

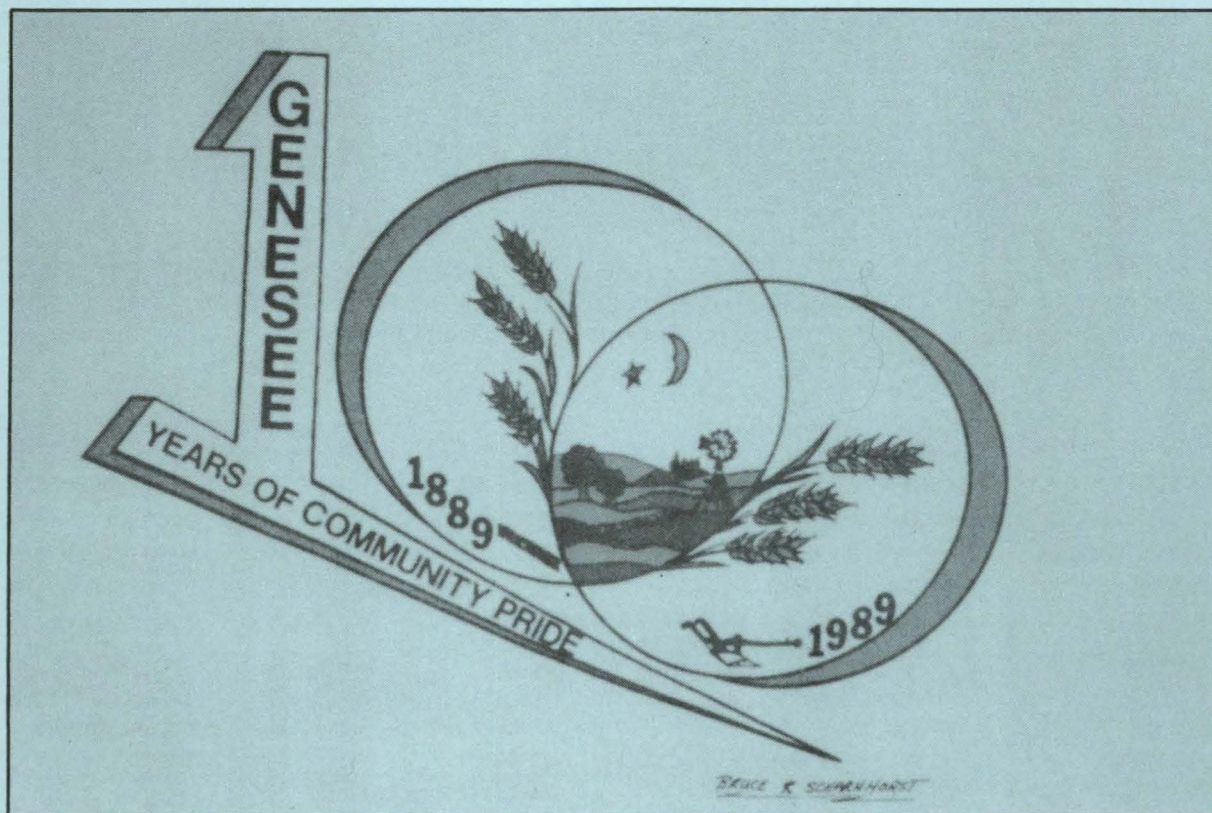
LATAH LEGACY

The Quarterly Journal of The Latah County Historical Society

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In this issue:

Genesee

100 Years

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Contents

Early Years	3
Community Day 1912	8
Idaho State Gazetteer	10
Genesee 1912-13	11
American Legion Post	12
Social Life	14
Education	16
Churches	19
Genesee Union	24
Asgrow	25
CCC Camp	27
Mule Power	28
Railroad	30
Genesee News	31
Postscript	36
Bibliography	Inside back cover

CENTENNIAL LOGO

The official logo for Genesee's Centennial was designed by Bruce Scharnhorst. The Genesee High School graduate combined the art work of elementary students--April Swenson, Amanda Grider and Cortney Grieser--in drawing the winning logo.

Scharnhorst, whose two great-great grandfathers, Michael Evits and Christian Scharnhorst, both homesteaded in the Genesee area, has degrees from the University of Idaho in Physical Education/Health and Elementary Education. His parents are Dick and Marie Scharnhorst. He and his wife Holly have two sons--Louie, 10 and Jacob, 9. They operate D. F. Scharnhorst Petroleum in Genesee.

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FOREWORD

This issue of the Latah Legacy is dedicated to Genesee's Centennial, October 23, 1989. This is not a complete history nor was it meant to be. Space prohibits that. There are books written about Genesee and some of the people who have lived there through the years. There are articles, poems, essays, biographical sketches, family genealogies and historical pamphlets. A bibliography will be found elsewhere in this issue to help the researcher and historian. Oral histories are available as are photographs. And there are the memories! Memories of our older citizens and those not so old.

Yes, stories are waiting to be told and more needs to be written. Genesee's settlement and first 100 years will reveal stories of courage, fright, weakness, strength, cruelty, apathy, kindness, laziness, hard work, enterprise, mental anguish, illness, patience, drunkenness, temperance, patriotism, religion, bigotry, charity, greed, pride, hope, humor, faith and love. The history will reveal all of the attributes of man. This is as it should be. But the underlying quality we find is a caring community, exercising the freedoms granted by our constitution and persevering in bad times as well as good.

This is a beginning. Let us continue to delve into the past as we build and plan for the future.

It has been my pleasure to compile and write these articles and vignettes. May it be the readers' to enjoy.

Marie Hampton Scharnhorst

Dedication

To my husband, Dick, always understanding and supportive; to my father, Raleigh Hampton, a wonderful inspiration and source of the past; and to the pioneers and early citizens of our town. . . and their progeny, I dedicate this tribute to Genesee's Centennial. Let us walk together into Genesee's second century.

Marie Hampton Scharnhorst

Author - Historian

MARIE HAMPTON SCHARNHORST is a graduate of Genesee High School and the University of Idaho. She is married to Donald F. (Dick) Scharnhorst, a Genesee businessman for 42 years, farmer and former mayor of the town. Their family includes three married sons--Bob, Jim and Bruce and nine grandchildren.



Marie Scharnhorst

Mrs. Scharnhorst has been media generalist for the Potlatch School District for 17 years. She belongs to several civic, professional and service organizations. She has worked with the Genesee High School Reunion Committee for Community Day for over thirty years, is secretary of the Educational Media Division of the Idaho Library Association, on the PACE committee for the Idaho Educational Association and serves on the Latah County Historical Society Board. She contributes articles to area newspapers and authored the Genesee article in the Latah County Centennial Edition. In addition to reading and writing poetry, she enjoys history research, sports, collecting antiques and old books, and hiking. The Scharnhorst home, in which they have resided for 42 years, dates back to 1895.

She may be reached by phone at 285-1317 or by mail to Box 115, 112 Tamarack Street, Genesee, Idaho 83832.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Director Mary Reed, Historian Keith Petersen, Editor Bert Cross, and members of the Latah County Historical Society's Board of Directors for dedicating this issue of the **Latah Legacy** to Genesee's Centennial. A special note of appreciation to the following people who answered questions, shared memories, articles, books, newspapers, photographs, and other historical data about Genesee:

My father, Raleigh Hampton; my mother-in-law, Mary Scharnhorst; and my husband, D. F. (Dick) Scharnhorst.

John and Rowena Luedke, Lola Clyde, Irene Berger, Grace Jain Wicks, Audrey and Don Jain, Jay Nelson, Sanford Evans, Elvon and Betty Hampton, Roy Harris, Lucille Moser, Cletus Morken, Emmalou Johann, Jane and Bill Roth, Beverly and Tom Boyd, Sharon Steiger, Verla Peterson, Dan Lorang, Jim Odberg, Robert Borgen, Dolores Lettenmaier, Margaret Pinkerton Van, Glenda and Dale Becker, the Comnicks, Vera White, and compilers of family histories.

The pastors of Genesee's churches, and authors of books, Lillian Otness, Lalia Boone, Dick Beck, Kenneth Platt, John Merrick, and the Third Grade of 1987.

I express appreciation to Mayor Michael Martinez, City Clerk Mert Geltz, and members of the City Council of Genesee, Tedi Roach, and members of the Centennial Committee.

Marie Hampton Scharnhorst

GENESEE: The Early Years

(The following article is reprinted from the book "History of North Idaho: Latah County." The publication date is not given but it is known that some of the history first came out in 1903. It is presumed that most of this was written between 1903 and 1910).

Genesee, probably the greatest wheat market in the famous Palouse country, is located in the terminus of the Northern Pacific Railway, 113 miles south of Spokane. Built on a hill overlooking the Genesee valley, the "Garden Spot of the Palouse," it commands a view of the snowclad mountains of three states. Its location is healthful, natural drainage perfect, water abundant and of excellent quality. The population is 1,200 and is steadily growing. Most of its business blocks are substantial brick structures. It has excellent schools and churches, a city park, telephones locally and with long line connections and a franchise has been recently granted for an electric light plant. An active Chamber of Commerce looks after the material advancement of the city and under its stimulus street paving and other improvements are projected. There are excellent advantages offered for the starting of new enterprises such as a fruit cannery, straw board factory, paper mill, cracker factory and a starch factory.

The Genesee valley lies directly north of the Lewiston valley. Speaking of the naming of this beautiful little vale of Latah county, Idaho, John P. Vollmer, the Lewiston banker and merchant said: "During the summer of 1870, Alonzo Leland, later editor of the Lewiston Teller, a man name Stone, who was the O. R. & N. agent for their steamboat line, and myself went one day for a drive over the high prairie north of the Clearwater river. There was but one habitation in all that vast country then. Caldwell & Hall's cattle ranch at the summit of the Clearwater bluff. As we drove along we passed down Cow creek and through a sequestered valley still in its natural state, Stone exclaimed: 'This reminds me of my old home, the Genesee valley in New York State.' The suggestion was made that we so name it and from that time on it bore that name. When Leland started his newspaper he always referred to his valley by the name of Genesee and so it

became universally known by that appellation. Some time in 1871 Jacob Cambitch took a ranch on Cow creek, so that he may be termed the pioneer of Genesee.

"Settlement was slow until 1872 and in that year quite an immigration to the prairie country took place and the first large settlement was made. From that time on scores flocked to the 'Hog Heaven' country, as the country around Moscow was known in the early days, and soon Nez Perces county north of the Clearwater numbered several hundred people. In 1875 Curtis started a town about a mile east of the present town of Genesee, which soon became a thriving village. Our company established the first general store there. Just who owned the townsite I do not remember, as it stood near the

"Garden Spot of the Palouse"

corner of four sections, but probably R. H. Beeman, James Hansen, John H. Evans and Mr. Curtis were the men. In 1886 A. M. Cannon, A. W. Newberry, Paul F. Mohr, myself and others organized the Spokane & Palouse Railway. That year the road was constructed to Belmont. Then it was pushed to Marshall Junction and in 1888 we built our terminus at Genesee. About the time we decided to extend the road to Genesee that townsite fell into the hands of Jacob Rosenstein whom, we thought, asked too much for right-of-way privileges and grounds. We naturally objected and the result was that I purchased a tract of forty acres from J. H. Evans a mile west of the old town and laid out the new town, calling it Genesee also. When the railroad came through, it stopped one mile west of the old town. This immediately broke up the old town and Jacob Rosenstein headed the removal to the new town by moving his store over on wheels. Soon the old town was a relic of the past. Our company re-established our store in the new town, the railroad company built a roundhouse and laid out quite a yard system and the population of the town jumped to several hundred people within a comparatively short time."

Two pioneers of the old town not mentioned in the above, were A. Levi, who established a general store in 1878, and E. T. Platt who was the pioneer attorney and was also justice of the peace.

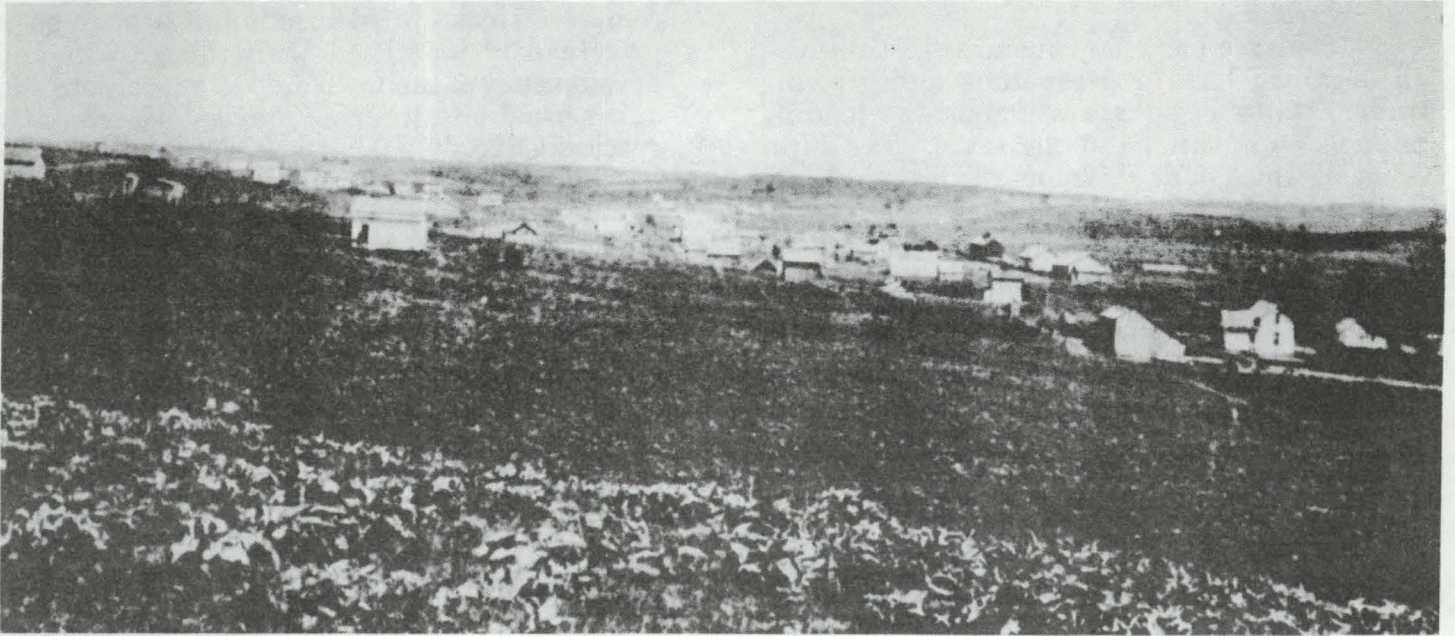
The first business structure in the present town was put up by J. S. Larabee, hardware dealer, and the second by W. J. Herman, general merchandise. J. J. Owen moved a 16x24 frame house there from Moscow, which was the first shingle roof house in the town. William Brown with his own labor put up a building and opened the pioneer barber shop. C. F. Burr was the pioneer real estate dealer there and George Stelz was the first building contractor. All are still residents of Genesee. The first school was established in the old town in 1879. D. Spurbeck, Mr. Markham and William Evans were the first board of directors and Mr. Dent was the teacher. The latter was paid \$150 for teaching a three months' term. The town was incorporated October 23, 1889, with the following first trustees: J. C. Martin, W. C. Cox, W. J. Herman, J. J. Owen and E. S.

"Soon the old town was a relic of the past."

Cameron. The metes and bounds description of the townsite is as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of the northeast quarter of section 14, in township 37, north of range 5 west of Boise meridian; thence running south 3,300 feet; thence west half a mile; thence north 530 feet; thence in a southwesterly direction 1,520 feet; thence north 1810 feet; thence east 140 feet; thence north 140 feet; thence east 1380 feet; thence north 1110.95 feet; thence east half a mile to place of beginning. The city's finances are and have ever been in first class condition, and civic improvements have kept pace with the steady growth of the town. As a home city Genesee possesses many advantages. Climate conditions are almost ideal. Its location is about 2,200 feet above sea level, but mountains in all directions keep out the storms and cold indigenous to less favored regions and at the same time render the air absolutely pure and wholesome. The population is mixed, consisting of large settlements of Germans, Scandinavians, Irish and native born Americans.

The public schools in Genesee are among the best in Idaho. There are 376 pupils enrolled. A large school house was built in May, 1891, to which an addition was made ten years later. Prof. Hattzell Cobb has been principal of the schools since 1894. His assistants are Miss Bessie Wilson of the grammar department; Mrs. C. Spurbeck, third grade; Mrs. Mary Cool, fourth grade; Miss Lulu French, fifth and six grades, and Miss Maud Berdick, primary department. The salaries paid are \$92.50 per month to the principal, \$55 in the grammar grade, \$50 in the primary department and \$47.50 in the grades. The total evaluation of public school property is \$7,000. A private school is also conducted by Sisters of the Catholic church. The University of Idaho and the normal school of that state and Agricultural College of Washington are all within 30 miles of Genesee and readily accessible to those desiring the benefits of higher education. The Genesee schools are in charge of the following board: President, Dr. P. S. Beck; secretary, Herman Nebelsieck; William Smolt, Fred Nagel, George Mochel and Paul Cann. Genesee is also favored in the matter of church privileges. It has six church organizations, each of which owns its own edifice and whose congregations are active in religious work. The pulpits are filled by able men. These churches are the Catholic, Methodist Episcopal Church South, Christian, Congregational, Norwegian Lutheran and German Lutheran. Sunday schools and the various young peoples religious societies have good memberships. Fraternal and social organizations are well represented, there being prosperous lodges of the following orders: Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World, Maccabees, Red Men, Arcanum, Rathbone Sisters, Rebecahs, Ancient Order of Pyramids and Young Men's Institute. There is also a G. A. R. post with the following officers: P. C., J. J. Owen; S. V., Pat Ryan; J. V., George Daggett, and adjutant, J. E. Reed. There is also a Woman's Relief Corps. An excellent weekly newspaper, the News, has aided materially in the growth of the city. It was established in 1889. Charles Powers, the present editor, took charge in 1892. From a small beginning Mr. Powers has built up an excellent paper and has a first class equipment to handle all kinds of printing. The paper is Republican in politics.

Genesee derives its support from the rich agricultural and horticultural districts surround-



This photograph of Genesee was probably taken sometime before 1900. The land in the foreground is where the present city park is located. The dark building near the center is the train depot.

ing it. Its growth has been coincident with the development of these natural resources. The same appearance of thrift and prosperity which characterizes the town and its schools, churches, handsome residences and substantial business structures is apparent in a marked degree in the country. Nice farm buildings are the rule rather than the exception. The Genesee valley is embraced within the eastern part of the famous Palouse district and in extent and production easily takes first rank. The territory tributary to Genesee embraces a considerable area of the best lands of the Nez Perces Indian reservation. This is due to the topography of the country, a long high hill on the north and deep river canyons to the east and south acting as natural barriers. The country is rolling but nearly all is capable of cultivation and of great fertility. The lands of Latah County produce enormous crops of wheat, oats, barley and flax and almost every variety of tree and small fruits. In the production of apples no section can excel this and few equal it. The trees bear regularly and are loaded with fruit. Size, color and flavor are perfect and make them in great demand for shipping. They find a ready demand in the markets of Montana and further east and at remunerative prices. All kinds of vegetables do equally well with the fruits and

cereals. Dairying and poultry raising are sources of great revenue. Of late stock raising has been taken up and with such success that it is growing to be an important industry.

Natural rainfall is sufficient for all purposes. Little rain falls from June until September, but the spring rains have never failed to insure bountiful harvests. No crop failure has ever been known in the Genesee valley. The farmer expects 40 or more bushels of wheat to the acre as his right and is not disappointed. Sandy soil is unknown; so is waste land. The soil is a rich black loam of volcanic origin, lava mixed with clay, a combination which 30 years of severe trial has demonstrated to be of unrivalled productiveness and practically inexhaustible quality. It covers the country, a mantle of fertility from 18 inches to six feet in depth even to the tops of the highest hills. Every parcel of land for miles around can be cultivated and this without irrigation, as the great capacity of the soil for retaining moisture enables it to produce and mature enormous crops even in the driest years. For all the diversified products of the surrounding country Genesee affords an excellent market. Through it, annually, 1,500,000 bushels of wheat, large quantities of hay, fruit and vegetables are shipped. To handle these shipments there are

ten grain warehouses, one hay storage and one fruit warehouse.

Genesee has many business institutions, all of which have a prosperous and growing trade. Its two banks are among the leading financial institutions of the state. The First Bank, of which John P. Vollmer is president and P. W. McRoberts is cashier, has resources of \$1,000,000 and was established in 1892. The Exchange National Bank, capital \$25,000 and with \$9,000 undivided profits, was organized in 1897. It has branches in Troy and Nez Perce, Idaho. E. J. Dyer, president of the Exchange National Bank of Spokane, is president of the institution and Thos. H. Brewer is the cashier. It owns the best safe in the state, a Corliss burglar proof, fitted with a Greenleaf time lock. Among the pay roll institutions of Genesee are two flour mills, a creamery, and the Genesee brewery. Follett & Knapp run one of the flour mills and report an excellent trade. The other

"No crop failure
has ever been known
in the Genesee valley"

mill, which has an elevator and two warehouses in connection, is owned by C. P. Porter and is conducted with ever increasing profit by E. C. Wood. The creamery, since it was established a few years ago, has enjoyed a profitable growth. There is a ready market for the product at good prices. The output is being gradually increased. The brewery is also most prosperous.

In addition to his interest in the First Bank and his ownership of several large warehouses at Genesee, John P. Vollmer is the owner of the largest general merchandise store in the town. From the date of the organization of the town the store has kept pace with the growth of Genesee. The stock carried is a mammoth one. A local manager is in charge, Mr. Vollmer's residence being in Lewiston. He is [one] of the wealthiest and most progressive citizens of Idaho and has diversified interests all over the state. W. J. Herman, the pioneer hardware and furniture dealer, in June, 1903, disposed of the hardware stock to H. A. Morgan, who is continuing the business as the Cash Hardware store. Mr. Herman retained his

furniture business and carries a large and complete stock. Mr. Herman has always been prominently identified with the growth and development of the town since its incorporation and served one term as mayor. He recently erected a \$5,000 business structure for use by his store. Another former mayor and pioneer business man is Jacob Rosenstein. He was postmaster of the old town in 1884-5 and moved to the new town when it was started. He has increased his stock steadily to keep up with growing business until today he has one of the largest stocks of general merchandise in Latah county. Alexander & Co. also have a large general merchandise stock. The business was established in 1892 with Joseph Alexander, of Lewiston, J. H. Gaffney and Edwin London as partners. They built a large iron store building which they occupied until 1890, when they were compelled to erect their present large two story brick building to accommodate their increased business. The iron building is used by the firm for storage purposes. In 1890 George H. Hobson bought out the business of the Genesee Mercantile Company, which he has since been conducting with much profit as the Bee Hive store. George Stelz, who started first in 1888 as a building contractor, has been conducting a large general merchandise store since 1893 on Main street. R. E. Follet, the pioneer harness maker, is still in business. He carries a large stock and still makes and repairs harness. There are two excellent drug stores. In one of the handsomest buildings in the town, Conant & Conant have a store which would be a credit to a city many times the size of Genesee. The other, the Pioneer Drug Store, was an institution of the old town, established by Cox & Hodgins, from whom T. Kennedy, the present manager, bought the business in 1888. The store carries a complete line of drugs and druggist sundries. Follet Bros., who have been in business many years, carry a complete line of groceries, confectionery and stationery. Driscoll & Thomas opened up in business in 1898, buying out the Bressler & Scroggins hardware stock and have met with great success. George Jamieson, who built the first blacksmith shop in the old town, is in the same business in the new city. Another pioneer is Henry Nebelsieck, a tailor who is still in business. He is secretary of the school board. The leading hotels of the city are the Genesee house, conducted by Q. F. Surby, which caters particularly to the traveling trade, and

the Grand Central hotel, run by F. A. Robinson. Both supply comfortable lodging and excellent meals. Other prosperous business enterprises include the following: The Fair, F. A. Marquardsen, proprietor; Cash Bargain store, Quillen & Co., proprietors; John Meyer, dealer in farm implements; T. Driscoll, dealer in barbed wire, etc.; James K. Bell, hardware, harness, implements, etc.; City meat market, Fred Nagel, proprietor; Miss E. E. Borg & Co., millinery; William Smolt, cigar factory and dealer in cigars and tobacco; W. L. Birman, drayman; William Hickman, livery barn; George Stelz, undertaker; George L. Mochel, livery barn; Home bakery; Kemp & Stadler, blacksmith; Rees Pickering, real estate and insurance; Genesee bakery and restaurant; William Brown, barber shop; Clarence Jain, barber; Star and Monarch saloons. The professional field is well represented. Among the physicians are Dr. R. S. Beck, the former mayor; Dr. H. J. Smith, Dr. W. H. Ehlen, Dr. J. L. Conant, Jr., and Dr. J. L.

Hayes. The dentists include Dr. C. A. Follet and Dr. J. L. Hayes. Among the attorneys are Hans Bugge, who makes a specialty of land office practice and who is secretary of the chamber of commerce, and P. W. McRoberts.

The present town board consists of the following: Mayor, Dr. J. L. Conant; J. K. Bell; C. E. Wood; W. M. Thompson; D. Scharnhorst; clerk, C. F. Burr, who is also justice of the peace; and treasurer, F. A. Bressler, who is vice president of the Exchange National Bank. Among the postmasters of the town have been E. R. Wiswell, who was succeeded in 1897 by J. J. Owen, who held the office until recently. Mrs. Owen is now postmistress.

The future of Genesee appears bright. Conditions which have brought it up from a small village to a thriving prosperous town will continue to all [add] to its growth and importance. With the greater development of its tributary territory will come corresponding increase in its size, its business and its importance.

Vale of Genesee

by Bert Gamble

Down the bunch grass trail of memory,
Where sunflowers nod and sway,
To the wheatland vale of Genesee,
In dreams I ride away.

Back through my golden boyhood,
There with the pioneers,
Through waving fields of long ago,
Those glorious yesteryears

Over the friendly prairies,
Where first wild flowers sprung,
When all the world were wonderous,
And life's long years were young.

Would I could dream forever,
Of scenes so dear to me;
Do not wake me! I am dreaming,
Of the vale of Genesee.

From "Songs of the Palouse"

Nearly everyone in Genesee attended

COMMUNITY DAY 1936

In May 1936 Genesee held a Community Day. The program was as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 9:30 a.m. | Flag raising and band concert. |
| 9:15 | Grade school program |
| 10:15 | Mavericks roll call and program. |
| 10:30 | Alums roll call and program. |
| 11:15 | Address by Lt. Gov. G. P. Mix. |
| 11:45 | Community Dinner in the park. |
| 1:15 p.m. | Band concert. |
| 1:30 | Folk dances. |
| 1:40 | German band. |
| 1:50 | Old Fiddlers. |
| 2:15 | Pioneer roll call. |
| 2:30 | Address by Dr. Chenoweth |
| 4:00 | Sports and field events. |
| 8:00 | Pioneer dance. |
| 8:30 | Pioneer grand march. |
| 9:30 | Alum grand march. |
| 10:30 | Mavericks grand march. |

Governor Ross who was summoned to Helena, Montana, wrote that he will be unable to be here. During the afternoon there will be a full program of races for children, three-legged race for women and for men, with a 100-yard dash free for all. The sports program will close with a softball game between country and town.

In 1936 the Genesee News published a special edition commemorating Community Day held in conjunction with the school. Several interesting articles appeared. Mrs. Walter Jain compiled a Pioneer History of the Genesee Community. She was the mother of the late Lew, Ben and Gladys Jain Magee, and of Don of Genesee and Grace Jain Wicks, long-time Moscow resident active in civic and political affairs and a weekly columnist for the Moscow

Idahonian. The following paragraphs include excerpts from Mrs. Jain's article:

"It seems that this particular valley where Genesee now stands was not settled until after the Thorn Creek neighborhood. Michael Evits, Jacob Kambitsch, Thomas Tierney and others taking claims there is 1870-72. James Hanson, a brother-in-law of Mr. Tierney, arriving in 1872, filed on the place now owned by William Hickman. Selling this place to E. T. Platt, father of Mrs. William Hickman, in the early '80s, he purchased and spent the remainder of his life on the farm now owned by Mrs. Anna Hanson, his daughter-in-law and in part by John Luedke, the husband of Mr. Hanson's granddaughter, Rowena (Mrs. John) Luedke."

Who Named the Town?

Henry Deacon (note: possibly should be Deason) was living on his quarter section now occupied by John Broemeling in 1873, when his bother-in-law, H. B. Hodgins, and family arrived. They homesteaded the place now owned by D. Scharnhorst. (Later the Henry Koster-Phil Greenwell place.) William Hodgins, son of H. B. filed and resided on the Hugo Manderfeld place. Rufus Beeman arrived in 1874 and settled on the ranch now owned by Rudoph Nordby. Beeman's pioneer home sheltered a large family. A general store and the first postoffice of which Mr. Beeman was postmaster, were on the site, the office being called "Thorncreek P.O., Idaho Territory."

(Editor's note: There seems to be some dispute about who actually named the Genesee Valley. The "History of North Idaho" gives credit to Alonzo Leland, a man named Stone, and John P. Vollmer, who name the area in 1870, as they reached it from the Lewiston Valley, from whence they rode in their buggy. Vollmer wrote that the area reminded Stone of his old home in Genesee, New York. From then on Leland's newspaper, the Lewiston Teller, always referred to the area as Genesee. Mrs. Jain agrees with the naming because of its resemblance to Genesee Valley of New York, but

she writes that a Mr. Walsh, husband of Beeman's daughter, Mr. Beeman and Tannis E. Miller succeeded in having the name officially adopted. Mrs. Lola Clyde, Moscow, had another story about the naming of Genesee. "As the men rode through the deep bunch grass, it reached the stirrups of their horses," she said. "One of the fellows said, 'This is God's country. Just like God made it in the beginning. We'll call it Genesis.' Genesis or Genesee, the name was adopted and it's been Genesee for 100 years.")

Mrs. Jain's article tells us that Miss Viola Arant, Lewiston, taught a term of school in the locality to the south, in a cabin on Joe Bronte's claim near Cornwall. Miss Arant became the wife of Captain E. McConville, sent from Portland to aid the settlers during the Nez Perce Indian War of 1877. As a major, McConville was killed in battle in the Philippines in the Spanish American War. Cornwall was north of Genesee, between Moscow and Troy at the head of the Little Potlatch Creek. This later became a stopping place and shelter for people hauling lumber from Troy for homes and firewood.

Speculation about Fort

There is much speculation about the Genesee Fort. Mrs. Jain's article puts it "where the road then crossed Cowcreek, about a half mile north of Old Town, on a line north from what would now be a continuance the road to the city cemetery." Lalia Boone's book "From A to Z in Latah County, Idaho" gives this description: "T37N R5W sec 12. On Cow Creek on land belonging to Mr. Beeman, later to James Nesbit (Nesbitt), Dr. C. E. Toumy, and a Mr. Erickson." John Platt's book "Whispers from Old Genesee..." gives further details.

Other early settlers Mrs. Jain mentions are: Mrs. Johanna Christensen, Benjamin Thompson and his brother Herman, T. E. Miller and family, Patrick Cunningham, George Michael, Stephen and Joe Driscoll from Bathhurst, New Brunswick, and Mrs. Mary Cunningham and seven small children.

She also writes of Mrs. Herman Nebelseick, who accompanied her parents and brothers and sisters, the Christian and Fredricka Scharnhorst family, west in 1874. This family emigrated from Iowa (Christian and Fredricka had been German immigrants originally). Mrs.

Nebelseick recalled the large train of wagons, mules and oxen that had brought them across the plains. Many families began the trek westward, but the ones with the best financial backing and the best animals were the ones to reach their goal. When they reached Eugene, Oregon, four months after their journey began, only Mr. Scharnhorst's two teams, a Mr. Baringer and a bachelor were left. Mr. Scharnhorst farmed one year in Oregon, but its rain forced him to look farther and the family came to Genesee. They homesteaded here in 1874.

Another pioneer family was that of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Sampson and sons Glenn and Virgil (later our barbers). They settled on the farm owned by E. M. Becker. Their tales of the hardships they faced--the ever-present threat of Indians, lack of all but the barest necessities of life, sickness, no trails to follow, unknown rivers to cross and high mountains to climb--make us realize the resource and fortitude these people exemplified. "No wonder the new country prospered," writes Mrs. Jain. "It was peopled by a sturdy, courageous, and energetic race."

Another interesting note: Thomas Mason, who lived in the willow grove on the road south of Genesee near the William Baumgartner home, owned a station and operated a stage line at Mason Creek on Craig Mountain from 1866 to 1877. His brother Harry and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Osbourne, Mason's sister, Mrs. Walsh, and another settler were surrounded at Mason's Store. The men were killed and three women taken captive and brutally treated. Thomas Mason and the Walshs later settled near Genesee. They resided on the place known as the William Ingle farm.

Other early settlers mentioned in the Jain article are: Tannis E. Miller, Goswin Seivert, Lewis Jain and family, Calwell brothers, Hollisters, Ingles, Spurbecks, Petersons, Christensons, Joseph Geiger, Eli Johnsons, Andersons, Bowmans, Smiths, Jones, Grays, Swensons, John Magee, Follets, Davis', Ebels, Sanford Evans, Bottjers, Markams, Wahls, Jim and Tim Keene, W. J. Herman, H. J. C. Tweedt, and others. I must echo Mrs. Jain's sentiments, "There are no doubt many others to whom we extend sincere apologies for omitting, assuring it was due to poor memory rather than will."

Genesee gets recognition in the 1910 Idaho State Gazetteer

The following information was collected by John Luedke and is from a 1910-1911 newspaper, listing towns and areas of Idaho. Among them is:

GENESE: Population 1200; Latah County; an incorporated village on the Northern Pacific Railway; 38 miles by rail south of Moscow, the county seat. Has Catholic, Methodist, Congregational, German and Norwegian Lutheran churches; 2 banks; 3 hotels; an opera house; brick factory; flour mill and electric light plant. A weekly newspaper, **THE NEWS**, is published. Exp. Northern. Tel. W. U.

ARMSTRONG, Chas. G., well driller.
 BELL & EMMETT (Jas. I. Bell, Robert Emmett), general store.
 BILLAU, Rev. Alfred M., Catholic.
 BRANNER, Paul, well driller.
 BRUNE, Howard W., publisher, **GENESE NEWS**.
 BURR, Chas. F., Justice and insurance.
 CANN, Paul, printer.
 CASEBOLT, Fred, harness.
 CLARK, Grant, drugstore.
 CLARK, Percy J., proprietor, **THE TOGGERY THE TOGGERY**
 Percy J. Clark, Prop.
 Clothes for Well Dressed People
 Cleaning, Pressing and Repairing
 Phone 331
 Jain Building, Genesee, Idaho.
COMMERCIAL CREAM CO.
 DEITINGER, Andrew, brick manufacturer.
 DICUS, Fred, drugs.
 EHLEN, William H., Physician.
FIRST BANK OF GENESE (Capital \$25,000)
 J. P. Vollmer, President; T. N. Nelson, Cashier.
FOLLETT BROS., Leon and Fred, general store.
 FRED ALB, shoemaker.
GENESE BAND.
GENESE ELECTRIC LIGHT CO.
GENESE EXCHANGE BANK (Capital \$25,000)
 T. H. Brewer, President; F. K. Bressler, Cashier.
GENESE HOUSE, Mrs. Mollie Swenson, proprietor.
 Nicely furnished rooms for transients.
 Special rates by week or month.
GENESE NEWS.
GENESE OPERA HOUSE, Jas. K. Bell, manager.
GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL, Chas. M. Robbins, proprietor.
 HALL, Peter J., up-to-date photography in all its branches. We also do finishing for amateurs.
 HANSON, Harry A., hay.
HARDY & ACREA, Henry L. Hardy, John L. Acrea.
 Conf. and pool hall.
 HARRIS, Adelaide S., music teacher.

HASBROUCK, Fred D., dentist.
 HASFURTHER, Joseph N., hardware.
 HAZELWOOD CO., cream station.
 HELICKSON, Oscar C., Norwegian Lutheran pastor.
 HERMAN, William J., hardware.
 HERMAN, W. J. & Co., William J. and William M., furniture.
 HICKMAN, William R., livery.
 JAIN, Clarence L., barber.
 KEMPF, John, blacksmith.
 KENNEDY, Kate, milliner.
LAMBERT & OYLEAR, Fred E. Lambert, Elmer E. Oylear, furniture and hardware.
 LARRABEE, John, general store.
 LINEHAN, Thomas, lodgings.
 MEYER & FLOMER, John Meyer, Henry Flomer, farm implements.
 MILLER, Ernest E., farm implements.
MOCHEL BROS., George and Ben, carpenters.
 MURPHY, Alonzo, blacksmith.
 OLSON, Ole, jeweler.
 PICKERING, Rees, real estate.
POTLATCH LUMBER CO.
RADER & WESTENSEE, John Rader, Chas. Westensee, meats.
 REILLY, John T., dentist.
 ROBBINS, Chas. M., proprietor, Grand Central Hotel.
 1912 ad: "Sample rooms, large and well lighted, bedrooms, easy and neat. Special attention paid to the traveling public. Home for everybody."
 ROSENSTEIN, Jacob, general store.
 SAMPSON, Glenn, barber.
 SHULL, Gilbert L., Congregational pastor.
 SMOLT, William, confectionery.
 SMITH, William, R. R. exp. and tel. agt.
STANDARD LUMBER CO., Edw. Abernathy, mgr.
 STELTZ, Christ, painter.
 SWENSON, Mrs. Mollie, proprietor, Genesee House.
 THOMPSON, William E., grain.
 TOGGERY (See Adv.)
 TRACY, John, livery.
 TOUMY, Clark F., physician. Dr. Toumy owned and operated Toumy Hospital; later became the Masonic Hall and has since been razed to make way for the new building.
 WELLS & LEWIS, Jos. R. Wells, Jas. Lewis, draymen.
 WOLFF, Rev. A. F., German Lutheran pastor.
 WOOD, C. E. CO., grain and flour mill.

Genesee: 1912-1913

The following information, collected by John Luedke, is listed on Page 83 of R. L. Polk & Co s. LATAH COUNTY DIRECTORY. Under Genesee, it states, "Population 1,000. An incorporated town, first settled in 1888, on the NP Ry., 35 miles south of Moscow, the county seat. It is located in the famous Genesee Valley and is part of the far-famed Palouse Country, 35,000 to 40,000 tons of grain and hay are shipped annually. It contains several warehouses, 2 banks and all branches of business are well represented."

CITY OFFICERS: Mayor - R. E. Oylear.
Clerk and Ex-officio Police Judge - C. F.

Burr.

Treasurer - E. O. Cathcart.
Engineer - D. C. Burr.
Supt. of Water Works - C. F. Burr.
Fire Chief - F. E. Dicus.

Board of Health - Dr. W. H. Ehlen, J. D. Adams, Henry Martinson, John Meyer.
Marshall, Street Com. & Ex-Officio Chief of Police - G. I. Mochel.

Councilmen - 1st Ward, H. Martinson, C. R. Spurbeck; 2nd Ward, J. T. Nelson, John Meyer. Regular council meeting on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

CHURCHES: Churches included First Christian, no pastor; First Congregational, Rev. G. L. Shull, pastor; Norwegian Lutheran, Rev. O. C. Hellickson, pastor; St. John's German Lutheran, Rev. A. Wolff, pastor; Methodist Episcopal South, Rev. Jonathan G. Garrick, pastor; Roman Catholic, St. Mary's, Rev. Father Haegy, pastor, Rev. Father Nicholas Hahn, asst. pastor.

POST OFFICE: Postmaster, D. C. Burr; Asst. Dora B. Burr; Carrier 1, C. E. Vandenburg; Carrier 2, John Vandenburg.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS: M. B. Dunkle, principal; L. T. Babcock, Spt.; Leta E. Snyder, Asst. Prin.; teachers, Maggie J. Nesbit, Clara T. Kuester, Anna E. Bond, Carol Byrnes, Olive Larrabee.

Genesee has always had many clubs and societies. The following are listed as:

SECRET AMD BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES
Independent Order of Oddfellows,
Genesee Lodge #30, Latah Encampment #9.
Rebekahs (Auxiliary to IOOF),
Golden Rule Lodge #11.

Knights of Pythias, Star Lodge #5.
Pythian Sisters, Evening Star
Temple #15.

Masonic, Unity Lodge #32, F&AM.
Order of Eastern Star, Lily Chapter #27.

Modern Woodman of America,
Genesee Camp #6703.

Woodmen of the World, Grenadier
Camp #249.

Many ads probably paid for the directory. Among them are The Genesee News, the First Bank of Genesee with capital listed as \$30,000 and surplus as \$10,000; Genesee Veterinary Hospital, Dr. J. D. Adams, Prop.; Grand Central Hotel, C. M. Robbins, Prop.; and W. A. Lauder of Moscow, selling concrete blocks, drain tile, building material, hay, grain and feed, and sewer pipe. This directory lists four pages of names of residents of Genesee including students, merchants, doctors, dentists, teachers, farmers, pastors, bankers, utilities managers, etc.

"The Great War"

The 1920 census shows a population of 1241. The "Great World War" was over, and the boys had returned home. A 1917 Draft List of Latah County lists Bear Creek, Boulder Creek, Cora, Cornwall, East Genesee, East Moscow, Four Mile, Gold Creek, Gold Hill, Harvard, Helmer, Juliaetta, Kendrick, Little Potlatch, Mountain Meadow, North Moscow, North Troy, Palouse, Pine Creek, Potlatch, Southeast Moscow, South Troy, Southwest Moscow, Texas Ridge, Thorn Creek, West Genesee, West Moscow and White Pine. Under these captions men were issued an "Order of Draft" and a chronological number.

The order in which the number of Latah County's 1,672 registrants were drawn are shown in the 1917 Draft List. The names of the registrants are given by precincts which are alphabetically listed, as stated earlier. The name were given in the numerical order of their draft numbers with order in which their number was drawn from the bowl. I will not list all of the Genesee men, but will list the first six. The "Order of draft" is the first number, and the person's "numerical number" is the second:

EAST GENESEE:

1617 - 120 - D. L. Bressler



Genesee veterans of an earlier conflict: the Civil War. Jacob Kamblitsch and Albert Albers were active in the late 1800s.

299 - 121 - Andrew Kern
 260 - 122 - J. W. Brigham
 1416 - 123 - L. L. Larrabee
 593 - 124 - R. F. King
 1557 - 125 - A. O. Halverson

There were 81 men registered from East Genesee, 32 from West Genesee, 13 Genesee men from Little Potlatch Precinct and 20 from Thorn Creek. This writer does not have statistics as to how many registered actually served, but these figures are available through Bielenberg-Schooler Post #58 of the American Legion, headquartered in Genesee. Many men and boys served their country in every war that the United States has ever been a part of. These men, and later women, who served are held in the highest esteem by their descendants and the people of Genesee and Latah County. America's farmers raised crops to feed the allies and her then "vast" industrial machine was expected and did product vast quantities of munitions, aero-

planes and guns. The paragraph from the Draft List that ends the "History of the War First Three Years," states, "America has already begun her titanic task. Some of her soldiers are in France. At home the nation has started raising her selective draft army. Her greatest businessmen, inventors and manufacturers have lent aid. The farmers have responded. The plain people have contributed \$2 million to a Liberty Loan." Of course, the men of Latah County and the people on the home front rallied round to help end that, until that time, "greatest war."

Following World War I the American Legion was formed. Wilson Archibald, now of Clarkston and the oldest living member of Genesee's Bielenberg-Schooler Post, was among those patriots who returned to France to help organize this worthy organization.

Two charters hang today on the wall of the Genesee Legion Memorial Building. One is dated May 1, 1921 and signed at Boise, Idaho. Thirty-four members' names appear. A second charter roll call adds the names of 14 more members. The post was named for two young Genesee men who were killed in action: Corporal Henry Joseph Bielenberg, USMC, 78th Co., 6th Regiment; and Private Irvin John Schooler, Co. F, 161st Infantry, USA.

American Legion Post Active

The American Legion Bielenberg-Schooler Post #58 of Genesee became an active civic and social part of the community. Membership remained constant, and many worthwhile activities were sponsored throughout the years. A women's auxiliary was chartered on March 3, 1925, but lack of interest caused it to be dropped. However, on November 23, 1928 the group reorganized. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Millie Whalen with 26 eligible members present. Mrs. Duella Harland, Lewiston, District President, presided with Mrs. Minerva Shacketton, President of the Lewis-Clark Post, Unit #13, assisting. Mrs. Carl Harris, Lewiston, Department Secretary and Treasurer, and Mrs. Emmett Spiker assisted. First president of the Genesee Unit was Mrs. William Mervyn. Mrs. Harold Haymond was vice-president; Mrs. Don Bressler (now Mrs. Irene Berger) was secretary-treasurer and Mrs. George Post, historian. Of the 34 charter members of 60 years ago, three remain, and all

are Lewiston residents. They are Mrs. Berger, Mrs. Mahlon (Ruth) Follett and Mrs. Antone (Ethel) Kambitsch.

Through the years Legion and Auxiliary members, their wives and husbands, have shared fun and tragedy. Following World War II the men and women returning home became members of the Post and Unit. A large brick building was built in the late '40s replacing a smaller "Legion Club" which stood near the old Farmers' Exchange Bank. Slot machines were in, and monies from the slots as well as memorial donations financed the new building. It has had a bowling alley in the basement, a roller skating rink, a restaurant and lounge. Presently it is a lovely community building maintained by the men and women. Fred and Emma Shirrod left funds to the Auxiliary to help with maintenance and upkeep, and the building is

rented out. It is used by the Genesee Senior Citizens as well as for meetings, quilt and craft shows, historical displays, etc. on Community Day.

Present membership now includes veterans from World War I, World War II, Korean War and the war in Vietnam. Fifty-one members belong to the Post as of July 1989. The Auxiliary has 53 members with junior members making the total 74. Many excellent programs are sponsored by the organizations, including Boys' and Girls' State, scholarships, Americanism, veterans' affairs, rehabilitation, public relations and other programs for children and youth. The groups work very hard locally, in the state and nationally for the veterans of America. The Bielenberg-Schooler Post #58, and its Auxiliary Unit #58, have been a constant and integral part of the Genesee community for the past 60 some years.



Genesee welcomes home its veterans of the Spanish American War with an arch decorating Main Street. The war began on April 24, 1898, and ended on August 12 that same year.

Social Life in Genesee

Genesee's early social life was centered about the schools and churches, and community baseball games were well attended by enthusiastic spectators. This was a time for fraternizing and getting away from the work-a-day world for a short time. Literary societies flourished, and dances were held in the homes. The Meyer home even had a large room at the back, used for dancing. The Meyers men, John, Henry, Martin and John G., were all members of the 10-piece band. Plays were held in the Opera House and fraternal organizations are listed in a separate article, and there were a myriad of card clubs, pinochle and bridge, birthday clubs, clubs for the betterment of the community and historical clubs. There was not a lack of things to do.

The primary social activity was the Horse Show. This was a three-day event with a two-fold purpose. There was a horse breeding association, with farm horses as well as riding horses being bred for durability and show. The animals were cleaned, groomed and shown to an appreciative audience.

The parade was one of the best. The Nez Perce people rode up from Lapwai on their beautiful horses to ride in the parade and join in the festivities. A rodeo was held with the Indian men participating. They usually set up a tepee village on the edge of town. The main street of Genesee was not paved at that time. Much trading took place and for three days folks relaxed. The Horse Show was held from the early 1900s until the 1930s.

Hootchie-Kootchie Dancers

According to Don Jain, a small boy at the time: "I can remember the Hootchie-Kootchie girls performing. We young fellows would peek under the folds of their tents to see what we could see. They wore lots of petticoats and frilly pantaloons."

Don remembers the wonderful food sold on the street corners during the show. One vendor sold sandwiches on one corner and another on the opposite.

Called one: "One loaf of bread, one pound of meat, and all the mustard you can eat."

Called the other, in a thick German accent: "Same ting here, same ting here!"

Mr. Jain also recalls that later the Horse Show became an Automobile Show. One year a couple of local fellows decorated two cars to look like the Monitor and the Merrimac--they were spectacular. Don Bressler was one of the young blades. The "battleships" stole the show.

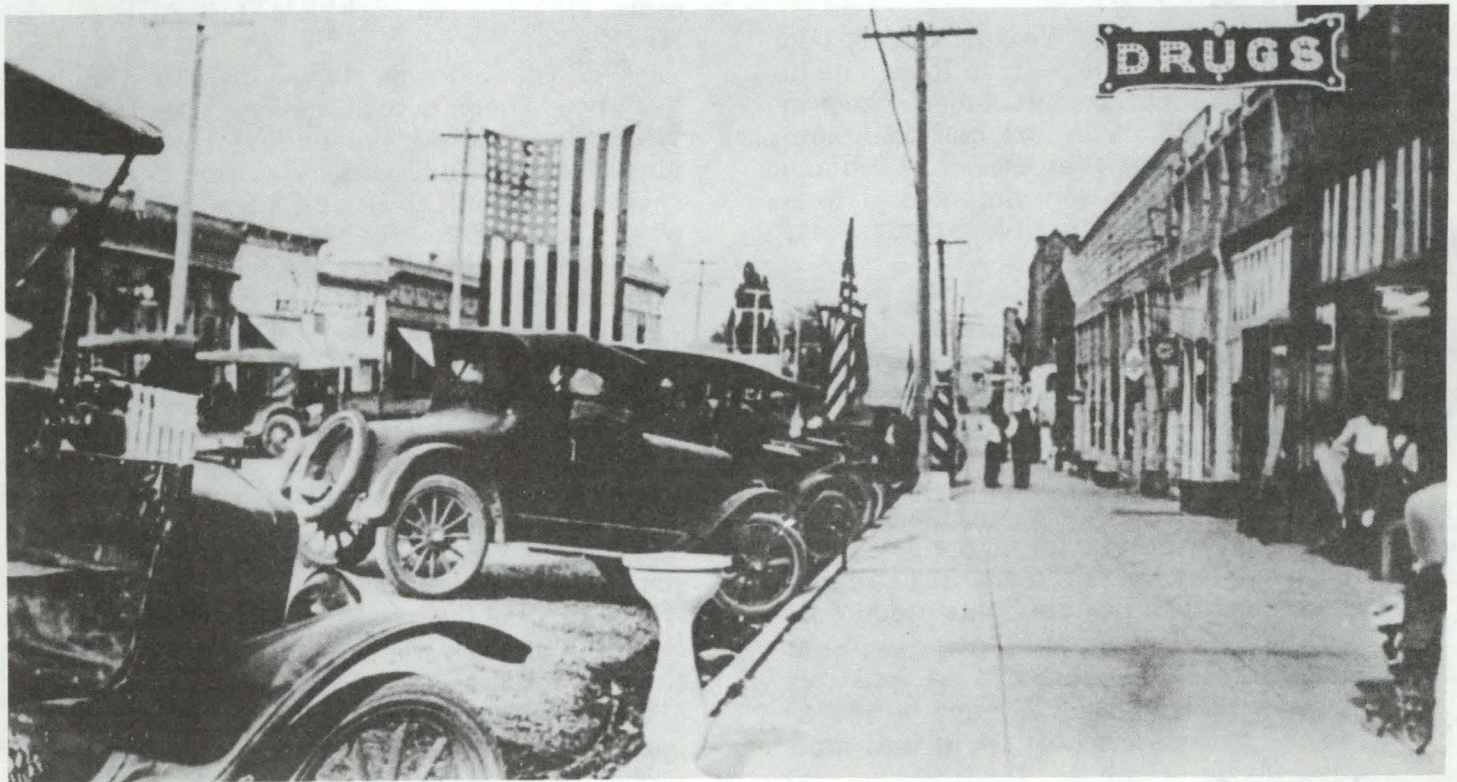
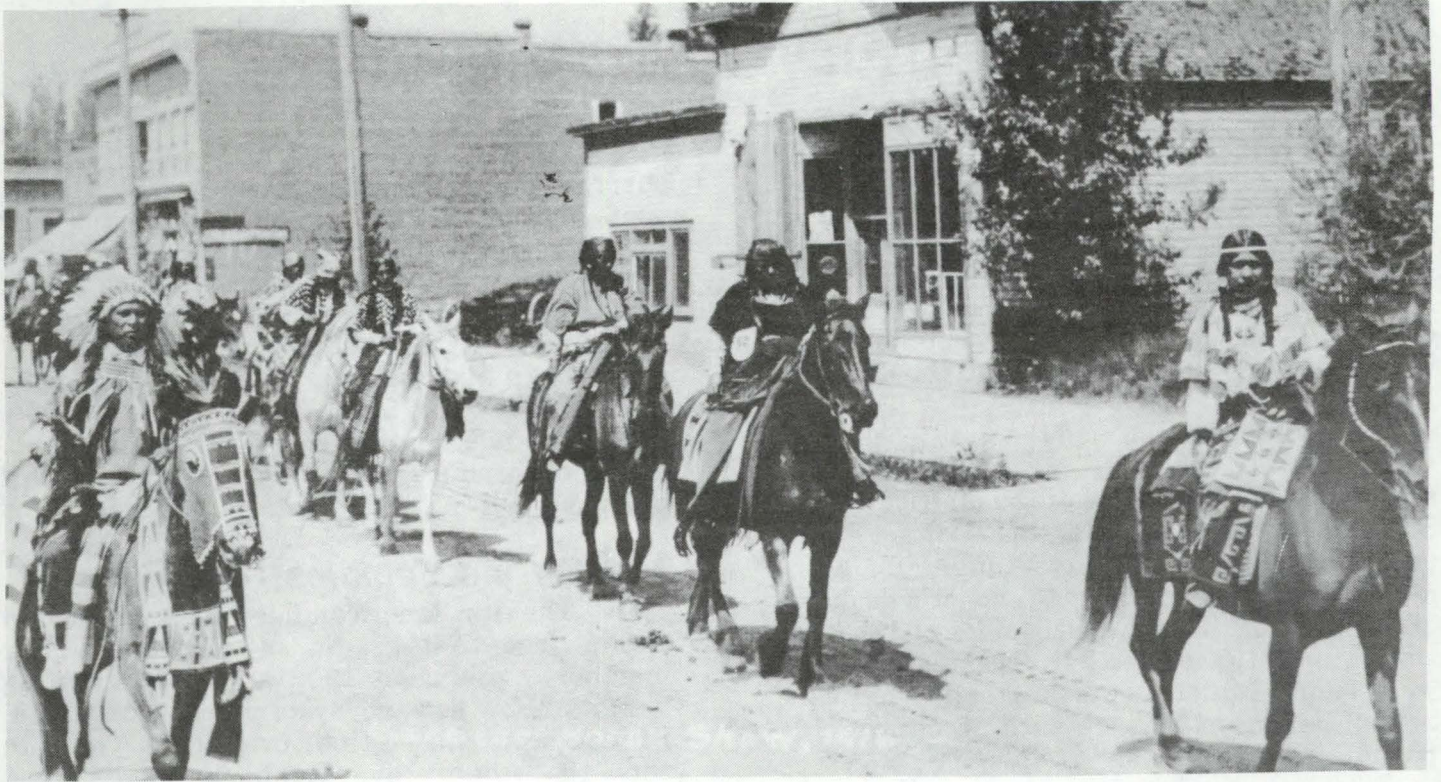
Later the Genesee Horse Show's parade featured the latest automobiles and was eventually replaced with a Community Day with baseball games, footraces, food and merriment. A parade was held with bands and floats.

Community Day was not held during World War II years. Chuck Manfred, long-time city clerk and Dick Scharnhorst, serving as councilman and later as mayor, can be credited with reviving the day. It has continued every year in the tradition begun with the old Horse Show. Class reunions have been a very successful part of the day and hundreds of classes have returned to be honored. A very active committee, headed by Don Springer with volunteers from other classes, puts the reunions together each year. This year seven reunions were held and the Centennial theme was used. The parades are exceptional with this year's marshals being five ladies of the community in their 90s. (See other article.)

Food and Festivities

The food served on Community Day is looked forward to and people come from miles around to enjoy the festivities. Wayne Roach and crew built a barbecue facility and he supervised the preparation for years. They were much sought after at other community celebrations and he and Phil Herman and others traveled far and near to prepare food. The Firemen, Genesee Boosters and other helpers cook and serve the food.

Community Day has always been a highlight of a community working together. Many people are involved to make the day a special one with its trap shoot, races, ballgames, parade, meals, dances, etc. Money realized from the sale of tickets and donated prizes help with community projects of benefit to young and old alike.



In the top photo Nez Perce Indians ride down Main Street in the 1916 Horse Show. At the bottom the Auto Show replaced the Horse Show in the 1924 Community Day celebration.

Genesee recognizes the importance of **A Century of Education**

A proper education has been of the utmost importance to the residents of Genesee since the town's beginning. The first town school was established in September 1879 in "Old Town" about a mile east of present-day Genesee. The schoolhouse was located near the intersection of Central Grade and the Juliaetta Road.

William Vernon was the first teacher and was paid \$50 a month. Mr. Dent taught the second quarter. Trustees of the district were D. S. Spurbeck, Tannis Miller and William Evans, Clerk. In 1881 Louis Levi taught for \$40 a month for three months. A teacher's desk was allowed by the board in December of 1882, but was later returned for \$4! Trustees for 1883 were Tannis Miller, Lewis Jain and Wm. Evans. School began on May 14 with 56 children reported on the census.

School in Old Fort

John Platt's book, "Whispers From Old Genesee and Echoes of the Salmon River," 1975 edition, states that children attended school in the old fort in 1883. The fort had been constructed because of fear of an attack by Indians in 1877, but the fears were unfounded. It was used for a schoolhouse, church and community center.

After the railroad reached the present Genesee, the town was moved. Six lots were purchased in the new area, and Tom Warden moved the schoolhouse for \$100. New trustees were elected, and it was decided to bond the district for \$5,000 to erect a suitable building. Due to lack of a new site, the old building was remodeled. Later lots were purchased from Judge Buck and E. T. Platt, and bonds sold to C. F. Burr as agent for the Vermont Loan and Trust Company. The building was erected by Nelson, Steltz and Company with H. Sager completing the rock foundation. Initial construction price was \$3,374. In 1890 a new wing was built; 145 children were school age at that time.

Mr. Hartzell Cobb was the first superintendent and served for 11 years. John Eikum, who began duties this September, is the 56th

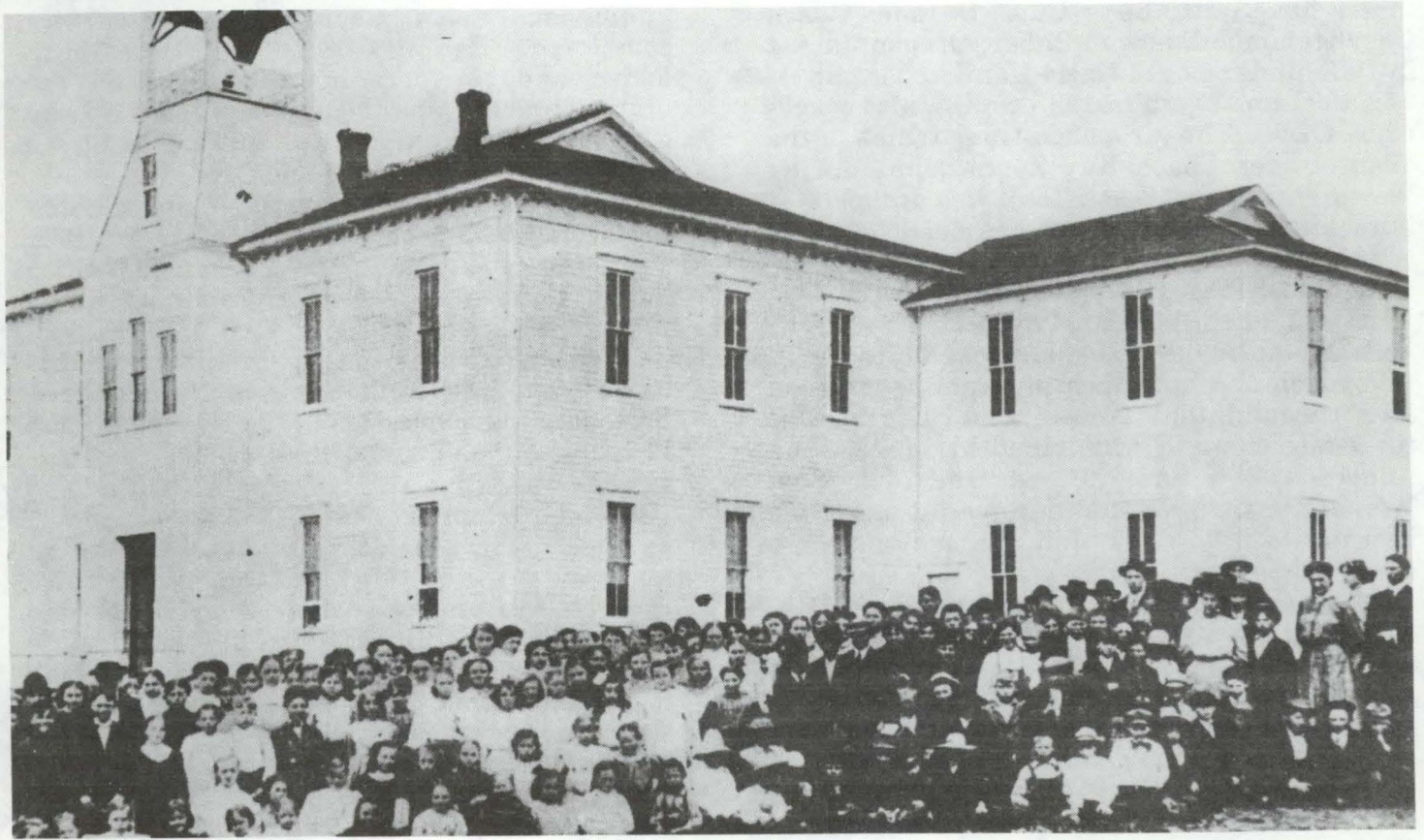
superintendent from information received by this writer. Some of the salaries paid to early day school personnel: Janitors, \$2 per day; principal, \$75 a month; superintendent, \$82 a month; and teachers, \$55 a month. Discipline was firm, corporal punishment used when needed. An interesting statement was made by a principal in the 1890s, "In my opinion marble playing is not conducive to good discipline on the school grounds, and I request that the board put a stop to it." (They did!)

No Married Females Hired

The first American flag was purchased in 1895. The first graduating class had four members. Between 1902 and 1910 running water and a sewage system were installed. Students purchased their own books well into the '40s when Dave Kuehl handled sales. Another interesting rule in the early part of the century, "NO MARRIED FEMALES ARE TO BE HIRED."

Basketball was started in 1910. Genesee has always been noted for its good teams. The Wardrobes, the Grays and Herb Martinson played on a team which became famous in sports circles in the Inland Empire in 1911-12 when they won the championship. One of these gentlemen, William Gray, established a scholarship fund for worthy Genesee graduates, as did Fred and Emma Shirrod. The Shirrods, too, were early-day graduates of Genesee High School. Many Genesee students have furthered their education due to the generosity of these fine people. The 1911-12 basketball team played the University of Idaho and Washington State.....and won! The team pictures are now hanging in the lower floor hall of the high school.

In 1912 the wooden schoolhouse was sold for \$300, and the wood used for construction of the present Fred Comnick town home and that of Joe and Alison Nowakowski and the highway barn. The brick school was built and furnished for \$21,220. It is the east portion of today's school, and the date can be seen on the cornerstone.



This was Genesee High School prior to 1912. It was in the same location as the present school and was constructed of wood. A new building was constructed in 1912.

Country schools were flourishing on all sides of Genesee from the earliest days. Names of some of the rural schools include: Aurora #15; Pine Grove #16; Smith #35; Keene #39; Aspendale #27; Union #63; Lower Thorn Creek #3; Lone Star #56; Ebel #67; Gray Eagle #28; Jain #64; Lenville #24; Upper Thorn Creek; Fix Ridge #17; Fairview; Ingle; Danielson; Lincoln; Upper Cow Creek; Shaeffer; and Leon. Mary Sprenger Scharnhorst remembers well she and her brothers and sisters attending Lower Thorn Creek, and all of our grand marshals of this year's Centennial Parade attended nearby schools.

In the thirties consolidation took place. Walt Emerson put the first school bus into operation in 1935. He used a 1934 Ford truck chassis. Walt and John G. Meyer furnished the buses for many years, and later the school district purchased their own. Walt, and probably John G. also, hauled the students at their absolute cost only. Presently there are 8 buses

and 6 routes. "Snuffy" Lettenmaier was Transportation Supervisor for many years. Dan Danielson is the present supervisor.

The opera house of the early days housed a gymnasium and was located on the east corner of the present Lower City Park. This gym was used until 1940 when a new addition was built to the school.

St. Mary's Church operated a parochial school, St. Joseph's, for many years in Genesee. It was staffed by Benedictine sisters. Later these children came to high school. I've heard stories of the Catholic students being dubbed "cat-lickers," retaliating back with "pup-lickers" to the other kids. Be that as it may, when they all reached high school they represented Genesee---not town kids, country kids, Catholics and protestants. This understanding between people of different religions and rural and town backgrounds has been a welcome improvement in our society.

Genesee's traditional winning basketball teams have continued. Class B under Coach Gary Hammond, now of Baker, Oregon; in A-4 in 1964 under Coach Ozzie Kanikkeberg; in A-3 in 1971 and again in 1983 as A-4, also coached by Ozzie. The girls had strong teams in the 1940s under Coach Kay Zenner, but during World War II girls' basketball was dropped. It is in full swing again and has been for some years. The Genesee girls won the A-4 state championship in 1987, coached by Terry Asbjornson. That fall their volleyball team won the state championship. Tom Patrick, Morton, WA, was coach. A hot lunch program began soon after consolidation. Mrs. Emma Hoduffer was the first cook and was joined by Mrs. Selma Anderson, Mrs. Amy Brown and Mrs. Bert Wernecke. The program continues as one of the best in the state. Mrs. Jan Baumgartner is in charge.

A Girls' Club was started in the late '40s. Mrs. Tom Boyd was among the early members and later served as an advisor. Genesee has always had a strong music department. A librarian was hired in the 1950s and under the direction of Vaughn Overlie continues to have an excellent selection.

An Agriculture Shop was completed in 1955. In 1961 a ruling by the School Board stated, "Married persons attending school may not participate in extra-curricular activities."

In 1967 a bond levy incorporating a swimming pool with new classrooms failed but the levy for a new addition passed. Under the leadership of Superintendent Les Diehl and the School Board, five new classrooms, a music

room, home ec. department, gym and lockers, audio-visual room, meeting rooms, etc. were completed. Recently other walls have been added and corridors installed between the original building and the new additions. Special education and kindergarten are a part of the curriculum.

The smallest graduating class was the first, and the largest with 43 members in 1939. That class celebrated their 50th reunion in June during Genesee's Centennial Community Day with 21 returning.

During the past century 4,220 students have graduated from Genesee High School. Present enrollment is 168 in the elementary and 138 in junior high and high school. The assessed evaluation in 1903 was \$7,000 and in 1989 approximately \$54,870,329.

The Genesee schools have been an integral part of the town and community since the first settlers put roots in the rich soil and merchants came to join them to established a town. The town's high priority and dedication to the education of their youth has paid off. Genesee graduates enter the world of business and finance, education, agriculture, politics and government, military, research, athletics, industry, homemaking and child rearing. Genesee should be proud of its commitment to education during its first century.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Pictures of all of the school buildings mentioned in "New Genesee" are on file at the Latah County Historical Society.

"All honor to those forbears who opened up for us this favored goodly country, and may we ever pay homage to the heros and heroines who settled each quarter section."

--Lela Lanphear (Mrs. Walter) Jain

Through the years with

The Genesee Churches

Introduction

The pioneers who came to Genesee and the surrounding area were from various European and Scandinavian backgrounds. They sailed to a new land, eager for opportunity, adventure and, most importantly, freedom. They came from crowded conditions, militarism, poverty in some cases, and sometimes from persecution. They came west by covered wagon, on horses and oxen, walking much of the time. Many times the men came first, sending later for their families. The dream of their own land spurred them on. Religious conviction was deeply ingrained in these people, and they wanted to be able to raise their children in their own

" . . . working together is a beautiful and spiritual thing. . . "

faith, be it protestant, Catholic or Jewish. Missionaries such as Father Cataldo and Reverend Daniel Gamble, who established the Presbyterian church in Moscow, had preceded them and worked along with them. Missionaries established missions for the Native Americans.

The Germans spoke in their native tongue in their churches for several years, as did the Scandinavian peoples. Churches had their own beliefs, of course, and tolerance for one another's religion was sometimes low. It took years for all of the church congregations in our small towns to realize that working together is a beautiful and spiritual thing, and we are all the better for it.

On September 24, 1989, a community-wide Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held in Genesee. A Community Sunday School was held at the Community Church. A Community Thanksgiving Service was held at 11:00 at St. Johns Lutheran Church. The offering was either food or money and was given to the Genesee

Food Bank. A potluck dinner followed at the Catholic Center. Here the descendants of the early Genesee settlers and others who have moved to Genesee gathered together to offer thanksgiving for a good harvest---and for a sharing community. The three pastors, Roger Herndon, Tom McCurdy, and Father Robert Finucane led the services at St. John's. This wonderful spirit of cooperation prevails in our small city as its first century draws to a close.

The "Genesee News" dated February 25, 1898 and loaned to us by Mrs. Irene Berger, former Genesee resident now of Lewiston, states, "Genesee is favored in the matter of church privileges. It has five church organizations, each of which has its own church edifice and whose congregations are active in church work. Its pulpits are filled with able men.

The five organizations mentioned in this issue include Congregational, English Lutheran, German Lutheran, Methodist Episcopal South and Catholic. The article goes on to state that the Catholics have a large congregation and that the M.E. Church South has greatly increased its membership by revival work.

The News gives a biographical sketch of Reverend William C. Fowler, pastor of the Congregational Church. The church also had a handsome parsonage. (This church building stood on a hill at the end of the block of Pine Street. The Dwight Mayers reside in the home built on the site after the church was torn down. The parsonage was just south of the church and is still a dwelling, remodeled and resided in by the Roger Kinyons.)

A brief sketch of each of Genesee's present-day churches follows:

Genesee Community Church

In the early 1890s in the new town site of Genesee, Idaho, several churches were built. Among them were the First Congregational Church and the Christian Church. The Congregational Church was located on Pine Street.

The Christian Church stood on Walnut Street, one-half block east of the southeast corner of the original Genesee City Park. The church has been gone for many years, and the lot is still vacant.

The two churches maintained their separate existence for many years, but in the fall of 1938, realizing the strength in unity, considerable discussion ensued about the possibilities of merging. The two Sunday Schools were united, and in 1939 a minister called to serve the two churches.

Until the summer of 1945 the two groups carried on the work of a Community Church, but each group operated under separate boards.

" . . . it was time for complete unification."

A planning board was selected with members from each congregation. It was decided that it was time for complete unification, and on July 23, 1945 the Congregational Church Board and the Christian Church Board formulated plans to merge. On September 16, 1945 the first Board of Directors were elected. They were Mahlon Follett, Esther Martinson, Lloyd Wilson, Clarence Aherin, Elvon Hampton, Adrian Nelson; and from the youth groups, Lillie Mae Aherin. Articles of Incorporation were adopted and Bylaws formulated. Later, plans for a new church building were actively begun. Elvon Hampton, chairman of the Building Fund, had financing details definitely shaped.

Major credit for the successful merger of the two congregations must be given to the pastor, Reverend Melford Knight, who came to Genesee in January 1939. Reverend Knight labored faithfully and well in this community for twelve years and endeared himself to the young and old alike in Genesee. He worked tirelessly with youth groups, both in the church and in scouting and baseball. It is always very special when Reverend Knight returns to Genesee for weddings and, sadly, for funeral services of his longtime friends in the Community Church and the Genesee community.

Many members served on committees that planned the church building. Mrs. William Heinrich, Mrs. William Herman, Adrian Neson and Fred Brazier served on the Building Fund.

Building committee members were Estil Carbuhn, Adrian Nelson, Lloyd Wilson, Clarence Aherin, and Elvon Hampton. "The Genesee Community Church: A Partial History," published in 1984, gives a more complete account of the building and completion of the church. The church was built with volunteers under the direction of Charles Schooler. A parsonage was later completed. The buildings attest to the fact that devotion to a worthy cause can accomplish much.

The church has always been noted for its fine musical programs. Those involved with the church music through the years have been Betty and Elvon Hampton, their daughter Joan Hampton Stout, Betsy and Wayne Hampton, Kathryn Springer, Charlotte Johnson, and Vicki Luedke. Betty Hampton, recognized for years as choir director and organist, has been named "Organist Emeritus" by a grateful congregation.

Roger Herndon is the present pastor. Sunday School is held for all ages and SPARKS, a Christian scouting program, was recently organized. Joint Bible School is held with the other Genesee churches in June. Adult groups include a Christian Women's Fellowship, and the Discipleship of Men. Verna Kalafus was for years in charge of the Memorial Committee. Fred and Emma Shirrod generously set up an endowment fund for the church before their deaths.

St. John's Lutheran Church

Early in 1876 the first families of Lutheran background came into Idaho Territory, settling west of Genesee and initiating the formation of St. John's Lutheran Church. Among the founders were Christian Scharnhorst, George Bullwinkle, John Bottjer, Fred and John Schutte, Goswon Sievert and Claus R. Meyer.

The Genesee settlers came for gold, abundant opportunities, free land and adventure. Militarism and crowded conditions had prompted them to leave their native Germany and Austria. By 1888 the German Lutheran population stood at ten to twelve families. They were a religious people who brought with them the fear and love of God and the desire to bring up their children in the Christian faith. They worshipped in their homes, and the first service conducted for the people by Reverend Fruett was in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman

Nebelseick. Two years passed before services were held after Reverend Fruett's stay. Reverend F. A. Selle conducted services in 1887 at the homes of John Bottjer and Christian Scharnhorst and then moved on.

After the Northern Pacific Railroad came to Genesee in 1888, the town grew rapidly. In 1889 two missionaries--the Reverends Anton Horn and Heinrich Rieke--conducted a meeting with members of the German Lutheran faith "in order to found a congregation and eventually build a church in Genesee."

Seventy-five dollars was raised for the down payment on a ground location for the future building. The money was turned over to Mr. Norman Buck, land agent, who, in turn by his own donation, gave the greater portion of the present property site to the congregation. Later a constitution was adopted. The church was about to become the first Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Joint Synod of Ohio in the Territory of Idaho. George Stelts was commissioned to make a plan and submit an estimate of the cost of building a church.

Reverend Rieke became the first called pastor of St. John's Church, but because of poor crops and lack of means, the building of the structure was put off. In July 1890 the cornerstone, designed by George Bullwinkle, was laid. It contained the early history, list of charter

"Not until 1901 was the first English service held."

members, a catechism, hymnal, Bible and confessional books. In July 1939 the box was dug out and, sadly, the contents had been destroyed by moisture.

The building was completed in 1890 with the dedication taking place on November 30. The ladies chose the name--"St. John's Evangelical Lutheran."

The turn of the century brought rapid growth and a parsonage was constructed. Mrs. Dora Nebelseick loaned \$500 for this project. Not until 1901 was the first English service held. The younger generation was by now speaking mostly English. In 1905 English was introduced in Sunday School which had 21 students enrolled. One English service in the morning was added each month. Instruction in

Confirmation remained in German. In 1908 Reverend Anton Wolff came and remained 24 years. He led the congregation in reducing the debt.

In 1918 after the first World War, good times returned, and a committee of Dedrick Scharnhorst, George Rosenau, Henry Flomer and Pastor Wolff were empowered to raise money for a new church building. The congregation pitched in, and many older members in 1989 remember being involved in helping with various tasks. Rev. Wolff designed and constructed the beautiful altar that adorns the chancel today. Money was anonymously donated for the stained glass windows from Germany and furnishings. The Hinner pipe organ, still in use today, was installed in 1919. It cost \$1,800, but brought the church value to \$18,000 at that time.

Mrs. Barbara Gehrke, 96, is the oldest living member, and Fred and Anna Comnick, married 70 years, are the longest married couple. Thirteen people are listed as God's Faithful Elders. Luther League, Sunday School, the Men's Brotherhood and Women's Organization continue to flourish. Pastor McCurdy administers to the needs of both St. John's and the Genesee Valley Lutheran Church, holding services alternately in one church building and then the other. Yet each church maintains its own identity.

The church in town celebrated its centennial on July 15 and 16, 1989. A worship service attended by many guests from other Lutheran congregations and other faiths observed St. John's 100 years. Thousands of hours were spent by members of the different committees for the centennial, and it was a gala and blessed occasion. One felt that the forebears, the German Lutheran settlers of the 1870s, '80s and '90s, would have indeed been proud that their ideals and hard work were not in vain and that their progeny were carrying on the early traditions and faith.

(Further information may be obtained from Pastor Thomas McCurdy, Mrs. Vernon Peterson, Mrs. Phil Greenwell, Mrs. Del Kambitsch, Mrs. Lee Davis or any of the elders residing in Genesee.)

(From the text of the Centennial History Book, prepared by Verla Peterson and her committee.)

Genesee Valley Lutheran Church

(1878-1989)

The Genesee Valley Lutheran Church is the oldest and the first organized Lutheran Congregation in the state of Idaho. The beginnings of the church can be traced back to the first Norwegian settlers who migrated to the area north of Genesee. Establishment of a Lutheran Church was of prime importance to the newcomers. On March 17, 1878, the first service was conducted and a congregation formally organized under the name of "Our Savior's Lutheran Church." This was 12 years before Idaho was admitted to statehood. A log church building was erected and dedicated in 1880.

A different group of Norwegian settlers organized a second church in the area in 1884. Their congregation, with different feelings and

". . . Norwegian settlers organized a second church in the area in 1884."

attitudes from the old country, chose the name "The Norwegian Lutheran Lebanon Congregation in the Genesee Valley." Their building was built in 1885.

Both congregations continued to grow and both built newer and larger edifices. Our Savior's built in 1889 and the Lebanon Congregation built in 1912. Relations between the two warmed and the young people made the first move toward a merger by holding a joint youth meeting. In June of 1917, three Lutheran bodies merged on the national level and this brought about the merger of the two churches in the Genesee Valley. The newer and larger Trinity building was selected for their new church home and the name "The Genesee Valley Lutheran Church" was selected. The building serves the present congregation today.

In the early days, the services were conducted in the Norwegian language. For some years, a pastor was shared with the Moscow parish, but since 1960 the congregation has shared a pastor with St. John's Lutheran Church, its sister congregation, in Genesee.

Pastor Thomas McCurdy is the present pastor. Each church maintains its own inner church groups, boards, etc.

The Genesee Valley Lutheran Church is a beautiful and peaceful site, nestled among the rolling wheat fields of the Palouse. It is a testimony to a strong faith in God.

A lovely water color painting by Alf Dunn has been reproduced on note cards which are available through the Latah County Historical Society. The church is in fact a model for artists and photographers because of its simple beauty and picturesque setting. Pen and ink drawings have also been done and these are available as note cards through the congregation. The Genesee Valley Lutheran Church celebrated its 110th anniversary on June 5, 1988.

(Information is from the program of that day and "A History of the Genesee Valley Lutheran Church," unpublished, by K. Lawrence Pell, May, 1969.)

St. Mary's Church

In the 1880s, perhaps a year or two before, there is evidence that the Jesuit Fathers, including famous missionary Father Cataldo, visited Genesee occasionally saying masses in the homes of the German and Irish pioneers. In 1887 a Lewiston priest, Rev. Alexander Diomedi, S.J. said a monthly mass at Genesee. He would have traveled on horseback or perhaps by buggy, and one assumes he probably remained overnight in the homes he visited. In 1888 Reverend Guidi, SJ came once a month. In 1889 Father Frances Hartlieb, returned from Germany, lived in Moscow and served the Genesee Catholics two Sundays a month. He was only one of two Secular Priests in the entire Idaho territory. In 1889 the Genesee Advertiser stated, "Catholics will hold services in the school house on Sunday, February 3, at which time efforts will be made to organize a church in Genesee."

The Advertiser also stated that Judge Buck deeded to the Catholic and Lutheran churches certain lots in the west addition for church and school sites. Judge Buck also donated the land for the present city park located below the school.

On June 29, 1889 the Advertiser states, "Work on the foundation of the Catholic church began last Friday."

The newspaper of April 25, 1890, stated that "there will be services at the Catholic church on Sunday." The building was completed, painted and the altar finished. The July 4 Advertiser tells us, "The second Sunday in July is the date set for the dedication of our Catholic church." Martin & Steltz were the contractors and the church was built with volunteer labor.

The first recorded baptisms were Albert John Lorang, October 1889, sponsors were John and Josephine Mertes; and Joseph Brocke, sponsors Adolphus and Catherine Grieser. Henry Boivin and Nellie Dolan were the first to be married in the parish, and Matthew Kambitsch and Miss Mary Kempf were the first couple married in the new church. Andreas Henry was the first person recorded as buried

". . . the Benedictines opened a school in the parish."

from the church.

In 1896 the Benedictines opened a school in the parish. The school served the parish until the 1970s.

In 1904 the first spiritual retreat made in common with the clergy of Idaho was held. The Genesee Advertiser of September 2 tells us, "The Retreat and Synod of the Catholic Clergy in this state took place at Genesee this week. . . The religious exercises, consisting chiefly of prayers and silent meditation on the eternal truths and duties of state, were conducted by the Reverend Father Cataldo.....A gathering of so many Catholic priests is a rare occurrence and that it should take place in our city, reflects no doubt great honor and credit upon the Catholic population in this section."

On April 11, 1911, the Charter for the Knights of Columbus Council #1554 was obtained. Thirty-four men were charter members, and the names of many of them reveal that their descendants are still among the Catholic families of Genesee.

Several pastors served through the years, including Father Carey, Father Veit, Father Kunkel, Father McBride, Father Cope, and

Father McGlinchey. Rev. Fr. John S. Harrington, SJ, was ordained at San Francisco and celebrated his first Solemn High Mass at St. Mary's on June 29, 1948. He was the son of a parish family.

Court Mother Cabrini #1778, Catholic Daughters of America, was organized in 1958. An Altar Society has been active for many years.

June 9, 1959, ground was broken for a new school. It was dedicated on May 3, 1960. It was staffed by Benedictine Nuns of Idaho. In 1960 Rev. Andrew Baumgartner, OSB, a resident of the local parish, was ordained to the priesthood on May 26.

Father Bartholomew McCarthy was appointed pastor in 1960. Tragedy struck in the next year. On September 30 St. Mary's Church was destroyed by fire. Some statuary was saved as well as the Nativity Scene figures. An end to an era had come.

Masses were held in the gym of the new school, and a building committee appointed. The original \$113,000 debt was retired in 1960, and it was now time to begin raising money for a new church. A committee of Andrew Zenner, Stanton Becker, Melvin Moser, John Kluss, James Busch and John Baldus put in many long and tedious hours working out the details of financing and construction.

The church was completed in 1965, a lovely edifice, and is a fitting tribute to Father McCarthy, who did much of the architectural design.

Father Robert Finucane is the present pastor. The school is used for classes, the bazaar and parish meetings, as well as dinners for the parish and for the community.

Many parishioners are descendants of the first Irish and German Catholics who settled the area 100 years ago, seeking opportunity and religious freedom.

A brief history of

The Genesee Union

This history is taken from a more complete version written and prepared by Robert Borgen, former member of the Board, and Mike Martinez, assistant manager and mayor of Genesee, with comments by Marie Scharnhorst.

In the early 1900's farmers began to develop marketing organizations in the United States. The National Grange, National Farmers' Union, and the Society of Equity were established to promote cooperative organizations. The farmers of the Genesee area decided to band together to market their produce.

On March 17, 1908 a group of area farmers were granted a charter by the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of America. Henceforth, the local organization was to be known as the GENESEE UNION NO. 4. On June 10, 1909 the GENESEE FARMERS UNION WAREHOUSE COMPANY, LIMITED, was organized. The original incorporation was for \$10,000. To become a member, farmers were required to purchase four \$25 shares with a limit of ten shares per person. They were assessed \$5 yearly dues. Of this, \$3.40 went to the National Farmers Education and Cooperative Union of America.

At the first board meeting the following people were elected to head the group: J. J. Herman, Fred Nagel, J. F. Willows, George Tegland, B. H. Schooler, Albert Carbuhn, W. J. Mervyn and H. C. Linehan. Joseph Knapps was hired as the first manager at a salary of \$70 a month. He served for 15 years, until July 8, 1924.

Warehouse is built

The first building was a 60,000 bushel sack warehouse on the west end of Genesee, built at a cost of \$3,828. In 1912 the building was enlarged and a separate office building and scale were built. In 1913 the first bulk crib elevator was built for \$9,560 with a capacity of 40,000 bushels. An annex built in 1918 held 60,000 bushels.

At a stockholders meeting on March 23, 1912 a proposal to build, at the east end of town, passed 35-5. Two acres of land was purchased from Mrs. Carrie Platt for \$800. The newly constructed sack warehouse had a

capacity of 117,000 bushels. In 1918 a 100,000 bushel four-tank wooden elevator with a separate scale house was constructed at the east end. Starting in 1926 and continuing until 1942, only concrete bins were erected. Construction alternated between the east and west end as demand warranted.

Frank Hoorman Named Manager

Joe Knapps resigned in 1924 and former bookkeeper Frank Hoorman became manager. Mr. Hoorman served as manager until 1947.

The year of the stock market crash, 1929, a 120,000 bushel concrete tank was built at the west end. In 1934 two more concrete tanks went in at the east end. By the 25th anniversary in 1934, the Union had grown to 660,000 bushel capacity.

Many different men served on the Board of Directors during this period of growth. The warehousemen were a hardy lot, also, and kept their jobs for years and years. Herman Bielenberg, who worked for thirty years, retired and went back part-time until his 70th birthday, recalls, "One winter it was 50 degrees below zero, and we couldn't do much. Not many farmers were hauling feed away during the cold snap. We huddled in the boiler room around the old steam heater, trying to get warm. We never closed down."

Genesee Union Reorganizes

In 1943 it was decided to change from a stock company to a true cooperative. The limitations and benefits offered by the Cooperative Marketing Act were accepted. The name was changed to the "Genesee Union Warehouse Co." and reorganized as a non-exempt cooperative on June 1, 1944.

After the resignation of Frank Hoorman in 1947, Forrest Durbin, bookkeeper since 1928, assumed the managership. He also served for 23 years until retirement in 1970.

Lloyd Esser and Wayne Roach teamed up to build the "Esser House" for the cooperative. This building was a first in our area. The steel weighed more than 48,000 pounds and 560 cubic yards of concrete went in the walls and floor. The cost of this building was \$62,000, or about 26-1/2 cents per bushel of storage. The pre-fabricated gable roof was supported on the side

walls with no center support (a real innovation 35 years ago!) In speaking with Lloyd Esser on Sunday, September 3, as he and his wife Flossie celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends, he said, "Now, that was a building---a big undertaking. It turned out well."

By 1959 on the 50th anniversary of the company, the warehouse storage had grown to 1,700,000 bushels. Elvon Hampton was president of the board; Rudolph Nordby, vice president; and Walter Erickson, secretary.

Fire Destroys Buildings

In 1962 tragedy struck! A fire, which lit the sky on a summer night as far away as Lewiston, destroyed the two wooden elevators that were built in 1918 and the old flathouse and seed cleaning plant built in 1952. Some 30,000 bushels of wheat and barley were lost, and the fire occurred during the peak of harvest. Farmers shut off their combines to lend a hand, and as others finished harvesting, they spent full time at the warehouse helping through the rough time. The company actually lost 203,000 bushels of storage in the fire.

The next year construction began on a concrete elevator erected on the same site. A new seed plant was also built. This added 395,000 bushels of storage.

In 1967 the Genesee Union Warehouse Co. merged with the Farmers Union Producers, a hardware/lumber/supply cooperative. Three years later Forrest Durbin retired and Bill Wood was hired as manager. Four managers in 80 years reveals the stability of the company and also says much for the stable economy of Genesee and the rich farmland that surrounds it.

All through the years, grain was shipped from Genesee by rail. When slackwater reached Lewiston, the end of the railroad began. Trucks and barges became a more economical way to ship grain. The warehouse's last rail shipment from Genesee was made on October 4, 1982, when three hoppers of small sieve Alaska peas were sent to Spokane. The railroad line has been torn up, and the ties and rails sold and hauled away. Sadly the railroad made Genesee,

and just 100 years after the first gandy dancers laid the rails, Burlington Northern dismantled the line. An alternative method of shipping is gone. Many might still question this so-called progress. But, the Genesee Union Warehouse Company survives and prospers. On November 8, 1989 members will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the cooperative at their annual membership meeting at the University Inn in Moscow.

The 1950s bring Asgrow

Associated Seed Growers (ASGROW) has operated a plant in Genesee since the early 1950s. The original company, started in 1856, was independently owned by the Clark family. In May 1968 the company was acquired by Upjohn.

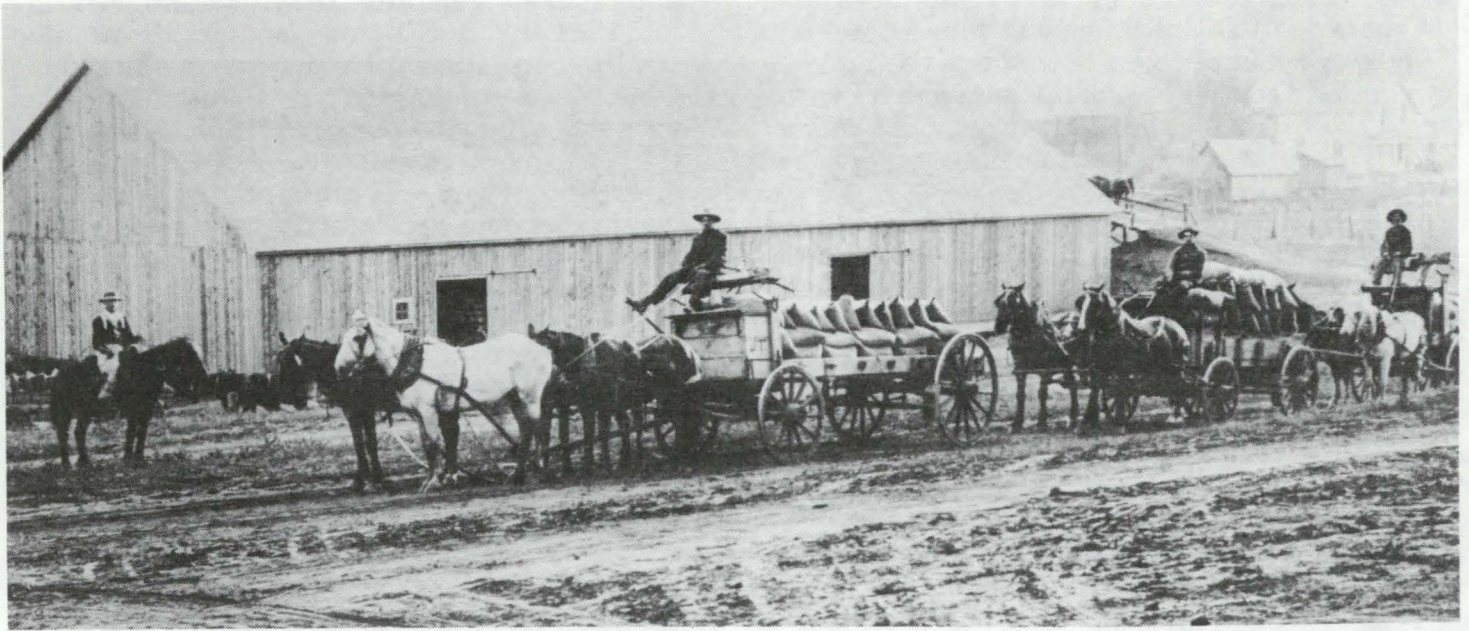
The Genesee plant is located on the site once occupied by a farmers' warehouse and the Schooler potato cellar.

Bob Hammond was the first plant manager, with Clark Barker managing the warehouse and "Buck" Hynes as field man. Other employees through the years have included Lawrence Hasfurther, Tom Boyd, Vern McCormack, Clarence Gilje, Alice Jain Spray, Janet Wishard, Hazel Fuller, Gladys Liberg, Carol Wedin, Bob and Jim Scharnhorst, Jerry Kasper, Kay Papineau, Flossy Esser, Jim Lyons and Terry Geltz. Serving as managers have been Hammond, Charlie Airhart, Leonard Singhose, Larry Slack and Mike Cullwell. Janet Wishard and "Buck" Hynes both worked until retirement.

ASGROW does its own research with research centers located in Twin Falls, Idaho. Early canning and freezing varieties of peas seed are grown by local farmers and processed for shipping worldwide. New varieties are developed, and many large canning companies purchase seed for their own growers.

The company has been an integral part of the Genesee economy for thirty-six years and from all indications will continue to be a viable part of the Genesee area.

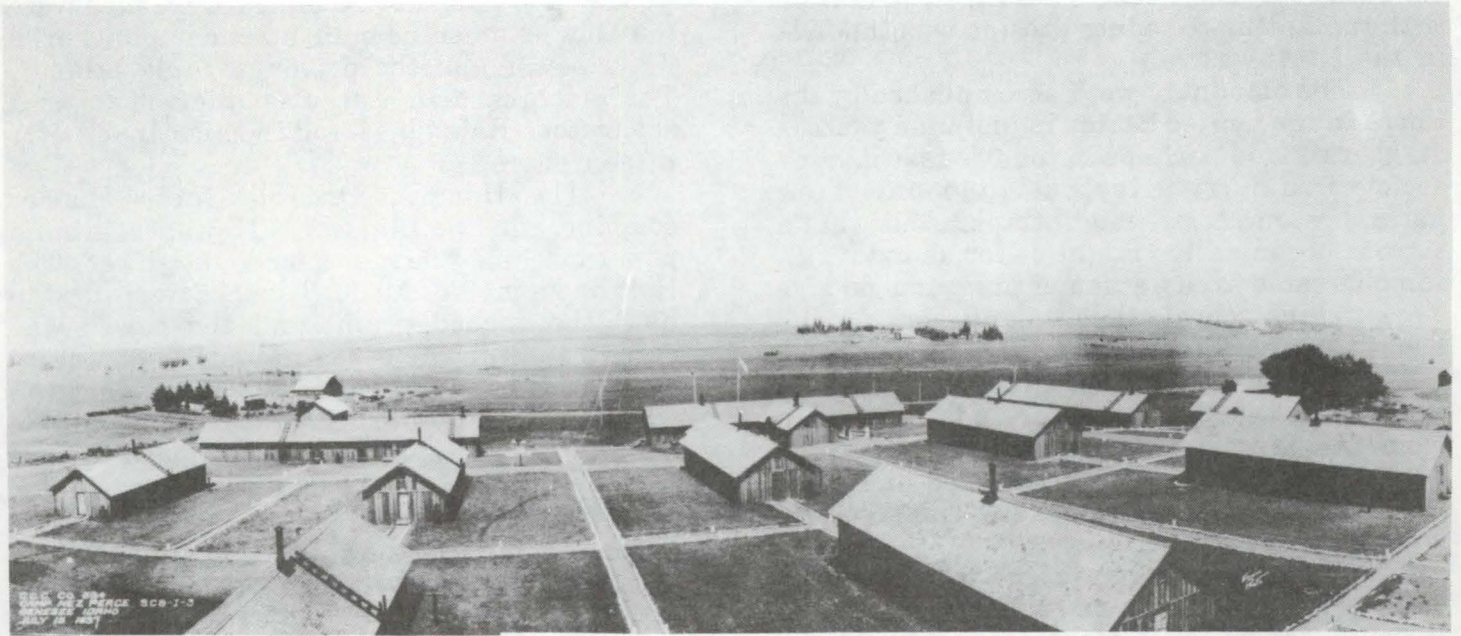
(Sources: Carol Wedin and Janet Wishard)



Here is the farmers warehouse built in 1909 on the site now occupied by ASGROW. The men are unidentified.



Are winters less severe than they used to be? This is a scene on Main Street in Genesee during the winter of 1912-13.



This is the Civilian Conservation Corps camp in 1937. It was on the Mervyn ranch southwest of Genesee.

Young men from all states came to **The CCC Camp**

The New Deal programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt change the life of every American from the time of his inauguration in 1933 to the present. One of the best of Roosevelt's programs was the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Established in March, 1933, it provided employment for millions of youth who were without work during the depression. The economic conditions of the 1930s hit young people especially hard. According to Stan Cohen, author of "The Tree Army, a Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942," thousands who came into the labor force every year had little chance for employment. At the same time, American's abundant resources were being ravaged by man and nature.

The CCC provided an opportunity to solve both problems. It functioned through the depression years and was disbanded June 30, 1942,

seven months after the United States entered World War II.

A camp was located just west of the William Mervyn home, between it and the now Ralph and Margaret Baumgartner place, south and west of Genesee. The camp was located on eight acres, donated by William Mervyn Sr. and it was built for 400 men. A well was dug and the buildings built by the Corps. Genesee benefitted by the well. The boys were well received in the town and some of them stayed on. Joe Kalafus served as a cook in the camp. Two men, a Callahan and a Stone, married local girls later. Jim Rabdau, now of Moscow, was a superintendent in the camp located outside of Moscow where the Chinese Village is now. He later became an Area Conservationist.

The men and boys in the camps were well disciplined and worked very hard. Their duties included straightening, changing and diverting water channels, planting trees, building boxes around springs, and building check dams. Many of the trees we see today on the hilltops and ridges were planted by the Corps. The trees planted were one of the most effective tools used to stabilize the ground to help pre-

vent erosion. Their successful experimentation with replanting to reduce erosion was the first in the Northwest.

The amount of work accomplished by the Corps in the United States in just nine years is staggering and perhaps in today's fast-moving society in a hurry to lay waste to many of our natural resources, we might think about what a similar organization might do for us today. In some forested areas, summer programs do give work to high school students and work for the benefit of the forests.

During the time the Genesee CCC camp functioned, the Mervyns received left-over food from the mess halls to feed the hogs they raised. The animals over-indulged and were often extremely fat for market. The men and boys were fed well!

When the mandate came to remove the camp, every stick of lumber was taken away. It could not be left for the Mervyn's use, by government order. The site was completely cleared up and many of the boys sent back to their homes and ultimately to serve in the Armed Forces, since the United States was in World War II. One would not realize now when driving past the site that over 400 men as members of the Civilian Conservation Corps called Genesee their home. Most of them came from other states and many have come back to visit through the years.

(Sources: "The Tree Army" by Stan Cohen, Joe Kalafus, William Mervyn, James Rabdau.)

Early Genesee farmers used **Mule Power**

The following account is from the memories of Raleigh Hampton, 87, now of Clarkston, Wash. Mr. Hampton came west in 1821, a young man joining his uncle Fred B. Hampton who had also come from the Hampton home town of Leicester, North Carolina. Fred and T. W. Driscoll formed a ranch/farming operation partnership in 1910. Hampton-Driscoll Ranch was widely known, and the two men were greatly respected in the community. That does not mean there were not many amusing stories which have been told and retold about the early days.

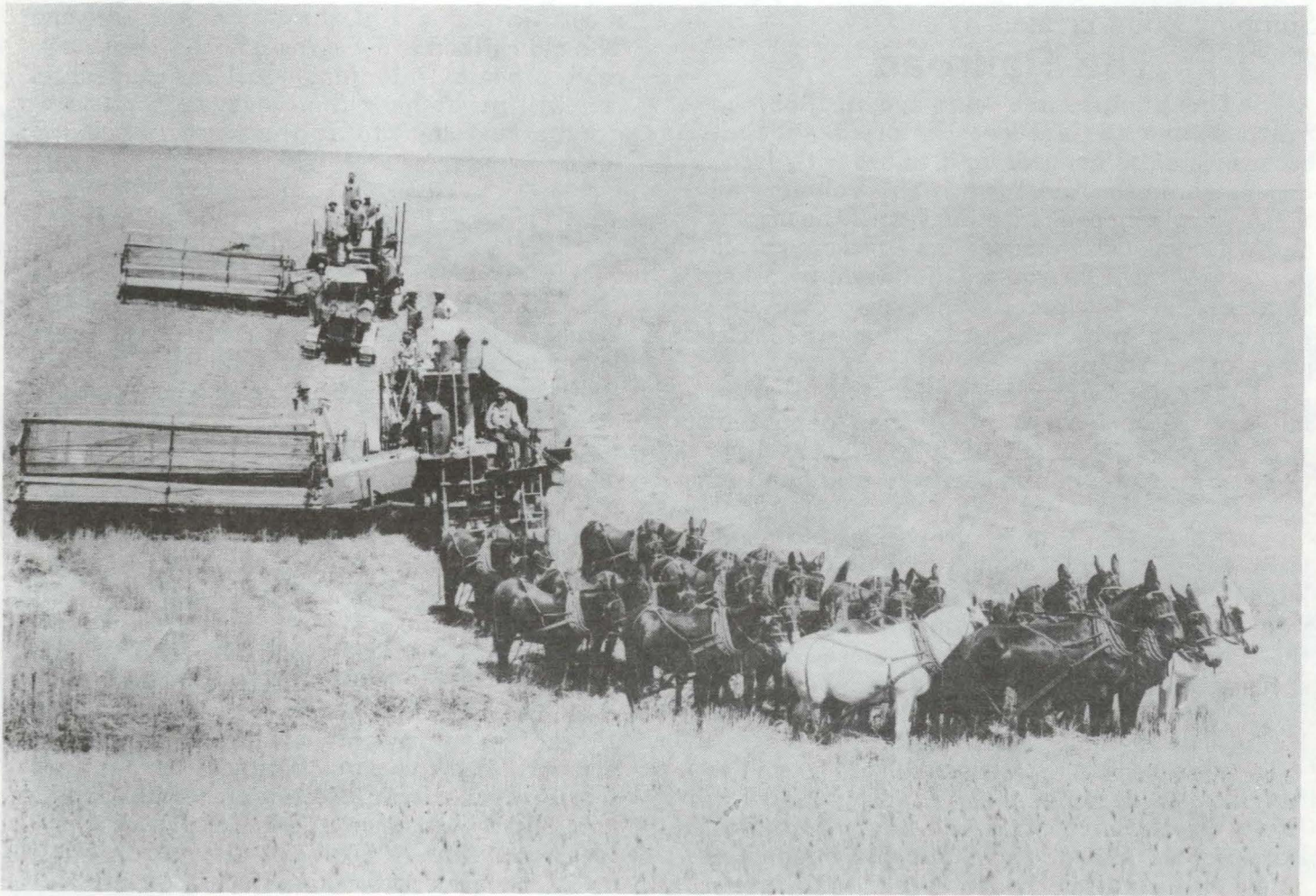
Hampton-Driscoll Ranch owned a Holt and a Haines-Hauser combine. The Holt was

wooden and pulled by 25 mules. Five men were the crew--a machine man, a header-puncher, a jig, a sewer and the driver or mule-skinner. The machine man was also referred to as a separator. Raleigh served in this capacity for fifteen years.

The Hampton-Driscoll Haines-Hauser combine was well-known. It was a ground power machine--the mules made the power. The Holt had a motor. Model T trucks were used to haul the sacked grain, and the sewer was careful to drop the sacks in a straight line so they could be found easily. In those days the wheat grew to shoulder height and the stubble was 20" high. Ray Edwards was hired to haul with his truck. "One year it rained very hard, like this season (1989)," Raleigh states. "The ground was so soft that it took 33 mules to pull the machine. When it rained, we would drag the three horse eveners out and put plows on and plow. When the weather cleared, we took it all back to the combine. The plows used seven mules, and the driver stood on a board behind with the reins. Life wasn't easy then."

Raleigh also relates the story of the lost mules. Mules will follow a mare, and one year the mare had 37 mules with her in the pastures. An early snowstorm caught them out on the "rim" on the present Bartle and Martha Weber place (then the Clearwater Herman place). The mules followed the mare over a cliff, and they perished. Raleigh and some of the men searched for days, and stories came back all winter that the mules had been seen in other places, but when spring came Willard Sampson found them. He came to the ranch and related the sad tale. It was soon after that that the ranch acquired its first tractor to pull the combines.

Hampton-Driscoll Ranch buildings included a small farmhouse, the mule barns, machine sheds, bunkhouse and granary. Ann Stucker was the cook with George Hampton, a cousin of Fred, as her helper and later chief cook. The meals were excellent. Some of the crew were Bob Holmes; Gene Wilson, now of Silcott; Pete Lande; John Johnson; Fred Hampton's sons Elvon and Wayne; and at one time two of Raleigh's brothers. Many times Fred would hire a man from town, as they waited for employment, sitting on the benches in front of one pool hall or another. Tarzan was one of these, Raleigh remembers.



Mules eventually were replaced by tractors. Here is the first tractor used on the Hampton-Driscoll ranch in 1923.

Later Wayne, Elvon and Raleigh farmed as partners on "Hampton Ranch." Both Wayne and Elvon served in the legislature; Wayne for one term and Elvon for several. He rose to be Speaker of the House and now lives in retirement in Genesee.

Mr. Driscoll passed away some years earlier. He was known for his generosity and was a true philanthropist. There have been many things written about his daughters, Dorothy and Edna, both belles of early Genesee society. Dorothy played the organ for St. Mary's Catholic Church for many years, and Edna, as well as Mr. Driscoll, gave generously to the church and Catholic charities.

A small goldfish pond was located by the

main road on the lane into Hampton Ranch. Mr. Driscoll supplied the Davenport Hotel in Spokane with goldfish for their lovely fountain for many years. In the winter the men cut ice from the pond, storing it in the ice house to keep meat and supplies cold during the summers. Much of the ice remained all summer, packed in sawdust. Other farmers cut ice from Hampton-Driscoll's pond also. In the spring and summer, it was a favorite picnic spot. The pond is now gone.

Mikilann and Mark Zenner have built a new home on the site of the old ranch buildings, and very little remains to remind one of the way things were during the mule days of Hampton-Driscoll Ranch.

Shipping point created by

The Railroad

One hundred one years ago, in 1888, the railroad came to Genesee. History has it that because of a conflict over land values with Jacob Rosenstein in the "old Town," John Vollmer had the railroad stopped one mile west of the original town. Rosenstein moved his store on wheels to the new location and was followed by other shop keepers. Thus the present town was incorporated in its present location. (See "History of North Idaho").

The gandy dancers laid 30,000 ties and miles of track. A large roundhouse, depot and yard were constructed and in a short time Genesee's population jumped to several hundred people.

Robert G. Bailey, in his book "River of No Return," wrote: "I rode the train from Spokane and it was a very uncomfortable trip. We went through a good old Palouse dust storm and the train windows had to remain closed, almost suffocating the passengers. The sand and dust fell in clouds inside the train. We went from Uniontown by buggy to Genesee."

Genesee had passenger service as well as freight. It became a large shipping point. Large quantities of fruit and hay, vegetables, hogs, cattle, sheep, and 1,500,000 bushels of wheat were shipped each week. Ten grain warehouses, and hay and a fruit warehouse stored the commodities until shipped. Later, farm machinery, cars, and trucks were hauled by rail as well as oil and fertilizer.

The railroad was a branch line of the Northern Pacific out of Pullman. The locals later dubbed it the "Genesee Bullet" and the noise of its whistle and the rumble of the shifting cars became part of our lives. Later on it came in on Tuesdays and Fridays and one really looked forward to it.

The end of the railroad was imminent when slackwater reached Lewiston several years ago. Trucks and barges became a more economical way to ship. Burlington Northern began dismantling the line in 1988, one hundred years after it was brought in. The Genesee Union warehouse had shipped its last railroad car on October 4, 1982.

Some think that Burlington Northern is making a mistake, and as Mayor Mike Martinez said, "The freedom of another method of shipping is lost." At any rate, the townspeople feel

a certain sadness at the loss of the railroad. The old railbed is overgrown with weeds as we celebrate our Centennial year. Our grandchildren will never hear the lonesome whistle we grew accustomed to as the train pulled into town.

'Old Genesee' had first

U.S. Post Office

The first post office located in "Old Genesee" was in the Rufus Beeman store, located near the old Erickson home. Mail came twice weekly from Lewiston. The second post office was in the Aaron Levy store. Levy was a Republican, but when Grover Cleveland was elected president, Jacob Rosenstein, a Democrat, received the appointment. The salary was determined by the number of stamps cancelled in the post office. Rosenstein moved his store to "New" Genesee. The location was supposedly on the south side of Walnut Street. This building burned. Later it was housed in a brick building on the north side in the same block. Rent was paid to Meta Herman for Nellie Dower of New York, the owner. In the late '40s or early '50s, the post office was moved to the former Dicus Drug Store which had been vacated by the American Legion Club. This is its location today (1989).

Names of postmasters, clerks, substitutes, rural carriers and substitute carriers have been compiled by Vivian Hickman and Verla Hall, and copies are available at the post office, First Security Bank, the Latah County Historical Society, from Mrs. Hickman or Marie Scharnhorst.

In the early days the postmaster's job was a political appointment, but this was discontinued in the '60s, and it is by Civil Service merit now. Postmasters in Genesee since its incorporation are: Mr. Owens; Dan Burr; Mae Burr; Arthur Potsch; Edith Mervyn Smylie to 1937; Harold "Cap" Haymond, 1937, until 1951; Vivian Olson Hickman (Mrs. John), acting postmaster until June 30, 1952; John W. Hickman, June 30, 1952, until December 27, 1964; Verla E. Hall, acting PM, December 29, 1964, postmaster June, 1966, until 1978; Ron Kasper, officer in charge, Moscow, until 1979 when Leslie Wilson, present postmaster, began her duties. Interestingly enough, a woman is not a "postmistress," she is a postmaster!



Irene Berger, shown above, worked as a printer's devil on the Genesee News. See story below.

Record of past provided by **The Genesee News**

Irene (Mulalley) Berger graduated from Genesee High School in 1922. Jobs were scarce, especially for women at that time, but Irene was hired by P. C. McCreary as "Mickie, the Printer's Devil."

She worked in The Genesee News office for \$1.00 per day. Her jobs included meeting the trains, busses, writing news stories, running the linotype and even the printing press.

Irene became the bride of Don Bressler, associated with the Farmers' Exchange Bank. After his death she married Robert Berger. She now resides in Lewiston, and her daughters are Mrs. Tom Boyd and Mrs. Mike Blair.

The McCreary's ran the paper until October 1928 when E. D. (Pete) and Ollie Pederson purchased it.

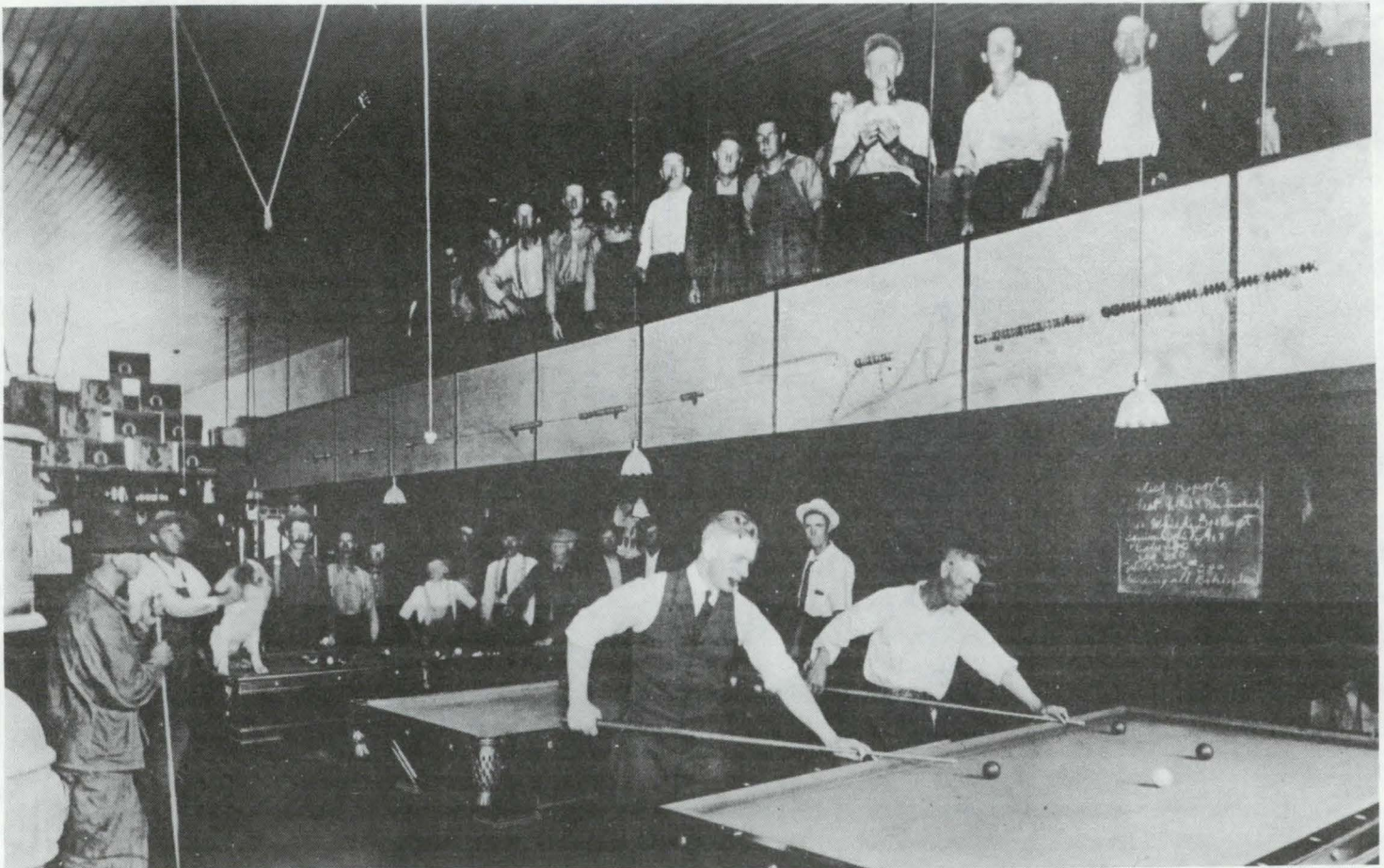
The Pedersons owned and operated The Genesee News from 1928 until June of 1954

when they sold it to Bill and Jane Roth. The Pedersons were very active members of the community, and the Genesee News issues have become veritable history. During World War II the servicemen and women wrote to The News and "Pete" and Ollie printed every letter. These have become invaluable records.

Copies of The Genesee News are available on microfiche at the University of Idaho, at the Idaho State Library in Boise, and at Genesee High School.

William Roth, Jr. operated the paper with the help of his mother, Jane, until he sold it in 1985. He purchased The Kendrick Gazette in 1968 and published the news of the two communities in one paper.

In July 1985 the paper went out of business, and now is making a slow recovery as The Whitman-Latah Republic. The Republic serves a larger area, but continues to be a newspaper for the smaller communities.



Pool was a popular "pastime" in The Pastime about 1920. Ray Edwards and Carl Osmusson (white shirt) are the two pool shooters performing for the spectators.

Also there were times for **Fun and Enjoyment**

During the 1930s and 1940s Genesee had a movie theatre in the space now occupied by the Brass Lantern. Verna Kalafus sold tickets, and her husband, Joe, ran the projector. Earlier Esther Wilson, daughter of veteran druggist Grant Clark and wife of druggist Frank Wilson, played the piano before performances. Genesee did boast an opera house in the earlier days, and many grand performances were seen there.

Genesee, of course, has had its share of pool halls. During the '40s it has been reported many gambling card games were played, "4-5-6" being the most famous. "Farms were lost and won on the card table," states one old sage. Many a fellow has come through rain, sleet and snow to get to the "office" and join his pals in a game of solo, cribbage or pinochle. The pool halls served food and have catered to hungry

after-game crowds for years. During the 1940s Bus Bennett placed a partition between front and back of the Corner, so that young people could go in the front for food and soft drinks. This still remains as a video shop. Meals are served in the back. Hall's Corner Bar is located in the original Alexander Building which also housed the Genesee Hotel, the Beehive Store, and a barbershop at one time. Proprietors of the bar have included Bus, Hi Reisenauer, Ed Maria, Gordon Charpentier, Bob Broemeling, Don and Betty Bennett, and presently Randy and Dee Hall. The Halls' restaurant--The Brass Lantern--is well known in the area for its excellent cuisine and atmosphere.

Another Genesee institution was Ronald "Stub" Geltz, proprietor of the Pastime for 30 years. Leasing the building from his uncle, Ray Edwards, "Stub" was known far and wide for his good hamburgers and droll sense of humor. He and his wife Jerry operated the Pastime from

1945 until 1975. Under new management the Pastime still serves a hungry and thirsty public, a clientele of early morning coffee drinkers and dispenses the "news."

Genesee mayors from 1923 were F. S. Casebolt; John Meyer, 1925-36; J. W. Emerson, 1941-47; H. E. (Bus) Bennett, 1947-49; Charles Schooler, 1949-53; George Anderson, 1953-54; Eli Rice, 1955-57; Wayne Roach, 1957-58; Dick Scharnhorst, 1958-74; Larry Sorenson, 1974-80; George Wilson, 1980-86 and presently Mike Martinez who was elected in 1986. It has had many police chiefs since Charlie Mauch and George Anderson, in fact 11 since 1970. Many people have served on the city council and its special committees and the various boards of the cemetery, highway districts, etc. Adrian Nelson was a longtime member of the Latah Highway District board and a civic leader all of his life.

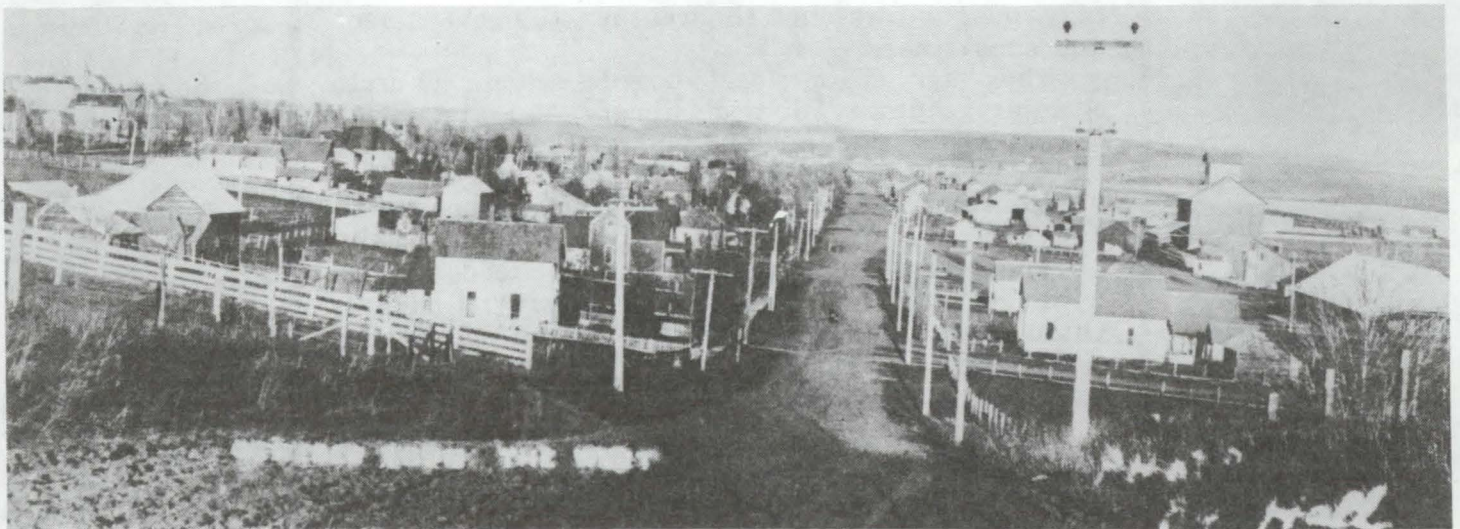
Through the years memorable events have occurred. Fred Comnick remembers the Cow Creek floods of 1910 and 1948, the paralyzing snow storms and sporting events. There have been devastating fires and some rain soaked harvests, but for my husband, Dick Scharnhorst, an event remains vivid in his memory. In 1951 under the coaching of Gary Hammond, a Genesee basketball team won the state tournament. When the news was phoned back to Genesee, Gunder Hammer (then proprietor of the Corner Bar) was so excited that he shot a gun in the air outside his establishment. The bullet went right through his neon sign, putting a hole in it. The local

paper ran a headline that said, "Gunder Thunders Sign Asunder."

Events and places

Remembered

The pioneers coming by wagon, on foot, on horseback, with oxen and by train; Newt Hollister; the Grand Army of the Republic; Old Town; the railroad; the livestock moving the stores on wheels; Genesee's incorporation; 1890s; the Welcome Home Arch for the Spanish American War Veterans; the Horse Show; the Chataquas; the Nez Perce Riders; the rodeo; Nate Edwards; the old time dances; the country schools; the "boarding" schoolmarms; Tim Driscoll; Dorothy and Mrs. Edna; the Chinese laundry; "the ladies of the night"; Kambitsch-Geiger Brewery; 5-cent beer; the wagons; the muddy streets; the mad wagon ride down Lewiston hill; Fred Hampton; John Meyer; Cecil Gray; barnstormer; Larrabee's store; the "flu" epidemic of 1918; the Commercial Cream Co.; Hermon's Hardware Store; the first telephones; the Armistice; Halloween pranks; the outhouse in front of Grant Clark's Drug Store; Louis Scharnhorst's strength and humor; sleeping on the desks at the old schoolhouse parties; radio; party lines; 2-F-4; the musicals in the opera house; the doctors; Father Veit; the beautiful Lutheran churches; the town teams; Mahlon and Ray; Walt's first school bus after consolidation; the early threshing crews; the mules; Gus; the



Looking to Genesee from the west before the streets were paved.

village blacksmith; the old gym; the hobo jungle; Pastor Bill Bash; Ed Adrian; the card games; the fights; the fires; tax tokens; rationing; Mirium Vandenberg; Alzina Hayden; the 4th of July; the Boy Scouts; Kenneth Dean; Thames Williamson, author; Bert Gamble, poet; Gus Gamble; Sampson's Barber Shop; Einar Husby; George's pickup; Selma's cooking; slot machines; the Legion Club; the Ground Observer Corps; the old theatre; Joe and Verna; the Masonic Hall; Harry's horseback ride; Jess and Raphael; the bank robbery; Lew, Ben and Don Jain; school additions; Wayne Roach; the firemen; the

all-night pig roast; the new bank; the bowling alley, men's and women's leagues; Stub's ice cream cones; Clay and Mary; Tom Wahl; the card players; the ball teams; the Pioneer Association; the Historical Club; the music of the Genesee Wranglers; the crab feeds; zoning; the passing of the railroad; fast cars; \$100,000 farm equipment; \$2,200 an acre land; the weather; the gossip; the good things; Santa Claus; Belle; the Ochs; the crops; C.B.'s; Mel Knight; Christian Endeavor; snowmobiles; hunting; fishing; jokes; community pride; the Centennial.....add your memories and tell someone else about them.

IN MEMORIAM

From the late 1930s and early 1940s until the present, many people have called Genesee and the surrounding area home. A great many of them have been laid to rest, but fond memories come to the fore in our conversations about the past and the recent past.

These people served the community in a multitude of ways. They were our doctors, dentists, pastors, priests, educators, coaches, bankers, barbers, draymen, builders, blacksmiths, grocers, cooks, and business people. They loaned money, and sold food, fuel, clothing, books, farm implements, cars trucks, and tractors.

They gave spiritual advice, treated the ill, cared for the dying, and comforted the bereaved. They helped each other and the rest of us in times of need. They cheered the local ballteams, supported school and town functions, and watched the weather, the government and each other.

They served on local boards--school, church, cemetery, highway, district, library, and city. Some were mayors, councilmen, and clerks. Some just enjoyed walking down Genesee's quiet streets. Many were our farmers and their wives--the backbone of an agricultural community.

They saw that the less fortunate had food, rejoiced with the happy and mourned the passing of friends. Often they were frustrated by government regulations, taxes, and health problems, but they gave something back to their community.

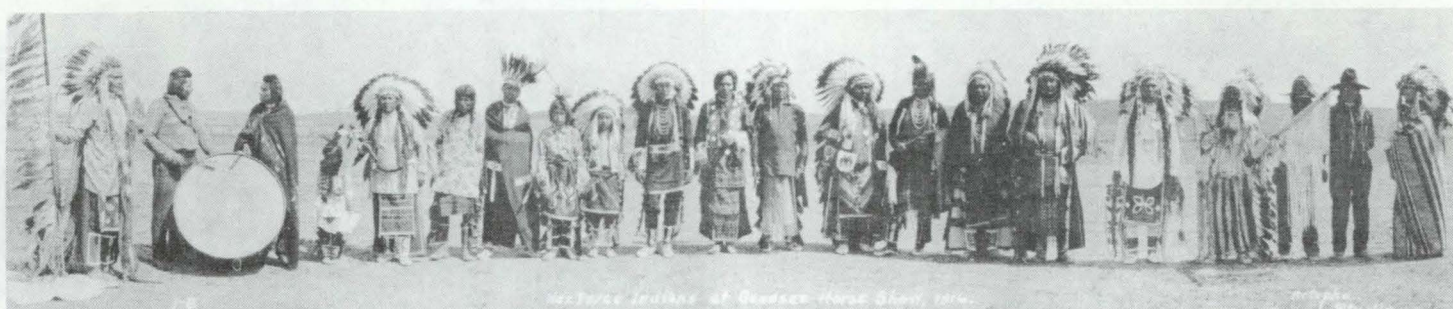
Each of us remembers certain special people and this writer wishes to pay tribute to their memory for their contribution to our lives and to their sharing at least part of Genesee's first century.



This shows what is thought to be one of Genesee's early automobile shows probably in the early 1920s. Dr. Conant owned the first automobile in town.



An old fire truck and Genesee's first motorized fire truck are shown above. The two men are Ed Vanouck and Lefty Ingle. One of the women is Marie Ingle.



These Nez Perce Indians participated in the Genesee Horse Show of 1916. They rode their ponies in the parade.

POSTSCRIPT

"While we read history, we make history."
George William Curtis

There are several local people with whom one may talk to learn more about Genesee's beginnings, the very interesting people who resided here and the events that molded the town. For the early history, those born just after Genesee's incorporation and Idaho's statehood share fabulous memories. They grew up before automobiles and tractors and they can remember when Orville and Wilbur Wright invented a machine that actually flew! It is mind-boggling to realize the inventions that have occurred during the lifetimes of even our octogenarians.

In compiling sidelights in the shaping of a small northwestern town, one finds that events are not only in the minds of those people born in the 1890s and in the early part of this century, but that memories of the 20s, the depression, the 30s, the 40s, 50s, and 60s are "history." In fact, what happened yesterday is history. It is so important for our children to develop a sense of the past, to see clearly that what happened in the "olden days," as they often say, has such a bearing on today. We always hope we can learn from the past to build for the future.

I wanted to list the names of resource people, but there are too many. I would be happy to offer suggestions of names to the student researching his or her hometown, to the serious historian or to anyone just interested in swapping stories. There are also folks who have moved away, but whose roots go deeply into the Genesee soil. Some of these have been named in the "acknowledgements" and others I would be glad to suggest.

Do not forget members of the Genesee Senior Citizens, members of the various church groups, fraternal organizations, school boards, educators, business people, members of service organizations such as firemen and the American Legion, farmers, and those in the medical profession. Many groups have scrapbooks and histories which they will loan.

Records from the city of Genesee, Latah County and the Nez Perce County Courthouse are good sources of deeds, maps, land values, etc. The Latah County Historical Society, the Moscow-Latah Library and its Genesee Branch have excellent historical sources, photos, tapes, books, pamphlets and the like. Information may be found in the three college libraries in the area and in their archives. Many families are compiling their own genealogies and histories, with information about the Genesee area in which they grew up.

Good luck. (MHS)

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- Cohen, Stan, "The Tree Army--A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps." Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., 1980.
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- Peltier, Jerome, "Felix Warren, Pioneer Stage Driver," Fairfield, Washington. Ye Galleon Press, 1988.
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- Stapilus, Randy, "Paradox Politics," Boise, Idaho. Ridenbaugh Press, 1988.

- Wicks, Grace Jain, "I Recall," Moscow, Idaho. News Review Publishing Co., 1987.
- Williamson, Thames Ross (1894-1983), born in Genesee, prolific novelist who wrote textbooks and best sellers under five known pseudonyms. See Beck, Richard J. above.

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- Aherin, Ireane and Linda Hampton, co-chairmen, Memorial Committee, "Genesee Community Church: A Partial History," 1984.
- Johann, Mrs. Ray, Mrs. Dale Becker, Mrs. Wayne Roach, compilers, "St. Mary's Diamond Jubilee and Dedication Booklet," 1945.
- Peterson, Verla and others, "Celebrating 100 Years, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church," Palouse, Washington. Precision Printing Co., 1989.
- Thompson, Jennifer Jeffries, "Centennial West," Helena, Montana. Montana Historical Society, 1989.

Family Histories

- "Aherin Family Tree," 1989. Clarence and Ruby; Kenneth and Ireane; Daniel; Don and Leona.
- Peratrovich, Evelyn, compiler, "Meyer, Claus Heinrich," 1988.
- Williams, Beuletta Nordby, compiler, "Rudolph and Mildred Luvaas Nordby," Book II, 1988.
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- Zenner, Peter, "Family History."

(NOTE: This author is anxious to receive information of any other family histories pertaining to Genesee families which are available.)

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- Latah Legacy, Fall 1983, Summer, 1986.
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LATAH COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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In 1968 interested individuals organized the Latah County Historical Society to collect and preserve materials connected with the history of Latah County and to provide further knowledge of the history and tradition of the area. Every person, young or old, who is interested in the history of Latah County and who would like to assist in its preservation and interpretation is cordially invited to become a member. Subscriptions to this journal and a discount on books published by the Society are included in membership dues. Dues for the various classes of membership are as follows:

	Member	Friend	Contributor	Sustainer	Sponsor	Patron
Individual	\$ 7.50-15	\$16-30	\$ 31-75	\$ 76-150	\$151-499	\$500 up
Family	12.50-25	26-50	51-100	101-250	251-499	500 up
Business	25-50	51-100	101-250	251-350	351-499	500 up

Note: For Canada and Mexico, add \$4; for Europe, add \$8.

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.