LATAH LEGACY

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE LATAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

in this issue:

DRY RIDGE, TROY-DEARY

NATHANIEL WILLIAMSON

Summer 1980 $1.00

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CONTRIBUTORS

Ray E. Osterberg is a native of Moscow who graduated from Moscow High School. After spending 22 years in the Air Force, he returned to school and in August 1980 he received his masters in history from Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. He is married, has 4 children and 3 grandchildren, and presently works at EWU as a computer operator. In addition to interests in golf and genealogy, he is working on research for a book on the 91st Army Division that fought in WWI from the Northwest. His mother lives in Moscow.

M. Alexis Rippel is originally from Idaho Falls, Idaho. She and her husband, who is attending law school, came to Moscow in 1977 to attend the University of Idaho. Ms. Rippel, an American studies major, will graduate in the spring of 1981. She hopes to work for a historical society in some capacity.

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Cover photo: Drawing of Williamson's Store, corner of 2nd and Main, from Williamson's final going-out-of-business sale flyer. Photo courtesy of Latah County Historical Society.

1980

In 1980 the Society replaced all the chimneys on the McConnell Mansion, had two porches restored and painted the house to a three-color scheme. A fire and security alarm system was installed in the museum. A series of 26 local history radio programs based on the oral history collection were produced and aired on four local radio stations, a historical supplement in the Daily Idahonian, written by Society members, was printed in June, and a monthly local history column was initiated in the Idahonian. The Society undertook a historical and genealogical records survey in the county, the first such survey undertaken in Idaho since the Depression. The Publications Committee republished Carol Ryrie Brink's Buffalo Coat, the first hardcover book done by the Society. A Guide to the Local History Library at the Latah County Historical Society was also published. The Quarterly became known as Latah Legacy with a complete change in size, style and format. A readers' theatre script on homesteading based on the Society's oral history collection was written. The budget was cut due to funding difficulties in the county, but the Society's museum became one of the few in the country to receive an Institute of Museum Services grant two years in a row. Local fundraising efforts also began in the fall, and the Society's membership reached 400 for the first time, making ours perhaps the largest county historical society in the state. The Society hired a Curator of Educational Services to increase its outreach programs to schools and to plan adult educational programs. Storage areas were rearranged, artifacts protected from dust and light, and conservation work done. The fourth annual Ice Cream Society and Old Time Crafts Fair was the most successful yet. Members and staff represented the Society and often gave papers at a museum conference at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland, the Idaho History Conference in Boise, the Inland Empire Museum Association Conference in Coeur d' Alene, the Idaho Library Association Conference in Moscow, the American Association for State and Local History Seminar on Museum Interpretation in Boise, the American Association for State and Local History Exhibits Workshop in Helena, the Idaho All-Museum Conference in Boise and the Washington State and Idaho State Oral History Conferences in Yakima and Boise. The Publications, Oral History, Fundraising, Quarterly, Memory Book, Restoration, Memorials and Collections Committees were active throughout the year. Through it all the Society was open to hundreds of individual visitors, classes and groups, the Mansion was often used for meetings by organizations, hundreds of photographs, books, manuscripts and museum objects were donated and cataloged, exhibits were done throughout the county, and dozens of reference questions were answered.

While you, the members, made all of this possible, a special thanks should be given to the 1980 Board of Trustees for their leadership and many hours of volunteer service on behalf of the Society.

Gerald Ingle, President
Roger Slade, First Vice President
Jeanette Talbott, Second Vice President
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Robert Hosack
John Luedke
Miriam Shelton, representative from the Moscow Historical Club
Cora Knott, representative from the Moscow Historical Club
Everett Hagen, representative from the County Commissioners

WE WISH YOU A SUCCESSFUL 1981

For John Woodworth, from
Ruth and Francis Nonini
Clara Otness
Lillian Otness
Gertie Otness

Memorials received for Donald DuSault earlier this year helped to publish *Buffalo Coat* and also refinished a platform rocker that belonged to Jennie Deal and was donated by Alma Lauder Keeling. The chair is now on exhibit in the museum.

GIFTS

Since the last *Newsletter* the following gifts have been made to the Society. We thank these individuals for their efforts to preserve Latah County History.

Mrs. Mel Thomas: Letter opener, paper weight and ink well belonging to Dr. Robert Foster of Juliaetta
Carrie Schnell: Aerial photograph of Moscow and historical clippings
Kenneth Hedglin: Local advertising materials; ledgers from Moscow's M.J. Shields Store; timber scaler; photographs
Ann Brookhyser: Marguerite David's birthday book
Clifford Ott: History of the 116th Engineers, from Idaho in WWI
Martha Long: Photographs of Kendrick area and people
Bernadine Cornelison Estate: Majolica vase and table belonging to William McConnell family; Carol Ryrie Brink, *Strangers in the Forest,* autographed by author to Ione Adair
Mrs. F.D. Thompson: Two post cards of Theodore Roosevelt speaking in Moscow
John Talbott: Woodworking tools
John and Jeanette Talbott: Sears, Wards and other catalogs, 1930s-1970s
Jeannette Petersen: 1890s product boxes
Michael Gaunt: 1971 A.C. Gilbert Chemistry Set
Keith Petersen: 1940s electric mixer
Dick Karnes: Tin cup and "Palouser" lamp
W.L. Lundquist: *Lundquist Family Genealogy*
Marian Wise: *Alice Mae Eckman Clark, Latah County Pioneer,* written by the donor
Lillian Otness: Graniteware, product boxes, household utinsils, darning egg
Erna Stubbs: WWII ration books
Marian Manis: 3-pronged pitchfork
Rose Alene Harrer McArthur: Trade token from Moscow's Wonder Bar
Alma Lauder Keeling: Photographs
D.Nels and Joyce Reese: Copies of *Saints and Oddfellows,* to be sold as part of fundraising effort

Monetary gifts have been received from:

Helen Anderson
Donna Bray
Leora Stillinger
Abe McGregor Goff
William and Janet Greever
Moscow Historical Club

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 14: Carole Smolinski, "Life Along the Rivers," 7:30 p.m., McConnell Mansion. A slide-tape program on the influence of rivers on the development of Nez Perce Co.
Jan. 15: Readers' Theatre presentation based on LCHS oral history collection, 7:30 p.m., McConnell Mansion
Jan. 16: Readers' Theatre presentation, Elk River High School, morning
Jan. 17: Readers' Theatre presentation, Cafe-Lebre, Moscow, 8:00 p.m.
Jan. 19: Readers' Theatre presentation, Troy Elementary School
Jan. 21: Crafts Demonstration and Display by Spinners Group of the Palouse Hills Weavers Guild, McConnell Mansion (tentative: please phone ahead)
Jan. 22: Readers' Theatre presentation, Juliaetta Elementary School
Jan. 23: Readers' Theatre presentation, Kendrick High School
Jan. 30: Readers' Theatre presentation, Potlatch High School, morning
Feb. 3: Readers' Theatre presentation, Bonner County Historical Soc., Sandpoint
Feb. 4: Readers' Theatre presentation, Priest River Junior High
Feb. 11: Dr. Clifford Trafzer, "Indians and Intrigues: The Palouse Problem," 7:30 p.m., McConnell Mansion
Feb. 18: Crafts Demonstration and Display by Palouse Patchers Quilting Club, McConnell Mansion
March 11: Stanley Phipps, "A Brief Look at North Idaho's Radical Labor Heritage," 7:30 p.m., McConnell Mansion
March 18: Crafts Demonstration and Display of Counted Cross Stitch Embroidery by Genevieve Clark, McConnell Mansion (tentative: please call in advance)
March 25: "Alias Harry Orchard: A Case of Reasonable Doubt," 7:30 p.m., Mansion

SPEAKER AND CRAFT SERIES TO BEGIN IN JANUARY

Karen Broenneke, Curator of Educational Services, is organizing a speakers series to be held the second Wednesday of each month in the McConnell Mansion at 7:30 p.m. Topics range from steamboating on the Snake to Palouse Indians.

Merideth Monserud, Joanne Thompson, Arlene Jonas, Dorothy Schell and Lillian Otness are planning a monthly crafts demonstration and/or display to be held in the Mansion on the third Wednesday of each month. The committee is looking for new members who would like to help plan events and is also looking for suggestions for future craft events. They would also like to borrow Samplers for their event in March and older quilts for their demonstration in February.

For specific topics, dates and times for these events, see the Calendar of Events in this *Newsletter*.

WORK DAYS AT THE MUSEUM

On the fourth Tuesday of each month, in the afternoons, the Society has volunteer work days. Tasks change each month from mailings to cataloging to a variety of other activities. If you have free time and would like to help out on the workdays you are welcome to stop by the Mansion. Coffee is always hot.

INTERNS

Dorothy Dahlgren and Ann Brookhyser served as museology interns from the University of Idaho during the fall semester. Each worked on a variety of projects, including exhibit work, but during the course of the internship each undertook one major project for the Society. Dorothy researched, cleaned and restored the dolls in the Society's collection. Now that restoration work has been done on this valuable collection, the dolls will be preserved in the museum for the future. Ann, who also served as an intern in the spring, implemented a plan to make the exhibits of the Society more accessible to the handicapped.

Nancy Luebbert is working to devleop traveling exhibits to take to grade schools in Latah County as part of the requirements for a class in the Public History program at WSU.

NEW EXHIBITS

A new exhibit focusing on working women will be up in the museum in January and will run through the spring. The largely photographic exhibit will take a look at working women in the home, outside the home and in professional occupations, and will deal with the time period from 1900 to 1940. Other exhibits currently in the museum are "Early Medicine in Latah County," and "Merchants of Latah County." The museum is open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Arrangements for group tours at other times are gladly made.

An exhibit entitled "Folk Art in Latah County" will be installed at the First Security Bank of Idaho at the corner of Main and Third Streets in Moscow early in January. It will focus on the many kinds of useful articles made or used by people in the county that also have an artistic quality. Paintings by early local artists will also be exhibited. The exhibit will run through the end of February.

MEMORIALS

Memorials to the Historical Society are an excellent way to remember friends. These generous gifts also greatly help the Society. Since the last *Newsletter*, memorials have been received from the following.

For Bernadine Adair Cornelison, from
Jennie Newland
H.R. and Lillian Otness
Keith Petersen

For Martin Mickey, from
Harry and Clarice Sampson

For Opal Sether, from
Mrs. F. Baker
Eloise Gearhart
Mrs. Alito Harrington
Ruth and Francis Nonini
Ruby Osmundson
Clara Otness
Gertie Otness
H. Robert and Lillian Otness
Mrs. Leona West

For Eugene Settle, from
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Johann
John and Rita Neely
Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Thornton

For Elizabeth Thomas, from
John and Rita Neely

Leslyn Rogers Corless, Villa Park, Ca. (CONTRIBUTING)
Dixie L. Ehrenreich, Moscow
Robert H. Bottjer, Moscow
Selma Yocum, Potlatch
Alice Stube, Moscow
Annette Shelton Waylett, Moscow (CONTRIBUTING)
Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Brooks, Moscow (CONTRIBUTING)
Carma Morgen, Moscow
Sarah Rial and Michael Huff, Moscow (CONTRIBUTING)
Mrs. Earl Olson, Moscow
Latah County Genealogical Society
Jay Nelson Family, Genesee (CONTRIBUTING)
Charles and Erma Bower, Kendrick
Floyd Otter, Fresno, CA.
Mrs. Frank Thompson, Barrhead, Alberta
Vernon and Dorothy Burlison, Moscow
Mrs. Leroy Flynn, Portland (CONTRIBUTING)
Katy Rae Boyer, Moscow
Dr. Clifford and Marta Robertson, Moscow (CONTRIBUTING)
Don H. Benedict, Anacortes, Wa.
Lester Holmes, Kendrick
Edwin P. Garretson, Uniontown
John Jameson Family, Pullman
Lambert and Hazel Erickson, Moscow
Mrs. James Debnam, Chesterfield, MO.
E. Lee Murphy, Moscow
Patricia A. Ostman, Deary
William and Carolyn Folz, Moscow
Von Pittman, Pullman
Kenneth and Doris Anderson and Family, Moscow (SUSTAINING)
Mary Kawula, Moscow
Lester C. and Alyse Boyd, Moscow
Susan Bender, Moscow
Barbara Oyen, Moscow
Chuck and Linda Boyd, Moscow
Louise Wallin, Moscow
Sheryl Hanson, Troy
Howard Osterberg, Lewiston
Minnie Osterberg, Moscow
Mrs. Stanton Becker, Genesee
Ken and Linda Steigers, Juliaetta
Jean Franklin, Princeton
Eugene and Dale Golis, Moscow
Ruth Petersen, Vancouver, WA.
Edna Morton, Moscow
James V. Armour, West Mifflin, PA.
Sandy Ogle, Nampa
Wallace Fraser, Calder, CO.
Lee Mulch, Viola
Linda Scott Lilles, Pullman
Mary Blanton, Moscow
Roger Rossebo, Pullman
Dorothy Lord, Washington, D.C.

CAROL YOUNG NEW MUSEUM ADMINISTRATOR

Carol Young will join the Society's staff in January as a Museum Administrator. She will assist with correspondence and fund-raising as well as performing curatorial tasks, help with exhibits and so forth. As the Society has grown, the need for additional staff has been apparent for some time.

Carol comes to the Society with an excellent background. She worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in the Egyptian Department and was there at the time the Museum was preparing for the King Tut exhibit. Carol has a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Drew University in New Jersey where she graduated with Honors and worked in the Art Library. In addition to her excellent museum background, Carol has a diversified administrative background and will be a great asset to the Society.

Beginning in January Director Keith Petersen will work only half time at the Society and will be at the Museum on a regular schedule on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at other times as needed.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS COMMITTEE FORMED

A new committee, called the Handicapped Access Committee, has been formed at the Society. Its function is to establish a set of guidelines for making the Society and its programs accessible to the handicapped in compliance with U.S. government regulations. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against any person by reason of his or her handicap by any organization receiving federal financial support. It is hoped that the new committee will be able to assist the staff in implementing changes in its programs to provide more accessibility to handicapped persons.

The members of the Committee are Karen Broenneke, Robert Hosack, Joanne Kirkwood, Cynthia Magnuson, Dianne Milhollin, H. Robert Otness and Miriam Shelton. Rick Hanna and Mary DuPree are consultants to the Committee. The first meeting is planned for January 13, 1981 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mansion, and anyone interested in attending is welcome.

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to the Society. Her taped reminiscences will always remain a valuable part of the Society's research library and will be extensively used when the Mansion is eventually completely restored. A beautiful table and vase which had originally belonged to the McConnell family were donated to the Society by Bernadine's estate, and are now on exhibit.

The Society also mourns the recent deaths of lifetime members Opal Sether and John Woodworth and members Hazel Larsen and Eugene Settle.

FUNDRAISING

When the Latah County override levy failed in August, the Society's budget for 1981 was cut from $18,500 to $10,000. It quickly became apparent to the Trustees that the Society would have to redouble its efforts at local fundraising if it was to continue to expand. The fundraising committee, consisting of Mary Reed, Donna Bray, Roger Slade and Merideth Monserud, began plans for a year-long schedule of events which will hopefully raise an additional $1,250 each month for the Society.

The fundraising campaign got off to an excellent start on October 1 when Leora Stillinger generously donated $500 so that our work to preserve the history of Latah County might continue. The first planned function was the ham dinner on November 16 which raised over $1,300 after expenses. Thanks go to Cora Knott, Leora Stillinger and Everett Hagen for planning such a successful event, as well as to all of the members of the Society who made deserts or salads or helped serve and clean up. We would also like to thank the over-300 of you who attended. A special thanks is extended to the Moose Lodge for allowing us to use their facilities at no charge.

A long list of fundraising projects has been planned, ranging from a historic homes tour to a fashion show to a historic calendar. Additional local history publications and a renewed membership campaign are also planned.

The Society has made steady progress since it was founded in 1968. It performs many valuable services for the residents of Latah County. WILL YOU HELP US IN OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TO SEE THAT THE SOCIETY CONTINUES TO GROW? Give us a call at 882-1004 and we will be glad to talk over ideas with you.

In October and November the Society raised $3,043.49 in non-tax, non-grant revenue. This is an impressive beginning to our fundraising campaign. Help us continue the good work.

DO YOU HAVE ANY CATALOGS?

The Collections Committee is in the process of developing an active policy for collecting museum artifacts. Such objects will be used in educational exhibits, but more importantly will be preserved for future generations. As a first step in this project, the Committee is interested in collecting catalogs. Catalogs are valuable research tools, and will also help the Committee determine the types of artifacts it should collect. All types of catalogs are potentially useful, ranging from general books such as Wards and Sears, to specialized catalogs for automobile tools, seeds, bicycles, photography, musical instruments, kitchen aids, medical equipment and so forth. The Committee will consider any catalogs published prior to 1975. If you have any catalogs you would like to donate, please contact the Society at 882-1004 or by mail, or call one of the members of the Collections Committee. Arrangements can be made to pick up items. Committee members are Robert Hosack, 882-3664, John Luedke, 285-1134, Margi Jenks, 882-6717, Doris Lyle, 882-3210, Delores Sanchez, 882-5966 and Kenneth Hedglin.

NEW MEMBERS

Since the last *Newsletter* the following people have joined the Society. We thank them for their support and hope they enjoy their membership. The Society's membership now stands at 445.

Don E. Morton, Moscow (CONTRIBUTING)
Floyd and Elizabeth Heimgartner, Juliaetta
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dailey, Lewiston
Beth and Steve Caskey, Kendrick
Janyce Paulson, Moscow
Bruce Bray, Moscow
Mr. and Mrs. Charley Stevens, Moscow
Charles Whiteley Family, Troy
Creative Workshops, Inc., Moscow
R.E. Magnuson Agency, Kendrick
Carl and Marion vonEnde, Spokane
Mrs. Lawrence Duffy, Kirkland, Wa.
Marian Wise, Moscow

LATAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Number 3 December 1980

BUFFALO COAT REPUBLISHED

In 1945 Carol Ryrie Brink wrote *Buffalo Coat,* a historical novel of Moscow based on events she experienced in her childhood. Stories heard as a child "interested me as much as the novels that I read so avidly in the old Carnegie Library," Mrs. Brink has written. "When I became a writer, it was natural that I should think of using them in a book." The Society's Publications Committee has recently republished this entertaining story of early Moscow. Included in the new edition are historic photographs, a new author's preface and a "people and places" section which helps readers identify who the fictional characters were in real life.

Thanks go to Mrs. Brink for her generous support in allowing the Society to re-issue this book, and for allowing all proceeds to go to the publications fund. Thanks and congratulations should also be extended to the members of the Publications Committee for their many hours of hard work. Members are Dorothy Clanton, Chair, Liz Slade, Kenneth Platt, Mary Banks, Libby Davison, Gloria Gehrman, Jeanette Talbott and Marguerite Laughlin.

The hardcover book is available to Society members for $7.95, but there are only limited numbers left. Copies are available at the museum, at Bookpeople and the University Bookstore in Moscow and at Abrams Hardware in Kendrick. The book is being used in a women's history class at Washington State University, the first of the Society's publications to be used by one of the universities for classroom use.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM SERVICES GRANT

For the second year in a row the Society has received a general operating support grant from the Institute of Museum Services. In 1980 the Society was the only museum in Idaho to receive such an award. In 1981 the Society joins the Boise Gallery of Art as the only Idaho recipients. Less than a third of the museums who apply for the prestigious grants receive funding, and the awards serve as a form of national recognition for outstanding museums. The Society received $17,790 for 1981 which will be used to keep Diane Becker and Karen Broenneke on the staff and to purchase curatorial supplies for the preservation of museum artifacts. Diane will continue in her capacity as Curator of Collections while Karen will become the new Curator of Educational Services and will work to expand the Society's outreach with county schools.

The Society has also received two Association for the Humanities in Idaho grants. One will be used to continue the survey of historical and genealogical records in the county which was begun last summer. Businesses, schools, churches, town halls and other localities were surveyed in the area, and over the winter and spring the same type of survey will be undertaken in Moscow. Next fall the Society will publish a *Guide to Historical and Genealogical Resources in Latah County.*

The second AHI grant is the second phase of a project to produce a readers' theatre presentation making use of the Society's extensive oral history collection. The program on homesteading will be presented in 20 locations in 1981. Project Director is Rob Moore who initiated the oral history project with Sam Schrager. See the Calendar of Events in this *Newsletter* for a preliminary schedule of showings.

BERNADINE ADAIR CORNELISON, 1897-1980

Lifetime member of the Society Bernadine Adair Cornelison died on September 19. Bernadine was the daughter of William and Losina Adair and was born in Moscow. The Adairs became the second family to live in the McConnell Mansion, purchasing the home in 1901 and residing there until 1935. At the time of her death Bernadine lived in the duplex directly north of the Mansion, built by her sister Ione in the 1930s. Bernadine was a member of several national honoraries and was a long time music instructor in Moscow and Lewiston. She watched with interest the changes in the Mansion in the past few years and was a great asset

THE SETTLEMENT OF DRY RIDGE TROY-DEARY, IDAHO

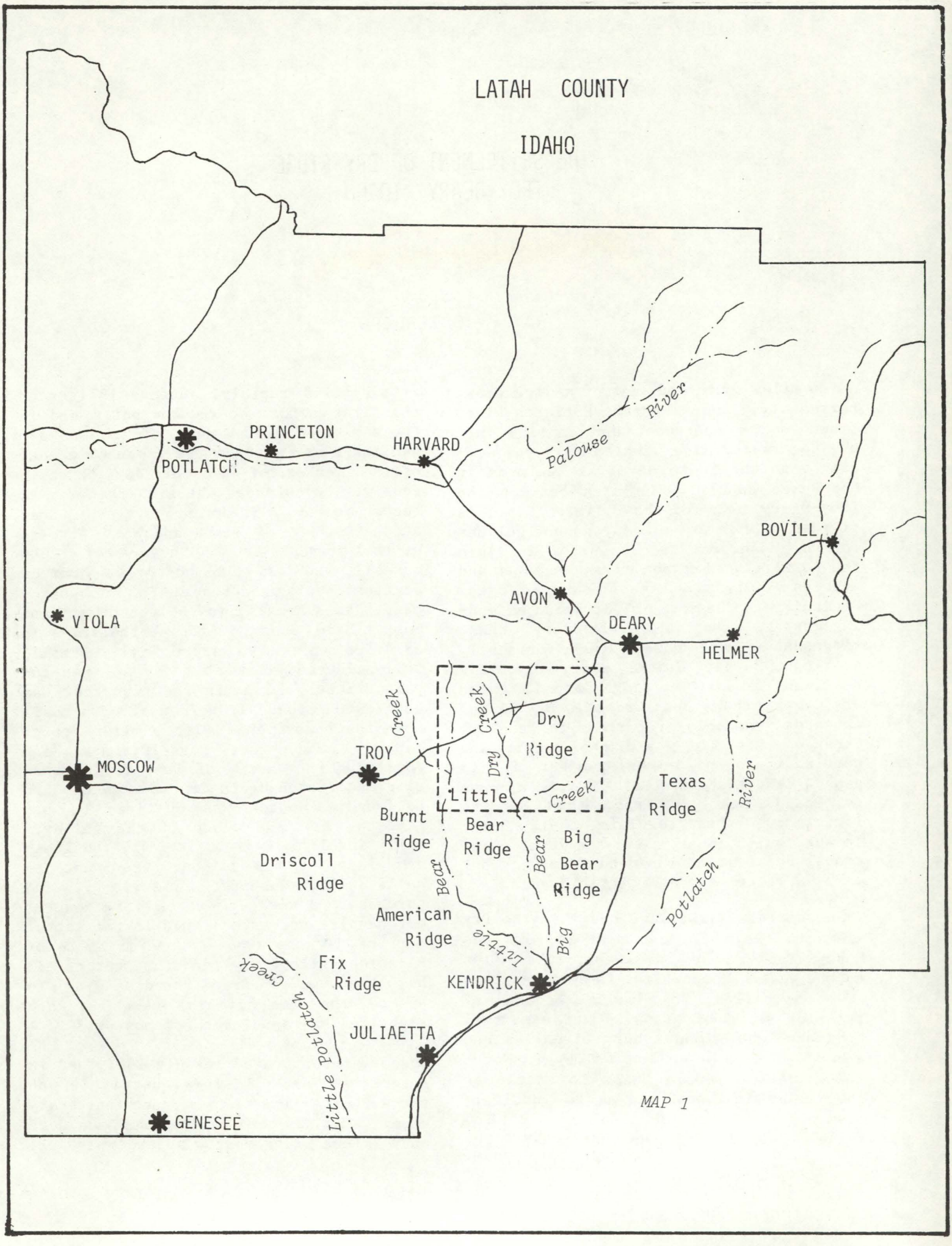
BY

RAY E. OSTERBERG

A few miles south and east of a line drawn between Troy and Deary the Potlatch River flows to the southwest and empties into the Clearwater River, which in turn, empties into the Snake River at Lewiston in Nez Perce county. The area between the Troy-Deary line and the Potlatch River is divided by a series of canyons and gulches formed by several creeks which feed into the Potlatch. Between these canyons and gulches are fertile areas known as ridges. Beginning to the south of Troy and extending east to the south of Deary, these ridges have been named: Fix, Driscoll, American, Burnt, Little Bear, Dry, Big Bear, and Texas. The ridge formed between Dry Creek and Big Bear Creek is Dry Ridge, an area commonly referred to as Dry Creek.[1] This ridge and the people who settled it is the primary subject of this paper. There, before Latah became a county, Idaho a state, or Troy a town, Swedish immigrants began to claim their homesteads, build homes, clear the land, plant crops, and bear children to form what became known to many as "Little Sweden."[2]

When settlers first made their way to Dry Ridge in the 1880s the nearest town was Moscow, some twenty to twenty-five miles to the west. Moscow lies in a valley that was once called "Hog Heaven" because of its rich stand of grass. That same tall grass brought Almon Asbury Lieuallen and a herd of cattle to the valley in March 1871.[3] After people began to settle in the valley its name became too undignified and the name "Paradise" or "Paradise Valley" seemed more appropriate.[4] The area settled rapidly. Before 1871 ended the first school house was built and in the summer of 1872 a post office was established at Paradise City, one mile east of the center of present day Moscow.[5] Four men homesteaded the area that was to become Moscow. Their properties joined at the corner of Sixth and Main streets of the present city. They were: John Russell, who had the northeast quarter section; Henry MacGregor, in the southeast; James Deakin, in the southwest; and Samual Miles Neff, in the northwest.[6] In 1874 Neff opened a store with a small, well selected stock at today's First and Main streets and named the town that was to grow up around it Moscow after a small town in Pennsylvania with similar topography.[7] MacGregor, Russell, and Neff donated thirty acres of land for a townsite and through their inducements to businessmen Moscow was destined to become the business place of the valley.[8] Early in 1875 Neff sold out, business and land, to Lieuallen, who went to Walla Walla, Washington Territory, and purchased a larger stock of general merchandise and established in the latter part of May the pioneer general store of Paradise Valley. By 1878 the post office had been moved from Paradise City to Moscow, the name officially changed, and Lieuallen was appointed postmaster.[9]

Moscow, incorporated in July 1887, had an interesting early history, but it is not the author's purpose to recount that story here. What has been related has been done only to establish Moscow as the principal


LATAH COUNTY
IDAHO
PRINCETON
HARVARD
POTLATCH
Palouse River
BOVILL
AVON
VIOLA
DEARY
HELMER
Dry Creek
Dry Creek
Dry Ridge
TROY
MOSCOW
Little Creek
Texas Ridge
Potlatch River
Burnt Ridge
Bear Ridge
Bear
Big Bear Ridge
Driscoll Ridge
American Ridge
Little
Big
Fix Ridge
Creek
Little Potlatch
KENDRICK
JULIAETTA
GENESEE

MAP 1

town and supply point for those who were to settle to the east. But, one event that must be told, for it played such an important role in the lives of the settlers to come, was the arrival of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company (O.R. & N. Railway) in Moscow in 1885. The first train arrived on Wednesday, September 23, 1885. According to Charles J. Munson, who had arrived in Moscow in 1884,

> "This great event was advertised all over the country from the limits of the Salmon River, all over the reservation, the Camas Prairie country, American Ridge, Burnt Ridge, Little Bear and Big Bear Ridges, and beyond. A great crowd was in Moscow that day, and there was great rejoicing."[10]

Munson also tells of the effect of the arrival of the railroad,

> "The town was so changed that it did not resemble the pioneer (pre-railroad) days. Emigrants were coming by the hundreds, and properties would change hands two or three times a day. The country to the east--Burnt Ridge, Little Bear, and Big Bear--was settled to the very mountains; all that would be agricultural was homesteaded. A large number of Scandinavians settled east and north of what afterwards became the town of Vollmer (Troy). They put in a number of sawmills, and the land was cleared, and made into beautiful farms. They made settlements as far as Avon and to what afterwards became the town of Deary."[11]

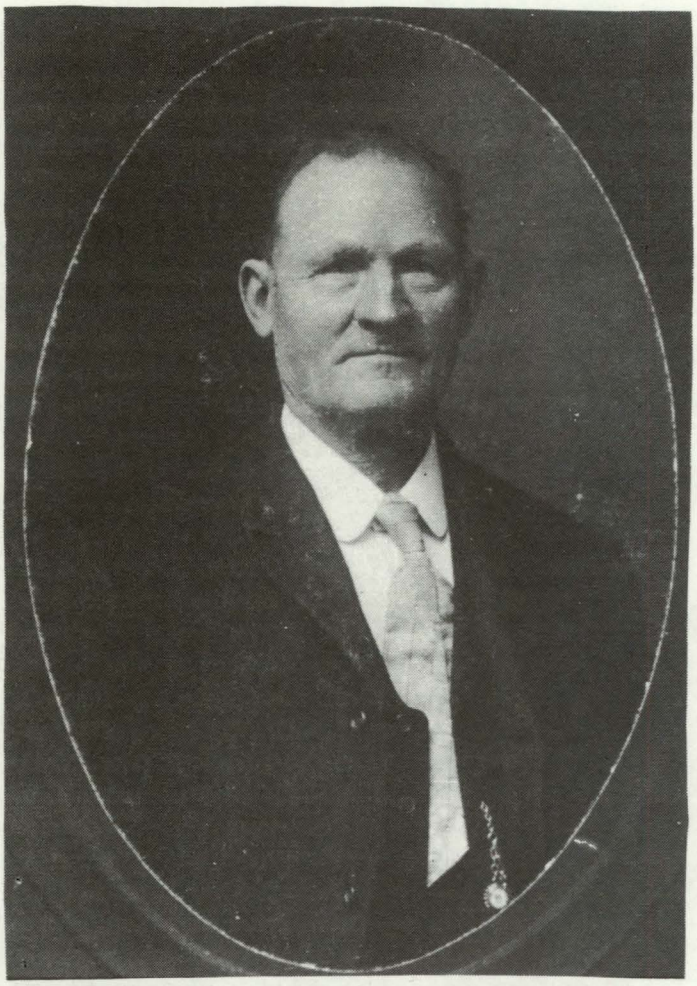
Throughout those early days of settlement the area which was to become Latah county was part of Nez Perce county with its county seat at Lewiston. Thirty miles of nearly impassible roads separated Moscow from Lewiston. Consequently, in 1882, an effort was made to form a new county north of the Clearwater River. A bill to do so was introduced in the Territorial Legislature, but it was found that a congressional act forbidding territorial legislatures from forming new counties, or changing boundaries of old ones, had recently been passed. The following year a bill was introduced at Boise which called for a special election in Nez Perce county to let the people determine if the county seat should remain at Lewiston, or be moved to Moscow. At the time all of northern Idaho was hoping to be annexed to the soon to be State of Washington. Those who preferred keeping the county seat at Lewiston used the annexation hopes to convince those who lived north of Moscow to vote against moving the seat to Moscow. Their reasoning was that when the panhandle became part of Washington a new county would be formed with its seat at Palouse City. The northerners preferred that to having the seat at Moscow. Consequently, Lewiston won, 922 to 642.[12] The citizens of Moscow did not give up. Charles Munson wrote;

> "In the winter of 1887 Senator Mitchell of Oregon introduced a bill to create the county of Latah and make Moscow the county seat. The citizens of Lewiston put up a vigorous campaign against it and sent J. W. Reid to Washington, D.C., to lobby against the bill. Moscow sent Charles Moore to work for its passage. Moscow won and the bill was signed by President Cleveland and became a law on May 14, 1888."[13]

Latah county, therefore, has the distinction of being the only county in the United States to have been formed by an act of Congress. The 1890 census shows Latah as the most populous county in Idaho with 9,176 residents.[14]

The movement to annex northern Idaho to Washington caused a great deal of concern in southern Idaho. An annexation bill actually passed both houses of Congress only to be pocket vetoed by President Cleveland. A. J. Green, a pioneer Moscow attorney said,

> "The annexation scheme having failed and the question having been settled, as we believed, for all time, we set about getting something for the new county and Moscow. The state univer-



John Frederick Osterberg. Photo courtesy Ray Osterberg.

* * *

sity was to be located somewhere and by hard work we secured its location in Moscow. Southern Idaho having more than twice the population of northern Idaho, had always fought the annexation of any part of the territory to Washington; so when a bill was introduced into the territorial legislature to locate the university at Moscow, all southern Idaho came to our support and assisted in making the bill a law, thinking that it would forever settle the question of annexation. And it did; when the university was located at Moscow the annexation question was finally settled."[15]

On January 30, 1889, the territorial governor signed the bill locating the university at Moscow and on July 3, 1890, Idaho became the forty-third state in the union.[16]

While the wheels of government were moving, so were the wheels of trains and wagons. By the early 1880s the grassland around Moscow and Genesee, to the south, were already homesteaded, so the available land was to the east on the forest covered ridges already mentioned. Evidently one of the first men to venture into the wooded hills northeast of what was later to become Troy was a Swede named Per Johanson. He learned that the land was going to be surveyed for homesteads, so he returned to Minnesota and told his Swedish friends to go to Moscow. He told them that there was land there open for claiming, and that he would take his sawmill and come along with them, which he did.[17] The word passed quickly and by 1886, or 1887, the area, known as Nora, was all taken up. Johanson did a great deal to promote the settlement of the area, but he had help.

John Frederick Osterberg, the author's great-grandfather, came west in 1883. He took a homestead just west of Nora Creek. He wrote back to Minnesota and stretched the truth a bit to get people to come to the Nora area. He has been credited with telling tall tales. One was that carrots grow so big that it takes twelve horses to pull one out of the ground. He had the only team of horses in the area at the time so there were not even twelve horses in the whole area. He also told of standing in one spot and shooting forty to fifty deer. Another tale related that when he drove his wagon across the creek the fish were so thick that the wheels of the wagon would flip them into the wagon so that it would be half full of fish by the time he got to the other side. In an effort to catch him at one of his exaggerations, someone wrote back to him and asked if it wasn't pretty hilly out there. He replied, in Swedish, of course, "Hilly? That's nothing. It all leans downhill. You never have to walk uphill."[18]

One of those who Osterberg convinced to come west was his own son, Charlie, the

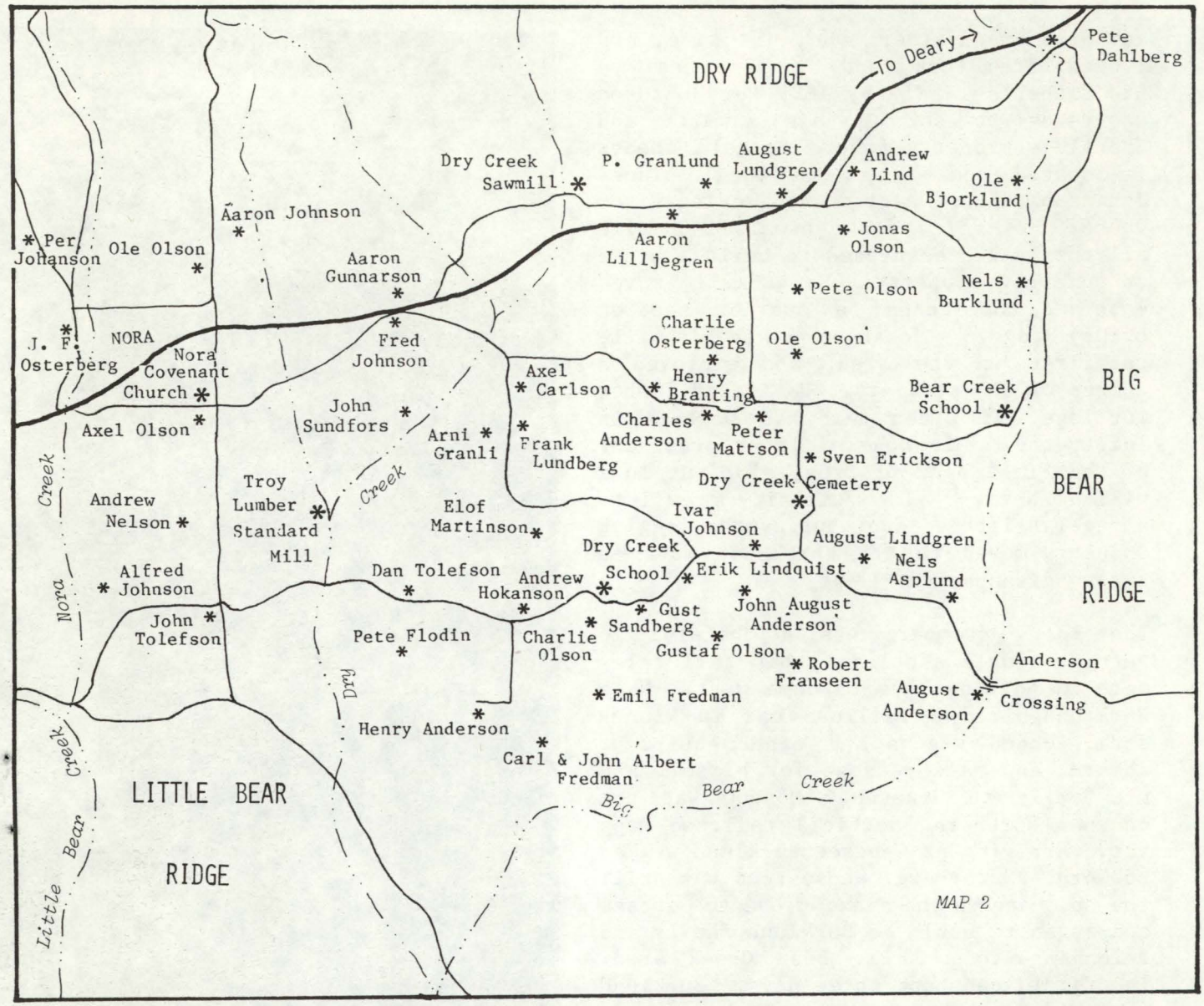
author's grandfather. He, his wife, and two children took land at Nora near to his father's land. By 1889 Per Johanson was ready to set up his sawmill and Charlie's property (where Bendel's Meats is located today) was an ideal place. Johanson talked Charlie into moving elsewhere. For doing so he promised Charlie all the lumber he needed to build a house on some new property. So, Charlie moved east and homesteaded a quarter section of Dry Ridge.[19] Johanson put up his mill, the first in the area, and employed a number of the settlers. He traded lumber for logs and often paid his workers in lumber too. Ole Bohman, later president of the First Bank of Troy, also put in a mill at Nora.[20] The community grew into a regular little town, but as the logging industry moved to the northeast Nora as a town disappeared.

The elder Osterberg was as helpful in getting people settled as his tall tales were in getting them to come west. Nels Burklund hired a railroad car in Minnesota, loaded wagons and other equipment aboard, and paid passage for himself and his family to Genesee. Moscow was not on the (Northern Pacific?) railroad maps yet. Arriving at Genesee Burklund walked to Nora. Osterberg, whose team was still the only one in the area, drove to Genesee and began to haul the Burklund family and belongings to the Big Bear Creek area. The first load took three days. Burklund was not a farmer; he was a lumberman, an axeman.[21] He eventually set up a sawmill on Big Bear Creek. On another occasion, Gustaf Olson, who settled on Dry Ridge in the late 1880s, carried everything he needed on his back from Moscow, except a stove. Osterberg hauled the stove out for him.[22]

Pers Johansen. Photo courtesy Latah County Historical Society.

* * *

The first homesteader on Big Bear Creek (most of his land was on Dry Ridge) was August Anderson, who settled there in 1886. A "couple" of other settlers were in place a little to the west on Dry Ridge.[23] These were probably Anderson's brother, Henry, Pete Flodin, Dan Tolefson and Gust Sandberg. Elmer Flodin does not know when his dad settled on Dry Ridge but believes he, Tolefson, Sandberg, and Alfred Johnson, who settled on Little Bear Ridge, were the first settlers in that area.[24] August Anderson built his cabin at the bottom of Big Bear Creek canyon and there built the first bridge across the creek. The place became known as Anderson's Crossing and shortened the distance to Moscow, and later to Troy,



for those who settled on Big Bear Ridge. A permanent bridge was built later, but none exists there today.[25]

It is not within the scope of this paper to identify each of the homesteaders on Dry Ridge, beyond locating the general area of their settlement on a map.[26] Their stories, if all told, would probably be very similar. Pete Flodin, Dan Tolefson, Gust Sandberg, and Alfred Johnson arrived in the Dry Creek area together. They built cabins on their claims and cleared around them, but spent only the winters there. They worked on the railroad during most of the year those first years, walking from their homesteads to Plummer (in present day Benewah county) each spring and back again each fall. Later, as his family grew, Flodin would cut cordwood and haul it to Troy and sell it in order to buy the foodstuffs needed for the family beyond what could be grown on the farm.[27]

Gustaf Olson built a lean-to as the first shelter for his family. His wife cooked over an open fire and took care of a couple of children while Olson went to Genesee for a month to work in the harvest in order to earn money to buy necessities. After awhile he built a cabin and then added on to it as the family grew.

Carl Olson, one of twelve children, recalls that clearing land to farm was no picnic. The first step was to cut a ring around each tree and break off the bark so the tree would die. When dead, the tree was cut down and after the fallen tree got dry a hole was bored into it, hot coals dropped into the hole and a bellows was used to get a fire started. Trees were burnt where they fell, but stumps remained and were usually cultivated around until they could later be removed by burning or until they rotted out.

Olson recalls that water was always a problem. Springs provided water but they were not always conveniently located so water had to be carried a great distance, or wells had to be dug by hand and lined so they would retain the water. Rain water was collected in barrels and used for washing, but was not fit for drinking or cooking.

Around the homestead women did more than just housework and caring for the children. It was traditional for Swedish women to take care of the cows, i.e., feed and milk them, and they were often also seen out in the fields helping their husbands.[28]

Charlie and Alma Osterberg moved to Dry Ridge from Nora in 1889. They homesteaded as far east as the land was surveyed and Charlie then helped survey the land further east. Charlie, like the other Dry Ridge settlers, told of walking to Moscow to get supplies and carrying a fifty pound sack of flour, plus coffee, tobacco, sugar, etc., on the return trip. On one of these trips he started home a little late and darkness caught him in the Dry Creek area. It was so dark in the woods that he was not sure of his way home, so he sat down by a tree until daylight. A springtime trip to Moscow would require that an axe be carried along to fall trees across the high-water creeks in order to cross. Charlie built a log barn first and the family lived there while he was building the house. Their fourth child, Axel, was born in the barn before the first part of the house was finished. Like others, Charlie went to Genesee during harvest time. He was a grain sack sewer and told of one year (probably 1893) when it was so wet that the grain was sprouting and the sacks rotted out.[29] The Osterberg's had ten children.

* *

Charlie and Alma Osterberg, about 1920, in front of their home. Photo courtesy Ray Osterberg.

* *

Nels Asplund settled on Dry Ridge in 1891. He was a close friend of August Anderson. The land on Dry Ridge was evidently taken up by then but there was an eighty acre piece of land adjacent to Anderson's that someone had claimed, but had left and not returned soon enough to satisfy the home-

stead law. So, Anderson convinced Asplund to jump the claim. Claim jumping was not an uncommon practice and shouldn't be confused with stealing land. Anderson and Asplund shared the same religious beliefs and would hold meetings around the area.[30] Minnie Fredman Osterberg, the author's mother, recalls when the two would come visit her parents, Emil and Augusta Fredman. Her mother knew the Bible quite well, as did her father, so a discussion of the Bible was sure to be part of the visit. The discussions would generally become long and loud. When the differences of opinion were resolved, Anderson would say, "Nu hava vi det dar klart" (Now we have that cleared up).[31] Nels Asplund worked on the Northern Pacific railroad between Moscow and Lewiston. His wife, Kristina, did most of the field work while he was away and also found time to raise thirteen children.[32]

Every area seems to have its favorite character. Dry Ridge was no exception. The children of the pioneers all seem to remember Big Anderson. Carl Olson recalls him this way,

> "Big Anderson was a giant, believe me. He was big and tall. His arm was as thick as both of mine put together. He had whiskers, and he walked bent over with two canes because he had a sore leg."[33]

One night two men came to Big's cabin to try to run him off his land so they could jump his claim. He grabbed one man by the leg and used him like a club to beat the other man. Needless to say, they left and did not return. The sore on Big's leg was big, raw, cancerous, and stinky. It was black around the edges and would not heal. He washed it in cold water and put tamarack sap on it. He made his own clothes and shoes, had unkept hair and beard, and with walking bent over with two canes was quite a scary sight. He used to sit under a bush, or tree, and laugh when school girls walked by. He was friendly and meant no harm, but the sight of him scared many. He was building a perpetual motion machine that would run by itself and never need any power. When people came to his cabin to visit he would throw a blanket over it so they could not see it. Elmer Flodin says that he did see it and it was quite a conglomeration of wheels and levers. Big died before he got it finished.

Everyone who settled on Dry Ridge did not stay. Some saw richer and better land to the east on Texas Ridge, sold out and moved there. Some who did this were Charles Anderson, Jonas Olson, and Pete Olson. There were probably others.

Carl Fredman who came to the area with his two brothers, Emil and John Albert, returned to Minnesota. John Albert went to Genesee to work in the harvest one year in the 1890s and was killed in an accident. He was buried near where he died and when Emil went to claim the body after completing his own harvest nobody knew where he was buried. Emil bought out his brother Carl's interest and before selling some of his land had three hundred twenty-two acres.[35] The Fredman's raised six girls on Dry Ridge.

The Swedes always took good care of their deceased relatives. Consequently, on a hill overlooking the surrounding area, four homesteaders, Peter Mattson, Ivar Johnson, Sven Erickson, and August Lindfren, gave a portion of their land for a cemetery. Their four properties met in the center of the original Dry Creek Cemetery. The first grave was made there in December 1889 and that quiet hilltop has since become the final resting place for most of the Dry Ridge pioneers, many of their children and grandchildren, as well as their friends from the neighboring ridges.[36]

Another requirement for a new settlement was to build schools. The Dry Creek School was built on a hill at the southeastern corner of Elof Martinson's homestead. The Bear Creek School was built in the canyon near Big Bear Creek, east of the Sven Erickson place. Both were one room buildings with one teacher to instruct grades one through eight, but

The Emil Fredman family in 1918. Standing left to right: Ellen, Agnes, Minnie, Hildur, Ruth. Seated left to right: Augusta, Esthur, Emil. Photo courtesy Ray Osterberg.

* * *

very few of the children went as far as the eighth grade. Nearly all of the children at the Dry Creek School spoke nothing but Swedish before starting the first grade. At Bear Creek the same was true, but there was a mixture of Swedes and Norwegians because many Norwegian families who settled on Big Bear Ridge sent their children to school there too. The teachers had a time trying to teach the children English. When at home or on the playground English was seldom spoken. Many of the original pioneers never learned to speak English.[37] Bill Burklund probably best summed up the situation when he said, "The whole country spoke Swede here."[38]

When the homesteaders began to clear their land there were no sawmills nearby, so the trees were burnt, as previously mentioned. In time, however, several sawmills were set up in the area. On Dry Creek Axel Bohman started the Dry Creek Sawmill (north of the present Troy-Deary highway, near the gun club) and the Troy Lumber Company's Standard Mill was set up on Dry Creek too, near the Dan Tolefson and Pete Flodin homesteads. On Big Bear Creek, Pete Dahlberg set up his mill (near where the Troy-Deary highway crosses the creek) and Nel Burklund had a mill on his place further to the south. Smaller mills were also set up. Andrew Hokanson had a mill on the small creek that ran through his place. The neigh-

boring homesteaders hauled logs there to have lumber made to build their permanent homes, barns, and other buildings. Neighbors also pitched in and helped each other with the building projects.[39]

Social gatherings were held at the school houses or at the Nora Covenant Church on Little Bear Ridge. The church also sponsored a mid-summer picnic each year in June which was held at some pleasant nearby wooded area. Often the dances and parties at the school houses would also be the gathering place for the neighborhood rowdies and fights would break out as the young Swedes felt the need to show off their strength.[40]

After Lenus Anderson, brother to August and Henry, settled on Big Bear Ridge in about 1892 a general store was opened there. Lenus and Henry were partners in running the store and a post office was also established there. With Lenus as the first postmaster, Anderson was put on the postal maps. In 1900 Mike Kluver bought out the Andersons and moved the store and post office near Pete Dahlberg's mill. There Anderson grew into a small town. Philip Asplund remembers walking there to get the mail. Alma Osterberg used to tell of walking to Kluver's store

* * *

O. K. Olson sawmill, representative of those found in the area. Photo courtesy Latah County Historical Society.

for supplies. Anderson remained a post office until 1904 when rural free delivery was started to the area from Troy.[41]

Approximately nine miles west of Dry Ridge and thirteen miles east of Moscow is a canyon that was called Huff's Gulch. Prior to 1885,

> "It was a deep, dark canyon, so densely covered with forest growths that the sun's rays only penetrated to the network of underbrush in occasional spots. Only the feet of the venturesome hunter or those of his prowling foe had ever trod the winding trails of the canyon or clambered up its rocky slopes."[42]

It has also been described as "a dark, swampy canyon so thick with forest growths that birds could scarcely fly through it."[43] In 1885 J. Wesley Seat homesteaded one hundred sixty acres of the vicinity and built a sawmill near the head of the gulch.[44] He could not have anticipated the events of the next few years.

In 1888 the Northern Pacific railroad built a line from Pullman, Washington Territory, to Genesee, but because of the steep grade between Genesee and Lewiston it was impractical to extend the line to Lewiston as planned. Lewiston banker and businessman, John P. Vollmer, was instrumental in getting the Northern Pacific to find another route. That route, begun in 1890, ran from Pullman to Moscow, then east to Huff's Gulch and followed the canyon southeasterly to Kendrick on the Potlatch River. From Kendrick the railroad followed the river to Juliaetta reaching there in 1891. An act of Congress, creating the Nez Perce Indian Reservation, prevented the line from reaching Lewiston until September 1898.[45]

Four Moscow men recognized the need for a supply point in the Huff's Gulch area. A. T. Spottswood, Fred Veach, I. C. Hattabaugh, and Herbert Hamlin bought the quarter section comprising Seat's homestead and formed a townsite company. Vollmer and Seat joined the company and in 1891 the first store was built. A town plot and description were drawn up the same year and other buildings followed: a hall and store, also used as a post office, by Seat; a newspaper, the Vollmer Vidette, by T. E. Edmondson; and The Bank of Troy by E. J. Dyer, Fred K. Bressler, and Thomas H. Brewer. Because of Vollmer's influence in bringing the railroad to the area, the town was incorporated on April 19, 1892, as Vollmer. A pioneer school house was built in 1893 as the town grew.[46] Two fires in 1893, one in February and another in June, caused some rebuilding, but by 1903 the town's population reached five hundred.[47]

In 1897 there was a dispute between the railroad company and the Vollmer business interests. The railroad wanted a cheap, or free depot and facilities site. The town leaders saw things differently. At the same time John P. Vollmer's interests were not centered in the town named after him. He evidently had a falling out with the railroad too. According to J. H. Batten, an early Troy businessman, the railroad would not deliver mail to any town named Vollmer. The citizens were disenchanted with Vollmer and it was proposed that the town should change its name. S. A. Anderson, Chairman of the Town Council, favored the name change because the Swedes could only pronounce the word, Vollmer, with a "w" (Wollmer). He proposed the name be changed to Romeo as a companion town to Juliaetta, but that was disapproved. Instead the classical name, Troy, was suggested. On September 6, 1897, an election was held. Nine votes were cast to retain the name Vollmer, while twenty-nine voters preferred Troy. Thus, from that day forward Huff's Gulch has been occupied by the citizens of the town, or village, of Troy.[48]

Once established, Troy became the trading center for the pioneers on the ridges. The length of their trips to a town were considerably shortened. Carl Olson recalls,

> "Troy was the main town around here because it had the railroad depot. So much wood was being shipped out on the railroad that they called Troy "the

biggest little town on earth." [49]

Lumber was being shipped out as well as the cordwood that was being brought in to sell. Other commodities found their way to Troy too. Olson also remembers,

> "We lived nine miles from Troy, so it was quite a hike. When I turned ten I started walking to town carrying butter and eggs to sell. Some days it was so hot that when we got to town the butter was melted."[50]

It was some fifteen years after Troy had its beginnings that the site that was to become Deary became more than the homesteads of three men: Bert Crooks, Joe Blailock, and a man named Roundtree. In 1905 the Potlatch Lumber Company was not only building its sawmill at Potlatch, but was also surveying a right-of-way for the Washington, Idaho, and Montana Railroad to Bovill, where timber rights had been obtained. Potlatch General Manager, William Deary, was unwilling to pay the price demanded by the Avon townsfolk for the property he needed for a station, so he decided to locate his station at the site which has carried his name ever since. He bought the Crooks and Blailock homesteads and traded a team of horses for the Roundtree property. By 1906 a wayhouse was in operation catering to the needs of the track crews. The townsite was divided into lots and on September 24, 1907, the first lots were sold and the town of Deary came into existence. Stores of the small town variety sprang into being and resident lots were not expensive to buy and were often given away in fund-raising lotteries.[51]

The arrival on the scene of Deary as a town provided an option for the ridge dwellers as to which direction they could go to do their selling or buying, but by 1907 times had changed. Twenty years had seen some improvements. The early pioneers came to the area with what they could carry on their backs and little more. They claimed a quarter section of land, sometimes less and sometimes more by using the pre-emption act, and set about building cabins, clearing the land as best they could and planting crops.[52] By working out in the harvests, at sawmills, or on the railroad they managed to feed their families until enough land was cleared to make their farms productive. Farming required the use of horses, so by the time Deary was established most farms had two, or more, teams of horses. Horse drawn hacks, buggies, or even bundle wagons made a trip to town much easier and generally quicker than walking.

By the early 1900s mechanization had begun to arrive in many places, but conveniences did not come to the ridges as quickly as they did to the cities, towns, or larger farm areas. For example, the Idaho National Harvester, horse-drawn, combine, invented in Moscow in 1904, never found its way to Dry Ridge.[53] The small farmers could not even afford their own threshing machines and steam engines. They would cut and bind their grain, shock the bundles, haul them to a level spot in the field, and then wait for the threshing crew they had hired to arrive. Carl Olson, who with a brother, owned a threshing outfit recalls,

> "All the jobs were small, so we could thresh for three or four farmers in a day. We threshed for a hundred and one farmers one year, which was really something. It was 1920 and we worked for sixty-five days."[54]

While combines found their way into the fields around Moscow in the late 1920s, the threshing machines were still to be seen east of Troy until around 1940. As a boy, the author who was born on the Charlie Osterberg place on Dry Ridge in 1934, can remember the horse farming days of binders and bundle wagons.[55] Threshing machines were the same as in earlier days, but a gasoline powered tractor replaced the steam engine. The tractor had plenty of pulley power to do the job, but just enough wheel power to pull the heavy threshing machine from field to field. The Alex Osterberg, author's father, family moved to the Fredman farm on Dry Creek in 1940. The next two years neigh-

Troy (Vollmer) in 1891, view from Main Street looking south. Photo courtesy Latah County Historical Society.

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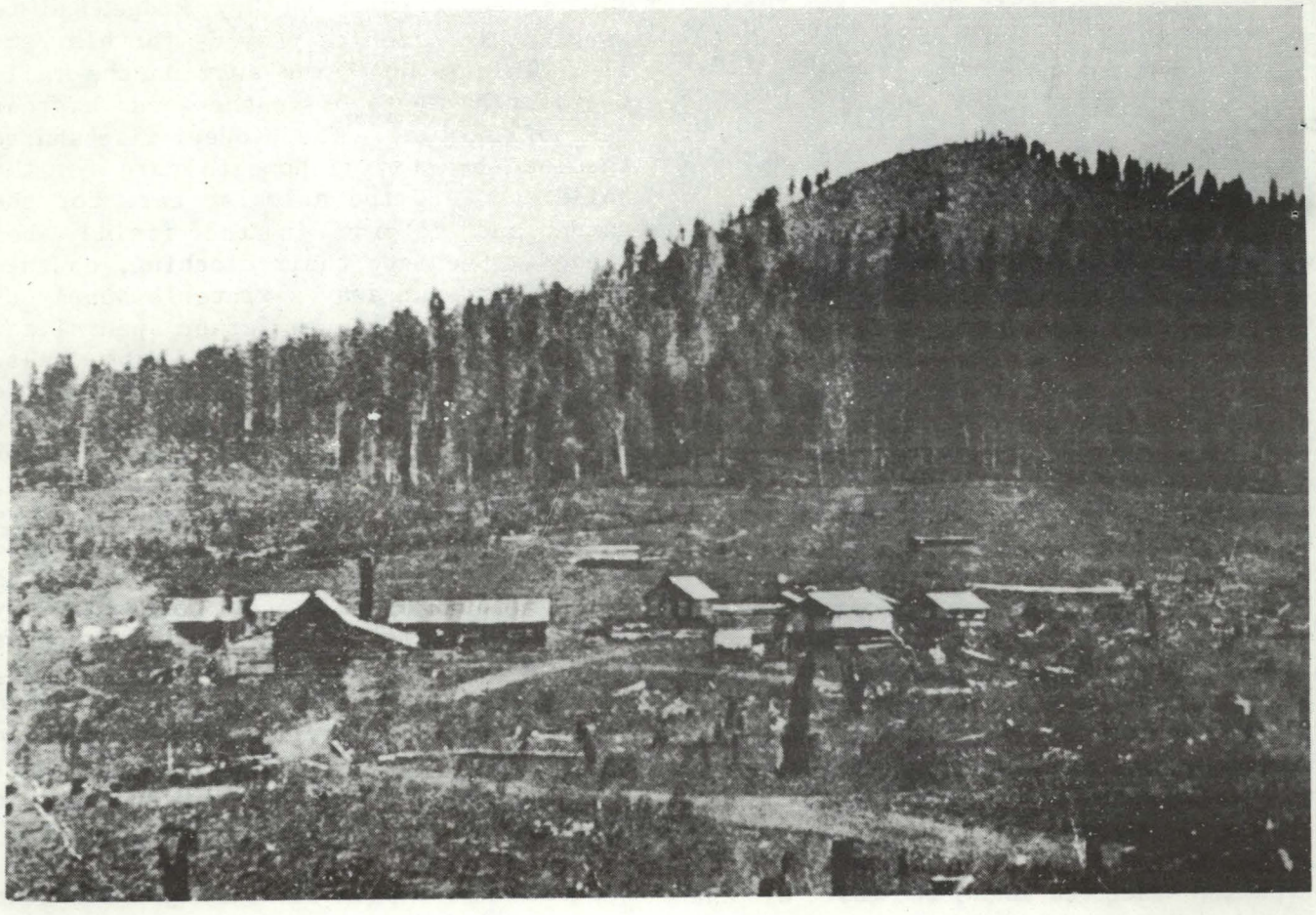

Deary, June 23, 1906. Photo courtesy Latah County Historical Society.

bors were hired to combine the crops as the threshing machine went into retirement. In 1943, however, a small, new, bright-orange Allis-Chalmers combine became part of the farm equipment. The time of the truly independent small farmer had finally arrived, but it was not long before the small farmer began to disappear. Today one farmer usually owns, or leases, three or more of the original homesteads on Dry Ridge.

Now when we are in, or are nearing, the centennial years of the settlement of Latah county and its ridges, it is not easy to see those pioneer days through modern eyes. One hundred years ago Moscow was a tiny village. The railroad had not yet arrived, the town was not yet incorporated, Latah county did not exist, and Idaho was still a territory. Ninety years ago, when Idaho became a state, the village of Troy entered its infant Vollmer stage and the pioneers were still walking to Moscow for their supplies; a long day's trip with a fifty-pound sack of flour hefted on the shoulder for the return trip. Today that same distance can be traveled in less than an hour without breaking any speed laws.

But walking such a distance was not the only inconvenience the ridge pioneers had to face. Having arrived in the area too late to be able to claim any of the grasslands around Moscow or Genesee, they had to make their farms out of forests. While the trees provided ample wood with which to build houses, barns, and other buildings and provided fuel with which to heat their homes and cook their food, strong arms and backs were required to accomplish their removal. A few acres were cleared each year and not until the development of modern, powerful equipment was the full extent of the farmland reached, and by then the original pioneers had left the ridges in the hands of their children and grandchildren.

Many of the other conveniences also arrived too late to benefit most of the pioneers. The advent of such things as indoor plumbing and electricity varied somewhat according to the individual desires. Many pioneers scoffed at such conveniences and wanted no part of them. The author can still remember his grandfather, Charlie Osterberg, taking the wooden yoke he had formed to fit his shoulders and going to the well to get two buckets of water for use in the house.[56] Already stooped by ninety years of a difficult life, the two heavy buckets stooped him even more on the return trip. Others, like the author's other grandfather, Emil Fredman, had lain pipes from the wells into the house, but with only gravity to keep them flowing they often became plugged or the water line in the well became too low, so buckets still had to be occasionally carried. Power-pumped water came with electricity and drilled wells, consequently the famous "out-houses" of yesteryear remained a farm fixture into the 1940s, or longer.

The pioneer farmer on Dry Ridge had to work out in order to provide for his family. This meant being away on the railroad, at harvest, or in the woods a great deal of the time. The pioneer wife shared the load by staying home to care for the children, tend the animals, care for the garden and helping in the fields when needed. She made their clothing, churned butter, and put away a winter's supply of food in jars. Today a farmer specializes in raising his crops; wheat, oats, peas, barley, etc., and like everyone else usually depends on the grocery stores for much of the food. The pioneers grew or raised nearly all of the foodstuffs. Cows, pigs, and chickens were a part of every farm. Gardens and orchards provided the vegetables and fruit that they ate, fresh or canned for the winter months. They were self-sufficient in everything that they could grow, but such things as sugar, coffee, tobacco, salt, spices, etc., had to be purchased. Flour was most often bought instead of grinding it themselves. Eggs, butter, and cordwood were sold to help provide the money needed.

The end of the pioneer era began with the coming of the automobile, World War I, and the prosperity of the 1920s. The

depression set things back a bit, but the technology developed during, and after, World War II surely brought the era of the pioneer to an end. ✱

FOOTNOTES

[1] See Map 1. The map of Latah county shows the general shape of the county and the location of towns, rivers and creeks. The square between Troy and Deary depicts the area shown in more detail on Map 2.

[2] Carl Olson, Oral History Interview, pp. 1-8; and William Burklund, Oral History Interview, p. 15.

[3] Lillian Otness, Oral History Interview, pp. 1-1, 1-2; and W. G. Emery, "History of Moscow" in Quarterly, Fall 1979, p. 24.

[4] Otness, Oral History, pp. 1-4.

[5] History of North Idaho, pp. 581, 606.

[6] Ibid., p. 585; and Otness, Oral History, pp. 1-2.

[7] History of North Idaho, p. 607; Idaho Signal, August 22, 1874, p. 2; and Homer David, Moscow at the Turn of the Century, p. 3.

[8] Idaho Signal, August 8, 1874, p. 3. Some accounts credit Lieuallen, Russell, MacGregor, and Deakin with donating the land. Lieuallen evidently did not purchase Neff's land until 1875 and the donation is mentioned in the Idaho Signal in 1874. Deakin's name may have been omitted from the newspaper account. It only seems logical that the original townsite would have included a portion of the southwestern corner too.

[9] History of North Idaho, pp. 581, 607.

[10] Charles J. Munson, Westward to Paradise, p. 119.

[11] Ibid., p. 131.

[12] History of North Idaho, p. 586.

[13] Munson, Paradise, p. 130.

[14] History of North Idaho, pp. 587, 590.

[15] Ibid., pp. 596-587.

[16] Ibid., p. 610; and Munson, Paradise, pp. 132-133.

[17] Olson, Oral History, pp. 1-28.

[18] Ibid., pp. 3-1, 3-2; Carl Olson, Carl Olson's Story, pp. 3-4, 14-15; and Burklund, Oral History, pp. 9-10.

[19] Dewey Osterberg, Interview, July 20, 1980.

[20] Elmer Flodin, Oral History Interview, p. 4; Anna Marie Oslund, Oral History Interview, p. 3; and Ted Sundell and Iday Asplund, Oral History Interview, p. 9.

[21] Burklund, Oral History, pp. 4-7.

[22] Olson, Story, p. 4.

[23] Hulda Anderson Lindquist, "Big Bear Ridge" in Willa Cimmings Carlson, History of Latah County, p. 107.

[24] Elmer Flodin, Interview, July 20, 1980.

[25] Carlson, Latah County, p. 107.

[26] See Map 2. This map shows the general area of settlement of the Dry Ridge and neighboring pioneers. Roads, except the Troy-Deary highway are shown as in 1914.

[27] Flodin, Interview, July 20, 1980; and Flodin, Oral History, p. 2.

[28] Olson, Story, pp. 5-13.

[29] Dewey Osterberg, Interview, July 20, 1980.

[30] Burklund, Oral History, pp. 1-2.

[31] Minnie Osterberg, Interview, July 20, 1980.

32 Philip Asplund, Oral History Interview, pp. 1-7; and Ann Nilsson Driscoll, They Came to a Ridge, p. 30.

33 Olson, Story, p. 15.

34 Ibid., pp. 15-19; Flodin, Interview, July 20, 1980; and Minnie Osterberg, Interview, July 20, 1980.

35 Minnie Osterberg, Interview, July 20, 1980.

36 Carlson, Latah County, pp. 108-109.

37 Olson, Oral History, pp. 1-29, 1-30; and Burklund, Oral History, p. 14.

38 Burklund, Oral History, p. 15.

39 Flodin, Oral History, p. 5; Flodin, Interview, July 20, 1980; Olson, Oral History, pp. 3-1, 3-9; and Minnie Osterberg, Interview, July 20, 1980.

40 Olson, Oral History, pp. 2-21, 2-22; and Helen Osterberg, Interview, July 20, 1980.

41 Carlson, Latah County, p. 109; Dawn Mueller, "Re-creating Idaho's Pioneer Past" in The Spokesman-Review Sunday Magazine, March 17, 1974, p. 13; and Helen Osterberg, Interview, July 20, 1980.

42 History of North Idaho, p. 619.

43 Ina Peterson, History of Troy, p. 1.

44 Ibid., p. 1; Perry Cady, "Thicket and Forest Was Once Progressive City of Troy" in News Review, August 31, 1934; and Driscoll, Ridge, p. 15.

45 History of North Idaho, p. 591; Elsie Nelson, Oral History Interview, p. 2; and Kenneth Platt, Some Pioneer Glimpses of Latah County, p. 5.

46 History of North Idaho, pp. 619-620; Peterson, Troy, pp. 1-3; and Cady, News Review, August 31, 1934.

47 History of North Idaho, p. 620.

48 Ibid., pp. 619-620; Peterson, Troy, p. 3; Carlson, Latah County, p. 86; and Willa Carlson, Oral History Interview, pp. 61-65.

49 Olson, Story, p. 22.

50 Ibid., p. 22.

51 Richard Waldbauer, "Deary" in Latah Legacy, Supplement to the Idahonian, June 20, 1980, p. 16; Driscoll, Ridge, pp. 37-39; and Arthur Bjerke, Frontier Days in the White Pine Country, p. 13.

52 The Pre-emption Act of 1841 gave squatters the right to purchase up to 160 acres of land at a minimum price. The Homestead Act of 1862 gave 160 acres of land to any homesteader who paid a ten dollar filing fee and lived on the land for five years. Source: Baldwin and Kelley, American History, pp. 127, 224.

53 Platt, Pioneer Glimpses, pp. 28, 32.

54 Olson, Story, p. 31.

55 Horse drawn binders cut the grain and tied it into bundles. After the bundles were shocked (stacked) together they were taken to the threshing machine in high racked bundle wagons.

56 The wooden yoke had wires dangling at the ends with hooks to attach to the water buckets. Hands were used to steady the buckets, but the weight fell on the shoulders.

* *

Sheriff Cameron has been furnishing his boarders at the People's hotel with improved ankle bands of chilled steel of the latest fashion which impedes their departure except on consent.

Moscow Mirror
4 December 1885, p. 3

NATHANIEL WILLIAMSON
MOSCOW MERCHANT, 1903-1920

BY

M. ALEXIS RIPPEL

Author's note: The purpose of this paper is to trace the career of Nathaniel Williamson as a Moscow merchant from 1903-1920. By examining this 17 year period, it can be seen that his business practices and original style enabled him to make his store prosperous and also one of the largest in the Palouse Country.

After deciding to research a local business, my first step was to contact someone who is familiar with this particular aspect of Moscow. I talked to Randy Myklebust, a local merchant, who told me of Williamson's store. Randy didn't have much information to give me but did know about Mr. Frank Williamson of Palouse, Washington, who is the son of Nathaniel Williamson. Randy suggested that I get in touch with him.

I wrote Mr. Williamson requesting any information he thought was of historical value. Some weeks later, Mrs. Williamson contacted me by telephone and we set up an appointment.[1]

When I got to Palouse, I found that the Williamsons had a wonderful collection of newspaper ads and clippings, catalogs, brochures, and photographs. Mrs. Williamson was very receptive and even suggested that I could take whatever I wanted back to Moscow for closer study. This collection was an enjoyable and informative way to get an idea of Williamson's store and his merchandising practices.

My next stop was the Latah County Historical Society. Here the helpful curator, Mr. Keith Petersen, showed me a number of items including a biography of Nathaniel Williamson written by Frank Williamson; one of the Historical Society's Quarterly Bulletins; and an article written by Mr. Petersen about the McConnell Building in downtown Moscow, which was one of the locations of Williamson's store.

* *

Born in County Monaghan, Ireland, Nathaniel Williamson began his American retailing career at the firm of McDougal-Southwick in Seattle. He began as a clerk and then moved on to floor walker, buyer and manager. Eventually, he was put in charge of a store at Olympia and later one at Bellingham.

As his reputation grew among wholesalers, Williamson was encouraged to start his own store. There were three locations to choose from: Walla Walla, Missoula and Moscow. Frank Williamson states in his book that Nathaniel Williamson chose Moscow "because of its opportunities as an aggressive town with a blossoming state university, the county seat and a population of solid citizens in the city and surrounding farms."[2]

Williamson's second Moscow store, originally the McConnell-Maquire block, 2nd and Main Street. Photo courtesy Clifford Ott collection.

* * *

Unloading merchandise at the Greater Boston Store, 1906. Photo courtesy Clifford Ott collection.

Nathaniel Williamson arrived in Moscow in 1903 and bought the entire stock of the Boston Store which was located at Fifth and Main. He opened the first of his businesses in 1904 at that location retaining the name of the Boston.

Eventually customers from the area all around Moscow shopped at his store. His son reports that they came "from as far away as the Nez Perce prairie and Lewiston as well as nearer places such as Pullman, Palouse, Potlatch and Harvard."[3]

As the business prospered, the small building soon became too crowded. Williamson eventually expanded the store until it encompassed almost all of the block between Fourth and Fifth on Main Street.[4] This new, larger location became known as the "Greater Boston."

In 1913 Williamson again needing more room, leased the McConnell Building at First and Main. The store occupied the entire building and was named Williamson's. The McConnell Building, which has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a large, 3-story brick building covered with cement. When it was built in 1891, the structure was considered to be "of the latest architectural beauty and style."[5]

Williamson installed an electric sign that was almost the full height of the building. It simply said "Williamson's" in lighted block letters and was hung in a perpendicular manner enabling customers traveling from either direction on Main Street to identify the store. "The kaleidoscopic ornament on top," Frank states, "was visible from the summit of the Viola grade and became a landmark of Moscow."[6]

As the customers went inside, they found the first floor devoted to menswear, dry goods, shoes and groceries. The grocery

* * *

The Greater Boston Store at 5th and Main, 1906. Shows the signs on the south wall of the building on 5th Street (presently Cox & Nelson). Photo courtesy Clifford Ott collection.

Inside Greater Boston Store, 5th and Main, looking toward the back of the store. Photo courtesy Clifford Ott collection.

* * *

department was at the rear of the store and had a First Street entrance. The wrapping department with "an elaborate system of cash and bundle carriers connecting with every section of the floor"[7] was on the balcony above the Main Street entrance. On the south side of the balcony were the china and cooking utensils and on the north, stoves and ranges. The general offices were located at the rear along with bedding, suitcases, trunks and toilet rooms for employees and patrons.

The ladies' wear, millinery and dressmaking/alterations departments were located on the second floor. The ladies' cloaks and suits were kept in built-in cabinets along the wall, as were the men's suits and coats on the first floor. The top or third floor contained the wallpaper and furniture departments, and at the rear, the carpet and rug department. A newspaper article concerning the grand opening said there were plans to install a rug making machine enabling the store to make bordered rugs for rooms of any shape or size.

Williamson installed an electric Otis elevator that carried customers from floor to floor. This he advertised as "the first and finest in the district."[8]

Later part of a building next door was rented and there Williamson installed a restaurant and moved the grocery and hardware departments. It was all joined to the main store by a runway leading to the restaurant on the second floor and through an archway to the groceries and hardware on the first floor.

It seems that Nathaniel Williamson was the proprietor of an establishment which could justifiably be called the first Moscow mall. Rural families could stop at Williamson's, take care of most of their shopping needs, and even have lunch or dinner without leaving the store.

At the start of his Moscow business career, Nathaniel Williamson introduced new and unusual advertising campaigns and promotions to the area. He capitalized on anything and everything, continually

working to advance the reputation of his enterprise as "Your Store and Ours." He soon became known as "Moscow's Price Maker and Pace Setter"--this was later changed to encompass all of Idaho.[9] He used the slogan frequently in the advertising, all of which he wrote personally.

Williamson advertised with broadsides and flyers, printed catalogs and brochures and of course, newspaper ads. His style was aggressive and flamboyant and always stressed the importance of the customer, low prices, and quantity as well as quality of merchandise. Every page in his catalogs and brochures contained many short, catchy phrases that summed up Williamson's business philosophy. A 1907 catalog for the Greater Boston included these quips, for example:

> "No Braggard or Boasting, but Absolute Facts Fearlessly Told, Defiantly Printed and Backed by the Last Dollar at Our Command;[10] and, Our Profits come from quick returns. A live dollar is better than four dead ones."[11]

Competition with the other Moscow merchants was stiff. Williamson's had to vie for customers along with David's Creighton's, Oberg's and Carsow's. In his advertising Williamson naturally stressed the superiority of his business in contrast with his competitors. For example:

> "We receive more freight than any other three stores hereabouts combined do. These people, a few years ago, dictated the price you should pay, never held a sale or cut a price. Williamson's has made it impossible for them to do so anymore;[12] and, Were it not for us prices throughout the length and breadth of the Palouse country would be much higher. Who deserves your business, the store that makes the price or those who meet them after a fight?"[13]

Nathaniel Williamson stated in his advertising that his business was responsible for the reduction of catalog use by Palouse residents, a reduction of at least 90 percent. He also asserted that his was the only concern in Idaho that had a permanent New York buyer, a buyer always ready to spot a bargain. He maintained that the reason for his low prices and

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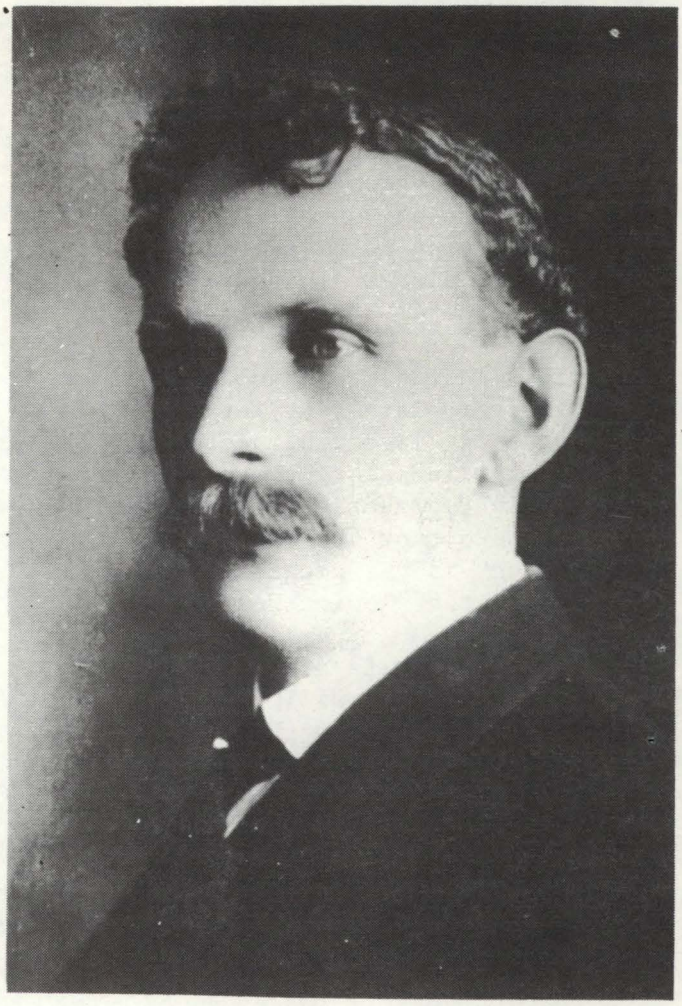

Nathaniel Williamson. Photo courtesy Latah County Historical Society.

* * *

variety of goods was his ability to buy directly from manufacturers, not through importers or jobbers.

Williamson's large number of promotional campaigns never lacked originality. There always seemed to be something going on at the store. From 1904 through 1909, Williamson sponsored the Great Fall Fair. At this fair, participants exhibited products of the farm, garden and orchard

THE GREATER BOSTON STORE

There thrives in Moscow, Ida.
The Greater Boston Store,
A very large, brick building,
Covering thirty thousand feet or more.
It's Moscow's greatest possession;
The cheapest place to trade:
Where you can buy anything you want
In cloth or tailor made.

The store is Nicely situated,
On the east side of Main St.
The proprietor is so courteous
Always smiling when e'er you meet.
The clerks are all so obliging,
Always trying to please and more
Oh! you will always find a welcome
At the Greater Boston Store.

You will find the dress goods finished
In the very latest style,
The gingham's, laces, blankets,
Are all piled along the aisles;
The curtains, draperies, corsets, gloves,
Are made out of the best,
The "Boston" is the greatest store
Found in the glowing West.

The cloaks and suits are stylish,
And made so they will fit;
And if you wear one of the hats
You're bound to make a "hit".
All you want to do is to purchase,
You'll not go away and weep,
For the "Greater Boston" is awake,
"The store that never sleeps".

And it's only a short time ago
That the proprietor held a fair
To see who had the best livestock
And would willingly bring them there.
Also a prize was given,
For the best vegetable and fruit,
And the one that gained first prize
Was presented with a suit.

No other store in Idaho
Has such enterprise and "grit",
No matter at how great a sacrifice
N. Williamson will never "quit".
We wish him honor and success,
We urge him on the race,
Hurrah! for the dear old "Boston".
"The store that sets the pace".

Contributed by Jeanette Talbott; author and date unknown.

in a large tent, and outside, horses were shown. Prizes ranged from Stetson hats to a clothes wringer with Williamson standing all the expense. The Great Fall Fair was moved from Williamson's store in 1910 and became the Latah County Fair.

In 1904, Williamson held his first Great White Fair. This annual happening gave the shoppers of the Palouse an opportunity to purchase any description of white goods and their accessories for half the price. Williamson claimed to be the originator of the white sale in Moscow, a sale that other merchants in town soon began to imitate. Williamson's promotional ideas for his 1910 White Fair surely must have been unusual in comparison to those of the competition. He offered to the "smartest boy or girl in Moscow"[14] the chance to win a 5-horse power, miniature "Browniekar" automobile capable of going up to 12 miles per hour. All a boy or girl had to do was collect the greatest amount in dollars and cents of sales slips purchased during the White Fair. Naturally, Williamson asked the children, after reading the ad, to suggest to their parents and neighbors to drop into his store for an advance look at what was to be offered at the sale. He seems to have understood the advertising idea of appealing to potential buyers through their children.

He even made arrangements with railroads that serviced Moscow and the surrounding area to give free one-way transportation up to 100 miles to anyone purchasing $25 worth of merchandise. One could go both ways for a $40 purchase.

Whenever Williamson had a trainload of merchandise arrive in town, he made a parade of taking the goods from depot to store. The street was filled with banner-carrying carts, bands playing, and children running alongside.

When Williamson's lease ran out on the McConnell Building in 1920, he decided to close out the store.[15] His last sale was typical of the size and show of all his promotions. In the final broadside printed, Williamson gave his reasons for ending his merchandising career in Moscow. I am sure the competition appreciated "Reason Three" in which Williamson stated that "no store in the Palouse

country within striking distance of this house could or has prospered in the last 15 years. Williamson is man enough to give 'em a chance to make good."[16]

Though this was the end of his largest enterprise, Williamson had branch stores in Idaho at Winchester, Gifford and Bovill and another in Heppner, Oregon. These he turned over to managers he trained himself.

During the last years of the Moscow store, Williamson was buying land around Moscow, Pullman and Palouse for farms. The appeal of the rural life may have been why Williamson quit active participation in retail. Even after closing the business he bought more land near Moscow and two farms at Genesee. He brought in two carloads of purebred shorthorn cattle and a bull to stock one of his farms near Moscow.

While running his farms and cattle, he opened a creamery on Sixth Street, the present site of P. W. Hoseapple's. He made part of the creamery into an indoor swimming pool used by the residents of Moscow for many years. The pool can still be seen today in the basement of the restaurant.

Nathaniel Williamson began his merchandising career as a mere clerk in Seattle and through hard work, originality and natural ability he became a successful businessman in the Inland Northwest. He brought a competitive and innovative selling style to Moscow and influenced the local business community. He pleased the customer not only with low prices and a large variety of goods, but also with his special knack of making an ordinary occasion something special.*

* * *

Gathering of children outside of Greater Boston Store during promotion sponsored by Red Goose Shoes, about 1907. Photo courtesy Clifford Ott collection.

FOOTNOTES

[1] When Mrs. Williamson called, she informed me that Frank Williamson had been ill and was recuperating in a Spokane Hospital. Even under these circumstances, she invited me to their home and offered to help in any way she could.

[2] Frank Williamson and Dick d'Easum, "Williamson's Store," Latah County Museum Society Quarterly Bulletin, 5, No. 3 (1976), p. 16.

[3] Williamson, p. 16.

[4] The remainder of the block was occupied by the Shields Building. This structure, located at the corner of Fifth and Main, contained a hardware store, business college and apartments.

[5] "The Builders of Moscow. Her Leading Businessmen and Business Houses," Moscow Mirror, 10 Jan. 1892, p. 10.

[6] Frank Williamson and Dick d'Easum, "Williamson's Store," Latah County Museum Society Quarterly Bulletin, 5, No. 3 (1976), p. 17.

[7] "Williamson Opens In His New Store Today," newspaper article, probably Moscow Star-Mirror, approx. date 1913.

[8] Frank Williamson and Dick d'Easum, "Williamson's Store," Latah County Museum Society Quarterly Bulletin, 5, No. 3 (1976), p. 17.

[9] These slogans can still be seen on the back of the McConnell Building, the present location of Brown's Furniture.

[10] Nathaniel Williamson, "3rd Annual Catalogue of the Greater Boston," The Moscow Evening Journal (1907).

[11] Williamson, "3rd Annual Catalog."

[12] Nathaniel Williamson, "Advertising Brochure for the Greater Boston" (1910).

[13] Nathaniel Williamson, "Catalogue of the Greater Boston" (1910), p. 2.

[14] Nathaniel Williamson, "Catalogue of the Greater Boston."

[15] A discrepancy exists between the final sales brochure and A Biography of Nathaniel Williamson. In the biography, Frank Williamson writes that the store closed in 1920 with a large sale, but the last advertising brochure is dated 1918. The store apparently could have closed out in either year, both years, or there could have been a two year period between the closing of the store and the actual end of the lease.

[16] Nathaniel Williamson, "Final Sale Brochure of Williamson's" (1918).

* *

COW FOR SALE.

Owing to my gaining a position as clerk and general overseer in a large store in the city, I will sell at my residence in township 38, range 5 west, according to government survey, one crushed raspberry colored cow, age six years. She is a good milkster and is not afraid of the cars or anything else. She is a cow of undaunted courage, and gives milk frequently. To a man who does not fear death in any form she would be a great boon. She is very much attached to her home at present, by means of a trace chain, but she will be sold to anyone who will agree to treat her right. She is one fourth shorthorn and three fourths hyena. Purchaser need not be identified. I will also throw in a double barreled shotgun which goes with her. In May she generally goes away somewhere for a week or two and returns with a tall red calf with long, wobbly legs. Her name is Rose, and I would prefer to sell.

BILL PLUMMER

Moscow Mirror
4 March 1887, p. 3

ANNOUNCEMENT

The WILLIAMSON

Department Store

of Moscow, Idaho

Goes Out of Business

ABSOLUTELY AND COMPLETELY

The Entire Stock Goes on Sale

Monday, September 9th

and will continue on sale until all are sold. See inside for particulars.

(Signed)

N. WILLIAMSON

LATAH COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
110 South Adams St.
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Non-profit Organ.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 161
Moscow, Idaho

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Museum of North Idaho
P.O. Box 812
Coeur d' Alene, Id. 83814

In 1968 interested individuals organized the Latah County Historical Society to collect and preserve materials connected with the history of Latah County and to provide further knowledge of the history and tradition of the area. Every person, young or old, who is interested in the history of Latah County and who would like to assist in its preservation and interpretation is cordially invited to become a member. Subscription to this journal and a discount on books published by the Society are included in membership dues. Dues for the various classes of membership are as follows:

	Friend	Contributing	Sustaining	Sponsoring	Benefactor
Individual	$ 5-10	$11-25	$26- 50	$ 51-100	$101-499
Family	9-15	16-40	41-100	101-200	201-499
Business	25-35	36-75	76-150	151-300	301-499

A "500 Club" is reserved for contributions of $500 or more. Privileges are identical for all classes; the higher dues represent a much needed donation to help the Society's work. Dues are tax-deductible.

The Society's services include conducting oral histories, publishing local history monographs, maintaining a local history/genealogy research library and the county museum, as well as educational outreach. The Society wishes to acquire objects, documents, books, photographs, diaries, and other materials relating to the history of Latah County. These are added to the collections and made available to researchers while they are preserved for future generations.

The Society is housed in the William J. McConnell Mansion, 110 South Adams, Moscow. The museum is open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Visits to the museum or research library are welcomed at other times and can be arranged by calling (208) 882-1004.