



LATAH LEGACY



Justice for Mrs. Loftus

A Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Genesee, Idaho

Lula's Library Book Club

The Little House that Traveled

Steps to Higher Education In Idaho: The Old Steps on the University of Idaho Campus

Permeal French: Making Rules, Breaking Barriers

History of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Moscow, Idaho

A Photo from the Past: The Moore Sisters Camping

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Editor's Note: Sometimes word processors are too helpful in "correcting" perceived errors. In the article in our last issue about the history of St. Mark's Church in Moscow, "a number" was mistakenly corrected to "a member" and escaped notice by the author and the editor. Bishop Talbot actually imported a number of Irish Bible Readers to serve the church, including the Rev. Patrick Murphy, the first resident priest in Moscow.

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Justice for Mrs. Loftus

By Eilene Lyon

A jury deliberates

Latah County Courthouse. April 21, 1910 at 4:34 p.m. The all-male jury in State of Idaho vs. Laura Loftus retired to make their deliberations, under the watch of bailiff W.N. Buchman. The brief trial, begun with seating the jury just two days earlier, involved the first murder charge against a woman in Latah County history. No one disputed the facts: Laura (Brooks) Loftus had killed her husband, William H. Loftus, with a double-barreled shotgun on December 27, 1909. Her own son, Edward C. Stith (age thirteen), and brother-in-law, Charles Hickman, witnessed the killing and testified during the trial. It was an open-and-shut case. Jury foreman David Urquhart presented their verdict just three hours later. According to one news report, a guilty verdict meant death by hanging for Laura Loftus.

A brief, troubled marriage

Laura E. Stith, nee Brooks, along with her son Edward left Scioto County, Ohio, with her newlywed sister and brother-in-law, Effie and Charles Hickman, in 1903. Why they chose to settle in Troy, Idaho, is unknown but there may have been a connection to a Brooks family, or someone else, already living in the area. Other members of the Brooks family, including Laura and Effie's father and stepmother, William J. and Mary A. Brooks, and younger brothers Elmer and James, soon joined them.

Troy, originally called Vollmer, sits in Huff's Gulch twelve miles east of Moscow along the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Several

Moscow citizens established the townsite as a railroad supply point in 1890. It began expanding in the first decade of the twentieth century, but the population has never broken the 1,000 mark.



Latah County Courthouse [03]. PG 90, Clifford M. Ott Collection, University of Idaho Library Special Collections and Archives, <http://www.lib.uidaho.edu/special-collections/>



Laura Etta Brooks Stith Loftus Cochran. Shared by MarianFox60 on Ancestry.com. Original source unknown. (MarianFox60 did not respond to messages.)

Charles and Effie Hickman, just starting out and soon with three children, seem to have had a limited income. Hickman, a man of medium build with wavy brown hair and blue eyes, worked as a day laborer. He testified at the preliminary hearing in the Loftus case that he had known Bill Loftus for about five years. Given the small community, that suggests that Bill arrived in the area about 1904 or early 1905.

In October 1905 Bill Loftus and a partner, Harry J. Yocum, purchased 160 acres northeast of Troy from David and Cora Spencer. The purchase carried a steep mortgage of \$1,200. This is the property where Laura and Bill Loftus resided after their marriage on July 23, 1906.

Apparently unable to make the mortgage payments, Bill, Laura, and Harry sold the property to Carl A. Broman of Troy in September 1906. Oddly, Laura seems to have acquired some financial means to buy the property back from Broman in December for \$2,000. A month later, in January 1907, she purchased a remote 160-acre parcel from the government which she immediately sold to Broman. The source of Laura's sudden windfall is a mystery.

Reports indicate that Bill Loftus was quite a bit older than Laura, by at least twenty-five years, and was an imposing, strong man. They

both had quick tempers, resulting in passionate disagreements. Bill's drinking habit irritated Laura. Family circumstances added tension to the marriage when Laura's sister, Effie Hickman, died in September 1909. Charles Hickman and his three children moved onto the Loftus farm so Laura could care for her niece and nephews. She and the four children lived in the original home. Bill and Hickman resided in a newer cabin about 200 feet uphill from the older dwelling. They all gathered in the lower house for meals.

Snow covered the ground on December 27, 1909. Bill Loftus loaded his sleigh with wood to sell in Troy, about five miles south. After disposing of his load he headed home for supper. Though Troy was a "dry" town he arrived back at the farm visibly inebriated around 6 p.m. After stabling the horses Bill walked uphill to the house he shared with Hickman. Laura soon joined them. Finding her husband drunk, she proceeded to exchange voluble and unimaginative curses with him. Laura wanted to know the contents of a couple medicine bottles set on a stand. She picked them up and Bill grabbed them from her. One fell to the floor and either shattered or Laura stomped on it.

According to Hickman, Bill said that Laura "had his [I]rish up enough for him to beat [the] hell out of her." Having had enough, Bill grabbed Laura and "put her out of the house." Laura began marching to the lower house.

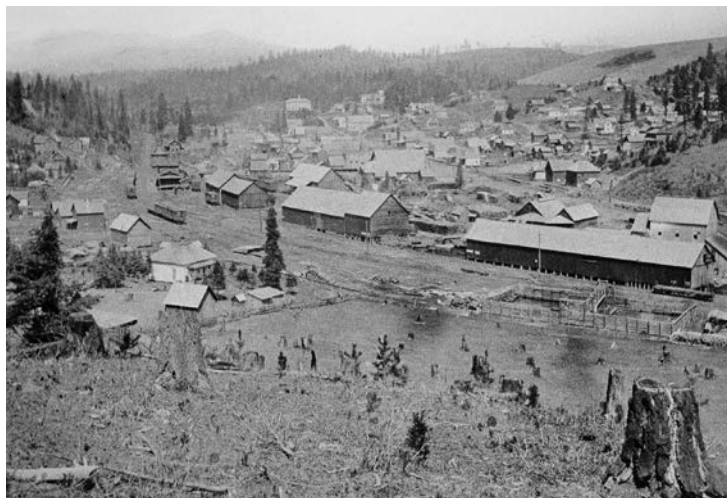
Bill asked Hickman to put blankets on the horses and bring his gloves up to the house to dry. As Hickman headed down to the barnyard he could hear Bill and Laura exchanging rude epithets – Bill from the cabin doorway and Laura from about sixty feet down the path toward her residence. After Hickman took the gloves to Bill he headed down to the lower house and met Laura coming back up the trail, this time with a shotgun in her hand.



Charles E. Hickman as a young man (1882-1955).
Shared by Keith Hart on Find A Grave, used with permission



Effie Brooks Hickman (1881-1909).
Shared by Keith Hart on Find A Grave, used with permission



Troy, Idaho. 1907. LCHS 15-01-002

"Oh mama don't do that," Hickman said, trying to coax her back to the house where the children waited.

"I can't help it...he has run over me when I couldn't help myself," Laura replied. In his deposition Hickman stated that the shotgun Laura carried looked like a gun belonging to Laura's brother, James Brooks. He did not offer any explanation for why she had her brother's firearm.

As Hickman resumed his way down to the older house he glanced up to see Bill standing on the front step of the cabin with a lantern in his hand, yelling curses at Laura. Hickman heard the gun go off, then a second report. He continued on his way, but Laura yelled for him to come up.

"Oh my God I didn't mean to kill him."

She and Hickman carried Bill into the cabin and laid him on a bed. The wounded man struggled to get his breath – the second blast had hit him in the face and forehead. Laura grabbed handfuls of snow to wash Bill's face, blood-reddened water staining her clothes and pooling on the floor. Hickman rode to a nearby farm to fetch Irvine J. Brown and William S. Vance for help, but by the time they arrived Bill had already passed. They confirmed that the victim had no pulse. At some point James Brooks also arrived on the scene. Hickman left again to summon Oliver C. Keller from Troy, an osteopathic doctor who served as the coroner. Two days later justice of the peace Henry Cummings issued a warrant for Laura's arrest.

Laura's history

Laura Etta Brooks was born in 1875, the fifth of nine children born to William J. Brooks and his first wife, Missouri Adaline Hudson. Laura grew up in Adams County, Ohio, along the Ohio River just west of Scioto County, where the family moved probably about 1894. In June 1896 Laura married George Perry Stith of Minnesota

(though he lived in Scioto County at the time). He was an only child whose mother had died shortly after his birth. Laura and George's son, Edward, came along in November. In late summer 1898 Laura became pregnant again, but the marriage between George and Laura was over. It appears that George's parents living in Wright County, Minnesota, arranged an adoption for the baby girl, Florence Pearl Stith.

Not much is known about George P. Stith. He sometimes lived with his maternal grandmother, Martha Caldwell. A biography of his father, Christopher Columbus Stith, published in 1915 states that George lived in Wisconsin at the time.

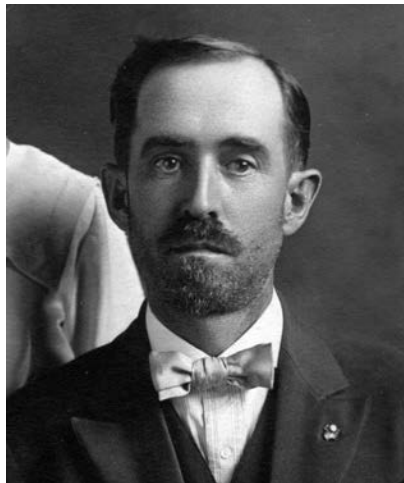
Many of the characters in this story did not get enumerated in the 1900 census. Laura E. Stith, George P. Stith, Edward C. Stith, and William H. Loftus are all missing from the records.

The trial

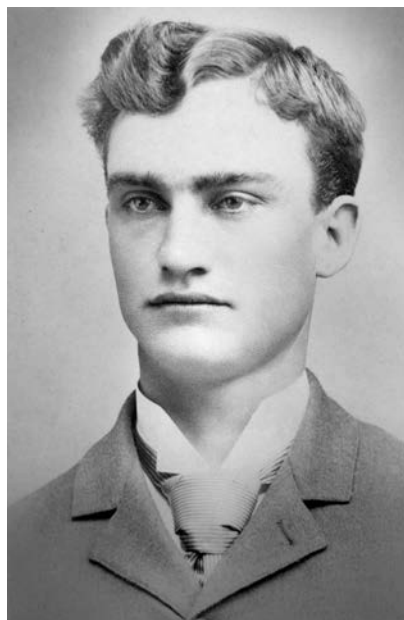
Shortly after her arrest Laura astonished the community by begging the sheriff to take her to her husband's funeral. The sheriff relented. He had a difficult position. The small jail had little space, and having a female prisoner was only part of the problem. He also had a mandate to separate murderers from the rest of the prison population.

J.P. Henry Cummings presided over the preliminary hearing on January 6, 1910, which entailed taking depositions from the principal witnesses: Charles Hickman, Edward Stith, I.J. Brown, W.S. Vance, and O.C. Keller. George W. Suppiger was the prosecuting attorney. August H. Oversmith of Troy and William M. Morgan provided defense representation. Oversmith had political aspirations and he selected Morgan as his second. Morgan had already served as a state legislator and mayor of Moscow. In 1915 he would be elevated to the Idaho Supreme Court.

In his deposition Hickman reported that Bill Loftus had not threatened to hurt Laura (despite the "beat the hell" remark)



Dr. Oliver C. Keller (1876-1921). Shared by GotWind777 on Ancestry.com



William M. Morgan. c. 1895. LCHS Morgan-WM-01



Judge Edgar C. Steele (1856-1929). Original source unknown. Shared by Steven Branting on Find A Grave

and he hadn't struck his wife. Hickman may have been used to hearing empty threats from Loftus. At no time did Hickman state that he'd ever seen Bill physically abuse Laura. Defense attorney Oversmith attempted to suggest that Bill Loftus had a revolver the night of the killing, but Hickman said he never knew Bill to own a gun. Vance and Brown also denied seeing a revolver under Bill's body.

These depositions are part of the district court records, but no transcript from the trial exists. Daily court summaries and newspaper reports provide the only clues to what happened in the courtroom when the case came to trial on Monday, April 18, 1910. Jury selection consumed the first day and a half. After Laura stated her plea of "not guilty" Suppiger presented the first witnesses on Tuesday afternoon. Knowing the lurid nature of the testimony Judge Edgar C. Steele instructed the bailiffs to bar anyone under eighteen from the courtroom. Charles Hickman's testimony and cross examination consumed several hours. Stith, Brown, Vance, and Keller followed with their testimony about the night of the murder.

On Wednesday morning Suppiger called H.A. Dinsmore to the stand. Dinsmore owned the farm adjacent to the Loftus farm on the west side and a local sawmill. The nature and content of his testimony is unknown. The prosecution rested. Then Oversmith and Morgan brought Charles Hickman and Laura Loftus to the stand to testify in her defense. Laura pleaded temporary insanity and stated her husband abused her the night of December 27, striking her before he put her out of the house. Of the murder she had no recall, but admitted to shooting her husband. She proceeded to explain that her mother had been committed to the insane asylum in Athens, Ohio, when Laura was eighteen years old. She had an uncle in the same institution, suggesting that mental illness ran in the family. Several other witnesses testified on Laura's behalf, including her brother James Brooks.

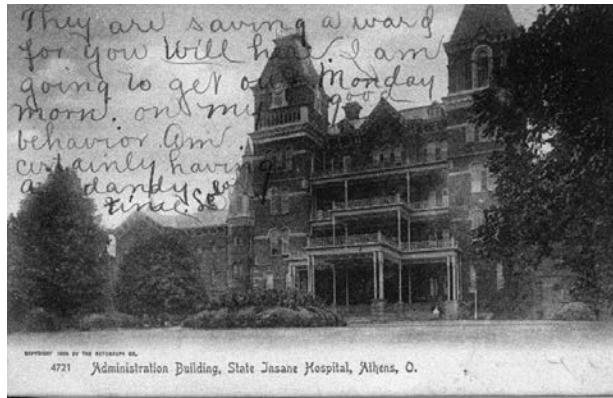
Suppiger put Dr. John W. Givens on the stand on Thursday morning for rebuttal. Dr. Givens worked at the asylum in Orofino and had been called to give testimony on insanity. However, Judge Steele dismissed Suppiger's long-winded, hypothetical question on a technicality. Givens never got to answer. Closing arguments followed until late afternoon when the jury retired to deliberate. At 7:30 p.m. foreman David Urquhart read the verdict: "We, the Jury in the above entitled cause, find [the] defendant not guilty." Disregarding the insanity defense, they fully acquitted Laura Loftus for killing her husband.

Mental illness in the family

Understanding of mental illness has evolved over time. The medical community recognizes the trend for certain disorders to run in families, including autism, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder. However, all mental illnesses are considered to result from a combination of genetic and environmental factors. There is no known mental disorder attributed solely to a particular gene that switches on or off.

Laura Loftus's mother, Missouri (Hudson) Brooks was committed to the Athens Asylum for the Insane (as it was known at the time). She died there a few years later, in 1897, and is buried in the hospital cemetery. Her brother, Talbert Hudson, also died in the facility in 1928. Among Laura's siblings, one sister was accused of attempting to murder her husband. Frances Dell Brooks married Luther Pulliam twice, after a multi-decade separation. Shortly after the second wedding Pulliam filed for divorce stating that Frances attacked him with an ax after he began carving a watermelon without her permission.

After Laura's acquittal she purchased a house on south Jefferson Street in Moscow. She lived there in 1912 but was not listed in the city directory in 1914. In 1918 she married a third time, to Morgan V. Cochran, Jr. They lived in Benton County, Washington, until Morgan's death from



Athens Hospital for the Insane (Athens State Hospital). This is the institution where Laura Loftus' mother and uncle were committed and where they died. Wikimedia Commons [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Administration_Building,_State_Insane_Hospital,_Athens,_O._\(14087366382\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Administration_Building,_State_Insane_Hospital,_Athens,_O._(14087366382).jpg)



Charles E. Hickman with his second wife, Gertie Byers. c. 1911. One of the saddest outcomes of the Loftus case is that Charles gave up his three children to the orphans' home in Lewiston after the trial. Even after remarrying, he never reclaimed them. *Shared by chold114 on Ancestry.com*

cancer in 1926. By 1930 Laura had been committed to the Western State Hospital at Fort Steilacoom as a mental patient. She died there in 1931 at age fifty-six.

Miscarriage of justice?

From our twenty-first-century vantage point it may seem incomprehensible that a woman who admitted to killing her husband as Laura Loftus had done would receive a full acquittal. In an era of strong temperance movements, and with the contribution of alcohol to domestic violence,

Laura may have convinced the jury that she was the real victim. The men on the jury, having no experience of female murderers, might have believed a woman had to be driven by abuse to commit homicide. Laura had family and friends who were willing to testify on her behalf. It seems that her dead husband had no such benefit. William H. Loftus, as new to the Troy community as Laura, had no known family in the area. The defense had every opportunity to paint Bill Loftus as a monster – a man who needed killing – without effective rebuttal from the prosecution. Bill may very well have been an unpleasant fellow, but it is doubtful a young, attractive woman like Laura would have married him if he had no redeeming qualities.

Who was Bill Loftus?

Determining William H. Loftus's identity is complicated by the fact that no one in Latah County knew his exact age, much less where he came from or his family history. The newspapers reported him variously as sixty-two or sixty-four years old. Charles Hickman estimated Bill to be about fifty. There is no death certificate, but in the Latah County Death Register Coroner O.C. Keller gave Bill's age as forty! Only one report indicated he had a wife prior to Laura.

Evidence points to a man named William Henry Loftus of Minneapolis, Minnesota, being the one who married Laura in Latah County. He was born in New York state in 1850 (making him fifty-nine at death) and moved to

Minnesota as a young man. He married Eliza M. Corman (alternate spellings are Gorman and Condon) in 1876 and they had two sons together: William H. Loftus, Jr. and John J. Loftus. He was recorded in census records through the 1885 Minnesota census and he was in the Minneapolis city directory until 1888. He owned the family home at 1616 N. 4th Street in North Minneapolis. Eliza began calling herself a widow in the directory after that, suggesting her husband had died. But it was not so.

Where Bill Loftus roamed after 1888 is unknown, but his wife filed for divorce in February 1901 on grounds of abandonment. According to Eliza her husband stated he was going to Montana in September 1900 and she hadn't heard from him since. Clearly he stayed in touch with his family up to that time. In August 1901 W. H. Loftus of Minneapolis won in the El Reno district, Oklahoma, land lottery. He did not claim the land. It appears he followed his westward dreams and wound up in Troy, Idaho, developing a friendship with Harry Yocum somewhere along the way – perhaps his only friend. And that “friend” never testified for him at Laura’s trial. Thus, the murder victim, William H. “Bill” Loftus, went to his grave unknown, unsung, and unloved.



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Western State Hospital in Ft. Steilacoom, Washington. This is the institution where Laura E. Loftus Cochran died in 1931. Wikimedia Commons. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Western_State_Hospital,_Washington.png

A Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Genesee, Idaho

Prepared by Earl H. Bennett, Genesee Historian, for the Citizens of Genesee, ID



The Driscoll Block (2. Hardware, 3. Merchandise, 4. Drug originally) and 6. formerly Rice's Market. c. 2001. Earl H. Bennett photo

One mile east of present-day Genesee (New Town) was Old Town Genesee, patented in 1879. With the arrival in 1888 of the Spokane and Palouse Railroad (S&P) that would become part of the Northern Pacific Railroad, the town moved west to its present location. The following is a brief description of the history of some of the buildings in New Town. The numbers for each location correspond to the numbers on the Google map of Genesee on page 20 and to the numbers in the included pictures.

The walking tour begins at the intersection of Walnut Street and Pine Street.

1. Jacob Rosenstein's store was moved to the northeast corner of this intersection on wheels from Old Town in 1888. The Rosenstein family later donated the site and in 1947 the community built the brick Medical/Dental Center building currently standing on the corner. Tenants included Dr. Paul Genstler (1948-1954), Dr. Philip Spechko (1955-1967) and Dr. Wayne Peterson, a dentist, from 1978-1985. The building served varied purposes for a few years after the doctors left and was empty for a time until it was sold to Gritman Hospital in 1999 for a clinic. Since 2002 it has been a private residence.

2. Across the street on Walnut, Buildings 2, 3, and 4 were the site of the original S&P livery station, then Biram's Livery. The brick Driscoll Block was built in 1906 with three sections: hardware, merchandise and drug. Driscoll had the hardware store, which later became Hasfurthers, Myers'



New Town Genesee looking east on Walnut Street from Pine Street: 1. Rosenstein's Store on left, 2. Biram's Livery, 6. Meat Market, 6a. Saloon, 11. & 11A. Elliott Hall on right. c. 1904. Lowell N. Swanson photo

Genesee Supply Co., Genesee Cash Hardware, Robinson's Cash Hardware and then Genesee Hardware Co., owned by Judd Lee. It was repurposed as the Wendy Anne Apartments by Lloyd Esser in the 1970s and named for his granddaughter. The Essers sold the apartments to Orval and Arlene Fredrickson, who in turn sold them to Linda Schlueter in 1976. Linda sold the apartments to the present owners in May 2018 when the complex was extensively remodeled.

3. Rosenstein moved his store from across the street to the "merchandise" section of the Driscoll Block. It was taken

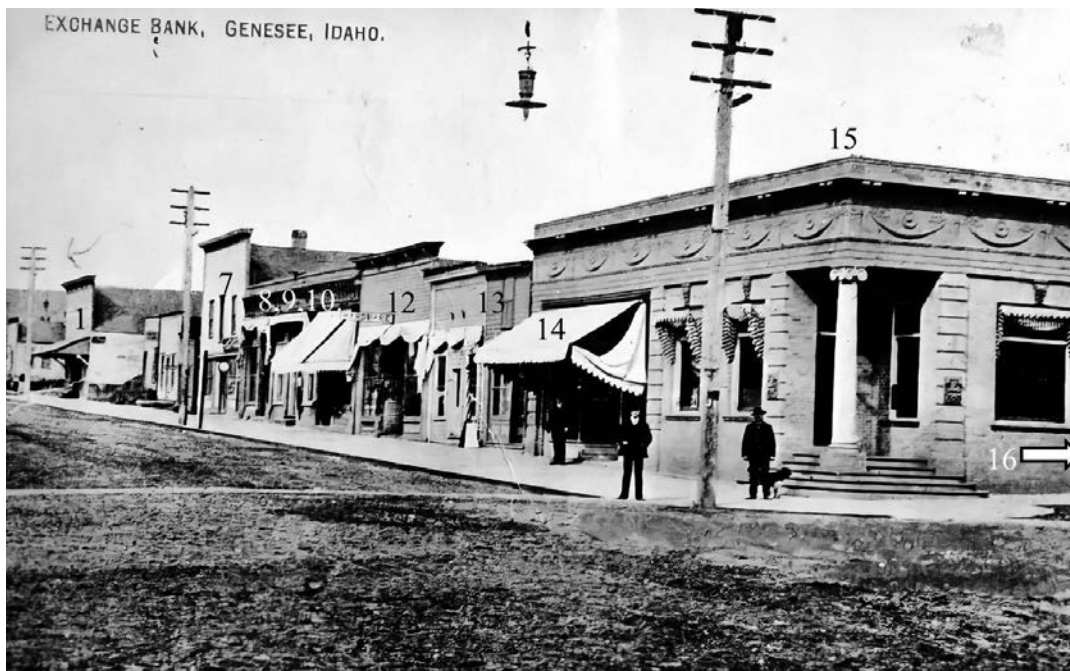
over by Emmett & Boliou in 1918. Next, David Kuehl opened a clothing store in 1940. He sold out in 1963 to Judd Lee, who combined the hardware and merchandise sections into the Genesee Hardware Co. Lee sold out the hardware section in 1966 but continued with his clothing business until closing the entire store later that year. The building would be sold to Lloyd Esser. It housed the Scissors of Awe store in 2001. Since 2008 it has been the Brass Lantern Restaurant.

4. The drug section of the Driscoll Block was first operated by J. H. & Guy Greaves, then Grant Clark, and finally his son-in-law, Frank Wilson. Today it is a private residence.

5. Across the street, the second building from the corner on Walnut once housed Simons Electric & Appliance Store and then the Electric Shop. Now it is a storage building.

6. & 6a. Back on the south side of Walnut, two frame buildings on this site originally housed the Genesee Meat Market (Nagel & Bomberg, John, Milton & Oscar Rader, Rader & Westensee) and a creamery. Next to the meat market was a saloon (possibly the E. J. Brew Saloon) and billiards hall. These were replaced by the present brick building in 1912 that housed the Rader-Westensee City Meat Market, a jewelry store, and Sampson's Barber Shop. In July 1915 the pool hall (owned then by J. R. Nickel), a barn behind Rader's meat market, and the Post Office (at the time in the former saloon) – all made of wood – burned to the ground.

6a. The brick building was purchased by Eli and Ramona Rice (Rice's Market, URM Store) in



Looking west on Walnut Street from Fir Street: 1. Rosenstein's Store, 7. Millinery, 8. Smolt's Cigar, 9. Bank, 10. Post Office, 12. Hardware, 13. Restaurant, 14. Drug Store, 15. Bank, 16. Doctor's offices. c. 1904. LCHS 06-02-001



Looking west on Walnut Street near Fir Street: 1. Former Medical Center, 5. Former Simons Electric, 7. Stonebraker McQuary Insurance, 8, 9, 10. 3-part brick building, 12. Apartment, 13. Apartment, 14. U.S. Post Office. c. 2020. Earl H. Bennett photo

1948 and was operated as a grocery store until 1967 when the Rices built their new grocery on Chestnut, the Genesee Food Center. The old URM building on Walnut was gifted to the city by the Rices in 1967 and sold to Lloyd Esser in 1970 for \$320. Esser would sell the building to Mike Curtis, who sold it to the current owner. The building was home to the Wine Bar for a few years.

7. The next building on the north side of Walnut was built by Don Springer in 1952 for his insurance business on the former site of a frame building constructed in 1891 that had housed a millinery store and other merchants. The insurance office was sold to Dave Baumgartner in 1987, and then became the Stonebraker McQuary Insurance office in 2006 when the building was extensively remodeled.

8. Next door, Buildings 8, 9, and 10 appear to be a single brick building, but are really three separate buildings. The west addition (No. 8) was built in 1895 by William Smolt for his cigar business. Albert Frei's shoe shop was there in 1914. In 1929 an electrical supply house moved in. It would become Essers' in 1939. Later it was home to Washington Water Power and then a dry cleaner. The building has had other tenants and recently it has been used as a beauty shop by several owners.

9. The center section was the first building and was built by the Bank of Genesee in 1893, which lasted until 1904. Then the Post Office moved in where it would remain with brief relocations until 1946.

10. The Post Office was originally housed in the third/east addition built in 1901 and moved to the center section in 1904. The east end would also be Olson's Jewelry Store, later a millinery, and then a creamery.

11. & 11a. Next on the south side of Walnut, the two-story Elliott Hall was built in 1888 on this site. Downstairs housed different businesses including a harness shop and several saloons. The upper floor had a stage and was known as the Opera House. Numerous entertainments, socials, club meetings and other events were held there early in the town's history.

Genesee Motors was started in the Vollmer Building by Fred Jefferies in 1926 as a branch of a Lewiston Ford dealership; it was soon taken over by Walter Emerson.

About 1916 Elliott Hall was razed and a brick and concrete-block building was built at the site of 11 and 11a for a Ford dealership operated by Alonzo Murphy, who later sold it to the Morscheck Brothers. The garage/Ford dealership was purchased in 1935 by Walter Emerson for Genesee Motors. Emerson ran the business until he passed on in 1955, when it was taken over by his son, William Emerson, until 1965 when it closed. Later, LeRoy Beyers bought the property. It was used as the school bus garage and the basement was used for potato storage until remodeled by Beyers as a storage facility in 1976, its purpose today. The four ornate original large skylights are still part of the structure.



Children parade on Walnut Street: 10. U.S. Post Office, 12. Smolt's Confectionary, 13. Barber Shop, 14. Drug Store, 15. Exchange Bank. 1935. Leo's Studio

12. The building across the street housed a harness/saddle store and Smolt's Confectionary and later was a beauty shop. It is now an apartment building and is believed to be at least in part one of the oldest buildings in Genesee.

13. Next to #12 were originally two buildings housing a barber and jewelry shop, and later a tailor shop. Then the two buildings were combined and served as Evan Hall's Restaurant. In 1968 Clarence Ivie, the town barber, built the current concrete block building for a laundromat. It is now living quarters.

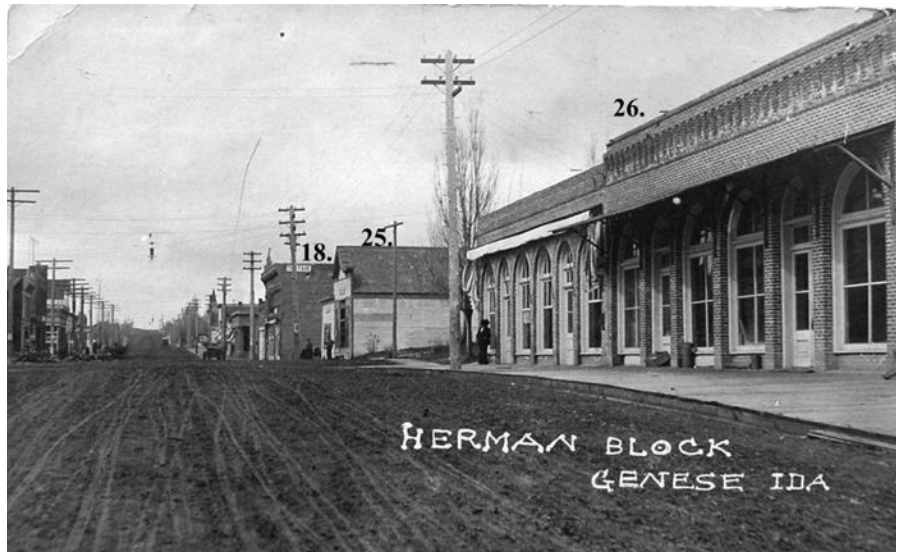
14. Today's Post Office building was built in 1904 at the same time as the Exchange Bank. The first tenant was Fred Dicus, who would run his drugstore there until 1930. In 1931 the Genesee Drug Store (Genesee Pharmacy) took over the business. David G. Kuehl moved from Uniontown to Genesee in 1934, opening a store in this building before

moving across Walnut to the Driscoll Block in 1940. The American Legion moved into the building in 1941 and stayed until 1949. The Legion Club stocked the former drug store with slot machines, which were an important source of revenue for the veterans.

15. On the northwest corner of Walnut and Fir, the original building at the site of the present Exchange Bank Building was a frame structure with a few offices attached behind it. It was built right after the railroad arrived by Cox and Hodgins and was called the Pioneer Drug Store and later the Hodgins Building. The store was soon acquired by C. A. Christopher and T. A. Kennedy.

The Exchange Bank moved from the center of the three-part brick building (#9) into this yellow brick building constructed in 1904. After the bank closed in 1932, the building was occupied by several small firms until it was purchased in 1938 by W. W. Burr for his real estate and insurance business. His father, C. F. Burr, had started the business (purchased from Reese Pickering) in a small building across the street next to Larrabee's store.

Don Springer rented the bank building in 1950 and ran his insurance business from there until building his new office (#7). The Burr building was sold to Walter Moden by Laura



Facing west on Walnut between Laurel and Spruce Streets: 18. Vollmer Building, 25. Miller's Implements, 26. Herman's store. c. 1905. LCHS 06-02-007

Burr about 1975. It was placed on the National Historic Register in 1979. The Modens sold the building to Vikky Ross and Nikky Hites in 2016 and it was substantially remodeled, keeping its historic appearance. The bank part of the restored building was then rented out as a coffee/gift shop, first to Plaid and Pearls in 2017 and then to Stomping Grounds Coffee House. The beautifully restored brick building is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

16. The original doctor's offices in the back of the Exchange Bank (complete with an operating theater) would house several doctors/dentists and other clients. One of the first occupants was a dentist, Dr. H. J. Smith, and then Dr. J. L. Conant, Jr., who was the son of the man who built the Conant Building (#24). One of the better-known later businesses in the building was the USDA Soil Conservation Office, today's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The office was run by Larry Sorenson for many years. Now the building is apartments.

The walking tour continues at the northeast corner of the intersection of Walnut and Fir Streets.

17. Early on it was thought that Genese's population could support two banks. Following the Bank of Genese was John Vollmer's First



Parade on Walnut Street in early Genese: 11. Elliott Hall, 19. Genesee Mercantile Co., 20. Alexander Building, 22. Larrabee's, 24. Conant Building. c. 1896. LCHS 06-02-005



Facing west on Walnut Street near Laurel Street: 18. Vollmer Building, 17. First Bank of Genesee, 15. Exchange Bank, 19. Folletts Grocery, 20. Alexander Building, 21. Burr Insurance, 22. Larrabee's Store. c. 1907. LCHS 06-02-006

National Bank of Genesee established in the southwest corner of the Vollmer Building (#18) in 1892. This bank would be one of the shortest-lived National Banks in Idaho as it was converted to a state bank the following year and would be known as the First Bank of Genesee, incorporated in 1906 with Vollmer as president. The footprint of the original bank proved too small and a new brick bank building was constructed on the west side of the Vollmer Building in 1903. North from the bank was a series of interconnected offices. The last office housed the Genesee News, next was the telephone company and switch board, and then Smolt's Confectionary.

The bank became a branch of Vollmer's FNB of Lewiston in 1936. It was purchased by First Security in 1946. Genesee's only real crime wave occurred when the bank was robbed in September 1968 and again that November.

The old bank and offices were torn down and the current western-style modern bank building was constructed in 1969 by First Security. It would become a branch office of Wells Fargo in 2000. The bank closed in 2019 and the building was sold to P1FCU in 2020.

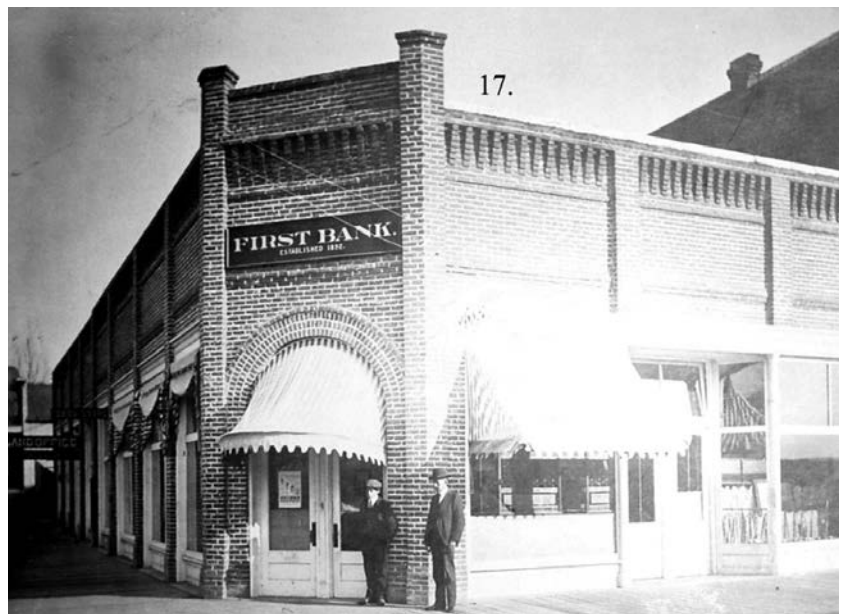
18. John P. Vollmer was a leading citizen and the first millionaire in Idaho Territory/ State with extensive business interests centered in Lewiston, ID, and extending into all surrounding communities. He was a key player in bringing the railroad to Genesee and established the first mercantile store in town in a frame building, believed to have been located east of the current Vollmer Building about where the Senior Center (#25) next door is

today. This brick building built in 1892 housed his new store. The building features a false "iron front" manufactured by Mesker Brothers Iron Works-Front Builders-St. Louis and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The retail store was operated by John's son, Ralston. Busy with the bank and other interests, the family had quit the retail trade in the Vollmer Building by 1906. The Fair (F. C. Marquardsen) had taken its space. In 1907 Fred E. Lambert sold furniture and harness (and later operated a funeral

parlor) in the Vollmer Building. Other early tenants included Bell and Emmett (1908), and Emmett and Boliou in 1917. About 1906 Ernest E. Miller, who was an early blacksmith, opened a garage on the ground floor of the Vollmer Building that was also a Studebaker dealership in 1914.

In 1920 Nate Edwards and Son purchased the Vollmer Building. It was agreed that the American Legion Post would purchase the top floor of the building for \$2,500. On March 31, 1945, the Legion, having moved to their new



Vollmer's First Bank of Genesee (#17) once stood on the northeast corner of Walnut and Fir. On the left, interconnected offices extended north from the bank. c. 1905. John Luedke Collection

building (#25) next door, presented the Genesee Volunteer Fire Department with a deed to the Old Legion Hall on the second floor of the Vollmer Building. The first floor also housed the city jail for a time. The building was home to the fire department until 2020 when they moved into a new \$3 million fire/community station at 245 Chestnut Street. The old brick building was purchased in 2020 and is being remodeled for a residence.

On the east end of the Vollmer Building is the Pastime Pool Hall first operated by Nate Edwards in 1920 and John Lieberg, Nate's partner starting in 1931. The Pastime was purchased by Ronald "Stub" Geltz in 1946 from Lieberg and was our town's most famous soda fountain. Today it is owned by Jim Sims.

19. Back on the southwest corner of Fir and Walnut in 1895 the Follett Brothers, Fred and Leon, had a general store across from the Alexander Building (#20) on Fir Street. The Folletts' business had been established in Old Town and was moved to New Genesee when the railroad arrived. This was a wood frame structure that was replaced by a brick building built in 1898 by Fred Follett (Mahlon Follett's uncle) on the site of the old Genesee Mercantile Company store. Mahlon Follett operated Follett's Mercantile for the next 50 years.

In 1965 Mr. Follett retired and sold the business to H. E. Bennett, who had been a partner since 1940. It was then



The Alexander Building (#20), Genesee downtown landmark. c. 2001. *Earl H. Bennett photo*

known as Bennett's Grocery. In a horrific fire the building burned on March 7, 1967. The heat was so intense that the windows in the Burr Building (old Exchange Bank building), the Post Office, Genesee Beauty Shop and Ivie's Barber Shop were cracked and the metal decorative trim strip above the Burr Building melted. It was later discovered that there was a break-in at Folletts just before the fire and that the two events were probably related. The site is now a small city park on the north end of the lot and a telephone switching building used by Horizon, Frontier, and now Zippy Fiber Internet on the south end.

20. On the southeast corner of Walnut and Fir, Joseph Alexander built a large iron-front store, which he occupied until 1896 when he replaced it with a two-story brick Alexander Building. George H. Hobson bought the stock of the Genesee Mercantile Company and moved into Alexander's new building the following year; he ran the business as the Bee Hive Store. In 1907 Fred E. Lambert sold furniture and harness and later operated a funeral parlor. He would purchase the Alexander Building in 1919 and convert it into the Lambert Hotel. The upstairs of the building was early on a lodge hall and later was remodeled by Lambert for hotel rooms. While Nate Edwards was operating the Pastime across the street, his



South side of Walnut Street from Spruce Street: 24. Conant Building, 27. Genesee Drug Store, 28. Sheldon's Livery and Feed Stable. c. 1905. *Mike Fritz Collection*



West side of Fir Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets: 29. Monarch Saloon, 30. Meyer and McCrosky Implement, 31. Conoco Station. c. 1947. LCHS 06-03-075

son Raymond Edwards was running the Corner Bar in the hotel. A cellar was excavated beneath the building that would later house a barber shop and pool room. Lambert would swap the building to George Schlerth for a farm in Oregon in 1923. Schlerth would operate it as the “Genesee Hotel” for only a year before going bankrupt. Schlerth also had a funeral parlor in the hotel.

H. R. Pope purchased the hotel from Schlerth in 1924. In 1925 W. G. Ericson bought the hotel from Pope (with some legal difficulties) and remodeled the space on the east side of the building as the Ericson Movie Theater. The following year Ericson sold the building to Jesse C. Campbell, who was sued by the Federal Land Bank over some debts. Subsequently the hotel was sold to R. J. Zell who renovated the building, including replacing the piano that had been the source of music in the theater with a Victrola.

The building also housed the Genesee Hotel Café. By 1929, the Cozy Theater was in operation.

Zell would sell the building to L. A. Worthy in 1934. The movie theater was now called the Audian. In 1936 Ole Flamoe became the proprietor of the Corner Billiard Parlor and Cigar Store in the hotel, having purchased the interests of Nate Edwards and John Lieberg.

There was a fire in the building in 1937 that did only minimal damage. The rooms were

now apartments. The hotel was completely redecorated (including the Corner Billiard Parlor) in 1939 when the Worthys traded the Genesee Hotel to the next owner, John T. Rogers. H. E. (Bus) and Evelyn Bennett purchased the Corner Billiard Parlor from Rogers and remodeled it in 1943. They ran it until 1945 when they sold the business to Harold Reisenauer of Colton. Rex Rice reopened the hotel theater that year.

In 1946 G. E. Hammer and John Lieberg purchased the facility from Reisenauer and renamed the Corner Billiard Parlor the H & L Club. They sold the entire facility in 1947 to R. P. Charpentier who ran the billiard hall as Carp’s Place. Hammer repurchased the hotel in 1948 and named it Hammer’s Bar and Hotel. At one time there was a ladies/mens shop in the rear of the building and a barber shop in the basement. In 1953 the bar was leased to Jim and Ellen LaVole.

Henry Cummings then leased the facility in 1955, and Hammer resumed active ownership in 1956. The following year Bob Broemeling obtained a lease. He would eventually buy the entire building in 1964 and rename it Bob’s Place. That year the front of the old theater was removed to make more room for patrons.

Bob’s Place was sold to H. E. (Bus) and Evelyn Bennett, who repurchased the entire building in 1967 and changed the name to the Corner Bar. Bus sold the business to his son and daughter-in-law, Don and Betty Bennett, in 1969. In 1974 what had been the old theater on the east end was now the



The City Park area on Walnut Street was originally filled with buildings: 21. Burr Insurance and telephone offices (note telephone lines on pole), 22. Larrabee Building, 23A. Hose cart station (note bell), 23. Genesee Armory/Opera House, 24. Conant Building. c. 1910. White Spring Ranch Collection



The Pump House at Chestnut Street and Laurel Street: 20. Alexander Building, 24. Conant Building, 34. Pump House. 1905. *Clifford Ott Collection*

Genesee Café. The Bennetts sold the property to Randy and Dee Hall in October 1980; they ran the Corner Bar and Brass Lantern Restaurant. The building mysteriously burned to the ground in the early morning hours of July 30, 2006, robbing Genesee of its most noticeable downtown landmark. Many of the town's residents volunteered to salvage bricks from the burned building. Randy and Dee would rebuild their business, the Brass Lantern Restaurant, in the old Kuehl store (#3) in 2008.

21. The wood-framed Burr Insurance Office and telephone building were just east of Alexander's. Burr would move to the Exchange Bank building in 1938. His old office would be moved and become part of the Stricker home (about one block to the east), although it was highly modified over the years. Today the lots for both buildings are the site of the city tennis courts built in 1976 (land donated by the fire department) and now abandoned.

22. On Walnut in the middle of the current block between Fir and Laurel, John S. Larrabee built the first new store in New Town. It was near the west end of the present-day City Park (by the old tennis court). It was a tall wooden building that was later clad with corrugated iron and sported a decorative iron front. For a while the Follett brothers were partners, and the building was called the Spot Cash Store. Later Leon Larrabee ran the store with his father, and after it closed in 1920 he opened the Toggery. The old store was sold that year and Edwards and Son moved their pool hall into the structure in June. The building was torn down in 1935 by F. W. Loncosty, a local contractor.

23. & 23a. In 1888 the Owen House hotel was built two lots east of Larrabee's. It burned in 1894. The new Genesee Opera House/Armory was built on the site in 1906. This

should not be confused with Elliott Hall that was also referred to as the Opera House. The new Opera House was built as an armory by Company H of the Idaho National Guard for drill after the Spanish American War. Seldom used as an armory, it was shown as a theater on the 1909 Sanborn fire map. It had a stage where plays and talent shows by the Jesters' Club were presented along with many other entertainments, including numerous public dances. In the late 1920s the building was converted to a gym for use by the Genesee High School. The gym was demolished about 1957.

23a. Just west of the Opera House was an early fire station with a bell, housing man- or horse-drawn fire equipment. A similar building was on the west end of town. Today this is part of City Park.

24. Dr. J. L. Conant built the Conant Building on the southwest corner of Laurel and Walnut in 1894. It was first a drug store and later used as a skating rink. Upstairs was a lodge hall, the home of the Knights of Pythias (who eventually purchased the building), and later a dry cleaner. Dr. Conant may have had the first automobile in Genesee. The building was torn down in 1964 and today the site is the northeast corner of City Park.

25. Back on the north side of Walnut between the Vollmer Building (#18) and Laurel, a section of the eastern end of these four lots is where Aaron Levi built his new general store when he moved from Old Town in 1888. He sold the business and moved to Seattle the following year. According to John Platt, the building eventually burned. The two lots just west of Levi's store were used by Millers Implements until about 1915. Using funds generated by the slot machines in the west addition to the Exchange Bank (see #14), the American Legion purchased four lots along Walnut (part of the Vollmer estate) and built a new yellow-brick building for \$94,000 in 1948. The new Genesee Memorial Building had a bowling alley upgraded to four lanes in 1955 and pool tables downstairs. In 1963 Charles N. Carter leased the west end of the building and the bowling alley and opened Carter's Charcoal Broiler (sold to Richard E. Jacobs in 1967). The Legion Club moved to the east end of the new building, but with the loss of slot machines, money was scarce and the heating costs of the large building became a real problem with limited finances.

The city had considered purchasing the building in 1975, and the library moved into the east end of the building in 1976. The building was sold to the city in 1991 for a low price with the understanding that the Legion would have

access to the basement area at no cost. Significant funding for the purchase and remodeling came from a \$100,000 Senior Citizens block grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); this is why the building is called the Senior Center. Currently City Hall is in the west end, the Senior Center is in the middle, the library is on the east end, and the Legion is in the basement. The remodeled building was officially opened in May 1992.

26. According to John Vollmer in 1903, the second new building in New Town and one of the first brick buildings was built by William J. Herman. In 1903 Herman sold his hardware stock to H. A. Morgan, who ran the Cash Hardware Store, a discount business controlled by Vollmer. Herman continued to operate his furniture store, adding a brick addition to the west end in 1903. The new building was for the furniture business and had a patterned steel ceiling that is still there.

Wayne Roach purchased the west half of the Herman Building in 1944. He founded Roach Construction in 1953 and would buy the second half of the building when William M. Herman, son of W. J. Herman, quit the furniture business in 1962. Roach Construction operates out of the buildings today, although it is no longer owned by the Roach family.

27. Located on the southeast corner of Laurel and Walnut was the Genesee Drug Store, an early establishment owned by William Harris from 1893 to 1895. Later this was a harness shop and a millinery store. From 1909 on this was a vacant lot and today is a parking lot for Roach Construction.

28. On the southwest corner of Walnut and Spruce was E. S. Sheldon's Livery and Feed Stable. When you see side by side pictures of the false fronts of the Hickman (Sheldon) and Biram stables (#2, 3, and 4) on opposite ends of town, they look remarkably similar. This is because when the Driscoll Block was built in 1906 the Biram stable was taken apart and rebuilt on the other end of Walnut. Sheldon bought the building from William Hickman. Sheldon apparently had financial problems and it was turned back to Hickman, who was there again in 1910 and would run the business for many years. By 1926 Hickman had given up the livery business and was farming.

The walking tour next moves to the corner of Fir Street and the alley south of Walnut.

29. The rather drab appearing building on the southwest corner belies its origins as the Monarch Saloon, one of the town's first brick buildings built about 1893. It was purchased by Nate Edwards in 1906 for a billiard hall. The



On Chestnut Street looking north between Laurel and Spruce Streets: 24. Conant Building, 26. Herman Building, 35. Miller and Kempf Blacksmith Shop. c. 1905. LCHS 06-02-042



Looking northeast from Chestnut Street toward Spruce Street: 28. Sheldon's Livery and Feed Stable, 35. Miller and Kempf Blacksmith Shop. c. 1905. LCHS 06-02-044

Monarch closed in 1909 when Genesee went dry. It would become Fred Casebolt's harness shop from 1909 to about 1929. Today it is part of the South Latah Highway District shops. Rumor has it that an early voluptuous lady is painted on one of the walls, but she is fully covered today by many "coats" of paint.

30. Attached to the old Monarch Saloon was a farm implement store owned by John G. Meyer and then J. H. McCrosky. Fred Bauscher and Dick Ziemietz purchased the store from McCrosky in 1944 and ran it as the Genesee Trading Company. They added a Chrysler dealership to the business that was also an International Harvester dealership. They sold the business to Helbling Brothers in 1948. Ray Helbling ran it until 1965. In 1966 Helblings became the Broemeling Welding Shop. It was sold to the South Latah Highway District in 2007 for their current shop.

31. A saloon and a creamery were the first businesses in a new brick veneer building constructed by Ambrose Miller and Edward Dahlke in 1903 on the northwest corner of Chestnut and Fir. The building then passed through several owners. A Conoco service station located on Old Hwy 95 (Chestnut Street) once occupied the building. It was later used as a storage building by Helbling Brothers. It burned down in 1953 and is now a parking lot for the South Latah Highway District.

32. Across Fir Street from the Broemeling Welding Shop was the Grand Central Hotel. By the end of 1888 New Town boasted four hotels. Arguably, the finest was the Latah House (also called Latah Hotel) that had been built by John D. Kane. It was on the northeast corner of Chestnut (1st Street) and Fir. This hotel burned in 1888 but was quickly rebuilt by Kane. The proprietor in 1891 was G. N. Hollister.

The hotel was enlarged in 1891 and renamed the Grand Central Hotel. It was owned by Dan Healy from 1892-1894 when it was the stop for the Moscow and Lewiston stage lines. C. H. Moore was in charge by 1898. It was then run by Frank A. Robinson until at least 1906 when it was sold to Owen O'Reilly.

The hotel was completely remodeled in 1910 by Mrs. Annie Healey and was managed by Charles M. Robbins, followed by J. H. Priest in 1914-1915, and then owned by Silas E. Hatcher in 1916. It burned to the ground in April 1917 and for a while there would be no hotels in Genesee. The only casualty of the fire was Christian Baldus, who died a week later. Overexertion while fighting the fire as a volunteer was thought to have contributed to his demise.

Soon after the hotel fire the land was purchased by the Standard Lumber Company. Automobiles were in their ascendancy and Chestnut was part of the old Highway 95 which went through Genesee. The Texaco Service Station (also called Genesee Service Station) was built on the leased site in 1928. An early lessee was John Daugherty, who was followed by Fred Meyer in 1932.

The station was operated by Leroy Harris, who purchased it from the lumber company in 1939 and added on to it in three stages, completing the work in 1946. Harris was also



Looking north on Fir Street from Chestnut Street: 29. Monarch Saloon, 32. Grand Central Hotel. c. 1900. LCHS photo

the Greyhound Bus Company representative. Later the station was run by Willis Moser. The old station was used as an auction center until recently. It may be the home for a new winery.

33. A lodging house was located between the City Pump House and the Texaco Station in 1929. Today the area is a trailer park.

34. The brick City Pump House on the northwest corner of Chestnut and Laurel was built about 1903 on the site of a saloon and billiard parlor. That same year a city water system was installed, replacing numerous privately owned wells around town. Today the city gets its water from two municipal wells, but not the one at the old pump house that was shut in 2019. The building is currently being remodeled as a storage building by the Genesee Civic Association.

35. Chestnut Street east of Laurel was the site of the Red Front Livery & Feed owned by George Mochel. It was built soon after the railroad arrived in 1888 and was destroyed by fire in 1904.

35a. Just east of the Red Front Livery was the Miller and Kempf Blacksmith Shop started about 1892. Today this space is occupied by a private residence.

The walking tour ends on Chestnut Street between Fir and Pine.

36. In the middle of the block are the present-day school bus barns. The east end of the building in 1909 housed one of the first electrical generators in Genesee, owned by the Genesee Electric Light and Power Company. Then it was a veterinary hospital for many years. It is shown on the 1893 Sanborn fire map as a wood building that would be brick veneered. An old radio built into the west wall was a source of local entertainment when it was first installed. The brick veneer was later stuccoed over. This part of the building

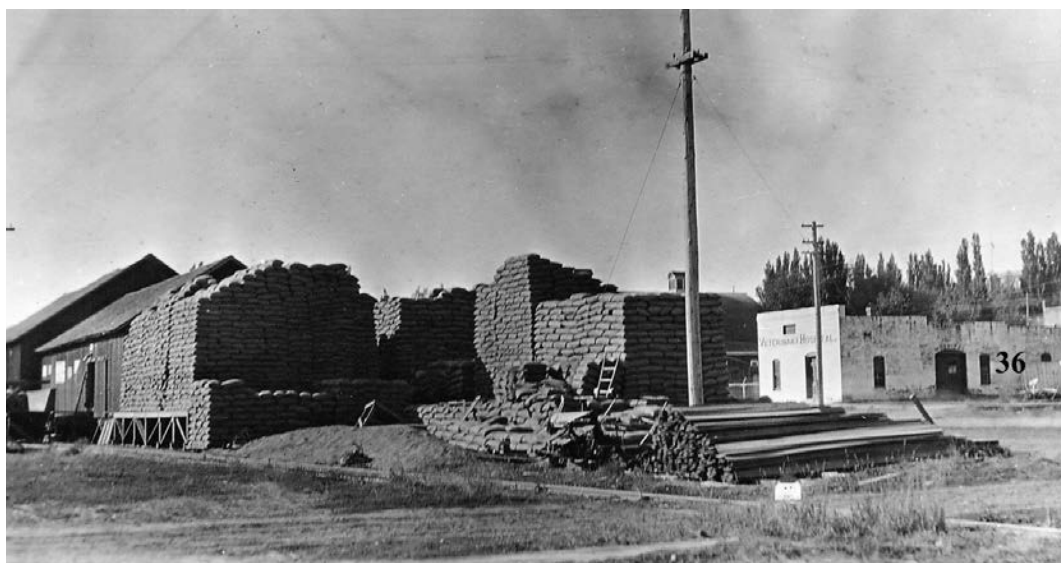


The South Latah County Highway District office/garage on the corner of Pine and Chestnut Streets, currently clad in galvanized sheet metal, originally was Follett and Schooler Horse Sales and Livery (#37). c. 1915. Jay Nelson photo

was torn down in June 2009 to make room for a larger and more modern shop for the school buses. During demolition a Spokane newspaper dating from 1913 was found. The bus garages attached to the old building were built around 1952 and were refaced in the 2009 remodel.

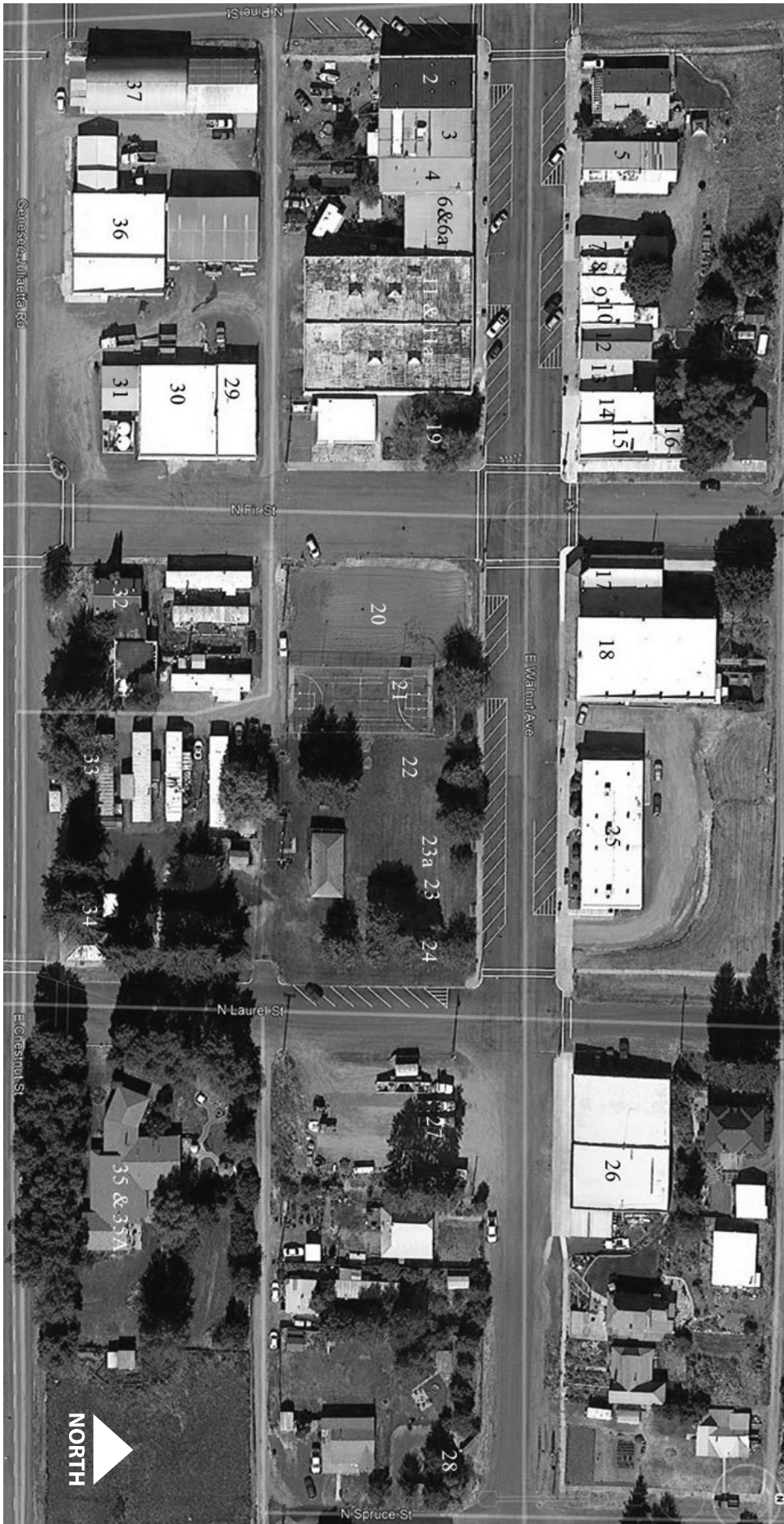
37. On the lot on the east side of Pine was a livery stable built by Follett and Schooler, who are listed from at least 1911 to 1917 as breeders/sellers of dray horses from their farms and barn in Genesee. In 1917 the Schooler Brothers bought the dray business from Bershaw and Radar. The original building, now clad in galvanized sheet metal, is currently part of the South Latah County Highway District office/garage. An addition was added to the north end of the building in the mid-1960s.

The west side of Pine Street is not shown on the Google map but merits description.



Looking northwest from south of Chestnut Street near Fir Street: 36. Veterinary hospital that would become the Genesee High School bus barns and shop. Construction of a sack warehouse is underway across Chestnut by the railroad. c. 1915. White Spring Ranch Collection

38. Rice's City Market on the northwest corner of Chestnut and Pine (originally housed in #6 on Walnut Street) was sold to Fred Centamessa from Wallace in 1968 and renamed the Food Center Thrift Store. The grocery store would have several subsequent owners and would close in 2020 only to be reopened later that year by Kulvir "Chris" Gill and partners. The store is a vital and important part of Genesee.



Prior to the Food Center construction in 1967 the lot was occupied by a blacksmith shop (probably owned by Alonzo Murphy) and then August “Gus” Ficken’s blacksmith shop, later owned by Lawrence Broemeling. North of Fickens/Broemeling was Dinson’s Auto Repair. Both were on the present Food Center lot.

The first frame building on the southwest corner of Pine and Walnut was a Chinese laundry. It would become the site of a State Highway garage, and then Helbling Brothers had an auto body shop. In 1962 a Union 76 garage (Howard’s Service Station) would be built there by Goodman Oil and operated by Howard and Betty Broemeling. Later it became Bennett’s Mobil. Charles Hermann, the current owner, purchased the building in 1972 for Air Space Industries, which built a magnetic interior insulating window system.

I hope you have enjoyed our brief overview of downtown Genesee. If you have additional comments or corrections, please contact the author, Earl H. Bennett, 208-285-1354, bennett@uidaho.edu.

Map of downtown Genesee, ID, showing buildings described in “A Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Genesee, ID, 2021” (Genesee Civic Association)



Lula's Library Book Club

By Denise Thomson

Postponed for half a year due to early pandemic shelter-in-place protocols, the inaugural meeting of the LCHS book club took place on the front lawn of the McConnell Mansion in mid-September 2020. Known as Lula's Library, the book club is named after one of five daughters of the second owners of the historic home, Dr. William and Losina Adair, and honors the legacy of the home and its "atmosphere of music and books."

McConnell Mansion has a long history of hosting educational forums. Dr. Frederic Church – a UI history professor, long-term boarder, and final owner of the mansion – donated the property to Latah County as a meeting place for the community. Dr. Church is remembered fondly for his "salon" discussions and (perhaps not so fondly) for tutoring students in the parlors. Today, visitors can see original Church family furnishings in the upstairs room dedicated to his memory or imagine the Adair girls doing homework and performing musical plays in one of the bay windows of the historic house museum.

Participants in the September 2020 meeting of Lula's Library were treated to a dramatic interpretation of the Homestead Act followed by a discussion of *Four Girls on a Homestead* and then were invited to join the book club! The following month several new members joined organizers at the Moscow Cemetery to search for gravesites of local personalities depicted in Carol Ryrie Brink's *Chain of Hands*. Pandemic woes necessitated a shift to virtual meetings in late 2020. The November book selection of *Edna and John* was determined to be a "dense read" while the wide variety of favorite holiday books and memories shared by members during a December Zoom meeting was great fun.



Lula Adair, book club namesake. LCHS Adair.Lu.02

Our January selection and new year 2021 discussion of *Home Below Hell's Canyon* included personal photos and intriguing backstories shared by group members as well as (unanswered) questions about romanticized memories. February's discussion of *Unsettled Ground* was a testament to the enthusiasm the group has for delving into history as well as a reminder of how knowledge must oftentimes be updated.

Priscilla Wegars, author of *Imprisoned in Paradise*, joined us for an interactive and informative conversation in March. Stories of her research and writing process, interviews with family members of internees, and education on terminology added depth and enjoyment to our group discussion. Imagining the man vs. nature challenges in the story *Snowbound* and the moral dilemmas faced by the hunting party energized the April meeting. Still, we wondered, who wrote the note in the bottle?



Book club members view the McConnell family plot at the Moscow Cemetery in October 2020. LCHS Digital Collection

Finally, after several months of Zoom meetings, the mansion once again hosted an in-person book club meeting in May. Our robust, albeit masked, discussion of local and northwest history as understood through Kim Barnes' memoir, *In the Wilderness*, provided cues for discussions of culture shock, transformation, and current events. In June members had a Show-n-Tell of Pulaski tools and commemorative shirts to complement the discussion of *The Big Burn*, while in July members debated the role of historical fiction and differences between historical fiction and fictional history while considering the author's goal in writing *1000 White Women*. Ultimately members acknowledged that any book that triggers emotion has value, the sign of

an excellent writer demonstrated by the fact that many members found the book stranger than fiction and a compelling read at the same time.

In August, after reading *Psychiana Man*, members enjoyed viewing Frank Robinson ephemera and agreed we eagerly await the opening in 2023 of boxes archived at LCHS. The following week LCHS hosted an author reading of the same title at the newly renovated Lecompte Auditorium in the 1912 Center. Wrapping up one year of book club selections, Lula's Library members read and discussed *The Cold Millions* in September 2021. Choosing the character we most identified with and considering Spokane itself as a character underscored conversations of social unrest and parallels with today.

Nancy Ruth Peterson and Denise Thomson, members of the LCHS Board of Directors and co-conveners of Lula's Library, believe it is fair to say that during the last year a dedicated group of book lovers has considered – from multiple perspectives – the historical accuracy of events depicted in biographies, debated the merits of historical fiction, and identified local landmarks depicted in stories read. We've stretched our minds, enjoyed camaraderie, and planned excursions for future historical society events. And, we would be pleased to have you join the monthly book club conversations in 2022!

Note:

Lula's Library now offers hybrid meeting options each month with those comfortable meeting in-person, masked and socially distanced, at the McConnell Mansion and others joining the conversation via Zoom. In October, we had our first international meeting when one of our members Zoomed in from Scotland! Find book selection information and meeting details at <https://www.latahcountyhistoricalsociety.org/events>



By Helen Wootton

Photo courtesy of author

In 1929 my grandparents, Harry and Mable Moore Town, owned a ten-acre farm on what is now Mountain View Road. That year a devastating fire broke out and completely destroyed the farmhouse. With the arrival of the Great Depression, money was tight.

Harry's brother, Walter Town, was building a big garage on his farm. He hitched it up to his big team and drug it to the burned site, where the brothers set about turning it into a modest little house as a substitute for the lost farmhouse. The main garage was turned into two tiny bedrooms and a living-dining area. A lean-to was added to house the kitchen, and eventually a corner of the kitchen was turned into a bathroom.

Harry was killed in an accident in 1935, leaving his young widow with two teenagers to support. My grandmother was a skilled pianist and she supported her little family by playing in a dance band on weekends and by selling cream and eggs. Her son, Darrell, quit high school to join the Civilian Conservation Corps to help with finances. Sadly, he died in 1940 from a particularly virulent form of multiple sclerosis which killed him in three months. Her daughter Shirley, my mother, married in 1936 and was living in Montana.

In 1942 my grandmother remarried and moved to Elk, Washington, with her husband, but never sold the Moscow farm. Different extended family lived in the house over the years. After World War II my father got a position at then Washington State College as the accountant for Food and Housing and he moved our family of five to the little Moscow house. We lived there for two years until our new house was built next to the little house.

Because my dad did not farm, my grandmother sold the northern half of the property to Herbert Carleton, the son of her long-time friend (who was also the mother-in-law of a Town cousin). That cousin, Don Town, then hooked up his big tractor and drug the little house down the lane to its present location. Herb and his mother and brother lived in the little house for many years.

The last of the Carletons, Herb's younger brother Warren, died in 2019. The house was then deemed uninhabitable because of asbestos and it was boarded up. Now it sits alone with its memories and our memories of the happy little home that started life as a garage.

STEPS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN IDAHO: THE OLD STEPS ON THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO CAMPUS

By Ariana Burns
Palouse Anthropology

On June 1, 1934, Idaho Governor C. Ben Ross was at the University of Idaho campus to accept the Old Steps memorial on behalf of the State.¹ A tribute to Idaho's pioneer spirit, the memorial was made from the remnants of the original administration building's granite stairs.²

Notable witnesses to the ceremony were two of U of I's original graduates: Dr. Charles Kirtley, Challis, ID, and Mrs. Florence Corbett Johnston, Portland, OR. The class of 1896 boasted four members; Arthur Adair was unable to return to join his fellows for the event and the fourth and final class member, Stella Allen of Colfax, WA, had passed not long after graduating.



Burton French as a UI student, 1901. *UI Special Collections PG149-01*

Presenting the Old Steps to the governor was Burton L. French, '01, president of the university's alumni association. French concluded his remarks to those gathered, saying:

"So, here, these steps forever will mark the beginning of our University. Today we blend the tradition and the memories of the past with the actualities of the present."¹

A vertical file in the University of Idaho Library Special Collections described French's vision for the Old Steps to be "a place of memorials, a spot hallowed by memory by undergraduates and alumni of the University."³

In 1892 the granite steps were part of a new era for Idaho as the territory had recently become a state. In donning the mantle of responsibility that came with statehood, the legislature had wanted a state university. Idaho had already established a territorial prison and an asylum.⁴

The university was placed on the southwestern edge of Moscow, Idaho. Its administration building was the first



Old Steps Dedication, June 1, 1934. Burton French at lectern. *UI Special Collections PG 97-6*

part of campus erected and its granite steps led to three entries. Before the university's inaugural class session in 1892, the *Ketchum Keynote* newspaper wrote of the building in glowing terms:

It is safe to say that the building has no equal in the Northwest. This noble structure graces one of the beautiful rolling hills that environ the city of Moscow, and is destined from "its throne of beauty to rule" the educational destinies of the youth of our state.⁵

The original administration building was designed by George W. Babcock. Comprised of three stories with a basement and a lofty steeple reaching 168 feet, its red brick exterior protected the California redwood and native tamarack interior. It cost \$131,068, almost \$4 million today.⁶

The foundation came from stones quarried two miles south.⁷ It was proudly described in surviving university catalogs as "the most attractive building in Idaho."⁶

The building was barely fourteen years old when in the very early hours of March 30, 1906, it caught fire. Clarice Moody Sampson remembered watching the fire as a child and retold the story to the oral historians from the Latah County Historical Society:

...when I was still a little girl, quite young, the Administration Building of the University of Idaho burned. Everybody in town could see the blaze in the sky and everybody went to the fire, and I was a little girl and my mother held my hand and so I cried because she cried because the Administration Building was burning....But the beautiful old steps, the granite steps,Well, they thought they were of no value, so they were hauled away and they were buried where leveling was done on city lots and so on.⁸

The *Argonaut* published a solemn report two days later: The 'Ad' building, the pride of every student and every

loyal citizen of the state of Idaho, is a heap of smouldering[sic] ruins....When the sun rose and shone over the eastern horizon the once beautiful structure looked like a specter. It was a mere skeleton, only the brick wall left standing.⁹

The Idaho legislature committed to continuing the University in Moscow and a new administration building was constructed.

But some people never forgot the original. In 1932, on the eve of the University's 40th anniversary, University President Neale was approached by Congressman Burton French and his fellow alumni from the 1901 class about using the old administration building steps for a memorial dedicated to Idaho pioneers.¹⁰ French was the driving force for the project.



Military Science Cadets on parade near steps in front of the old Administration Building. 1905. *UI Special Collections PG1_208-123*

Always an active alumnus, the Congressman (during his career he would serve at both the state and federal level) had ensured the government replaced the books and documents that were lost in the fire.¹¹ Described by the *Lewiston Evening Teller* as "one of the best-known public men in Idaho," Burton French remembered his alma mater when drafting appropriations bills in the state legislature and he

worked to see their passage.¹² This project was no different. When a contest was held to design the "Old Steps" memorial, French provided the prize money.¹⁰

Architecture student Jedd Jones' design was selected from that contest.¹⁰ Jones, '34, would go on to be a named partner in the architectural firm Hummel, Hummel, Jones and Shawver, which designed the glass art and architecture



Military Science Cadets on review before Administration Building, April 1, 1896. *UI Special Collections PG1_208-085*

The University Argonaut

VOLUME VIII

MOSCOW, IDAHO, MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1934.

NUMBER 23

Administration Building Goes Up In Smoke!

Magnificent Building With All Equipment Consumed by a Fierce Fire Which Originated in the Basement at 2:30 Friday Morning.

Entire Library Together With Priceless Collections and Valuable Records Perished. Students and Citizens of Moscow Made Heroic Efforts to Check the Wild Rage of the Flames.

Smoke streaming from beneath the girls cloak room. He ran to the hose and stretched it on the floor. The smoke was becoming dense and the danger from suffocation became evident to Mr. Williams.

Help is Summoned.
Realizing the danger, he ran to the telephone and turned in a fire alarm. He then ran across the campus to President MacLean's residence and aroused President MacLean and Coach Griffith. He then went to the Kappa Phi Alpha fraternity house and aroused the occupants. The boys jumped from their beds, dressed and ran to the building.

rescuers then turned their attention to saving the contents of the building.

Valuable Records Saved.
Walker Young and Carl Keyes entered the Registrar's office and threw desks, files and valuable papers through the window. Records of the Registrar were thus saved, which, if lost, would put the University in a chaos. Dean Eldridge entered his room and secured all of his records but was unable to save any other values. Professor French saved several government records of great importance.
Dr. Little entered his room and

spire would fall forward. At 8:15 the steeple and spire collapsed and fell into the furnace below.

While this was going on a large crowd was desperately working to save the annex, which is built of wood, and contained several hundred dollars' worth of valuable equipment. Those endeavoring to save this building were in real danger since brands of fire were showering upon them and some caught their clothing afire. The boiler, which was situated in the region of the intense heat, was seething and foaming and an explosion was continually feared. The large crowd stood

from top:

The University Argonaut, April 2, 1936.

First prize entry by Jedd Jones in Burton L. French Competition for design of the Memorial Steps. 1934. UI Special Collections PG1_241-47a

The University Argonaut, April 25, 1934.

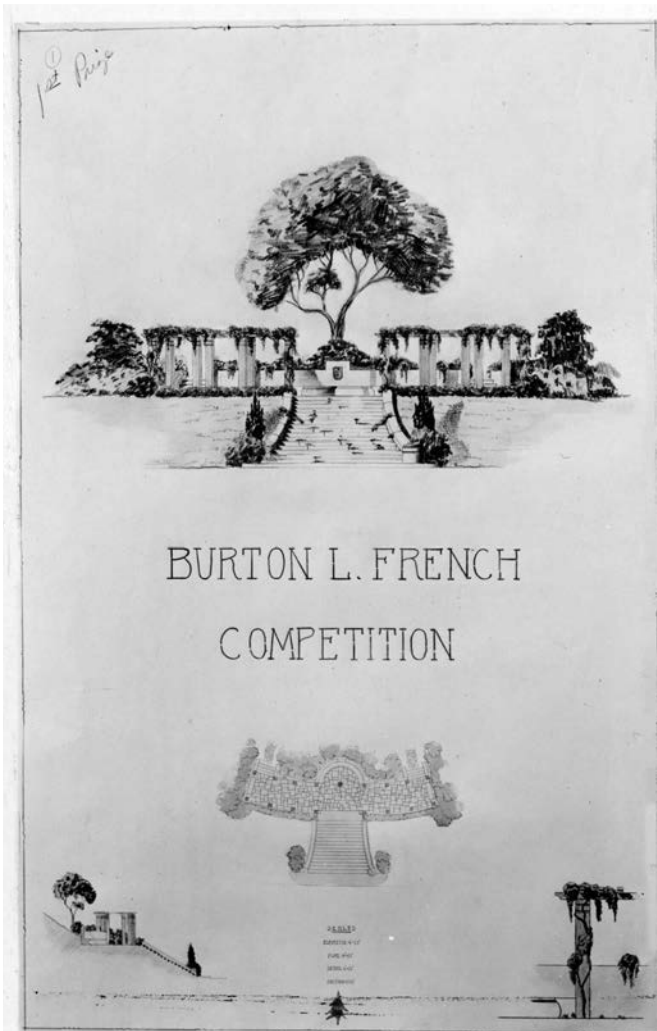
building south of the current Idaho Student Union Building in the center of campus in the mid-1960s.¹³

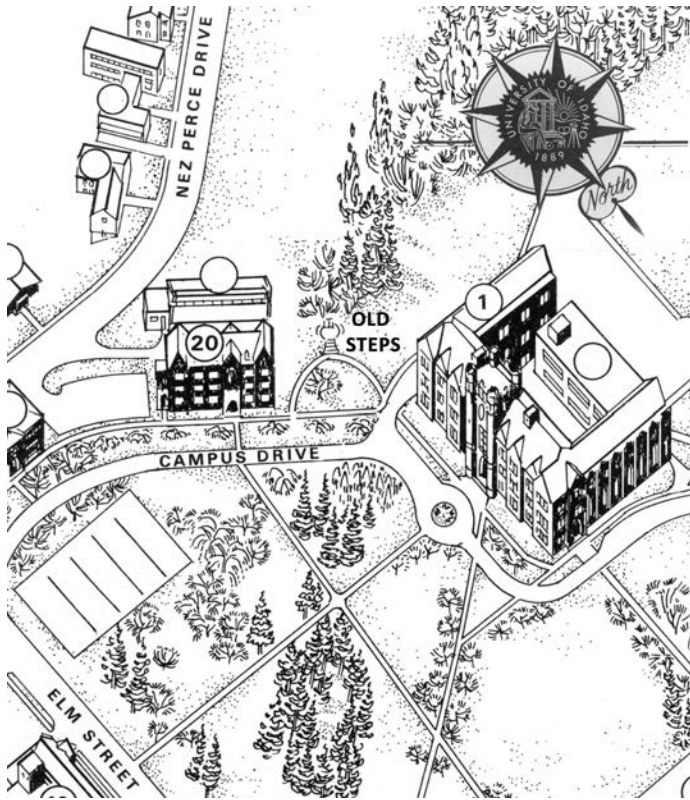
But in January 1934 he was known for his Old Steps memorial design. It called for the rebuilt steps to lead to a flagstone terrace with a long seat at the center. The terrace would be framed by columns to suggest an historic

building, and the entire memorial would give entry to the university's formal flower gardens.^{14,15}

The February 2, 1934, *Argonaut* promised construction would start in the near future. In that same issue Art Department head Theodore Prichard said the original balustrades and newels would adorn the stairs on a lower terrace. Above would be a pedestal with a bronze seal of the State of Idaho. He would also be drawing the construction plans.¹⁵

For two years French headed up an extensive search to find the granite stones from the original steps.^{15,16} Fifty to sixty pieces were discovered on campus, and the search through Moscow found more in rock gardens and stone paths.¹⁴ The UI Special Collections has a copy of a letter





Excerpt from 1969 Campus Map showing Old Steps between Administration Building and Niccolls Building. *UI Special Collections*

sent to a Moscow resident wintering in Florida, requesting return of a granite stone.³

Congressman French talked with you about the possible use which we might wish to make of this stone and although we very much regret to take it from your garden, it seems that it would not be possible for us to complete the monument as designed without it. We should, therefore, very much appreciate your giving us this stone so that the work on the memorial may go forward....

Sincerely yours, M. G. Neale President³

Once each piece was found, it was moved behind the administration building where it was cleaned and readied for placement.¹⁵ New stone was mixed in to complete the steps.¹⁵ Gradually sixteen total steps were assembled for the pioneer memorial.

It was decided to place the memorial not far from where the steps once originally stood, on a hill between the new administration building and the then-engineering building,¹⁴ which has since given way to the Niccolls Building. The hillside required some landscaping to accommodate the slope of the stairs.¹⁵

The project involved the president's office, the art department, alumni association, university grounds and a myriad of unidentified students and alumni. The

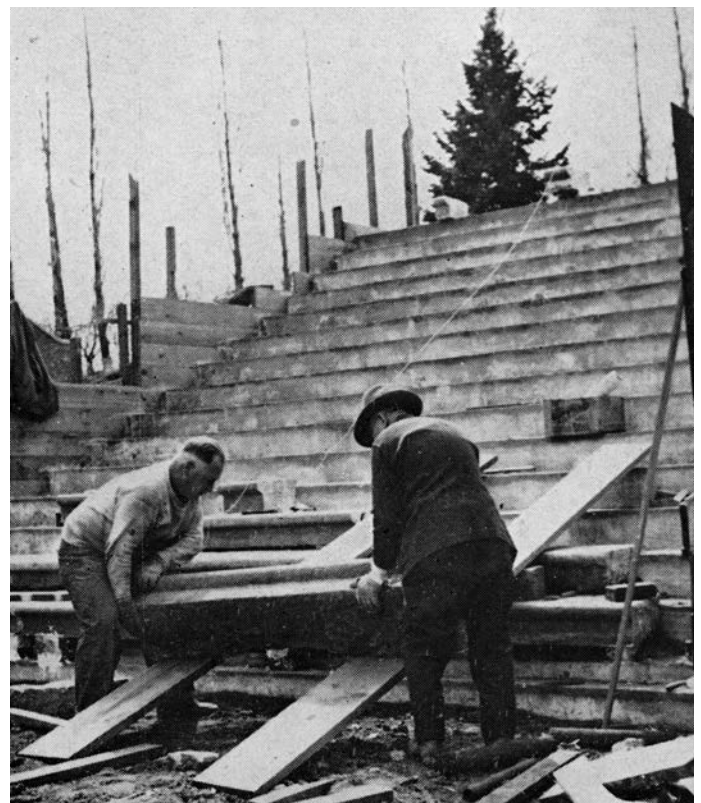
entire project was under the direction of the University Department of Buildings and Grounds.¹⁵

Funds for the Old Steps memorial came from the Civil Works Administration (CWA), a short-lived but prolific job creation program which paid for student laborers and allowed them to finance their college education.¹⁷ The CWA was part of the New Deal, a group of work relief programs designed to bring the nation out of the Great Depression.¹⁸

These efforts culminated in the summer of 1934 in the presentation by Burton French of the Old Steps memorial to the Governor. The stairs were in place, but there was still work to be done. Landscaping was lacking and the pedestal with the state seal had yet to be created.

There was no indication in the *Argonaut* or the UI Special Collections archives why the dedication ceremony was held with the Old Steps incomplete. Perhaps French did not want to miss the 40th anniversary and it was felt that the missing items would be resolved soon enough.

The Alumni Association pledged itself to raise \$250 (about \$5,000 now) during the year to cover the costs for completing the memorial. The Old Steps committee was appointed consisting of Burton French, chairman; Florence Corbett Johnston, Arthur Adair, and Dr. Charles L. Kirtley, the three surviving members of the class of 1896; and Bert Stone, '26, and Grace Wicks, '33.¹



Workers constructing the Old Steps Memorial. *Gem of the Mountains*. 1934. *UI Special Collections*



Grace Wicks, Old Steps committee member. Undated. *LCHS Wicks.G.03*

A few items of note about the committee: Florence Corbett Johnston was prominent in social and religious affairs. As a student she penned the lyrics to the first university song, “Idaho the Gem of the Mountains,” and was the foster daughter of the second university President Franklin and Jennie Gault.¹⁹

Charles L. Kirtley, a physician in Challis, ID, was a country doctor “who will answer a call anywhere[sic] anytime.”¹ When he was still a student he and Louis Henderson, the university botany professor, went on a federally sponsored expedition of Idaho shortly after it had become a state. The pair walked a thousand miles through the mountainous region of central Idaho collecting botanical and mineral samples. Kirtley was not paid for his work as he was a student. The laboriously collected research was thought lost in the administration building fire, but around the turn of this century both Henderson’s field notes and the final report of the trip were discovered “intact but forgotten” at the Smithsonian Institute.²⁰

Finally, committee member Grace Wicks, originally from Genesee, became one of the first female Latah County Commissioners. She was involved in the creation of the Latah Care Center which replaced the county poor farm and she was a longtime writer for the *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*.²¹

Despite the efforts of the committee, creation of the Old Steps’ pedestal and landscaping financed by alumni donations did not happen as quickly as anticipated. Burton French proposed reviving an old tradition where the graduating class presented the school with a gift. “This has not been done for some time and I suggest that they

contribute toward this plan of reconstructing ‘The Old Steps’...”²²

The plan was to divide the remaining work on the memorial project into manageable pieces that each graduating class could take on; the Old Steps could be completed in four years. Some students wanted to get it done faster and suggested collecting 20-25 cents (about \$5 now) from each student to finish it immediately. Rosanne Roark, a member of the Panhellenic Council, favored this plan: “We students will be performing a genuine service in seeing that this project does not die for lack of support.”²² There was no follow up article indicating that either plan was approved.

Five years passed and in the spring of 1940 the commemorative stone for the state seal was finally quarried and brought to the Old Steps site. The *Argonaut* editors thought it looked like a tombstone.²² They noted in an editorial column that “like many other fine ideas,



Rosanne Roark, Panhellenic Council member. *Gem of the Mountains*. 1935. *UI Special Collections*

the [pioneer memorial] ...languished and finally died.” But the new stone need not be a tombstone, they suggested, but could serve to see the Old Steps’ completion.²²

“The famed old stone steps, up which Idahoans of much earlier day made their way into the old Administration building before fire destroyed it, at last seem destined to be fittingly consecrated as a memorial.”²²

That summer the bronze seal of the State of Idaho was embedded in a native granite pedestal, thus completing the memorial.¹⁶ The *Argonaut* heralded the completion of the memorial and imaged visitors coming to the site:

A visitor at the memorial ...strolls up the brick bordered cinder path to the foot of the steps. The curious sightseer wonders how students who were already late to class could climb all 16 steps of the old Ad building after running all the way up the hill.¹⁶

There is a typewritten document called the “pioneer leaflet” in *UI Special Collections* from 1938/1939 that reads:



Old Steps Memorial. 1940. *UI Special Collections PG1_097-07*



Students sit on benches by Old Steps, upper terrace. 1940. *UI Special Collections PG1_006-10*

This Memorial, sponsored by the Alumni of the University of Idaho, is dedicated to the Pioneer Spirit of Idaho, the spirit that founded the University as a Territorial Institution and perpetuated it by character and the Constitution of the State. It was conceived as a growing monument to a living spirit in the sons of the pioneers. “The Old Steps” and the friendly bench will form an entrance to the University Gardens and will be a future meeting place for students and graduates alike.³

Finally complete, the Old Steps pioneer memorial has outlasted the flower gardens it was originally expected to offer entry to; it now leads into the World War I Memorial Arboretum.

Ray Pankopf, the current Director of Architecture & Engineering Services, recalled when he first saw the Old

Steps. He realized time had not been kind to the memorial. The granite steps lacked a foundation and over the years had slid down the hill. The center handrail was a pipe core drilled into the treads.²³

When I arrived on campus in October 1991, the steps functioned as the only pathway up the hill, but they were functionally unsafe. Risers were of different heights, treads were at a variety of angles and slopes, there were no side handrails, and the center handrail was too low. Bottom line, the steps did not meet building, life safety or universal accessibility codes.²³

In 2000 and 2001 funding was secured for restoration work on the Old Steps and a concrete stairway was created for year-round use to the west. The memorial was dismantled, and the stairs narrowed to cut and true the stones and to remove the holes drilled for the handrail. Pankopf’s department “engineered and poured a concrete foundation for the stairway so that it would no longer slide down the hill, then...reassembled and set the cleaned and trued stones back in place.”²³

The Old Steps was reopened for the use and enjoyment of people on campus. The memorial had in whole and as parts seen the history of the State of Idaho and had a few of its own adventures along the way. The granite rocks are still in place thanks to the efforts of several generations of people interested in Burton French’s vision of blending tradition and memories of the past with the present.

•
Palouse Anthropology is a group of researchers interested in preserving the micro-history of the Palouse through the



Members of the Class of 1901. Homer David is left of the seal. Burton French is on the far right. Beside him is Permeal French, Dean of Women. 1941. *UI Special Collections PG90-08-053. Ott Historical Photograph Collection*

collection and compilation of historical artifacts and oral histories for the benefit of researchers and future generations.
palouseanthro@gmail.com

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Plaque at the Old Steps Memorial. There was no record of the mentioned dedication. If readers know more about it, please contact the Latah County Historical Society. *Photo by Burns*

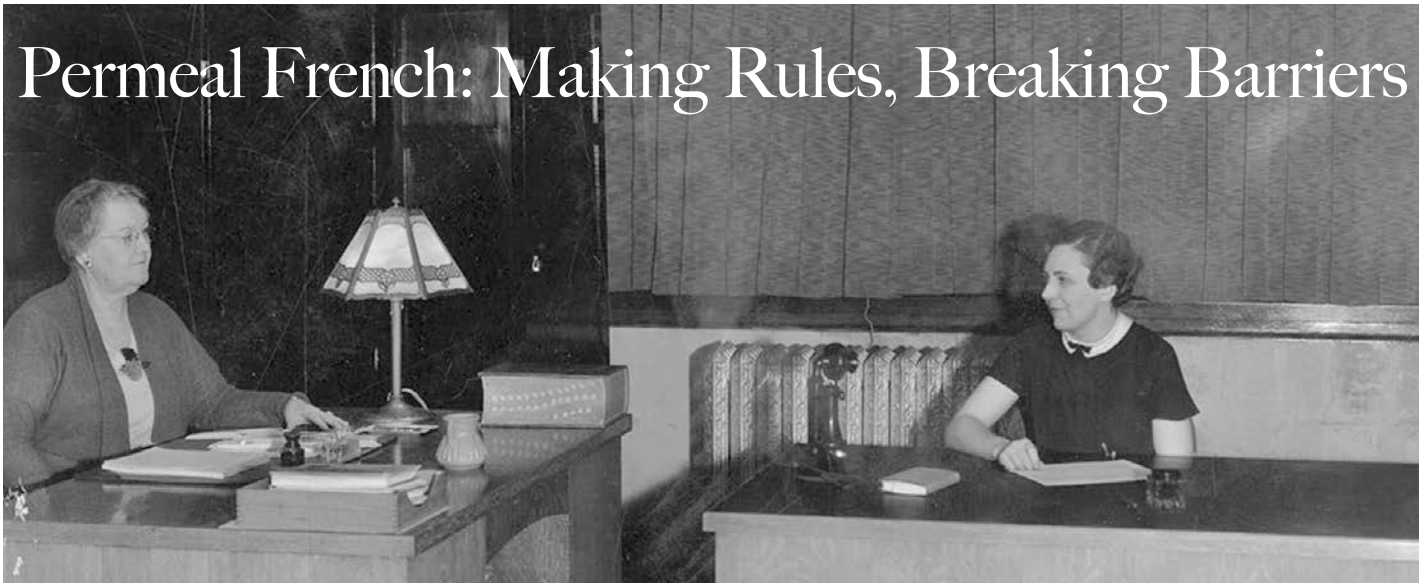


The upper terrace of the Old Steps today. *Photo by Burns*



The Old Steps today. *Photo by Joe Pallen, UI Photo Services*

Permeal French: Making Rules, Breaking Barriers



Permeal French (left) at her desk. *UI Special Collections Pg 3-6C*

By Katherine Aiken

Number 53 on the Randy Stapilus/Martin Peterson list of the 100 most influential Idahoans, few individuals in Idaho history enjoyed such a long and varied career as did Permeal French. Stapilus and Peterson describe her as “the first native born Idaho woman to rise to statewide prominence.”¹ She provides a good example of a significant woman who deserves the attention of historians; at the same time an examination of how past historians have portrayed French allows insight into changing attitudes towards women in Idaho.

Born in Idaho City – “barbed wire tough” according to Grace Jordan – Permeal French’s actual date of birth is in dispute: either 1868 or 1870. Her father, Richard, died in 1884 while on a trip to New Hampshire visiting his family. Mother, Ann, moved to Hailey and set up a boarding house for miners; she died of Mountain Fever and pneumonia in 1897.

Permeal attended the Convent School of Notre Dame boarding school in San Francisco; she pursued a number of careers. She served as journal clerk for the Idaho State Senate during its second session, 1893-1894. French recorded the proceedings and then read those the next day so that they could be approved, and then the senate president signed them. She received \$5 a day for the sixty-four days the Senate was in session.² She then taught school in Hailey and later in Silver City where she was on the Labor Day Program with William “Big Bill” Haywood of Western Federation of

Miners and Industrial Workers of the World fame.

In 1898 (the first year Idaho women could vote in all elections), Permeal French ran for State Superintendent of Public Instruction on the Democratic ticket. Most Idahoans considered it unsuitable for ladies to actually campaign, and Permeal French did not do so; even seeking statewide office was a risky proposition for a woman. However, the *Owyhee Avalanche* declared, “Miss French is a refined, cultured, and accomplished lady and would fill this office, if nominated and elected, to the satisfaction of all.”³ Idaho Republicans were still in disarray over the free silver issue that had dominated the 1896 national and state elections, so Permeal French won – making her the first Idaho woman to serve in a statewide office.

“Miss French is a refined, cultured, and accomplished lady and would fill this office, if nominated and elected, to the satisfaction of all.”

She received a \$3000-a-year salary; \$800 for travel; \$650 for printing and postage; and \$1800 for a chief clerk’s salary. The Idaho Governor’s compensation was \$6000; a skilled Idaho miner made \$3 a day – so Permeal French’s salary was certainly out-of-the-ordinary for a woman of the time.⁴

Permeal French’s position carried weighty responsibilities and had a significant impact on Idahoans. The Superintendent of Public Instruction had a seat on the State Land Board. In 1890 Idaho received 3,672,000 acres of land to support state institutions and the Land Board made all decisions regarding this property – more than 7% of all the land in Idaho. As State Superintendent of Public Instruction, French was responsible for education in the state. She

convinced the Idaho state legislature to define the duties of state and county supervisors; she approved all textbooks and curriculum for the entire state. Permeal French, in a move that was revolutionary for the time, led Idaho to establish required tests and state certification for teachers.⁵ Her work was crucial in establishing Idaho's system of public education.

One of Permeal French's actions as State Superintendent of Public Instruction was to speak at the dedication of Ridenbaugh Hall, the University of Idaho's first residence hall for women. Named for UI Regent Mary Ridenbaugh – a prominent Boisean and member of that city's preeminent women's organization, the Columbian Club – the dormitory represented, according to French, Idaho women's desire that female students have suitable accommodations at the state's university. Superintendent French touted the many homelike attributes of the gracious living space.⁶

Defeated when she sought re-election for a third term, Permeal French homesteaded for a time near what is now Richfield. In September 1908 she came to the University of Idaho as the institution's first dean of women. One article about French claimed, "It is doubtful any person other than Permeal Jane French has had a greater impact upon student life at the University of Idaho."⁷ Ironically, she lived

at Ridenbaugh Hall. Her first year at the University she and President James MacLean greeted 250 students at the beginning of classes; by her retirement University of Idaho enrollment had grown to 3500.

Her biographer Dick d'Easum called Permeal French "The Dowager of Discipline;" one woman described her as a "cross between a czar and your mother-in-law;" and Rafe Gibbs wrote that she had "a touch of the autocrat and much of the gentlelady."⁸ These descriptions have elements of truth, but do not convey the entirety of Permeal French and her impact on the University of Idaho.

During her tenure, the University still embraced the philosophy of *in loco parentis* – in place of parents; the school acted as students' guardian. Permeal French took that role seriously. In the first place she sought to set a tone of graciousness – as d'Easum wrote "her tea set hardly had a rest from September to June" – and she established a reputation for hosting elaborate receptions. Grace Jordan titled her article about French "The Woman Who Made Ladies and Gentlemen."⁹ While women students were her primary responsibility, Dean French believed that she should influence the "demeanor of men toward her charges."¹⁰ She acted as "guardian of the morals of University of Idaho students."¹¹



Dance Band in front of the Blue Bucket Inn. UI Special Collections Pg 2-108-26

Permeal French chaperoned the University Student Special Train that took students home to southern Idaho for Christmas break and brought them back to Moscow. While during the day male and female students enjoyed co-educational entertainments such as card games, men and women had separate sleeping cars. To ensure good behavior, Dean French occupied a bedroom between the men's car and the women's car.¹²

Under Permeal French's supervision, women residents at Ridenbaugh Hall followed a strict schedule:

Up at 6:45

Breakfast at 7:15

To Class at 8:00

Back at Ridenbaugh for lunch then back to class until 4:00

Dinner at 6:00

Doors locked at 10:00.

On special occasions women could stay out until midnight – St. Patrick's Day and the Washington State College football game were such occasions.¹³

Similar rules governed Greek life, of which French was a proponent. She encouraged national Greek organizations to colonize on the University of Idaho campus. Delta Gamma listed the following regulations in 1927:

All girls must conform with the University regulations relating to all group houses.

All girls must have permission from the Dean of Women to leave town.

Girls are not allowed to accept invitations to a hotel. [for dining]

Only seniors are permitted weeknight dates.

Doors locked at 9:45 during the week, midnight on Friday and Saturday, 7:00 on Sunday.

Girls retire at 11 and rise at 6:30.

All have study table weeknights from 7:30 to 9:30.¹⁴

At orientations Dean French often gave talks on behavior; she would demonstrate appropriate manners with a properly set table on the Administration Building stage. She encouraged women to attend church and decried shrillness. French worried that riding in automobiles was potentially threatening to women's reputations, but she mitigated the situation in crowded early cars with a requirement that if women sat on men's

laps, they had to place a pillow between them. In order to maintain the University of Idaho's "high moral standing" women were not allowed to smoke in public places. She proclaimed, "In keeping with this I think it is best that girls do not become too flagrant with their cigarettes. It reflects upon us, and may be carried to a point where it will be harmful when appropriations and building funds come before the legislature."

During the 1930s French suggested that University of Idaho woman students should lower their hems while they were home for Christmas vacation. Her memorandum on the subject attracted nationwide attention. When the Associated Press published a cartoon showing an unsmiling French with a yardstick measuring hems, she was not amused.¹⁵

Permeal French did maintain a sense of humor and the ability to recognize her own foibles.

Longtime Latah County resident and University of Idaho Alumni Director Flip Kleffner shared a story about his father Sib. Sib Kleffner was a football player and therefore served meals in Ridenbaugh Hall. By the time he was a senior he knew Permeal French well and suggested to her that it would be a great idea for the women of Ridenbaugh to receive permission to attend a Saturday morning hayride. After considerable interrogation, Dean French agreed. At

12:01 on the appointed Saturday morning, Sib Kleffner and his cohort arrived at Ridenbaugh Hall and Miss French had to admit that Kleffner had put one over on her; the women were allowed to join the men for a late night hayride.¹⁶

Permeal French was a close associate of E.R. Chrisman (beloved commander of the ROTC) and football coach John Middleton (inventor of the Idaho Spread, precursor to the "shotgun" formation). They were frequent dinner guests at Ridenbaugh and chaperoned events. When Hays Hall opened in 1927 (named for Gertrude Hays, another former regent and friend of French), Permeal French moved there.

Dean French was an advocate for University of Idaho students throughout her career. For example, worrying about student finances during the Great Depression, French told a meeting of UI students on September 30, 1931, "Girls, pay for your own shows and lose your appetites afterwards."¹⁷ Regent Marguerite Campbell noted in 1955 that Permeal French had "devoted" her life to the "thousands" of students she served during her tenure.¹⁸

... there was much more to Permeal French than her role as a disciplinarian. In the first place, she was incredibly well-educated – not just for a woman but for anyone of the period.



Presentation of Permeal French Portrait in 1938. Permeal French is seated on left. *LCHS 17-08-080*

Historian Keith Petersen has shrewdly pointed out that there was much more to Permeal French than her role as a disciplinarian.¹⁹ In the first place, she was incredibly well-educated – not just for a woman but for anyone of the period. In 1921 she took a leave of absence to pursue a master’s degree at George Washington University and she received two honorary degrees from the University of Idaho (the first person to do so). Permeal French advocated for women in education; she served as chair of the Education Committee for the Idaho General Federation of Women’s Clubs.

At the University of Idaho Permeal French fostered leadership and organizational opportunities for women. French provided the impetus for the formation of the Associated Women Students of the University of Idaho, the Women’s Athletic Association, and the Inter-Sorority Council. She started the Idaho chapter of Mortar Board – an honorary for senior women. She often exhorted presidents and the state board of education to better fund women’s educational activities. In 1916 she wrote that “Appropriations for women’s courses must be made equal to men.”²⁰

Permeal French recognized that what we would now refer to as co-curricular activities were a central part of a

residential, university experience. She enjoyed athletics – student athletes served as hashers at Ridenbaugh Hall as part of their scholarship requirements. She brought the Harvard Yell Contest to Campus (the iconic photograph of men spelling Idaho was part of the 1921 contest).²¹ She instituted what was for many years the traditional “Losers Walk” where the loser of the Washington State College/ University of Idaho football game walked between Moscow and Pullman. The May Fete tradition Permeal French started was the origin of today’s Renaissance Fair.

She built the Blue Bucket Inn at her own expense. Located on Deakin and Idaho Streets, it included a ballroom (site of numerous college dances), a large fireplace, a tearoom, a soda fountain and two dining rooms. It was the first college/university campus social center in the Northwest.²² After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, the Blue Bucket served beer for a few years until the University of Idaho banned the beverage from campus. The Regents purchased the Blue Bucket from French in 1936, remodeled it, and it became the Student Union; for most of the 20th Century, a Blue Bucket continued to exist in the building. For many years Nobby Inn owner Robert Wood managed it.²³

Permeal French retired in 1936 when President Mervin G. Neale requested she do so; by then she had served over 3000 students. Her large portrait that still graces the Pitman Center was painted by Moscow artist Irene Cope and dedicated in 1938.²⁴ French died October 10, 1954 – one day after she received a telegram from University of Idaho President Theophilus informing her that the University would name a dormitory after her (Permeal French House). She is buried in the family plot in Hailey.

Her story allows us to recognize that women played more significant roles than we sometimes think, even in the early history of Idaho. Permeal French was both an office holder and a leader. French may have had more impact on young people in Idaho in the first three decades of the twentieth century than any other person. She made a good salary and was able to invest it as she saw fit – the Blue Bucket was an example.

Contemporary male descriptions of women sometimes shape our attitudes towards female historical figures. The “Dowager of Discipline” has been her sobriquet for years. Men talked about Permeal’s size and her unmarried status. Permeal French was a commanding presence, often wearing pearls and purple orchids. She enjoyed a cocktail at a friend’s, such as Jerome Day’s residence; she loved to party.²⁵ French was much sought after as a dance partner.²⁶ “Her hats were always the largest, the most feathery, or flowery in an assemblage.”²⁷ However, there was more to Permeal French than her sometimes flamboyant appearance.

Although she remained a staunch Democrat her entire life, she cultivated and maintained friendships with prominent Republicans in a way that seems unusual in today’s political climate. She was a friend of Margaret Roberts who was the most prominent woman member of the Republican Party and the first woman on the Republican Central Committee. In a similar vein, Permeal French was a correspondent and was friendly with iconic Republican Senator William Borah.

Permeal French’s legacy as a University of Idaho supporter is secure; she recognized the institution’s role in the state. She reminded successors, “The progress of the university is certain, but there must be no artificiality nor lack of honest, steady purpose. It must build men and women of courage, character, and ability, for their measure alone will be the measure of her progress.”²⁸



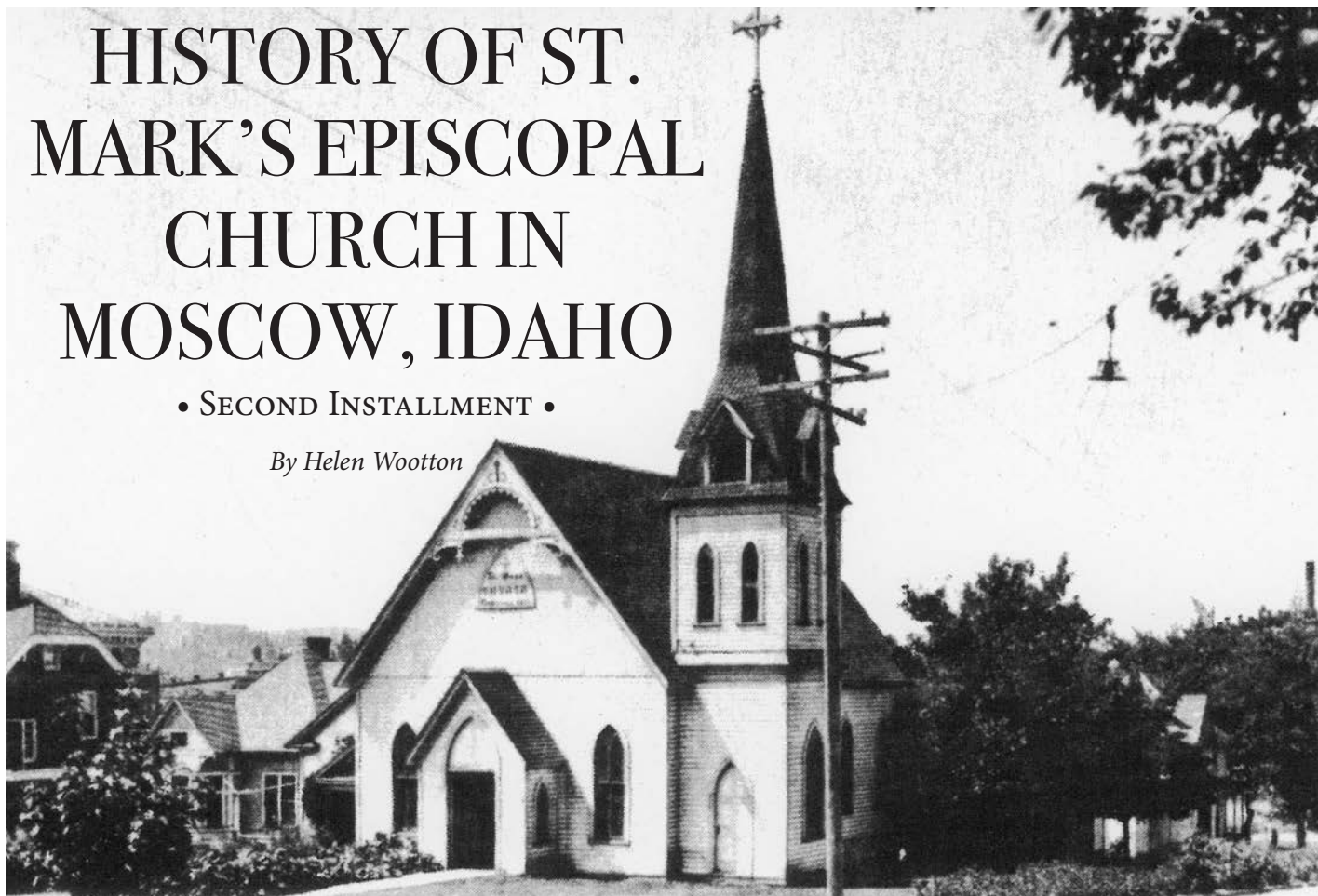
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19. Keith Petersen, *This Crested Hill: An Illustrated History of the University of Idaho* (Moscow: University of Idaho Press, 1987), 209.
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22. Gibbs, *Beacon for Mountain and Plain*, 86.
23. Petersen, *This Crested Hill*, 94-96.
24. See Passehl-Stoddart and Aiken, *University of Idaho*, 58.
25. “UI’s Dowager of Discipline also a Patron of Parties.”
26. Jordan, “The Woman Who Made Ladies and Gentlemen,” 104.
27. Ibid.
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HISTORY OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MOSCOW, IDAHO

• SECOND INSTALLMENT •

By Helen Wootton



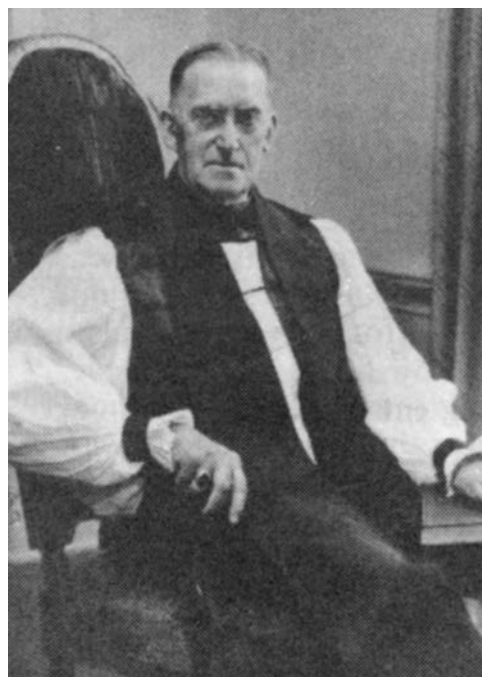
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1891-1937

Part III: Out of the Ashes

Introduction

St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Moscow, Idaho, was built in 1892 and after being shuffled back and forth between the Missionary District of Idaho and the Missionary District of Spokane several times, the church had finally found its permanent home in 1936 with the Spokane District, under Bishop Edward Cross, 1924 -1954. The church by this time had grown to include three buildings – the church itself, the rectory, and the parish hall, which functioned as a community center and playhouse for the whole city. All three buildings were made of wood and were connected to each other by covered walkways and porches.

Disaster struck in the afternoon of August 14, 1937, when all three buildings burned to the ground in less than an hour in a terrible fire. Fortunately, no one was hurt or killed, but the loss was devastating. The fire started in the subterranean kitchen under the parish hall, not so affectionately called the “Hellhole” by those who had to cook there. Someone had the presence of mind to



Bishop Edward Cross

save the church record books, the altar cross and vases, the processional cross, and the baptismal font. All else was lost.

This was the middle of the Great Depression, and Bishop Cross absolutely forbade the church borrowing money to rebuild. There was \$1500 in insurance and a large gift from the parish of the Reverend H.W. Prince, who had sponsored the Reverend Andrew Anderson at Lake Forest, Illinois, five years before. Of special note there were eighty-five local donors as well as gifts from the Missionary District of Spokane and the National Council of Churches listed in the consecration bulletin. All this brought the total to \$20,000.

A New Beginning

That money was not enough to replace all three buildings, not even enough to rebuild the church as big as it was. Yet the congregation did not lose heart and



The baptismal font saved from the great fire of 1937. *Photo by author*

immediately began working to build a new church, out of brick this time. The cornerstone just recently became visible again after some work to beautify the grounds. It is on the northeast corner of the building, says simply "1938," and contains a copper box that holds a copy of the prayerbook, coins, a short history of the parish, name of the diocesan bishop, chief church officers, major contributors, and the name of the contractor.

Of note is the fact that Milburn Kenworthy allowed the church to have Sunday services in his theater while the new church was being built.

The congregation was very proud of the new church which, although smaller, was very beautiful. It was designed by famed architect Harold Whitehouse, who also "personally executed many of the more delicate furnishings himself." The daylight basement served as both parish hall and Sunday school rooms (when pleated wooden dividers were pulled across). Whitehouse had also designed the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Spokane, Washington.

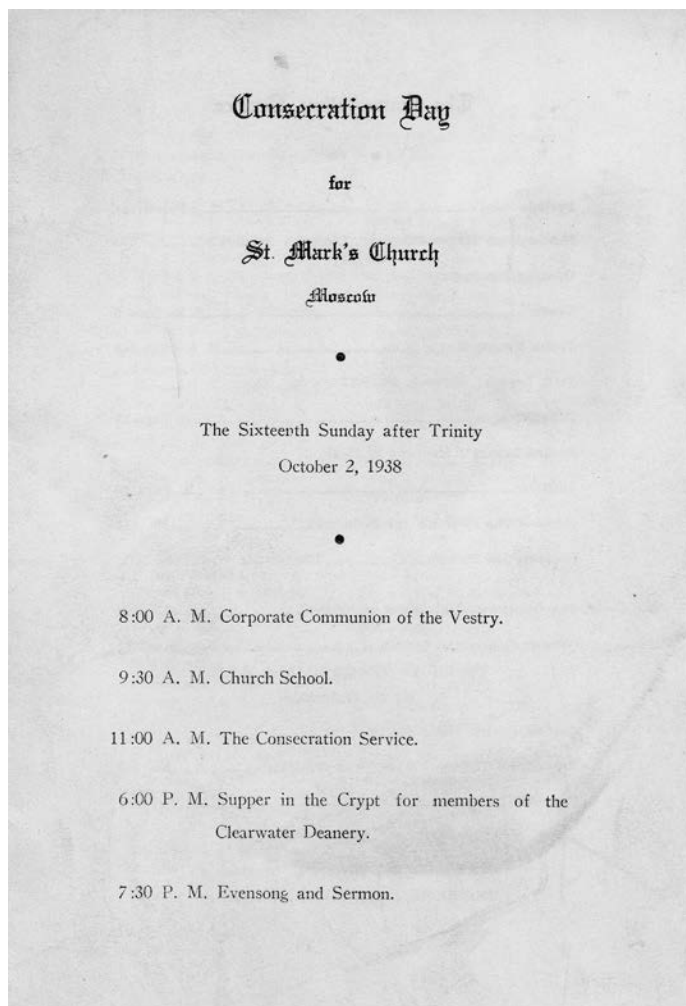
The new church was completed barely thirteen months after the fire and was consecrated in a special ceremony on October 2, 1938, by Bishop Cross. The consecration sermon was delivered by the aforementioned Rev. H. W. Prince of Lake Forest, Illinois. Architect Whitehouse presented the building to the wardens, Rolston Butterfield and Abe Goff, and they in turn, for the vestry, presented it to the Bishop without obligations. This act was an important reminder that, in the Episcopal Church, the parish church is technically owned by the congregation, but it is only owned by them as long as they are part of the larger Episcopal Church. They cannot sell the church or decide to become Baptist or Catholic and retain ownership of the church.



The new St. Mark's Episcopal Church was consecrated in 1938

The Rector, the Reverend Andrew Anderson (1936–1940), had been fundraising in Milwaukee when the church, along with his home in the rectory, burned. Fortunately, in 1927 the church had acquired two lots, #612 and #618 Elm Street, on the University of Idaho campus intended for a new rectory and parish hall. So, after the fire in 1937 work was begun on building a rectory there.

A check for \$1000 was received by the vestry from a Mrs. Frank Hixon of Lake Forest, Illinois, for the construction of the rectory. Of that donation \$622 went to the contractor John Milton and the remaining \$328 to the City of Moscow for "the paving assessment against the lots where the new rectory is situated." It is not known if that was the total cost of the rectory or if other funds were used



Consecration Day leaflet, October 2, 1938

in addition. We do not have a picture of the new rectory, except for a partial shot of it peeking from behind the later-built Canterbury House.

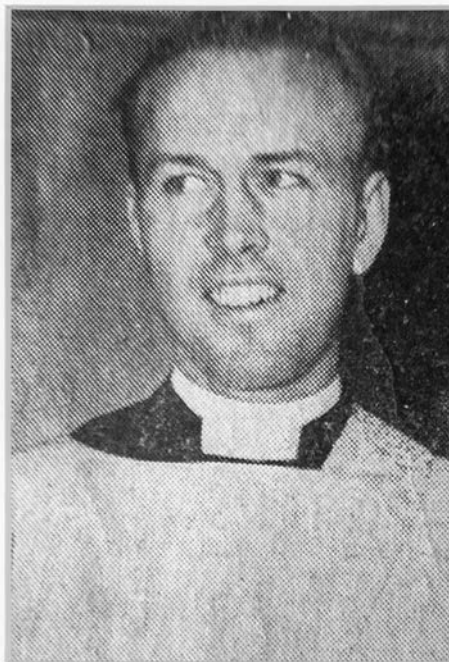
The Rev. Anderson moved on after April of 1940 and was followed in August by the Rev. John R. Bill, who served until July of 1943. The Rev. John Bill was ordained at the cathedral in Spokane sometime around 1938; The Rev. Anderson marched in his procession. Fr. Bill's first post was as vicar of St. David's and Epiphany churches, prior to his being called as rector of St. Mark's. *[Author's note: Fr. Bill was well remembered by my family for performing the wedding ceremony for my widowed grandmother. In a time when divorced persons could not be married in the church, her intended happened to be divorced. Since there were no children from that first marriage, and since the wife had abandoned her husband because she couldn't take the hardships of ranch life, Fr. Bill consented to a church wedding for the couple.]*

Records during World War II are pretty sketchy. We know that Warren E. Fowler served from September



*The Rev. Andrew E. F. Anderson
Vicar Sept. 1936 - April 1940
During the Great Fire and the Re-building*

The Rev. Andrew E. F. Anderson



*The Rev. John R. Bill
Rector Sept. 1940 - July 1943*

The Rev. John R. Bill

1943 to July 1946, but there are no pictures or newspaper accounts.

In September of 1946 a long string of short-term priests was broken by the arrival of The Rev. Norman Stockwell, who stayed eight years. He was a graduate of the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and his first assignment was in Gooding, Idaho. [Author's note: this was the first priest in my memory. He baptized my brothers and me.]

Fr. Stockwell was very active in campus ministry and was chaplain at the University of Idaho. Future rector Stan Tate remembers Stockwell from his own days as a UI student. "Norm was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and was known to stop by very early in the morning and get Episcopal students out of bed and ready for the Wednesday Holy Communion at Canterbury House. His wife, Jane, would cook pancakes for a healthy breakfast afterward."

In fact, Stockwell was instrumental in getting the Canterbury House constructed. What follows is his account:

CANTERBURY HOUSE – A SHORT HISTORY

**The Rev. Norman E. Stockwell
Vicar of St. Mark's, 1946-1954**

In 1946 when we instituted a new program for the academic community at the University of Idaho, it became apparent almost immediately that some adequate facilities would have to be provided. The rectory, located on the campus, was used as a combined home for the chaplain and as a meeting place for Episcopal campus activities. It was a thrilling sight indeed to see 50 or 60 students crammed into our "Chapel-living room" space. Following each service or meeting, Janie provided breakfast or refreshments. We enjoyed every moment of this Christian fellowship in our home but very quickly outgrew our space.

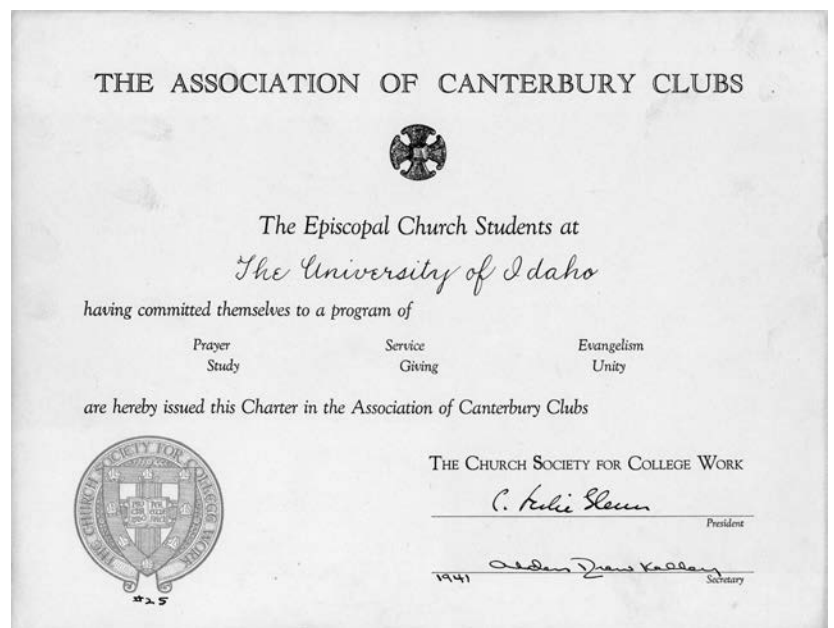
When the University of Idaho announced plans for the erection of the Student Union and the adjacent parking lot, it meant that the old house on the corner of Deacon Street and Seventh Avenue would have to be removed. Immediately a group of church people, interested in the campus program, formulated plans to purchase this property in anticipation of moving it to the lot adjacent to the rectory – which was owned by St. Mark's. A bid was made to the Board of Regents of the University and, although it was low, we were given the property considering the use we would make of it.

Soon, then, the thrilling work of Canterbury House began. A basement was dug. Our young



*The Rev. Norman Stockwell
Rector September 1946-May 1954*

The Rev. Norman E. Stockwell was instrumental in the construction of Canterbury House.



Canterbury Clubs certificate of charter issued to UI Episcopal Church students



Canterbury House on the University of Idaho campus, with the earlier rectory peeking from behind. *University of Idaho Library Special Collections*

people spent hours cleaning the old bricks to be used as facing and in the fireplace; lumber had to be cleaned up; money had to be found; plans had to be drawn. Oh, what excitement there was. Mr. Ted Pritchard volunteered to supervise the building; a gift of \$50 from a student (who is now a priest of our church) started our campaign for funds. \$5,000 from the United Thank Offering, after a special trip to the General Convention in San Francisco, assured us we were on our way. Then a special gift from Fritz Jewett, wired to us from his summer home on Cape Cod, assured us we could have Canterbury House.

Although it takes money to erect any building, it really was the love, devotion, hard labor and time-consuming hours of many, many students, faculty members and Church people that built Canterbury House. Every brick, each nail, the concrete walks, the floor tiles, and each drop of paint could all tell a story of the warm fellowship and dedication that made possible our new student center on campus.

Once the building was erected and paid for, and dedicated by Bishop Cross, we had to maintain our work. The parents, friends, and loyal churchmen – too numerous to name – provided much of our upkeep. These gifts, along with the

income of the Christmas Bazaar, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and Publications, kept us alive.

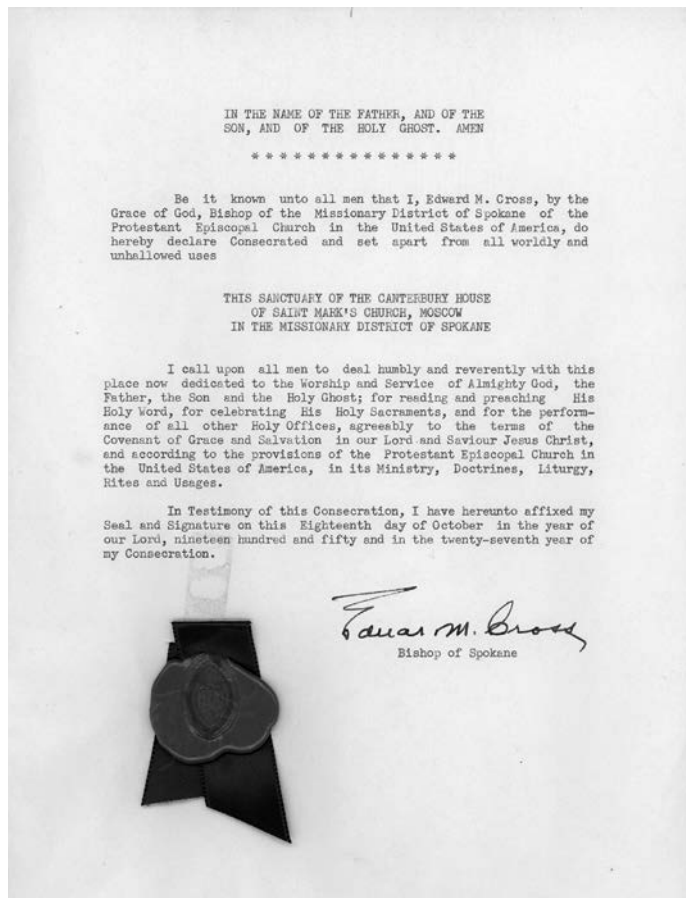
It was a joyous sight to see the Chapel filled at the early Eucharist, to have the fine response for Canterbury meetings, and to see students use the Canterbury House as a study hall. The student suppers were always a joy. And for me personally, it was a challenge and a thrill to try to feed the minds and spirits of those wonderful young people and to bring them into a relationship with our Blessed Lord. Today many of those students are priests of our Church, wardens, church school teachers and above all, true sons and daughters of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The building had two floors, plus a full basement. On the first floor, most of the space was a large meeting room with an altar in an alcove for chapel services. The second floor contained an apartment for two married students, who maintained the building. There were two sleeping rooms for students also. The basement was a recreation area and kitchen. The building was connected to the rectory by a solar glass breezeway.

[*Author's note: It was necessary to give such a detailed story of the Canterbury House here because, sadly, it is no more. In 1969 the National Church's own analysis of campus ministry showed that college level participation was the truest predictor of adult participation in church – not Sunday school, not church camp – but college level participation. Despite this, the National Church decided that the parish church should be the basis for the Eucharist and college ministry should be ecumenical. Since St. Mark's by then had another building that could serve as rectory, "there was no need" for the Elm Street property and it was released back to the University. The Canterbury House was demolished and the two lots were absorbed by the Greek residences on either side. It is difficult now to even visualize where Canterbury House stood. At any rate, during the 1940s and 1950s, Canterbury house thrived.*]

In May of 1954 Fr. Stockwell left to become rector in Twin Falls. In August of that year Fr. William Blewett arrived to be vicar. So, what is the difference between a vicar and a rector? When a congregation is able to fully support itself, including to pay the costs of its priest in charge, its church is called a parish and its priest is called the rector. The home supplied to the rector is called the rectory. When a congregation falls on hard times and cannot afford to pay its own priest in charge, the Bishop steps in and becomes nominally the priest-in-charge but appoints a vicar, who functions with the powers and responsibilities of a rector. The vicar lives in the same house in which the rector lived, only now it is called the vicarage. The lay head of the church, the Senior Warden, then becomes the Bishop's Warden, and the vestry

becomes the Bishop's Committee. The congregation is then a mission instead of a parish. It was a matter of great pride for a mission to finally achieve parish status and to maintain its standing and not descend to being a mission. (In modern times, the status is not so important; churches who need help from the bishop are now called assisted parishes.)



Letter of consecration of Canterbury House from Bishop Edward Cross, 1950

In 1954, Bishop Cross retired and The Rt. Rev. Russell Sturgis Hubbard became the 4th Bishop of the Missionary District of Spokane.

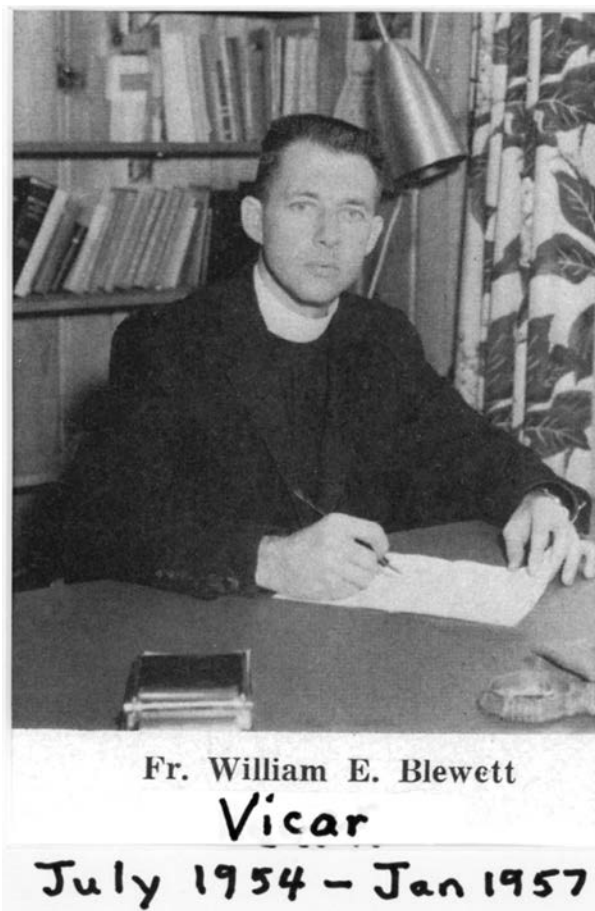
After Fr. Stockwell left in May of 1954 evidently the church was not in a position to call a rector, so in August Bishop Hubbard appointed Fr. Blewett as vicar. Under Fr. Blewett the church continued to grow.

By 1955 the church was bursting at the seams. The greatest need was for adequate church school space for the 90 students and 15 teachers! Classes were held in every nook and cranny, with the entire nursery and kindergarten department moved to the Canterbury House a mile away.

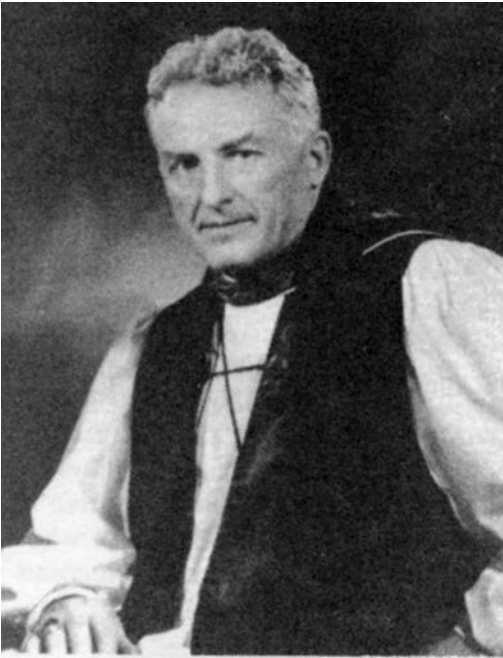
In 1956 the decision was made to purchase the huge house next door to St. Mark's for a Christian education

building. The project was spearheaded by a committee of Ruth and William Brown and William Murphy and the property was purchased from Robert Driscoll for \$22,500. Erected in 1916, the building originally was the home of S.P. Willis, longtime Moscow pharmacist, and his family. The house was renamed "The Parish House," and in addition to Christian education, it was also used for Church social events. This took the immediate pressure off the little brick church, but it was still crowded.

Also in 1956, the church started a campaign to add on to St. Mark's. While noting that \$20,000 borrowed from the Bishop's Building Fund was still owed on the Parish House next door, it was necessary to add on to the little church because the number of members and users of the church was larger than ever before. In fact, three Sunday services were needed to accommodate the number of worshippers! Another need was for a larger church hall. The existing hall in the basement of the little church could only accommodate 105 people and the kitchen was miniscule, making gatherings of the whole church a problem. In addition the sacristy (for caring for the altar) was just a closet, and there was no room for the priest to vest except in the hallway between the tiny bathroom and the circular stairway.



The Rev. William Blewett



Bishop Russell Sturgis Hubbard



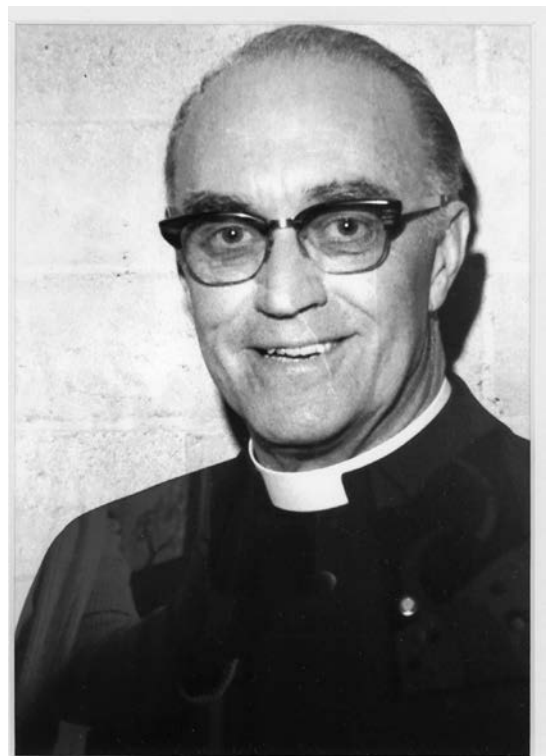
"The Parish House" purchased in 1956

In the Building Fund document issued by the church, Vicar Fr. Blewett included a message to the people of St. Mark's addressing not only the challenges ahead of the building, but also the challenges ahead of their faith. Of great interest to the current St. Mark's people, who pride themselves on being welcoming to "all, all, all, all, all, all, ALL," is this statement from Fr. Blewett: *We are often called "God's Frozen People" because of our lack of emotion and our general tendency to be unfriendly towards strangers in our churches. But, and more serious, we have also frozen the meaning of the words of our worship. We have kept*

our power to give ourselves to God in a deep freeze..... The time has come to translate our words and symbols into concrete action for the first time in most of our lives, to give sacrificially to the work of God through His Church.

Fr. Blewett's charge to the people was effective, as can be seen by the evolution of the church over the next decades. This challenge was issued in late 1956, and in January of 1957 Fr. Blewett was called to another parish. The Rev. Harold Fleharty was the next vicar, appointed by Bishop Hubbard in July of 1957.

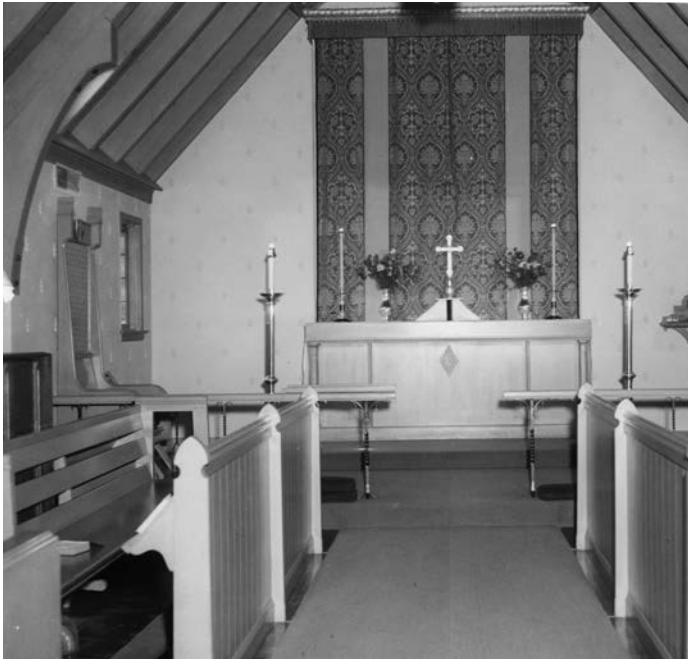
The post-war 1940s and 1950s were a time of growth not only for churches, but also for women's groups. During World War II women stepped up to do all kinds of jobs formerly dominated by men because men were caught up in the war, often being away from their families for several years. These jobs were everything from manufacturing



The Rev. Harold D. Fleharty
Rector July 1957-Dec. 1966

The Rev. Harold Fleharty

("Rosie the Riveter") to baseball ("A League of Their Own"). When the men returned, women were expected to gracefully relinquish these jobs and return to homemaking. The problem was, thanks to modern labor-saving devices, homemaking was not the extreme time-consuming activity it was in the 1930s. Women had a lot of unfocused creative energy that finally found a home in women's groups – garden clubs, home demonstration clubs, book clubs, and the church women's guilds.



Cost-saving brocade fabric reredos installed in 1938



Wooden reredos fashioned by Harold Whitehouse in 1960



Plate for Moeller pipe organ installed in 1963

Long-time St. Mark's member Joanne Sutton remembers fondly the heyday of the guilds. There were guilds for all kinds of projects and interests. At St. Mark's the primary guild was St. Mark's Guild, which was supposed to include all the women of the church. In practice, it was the older women of the church who met regularly and met only two times a year with all the women. St. Bridget's Guild was for the younger women and was very formal, very dressy. They were often wives of professional men and met in their homes. They enjoyed putting on elegant "teas" while still championing worthwhile causes.

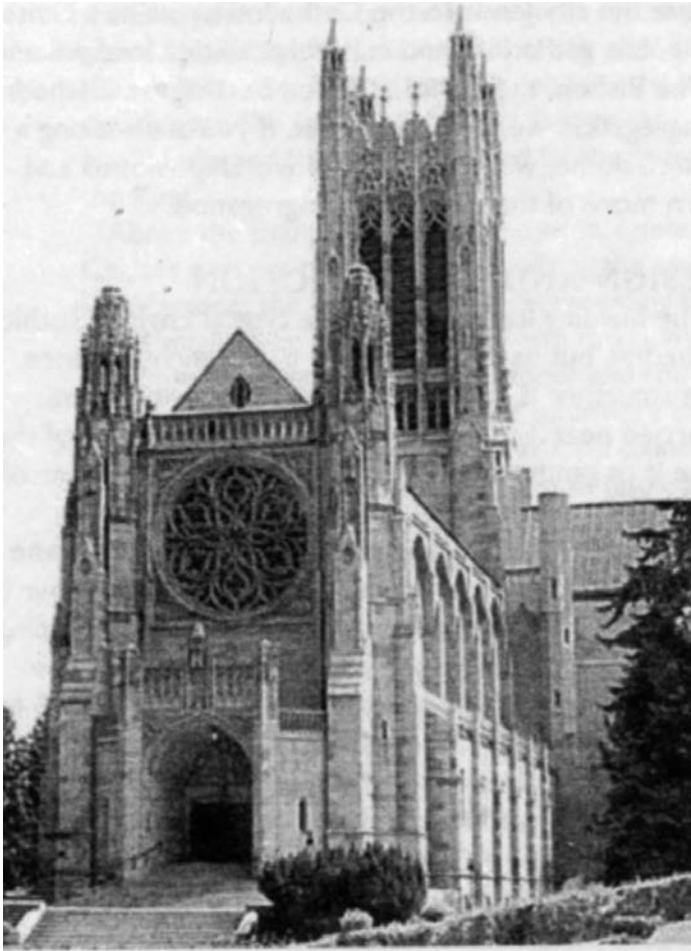
St. Martha's Guild was also for younger women, but younger working women who had little time or patience for the formal rituals. (Remember the Biblical story of two sisters, Mary and Martha. Mary sat adoringly at the feet of Jesus, absorbing his teaching, while Martha slaved in the kitchen preparing food for his group. It was Martha who was rebuked for keeping her mind on earthly things. But notice that everyone ate!)

There was the Altar Guild, the Music and Organ Guild, even a Guild for New Mothers. All of these guilds had causes and projects they supported and they managed their own money. They donated many hours of work and raised a lot of money for the church. But the church kept a rein on these independent women: Fr. Fleharty, for example, was a big supporter of the guilds, but made it clear that he would appoint their officers!

Fr. Fleharty was a World War II veteran with service in North Africa and Europe, earning four battle stars and the Bronze Medal. Prior to the war he was in the hotel business, but the war changed his outlook on life and he decided to study for the ministry at Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California. His first assignment after ordination was to St. Mark's. Notably his wife, Elizabeth Daughters, was the daughter of the Rev. Turpin Daughters, who had served as priest to St. Mark's from 1898 to 1900.

Joanne Sutton describes Fr. Fleharty as a "24/7 priest" deeply involved in all aspects of the church and a compassionate counselor. *[Author's note: Fr. Fleharty officiated at my wedding in 1963, and hours before the service my mother was horrified to catch him down on his knees scrubbing the parish hall floor!]* Another long-time St. Mark's member, Jim Espe, remembers him as a fun and involved youth group leader. Fleharty had a big powerful car and could be persuaded by the boys to "peel out" after stopping at an intersection while on church school trips.

Although the plans for enlarging the church kept percolating along, the focus during Fr. Fleharty's term was improving the existing space. The little brick church was built on a budget during the Great Depression and some cost-saving measures had had to be implemented.



The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, designed by Harold Whitehouse, was completed in 1964 in Spokane, Washington.

If one goes into the alley and looks at the east wall of the little church, one can clearly see the outline of a large window in the wall. This was bricked in during construction to save money. Instead of the window over the altar, an upholstered brocade fabric reredos was installed. Instead of a proper church organ, an old silent movie organ was put in. Instead of stained glass windows, lovely leaded, but clear, glass was used. The pews were reclaimed from another church that probably was installing more comfortable seating!



Bishop John R. Wyatt

—2—IDAHOIAN Moscow, Thursday, Oct. 29, 1964

St. Marks Notes 75th Anniversary

Stating that "Services in the Catholic, Scandinavian, Methodist, Norwegian, Baptist, Carmelite, Episcopal and Dunkard Churches will have services as usual," the Moscow Mirror, Sept. 18, 1885, provided one of the first records of Episcopal services in Moscow.

Regular services, according to the Mirror, were first held in Nov. 1888, making 1964 the 75th anniversary of the Episcopal Church in Moscow.

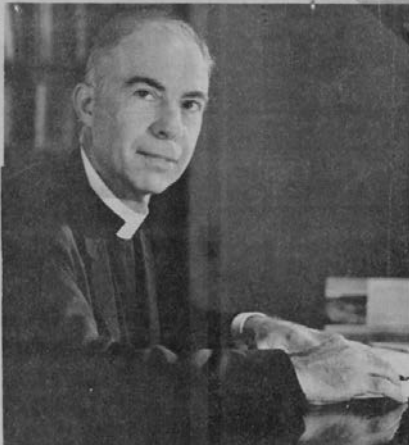
The Rt. Rev. E. Hamilton West, Bishop of Florida and former Vicar in Moscow from 1932 to 1936, will arrive with Mrs. West Saturday, directly from the National Convention of the Episcopal Church just adjourned in St. Louis, Mo. There will be a no-host dinner and reunion for Bishop West Saturday evening at Moscow Hotel at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday the Bishop will preach at the 11 a.m. service.

The original St. Mark's Church was started in 1891 at the site of the present edifice, and dedicated in 1899. It was destroyed by fire in 1937.

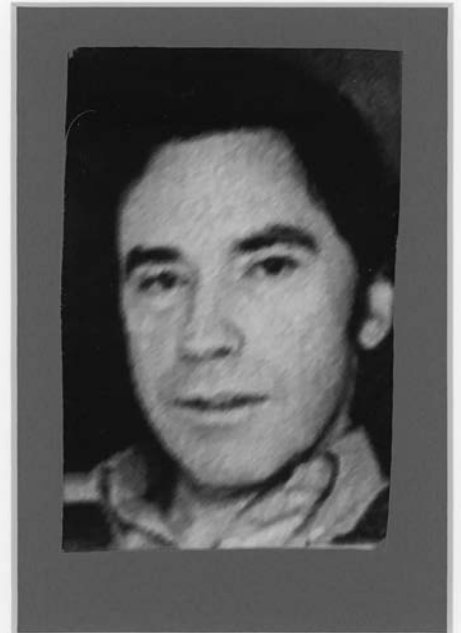
The present church was built the following year. The Christian education center and offices at Third and Jefferson were purchased in 1956.

The Rev. Harold D. Fleharty is the present minister of St. Mark's and the Rev. Hervon Snider perpetual deacon.



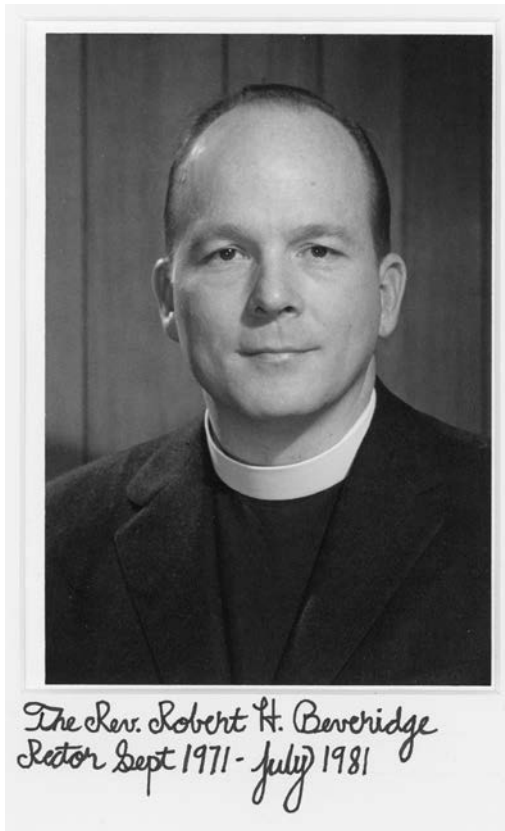
BISHOP RETURNS — The Rt. Rev. E. Hamilton West, Bishop of Florida and vicar of St. Mark's Episcopal Church here from 1932 to 1936, will return with his wife to Moscow Saturday. They will be honored at a no-host dinner Saturday evening at Hotel Moscow. Sunday Bishop West will preach at the 11 a.m. service at St. Mark's, in observance of the 75th anniversary of the parish. Bishop and Mrs. West live in Jacksonville, Fla.

Former Moscow vicar, Bishop Hamilton West returned to preach at St. Mark's 75th anniversary celebration in 1964.



*The Rev. Gilbert Keithly
Rector July 1967-Nov 1970*

The Rev. Gilbert Keithly



The Rev. Robert H. Beveridge

In 1960 the Bishop's Committee began discussing the idea of stained glass windows and of replacing the organ. On November 11, 1960, the lovely wooden reredos fashioned by the artist/architect Harold Whitehouse to complement the other woodwork in the church was installed and blessed.

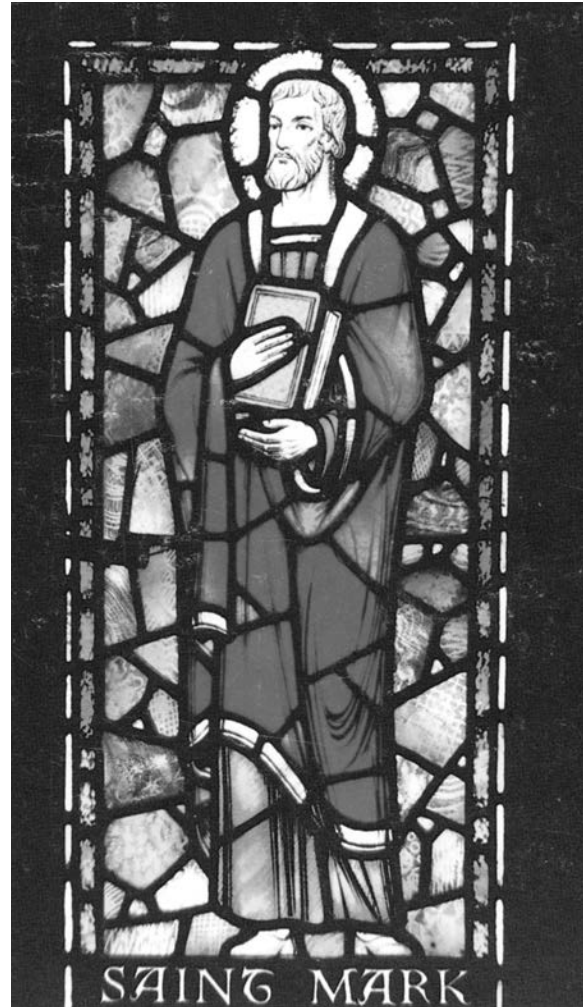
By spring of 1961 the stained glass window project was taking off. Fr. Fleharty showed the Bishop's Committee colored sketches of two stained glass windows depicting St. Mark and St. Paul submitted by Whitefriar's Studio in England. The studio's introduction of itself said, "Since 1680 the fires that blazed in the glasshouse at Whitefriar's burnt unquenched for 300 years. When they moved site in 1923 a lit brazier was carried to their new site and used to light the first furnace, to keep up this tradition."

Donors had already been found for these windows, and it was decided to get sketches for the other windows to display to the congregation in hopes additional donors would be found. (Because of the craftsmanship required, the stained glass window project would take well over a decade to complete.)

Parish Status achieved May 3, 1961. Vicar Fleharty now Rector and Bishop's Committee now Vestry.

In November 1961 Bruce Bray, of the UI Music Department and a St. Mark's member, agreed to be the

organist and choir director for the church and refused a stipend. He made a thorough inspection of the organ and stated that it could not be rebuilt, as it was totally unsuitable. He recommended that an organ fund be established for the new organ by "selling" 54 keys at \$100 each for this fund. By December of 1962 enough money had been collected to purchase the new Moeller pipe organ, and in October of 1963 the new organ was installed and blessed in a musical service featuring the Men & Boys Choir from the Cathedral in Spokane.



The Saint Mark stained glass window graces the sanctuary of the church.

In 1964 The Missionary District of Spokane became The Diocese of Spokane with Bishop Hubbard continuing as Bishop. The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Spokane was finally completed. And St. Mark's celebrated its 75th anniversary with The Rt. Rev. Hamilton West, Bishop of Florida, preaching. Bishop West had been a well-loved Vicar of St. Mark's from 1932 to 1935.

In 1967 The Rt. Rev. John R. Wyatt became the 5th Bishop of Spokane after the retirement of Bishop Hubbard. The Rev. Fleharty moved on to become the Vicar of St. David's in Spokane in January 1967.

The Rev. Gilbert Keithly was called as Rector in July of 1967, but resigned for personal reasons in November of 1970.

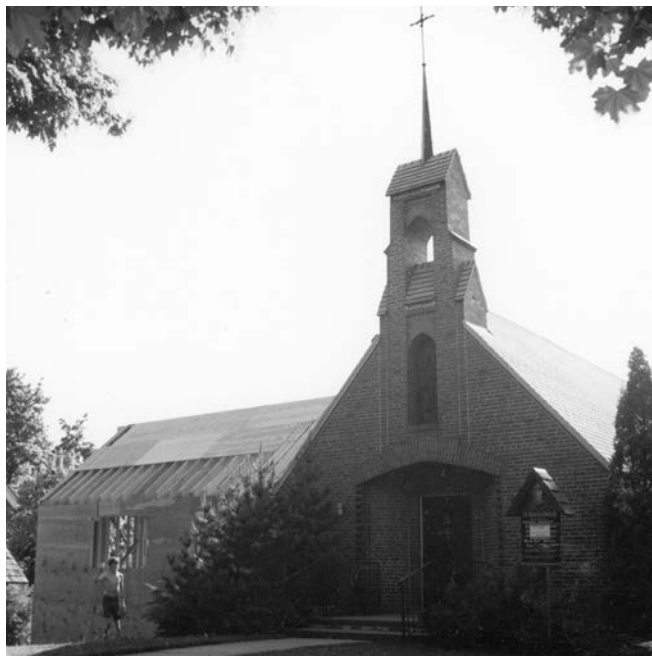
The Rev. Robert Beveridge was called as Rector in September of 1971. He was a graduate of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and had previously served as a curate of Trinity Cathedral Church in Sacramento. He was a veteran of 10 years in the US Air Force, serving as a B-52 Commander. By this time the boom of Sunday school classes had declined and the separate Parish Hall (the old Driscoll building) was now used for a rectory. That is where Fr. Beveridge moved his family.

On St. Mark's Day, April 25, 1974, Hervon Snider, Deacon of St. Mark's since 1961, was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Wyatt. Six months later Fr. Snider retired from his "day job," that of Associate Dean of the College of Education at the University of Idaho. He then began an active service to the church as assisting priest at St. Mark's plus filling in at other area churches, and even at times being appointed Bishop's Vicar to churches without a rector. He did not "really retire" until 1989!



*The Rev. Hervon L. Snider
Asst. Priest April 1974-1989
Deacon 1961-1974*

The Rev. Hervon L. Snider



The new church addition under construction in 1975

Fr. Beveridge was an able administrator and organized committees to manage the many activities of the church. These committees were well staffed and included those for Christian education, worship, college work, lay readers, teachers, lectors, and even a hunger task force. We have two big scrapbooks of the many photos taken during that time.

Two big projects that had been percolating for years came to fruition during Fr. Beveridge's tenure: the stained glass windows and the addition to the church. Whitefriars, the stained glass company that had been doing the windows, had closed, but its major artisan, working for another company, was familiar with the St. Mark's project and was able to complete and ship the windows from England. The beautiful colored panels tell the story of Jesus' ministry. Saint Paul and Saint Mark windows grace the sanctuary. Another one of the Dragon of St. Mark is over the organ. The story windows, seven on the north wall of the nave and eight on the south wall, begin with the Annunciation and Nativity and end with the Resurrection – Christ appearing to Mary Magdalene. There is also a gorgeous depiction of Christ in the steeple tower. The windows were dedicated at a ceremony on April 26, 1976.

On May 4, 1975, groundbreaking for the new addition occurred with a short ceremony conducted by Fr. Beveridge and Fr. Snider. The architect was St. Mark's member Paul Blanton, Dean of the College of Art and Architecture at the University of Idaho. Estimated cost was \$70,000 with Sprenger Construction Company of Troy, Idaho, the contractor. The outside brick was specially made in the Spokane Valley to match the exterior of the old church.

The new addition included offices for the rector and the administrative assistant on the first floor. The much larger lower level of the addition included restrooms, a library, and a large assembly room including a fireplace. A new, much larger kitchen with modern appliances was also on the lower level. The lower level of the original church was remodeled for a nursery, classrooms, and work area. The dedication ceremonies took place on November 6, 1975, in a festive event with Bishop Wyatt presiding.

These happy times are an appropriate time to end this saga of the church that rose from the ashes, with the church bustling with activity, happy and productive. The world was beginning a time of great social changes and reflection on societal roles and values that also affected the church. Even much-needed social change results in stress to the people who live it, and so it was with the people of the church.

To Be Continued ...



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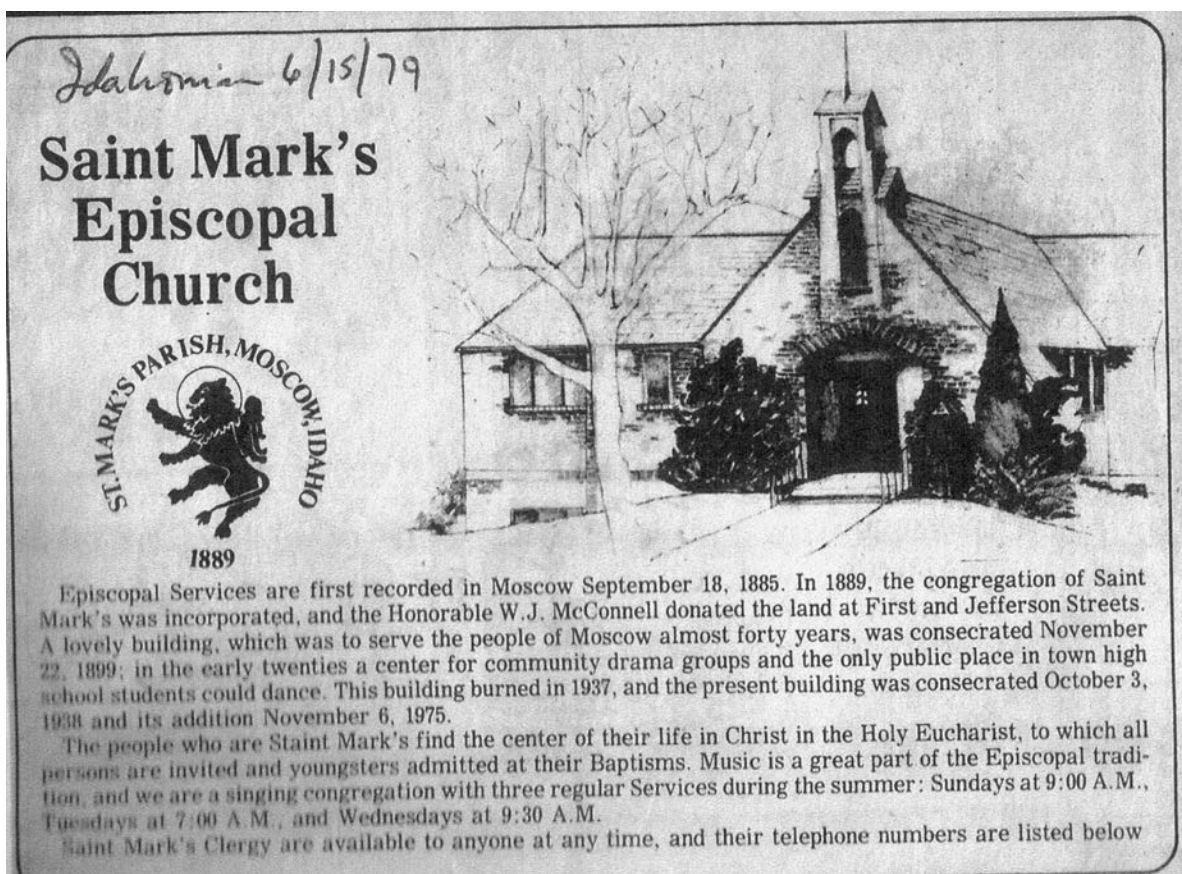
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The author also thanks Gloria Lund, archivist at Diocese of Spokane; Cheryl Ostreicher, archivist at Boise State University Library; Amy Thompson, archives manager at University of Idaho Library Special Collections; Zach Wnek, archivist, and Hayley Noble, curator, at Latah County Historical Society; Mary Williamson d'Easum, oral history of her life at St. Mark's, 1906-1935; Cathy Brown, for access to the Ruth Brown collection; and The Rev. Robin Biffle, who pored over pages of old vestry meetings for historical nuggets.



An *Idahonian* article noting the church's 90 years in Moscow includes a drawing of St. Mark's Episcopal Church as it appeared in 1979.



A PHOTO FROM THE PAST

The Moore Sisters camping with their husbands at Cedar Grove 40 miles from Moscow Mountain 1915

The three sisters in this photo are the daughters of Frederick K. Moore and Helen Johnson Moore, who had an orchard and dairy farm on the ridge above what is now Moscow's Walmart.

Pictured left to right are Freeman Stockwell, Fanee Moore Stockwell, Mable Moore Town, Jeanne Moore Mendenhall, and Harry Town. Jeanne's husband, Louis Mendenhall, is taking the picture and the baby is his and Jeanne's son, Gordon Mendenhall.

The women are wearing the fashionable "sporting outfits" of the day – a white mob cap, sailor blouse and black bloomers.

Photo submitted by Helen Wootton, Mable and Harry Town's granddaughter.



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