
LATAH LEGACY

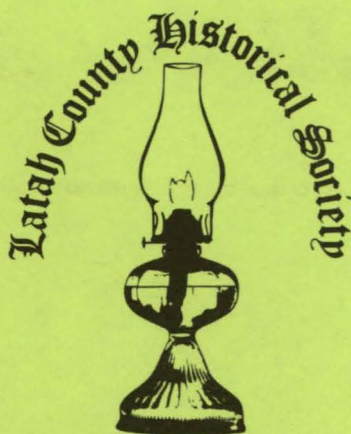
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YELLOW DOG TALES

Recollections of the early settlers

Collected and edited by Verle Kaiser

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(Author's Note: Information for this story was originally told to Verle Kaiser and Dave Hickman in April 1971 by Franklin Smith, his father, Charles M. Smith, and his mother Zora (nee Nora Breneman) at the Smith home located near the Idaho-Washington state line southeast of Ladow Butte. Kaiser typed notes of the conversation and later added some footnote material. Franklin used the draft in the mid-1970s as a report to a family gathering in Lewiston. Otherwise, the story has laid neglected for 10 years. At this time (April 1981), his father, Charles M. Smith, is no longer living (he died in Feb. 1974), but his mother, at age 91, still lives in the old home.

Franklin, an avid collector of old furniture, china and other articles which he repairs and restores as a hobby, lives in Lewiston and still farms the old homestead together with some other land in the community.)

On October 16, 1875, grandfather Samuel Marshal Smith, then a bachelor 25 years of age, arrived at a site on the headwaters of Cedar Creek in the northwestern corner of present day Latah County, Idaho. He had come with the Charles Lorenzo Jamison wagon train which started in the late spring of that year from Lawrenceville, Ill. The original destination was the Willamette Valley in western Oregon Territory. However, when the wagon train reached Boise City, Idaho Territory, information obtained from disillusioned people returning eastward from Oregon convinced the Jamison group that there no longer was much desirable land left for homesteading in the Willamette country.

They had heard rumors of "rich land" located to the north in the "Palouse country" of eastern Washington and adjacent north Idaho Territories, so they decided to have a "look see" at this area. Accordingly, they sent grandfather Smith and one or two other men ahead to scout the country before committing the entire wagon train to the 400 mile northward trek to an unknown land.

Smith and his companions came north on horseback, liked what they saw, and returned to Boise City to guide the train up. The members of the scouting party stayed overnight in the Luna House in Lewiston. Lewiston had served as the capitol city for the first meeting of the Idaho Territorial Legislature in 1863.¹

There were no roads (in fact very few trails) connecting southern and northern Idaho at that time, so the wagon train followed the Oregon Trail west to present day Pendleton, Oregon. It then veered north to Walla Walla and then northeast across the Snake river and on through present day Whitman County to its east central border.

Why Smith came westward at all is somewhat of a mystery. His family had holdings of rich Illinois farmland at that time, and he gave up future claims to it to come to an unknown western area.

When the Jamison train arrived at the site they determined to settle, they found the Tom Woody and Robert Daily families al-

ready located in the neighborhood. These families had arrived the previous year.²

After settlement, the homesteads of the Woody's, Dailey's, Jamison's and Smith's were located within a few miles of each other. The Woody homestead was in Washington Territory, and the other three in Idaho Territory.³

The original homesteads of the four families were located as follows:

Samuel Smith:	SE1/4 Sec. 12, T 42 N, R 6 WBM
J. M. Woody:	Sec. 30, T 18 N, R 46 EWM
Charles Jamison:	NW1/4 Sec. 12, T 42 N, R 6 WBM
Robert Dailey:	NE1/4 Sec. 24, T 42 N, R 6 WBM

The land had been surveyed the previous year, but apparently little was known locally about the plat.⁴

In later years, the Smith's, Jamison's and Woody's intermarried, and although no intermarriage occurred with the Dailey's, the four families had a friendly relationship and they exchanged work and tools.

Grandmother Ella Jamison Smith was a member of the wagon train headed by her father, but she and grandfather Samuel Smith were not married until July 1877 after they had been in the new Territory for nearly two years.

Franklin remembers his grandmother telling of the first days on the site of the new settlement. There still is a big, mature yellow pine tree standing in the quarter section line just north of the Cedar Creek Church. One hundred feet to the east of this tree is an equally large pine with the top broken out which now "fronts" for a grove of trees of varying sizes and ages still farther to the east in the bottomland. It was under the second named pine tree that the first "tent home" of the Jamison's was established. The spot is located in the NW1/4 Sec. 12,

T 42 N, R 6 WBM--the quarter section homesteaded by Charles Lorenzo Jamison, the father of grandmother Ella Jamison Smith. In due time after the settler's arrival in October 1875, a log house was erected a bit farther to the north on the quarter section. The site of the house marked the approximately boundary of the prairie (to the west) and the forest (to the east). The Lapwai-Colville Indian trail passed through the Jamison holdings, and in fact, one of the numerous main forks of the trail occurred here. The main trail continued on northward, but a spur branched off to the northeast, leading into the Deep Creek area and to points beyond to the north and east.

Franklin Smith's father, Charles M., was born here on August 25, 1882, and except for a brief try at homesteading himself on that portion of the Colville Indian Reservation lying about 8 miles east of Omak, Washington, in Okanogan County which opened for settlement in 1916, he has lived his 89 years in this community ever since.

Before Charles' birth, however, many events of note transpired. First of all, in the spring following the wagon train's arrival, grandfather S. M. Smith (still single) tied his clothes in a bundle, slung them over his back, and walked the whole way to Walla Walla, Washington Territory, in search of work to raise the money he needed to meet financial obligations associated with obtaining title to and taming the new land.

Walla Walla in 1876 was a bustling frontier town, the hub of the region from which spilled the miners, the loggers, the cattlemen, and the homesteaders bent on conquering the Inland Empire. It is one of the three oldest cities in the State of Washington, and at that time was by far the largest east of the Cascades.

S. M. reached Walla Walla late one evening, and by 10:00 A.M. the next morning had himself a job! He was hired to help build a new brick kiln then being erected.

When the kiln was finished, he next got a job on Doc. Baker's "Rawhide Railroad."⁵ Railroading was not new to him because he had worked for a time on one back in Illinois.

He probably found working conditions on the primitive layout in Walla Walla quite different from those he remembered in Illinois. The rails on the route linking old Wallula to Walla Walla consisted of split wooden poles nailed on crossties. One rumor has it that the poles were faced with strips of rawhide for the wheels to run on. The same rumor contended the coyotes and wolves raised havoc with the layout in the winter when they dug through the snow and ate the moisture soaked rawhide off the rails!

Rumor aside, it is known that eventually the pole rails were topped by thin bands of strap iron which were fastened down by spikes driven through holes in the steel.

This system was "coyote proof," but it had another serious drawback. Heads on the spikes kept "popping" off as the locomotive wheels passed over them, and the steel straps then would curl up and penetrate the floors of the railcars above (quite a danger to passengers and coaches, it would seem!).

Constant maintenance was required to keep the railroad operating, and I believe it was on this job that S.M. must have been employed rather than in the original construction, because the road was completed and the first train entered Walla Walla on October 23, 1875. This was in the fall a year before S.M. Smith went to Walla Walla to work.

After getting his "grubstake" in Walla Walla, grandpa S.M. Smith returned to the LaDow Butte settlement and to the homestead on which he had previously filed.



Cedar Creek Church

One other event of note happened before his marriage in July 1877 to Ella Jamison.

In mid-June of that year, the Nez Perce Indians under Joseph and White Bird went on the warpath in the canyon of the Salmon river a hundred miles to the south. Rumors that Nez Perce warriors were about to invade and plunder the thinly settled Palouse country were rife and caused much consternation among the pioneers. In most sections, the women folk and children were taken to the more populated centers where makeshift fortifications were erected and manned by volunteers.

The settlers in the LaDow Butte area mostly went to Colfax. However, young S.M. Smith remained behind and joined a group of volunteers in that area whose purpose was to guard against invasion by the Indians.

Smith was issued a 45-70 calibre rifle (an 1873 Springfield model with a bayonet) and his main assignment was to reconnoiter on or around the bald butte now called Ringo Butte, eight miles to the south.

This promontory sets slightly to the west of the main Lapwai-Colville Indian trail and commands a good view of this passage-way. There seem to have been rumors that Indian smoke signals were seen arising from the top of the butte itself, and quite possibly Smith tried to investigate the truth and meaning of them. The Indian scare didn't last very long and the volunteer army never saw any action.⁷

S.M. Smith never did received discharge papers from the "army," but other neighbors did. Eddie Walker's dad had served in the volunteer force, and years ago, Eddie got discharge papers for his dad's service.⁸ Franklin says several other men also were given their discharges.

Grandfather Smith did keep the army rifle he had been issued. Years later, his son, Charles, bored out the rifling and converted the gun into a shotgun. It must have made a 28 calibre piece. He used the regular 45-70 rifle cases and hand-loaded

them with number 6 shot ahead of black gunpowder. With this gun he shot lots of prairie chickens which in his childhood were seen by the hundreds along the creeks through this area. He also shot grouse which then were plentiful in the wooded foothills. The prairie chickens now are all gone, but native grouse still are to be found and are hunted during prescribed seasons of the year. Charles remembered that deer were not as numerous in this area in the early days as they now are. Most of them in the early days kept in the foothills of the nearby mountains. There were lots of bear, mostly blacks, but a few brown bears in the timber east of the homstead. And lots of Columbian ground squirrels! Someone stole the old 45-70 gun several years ago when the Smith's home was burglarized.

Soon after the Indian scare, S.M. Smith married Ella Jamison. To them were born Peter Lorenzo Smith (now deceased), Charles M. Smith, and Estella J. Smith who married Ernest R. Smith, no relation. The Ernest R. Smiths were living in Garfield at the time we first put this story together.

Charles M. Smith was born on August 5, 1882. His personal recollections of this area date from about the time he was five years old in 1887. He remembers that Indians frequently passed their home ranch in those days, going in both north and south directions on the Lapwai-Colville trail. Many would stop to "panhandle," usually for some article of food. A favorite with them was freshly baked biscuits which his mother would give them.

One old squaw was a frequent visitor, and to 5 year old Charlie, she looked formidable indeed! She was called "Susan Pick-handle." So terrifying was her personage, that an aunt of Charlie's used to quell him and other young relatives with the threat to turn them over to her ministrations if they didn't behave! This threat invariably got the desired results.

When Charles was 5 years old (in 1887) his father plowed the last piece of sod on the

home ranch. The Smith family and most of the neighbors had only a few cattle then to require pasturage. The settlers had brought stock with them in 1875, and the cattle fared well during the following winter which was a mild one. It is well the climate was mild, because the wagon train didn't arrive until late in the fall and they had no opportunity to put up hay.

This was not as much of a blessing as it first appears, however. It lulled the newcomers into a false sense of security, so they didn't bother to put up hay during the following summer either. This neglect led to their ruin in the cattle business. The winter of 1876 was a fierce one. It had extended periods of very deep snow and very cold weather. As a result, nearly all of the cattle died of starvation. Only the horses survived because they were able to paw through the snow and thus reach a little grass buried underneath.⁹

Although the homesteaders were financially, and otherwise, unable to quickly replace their cattle after the winter of 1876-77, they did engage strongly in hog raising. Charles remembers that several neighboring families would "pool" their hog herds and haul them by wagons in the summer months to the camas meadows along the upper tributaries of the Palouse river. This was some twenty-odd miles to the east in the general area of present-day Laird Park. The Smith's hogs were in a pool which summered on Meadow creek. A homesteader up that way by the name of "Old Charlie" kept a watch of sorts over the pigs for their distant owners. Smith thinks the "herder" was probably paid by being given a slaughtered pig or two after the summer grazing season was over and their owners returned with wagons to haul their livestock back home.

The hogs were identified by ear markings, each owner having his own "brand." The S.M. Smith hogs bore the following marks: (as viewed from the rear of the animal) tip of left ear cut off; tip of right ear slit; notch on the under side of the

right ear near its center. Charles doesn't remember that any of his families' pigs were ever herded overland to market in the mines of the Coeur d'Alenes or to the logging camps up north as has been reported by other hog raisers of the territory. Instead, they were slaughtered and peddled locally. Pig butchering involved several neighbors and as many as 22 hogs were butchered at one time.

The pioneers here in those days had no large vats in which to scald the slaughtered pigs, but this didn't stop the resourceful settlers. In place of a vat, they dug a pit in the ground and lined it with clay so it would hold water. They filled the pit with water, and then heated "niggerhead sized" rocks in a nearby bonfire. As the rocks became super-hot, they were placed in the pit with a shovel. This process was repeated until the water was scalding hot and ready for the pig carcasses. Two or three pigs were killed and scalded at a time.

Charles remembers that there was always some camas or "kaus" to be found on the bottomland or "flat" areas on the ranch.

His father raised wheat as the principal crop, but also planted oats and barley. Most of the oats and barley were used for livestock feed on the ranch, but the wheat was marketed. It was hauled to the grist mill at Spokane Falls where it was sold or ground into flour for home use. The trip to Spokane Falls was made by a team of "cayuse horses" hitched to a spring wagon. They never hauled large loads, and the round trip required four days.¹⁰ Apparently Charles never made the trek himself in his boyhood days.

The "Pony Express" on that portion of its route between Palouse and Farmington (Garfield and Tekoa weren't in existence at that time), passed by the Smith ranch, and stopped regularly at the Jamestown post office nearby. This post office was located on the homestead of Samuel Marshall Jamison and was named after him. It had been established in 1876 and was discontinued in 1899.¹¹ In those days,

Range 6

Range 5 W.B.M.

1	6 Cedar Creek	5	4	3	2 West Fork	1 Middle Fork
12 Ch. □	7 Cedar Creek School	8	9	10 Burden School	11 Deep Creek	12 East Fork
13 □ Yellow Dog	18	17	16	15	14 Highway 95	13
24	19	20	21 Freeze Church and Cemetery	22 School	23	24
25	30 Dailey School	29	28	27	26	25
36	31	32	33 Lamb School	34	35	36

Township 42 N.
Latah County, Idaho

where settlements were so thinly scattered, a post office was eagerly sought by each small cluster of settlers.

When the Jamestown post office was closed out in 1899, another post was opened two miles to the south in Section 13, T 42 N, R 6WBM. At that time there was a cluster of three houses in that vicinity. The new post was named "Alameda" after Alameda Comer, Ernest Smith's mother. Ernest later married Franklin's aunt, Estella Smith, and although the two families were among the earliest settlers of the area, they were not related.

Mr. Comer, who ran a blacksmith shop at the site, served as the first postmaster for "Alameda." However, in a short time the patrons of the new post office were informed by the Post Office Department that they would have to change the name of their post. There already was an Alameda, Idaho, post office (located in southeastern Idaho and now a suburb of the city of Pocatello, Idaho). When this upsetting news arrived at the LaDow community, several neighbors, including Dailey, Smith and Dolph Heath met one day to ponder the problem and to decide on a new name for their post office. They seemed to be at an impasse until a yellow, mongrel dog happened to stroll down the dusty road into their sight. Whereupon, Heath said, "Let's call it 'Yellow Dog.'" The suggestion was accepted by the others, and the post office was officially so named. It served this area until 1910 or 1911 when it was closed out. The site is marked on the 1914 Latah County ownership atlas.

Another interesting event in Charlie's memory is associated with the mail. On more than one occasion, the pony express rider "took on too much firewater" in the Palouse City saloons when he passed through town. This action wouldn't appear too difficult to do in view of the fact that the city was supposed to afford sixteen establishments to cater to the thirst of the loggers and miners who dominated the population of the area of those days. In any event, the effects of the liquor

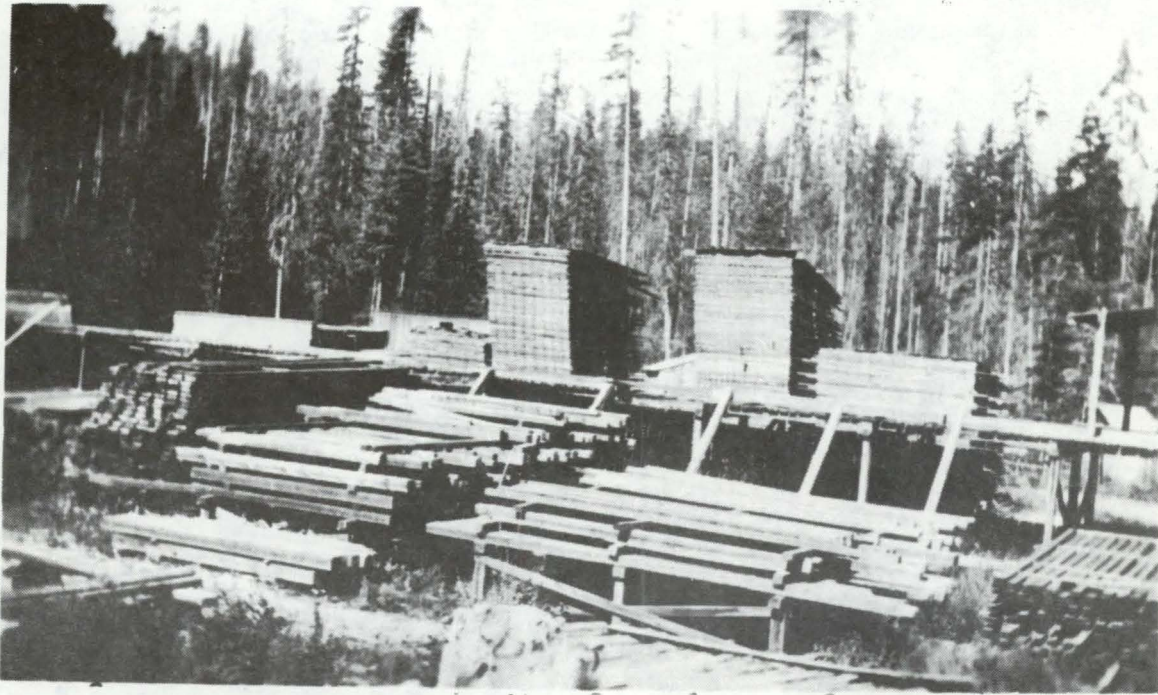
imbibed by the express rider rendered him incapable of continuing his route about the time he would get to the Jamestown post office. So Charlie's dad, Samuel Smith, was called on more than once to deliver the mail northward to where the next rider was waiting for the following leg of the route (probably at Farmington).¹²

The Smiths didn't remember the name of the imbibing expressman, but they did remember that a man named S.G. Leach was one of the early mail carriers of the area. He wasn't the one who over-estimated his capacity to carry alcohol, and was a local homesteader.

The Smiths remembered, too, that a Felix Warren, who was an early day stage driver of the Inland Empire, passed through their area in 1923. Warren then was making a romantic return over his old routes as part of the pagentry connected with the opening of the first airmail route from Spokane to Pendleton, Oregon. Warren was then in his 70s.

Although the site now is totally devoid of structures, and is marked only by a turn in the County road running through the NE quarter of Sec. 24, T 42 N, R 6 WBM, Yellow Dog for about the first decade of the twentieth century was quite a place! It never had a saloon or a bank, but it once boasted two blacksmith shops. One was run by Mr. Comer, the postmaster. In addition to caring for the local settlers, the smithies did a thriving business for transient farmers coming from settlements westward in Whitman County, Washington. These people, because they had settled on the prairie, had to come east to the mountains in Idaho for fuel, posts and lumber. The Kern mill and the Strong sawmill in Deep Creek just over the ridge east of Yellow Dog were favorite targets. Yellow Dog was on a direct route for those coming from Endicott, St. John, Thornton, Garfield and other communities in that direction.

The farmers, driving teams and wagons, formed the habit of stopping at Yellow Dog for minor repairs to their rigs, feed



Strong's Sawmill, Middle Deep Creek, c. 1920

and water their horses, and to get lunch material and even over-night lodging for themselves. The lunch material was bought at the little store, but there was no hotel. They got food and lodging in the homes of nearby hospitable families. Those going to the Kern mill mostly would over-night with the Smiths, Jamisons, or Hortons. Those going to the Strong mill stayed with people in Yellow Dog.¹³ The traffic was mostly in an east-west direction.

With the coming of improved roads and faster means of transportation in the form of the automobile, Yellow Dog faded and perished. The last home-owner and actual resident was Lizzie Kidwell, widow of Jerome Kidwell who had been killed a few years before in a harvesting accident on the Robert Dailey threshing rig.

But for a quirk of fate, this accident would have taken the life of Zora Smith's brother, L.E. Breneman. Young Breneman had hired out to fire the steam engine with straw, hoping that experience would be a stepping stone to a career as a steam engineer. The harvest was just starting

up, and he was having some difficulty in getting enough steam pressure. The engine had a faulty water gauge and glass. Jerome Kidwell, who had had considerable experience as a fireman, came to Dailey looking for work. So he was given the job of firing the engine and young Breneman was sent to the field to pitch bundles. The water was low in the boiler and within a few minutes it blew up and killed Mr. Kidwell.

After Kidwell's death, his widow who was called "Grandma Kidwell" lived alone for a number of years in the home at Yellow Dog. She eked out a very slim living raising a garden, selling eggs, and doing a little sewing for the neighbors. She also got a small income from operating the "switch" on the locally owned telephone line.

Yellow Dog and the surrounding area had telephone service at a very early date beginning in the 1890s. It was a cooperative project with each subscriber owning a share in the company. Each patron would spend some time each spring helping make

repairs to the lines. At the peak of operation, this system had a total of 55 subscribers, and towards the end of the life of the company, each subscriber paid \$2 per month for "switching" services. There was an occasional "switch" to extend the service on the long lines, and it was from this operation in her own home that Grandma Kidwell got a very few dollars each month.

There was very little help for the aged in those days, and for them, poverty was a very real fact of life. When Grandma Kidwell got too old to be alone, she sold the place to L.E. Breneman and spent the remainder of her life in the County Home near Moscow, Idaho.

Franklin Smith later purchased the land from the heirs of the L.E. Breneman estate. The old house was still standing in 1971, but the blacksmith shop, the post office and the other buildings had long since fallen down and are gone. The chicken house was moved to the Charles Smith homesite where it was re-sited. It still is in use.¹⁴

Young Charlie Smith grew into a compact, wiry young man. Rooting out stumps with a pick and shovel put muscles on his arms and over his shoulders far stronger than the average. He played baseball on the LaDow community team, which annually would engage an Indian team from the Coeur d'Alene Reservation on the 4th of July. These games were played at Farmington.¹⁵ Charlie particularly remembered the celebration during the summer of his sixteenth year of life. His team had played (and beaten) the Indians in a baseball game earlier in the day. But the settlers and Indians alike thirsted for more sport, so a "rassling match" was drummed up. It was to feature young Charlie and a 40 year old Indian buck named Peter Bosow, who actually was the son of the old squaw, Susan Pickhandle. Both contestants weighed in at about 160 pounds, but an uncle of Charlie's (probably the one who egged him into the fight in the first place) dissuaded his nephew from wagering a 20 dollar gold

piece on himself. Charlie had earned the money some time before and was carefully hoarding it. The uncle reminded him that his opponent had the reputation of holding the Indian wrestling championship thereabouts. This didn't stop the other whites and Indians from freely placing their bets on the contest.

They 'rassled Indian style, or "side holds." This called for the combatants to stand side by side, each with an arm around the waist of the other. On a given signal, each tried to throw his opponent to the ground on his back. The match was supposed to be the best two falls out of three, with the man changing sides after each fall to neutralize a supposed advantage of the position which would have your right arm around the opponent instead of your left.

Charlie remembered the bout lasted only one fall, because when the signal was given, he lifted the Indian off his feet, slammed him hard on the ground, and then fell on top of his chest with his full weight. This so effectively smashed the wind out of the dark-skin, he wanted no more of the contest. He strongly declined another try, and the gleeful whites picked up their considerable winnings.

On March 9, 1910, at the age of 28, Charlie married Zora Breneman, who lived on the farm next to the Smiths. She was a relative newcomer to the community, having come west with her parents from Nebraska in 1903. The family had arrived in Spokane in October. Her father stayed in that area until April 1904, looking at various places to homestead or buy. He checked the Moran Prairie area where the radio towers now stand. Here the ground seemed too shallow and rocky to suit his tastes. Neither did the Green Bluff area on the foothills of Mount Spokane suit his requirements. Then they came into the Farmington area where they settled. Charles and Zora had six children, four boys and two girls. Franklin was born March 8, 1911. At the time this story first was written in 1971, the Charlie Smiths had 21 grandchildren

and 9 great-grandchildren.

After the sojourn in 1916 to the Okanogan country, Charlie and Zora returned to the LaDow area and started farming land acquired in 1904 by Zora's father. This is the site where they now live and includes the NE $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 13, TR 42 N, R 6 WBM. Originally the land had been homesteaded by Charles Rector. He sold the property to a Mr. Harding, who sold to Mr. Hellinger, who sold to Zora's father. At her father's passing, Zora inherited half the land, and Franklin later purchased the other half from the other heirs.

Grandfather Jamison sold his homestead to John Horton, who was James Westacott's grandfather. Westacott still farms it. John Horton was Franklin Smith's great uncle. In 1876 he homesteaded the quarter section just east of the Jamison's site. The home in which the Charles Smiths lived in 1971 (and in which Zora Smith now lives in 1981 as a widow) was where Franklin was

born. It was built from lumber milled in the Holmes sawmill in Deep Creek to the east. The operator then was called "Sawmill" Holmes.

Zora Smith in 1971 remembered that in 1904, at the time the Breneman family moved onto the land where she then lived, there was a newly planted five acre orchard of apples and cherries just to the north of the buildings. The trees were planted on 32 foot spacing by Mr. Hellinger. Part of this orchard still was standing in 1971, but it had long ago been semi-abandoned. Franklin told me in April 1981 that now only two trees are left standing. In its productive days it bore some big crops of fruit.

It was not unusual at that time to find extensive fruit orchards scattered over the Palouse hills.¹⁶ The fruit raised in the Palouse was of high quality and there were many local packing and ship-



Webster's Mill, Deep Creek, c. 1890

ping points. The Charlie Smiths packed their fruit in an old shop right on the farm. There was a big packing shed at Walter's Siding, five or six miles to the west on the railroad. School boys and girls were excused from classes in the early fall months to work at this and other plants. Apples were packed, unwrapped in wooden boxes, and then shipped out on the railroad to distant markets mostly in the east.

The apple varieties raised in this vicinity (if not all in this particular orchard) included the following: Wealthy, Grimes Golden, Black Astrican, Jeffries, Gravenstein, Yellow Transparent, Spokane Beauties, Ben Davis, Arkansas Black, Black Twin, and Gano. The cherries were both sweet and sour varieties, with the sweets being mostly Bings. During one year, 45 carloads of cherries alone were shipped out of Elberton on the Palouse river, and there were extensive prune orchards in that same area. However, watermelon didn't do very well in this community.

Zora Smith always raised a big garden. Potatoes, squash, pumpkins, beans, garden peas and even corn flourished under her care. Franklin particularly remembers the corn because it fell to his lot to hand hoe it each summer. Another neighbor planted a considerable acreage of corn each year, and Franklin remembers he planted it around the hill, on the contour.

Farming equipment in Charlie Smith's boyhood was simple. It usually consisted of a one-bottom walking plow and wooden bar with steel spiked harrow. Grain was seeded by hand out of the tailgate of a wagon. The Smiths never harvested with a cradle. They always had a mowing machine even in the early days. Later they used a header to cut the grain which then was stacked, and later threshed in a stationary thresher.

The first threshing machines in that area were horse-powered. Horses were hitched to the end of a "sweep" and walked around in a circle. Later the horse-powered

sweep was replaced by a steam engine, but the first engines were not self propelled. They had to be pulled from one location to another by horses. The steam was generated by fires stoked with straw from the harvest.

Franklin says the very first school house in the community was located on the S.M. Smith place in the extreme southwest corner of the SE1/2 Sec. 12, T 42 N, R 6 WBM. The school later was moved one half mile north and one mile east. At that time its original name the Cedar Creek School was changed to the Griner School, District #7, Latah County, Idaho. It is here that Franklin went to school, but he doesn't remember the name of his first teacher or where she boarded.

NOTES

1. See Hawley, James H., History of Idaho.
2. According to information on the brass plate set in a basalt column erected in 1934 in the Silver Creek Cemetery, the Woody Wagon Train had arrived on October 2, 1873, from Benton County, Arkansas. In addition to the J.M. Woody family, that train had included the Jessie Quarles family, John Freeze family, Calvin Freeze family, W.S. McMasters, and five other men (all single) who had joined the train in Colorado.
3. The line separating Idaho and Washington Territories had been surveyed by Rollin J. Reeves in 1873. (See Vol. 13, Number 3, Idaho Yesterdays.)
4. According to records of the Latah County Title Co. in Moscow, Ida., LaFayette Cartie surveyed and staked the section corners in T 42 N, R 6 WBM in Sept. 1873. However, the official survey map in the Bureau of Land Management office in Boise shows the land survey was made in Sept. 1873 by Thompson and Meldrum. The maps of that survey were not officially accepted by the Surveyor General until Jan. 1874. This may account in part for the plight of many earlier settlers

in the Farmington area who thought they were settling in Idaho Territory, but were surprised to find later they actually lived in Washington! Thompson and Meldrum showed an unimproved wagon road on their map running north and south through the Township parallel to and about 1/4 mile east of the Territory line. It probably followed closely the route of the old Lapwai-Colville trail of the Indians.

5. See Reynolds, Helen Baker, Gold, Rawhide and Iron.

6. See Vol. 2, No. 3, Pacific Northwesterner for Harold Boyd's account of "Terror in the East Palouse." The experiences he related for Moscow, Idaho, was typical for many other locations including, but not limited to, Colfax, Farmington, Palouse and Pine City.

7. See Burns, Rob't Ignatius, S.J., The Jesuits and the Indian Wars of the Northwest, for a good account of how the Indians of the Coeur d'Alene tribe acted during this uprising. Not only did they resist temptation of joining their warring brothers to the south, but their leaders actually sent Indians into the thinly settled areas vacated by the panic stricken whites when they rushed to Colfax, to care for abandoned livestock, repair fences and prevent pilfering of property during the absence of the white owners.

8. This was the grandfather of Earl Walters, longtime operator of the Standard Oil Service Station in Garfield. Eddie Walters still lives in a resthome in Lacy, Wn.

9. I find the date of the winter of 1876-77 difficult to reconcile with dates given by other writers as being especially bad for livestock. The Illustrated History of North Idaho states that many cattlemen in that area were wiped out by stock losses in the winter of 1874-75. Tierney, in his report "In the Heart of the Uniontown-Thorn Creek Country" points to the winter of 1875-76 as being bad there. Joe Smith in "Bunchgrass Pioneer" names the winter of 1877-79 as bad at Endicott.

Hermann Deutsch in "Geographic Setting for History of Inland Empire" lists both the winters of 1879-80 and 1880-81 as bad. No less than half a dozen writers have listed the winter of 1880-81 as being bad.

10. Why they went to the mills in Spokane Falls instead of to the closer mill established in Palouse City is not explained.

11. From 1872 until 1888, the mail was carried by pony express. Cornelius Mooney has told the story of his experience in riding the route in 1877. At that time, there was a post office called Cedar Creek located 8.5 miles south of Farmington on the route which ran from Lewiston to Spangle. It wasn't until 1889 that a Jamestown post office shows up in the records for the Farmington post office, however, due to the records system used, it is possible the Jamestown post office could have been established earlier, but not before Feb. 1878. (See "The Early Days of the Pony Express" in which the story of Mooney is quoted by his daughter, Mrs. Alice Lederer.)

12. Neither Charlie nor Franklin knew where the mail came from before reaching the Jamestown post, nor where it went to beyond. From information I can piece together, the pony express route went from Lewiston, to Moscow, to Palouse Bridge (about 2 miles east of present day Palouse), to Jamestown (may have been called Cedar Creek earlier), to Farmington (first called Pine Creek), to Hangman's Creek (Major Wimpey farm 3 miles north of Latah), to Spangle (first called Pine Grove). This route started in 1872 and one of the earliest riders was Maj. Wimpey himself. After the railroads came in the mid 1800s, most, if not all, of the mail was carried by rail. Mooney tells of establishing the first stage route from Lewiston to Spokane in 1888, so I doubt if the mail was carried through this area by stage.

13. Ernest Huntley, longtime resident and farmer near St. John, and former State Senator, Chairman of the State Tax Commission and the State Highway Commission in Washington who retired in Spokane and died

there in 1980, told me he remembered well making many trips to the Idaho woods for timber and lumber. He often stopped at Yellow Dog for lunch materials.

14. Franklin tells me his hired man last fall, in 1980, pushed over the last remains of the Kidwell home and burned it. Thus perished the last vestage of Yellow Dog.

15. Charlie Blickenderfer, an old-timer of Farmington, once showed me the box scores which he had kept of early day baseball in which the Farmington team played. Charlie played on the team himself, but was 7 years younger than Charlie Smith and apparently never played against him. Blickenderfer's scorepads were for games played in 1908-1910.

16. The 1910 Whitman County Atlas quotes County Assessor Phillips as having determined in 1896 that the county had 130 fruit growers who cared for 2973 acres of orchards, 33 acres of vineyards, and 160 acres of "small fruits." The bearing orchards produced an average of \$85 per acre of fruit. I believe both the number of growers and the acreage of orchards increased considerably in the next decade. According to Franklin, Robert Wride's father-in-law, in the year he took over the old Trimble farm from Tom Woody on upper Silver creek, it had a huge orchard. In the first year after he took it over, it produced enough fruit to pay for the farm, yet he soon pulled the trees out and plowed the land to raise wheat. This land adjoined the Woody homestead, and he had bought it from someone else.



Potlatch Camp #6?

A STUDY OF THE LUMBERING METHODS OF
THE POTLATCH LUMBER COMPANY

December 17-23, 1911

by Arthur Stevens

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[Editor's Note: For one week in December 1911, Arthur Stevens observed the logging operations of the Potlatch Lumber Company and wrote this report of what he saw. For other Latah Legacy articles concerning the Potlatch Lumber Company see Thomas Femreite, "The Logging Camps of Potlatch," vol. 8, no. 3, summer 1979; and Keith Petersen, "Life in a Company Town: Potlatch, Idaho," vol. 10, no. 2, spring 1981.]

The only large body of white pine forest left in North America is in northern Idaho. It extends from the St. Joe River on the north, well into the Clearwater region on the south. A large part of this area is owned by the Potlatch Lumber Co. Their headquarters for logging operations are at Boville [sic], and it was around that place that this study was made.

The elevation at Boville is about 3000 feet; eastward from there it increases. The region is drained by the Palouse and Potlatch Rivers and, in the extreme eastern part by tributaries of the Clearwater or Kooskooske. Owing to the depth of snow at the time this study was made it was impossible to ascertain anything concerning the ground cover or the soil. The rock, where it was exposed by railway cuts, seemed to be of sedimentary origin. The lava flows from the west extend some distance beyond the town of Potlatch, but do not reach Boville.

The precipitation seems to vary with local conditions. The snow at Boville was only a few inches deep, but a few miles back in the timber it reached a depth of two feet. This is probably due in part to a higher altitude and a closer approach to the mountains; but it would seem, also, to bear out the statement made by woodsmen that the snow is always deeper in the timber than in the open.

THE FOREST

GENERAL. The forest of the region is almost entirely coniferous, white pine (*Pinus monticola*) being by far the most important timber tree. Other trees found here are lodgepole pine (*Pinus murrayana*), white fir (*Abies grandis*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*), tamarack (*Larix occidentalis*), spruce (*Picea engelmanni*), cedar (*Thuja plicata*), and hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*). The hemlock is rare. Yellow pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) occurs in the western portion of the district, and the loggers say it is found on the higher ridges farther east. The only broad-leaf tree noted in the region was the aspen (*Populus tremuloides*).

Many trees were noticed with a longitudinal split in the bark, probably caused by the frost.

TYPES. The region may be divided into three types, 1, White Pine slopes, 2, Cedar Flats, and 3, Tamarack Ridges.

White Pine Slopes. The White Pine Slopes cover the largest area. White pine is the predominating as well as the most important species. The forest of this type, however, is a mixed forest composed of all the trees found in the district, tamarack coming in only on the higher slopes, and cedar toward the lowlands. White pine on

this type reaches a diameter of three feet and a height of one hundred feet.

Cedar Flats. The Cedar Flats cover the floors of stream valleys where there is an abundance of moisture. The characteristic tree is the cedar, which often reaches a diameter of five or six feet. The white pine reaches its largest growth on this type. One tree measured was six feet in diameter, 180 feet high, and was estimated to contain 10,000 feet B. M. [Board Measurement]. The "White Pine King," said to be the largest white pine in the world, grew on this type. It was 425 years old, 204 feet high, and scaled, when cut, 17,400 feet. It was cut in the early part of Dec. 1911.

Aspens occur in places on this type.

Tamarack Ridges. Some of the ridges seem to be too dry for most of the trees, and on these the tamarack occurs in almost pure stands.

LOGGING OPERATIONS

CAMP EIGHT. Boville, as has been stated, is the headquarters for logging operations. The main camp, Camp Eight, is located 1-3/4 miles north of Boville, in a stream valley, and on a branch line of the C. M. & S. P. R. R. which runs from St. Maries to Boville and Elk River. The camp consists of about fifteen buildings, mostly log, among which are the office, two bunk houses, dining hall, engine sheds, and shops equipped for making minor repairs to the rolling stock. The camp has its own water system, the pressure being supplied by a wooden tank supported on a frame. The dining hall is run by private parties, the workmen paying \$5.00 per week for board.

Machinery and Methods. Logging operations at this camp are being carried on to the north and east from camp. The country is somewhat hilly, and the logging railroads follow the stream valleys to secure an easy grade. Logging is all done by steam. The donkey engine is located by the track at some point convenient to the operations and the cable is run back into the

woods from there.

The donkeys used are about 60 horse power. The engine operates two drums, one for the pulling cable, and the other for the smaller pull-back cable. While one of these drums is pulling, the other is allowed to run free or is retarded with a brake. On the same truck with the donkey, and operated from the same boiler is a smaller winch used in loading the logs onto the cars. The cable from the winch runs through a pulley in the top of an A beam standing beside the track. To the end of this cable are attached two shorter cables of equal length, and on the end of these cables is a hook. One of these hooks is jabbed into each end of a log and the log is raised to the car by the cable. A donkey engine complete with 1000 feet of cable costs \$5400. One donkey visited had sufficient cable to pull logs in from one half mile distant. In all cases the pulling cable is 1 1/8 inch and the pull-back 5/8 inch. At the end of the pulling cable are several short chains to which the logs are attached; a chain being wrapped around the end of each log choker fashion. Two or three logs may be brought in at one time. In most cases it is impossible to run the cable in a direct line. Wherever a turn is made the cable is run around a large pulley. When the logs reach the pulley the cable is stopped, the chains unfastened from the logs, pulled through the pulley, and again attached to the logs. The pull-back cable does not follow the pulling cable, but goes by the most direct route to the end of the line.

Signals are conveyed to the engineer by means of a long wire attached to the whistle. The signals are as follows.

- Stop.
- Go ahead.
- Back up.
- Slow ahead.

Four blasts are a call for the hook tender and five for the boss.

At this camp a new device called the "sky line," for logging from steep slopes is being tried out. The large cable, in this

case, is stationary and runs through the air. One end is fastened at the donkey, and the other end up on the hillside some 1500 feet away. On this cable runs a two-sheeled carrier with a pulley beneath it. The pulling cable runs through the pulley, and to the end of this cable the chokers are fastened. The pull-back cable is attached to the carrier, and serves not only as a pull-back, but also to keep the pulling cable taut and keep the logs off the ground. Two or three small logs can be handled at one time. Loading here is done in the usual way. The only other sky line in operation is at Camp Thirteen.

For convenience in handling, at the sky line the logs are cut, in the woods, to 32 foot lengths; but where the ordinary method of dragging in the logs is used the whole merchantable portion of the tree is brought in in one piece, and cut to 32

foot lengths at the car. The top log, which is usually less than 32 feet has its length marked on the end for the convenience of the scaler.

Organization. At Camp Eight 76 men are employed. The crew employed at a donkey is about as follows: engineer, fireman, loader, sawyers, hooktender, fellers, chaser, whistle boy. The wages of the engineer are \$3.50 per day; of the hooktender \$3.50; the fellers are \$2.75 to \$3.25; the loader \$2.75; the sawyers' \$2.25 to \$2.75; and the whistle boy \$2.25. The fireman, besides keeping up steam runs the small loading engine. The loader superintends the cutting of the logs into proper lengths and the loading onto cars; the sawyers cut the logs into 32 foot lengths at the car, and assist in loading. One sawyer is kept busy cutting wood for the engine. The normal felling crew con-



Highline Logging, with Donkey Engine



Highline Logging, Potlatch Corp.

sists of three men, an under-cutter and two sawyers. Several of these crews may be kept busy at each donkey. The hook-tender attends to the attaching of the logs to the pulling cable. The whistle boy is stationed at some point on the whistle line where he can see the full length of the pulling cable. His duty is to transmit the signals of the hooktender to the engineer by means of the wire attached to the whistle. The chaser is a man employed to watch for trouble along the line and to assist in getting logs past the pulleys.

Besides these crews, a "walking boss" and a scaler are employed at each camp. The

walking boss superintends the work of all the crews, and the scaler makes the rounds, once a day, of the donkeys and scales the logs loaded onto the cars. The scaler's wages are \$75 per month and board.

The laborers are mostly foreigners, more or less transient. The hours are from daylight till dark.

The average daily cut at Camp Eight is 70,000 feet. In Nov. 1911 the cost of cutting and loading was \$3.22 per thousand feet.

CAMP FIVE. Camp Five is a temporary camp located about seven miles northwest of Boville. Cars are used here instead of permanent buildings. About 75 men are employed. The organization and work is practically the same as at Camp Eight. The dining room and a commissary (called the wanegan) are run by the company. The wanegan is in charge of the bookkeeper and has the following goods in stock: shirts, pants, underwear, socks, shoes, rubbers, gloves, suspenders, blankets, quilts, pipes, tobacco, and matches.

The cost per thousand of getting out logs at this camp is about \$2.25.

POLE YARD. In addition to these camps the company operates a pole yard at Boville where poles, posts, and piles are cut and peeled. The peelers get 40¢ per 100 feet for peeling posts and poles and 50¢ per 100 feet for piles. For fence posts 1½¢

each is paid for cutting and piling. Round posts, finished, are worth 25¢ each.

TRANSPORTATION

The company operates about twenty miles of logging railroad. Sixty pound steel is used. The power consists of five Shays and one rod locomotive. The fuel is coal. The cars are ordinary 70,000 pound flats. One car can carry 90 to 150 poles, or six to eight thousand feet B. M. of logs.

Besides the donkey loaders the company owns two kinds of patent loaders which are easily transported. The McGiffert loader is made to run on the track. When used as a loader the wheels swing up out of the way allowing the empty cars to run under it. One of these machines costs \$2800. The Marion loader runs on a track on the cars themselves. It has not been



Potlatch Camp 5, c. 1910

very successful in these operations because the cars used are too light. A Marion is used in unloading the logs into the millpond at Potlatch.

The switch engines bring in the loaded cars from the different camps each day and leave them on the siding at Boville. Each morning they are made up into a train and taken to Potlatch. The cost of transporting them to Potlatch is six dollars a car, or about one dollar per thousand feet.

The wages of the crews on the logging trains are as follows:

Engineer	\$4.00
Conductor	3.50
Brakeman	2.50
Fireman	2.50

Two machine shops are maintained; the main one at Potlatch and a smaller one for making minor repairs, at Camp Eight. Fifteen men are employed in the Camp Eight shops. The master mechanic gets \$5.00 per day and boards himself. The shops at Potlatch are completely equipped for making all repairs to engines and cars, and for rebuilding cars.

THE MILL

Mill. The big mill at Potlatch is one of the best equipped in the west. It operates four 51 foot band saws, and has a capacity of 400,000 feet per day (10 hours). When this study was made they were cutting eight million feet a month.

The logs are brought to the mill on cars and are dumped into the pond. In the winter the pond is kept from freezing by a stream of hot water that is piped into it. From the pond the logs are carried, by the usual chain conveyer, into the mill. The largest diameter of log that the mill can handle is six feet. It is occasionally necessary to remove an unusually large log from the pond and hew it down with an ax to the proper size.

Inside the mill the long logs are cut in

two with an endless chain saw. They are then scaled and sent to the band saws. The boards go through the edgers and cut-off saws, and then onto the conveyers where they are graded and sent on out to the green shed. At the shed they are sorted and sent to different parts of the yard. The slabs, edgings, and ends are removed from the conveyer in the mill and are run through the lath machine, laid aside for box material, or tossed into a hopper to be ground up and shot into the engine room as fuel.

Upstairs in the mill is the filing room where the band saws are put in order. The filing is partly done by machinery, but each saw must be tested and adjusted by hand. The back of the saw must be longer than the front, and the middle longer than either edge. This portion of the adjustment requires very careful work.

Near the mill is a large planing mill and box factory, where surfaced boards, siding, flooring, moulding, etc., and boxes are turned out.

A large dry kiln is also in operation.

Power Plant. Power for the mill is supplied by an 1800 horse power Twin City Corliss engine, with a 24 foot fly wheel, driving a 56 inch belt. The engine for the planing mill is a similar one of 1000 horse power. The electric dynamos are run by steam turbines.

Yard. There is an enormous amount of lumber stored in the yard. The present amount is between ninety five and one hundred million feet. The lumber is transported about the yard on small cars pulled by electric engines. The engines are run by storage batteries, and one of them will run half a day on one charge. There are 37 miles of track in the yard.

Organization. About 500 men and 25 or 30 horses are employed in the mills and yard. No data could be obtained as to the value of the property, wages paid, or cost of operation.

SUMMARY

The important facts may be summarized as follows:

The logging is all steam.

Camp Eight averages 70,000 feet per day.

Logs are transported by rail.

Workmen (outside the mill) are paid from \$2.25 to \$5.00 per day, the average being about \$2.75.

It costs less than \$3.00 per thousand to get out the logs.

Transportation to the mill costs \$1.00 per thousand.

The mill runs four band saws.

It has a capacity of 400,000 feet per day.

500 men are employed in the mills and yard at Potlatch.

The yard contains 95 to 100 million feet of lumber.



Logging train coming down a grade, Potlatch Corp.

BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by Keith Petersen

Country Boy: Story of a Palouse Farm.
Harriet Ann Crawford. Puyallup, Wa.: Valley Press [207 W. Stewart, 98371]. 1982. 108 pp. Paper.

The crackling hum of the coffee grinder; the sound of plates being set around places at the table; a whiff of frying sausages; the smell of boiling coffee from a big coffeepot on the back of the stove with a crumpled eggshell dropped in the pot to settle the grounds; the filling of the mush bowls from the double boiler; and gooseberry preserves for the biscuits in the warming oven, covered with a clean, folded dishcloth until the very last minute.

These are the smells and sounds of breakfast in a Palouse farm house in the late 1890s where young Andy McKenna is preparing for his first day of school. Details like this bring to life the story of a young farm boy in eastern Washington in Harriet Ann Crawford's new novel, Country Boy: Story of a Palouse Farm. Through Andy the author skillfully recreates the rural community with its school house as the social center, the annual Fourth of July picnic, and, above all, the rhythms of farm life with the routines of stock and field work, and the annual exertions of the harvest. The McKenna family of numerous children and the loyal hired man is drawn with a lively pen. Around the edges is the daily grind of exhausting work in house, field, and barnyard, and the rural poverty which takes the form of a silent fear of not being able to meet a mortgage payment on new farm machinery or a signature on a brother's promissory note that is to come due.

Wonderful detail and sensitivity to rural life move Country Boy beyond the limitations of local history reminiscences, proving that good fiction can be contrived

from research and personal memories. Harriet Crawford is well qualified for this undertaking of regional fiction. She is the author of the History of the Washington State Grange, and she learned about farm life in the Palouse from her husband's family. One suspects, however, that the liveliness and rich texture of this remarkable and unpretentious book arises from her own experiences as a girl growing up on a sagebrush farm near Twin Falls, Idaho.

Country Boy has as its larger context the Farmer's Alliance (part of Populist politics in the 1890s), the crop failure and economic depression of 1893, and the organization of the Grange movement. Here, as throughout the novel, the touch is firm but not polemic. The author lets us understand the hesitancy of farmers in joining a political party. We share the embarrassment of men "meeting in the unfamiliar setting of the schoolhouse" where we see "a score of weathered faces, tense in their earnest scrutiny" of the man who has come to persuade them to join the People's Party.

The farmers' sense of their lack of power stems from their inability to speak up for themselves. At their Fourth of July picnic they allow the townspeople to give the speeches. Andy's cousin, Owen, the new kind of "farmer" educated at the agricultural school in Pullman, realizes this debilitating timidity:

You had to be able to stand up in front of people and talk smooth or town people took you for a simpleton . . . there wasn't one here . . . who would even try to talk to a crowd. There was something strange and devilish about it, but it was so. They were voiceless. Why?

Through the ten years the novel follows him, Andy is finding his voice and becoming conscious of a balance between his own, farm-nurtured values and the outside world.

Despite the skillful interweaving of politics and economic pressures into the story, it is the depiction of the Palouse countryside, its rural community and the McKenna family that compell the reader's attention. Crawford touches all of our senses in her description of a summer evening:

From behind old Steptoe the harvest moon was showing just an edge, but enough to silver the stubble fields and mark the willow grove along the creek. The smell of apples ripening in the orchard mingled with the sweetness of the hay. . . . The mad singing of crickets was orchestration for the quiet sounds of feeding animals in the barn below. After awhile the light went out in the farmhouse kitchen. . . .

Although isolated by distance, bad roads, and hard work, the farmers in Country Boy share a community life. Before the summer harvest, they meet at Elberton for a three-day picnic in celebration of July 4th. This affair (which old-time residents of Whitman County can still recall) is portrayed as a mixture of civic duty and the unaccustomed pursuit of happiness. For the women, this outing offers a "gypsy freedom almost demoralizing" coming in the "nick of time to forestall physical collapse." Along with the "orgy of sensational experience" for the children, "opportunities long withheld for youthful unmarried ones," and the chance for men to tell their salty stories and brag, the Fourth was also a time for serious work: ". . . it was a time for taking stock of the state of the Union, for calling down the wrath of Heaven upon profiteers and middlemen, for renewal of faith in democracy's dream."

Perhaps the most sensitive portrait is that of the farm wife, Lucy McKenna. Her husband manages the family's financial affairs and makes the important decisions, but her own sphere is equally complicated and exacting. In describing the changes that occur in the farmhouse with the beginning of the school year, Crawford gives us a unique insight into the impact of that event which "brought changes more pronounced than fruit canning or even harvest time."

With the school bound children finally out of the door, the mother knew a moment of disconcerting quiet, for there was all of the usual round of chores now to be accomplished without the help of her girls, solely with her own two hands. . . . Dwarfing all these . . . was the ordeal of the weekly washing. This was the terrible, unfair test of the farm mother.

After school, with her three older girls at home, there is the bustle of preparing the evening meal and organizing the available hands and resources:

And Erma, run out and take the clothes off the line. . . . And Ellen, get a panful of potatoes from that sack on the back porch. As soon as I get the bread out of the oven they can go right in . . . but with hot bread, it's going to go hard on my butter. I hope Wash didn't forget the coal oil, for the lamps all need fillin'.

Gentle pleasures can be infrequent, and when an unexpected bounty arrives at the McKenna household--cotton flannel, bleached muslin, soft wool cashmere for dresses with rolls of silk braid, whale bone, jet buttons, silk lining, and a manufactured paper dress pattern, Andy watches his mother. She strokes the beautiful fabrics, "laying upon them the different braids, trying out the buttons, and studying the pattern picture." Years later, when he is sixteen, Andy sees her as she has aged, now a "little figure,

grown pudgy and shapeless, her small work-worn hands clutching his sleeve, her round face twisted with anxiety."

The genius of Country Boy lies here, in this personalized scale. By avoiding the romantic images and cliches of the homesteader, it impresses those small human moments of both pleasure and pain upon us, in this satisfying blend of local history and fiction.

Mary E. Reed
[Pullman, Washington]

Career Opportunities for Historians. Lee Ann Smith, et al., editors. Pullman, Wa.: Gamma Psi Chapter, Phi Alpha Theta [Department of History, Washington State University, 99164]. 1981. 67 pp. \$3.50; discount for orders over 10. Paper.

Career Opportunities for Historians is a breath of fresh air for those who thought there were no employment possibilities for historians of today and tomorrow. The book is a challenge to those in academia who say that the historian's future is bleak because there are few jobs available to those desiring to teach at the university or college level. In fact, they are as far from the truth as they can be. For too long history-related jobs have gone to those who have not been trained in academic history. The main reason for this is that university history departments have stressed traditional or academic employment. But times have changed and historians in ever increasing numbers are seeking career opportunities in nontraditional areas. This book is a credit to that fact.

The book is an anthology of professional career opportunities produced through the efforts of Phi Alpha Theta, Gamma Psi Chapter at Washington State University. Its contents deal with eleven career possibilities including such topics as employment with federal, state, and county governments, working as a contract historian, interpretive specialist, archivist, museum curator, and more. Each

article is scholarly, realistic, and well written. Short biographic notes on each contributing author are appended toward the end of the book. Their articles are expressions of their expertise and optimism.

Its greatest value lies in the fact that many doors are opened to those college students majoring in history. Professors, as well as high school history teachers, would do well to incorporate Career Opportunities for Historians into their reading lists as a means to brighten the days for future history graduates. Career counselors on both the high school and university level will find this book enlightening as well as instructional. And of course its presence on library shelves would make it more readily available to the general public and to those students searching for professional career ideas.

J. D. Britton
[University of Idaho]

The town council should pass an ordinance whereby drunks and hobos arrested could be made to work on the street. During the muddy weather the cross walks could be kept clean and ladies could pass without walking through mud ankle deep. The pleasure of free board at the expense of the tax payers would be lessened, to their delight. The matter should be attended to at once.

Moscow Mirror
5 December 1890, p.3

January is Record Month for Snowfall in Moscow

Moscow residents who feel that this winter may set some sort of record for cold and snow will be interested to learn that the average January snow fall at Moscow is 15.2 inches.

There have been 36 inches of snow recorded so far this month at the University of Idaho's plant science farm, east of the city.

The average yearly snowfall at Moscow is 49 inches.

January holds the record for snowfall throughout the time that official records have been kept by the university.

On Jan. 13, 1913, Moscow residents must have been busy shoveling as 24 inches of snow fell that day. On Jan. 2 of the same year, 19 inches were recorded. The month's total for that year reached 66 inches, an all-time record.

In January, 1950, snowfall reached 48.2 inches and in 1933, 42.3 inches fell during the first month.

The most snow that has fallen in one day so far this month was eight inches that came on the 11th. Five inches fell on the seventh; four on the 14th and 19th; three inches on the ninth, tenth and 21st; two inches on the first and 22nd and one inch on the 15th and 17th.

Snowfall was recorded on 11 of the first 22 days of the month. And it isn't over yet; more is forecast for tomorrow.

The all-time record cold for Moscow was Dec. 30, when 42 degree below zero--the official temperature at the plant science farm, chilled the region.

University students, gone during the Christmas vacation, returned to find living quarters flooded by broken water pipes which froze during the extreme cold.

Local residents were plagued with cars that wouldn't start and service stations were deluged with calls for assistance.

The frigid temperature didn't last long and it was soon raining throughout the area, bringing more problems to winter-weary residents.

There are two months remaining of the calendar winter period; snowfall and temperature records may still be equaled or broken.

Moving south isn't really the answer; California is currently having floods from a record rainfall.

Reprinted from Daily Idahonian, January 23, 1969

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LATAH COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Moscow, Idaho 83843

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In 1968 interested individuals organized the Latah County Historical Society to collect and preserve materials connected with the history of Latah County and to provide further knowledge of the history and tradition of the area. Every person, young or old, who is interested in the history of Latah County and who would like to assist in its preservation and interpretation is cordially invited to become a member. Subscription to this journal and a discount on books published by the Society are included in membership dues. Dues for the various classes of membership are as follows:

	Friend	Contributing	Sustaining	Sponsoring	Benefactor
Individual	\$ 5-10	\$11-25	\$26- 50	\$ 51-100	\$101-499
Family	9-15	16-40	41-100	101-200	201-499
Business	25-35	36-75	76-150	151-300	301-499

A "500 Club" is reserved for contributions of \$500 or more. Privileges are identical for all classes; the higher dues represent a much needed donation to help the Society's work. Dues are tax deductible.

The Society's services include conducting oral histories, publishing local history monographs, maintaining a local history/genealogy research library and the county museum, as well as educational outreach. The Society wishes to acquire objects, documents, books, photographs, diaries, and other materials relating to the history of Latah County. These are added to the collections and made available to researchers while they are preserved for future generations.

The Society is housed in the William J. McConnell Mansion, 110 South Adams, Moscow. The museum is open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Visits to the museum or research library are welcomed at other times and can be arranged by calling (208) 882-1004.

LATAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Number 1

110 S. Adams, Moscow, ID 83843

February 1983

BEQUEST
Harry Sampson

On December 8, 1982 Clarice Sampson presented the Board of Trustees with a generous bequest made by Harry Sampson to the Historical Society. This bequest was gratefully accepted by the Board. The money has been designated to go towards a building fund.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER
OF THE YEAR
AWARD

At the Annual Meeting held January 18, 1983, the Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Keith Petersen. Keith has shown great dedication to the Society. He has donated many hours of work and his committment to the Library Committee is to be commended. He is a volunteer the Society is fortunate to have.

The Volunteer of the Year Award is made each year by the staff. The winner's name is enscribed on a plaque that hangs in the Mansion.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS
ELECTED

The new Board of Trustees was recently elected at the Annual Meeting in January. Everett Hagen of Deary is now president. Everett who was a County Commissioner for Latah County from 1976-1980 has been active with the Society for many years and had previously served on the Board as 1st Vice President. Roger Slade, the Society's immediate past president, now serves on the Board as past president. Great appreciation is given to Roger for all his work and leadership as president these past two years.

Other officers on the Board are: Mary Reed - first vice-president, Duane LeTourneau - second vice-president, Merideth Monserud -

secretary, and new to the Board this year is Leonard Ashbaugh - treasurer.

Other members of the Board are Donna Bray, who has served as president of the Board, Cindy Blue, who is a professor of interior design at the University of Idaho. She brings with her expertise in the field of historic preservation, and Stan Shepard. Stan works in Special Collections at the University of Idaho Library. He is also the Society's new editor of the *Latah Legacy*.

Returning to the Board are: Leora Stillinger, Steve Talbott, and Lillian Otness. Cora Knott and Laura Bartell are representatives from the Historical Club. Representing the Pioneer Association are John Talbott of Moscow and Goldie Wolheter of Potlatch.

Many thanks to those who served on the Board last year!!

SPECIAL THANKS
to:

Thomas Wolfe for serving as Treasurer on the Board of Trustees. Tom has been associated with the Society for almost ten years. His excellent work will be missed. Tom has taken a position with a firm in San Diego, California. Mary Giddings has taken over his bookkeeping responsibilities.

A special thanks to Grace Ingle for all her work on the successful publication *Gleanings From Big Bear Ridge*, the proceeds of which come to the Historical Society.

Thanks to John Veien for his electrical wizardry!

And thank you Nancy Rowley for the excellent presentation at the Society's Annual Meeting. Nancy gave a most enlightening talk on the Red Cross quilts which are part of the Society's textile collection.

THE LIBRARY COLUMN
by Keith Petersen

In the jargon of historians *primary sources* refer to such things as personal letters, diaries, business ledgers, minutes of meetings and so forth. *Secondary sources* consist of such things as books and journal articles. Both types of materials are valuable, and the Historical Society Library collects both kinds of information relating to Latah County. Historians, however, are especially pleased when they can find collections of primary sources relating to their topic of research. Although no records are infallible, primary sources are generally considered to be more accurate records of an event. There are the accounts written years later by someone who might not have been a primary participant in the event. While primary sources are the most valuable of all, they are also many times the most difficult for researchers to find. Unfortunately, not enough individuals, businesses, clubs, organizations, cities, and churches believe that what they have done is of historical value and these irreplaceable records are thrown away. If you know of such materials which are currently not cared for or are threatened with destruction, we encourage you to donate them to an established archival depository. In the case that they relate to people or agencies in Latah County, they would be welcome additions to the Latah County Historical Society Library.

In the past few months the Society has become the depository of four outstanding collections of primary records.

The city of Genesee donated to the Society a large group of early city records. Included are city council minutes from 1897 to 1917; city cemetery records; cash journals; correspondence from 1902 to the 1950's; city ordinances; birth and death records; and a variety of other materials. In 1980 the city donated to the Society numerous other records pertaining to the city dating from 1934-1979. These combined holdings now provide the Society with an excellent primary research collection relating to the Genesee city government.

Another city, this one in Whitman County, Washington, made an equally valuable loan to the Society. Virgil T. McCroskey was born in Tennessee in 1876 and died in 1970. An early conservationist, McCroskey earned the nickname "the Giver of Mountains" when he donated Steptoe Butte to become a Washington State Park and Skyline Drive in Latah and Benewah Counties to become Idaho's Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park. Upon McCroskey's death, many of his personal papers and photographs came into possession of the City of Oaxdale, where he lived. The city council has generously allowed the Society to borrow these materials to make photocopies of some of the more valuable records and photographs, particularly those that relate to Latah County. In the early 1970's the Latah County Pioneer Association donated a considerable amount of material relating to McCroskey and these two gifts will provide us with an outstanding collection. The Society would like to hear from people who knew McCroskey personally or who have McCroskey related material they would like to donate to help build this collection.

It seems as though at the turn of the century there were many more fraternal organizations, secret clubs in Latah County towns than there are today. One club that was particularly active in places such as Palouse and Viola was the Knights of the Maccabees. John and Jeannette Talbott recently acquired and donated to the Society the records of the Viola branch of the Knights from the late 1890's and early 1900's. Included in the collection are ledgers, application forms, information on rituals, monthly reports and other materials relating to the organization.

"Just a line this beautiful morning to thank you for the lovely gift from our book *Caddie*. Little did I think when I held my dear little granddaughter and told her stories of my child life that she would pay me back in my old age, for all those happy hours we spent together while your beautiful mother and aunt spent an evening together." So begins a 1937 handwritten letter from Carolyn Watkins to her granddaughter, Carol Ryrie Brink, upon the publication of *Caddie Woodlawn*. This letter along with Carol Brink's acceptance speeches

for several literary awards, including one in respect to the Newberry Medal for *Caddie Woodlawn*, makes up the fourth collection of primary records donated to the Society. The Carol Brink materials were a gift of Nora Hunter, Carol's daughter.

Many other individuals have recently made donations to the Library. We thank them for their interest in preserving Latah County history:

Lillian Otness, historic photographs and early Moscow publicity brochure.

Clearwater National Forest, Richard C. Waldbauer, *The Hoodoo Mining District*.

Panhandle National Forest, *When the Mountains Roared: Stories of the 1910 Fire and Cultural Resource Overview of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests*.

Vesta Cornwall Martin, family history information relating to Frank and Sarah Cornwall.

Carol Young and Keith Petersen, Historic Structures Report on the University of Idaho's Blue Bucket Inn.

Nancy Rowley, "Wheatfield of the Columbia" 1894 *Harper's Magazine* article.

Reverend Arnzen, Kenneth Arnzen, *The First Hundred Years: A Centennial History of St. Mary's Church, Moscow, Idaho*.

Ray K. Harris, Harris family genealogical information.

Keith Petersen, typewritten transcription of an 1882 diary kept by George Hill of Viola, a 1905 letter from a woman homesteader in Park, and an article manuscript on medical practices in Latah County from 1870-1930.

Mary Reed, articles written by Mary Reed about Carol Brink that appeared in *Plainswoman*, January 1983, and *The Idaho Librarian*, October 1982.

Mrs. Jeanne Olson, family photographs.

Anonymous, file folder of clippings concerning Carla Emery and her School of Country Living in Kendrick.

Helen Cross Memorial Fund (library purchase), Bill Woolston, *Harvest: Wheat Ranching in the Palouse*.

Harriet Crawford, *Country Boy: A Story of the Palouse*.

Mary Banks, Mary E. Norie Banks, *From England With Love*, and *Kites in the Empyrean*.

Kenneth Steffen, postcards of Moscow parade in the 1920's.

Chris Runberg, postcards of Moscow buildings.

Clarice Sampson, photograph of DAR's and DAR banquet booklets from 1935.

GIFTS

Margaret Olson, girl's dress and slip.

Alma L. Keeling, candlestick holders, assorted clippings, tops, baby shoes, photograph.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Maier, black silk dress and jacket, black feather.

H. Robert Otness, photographs, some items belonging to Frederic Church, newspaper clippings.

Helen Crane, melodeon, handmade rocking chair.

Bill Ringer Family, photographs.

Betty Black, fox stole, combs.

John Vogel, clothing, newspaper clippings, advertising media, Crain Creek Power Company notebook, Red Cross items, toys, wallpaper books, basket, social lunch box, lantern slides, linens.

Lillian Burke, Moscow League of Women Voters Booklet, 1957.

The following people have given monetary gifts to the Historical Society:

Bill and Deborah McLaughlin

Warren and Pauline Owens

Mr. & Mrs. John Talbott

Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Warnick

ABOUT THE MANSION

A temporary cap has been put on the roof of the Mansion. Leaks in the roof had become severe this winter. We now wait for the County Commissioners to accept a bid from local contractors for a new roof this spring. We are ever hopeful.

In Passing . . .

Pearl Robinson Foye
1900 - 1982

Pearl Robinson Foye, 82, died December 1, 1982 in Wichita Falls, Texas. She was the widow of Frank B. Robinson, whose mail-order religion, Psychiana, made Moscow famous in the 1930's and 1940's.

Emmett L. Utt
1903 - 1983

Emmett Utt, 80, died February 1, 1983 at the Latah Care Center. He was a retired lumber-mill worker and Princeton area farmer. His family moved to Princeton when he was four months old. Emmett was one of the first people interviewed for the oral history project here at the Historical Society.

Toni V. Earl
1921 - 1983

Toni Earl, 61, one of the founders and an official of the Nez Perce County Historical Society and the Luna House Museum in Lewiston, died January 18, 1983 of cancer.

MEMORIALS

Memorials to the Historical Society are an excellent way to remember friends. These generous gifts also greatly help the Society. Since the last *Newsletter*, memorials have been received from the following:

For V.G. Anderson
Mrs. W.T. Marineau

For J.W. Barber, Sr.
Leora Stillinger

For Helen Cross
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Hosack

For Mrs. Margaret Hagedorn
Clara Otness

For Rudolph Nordby
Latah County Pioneer Association

For Ruth Petersen
Keith Petersen
Mrs. J. Petersen
Jack and Jeannette Petersen

For Harry Sampson
Mr. & Mrs. Wilmer Cox and Family
Mr. & Mrs. Lowe
Mary T. Aufderhar
Florence P. Gildow
Carol Hungerford
Mrs. Johanna K. Shell
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hosack
Milburn and Bethine Kenworthy
Mr. & Mrs. John Talbott
Linda J. Clark
James Roupe

NEW MEMBERS

Richard Beck, Moscow
Cynde Chatham, Moscow
Don & Laura Dammarell, Spokane, WA
Kathleen & Richard Farner, Tacoma, WA
Deloris Goettsch, Waterloo, IA
Donald M. Gustin, Deary
Alan Hargus, Seattle, WA
Brian Hargus, Seattle, WA
Leslie Hargus, Seattle, WA
Mr. & Mrs. P.K. Hargus, APO New York
C.R. Hoidal, Seattle, WA
Ronald Ingle, Filer
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Johann, Genesee
Bill and Deborah McLaughlin, Moscow
Joseph R. Nashadka, Moscow
Mrs. John A. Nelson, Troy
R.H. Nelson, Richard, WA
Mr. & Mrs. R.W. Nelson, Richland, WA
Mr. & Mrs. Rich Ogle, Houston, TX
Elma Petrick, Moscow
Jim Prall, Moscow
Susan B. Roberts, Matt & John Hieb, Moscow
Susan Vaught, New York, NY
Mrs. Walter J. Weaver, Lewiston