

LATAH LEGACY

THE JOURNAL OF THE LATAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 33

\$4.00

AUGUST 2004



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1947 Douglas fir Tussock Moth Outbreak in Northern Idaho

120th Anniversary of Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Jerome J. Day: Moscow's First Millionaire

The Blaine Schoolhouse: The Beat Goes On

The LATAH LEGACY is published semi-annually by the Latah County Historical Society, 327 East Second Street, Moscow, Idaho 83843.

Tel: 208/882-1004. Fax 208/882-0759. E-mail: lchsoffice@moscow.com

Website: <http://users.moscow.com/lchs>

Subscriptions are included in the annual membership dues.

Individual copies are \$4.00.

ISSN 0749-3282

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Edited by Julie R. Monroe and Duane Le Tourneau.

*Cover photos: Top: Spraying Douglas fir trees infested with tussock moth.
Bottom: Ground-looped Travelair at airstrip north of Laird Park.*

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1947 DOUGLAS FIR TUSSOCK MOTH OUTBREAK IN NORTHERN IDAHO: TARGET OF THE LARGEST AERIAL SPRAYING PROJECT IN WESTERN FORESTS

By Malcolm Furniss

Editor's Note: The author is Chairman of the History Committee of the Western Forest Insect Work Conference. This account is based mainly on the 1947 report by Evenden and Jost (see References).

On May 22, 1947, an armada of eleven assorted aircraft took aloft in northern Idaho like a swarm of hornets. Their mission: to control an outbreak of the Douglas-fir tussock moth that threatened to defoliate 400,000 acres of forest centered in Latah County. It was the largest aerial spraying project undertaken up to that time in western forests and its successful outcome led to still larger projects involving another defoliator, the western spruce budworm, in vast areas of the northwestern United States. This project also set a precedent for federal and state cost-sharing of forest insect control on private land.

The insect's name derives from the appearance of its caterpillar stage, which has tufts or tussocks of hairs protruding from its body. When contacted or inhaled, these hairs cause severe allergenic reaction in some people. But the insect's greater reputation is due to periodic outbreaks during which it defoliates Douglas fir and grand fir, two common tree species in northern Idaho forests. Curiously, although the insect's tree hosts occur extensively in western states, outbreaks have historically occurred mainly in particular locations as noted by Tunnock (1973). Latah County, including Moscow Mountain, is prominent among them. Several infestations have occurred there since 1947, the latest ending in 2002.

The tussock moth begins its life as a cluster of eggs laid by a wingless female moth on a hairy cocoon from which she emerged and had mated with a winged male. In May, the newly hatched caterpillars disperse on wind currents (necessitated by the female being wingless), hence defoliation is often more severe in the upper

tree crowns that more readily intercept the drifters. The caterpillars feed on new foliage as well as older needles of their evergreen hosts and during outbreaks can strip a tree bare in a single season. While doing so, they grow and molt, passing through four "instars" or larval stages, before plucking their hairs and cementing them into a loose cocoon. There, the caterpillar transforms to a resting stage (pupa) in mid-summer. The adult moths emerge soon thereafter to mate and lay eggs, which over-winter to begin the cycle anew.

Outbreaks typically last three years, collapsing in the third year mainly due to a nuclear polyhedrosis virus that is specific to them. The latent virus kills larvae when they are stressed due to factors associated with high population density such as diminished quantity or quality of food (for example, young larvae may consume available young needles forcing them to eat older needles that are less nutritious). Such virus-killed caterpillars putrefy and hang limp from branches. Their skin is easily ruptured by wind, thereby releasing their liquefied internal organs containing millions of virus particles that may be ingested by other larvae. Contributing to the toll are parasitic insects whose numbers respond in time to those of the tussock moth.

In 1947, the outbreak was entering its third year. However, there was a consensus among federal and state agencies and 1,500 affected private forest owners that before natural processes could end the episode a large number of trees might be killed. Thus, personnel of federal and state agencies set about planning aerial spraying of the infestation beginning with hatching of the eggs in May 1947. No precedent existed for such large scale spraying of western forests. However, a spray consisting of one pound of DDT in one gallon of oil per acre had been used against the gypsy moth in the eastern United States and was chosen for this project. Likewise, no contracts for such

flying had been issued. Twenty-seven invitations to bid were sent to flying firms. Five responded. Successful contractors were Johnson Flying Service, Missoula, MT and Central Aircraft, Inc., Yakima, WA. Johnson's aircraft consisted of a Douglas DC-3 and two vintage Ford Trimotors. (195 Ford Trimotors were built during 1926-1932. Admiral Bird flew over the South Pole in one in 1929. In 2003, 17 were known to exist, six of which were still being flown.) Central used a fleet of eight smaller, single-engine aircraft: Stearman biplanes and Stinson, Fairchild and Travelair monoplanes. The DC-3 flew at 140 mph, the Ford at 90 mph, and the others varied from 80-90 mph. The DC-3 carried 1,000 gallons, the Ford carried 400, and the others varied from 75 for the Stearman to 300 for the Fairchild.

Ownership of the area to be sprayed was as follows: federal, 15%; state, 13%; private, 72%. Under provision of Idaho Senate Bill No.118, enacted into law February 18, 1947, an agreement was signed on April 17 enabling the U.S. government to carry-out control on private land and established a formula for payment of control costs on different ownerships. The federal government paid cost on federal land; the state paid cost on state and county land. Cost on private land was shared by a ratio of federal: 50; Idaho: 25; private: 25. A total of 395,535 acres were sprayed at a cost of \$1.57 per acre.

Johnson Flying Service was assigned the southern part of the project, flying from the Moscow-Pullman Airport and from a temporary airstrip at Elk River. Central Aircraft worked the northern portion flying from three temporary airstrips: Princeton, adjacent to Highway 6 one mile north of the Laird Park junction, and at Tensed. The project was completed on July 2. In the course of spraying, three of Central's aircraft crashed. A Travelair ground-looped while landing at the Highway 6 strip and a Travelair and a Stearman crashed because of engine failure and "being caught in downdraft at the head of a canyon." The pilots were only slightly injured.

Checking crews reported virtually no caterpillars after spraying and it was concluded in the final report of the project by Evenden and Jost that over a billion board feet of trees was saved from "serious defoliation" in 1947. They went on to state, "It is believed that an additional 1.2 billion board feet immediately adjoining the sprayed area were also saved from defoliation which might have

occurred in 1948 had spraying in the infested area not been carried out." However, that seems overly speculative, judging from the history of outbreaks collapsing due to natural causes. Truth of the latter was also in the report: "...several infestations of tussock moth which developed outside the sprayed area (one near Orofino) in 1947 were wiped out by the combined action of virus disease and insect parasites in August (of 1947)."

What the consequences of not spraying in 1947 would have been is uncertain but some idea may be provided by a study of a later outbreak in the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon, which killed 39 percent of all trees in the heavily defoliated areas (Wickman et al. 1981). Top-kill amounted to 10 percent of the grand fir and 33 percent of the Douglas fir. Of course, the forests on Moscow Mountain and elsewhere within the 1947 control area contain varying proportions of "non-host" tree species such as ponderosa pine, western larch and western red cedar. The appearance of these forests after presumably many episodes of tussock moth outbreaks is that Nature has hedged her bets. Natural diversity of tree species, along with the resilience of susceptible species, has maintained a good forest cover. It is difficult to discern any long-term effect (depletion of Douglas fir and grand fir) due specifically to surges in the abundance of this native insect, which surely pre-dates the coming here of Man. That assurance is less evident, however, to forest owners during each onslaught.

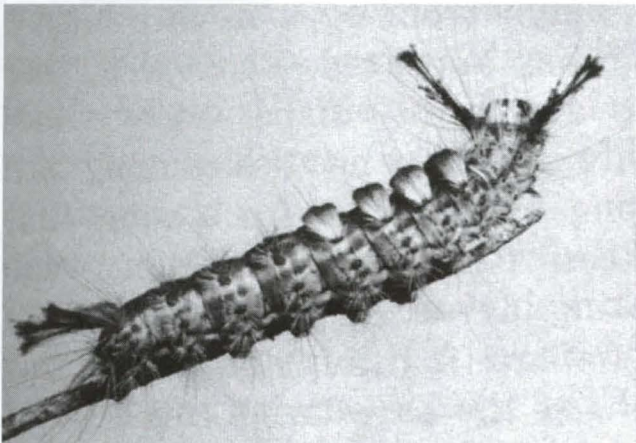
Looking back on the project, its importance went beyond its borders. Coincidentally, the western spruce budworm had begun to infest vast areas of forests in Oregon and Washington. The apparent success of the Idaho tussock moth control project was monitored by counterparts in Oregon who tested the spray successfully against the budworm in 1948. Thereafter, nine million acres were sprayed during 1949-1958, mostly in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho but also including Montana and the northern portion of Yellowstone National Park (Furniss and Renkin 2003). (A total of 62 tons of DDT was sprayed on 124,000 acres within Yellowstone in the years 1952, 1945, 1955, and 1957. Soon thereafter, Park management took a more enlightened course (Furniss and Renkin 2003). DDT was banned in the United States in 1972. The less persistent insecticide, Carbaryl, has replaced it in spraying of recent outbreaks.) Spraying of the budworm included one million

acres of the Boise National Forest and four surrounding national forests in 1955 – still the largest such project involving defoliators of Idaho forests.

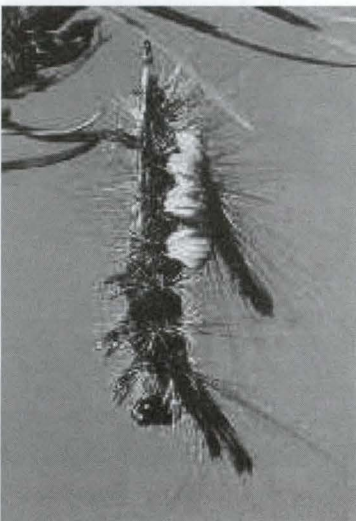
I was transferred to Idaho in that year and assigned as the entomologist in charge of the project. The wear and tear of working many days without let-up in order to coordinate and schedule the spraying of this far-flung, diverse area led me to comment afterward that the experience was like hitting yourself on the head with a hammer – it felt so good when it stopped. Thereafter, my career was directed toward research!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The manuscript was reviewed by Sandra Kegley, U.S. Forest Service, Coeur d'Alene. Photos except as noted were taken by P.C. Johnson (deceased) and are from the archives of the Western Forest Insect Work Conference.



Tussock moth caterpillars are so-named for the protruding tufts of hair on their bodies. Feeding on foliage may kill Douglas fir and grand fir during outbreaks, such as in Latah County during 1947. From USDA Forest Service Misc. Publ. 1339 (1977).



Left to their natural course, outbreaks of the tussock moth are usually terminated in their third year by a latent virus when caterpillars are stressed by factors associated with high population density. Infected caterpillars die and hang down; their liquid content of virus is easily spread to surrounding foliage when wind ruptures their bodies. From Wickman, Mason and Trostle 1981.

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Philip C. Johnson, a member of Evenden's staff at the Coeur d'Alene Forest Insect Lab, took most of the photos in this article.



Forest Entomologist James C. Evenden was in charge of the entomological aspects of the 1947 project.



Aerial view of landing strip north of Laird Park along Highway 6.



Ford Trimotor spraying DDT on forest infested with tussock moth, 1947.



DC-3 spraying Douglas fir trees infested with tussock moth.



Bert Zimmerly's Travelair being serviced at Princeton airstrip.



Constructing a landing field in pasture two miles north of Laird Park.



Loading DDT spray into a tank truck from a railroad tank car in Moscow for transportation to airstrips.



Johnson Flying Service personnel beside DC-3 at Moscow-Pullman Airport, June 1947. Left to right: Warren Ellison, pilot; Walter Mathies, mechanic; Ross Zeller, co-pilot; Jack Hughes, pilot; Robert Johnson, owner and contractor; Art Templeton, mechanic.



Central Aircraft bi-planes lined up for loading with spray.



Johnson Flying Service Ford Trimotor, "Tin Goose," manufactured during 1926-1932.



Left to right: Stanton Ready, State Forester; Ed Ring, Assistant State Forester; Thomas Crossley; and Henry Jones examining spray boom on a Ford Trimotor.



Zimmerly's Travelair 600-B wrecked near Harvard.



Wreckage of Jim Larkin's Stearman.



Ground-looped Travelair at airstrip north of Laird Park.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

By Larry Lass

Editor's Note: Larry Lass is a Research Support Scientist in the University of Idaho Department of Plant, Soils, and Entomological Sciences. His Ph.D. is in plant sciences with emphasis in weed science. He has been active in Emmanuel Lutheran Church for many years and has been especially active with preserving and renovating Cordelia Lutheran Church, where he and his wife were married.

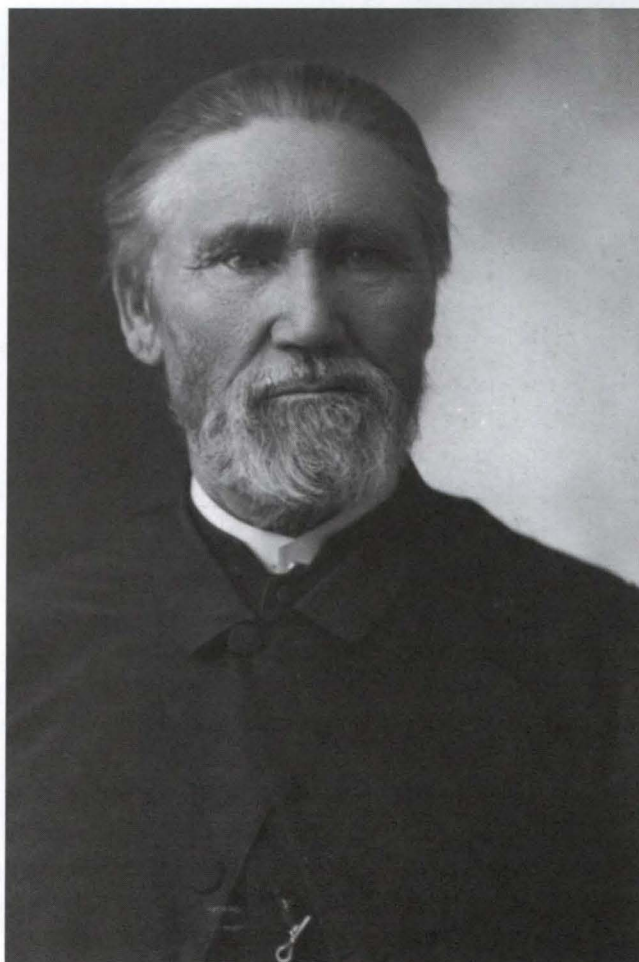
Historically, Emmanuel Lutheran Church has its roots in two Latah County church communities that merged in 1961. Our long history dates back to 1884 for the Swedish community and 1902 for the Norwegian community.

SWEDISH EVANGELICAL ZION CHURCH

The seeds of the Swedish Lutheran Church were first sown on Christmas Day in 1883 as large flakes floated down, blocking roads and hiding mountains. The Olof Olson and A. P. Magnusson families, who had gathered at Gustaf Johnson's home, were greatly disappointed because they were expecting Pastor Peter Carlson for dinner. Pastor Carlson, who was expected to recite the familiar Christmas story, was traveling from the settlement of Lenville, a few miles east of Moscow, where he lived with his sons. He had just dedicated the new Cordelia Church on December 7, 1883. The snow piled high, and dinner was served without the expected guest. But late in the afternoon, a sleigh pulled up to the door. Pastor Carlson had come! So, begins the story of Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

In the spring of 1884, Moscow was growing as other Swedish families moved from Minnesota, notably, the Allen (Erland) Ramstedt family from the Vista Congregation near Waseca, Minnesota. The Ramstedts were active in the formation of a group of worshipers. John, son of Erland, was confirmed on July 27, 1884, in Moscow, even though his formal training had occurred when his family lived in Minnesota. His is reported to have been the first Lutheran confirmation in the Idaho territory. Another son, Carl, would later become the pastor in Moscow.

In the fall of 1884, Carlson held a series of Sunday worship meetings. Although the group was small, there was growing sentiment to form a regular organization. Pastor Carlson called the organizational meeting on October 12; the first church record reads: "Protocol of transaction at a legally announced meeting with the Swedes in the town of Moscow, Idaho Territory, on the 12th day of October, 1884, in the act and meaning of organizing a Swedish Evangelical Lutheran congregation." The meeting opened with a Bible reading and a prayer led by Pastor Carlson and then his remarks; his text was Matthew 13:31-32.



Peter Carlson. This photograph was taken in commemoration of Carlson's 76th birthday on December 7, 1898, by a studio in Omaha, Nebraska. The original is held by the relatives of Victoria Olsen, Moscow, Idaho.

Pastor Carlson was elected Temporary Chairman and Olof Olson Secretary for one year. The question of organizing a Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation was placed before those assembled (13 adults). Those families present that agreed to organize were Gustaf Johnson, Allen Ramstedt, P.J. Sundell, Olof Olson, John O. Olson, Widow Berta Olson, and Mrs. Lessa Karin Magnusson. The official name of the first church was the Swedish Evangelical Zion Congregation in Moscow, Idaho Territory.

The Swedish Lutheran community would ultimately build two churches before the 1961 merger with the Norwegian Lutheran community, but the first one had a slow start. After the October 12, 1884, organizational meeting, members met regularly for song and prayer with periodic visits from Pastor Carlson who assisted with the founding of Lutheran churches throughout the Inland Northwest. Carlson took a bold step to establish a church building in Moscow by borrowing \$200.00 to purchase a lot on the corner of Second and Van Buren streets from William J. McConnell, Moscow businessman and later governor of Idaho.

The small congregation met on January 5, 1885, while Carlson was absent, to consider purchasing the lot from the pastor. The price was fair, given the location, which was looked on, at the time, as a mixed blessing. The town was expanding eastward, and few members lived near the property. The official record shows they deliberated and decided, "It appears agreed that we are too few and too poor at this time to do anything about the lot."

The second attempt to purchase the lot was made on October 22, 1885, with new optimism because the membership had grown. The group purchased the lot from Carlson and resolved to incorporate under the laws of the Idaho Territory. The following June, in 1886, Pastor Carlson was called by Cordelia Lutheran and First Lutheran (officially Swedish Evangelical Zion Congregation) to be both congregation's permanent pastor. For serving both churches, he would receive \$6.00 per male and \$4.00 per female member per year.

The church then grew at an amazing rate. Hula Johnson, daughter of founding member Gustaf Johnson, would later write, "...there was not room in any of the homes for services, so we were in the Presbyterian church and then in the Methodist

church ...". In the fall of 1886, the congregation started to raise funds to construct a church. Construction started in 1887, and after three years of volunteer labor, was completed in 1890. It was a simple frame building measuring 28 by 40 feet with a tower on the southeast corner. The total cost of construction was about \$1,500.00 and all but \$350.00 had been raised by the members.

The formal dedication ceremony for the First Lutheran Church was on February 16, 1890. Pastor J.W. Skans of Portland officiated with the assistance of Pastors Peter Carlson and G.A. Anderson. Also present were two theological students, Carl A. Ramstedt and S. G. Youngert. Carl, son of founding member Erland (Allen) Ramstedt, returned as their pastor in 1892. The congregation grew rapidly with a suitable building in which to worship.

In 1897, the church received the gift of electricity from the youth of Moscow. The Young People's Society met at the church one evening a week and was required to contribute wood and coal for heat, and kerosene for lighting. This literary society conducted debates on many subjects, made crafts to raise money for missions, and produced a handwritten newspaper.

By 1900, First Lutheran had over 250 members, and growing pains were evident since the building started by Pastor Carlson in 1887 was still in use. At the time, First was the largest church in the Columbia Conference. Members of the Building Committee were G. E. Anderson, F. M. Gustafson, C. B. Green, G. Johnson, J. T. Johnson, N. A. Nelson, P. Nelson, and Pastor N. J. W. Nelson. Gustaf Johnson, a member of the building committee, reports that the old church was sold and moved to the southeast corner of Third and Howard. History does not record how the church was moved.

Work on the new church started in 1905 and was completed in 1906. The new building was four times the size of the old church. A bell tower was located in the southeast corner. Interestingly, the bell tower never had a bell. The new church cost over \$5,000.00 to construct, and there were 288 members. The church dedication on March 11, 1906, during the Columbia Conference, was conducted by the Conference President Martin L. Larson and other pastors at the conference.

In 1945, Mrs. Frances Olson Gram, whose father, Andrew Olson, donated the land for

Cordelia Lutheran, gave a baptismal font to the church in memory of her parents. The church structure remained unchanged until new windows were installed in 1947. The Ladies Aid Society furnished new electric light fixtures, and new front doors were installed in 1948.

After the merger with Our Savior's Lutheran, the Norwegian church, in 1961, services rotated between churches until May 13, 1962. The building was sold in 1964 to the Senior Citizens Club. The club used the church as a social club where pinochle, shuffleboard, and other games were played. The group made major modifications to the building to try to "de-Lutheranize" it. They replaced the stained glass windows, removed pews and furnishings, and added a shuffleboard court. Depending on whom you talk to, the bell tower either fell off and what remained was taken down or it was taken down during the remodeling process. Bill Anderson recalls that it was deemed unsafe by church elders during his youth and had been condemned for a while before the tower fell and/or was taken down. Regardless of what they did to the building, it still looked like a former Swedish church.

The Unitarian Church of the Palouse purchased the building in 1985. After considerable renovation and lots of work, the Unitarian Church was dedicated on October 17, 1985, almost 100 years after the First Lutheran Congregation agreed to purchase the land to build a church.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, THE NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

When writing history, you work with the material at hand and often much is missing. It would appear the Norwegian members were either having too much fun to record a history or wanted to forget the past. The 50th Anniversary book for the Norwegian community reports the following:

"The Congregation was organized by the Reverend Iver Andreassen who was living near the present site of Deary. He was followed by Pastor Carl J. Olsen, of Genesee Valley, who helped out until the first resident Pastor, Reverend Christian S. Thompson, came to Moscow. The lay organizers of the Congregation were Andrew Andreassen, John Bue, Tobiasen, Sather, Burke, and H.P. Egan Families."

The anniversary history had little text on history but lots of pictures of the congregation in 1952,

including Fritz and Dale Flomer, Grace Lyon, Helen Olson and Clarence Johnson with his accordion. Much of Our Savior's history was recorded indirectly when the Our Savior's Ladies Aid Society wrote their history in 1942. Officially Our Savior's Lutheran celebrated its organization date as November 15 or 16, 1902, under the name of the "Norwegian Lutheran Church."

The roots of the organization start in 1901 and may go back to a country church in Genesee organized in 1878. Our Savior's would share 13 pastors with this country church. In 1901, Reverend Iver Andreassen started to visit a small group of Lutherans of Norwegian extraction in Moscow. Historical records written in 1942 indicate Pastor Carl Olson started to come on alternating Sundays from Trinity Lutheran Church near Genesee in 1902. The congregation worshiped in the Adventist Church on the corner of Third and Almon Street in Moscow.

The history of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Moscow would not be complete without writing about lutefisk and smorgasbord dinners. The Ladies Aid Society of the Norwegian Church started this tradition in January 1903. The first dinner was held at John Bue's house where about



Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Norwegian), c. 1960. Original photograph was found in the safe of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in February 1995.



Postcard of Zion Lutheran Church, c. 1915. Original photograph was found in the safe of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in February 1995.

sixty people were served before many more were turned away.

In addition to lutefisk, the meal consisted of many Norwegian food favorites. All this for just 35 cents a plate. The dinner became a yearly event, and large crowds came to eat good food. It was common to hold the Lutefisk dinner in December or January and a Smorgasbord dinner the following month. In 1950, the cost of the dinner had risen to \$1.50 for adults and \$.75 for children. Funds raised by the dinners supported mission work and purchased needed items for the church. The use of the dinners as a fundraiser declined after the 1961 merger with the Swedish Lutheran community, and the last one was held in 1969.

The Norwegian founding group purchased the lot on which the present Methodist Church is built (Third and Adams) in 1902 and planned to construct a church there in 1905. The Methodists wanted the lot for an expanded church, so the two groups got together and traded. In 1904, the Norwegians took possession of the lot and 17-year-old church building located at 223 East Sixth Street. The church was established as the Norwegian Lutheran Church, but after the First

World War, the name was changed to Our Savior's Lutheran when most Norwegian Lutherans merged into a single synod in 1917.

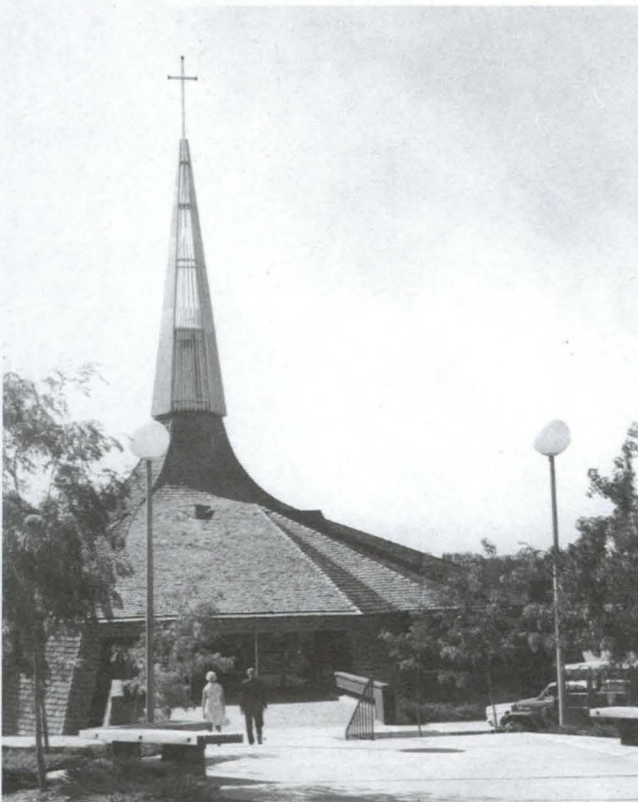
The name, Our Saviors Lutheran or in Norwegian, *Vor Frelzers Menighet*, was not new to the Palouse. Norwegian settlers in the Thorn Creek area near Genesee organized the First Lutheran church in 1878, calling it Our Savior's. In 1884, the church divided over a theological debate on salvation – did man have a cooperating role or no role in it. It would take 33 years before Our Savior's and Trinity of Genesee would reunite in 1917 to create the Genesee Valley Lutheran Church. The name used by the Norwegian church in Moscow may have come from Pastor Grimsrud who served the two churches being merged in Genesee and the Norwegian church of Moscow from 1912 to 1918. Or it could have been suggested by a former member of the Genesee church.

In 1948, the church was enlarged to provide individual Sunday School rooms, a new kitchen, office, and sanctuary, all of which enlarged the church auditorium and social room. The addition cost \$25,000, including a new organ. Over 400

attended the dedication of the new addition and organ. In 1954, new maple pews with beige plastic cushions were added. The old pews must have been in bad shape and very hard, or the sermon was exceptional because the church elders proudly reported the funds were raised to replace them on a single October day.

In 1957-58, the church built a new parsonage for Pastor Lokken at 1021 East Fifth Street in Moscow. The old parish house just to the east of the church was converted to Sunday school classrooms in May of 1958.

In 1961, the Swedish Lutheran community, First Lutheran and Our Savior's, merged and agreed to construct a new facility that would hold both congregations and allow expansion. The members of what would become Emmanuel Lutheran Church evaluated both churches and facilities. They chose to sell First Lutheran on May 13, 1962. Services were held in Our Savior's until Easter Sunday, April 14, 1968, when Emmanuel started to use the present facilities at 1036 West A Street. The new church was dedicated on May 19, 1968. Our Savior's building and parish house were sold to Grace Baptist Church shortly after the dedication of the new church.



Emmanuel Lutheran, c. 1968. (Courtesy of LCHS.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I would like to thank Bill Anderson and Crystal Lokken for additional background information.

PASTORS

First Lutheran

Peter Carlson, 1884-1892
 Carl A. Ramstedt, 1892-1894
 Carl J. Beckman, 1894-1900
 Nels J. W. Nelson, 1900-1909
 George A. Johnson, 1909-1917
 John Oslund, 1917-1920
 Anders Andre, 1920-1923
 Roger P. Oliver, 1926-1934
 Reuben E. Norling, 1935-1940
 A. P. Westberg, 1940-1943
 John Billdt, 1943-1945
 Neale E. Nelson, 1945-1949
 Harry Allen, 1949-1952
 Emil Gustafson, 1952-1955
 Phill Engstrom, 1955-1957
 Leonard S. Nelson, 1957-1961

Our Savior's Lutheran

Iver Andreassen, 1901-1902
 C. Olsen, 1902-1904
 C. S. Thompson, 1904-1907
 T. E. Sweger, 1907-1912
 C. M. Grimsrud, 1912-1918
 F. I. Schmidt, 1918-1921
 Joseph Lee, 1921-(?)
 G. A. Peterson, 1923-1926
 E. M. Hegge, 1927-1931
 A. L. Swenson, 1931-1938
 S. F. Veldey, 1938-1946
 Harold T. Masted, 1947-1953
 Sigurd T. Lokken, 1953-1958
 Harry S. Babington, 1959-1961

Merged churches

H. S. Babington, 1961-1965
 D. H. Lee, 1962-1965
 Martin Larsen, 1965-1975
 Curtis Fox, 1969-1971
 Marlow Engberg, 1975-1979
 Mikkel Thompson, 1978-1980
 Paul Braafladt, 1979-1981
 Gordon Braun, 1981-1995
 Eric Ranum, 1987-1989
 Gregory Gullicksrud, 1991-1993
 David W. Bates, 1994-1995
 John Blom, 1995-1996
 Tim Solberg, 1996
 Dean Stewart, 1996-
 Dawna Svaren, 1998-

JEROME J. DAY: MOSCOW'S FIRST MILLIONAIRE

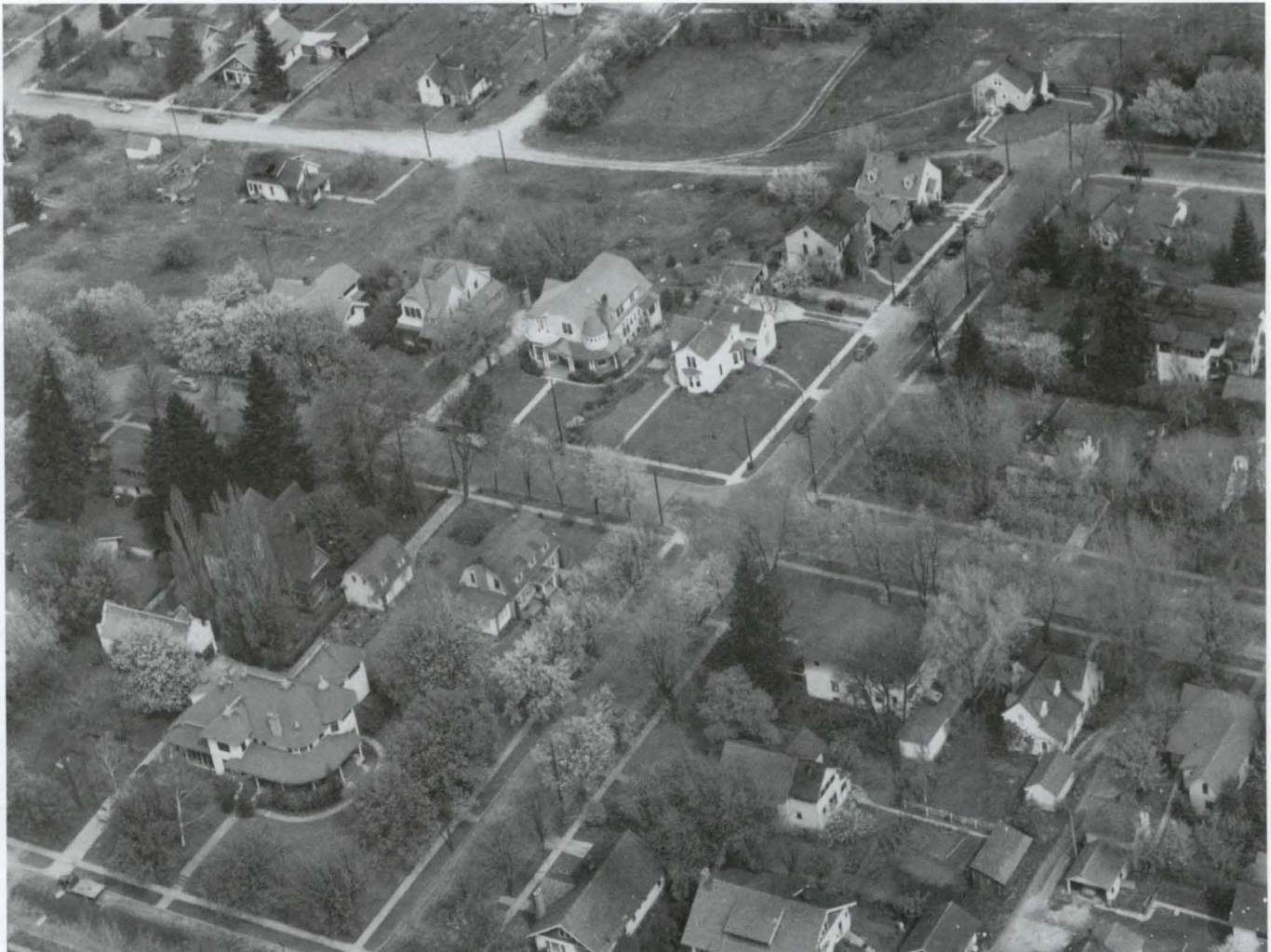
By Julie R. Monroe

A century ago, Jerome J. Day built a magnificent home in Moscow's prestigious Fort Russell neighborhood – magnificent by the standards of a frontier community like Moscow, but hardly palatial, as might have been expected from one of the wealthiest men in the western United States. Perhaps Day's architectural humility reveals his humble origins. No silver spoon was found in the mouth of Jerome J. Day when he was born, but silver certainly would shape his future and that of the other members of the Day family.

Jerome James Day was born on December 26, 1876, at Truckee, California; he was the fourth son and fifth child of Henry Loren and Ellen Powers

Day. The other Day children were Harry Loren, Eleanor Berniece, Frederick Vincent who died shortly after his seventh birthday; Eugene Rufus, Jerome James, and Blanche Eloise.

When Jerome (nicknamed 'Josie' or 'Romie') was nine-years-old, the Day family moved from California to Wardner, Idaho, in the heart of the Coeur d'Alene mining district, where his father operated first a dairy and then a general merchandise store. As a youth, Jerome helped his father, who was known throughout the Coeur d'Alenes as Pa Day, in the family business but left Wardner in 1895 to attend Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.



The Day Mansion, one of Moscow's architectural landmarks, is the residence situated in the lower left portion of this photo, which was taken by Ted Cowin in the late 1940s or early 1950s. The residence is located at 430 East A Street.



That's Jerome on the very back of the mule, facing the opposite direction of the other children sitting atop the animal that discovered the Bunker Hill mine (according to the legend on the photo), c. early 1880s. Photo courtesy of UI Historical Collection, University of Idaho Library, ID# 8-B156.

Jerome stayed at Gonzaga until 1897 when he traded the ivory towers of academia for the timbered tunnels of the Hercules mine. In 1889, Jerome's brother Harry and his partner Fred Harper had discovered an outcropping of silver ore on a ridge near Burke, Idaho, which they staked as two claims, the "Hercules" and the "Firefly." But it took a dozen years of hard labor before these two claims, which came to be known as the Hercules mine, paid off. According to John Fahey in *The Days of the Hercules*, it was Jerome, in fact, who "timbered and helped lay out and block the sill," to the prospect tunnel leading to the Hercules, one of the richest silver and lead veins in the world.

The first shipment of ore from the Hercules left on October 1, 1901, and in early 1902, the company paid its first dividend: \$8,000. According to Stark, in three years, the mine "paid 101 dividends, 36 regular and 65 extra, of \$8000 each and, on August 10, 1906, Harry Day wrote to Al Hutton [a partner]: 'Please be advised that including dividends herewith the Hercules will have disbursed dividends aggregating \$2,026,300 since January 1, 1901.'"

The Hercules was, for the most part, owned and operated by the Day family, unlike most mines in the district, which were owned by "wealthy absentee investors who promoted their companies among friends of similar social and economic standing," as John Fahey puts it in *The Days of the Hercules*. Between 1901 and 1925, the Hercules mine produced nearly 3,500,000 tons of

ore; in the historic production of the district, from 1885 to the mid-1950s, it was the seventh leading producer of silver and the fourth of lead.

Between 1897, when he left Gonzaga, and 1901, when he encountered Gus Paulsen, Jerome did not spend all of his time working the Hercules. In 1898, he came to Moscow to train as a cadet at the University of Idaho in preparation for service in the Spanish American War. Fortunately, the war ended before he was called into active duty, and it was at this time that Jerome met his future wife, Lucy Mary Mix. One day, Jerome and a few of his fellow cadets went horseback riding at the farm of Mary's father. According to Fahey in *The Days of the Hercules*, "Jerome incautiously selected [Mary's] prize horse as his mount, and was upbraided on his return by the indignant miss who ordered him to rub down and cool the animal before returning it to a stall."

From this inauspicious start, a friendship blossomed. Following his discharge from the service and after returning to Wardner, Jerome and Lucy continued their courtship via correspondence. In Wardner, according to Fahey in *The Days of the Hercules*, "Jerome worked as a laborer in various mines, took his turn at driving the Hercules No. 2 level, joined the Western Federation of Miners and, there is a distinct likelihood, was present when the union dynamited the Bunker Hill mill in April, 1899."

Fahey goes on to explain that Jerome's "outlook" underwent a dramatic change when a second level of vein was struck in the Hercules. He writes, "For a few weeks during the excitement over the find, Jerome could hardly be dragged from the Hercules. He and Harry guarded it with rifles, fearful of claim jumpers...As soon as he was sure the Hercules was rich and safe from trespass," Jerome returned to Moscow and proposed to Lucy who he affectionately called "Sooky." On January 21, 1902, Jerome and Lucy were married at her father's home.

The couple set up their first household in Burke where Jerome worked the Hercules. Later that year, however, Jerome and Lucy returned to Moscow so that Jerome could attend the University of Idaho to be trained as an assayer. The return to Moscow pleased Lucy who, according to Fahey, drew the "Jerome Days into the town's society."

Fahey adds that in 1902, "a former Boston architect settled in Moscow to design fashionable



Taken by buildings at Hercules No. 2 level. L to R: Ed Hedin, a Day employee; Emma Markwell; Henry Floyd Samuels; May Hutton; Jerome Day; Miss Hedin (sister of Ed Hedin); Myrtle White (who married Paulsen), and L. W. Hutton, wearing a cook's apron. August Paulsen stands on the wood pile.

Jerome is the mustachioed man in the rear, fourth from the left; this photo was taken outside the No. 2 level of the Hercules. Left to right: Ed Hedin, Emma Markwell, Henry Samuels, May Hutton, Jerome Day, Miss Hedin (sister of Ed), Myrtle White, and L.W. Hutton. August Paulsen (who married Myrtle White) is standing on the woodpile, c. early 1900s. Photo courtesy of UI Historical Collection, University of Idaho Library, ID# 8-X145.

homes. Soon Lucy and Jerome were talking with him about their house and a few months later it rose on a hill above the town, a two-story white frame with filigreed leaded panes, curved front, and huge bowed windows overlooking a wide veranda." From their mansion on the hill, the Days quickly became important participants in the social and commercial life of Moscow.

According to Fahey, "Although Hercules and other business frequently took him to Spokane or Wallace, the house anchored Jerome in Moscow," and it was in Moscow that Jerome and Lucy's two children were born. Bernice Eugenia was born on April 28, 1904, and Jerome, Jr., on June 5, 1911. Bernice's marriage in 1925 to John Fuller Maloney of Juneau, Alaska, the son of a federal district

judge, was the social event of the year in Moscow. Bernice died on October 6, 1957.

Sadly, Jerome, Jr. (who also went by the nickname of 'Romie') died at the age of 17 on February 19, 1929; the youth, then a student at Morin Junior College and Preparatory School for Boys, drowned as a result of boating accident off of Bainbridge Island, Washington.

Anchored in Moscow by home and family, Jerome explored a number of business activities. From ownership records in the Latah County Courthouse, it appears Jerome speculated in real estate, purchasing several parcels in Latah County during the period from 1903 to 1907. In 1904, he became director of the Moscow State Bank and by 1908 its president and that of the Bank of



Lucy Mix Day with children Bernice and Jerome, Jr., c. early 1920s.

Orofino. In 1906, he helped finance an undertaking brought to him by his brother-in-law, Gainford "Gub" Mix. Around 1900, two Moscow blacksmiths, Andrew Anderson and Cornelius Quesnell, had designed a small and lightweight pull combine perfectly-suited to the steep Palouse hills. Mix persuaded Jerome to invest in the production of the design, and they then organized the Idaho National Harvester Company, which manufactured the "Little Idaho" combine in Moscow for the next two decades.

Jerome was also active in the political life of Latah County. A Democrat, Jerome served three terms as state senator from Latah County from 1908 to 1916, no small accomplishment at a time when Democrats generally failed to win local elections. During the 1912 legislative session, there was even talk about Jerome running for the governorship, which, apparently, was pursued no further, and Jerome's political involvement ended when he voluntarily left the legislature after 1916.

The Jerome J. Day family left Moscow in 1916, after Jerome became half owner of a lead smelting operation in Northport, Washington. Jerome sold the smelting operation in 1922, and the family returned to the Silver Valley. Three years later, the Hercules would be "mined out," but over the years, the Day family had steadily invested in numerous other properties in the district. By the time the family's various operations were consolidated into a new firm called Day Mines, Inc. in 1947, the company owned the "largest body of mineral lands in the region," according to Terry Abraham and Richard C. Davis in their guide to the records of the various Day Mines holdings stored at the University of Idaho Library. Management of Day Mines, Inc. stayed in the family until 1972 when Harry's son, Henry L.,



Jerome and Lucy's children, Bernice and Jerome, Jr. (Romie) in front of the family home, c. mid-to-late 1910s.



Friends posed for this portrait following a friendly round of poker (according to the back of the photograph) in celebration of Jerome's birthday in 1913. First row, left to right: Gainford "Gub" Mix, George Rubedeaux, George Pickett, Lucy Day, Jerome Day, Ben Bush. Second row, left to right: Bert Horton, Jim Foley, L.F. Parsons, Sherm Mix, General Chrisman, Judge Steel (or Steele), Mr. McGorran, Judge Forney, Mr. Veatch, Mr. DeYounge, Harry Marsh, Ramsey, Walker, William Morgan.

retired, and then in 1981, the Hecla Mining Company purchased the Day concerns.

Outside politics and business, two interests consumed much of Jerome's time. He was dedicated to the advancement of the University of Idaho and was a student of the early history of the American West. In 1935, Jerome served as president of the University's Board of Regents, and upon his death in 1941, he bequeathed his extensive library of western history to the University. Anyone who has conducted historical research at the University of Idaho Library is

familiar with Jerome's collection, which is known as the Day-Northwest Collection.

Jerome died in Phoenix, Arizona, on March 9, 1941, following a lingering illness. He was 64-years-old. His remains were returned to Moscow, and a requiem high mass was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Father Earl A. Stokoe presiding. Jerome was buried in the Moscow Cemetery, as was his son 12 years earlier.

From humble origins in the rowdy environs of the Coeur d'Alene mining district, Jerome J. Day emerged as a commercial and political leader in

Latah County. The elegant home he built for his family is a landmark of Moscow residential architecture, and the library of American history he bequeathed to the University of Idaho has deeply enriched the learning experiences of thousands of students. The legacy he leaves us is sterling.

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(Photos courtesy of Latah County Historical Society, except as noted.)



Jerome's "diversion," a 60-horsepower Stevens-Duryea automobile, c. 1910s.

“TO BE OCTOBER SOCIETY BRIDE”

On September 19, 1925, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Day announced the engagement of their daughter, Bernice, to John Fuller Maloney, at a luncheon held in the Day home. According to an article in the *Spokane Chronicle*, the engagement was announced “in a most novel fashion. Just as the dessert course was served, a telegraph messenger rapped loudly upon the door. The maid answered and the boy was allowed to enter. In his cap he carried a telegram from Moscow to Moscow, carrying the announcement. Each guest received a telegram.”

The wedding, which a November 1, 1925, article in the *Idaho Statesman*, described as “Quite the smartest wedding of the year at Moscow,” took place on October 28 in her family’s home. In its coverage of the wedding, the *Idaho Post* (a Moscow newspaper) exclaimed that it was “perhaps the most brilliant affair of the season in Inland Empire society.” The Rev. H.H. Mitchell of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church performed the ceremony, which took place at 8:30 in the evening.

According to the *Idaho Post* article, the “dresses of the bridesmaids, maid of honor and matron of honor were of chiffon. The girdles were studded with rhinestones and the skirts were of the flare type. A cape of the same material fell from the shoulders to below the waistline. They wore silver hose and slippers. The silver motif was repeated in the head dress.”

The bride’s gown, “a Neymser model, was of ivory embossed velvet and effectively trimmed with rhinestones. The court train falling from her shoulders was of white chiffon and finished with a deep bank of silver cloth edged with lace. Her veil of flesh-colored tulle was fastened with a coronet of orange blossoms and rose point, to which was attached many layers of tulle extending to the end of the train. Her going away suit was of grey velvet trimmed in fitch. Her hat, a Bendel model, was of purple velvet.”

The Day home, as described in the *Idaho Post* article, “presented a brilliant appearance, with its bright lights and beautiful flowers. Giant

chrysanthemums, ferns, pink roses and michaelmass daisies were artistically arranged amid the lights from hundreds of pink, white and blue tapers, adding charm to the rooms.”

Several hundred guests attended the wedding, according to the article, and “more than a thousand attended the delightful reception and dance which followed, the music for which was furnished by two orchestras from the University of Idaho.” So many guests were from out-of-town that the Days arranged for a special train to carry them to and from Moscow.

(Photo courtesy of Latah County Historical Society.)



THE BLAINE SCHOOLHOUSE: THE BEAT GOES ON

By Bill London

The children scamper and scramble around the playfield. The remains of the huge potluck meal cover the tables beneath the trees. The schoolhouse pulsates with the feet of the dancers, the lively beat of the band, and the cadence of the caller's instructions.

It's a summer evening in Blaine, Idaho. But which century? This idyllic scene was common in the 1890s, when the Blaine Schoolhouse was the community center newly-built by the farm families who settled this corner of the Palouse, just below Paradise Ridge. And now in this century, the old schoolhouse building comes alive again, with the Palouse Folklore Society summertime dances.

The schoolhouse, the heart of the Blaine community, is still beating more than one hundred years later.

The Blaine Schoolhouse is typical of the thousands of one-room schools built in pioneer settlements across the American West. The building is 24 feet by 36 feet, lined with big windows on the longer north and south sides and protected by an enclosed entryway on the west wall.

When the schoolhouse was constructed in the 1880s, it was built to last, with a cinderblock foundation made at the brickworks in the city of Moscow, eight miles away.



The Blaine Schoolhouse was built along a tribal pathway. The route was used by the Nez Perce who wintered in the deep canyons along the Snake and Clearwater rivers, and spent their summers in the Palouse hills, harvesting the bulbs of the blue-flowering camas and hunting upland game. The trail later became a stagecoach route, and Blaine grew as a stage stop. By 1925, Blaine was a thriving community with a church, several stores and a dozen homes. That same year, at age 15, Nick Ogle's father, Ivan, arrived with his family. Ivan was one of the neighboring farm kids educated at the schoolhouse there.

A dozen years later, in 1937, the Blaine School closed. Like so many other little agricultural communities across the West, the town was dwindling and slowly died. However, Blaine, as a community of neighbors, remained.

In 1947, the Blaine Community Association bought the schoolhouse for two dollars. The community dances, parties, weddings, and potluck dinners continued at the building, which finally became the only visible reminder of the town.

Just a generation later, in the 1960s, as many of the original neighbors died and their children moved away, the get-togethers at the schoolhouse ceased. The state charter for the Blaine Community Association lapsed due to lack of interest, and the schoolhouse building began melting back into the earth.

When Nick Ogle returned home to manage the family farm in 1973, all the schoolhouse windows were broken and the roof leaked. The next year, Nick called all his neighbors and announced a meeting at the schoolhouse to choose between saving the building or bulldozing it.

"We decided to preserve the schoolhouse," Nick recalls. "It needed a new roof, but we were able to add a few shingles to patch the roof and replace the glass to at least make it watertight."

After saving the building, Nick turned to resurrecting the Blaine Community Association. By filing the incorporation papers with the state of Idaho, the association was reborn. Three Blaine neighbors were selected as directors: Nick Ogle, Gordon Iverson, and Nick's wife, MaryJane Butters. Nick was chosen as president, a title he has retained to this date.

The story of the Blaine Schoolhouse is really about the marriage between a group of dancers who needed a building and a building that needed

a group of dancers – a mutually-beneficial relationship that has weathered two decades and continues to grow stronger.

Like so many things in the Pacific Northwest, this relationship was sparked by the eruption of Mt. St. Helens on May 18, 1980.

The cloud of volcanic ash triggered by the eruption smothered the Palouse landscape, stopping all but the most essential transportation. The Moscow Renaissance Fair, the local springtime celebration, had enticed hundreds of visitors and fair entertainers to Moscow that Sunday afternoon, and the falling ash kept them stranded in the area for several days.

Margo Kay, now a sheep rancher living near Lenore, Idaho, was one of those musicians. She remembers what happened next: "What to do? Take out those dulcimers, banjos, mandolins, guitars, spoons, drums and washboards and play tunes."

These accidental bands supported a rebirth of folk music in the area. Local guitarist and now folk music show host for Northwest Public Radio, Dan Maher had just started the Palouse Folklore Society to encourage live music at concerts and dances in Moscow and nearby.

In October of 1980, the folklore society sponsored its first dance at the Blaine Schoolhouse. Both Dan Maher and Margo Kay were members of that first band.

"It was magical," Margo recalls. "We started a fire in the large parlor stove in an attempt to thaw the ice on the window panes. Soon the ice was replaced with steam as the room pulsed with dancers, musicians and caller sharing the same ancient drive of the Irish melodies."

That first date between the Palouse Folklore Society and the Blaine Schoolhouse had gone so well that many more followed through the 1980s. But soon it was obvious that there was a problem with this budding relationship – the schoolhouse roof patch leaked and the floorboards were warping from the moisture.

Dan Maher, who was the folklore society president throughout that first decade, explains what happened next: "We decided we wanted to make a commitment to the Blaine. We wanted to continue to use the schoolhouse for summer potlucks and dances. The dances there felt like the way they used to do it in the old days. The Blaine had by far the best community feeling in

the area. We decided that we had an obligation to keep this going, to re-create the community atmosphere.”

The Blaine Community Association was thrilled to find such congenial collaborators. “I just can’t imagine a better use of the schoolhouse than the folklore society dances,” Nick said. “They have such fun there. They bring their families there. They take such great care of the place.”

The first step in the relationship was the commitment by the folklore society to put a permanent metal roof on the schoolhouse. The money for the roofing was raised through a series of benefit concerts and donations. A volunteer roofing party was organized in the spring of 1989 by three folklore society members with construction experience: Mike Walters, Dave Barnett and Erik Weberg. Erik remembers the weekend well.

“First we tore off the old shakes down to the purlins. Then we just started screwing the steel down, piece by piece. Got the cap on Sunday evening. All our gear and materials were out there, and I remember staying the night Saturday. I think I rolled my bag out in the middle of the floor. Really enjoyed the quiet history of the old building that way. While we were working there, a bunch of folks came out to help. Before the new roof, the floor was buckled up and in pretty bad shape. It wasn’t too long after re-roofing and letting it dry out that the floor settled down and became useful again.”

The next major project was painting the schoolhouse, a huge effort that was discussed for years before the folklore society volunteers tackled the job in the summer of 1999. Meanwhile, the dances continued and grew in popularity.

“In the early 1990s, we would expect 20 to 30 people at each dance. Now, we fill up the schoolhouse: usually three lines of ten couples, plus kids running around, 60 people easy,” said Tim Daulton, who was the folklore society president for most of that decade. “We meet there in the schoolyard for a potluck beginning about 6:00 p.m. on those summer nights, then dance until 11:00 or so. Everybody has a great time. Nick never charges us rent, and so we keep talking about doing our part to fix up the building.”

The folklore society crews spent most of the summer of 1999 scraping, priming and patching

the peeling exterior walls. The volunteers used recycled paint, which had been mixed together and tinted a uniform gray color to match the original schoolhouse.

The Moscow Recycling Center, which gathered hundreds of partially-used buckets of paint at the annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day, provided the paint. The Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, the local ecological action group founded by MaryJane Butters, began the hazardous waste collection, and the paint recycling program both kept the material out of the local landfill and provided free paint for worthwhile projects.

“We prepared the walls that summer, and then had a big one-day painting party,” Tim recalled. “There was paint everywhere. Kids were rolling in paint. But we got the job done. The next summer, we rebraced the floor, and then we looked around for something else to do.”

To help ease the crowding on the dance floor, and to protect the musicians from flying feet, the folklore society decided that the next project would be the construction of a stage attached to the east end of the building. The group gathered donated materials and drew up the plans during the summer of 2001, and then finished framing the stage addition during the summer of 2002.

In December of 2002, the folklore society was awarded a \$2,250 grant from the local Latah County Community Foundation for materials (including flooring, wallboard, roofing and insulation) to complete the project the next summer.

“We got it all done—except for the final exterior coat of paint which we will do this year,” Tim said. “And we still have some of the recycled paint, so we’re all ready.”

And what’s the next step in the ongoing collaboration between the folklore folks and their summer schoolhouse center?

David Christian, current folklore society president, says there are no plans for any more projects. “The schoolhouse has what we need,” he explained.

And that’s been true for more than 100 years. The Blaine Schoolhouse has provided what the community needs – continuity, a center, a home, a place to meet and a place to dance.

(Photo courtesy of Latah County Historical Society.)

BOOK REVIEW: WHITE PINE ROUTE BY THOMAS E. BURG

Review by Julie R. Monroe

White Pine Route tells the story of the Washington, Idaho and Montana Railway built by the Potlatch Lumber Company in 1905 to haul timber from the company's forests to their mills and to transport lumber to the outside world. In addition to its specific function in support of the company, the railroad, as the author, Thomas E. Burg, points out, also became an "artery of commerce" for the region and a source of public transportation for the area's residents.

White Pine Route will appeal not only to railroad enthusiasts but also to anyone interested in the economic history of Latah County. The first part of the book provides a thorough chronological history of the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway (WI&M) through its independent period (1905-1962), as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Milwaukee Road (1962-1980), as the WI&M Branch of the Burlington Northern (1980-1996), and as the WI&M Industrial Lead of the Palouse River and Coulee City Railroad (1996-present).

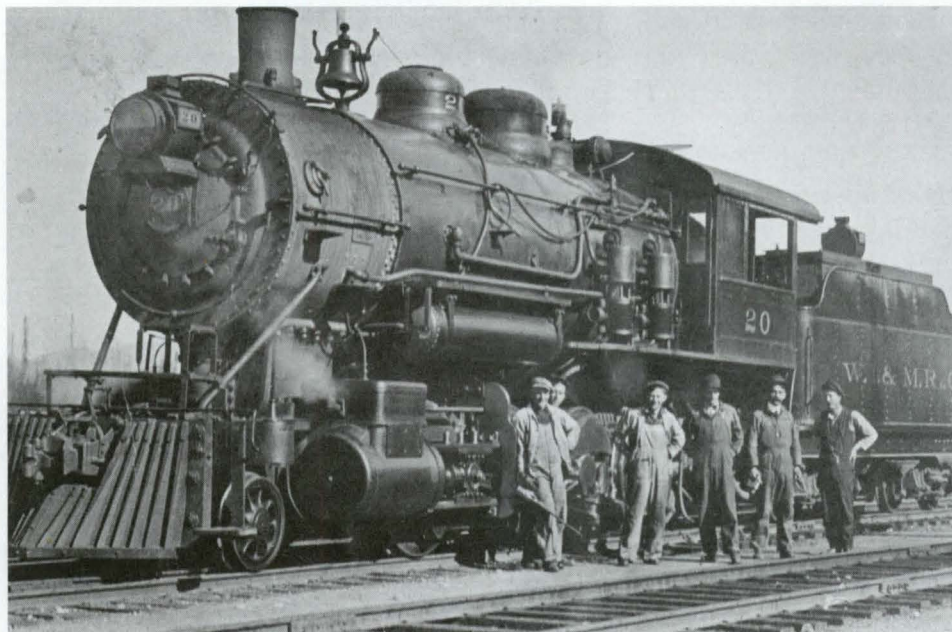
The second part of the book covers WI&M rolling stock, from its initial steam power and logging locomotives of the Potlatch Lumber Company, through its railcars carrying passengers, mail, and express from the Depression until the

end of passenger traffic in 1955, to its diesel era. This section also documents the WI&M's railroad structures and Potlatch Lumber Company logging operations.

In addition to documenting the history of the railway and its stock, *White Pine Route* offers an impressive collection of images relative to the WI&M. The author presents over 400 photographs, maps, and other exhibits. Nearly every page of this large-format book is illustrated with an image of some sort, be it a photograph, map, or time schedule.

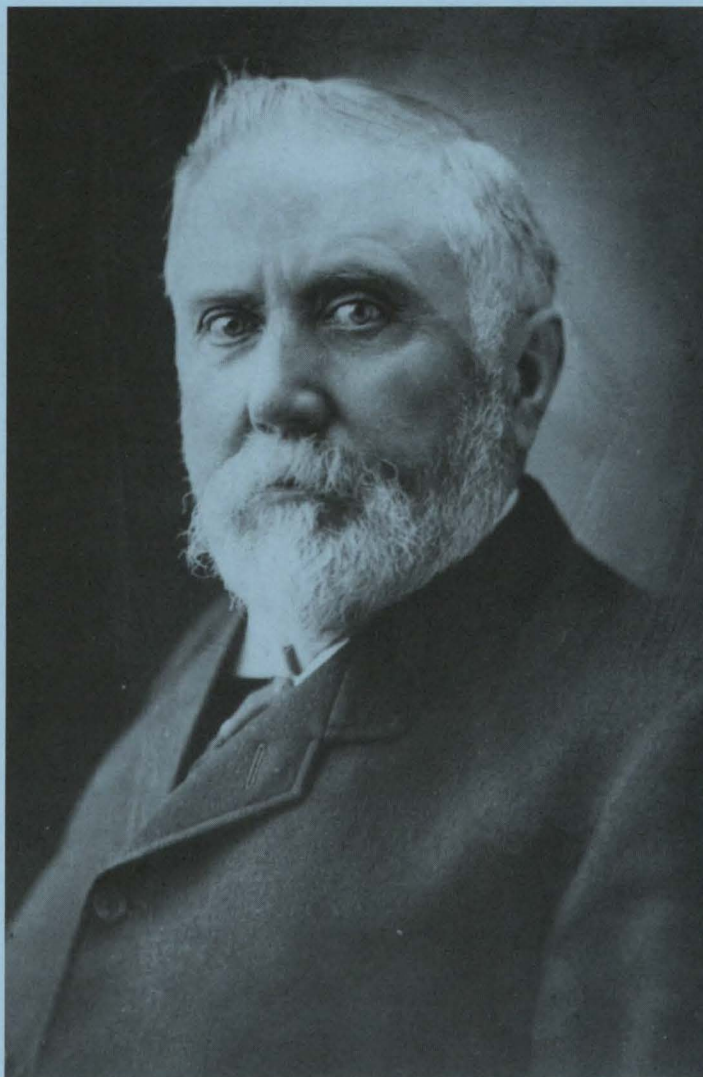
Mr. Burg, who describes himself as a "railfan from infancy," first became acquainted with the WI&M as a graduate student at the University of Idaho. Now retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and living in Wisconsin, Mr. Burg is a rail historian, model railroader, and collector of railroad artifacts. He is a member of the Washington, Idaho, and Montana Railway History Preservation Group, the Latah County Historical Society, the Potlatch Society and other historical organizations.

Copies of *White Pine Route* are available at the McConnell Mansion Museum Store and the Centennial Annex.



Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway engine #20, 1917. (Photo courtesy of Latah County Historical Society.)

In the next edition of the **LATAH LEGACY:**



LCHS Executive Director Mary Reed examines the mysterious history of William J. McConnell.

Available December 2004

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In 1968 dedicated volunteers organized the Latah County Historical Society to collect, preserve, and interpret materials connected with Latah County's history. If you would like to assist us in this work, we cordially invite you to become a member. Subscriptions to this journal and a discount on books we have published are included in membership dues. The membership categories and dues are as follows:

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The services of the Latah County Historical Society include maintaining the McConnell Mansion Museum with historic rooms and changing exhibits, actively collecting and preserving materials on Latah County's history, operating a research library of historical and genealogical materials, collecting oral histories, and sponsoring educational events and activities. Historical materials relating to Latah County are added to the collections and made available to researchers as well as being preserved for future generations. If you have items to donate or lend for duplication, please contact us.

Our library and offices are in Centennial Annex, 327 East Second St., Moscow; hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The McConnell Mansion Museum is open May through September, Tuesday through Saturday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and October through April, Tuesday through Saturday, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Museum visits at other times can be arranged by calling (208) 882-1004. Admission is free to members, and donations are requested for non-members. Our FAX number is (208) 882-0759 and our e-mail address is <lchsoffice@moscow.com>. The Mansion's first floor is handicapped accessible. Researchers who cannot access the Annex can request information by mail or by e-mail. Research materials can also be made available at the nearby Moscow Public Library.

For current or additional information, please visit our website at <<http://users.moscow.com/lchs>>.