



LATAH LEGACY



Latah County Communities—Then and Now

One Century Ago—The Spanish Flu Epidemic

Community Heritage from the Ground Up:
Archaeology at Moscow High School

Insights from #Archives Month

Making Literature Live: John Cushman and Dramatics

History of Camp Grizzly Area 1900-1942

Latah County
Historical Society



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Contributors

LeNelle McInturff, Editor

Hannah Kroese, Design

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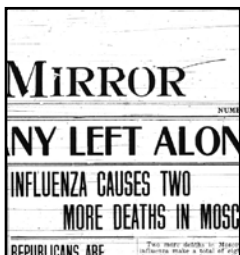


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Latah County Communities —Then and Now

By Dulce Kersting-Lark

In late August of this year, we were honored to once again welcome the Smithsonian Institution to Moscow. For the second time in just three years, our historical society played host to a traveling exhibition curated by the Smithsonian and managed in our state by the Idaho Humanities Council. *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* was on display in the Moscow Chamber of Commerce downtown office for six weeks, and during that time nearly 1,000 adults and more than 600 students had the opportunity to visit.

Crossroads, while just 750 square feet in size, presented 100 years of history from all corners of rural America. Broad themes, like technological innovation, changing demographics, and access to land, were humanized by the addition of personal stories and imagery. The exhibit was national in scope, and yet so many of the examples provided could have easily been replaced by stories from Latah County. In fact there were several occasions when visitors had to do a double-take to realize a photograph of a farmers market or a combine in the field was not in fact from our community.

To go along with the traveling show, we curated a photograph exhibit to encourage further conversation about the ways that Latah County communities have changed over the last century. A number of the trends incorporated into *Crossroads* were easily recognizable in the histories of our own rural towns. The evolution of transportation, for example, was a defining factor in several places, as was the arrival or departure of a major industry.

We worked with local photographer Kai Eiselein to create a series of then-and-now photo pairings that allow the viewer to visualize the persistent march of time. Accompanying each set of photos is a very brief overview of the major forces of change at work on each community's landscape. We relied on primary and secondary sources in our archives to develop these vignettes, and those sources provided a solid foundation to understand Latah County during the 20th century.

What could not be captured in this photo retrospective, however, is what the next 100 years will look like in our region. In the final panels of *Crossroads*, visitors were invited to consider how our towns should adapt to sweeping changes, be they societal, economic, or environmental. It is not hard to imagine how things like water scarcity, automation of jobs, or access to high quality education may drastically impact our shared way of life. As you read on, we hope you will consider how every rural community is at a crossroads.

We believe that a thorough understanding of the past is the best way to prepare for the future. History is essential to knowing ourselves and our communities, and it is essential to preparing for what lies ahead. If you did not have the opportunity to visit *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, you can learn more about the subjects covered in the exhibit by visiting museumonmainstreet.org/content/crossroads.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to the following organizations and individuals that made this project so rewarding: Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, Museum on Main Street, Idaho Humanities Council, Latah County Community Foundation, Moscow Chamber of Commerce, Palouse Land Trust, PNW Co-op, Kai Eiselein, Diane Kelly-Riley, and Lorie Higgins.

Bovill



A dirt road leads into Bovill, Idaho about 1909.
LCHS Photo 02-01-002



Kai Eiselein "Bovill, Idaho 7-13-19"

Located in the eastern part of Latah County, just outside the borders of the St. Joe National Forest, the community of Bovill has been shaped by the rugged beauty of its surroundings. The town's founder and namesake, Hugh Bovill, arrived in the area in 1899 and saw the location's potential to be a destination for well-to-do sportsmen looking to hunt in the great stands of white pine and fish the cold, clear streams of the Clearwater River drainage. For a decade, the Bovills enjoyed success in their little piece of paradise, operating a hotel and general store to serve both locals and visitors. During that same decade, the timber industry in northern Latah County boomed. By 1911, the Bovills felt that much of what had drawn them to the area was spoiled, and so they left. Lumberjacks working in the area supported businesses in Bovill through the 1920s, a decade when a number of restaurants, hotels, and rooming houses thrived. The rest of the century saw a steady decline in the community's population. Between 1920 and 1940 Bovill lost nearly 25 percent of its residents.

Population in 1920 - 589
Population in 1970 - 350
Population in 2010 - 260

Deary

A number of Scandinavian families, and at least one African American family, found community in the fields around present-day Deary when they arrived in the 1880s and 1890s to claim homesteads in this yet-unsettled piece of America's West. The immigrants raised crops and livestock while enjoying the natural bounties of the land. As was the case for much of northern Latah County, the arrival of an organized timber industry at the turn of the century brought many changes. Deary was established in 1907 and named for the general manager of the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway. It boomed as a center of trade for lumberjacks and farmers. Hotels, restaurants, churches, a bank, and many more businesses made Deary a lively community during the 1910s. Job losses in the timber industry in following decades greatly affected the town, however, and the economy came to once again depend on farming as its base. Improved roads between Deary and Moscow made it easier to travel between the communities, which further undermined Deary's business district.



Main Street in Deary, about 1910.
LCHS Photo 04-02-003



Kai Eiselein "Deary, Idaho Main Street 7-13-19"

Population in 1920 - 316
Population in 1970 - 411
Population in 2010 - 506

Genesee



*Dear Friend -
I didn't get to go to the circus or you would of surely
seen me standing on the corness looking for you. I wanted
to go awfully bad but as it was I couldn't will. sub your some other time
Maggie
May 22, '07*

Commercial district of Genesee, circa 1910.
LCHS Photo 06-02-006



Kai Eiselein "Genesee, Idaho downtown 7-15-19"

Genesee is one of the oldest communities in Latah County. Drawn by the rich agricultural lands of the Palouse, settlers in the area first began arriving in the early 1870s. According to local historian Lillian Otness, "when in 1888 the Spokane & Palouse Railway was extended to Genesee, the owner of the townsite asked what was considered an exorbitant price for right-of-way and grounds." Rather than pay the price, the railway company built a depot one mile to the west, and soon after the community relocated to match. Genesee thrived as a center for agricultural trade. In the years before a rail line served Lewiston, ranchers from Grangeville and Cottonwood drove their cattle and hogs to Genesee for shipment to more distant markets. Orchard fruit was another major export of the region. During the second half of the 20th century history seemed to repeat itself when Highway 95 was changed to go around Genesee instead of through it, and the lively shopping district suffered as a result. The community's importance as a center of agricultural trade, its nearness to two major centers of employment, and its commitment to K-12 education have all helped it get through the challenges of the last 100 years.

Population in 1920 - 676
Population in 1970 - 619
Population in 2010 - 955

Kendrick

Latah County offers a remarkable mixture of landscapes within its roughly 1,000 square miles. While many connect Latah County with impressive forests or golden rolling hills, a breathtaking canyon carved by the Potlatch River forms its southern border. Kendrick lies along the river, some 1,400 feet closer to sea level than Genesee or Deary. This natural feature played a major part in Kendrick's early growth. Longer growing seasons gave farmers better yields of fruits and grains. The river supplied power to run flour and lumber mills. Products from the timber and mining industry went through the town, headed for larger markets by way of Lewiston. Like many rural communities, Kendrick suffered heavy losses due to fires in the early 20th century. Those disasters led to stricter building codes and the use of bricks for buildings that still line Kendrick's Main Street. The rail line that was once so important to Kendrick's success has been changed in recent years to a recreational trail, bringing new possibilities to the town.



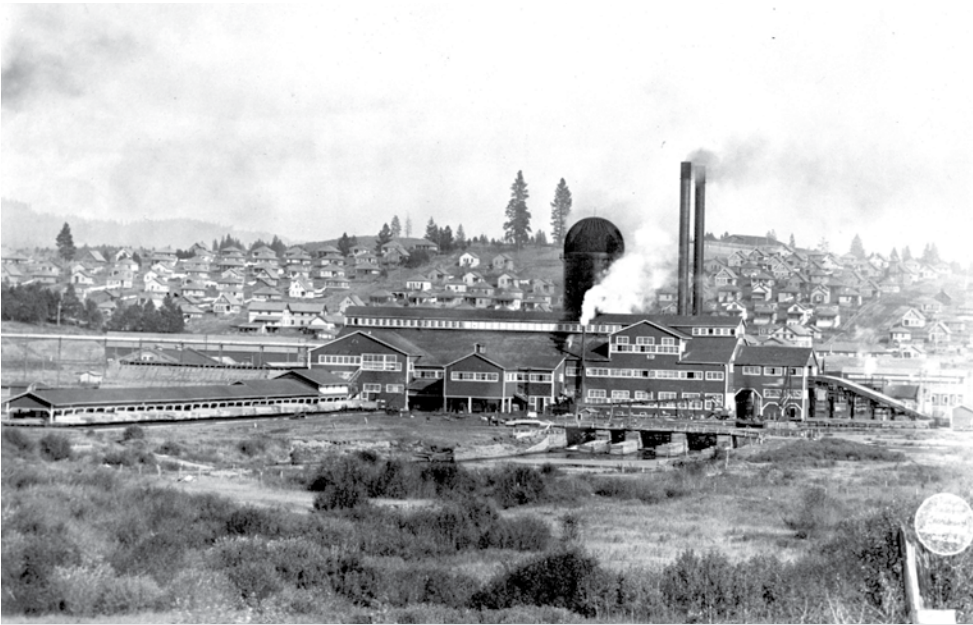
View of Kendrick from above baseball field, circa 1950s.
LCHS Photo 10-01-018



Kai Eiselein "Kendrick, Idaho 7-15-19"

Population in 1920 - 522
Population in 1970 - 426
Population in 2010 - 303

Potlatch



Potlatch Lumber Company sawmill, the largest in the world at the time of its construction, 1913.

LCHS Photo 12-03-019

Though not as large or well-known as places like Hershey, Pennsylvania or Pullman, Illinois, the Potlatch Lumber Company's planned community in northern Latah County is a classic example of industry's role in developing rural America. Potlatch was founded for the clear purpose of supplying quality workers for what was then the largest white pine sawmill in the world. All the necessary parts for a successful community were provided by the company, including homes, a school, churches, a community gym, a department store, and even an opera house. Beginning in the 1950s, Potlatch Corporation started to sell off its investments in the town, and by 1980 they were preparing to close the mill entirely. As is to be expected, the company town's population rose and fell based upon the strength of the mill. 1920 saw the height of Potlatch's growth, when production related to WWI and post-war prosperity drove up lumber consumption across the country. Fifty years later Potlatch's population had shrunk by more than 40 percent. Although the town was based upon the idea that folks should live where they work, now many of Potlatch's residents travel each day to jobs in larger communities like Moscow and Pullman, Washington.



Kai Eiselein "Potlatch Mill site 7-25-19"

Population in 1920 - 1,505
Population in 1970 - 871
Population in 2010 - 804

Viola

Viola is one of Idaho's oldest communities. Even before it got a post office in 1878, settlers had been farming and raising livestock on the productive lands along Four Mile Creek for several years. A major portion of those early harvests supplied miners working in the Hoodoo District of northeast Latah County. Later crops, and in particular apples, were shipped throughout the Inland Northwest. During the first part of the 20th century Viola enjoyed success, and around 100 people called the town home. A nearby Seventh Day Adventists group added more than 200 additional residents to the area. Travel to and from the town was easy and enjoyable because the Spokane & Inland Electric railway made a stop in Viola. As forms of transportation changed and the railroad lost ground to the automobile, Viola's luck changed. In the 1950s, Highway 95 was rerouted. Once passing through the middle of town, today it goes around the western edge of Viola.



*A panoramic view looking south into Viola, 1912.
LCHS Photo 16-01-002*



Kai Eiselein "Viola, Idaho 6-26-19"

Troy



Parade in Troy, 1914.
LCHS Photo 15-02-007



A community first began to form here before 1890 and was known in the beginning as Huff's Gulch. It was incorporated under the name Vollmer in 1892, after the man who was responsible for bringing the Spokane & Palouse Railway to the area. John P. Vollmer built a business empire that included banks, general stores, mills, and warehouses. That fortune made it possible for him to buy large pieces of land. By the late 1890s a number of people in Vollmer had come to dislike the developer's stranglehold on local lands, and so they voted to change the town's name to Troy. The community grew as a center of trade for homesteaders and timbermen, and at one point enjoyed multiple general stores, meat markets, and saloons. The establishment of Potlatch Lumber Company's town in northern Latah County and the growth of the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway slowed the growth of Troy. Today Troy is a bedroom community for bigger cities like Moscow or Lewiston. Its residents can enjoy the charms of a small town while also taking advantage of nearby employment opportunities.



Kai Eiselein "Troy Parade 7-13-19"



Population in 1920 - 591
Population in 1970 - 541
Population in 2010 - 862

Juliaetta

Like many communities in Latah County, Juliaetta's early growth was driven by agricultural activities, including the presence of a flour mill and a fruit canning operation. The arrival of Dr. Robert Foster's School of Healing in 1903, however, changed Juliaetta from a village of about 200 people to a lively town with hundreds of visitors arriving each year to receive treatments or teachings from the doctor. During the eight years that the school was active in Juliaetta, locals could enjoy such luxuries as a roller-skating rink, movie theater, and ice cream parlor. Indeed, the local newspaper even noted at the time that "this institution has proven to be one of the greatest factors in the development and growth of the town." In the end Dr. Foster relocated his school to Clarkston and the town never truly recovered from the loss. More recently Juliaetta has enjoyed an increase in visitors to the banks of the Potlatch River, once known as Colter's Creek, to sip on award-winning wines.



Street scene in Juliaetta, mercantile in foreground, Foster School of Healing located in adjacent block building, c. 1910.

LCHS Photo 09-02-001



Kai Eiselein "Juliaetta Mercantile 7-15-19"

Population in 1920 - 427
Population in 1970 - 423
Population in 2010 - 579

Blaine



A herd of sheep being driven through Blaine, date unknown.
Historic photo courtesy of Earl Bennett



A number of the communities that once existed at the crossroads of major travel routes across Latah County can scarcely be recognized today. Blaine is a helpful example of how many rural towns across America disappeared over the last 100 years. A collection of Scandinavian families came together to form Blaine in the 1880s. The town served as an important stopover for farmers and merchants traveling between Moscow and Genesee. Blaine had a blacksmith shop to serve travelers and local farmers, both of whom were heavily dependent on horses and mules. There was also a school house, a grocery store, and a Methodist Episcopal Church. The town's importance faded as railroads and automobiles replaced older methods of travel. Such was the case with many communities we might think of as ghost towns today. It is remarkable to note that at one time mail was delivered to 26 separate post offices in Latah County.



Kai Eiselein "Blaine, Idaho 7-15-19"



Onaway

Originally founded as a stagecoach stop “on the way” to mines in the Hoodoo district, the road through Onaway later led to Princeton, Harvard, and St. Maries, where homesteaders were beginning to file timber claims. Onaway was greatly reduced in size when Potlatch Lumber Company roads bypassed the community. It continued to serve an important role in the environment of rural Latah County, though, opening its saloon doors to the men of Potlatch, who were not allowed to drink in the company’s dry town just one mile to the south. The community’s population varied throughout the latter-half of the 20th century, from 191 in 1960 to 254 in 1980, and then back down to 187 in 2010. The closure of Potlatch Corporation’s mill in 1981 no doubt had a major impact on the residents of Onaway.



Winter scene in Onaway, c. 1900.
LCHS Photo 11-01-001



Kai Eiselein “Onaway, Idaho 7-15-2019”

STAR-MIRROR

IDAHO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1918

NUMBER 32

RS--GERMANY LEFT ALONE

CASUALTIES

PASSED 61,000 SUNDAY

INFLUENZA CAUSES TWO

MORE DEATHS IN MOSCOW

ONE CENTURY AGO —THE SPANISH FLU EPIDEMIC

By Sandra Kelly

IT BEGAN INNOCENTLY ENOUGH—just a cough from one soldier billeted in Kansas. But that cough changed the world and sparked one of the deadliest influenza pandemics in modern history.

The Spanish Flu of 1918 was vicious, cunning and sly, and though its origins will always be questioned, reports indicate that “Patient Zero” was an Army cook from Kansas, Albert Gitchell. If Gitchell’s was not the first cough, he was the first person diagnosed with the flu. His case began in the early hours of March 11, 1918, when he stumbled out of bed at Camp Funston in Fort Riley, Kansas, with a temperature of 103°. He made his way to the infirmary, and by afternoon the disease blanketed the camp with at least 107 cases. By the end of the month, 46 people had died and 1,127 cases of the flu had been reported.¹

Spain gets a bit of a raw deal when it comes to the Spanish Flu. Most scientists agree the flu did not originate in Spain, but rather in China as a lethal H1N1 strain of the flu. Spanish newspapers were the first to report the deadly flu. Europeans

quickly took those newspaper reports and dubbed the outbreak the Spanish Flu, though it also had many other names: Blue Death, Spanish Lady, Fever of War, even the Great Influenza. Many refer to it as the Great Pandemic of 1918.² Regardless of the name, the disease struck fear in the hearts of millions—not just in America, but throughout the world.

By February 1919 when the flu bug suddenly vanished, the flu had wielded its venom throughout the trenches of Europe during World War I. It spread from Europe to New Zealand to America and killed more soldiers than had died under fire during the war. Estimates indicate that a third of the world’s population was exposed to the airborne virus, and it is possible that one in every 200 people died after exposure.³ Scientists continue to debate exactly why the 1918 flu was so deadly and where it began. Gitchell is considered “Patient Zero,” but where and how he contracted the virus continues to be debated. In 2004 microbiologists were able to isolate the vicious H1N1 strain, but questions remain regarding origination and how it spread. Some argue that Chinese migrant laborers transmitted the virus behind British lines. Others say the deadly strain had mutated because of the filthy conditions of the World War I field hospitals and troop ships,

but it may have originated in America. There is speculation the Spanish Flu started in China as a lethal strain of the H1N1 influenza, but it could have started as a strain of bird or swine flu in Kansas, where the flu of 1918 was first diagnosed.⁴ Regardless of where it began, its reign of terror was lethal and devastating. There was little that people could do to fight the flu. Doctors were flummoxed. Red Cross nurses provided masks and cool cloths, but there was little in the way of preventative care. Once exposed, misery was eminent, and death was not unexpected.

The Spanish Flu arrived in Idaho sometime before the end of September 1918. According to the State of Idaho vital statistics, the Public Health Service did not require states to report influenza before September 27, 1918. On September 30, officials reported cases in Canyon County. Less than two weeks later the number of cases had grown to such an extent that the state was unable to track the disease accurately. By late October flu cases were reported from Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Twin Falls, Wallace, Lewiston and Moscow, as well as many other towns scattered throughout the state.⁵

The sickness raged throughout Idaho, hitting Latah County with a ferocity matching that of the War in Europe. In October of 1918 the University of Idaho student newspaper, *The Argonaut*, reported three deaths during the week of October 30, while Pullman had lost 25 men since the epidemic began. The University of Idaho's Miles Davis of Gillette, Wyoming, was the first to succumb, while George Sparenberg of Wardner, Idaho, and Robert Cross of Douglass, Wyoming, both died a few days later.⁶ At least 32 students from the University of Idaho died in military service during World War I, the first being Dudley Loomis, for whom the Moscow American Legion Post is named. However, at least 10 students from the Student Army Training Corps (SATC) died from the flu. It cannot be irrefutably confirmed, but records indicate it was a Wyoming SATC member who brought the flu to the UI campus. Moscow's Inland Empire Hospital treated the majority of the sick, but at the height of the epidemic, temporary hospitals were set up at the Elks Temple, the Episcopal Church and at a fraternity house.⁷

Finding places to house the sick, and making sure the sick were not contaminating others, was a monumental task that fell to Dr. William Adair. Dr. Adair was what we would consider now the county health agent. He trekked to all parts of Latah County to take care of people, but he also initiated the rules that kept people from congregating in large groups. Ione Adair, one of Dr. Adair's daughters and a long-time Latah County resident, said when she was younger she accompanied her father on many of his trips where he took care of flu victims and assisted sick families.

ANOTHER DEATH FROM INFLUENZA

YOUNG SOLDIER LAYS DOWN LIFE THIS MORNING AFTER A BRAVE STRUGGLE

Frank J. Paterka, of Spokane, a member of class A, of the S. A. T. C., at the University of Idaho, died this morning of pneumonia, following influenza. He had been in a critical condition for several days. His mother, Mrs. I. J. Paterka, was with him when the end came. He will be buried at Moscow tomorrow afternoon.

The young man was a graduate of the North Central high school of Spokane in the class of 1918. He was 20 years old last month. He was a member of the A. K. E. fraternity. He was well known in Spokane, where his family lived a number of years. He was born in Decorah, Iowa, October 12, 1898.

Word reached here today that Howard Fenton, of Kendrick, died there last night, of pneumonia, making the first death in Kendrick as a result of the "flu." He was well known here, his wife, formerly Miss Mabel Grice, having lived in Moscow several years.

There has been a new outbreak of influenza in town, believed to be a result of people massing together the day of the celebration, last Monday. More new cases have been reported in

(Continued on page 3)

Moscow Star-Mirror, November 11, 1918

"Dad went night and day," Ione Adair said in an oral history interview conducted by the Latah County Historical Society in 1976. "When I'd leave work and come home, he'd have someplace out here in the county and he'd tell me to go to a certain place, like out here at Joel, and he said, 'I'll tell you from there.' And he'd go to sleep and I'd drive the horses until we'd get to Joel, and then he'd tell me which way I was to go from there."⁸

INFLUENZA CAUSES TWO MORE DEATHS IN MOSCOW

Two more deaths, due to influenza, have occurred here, bringing the total since the influenza epidemic struck Moscow up to 12.

Earl St. John, whose wife died just one week ago, followed her today. Mr. and Mrs. St. John were stricken two weeks ago and both were critically ill from the start. Her death occurred just one week before that of her husband. Mr. St. John was 22 years of age and had been employed as window decorator in David's department store. Mr. and Mrs. St. John had no children.

He is survived by his parents who live in Moscow, a twin brother, Edward, who is with the American army in France and two sisters, Mrs. L. C. Hurlburt and Mrs. Dora Starner.

Leland Eddy, of Sandpoint, a member of the S. A. T. C. class B, the vocational training corps, died this morning after an illness of two weeks. His condition has been critical for more than a week and hope of his recovery was abandoned several days ago. His mother arrived in Moscow before his death, reaching here Sat-

urday evening. She is Mrs. I. W. Eddy, of Sandpoint. She left for home at 10:45. The body will be shipped to Sandpoint for burial.

M. C. Bigelow, who came here recently from Whitmore, Alberta, died last night at the home of his daughter Mrs. Henry Lawrence. His death was due to old age. The body will be shipped to Spooner, Wisconsin, for burial.

The body of Herman Greaser, a member of the vocational training corps, who died Saturday, was shipped today to Laramie, Wyoming, for burial, that place being his home. The body goes by express and will not be accompanied by a military escort.

This morning there were four bodies in the undertaking parlors of Glen O. Grice, the four mentioned above having been held there for a short time.

The death of Leland Eddy removes the last serious case among the soldiers and it is believed that, unless complications should occur, all of the others will recover.

Moscow Star-Mirror, November 18, 1918

Both Ione and her sister Bernadine Adair Cornelison said the flu was terrible and their father had to be everywhere, seemingly all at the same time. One trip took Dr. Adair to Elk River to care for a number of flu victims. Ione Adair said the Methodist Church in Moscow had a new minister working there, and Dr. Adair asked the minister to assist him in Elk River.

"...He went with Dad over to Elk River and they treated 10 or 12 people at Elk River—people that were wanting help. And the snow was so deep that they couldn't see. Dad didn't know where to go, so he got a man at the drugstore to take him

around to these different places where he had to visit them," she said. "...On the way home, there was a little mill on the right-hand side of the road a little mill that set back in, and they came out and were standing in the road when Dad came back and [they] asked Dad to come in and he went in and gave medicine to a number of people there that time. The minister said, 'Of all things I ever saw that certainly was one trip.'"⁸

During the epidemic, Dr. Adair closed schools, churches and meetinghouses. Ione Adair said most people complied with the closures, but there were plenty of objections, including

from Milton Kenworthy, who had just moved into town and opened a movie theater on Third Street.

“Dad refused to let the movie run while the epidemic was on,” Ione said. “And Kenworthy was the maddest man you ever saw. I never seen him to ask him if he’s ever forgiven him or not, but he was an awful mad man.”⁸

Eventually the flu ran its course. In December of 1918 *The Idaho Statesman* reported that there were 105 new cases of the flu in the first week of November, but only 26 new cases were reported in the first week of December. By the spring of 1919, there were few new reports of the flu.⁹

At the Idaho State Pandemic Influenza Summit in March 2006 Mike Leavitt, US Secretary of Health and Human Services, said, “The final toll that the pandemic took in Idaho will never be known. But the echoes of suffering and loss remain. When it comes to pandemics, there is no rational basis to believe that the early years of the 21st century will be different from the past. If a pandemic strikes, it will come to Idaho.”

The current citizens of Latah County know all too well that the flu does come to Moscow. Fortunately, we have not suffered from a pandemic like the one that hit the world in 1918. But that doesn’t mean it won’t happen and that, despite the improvements in medical care, it won’t be deadly. And like the outbreak in 1918, it can begin with just one cough from one person.

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An October 15
advertisement paid for by the
Eldridge Clothing Company,
included the following suggestions:

"Influenza: How to Avoid It"

If you feel a sudden chill, followed by muscular pain, headache, backache, redness and fever, go to bed at once.

See that there is enough bed clothing to keep you warm.

Open all windows in your bedroom and keep them open at all times, except in rainy weather.

Take medicine to open the bowels freely.

Take some nourishing food, such as milk, egg and milk, or broth every four hours.

Stay in bed until a physician tells you that it is safe to get up.

To Householders:

Keep out of sick-rooms.

Do not handle articles coming from the sick-room until they are boiled.

Allow no visitors.

Do not go visiting.

Call a doctor.

Keep away from crowded places.

(Idaho Yesterdays)



COMMUNITY HERITAGE FROM THE GROUND UP:

ARCHAEOLOGY AT MOSCOW HIGH SCHOOL

By Mark Warner, Katrina Eichner, Renae Campbell

The project

In fall 2019, the University of Idaho conducted a public archaeology project on the grounds of Moscow High School. We began the Idaho Public Archaeology (IPA) project after Moscow High School teacher Leanne Eareckson reached out to us about the prospect of running an archaeology field

school in conjunction with the high school. The original thinking was to do some work several miles outside of town at Virgil Phillips Farm Park. However, as we thought about this a bit more, we realized that there was a golden opportunity to do something even closer—right on the grounds of the high school. Conducting an archaeology project in the heart of Moscow provided us the opportunity to do a number



University of Idaho freshman Josee Grant screens for artifacts as graduate student John Bergner excavates in the background.

of things: a) offer University of Idaho students a chance to gain field experience (a necessity for future employment in archaeology), b) build a relationship with Moscow High School that introduced high school students to the field of anthropology, and c) conduct our archaeology research in a public setting and share our findings with the community. We should note that we have done several public archaeology projects in Boise—resulting in about 2,500 visitors and roughly 3,500 volunteer hours—but this is our first such project in our hometown of Moscow.

What was there to find?

People frequently assume that archaeology is conducted in exotic locales exploring ancient cultures. In reality, many archaeologists work in much more mundane settings. The field of historical archaeology explores the recent past (the last 500 years)—and it is a form of archaeology for which the University of Idaho is particularly known. Historical archaeology is a very effective vehicle for exploring the experiences of everyday folk in the past, which is what we set out to do. After perusing historical documents, we found that the Moscow High School grounds had a surprisingly complex history. We looked at Sanborn fire insurance maps of the property dating to between 1891 and 1928. The maps showed that before the current high school was built there were at least nine residences on the property going back to



Henrike Fiedler and Rian Mirly show off a collection of rubber duckies found in the high school courtyard.



An aerial photo of the current high school property overlain with a Sanborn fire insurance map from 1896. Using historic maps, IPA was able to identify which areas to test with excavations, including the location of the first high school. (Courtesy of map maker Tessie Burningham)

the nineteenth century and nine other buildings, such as woodsheds, cellars, and other outbuildings. Additionally, Moscow's first high school was originally built in 1892 in the location of the current high school's north wing. While what is now the 1912 Center was the second building built as a high school on Third Street, the main building of the present high school was built in 1939.

Fieldwork

We worked on Friday afternoons and all day on Saturdays from the first week in September through October 19 (plus a bit of extra time to fill in holes and clean equipment). Eighteen students signed up for the project through the University of Idaho. These students ranged from first-year to graduate students. We also had about eight other UI students or community members volunteer, and two high school students participated in the project. Volunteers contributed over 120 hours of their time to the project, and we had approximately 200 people visit the excavations.

As for the excavations themselves, we placed a series of test units across the property. Our fieldwork objectives were to see if the archaeological record was still intact on the property, to learn a bit more about the history of Moscow's educational institutions (especially in regards to student life), and to find residences dating to the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.

What we found and our next steps

Overall, the high school grounds were full of surprises. We certainly found ample evidence of high school life – ranging from rubber ducks from a past senior prank to scraps from shop class projects to a microscope lens. However, the most unexpected find was what we believe is a portion of the original high school foundation from the 1890s. Frankly, we never expected that there would be much evidence left of this original structure, given that the current additions were built directly over its presumed footprint. In addition to the 1890s high school foundation, we also uncovered a surprising amount of material from the homes that were once on the property. These materials included remains from past meals (animal bone) and a variety of household goods such as bottle glass fragments, ceramic dishware, hair combs, straight pins, and even a part of what we think is an old sewing machine.

Even though we are finished digging, we are quite a ways away from wrapping up this project. While fieldwork can take weeks, it is the lab work that will take months. We expect many of the students who participated in the excavation to continue their research over the coming months. Lab work will lead to numerous student research presentations and provide the foundation for additional projects. One of those



A fragment of a glass extract bottle used during the early 20th century



A broken hard rubber hair comb found in the location of an early residential structure



A 10x magnification microscope lens found downhill from the high school's south wing



Jay Gaines excavates a unit where the original high school building once stood.



The foundation of the first high school built in 1892

projects that we hope to create is an online exhibit of the project—though tackling that task is still a ways off.

The Moscow High School archaeology project turned out surprisingly well, and we would like to do something like it again in the future. If we do tackle another Moscow dig, we intend to work on our coordination with the high school. We would like to help the high school faculty incorporate archaeology into their regular curriculum, and hopefully, we can encourage more of their students to assist us during fieldwork. We also intend to share the experience and the results with more members of the Moscow community.

To learn more

- a. About the project see our Instagram and Facebook pages at:
<https://www.instagram.com/idahoarchaeology/>
<https://www.facebook.com/idahoarchaeology/>
- b. About what historical archaeology is see: www.SHA.org
- c. If you have any questions, please email us at : mwarner@uidaho.edu, katrinae@uidaho.edu, rjcampbell@uidaho.edu



Insights from #Archives Month

By Zach Wnek

American Archives Month is celebrated in October each year with the purpose of increasing awareness of archivists and the value of the unique historical records (archives) they organize, preserve, and make accessible to the general public. Using the tag #ArchivesMonth, the Latah County Historical Society (LCHS) celebrated the month this year by sharing archival collections on three social media platforms: Twitter—@LatahCoHistory, Facebook—@LatahCountyHistory, and Instagram—latahcountyhistoricalsociety.

There were two primary goals for this project. First, LCHS wanted to share archival collections with the world in a way that was fun and showed the breadth of resources available. The second objective was to assess the impact of our postings to see if our audience would connect with the LCHS collections or if we were screaming into a void.

This project began in conversations around the office to find something special to do for Archives Month. What better way to celebrate our collection than to share it with the world?

We went through our document and photograph archives looking for materials from all corners of the LCHS collections to share on social media. Selected materials were then digitized, and descriptions combined with storytelling provided context to users, allowing them to find and connect with LCHS posts more easily.

Zachary Wnek, LCHS Museum Curator, has been following social media trends in museums through conversations with colleagues and programs at museum conferences. LCHS followed the recommendation that entries should be posted three times per day (21 times per week) on each social media channel. Posts were to include at least one image and tell part of the story of Latah County's history.

For many posts we used a social media scheduler. This allowed LCHS to write and produce content well in advance of posting. The content would post to the selected social media platform at a predetermined time and date. Using a scheduler was much more convenient for this process than trying to write, scan, and create content at a given moment three times a day, seven days a week.

One exciting element of social media platforms is that they track nearly everything relating to an account. Using the data generated by this tracking allows for fascinating insight into the success, or lack thereof, of social media strategy and execution. Each platform (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram)



Screenshot of sample LCHS post on Instagram. All photos courtesy of author.

uses different terms to describe this data. Although there is a mountain of data to look at, the LCHS analysis focuses on reach, engagement, and followers.

These three categories can tell us a lot about our social media strategy and execution. Reach is the number of screens on which an individual piece of content appeared. Engagement is measured when people like, comment, or share a post. Followers are the number of people who have signed up to have LCHS posts in their feed that comes up when they sign into their account.

During the #ArchivesMonth campaign, the LCHS Twitter account had a reach of 10,000. The October engagement rate was 1%. Therefore, of the 10,000 times someone saw a piece of LCHS content, 100 liked, replied, or shared the post. LCHS gained seven followers over October on Twitter.

On Instagram, the LCHS account reached 16,500 screens and 1,100 engagements for a 6.67% engagement rate. LCHS gained 33 followers over the #ArchivesMonth campaign on Instagram.

The LCHS Facebook account reached 58,300 screens while engaging with 5,000 people, resulting in an 8.58% engagement rate. LCHS gained 62 followers over October on Facebook.

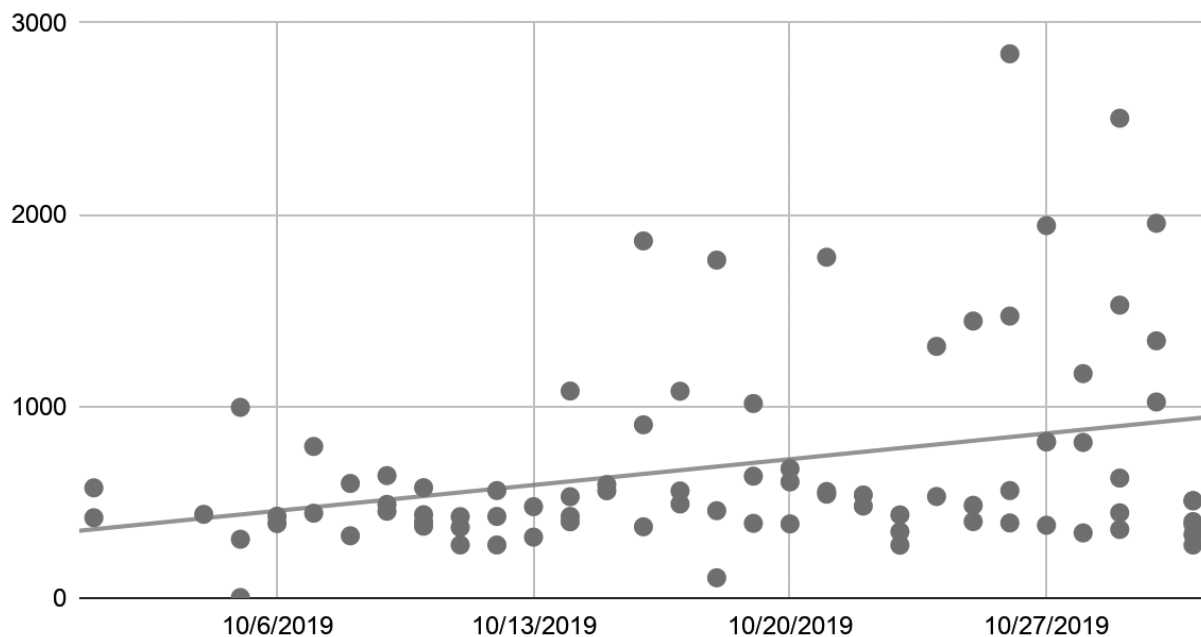
At the beginning of #ArchivesMonth, it was hard to tell if LCHS posts were relevant to our audience. In the middle of the month, it became clear that our audience was excited to see what was in the LCHS archives. This trend is best illustrated using the Facebook data. In the graph below showing Facebook reach data organized by date and reach per post, each data point represents an individual post on the platform. The line in the chart shows the trendline of the data. The trendline is telling as it shows the improvement of reach for LCHS posts, starting around 300 at the beginning of the month and ending at nearly 1000.

In summary, by using social media, the Latah County Historical



Screenshot of LCHS post on Facebook on October 29.

#ArchivesMonth Reach - Facebook





Latah County History
@LatahCoHistory

This appointment book was kept by Dr. Hatfield to keep his appointments in order. This page begins on March 24, 1916. This collection is organized as SC 1999-38. #ArchivesMonth #History #Museums

Month..... <i>march</i>		19 <i>16</i>	
FRIDAY. 3-24-16			
8.30		2.00	<i>Mr. Ayers</i>
9.00	<i>Baby Lemon</i>	2.30	<i>Mr. Arubruster</i>
9.30		3.00	<i>Mr. Shoosmith</i>
10.00	<i>Mrs. McDaniel</i>	3.30	<i>Mr. Brown</i>
10.30		4.00	<i>Mrs. Fyfe Gray</i>
11.00		4.30	<i>School girl</i>
11.30		5.00	<i>Dud Loomis</i>
12.00		5.30	
12.30		6.00	
1.00		6.30	<i>Mr. Bratton</i>
1.30		7.00	
SATURDAY.....			
8.30		2.00	<i>Miss Egan</i>
9.00		2.30	<i>Miss Egan</i>
9.30		3.00	<i>Mrs. Fraser</i>
10.00		3.30	<i>Miss Fyfe</i>
10.30		4.00	<i>Mr. Jennings</i>
11.00	<i>Miss Fyfe</i>	4.30	<i>Dud Loomis</i>
11.30		5.00	
12.00		5.30	
12.30		6.00	
1.00		6.30	
1.30		7.00	
SUNDAY.....			
8.30		2.00	
9.00		2.30	
9.30		3.00	
10.00		3.30	
10.30	<i>Mr. Poc</i>	4.00	
11.00	<i>C. E. Day</i>	4.30	
11.30		5.00	
12.00		5.30	
12.30		6.00	
1.00		6.30	
1.30		7.00	

Screenshot of sample LCHS post on Twitter

Society was able to increase its voice telling the rich history of Latah County, Idaho. We believe that the October 2019 #ArchivesMonth experiment was a success.

LCHS would like to thank all of our followers for taking this ride down social media with us. We expect to continue to include social media in our marketing and outreach mix

going forward and invite you to be on the lookout for more posts by the Latah County Historical Society social media channels in the future.

If you have any questions about our social media experiment or strategy, Zach Wnek (zwnek@latah.id.us) would love to talk with you.



CUSHMAN

John Cushman. 1924 *Gem of the Mountains*. UISPEC

Making Literature Live: John Cushman and Dramatics

By Ariana Burns, Palouse Anthropology

LEST ANYONE FORGET, THE LATAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE is an amazing resource. It is arguably the gem of the Society's collections. Assembled by Sam Schrage and his interviewers in the mid-1970s, a listener can hear about life on the Palouse at the tail end of the 1800s up to the time of the interviews. The histories are always full of surprises.

A recent find for me was discovering Rachel Foxman's interview with John Houston Cushman recorded about two years before he passed away in 1979. Cushman was the first head of dramatics (as theatre was called then) at the University of Idaho.

Since there is little in the way of surviving firsthand material of the early days of dramatics at the University of Idaho, this find is especially delightful. It provides a framework to hang the archived information on and gives a glimpse of the theatre department's early days.

Before Cushman's arrival in Moscow, campus plays were produced as senior projects or club endeavors, not as part of academic study. Typically, the student body produced three plays each year, one of which was part of graduation celebrations.

John Cushman arrived in Moscow in 1919 and ran dramatics until 1930 when Fred Blanchard took over.¹ Cushman continued in the English Department for six more years, becoming head after the passing of his supervisor, George Morey Miller. He was busy both on campus and in the community. Highlights of his work include creating the Varsity Players touring troupe, the Moscow Drama League,

and producing the pageant, *The Light on the Mountains*. But for all of his accomplishments, he hadn't intended to come to Idaho.

The 28-year-old had originally planned to study plays in New York when George Miller contacted him in Syracuse:

I got this offer very late in the fall.... [T]he head of my department was ... up at Pend Oreille Lake where he had a summer camp. And so, ... and I thought that's where the university was! (Laughter.)¹

Cushman arrived shortly after the conclusion of the First World War. The YMCA Hut or U-Hut (demolished in 2000) had just been built and would eventually come to be the base of operations for dramatics.² He remembered the Kenworthys had yet to arrive in Moscow so he did not have them as entertainment competition. The Fair was going full swing when he disembarked the train and it would take him a month to find housing for the year.¹

And that year I had a little heater that I had to get wood for...I had to decide whether I would chop my wood for the evening and have a nice warm going to bed... [or at] the start of the day for breakfastI just ate wherever I could down on Main Street and I generally ate with some boys who were undergraduates. They weren't my students is all. And we ate at cheap little hotels.¹

He was one of three men newly hired to be part of Miller's department. In his book, *Beacon for Mountain and Plain: Story of the University of Idaho*, Rafe Gibbs remembered Cushman as having "a well-modulated voice and a fine sense for the dramatic, using both to advantage in making literature live in the classroom."³

In addition to teaching dramatics and English courses, Cushman was also expected to direct plays. He did that with furor and expanded the slate of shows that were seen on campus. He did a series of one-act short plays each month



The Guild Hall. LCHS_30-04-095

(Readers: Is this the St. Mark's Episcopal Guild Hall where the Moscow Drama League staged play readings under the direction of John Cushman?)

and a full-length production each semester.^{4,5} During his second year, the Argonaut announced that he planned to do three full-length shows.⁶

In 1923, Cushman made front page of *The Argonaut* complaining about modern hairstyles.⁷ “Actresses are simply impossible with bobbed hair,” says Mr. Cushman, authority and professor of dramatics, and now the department can’t produce anything but Fiji Island plays and F. Scott Fitzgerald.”⁷ The newspaper took delight in teasing him, but he also talked with Foxman in his oral history interview about the difficulties with costumes when working with short hair.¹

Not only was he particular about costuming and hairstyles, he also took exception to describing the experimental theatre work being performed in the U-Hut as “little theatre.” Writing for the UI’s *Blue Bucket* magazine, he was careful to delineate the difference between “little theatre” and “laboratory theatre.”

Cushman felt “little theatre” had more to do with “community theatre, popular shows, a social event.”⁸

Laboratory theatre was a space to test new playscripts and learn production and acting. His students were not looking to become professionals in theatre. Their skills would help them in other careers.⁸

He had students who went on to renown, including lawyer Abe Goff, chemist and University of Idaho emeritus faculty Malcolm Renfrew, and screenwriter Talbot Jennings—who while a student of Cushman’s wrote the Idaho pageant play, *The Light on The Mountains*.

Cushman also worked with the Moscow community, inviting residents to perform on the university stage. When he wasn’t teaching or coaching the students on drama, he went down the hill into Moscow. Some of the townspeople had joined him to found the Moscow Drama League. This group staged play readings at St. Mark’s Episcopal Guild Hall. They would perform with script in hand.

We used to do a play every two weeks. We’d have four rehearsals. We didn’t memorize them, you see....they worked very well. I did that [for] four years and that’s beside the plays that I did on the campus.¹

One item in the *Idaho Statesman* indicated that the group performed at the Lewiston Normal school.⁹

Five years of teaching at the university saw a celebratory piece in the 1924 *Gem of the Mountains* yearbook. An anonymous writer lauded the University for its generous support of the dramatic arts and specifically the efforts of John Cushman for making the accomplishments possible and leading to the burgeoning of more productions on campus.

Student plays now include the “Fall Follies,” a Pep Band jazz medley; the “Fall Musical Comedy,” which combines the talents of the departments of music, dramatics and dance; the “University Play,” done by proven campus actors; the “Campus Day Pageant,” a May-Time festival; the “Stunt-Fest” of song and satire; and the “Commencement Play” In addition to the all-college productions...sixteen one-act plays.... [and] two three-act plays.”¹⁰

Another project Cushman undertook was creating a traveling troupe that took shows around Idaho, into Washington, Oregon, and Montana during the summer.

I took a group of students around the state and I acted with them....We played in Walla Walla and we played in Boise and, of course, Nampa and Caldwell and all those places—Weiser, Payette, and Boise....We called ourselves the Varsity Players....so we made a circle around, you see. We did that for two years. I always felt the need of getting out, you see? Getting out where the people were. (Pause.) I suppose some of them I know because of the pageant we did in Boise or this play or else someone of the students who lives in one of those towns.¹

An undated article in the *Caldwell Tribune* congratulated the Players on the two years of work spent establishing “a place for themselves which is filled by no other travelling dramatic organization.”¹¹

In the summer of 1921, the Varsity Players toured A.E. Thomas’ *Her Husband’s Wife*. They opened in Genesee, travelling a course that often doubled back on itself. From Genesee, they went to Lewiston, the next night they played Moscow, Rathdrum the next, then Coeur d’Alene, St. Maries, Kellogg, Wallace, Mullan, back up to Sandpoint, then down to Dillon, MT and so on. The tour ran from June 14 until it concluded forty performances later in La Grande, OR on August 1.¹²

The troupe made special trips to Spokane to perform when the teachers’ conference convened there.¹³ One of the students acted as the business manager. The *Caldwell Tribune* reported, “The group is a cooperative body, assuming all expense and advertising, travel and sharing the profits.”¹⁴

The Argonaut is not specific about how the Varsity Players traveled but one article mentioned new scenery being built



An ad for the Varsity Players. *Caldwell Tribune*. July 11, 1922.



During the 1939 production of *The Light on the Mountains*, John H. Cushman (center) and Talbot Jennings (right) stand in front of a covered wagon used in the production. The gentleman on the left may be UI President Harrison C. Dale. UISPEC



"Dance of the Spirits" from *The Light on the Mountains*. UISPEC. PG_190-1-6.

for the company so it could travel by train or automobile.¹⁵ The scenery was constructed in New York for \$2,000 which is about \$30,600 today.^{16,17}

Then in 1922, George Morey Miller decided the University should produce a historical pageant.¹⁸ It was a popular style of theatre in the early 20th century telling the history of local events on a large scale. The group knew from the outset that if a project of this size was going to succeed it would require the university to do it.

Ambitiously, the committee planned for 10,000 people to attend. Miller began rallying the campus behind the project: "This big enterprise will need the whole-hearted support of every department in the university and every organization on the campus."¹⁹

Theodore Sherman, long-time English professor at the University of Idaho, talked with Sam Schragar about the pageant during his oral history interview:

... Dr. Miller decided that we should give a pageant on the early development of Idaho. And so, he was instrumental in getting the committee to work on it. But it soon turned out that Talbot [Jennings] was the one who had what it took to produce the pageant. And I can't say, I can't remember that much of anyone else wrote much of any part of the pageant. I know that I didn't contribute anything except applause now and then.¹⁸

Jennings had returned to Idaho to finish his undergraduate degree that year. He'd seen a one-act play he'd written produced before signing on to help with the pageant. Sherman remarked in the interview that he didn't know if Jennings discovered himself as a writer during that semester or always knew he had it.¹⁸ But if he had gone from penning a

one act to a historical pageant it was quite a leap.

The Light on The Mountains proved stressful for the committee members. Cushman remembered meetings breaking down into shouting matches: "Everybody thought I should never have been born—or questioned the legitimacy of my birth."²³

The city and local region were pulled in to help with the project as well. Car camping sites were set up and the Chamber of Commerce helped promote the event. Announcements were sent out inviting over 3,500 alumni and former students.²⁰

The production was staged on campus where the Physical Education Building is now. The history of Idaho was told

through song, story, and dance. Scenes were broken down and handled by departments. Miners, the Nez Perce, and Lewis & Clark were included, as well as dances of elements. Locals brought in livestock and horses. Electrical engineering instructors wired up spotlights to illuminate the evening event, and car headlights were also used.

Cushman recalled there were a few rough spots that had to be overcome: "We had Chief Joseph practically tied on his horse because he [the actor] didn't know a horse from an alligator. (Laughter.)"²¹

The Light on The Mountains was a success. It was produced four times: in Moscow in 1923, 1927, and 1939, and an adaptation was produced in Boise in 1924.²¹ Originally, they had planned to produce it every four years, but that proved impractical.

Cushman continued teaching and in 1939 married Kathryn Shephard of Seattle. *The Argonaut* announced the pending nuptials but said a date would be some time after the 1939 commencement ceremony and the summer production of *The Light on The Mountains*.²²

John Cushman retired from the University of Idaho in 1962. He made an impression on both Moscow and the university, sharing his love of literature and performance during his time here. It is fortunate that the Latah County Historical Society conducted these oral history interviews over forty years ago so his story can be remembered.

Palouse Anthropology is a group of researchers interested in preserving the micro-history of the Palouse through the collection and compilation of historical artifacts and oral histories for the benefit of researchers and future generations. palouseanthro@gmail.com



Banner for *The Light on the Mountains*. UISPEC. MG_5129.

Acknowledgments

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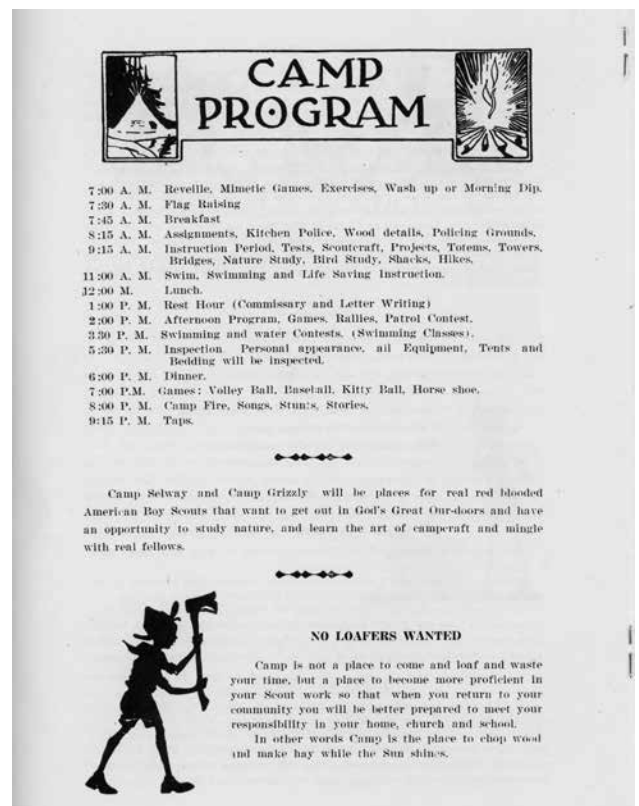
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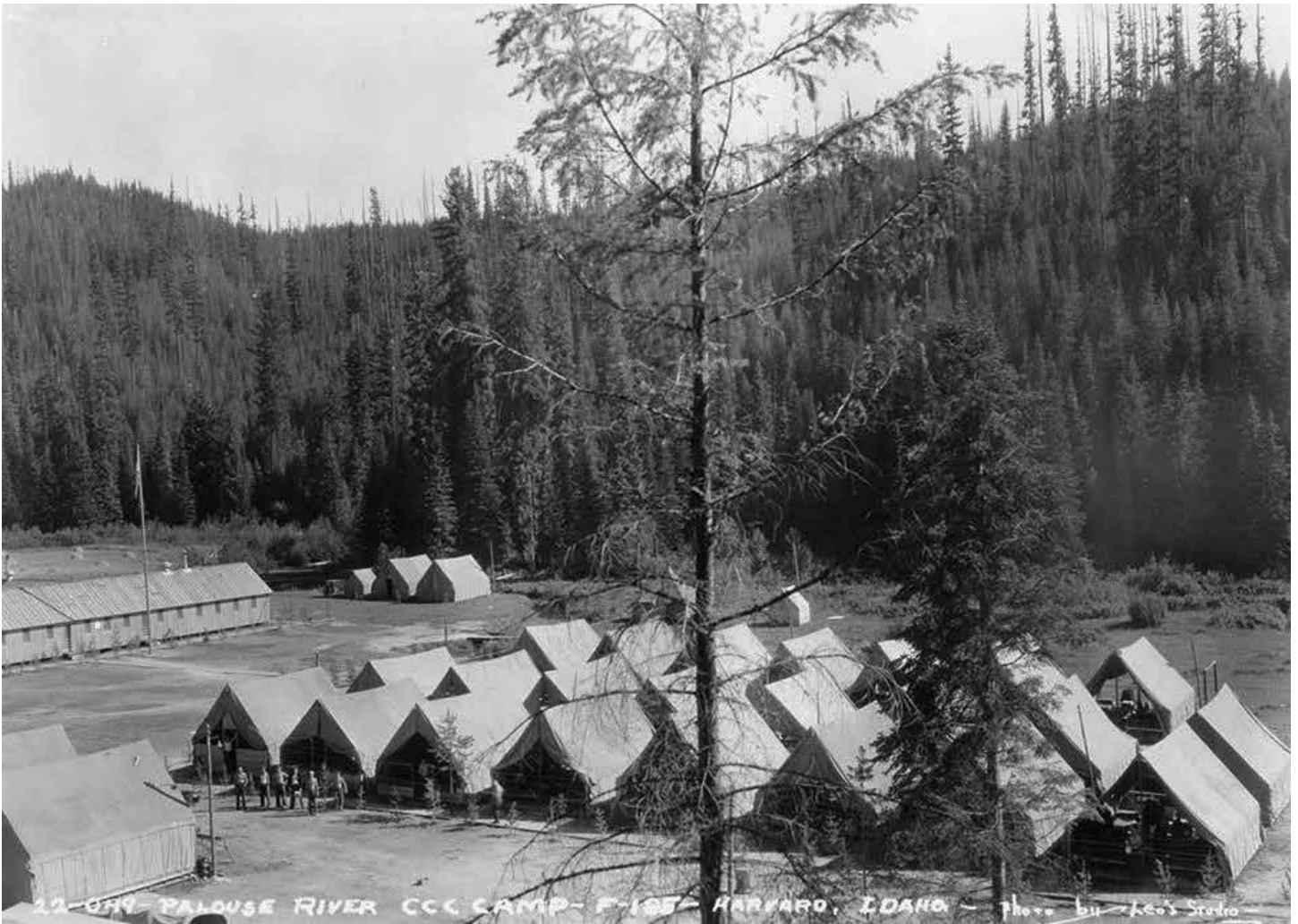
History of Camp Grizzly Area 1900-1942

By Khaliela Wright

SOMETIME IN THE EARLY 1900s Grizzle Camp underwent a name change and became Grizzly Camp. The camp's moniker traces its origins back to John Griswold, the location's first white settler; Grizzle Camp was a variation on his name.^{1,2} There is no exact date or explanation for this change, though I suspect it may have been newspaper typesetters from across the region who, not knowing the camp's history, simply insisted on spelling the word correctly.



Program from Boy Scout camp at Camp Grizzly (1927).
LCHS archives



Palouse River CCC Camp F-185, Harvard, Idaho (1934). LCHS 25-03-052.

Grizzle Camp was often in the news and depending on the year and paper, researchers can find either spelling.

In 1900, Grizzle Camp was an active mining camp located at the trailhead of the Hoodoo Mining District.^{3,4,5} In 1901, a new road was constructed to improve access to the district.⁶ However, interest in mining was already declining. During its heyday, over one million dollars' worth of gold was estimated to have been taken out of the Palouse River.^{4,5,7} By the late 1890s, many had begun to look elsewhere for a living. That changed in 1905.

William Deary arrived in Idaho on May 1, 1901, to survey and purchase timber.⁸ An ambitious man, he aided in the formation of the Potlatch Lumber Company, which was incorporated in Augusta, Maine on March 7, 1903. By 1905 he had returned to Latah County, purchased two sawmills and built a third. In addition to buying timber, constructing an entire town, and lobbying the legislature, he also built a railroad.⁹ It was that railroad, the Washington, Idaho, and Montana (W.I.&M) that brought renewed interest to the Hoodoo Mining District and Grizzle Camp.

The December 9, 1905, issue of the *Palouse Republic* ran with the headline, "Hoodooos to the front: old mining camp is taking on new life."¹⁰ Being previously compelled to travel and ship goods by wagon, the people living along the Palouse River were delighted at the news. The revived interest in prospecting and mining was attributed to the railroad. Freight and supplies could be shipped by train as far as Harvard and the miners only needed to get their raw ore back to Harvard, where it could be shipped to market via the train.¹⁰ However, by the 1900s the miners were no longer seeking gold. Now their sights were set on copper deposits.³

Campers and Picnickers Flock to Area

Grizzle Camp was more than just a mining camp, it was also a popular destination for picnickers and campers. Among the early picnickers was the Laird family.¹¹ Allison Laird arrived in Potlatch in 1905 to serve as the assistant manager to the immensely overworked William Deary. After Deary's untimely death in 1913, Laird took over as general manager of the mill.⁹ Like Deary, Laird refused to log the area surrounding Grizzle Camp, hoping to turn it into a public park one day.¹¹



CCC Company 1655 at attention at Palouse River CCC Camp F-185 (1935). LCHS 25-13-051

Following the management's lead, other area citizens began camping and picnicking at Grizzle Camp. Nettie Gale recalls huckleberrying and camping in the Hoodoos. There were Independence Day celebrations held at Grizzle Camp in the 1910s, complete with a community picnic, homemade ice cream, patriotic speeches, baseball games, and swimming in the river.¹²

Adding to the mix of people in camp were the Camp Fire Girls. The Camp Fire Girls organization began informally in Maine in 1910 and was incorporated March 15, 1912. By that time girls had already begun meeting in Latah County.¹³ Nettie (Gleason) Gale recalls camping at Grizzle Camp as a Camp Fire Girl.¹² The original group consisted of fifteen girls, and Nettie's name is listed on the 1916 Harvard roster. The girls frequently walked from Harvard to their campsites at Grizzle Camp, packing enough gear on their backs to stay for 3 or 4 days.¹⁴

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, a good portion of the male population enlisted leaving Grizzle Camp relatively empty. Thus, it became an appealing place for the girls to pitch their tents. However, the end of the war on November 11, 1918, brought renewed interest in mining in the area. The November 29 edition of the *Kendrick Gazette*

reported that claims that had been left idle because the war consumed all the available labor were being worked again. Placering was expected to be profitable and laborers could expect to make fair wages.¹⁵

The return of men to their claims did not dissuade the Camp Fire Girls. They not only continued to use, but expanded their hold on the camp by hosting week-long summer camps and inviting girls from all over the Northwest to join them.¹⁴ Despite reports of the claims being left idle during the war, 1918 was the most productive year for copper tunnels in the Hoodoos. That year 79,000 pounds of copper were removed and smelted.^{3, 16}

Grizzle Camp had become such a popular destination that the Potlatch Lumber Company estimated the area averaged 200 visitors each weekend, with as many as 500 being present during peak times.¹⁷ *The Palouse Republic* ran a regular column titled, "What Your Neighbors and Friends are Doing." The column was filled with tidbits like these:

- Harve Lebold and family went for an outing to Grizzly camp last week.¹⁸
- "The Potlatch Gun Club invited the Elks to a picnic at Grizzly Camp on Sunday."¹⁹

- “Roy A. Horning’s Sunday School class had a very happy time at a picnic at Grizzle Camp Saturday evening. About 27 guests were present.”²⁰
- “Rev. F.F. Boothby returned to Palouse Monday from a week’s stay at Grizzle Camp where he attended the Epworth League Institute.”²¹

The Camp Fire Girls continued to use Grizzle Camp into the 1920s, though by that time, in addition to sharing the camp with miners, picnickers, civic organizations, and church outings, they also had to share with the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts used Grizzle Camp for their summer camp in 1921, 1922, and 1923.²² During those years the boys had the option of staying for one or both of the weeks the camp was operating.²³

The Boy Scout portion of the camp opened on June 15, 1922.²⁴ The girls claimed one side of the camp; the boys had the other. In a letter to Jeanette Fleener Talbott, a woman named Caroline recounts her time at Grizzle Camp back in 1922. While visiting with Esther Hornby in Harvard, Caroline was convinced to join the week-long camp out that drew girls from all over the Northwest on the basis that Caroline had a car, so they wouldn’t have to walk. Caroline writes, “So they made me an officer—gave me my own tent—and a punk to wait on me. Each day I drove into Harvard to pick up supplies and mail when the train came in.”²⁵

While there had been no outcry against the girls using the camp, public sentiment was against the boys. Charles Graves, a rancher living in the Hoodoo District visited Palouse in search of labor and offered his opinions of the Boy Scouts. “The present shortage of labor is due to the rising generation being taught to play instead of being taught how to work,” he says. “Strong, hearty boys are being taken to Grizzle Camp every summer and instructed in the ways and means to obtain pleasure when they had better be put out onto a farm and taught to work.”²⁶

Many of the men who enlisted during WWI died in action, resulting in a severe labor shortage. Owing to the war and labor disputes, federal, state, and local governments took drastic measures in an attempt to prevent labor strikes. During the war, the Latah County Sheriff was authorized to arrest anyone not engaged in gainful employment.⁹ It must have been difficult for working men to see groups of strapping young lads lollygagging along the river when just a few years prior the same actions would have resulted in incarceration.

The Boy Scouts soon abandoned Grizzle Camp, choosing to spend summers at Camp Monterey instead. That camp, whose location was purported to be on Moscow Mountain, kept them out of sight of the loggers, miners, and farmers who thought they should be working.²³ The Boy Scouts did not return to Grizzle Camp until 1927.

Newspaper clippings from 1927 tell the tale of Scout camp that year. Beginning Sunday, July 24, a total of 58 boys, twenty of whom were from Moscow, convened at Grizzle Camp. One clipping states, “The camp will be ¼ mile below where it was before so the boys will be less bothered by picnickers.” The same article goes on to state that the citizens of Potlatch had built a kitchen, mess hall, and installed a pump. The boys were to be housed in canvas wall tents that would accommodate 6 boys apiece. Marksmanship, archery, leathercraft, and woodcraft were featured on the camp program. The cost of attendance was set at \$6.50 per boy and included transportation.^{23, 27} Adjusting for inflation that would be \$95.30 today.²⁸ For comparison, the in-council early-bird registration for a week at Camp Grizzly in 2019 was \$340.²⁹

The Boy Scouts only remained at Grizzle Camp for two years. In 1929 the Lewis-Clark Council moved the summer camp to Lake Waha. In 1931, the Boy Scouts moved their summer camp again, this time back to the Palouse River. However, the camp’s name had been changed to Camp Laird, in honor of Allison Laird, who had passed away on April 30, 1931.³⁰ The draw was a new dam constructed by Potlatch businessmen across the Palouse River, which was expected to provide excellent swimming.²³ The Scouts had use of Camp Laird in 1931 and 1932 before being forced out by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

Between the Great Depression and the death of the Potlatch Lumber Company’s general manager, Allison Laird, the area had suffered a huge blow. Shortly after Laird’s death, Potlatch Lumber Company merged with Rutledge and Clearwater to form Potlatch Forests, Inc. (PFI).¹ Despite the merger, the area never quite recovered from the nation’s worst economic downturn. In 1932, the Northwest Mining Association held a placer mining school at Grizzle Camp as a way to put men back to work. About 2,000 men attended the event and heard speakers from the University of Idaho and the Idaho Bureau of Mines.³ As the depths of the Great Depression gripped the nation, armies of unemployed men, known as depression miners, flocked again to the Hoodoos. This time, however, there were no lucky strikes.^{3, 31}

In a greater effort to get men back to work, Grizzle Camp was taken over by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933. The Palouse River CCC camp was given the camp number F-185 and was home to company C-1655. The CCC camp remained in operation through 1936.³² However, this brought new tensions to a region already suffering. The CCC boys were paid \$30 per month and resented that the men hired by the U.S. Forest Service and Potlatch Lumber Company were paid more for the same work. This resulted in a brawl in the woods after an Independence Day celebration in 1933,³³ one of many such brawls, no doubt.

Grizzly was not a Logging Camp

Cora Tribble, a land speculator, single mother, and gun-toting divorcee originally owned one of the parcels that now comprise Camp Grizzly. She sold her parcel to Mr. William Codd on September 28, 1903.^{34, 35} The Potlatch Lumber Company already had camps in the area: Camp 1 was at the confluence of Big Creek and Lost Creek; Camp 2 was between Quartz Creek and Ruby Creek.³⁶ Even though it was their first year in operation, Potlatch was already embroiled in a contentious labor dispute. Mr. Codd was a Colfax, WA sawmiller who paid more for timber, offered higher wages, and allowed the men to unionize, something William Deary abhorred.⁹

In 1904, the U.S. Court for North Idaho sided with Potlatch and granted a sweeping injunction against the loggers who had been striking against Potlatch for most of the prior year.^{37, 38} As a result of the court's ruling, Deary was able to out maneuver Codd and gain the upper hand, forcing labor to work for lower wages, thus making Potlatch the more profitable mill. Codd sold Deary his property on December 20, 1904.³⁹ In addition to the timber holdings, Deary also purchased, and then closed, Codd's sawmill at Colfax, effectively quashing his competition.⁹

Another of the parcels destined to become part of Camp Grizzly was transferred from the State of Idaho to the Potlatch Lumber Company on April 20, 1907.⁴⁰ On February 8, 1909, T.P. Jones and his wife Margery sold their property to the Potlatch Lumber Company for one dollar.⁴¹ Mr. John Higgins made a similar deal. One must wonder if they assumed the plots were worthless once the gold had been played out and the miners were no longer interested.³⁴

Despite holding the land, Potlatch avoided using Grizzle Camp as a logging camp. Neither Deary nor Laird ever attempted to evict the miners or discourage the picnickers. Some evidence points to the area's natural beauty as being the reason it was never used as a logging camp.^{42, 43}

A more practical observer might think Deary and Laird simply thought it would be too much trouble. It would have been akin to operating a fully functional logging camp in the midst of an unsanctioned woodland circus, where the rings consisted of miners unlikely to vacate the property without a fight and curious onlookers from among the many parties of picnickers, not to mention the Camp Fire Girls and Boy Scouts. However, there may have been another reason both Deary and Laird avoided using the already well developed property.

The labor disputes that arose during Potlatch's first year of existence continued to plague the company for decades. Living conditions in the logging camps were untenable. In many Potlatch logging camps, men were housed in rail cars,

which slept 16 men apiece in wooden bunkbeds lined with straw. The men were responsible for packing in their own bedding. Lice and bedbugs were constant problems. The camps were primitive: no electricity, no hot water, no place to shower or bathe, and no facilities to wash clothes. A box filled with sand, on top of which was a coal heater, stood in the middle of each car. The stench of dirty bodies and sweaty socks filled the air. The other type of camp, one even more hated by the men, was a tent camp. In the winter the tents became soggy and saggy, the floors muddy, and it was akin to living in a pig sty.^{44, 45} Summers were no better; the camps were plagued with dysentery from spoiled food and unsanitary cook shacks.⁴⁶

As awful as camp conditions were, the men spent little time there. Lumberjacks worked from dawn to dusk, which in the summer was a sixteen-hour day, six to seven days a week.⁴⁷ They were paid \$3.25 per day, but they didn't get to keep the whole of their wages. Board, which was \$1.25 per day, was subtracted before they were paid. Another 50 cents per day was subtracted if they doused their bedding with oil in an attempt to keep the bedbugs and other vermin at bay.⁴⁶ After adjusting for inflation, their pay was equivalent to working for \$71.27 per day, or \$32.89 a day after subtracting meals and delousing.²⁸ To combat these conditions, the men tried to unionize. Deary and Laird worked diligently to keep unions out of the camps and to keep the men cut off from the rest of the world.

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) was formed in 1905 with the purpose of organizing workers into "One Big Union."⁴⁶ With its members known as "Wobblies," the IWW was a popular union nationwide and many in the logging camps joined. The Wobblies demanded an eight-hour day, no work on Sundays, clean bunks and cook shacks, laundry facilities, a place to bathe, lights in the bunk houses with tables for reading, medical care, better pay, no blacklisting of union men, and better treatment for the horses.^{9, 46} Potlatch loyalists claimed IWW stood for "I won't work."^{36, 48}

To quell the rising discontent, Potlatch arrested and removed IWW members and sympathizers from the camps. Being unable and unwilling to house them in jails, they were taken to Bovill and held in the ballfield because it was the only area in town surrounded by a high fence. The men housed there had no shelter from the elements and faced constant threat of eminent death. Potlatch deputized a number of the local citizens to patrol the ballfield and authorized them to shoot disruptors and anyone who tried to escape.^{33, 47} The company doctor, Frank Gibson, joked, "rifles were used for more than just deer."³³ Fed-up with the harsh treatment, 150 lumberjacks walked off the job in December 1916.⁹

Labor unrest wasn't limited to Potlatch. Tensions were rising nationwide and state governments began enacting heavy-

handed legislation. On March 14, 1917, the Idaho State Legislature passed the Criminal Syndicate Act. It criminalized any person who “prints, publishes, edits, issues or knowingly circulates, sells, distributes, or publicly displays any book, paper, document, or written matter in any form, containing or advocating, advising or teaching, the doctrine that industrial or political reform should be brought about.” The crime was a felony punishable by ten years in prison, a \$5,000 fine, or both. To encourage people to turn in their neighbors and coworkers, the act also included a provision for anyone who knowingly permitted the assemblage of such persons without trying to break up the meeting or notifying law enforcement to be charged with a misdemeanor and sentenced to one year in jail and a \$500 fine.⁴⁹

In April 1917, Potlatch required all employees to complete information cards vowing that they were not Wobblies. At the urgence of the Idaho Governor Moses Alexander, the Potlatch Home Guard was formed April 20, 1917, to put pressure on the logging camps. The company provided \$1,000 for equipment and supplies.⁹ Their union busting measures failed. Summer brought the biggest strike yet. Potlatch lumberjacks and millworkers joined 50,000 other Pacific Northwest woodworkers in walking off the job.⁴⁶ All the mills from Elk River to Spokane shut down due to lack of labor.³⁶

Axel Anderson was a foreman in the camps at the time of the strike. He recalls being deputized and given a gun in anticipation of the strike as the company claimed the Wobblies were radical and violent. A night watch was set. Everyone was so jumpy that Axel nearly ended up being shot by his own watchman. The day of the strike, there were two cases of dynamite in camp that Axel worried the Wobblies might try to detonate. However, the men weren’t interested in violence, they simply asked for their time slips and left camp. After the Wobblies left, his 200-man crew was reduced to just eight men. Unable to effectively work in the woods, the remaining eight men spent their time fishing.⁵⁰

“It was a good thing the strike closed down the camps,” Axel said, in hindsight, “because it turned out to be an awful fire season.”⁵⁰

By the fall of 1917, the timber companies, still unwilling to grant labor’s demands, petitioned Governor Alexander to call out the National Guard. Aided by local law enforcement and security details hired by the timber companies, federal troops marched on known IWW meeting places, destroyed the halls, and arrested the Wobblies.⁴⁶

As the strike dragged on, the government became worried. The War Department worried. Lumber from Northwest spruce trees was needed for the construction of an airplane nicknamed ‘the spruce goose.’ In October 1917 Colonel Brice P. Disque came to the Northwest to investigate the labor situation. Unable to break the union, Colonel Disque

suggested the formation of an alternate, company-sponsored union called the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen, or 4Ls for short.⁹ The Wobblies quickly dubbed the 4Ls “Long, Lazy, Lousy, Lumbermen.”⁴⁷

Hershiel Tribble was the secretary of the 4Ls and went to Spokane to negotiate with the Wobblies. He recalls the Wobblies as being radical: “You couldn’t reason with them.” They wanted wash tubs, showers, louse free bedding, and electric light. Hershiel felt washing socks by hand in an old bucket and hanging them over the heater was all the washing a man needed. As for a shower, they could punch holes in a leaky bucket and stand under that. He attributed the labor problems to foreigners (Italians) who riled everyone else up.⁴⁴ It was a sentiment often repeated by those who opposed the IWW.

Frustrated over labor disputes, local citizens began to take things into their own hands. Members of the KKK tarred and feathered Catholics and beat up foreigners.⁵¹ There was at least one cross burning in Latah County. The family targeted packed up and left.⁴⁷ Despite the rhetoric that foreigners were the root of the IWW problem, Elmer Flodin said, “It was not foreigners, but folks from Troy, Deary, and surrounding communities.”⁵² He would know; he was a Wobbly himself.

After the Wobblies succeeded in winning their demands, the camps were clean, had running water and a place to bathe. The men no longer needed to carry their bed rolls on their backs; the company provided steel bunkbeds with mattress, sheets, and a good clean blanket. Instead of sleeping 16, each railroad car now housed only eight men and had a table and a single bare light bulb so the men could see to read newspapers or letters from home.^{50, 52}

As difficult as it had been to try controlling the loggers dispersed throughout the camps, it would have been impossible had they used Grizzle as a logging camp. With so many visitors coming and going, news would have quickly spread to and from the other camps. It is not surprising then, that Grizzle Camp was not listed as a logging camp until 1942, at which point it was denoted as Camp 36-B and given the moniker, Camp Laird. However, Potlatch did not log the camp. It was just the ‘home base’ for loggers during the winter of 1942-1943. That winter, they logged Strychnine Creek in three feet of snow.³⁶

Bequeathing the Land

The area of the John Griswold homestead, later known as Grizzle Camp, remained untouched by Potlatch loggers from the time Potlatch acquired the property in 1903 until the company gifted 40 acres to the Boys Scouts in 1938. The dense virgin forest had trees reaching upwards of 150 feet and was home to all nine evergreen species native to North Idaho. Under the canopy of the whispering pines, the softly murmuring river gave the tract a primeval feel.⁴²

By 1935 company managers were unaware of the site's origins but noted that someone was there before them. "Evidence of earlier occupancy of the tract had been found, although its period has not been determined. A few small foundations give evidence of the existence of former dwellings, and among the huge pine trees is a solitary plum tree. The remains of a small apple orchard stand at the edge of the meadow."¹⁷

Allison Laird had always intended for the natural playground known as Grizzle Camp to be converted into a recreational park. His death in 1931 galvanized the Potlatch management into action. The company made plans to commemorate Laird's memory through the creation of Laird Park.¹⁷ The donation was made in 1934 with the stipulation that the natural surroundings be disturbed as little as possible.¹

Much of the improvements made to Camp Grizzly and Laird Park were completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, who cleared out campsites, built picnic tables, and built a dam across the river.^{1,17} The official dedication of the 120 acres that comprise Laird Park occurred Saturday, August 21, 1937.⁵³ In 1938 Potlatch Forests Inc. bequeathed a 40-acre parcel adjacent to Laird Park to the Inland Northwest Council, Boy Scouts of America. The dedication ceremony was held Sunday, June 19 of the same year. At the time of dedication, Camp Grizzly was intended to be named Camp Laird, after the man who loved the parcel's natural beauty so much that he refused to log it.⁵⁴ Over the years, additional acreage has been added to the camp, which now comprises 440 acres.⁵⁵

After the land was turned over to the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Grizzly's history became quieter. The Hoodoo mining district no longer existed. The Wild West was not nearly so wild. But, Grizzly still has stories to tell. There was a disappearance in 1953 and remains thought to belong to an old prospector were discovered in 1972.^{56,57}

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