked by much more snow and more prolonged cold weather than prevails now.¹ As well as I can recall, we could expect at least 60 days of good sleighing, which required at least some snow cover on the roads, though not necessarily a thick cover. Exposed dirt or gravel made sleighs almost impossible to pull, even if empty, and sleighride parties scheduled too late in the season could expect to have to get out and walk across bare spots in the road if they extended more than a few feet.

However, as a child in those years I was more an observer of sleighing operations than a participant. Coasting on handsleds was another matter, as was walking to and from school in winter. In those years all farming in our area still was done with horses. Most farms still were fenced along the lines of the original 160-acre homesteads, and most had at least some cross fencing. Many of these fencerows never had been plowed, and typically were grown high and thick with wild rose bushes, snowberry, balsam root sunflowers, wild geraniums, bunchgrass and occasional larger bushes of chokecherry or serviceberry. They made effective snow barriers, and the drifting snows buried most of the north-south fences clear to the post tops.

The old Grey Eagle School which we first attended from the Follett Ranch lay three miles away by road. Our grown-ups were too busy with ranch work to take us to school. Various modes of horse travel were tried, none very successful. A one-horse buggy from Uncle Will Hickman's former Genesee livery stable service, with his gentle old Brownie horse for power, served well but

¹See Ray K. Harris, "Life in Potlatch Was Different," The Record Vol. 37, WSU 1976, p. 53, for a corroborative note.

briefly. One fine fall day other children, out for recess when we were not, pulled the buggy to the top of a steep nearby hill and turned it loose to coast down by itself. At top speed one shaft stuck into the ground and broke off, ending the buggy's career.

Next we rode ponies, which was more to our liking. But one evening enroute home I put my steed to a gallop on the frozen road. One of his front feet broke through the crust and stuck, throwing him violently to the ground and me several yards ahead. Whatever bruises I got from this were minor, but the horse broke his neck and was dead by the time I walked back to him. It was no light matter to have to face Pop about this, as he had warned us not to run the horses.

Reduced to walking, we took a shortcut across the fields that cut the distance to two miles, but required breaking our own trail after each snow or windstorm. Our hand sleds were no help when the snow was soft, so were left at school all week for use there on packed areas at recesses and noon hours. Tom made me a wooden bobsled for Christmas one year as a project for his manual training course at high school. It was the butt of many slurs by schoolmates who owned store boughten steel runnered beauties, but I had the last laugh when it outran them all on the steeper parts of the hill where we coasted.

"The Pig," as my treasure was unkindly dubbed, was great on soft or wet snow, but not equipped for frozen snow. With no metal cappings to protect them, the soft wooden runners wore off rapidly. To our ranch blacksmith shop I went, and there found pieces of sturdy strap iron suited to the purpose. With these installed I was back in business.

Frozen snow was to be expected any time after the first big drifts were formed in December or early January. A day or two of warm west wind, or a few hours of freezing rain, followed by a cold snap, often put a crust on the snow that would hold even a horse. How the sleds did fly over such a surface!

Besides filling the fencerows, the drifts formed on the east and north crests of the steeper ridges. In large fields such drifts could be up to a quarter mile long. Though there were no lifts to get you there, no one begrudged the walk to the top of such a speedway, for the thrill of the bullet-like downward ride more than repaid all labors. It was even good enough to do alone if there was no one to share it.

The frozen snow made going to and from school much easier. Walking on top of the crust had a special appeal after perhaps weeks of trudging through loose snow. And being able to walk right over the tops of fences gave a sort of feeling of power over obstacles, even though it was not really your own power that was the enabler.

The colder weather was the best sleighing weather, too. When the thermometer was hanging around zero, the sled runners squeaked and popped as they ran along on the packed road surfaces, but their friction was at its lowest. Farmers took advantage of the season to haul ground grain for the pigs and steam-rolled oats for the horses, to fill storage bins in the barns against the day when spring break-up came along and the roads became bottomless mud. If there was wheat that had been held at home because of muddy fall roads or poor prices, now was a good time to deliver it. There was coal and wood to be hauled back for heating and cooking stoves.

For ranches like ours, with much livestock under shelter, there was a steady winter job of hauling out manure and hauling in straw for bedding. Once spring came, the fields became too soft to be driven over, and both straw and manure hauling came to a halt until the ground dried enough to firm up again.

Actually, there were very few ranches that kept as much livestock as we did. Many had only their work horses, and perhaps a milk cow. All the horses but one team for road travel were turned out in the stubble fields to find their winter feed there and at the big straw stacks left from the past season's threshing. Thresh-

ing then was all done with stationary machines, which left all the straw from a 40-acre field in one pile. Enough cracked grain and weed seeds went through the threshers and out with the straw to make these stacks a good feed source for idle horses. Experience taught them where in the stack to find most of these seeds, and they were able to live well though not fat.

Spring breakup spelled the end of the sleighing season for any given year. It marked the end of any heavy hauling until the dirt roads dried out two months later. Finally, this spring breakup season spelled the end of sleighing altogether in the Genesee country. Because of it, farmers demanded graveled roads that could be driven over even when all else was muddy. In 1917 there was only one mile of graveled road in our end of Latah County--the mile from Genesee straight east along the north side of the Platt ranch, past Old Genesee to the corner of the Hansen place. By about 1921 the gravel surface had been extended another two miles, to the top of the Jain hill. Some years later the road from the Hansen corner south and east past the Schleuter and Kraut farms and on toward Grey Eagle School District also was graveled. Similar graveling projects no doubt were reaching out from town into the farming country in other directions at the same time.

As far as sleighing was concerned, the gravel proved even worse than bare ground. The horses' feet striking into the loose gravel on the road surface mixed it into the snow, where it dragged heavily on the sleigh runners. Thus even several inches of snow became a poor sleighing surface, and sleighing as a mode of going to and from town was doomed. The graveled roads also made auto and truck travel over country roads practical the year round, further hastening the end.

My last sleighride was on Christmas vacation homecoming from the University of Idaho in 1927. I don't remember how I got as far as Genesee, but from there I hitched a ride with "Daddy" Harms, whose farm lay about three miles from the Follett place. He had a light bob-sled with a two-horse team. The sled box was covered with

a canvas and had no place for me to sit down, so I stood slightly back of Mr. Harms in the center of things and balanced myself as best I could. The sled lurched frequently as it hit spots where gravel had been worked up into the snow. Finally one of these lurches was so sudden that I was jerked off balance and shifted one foot to keep from falling. I planted it where something crunched and sank beneath my weight. I asked Mr. Harms if I might have damaged something, but he didn't think so. Soon after that I got off at the point nearest home and started walking, wishing Mr. Harms a Merry Christmas as I went, and the sled with its cheery bell music disappeared in the winter night.

It was not until some days later that I learned I had stepped smack in the middle of a fancy big box of chocolates which he had bought for Mrs. Harms' Christmas present!

Annual Meeting Confirms Important Changes

Meeting at the McConnell Mansion on January 14 for a noon potluck dinner and following business session, some 40 Society members confirmed a change of name for the organization and expansion of its governing board. Both changes were recommended by the former Board of Trustees at its December 7, 1977, meeting, to improve Society operations.

The new name, Latah County Historical Society, was adopted to fit the pattern prevailing over the rest of the country for societies in the same field. The term "historical" more accurately conveys the nature and scope of usual activities in this field, including the operation of museums as just one of several functions. Even locally, it is believed, the new name will give a better idea of our program. Use of the term "museum" in the title has left the impression with many that we are concerned only with museum operations rather than with the much broader scope of activities which the Society has been carrying on.

The expansion of governing board membership by adding

three one-year trustee-at-large positions allows for wider representation around the county, as well as for more leeway to bring new people into active participation in the Society's affairs. The former provision for three staggered 3-year trustee positions was retained to provide for continuity of knowledge within the Board as a whole. All other positions, including those of the 5-member executive group, are for one year only, though incumbents can succeed themselves, and are encouraged to do so.

Election Brings Six New Faces To Board

Confirming the recommendations of its nominating committee, the Society membership elected a total of nine members to the 1978 Board of Trustees, including six people new to Board participation. The elected Board members are as follows:

President	Donna Bray	Moscow
1st Vice President	Gerald Ingle	Kendrick
2nd Vice President	Dorothy Clanton	Moscow
Secretary	Sam Schrager	Pullman
Treasurer	Tom Berg	Moscow
<u>Trustees-at-large:</u>		
3-year position	Lucille Magnuson	Kendrick
1-year position	Kelly Cline	Moscow
" "	Robert Peterson	Moscow
" "	Dave Trail	Moscow

Carry-over and other positions comprising the remainder of the Board are:

2 yrs. remaining on 3-yr. term Leora Stillinger Moscow
1 yr. remaining on 3-yr. term Harry Sampson Moscow
Two designated representatives of Moscow Historical Club: Cora Knott and Miriam Shelton, both of Moscow
Two designated representatives of the Pioneer Society: Mel Alsager and Jeanette Talbott, both of Moseow
Immediate past president of the Latah County Historical Society (formerly Museum Society): Leonard Ashbaugh, Moscow
Representative of County Commissioners (ex-officio):
To be designated

Annual Report Of Fiscal Operations

1977 Fiscal Operations:

Balance forward on 1/1/77 \$ 7,220.93

Income items:

County operating allocation	\$9,000.00
Membership dues	508.46
Publications donations	1,100.00
Publication sales	1,525.14
Donations	547.60
Door fees	363.46
Phone toll reimbursements	244.94
Refunds	11.25
Miscellaneous	152.80

\$13,453.65

Expense items:

Publications	\$2,989.54
Utilities	1,836.70
Office	1,426.90
Taxes	166.82
Maintenance	242.13
Displays	267.21
Time capsule	101.75
Miscellaneous	891.44

7,922.49

Operations balance \$12,752.09

Transferred to savings 6,103.00

Operating balance on hand 12/31/77 6,649.09

1978 Fiscal Outlook:

Operations balance on hand 1/1/78 \$ 6,649.09

Savings on hand 1/1/78:

Certificates of deposit	\$10,000.00
Passbook account balance	219.38

10,319.38

Anticipated county allocation for operations:

9,000.00

Operations budget for 1978:

Office operations	\$ 1,800.00
Utilities	1,800.00
Permanent fixtures	500.00
Displays	500.00

(continued)

Maintenance	1,000.00	
Oral History	1,000.00	
Publication costs	750.00	
Bulletin publishing	300.00	
Travel	250.00	
Miscellaneous	350.00	
Contingencies	<u>750.00</u>	
		\$9,000.00

Historic Tour Guide Book Revision

Work is under way for the Society to issue a new edition of the *Moscow-Latah County Historic Tours Guidebook*. This volume was published in 1976 by the Moscow Bicentennial Committee with the understanding that future publication rights would rest with the Historical Society. Published in a limited edition, the guide is now out of print, and the Society has received numerous inquiries as to its availability. The editorial committee hopes to have ready for distribution before summer a revised and expanded edition which, with the aid of an index, can serve as a reference work on county history.

Those who have been working on revising the Moscow portion of the booklet include Lola Clyde, Helen Cunningham, Frances McQuade, Clifford Ott, Keith Petersen, Clarice Sampson, Marilyn Scheldorf, and Lillian Otness, chairman. Others will be added to the committee to cover other parts of the county. The committee solicits suggestions for corrections and additions to the original guide. Completion of committee work by early May is planned.

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

Death of Ione Adair

Friends will be saddened by the loss of Ione Adair, who died in her sleep on November 24, 1977. Grace Wicks, writing in the *Idahonian*, said of her, "The happy life of Ione Adair has ended after 94 years. To the last, she savored each new day and greeted it from the back porch of her home. This is the brick duplex she built on her father's property next door to their family home of [34] years, the McConnell Mansion. . . . Together with her sister, Bernadine Adair Cornelison, she was a gracious Daughter of the Mansion where earlier she lived in the suite on the second floor, northwest. . . . This was a comfortable dwelling for a woman who remained at home and was occupied by a professional life. . . .

"When the McConnell Mansion was being made into the Latah County Museum, she was most helpful. We worked with volunteer labor and exceedingly limited funds. To get the original materials was impossible, but she could help us with similarities in carpet patterns and wall-papers. . . . Blind at the very last, Ione helped her sister keep a delightful mantel over their fireplace. . . . This will continue, for Mrs. Cornelison intends to live on in their home sustained by her alert and loving neighbors and friends. She will miss her sister, as will we all."

Help Wanted

The proposal originated by Donna Bray to enable county commissioners to collect and distribute for museum purposes up to \$20,000 yearly, rather than the \$9,000 now permitted, is before the legislature. This legislation is needed to offset the effects of inflation and enable museums to expand their services, thereby helping to preserve our heritage and improve the quality of life as the people of Idaho increasingly are demanding. Friends of the Society who live in Idaho are urged to write to legislators in support of the proposed amendment of Section 31-864 Idaho Code. Here is what you can do to help:

LATAH COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
110 South Adams St.
Moscow, Idaho 83843

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

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First, write to the following committee chairmen:

Senator Lyle Cobbs, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Local Government and Taxation

Representative Gary Ingram, Chairman of the House Committee on Local Government

Second, write to the legislators from your own district and send copies to the committee chairmen listed above.

It would also be helpful if you would send copies of all letters to Representative Linden Bateman. All of the legislators may be addressed at the State House, Boise, Idaho 83720.

Coming Events

Historical Series No. 1, William Greever, February 16, 8:00 p.m., speaking on "Mining in Northern Idaho."

Historical Series No. 2, Keith Petersen, March 30, 8:00 p.m., slide presentation and talk on "Frank Robinson and Psychiana."