

# LATAH LEGACY

The Quarterly Journal of The Latah County Historical Society

Vol. 17, No. 4

Winter 1988



Mary Reed, (left) director of the Latah County Historical Society, Clarice Sampson, and Cal and Kathleen Warnick display a landscape architect's drawing of the Centennial Annex. It is an apartment building across from McConnell Mansion and will be remodeled for offices, a library and textile conservation. It was donated to the Society by the Warnicks. A target date for moving into the building is sometime in 1990.

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The Presidents Remember...

When the Railroad Came to Moscow

Published quarterly by the Latah County Historical Society, 110 S. Adams, Moscow, Idaho 83843. Subscriptions included in annual membership dues. Telephone (208) 882-1004. ISSN 0749-3282

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### **The Latah County Historical Society**

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### **Latah Legacy**

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## The Second Ten Years

By Mary E. Reed

### *Introduction*

*When the Latah County Historical Society began its second decade, it faced familiar problems: insufficient funding, crowded quarters, and a need to expand its activities to a wider audience of all ages and interests. Despite occasional setback, the organization has progressed steadily. By 1988, the year of its twentieth anniversary, it was recognized by professionals throughout the country as one of the nation's outstanding local historical organizations. The Historical Society has received more prestigious grants from the Institute of Museum Services than any other museum—of any size—in the western United States. In 1988 the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded a Challenge Grant to the Historical Society, primarily on the basis of its excellent record of humanities programs. It was one of only 35 to receive this grant that year. Staff members are regularly invited to speak at regional and national conferences. Two volunteers, Lillian Otness and Keith Petersen, have received awards from the American Association for State and Local History, the most prestigious awards given in this field.*

*The Historical Society has taken a leadership role in formulating legislation improving the status of historic preservation in Idaho, and it has played an instrumental role in the formation and development of the Idaho Association of Museums. Two of its books, "Grubstaking the Palouse" and "Company Town," have been recognized as Outstanding Books by the Idaho Library Association. In 1988 the Historical Society received an Orchid Award from the Idaho Preservation Council and an Honorable Mention in the President's Take Pride in American program for its many years of work in preserving Latah County's history.*

*These and many other forms of recognition have brought the Historical Society prestige and respect within the county and in a far larger region. It has all been possible because of the dedication of dozens of volunteers and a small but enthusiastic staff. The last issue of Latah Legacy highlighted the first ten years of this story. The following summarizes the second decade.*

### **Directors**

Lee Magnuson, the first professionally trained curator, remained in charge from 1976 to September 1977 when he was offered a position in Senator Frank Church's office. In considering Lee's replacement, the trustees took a chance on hiring a non-local, young historian and native of western

Washington, Keith Petersen. Along with his work on a master's degree in American history at the University of Wisconsin, Mr. Petersen had been employed by the Wisconsin State Historical Society. This experience with the leading historical society in the country had led him to a new career in a new field called public history. It was his former history professor at Washington State University, Dr.

David Stratton, who contacted Mr. Petersen about an opening at the Latah County Historical Society. After an interview, Mr. Petersen became the new curator, a position that later was renamed director. In May 1981 he resigned his position in order to devote his professional time to historical projects, although he has remained closely connected to the Historical Society as an active volunteer.

The Board next hired Kit Freudenberg, a museology graduate from the University of Idaho and University of Minnesota, as the new director. In the summer of 1982, the position was again vacant. The staff filled in, and thanks to the loyalty and talents of Karen Broenneke and Shannon O'Dell, affairs and programs continued smoothly. Carol Young, who had worked as administrative assistant under Mr. Petersen in 1980, returned to become the interim director, and after she resigned in summer 1983, the board hired another familiar face. Mary Reed had begun her work at the historical society as a volunteer and then undertook a project on Carol Ryrie Brink, including interviews with the author at her San Diego home. In 1982 Mrs. Reed was elected to the Board of Trustees, and in 1983 when the position of director became vacant, she applied for the job. The switch from volunteer to trustee to director was accomplished relatively smoothly.

## Historic Preservation

In the late 1970s the Historical Society became involved in an issue which tied it more closely to the Moscow community. This was the area of historic preservation of buildings and sites. The historical society in 1979 received a \$12,000 grant from the state preservation office and hired Donna Bray to survey Moscow buildings. The project that eventually yielded National Register designation for several individual buildings beginning with the McConnell-Maguire building, the Skattaboe Building, the Lieuallen home at First and Almon, and the Mason Cornwall house. The number of Latah County listings on the National Register eventually grew to include 18 individual properties and sites, and 116 houses in the Fort Russell District. However, the process to include the Fort Russell Neighborhood

and the Carnegie Library met some obstacles.

In the 1970s two historic buildings were threatened: the Federal Building and the Carnegie Library. Interest in the Federal Building began in 1973 when Clarice Sampson, one of the foremost champions of new quarters for the historical society, wrote to Senator Frank Church about the possibility of acquiring the original Federal Building in Moscow for museum space. The building would be vacated in 1974 when the new one was completed. For a time, there were plans to demolish the brick structure for a parking lot; fortunately a citizens' outcry defeated that plan. Then when the city purchased the building, another effort was launched to convert the building into a community center with a museum in the basement. In order to educate people to its potential, the historical society and the Fort Russell Neighborhood group sponsored an open house and tour in May 1978. This was followed by organization of a group, Citizens of the Old Post Office, which held information meetings and began an advertising campaign and led tours. The city proposed a bond levy to renovate the building, and the Historical Society signed an agreement with the city to lease the basement which would be renovated. Feelings were somewhat bitter, and a group opposed to the bond levy accused the historical society of being unable to pay an annual lease, claiming that the historical society had never raised more than \$5,000 in one year. The project was presented to the voters as a bond levy in 1979, but failed by a small margin. In 1981 the main floor was opened as a community center, with the second and third floors closed to public use.

In 1987 the Historical Society in cooperation with the Moscow Centennial Commission again attempted to pass a bond levy to convert the two upper stories to meeting rooms and exhibit space. This time the plan included building a separate addition for city offices and the police department and moving the kitchen area into the basement level which would be excavated to form a ground level entrance with a courtyard. Although this was the major building project for the city's centennial, voters failed to pass the bond levy.

A second struggle for historic preservation in the late 1970s was the Carnegie Library building with its distinctive Spanish mission styling and connections with the Moscow Historical Club and the Pleiades Club. These women's organizations had raised money for its construction in 1906. It, too, was threatened with demolition. One option for relieving the crowded conditions was to tear it down and use the space as a parking lot for a new, two-story building. Another alternative was building a new library and turning the Carnegie Library building over to a group such as the Latah Museum Society. It became clear from public meetings that the community would not support a levy to demolish a cherished and valuable architectural structure.

It was even more ironic that in 1977 the historical society had made a nomination to place the building on the National Register. However, the Idaho State Historical Society decided to hold up the

nomination for what they termed political reasons. Some Moscow citizens who were in favor of razing the building for a parking lot had written to Boise opposing the nomination.

Arthur Hart, Director of the State Historical Society, expressed his willingness to forward the nomination once he became convinced that there was real support in Latah County to preserve the building.

It was time for the Historical Society to take a vigorous, public stand, knowing that its support of preserving the library would not be popular with everyone. The newsletter of October 1977 appealed to members to write to Mr. Hart, voicing their support for the library. A natural and energetic ally was the Fort Russell Neighborhood Organization which was working toward a National Register designation for its area. Although placement on the National Register would not automatically preserve the Carnegie library, it would put in place mechanisms for



Then Governor John Evans was on hand in 1982 for the dedication of the Carol Ryrie Brink room at the Latah County Public Library.

deciding its fate in future years. In addition, the prestige of this recognition would help convince the community of its historic importance.

Contacts with the Fort Russell organization were followed by an intense campaign with handouts at the county fair and at the library, letters, hosting a public forum at the McConnell Mansion, and placing more pressure on the State Historical Society to submit the nomination to the National Park Service which makes the designations to the National Register. It also was necessary to allay fears among county residents that the National Register designation would infringe upon ownership rights, in this case the City of Moscow which owned the building. The campaign emphasized that one of the benefits of being on the National Register was eligibility for 50 percent federal matching grants in aid for restoration, rehabilitation, and protection.

Board President Donna Bray in July 1977 commented upon the necessity of involving the Historical Society in this very public and somewhat controversial campaign: "The Board's recent involvement in the question of the future of the old Carnegie Library building is an example of the spirit of cooperation and the sense of mission that guide the work of the Latah County Museum Society. It has made me even more aware of the important role that the Society can play in the cultural life of our area . . . . In supporting the Carnegie Library building we can see the Society moving toward an active role in public deliberations about historic preservation. In doing so we fulfill our public responsibilities as a historical society to help preserve the significant aspects of Latah County's heritage."

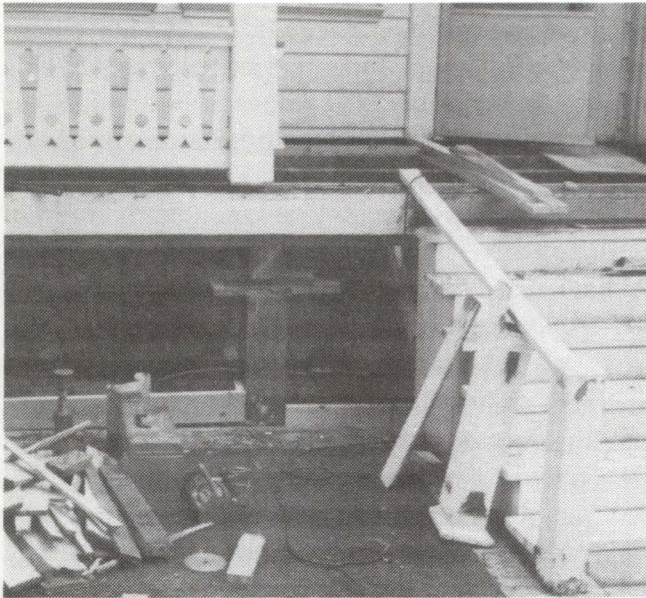
By this time, plans for replacing the Carnegie Library with a parking lot had been dropped; the bond before the Latah County voters in November 1977 was for a new building. The Carnegie Library, it was hoped, would become the site for the county museum. While Moscow and Latah County residents recognized that new facilities were necessary, they were committed to insuring that the new library would be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. This was important, even if it meant a smaller building. This commitment became clear with the bond levy. Although the voters in Moscow

passed the bond levy, county residents did not. Another levy in 1978 failed, and in 1979 the library board cooperated with the Moscow City Council to raise matching funds. With lowered expectations, the library board finally adopted a plan to expand its facilities by building an addition to the original building. The voters finally approved the 1981 levy, to a large extent because the design and materials of the new addition were compatible with the old.

By this time, Carnegie Library had been placed on the National Register, due in large part to overwhelming support by county residents and endorsement by the Library Board, in large part organized by the historical society. Even though it did not become the site of a new museum, the dream of acquiring additional museum space was still very much a priority with the historical society. In particular need for expansion was the research library which was rapidly expanding under Mr. Petersen's direction. In the meantime, the future of the Library had been secured. And in April 1982, a contingent of state and local dignitaries, including Governor John Evans, Carol Brink's daughter Nora Hunt, and historian Mary Reed formally dedicated the beautiful high-ceiling Carnegie Library with its cozy fireplace as the Carol Ryrice Brink Children's room in honor of Moscow's foremost writer.

## **Fort Russell Neighborhood**

The Historical Society under Keith Petersen's leadership also took a stand on the nomination of the Fort Russell Neighborhood to the National Register. In 1977 it corresponded with Idaho's Historic Preservation Officer, Merle Wells, about considering the neighborhood for the Register. As with the nomination for the Carnegie Library, the process for the historic district was time consuming and frustrating. Finally in 1980 the neighborhood district consisting of 116 structures was placed on the National Register. In promoting this action, the Historical Society began a process of collecting information on these historic houses. This was part of the on-going effort of the Historical Society to organize and catalog its library collections. In 1976 the Moscow Bicentennial Committee had published the Moscow-Latah County Historic Tours Guide-



The back porch of McConnell Mansion came in for some remodeling during a restoration project in 1980.

book, and in 1978 a committee was formed to investigate producing a new edition. The outcome was a long-range and professional effort headed by Lillian Otness to write a comprehensive guide to Moscow, the University of Idaho, and Latah County. The publication of "A Great Good Country" in fall 1983 was in many ways the culmination of several years of effort to preserve the history of the built environment of the county. For example, in 1978 and 1981 the Historical Society hosted two very popular historic homes tour. The appearance of "A Great Good Country" brought acclaim to the author and to the historical society as well as arousing interest among area residents and visitors in Latah County's heritage. In 1984 Merle Wells of the Idaho State Historical Society presented Mrs. Otness with a national award from the American Association for State and Local History. "A Great Good Country" is now the standard reference for the historical society and other organizations and agencies. It is the basis for two popular walking tours of Moscow which Mrs. Otness produced in 1987 for the Moscow centennial.

The Historical Society's involvement in historic preservation has naturally centered on the McConnell house. The initial phase of transforming Dr. Church's residence to a public museum involved installing new wiring, wallpaper and paint, and un-

dertaking other projects necessary to make it suitable for period rooms, exhibits, and offices. The next restoration phase included work to the exterior as well as the interior. Curator Karen Broenneke began research on the history of the house and restoration methods in preparation for the work. A preservation grant from the State Historical Preservation Office paid for replacing all the chimneys, the back porch, and the second story balcony on the south side. Painting the house posed special problems. Accepting federal money which would have required replicating the original colors of the exterior which were different shades of tan. These colors would have been difficult if not impossible to replicate. Instead, the Board decided to paint the trim two shades of blue as a pleasing contrast to the white siding. The county commissioners voted an additional \$5,000 toward the restoration and painting project. In the early 1980s the county commissioners replaced the roof and sidewalks, and removed the five poplar and three willow trees planted in the late 1890s by Dr. Arthur Partridge, a forestry professor at the University of Idaho. The trees were badly decayed and a potential hazard. This was a difficult step as it erased one more connection with the past. Removing the trees led to developing a landscape plan with the assistance of a landscape architecture class from Washington State University and the historical society's landscape committee headed by Dolores Sanchez.

In 1979 another innovation occurred which continued efforts of preserving and restoring to the interior to its original Victorian period. For the first time since it had been opened as a museum, staff no longer lived in the downstairs area of the house. This made it possible to convert space into a curator's office (now the director's office) and a work and reading room for the library. This move also meant installing a modern security system with a direct line to the police and fire departments which was done in 1980.

During this same period, University of Idaho professor Joann Jones, assisted efforts to enhance the understanding and interpretation of the McConnell family and the house. Using her class on historic interiors, Mrs. Jones directed her students in researching the furniture and preparing a report on

various pieces. This work was valuable to volunteers and staff interpreting the period rooms for visitors. She continued her interest in the house through a grant from the Association for the Humanities in Idaho in 1986. This enabled her to broaden her research to include the social and cultural environment of the McConnell period and to produce a handsome brochure for visitors. It was the Historical Society's great fortune when Mrs. Jones joined the staff in 1986 as the curator. The year 1986 marked another milestone, the centennial of the McConnell house. With funds generated by the McConnell Mansion Centennial Club and a generous donation from Grace Ingle and Alice Nethkin in memory of Gerald Ingle, a committee selected new carpets, lace curtains, and velvet draperies for the parlors. The committee's work continues in planning for the eventual restoration of the entire house.

## Outreach To A Wider Audience

The Historical Society's second decade has been notable in the number and type of programs and projects that have brought Latah County's heritage to a wider and more varied audience. The widened scope of interests and activities was reflected in the change of the organization's name from Latah County Museum Society to Latah County Historical Society, made official at the January 1978 annual meeting.

The increase in activities was largely possible because of a larger, trained staff which included interns from the University of Idaho Museology program. Several staff members began their association with the Historical Society as interns. Their names are now well known in the museum community throughout the United States. Karen Broenneke is curator of education at the Oregon Historical Society; J.D. Britton is working with the Ohio Historical Society; Richard Waldbauer is with the National Park Service in Washington, D.C.; Shannon O'Dell works at the DeWitt Museum in New York; Diane Becker Reilly worked for the Pasadena Historical Society. They and other student interns helped considerably with the more routine work of accessioning and cataloging collections, as well as planning

and installing exhibits. And Mr. Waldbauer's thesis on the HooDoo mining district became the publication, "Grubstaking the Palouse." Although the University ended the museology program in 1982, students from both the University of Idaho and Washington State University have continued to serve internships. A later member of the staff, Curator Debbie Kruger, is now the director of the Union Pacific Depot Museum in Wallace.

In the 1970s historical societies and museums saw the possibility of becoming lively, exciting institutions, and the new director Keith Petersen had learned from his job at the Wisconsin Historical Society that a wide variety of programs and projects could be initiated in Latah County. Mindful of the historical society's educational mission, Mr. Petersen organized a two-day museum workshop for the Idaho Association of Museums in 1978, the first of several workshops that continued in succeeding years. Through these workshops local experts have presented information on conserving paper, textiles, historic structures and furnishings, and on oral history interviewing techniques. In addition to the Idaho



Christy Jackson and her daughter Alisha help decorate the Christmas tree in McConnell Mansion. Victorian hand ornaments were made by the Mountain View 4-H Club.



Association of Museums, the historical society initiated cooperative projects with other organizations. In 1979 the University of Idaho Alumni Association helped fund an exhibit on the first twenty years of university history, and in 1982 the historical society received a grant for a cooperative cataloging project involving a neighboring county historical society and two universities.

Cooperation with the University of Idaho has proven to be an enduring arrangement. For instance, the historical society received the donation of papers of the Washington, Idaho and Montana Railway, had the collection inventoried, and stores the collection at the University Library. The library also maintains the tapes and copies of transcripts from the historical society's oral history project. Through staff and volunteers connected with the Department of Home Economics, the historical society has enjoyed a special relationship of cooperation with the Leila Old Costume Collection. In addition in loaning and borrowing articles for exhibits, Mrs. Old and her colleagues have provided assistance with textile conservation at the McConnell house museum and served as a resource to answer questions from county residents. It was during this period that Mr. Petersen initiated a speakers series featuring experts discussing historical events and people, including William Borah, Frank Robinson, and the Coeur d'Alene steamboats and mining history. And in 1980 the historical society sponsored a series of 26 local history radio programs based on the oral history collection and wrote articles for a historical supplement in the Daily Idahonian.

## Programs Draw People

Of course, not every activity associated with the historical society must be scholarly or primarily educational. In 1978 the society began the tradition of Christmas holiday programs at the McConnell Mansion with chamber music and a traditional tree and evergreen boughs wound around the staircase. The ice cream social which was initiated in 1976 as a gathering of friends, quickly expanded to a community event with demonstrations of traditional crafts, music, and other activities.



Dick and Joann Jones hang lace curtains in McConnell Mansion. The curtains were purchased in 1986 with a donation by the Palouse Patchers Quilt Club. This was part of a Centennial project to enhance the period rooms.

One of the essential tools of outreach is publicity and exposure. Publicity, as all non-profit organizations know, is a very competitive enterprise. Much depends on the goodwill of the local press as well as availability of space. Policies change as ownership, editors and reporters change. In the late 1970s strong efforts were made to insure that activities were adequately covered, but the results were uneven. Mr. Petersen took a strong stance in contacting the newspapers and establishing a relationship with the editor and reporters. The larger issue was to have the community recognize the increased professional role the historical society was playing and the fact that its programs and services were of vital interest to a wider audience. In addition, the expansion of the library with complete cataloging and indexes offered a valuable resource of background information to reporters as well as researchers. The problem facing the historical society was



To help the city of Potlatch celebrate its 80th year, the Latah County Historical Society prepared an exhibit and set it up in the school gym. Joann Jones, curator, is shown.

to strive to gain recognition as an important organization with a large audience interested in its activities and its welfare in general. In 1979 the director explained the dilemma in a letter to the editor of a local newspaper:

“Too often when the local media mentions community service organizations, or mentions services which might be cut due to the one percent [initiative], the Historical Society is left unmentioned. We sometimes are thought of at worst as a private social club providing no community service, or at best as an organization which runs a museum. In actuality the museum program of the Historical Society, while important, is only a fraction of our total program. We want people to know about our services. We want to assist groups and individuals in any way we can. Obviously, to let our services be known to the community we will need the assistance of the local media . . . . I hope that you know you are welcome to call upon our services at any time. In the past year I think of how stories on Frank Milbert and Edward Swenson, while excellent pieces, might have been enhanced had those gentlemen’s

oral histories been browsed for background . . . . We realize cooperation is a two-way affair, and I personally want to offer the full services of the Society, the museum, our local history research library or the staff [to you].”

In an attempt to focus attention on the historical society, the County Commissioners declared the week of May 19-25, 1979 as “Historical Society Week” in Latah County. This did not solve the problem of publicity, but it symbolized the historical society’s determination that it deserved proper recognition from the local press. A similar problem was the confusion in people’s minds about the status of the Historical Society. Because of the words “Latah County” in the name, many people assumed that the organization was part of county government. This confusion has persisted, especially with the Moscow Centennial in 1987 and the County’s centennial in 1988 when some people began drawing lines between “city” and “county” functions of the historical society. As a footnote to relationships with the press, the centennials of 1987, 1988 and 1989 proved recognition and understanding had indeed

arrived. Reporters, researchers, students, and the general public kept the staff busy with requests for information, exhibits, articles, and photographs. The handsome supplements published by the *Idahonian* for the Moscow, Latah County, and University of Idaho centennials cemented the professional working relationships between the two enterprises.

One of the most successful projects discussed in the first part of this article, was the oral history collection. Although the intense collecting period ended around 1980, material proved invaluable for different programs. One of the most successful was "Homestead Act," a one-act play based solely on oral histories. Written by Rob Moore, one of the original interviewers, the play was performed in grange halls and schools throughout Latah County. "Homestead Act" brought the people's history back to them. Audiences were truly spellbound listening to the conversations of ordinary people who lived in the county in the early years. Many of those in the audience were descendants of the characters and recognized stories they had heard as children. After the performances, the actors were deluged with reminiscences and comments. The staff and volunteers have used oral histories in articles written for *Latah Legacy*, for exhibits, slide programs, brochures, and talks. Presenting history through the words of those who lived it is an important part of the interpretation of Latah County's history.

In addition to its own oral history collection,

the Historical Society played a key role in convincing Idaho Legislators to establish a statewide oral history center at the Idaho State Historical Society. In 1978 Director Petersen urged members of the appropriations committees to fund a state oral history coordinator, citing the potential of using oral history to preserve the record of pioneer development in this "young" state. "While most people agree on the importance of oral history, there is a lack of knowledge on the proper way to conduct an oral history program . . . . That is why it is vital that a statewide coordinator be available to assist people throughout the state in getting programs started and lending advice . . . . The Latah County Historical Society has through its own experience seen the value of an oral history program. Local pride is increased at the same time that a valuable record of Idaho's past is preserved." Fortunately, the Idaho Legislature agreed, and the oral history center is now a valuable resource for museums, historical societies, libraries, and individuals interested in interviewing, transcribing, and maintaining oral history collections.

Another statewide service to the museum community is the Idaho Association of Museums. Staff of the Historical Society helped initiate this organization for the purpose of creating a network of information and assistance throughout the state. The first annual conference was held in Moscow in January 1978 during a blizzard. Since that time, Histor-



Another fund-raiser for the Society is the annual Ham Dinner in the Moose Lodge. Some of the hungry diners are shown here.

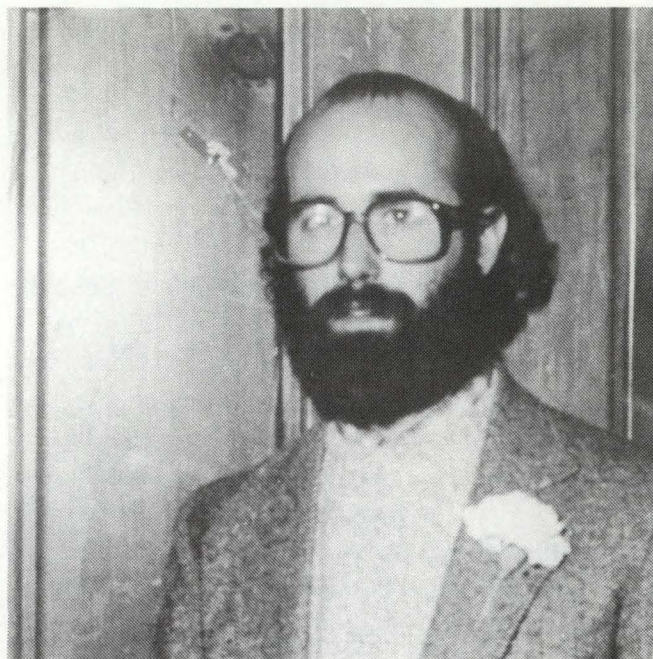
ical Society staff have been represented on the board, and in 1987 Director Reed helped reorganize and revitalize the organization. The IAM publishes a newsletter, co-sponsors an annual conference with the State Historical Society, and it has received several grants from the Idaho Humanities Council and the Idaho Centennial Commission.

## **On A National Scale: Carol Ryrie Brink and Potlatch**

In expanding the area of its audiences, the Historical Society initiated two projects that were of immediate interest to a regional and national audience. The first was on Moscow's famous author, Carol Ryrie Brink. It was an exciting first project for Mary Reed, a newcomer to the Latah County Historical Society and to local history. The project had actually begun in 1979 with plans to republish "Buffalo Coat" along with a preface by the author and photographs that explained the history behind the fictionalized characters and events. The book was an immediate success and started telephones ringing all over Moscow as people speculated about the real people on which the fictional characters were based.

In 1980, Director Keith Petersen wrote to thank Mrs. Brink for her cooperation in making the project a reality: "The republication of 'Buffalo Coat' has aroused an interest in Moscow history that is unique in the years I have been here. Your ability to make local history into an exciting story is an admirable trait, and one which we at the Historical Society much appreciate. Our goal is to try to make local history available to all members of the public, and 'Buffalo Coat' is certainly helping us to do that."

Mr. Petersen also recognized the appeal of one of Idaho's foremost authors to a larger Idaho and regional audience. In introducing Mrs. Reed to the Historical Society, he pointed to a copy of "Buffalo Coat" on the shelves as a book written by the same author who had written "Caddie Woodlawn". No further encouragement was needed, and in 1981 Mrs. Reed applied for and received a grant of \$2,000 from the Association for the Humanities in Idaho to interview Carol Brink and to prepare materials



Keith Petersen

based on that information. Mrs. Brink was intensely interested in the project and planned to return to Moscow for the exhibit opening. Tragically, only a few weeks after the interviews Carol Brink died. The exhibit on her life and Idaho books opened in April 1982. This coincided with the dedication of the Carol Ryrie Brink children's room in the Moscow library.

Not satisfied with having the project confined largely to Moscow, Mrs. Reed applied for and received a supplemental grant from the AHI which made it possible to take a slide presentation to libraries in Coeur d'Alene, Sandpoint, Boise, Caldwell, and Idaho City. Lectures and articles on the author continue, and there is another future project. This is the unpublished manuscript of Mrs. Brink's reminiscences entitled "A Chain of Hands." The Historical Society, with the enthusiastic advice and editorial assistance of Carolyn Gravelle plans to publish the manuscript. In addition, the Historical Society is planning a conference and children's heritage program for summer 1990 as a tribute to this gifted author and Idaho native.

A second treasure of historical importance in Latah County is the town of Potlatch. During Mr. Petersen's first days as director he recognized the historical importance and the national interest in a logging town built, owned and operated by a con-

glomerate of the Weyerhaeuser Corporation. In addition, the company had built and operated what was once the largest steam-powered sawmill in the world. The Potlatch project began with an exhibit in 1979 based on Mr. Petersen's preliminary research which the Potlatch corporation helped fund. The oral history collection yielded rich materials on the town and mill, including the ordinary people and the daily experiences.

At the same time, Mr. Petersen continued with his plan to write a complete history of the town, and he contacted the Potlatch Corporation in hopes of interesting the company in funding the book. He also began systematically searching for any other materials that could be used in an article for the Latah Legacy and ultimately for the book. When the Latah Legacy issue on Potlatch appeared, it immediately sold out, as did a second edition. A slide presentation on Potlatch brought a small crowd to the museum, proving that the subject of a company town was popular among local residents as well as being one that attracted historians across the country. When Mr. Petersen obtained permission to research the

company files stored in the basement of the former gymnasium at Potlatch, the book project became very real. Then in August 1983 Potlatch abruptly announced that it was closing the mill, giving a week's notice to the employees. Although everyone had known that a closure was inevitable, the suddenness was unexpected. Following upon the closure was the announcement that the entire plant would be dismantled and the building materials and equipment sold for salvage. There was little that could be done to preserve the mill, except to photograph it. John Talbott volunteered several days of his time photographing all parts of the mill, adding information from his vast knowledge of wood technology. Potlatch Corporation covered the expense of the film and development.

Perhaps more important to preserving the mill's history was the donation of the Potlatch records to the University of Idaho. Mr. Petersen was very active in this endeavor to insure that the documents, blueprints, and other materials would not be lost for future generations. The next step was to find a method to fund the book project. The solution was to



President Duane LeTourneau and Sheriff Ken Buxton help dish up ice cream at the 1986 Ice Cream Social. Jeanette Talbott looks on.

combine a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council with a private, fundraising effort. There were two separate grants to administer in addition to organizing a committee to plan and carry out the fundraising. Members of the committee were Potlatch residents, and they supplied lists of potential donors. The results overwhelmed everyone not only in money donated but in the amount of photographs, reminiscences and other information former and present Potlatch residents made available to the Historical Society. The book project coincided with the 80th anniversary of the town, and the Historical Society proudly participated in the summer celebration in 1986.

The Historical Society used another innovative approach in publishing the book by a cooperative agreement with Washington State University Press. It had made a similar arrangement with the WSU press in publishing "Grubstaking the Palouse" with the Whitman County Historical Society as a third party. Published in 1987, "Company Town" startled many people in Latah County into recognizing that people all over the country were interested in this part of their history. Book reviews and comments from historians as well as current and former residents of Potlatch confirmed the fact that Company Town had achieved the enviable goal of being a complete, scholarly history that also was written for everyone: it was, in short, educational, factual, and enjoyable. The book was soon in its second printing and won an award from the Idaho Library Association.

## Funds and Fundraising

As the historical society moved into the 1980s and expanded its operations, the chronic problem of funds remained. There were specific obstacles. The Idaho code specified that county governments could give only \$2,500 annually for any history organization or projects. The limit was subsequently raised to \$9,000. Unhappy with this arbitrary restriction on historical societies, the Historical Society took a leading role to change the legislation. As Director Petersen wrote in a letter to a former trustee in 1979: "I personally feel sorry for young people growing up in Idaho. While it is a beautiful natural



Cathy Probasco discusses the Society's Endowment drive with then Lt. Gov. David Leroy in 1983.

area, the state of culture and the arts has never been of a very high degree, with a few shining exceptions. Now, I am afraid, even the exceptions will be eliminated." In fall 1977 Board of Trustees President Donna Bray and Robert Hosack who represented Latah County in the Idaho legislature, mounted an intensive campaign to increase the funding level. Together they succeeded in convincing the Legislature in 1979 to increase the ceiling to \$20,000. Still, the restriction was crippling and in the opinion of most, unnecessarily discriminatory toward historical societies and museums. It was only in the 1989 session as Idaho prepared to celebrate its centennial that the legislature finally removed the ceiling after a lobbying effort from museums and historical societies throughout the state. The year 1979 was good for funding from the county commissioners who granted \$17,500, an increase from the \$9,000 they had given the Historical Society beginning in 1975. In addition to county funding, the staff and volunteers expanded fundraising activities, sponsoring an ice cream social, a membership drive, and a treasure sale at the county fairgrounds. Around 150 people attended the first ice cream social and consumed around 10 gallons of hand-cranked, home-made ice cream. The second annual ice cream social in 1979 brought over 500 people and \$450 in donations, and a membership drive that year

brought in 56 new members and \$550. The Historical Society in preparing for future expansion, had by September 1977 put away over \$10,000 in a savings account earmarked for a new building. Balancing this good news, however, was the termination in 1979 of the national CETA program which had provided funds for the curator, a position later changed to director.

A new avenue of assistance appeared that year, and Senator Frank Church notified the Historical Society of a new federal program, the Institute of Museum Services. Like the National Endowment for the Arts, the IMS was created to award grants to museums on a highly competitive basis. The timing was auspicious, because the one percent initiative promised to severely reduce the county's contribution to the Historical Society which in 1979 was around three-fourths of the operating budget. That year the IMS awarded the first of many grants to the Historical Society. Since 1979 the organization has received operating support grants every year, in many years being the only Idaho institution to receive one. In addition, in 1981 the IMS awarded a special projects grant for reorganizing and insulating the storage area in the attic, preparing a long-range plan, and cataloging the photograph collection. In 1984 and 1985 three other IMS grants were received, two of these for a museum assessment consultant and one for a conservation project to install a ventilating fan and soffits in the attic.

The other major source of income for projects has been through the Association for the Humanities in Idaho, renamed the Idaho Commission for the Humanities. The historical society has received a total of sixteen grants from the ICH for projects ranging from publication of "Company Town" to a regional conference on community traditions. In addition, the Historical Society has received two grants, totaling over \$80,000, from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Despite these records of successes with national and state organizations, funding levels continued to fluctuate. The first occurred as a result of the one percent initiative passed in Idaho in 1979. In August 1980 voters turned down an override levy to compensate for the lost revenues. The county com-

missioners, facing a deficit of \$265,387, cut the historical society's request from \$18,500 to \$7,500. Director Petersen appealed to the trustees to attend the public hearings and to contact the commissioners. The fear was that the cut could be deeper if the trustees and friends of the historical society did not vigorously defend their request. Even while the results were uncertain, plans were underway to begin discussing new fundraising ideas.

The proposed figure of \$7,500 was a severe blow. The question was presented to the commissioners that while the voters told the commissioners to eliminate services and programs, it was not clear if they intended to return the historical society to the position it had in 1975. In asking the commissioners to reconsider the figure, Mr. Petersen cited the fact that in the last month 90 new members had joined the organization, the number of school children and researchers visiting the museum had increased, and more organizations were requesting presentations from staff members:

"A cut to \$7,500 jeopardizes all that the Society has accomplished since 1975. That amount of funding will keep lights and heat on, but who will staff the building? . . . Beginning with an operating budget of \$17,500 last year, the Society actually had a total operating budget of nearly \$70,000. I doubt



Authors Carolyn Gravelle (right) and Lillian Otness sign copies of their book, "A Great, Good Country" in the fall of 1983.

if any other program funded by the county has such an impressive return on investment . . . I realize that we cannot expect the full \$19,500 we requested for fiscal year 1981. The Trustees are aware that a compromise will have to be made, and are fully willing to redouble their fundraising efforts to ensure that our services in the county will not be impaired."

The appeal succeeded in a final allotment of \$10,000. Now it was time to begin seeking alternative sources of funds. It was at a special meeting of the board that two long-time members, Cora Knott and Leora Stillinger, suggested a ham dinner as a fall fundraising event. These two grand ladies planned, organized and supervised the event which has become an annual affair, raising more money than any other annual fundraising activity.

A second crisis in county funding occurred in 1987 with the phase out of the federal revenue sharing program which meant a loss of \$27,000 for Latah County. In January the staff learned the unexpected news that the county might not be able to allocate more than a few thousand dollars for that year. A delegation of officers and the director met to discuss the situation, and then they immediately presented their needs and situation to the commissioners. The commissioners approved \$9,100 of the original request of \$19,000. Under the circumstances, the sum indicated the county's commitment to the historical society and the McConnell Mansion. Still, there was a \$10,000 gap which was partially met by not immediately filling the position of librarian vacated in February by Chris Talbott, by delaying staff raises, and by reducing hours for the director and curator to 25 and 20 respectively. Other cuts were made in the landscaping and maintenance budgets. The City of Moscow helped come to the rescue with \$2,500, an appropriation based in large part upon the work the historical society was doing for Moscow's centennial. Another source of funds was through the State Historic Preservation Office which paid for cataloging work of the librarian as well as special projects like the Century/Historic Farms Project. The year 1987 also heralded two other fundraising projects, the Moscow Centennial Calendar and the holiday notecard of the McConnell Mansion.

## Perspective From The Present To The Future

As the author of these this two-part article on the history of the organization I have been closely associated with since 1979, I find it somewhat difficult to write about events during my tenure as director. Let me instead offer these perspectives and thoughts for the future.

I often think back to my first day on the job, October 3, 1983. The Historical Society had been without a permanent director since August 1982, although a competent staff and interim director had accomplished much good work. There were four of us working from 25 hours a week to six hours a week, and because we had to cover the hours the museum was open we rarely were there all at the same time. On-going operations of cataloging and curation were in good shape, but we needed momentum, something to bring us attention. As a volunteer and board member during the 1981 budget crisis, I knew too well the precarious condition of our finances. I also shared in the vision that the Latah County Historical Society could not only retain its leading position in Idaho, but was destined to expand beyond the crowded quarters in the McConnell Mansion. In a month's time those opportunities appeared to be coming closer. A telephone call from the Lt. Governor's office resulted in a press conference at the McConnell Mansion. David Leroy was going to be in the area and wanted some exposure in Moscow. I pounced on the opportunity to use his visit to our advantage by announcing the beginning of our endowment drive. A reporter at the press conference asked Kathy Probasco, the chair of the drive, what our goal was. She gulped, reached for an amount, and out came \$100,000. We all gasped to think how exaggerated that seemed. How were we to know in 1983 that in 1989 we would reach that figure?

There was another auspicious open house that fall. Lillian Otness and Carolyn Gravelle autographed copies of our new book, "A Great Good Country: A Guide to Historic Moscow and Latah County." The publication of the book symbolized the increasing reputation of the Historical Society as a thoroughly professional organization, capable of



producing historical materials on a par with state and national institutions. The book continues to be a source of pride and an incentive to remind ourselves that we are a first-class historical organization.

Then in early spring 1988 we achieved a long sought-after goal, the donation of a handsome, solid, two-story building which would be the future home of our library, reading and work room, textile collection, and staff offices. The building was more than badly needed space: it symbolized our status as a responsible, fiscally sound organization, one that was carrying out its mission to collect, preserve and interpret the history of Latah County. The trustees and staff quickly formulated a plan to transfer staff, library and other functions to the new building over the course of three years, and our grant writing expert, Keith Petersen, applied for a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the

Humanities. At the July press conference, Clarice Sampson joined Kathleen and Cal Warnick in the spotlight. At a luncheon commemorating our first twenty years held last October, old and new friends met to reminisce, congratulate each other, and look toward a future of continued growth and success with the addition of our new building, Centennial Annex. In December the NEH announced that the Historical Society had received the grant, and the fund-raising campaign was quickly put into motion.

Looking back from my present perspective, sitting in front of the computer on a hot August afternoon in 1989, I am experiencing the usual budget butterflies. The commissioners are still refining all budget requests, but they have approved our \$20,000 request. The report of a major asbestos problem in the basement and attic which increased our anxiety this spring appears to have a solution with the com-



Families and friends from all over Latah County attend the annual ice cream social at McConnell Mansion.

missioners' decision to pay for the removal from their contingency fund. The Moscow City Council has approved our budget request of \$2,500. However, we need new fund-raising projects and ideas. The 1989 calendar had only limited success. Although our net profit from this year's ice cream social was a respectable \$1,400, the rapid growth of competing arts and cultural activities during the summer in Moscow has seemingly stalled the fundraising potential of this event.

On the credit side of the ledger I find impressive facts: our curator Joann Jones and volunteers have nearly completed remodeling a room in Centennial Annex for the textile collection. Inside the sealed-off bathroom the collection is being fumigated, and then it will be hung on special racks. In a year or two the staff offices and library will move, and finally we will have room for researchers and projects while the McConnell Mansion will begin assuming its proper status as a historical house museum. Our investment portfolio is impressive with its array of different types of mutual funds, treasury notes, and certificates of deposit. Even though our operating income is uncertain, the bleak days of fall 1983 when we kept heat low and lights off to save money are far away. In the work room our new photocopier enlarges text for exhibit labels and produces our brochures and newsletter while our two computers are constantly busy. The drymount press and photocopy camera stand make it easier and less expensive to produce exhibits and slide programs.

New, Victorian-styled carpets, velvet drapes and lace curtains in the parlors remind us of the progress we have made toward restoring this beautiful house to its former splendor. And, there are now three of us working 30 hours each week along with many volunteers, making possible the numerous activities, programs and projects we are now able to undertake. Yes, the pace is fast and at times exhausting, but the work is also exciting and rewarding.

Perhaps the greatest satisfaction is knowing that our message is being heard by an increasing number of people who represent all ages, interests, and professions. At the national museum conference last fall I dropped by the information table for the Institute of Museum Services. The staff had made copies of exemplary grants to help organizations evaluate their own institutions and grant writing skills. In the category of museums with operating budgets under \$500,000, the IMS had selected our grant as the example for other, small organizations. This was thrilling, and it is a compliment to the many people who have contributed to our success. But more gratifying are the comments we receive here at home in Latah County, many times from people we do not know or from school children. When they tell us we are doing a good job, that they are grateful for what we do, and that they are extremely proud of their county historical society, we know that all the effort and frustration has been worthwhile.

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Mary Reed is director of the Latah County Historical Society.

## The Presidents Remember...

*In honor of the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the Latah County Historical Society, Donna Bray, who now lives in San Clemente, California, and was president from 1977-1980; Everett Hagen, president in 1983; Duane LeTourneau, president from 1984-1986, and Stan Shepard, president 1987-1988, offered the following comments:*

### Donna Bray

Here are some of my remembrances of LCHS activities in the mid-seventies:

In the spring of 1976, when County Commissioner Bill Jones asked me to fill in for him at the meeting of the Museum Board, I was delighted. As a newly elected County Commissioner, I knew that great things were going on at 110 S. Adams, and I was pleased to take an active part in them.

Under Leonard Ashbaugh's leadership, the Board had built a fire escape and was facing other improvements required by city building and safety regulations. Volunteers and Board members were busily raising money to supplement the \$9,000.00 provided by the county. It was obvious to all of us that we needed more funding.



The process to submit a bill to the State Legislature, which would increase county funds began. It took the help of many good people, including County Clerk Kelly Cline, County Attorney Bill Hamlett, District 5 Representative Robert Hosack and the total membership of the organizing Idaho Association of Museums. It took about eighteen months, but our efforts were rewarded in the 1978-79 budget when our support was increased to \$17,500.00.

Lee Magnuson was the Museum Curator when I became President in 1977. Whether he was designing displays, working on the lawn or plumbing or even making tea for the various meetings held there, Lee always seemed to be enjoying himself. We enjoyed his enthusiasm. Lee organized our first Ice

Cream Social because he thought the membership deserved a party. That summer he left us and the County to pursue a law degree.

As Lee departed, our good friend Sam (Oral History) Schragger introduced us to Keith Petersen. Keith was the right man at the right time to oversee the activities the Board had planned that year, and he came on as our director.

By this time we had become much more than a Museum Society. Our publications were well-received and Carol Brink's "Buffalo Coat," Homer David's "Moscow at the Turn of the Century," and Charles Munson's "Westward to Paradise" were in various publication stages. We were editing the I.A.M. (Idaho Association of Museums) newsletter and paying for its distribution. Our library was expanding into a Research Center, and we were making plans to host the first I.A.M. Conference.

Because of Keith's special talents for writing grants to both state and federal agencies, we were awarded two nice grants in 1978. The first of several from the Idaho Humanities Council was for a traveling exhibit and slide program which was shown in Troy, Deary, and Genesee. The other one was from the Institute of Museum Services and it paid for a security/fire alarm system, and provided a salary for the new Curator, Dick Walbauer. Because of this grant we no longer needed a live-in caretaker, so his bedroom became an office and his sitting room became a library/reading room.

We changed our name to the Latah County Historical Society and adopted our new logo because we were now more than just a museum. The new name reflects our diverse and numerous activities and the lamp logo on our letterhead, designed by

Marian Featherstone and Tom Berg and photographed by Phil Schofield, showed what was happening within our walls.

On a lovely spring day, we held our first historic homes tour. It brought a good-sized crowd and enough money was raised to purchase a slide projector and some tape equipment. 1978 was a good year.

The following are some other fond memories I have of my years on the Board:

Lillian Otness and Sam Schragger helping influence six State Senators to include the Oral History Center in the budget of the Idaho Historical Society.

Kathy Probasco selling our publications at fairs and festivals.

Watching the young faces in the crowd as Robert Otness performed his benefit magic show.

Phyllis LeTourneau demonstrating chair caning; Steve and John Talbott making cedar shakes on a hot July afternoon.

Dottie and Art Clanton taking up the slack just about everywhere.

Leora Stillinger's keen wit and sharp pencil; the High School students who hung the Christmas greens.

Cora Knott's cookie brigade, and Ken Platt in a straw hat carrying a spiffy walking stick.

The lifting and carrying Keith's parents did from morning 'til evening for a craft fair; Keith's good humor and twinkling eyes through it all.

The failure of the bond levy is the only major disappointment I remember. Had the Post Office been remodeled we would have been able to use the space so well.

Each of those years on the Board was a banner year for me and each of the staff I served with were great!

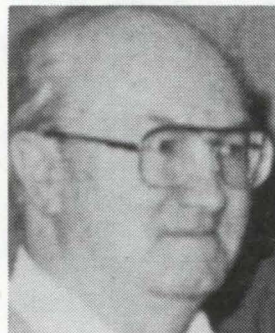
## Stan Shepard

I'll try to briefly review what has happened during the last two or three years. I'll start with three years ago because Duane LeTourneau was president but he's not able to be here today. That was the year of the McConnell Mansion Centennial.

The mansion was built in 1886 and is now 102

years old, The centennial of the mansion received quite a bit of publicity and also we started a fund-raising drive for new carpets and new curtains for the windows which was very successful. The following year, incidently, we procured drapes with the Gerald Engle fund. They're lovely drapes and made quite a difference in the mansion.

We also started a centennial club fund raiser and we also had a calendar that year. The calendar was



produced in 1986 but was for the year 1987. I think the calendar was fairly successful but we over-ordered copies and we have a few left.

There were seven workshops during that time period on various topics of the Victorian era. We also had an exhibit of the McConnells and their time with a brochure, which we still have some copies of if you are interested. "Grubstaking the Palouse" was a joint publication with Whitman County and Washington State University and that was produced that year.

The following year 1987 was the Moscow Centennial and the city gave us storage space in the community building and granted us \$2,500 towards processing library materials. Alf Dunn presented us with a water color painting which we used for a note card. There were several concerts by Moscow students that were presented in the mansion and all were successfully received.

LCHS received a grant from the Institute of Museum Services which was the only grant received in the state of Idaho. At this point I think I should probably mention that we are all grateful to Mary Reed for all the work she does in procuring these various grants. Keith Petersen's book on Potlatch, called "Company Town," was published and received national attention and an award. That was in 1987.

This year (1988) we finally got squared away with the bookkeeping problem which was plaguing us and early in the year we were notified of the potential gift of what is now the Centennial Annex, that building catty-corner across the street from the

mansion, presented to us by Calvin and Kathleen Warnick.

We received another grant from the Institute of Museum Services. The county gave us \$17,000 that year, but they're back to now giving us \$20,000 again, which we appreciate very much. There was a committee that prepared a catalog of the publications which we have for sale. Each one of you should have received a copy of that. In 1987, the Moscow Centennial of course, we had our first parade, and our ice cream social at the fairgrounds, which was very successful. This year we had another parade and another ice cream social which was not quite as successful. So we're going back to the mansion and we're returning to the last Sunday in July. You can expect the ice cream social to be at the mansion next year, the last Sunday in July. You can make a note of that. We revitalized the building maintenance committee to help with the annex as well as the mansion.

### Everett Hagen

During my term as President of Latah County Historical Society I can remember the great cooperation of all the members of the board, the staff, volunteers and friends of the Society.



I had a feeling of success when we finally had the old decadent poplar trees removed from the front yard. They were dangerously rotted and I often thought a top or limb would fall on someone. I guess getting those old rotten trees out of there was my main goal that year. I'm happy we accomplished it.

### Duane LeTourneau

I am pleased to respond to the invitation "to contribute your reminiscences of your term as president." My dictionary says that reminiscence is "an account of a memorable experience—often used in the plural." That definition fits my years (1984-1986) as president—A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE! Other words that come to mind as I reminisce are busy, exciting, and rewarding.

Many of the activities and programs that took place in 1984-1986 were shaped by decisions and events of the previous two years. As a result of several staff and Board changes and some financial problems in 1982 and 1983, the Board evaluated the status and needs of the Society and began to make some long range plans. As a Board member during that time, I was involved in many of the discussions and decisions about the future thrust of the organization. This background was very valuable when I became president in January, 1984.



One of the most significant events of late 1983 occurred when the Society hired Dr. Mary Reed as Director on a half-time basis. This decision made my job as president much easier and led to a stability in Society operations that exists to this day. Mary, an historian with a doctorate in history from the University of California at Berkeley, came to the director's job, not only with an excellent academic background, but with creative ideas and administrative skills. In addition to her other duties, Mary has been successful in receiving several grants from the Institute for Museum Services, the Association for the Humanities in Idaho, and private foundations. Under her direction, we have become one of the best small historical societies in any state. We can all be justifiably proud of our reputation and stature within such organizations as the Idaho Historical Society and American Association for State and Local History.

The Society has been fortunate to have had many other dedicated and skilled staff; most of these people work 6-15 hours a week at relatively low hourly rates. For many this is not only a part-time job, but a labor of love; our former employees usually retain their membership and enthusiasm for the Society once they leave. Some of the loyal staff during my term include Lina Gooley, Deb Kruger, Holly Meyer, Lorraine Micke, and Chris Talbott. I appreciate their service to the Society.

For a Society of our modest size and means, we can be proud of our publication program. Early

in my term as president, Keith Petersen suggested the Potlatch at 80 project that led to the publication of "Company Town: Potlatch, Idaho, and the Lumber Company." Not only was this an award-winning book, but the project raised thousands of dollars for the endowment fund and, most importantly, involved former and present residents of Potlatch in discovering and reliving their roots. While the project was not completed until after my term, it certainly plays a major role in my reminiscences.

Another significant decision of late 1983 was the establishment of an endowment fund to strengthen our financial base. The endowment fund was designed to raise \$100,000 during a three-year period. Once this amount was invested, the earnings were to be used to finance Society operations. I recall very vividly the many discussions about the reality of raising \$100,000 and the possibility of setting a much lower goal. With a beginning investment of about \$15,000 from a Merrill-Lynch account, the endowment fund grew significantly in 1984-1986. Although we did not make \$100,000 in three years, it appears we will have that amount invested later this year. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to this or other fund raising efforts, including the Centennial Club.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the assistance of the Latah County Commissioners. Dur-

ing my term as president, Jay Nelson served on the Board as the representative of the commissioners and the liaison between the two groups. While no longer a commissioner, Jay remains active in Society activities. In addition to providing a major share of our funding, the commissioners funded several major repair projects during my term as president.

The opportunity to meet and work with many members of the Society was one of the most enjoyable aspects of my presidency. I will always remember those who served on the Board with me; what an enthusiastic group of conscientious workers. Whenever there was a project that needed to be done, someone volunteered and did a superb job. I especially appreciated the chance to work with and know Cora Knott, Leora Stillinger, and John Talbott, individuals who helped found the Society but are no longer with us. Many other of the original members also served on the Board during my term in office and still remain active in the Society.

And so as I reminisce I think of Board meetings, open houses, exhibits, conferences, Centennial celebrations, budget preparations and hearings, landscaping, community days, ham dinners, ice cream socials, renovations and redecorating, but especially many wonderful people. All in all, A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE! Each of the members and staff I served with were great!

# When the Railroad Came To Moscow

By Janet Lecompte

In 1885 the railroad came to Moscow, and changed it from a village to a town. The difference between a village and a town is generally defined in terms of relative population and the extent of political organization. In Idaho in the 1880s, with the vast distances between settlements, a town could be distinguished from a village by its degree of self-sufficiency—what you could and could not buy, what legal business you could or could not do, whether there were roads and postal routes, how far away were land offices and public transportation. Moscow was an isolated village until the railroad came and reduced its isolation, opening it up to new emigrants and new ideas. After the railroad came, the people of Moscow found in their town the source of personal and community pride, a spirit of cohesion and partisanship that sharpened rivalries with other towns and regions, with people of other races, and other political and religious affiliations.

My principal source is the file of *The Moscow Mirror* from July 4, 1885, to July 4, 1886, a weekly newspaper on microfilm in the University of Idaho Library. I have supplemented the newspaper files with various printed sources, as well as with notes taken in Carlos Schwantes' course, "Idaho and the Pacific Northwest," given at the University of Idaho in the summer of 1988.

## Early Years Of Moscow

The "oldest inhabitant" of Moscow brought a herd of cattle there in 1871, and lived in an old shanty abandoned by earlier occupants in the valley of the South Fork of the Palouse. His three unforgettable names, Asbury Almon Lieuallen, were later preserved in three of Moscow's downtown streets. As other families emigrated to the valley, they strung their cabins and frame houses along Paradise Creek a mile or so east of present Moscow. Clusters of teepees of the Cayuse Indians could often be seen across the valley, but the settlers and Indians left each other alone.(1)

The nearest store and postoffice was in Lewiston, thirty miles south. Early in 1872 a pony-powered mail route was established between Lewiston and the bridge over the Spokane River many miles north. The riders' weekly schedule was possible only in summer; in the winter the mail was delayed by snow and mud, and by the ills that visit men and ponies. Lieuallen's place became a post office called "Hog Heaven" at first, and then "Paradise." There were no roads, no fences, no fields of grain, nothing but the faint Indian trails winding through rolling hills covered with bunchgrass.(2)

In 1875 Lieuallen and others of Paradise Valley laid out a town a mile from Lieuallen's place and named it Moscow, not for the Russian capital but for a midwestern hometown of one of the founders. Lieuallen opened a store and post-office on the west side of Main Street. He stocked the store with two wagon-loads of goods he brought from Walla Walla, a hundred miles and many days of travel away. In 1877 Moscow was "just a lane between two farms, with a flax field on one side and a post-office on the other," but it would grow. By 1878 it had a blacksmith shop, and by 1880 it numbered 300 people, most of whom had arrived in the last year.(3)

Although growing, Moscow was still an isolated village, for mails were irregular and stagecoaches that served it were dangerous. The mails were so bad that in 1881, when President Garfield was assassinated, the people of Paradise Valley did not hear about it for two weeks. In about 1875 stages started running over the primitive road to Lewiston, bounding over rocks, lurching through ruts, and swinging around curves of the precipice on their way down the Clearwater Breaks where the road made a giddy descent of 1,900 feet to Lewiston in the narrow valley at the juncture of the Snake and Clearwater rivers. Few farmers risked the road to market their grains in Lewiston.(4)

In 1884 "Moscow Village" was described in a regional history as a place of fences, sheds, shanties, and "light-weight houses which had been standing for a decade." The author apparently mentioned these fragile structures only to show that the winds of the region were not, as sometimes reported, strong enough to level the town. This flimsy phase of Moscow architecture included all the business on Main Street—four general merchandise stores, one large hardware store, two drug stores, two implement houses, three livery stables, three hotels, three blacksmith shops, one machine and wagon shop, three saloons, one brewery, one tank manufacturing establishment, one grist mill, one job printing office, three churches, "et cetera." The et cetera might have included the three churches already built, the Baptist, Methodist and Christian, and two more under construction, the Presbyterian and United Brethren.(5)

The town of Moscow grew slowly because its principal occupation was farming, and its principal problem, like that of other Palouse settlements, was getting its crops to market. The deeply rolling hills of the Palouse lie within the Columbia Basin in eastern Washington and western Idaho. The hills were formed of volcanic dust blown into great dunes, and covered with bunchgrass before the farmers plowed it under. The hills were thought at first to be worthless except as grazing lands, and the farmers plowed only the river bottoms.(6)

In the 1860s miners came to the mountains nearby, rushing first to one camp, then rushing off to another in frantic greed. Pack animals, stage coaches, and finally little railroads took supplies to mining camps. Steamboats came up the Columbia and Snake rivers bringing more miners and equipment. To the miners, Paradise Valley was only a place on the road where they could buy pack horses and mules, cattle and hogs.(7)

By 1870 the livestock business was languishing. Placer miners who had bought Paradise Valley livestock departed for new diggings, leaving their camps to serious hard-rock miners, or to the patient Chinese who picked over the miners' leavings in the placers. A farmer raised the first crop of wheat in the Palouse on the bluff north of Lewiston in 1869. From that time on, wheat has been the staple crop

of the region. A small but steady influx of immigrants began to take up land on the Palouse. They broke the sod slowly, for they were without farming machinery, and short of farmhands and draft animals. Their farms were in the valleys at first, until they discovered that the soil was richer and the frost less frequent on the summit and sides of the great hills.(8)

In the mid-seventies a population exploded in the Palouse. In 1876 there were fewer than two thousand people living among the hills, but by 1880 there were seven thousand. As more roads were built and steamboats began to operate up the Columbia and Snake rivers, farmers imported machinery that was unloaded at Walla or upstream landings, and hauled inland on wagons.(9)

Until 1879 Walla Walla, a hundred miles from Moscow, was the market and supply point for the Palouse. A journey to Walla with a huge wagon fully loaded with sacks of grain and pulled by four teams of mules could take weeks.(10) Lewiston was closer, but its prices for supplies were nearly prohibitive, and the dangerous road down the Clearwater Breaks made it almost inaccessible. Still, there were farmers who devised various ways to get their sacks of grain down the precipitous slopes to Lewiston and the steamboats, including trams on pulleys, and wooden chutes from the uplands to the river bottom, but these devices were not practical. When steamboat landings with warehouses for grain storage were established below Lewiston at Wawawai, twenty-seven miles from Moscow, and Almota, ten miles further, the marketing problems of Moscow farmers were reduced, but not eliminated.(11)

As production of grain increased, the means of marketing it lagged. Unfortunately the harvest coincided with low-water stage on the rivers, and sacks of wheat might spend weeks piled on the wharves of Walla Walla waiting to be loaded onto the flat beds of the grain boats that were stalled downriver. Farther down the river shipments were delayed at the tramway or wagon portages on the south side of the Columbia.(12) In the year 1879 only half the grain produced got as far as Portland because of a bottleneck in the portage between Celilo and Waulula. Furthermore, the rates of steamboat transportation were very high. Between Lewiston and



Portland the freight cost was \$120 per ton. From Portland the grain was shipped to Astoria, Oregon, for export to the east coast or Asia or Europe, and the price for grain from farmer to consumer had to absorb these complex and expensive freight costs.(13)

By 1884 Moscow had grown, by virtue of the farms around it, to a town of about 600 people, many of them frustrated. In spite of new roads and steamboat landings, farmers still had to haul their grain to the Snake River. The price of marketing was high, and in 1884 the price of grain was low. Many farmers could not afford to market their crop at all, except locally.(14) The answer to the problem was, of course, a railroad that could ship grain in unbroken shipments directly from the Palouse to Portland, or even better, one that could ship grain east to Chicago or Minneapolis.

Ever since Isaac I. Stevens had made the survey for the proposed northern route of the transcontinental railway in 1853, the people of the Pacific Northwest had anticipated a glorious future, an end to the isolation that characterized the region, and a sudden arrival at full participation in the economic, political, and social life of the country.(15)

## Villard Brings Steam Engine

The man who brought the steam engine to the Pacific Northwest was Henry Villard, a Bavarian-born financial entrepreneur. In 1879 he purchased the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company and one other steamship and railroad outfit, combining their facilities with those of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1883 to produce the first transcontinental connection to the Northwest. Then he fleshed out his skeleton railroad by constructing lines to settlements of the Northwest.(16) In July, 1883, Villard brought his O.R.&N. cars to the Palouse. On January 1, 1884, the train arrived at Colfax, Washington, only 25 miles west of Moscow.(17)

The people of Moscow were at last going to have a railroad, but as they reached out for it, it shrank away from them. Crews of workers built grades and bridges right up to the edges of Moscow in the summer of 1884, then pulled out without laying rails, for Henry Villard had lost control of the

Northern Pacific Railroad, and all construction ceased.(18)

“It was surely a horrible mess,” wrote Charles J. Munson, a young man who had just arrived in Moscow:

“They had expanded along all lines to be ready when the steam engine would be heard blowing the whistle as it entered Moscow no later than early spring of 1884. Two or more sawmills in the timber were working steadily. All the farms increased their acreage, and there was greater activity in town to take care of the increased business. This all produced a large surplus. When harvest was over late in the fall, the roads were such that it was impossible to haul the grain to the usual points on the Snake River to be shipped on steamboats. Some farmers had a lot ground into flour, as the Moore Mill took wheat in toll. Some wheat was stored in a small warehouse of McConnell’s, but neither wheat nor flour could be sold. The wheat at the warehouse was retailed a sack or two at a time at 20 cents per bushel. Flour at the stores sold at 50 cents a sack or \$1.90 per barrel. A lot of the wheat was fed to the hogs, but there was no sale for hogs at any price, for everyone in town had a hog pen on the back of his lot . . .”(19)

Sawmills in Moscow had done well in Moscow in 1883, but in 1884 most of them were idle. There was no logging, no new construction. Small Moscow businesses closed their doors, some temporarily, some for good. Lieuallen and others who meant to sell town lots when the railroad came, sold none.(20)

So strong had been the assumption that the railroad would come to Moscow in 1884 that the “History of Idaho Territory,” published in San Francisco in 1884, actually stated that Moscow already had rail connections. As late as July 17, 1885 there was some doubt the railroad was coming “at all,” as the editor of *The Moscow Mirror* wrote on that date.(21)

Henry Villard had intended for his Northern Pacific to ship Palouse wheat east to milling centers in the Middle West, but this hope died with the collapse of his empire. The O.R.&N, formerly a part of Northern Pacific, had become its competitor, and proposed such competitive prices for shipping by steamboat down the Snake and Columbia rivers that the Northern Pacific was obliged to ship grain to

Portland.(22)

By the summer of 1885 the gloom of 1884 had dissipated, for O.R.&N. tracks were being laid from Colfax to Moscow. On the Fourth of July, 1885, an estimated 5,000 people from all over the Palouse gathered at Moscow to celebrate. Parades, bands in gay livery, a multitude of flags, and a throng of people gathered in William J. McConnell's huge wheat pavilion to hear Judge Buck and McConnell speak about patriotism, good citizenship, and the coming of the railroad "to carry away the immense yields that are now ripening over this vast area." (23) The speakers had no more to say about the railroad than it would aid the farmers to market their grain. As yet the people of Moscow had not realized what a change in their lives the railroad would make.

The next two and a half months were an agony of anticipation for Moscow residents. Would the railroad arrive, or would something prevent it, as before? Where would the rails go, where would the depot be? These were the simple questions they asked. No public relations man prepared the people of Moscow for the impact the railroad would have. Nor did they believe that they had a voice in the decisions of the railroad. They simply waited passively.

Then the spirit of enterprise overcame the timidity of Moscow businessmen. The grade had been built through the north end of town, which of course pleased the northenders. It occurred to southender R. H. Barton, owner of the Barton House (later the Moscow Hotel) that perhaps the railroad men could be swayed to bring their grade into town by a route more favorable to his own concern. At midnight Barton and other southenders gathered secretly at the bridge over Paradise Creek and discussed ways and means. The next day they offered rights of way through south-end properties to the superintendent of railroad construction in return for a southern entry to the town. And it was done. Through this maneuver Third and Main became the center of town instead of First and Main, and the space from Barton House to Third Street was soon filled with frame business buildings. (34)

Throughout July, 1885 The Moscow Mirror noted indications that the railroad was indeed on its way to Moscow. Officials showed up in town and

their subordinates began buying town lots. Wheat buyers "who have the confidence of the company," advanced the price of grain on future harvests; railroad men extracted from Moscow farmers a promise to pay \$8 per ton on wheat shipped by rail from Moscow in 1886. But the newspaper was still cautious, for Moscow had been over-optimistic before. The railroad would commence about August 1, "if at all" wrote the editor. (25)

By August 21 it was reported that 300 men were now at work on the Moscow branch, and that fifteen miles of track had been laid out of Colfax. Railroad surveyors were "skirmishing around" to find a location for the roundhouse, and as soon as a site for the depot was found, grain warehouses would be built to receive the fall grain. (26)

On September 18 it was clear to the Moscow merchandise firm of Maguire & Brown that the arrival of the railroad was imminent and they bought the whole front page of the Moscow Mirror to say, in big capital letters:

**"GREAT EXCITEMENT  
MOSCOW FIRED WITH NEW LIFE AND  
ACTIVITY BY THE EARLY COMPLETION  
OF THE RAILROAD AND IN  
CONSEQUENCE OF THE GREAT BOOM  
IN THEIR TRADE  
MAGUIRE & BROWN ARE SELLING  
BOOTS FOR \$7.50, WHEAT 45 CENTS  
PER BUSHEL..."**

In smaller letters, Maguire & Brown announced that they were erecting a temporary storehouse near the depot and would build a permanent granary on the lot adjoining the railroad. (27)

The first cars arrived on September 23, to a long and noisy welcome. The locomotive ran up to Main Street and blew her whistle. For an hour the G.A.R. cannons of Zamhoff & McCarter kept up a steady boom until the train and its retinue pulled out to their camp at Garrison. By this time a throng of citizens had assembled, and Attorney Willis Sweet made a speech well expressing the anxiety felt by the community about the coming of the railroad, and the hope of what its coming would mean:

"We have waited long and patiently for the shrill whistle which today gladdens our ears; we have looked to the westward with strained and ea-

ger eyes for the appearance of yonder iron horse until it seemed as if its promised coming was only to provoke us to utter despair; we have built so many airy castles, only to see them ruthlessly destroyed, that what we see and hear today seems to us like the realization of the happiest dream of long ago. However, we are face to face, not with a dream, but with the most potent single fact yet presented in the history of our development. We are today a part and parcel of the world of commerce, politics, and social life, connected by rail and wire. We now have tied the three great factors, with which to fight the battle of progress and prosperity; viz: a fertile country; second, an energetic, ambitious, intelligent people; third, a line of railway over which to ship the products of our toil to market, and by which to receive the necessities and the comforts of life."

Attorney Sweet's elegant and pertinent remarks were followed by those of Conductor Goldey in quite a different vein:

My "speech will be in proportion to the money I have invested in the enterprise. We are now ready to accept any corner lots on Main Street that are centrally located (good buildings not objectionable) that as a grateful people you may be disposed to give."

These ungracious words (doubtless meant humorously) were received with cheers, after which the crowd dispersed for supper.(28)

Charles Munson's account of the day the railroad arrived described a far more gala celebration, attended by 10,000 people from all over the Palouse country and including Indians who with the whites staged a mock battle (an improbable bit of drama so soon after the Indian wars). Munson published his account in 1939, at a time when his imagination was more active than his memory. But it is worth reading, for Munson caught the importance of the event retrospectively, as the contemporary newspaper account could not have done.(29)

On October 2 the Mirror reported that railroad employees were renting houses in town, and that Moscow merchants were rapidly building grain warehouses on railroad land. The tracks and switches were all complete; a train of cars left every morning and another returned every evening. A three-stall roundhouse would be built and a West-

ern Union telegraph would be open to the public as soon as the rates were determined. The trains were bringing freight in, and a number of coal bunkers for coaling up the engines would be built. Trains would run daily until the wheat crop was mowed, then only on weekdays. Fare from Moscow to Pullman was 55 cents; to Colfax \$1.85; to Guy 95 cents; to Endicott \$3.05; to Palouse Junction (now Connell) \$7.65. The big warehouse of W. J. McConnell near the depot would be used for a depot, freight office, ticket office, etc. until the new buildings were finished. The water tank, largest on the line, would be fed by 2,500 feet of pipe from the spring. The boarding-house train where the construction workers lived was moved to Pullman and the force divided, part working on a construction train towards Colfax, and the other part riprapping the tracks to Moscow.(30)

The new depot was to be a handsome building, 124 feet long by 31 feet wide. It would contain the depot, passenger sitting room, freight office, and agent's office at the east end, with a wide platform to be built all around the building. The agent, F. W. Parker, would attend to passengers, sell tickets, dispatch trains, receive and deliver freight, and manage the Western Union Telegraph Company. By October 23 there were still forty men constructing the depot, freight warehouses and grain elevator.(31)

## Merchants Upgrade Downtown

The boom in railroad buildings sent the local merchants into a frenzy of upgrading Moscow's downtown. The Mirror reported that new store buildings "are taking on a beautiful appearance," and that merchants on the east side of Main Street were putting their buildings all on the same level and constructing a wide sidewalk in front. Maguire added a second story to his building to serve as a town hall and ballroom.(32) By New Year's Day William J. McConnell had bought into Maguire's business. The partners moved McConnell's store to Second and Main Streets and added a large plate glass show window, making it the finest store in Moscow.(33) A building contractor from Portland brought his crew into town to move McConnell's store and to build other stores and houses.(34)

After the disaster of 1884 when the train that was expected to haul off the bumper crop never arrived, local farmers let their fields lie fallow. Nevertheless, in October 1885, new grain storage buildings were full to overflowing with 10,000 bushels of grain stored every day. The great harvest required more trains; in October the railroad added three regular and four freight trains a day on the Moscow run.(35) Wheat was bringing 45 to 53 cents a bushel, and some farmers had raised 45 bushels to the acre. Proud truck gardeners were displaying four-pound potatoes and seventy-five-pound squash. About 4,000 tons of grain had been shipped from Moscow in 1885, and 2,000 more were still awaiting shipment.(36)

In the next months Moscow enjoyed its new success as the "distribution and receiving center of the principal part of the wheat belt,"(37) and the editor of the Mirror was beginning to think of the future. He remarked that eastern brewers were offering to buy all the barley that could be raised—and Moscow raised plenty of barley. Flax was the most profitable crop, and he suggested that local flax be used for oil instead of importing linseed. Freight rates, as expected, had dropped from \$8 per ton to \$7 after the railroad came, and if the rail junction should be made at Riparia, the price would drop to \$6 by avoiding the extra \$1 per ton charge for 52 miles over Northern Pacific land.(38) Moscow farmers were no longer victims of the transportation system—now they had a choice. And now that they had the railroad, arch-rival Lewiston "no more sits on the dead limb of the tree of knowledge and hoots at us!"(39)

In 1885 as many as 28,000 emigrants came to California and Portland on the Northern Pacific railroad. The Mirror complained that neither Portland nor California could offer the emigrant as good a home for the money as Idaho could. The Palouse had 30,000 acres available for sale at \$10 to \$15 per acre, while land in the Willamette Valley cost \$25 to \$40 per acre. The reason the emigrants were not coming to Idaho, concluded the Mirror, was that the Palouse did not advertise. In Chicago and St. Paul, there were posters and pamphlets about Oregon and Portland everywhere—in hotels, depots and on the streets where men handed them out.

Emigrants needed to be told that Idaho has excellent soil, water, wood and climate. The Mirror suggested that Moscow print some pamphlets and send a citizen East to hand them out. The Mirror offered to throw in \$75 worth of printing, and suggested that the railroad might let the agent ride free.(40)

Two weeks later the Mirror reported that a Mr. F. M. Rice had established an emigration agency at Omaha and had 10,000 pamphlets and 100,000 dodgers about Idaho which he was scattering through the eastern states. The Mirror objected that Mr. Rice extolled Idaho's fruit culture (which was in Southern Idaho), but for all that, "Mr. Rice's pamphlet is quite as good as any that we have seen."(41) No doubt the promotion brought more settlers to Idaho: at any rate it showed that Moscow businessmen were not only bold enough to follow Portland's lead, but even ready to compete with it on its own turf.

## Prejudices Develop

Not all emigrants to Moscow were settlers, nor were they all welcome. The Chinese laborers who had laid the rails were housed in a single building in Moscow, and their behavior was inoffensive. Nevertheless, most of the people of Moscow had never before seen Chinese, and thought of them in terms of opium pipes, prostitutes, general filth and disease.(42) Newspapers told of the Chinese massacred at Rock Springs, Wyoming, and of Chinese arming in Southern Idaho to protest an order of expulsion effective May Day. The militant racism spread to Moscow. After attending a meeting of the I.O.I., an anti-Chinese Society, the two leaders, both from Potlatch Creek, got drunk and raided the Chinese house at midnight, shooting off their guns to intimidate the "heathens." The Mirror remarked that the Chinese in this case were much the less of two evils, and that these drunken men could easily have done the same to white men.(43)

The Chinese were a threat to white labor, especially to white domestics, for they worked harder and charged less. In the nation's capitol a delegation of "wage women" called on the President to protest against employing Chinese to wash

Government's towels. J. M. Rice, the immigration agent for Idaho, wrote from Omaha that he had learned from the newspapers that the people of Idaho proposed to do away with the Chinese and employ girls instead, and he said that plenty of servant girls could be had from Omaha. The Mirror replied to Mr. Rice that if he sent fifty girls to Idaho to do cooking and housework they would all find work at from four to five dollars a week. The Mirror pointed out that these girls generally did not know how to cook, charged extra for family washings, demanded higher wages than Chinamen did, were likely to be "independent" and to leave, and had to have a room and bed, while the "Chinamen" lodged themselves and sometimes cut the wood. Not, the Mirror hastened to add, that there was any desire in Moscow to keep Chinese as domestics, for only the scarcity of good help compelled people to employ them.(44)

The prejudices of Northern Idaho were directed less against Chinese than Mormons. Mormons constituted half the population of Southern Idaho. They were disliked by the Republican electorate of Idaho because they voted Democratic in a block as instructed by the Church. The people of Northern Idaho wanted to be annexed to Washington Territory because they wished "to be part of a commonwealth on the threshold of statehood," and not the "political associates" of Mormons.(45)

## Pocket Veto Dashes Hopes

Not even a good wagon road connected North and South Idaho; the two regions were separated not only politically and ideologically, but also physically by mountains and river canyons. With increased confidence born of the railroad, North Idaho petitioned (for the sixth time) for annexation to Washington Territory. In 1886 Congress finally passed a bill annexing North Idaho to Washington, but because it came at the end of a session, too late for a congressional override, President Cleveland quashed it with a pocket veto. Washington became a state and North Idaho remained unhappily linked to South Idaho. In 1889 an "olive branch" was extended to North Idaho with the establishment of the University of Idaho in Moscow. Other evidence of

Moscow's political emergence in future years was its designation as seat of Latah County in 1888, and the prominence of its native son and leading merchant, William J. McConnell, who became a short-term Senator and a two-term Governor of Idaho, and married off his daughter to Idaho's most famous politician, Senator William E. Boarah.(46)

As part of its promotion campaign, the Mirror of January 15 published a crude map with an invitation to every farmer in Moscow country to mark the location of his farm on the map and send it to a friend back east. With the map was a description of Moscow, its railroad and its businesses, designed to impress the immigrant. Moscow had a large depot with other railroad shops and buildings, a good public school with three teachers, four churches, four resident doctors, two Justices of the Peace, five notaries, one elevator and four grain storehouses, two jewelry stores, two brickyards, two blacksmiths, two restaurants and bakeries, two furniture stores, one organ and piano store, two hotels, two meat markets, two dairies, a tailor, two drug stores, six saloons, four large general merchandise stores, two hardware stores, a harness and leather shop, a steam sash and door factory, a barbershop and bath house, a drayage and forwarding business, three agricultural implement houses, two livery stables, one boot and shoe shop, two millinery shops, a steam flour mill and others nearby, four sawmills nearby, a real estate agency, a First National Bank, a job printing office and weekly newspaper, two candy stores, a dentist, two large town halls, and numerous laundries, paint shops, and lesser trades. A comparison of this list with the list of Moscow businesses in 1884 above, will show the impressive expansion of Moscow's downtown in the year and a half since the railroad came.(47)

At last Moscow had all the necessities of business and of the good life, and in the unlikely event that something was lacking in Moscow, its citizens could ship it in by train, or leave town in the comfort of the parlor car. The "History of North Idaho" summed it up:

"It is seldom that a town is more prosperous than was Moscow from 1885 until 1892. In 1885 the O.R.&N. railroad came and in 1890 the Northern Pacific . . . Everybody made money and

everyone had money, and the volume of business transacted here was enormous.”(48)

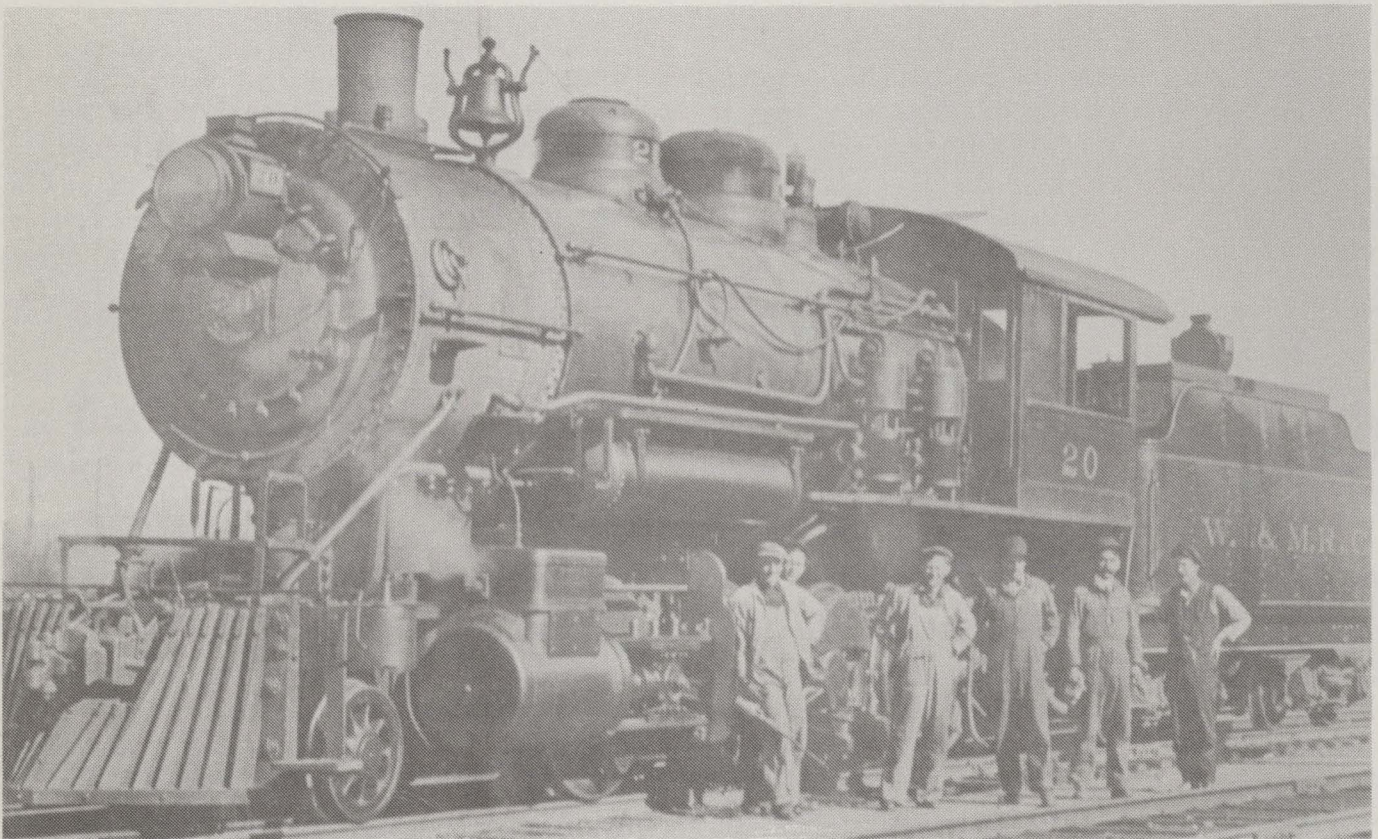
And in those days that was what the people of Moscow thought the railroad did for them—more business, more money. Looking back, we can see that the railroad accomplished a good deal more, not only for the towns that became great cities, but for the villages like Moscow that became great towns.

## End Notes

1. “An Illustrated History of North Idaho embracing Nez Perce, Idaho, Latah, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, State of Idaho” (Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903), pp. 606-7.
2. “Ibid”
3. “Ibid”, pp. 606-7, 635-36.
4. “Ibid”, p. 582.
5. “Ibid”, pp. 228-30.
6. D. W. Meinig, “The Great Columbia Plain: A Historical Geography, 1805-1910” (University of Washington Press: Seattle and London, 1968) pp. 11, 210, 222.
7. “History of North Idaho”, p. 581.
8. Meinig, pp. 234 n., 249-58.
9. “Ibid”, p. 245.
10. “Ibid”, p. 253.
11. Carole Simon-Smolinski, “Clearwater Steam, Steel & Spirit” pp. 75-99 and photographs on pp. 60 and 78.
12. Oscar Osburn Winther. “The Old Oregon Country: A History of Frontier Trade, Transportation & Travel” (Stanford University Press: Stanford, Calif., 1950) p. 232, n. 3.
13. Meinig, pp. 235-36, 253, 257.
14. Munson, p. 115.
15. Speech of Willis Sweet, July 4, 1885, “The Moscow Mirror” Moscow, Idaho, July 10, 1885, p. 3, c. 1.
16. Winther, pp. 298-99.
17. Meinig, p. 260.
18. “Ibid”, pp. 260, 268; W. G. Emery, “History of Moscow, Idaho with sketches of some of its prominent citizens, firms, and corporations.” “Moscow Mirror” supplement, summer 1897, pp. 2-3.
19. Charles J. Munson, “Westward to Paradise” edited by Kenneth B. Platt, Latah County Historical Society, Local History Papers -4 (The University Press of Idaho: Moscow, 1978), p. 115.
20. “Ibid”, p. 116.
21. “Mirror”, July 17, 1885, p. 2, c. 1.
22. John Fahey, “The Inland Empire: Unfolding Years, 1879-1929” (University of Washington Press: Seattle & London, 1986), pp. 48, 50. Portland had its own flouring mill by 1884, and a portion of the sacks of wheat went no further.
23. “How We Celebrate!” “Mirror” July 10, 1885, p. 3, c. 1.
24. Munson, pp. 117-19; “History of North Idaho”, p. 585 also tells this story.
25. “Mirror”, July 27, 1885, p. 3, c. 1.
26. “Mirror”, August 21, 1885, p. 3, c. 1-2.
27. “Mirror”, September 18, 1885, p. 3, c. 1.
28. “Mirror”, September 25, 1885, p. 4, c. 1-2.
29. Munson, pp. 119-123.
30. “Mirror”, October 2, 1885, p. 2, c. 2.
31. “Mirror”, October 2, 1885, p. 2, c. 2; October 23, 1885, p. 3, c. 1.
32. “Mirror”, October 23, 1885, p. 3, c. 1.
33. “Mirror”, January 1, 1886, p. 3, c. 1.
34. “Mirror”, October 2, 1885, p. 2, c. 2.
35. “Mirror”, October 16, 1885, p. 3, c. 2; October 22, 1885, p. 2, c. 1.
36. “Mirror”, October 2, 1885, p. 2, c. 1.
37. “Mirror”, October 16, 1885, p. 3, c. 1-2.
38. “Mirror”, December 25, 1885, p. 3, c. 2; See Meinig, pp. 269-72 for the complicated competition between the O.R. & N. and the N. P. railroads between 1884 and 1888.
39. “Mirror”, February 26, 1886, p. 1, c. 3-6.
40. “Mirror”, February 19, 1886, p. 2, c. 1-2.
41. “Mirror”, March 5, 1886, p. 2, c. 1-2.
42. “Mirror”, August 14, 1886, p. 2, c. 1.
43. “Mirror”, September 18, 1885, p. 1, c. 1; February 19, 1886, p. 2, c. 1-2.
44. “Mirror”, February 19, 1886, p. 2, c. 1.
45. “Ibid”
46. Rafe Gibbs, “Beacon for Mountain & Plains: Story of the University of Idaho” (Regents of the University of Idaho: Caldwell, ID, 1962), pp. 14-17.
47. “Mirror”, January 15, pp. 1-2.
48. “History of North Idaho, p. 608.

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The two photos above show early trains in Moscow. At the top is a vintage photo donated to the Latah County Historical Society by Richard Perman. Iva Gilwick was the original owner. It is labeled: "First train into Moscow on the Orland." By 1917 engines were getting larger and more powerful. The lower photo shows Engine 20 on the Washington, Idaho and Montana line.

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	<b>Member</b>	<b>Friend</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Sustainer</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Patron</b>
Individual	\$ 7.50-15	\$16-30	\$ 31-75	\$ 76-150	\$151-499	\$500 up
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Privileges are identical for all classes; the highest 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 local history/genealogy research archives 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 Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday hours are from 1 to 5 p.m. Visits to the museum or research archives at other times can be arranged by calling (208) 882-1004.