

February 27, 2004

For Dr. Terry Abraham

Dr. Abraham,

I thought you might find the enclosed article of interest.

With best wishes,

Harry Magnuson

\* \* \*

H. F. Magnuson

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# Treasure trove of photos found in basement of Tabor building

By CAROL ROBERTS  
Staff writer

*Handwritten note:* 2/10/11

WALLACE — After the Lavigne Drug Group purchased the Tabor Building in the late 1970s, they found a buried treasure in the basement.

No, it wasn't an abandoned gold mine, but the findings were akin to the mother lode, especially in an historical sense.

Found in the basement of the building were photo negatives of pictures developed in the Tabor Building from 1933 to 1975.

"The pictures are a history of what went on during that time period, when George Tabor or one of his employees went out and took pictures of events happening in the area," said Dale Lavigne, the president of the Lavigne Drug Group. "There are some pictures of events, such as the 1933 flood, as well as pictures of events up and down the valley, capturing a variety of incidents."

Lavigne said Tabor had a developing studio in the basement of the Tabor Building. He said when the building was purchased, they cleaned out the basement and his son Ron found the negatives, and stored them for safe keeping, but didn't think much about them.

Later, Lavigne was having a conversation with his cousin, Dick Magnuson, a longtime Wallace resident and local historian who had worked at Tabor's as a high school student, helping develop film. He suggested to Lavigne that they donate the negatives to the University of Idaho in Moscow.

Since these pictures span the years from 1933 to 1975, they are a continuation of the well known Barnard-Stockbridge Collection, currently on file at the University of Idaho Library.

The Barnard-Stockbridge Collection is one of the major resources for the study of more than 90 years of activities in the Silver Valley. Gold mines gave way to silver mines as T.N. Barnard, pupil of plains photographer L. A. Huffman, set up his studio in Wallace in the 1880s. Later, his assistant, one-eyed Nellie Stockbridge, and successor owner of the Barnard Studio, continued to take photographs until the 1960s.

"Dick and his brother Harry were instrumental in getting the Barnard-Stockbridge Collection donated to the University of Idaho," said Lavigne. "Dick ended up sorting through the 5,000 negatives found in the Tabor Building and putting them in order before they were donated to the university."

Terry Abraham, the head of special collections at the University of Idaho Library,



— File photo

George Tabor, left, is the former owner of Tabor's in Wallace. In this 1974 picture, he is celebrating his 80th birthday. Tabor first came to work at Tabor's Drugs, originally his father's business, in 1914. On the left is Rob Harper, the store's purchasing agent at the time. A plethora of photographic negatives discovered in the basement of the building were recently donated to the University of Idaho Library by the Lavigne Drug Group, which now owns the store. The pictures record Silver Valley events from 1933 to 1975 and were taken by either Tabor or a Tabor's employee.

said the negatives will eventually be sorted out and the pictures would be described. He said some of the negatives did come with identification sheets. But sometimes these aren't always accurate.

"We found out, in working with the Barnard-Stockbridge Collection, that they were identified by certain names, but this wasn't necessarily who was in the picture," said Abraham. "It could have been the person who purchased the photograph."

Abraham said the library is working to enter the photo information into the photo database, and scan the images. Eventually interested persons can sit at a computer at the library and view the images in the collection.

"But all of this takes time and money," said Abraham.

Then, as with the Barnard-Stockbridge Collection, visitors to the UI Library can search the database at the library, and look for certain images, and purchase a copy of the image.

"It is always wonderful to get images from a studio that has kept good records," said Abraham. "You get a continuum of images that run over time and you see the changes in an area taking place."



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