

ELMER WELLS

Moscow; b. 1878

Worked for Washburn and Wilson, Shields and for other
local concerns.

1 hour

minute page

Side A

01

Moscow was small in 1902 when he came. Work he did in and around Moscow. Killing of Steffen.

05

He testifies against Mrs. Egan, who was contesting her brother's will. He said that her brother was "sober as a judge" when he made the will, and the court broke out laughing, because he wasn't the soberest judge. He accused Mrs. Egan of drinking, and she lost the case. He had been boarding there, but moved.

13

Hypotek sold mortgaged farms for less than \$17 an acre. Potlatch mill brought lots of jobs. An old friend of Mr. Wells' bought up timberland for Vanderbilt in Washington.

17

He came West with friends from Ashville, North Carolina, because after the Civil War, times were bad in the South. He wouldn't stay in Seattle because of the rain. Too many nationalities for him in southern California.

22

"No fishing allowed" signs on Main Street, Moscow. Hotel taxi would get stuck, and passengers had to walk. He's bought clothes from Davids since he first came to Moscow.

24

The last days of Woodrow Wilson: Elmer predicted he'd get into big trouble over the League of Nations; his cabinet tries to meet without him; his wife signs his bills.

28

Idaho heavily Republican. Steunenberg had innocent men thrown into prison camp as governor, and so he was later killed. People got along well here in the Depression. (continued)

Elmer Wells

minute page

Side B

01

Roosevelt's bank holiday. Elmer sent back East to look into the bank situation because of the lack of information, and he finds they're in a big mess. Elmer is the courier for \$200,000 in bonds from Moscow to Spokane, which shocks the Spokane banker. Elmer's warning is credited with saving the Moscow bank. He goes down to California to personally collect a mortgage.

14

McConnell was a friend of his, and used to give him reading material.

16

Harding: how he was picked behind the scenes. He is bought by oil interests. His choice for secretary of the interior is murdered by his woman, who threatens to expose the Republicans. Teapot Dome. Coolidge asks Borah for advice on cabinet corruption. A drunken politician who decided sites for hospitals said that he was no worse than the others.

27

Watergate lying. Nixon ages overnight. Panama Canal shady dealings.

with Sam Schrager
August 24, 1973