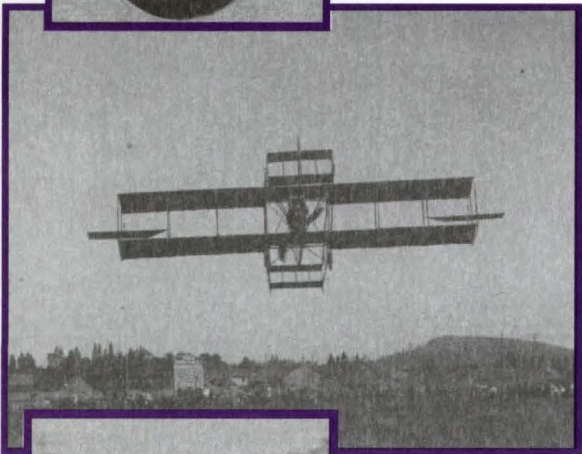




LATAH LEGACY



Volume 38, No. 1

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Moscow's Chamber of Commerce Takes Flight
The University of Idaho Graduating Class of 1903
John Merton Aldrich: 1866-1934

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Contributors

Julie R. Monroe, Editor

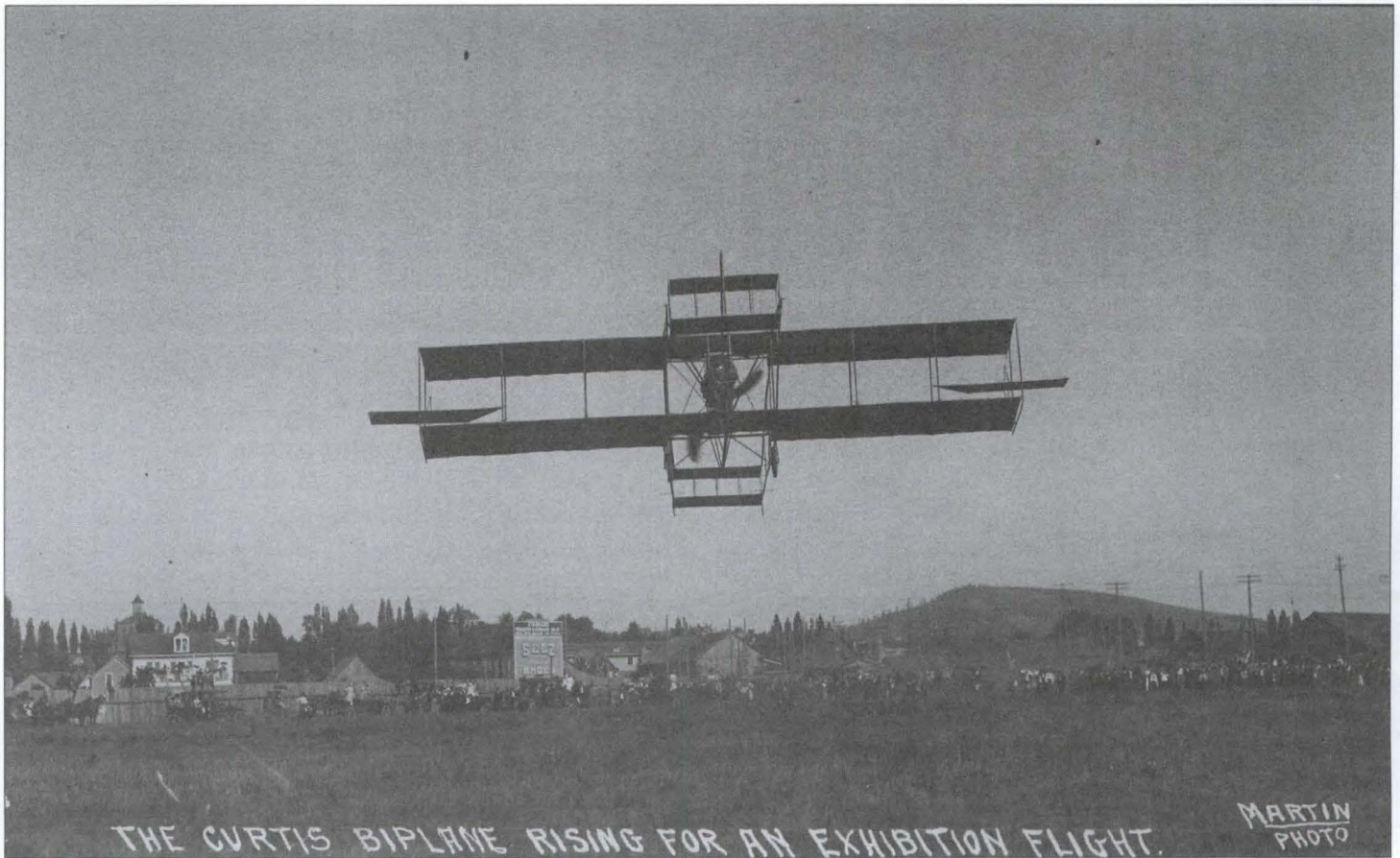
Kymberly Dahl, Production & Design

Daniel Crandall, Consulting Editor

From the Editor:

Correction: Lennard and Claire, I accept full responsibility for failing to catch the misspelling of your last name in the 2009 issue of the *Legacy*. Please accept my sincere apologies.





Moscow's Chamber of Commerce Takes Flight

by Daniel Crandall

*Preface: We should be celebrating the centennial of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce about this time. Ideally we could be more precise, but the early chamber records, their minutes and ledgers, have not yet surfaced. The chamber itself cites 1910 as its year of inception, but Homer David in his *Moscow at the Turn of the Century* identifies 1911 as the year of the Chamber's beginning. Hopefully some day a Moscow attic will relinquish the records needed to resolve this issue.*

MOSCOW'S GRANDEST FOURTH

The year of its birth may be in question, but there is no doubt the Moscow Chamber of Commerce took wing, literally and figuratively in 1911. With a large and enthusiastic new membership, the chamber threw itself into producing a Fourth of July celebration that was arguably Moscow's biggest celebration before or since. Its feature would be the first appearance of an airplane (aeroplane then, and honored herein) in Latah County, and the third such manifestation in Idaho. Only Boise and Lewiston preceded Moscow.

It was a last-minute deal. The June 1, 1911 *Star-Mirror* front-page headline shouted, "Negotiating for an Air Ship for Fourth Celebration." The Chamber's committee on fairs and celebrations, comprised of Nathaniel Williamson, Ross R. Sherfey, and W.R. Clemens disclosed that "the matter had already been taken up with the Curtis (sic)* and Wright companies." Nothing is heard until the June 22 front page headline proclaimed "(Fam)ed Aviator to fly at Moscow during Celebration."

*Articles of the time consistently omit the second "s" in the name of aviation pioneer Glenn Hammond Curtiss. The writer has chosen to reproduce the references verbatim.

Handbills and posters were printed, a car hired to take the word to surrounding communities, and ad space purchased in Cottonwood's Camas Prairie Chronicle, the Stites Signal, Orofino Tribune, Juliaetta Sun, Deary Enterprise, and widespread and numerous other newspapers. Arrangements were made for reduced railroad rates for both days. An agreement was reached with the Sells-Floto Circus, visiting Moscow and Lewiston prior to the Fourth, to promote the event for a compensation of \$25. George Fields, Chamber president, and Peter Orcutt, editors of Moscow's Idaho Post and Star-Mirror newspapers respectively, were both involved in organizing the Chamber in 1911, so prominent coverage was assured.

The aviator would be Charles F. Walsh, one of a handful of intrepid barnstormers who were crisscrossing the country thrilling crowds with their daring stunts and the sheer novelty of the aeroplane. Walsh was a self-taught flier who attended aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss' training camp in San Diego, and went into business exhibition flying.

His aeroplane is variously described as a Curtiss Farman Wright craft, bearing the names of some of the most prominent pioneers in the development of aviation. It was a biplane, its core built of selected spruce and ash, with all its posts, beams and ribs being lami-

nated. Long bamboo rods extended fore and aft of the wings, bracing the elevator and rudder elements. Wings were covered with rubber-coated fabric. Trussing with steel wire held it all together. Between appearances, the aeroplane was disassembled, crated, and transported by train, truck, or automobile. Walsh and the aircraft traveled with a crew of mechanics who were responsible for assembly, operation, and disassembly and crating. According to contract Walsh and his aircraft would arrive in Moscow one day before the performance.

Charles L. Young, Walsh's manager, was the advance man. He rolled into Moscow on Tuesday, June 20th, to inspect the facilities and promote the event. He inspected the University of Idaho athletic grounds where the flights would take place, and declared it the "place ideal for the meet," "the best obtainable." He stayed long enough to boost the event with the Star-Mirror: "Mr. Young guarantees a flight by Walsh and from the success that has attended previous flying machine meets of Walsh there is no doubt that the people of Moscow will have an opportunity to view one of the birdmen in flight." The same day, Young boarded the train to Colfax and on to Portland, to organize and promote upcoming performances.

Continued on page 4



Previous page: The Curtiss Biplane, LCHS #30-13-40, view #2. This page: The aeroplane in Moscow. The crates in the foreground were those used to transport the disassembled aircraft, LCHS #30-13-40, view #3.

Continued from page 2

Although the flights scheduled on July 3rd and 4th were clearly the biggest draw, the Chamber promised two days of fun and activity. It would be a huge bash. Notable events included "A greased pig...Prize - the pig," baseball games pitting Palouse versus Moscow nines, horse races on Sweet Avenue, motor cycle races, foot races and a grand parade on Main Street, and much more.

JULY 3RD

July 3rd dawned rainy, but cleared. The day began with a bucking contest, the greased pig, and automobile races at the University of Idaho athletic field. At 3:00 was scheduled the initial "Aeroplane flight by Walsh; demonstrating the machine in all its branches - wonderful dives, spirals, and passenger carrying stunts." Many spectators were skeptical regarding the mere possibility of flight. It was promised that "When he leaves the ground a big bunch of letters will be tossed out of the machine. In three of these envelopes will be found certificates which will entitle the lucky finders to a free ride in his next trip up." (The strong, gusting winds of the Palouse would spoil this promised stunt.)

The initial flight was delayed when Walsh put the plane in motion across the field and noted that the mechanic had crossed some of the wires that "guide the machine." No small thing. Wires untangled, the first-ever flight in Moscow lasted about seven minutes, rose to an elevation of over 300', and "convinced the most (skeptical that) Walsh could really fly." The age of flight had come haltingly to Latah County.

JULY 4TH

July 4th opened with a parade on Main Street at 9:00 a.m. Organized by Chamber member J. N. Nankervis, the 4th of July parade featured decorated carts and wagons, bands, fire companies pulling their hose carts, early automobiles, and more.

The parade was followed at 11:00 by a patriotic program at Eggan's Hall. Following a selection by the Moscow Band, Rev. J. Watson provided an invocation. William E. Lee read the Declaration of Independence, followed by the featured speaker, the remarkable James Franklin Ailshie. A young lawyer in Grangeville, Ailshie had been appointed by Governor W. J. McConnell to the Board of Regents of the University of Idaho in 1893, and served until 1896. During his tenure on the board the first class of the University was graduated. In 1902, at the age of 34, he was elected to the Idaho Supreme Court. He became the youngest

TWO GREAT DAYS
AT MOSCOW, IDAHO
JULY 3rd and 4th

4—AEROPLANE FLIGHTS—4
TWO FLIGHTS EACH DAY

By the Noted Aviator, C. F. Walsh, of Los Angeles, of International Renown, using a Curtiss-Farman Machine of the latest design. He will demonstrate the Aeroplane in all its branches. Wonderful Dives, Spirals, Landings, Quick Starts and Passenger Carrying Stunts.

BASS BALL GAME BOTH DAYS
Moscow vs. Palouse

Grand Street Parade, Bicycle Races, Pulling Contests, Bucking Contests, Automobile Races, Foot Races, Tug of War, Five Fire Companies in Rousing Contest, Speaking, Good Music, kinds of Sports and Fun.

If you want to see the first Aeroplane vs. Automobile Race in Idaho, come to Moscow during the Celebration. Walsh will run against the fastest Auto in Idaho.

The Biggest and Best Celebration in the Palouse
Country will be at Moscow. The Aeroplane feature alone will be worth going miles to see.

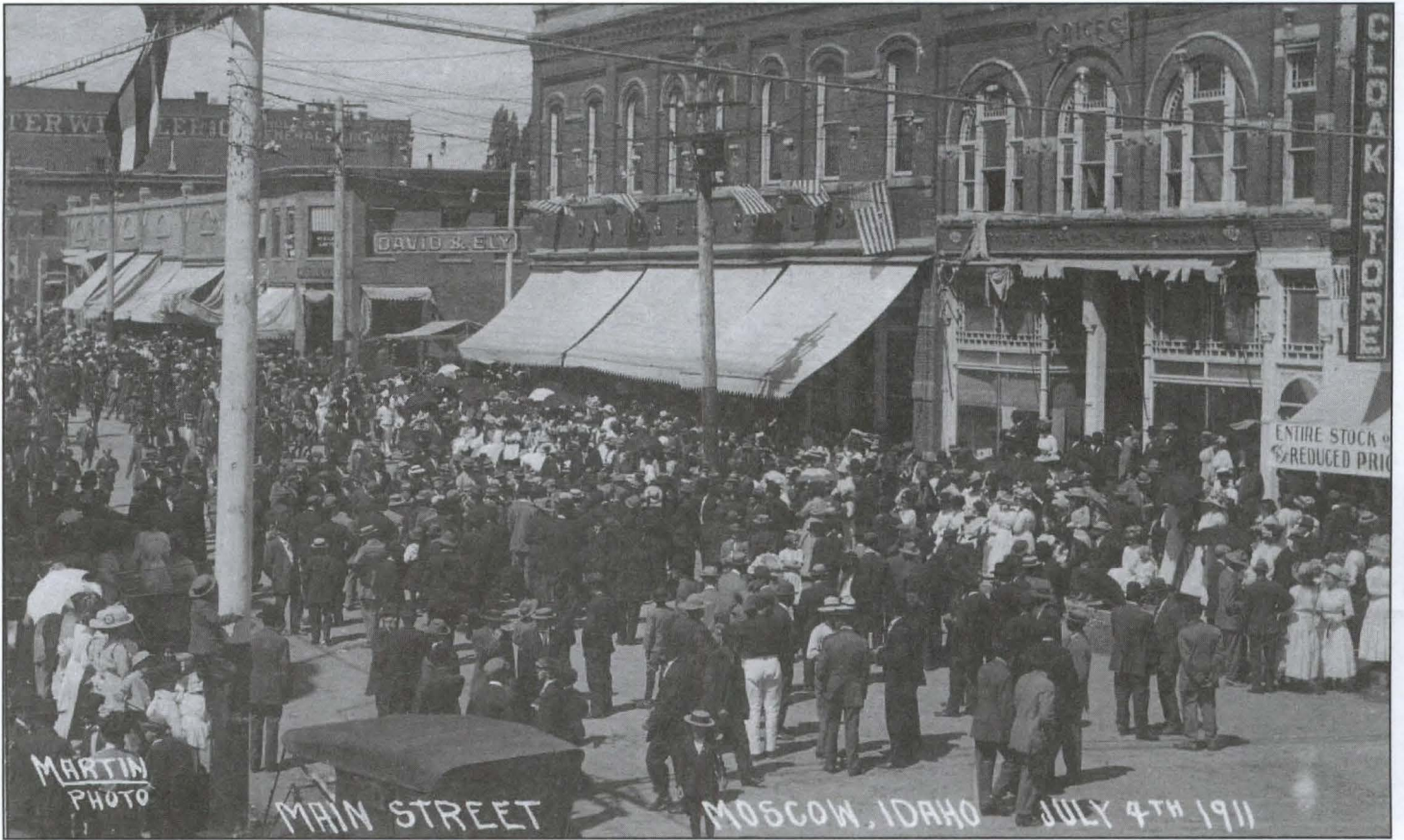
Reduced Railroad Rates For Both Days

Come to Moscow July 3-4

Supreme Court chief justice in the United States in 1907. In seeking Judge Ailshie as their principal speaker, the chamber's event organizers noted that he could "handle a patriotic speech as few men in Idaho can." He received \$25 for his oratorical prowess.

After lunch were athletic events on Main Street. There were foot races for all ages, including the infamous Fat Man's Race (200 lbs. +). Firemen demonstrated ladder raising, and vied in a hub to hub race between five hand-drawn hose carts. The Moscow and Palouse baseball teams competed in a 220 yard dash, "to be run in uniforms."

Scheduled to begin at 3:30, Walsh's flights on the 4th of July were again hampered by gusting winds, and his attempt to fly over the U of I administration building was initially thwarted by a mechanical problem. On a brief first flight, "he tried to sail over the administration building, but while still in the air he found out that something was wrong with his motor. (Upon landing he) discovered that there was a bad leak." Repairs were accomplished, and "A boy was sent up town for more gasoline." On his final attempt, Walsh reached an altitude estimated by the Star-Mirror as 1300', and flew triumphantly over the U of I administration building. It was an exclamation point on a glorious day. The grand finale was a "race," laps pitting Walsh and his aircraft "against W. L. Zeigler in a Buick racer."



Above: 4th of July crowd at 3rd and Main, LCHS #1-2-10.
Below: LCHS #1-2-9.





Above: George Fields, Moscow Chamber of Commerce President and Parade Marshall, leads the procession. (Moscow Band in background!), LCHS #1-2-91. Below: Carl Anderson, butcher, owned The Inland Market. From left, in background: the merry-go-round tent, Blanchard's Cigar Store, Friedman's Hardware, LCHS #1-2-29.



Continued from page 4

The Star-Mirror estimated twelve to fifteen thousand people celebrated on Main Street throughout the evening. "The three dance halls were crowded throughout the evening. Confetti, music by a band, a merry-go-round, firecrackers, fireworks, and other amusements" were provided. The Chamber was pleased that despite the numbers and revelry, not one arrest was made. (Both Moscow City Council and the Chamber had funded "special police" for the event.)

The Chamber's Celebration Committee published a scrupulous accounting of the event's finances in the July 13 Star-Mirror. Hagan & Cushing received \$15.00 for the pig, and Nathaniel Williamson the same amount for his first prize float. The Moscow and Palouse baseball teams each received \$175.00, and the Moscow Band \$188.00. Frank Rooseboom got .75 cents for special police duty. The largest expense, \$1,500, was for the featured aeroplane flights.

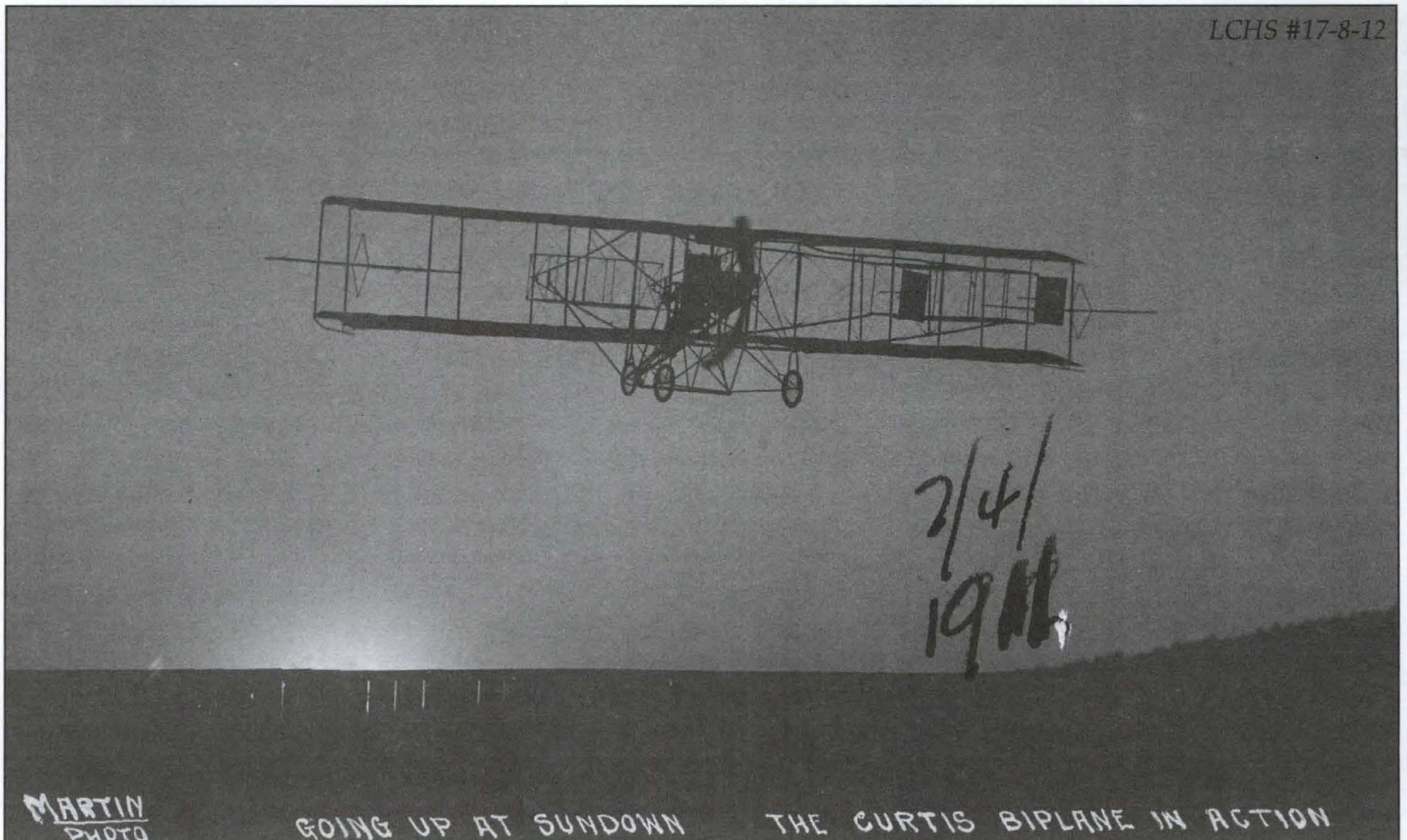
In sum, \$2,751.15 was spent and \$2,406.45 received from ticket sales, sponsorships, and concessions, leaving a deficit of \$344.70 for the two days of celebration. The influx of people must have left the new Chamber's members, however, very pleased with the results for their individual businesses. It was a grand success, and a fine launch for the new Chamber. Thus encouraged, they continued to produce significant Fourth of July celebrations for several years. ♪

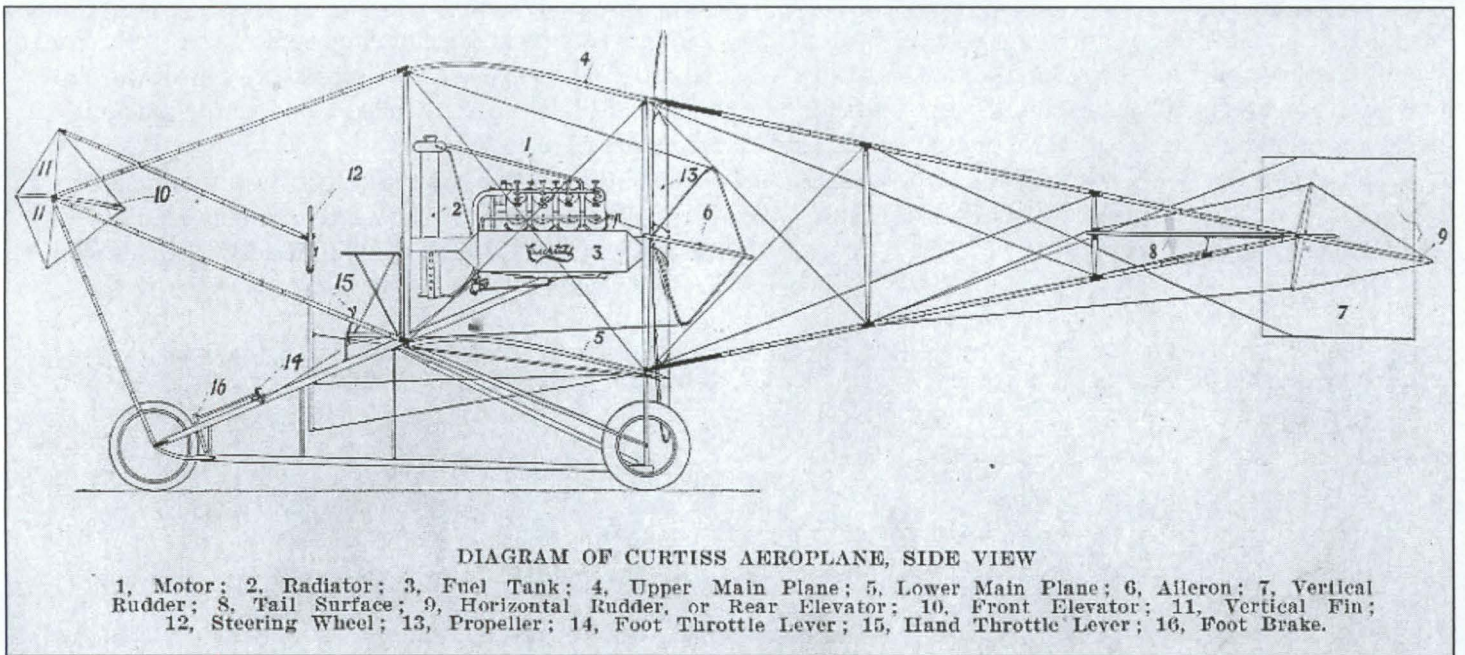
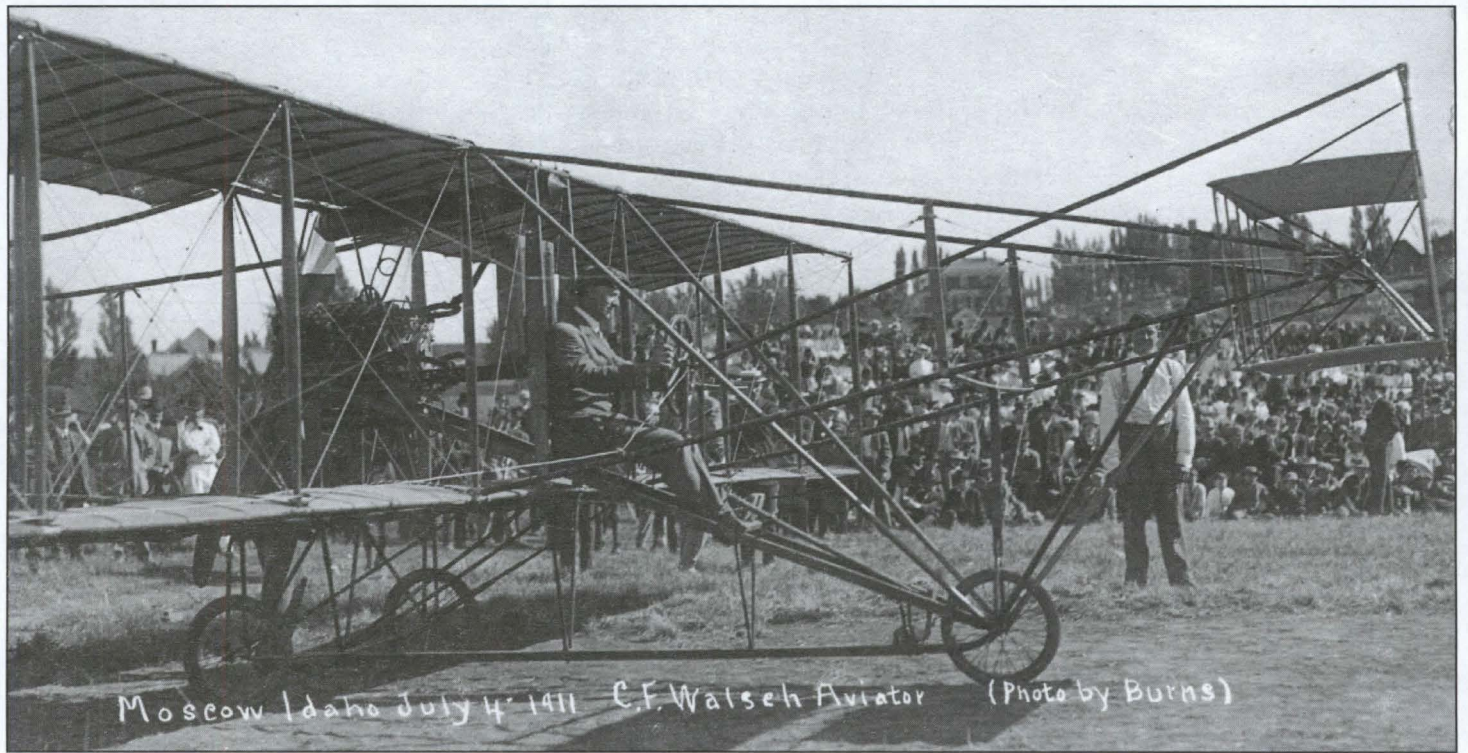
NOTES:

There are clues that the Chamber was begun in 1910, but nothing solid. Homer David placed the beginning of the Chamber in 1911, and as its public improvements committee chairman in that year, his authority is not to be underestimated. Bert Cross placed the chamber's beginning in 1911 in the *Idahonian's* 1987 Moscow centennial supplement, but the authority is not cited and it may well be based on Homer David's date. In its June 30, 1911 issue, *The Genesee News* referred to Moscow's chamber as "newly organized." Moscow's weekly *Star-Mirror* on June 8, 1911 reported on a membership contest, and noted that "Sixty members had joined up to Tuesday and their number had been (raised with) but a little effort." There is no mention of the Chamber in Moscow's city council minutes until June 23, 1911, when it thanked the Mayor and Council for the use of the lower floor of the City Hall for the "uses and purposes of said organization." Alas, only early Chamber records would be definitive regarding the organization's year of inception.

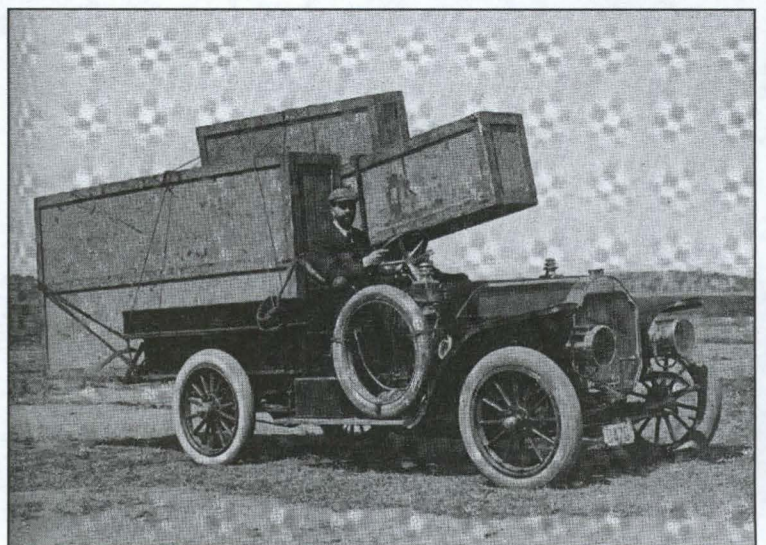
Unless otherwise specified, quoted passages are from the *Moscow Star-Mirror*, acquired courtesy of the University of Idaho Special Collections and the gracious assistance of Julie Monroe.

Technical information regarding the aircraft is from: *The Curtiss Aviation Book* by Curtiss, Glenn H. and Augustus Post, 1912 New York, Frederick A. Stokes Company, Publisher.





Top photo: LCHS #30-13-10. Diagrams and photo of aeroplane packed for shipment from The Curtiss Aviation Book.



Moscow's First Aviator

"The time has come when the world is going to need a new type of men - almost a new race. These are the Flying Men. The great dream of centuries has come true, and men now have the key to the sky."

- Glenn Hammond Curtiss, 1912



Charles Francis Walsh in 1910

The first aviator to soar Moscow's skies was Charles Francis Walsh. A native of California, he taught himself to fly and in 1910-11 attended aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss' pilot training camp in San Diego (there was a second in Hammondsport, N.Y.). He received California's first Aviator's License, No.1, and became a prominent barnstormer. According to his wife, Alice Connolly Walsh, together they "traveled all over the U.S.A, Canada, Cuba and part of Mexico giving exhibition flights and carrying passengers." The new flying machines were novel and appealing, drawing crowds everywhere they went.

His career came to a tragic end just over a year after his triumphant appearance at the Fourth of July celebration in Moscow. The Trenton Evening Times for October 3, 1912 recorded the catastrophe:

Aviator Walsh falls 2,000 feet at Fair Grounds

Monster Crowd Sees Him Crash to Earth in Wreck

Charles F. Walsh, bird man at the Inter-State Fair, was dashed to his death in full view of thousands of people in the grand stand and about the grounds, late this after-

noon. Walsh fell about 2,000 feet while attempting to make a spiral descent after a perfect climb to a height of at least 4,000 feet. The accident was due to the collapse of one of the planes of the car, although the exact reason for the mishap will probably never be known.

Crowd in Panic

The sight was one such as is seldom seen. The vast crowd - some sixty thousand persons was hushed into almost death-like silence as man and air struggled for the supremacy. Then as the monster bird-like machine tore asunder the crowd gasped in horror, to see the flier dashed to his doom. Women almost fainted at the awful sight, and men turned away.

He was almost 35 years old, and died leaving a wife and two children. His widow took him home to California, where he rests in San Diego's Calvary Cemetery. ☞

“The Secret of Success is Constancy of Purpose”: The University of Idaho Graduating Class of 1903

by Susanna Daniels

During the fall of 1899, a group of students filled out admission slips for entry into the University of Idaho collegiate program. These students were to become the University of Idaho Class of 1903. The admission process was incredibly uncomplicated, consisting of a few hand-written facts on narrow sheets of paper. This simple process began an educational journey for each aspiring student. The passage of four years would see the University itself grow in size and

stature, both intellectually and physically. The Administration Building was finished at the beginning of the students' time there, in 1899. By the time the class graduated, the University had added several buildings including the women's dormitory Ridenbaugh Hall, the women's dormitory; and the School of Mines, both of which were completed in 1902. By 1903 the University had also added the College of Agriculture to its studies.



Class of 1903: Freshman Year. (L to R) Front Row: Lee, W. Gibb, Bob Swadner, Al Saxton, Lawrence Gipson, Lou Turley, W. Youthers, Anna Peterson, Ethel Oderlin, Bob Ghormley, Ben Bush. Second Row: Hal Orland, Nell Parks, Anderson, Delos Cornwall, Louis Tweedt, Nell Ireton, Chrissy Playfair. Third Row: Florence Skattaboe, John Sheppard, Jessie Gibson, Meta Dunbar, Myra Moody, Atta Cole, Edna Wahl. Fourth Row: Trula Keener, Della Brown, Florence Zumhoff, Mabel Wolfe, John McConnell, Bert Showalter. #2-123-3, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.

the University so far, numbering 30 students. They were an extremely bright and active class. Many of the students involved themselves in athletics, the debate team, or the student newspaper, the *Argonaut*. During their last semester in school, during the spring of 1903, the *Argonaut* reported a class sleigh ride in which the students' singing and cheering were enough that "a casual and unexperienced (sic) listener would have found it hard to believe a class as dignified and quiet as the '03's have been this year, would make all that noise." The paper later stated that "the Seniors are very proud, very happy, and also very poor at this time," the mirror of a modern day graduate.

"The secret of success is constancy of purpose" was the class motto. Many of the students lived lives defined by this sentiment after their graduation. One such person was William Walter Yothers who, during his time at the UI, held the office of class secretary and was involved in the Websterian Society as well as the debate team. He took his Idaho education far afield after graduation. The grad settled in Florida where he worked as a prominent entomologist in the orange groves. In 1984, 13 years after his death, he was inducted into the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame. Another successful bachelor of science was Louis Turley, who had a distinguished career in the field of teaching medicine and ended with the title of Dean Emeritus of the School of Medicine at the University of Oklahoma. According to a letter from him to the University of Idaho Alumni Association, he "made many contributions to science and the sum total of human knowledge." During his time as a student, Turley was a recipient of the Kaufmann Scholarship and was editor of the *Zoological Bulletin*.

Some students settled closer to home. Benjamin Bush, who had once been the president of the University Athletic Association when he was a student, became Idaho's first State Forester in 1925. Before enrolling as an undergraduate in 1899, Bush had served as a sergeant in the First Regiment of Idaho Volunteers during the Spanish-American War. He was 26-years-old when he became a freshman. After graduation he became involved in the timber industry and worked for the state land office. Upon his election as State Forester, the *Boise News* reported on March 16, 1925, that he was "prominently identified with the progress and development of north Idaho, and particularly with his home city, Moscow."

Another graduate who laid roots in Idaho was Myra Moody. She was a teacher in Idaho and retained connections with many of her schoolmates. According to the *Alumni Roundup*, a newsletter published by the UI Alumni Association, "the class of '03 maintains contact through a round robin letter and files presided over by Myra Moody, Moscow, secretary-treasurer. She even reports a balance in the treasury."

Continued on page 15

Below: Class of 1903, 1902. 1-Top to bottom: Emma Strong, Benjamin E. Bush, Della Brown, Delos E. Cornwall, Mattie Dunbar, James W. Calkins. 2-Top to bottom: Ethel C. Oderlin, Louis A. Turley, Mabel E. Wolfe, William W. Yothers, Edna M. Wahl, Louis A. Tweedt. 3-Top to bottom: Gertrude M. Jenkins, William E. Lee, Myra Moody, Andrew T. Jenkins, Trula Keener, Lawrence H. Gipson. #2-123-8a, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.



Class of 1903, 1902. 1-Top to bottom: Christina Playfair, Robert Swadner, Zella J. Perkins, John W. Sheppard, Florence Zumhoff. 2-Top to bottom: Edna L. Moore, John R. McConnell, Nellie G. Parks, Halsey H. Orland, Daisy Booth, Albert C. Saxton. 3-Top to bottom: Nellie B. Ireton, Henry T. Darlington, Jessie E. Gibson, Robert L. Ghormley, Grace Grant, William N. Gibb. #2-123-8b, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.



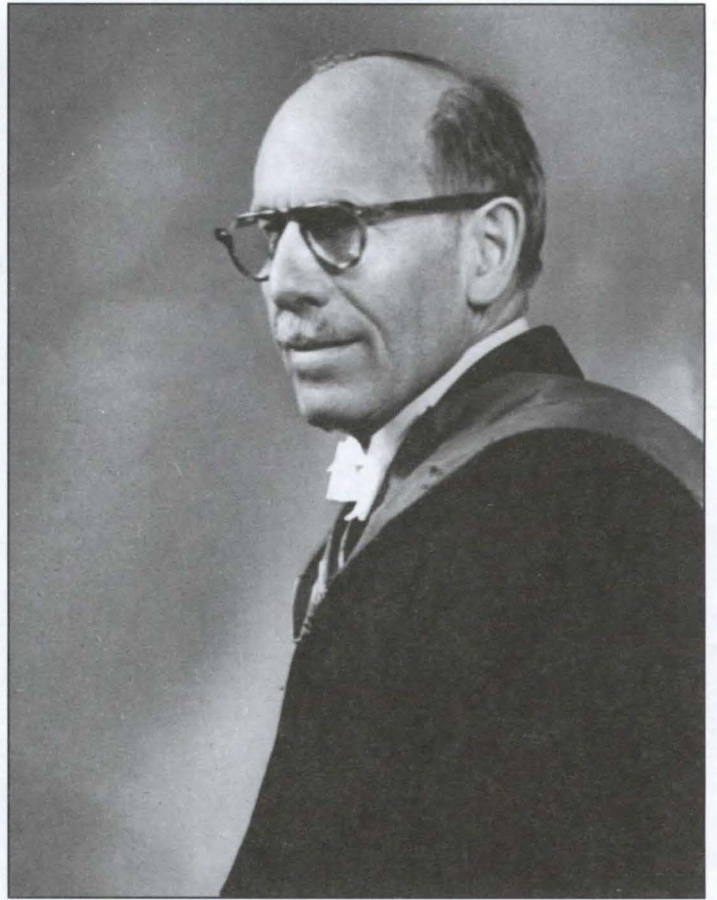
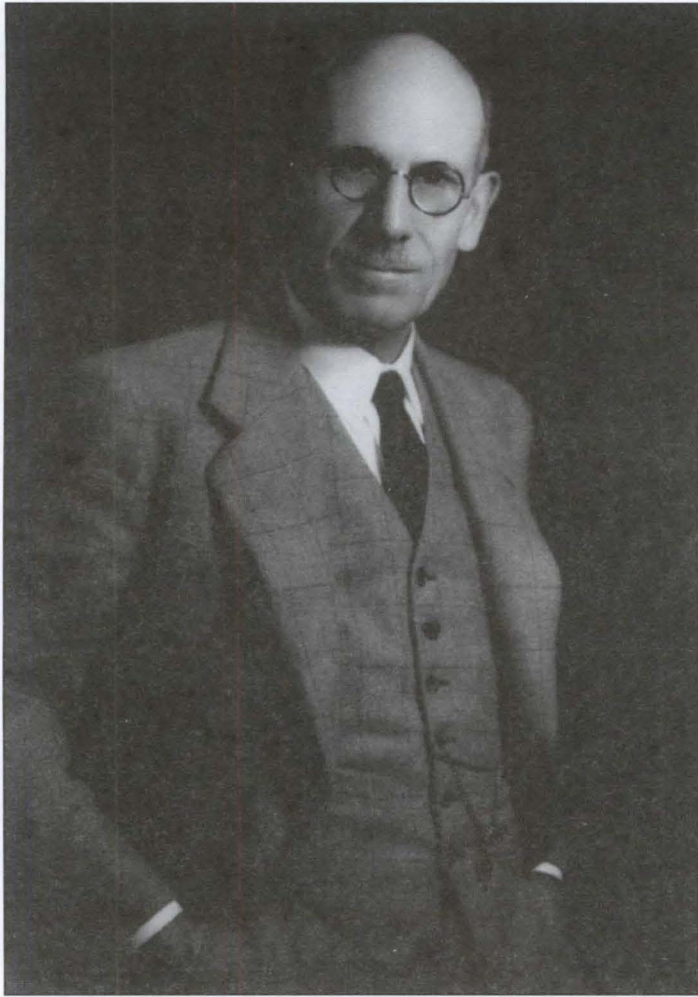
Myra Moody, 1903. #3-976a, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.



Louis Turley, 1903. #3-219d, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.



Above left: Benjamin Bush, 1920s? #3-417a, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow. Above right: Staff of the student newspaper, the Argonaut. Back Row: Zella Perkins, John W. Shepperd, Gus Larson, Margaret Henderson. Front Row: Thomas Jones, Nellie B. Ireton, R.W. Leonard. #29-008, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow. Opposite page - top: Football Team, 1900. Notable Faces: Yothers, 4; Ghormley, 22. #2-115-57, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow. Opposite page - bottom: Mandolin and Guitar Club, 1900. (L to R) Back Row: Miss Parks, Lawrence H. Gipson, Christine Playfair, Blarence Edgett, Rith Gipson, Robert Ghormley. Front Row: Roy Zeigler, Miss Forney, Florence Skat-taboe, Miss Elsie Watkins (teacher), Sweet, Miss Chrissman. #2-144-1, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.



Continued from page 11

Two of the graduates of 1903 in particular maximized their potential and made a name for themselves in the greater world. The first of these was Lawrence Henry Gipson from Caldwell, Idaho. Gipson attended the University and excelled in his chosen field of study, history. In 1904, after graduation, he was chosen as Idaho's first Rhodes Scholar and went to study at Oxford for the next few years. His Idaho education was the springboard for a brilliant career as one of the most prominent historians of his time. His student life was not entirely dedicated to grades, however. According to the 1904 *Gem of the Mountains*, the University yearbook, Gipson swore only "when he flunks" and that all he wanted was "to dance." The bespectacled scholar went on to earn a doctorate at Yale and then teach in several different colleges, ultimately making Lehigh University in Pennsylvania his home. He wrote extensively on the subject of English history. His most famous published work was the 15-volume *The British Empire before the American Revolution*, which received a Pulitzer Prize in 1962 and which has come to be regarded as one of the greatest works by an American historian.

The second grad with a claim to fame was Robert Lee Ghormley, who made the military his focus. After leaving the UI, he went directly to the U.S. Naval

Academy in Annapolis, where he graduated second in his class. He continued on to have a distinguished career in the Navy. In 1941 he was promoted to Vice Admiral and became the first Naval Commander in the South Pacific during World War II. He was featured on the front of the August 17, 1942, issue of *Time* magazine for his involvement in the war. In Moscow, Ghormley Park was named after him. He retired in 1946 after a long and fruitful military career.

From their humble beginnings as students at a small college in rural Idaho at the turn of the 20th century, the graduates of 1903 spread out far and wide to make their mark on the world around them, wherever they were. A small part of them gathered together in Moscow in 1953 for the 50th reunion of their class. Now renowned and esteemed professionals, they were a far cry from the young students who were poor and proud in the spring of 1903. But they had not forgotten Idaho and had, in all things, made themselves a credit to the institution of their education. ♡

Susanna Daniels is currently a history undergraduate at the University of Idaho and a student worker in the University Library. She enjoys reading, writing, and all varieties of history.



Class of 1903 50th Reunion. University of Idaho. (L to R) H.H. Orland, Meta Dunbar Herman, Dr. Lewis Turley, Jessie Gibson, William E. Lee, Ethel C. Odertin, Emma Strong Peavey, Dr. L.H. Gipson, Nellie Ireton Mills, Myra Moody, W.W. Yothers. #2-123-5, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow. Opposite page, clockwise from top left: L. H. Gipson, 1953. #3-509b, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow; L.H. Gipson. #3-509c, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow; Robert Ghormley, 1901. #3-51c, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow; Robert Ghormley, 1943. #3-51a, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.

The University of Idaho Preparatory School

When the University of Idaho first opened its doors in October of 1892, President Franklin Gault issued an entrance exam to the prospective students to judge their academic standing. None of the 40 or so eager young scholars were deemed ready for collegiate work and were, instead, enrolled in the University's Preparatory School. For the first decade of the University's existence, the preparatory department had a consistently higher enrollment than its collegiate counterpart. But even when

enrollment became more balanced, the students of the prep school functioned as a vital part of University life. According to the 1904 Gem of the Mountains, the University's Yearbook, students of the prep school (judged to make up about half of the student body then) were active in many extra-curricular activities, including athletics. As high school education became better and more available, the prep department became less of a necessity until it finally closed in 1913.



University of Idaho Preparatory School graduates of 1899. Nine of these students would go on to graduate from the University as part of the class of 1903. (L to R) Back Row: Flora Moore, James Calkins, Charles Higgins, Will Gibb, Louis Turley, Annette Bowman, Louis Tweedt, Sara Poe. Center Row: Aurelia Henry, Amanda Moeder, Ethel Oderlin, Trula Keener, Della Brown, Lora Anderson, Cora Coder, Mabel Wolfe. Front Row: John Shepperd, Robert Swadener, Will Lee, Robert Ghormley. #2-124-1 Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.



Above: Ridenbaugh Hall women's dormitory on the University of Idaho campus, 1901. #1-58-1, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.

The University of Idaho. No. 17

Name (in full) Lawrence Henry Gibson 9.20 1899

Home address Caldwell, Idaho State Idaho

Date of birth December 7th, 1880 Course elected Scientific HB

School in which you were prepared for college College of Idaho

Parents' or guardian's name Mr. A. E. Gibson

Address Caldwell, Idaho, Occupation Newspaper man

Address in Moscow, Diematten house

Left: Admission slips. For many of the students, their journey began with a hand-written scrap of paper serving as an admission slip to the University. It was only a small collection of buildings in a field, surrounded on all sides by a difficult to cross barbed wire fence, but even during their brief four years there it grew, thanks in some part to the drive and creativity of the student body. By the time the class graduated the University had added several buildings including Ridenbaugh, the women's dormitory, which was completed in 1902.

The University of Idaho. No. 58

Name (in full) Robert Lee Thornley Sept 22 1899

Home address Moscow State Idaho

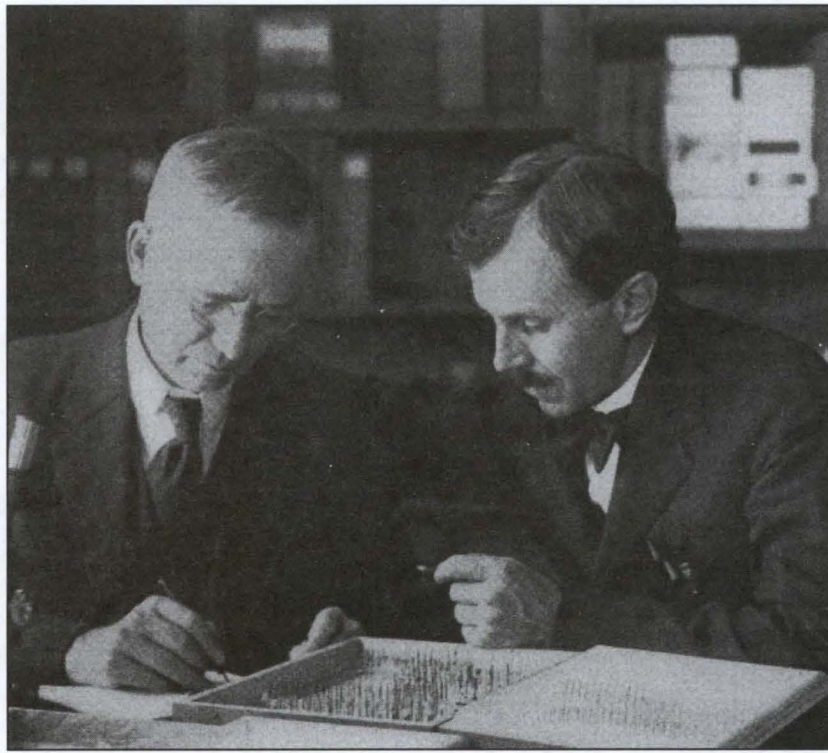
Date of birth Oct 15, 1883 Course elected Classical

School in which you were prepared for college University of Idaho

Parents' or guardian's name D. B. Thornley

Address Moscow Idaho, Occupation Minister

Address in Moscow, _____



John Merton Aldrich, 1866-1934: A forest entomologist's view of Idaho's renowned fly taxonomist

By Malcolm M. Furniss

In 1956, I drove down Lick Creek Canyon east of McCall into the Salmon River drainage looking for a site to study a bark beetle in Douglas-fir. I felt a magical attraction to this remote place and my family subsequently spent seven summers in a resurrected Civilian Conservation Corps building near the river at Camp Creek. It was during that time that I came in touch with John Aldrich, although I was unaware of it.

My research involved the biology and ecology of a bark beetle, *Dendroctonus pseudotsugae* Hopkins. Its name means "killer of Douglas-fir." And, of course, it has its own enemies including a predacious fly, *Medetera aldrichii* Wheeler, (Fig. 1-2) larvae of which feed on beetle larvae in infested trees. However, it was just one of many insects that I reared from the beetle's galleries in the bark. I didn't think much about the specific name until 1963 when I moved from Boise to Moscow where I enrolled for graduate study at the University of Idaho (UI).

There, at the Department of Entomology, I became a student member of the Aldrich Entomology Club

(AEC) just a year after its creation by my major professor, William F. Barr, and Arthur R. Gittins. Still, "Aldrich" was just a name. All I knew was that he must have been around in the dim past and was big into fly taxonomy. I rather preferred bark beetles and critters that hang out in wildland shrubs such as willow, bitterbrush, and mountain mahogany, which are important to wildlife.

Yet, my loose association with John Aldrich was destined to continue and heighten. I retired in 1982 from the Forest Service Experiment Station at Moscow and was appointed Visiting Research Professor in the Department (now Division) of Entomology at UI. For a time, I was advisor to the AEC and sponsored collecting trips and guided the preparation of the club's annual newsletter. Now, in my later age, I have gotten interested in the personas of pioneer entomologists whose work ties to western forest entomology. This story paints a view of Aldrich from that standpoint. In the process, I stray sometimes from the forest, and I leave much undiscovered.

Photo: John Aldrich, left, and A. L. Melander in 1912 examining a box of Diptera. Aldrich directed entomological work at the University of Idaho from 1893-1913; Melander did so at Washington State University from 1907-1926. From Hatch 1949.

ALDRICH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, 1893-1913

What got my attention and prompted my delving into this biography was a passage in Gittins and Scott (1988), quoting Hatch (1949), in regard to Aldrich's dismissal from UI in 1913. Until then, I had heard only of his prominence in the taxonomy of the Diptera (flies). So, what was that about?

Aldrich arrived at Moscow on September 1, 1893, from the University of Kansas where he received an M.S. degree earlier that year. He was appointed as professor of zoology and entomologist of the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station. His initial publications included studies of various subjects, such as the biology of the boxelder bug and control of grasshoppers and mosquitoes. However, it is apparent that his foremost interest lay with the Diptera. And, not just with their taxonomy. Moscow Mountain became his favorite collecting site, and his writings show him to be a perceptive observer of fly behavior (e.g., Aldrich 1894, 1899). It was there that he collected the type specimens of *M. aldrichii* (Wheeler 1899), mentioned at the start. I, too, have a fascination for Moscow Mountain and its flora and fauna. My interest in Aldrich was now accelerating!

MISFORTUNE ABOUNDS

By 1905, Aldrich had accumulated a large insect collection, located in the University's Administration Building (Fig. 3). A widower, he married his second wife Della Smith of Moscow, Idaho, and securing sabbatical leave of absence from the University went to Stanford University for a year (Gibbs 1962). His Ph.D. degree was awarded by Stanford in 1906. The monumental *Catalogue of North American Diptera* (Aldrich 1905) served as his thesis. During his absence, the Administration Building was gutted by fire (Fig. 4) and the collection destroyed. Fortunately, however, his library and personal collection of Diptera was spared, having been stored at his father's house in Moscow.



Figure 1. *Medetera aldrichii* (Wheeler) reared from Douglas-fir beetle galleries. Valley Co., Idaho. M. Furniss photo.

The fire was the least of his misfortunes. He had brought his first wife, Ellen Roe, to Moscow in 1893 and their only son, Spencer, was born and died May 17, 1895. Ellen followed two years later. This loss "... caused him to plunge most deeply into his dipterological work and he began his card catalog of the literature on Diptera ..." (Melander 1934).

Meanwhile, foment had invaded the Experiment Station and came to a head with his dismissal in 1913. The event was described by Hatch (1949): "... And then, without cause, in 1913 he and six of his colleagues were summarily dismissed from the university. In the darkest chapter of history of Northwestern entomology, an unenlightened administration deprived not only Idaho, but the entire Northwest of its most eminent entomologist ..."

Details unfolded in a series of exchanges in the pages of *Science* (Kellogg 1913), (MacLean 1913) and (Aldrich 1913). It began with Vernon L. Kellogg, professor of entomology at Stanford, writing to the editor of *Science* regarding Aldrich's dismissal by James A. MacLean, UI president and head of the Experiment Station:

(MacLean) found the duties of director of an agricultural experiment station bewildering and uncongenial. In 1904 Professor Aldrich with five other members of the faculty protested to the board of regents that the president was incompetent for his place. Strangely neither the president nor the protesting professors were dismissed but a compromise was effected which endured for eight years. It may be inferred from later occurrences that despite the long and healing lapse of time, the criticized president did not forget nor forgive his critics.

Continued on page 21

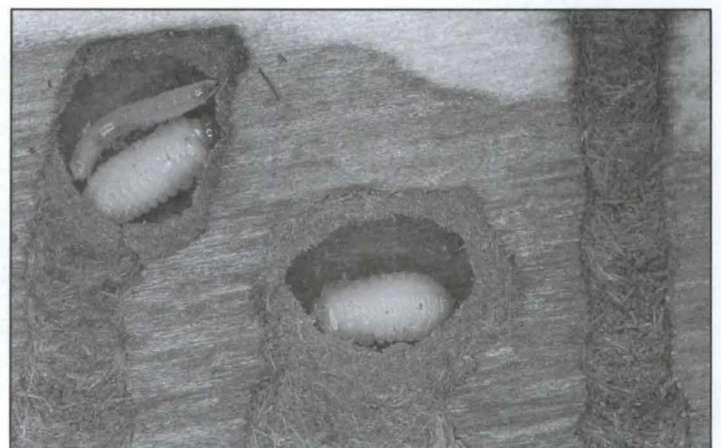
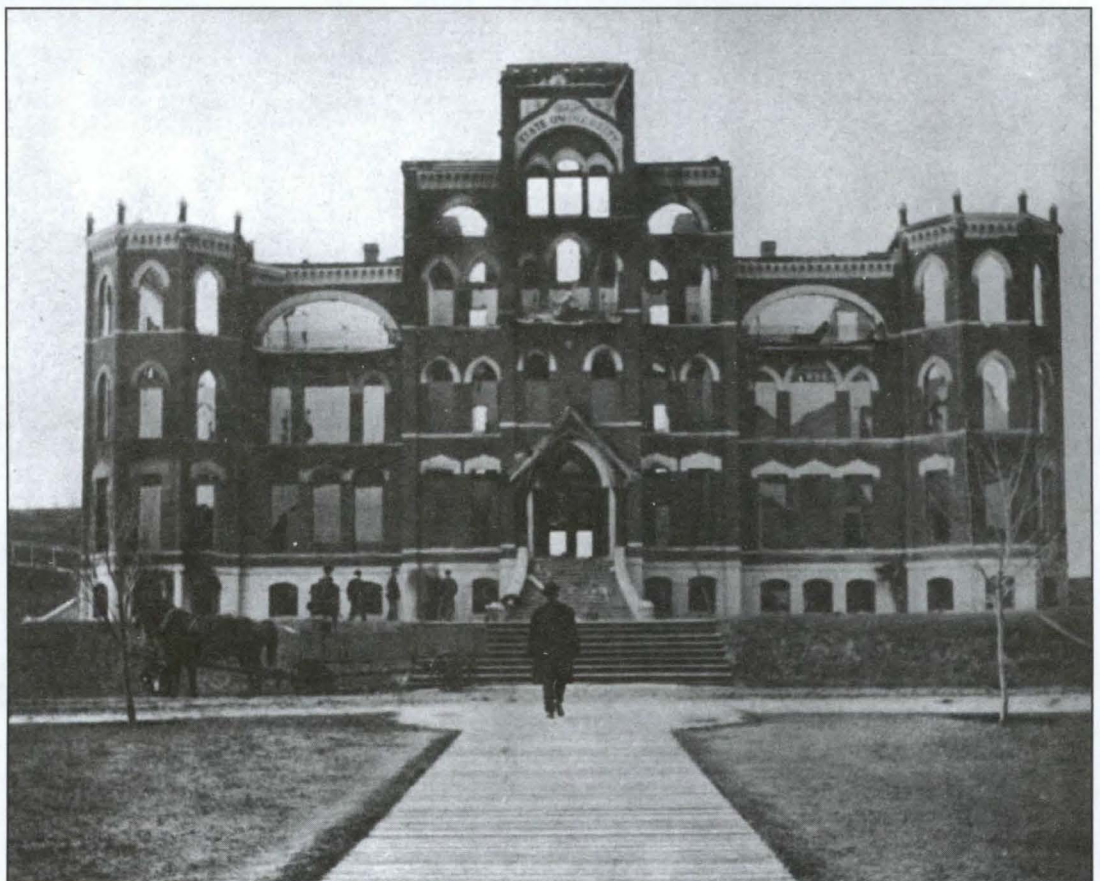


Figure 2. *Medetera aldrichii* larva in pupal cell of a pre-pupal Douglas-fir beetle larva, upper left. M. Furniss photo.



Above: Figure 3. First Administration Building, University of Idaho. #1-51-07, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.

Right: Figure 4. Shell of brick — all that remained of the Administration Building after the fire on March 30, 1906. #1-51-28, Special Collections & Archives, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.



Continued from page 19

MacLean left for the University of Manitoba in early 1913. According to Kellogg, who would have known Aldrich during the latter's study at Stanford, MacLean had left a list of those to be fired, and it was acted on by a board of regents as it went out of existence. "Thus Professor Aldrich and six colleagues have enjoyed the peculiar experience of being removed from their positions on the recommendation of a citizen of Manitoba by an official board which passed out of existence before the victims knew what had happened to them." MacLean (1913) responded that he had no role in the matter and that the board had acted on its own. The last word was by Aldrich (1913) saying that the facts were as presented by Kellogg.

BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF DIPTERA

Among Aldrich's 173 publications (Melander 1934) are two that especially strike home to forest entomology and are highlighted here.

Pandora moth. Aldrich was the first to publish on the use of caterpillars of the Pandora moth (*Coloradia pandora*) (Fig. 5) for food by Indians around Mono Lake, California (Aldrich 1912a). The caterpillars defoliate Jeffrey pine, which is native to that area:

The Indians call this food Pe-aggie. The first step in the collection of the caterpillars is to make a trench about the base of each tree, the outer edge of the trench as nearly vertical as possible. This is to keep the caterpillars from straying away when they come down the tree (to pupate in the soil). The Indians go from tree to tree in the collecting season and pick them up out of these trenches." The caterpillars were preserved by heat and kept indefinitely in a cool place. "The material which I bought from a squaw at Mono Lake in 1911 is still in perfect condition; in fact, I think the odor improves with age (Aldrich 1921).

This is an important food of the Indians about Mono Lake...Mr. Way reports that Chief Jake Garrison put up a ton and a half this past summer, in the woods just south of Mono Lake. He says the caterpillars are regarded as a great delicacy, and only a few at a time are used to flavor a stew. In the case already reported by me (1912a), however, it appeared that the stew was



Figure 5. Caterpillars of the Pandora moth were called Pe-aggie by the Mono, California Indians. Aldrich was the first to publish their use of the caterpillars as food. Photo from R.L. Furniss and Carolin 1977.

made entirely of caterpillars; I found the larvae tough and the stew insipid from lack of salt, the flavor resembling to my palate the taste of linseed oil. I could not from my own experience pronounce it a delicacy; however, *de gustibus non est disputandum*.

Aldrich was the first to report that this insect has a two-year life cycle, and therefore, the Indians could harvest it only every other year. Since then, the Pandora moth has been recorded infesting ponderosa pine in eastern Oregon (where Indians preferred the pupae) and lodgepole pine in north-central Colorado (R.L. Furniss and Carolin 1977). The populations on these three pine hosts are considered to be subspecies.

Pine butterfly and its parasitic wasp. The pine butterfly, *Neophasia menapia* (Fig. 6), defoliates ponderosa pine at long intervals of time, between which it is seldom seen. One of these outbreaks was witnessed by Aldrich on Moscow Mountain (Aldrich 1912b): "*Neophasia menapia* was for some years after its discovery an excessively rare butterfly, only a few specimens finding their way into collections." During 1896-1898, however, an outbreak occurred on Moscow Mountain. He noted that "... the woods was full of butterflies.

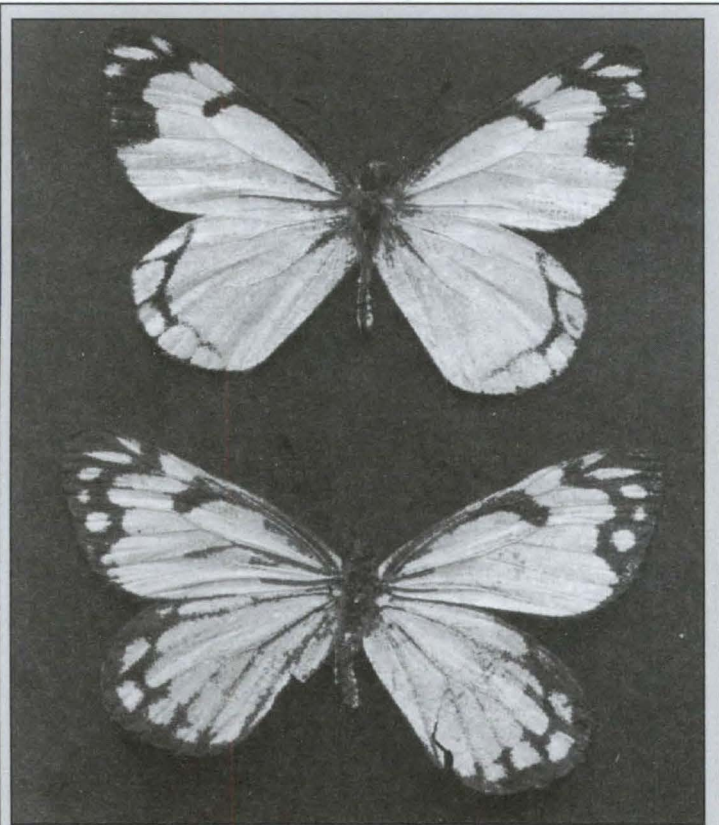


Figure 6. Pine butterfly adults. Aldrich observed their abundance and that of a parasitic wasp during a rare outbreak on ponderosa pine on Moscow Mountain during 1896-1898. Photo: #184 by H.J. Rust. Western Forest Insect Work Conference Archives.

On one occasion a strong breeze came up from the Northeast at Moscow and in a few minutes the town was simply alive with the white butterflies, which had been blown from the neighboring mountains." Aldrich reared an ichneumon, *Theronia fulvescens*, from pupae of the butterfly:

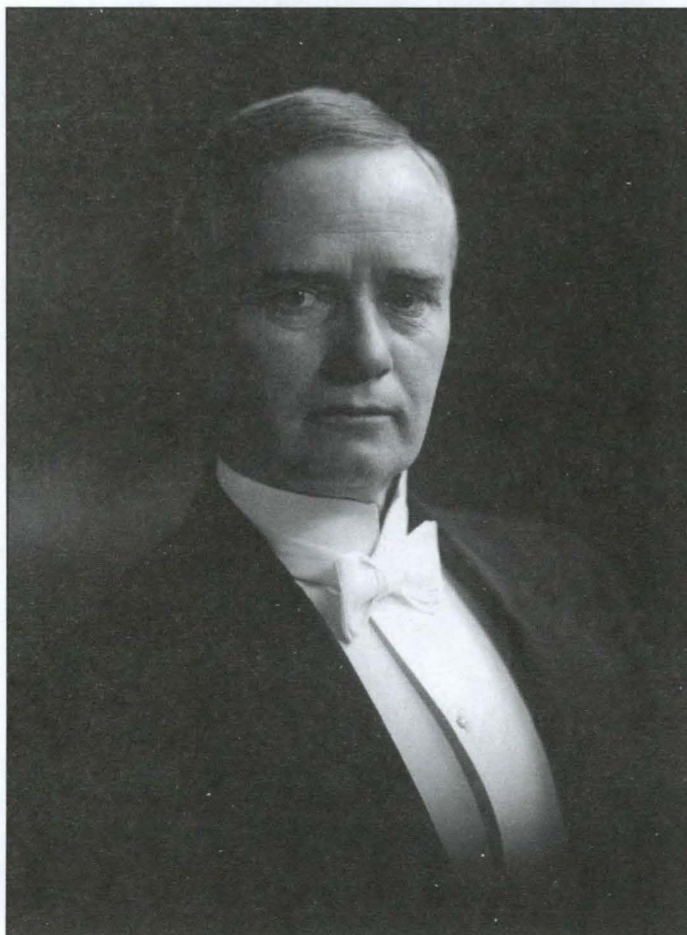
The parasite reached its maximum abundance in 1898, at which time it swarmed in the woods in late summer in incredible numbers. In places, the air was full of them and they made a very perceptible humming sound like a swarm of bees. At the University of Idaho, it was abundant and on one occasion I collected 40 specimens by picking them off the walls of the administration building (Fig. 3) while going once around it - and this seven miles from where any of them matured. ... In ten years afterwards I think I saw only one specimen (of pine butterfly) alive.

POST IDAHO

Idaho's self-inflicted loss proved to be the nation's gain. Aldrich (Fig. 7) was immediately appointed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Entomology, and for the next five years, he was stationed at Lafayette, Indiana, to investigate life histories of Oscinidae and other Diptera affecting cereal crops. In 1918, Aldrich transferred to the National Museum, Washington, D.C. (now Smithsonian Institution, Museum of Natural History) where he was appointed Custodian of Diptera and Associate Curator. In 1928 he presented to the National Museum his personal collection of Diptera, numbering 45,000 specimens and 4,000 named species. With this he donated the unique and extensive card catalogue of Diptera, which brought the Aldrich catalogue of 1905 to date (Melander 1934).

Aldrich was one of the organizers of the Thomas Say Foundation and served as editor from 1916 to 1931. He was secretary-treasurer of the Entomological Society of America from 1915 to 1920, and president in 1921. In 1926 he was resident of the Washington Entomological Society.

John Aldrich had a remarkable gift of locating rare species on his collecting trips. His more extensive journeys included Utah and California, 1911; Alaska, 1921; Guatemala, 1926; and Sweden, 1930. He was meticulously careful in mounting specimens, in arranging the



Right: Figure 7. John M. Aldrich. #3-0053a, Special Collections & Archives Library, University of Idaho Library, Moscow.

Museum collection, and in entering the records in his great index. His diary had daily entries for some 50 years, not merely a line or two, but a careful description of the happenings that befall an eminent man (I was unable to determine the present location of those diaries).

John Merton Aldrich died at age 68 on May 27, 1934, in apparent good health and anticipating another of his bicentennial collecting trips to the Pacific Coast. The cause of death was "an abrupt catabolic derangement" (Melander 1934). His ashes were returned to Moscow and placed beside his first wife and his only child in the Moscow cemetery (Fig. 8). Although ill-conceived, his dismissal led to a prominence way beyond what likely would have been his had he spent his remaining 21 years with the University of Idaho. ♀

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Figure 8. Headstones of graves of Ellen Roe Aldrich (left), first wife of Aldrich; son, Spencer (middle); and Aldrich. Aldrich's headstone also bears the words: Della Aldrich Adams, apparently his second wife. Moscow Cemetery, Old 7, Lot 81. M. Furniss photo.





Edna Dewey, Moscow High School teacher, poses in the Curtiss aeroplane. LCHS # 17-8-13.



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