

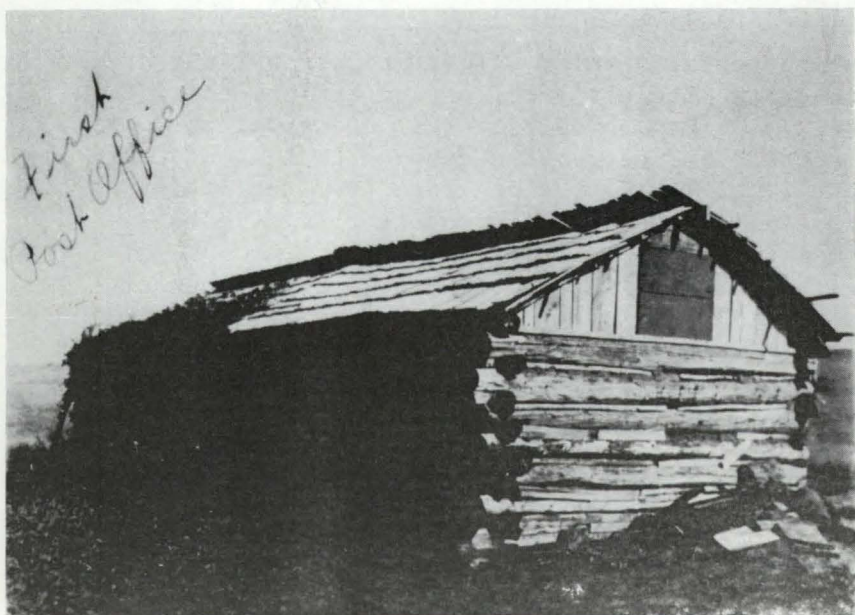
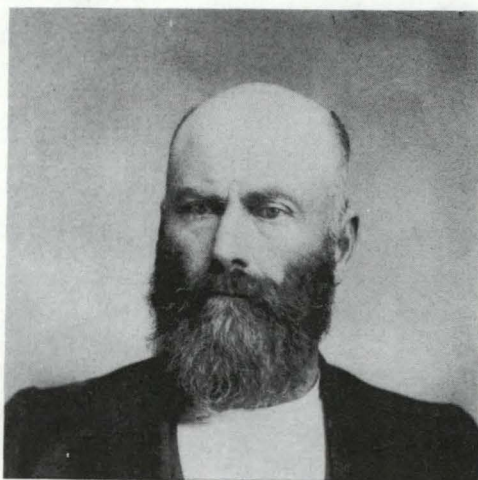
LATAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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LATAH COUNTY POST OFFICES





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ABOUT THE FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE

Dr. Lalia P. Boone, the author of the article on Latah County post offices, is Professor Emerita of English of the University of Idaho and a member of our Society. She has been collecting information on Idaho place names since 1965 and has amassed data on over 40,000 Idaho names. Since retiring, she continues to make her home in Moscow. She hopes to publish her material on Latah County place names in the near future.

The photographs which illustrate her article are from either the Society's collection or from that of the U of I Library. The pictures of Jansville, Collins, Slabtown, and Deary were donated to the university by John B. Miller. Most of those from the Society's files are copies made by Clifford Ott from originals.

Keith Petersen's *Guide to Museums in Latah, Nez Perce, and Whitman Counties* is bound separately and enclosed with this *Bulletin* as a service to our members. We hope you will find it useful and will save it for future reference.

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS: A. A. Lieuallen, Moscow postmaster, 1876-1881

Moscow post office, probably 1873



## POST OFFICES OF LATAH COUNTY

by Lalia P. Boone

The year is 1870. Idaho is still a territory. Latah County has not been created. The area now called Latah County is part of original Nez Perce County, Idaho Territory. Rapid communication, as well as rapid transportation, is in the future. Supplies, as well as mail, come mostly from Walla Walla or The Dalles, Oregon. Deep trails crisscross the area, cut by countless Indians, fur traders and trappers, prospectors, and wanderers. Some stay for a while and move on; others build cabins and settle in or begin prospecting and gold panning along the far reaches of the Palouse River.

In 1860 a settler known locally as Long Jim builds a cabin at the mouth of Jerome Creek. A. J. Schwartz, another settler, lives at the mouth of Meadow Creek. Both settlers are on the Palouse River, where Mayo reports several pioneer settlers between the Harvard area and Palouse City, Washington. (No homestead papers have been found for these early settlers.)

Three other parts of the county are growing rapidly. Thomas Tierney (1869) and Jacob Kambitsch (1870) have built cabins and started farming in the Thorn Creek/Genesee area. (James Hall had come to the Union/Thorn Creek area in 1868, but his land fell into Washington when the Washington-Idaho boundary was set in 1888.) Others soon flocked to this fertile valley, but there were still no homestead papers.

### THE BEGINNING OF POST OFFICES, 1873-1876

The Moscow settlement begins in 1871 when A. A. Lieualen starts farming about three miles east of the present townsite. He is followed almost immediately by, if not actually accompanied by, George Washington Tomer, John Russell, Thomas Crowley, James Deakin, Henry McGregor, William Ewing, William Taylor, S. M. Neff, James and Al Howard, Reuben Cox, O. H. P. Beagle, James Montgomery, and probably others. Some file homestead papers

in 1872, others a little later; still others take out pre-emption papers.

The Pine Creek settlement, in the northwest corner of present-day Latah county, is being proved up concurrently with the Moscow settlement. (The first homestead papers in the county were issued to Lyman Davenport, February 24, 1872. Almost immediately, in fact two months later, Reuben Price and Jess Cash filed.) So by 1872 there are three communities in need of immediate postal service and developing settlements along the Palouse that will soon require the same service.

Between 1873 and 1907 the U.S. Records of Post Offices and Postmasters list 46 official post offices in what is now Latah County and another, Pine Creek, that was first believed to be in the county, but determined two years later to be just west of the Idaho-Washington boundary. Other places, called post offices by various Latah County historians, are more likely to have been postal mail drops, or unofficial post offices. The fact that mail to both official and unofficial offices was transported by the same means and at the same time tends to confuse the status of many places where mail was picked up or distributed.

Paradise Valley (later Moscow), the first permanent post office, and Pine Creek, in the northwestern corner of the county, were granted post offices on the same date, March 19, 1873, both in Nez Perce County. In his location report to the Postmaster General Mr. Brewer, Pine Creek postmaster, could not accurately locate the site, as it had not been surveyed. The survey between Idaho and Washington was completed late in 1874 and accepted by the Surveyor General in January of 1875. From then on, Idaho settlers in Pine Creek district--Evergreen, Pigeon Hollow, and Fairview communities--received their mail from Pine Creek-Farmington Post Office.

An interesting sidelight to the Pine Creek incident is that, in completing the site location papers for the Postmaster General, Brewer listed the nearest post office south as Palouse Bridge. Inquiry among older



residents in the area has been unsuccessful in locating Palouse Bridge: there were three bridges on the Palouse River between Kennedy Ford and Washington State. As far as these informants know, the reference is not to Palouse, Wn., as its official name was Palouse City. Nor are there records for Palouse Bridge in the microfilm of Idaho post offices from the U.S. Post Office Archives. No doubt settlers received mail at that point, but more likely, it was a very early mail drop, perhaps on the way to Gold Creek, an 1863 mining town with a store and "post office," from The Dalles, Oregon.

Back to Paradise Valley Post Office. The post office is officially established March 19, 1873, with Vanison Craig as postmaster; Samuel B. Edwards succeeds him August 28, 1874. To avoid confusion with other offices named Paradise, the U.S. Post Office asks for a change of name. Moscow is chosen and becomes the official name for the post office December 26, 1876. It is moved to Lieuallen's store with Sarah H. Edwards as postmaster; Lieuallen succeeds her November 20, 1877, and remains in office until September 27, 1881.

#### GROWTH, 1876-1890

Between 1876 and 1890 most homesteaders in three areas of the county had settled in and were farming:

- 1) South of the Palouse River and west of present-day Princeton;
- 2) Northwestern Latah County drained by Pine Creek; and
- 3) Cedar Creek Ridge along the southeastern border.

For example, in the Pine Creek area alone, 63 of the original 76 settlers had already filed their claims. During this time 17 post office names for 15 post offices were established to serve these areas.

Viola (former Four Mile), Genesee, Juliaetta, Kendrick (former Kirby), Vollmer (later called Troy), were permanent. Ten were temporary, ranging in years from two

to forty. In the following list the general area and the years of activity are given: the asterisk indicates that the post office was both established and terminated in this period.

\*Jamestown, NW, between the Palouse River and Pine Creek, 7 years

\*Chambers, NW, on the Palouse River, 3 years

Starner, NW, on the Palouse River, 4 years

Cornwall, SW, below Moscow, 4 years

Hoodoo, NE, in Hoodoo Mining District, 2 years

Milbo, probably in the NE, 2 years

Brickville, serving American and Driscoll Ridges, 7 years

Lenville, north of Genesee, 11 years

Taney, north of Kendrick, 22 years

Linden, on Cedar Creek Ridge, 40 years

#### MORE GROWTH, 1891-1900

From 1891 through 1900 the county continues to grow. While farming has prevailed in earlier years, logging enters the picture in this period. The southeastern area along Cedar Creek receives an increasing number of settlers, all farming enough to produce what they need for themselves, but with some logging and mining also. Mining in the northeastern part of the county has just passed its second boom peak. The "chinks" are being filled in between existing communities in the southwestern quarter and along the Palouse River. More post offices and better service are needed. The number of post offices grows from 16 in 1890 to 22 in 1900, despite the loss of 10. A cursory examination of the lists of terminations below shows that the loss of



post offices and post office names is not significant, as settlers continue to receive mail service through existing offices or postal routes.

Mail Transferred

Name Changed

Brickaville, to Anderson

Kirby, to Kendrick

Hoodoo, to Starner

Vollmer, to Troy

Almeda, to Cora

Deep Creek, to Palouse

Rescinded

Jamestown, to Farmington, Washington

Milbo Rolf Joel

Abe

Starner, to Princeton

More than offsetting the loss of 10 offices, 16 new post offices appear, and the names of "Kendrick" and "Troy" replace "Kirby" and "Vollmer." Following the pattern of settlement, they serve 7 farm communities; 5, logging; one, mining; and 4, combining farming, logging, and mining. The newly established post offices, except for Princeton, are temporary. The listing below gives the section of the county, the number of years in use, and the occupational clientele of each. The asterisk marks post offices both established and terminated in this period.

Primarily Farming

Above Palouse River,  
NW quarter

Between Bear Ridge and  
border of county, SE

\*Almeda, 3 years

Anderson, 10 years

Cora, 15 years

\*Rolf, 1 year

Deep Creek, 5 years

Below Moscow, SW quarter

Freese, 8 years

\*Joel, rescinded



Left to right, Mrs. Russ Lawrence, Ellis Lawrence, Floyd Lawrence, Liz Manson, Warren Lawrence, Edith Lawrence, George Lawrence, G.B. (Russ) Lawrence. A packing box for Pearl Oil (kerosene) is in the foreground. (from "The Trees Grew Tall," by John B. Miller)



From left to right are Sam, Jake, and John Frei. The fourth man appears to be one of the Mallory brothers. The fifth man is unidentified. (from The Trees Grew Tall, by John B. Miller)

Above: Jansville, a postal drop until 1892, thence a post office, 1892-1907

Below: Collins store and post office about 1895



Primarily Logging

*Abe, NE, 1 year	Crescent, SE, 35 years
Jansville, NE, 15 years	Park, SE, 34 years
Collins, NE, 20 years	

Mining

Hoodoo, NE, 5 years

Combination Farming-Logging-Mining

Avon, SE, 55 years	Princeton, NW, permanent
Nora, SW, 6 years	

LOGGING AND POST OFFICES, 1901-1907

Of the 10 post offices added during this period, 6 are in logging communities; 1, mining; and 3 unclassified, for lack of information except for date of establishment and the name of the postmaster. Note that farming is not primary to the patrons of these offices. This is the first time that farming areas have not required the greatest portion of additional mail service. The post office situation parallels what is happening economically in the county. Logging is booming and "towns" arising throughout the forest area, particularly around Deary and Bovill, though Deary's growth springs partly from agriculture. Jansville and Collins cannot handle the mail for so large an area. Of the logging areas receiving new service, Potlatch, Harvard, Bovill, and Deary remain active in 1978. In the following list, the asterisk marks post offices that were both established and terminated within this period.

Post Offices Added, 1901-1907

Logging

Potlatch	Harvard	Deary	Bovill	*Ivy	*Helmer
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Mining

\*Hoodoo

No Information

\*Mascot \*Coates \*Dunlup

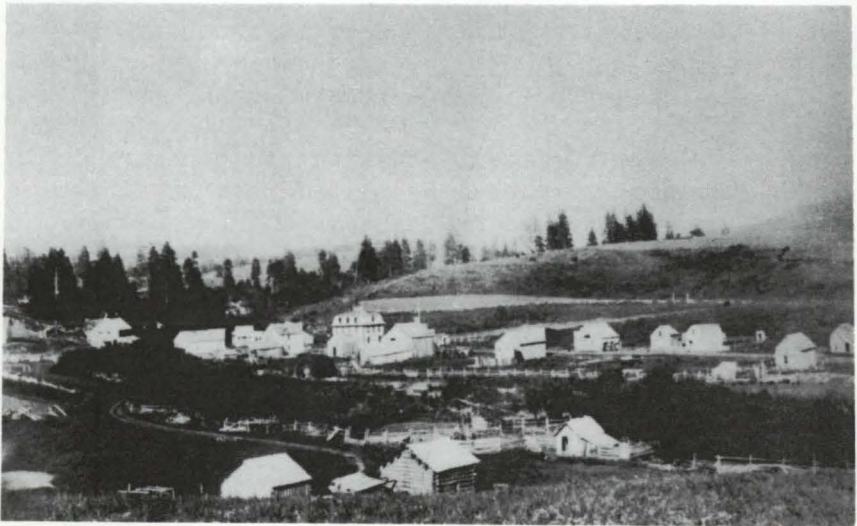
In 1907 the number of active post offices in the county reaches its peak of 26. The rising logging industry does not peak until probably the 1920s, but no more post offices are established or needed. In fact the number begins to decline. Two circumstances account for this: the Rural Free Delivery Act of 1896, and the coming of the railroads into and across the county.

The Oregon Railroad & Navigation Co. line is built into Moscow in 1885. Northern Pacific completes the Palouse-Lewiston line through Moscow, Troy, Kendrick, and Juliaetta by 1891. The Washington, Idaho, and Montana Railway (WIM), with service between Palouse, Washington, and Bovill and serving Potlatch, Princeton, Harvard, and Avon is completed in 1907. About 1908 the Spokane, & Inland Empire line begins operating between Spokane and Moscow. And the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul line joins WIM at Bovill in 1910, extending service to logging interests from Bovill to Elk River. With railroads carrying the mail, as well as the customary freight, logs, and passengers, the already existing post offices can distribute mail to a wider area, and that more efficiently than has been possible under primitive conditions. In addition, Rural Free Delivery extends the mail service considerably. With both the railroad and RFD distributing the mail, the 26 offices of 1907 are no longer necessary. The elimination of 15 offices sets in.

DECLINE, 1908-1946

As paradoxical as it may seem, the rapidly expanding farm and logging areas are the scene for the loss of 11 post offices in this period. Farming/mining and logging areas lose one each, and there is no information on two.





Above: Cabin used as post office called Woodfell,  
Idaho, 1903-1910

Below: Four Mile, later Viola, in 1882. Post office  
established 1878

Offices Terminated, 1908-1946

<u>Logging</u>	<u>Farming/Logging</u>
Jansville, 15 yrs., to Deary	Avon, 55 yrs., to Deary
Ivy, 6 yrs., to Deary	Taney, 22 yrs., to Kendrick
Collins, 20 yrs., to Deary	Cora, 15 yrs., to Garfield
*Helmer, 22 yrs., to Deary	Freese, 8 yrs., to Garfield
Crescent, 35 yrs., to Southwick, Nez Perce County	Anderson, 14 yrs., to Deary
Park, 34 yrs., to Southwick	Linden, 40 yrs., to South- wick, Nez Perce County
<u>Mining</u>	
Woodfell, 7 yrs., to Deary	

No Information

Coates, established and terminated, 1902

Dunlup, established and terminated, 1902

Note that Deary receives the mail from 8 of the 15 terminated post offices. From 1947 to 1979, Latah County has been served by the same 11 post offices. They are listed below with the date of establishment; a second date is given for the original post office by a different name.

Moscow, 1876 (1873)	Troy, 1898 (1890)
Genesee, 1878	Potlatch, 1904
Viola, 1882 (1878)	Harvard, 1906
Juliaetta, 1882	Bovill, 1907
Kendrick, 1890 (1889)	Deary, 1907
Princeton, 1894	





On the left, in order, are the pool hall, post office, Peterson building (Albert Pierce store), and a building (previously the Olson store) which at this date housed the barber shop and Dr. Faust's office. The other bldgs. have already been identified. The large building above the bank was, at this time, occupied either by Olson or Sam Anderson. Of interest in this picture are the cars. The forward three of the line-up are a Hec owned by Jorgeson, a Winton owned by Drury, and a Studebaker. (from "The Trees Grew Tall," by John N. Miller)

Deary. Post office is the second building from left.

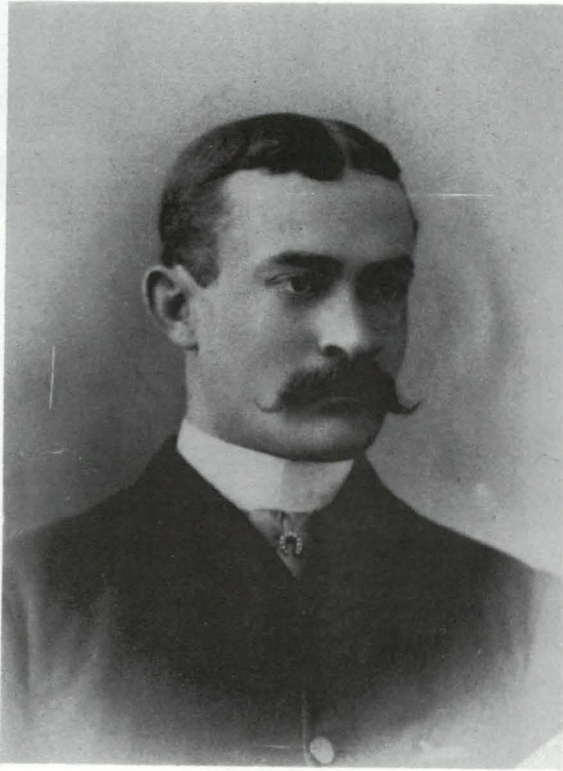
## EARLY POSTMASTERS

The early postmasters were, first of all, pioneers who wanted good communities and advantages for their families and others around them. Today we would call them civic-minded citizens. Not only did they get behind movements to bring advantages to the community, they pitched in and gave land for townsites, schools, churches, and cemeteries; actually built roads, bridges, schoolhouses, churches; taught school; and plotted new towns--all in addition to being postmasters. Often the one named as postmaster was also the one who applied for the post office.

John A. "Judge" Starner might be called a professional postmaster, having been appointed to three different offices. He applied for an office at what is present-day Hampton in 1890. It was granted, he was named postmaster, and the office was named Starner. In 1894 the Princeton community was beginning to flourish a half mile east of Starner and wanted its own office. Princeton was granted a post office and Starner P.O. was moved to Princeton in 1894. Judge Starner was not long out of work. He moved west to Deep Creek, built a store there, and applied for another post office. Deep Creek Post Office was established in 1894 and terminated 1899. Judge Starner moved again, this time to Freese, where he was postmaster for Freese Post Office, 1898-1907. None of his post offices lived very long, but they certainly kept the mail going to their communities until mail service could be provided by larger, more efficient offices.

Lieuallen, second postmaster of Moscow, is recognized as the founder of the town. He made application for Paradise Valley Post Office in 1873. Then when the post office name was changed to Moscow in 1876, he housed it in his store and continued to do so until 1881. Viola's first postmaster granted land for the first school. Hugh Bovill, Bovill's first postmaster, was founder of the town. He built the first store and first hotel; he started the first horse ranch and gave land for the WIM railroad. Through his many ventures he opened up the forested wilderness of that area to





Above: Hugh Bovill, founder of the town and first postmaster  
Below: Bovill hotel and post office, 1907

timber cruisers, homesteaders, hunters, sportsmen, and vacationers. Ole H. Torgerson, only postmaster of Rolf and third of Park, was an experienced woodsman. He helped built roads across tortuous Potlatch Canyon and was foreman on the road to Jericho mine. He built the first bridge across Potlatch River in the Cedar-Boulder Creek area and the store/post office at Park, 1898.

It may seem somewhat astonishing that in that age, long before the women's liberation movement, 22% of the official postmasters appointed by 1929 were women. Seven of the 11 appointments to Avon Post Office in 55 years were women; and 6 of the 11 appointed to Linden Post Office were women. Fourteen of the 46 post offices had one or more women postmasters before 1930. The only woman to sign an application for a post office was Mrs. Cora Caruthers, who became the first postmaster at Cora, in the NW quarter of the county. She owned property in the area, and the town and post office were named in her honor.

Emma Lyons Longfellow, postmaster of Linden, taught school at Gold Hill for many years. Mitchell (p. 57) says she was "one of the leading figures in church and Sunday School through all her life, and her influence truly left 'footprints on the sands of Time.'"

Often patrons of a post office were confused about who the postmaster was, for husbands and wives usually ran postal services as a team with the wife handling the mail most of the time. Even official postmasters often succeeded members of their family, making the postmastership a family affair. There were 11 sets of husband-wife teams, with one succeeding the other. At Avon Edith, Maggie, and Roy W. Craine held the office in succession. Crescent had only 4 postmasters in its 35 years. All were members of the same family: George, Sarah, Elsie, and Myrtle Darbie--probably husband, wife, and daughters.

So much for postmasters. This sampling gives us a glimpse of active, forward-looking, energetic, ambitious people who contributed much to their growing communities.



## HOUSING THE MAIL

With no federal buildings to house post offices, one may wonder how they were housed. Paradise Valley, the first post office, was housed at S. M. Neff's store, a log building locally believed to have been on Mountain View Road near Hillcrest. However, when the name was changed to Moscow in 1876, A. A. Lieuallen purchased the store and moved store and post office to what is now First and Main. Reportedly, he kept the mail in a boot box in the store for some time, then built an addition to the store for it.

Homes often housed the mail before 1900, and as the postmaster appointment changed, the site of the post office changed with it, as if the office were a movable asset. When James Kunes was appointed postmaster at Linden (settlers refer to Mrs. Kunes as the postmaster, not James), he built a separate house for the office. When Mrs. Emma Lyons was appointed to replace Kunes, Mr. Lyons built a box for the mail to be kept in their home; however, on her reappointment as Mrs. Emma Lyons Longfellow, Mr. Longfellow built a shed room onto their house for the mail.

Bovill housed the mail in Bovill Hotel. Jansville Post Office and a saloon shared space. In Park, the first postmaster, Andrew H. Hellerud, built a separate post office; but when Torgerson became postmaster, he moved the mail to his store, where his daughter Clara managed both the store and post office until 1910. Henry Anderson, Bear Ridge, established his post office in his home, part of which was already used as a store and way station. Later he moved to Upper Bear Ridge, taking his store, way station, and post office with him.

By the 1920s, most post offices had acquired a permanent place with their own facilities, and postmastering had become a full-time job. The day of the "boot box," "home," "store," "hotel," and "saloon" post offices had very well died out with the wilderness they once served.

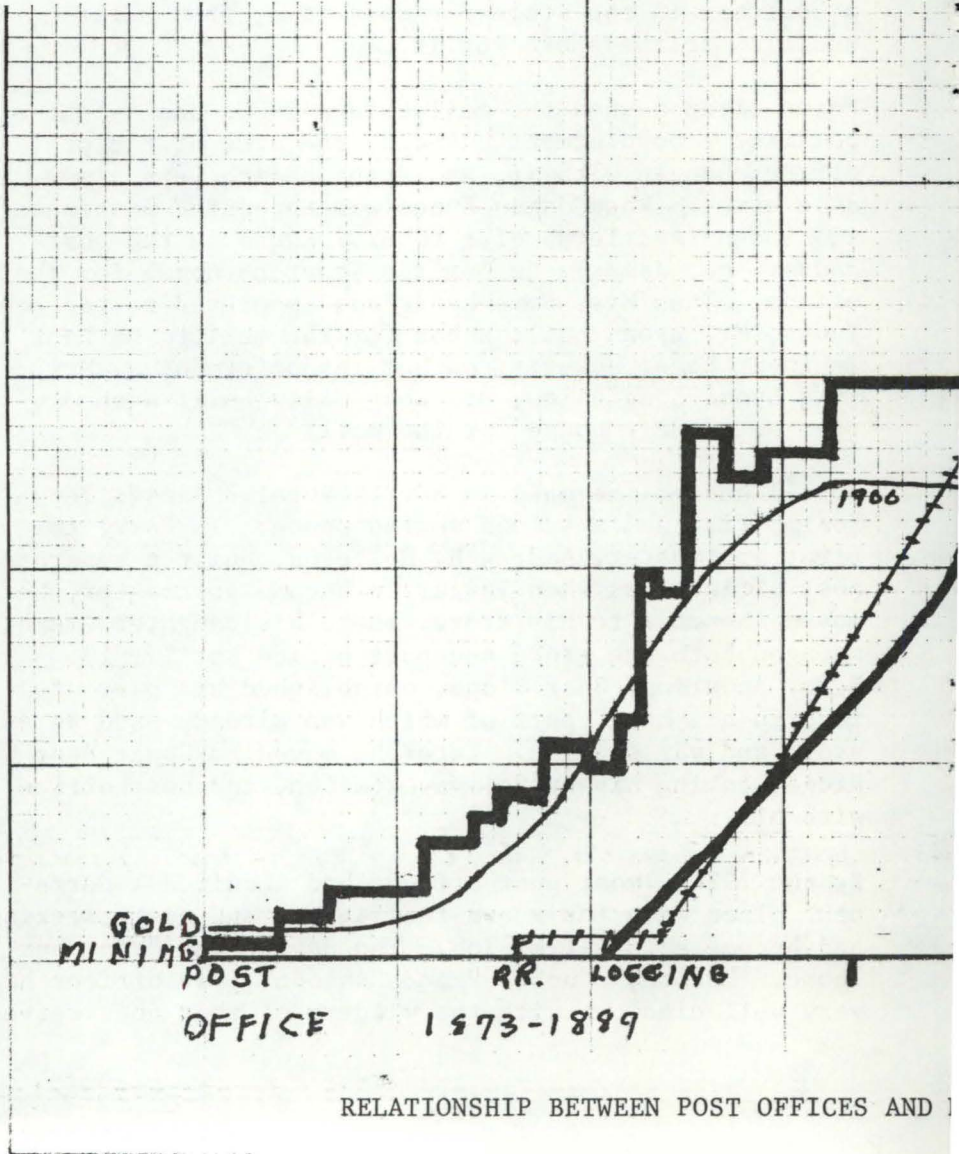
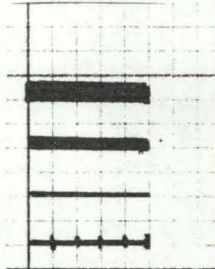
LEGEND

Post offices

Logging

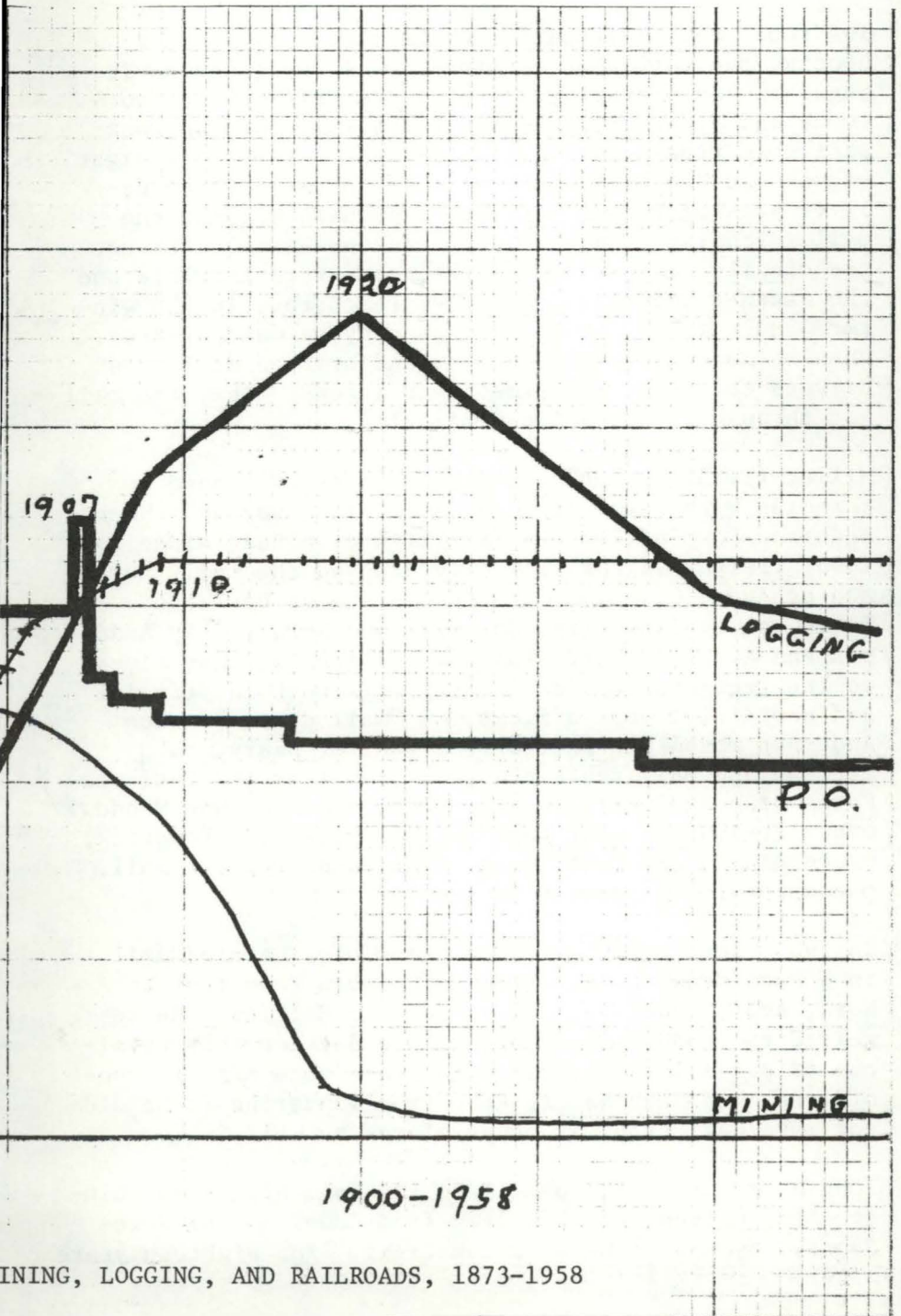
Mining

Railroads



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POST OFFICES AND





MINING, LOGGING, AND RAILROADS, 1873-1958

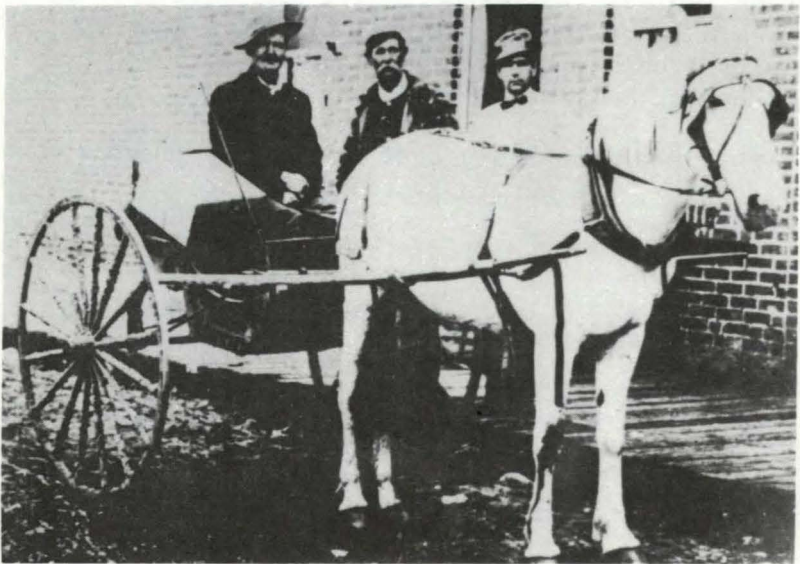
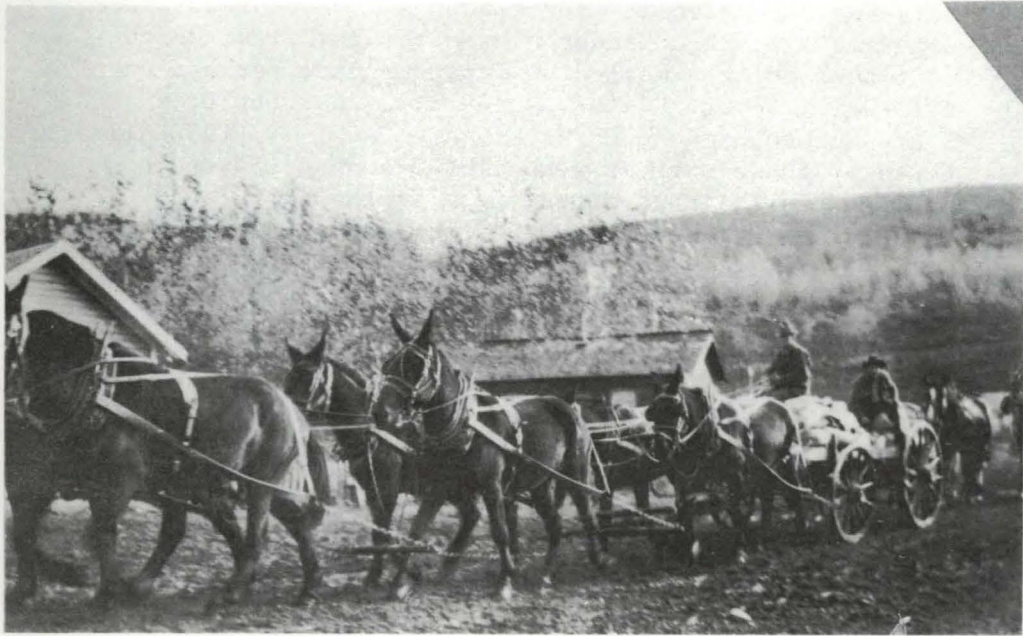
## TRANSPORTING THE MAIL

The real problem of early-day mail service was not housing the mail, but getting it. At best it was irregular, and winter delivery to post offices was tortuous and difficult. In the 1870s mail for the most part came from Lewiston by horseback. Then as freight wagons and stage coach lines came to the area to deliver passengers and freight, they also brought the mail, dropping it at official and unofficial offices, technically "mail drops." The roads were terrible and the weather uncertain, usually treacherous in the winter. Much of the route through canyons was corduroy. When streams got out of bounds and bridges washed out, drivers and teams sometimes swam across. That the mail got through at all seems a miracle.

Miller (p. 5) says that postal/mail drops tended to coincide with terminal sites of freight wagons. When Anderson Post Office was established on Bear Ridge in 1893, freight wagons from Troy dropped the mail there and at Avon, One-eyed Carlson's place at Potlatch Forks, on to Jansville, Collins, and Nora. Only Anderson and Avon were official post offices at that time; so the freighter was delivering mail to both official and unofficial post offices, or "mail drops." When Anderson moved his post office west of Deary, the freight and mail route changed, canceling the Potlatch Forks drop and adding one at Hayne's place, Hog Meadow. Other freighters went regularly to Park from Kendrick, proceeding along Cedar Creek Trail and dropping mail, passengers, and freight on the way.

In 1905 Glen Corrie, fifteen years old, carried mail in a hack drawn by two teams of horses from Troy to Nora, Avon, Anderson, Jansville, and Collins. He received the handsome sum of \$1.00 a day for this perilous trip. All the stops named above were official post offices. One can hardly keep from wondering if he did not make mail drops at other places as well.

John Alexander carried mail to the Gold Hill area, Linden Post Office, twice a week from Cameron, Nez Perce County, by way of Cedar Creek Trail. For eighteen years



Above: Lifeline of the early settlers: freight wagons transported mail from 1860 to about 1910.  
Below: Mail carriers and post office at Kendrick, 1920.



Lars Kaain carried it from Linden across Boulder Creek. Later mail reached Linden by way of Southwick, which continued to be a mail-dispatching center perhaps until 1942. George Leith was the first carrier from Southwick to Linden, Crescent, and Park. By 1930 all three of these offices were closed and an RFD route had been established direct from Southwick. Today these areas are served by RFD from Deary.

#### MAIL DROPS

Confusion about the term "post office" has been and still is widespread when speaking of early postal service. An official post office is one established by the U.S. Post Office; an official postmaster is appointed at the time of establishment, and successive postmasters as needed. An unofficial post office, technically a "mail/postal drop," may be located at any stopping place where there are a number of people --a store, way station, freight terminal, saloon. Instead of an appointed postmaster, there is an unpaid person who voluntarily cares for the mail entrusted to him as a favor to his patrons. Much of this confusion results from having the same carrier for both post offices and mail drops.

All the references to postal service in the discussion that follows are generally called "post offices." I maintain they are "mail drops," as they do not appear in the U.S. Record of Post Offices.

Bockmier reports, "In 1863 there were 100 men mining on Gold Creek. It was a large village, a store and post office. [Ten years prior to Paradise Valley Post Office.] Supplies were packed in from The Dalles, Oregon." Knowing that freight wagons carried mail as well as supplies, it seems reasonable to assume that the mail came from The Dalles with the supplies. Palouse Bridge was reported as a post office by Pine Ridge postmaster as existing in 1873. Could it be that The Dalles ran freight wagons on a route along the Palouse River to Gold Creek by way of Palouse Bridge? Mining towns Camas Creek and Jerome Creek, 1862-1870, were on or very near this direct route; Camas Creek is

at the mouth of the creek on the Palouse River, and Jerome Creek is about two miles from Gold Creek. Both have been reported as towns with a store and a post office. Since there is no official record of these mining post offices, it is my belief that the three mining towns and Palouse Bridge were mail drops serving the Palouse River area before an official post office was established.

Glen Palmer, life-long resident of the Grizzle Camp area and custodian of Grizzly Boy Scout camp, adds a bit of local lore. He says that Hoodoo also had a town with a post office in the 1860s (probably 1862-63, when Hoodoo mines were first active). He says further that supplies were brought to Grizzle Camp by the Rawhide Stagecoach from Walla Walla, driven by one of the Chambers boys, of Chambers Flat. The stagecoach unloaded supplies at Grizzle Camp, and mule trains carried the freight by way of the old Hoodoo Trail, a distance of fourteen miles. Like the stagecoach from The Dalles, the Rawhide must have carried the mail also. There is no official record of this early post office either; Hoodoo Post Office was not established until 1890. This must have been another mail drop. Most activity in the Hoodoos shut down in 1863, as miners flocked to Orofino and Montana for rich gold deposits that were easier to get.

Activity in the Hoodoos reached boom proportions from 1880-1903. It was then that Hoodoo was granted an official post office; the name was changed to Woodfell in 1903. No other mining town in Latah County is recorded by the U.S. Post Office. It was during this same time that Grizzle Camp became a booming mining camp and, in all likelihood, a mail drop. The Wells Fargo stagecoach ran three times daily from Palouse, Washington, to Grizzle Camp. Like the Rawhide of the '60s, Wells Fargo relied on mule trains to carry supplies to the mines. It's incredible to believe that the stagecoach did not unload supplies and mail for Grizzle Camp, too.

References to five other mail drops appear in postal guide maps and other records, but not in the U.S.



Record of Post Offices and Postmaster Appointments. They are listed below with the type of area and general location.

Farming

Blaine, SW

Thorn Creek, SW corner

Thorn Valley, SW corner

Logging

Fairview, later Slabtown, NE

Slabtown, NE

Certainly the coming of the railroads from 1885-1970 made mail drops and some post offices unnecessary. Railroads were a boon to activating the RFD Act, for all the permanent post offices received mail directly by rail. They in turn could deliver by RFD to surrounding communities. The problem of getting the mail into the county was solved by the railroads; that of getting mail to residents, by RFD.



Slabtown, possibly about 1910. As shown here, the original was Fairview, but this was soon changed because there was another Fairview in Idaho. (from The Trees Grew Tall, by John S. Miller)

Slabtown, formerly Fairview  
Mail drop 2 miles north of Bovill, about 1903



## POST OFFICE NAMES

In order to establish a post office, someone in the area must make application to the Post Office Department on forms provided by the Department. Two required items of information are the names of the proposed new office and of the proposed postmaster. Normally the proposed name is that by which the place is already known, and the proposed postmaster is often, but not always, the one making application. Should the name blank be left open, the Department may well supply the name of the appointed postmaster. However it may have happened, first postmasters have had considerable influence on the names of Latah post offices.

Avon is an exception to the normal policy. No one knows why the name was proposed. The general area was already known as Vassar Meadows, and the name of the proposed postmaster was James Parks. At any rate, the application was granted and the post office was officially named Avon. Later the railroad stop was named Vassar and the townsite Rue, both in addition to the post office name.

In two recorded instances in Latah County the Post Office Department asked for another name than the one proposed, because there were too many post offices already bearing those names--"Paradise Valley" and "Fairview." Messrs. Lieuallen, McGregor, Deakin, Russell, and Neff met in Paradise Valley and seriously considered several names. They were searching for a name that would bode well for the new town. "Moscow" was chosen. Fairview residents chose "Slabtown," because they were all engaged in logging and cutting the outside pieces, or slabs, from harvested logs. These new proposed names were not haphazardly chosen, nor were they left to the decision of one man.

Names were easier to change in the period before 1900 than today, when it is almost impossible. Vollmer citizens became disenchanted with their town developer and decided to rid themselves of his name. According to local lore, they held an election and Troy was chosen. Kirby and Four Mile also gave way to other names. Their respective postmasters changed them to Kendrick and Viola, apparently one-man decisions.

LATAH COUNTY POST OFFICES, 1873-1946  
 from IDAHO, U.S. Postal Records, Microfilm, and Postal Guides

ESTABLISHED	POST OFFICE NAME	TERMINATED	FIRST POSTMASTER
1873	Paradise Valley	1876, name changed to Moscow	Vanison Craig
1876	*Moscow, late Paradise Valley		Sarah F. Edwards
1878	Four Mile	1882, name changed to Viola	William H. Teel
	*Genesee		Edward F. Walsh
1882	*Viola, late Four Mile		William H. Teel
	*Juliaetta		Charles Snyder
1883	Jamestown	1890, mail to Farmington, Wn.	Lorenzo D. Jameson
1884	Chambers	1887, mail to Palouse, Wn.	Matthew T. Chambers
1885	Taney	1907, mail to Kendrick	Rodney F. Drury
1887	Cornwall	1901, mail to Moscow	Albert Carrillo
	Brickaville	1894	George Bricka
1889	Kirby	1890, name changed to Kendrick	Thomas Kirby
	Linden	1929, mail to Crescent	Joseph M. Butcher
1890	Hoodoo	1892, mail to Starner	Charles Smith
	*Kendrick, late Kirby		Thomas Kirby
	Lenville	1901, mail to Genesee	Leonard H. "Len" Nichols
	Milbo	1893	Isaac Winton
	Starner	1894, mail to Princeton	John A. "Judge" Starner
	Vollmer	1898, name changed to Troy	John W. Seat
1891	Avon	1946, mail to Deary	James Parks
1892	Abe	1893, no papers	Abel S. Thompson

	Almeda	1895, mail to Cora	Frank N. Wright
	Cora	1907, mail to Garfield, Wn.	Cora Caruthers
	Jansville	1907, mail to Helmer	Charles A. Carlson
	Joel	1893, rescinded	D. A. Morris
	Rolf	1893	Ole H. Torgerson
1893	Anderson	1907, name changed to Deary	Henry Anderson
1894	Deep Creek	1899, mail to Garfield, Wn.	John A. "Judge" Starner
	*Princeton		Joseph L. Jenks
1895	Collins	1915, mail to Bovill	Albert O. Cady
	Crescent	1930, mail to Southwick	George Darbie
1896	Park	1930, mail to Southwick	Andrew H. Hellerud
1898	*Troy, late Vollmer		Thomas H. Christie
	Hoodoo, re-established	1903, name changed to Woodfell	James Mott
1899	Freese	1907, mail to Palouse, Wn.	John A. "Judge" Starner
1900	Nora	1906, mail to Troy	Peter G. Johnson
1902	Ivy	1908, mail to Deary	Frank C. Davis
	Mascot	1902	William Delbert Timm
1903	Woodfell, late Hoodoo	1910, mail to Deary	John Jake Johnson
1904	*Potlatch		David M. Wilson
1906	*Harvard		Daniel J. Whitaker
1907	Coates	1907, rescinded	Crawford Coates
	Helmer	1929, mail to Deary	William S. Miller
	Dunlup	1907	Thankful Dunlup
	*Bovill		Hugh Bovill
	*Deary		Ole C. Jorgenson

\*Active post office in 1978

Post offices established 1873-1978: 46

Post offices active in 1978: 11



The names of Latah County post offices, like all place names, fall into definite patterns and categories. However, post office names, in contrast to general names, evidence an overwhelming preference for honoring people. Twenty-six of the 44 names listed below honor people important to the community, a majority going to postmasters and their daughters. Avon, Almeda, Crescent, Jansville, Mascot, and Rolf are omitted, for lack of information.

### Honoring People

Postmasters: (for the names of postmasters honored in the names of the following towns see pages 26-27).  
Abe, Anderson, Bovill, Brickaville, Chambers, Coates, Cora, Dunlup, Jamestown, Kirby, Lenville, Starner.

Daughters of postmasters: Juliaetta, for Julia and Etta Snyder; Nora, for Nora Johnson; Viola, for Viola Teel.

Other than postmaster and family:

Blaine, for J. G. Blaine, a Maine statesman of the era  
Collins, for John Collins, timber cruiser and homesteader

Cornwall, for Mason Cornwall, early settler and financier

Deary, for William Deary, settler and manager for Weyerhaeuser

Freese, for C. E. Freese, early settler

Helmer, for William Helmer, timber cruiser

Ivy, said locally to be for an early settler

Joel, for Joel Kaufmann, son of a Moscow merchant

Kendrick, for chief engineer of N. P. Railroad

Taney, said locally to be for an early settler

Vollmer, for J. P. Vollmer, founder of Vollmer

### Transfer Names

From nearby topographical features:

Camas Creek (mail drop)	Jerome (Creek) (mail drop)
Deep Creek	Thorn Creek (mail drop)
Four Mile (Creek)	Thorn Valley (mail drop)
Gold Creek (mail drop)	

From other places, real or fictional:

Potlatch, a company town, founded and occupied by

Potlatch Lumber Company and its employees  
Palouse Bridge, from one of three bridges across Pa-  
louse River between Kennedy Ford and the  
west border of Latah County  
Hoodoo, from the Hoodoo mines, which it served

Descriptive Names

- Fairview, from the beautiful surroundings
- Slabtown, from the chief occupation of the area--  
cutting slabs from harvested logs
- Park, from the park-like beauty of the area

Aside from bringing together bits and pieces of informa-  
tion from all available sources, this study has another  
value. It becomes a window, at least for the author,  
opening to a wide panorama of the birth, growth, and  
development of Latah County.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: to my many students and friends who  
have plied me with information about Idaho since 1965;  
to Lillian Otness for her continued encouragement to  
publish some of my collection of Idaho place name data;  
to the County Clerk's office, whose employees have been  
most gracious in helping me use official records; to the  
following published sources: Ann Driscoll, *They Came  
to a Ridge*; Fix Ridge Club, *Early and Present History  
of Fix Ridge*; Roy F. Mayo, *Gold and Strychnine*; John B.  
Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*; Anna Smith Mitchell, *Pio-  
neer Families of the Cedar Creek Ridge*; Kenneth B.  
Platt, *Some Pioneer Glimpses of Latah County*; Opal  
Lambert Ross, *Fields and Pine Trees*; U.S. Postal  
Guides and Routes; and (microfilm) U.S. Records of Post  
Offices and Postmaster Appointments for Idaho, to 1929.

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMITTEE HEAD RESIGNS

Kenneth B. Platt, long-time chairman of the Publica-  
tions Committee and editor of the *Quarterly Bulletin*,  
resigned from both positions in July for reasons of  
health. He plans to continue as a member of the com-  
mittee and to concentrate on establishing and monitor-  
ing outlets for Society publications in outlying com-



munities. The Society is presently seeking replacements for editor and committee chairman.

Ken has long been one of the most active members of the Society, taking a leading part in many projects and activities. Under his chairmanship the Publications Committee has issued five numbers in the series of Local History Papers and has sponsored a program of placing donated copies of Gwendolyn Bovill Lawrence's *Knight or Knave?* in all the libraries of the county. Ken is the author of *Some Pioneer Glimpses of Latah County* and of a book of poems, *Underneath the Bough*. His latest work, *Salmon River Saga*, was published this past summer. For Lola Clyde's review of this book see page 34.

The Society owes Ken a debt of gratitude for the many hours he has spent promoting its activities. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

## TWO NEW SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Over a year in preparation, the Society's Local History Paper No. 4, *Westward to Paradise*, by Charles J. Munson, was published this summer by the University Press of Idaho. This is a great tale of adventure, the autobiography of a man who experienced many phases of the development of the West and finally settled in Latah County to become a state legislator and State Land Commissioner. In the latter capacity he administered the selection of Federal lands granted for the support of state institutions and the educational system and, with Theodore Fohl, originated Idaho's timber protective system, which has been widely copied by other states.

The second book is Anna Smith Mitchell's *Pioneer Families of the Cedar Creek Ridge*. This is a reprint with a lengthy supplement of the book published in 1961. The new edition has more than 200 pages and many photographs. It is available at a special price because of a generous contribution by an anonymous donor.

To order copies of these and other Society publications by mail, see the enclosed yellow order blank. Society members are eligible for a 20% discount on books. For where to buy copies locally see page 35.



## SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES LOSES A MEMBER

It is with deep regret that the Society notes the loss of a member of the Board, M. K. "Kelly" Cline, who died suddenly in July. Retired after fifteen years as Latah County Auditor, he was serving his first term on the Board, where his interest and his intimate knowledge of Latah County made him most valuable. He will be greatly missed. The Society extends sympathy at his loss to Mrs. Cline and her family.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE CURATOR

On September 5, the Society received official word from the Latah County Commissioners that the funding it will receive from the county in 1979 will be \$17,500. This is an increase from the \$9,000 annual funding the Society has received since 1975. Due to the efforts of many members of this Society, and especially the coordination of our efforts with those of other interested groups throughout the state by President Bray, the Idaho State Legislature in 1979 passed legislation enabling counties to fund museums and historical organizations up to \$20,000, an increase from the former limit of \$9,000. While the Society did not receive its full request of \$20,000 this year, nonetheless, with some belt tightening, the increase will allow the Society to hire from its own budget for the first time a full-time curator. Our thanks go to the county commissioners for their confidence in and support of our organization, and to the budget committee, consisting of Thomas Berg, Lillian Otness, Sam Schraeger, and Leora Stillinger, for their months of work toward securing the increase.

In the area of fund raising, the Society's second annual ice cream social, combined this year with an old-time crafts fair, was an outstanding success. Over 500 people participated in the activities, and the Society received over \$450 in donations. We are especially grateful to the crafts people and entertainers for performing, to the Moscow City Council for allowing us to block the streets for the day, to the Moscow Public Schools for the use of the school grounds, the

Moscow Historical Club for providing refreshments, and to Jack and Jeannette Petersen for rising at 5:00 in the morning to set up for the day's activities. Gerald and Grace Ingle, Cora Knott, and Lucille Magnuson were on the committee that planned the successful day. Also in July a membership committee consisting of Mary Banks, Don DuSault, Rachel Foxman, and Karen Gaunt was formed to conduct a membership drive. Thus far, 56 new memberships have been received as a result of the drive, and \$550 has been raised. The Ingles also sold nearly \$500 worth of Society publications at the Cedar Creek Ridge picnic in August.

Other special activities sponsored by the Society in the quarter included the fifth in our historic lecture series on July 6 with Joseph Broyles and David Stratton speaking on railroads in the Northwest; a potluck going away party held for Sam and Laura Schragger before they left to attend graduate school at Penn and Princeton, respectively; an autograph party held for Kenneth Platt on the occasion of the publication of his book *Salmon River Saga* on September 2; a fair booth prepared by Rachel Foxman at the Latah County Fair in September which won a blue ribbon; and slide presentations given by the curator at the Moscow Central Lions Club and the Genesee Civic Association.

There have been several changes in the makeup of the Board of Trustees in the quarter. David Trail resigned from the Board and was replaced by Tim Brown; Sam Schragger resigned as secretary to accommodate his move to New Jersey and was replaced by Margi Jenks; Marilyn Scheldorf was appointed to fill out the term of Kelly Cline.

I have now been with the Society for a little over a year, and I am most pleased with all of the support given me and the Society in that time. It has been a year filled with many exciting events as the Society continues to expand its efforts to preserve the heritage of this area. Several activities planned for the future indicate that these efforts will continue to expand. Kathy Probasco in July turned over the second volume of her transcriptions of *Births, Deaths, and Marriages in the Moscow Area*, this one for the years



1913-14, and at last report is well on her way to completion of volume three. These manuscripts have already received extensive use by genealogists. Her work on indexing the memory scrap books is also progressing, as is Henrik and Bernice Juve's effort in finishing volumes eleven and twelve of that series, which will be turned over to the Society after the first of the year. An agreement was formalized with the University of Idaho Library for housing the oral history tapes and transcripts. The recording of the interviews on archival tape will soon be completed, and the collection will be turned over to the library, where it will no doubt receive much use in the future. In addition, copies of the transcripts will be kept at the Society for use by researchers. All transcripts have been cataloged by subject, name, occupation, and location to facilitate their use.

Karen Gaunt completed a very successful internship at the Society during the summer, and will be coordinating an effort in the coming months to compile a guide to historical and genealogical resources available in Latah County. Karen is receiving university history credit for her efforts to produce a guide that will be of much assistance to historians and genealogists. We will soon move our research collection down to the main floor of the house, where we will have a working library available to the public. Furthermore, staff help will be arriving in January, as the Society has received a CETA grant to hire an assistant curator to help coordinate all of the Society's divergent activities. Finally, the Potlatch Corporation has agreed to assist the Society in the completion of an exhibit depicting the development of the town of Potlatch, and Clara Caturia has graciously consented to allow the Society to use space in the old Potlatch Gymnasium to show the exhibit for several months after it completes its run in Moscow.

Members who have ideas for other projects for the Society or who would like to assist in the completion of projects already underway are encouraged to contact the museum.

--Keith Petersen



## BOOK REVIEW

Kenneth B. Platt's *Salmon River Saga*, telling of early days in the rugged lower Salmon River country, has been so extensively reviewed in newspapers from Boise to Moscow that there is little new to say. What all previous reviewers have said on one point, however, is worth repeating here: *Salmon River Saga* appeals to a wide range of readers, from pioneer history buffs and wild lands enthusiasts to those who just want good entertaining reading. As Jack Sullivan put it in his *Lewiston Tribune* review of September 8, "As with any historical narrative, personal recollections of the events of the times are far more interesting than an outsider's description. . . . After finishing the book I found myself wishing the author had lived another ten years in the valley."

Mary Jenkins, reviewer for the *Idaho Statesman*, has noted: "Stories in the last few chapters might have been written in Hollywood . . . based on factual material, with enough invented dialogue to make them into yarns. They could be the basis for TV plots."

On the other hand, Wendy Taylor, writing for the *Idahonian*, quoted the author thus: "There's so much romantic distortion about the pioneer period in movies and TV, that people don't know much about the real conditions and how the pioneers lived and what they had to put up with."

Margaret Longteig, writing for the *Nez Perce Herald* and the *Cottonwood Chronicle*, noted these impressions: "*Salmon River Saga* . . . is written as local history should be, by a person who has lived and loved it. Mr. Platt was born on his parents' homestead at the confluence of Deer Creek with the Salmon River, some ten miles up from the river's mouth, and lived there until he was ten. His story . . . comes through with all the flavor of an observing and mischievous boy until the readers can fairly feel the squish of deep dust through their own bare toes." "I never wore a pair of summer shoes until I was 13 years old," she could have quoted him elsewhere.

The book is not a continuous story, being done in four parts each independent of the others. While readers can browse here and there and find interesting material at all points, there is a unity of the work which might be missed in such an approach. This reviewer recommends a cover-to-cover reading, for each section sets the stage for and lends understanding of the next. In particular, don't miss the introduction by Dr. Clifford M. Drury, famed historian of the Spalding-Whitman missionary era, and the author's own preface. Having listed its four sections, Dr. Drury writes: "The total work thus presents many different insights and different writing styles, attaining its unity of interest in the author's central aim of painting the pioneer picture as it really was."

Both introduction and preface must be read to understand why the story area was settled despite its forbidding nature, and why it has been vacated since. Part II documents the settlement with names and land locations of every settler who stayed long enough to earn his homestead patent. Without attempting to answer the why of this short-lived influx and exodus, the author conveys his own sense of irremediable loss in his nostalgic "Requiem for an Empty Land," which interprets this section on page 105.

*Salmon River Saga* ends, fittingly, with another short poem, "Closing the Gate," which reads in part,

"When wafts the breeze adown the breaks at dawn,  
When sigh the pines of days no longer known,  
Then stir the forms of past forever gone  
Across closed gates to memories now flown."

--Lola Clyde

Copies of *Salmon River Saga* and of the Society's publications are available from Bookpeople of Moscow, the Presbyterian Women's Association both in Bovill and in Potlatch, Clarkia Mercantile, Troy Drug Store, Abrams Hardware in Kendrick, Genesee Food Market and Springer Insurance of Genesee, or by mail from the Latah County Historical Society (see enclosed yellow order blank).

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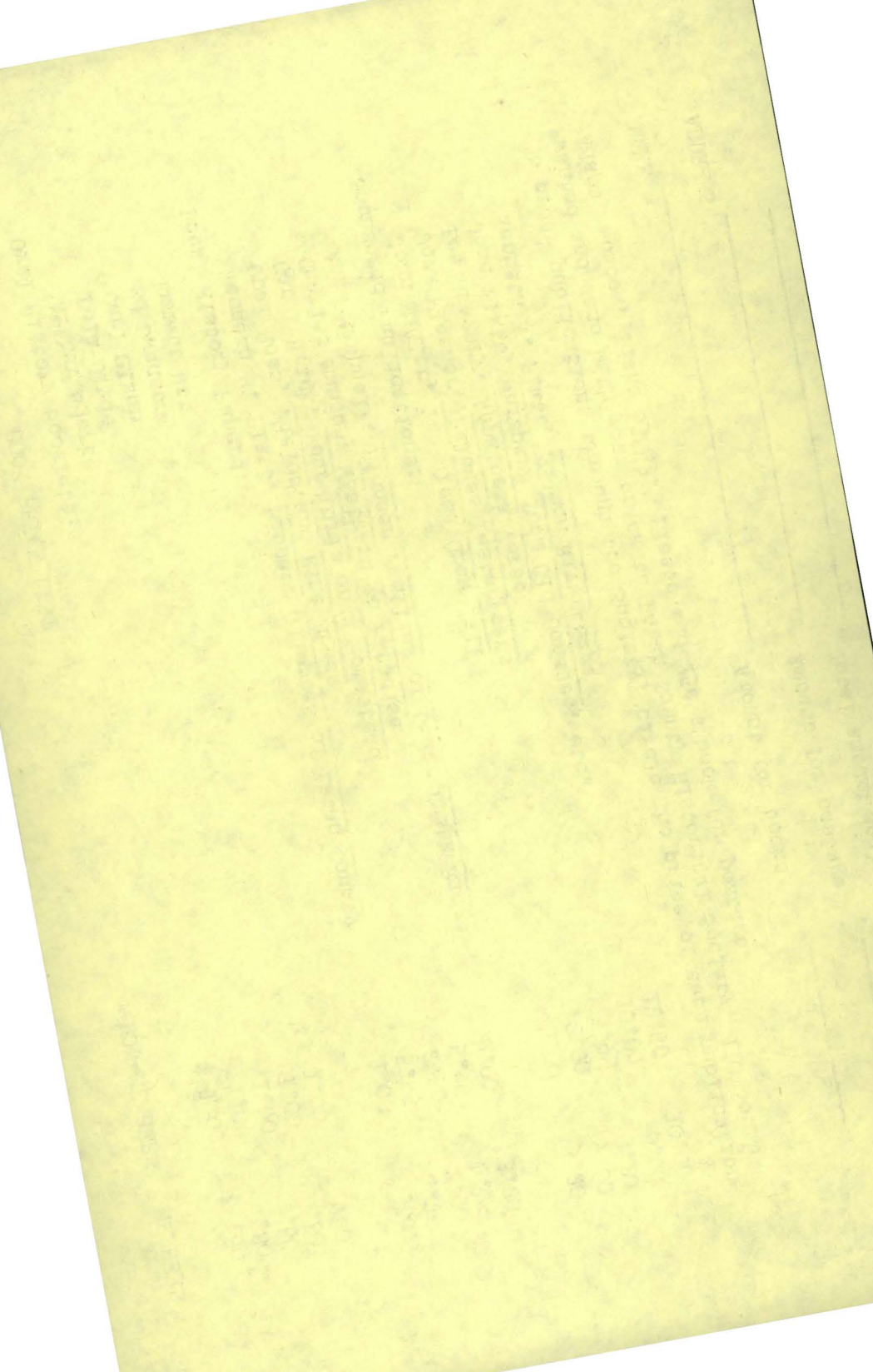
### NEW MUSEUM HOURS

1:00 to 4:00 p.m. daily except Monday and Tuesday.  
Arrangements will gladly be made for group tours  
at other times.

### COMING EVENTS

- October 30: A Hallowe'en Evening, presented in cooperation with the Moscow-Latah County Library. A feature film will be shown. Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Place: basement of the Episcopal Church; refreshments afterward at the McConnell Mansion.
- November 9: Dr. Leroy Ashby, "Ye Men of the Last Advance: The Progressive Generation and the Quest for the Adventurous," a talk which will focus on William E. Borah and other progressive leaders. Dr. Ashby is a professor of history at WSU and author of *The Spearless Leader: A Biography of William E. Borah*. 8:00 p.m., McConnell Mansion. Refreshments will be served.
- December 12: John Luedke will give a slide presentation and talk on Buckskin Billy. 8:00 p.m., McConnell Mansion. Refreshments.





BOOK PRICE LIST

NON-MEMBERS MEMBERS

Oral History Booklets:

Arthur Bjerke	\$ 1.00	\$ .80
Lola Clyde	1.00	.80
Carl Olson	1.00	.80
Ed Swenson	1.00	.80
Emmett Utt	1.00	.80

Local History Papers:

Kenneth B. Platt, <u>Pioneer Glimpses of Latah County</u>	1.00	.80
Opal Ross, <u>Fields and Pine Trees</u>	5.95	4.75
Carol Brink, <u>Four Girls on a Homestead</u>	2.50	2.00
Charles Munson, <u>Westward to Paradise</u>	5.95	4.75
Anna Mitchell, <u>Pioneer Families of Cedar Creek Ridge</u>	4.00	3.20

Sponsored Publications:

John Miller, <u>The Trees Grew Tall</u>	4.00	3.20
Dora Fleener, <u>Palouse Yesteryears</u>	12.00	9.60
Lee Gregory, <u>Appaloosa Verse</u>	3.95	3.20
John Platt, <u>Whispers from Old Genesee, etc.</u>	10.00	8.00
Kenneth B. Platt, <u>Salmon River Saga</u>	12.50	10.00

To order publications through the Society, circle the price of each publication wanted and send with your check to Latah County Historical Society, 110 South Adams, Moscow, Idaho 83843. Please add 25¢ a book for postage.

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