

ABE GOFF
First Interview

Interviewed by:

Sam Schrage

Oral History Project

Latah County Museum Society

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I. Index

ABE GOFF

Moscow; b. 1894

County prosecuting attorney in the 1920's; state legislator, U.S congressman,
chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission. 1.8 hours

minute

Side A

- 01 1 The naming of Moscow: inaccurate versions. The town was named after pioneer Sam Neff's hometown, Moscow, Pennsylvania. This was affirmed by his son from Yakima, who spoke to the Latah County Pioneer Association.
- 06 2 First visited Moscow in 1911 to hear Theodore Roosevelt speak on wheat sacks at the university administration building. This speech showed his greatness as a leader.
- 08 3 Grandfather took a homestead near Spangle. His father's diary. Harvesting wheat by hand; mechanical harvesting came with the railroad in the eighties. Other grandfather walked from Illinois to Pike's Peak to mine in 1860, and later came to Rosalia. Father took a homestead near Hole-in-the-Ground, which was being used by cattle rustlers; they shot him through the shoulder, causing the death of Abe's baby brother. Later his father shot and killed the gunman in Rosalia.
15. 6 Abe's first sight of Moscow, the town was surrounded by apple orchards. Frantzel's brewery was turned into a vinegar works during prohibition.
- 16 6 World War I. Assigned to the university for officer training; role of university in war effort. Severity of influenza epidemic.
- 20 8 Jobs at the university put Abe through law school: head waiter at Linley Hall, building Miller elevators, student law librarian, armory guard, Sunday reader at Colfax Episcopal Church.
- 27 10 Good football teams at Idaho, early 1920's. When Abe played in 1923, Idaho was neither beaten nor scored against in Northwest, and lost narrowly to Stanford and USC. University of Washington was afraid to Idaho. Idaho would have gone to Rose Bowl except that Stanford beat them 3 - 0 in Portland.

Side B

- 00 12 U.S. District Court met in Moscow for two terms of several weeks each, in spring and fall, handling scores of jury cases. Abe got started by defending indigent bootleggers and moonshiners.

Abe Goff

minute

Side B (continued)

- 05 14 Moonshiners came from the timber country, and were mostly arrested by federal agents. The big money was made by bringing bootleg into the county for the well-to-do. Outside the wooded area, the county was the best in the state for enforcement; unlike Wallace and Kellogg, where officials were prosecuted. Abe began as deputy prosecutor. The county sheriff's force. He was night jailer for the county, and fought the bedbugs.
- 12 17 Prohibition came to Latah County early. Evangelist meetings stressed the evils of drink and dancing and believed that prohibition would end social problems. A popular band sued over a denunciation of their character.
- 18 19 Prohibition made liquor "forbidden fruit"; women drinking became socially acceptable among the middle and upper class. The poor quality of moonshine. Skid row bums drank anything with alcohol, such as the paralyzing jake (jamaica ginger). Bricks of dehydrated grapes were sold with "warnings" against truning them into alcoholic beverages. WCTU brought Abe a pledge to prosecute prohibition above all other laws, which he couldn't sign, and they then worked against his reelection. Problems brought on by prohibition.
- 28 22 Pat Malone found all the evidence drunk up on the way to court. Moonshiners claimed the mash was used to feed the pigs.

Side C

- 00 29 Descriptions of downtown Moscow businesses and businessmen at the time of World War I. The Pastime Pool Hall was "the poor man's friend", and a very well run establishment. Davis, who ran a Moscow store, later started the Winn-Dixie supermarket chain in the South.
- 22 35 Moscow lawyers in the twenties.
- 27 36 Arson trial of A. S. Frost for burning down his garage was prosecuted by Abe in his first year. Although the jury thought he was guilty they found him innocent because of the judge's instructions and inflection about the need for corroboration of the testimony of an accomplice.

Side D

- 01 38 The case of State vs. Orr for the robbery of Tommy Matthews. Matthew was hit on the head with a blackjack and robbed of his shop's proceeds as he drove home. Hap Moody

Abe Goff

minute

Side D (continued)

01 continued

sifted through the Orr ash heap until he found the metal part of the cash purse. Orr was convicted, and Abe successfully argued against the appeal. District judges.

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A brief summary of Abe's subsequent career of public service to Idaho and the nation: congressman, general counsel of the post office department, member of Interstate Commerce Commission. Why he came back to Moscow from Washington.

(15 minutes)

with Sam Schragger
November 13, 1974

II. Transcript

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ABE GOFF: There are various stories about how Moscow got its name but I think for once and for all we ought to settle that. And oh, there were stories that there were some Russian settlers over here at an early day, that a Russian duke came over and went hunting on Moscow Mountain, that there was a fellow who had a cow here and he died and there was some dispute about it, and his widow got the cow and this cow was always bawling and they'd say, "Well, what's all the noise?" and "That's Ma's cow." And that that's how it got its name. Now, its all perfectly silly because the facts have been well established and the facts are that there was an early day settler from Pennsylvania that owned the store out at Paradise Valley, Sam Neff. Now when the petition was sent in to create a post office in Moscow, about that time, he sold his store to Lieuallen and the store was moved west into what is now Moscow. And the original petition for the creation of the post office, a copy of which I personally secured from the National Archives when I was back in Washington, shows that the petition was originally Paradise Valley. But that's been stricken out and the word Moscow substituted. Now it seems that Neff, who was a very well educated man--a scholar and teacher--came from a little town in Pennsylvania called Moscow. I looked it up in the atlas today and it has a population of 1212 people even now. Now Neff was very influential here. He thought this valley looked something like his valley where his little hometown in Moscow, Pennsylvania was situated, and he insisted that it'd be a good name to name it "Moscow" after his hometown in Pennsylvania. Nobody was going to make any objection and the change was made. Now this was substantiated later when, of course Neff left here, but he died late--ninety years old or

something like that. But he had a son who lived over at Yakima. And back in 1961, the Latah County Pioneer Association got this son to come over here to Moscow and the businessmen of Moscow contributed the money to pay his fare over here. And he met with the Pioneer Association, and this was all discussed with him, and this son of Neff's said that he had often talked it over with his father and his father told him that this was the true story of how Moscow was named. Now that has been accepted by everyone who has really made any study of it. I'll refer to Homer David in his very interesting reminiscences, he discusses this. He talked to Neff's son. He didn't know the original Neff personally, but he said, "There's no question, that's how Moscow got its name." And that's corroborated by a letter that I received from Nan Smith, Theodora V. Smith, who was long the secretary of the Latah County Pioneer Association. I have the letter here; I preserved it. It was received by me back in Washington. She told about this and she prepared an article which was given to the Chamber of Commerce. But there is no question that those who have studied it all, the best evidence is certainly that Moscow is named after this little town in Pennsylvania. I found when I was in the Post Office Department that there are, I think, eleven Moscows in the United States of which Moscow, Idaho, is by far the largest. ^{But} I think that ought to forever set aside the various stories ^{about} the naming of Moscow. It just was a matter of fact situation that took place ^{here} in the early days.

Now, I first came to Moscow in 1911. I was then a boy over in Colfax. I came up with my parents on a special train to hear former President Theodore Roosevelt speak on a platform of wheat sacks built in front of the present administration building. It was then a very new administration building. I remember the tremendous crowd that was here; I remember what an

interesting speech was made by former President Theodore Roosevelt. I remember I stayed behind to watch the cadets put on a drill after the speaking was over, and managed somehow to get separated from my parents. They waited down at the train. the special train on the ~~OWR&N~~ that was to take us to Colfax, and I finally made my way down there through the crowd, arrived at the train to the great relief of my parents because my father would have stayed to look for me. But I got there on time and got back to Colfax.

SAM SCHRAGER: May I ask you what your impression of Roosevelt was that day?

A G: Oh, tremendously favorable impression. Roosevelt had been president, he was back from his hunting trip to Africa. He was a very interesting speaker, he had the crowd with him. You could understand why Roosevelt, Roosevelt, the great, as I call him, was such a popular figure. Because of course, he'd been a rough rider, he'd lived out West and was a rancher. He'd been a puny boy in his youth but had regained it by his active physical activities. And no man to my knowledge in public life ever so captured the imagination and the affection of the American people as did Theodore Roosevelt.

Now my parents were part of a pioneer family. My father had come as a small boy. His father had come west to California, then had come north by wagon, first into Oregon, then up to Dayton, Washington, and he was, that's my grandfather, William Goff, was a harness-maker. He had a harness shop with another man at Dayton for two or three years. And he used to come up in the Palouse country by horseback, looking around for a good place for a homestead. He finally settled on a place not so far from the old Mullan Road between Spangle and Waverly, and the family settled and homesteaded there. He had several brothers, and my father, when he was twelve years old kept a diary; I have that original diary now. And he told about the life in the pioneer

cabin, about the Indians, about shaking up the cabin, how the 1-4
snow sifted through in the storms, how they, of course, had no fruit.
They grew lots of turnips and because there was an idea of the pioneers
that turnips would take the place of fruit. There was no harvesting equip-
ment then. They planted some wheat, but of course, it was all cut with a
scythe and the way they harvested it, they either walked horses over it or
they tramped it down themselves and then they'd throw it up in the air and
let the chaff ^{blow} away. There were some very clever settlers down toward
Dayton and off down that way who figured out an idea of building a platform
and carrying the smashed down wheatheads up on this platform and where the
wind would blow and they'd drop it to harvest. Now in the those days, there
was no mill around. There was a mill at Pine City; there was a mill at Colfax;
there was a mill down at Walla Walla. But their wheat had to be taken to one
of these mills and ground up. And the modern harvest equipment, that is when
I say modern, it's a mechanical harvesting by the harvester didn't come in
until the railroads came in in the eighties. And that's when they first got--
and the mills started up. And course, it was all done by teams, that is of horses
or mules. In those days there was no regular RFD service. There was a few
post offices. There was an early one at Rosalia. The first one in this area
was down at Lewiston. Then they started the one in Moscow; the mail was
brought up by horseback. And when one of these settlers ^{had} some of his
neighbors were going to town, they'd ask him to bring his mail. Remember
that it could easily be brought by horseback because there was no junk mail
then. There was no magazines, there was only an occasional newspaper. And
the post offices were few and far between.

Now my other grandfather, for whom I'm named, Abe, he had been born
in Illinois. He, with seventeen other young fellows, in 1860, they walked
from Illinois to the Pike's Peak mines in Colorado, over six hundred miles.

And he mined for a while, then got in to herding cattle. He was there during the Indian uprising of the Plains Indians in the late '60's. And in the '70's, by that time, he'd gotten married, he embarked with his family, and a wagon and an ox team to come to the Northwest. And first they went up through Utah and Wyoming. Then, he was somewhat interested in mining, they got up into Montana to mines, then they followed the old Mullan Road from Montana into the Palouse country and he homesteaded up near Rosalia.

Now my father, was here early enough that he located a homestead himself, over near what's known as the Hole-in-the-Ground, west of Rosalia, which was the haunt of a band of horse and cattle thieves. And they'd been using this hundred and sixty acres for pasture, and it scared away any settlers from taking it up. But my father wasn't easily scared. He settled there and started his homestead. They warned him away. He was shot through the shoulder one time out at the homestead, made it back to the cabin, and he managed to fight them off and what would have been my oldest brother was a baby then, the fire went out, and in the excitement and the cold the baby contracted pneumonia and died.

Well, that was the tough life then in the early days. My father, to finish the story, this was in 1890, he went into Rosalia, and when he ^{got in} he was warned that the ^{gunman} was there who had warned him away from Rosalia and was going to shoot him on sight. But my father wasn't scared again. He went ^{on} into Rosalia, and over by where the Northern Pacific Dept is now, they met on the street and shot it out in true western fashion except that my father shot this fellow Hart through the body and Hart eventually died. My father gave himself up to the town marshall, he was arrested for shooting Hart through the body so he was like to die and was taken to Colfax but was released on bond, and after an investigation by the prosecuting attorney, Robert McCroskey, who later became superior court judge there, the case was dismissed on the

ground that he had fired in self-defense. Well, my father was a prominent businessman over at Colfax. I grew up there, I was there in 1910 when the big flood came on. And as I said, I came up with them to Moscow the first time. Now, my first sight of Moscow--it was largely orchards around Moscow--apple orchards, beautiful apple orchards around Moscow, on all sides. And Moscow back in those days had sent a carload of apples up to the interstate fair at Spokane that won first prize. This was quite a place for apples down here. But later the farmers turned to wheat. And then it was the development of the Idaho Harvester that was built here in Moscow, and this turned to wheat. There was first a large brewery here run by old man Francil, but when prohibition came along it was turned over into a vinegar works. And originally started by Fred Veatch, it was taken over by J. W. Gilmore, who recently died. And Joe Gilmore developed the vinegar works which was operated here for years in the old brewery. I happened, when I first came into the practice of law, to have been Joe Gilmore's attorney and incorporated his company, the J. W. Gilmore Vinegar Works, and also we incorporated the Northwest Vinegar Association which was a cooperative association of vinegar manufacturers here in the Northwest.

Now to go back to my other experience in Moscow, I came here next in 1918. I had just graduated from high school that spring, had taken care of some high school debts, and so on, worked through the summer, but in the late summer I went up to Spokane and enlisted in the army. Now World War I was going on. I'd wanted to get in before that, but I'd promised my mother, I already had a brother, my oldest brother, Arthur, was already in the army, and she begged me to hold off until I graduated from high school, which I did. Well, I went up to Spokane to enlist and got all lined up, and was assigned to the Thirteenth Division at Fort Lewis. The training of the

Ninety-first Division had been completed, and they had gone to France, and they were forming this new division. Well, I went back home to await word of when I was to go and then I received word that it's all been changed, that I'd been selected because I was a high school graduate and was a prospect for an army commission, that I was going to be sent to the University of Idaho for preliminary training. And I was sent, and did report at Moscow a little earlier than October 1st, 1918. Then I was finally sworn in and here at that time there was a smaller group of those who are high school graduates who were here for training in regular academic courses, and then there was a large group, six or eight hundred or more of Section B, that were here for training in mechanics and repair of tanks and things of that kind. And there were some barracks built up at the university, there are still some remnants up there in the old wooden buildings that are there on the campus. The one that I lived in, there was a set of barracks built just west of the administration building where there's a parking lot now. And I lived there, we lived in concrete barracks. We went to classes, usually in the morning, and then drilled in the afternoon. And in late October, there was a notice posted, I'd been ^{one of twelve} selected to go to the Fourth Infantry Officer's training camp at Camp Travis, Texas. But about that time we were in the height of the flu epidemic. Now these people that weren't alive here in Moscow and in the United States during the great influenza epidemic that started ^{about} in March 1918 and continued through October 1918, really can't understand what a terrific tragedy it was for the nation and in fact for the whole world because in the United States there were twenty million people contracted influenza. It was a very serious disease; it started as a cold; they went to bed, they had a high fever. And most of the casualties came when they thought they were better and got up and went out. They'd often die

within a day or two after they went out because they didn't realize that long bed confinement was necessary before it was safe to go out in the cold. Well, that was a terrible thing here. And in Moscow they had soup kitchens. Every place was pressed into service for the hospitals. There was the old Gritman Hospital and then there was the other hospital that was downtown that was operated. Buildings were taken over for hospitals pretty near anyplace. And of course, the troops had been moving, and troops were taken off trains and died all the way along. They cancelled the orders for this group of ours to go to Camp Travis, Texas. And then the Armistice came along on November eleventh. And everything was called off. And we stayed on here. We were finally discharged. I was finally discharged from the army on December twenty-first.

Well, I went home and here I was. I'd got a little bit of a start, but a peculiar kind of a start at the university. But I liked Moscow, and I liked the university so I decided that I'd come back. We were on a quarter system then so I decided to come back ^{to} the University of Idaho although I had two brothers who went to Washington State College and ^{had} played on the football team there. And there was every reason that I would have gone to Washington State. But I decided to come back to Moscow to the university, and I did come back and enroll in January 1919, and stayed on ^{here} at the university for most of six years, although one year I had to lay out part of the year because I ran out of money. But I finally graduated from the law school in June of 1924. I worked at most everything, but we won't go into that though I might mention ^{that} in those days there was no grants and aid for football players. And if you did make the team you did get preference on a hashin' job or a janitor job so I actually became the head waiter over at what was then Lindley Hall. Now Lindley Hall was built when I was in

law school and the university was in terrific need of housing. And the Moscow Chamber of Commerce took it up and a lot of public spirited citizens got together and they raised enough money in Moscow to build, by the sale of bonds, to build a dormitory. And President Ernest K. Lindley had just resigned here to go back as president of Miami University, he was very popular here, so they insisted that the new dormitory be named Lindley Hall. It was called Lindley Hall. It was built in, I think, 1923. I worked on Lindley Hall, carrying hod, that means I had hod on my shoulder, I carried mortar and brick up to the masons. And at the same time, I worked there from eight in the morning until five at night, and was batching. And then I started in at seven and worked wheeling concrete on building the big tall elevators we have down here that was being built by the Mark P. ~~Miller~~^{Milling} Company. I worked from seven till twelve, half of a ten hour shift. Then I would go home, get myself somethin' to eat, go to bed and catch myself gettin up again to go to work at eight o'clock in the morning.

SAM: You were going to school then? At the same time?

A G: I was going to school then, I was going to law school then. And then of course during that, in my final year in college, I played football in my last year in 1923. I had a hadin' job and they decided to separate the law library from the general library and have a student librarian ⁵⁰ I got the job through the kindness of the dean as the student law librarian, part-time student law librarian, and I worked every evening from seven to nine in the evening in the library. ^{that is, was there} And of course I was there during the day, but the law school was small and books weren't taken out and there wasn't the supervision that's necessary now.

SAM: And you did your law school work all. . .

A G Why sure. I studied my law work during those seven to nine hours at night

when I was there in charge of the law library. And then also I was very fortunate that they had to have a guard over at the old gymnasium, which was the armory. They had a lot of guns and ^{other} military equipment there and somebody broke in and stole some of the rifles and they decided they had to have somebody there as a guard at night. So they fixed up a little cubby hole in there, about twelve by twelve, with a bed in it, and you see I got a free room for sleepin' there at night so that took care of my place to stay.

SAM: Would you say many people were in the same boat as far as needing to work their way through school?

A G: Oh yes. There was few loans then. And there was no aid outside, and we just had to make it. And of course, also, on top of that, I had been a lay reader in the Episcopal church, ^{and} there was no minister over at Colfax, and the bishop in Spokane finally turned over the charge of this mission to me and I would go down there every Sunday and take charge of the church and read the service on Sundays, go down on the gasoline bug on Sunday mornings to Colfax and then come back in the afternoon after I'd conducted the service. And I got the handsome sum of ten dollars a Sunday plus my railroad fare for going over and doing that. Well, anyway, I graduated from the university in June of 1924. . .

SAM: Before we go on with what happened after that, I'd like to know a little bit about the football. You told me it was good times for football for the university when you were there.

A G: Well, I was fortunate to have been in what I think probably, in spite of what a lot of people have talked about winning teams. I happened to be there when Idaho was taken in to the Pacific Coast Conference. And at that time it included all the large western universities, Washington, Oregon, Oregon State, Stanford, the University of California. The University of Southern California

was admitted about the same time as the University of Idaho. It had been a church school and we used to make fun of it and call it the Southern Branch. It was more or less in its inception as far as athletics were concerned. Also, of course, in the Northwest there was Washington State College, then Washington State College, then the University of Montana and the University of Idaho. Well, then all of these colleges were relatively small in comparison to what they are now. Idaho and Montana were the smallest but still we could hold our own pretty well then. There were none of these grants and aid. There was football players, yes, sought out and came but there was none of the going out like they do now and haulin' in 'em and givin' 'em scholarships and the various things of that kind. There was not the money in it; there was not even radio then in those days. And no television, not the big money. Idaho, under Coach Matthews, more than held its own with any of the Pacific Coast Conference teams. We played 'em all, In my last year in 1923, we went undefeated and unscored on here in the Northwest and went down to California to play Stanford which was then they had their ^{all American and} great hall of famer, Ernie Nivers. We suffered our first defeat against Stanford and then went on and played Southern California. We were pretty badly battered up at Stanford and we lost also 14-9 to the University of Southern California. But you see, it was a different picture in athletics then. In those days Whitman was quite a power; Gonzaga was a real power in those days. They had some very strong teams. In fact in 1923 or '24 we had beaten Gonzaga fourteen to nothing here in Moscow. And by the way, we beat Washington State fourteen to nothing that year. We used to play at Boise. That year we beat Oregon State six to nothing in Boise. But we had played University of Washington the year before and they luckily beat us two to nothing. And they wouldn't play us for five years. Those days they didn't make up ^{their} schedules till each year; they didn't make 'em in advance. Washington wouldn't play Idaho.

That used to be quite a joke around. Well, University of Washington won't play Idaho. They came through with that win of two to nothing and they didn't play Idaho again for five years. We would have beaten 'em badly in '23 or '24 I'm sure. Well, we ^{had} trouble ^{because} it was even match. But in the next year Idaho would have gone to the Rose Bowl except that they were beaten by Stanford under Pop Warner and with Ernie Nevers over at Portland three to nothing. But those days won't come again and we can't expect it to come again because it was an entirely different era. The schools were different; the money involved was entirely different. Football then was more of a. . . (Break)

(End of Side A)

A G: To Lewiston to take the bar examination because in those days the bar examination was taken before the supreme court of the state. Now, of course, its handled by the state bar commission. Well, I went down there and we took it under the supervision of the supreme court and the clerk of the supreme court. I managed to pass the bar, came back up to Moscow and prohibition was then on in Idaho and throughout the United States, that is national prohibition. I came back here in time to, the federal court was on, and during prohibition it was an entirely different situation about the trial terms here in Moscow. Of course, there was the national prohibition law and the defenders against the national prohibition law were tried in the U. S. District Court. The U. S. District Court met here in Moscow ^{above} what is now the old post office building with Judge Diedrich, the federal judge, and there was two court terms held each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. And these lasted two or three weeks. There were dozens of jury cases tried. And the same thing was true in the state district

court in the old courthouse up here. Judge Steele was the district judge, and of course Idaho had its own state prohibition law. And there was a big term of court every spring and every fall, juries here, attorneys from all around, weeks of trials of various prohibition cases and some other cases too. There was a civil calendar too. But the spring and fall court terms in the federal court and the state district court were big events with lots of interest, lots of people here. The Moscow Hotel was always jammed. And there were attorneys here because the U. S. District Court tried all the prohibition cases from all over the Clearwater country up on the prairie, the Indian reservation, Lewiston--lots of cases came up from Lewiston. Now

I had known Frank Brashiers who is the U. S. marshal because I played football with three of his sons who had played football here at the University of Idaho. He came from Caldwell or Nampa. Then I got acquainted with Billy McReynolds who was the clerk of the court. And I decided that this was a chance for me to get some jury trial practice. So I came up and applied to Billy McReynolds who was the clerk of the U. S. District Court and said, "I'd like to try some cases." Well, one of the great burdens on all the attorneys here locally was the appointment as attorney for these so-called indigent bootleggers and moonshiners. Of course, most of them claimed they didn't have any money so the court would appoint an attorney to defend 'em. And it was a real trial for the local attorneys, but of course they had to do it. And in those days there was no payment. Now an attorney appointed to defend an indigent defendant in a criminal case is entitled to a fee, fixed by statute in the court. But then there was no fee attached and of course they hated to be appointed, but they had to bear their part of it. That was one of the burdens of being an attorney. Well, since I was ready to serve, why I was regularly appointed, there were others appointed, but I

spent about two weeks off and on trying jury cases. Not that I tried 'em all by any means because of course there were prohibition violators that had lots of money and paid big attorney fees. And there was plenty of cases of that kind, but oh, every day or two there'd come along a case that I'd get into and try a jury case

SAM: Can you describe the kind of people who you were representing then? Who these people were that were getting arrested for moonshining?

A G: Well, of course, you must remember that in those days there was tall timber in this county and in Clearwater County. The timber went from Palouse clear to the Montana line, this wonderful timber. It was full, Moscow Mountain was very heavily timbered although a lot of the merchantable ^{timber} had been cut off for firewood because you know, what we called the wood rats squatted out there on little places. They'd cut firewood and bring it into Moscow and that's how they got their small amount of cash that they needed in the year. Well, out in all this timber there was settlers from West Virginia. There was more of 'em from where over in Clearwater County and they knew about moonshining. And so when national prohibition came along they got in the moonshiner business. And they'd have a little still out there, a little copper still out way back in the timber, and occasionally they were picked up by our Latah County sheriff's force. But these real moonshiners back in the woods were mostly brought in by the federal revenue agents, federal prohibition agents. The head of the enforcement here of the national prohibition law was a big bluff pleasant fellow by the name of Julius Johnson. He was the head prohibition man for the enforcement service in this area. And Julius Johnson headed the agents, and they would arrest these moonshiners back in the woods and haul 'em in with their mash and their moonshine, haul 'em in. Now the ordinary moonshiner was back in the woods. He didn't have much money and if he had any he claimed he didn't so he could get an attorney

appointed for him. But of course the real big money was ^{all} made by the bootleggers who brought it in from Canada who ran it in here and sold to the well-to-do people. And the big liquor dealers were around Lewiston though they ran it in here regularly and up in the Couer d'Alenes. And I might say that Idaho had had a prohibition law before the national prohibition law came in that Latah County and Moscow had been dry by local option. It was dry when I first came to Moscow. But Moscow and Latah County, aside from our wooded areas out here was the most law abiding as far as prohibition law of any in the state because the university was located here and we had a sober, high class, law abiding citizenry here. This and the fact that the university was here, we didn't have the violations in town that they had in other places like in Lewiston and Couer d'Alene and Boise and Idaho Falls and places like that. In fact, up at Wallace and Kellog the prohibition law was openly disregarded. As a matter of fact it resulted in the mayor and the sheriff and two-thirds of the county officials being hauled into the federal court at Couer d'Alene, charged with conspiracy to violate the national prohibition law. But here in Moscow we kept it down pretty well. We had an active sheriff--a fellow by the name of Charlie Summerfield. One of his principle deputies was Roy Garrison, the deputy that used to drive me around when I went out on matters throughout the county. I was prosecuting attorney here for four terms myself, and then I served a year and a half before that as deputy to C. J. Orland who had been appointed but he was an older man and he didn't want to undertake this running around on the criminal cases so he said he'd take the job only if I was appointed as deputy. So I did the handling of the ordinary criminal cases and making the investigations and so forth. Of course, George K. Moody that everybody knows as Hap came in as the office man; he'd worked for the Potlatch. A fine man, he was the deputy. We used to pick up when we had something on over around Bovill

or Potlatch we'd ^{use to} often pick up J. F. Jordan who was a young fellow livin' over at Viola and take him along. And he later became a regular deputy and then after Summerfield died, after Moody retired, Jordan became sheriff and was sheriff here for years. A fine officer, he died here recently. Now when I first came to Moscow Jim Cane was the sheriff. And for a while one of my jobs that I had was being the night jailer up at the old jail at the old courthouse. At that time the old jail, the very old jail, the first jail that was a separate building built later that was supplanted by the present jail, the old jail was in the old courthouse building that had been built in 1889. And the deputy who had been the night jailer was married and he didn't like to stay there at night so Jim Cane told me that if I wanted to sleep there and be the night jailer I could have the room. So that gave me a fine chance so I moved in to this room that was infested with bedbugs. We didn't have all the things to kill 'em you have now but I certainly put, oh that old jail was full of bedbugs and my quarters were full of bedbugs. But I fought 'em with hot water and powders and finally cleaned 'em out pretty well in my room. And one of the great advantages then was that the night jailer, or at least I did, I fed the prisoners in the morning and fed 'em at night, so I got to eat the prisoners food in the evening and I could get my breakfast in the morning so that was a wonderful stay for a while. But of course, after I got started practicin' law I couldn't very well be the night jailer so I had to give up that job.

SAM Were most of the people who were in jail there for bootleggin' or moonshinin'?

A G: Most of them were there for liquor cases. We had a few more serious crimes. Some burglaries, embezzlements and a few others. But you see, the county made a profit from keeping the federal prisoners because there's lots of federal prisoners, they had to put them someplace so we had lots of federal prohibition violators and federal people charged with prohibition offenses. We were kept

there by the county; the jail was always full.

Well, I want to tell you a little bit about prohibition here and about Moscow when I first came here. Now as I said, Moscow was a very really pretty sober law-abiding town, right here in town. The churches were very strong, the evangelical churches, and you see, prohibition started largely with the evangelical churches: the Methodists, the Baptists, the Congregationalists and some of these churches were strong for prohibition on moral grounds. They felt that if we could do away with the evils of liquor that there would be no more poverty, that we could close up the jails, that men wouldn't be spendin' their money in saloons and taking it away from their families. It had a noble purpose. And it was furthered by the evangelists that used to come to Moscow. The one I remember best was a man by the name of ^{Bulgin}, he was a man with a national reputation. Now ^{Bulgin} used to come here and other evangelists and they'd put up a big tent east of what is now the old post office building. That was a vacant lot there except for the house of Sam Owings at the corner there where the state employment office now is. Sam Owings, he's an oldtimer here, had his home. But the rest was a vacant lot. And they'd put up a big tent there and then these churches would go around and get pledges and they'd bring an evangelist in here and he'd have a week or ten days of evangelistic meetings. I looked in on one or two of 'em. They were pretty strong. He would point out the evils of drink and would call on the people to come for ^{ward} and be saved and he used to tell 'em that what if they walked home and they fell through a board sidewalk and were killed and they weren't saved. And they'd go to hell and they'd burn in hell and he pointed the pictures of hell and damnation. He denounced these fellows who operated and played at dance halls. Right across the street from the old tent where the evangelistic services were held was the old Eggan Hall and that's where the public dances were held. There was a group called

the Mann Brothers who originally started in Colfax. And they used to come up and play for dances, these were public dances. And of course I remember Bulgín went on about the horrors, how our young, tender young women were ruined by going to these public dances. And he denounced these irreligious, sinful, obscene, syphilitic, immoral dance orchestras like the Mann Brothers. Well, now I knew the Mann Brothers; they originally started in Colfax. They were pretty good folks. Their music, it was lively music, the jazz had come in but it was really music, not the kind of trash that we get over this negroid trash that we get over the radio now, it really had rhythm. And as a result of his denouncing the Mann Brothers in those terms they sued him. And he could just prove these terms. And the case was eventually settled, but of course these wild charges that he made were, they were fine for a sympathetic audience but the dances weren't that bad, nor the people that operated them weren't that bad.

SAM: That Mann Brothers brought suit in other words?

A G Oh yes, the Mann Brothers brought suit in the district court. And I don't know how much they brought for a great big sum, I don't know how much it was settled for. Originally the case was thrown out by Judge Steele on the ground that the Mann Brothers wouldn't submit to a physical examination to see if they had syphilis. But it went to the supreme court and the court promptly sent it back and said, "Why they don't have to sweat it, when he makes charges like that it's up to him to prove it. They don't have to prove his case." And of course, they weren't syphilitic and they lived for years down in Lewiston, died respected citizens down there. Now sure there were things that were bad about those early dances and there was some drinking. We used to have trouble out at the dances that were held out at in this outlying Potlatch and around but they weren't quite that immoral. What was being denounced was the immorality

of dancing. And It was a long while before they permitted high school students to go to dances and things of that kind.

SAM: But the evangelists were then, in the revival saying really that drinking and dancing were. . .

A G: Why, the great evils of modern life: the drinking and dancing. Well, we finally got state prohibition, then we got national prohibition.

SAM: Well, let me just ask you this: Do you feel that the prohibition locally, local option came in because of the revivalist influence and . . . ?

A G: Well, I won't say it was the revivalists, they furthered it. But, you know, there was a lot of feeling of fine churches^{members}, and it was noble in objective to do away. . . You can't very well justify the amount of money that's being spent for liquor. It'd better be spent for schools. And now you see the school gets a cut on what's sold in the liquor here. The purpose was good but the trouble was that the liquor became a forbidden fruit. And if we go back to the Bible you know we all got in trouble, Adam and Eve got in trouble over the forbidden fruit. Immediately that it became illegal then people had to have it. It's part of human nature. And instead of emptying the jails , it filled the jails. And it was taken over by the criminal element. It was running here, the liquor that was running here. And the best citizens socially, they served liquor. And it came to be accepted. And the worst part of it is in my teenages why any woman that drink hard liquor, why of course she was on the way to damnation. No moral woman of any standing drank hard liquor. Oh, the doctor might give her something as a stimulant, but the women drank a little light wine after a dinner, they might serve some sweet wine. And they might at a holiday drink something just politely do it. But most women didn't touch liquor. And the girls, it was unheard of for a girl or a young woman to drink liquor. And when I was in college, a fellow that came to a college dance with liquor on

his breath, the girls all avoided him. Why sure, it was socially ^{fit} the thing to do. Well, now this prohibition changed it all around. Here the girls went into these speakeasies, not so much, we didn't have speakeasies in Moscow but in your cities, why then it became the fashionable thing to go to these speakeasies and so on. And why the women that never thought of taking a drink before it became the socially acceptable thing to drink. And the best people served liquor. And they were served some horrible stuff though because this that was made by these moonshiners was pretty poor stuff. And of course they concocted all kinds of things to put into liquor that was sold, not so much here, but in your cities, denatured alcohol, that alcohol that had injected in it either carbolic acid or wood alcohol to make it unpalatable. It smelled like alcohol, it was mixed in this bootleg whiskey that was sold; it would blind or paralyze people and of course your good citizen and your evangelist had said that it would do away with this skid row business and so on. That we wouldn't have these hopeless addicts to alcohol lying around the streets in our cities. Well, it worked out just the reverse. They simply turned to hair tonics; they turned to anything that smelled of alcohol; they turned to perfume, canned heat, bay rum, radiator anti-freeze and anything that had the odor of alcohol. And the worst was Jamaica Ginger, and it got to be called "Jake". It was ninety per cent alcohol. And these fellows would drink this Jamaica Ginger or "Jake" and that would bring on paralysis. And it got to be so you could know one of these, instead of a wino, you had a fellow with what's called a "Jake" leg. You could tell by the way he walked that he was an addict of Jamaica Ginger.

SAM: How did he walk?

A G: Well, he went with a halting gait, like he could barely drag his feet along. And you could tell it by his walk that he had "Jake" leg. Then you see one

of the things that was interesting: there was lots of home brewing. There was malt and hops sold. It was perfectly legal to sell 'em because it wasn't alcoholic and of course they took it home and made^{it} into beer. The amount of home brewing was widespread. And one of the interesting items was bricks of dehydrated grapes that had a warning on them. And it said: "Warning: Do not put this in a gallon of water and leave it for twenty-one days or it will become intoxicating. It will become wine and that is illegal." And there was widespread evasion. And the worst of it was that it was the best citizens of the community that were doing it. And that the big money that was made by these bootleggers and the crime that they developed as a result of it. The rum runners at sea, the runners of rum across the border. Look, we had maybe, oh, maybe 4500 prohibition agents and two thousand and more miles of boundary between here and Canada, it came across there. It was a terrible thing. And these people though were very strong as prohibition proved hard to enforce, I remember an experience that I had. I was up the courthouse one day after I had been prosecuting attorney for one term and a delegation wanted to see me. So^{we} went into a room and this was a delegation from the WCTU. Very earnest, very fine women. And they said that this was a national moment and that they wanted me to take a pledge on law enforcement. Well I said, "I'm very much interested. I've tried my best to enforce the prohibition law here. As you know I do not use intoxicants myself and I can say honestly that I never took an illegal drink of liquor in my life." And I can't say that was true^{ly} in some other areas of law enforcement officials. But well, they said, "We have this pledge we want you to sign." And I read it over and it said, "I hereby pledge that if I'm re-elected as prosecuting attorney I will enforce the prohibition laws above all other laws." Well, I said, "Ladies, I don't believe I can sign that." Well, they said, "Why not,

Mr. Goff? Well, I said, "We have laws against burglary and murder and bank robbery and embezzlement and grand larceny and I've taken an oath to observe the constitution of the United States and to faithfully enforce the laws of the state of Idaho. And I don't believe I can sign this. I certainly will do my very best to enforce the prohibition law and we've been quite reasonably successful here compared to other counties." Well, they said, "We're very sorry Mr. Goff, that you take this attitude." And they very politely left me and thereafter they came out for another candidate and worked against me all through the campaign and fortunately I made it.

But you see the difficulty is that in their zeal, that was one of the troubles with the whole situation. And the worst thing about prohibition was the money that was made by the unlawful elements, the congestion of the courts, the drinking that was brought on among women and girls and college students. Nobody could have foreseen that, The old saloon was bad enough but it was confined to men and the good citizen didn't like to be around a saloon very much. A banker didn't want to be seen too much in a saloon and it was confined to the men. But unfortunately it had a very bad effect. And we had some interesting affairs here, oh, we used to have some great court terms. We had an enforcement, the marshal up at, it was old Pat Malone up at Bovill. There's lots of stories told about Pat Malone. Now we had a lot of cases of fellows selling liquor to lumberjacks, and fellows who made liquor and sold it to lumberjacks. But there was not a lot of money in it. These lumberjacks were not real criminals. We caught 'em with it, yes, possession of liquor but it wasn't a very serious offense. But old Pat, I remember caught some up there, took 'em down to Troy to the justice of the peace. On the way down they had some whiskey that was seized and one of them said to Pat, "Why Pat, why don't you let us have a drink? We're caught now, and let's have a drink." Well, Pat was a good natured Irishman and he let 'em

have a drink. Unfortunately by theytime they got to the justice of the peace they drank up all the liquor. Oh, there was a lot of things that happened like that. I had some interesting cases in the federal court over liquor, and of course they always claimed that the mash that was caught was used to feed their pigs. And of course, they couldn't explain the sugar that was in it. And the crushed corn, that they'd got it to feed their stock and all that. It was a great old game as far as the moonshiners were concerned. But the ones that are really bad are the ones that sold the bad liquor that blinded people and so on. But we didn't have that so much here. (Break)

(End of Side B)

A G: No, we, as I said, there were lots of more trial work then. Not only prohibition cases but other cases. Very much more trial work. There seemed to be more criminal trial work. Some of the early cases I remember when I first was admitted to the bar was the trial of A. S. Frost for burning down his garage, a trail for arson. That attracted great attention. Frost was charged with burning down his garage for the insurance. He had heavily insured it. I prosecuted that case in my first year as prosecuting attourney. It was a long case; it took us five or six days to trial, we had a jury. The principle witness against Frost was a fellow that the sheriff's force had run down that thad said he had been hired by Frost to set the building on fire. And it was a bitterly tried case. The evidence was overwhelming against Frost although Frost, like a lot of other defendants was able to bring a lot of witnesses as to his good reputation. But this witness testified positively. He was a transient that testified he had been hired by Frost to set the building on fire and told how he did it. But in the instruction to the jury, Judge

Steele was the judge then. And it's a rule of law that you may not convict a person of any crime on the uncorroborated testimony of an accomplice. Uncorroborated meant that there must be some independent circumstances apart from the testimony of the accomplice that would tend to connect the defendant with the offense. Well, old Judge Steele, I don't want to do him too much of an injustice but in the instruction to the jury he laid down that in great particularity about that the corroboration that was necessary for the testimony of an accomplice. And he laid stress in it by tone of voice and everything else. I always suspected that he was--well, I hate to say this but a little tied in with both both Ovesmith, and they were great friends, and with Frost. But it was as much the inflection as the long and detailed instruction to the jury anyway after a prolonged, all night session the jury brought in a verdict of acquittal. Now some of the sheriff's force and I did, talked to the jurors afterwards and without exception they said, "Why of course, we knew he was guilty, but with the instruction the court gave us why we couldn't believe any of his testimony. Why, we couldn't convict him without that." So Frost was acquitted. But that was a major case and a great disappointment to me but I had better fortune in a good many others. But that attracted a lot of interest ^{here} and in the Northwest, this trial of Frost for arson. And as a matter of fact, Frost never did collect his money for the insurance because they refused to pay and finally Frost abandoned an effort to try to force 'em to pay. So he got nothing out of it and Frost left here afterwards. (Break)

A G:..Mention here, and it was about the middle term of when I was prosecuting attorney was the case of State versus Ohr for the attempted robbery of Tommy Mathews. Now, T. D. Mathews was a graduate of the university who had been a track man and was the track coach at the university, I think shortly after I graduated. A very well respected son of pioneer families; the farm

was out here north of Moscow. Now after he left his coaching at the university, Mathews operated a lunch counter and coffee shop and soft drink place near the entrance to the university and catty-corner across from where the LDS Building is now, well or was where the LDS Building is now. It's near the entrance to the university, I guess that's been torn down now. But it's right, almost directly in front of where the front steps of the university is now. And it was a little east of where the Dean J G. Eldridge house was. Well now this was a favorite rendezvous of students and Mathews used to keep it open until midnight at night, it would open in the early morning. They could get coffee, students stop and get lunches there. It was a very popular student rendezvous. And it usually closed at midnight and go on home. Mathews lived ^{clear} across town and over in the general area where the Roman Catholic Church stands, it's over in there. And it was his custom each night when he closed up to take his proceeds and get into his car and drive on home at night. Well, this particular night Mathews closed up his place, took his purse with his cash in it and so on, his proceeds for the day, went out and got into his car, drove across after midnight, across town, and when he had got across Main Street and had gotten up in the neighborhood ^{of} where the--well, it's the George K. Moody place, where it used to be the parsonage of the Lutheran Church, and up in that corner up here, somebody rose up from behind and hit him on the head with a leather covered blackjack, hit him on the head and knocked him out. And of course the car ran into the curb and when he came to the car was wrecked and his purse was gone.

Well, there's a long story about how we ran the thing down, but of course here was a very popular business and well known Moscow character had been robbed, had been knocked in the head with a blackjack ^{when} he was going home with the proceeds. . .

DAM: Could you say very briefly how it was run down, I'm really curious.

A G: Well, of course, there was a young fellow by the name of Ohr, Harry Ohr, who is not related to any of the Ohrs here now, but for several reasons it was suspected he'd ^{been} hangin around up there. He'd gone up there and he'd gotten into some minor troubles and the sheriff's office suspected him among others. He'd been up around this place. And there were some other reasons that caused us to connect him with it. But the principle investigator was our own George K. Moody, ~~old~~ Hap Moody. And somehow old Hap who had ^{always} ~~kind of~~ ^{even} hung around the campus ~~evn~~ those days, had been interested up there. And he did a lot of questionin and running the thing down and so old Hap Moody finally, and of course I did a lot of questioning of people for all the incidences of it and talked many times to Matthews, and Matthews did look up and get a hasty look at the man who bent over him and hit him because the fellow coughed and Matthews turned around, heard this noise, and just as he turned around, why he was hit on the head. But he got a glimpse of the fellow and there was something about him that the general idea of some of the possible description of about the same size, though it was dark, of this Harry Ohr. But there was some light from the streetlight there, but he couldn't identify him. But it was some kind of a hasty--it could have been him. But anyway, ol Hap Moody went down to the Ohr house, ~~and~~ finally, and shortly after this took place when he found his suspicions. And he went out in the trash heap and where the ashes were thrown from the Ohr house. And he quietly gathered up those ashes, all the ashes he could find. And then he sifted 'em carefully and low and behold he sifted out the metal part of a purse, a ~~cash~~ ^{cash}, one of these long leather bank purses that you carry cash and bills in. Then he took that out carefully and shined it up, took it to Mathews and Mathews, yes, he couldn identify it, that was his purse. Yes, it was a special purse and it was of a special character.

And it came I believe, the First Trust Bank, but there were some special markings on it that he could identify it. Well, then there were a lot of other little leads that were worked out. And there were a lot of people in the bank and there was a lot interest in this thing. It finally resulted in me filing a criminal charge against Ohr for the attempted robbery and criminal assault on T. D. Mathews. We tried the case and it was a well tried case. Ohr employed A. L. Morgan, and A.L. Morgan was an able and excellent lawyer. He later became a very good district judge here, and he was an able lawyer and I respected him. And he defended Ohr ably but finally the jury, principally upon the testimony of Hap Moody convicted Harry Ohr. Ohr appealed it to the supreme court and that was a hard fought case in the supreme court. The ^{assistant} attorney general took a rather dim view of the prosecution but I secured the permission of the supreme court to argue the cases, that it was on technical grounds, some of the technical points of the trial that the appeal was taken. And the deputy attorney general argued it on the ground, that on technical grounds that it ought to be set aside on some of the proceedings on the trial of it. I think we tried it by old Judge Steele and George Steele by that time was not in his prime and there were some questions, but I went down and secured the permission of the supreme court to argue it on the behalf of the state. And I argued it before the supreme court myself. I made part of the argument. And fortunately, the supreme court said the evidence was so overwhelming, they disregarded some of this other and Ohr was convicted and of course was sent to the penitentiary. But it was certainly a case that attracted widespread interest here and throughout the whole Northwest. We had some reporters here from quite a few places. It was a very interesting case.

Now of course, there were a lot of other cases, I tried lots of other cases and later went out as I was re-elected in 1932 when the big Democratic

landslide took place, and then I didn't run again.

Transcribed and typed by Kathy Blanton

AG: In Moscow, and I hope this is coming through here. The leading businessmen here of course were up and down Main Street there'd been of course the brew^{ery} run by old man Franzel. But of course, it went out with prohibition. And he didn't try to make near beer. Some of the brew^{eries} made near beer. They'd make beer and take the alcohol out of it. ^{It} Couldn't be more than half of one percent. And the Amheiser-Busch Company put out what was called "Beevo", which was fairly popular near beer. It tasted something like beer but it had less than one half of one percent alcohol, though it proved quite popular in certain circles because they could get ahold of some alcohol and ^{spike} it. And if they didn't have any alcohol they would spike it with most anything. Ether was the most common. It would give a kick. I've known people to ^{even} drink A-1 Sauce like that. Just something that would give a horrible kick to it. But Frazel didn't attempt to make beer. Later it became what we called the Moscow Vinegar Works. Well, when I first came to Moscow, of course, down on toward the North End of town, it wasn't built up there at all, ^{out} that way. And there weren't any buildings around the university except there were a few houses up there. ^{the} Gurloughs lived at the entrance to the university and Dean Eldridge and the Dean of the Mining School lived, ^{had} houses up there. Near the entrance of the university. That was Elm Street was a mud street. And quite a lot of Moscow was paved after I came here. The Main Street had been paved when I came here. But in those days of course the automobile, oh, there were a few cars. Neely and Sons ran a taxi service with horses and cabs. And then later eventually got into the automobile used as a cab. But there was quite a lot of muddy streets. Particularly up around the university. I remember some of the businessmen when I first started to practice law here was the Butterfield and Elder Implement Company, down by Sixth Street. Old Zumhoff and Collins had a blacksmith shop down there. In the neighborhood of where the Kenworthy Theater is. Across the street was old George Webber's harness shop. And up a little ways. Then Charlie Blanchard had a tobacco place and Cardroom there. He sold tobacco and played cards. The Mark P. Miller had a big

mill and had built these big elevators. He built some first and the second group, I worked on, as I told you, in as you got uptown, why of course, the most important place in town was the Moscow Hotel. It was run by Tom Wright. Wonderfully well run. A fine and well liked man. The Hotel had originally been built by old Colonel Barton. But, the Barton House. But the Moscow Hotel was the center of everything then. And of course then there was Judge Hodgins and the Hodgins drugstore. Hodgins had been one of the early settlers, very early settlers in the '70's. As a boy he grew up over by Genesee. He was the first probate judge of the county when Latah county was formed by an act of Congress. And by the way, as you know, this is I guess about the only county in the United States was created by an act of Congress. The First National Bank was there on the corner. It was a three story building, and up above was a lodge hall. Course, that's been torn down. Across the street, as I remember it, there was a barn over there, back of the First National Bank was the, Carl Grize had his undertaking establishment. As I remember it, the First Trust and Savings Bank was up the street a little ways, but after I started to practice law, they built the fine building, ^{that} the ^F first Security Bank is lodged in now. The other bank across where the abstract office, there was a women's shop there in that building, was the Moscow State Bank, ^{it} was operated by Robert Whittier as President and Harry Whittier as cashier. They were very fine and active people here. Businessmen here. That went down in the depression in 1933. Of course, Chris Hagen, and Hagen and Cushing had a ^{big} meat market and grocery store next to Creighton's store. And of course, Hagen and Cushing had a packing plant out east of town, out in the area where they now have the baseball park and field, soccer field out there. Creighton's was operating. Vic Ramstedt was a younger man then, now gone. His son now operates it, the business. And going a little further up the street was the Pastime Pool Hall. Now the Pastime Pool Hall was the poor man's club. It was a fairly large establishment. On one floor, the ground floor they had a lunch counter, a big one. They had, the people go in there and

play cards. They could buy soft drinks and coffee there. But the Pastime Pool Hall stayed open, never closed. It was open day and night. There's a big stove in there. Anybody could go in there. In the wintertime anybody that was cold could go in there. I remember there was one character called old Posy, who lived in a shack down on the north end of town here. He used to go in there, he was kind of a half witted fella. He'd come in there, and Art Ransom ran the, and owned the Pastime Pool Hall and he lived up in a nice bungalow house up across west of the old Court House. Ransom was a very interesting man. A vey quiet, very, he never got excited. He was always in the background. But as a prosecuting attorney, I can say that there was never a better run establishment that we had there in all the years I was prosecuting attorney. We never had any offenses committed there. Never had any trouble with liquor. He kept it in perfect order, never had any trouble with gambling. Hunters ^{Used to} go in there that'd go hunting and get up at three o'clock in the morning, you could always go in and get a good meal there. If you came in the middle of the night. And even college students, of course no girl or woman would ever go in there, 'cause that was strictly the domain of the men, but they used to send somebody in to get hamburgers and so on. And really it was an asset to the town. He didn't sell any magazines. I can say that it was the poor man's friend and the lumberjack that came in, I can remember, it was a standing joke that when the first snow fell and the lumberjack would walk out in front and the snow would be coming down, somebody would say to him, "Now aren't you sorry that you didn't hang on to your summer wages?" But they could always go into the Pastime. There was some benches there. And of course, he did a good business. There was pool tables there. It was frowned on by the very churchy part ^{the} of town. But actually it was the best run establishment of its sort that I've ever known. And of course it passed when Art Ransom passed because somehow, he could get along with everybody and he operated it there. Then of course, further on down, and across the street was what had been the old department store, what's now

the Thatuna Apartments. That had gone out and there was stores in there and then of course, there were stores in there and they remodeled it in my early days in Moscow, that is, when I was practicing law, into the Thatuna Apartments. But that had been a great department store in the early days that attracted a lot of business to Moscow. And of course, further down the street on the east side of Main Street was the Washburn Wilson Seed Company. ^{Office} And then of course, over to the railroad, ^were their warehouses and so on. And of course, to go back on the west side of Main Street, and I'm passing out a lot of, up a lot of places, I know, I should mention that there was the closed Harvester plant down there where the early football games had been played. And on the east side of the street beside what became the Thatuna Apartment^s was the Fred Sams Furniture store, the Elk's Lodge, the old Idaho Hotel and then later they built the Moscow Grange Building there. In that area. And of course coming up further uptown was the Willis Drugstore. There was the Moscow State Bank, the Abstract Office, there was Robbins Pool Hall in there that was run by one of the Robbins brothers. There was another, Grant Robbins, who was a chief ^{of} police and a fine officer. Will Robbins ran the pool hall. And then there was Charlie Bolles, the corner drugstore. Charlie was a well known pioneer druggist. Across the street was David's Department Store. Frank David was still alive with his four sons. Homer, Howard, Earl and Don, but Don had graduated in 1917, had gone back to Harvard where later he became Dean of the Harvard Business School. I should mention that on Third Street was the, further on down, was the old Pleasant Home Boarding House. Grize undertaking parlor. There was a, the old business college was up above where the jewelry store and sheep shop is now. I'll think of his name later. Across the street was Jerry's Cigar store where he sold peanuts and ^{hot} popcorn and Jerry had started with a peanut and popcorn stand there on Third Street and finally, it was a portable one that used to be rolled up on wheels. Then he got his little, Jerry's Store there.

And across the street was the old grocery store. I can't remember the name of the grocery store. Opposite^t was the Table Supply, a local grocery store. Herman Wilson had operated the store on the sight where Jerry's, on the north side. He got into the Washburn Wilson Seed Company. And a fellow by the name of Davis took it over. And this Davis was a very unusual fellow. He had his boys there and Davis did ^{fairly} well with the store and then he went to Florida. And he proved to be a very unusual executive. He built up what is now the Winn-Dixie Stores Inc. which covers all of Texas, it's the leading mercantile grocery, food supply chain in Florida. His sons have become vice-presidents and ^{one} of them a graduate of the University of Idaho that used to clerk in the store part time. Is now one of the vice-presidents. A very fine young fellow at Colfax that I knew his family well, from over there. His name is Hollingsworth, Howard Hollingsworth. ^{He's} become a real executive now and a vice-president of Winn Dixie stores and he started his work part time in Davis' store. Now further up of course, Kenworthy had his theater there, his first theater next to that. And back of that was the, Frost had a garage. And later it was burned down. Then George Bluez had a garage there. And of course, ^{then} there was the post office. And across the street from the post office, I've kind of forgotten what some of, there didn't seem to be much of a house or two there and then there was Eggan Hall there where the Market Time drugstore is. That was the main meeting place for dances and general community meetings ^{were} there. And then further up was the old DAR hall. The I mean the GAR, The Grand Army of the Republic Hall, ^{had} burned down before I came to Moscow. But that was pointed out where it was. And at the corner there, across from where the parking lot by the Methodist church is, was the, George Lamphere lived there. Now George Lamphere was a very interesting ^s man. George Lamphere had run the weekly Idaho Post. And then he consolidated with the Star-Mirror, had the Star-Mirror. And then later there developed this big fight between Frank B. Robinson's newspaper and the Star-Mirror that resulted after Lamphere's death, in the merger of the two in what

is now the Idahonian. But that was the merger of the News-Review and the Star-Mirror. That's a long story about that. I was involved in that. When Dr. Frank B. Robinson had his Psychiana, which was deserves a story all it's own. The lawyers, when I started to practice, I should mention that down the street, Charlie Carter ^{had} just started his, he had the Carter's drugstore, he put that in about the same time I started to practice law. And next to him was the Parisian which was operated by Stewart. We called him Fanny Stewart. Stewart had some wonderful women's clothing there. He used to go back to New York each year and get it. And the city hall was next to that. Then across the street was R.B. Wards Hardware and paint store. And further on down there, other buildings. Penneys was there, was a service station down on the next block. I've just tried to hit some of the leading businessmen we had here at the time. I ought to mention Hawkin Melgaard and Bill Cahill at the First Trust and Savings Bank. Claude Renfrew and John Heckathorn at the First National Bank of Moscow. Which was then an independent bank. Chris Hagan of course was an early senator from this county. Fred Veatch was a prominent real estate and businessman. His business was eventually taken over by Martin Mickey. There was George Richardson, who later became mayor of Moscow, who was the ^{station} agent for the the Spokane and Inland Railway that came in in 1908 and later was taken over by the Great Northern Railway. There was Oscar Bonnett who came out from Kansas with the Washburn Wilson Seed Company. Who later became a wonderfully fine man who's son ^{was} Robert Bonnett, who's carried on the fine tradition of his father for public service. A wonderful family, Oscar Bonnett and his son Robert Bonnett. There was Tim Sullivan who ran the foreign garage and was one of the directors of the Moscow State Bank, he was the early Ford Dealer here. A leading citizen. I've spoken about Joe Gilmore, who operated the vinegar works. And of course there was Gub Mix who became lieutenant govenor, who was active in politics, ^{who} was a prominent graduate of the university. And there was his brother, Frank Mix who lived out north of town. ^{who} Took over the old Frank Barton

house. That later after Mix died was taken over by the man who ran the creamery here. It was taken over by Corter later. Course, Corter's now passed and what used to be the old Moscow creamery is now where the city hall is. Now I want to mention of course, that Moscow's probably most prominent citizen in the state was Jerry, Jerome J. Day, the mining man who had his palatial home here in Moscow. But he also had a home in Wallace. He was a member of the famous Day family that was the wealthy mining man and he was a regent of the university and a graduate of the university. The , I think some of the old timers will remember Charlie Thompson who used to run the old Abstract Office. And then there was Fred McGowan, ^{who worked for him} an interesting old bachelor who was baldheaded and his head came up to a point. But those were some of the oldtimers in business when I came in here. Now the lawyers: When I came in I was the youngest ^{lawyer}, they was all old time lawyers when I came in. I got a chance to go into the office of C.J. Orlund who was an old time lawyer here. His partner, William E. Lee who was had been a prominent lawyer who had been elected to the Supreme Court of the state of Idaho. And Lee had left his office vacant there. And at the suggestion of Bill Lee, whom I knew, I went in to see Mr. Orlund, told him I wanted to practice law and he said, "I'll tell you Abe, I'll let you come in here. You can have Lee's old office. ^{I'll let you} use my library and you can pay me ten dollars a month rent." And that's how it started out. Then later when Orlund as a compromise with several aspirants was appointed city attorney on the death of the man who had been elected, in prosecuting attorney, Orlund was appointed and he'd take the job only in case he had a deputy to do the running around. And I was appointed the deputy. And then, I served for nearly two years as his deputy and then I ran for prosecuting attorney and was elected for four terms myself. The leading attorneys here in Moscow at that time were August H. Oversmith, who was an old time attorney and had practiced at Troy before he came up here. Frank Moore and his son Lathan Moore, who had graduated just before I did. And Lathan had started in with his father. Of course, my

C.J. Orlund with whom, who later took me in as a partner. There was George Pickett, who had his office up above the Sams Furniture Store down towards the Elks Club. There was the man known as Judge Warren Truitt. He was very much older. It was an honorary title of judge for Warren Truitt. A very well thought of, handsome old gentleman. Then there was also Judge J.H. Forney who had been ^aregent of the university and had been its attorney in the early days. His also was an honorary title of judge because they often would call some venerable old lawyer, well respected, call him judge. Then there was Al Morgan and Bill Morgan, although William Morgan had just gone to Boise and he later was elected to the Supreme Court. His brother, Al Morgan, was practicing here. There was another old attorney in the back end of the First National ^{Building} named H.R. Smith. H.R. Smith was a respected old timer here, who didn't have any trial practice but had some probate practice. And H.R. Smith, I'll always remember a pleasant old gentleman with a goatee. A staunch Congregational church member. Father of Harvey Smith. H.R. Smith had been admitted to the bar back before they had the rule that you had to be ^{admitted by} the Supreme Court and he admitted in territorial days, by the district court here. He'd only been admitted to the district court, but he was practicing. Then there was Louis Peterson had been admitted to the bar, but he then was city clerk. There was also Thomas Feene who also practicing here. And Adrian Nelson had been admitted to the bar. He was an early graduate of the university but Adrian Nelson had been elected probate judge. And was probate judge ^{though}. He'd been practicing here and there was a A.L. Morgavitch who had been a deputy sheriff I think was the probate judge when I first came to Moscow. Now as I said, there were was lots more trial work then. Not only prohibition cases, but other cases. Very much more trial work. There seemed to be more criminal trial work. Some of the early cases I remember when I first was admitted to the bar was the trial of A.S. Frost for burning down his garage. A trial for arson. That attracted great attention. Frost was charged with burning down his garage for the insurance.

He^{id} heavily insured it. I prosecuted that case in my first year as prosecuting attorney. It was a long case. It took^{us} five or six^{days} of trial. We had a jury. The principal witness against Frost was a fellow that the sheriff's force had run down that said he had been hired by Frost to set the building on fire. And it was a bitterly tried case. The evidence was overwhelming against Frost, although Frost, like a lot of other defenses had been able to bring a lot of witnesses^{as} to his good reputation. But this witness testified positively, he was a transient that testified he had been hired by Frost to set the building on fire. And told how he did it. But in the instruction to the jury, Judge Steele was the judge then. And its a rule of law that you may not convict a person of any crime on the uncorroborated testimony of an accomplice. Uncorroborated meant that there must be some independent circumstances apart from the testimony of the accomplice that would tend to connect the offendant with the offense. Well old Judge Steele, I don't want to do him too much of an injustice, but in ~~his~~^{the} instruction to the jury he laid down that in great particularity about the corroboration that was necessary for the testimony of an accomplice! He laid it and laid stress ^{on} it by tone of voice and everything else. I've always suspected he was, I hate to say this , but a little tied in with both Oversmith, they were great friends^{and} with Frost, but it was as much the inflection as the long and detailed instruction to the jury. Anyway, after a prolonged all night session, the jury brought in a verdict of acquittal. Now, some of the sheriff's force, and I did talk to ^{the} jurors afterwards and without exception they said, "Of course we knew he was guilty, but with the instruction the court gave us, we couldn't believe any of his testimony. We couldn't convict him without that." So Frost was acquitted, but that was a major case. A great disappointment to me, but I had better fortune than a good many others, But that attracted a lot of interest here^{and} in the Northwest, this trial of Frost arson. And as a matter of fact, Frost never did collect his money for the insurance because they refused to pay

and finally Frost abandoned an effort to ^{try to} force 'em to pay. And so he got nothing out of it. And Frost left here afterwards. Now another case...

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AG: ...should mention here and it was about the middle term of when I was prosecuting attorney was the case of State vs. Orr for the attempted robbery of Tommy Mathews. Now, T.D. Mathews was a graduate of the university. Who had been a track man and was the track coach, at the university, I think shortly after I graduated. A very well respected son of pioneer families. The farm was out here north of Moscow. Now after he left his coaching at the university, Mathews operated a lunch counter and coffee shop and soft drink place near the entrance to the university. And across, catty corner across from where the LDS building is now. Or was where the LDS building is now. It's near the entrance to the University. I guess that's been torn down now. But it's right almost directly in front of where the front steps of the university is now. And it was a little east of where Dean ^{J.G.} Eldridge's house is. This was a favorite roundezvous of students and Mathews used to keep it open to midnight at night. It would open in early morning to get coffee, students ^{stop and} get lunches there. It was a very popular student roundezvous. They usually closed at midnight and go on home. Mathews lived across town, over on clear across town over in the general area where the Roman Catholic church stands. It's over in there. It was his custom each night when he closed up to take his proceeds and get into his car and drive ^{on} home. At night. Well, this particular night, Mathews closed up his place, took his purse with his cash in it and his proceeds for the day, went out and got into his car and drove across, after midnight, across town. And when he had got across Main Street, gotten up in the neighborhood, First Street, in the neighborhood of ^{where} the George K. Moody place, where it used to be the parsonage of the Lutheran church, and up in that corner up here, somebody rose up from behind and hit him on the head. With a shot loaded, leather covered blackjack, hit him ^{on} the head and knocked him out.

he came to, the car was wrecked. His purse was gone. There's a long story about how we ran the thing down, but of course here was a very popular campus, business, well known Moscow character had been robbed, been knocked in the head with a blackjack, ^{when he was} going home with the proceeds...

SS: Could you say briefly how it was run down?

AB: Of course, there's a young fellow by the name of Orr, Harry Orr who's not related to any of the Orrs here. ^{now} That for several reasons was suspected. He'd been hanging around there, he'd gone up there and he'd gotten into some minor troubles. He'd, and the sheriff's office suspected him and of others, he'd been up around this place. And there was some other reasons that caused it to connect it, ^{him} with it, but the principal, ^{investigator} was old George K. Moody. Old Hap Moody. And somehow old Hap, who had always kind of hung around the campus even in those days, ^{put up an interest} up there. And he did a lot of questioning and running the thing down and so, old Hap Moody finally and of course, I did a lot of questioning ^{of} people for all the instance of it and of course, talked many times to Matthews and Matthews did look up and get a hasty look at the man who bent over him and hit, him, because the fellow coughed and Matthews turned around and heard this noise and just as he turned around he was hit on the head! But he got a glimpse of the fella and there's something about him, ^{that} kind of caused him, the general idea of someone possible description of about the same size. Though it was dark, ^{of} this Harry Orr. But there was some light from the street light there, but he couldn't identify him, but it was some kind of a hasty, could have been him. Anyway, old Hap Moody went down to the Orr house. Finally and shortly after this took place when he found his suspicions and he went out in the trash heap where the ashes were thrown from the Orr house. And he quietly gathered up those ashes. All the ashes he could find. And then he sifted them carefully. And lo and behold, he sifted out ^{the} a metal part of a purse! A cash, one of these long leather bank purses that you carry cash and bills in. Then he took that out carefully and shined it up, took it to Matthews, and Matthews said yes, he

said yes, he could identify it. That was his purse, that was the part, yes, it was a special purse and it was of a special character that came I believe, from the First Trust Bank. But there was ^{some} special markings on it that he could identify. Well then there was a lot of other little leads to be worked out. There was a lot of people in the bank and there was a lot of interest in this thing. ^{It} Finally resulted in me filing a criminal charge against Orr for the attempted robbery and criminal assault on T.D. Matthews. We tried the case and it was a well tried case. Orr employed A.L. Morgan and A.L. Morgan was an able and excellent lawyer. He later became a very good district judge here. And he was an able lawyer and I respected him. And he defended Orr ably. But finally the jury, principally on the testimony of Hap Moody, convicted Harry Orr. Morgan appealed it, Orr appealed it to the Supreme Court. And that was a hard fought case in the Supreme Court. The attorney general, the assistant attorney general took a rather dim view of the prosecution. But I secured the permission of the Supreme Court to argue the case that it was on technical grounds on some of the technical points of the trial that the appeal was taken. And the deputy attorney general argued it on the technical grounds it out to be set aside on some of the proceedings of the trial of it. I think we tried it ^{by} Judge Steele, and George Steele, by that time was not in his prime and there were some questions, but I went down and secured the permission of the Supreme Court, to argue it on behalf of the state. And I argued it before the Supreme Court myself. I made part of the argument. And fortunately the Supreme Court said the evidence was overwhelming, they disregarded some of this other and Orr was convicted and of course was sent ^{WAS} to the penitentiary. But it ^{was} certainly attracted widespread interest here throughout the whole Northwest. We had some reporters here from quite a few places. It was a very interesting case. Course, there's a lot of other cases, I tried lots of other cases later went out, I was re-elected in 1932 when the big Democratic landslide took place and then I didn't run again. And I had been pressured to run

for district judge. But I came out, I'd had my fill of public office at the time. And I built up a very substantial practice of, I came out strongly for A.L. Morgan to be district judge and he eventually was elected. Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe Gillis Hodge was the judge when the Orr case was tried but Gillis Hodge had been appointed after Steele's death. And then he had been elected district judge, Gillis Hodge had, then Morgan was elected after Hodge died and proved a very good district judge here. Then I was elected to the state bar commission and then as president of the state bar and then I was elected to the state senate and then World War II came along and I was called to active duty as a reserve officer in the summer of 1921⁽¹⁹⁴¹⁾ and served five years and then came back to be elected to Congress. Then served two years. Was defeated in the Democratic landslide of Truman, I'd won out in what had been a Democratic district for thirteen terms by a two thousand vote. I was defeated by the same thing two years later. Then the next time I decided I'd either get in or out of politics and I ran for the Senate in the Republican primary. Didn't make it and I was out of politics. Thought I was. Went back to my law practice, just was enjoying it until I was induced to take the post of general councillor of the post office department. Appointed by President Eisenhower. Served as general counsel, that's ^{the} chief legally officer of the U.S. post office department. Naturally, with a big staff of lawyers. In the biggest, the largest government department except for defense but of course, the Army, Navy and Air Force, but you see, there's six hundred thousand employees in the post office department. They have an employee in every crossroads in America. That was the biggest legal civilian job in government. From that, after four years was appointed, that is, outside of the attorney general's office, I'd say that it's the most important department, the counsel's job. And then ^{from that} I was appointed by President Eisenhower to the Interstate Commerce Commission where I served for nine years as a member and as chairman. Resigning in ^{late} 1967 after ^{nine} years to come back to my home here in the Palouse country which I'd always loved and ^{where} I wanted to

spend the rest of my days because I like it out here. I had opportunities to stay in Washington but as my wife said to me, "If you take some of these other opportunities you have here, we'll just never get back to Moscow and our home and to the Palouse country and to the Pacific Northwest. Let's go if we're going to go, now." So I came back. And I've never regretted it because the people here is where my old time friends are. ^{Where} The people are industrious, law abiding, God Fearing and patriotic. Where there's the mountains near and the lakes. The entire opportunity for recreation. And thank God there isn't the racial strife nor the traffic ~~that~~ we find around a big city.

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