

# LATAH LEGACY

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE LATAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Inside:

The Chinese Work Force in Moscow

T.R. Comes to Moscow

Winter Reading for Warm Nights



The Northern Pacific R.R. Depot, 1892. Photograph by F. Jay Haynes,  
official photographer of the N.P.

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THE CHINESE WORK FORCE IN MOSCOW, IDAHO,  
AND VICINITY, 1880-1910

by Priscilla Wegars

Preface

In early 1982 Richard Beck, Associate Dean for Public Services at the University of Idaho Library, was using the Special Collections Sanborn and Sanborn-Perris fire insurance maps of Moscow and noticed that some of the maps showed "Chinese" buildings. In all, there were ten such structures, at nine locations, mentioned on the seven existing maps covering the years from 1888 to 1909. I listed their locations and went out with a camera to record what each now looked like.

All were either under paved parking lots or had been replaced by later buildings. One of the latter, presently in use by the city water works, is located on the east side of Jackson Street, between A and C streets; on the 1891 map that same location was occupied by a Chinese laundry.<sup>1</sup> The area to the north side of the present water works building is now an unpaved, gravelled lot, owned by Helbling Brothers and used for parking farm machinery. Because evidence for the Chinese laundry might perhaps be found there, Helbling Brothers permitted an archaeological excavation to take place in that location. The "dig" was conducted for six Saturdays during the fall of 1983 under the sponsorship of the Association for the Humanities in Idaho and the University of Idaho's Laboratory of Anthropology.

While many artifacts were found during the excavations, only two, a tiny sherd of brown-glazed ceramic typical of Chinese utilitarian stonewares, and a pen point with the name of a Cincinnati laundry supply firm, were apparently from the Chinese laundry. From this evidence I concluded that the laundry's main outdoor activities probably took place on the other side of where the water works building stands today. Unfortunately, however, that area is now paved and is

therefore presently unavailable for archaeological examination.

Once I knew that there might be below-ground evidence, however scanty, for the Chinese structures shown on the early maps, I attempted to learn more about the buildings and their inhabitants. My efforts to do so were frustrated by an apparent lack of information. Lillian Otness's otherwise excellent architectural history of Moscow and Latah County<sup>2</sup> has nothing at all on Moscow's early Chinese buildings, probably because all are now gone. Mentions of Moscow's Chinese inhabitants are absent from two histories of the Chinese in Idaho.<sup>3</sup> Most personal recollections of the town's history also fail to note any Chinese who might have resided there during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It became a challenge to try to document the presence of these other Moscow "citizens" in order to learn when they came, what brought them here, how they were employed, and why they left. Virtually forgotten now, Moscow's early Chinese residents were once a viable part of that Idaho settlement. Although denied equality of opportunity then, they deserve equality of remembrance today.

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1. Sanborn-Perris Map Company, Moscow, Latah Co., Idaho, Jan. 1891 (New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Company, 1891), p. 1.

2. Lillian W. Otness, A Great Good Country: A Guide to Historic Moscow and Latah County, Idaho (Moscow: Latah County Historical Society, 1983).

3. Fern Coble Trull, "The History of the Chinese in Idaho From 1864 to 1910" (Master's thesis, University of Oregon, 1946); Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn, Idaho Chinese Lore (Caldwell, ID: Caxton Printers, 1970).

## Introduction

The history of the arrival of the Chinese in the West has been well-documented in recent years. Chinese workers first began coming to this country in large numbers during the late 1840s and early 1850s in the wake of gold discoveries in California. As mining became unprofitable there they drifted north into what are now the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho following gold strikes in the 1850s and 1860s. As the gold workings played out in the West, the Chinese turned to other occupations, chiefly railroad construction work, beginning in the mid-1860s. Some continued as miners into the 1890s, while others may have alternately mined, worked for the railroads, or found other employment depending upon where the best opportunities were at the time.

## Early Chinese on the Palouse

The first Chinese to arrive in the Palouse country, as Washington's Whitman and Idaho's Latah counties together are known, probably came as gold miners. Significant strikes were made in Washington Territory in the 1850s and 1860s,<sup>1</sup> including ones in portions of present-day Washington and Idaho. In 1860 whites discovered gold at the source of the Palouse River, and Chinese later worked there also, particularly in the Hoodoo mining district.<sup>2</sup> At least one early Chinese arrival was not a miner; a Chinese resident of Colfax operated a laundry there in 1877,<sup>3</sup> and was called "an artiste in his line."<sup>4</sup>

## Chinese Miners in Latah County<sup>5</sup>

Chinese gold miners are known to have worked in three distinct mining districts in areas of Latah County: the Hoodoos, Gold Hill, and Moscow Mountain.

The Hoodoo mining district is comprised of "four gulches that empty into the Palouse River about 3 miles northwest of Moscow."<sup>6</sup> Gold was first discovered and worked there in the early 1860s, but the miners left for richer strikes elsewhere and did not return again until about 1870

when "gold was discovered on Jerome, Camas, and Gold Creeks, tributaries of the Palouse,"<sup>7</sup> part of the Gold Hill mining district near present-day Potlatch, Idaho.

It is not known for certain when the Chinese first began working in Latah County. Mayo reports that "large numbers of Chinese miners" were working both on Gold Hill and in the Hoodoos throughout the 1870s and 1880s, and into the 1890s.<sup>8</sup> They were certainly there at least by 1880, since they appear in the census records for that year. Six all-male households, totalling 37 Chinese miners, were enumerated for Palouse Bridge Precinct, Nez Perce County, Idaho Territory. Household size was between four to nine inhabitants, ranging in age from 16 to 52 years old. Nine of the men were married but presumably their wives had remained in China.<sup>9</sup>

Pioneer Pete Terteling had first-hand experience with the organization of Chinese miners prior to 1900. While his memories may be more specifically of the Salmon River area, they could have been applicable to Latah County as well. The passage which follows retains the flavor of Mr. Terteling's own spelling and punctuation. He recalled that in the placer mines there was one "Boss Chinaman" and maybe

ten or twelve slaves. The Boss looked after all the Buisness The slaves stayed on the job unless there was something for them to carry in town or from another camp. . . . One Chinaman told me . . . he worked 10 years to free himself and now he was going to worke 10 years more to free a woman for his wife. The China Company at Sanfrancisco, Cal. furnished Chines slave labor all through this Pasific north west where ever they could make money for the company. They furnished the slaves food and clothing and an allowance of Opioum [opium] They looked forward to . . . smoke after they had their supper. . . .<sup>10</sup>

By mid-1885 the numbers of Chinese miners

in Latah County may have been increasing, since a newspaper account from June of that year, signed "Miner," reported:

. . . All claim holders are trying to sell their claims to the Chinese, and a good many claims have been disposed of; if the work is continued the pig tails will in a short time own the whole Palouse mining belt. . . .<sup>11</sup>

The successes of the Chinese miners, together with the bigotry prevalent at the time, caused the years of Chinese mining in Latah County to be known as "an era of crime"; dominated by "criminally inclined whites" who "massacred" Chinese and perpetrated other atrocities in both the Hoodoo and Gold Hill mining districts.<sup>12</sup>

In the early 1880s three Chinese miners on Camas Creek about 17 miles above Palouse Bridge were murdered for their gold. Their cabin was burned with two of the bodies in it, and the third man was found buried in the snow.<sup>13</sup> A man named Ab Galloway was arrested for the murders, brought to trial, and acquitted, but later admitted guilt.<sup>14</sup>

In 1886 "two Chinamen brought suit . . . against a man named Holden for destroying their hydrolic [sic] hose in the mines east of Moscow."<sup>15</sup> About 50 yards of hose was alleged to have been destroyed in Howard Gulch, but the following week the case was dismissed before any sworn testimony was taken.<sup>16</sup>

Later that spring homesteaders brought suit in the district court seeking to prevent the Chinese from working the placer mines four miles northeast of Moscow.<sup>17</sup> A newspaper story mentioned that both white and Chinese men were working the mines, and that Chinese had purchased claims from whites. Some white homesteaders, however, were including the mineral lands in their 160 acres and had even received patents to it, claiming it as agricultural land. The same Holden, already mentioned, obtained an injunction forbidding the Chinese from mining on his homestead, and a sheriff's deputy carried off the gold dust from their sluice box

without a court order. The Chinese were represented by three white lawyers who questioned both the legality of homestead filing on mineral lands, and the seizure of the gold, and upheld the right of the Chinese to mine on the claims they had purchased from the previous owners.<sup>18</sup> By mid-July the case of Holden vs. the Chinese had been tried and submitted, but no verdict had been reached.<sup>19</sup>

Strychnine Creek, in the Hoodoos, was used by the Chinese miners both for mining Excavation Gulch and for domestic cooking and drinking purposes. The creek supposedly was named because jealous white miners poisoned it with strychnine, killing off the Chinese.<sup>20</sup> A local resident believes the creek poisoning must have happened by mid-1889 since the earliest reference he found to Strychnine Creek in the Latah County Mining Records is dated 29 August of that year.<sup>21</sup>

At times, when harassment was too great for them to continue mining, the Chinese grew gardens on Gold Creek and elsewhere. Where they utilized lands that were open to homestead, Palouse Valley residents objected,<sup>22</sup> sometimes violently.

The Chinese may have occasionally acted as guides to local whites wanting to visit the mining areas. One "China Sam" acted as "protector" to six "dudes," taking them on "a free and easy hunting and prospecting tour."<sup>23</sup> Another brief item from the local newspaper mentioned a Chinese miner by name, and also supplied some "comic relief":

Our friend Gut Long the China miner goes by daily with a little jug of gin. We wish some one would teach him to "jug not, that ye be not jugged."<sup>24</sup>

Intermittent newspaper references to Chinese miners in Latah County support their continuing presence there. In 1887 two Chinese men were badly hurt in the Hoodoo [sic] mines by a falling tree,<sup>25</sup> and a couple of years later the paper reported that "about 20 white men and 20 Chinamen are in the Hoodoo mines."<sup>26</sup>

A severe blow was dealt to Idaho's Chinese miners in the spring of 1890 when Judge Willis Sweet, presiding over the district court at Mount Idaho, ruled that "Chinese have no rights whatever on mining lands in the United States," in a case brought by some Chinese miners in the Elk City mining district. The Chinese had filed suit against some white claim jumpers who had forced them off their Moose Creek workings, ones which had been purchased by them many years previously. In a related decision, the judge ruled that "a lease of mining ground to the Chinese was invalid and amounted to abandonment of claim" unless the white owner could prove that the Chinese were actually in his employ. "Upon the announcement of the decision parties were immediately organized to oust the Chinese miners in . . . mining camps in Northern Idaho."<sup>27</sup>

The Chinese evidently continued working in the Hoodoo mines for at least another year, but in December in 1891 a headline announced, almost gleefully, "The Chinese Ousted at Hoodoo." For several years nine or ten Chinese men had held leases on two twenty-acre tracts for 99 years. The previous fall a Mr. Beagle had bought the mines, and after examining the rights of the Chinese found that "they could acquire no title or right to mineral producing ground by lease or otherwise." The Chinese "submitted without trouble" and left the area after consulting with counsel "who advised them of the facts."<sup>28</sup>

It is not known where the Chinese went once they left the Hoodoo mining region. They may have dispersed to Moscow, Pullman, Colfax, and other local communities, in search of what employment they could find, or they may have left for larger centers such as those in Spokane, Portland, and Seattle. Still others may have continued in mining as individual laborers, perhaps for whites; in the 1900 Moscow census one man is listed as a mine laborer.<sup>29</sup>

#### Early Chinese in Moscow

Originally it appeared that the first Chinese in Moscow arrived there with the coming of the railroad in 1885. An 1883 photograph, however, believed to be the first one taken of the town, shows a small structure in the right foreground which is labeled "Chinese gardener's home." The area surrounding it is not built upon and may well have been a garden plot. The identification was provided by the late Lillie Lieuallen Woodworth, a pioneer resident of Moscow, who was born in 1874 and died in 1971.<sup>30</sup>

The small building is on the west side of Jackson Street, and would have been north of First, which in the 1883 photograph ends at Jackson; it is therefore diagonally opposite from the 1876 First Baptist Church. The "gardener's home" may be the same as a "cabin" shown in the same location on the 1891 and 1893 maps of Moscow<sup>31</sup>; this area is not depicted on the two earlier maps, dated 1888 and 1889.

Subsequent Chinese arrivals were probably railroad workers who had been discharged from their employment following completion of various lines in the Pacific Northwest.

#### Chinese Railroad Workers in Washington and Idaho

Chinese employment on the railroads in what is now Washington and Idaho began in April 1871 when James B. Montgomery hired 750 Chinese to do the earth grading on the first portion of the Northern Pacific line being constructed from Kalama, Washington, to Tacoma.<sup>32</sup> Eventually 2,000 Chinese were reported to have been hired before Tacoma was reached in late 1873.<sup>33</sup> Beginning in October 1879, numerous Chinese started working for the Northern Pacific in eastern Washington and were headquartered in Ainsworth, near present-day Pasco; in 1881 they were paid \$26.00 a month.<sup>34</sup>

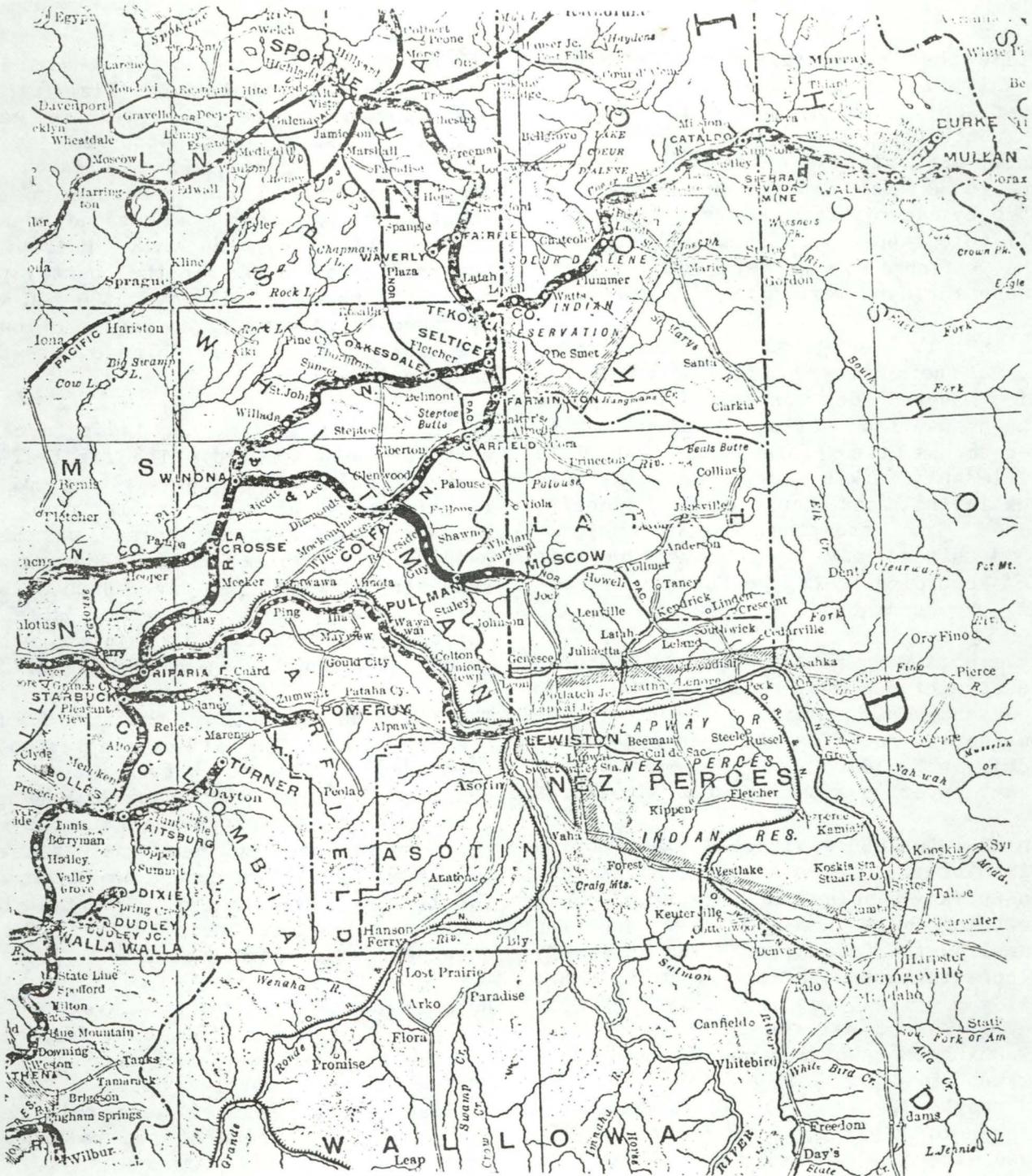


Fig. 1 Map of a portion of the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company's lines in Washington and Idaho. The Colfax to Moscow portion, completed in September 1885, is emphasized. Illustration from Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, Map and Short Story of the Pacific Northwest Embracing Oregon, Washington, Idaho (Portland: Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company, 1904).

In 1880 the census recorded 530 Chinese in Whitman County, Washington.<sup>35</sup> For comparison, Idaho's Nez Perce County, then containing what later became Latah County, had only 198 Chinese.<sup>36</sup> Most of those in Whitman County were either employed by the railroads or by the numerous small telegraph companies which were soon to be absorbed by Western Union<sup>37</sup>; the Chinese in Idaho were primarily miners.

From 1881 to 1883 gangs of Chinese workmen, in the employ of the Northern Pacific, labored on construction of the right-of-way from Wallula on the Columbia River across the plateau to Lake Pend Oreille and Clark's Fork, grade clearing, track laying, and constructing tunnels, bridges, and trestles.<sup>38</sup> As many as 10,000 Chinese may have worked on this line, according to George Mudgett of Spokane, who furnished

live hogs and poultry to the Chinese construction crews, numbering about ten thousand men, along the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad, between Sandpoint, Idaho and Drummond, Montana, covering a period of two years.<sup>39</sup>

From 1881 to 1883 a vigorous construction program of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company resulted in a branch of their line being built from Palouse Junction (Connell) to Colfax, in Washington.<sup>40</sup> The construction work for the O. R. & N., as it was called, was done mainly by Chinese.<sup>41</sup> Almost all the railroad grading in Washington's Whitman and Spokane counties was done by Chinese laborers, who laid tracks for the O. R. & N. "from Tucannon to Riparia, from Riparia to La Crosse, from La Crosse to Colfax, from Colfax to Farmington, and from Farmington to Tekoa."<sup>42</sup> By 1885, once the railroad construction had tapered off, Whitman County only had some 107 Chinese inhabitants.<sup>43</sup>

#### The Railroad Reaches Moscow

On July 24, 1885, the Moscow Mirror heralded the "Glad News for the Moscow Country"; the railroad was "now a certainty." The Oregon Railway and Navigation Company

had begun the extension of their line between Colfax and Moscow (Fig. 1); it was expected to be completed in early October. Also to be constructed, at the north end of Moscow, was "a large and commodious freight and passenger depot, together with a four stall round house." The account concluded with, "Hurrah for the road, and hurrah for the country that needs the road." While over 300 men were reported to be working on construction of the line to Moscow, no Chinese were then mentioned.<sup>44</sup>

By the following week the labor force at work had been doubled. The right-of-way between Colfax and Moscow was settled, and 16 bridges were to be built along the route. A man with two horses was being paid \$4 a day, while Chinese laborers were receiving 80 cents per day. Both Chinese [sic] and whites were at work, "some repairing the track that is laid and others grading for the laying of the track."<sup>45</sup>

The railroad was much in the news in succeeding weeks. The date of completion was estimated as "on or before Oct. 15th" while by 7 August 1885 some of the more than 500 men at work on the railroad were employed between Pullman and Moscow.<sup>46</sup> Two weeks later the track had been laid for 15 miles past Colfax, the first Howe truss was completed near Pullman, and 75 more "Chinamen" were hired.<sup>47</sup>

By the end of August the "cars" had arrived at Guy, now Albion, some four miles northwest of Pullman, and four gangs of "Chinamen" were working between Guy and Pullman. Local farmers were relying on the timely completion of the railroad to take out the year's "immense crop"<sup>48</sup> of wheat.

By 18 September the "cars" were some seven miles from Moscow, and were "coming with a bustle"; the train was expected to "thunder into Moscow by the 25th."<sup>49</sup> In anticipation of the big day, Maguire and Browne's department store took out a full-page advertisement on the front page of the Moscow Mirror for 18 September and the subsequent three weekly issues. It read, "Great Excitement. MOSCOW FIRED With new

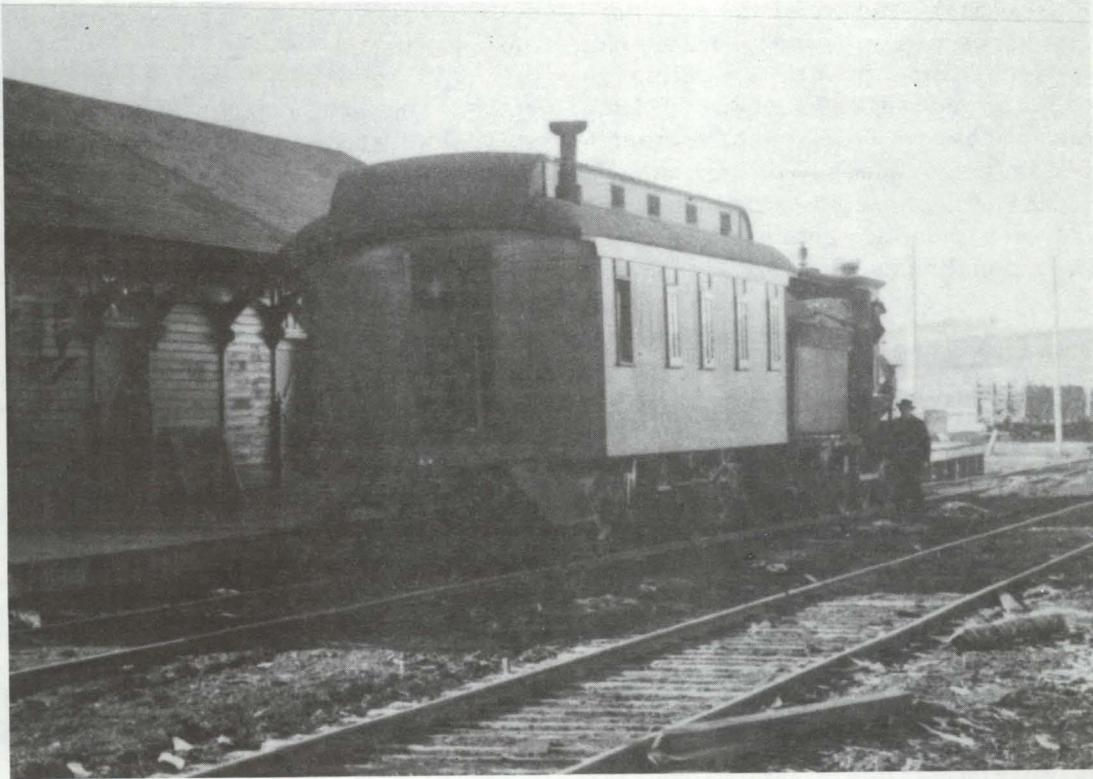


Fig. 2. Note the Chinese gentleman standing at the end of the railroad car. Photographs of early Chinese in Moscow are exceedingly rare. This enlargement is of a section of our cover photograph, which was procured by Professor Carlos Schwantes, who kindly allowed us to use it.

life and activity by the early COMPLETION OF THE RAIL ROAD. . . ." The proprietors expected a "GREAT BOOM" in their trade. Suits were offered for \$7.50 and a pair of boots for \$3.50; wheat, at 45 cents a bushel, would be accepted in payment.<sup>50</sup>

The great day of "Rail Road Rejoicing" finally arrived. On Wednesday, 23 September 1885, "The First Train of Cars Arrived in this City . . . and Long and Loud was the Welcome to the Company." The new arrival "ran up to Main street and blew her whistle in honor of the event." Local citizens fired off cannons which "kept up a steady boom for an hour." Flowery speeches were made welcoming "yonder iron horse" and Moscovans were exhorted by Attorney Willis Sweet to see

that no person is prevented from settling here because of the excessive cost

of a home. Give the railroad employees who may be located here cheap homes, and have them speaking good words for Moscow on every train.<sup>51</sup>

Given the tenor of the times, however, Mr. Sweet's welcome to the relocating railroad employees probably did not include the Chinese (Fig. 2) nor were they likely to have been in attendance at Friday night's railroad ball, which attracted "handsome and accomplished ladies and gentlemen" from as far away as Lewiston.<sup>52</sup>

Eventually the construction of the depot buildings employed some 40 men<sup>53</sup>; a month later the section house was nearly completed, "also the round house and Chinese quarters."<sup>54</sup> The Chinese who were to occupy them are not mentioned again, nor is it indicated where they might have stayed while their quarters were being built. Perhaps there was a Chinese section on

the "boarding house" train which had been rip-rapping the tracks.<sup>55</sup> By mid-January Moscow had "a large railroad depot with the other railroad shops and buildings required at a terminal point, . . . built solidly . . . to adorn the city." Since the employee cottages "are pretty enough for men of large fortunes,"<sup>56</sup> we can be reasonably certain that the Chinese employees were not housed there, but more probably in a bunkhouse.

### Moscow's Business Boom

New businesses sprang up to take advantage of the expected boom; the week of the line's arrival in town a new jewelry store, butcher shop, drugstore, and "large saloon building" were opened.<sup>57</sup> Other businesses, perhaps not so welcome, were also getting established. Two weeks later it was reported that several persons were "in town trying to rent houses for polyandry purposes."<sup>58</sup> They probably succeeded eventually, since early maps of Moscow show several "female boarding" establishments,<sup>59</sup> a term which was often a euphemism for a house of prostitution.

### Chinese Laundries in Moscow and Vicinity

Another new business which also might not have received a particularly warm welcome was that of a Chinese laundry. Although it is not known for certain when the first Chinese came to Moscow, there were none there when the census was taken in 1880,<sup>60</sup> and, as already noted, it is not until 1883 that a Chinese gardener's home is identified on an early photograph of the town. The arrival of a group of Chinese residents in Moscow probably coincided with the completion of the railroad. Wah Lee's newspaper advertisement appeared for the first time (Fig. 3a) three weeks following the arrival of the line.<sup>61</sup> This strongly suggests that the two events were related. Possibly Wah Lee was a former Chinese railroad worker who took Attorney Sweet's welcome seriously, or he may have been an entrepreneur who wanted to take advantage of a good business opportunity. While this may not have been

the first or only laundry in Moscow, it was the first whose advertisement appeared in the newspapers that are now available.

Moscow probably had other Chinese laundries at the same time, ones that did not advertise. Advertising rates the following year, for "one square," about one column inch, were \$2.00 per time.<sup>62</sup> The 1886 city directory lists Sam Lee's laundry, probably Chinese, and Sin Chin's Chinese laundry.<sup>63</sup> In a special issue of the Moscow Mirror devoted entirely to the glories of the "village" of Moscow, the local businesses are enumerated. These include "numerous laundries,"<sup>64</sup> probably all of which were Chinese, since the paper a month later notes that "A white laundry would pay in Moscow. . . ."<sup>65</sup>

A business called the Moscow Steam Laundry, originally located on North Main, was established in 1892 and first appears on the 1893 fire insurance map.<sup>66</sup> A brief news item mentioning the arrival of the machinery for it was headlined "White Laundry."<sup>67</sup> This laundry, located on South Main in 1896, has been called Moscow's only commercial laundry,<sup>68</sup> showing just how little lasting influence Moscow's early Chinese had on the town's remembered history.

Wah Lee's ad appeared weekly, either on the first or the last page of the paper, and ran regularly until its final appearance the following September, nearly a year later.<sup>69</sup> That same day the newspaper announced that construction was beginning on the Spokane and Idaho Railroad, a "new branch of the Northern Pacific railroad" with its terminus at Coeur d'Alene.<sup>70</sup> The next week a new Chinese laundry advertisement appeared (Fig. 3b) which was virtually identical to the first except that in place of Wah Lee it had Git Wing & Co.<sup>71</sup>

Perhaps it was only a coincidence that railroad work was starting up at the same time as Wah Lee apparently sold out to Git Wing, but Wah Lee may have decided he would like to work for the railroad again rather than do laundry. Or, Wah Lee may

**New Wash House.**  
WAH LEE PROP.

Jackson St., west of Barton House.  
Will renovate your clothes or rejuvenate your garments by eliminating the excrescence. 154

a

**New Wash House.**  
GIT WING & Co.

Jackson St., west of Barton House.  
Will renovate your clothes or rejuvenate your garments by eliminating the excrescence. 154

b

**New Wash House.**

**Quong Loy Prop.**

He will wash, iron and glut better than any other person ever did or ever will. He will do it cheaper than any other person. Take your dirty clothes down to him, every body. 4t.

c

**SING GEE,**

Successor to Wah Lee.

**Washing and Ironing**

Done in first class order, south of McConnell's livery stables.

**Prices Reasonable.**

d

**CHARLEY AH LEE.**

has just opened a --

**NEW LAUNDRY**

on Jackson street near the Baptist Church.

First class work done or no charge.

e

Fig. 3 Advertisements for Chinese laundries appearing in the Moscow Mirror, 1885-1890. a. Wah Lee, October 1885-September 1886; b. Git Wing & Co., September 1886-June 1887; c. Quong Loy, January 1887-February 1887; d. Sing Gee, March 1890-May 1890; e. Charley Ah Lee, July 1890-November 1890. Enlarged. See text and Table 1 for individual citations.

simply have moved to another town. The city directory for Colfax, as late as 1910, recorded that a "Wa Lee" ran a Chinese laundry on Main Street.<sup>72</sup> Git Wing's advertisement continued to appear weekly on the front page, and the following January an announcement appeared for yet another "New Wash House" (Fig. 3c) operated by one Quong Loy.<sup>73</sup> His ad ran only for six issues, and last appeared in late February,<sup>74</sup> while Git Wing's advertisement continued until early June.<sup>75</sup>

In March 1889, or perhaps earlier, an advertisement appeared for Wah Hop's laundry. The proprietor promised to "rejuvenate [sic] your habiliments by eliminating the excrescence, in his renovating dwelling."<sup>76</sup> Then in early January of 1890 this announcement appeared:

Notice:--Wa Hop has sold his entire interest in the Wa Hop laundry to Sing Gee on the 1st day of December. I will collect all outstanding accounts from that date till further notice, and notice is hereby given to all not to pay Wa Hop and [sic] money, or to trust him on my account. Sing Gee.<sup>77</sup>

This notice ran for seven weeks and last appeared in February.<sup>78</sup> A month later an ad appeared for Sing Gee's laundry (Fig. 3d), which announced him as the successor, not to Wa Hop, but to Wau [sic] Lee, presumably the same person as the Wah Lee of the 1885 advertisements<sup>79</sup>; Sing Gee's ad ran through the end of May.<sup>80</sup> A Moscow resident recalled

going down to the Chinese laundries and watching the Chinamen iron clothes. I remember Sing Gee's where the men would sprinkle the clothes by filling their mouths with water and blowing it out on the clothes while ironing. We thought this was ingenious, and I still think it was. . . .<sup>81</sup>

According to Mr. David's recollections, and earlier passages in the same reminiscences, there were two Chinese laundries in the 1890s in Moscow.<sup>82</sup> Mrs. Ruth Huff also recalled a Chinese laundry in Mos-

cow.<sup>83</sup> The other one remembered by Mr. David could have been that belonging to Charley Ah Lee, who announced the opening of his new laundry in July of 1890,<sup>84</sup> claiming to do "first class work" (Fig. 3e); his ad appeared until November.<sup>85</sup>

Other possibilities are Fong Chung's laundry, which was bought by George Mon in March 1892 and operated as Sam Sing Laundry<sup>86</sup> until at least September 1892.<sup>87</sup> The 1900 census listed two Chinese heads of households on Jackson Street who each gave his occupation as laundryman. These are Goon Ging and Chung Ling.<sup>88</sup> Table 1 shows the years the various laundries were known to have operated in Moscow.

In comparing these advertisements with early Sanborn fire insurance maps of Moscow, one finds that it may be possible to identify the locations of some of these businesses; a few preliminary identifications have been made.

Charley Ah Lee's laundry was "on Jackson Street near the Baptist Church." The Baptist church was located on First Street, at Jackson, now the site of the United Church of Moscow.<sup>89</sup> On the 1891 map (Fig. 4) three Chinese laundries are shown on Jackson north of First Street but the advertisement almost certainly refers to the southernmost one which was in the middle of the block on the west side of Jackson between First and A. The one that was still being built, on the southeast corner of Jackson and A, shows on the 1893 and 1896 maps of Moscow, and is also included on the 1897 "Bird's Eye View" of the city.

Sing Gee was still in business in 1905 and is listed at 420 Jackson in the city directory for that year.<sup>90</sup> That would mean that his establishment was located on the east side of Jackson, between what were then Fourth and Fifth Streets. That address is across the street from, and somewhat south of, the present-day Idahonian building, at 409 South Jackson, and is also on the 1897 "Bird's Eye View" of Moscow.

Table 1. Years of operation for Moscow's known Chinese laundries and laundrymen.

Name	1885	1886	1887 *	1889	1890 *	1892 *	1900 *	1904	1905
1. Wah Lee	x	x							
2. Sam Lee		x							
3. Sin Chin		x							
4. Git Wing & Co.		x	x						
5. Quong Loy			x						
6. Wa Hop				x					
7. Sing Gee				x	x	?	?	x	x
8. Charley Ah Lee					x				
9. Fong Chung						x			
10. Sam Sing (Geo. Mon)						x			
11. Goon Ging							x		
12. Chung Ling							x		

Key: \* = year or years where no laundry is definitely known.

MM = Moscow Mirror

LCJ = Latah County Journal

1. MM 4(16):3, 16 October 1885 to MM 5(11):4, 10 September 1886.
2. R. L. Polk & Co., Oregon, Washington and Idaho Gazetteer and Business Directory 1886-7, vol. 2 (Portland: R. L. Polk & Co., 1886), p. 776.
3. Ibid.
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6. MM 7(40):4, 29 March 1889 to December 1889; information for that date in MM 8(29):3, 10 January 1890.
7. From December 1889; information in MM 8(29):3, 10 January 1890, and MM 8(49):4, 30 May 1890; LCJ 1(3):3, 21 April 1904; R. L. Polk & Co., Polk's Latah County Directory 1905 (Seattle: R. L. Polk & Co, 1905), p. 61.
8. MM 9(4):2, 18 July 1890 to MM 9(22):4, 21 November 1890.
9. Beginning date not known; till MM 10(36):4, 4 March 1892.
10. MM 10(36):4, 4 March 1892 until at least MM 11(14):2, 30 September 1892.
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12. Ibid.

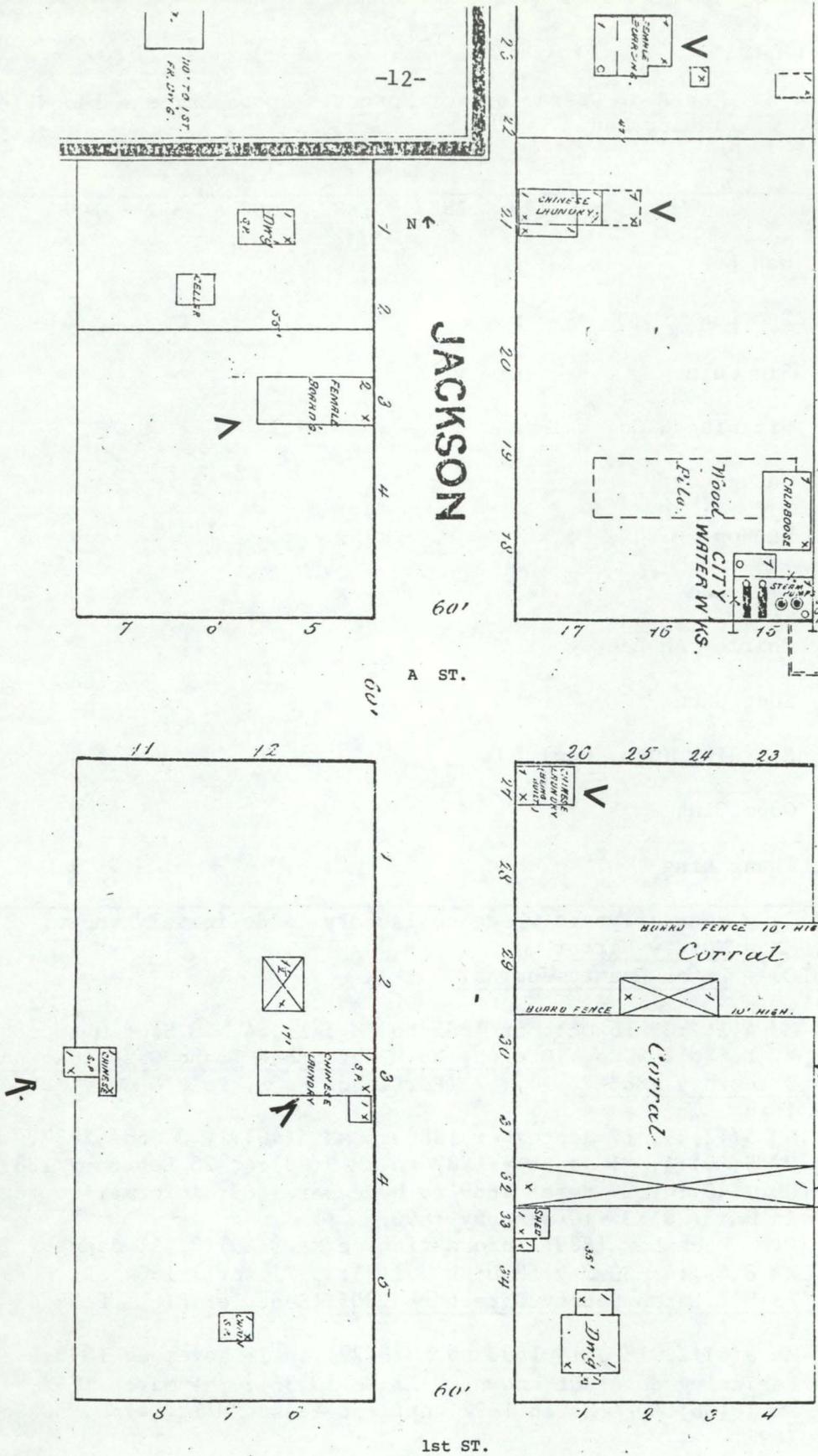


Fig. 4 Portion of the 1891 Moscow map showing the probable location of Charley Ah Lee's laundry on the west side of Jackson Street south of A Street. Note the three other Chinese buildings, and the "female boarding" establishments. Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Moscow, Latah Co., Idaho, Jan. 1891 (New York, Sanborn-Perris Map Company, 1891), p. 1.

Although Chinese laundries seem to have been especially prolific in Moscow, the surrounding communities had them as well. One of the first, of course, was Sing Yune's Chinese laundry which operated in Colfax in 1877.<sup>91</sup> Jan Lee's laundry on Main Street there operated into the 1920s.<sup>92</sup> When Pullman incorporated in 1888 a Chinese laundry was one of the local businesses.<sup>93</sup>

Some time before 1895 Genesee also had a Chinese laundryman. His name was Lem, and his business was located on Moscow Road.<sup>94</sup> Kendrick, too, had Chinese laundries from time to time.<sup>95</sup> The 1900 census shows a hotel laundryman working there, plus another laundry worker who may have operated his own business or who also worked for the hotel.<sup>96</sup>

#### Other Chinese Businesses in Moscow And Surrounding Areas

There were probably other Chinese businesses in Moscow besides laundries, perhaps restaurants and stores. One, mentioned in the local paper, was "a new China firm by the name of Wah Shing."<sup>97</sup> Coincidentally, this is the same day that the advertisement for Git Wing's laundry first appeared, and one cannot avoid the thought that the editor might have been attempting a pun. In 1891 the Moscow Mirror reported that Lee Que Gee, a "celestial gent from Colfax," was going to open a store on Jackson Street the following week. "The usual stock of goods will be carried"<sup>98</sup> implies that there probably had been other Chinese stores in Moscow or surrounding communities which would have been familiar to newspaper readers.

Looking at the Sanborn and Sanborn-Perris fire insurance maps of Moscow for the years 1888, 1889, 1891, 1893, 1896, 1904, and 1909, it can be seen that the number of Chinese businesses and residences in Moscow reached its height in the early 1890s. During that period of time ten separate structures clearly labelled "Chinese" appear on the maps (Table 2). Five of them are laundries, one is a dwelling, and the remainder are not identified other than being "Chinese."

At least two of the laundries, those on the east side of Jackson Street, north of Sixth, also functioned as boarding houses for Chinese men. The 1900 census lists two boarders at one, and seven at the other; from the occupations listed, such as mine laborer and cook, it is apparent that not all the boarders worked in the laundries.

#### Other Occupations of the Chinese In Moscow and Vicinity

One of the most remarkable records of the early Chinese in Idaho consists of the pre-1900 observations of Pete Terteling. He arrived in Idaho in 1883, and for the most part his was a hard life. He vividly remembered the Chinese, and some of the jobs they did. Although specific locations are not always clear, the Terteling brothers operated brickyards and/or constructed brick buildings in Colton and Palouse, Washington, and Grangeville, Peck, and Potlatch, Idaho. To retain the character of his account, Mr. Terteling's own spelling and punctuation are reproduced verbatim in the following passage. Speaking of the early settlers, he recalled that it was often hard to get work, for

. . . a Chinaman had all the jobs The China Companys furnished all the help. They furnished Chines slave labor. If there was a cord of wood to be sawed up and caried to Place. a Chinaman done it. They were everywhere. Jenators [janitors] cooks gardeners House maids. Spi-toon ruslers in saloons. done laundry worke Plaser Mining run Pack Trains to their Mines . . . Their money was all sent Back to China. That was a Big Buisness for China. All through the West and North west. untill Organised Labor Drove it out of this Country. The Chines Labor. or Slave Labor Was The Hardest thing the working Man had to contend with. Where ever you went you found Chinaman in all Branches where help was needed. . . .<sup>99</sup>

Not all of Mr. Terteling's recollections can be substantiated with examples of actual Chinese in the Moscow area who performed the jobs listed. Some, of course,

Table 2. Chinese structures in Moscow as they appear on the Sanborn and Sanborn-Perris fire insurance maps from 1888-1909. Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Moscow, May, 1888 and Moscow, May, 1889 (New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Co., 1888, 1889); Sanborn-Perris Map Company Moscow, Latah Co., Idaho, Jan. 1891, ...Feb. 1893, ...March 1896, ...Dec. 1904, ...Dec. 1909 (New York: Sanborn Perris Map Co., 1891, 1893, 1896, 1905, 1910).

Structure description	1888	1889	1891	1893	1896	1904	1909
1. "Chinese." F; 1/s; s.r.; b.c.; E. Jackson, So. of 5th.	x	x	v	v	-	-	-
2. "Chinese." F; 1/s; s.r.; s.p.; W. Main, So. of 4th.	x	x	-	-	-	-	-
3. "Chinese laundry." S, part F; 1/s-2/s; s.r.; well; E. Jackson, So. of No. 1.		x	x	x	x	x	v
4. "Chinese dwg." F; 1/s; s.r.; E. Main, No. of A.			x	v	-	-	-
5. "Chinese laundry." F; 1/s; s.r.; E. Jackson, No. of A.			x	-	-	-	-
6. "Chinese laundry." S; F; 1/s; s.r.; Corner Jackson and A.			b	x	x	-	-
7. "Chinese laundry." S; s.r.; s.p.; W. Jackson, between A and 1st.			x	x	-	-	-
8. "Chinese." F; 1/s; s.r.; s.p.; alley W. of Jackson, between A and 1st (behind No. 7.)			x	x	-	-	-
9. "Chinese." F; 1/s; s.r.; W. Jackson, So. of 3rd.		n	n	x	n	n	-
10. "Chine laundry." S; F; 1/s; E. Jackson, same location as No. 1.						x	v

Key: F = frame; S = "special;" s.r. = shingle roof; s.p. = stove pipe; b.c. = brick chimney; dwg. = dwelling; x = on map; - = gone; v = vacant; b = being built; n = on map but not Chinese.

have already been mentioned in connection with mining and laundry work. Others for which documentation was found are gardeners, hotel and restaurant employees, and servants.

#### Gardeners

As mentioned, Moscow's first known Chinese resident, in 1883, was a gardener; his house, shown on an old photograph of the city, is surrounded by a plot of land which he may have cultivated. Other gardeners are known, both in Moscow and elsewhere. In the late 1880s Chinese gardeners were bringing vegetables up to Moscow from Walla Walla,<sup>100</sup> so perhaps the one known for Moscow in 1883 had gone out of business. By the 1890s there were again Chinese gardeners in Moscow. They raised vegetables, and would sell them throughout the town, carrying them in two baskets supported by a pole balanced on one shoulder.<sup>101</sup> One Chinese vegetable peddler was hit on the head with a brick by a Moscow ruffian.<sup>102</sup>

In 1900 one of Kendrick's six Chinese residents gave his occupation as gardener. His name was listed only as "Gin," so he was probably the same person remembered by older Kendrick residents as the man they called "Jean (or Gene) Chinaman."<sup>103</sup> In 1910 gardener Chung Lee, living in Kendrick, was Latah County's only Chinese resident enumerated in the census.<sup>104</sup> Given the census takers' difficulties in transliterating Chinese names, Chung Lee is possibly the same person listed as Gin in 1900.

#### Hotel and Restaurant Employees

The Chinese are known to have worked in hotels and restaurants both in Moscow and elsewhere. Occasionally their occupations can be determined by actual records, such as census documents, and sometimes their occupations are inferred from other evidence.

The presence of Chinese cooks, waiters, and other hotel and restaurant help in Moscow is determined mainly by inference. Sporadically, from 1886 to 1909, adver-

tisements placed in local newspapers for Moscow's hotels and restaurants sometimes touted their white cooks, white waiters, and white labor.<sup>105</sup> The 1900 census, however, provides certain evidence in Moscow for Chinese cooks, at least; four men report that as their occupation.<sup>106</sup> None are listed as waiters; although of the five who list "laborer" or "day laborer," one or more might have been employed in a hotel or restaurant, especially since four of the five laborers could speak English.

When the Hotel Moscow underwent renovation in 1906, it also added white cooks,<sup>107</sup> implying that their previous ones were Chinese. This was in fact the case, since a 1904 newspaper story reported that two Chinese men were in jail pending deportation hearings. "One of them has been employed as cook in the Hotel Moscow and the other in the Hotel Del Norte."<sup>108</sup>

Surrounding communities also reported Chinese cooks occasionally. The 1900 census lists one Chinese man living in Genesee. He was a cook, presumably for the establishment where he was listed as a border, since the head of household was a hotelkeeper.<sup>109</sup> Kendrick also had Chinese hotel workers as residents in 1900. Although they are listed in two separate groups of three, they were all at the same address, which seemed to be a hotel. Four were definitely employed by the hotel, three as cooks and one as a laundryman. The other two were listed as gardener and laundryman; they may or may not have been employed by the hotel.<sup>110</sup>

Chinese cooks were also employed in Farmington in 1886 and at the Baldwin Hotel in Colfax in 1893<sup>111</sup>; the latter's name was Charlie Lee. In 1893 a fire which started at the Baldwin Hotel destroyed "almost the entire city." It reportedly was caused by an unnamed "Chinaman starting a fire with a can of coal oil"<sup>112</sup>; presumably he was either a cook or a servant in the hotel. The employee redeemed himself, however, by helping to rouse the sleeping occupants and get them out in time.<sup>113</sup>

Other Chinese men employed as cooks did not necessarily always work for hotels; one worked for a mining camp in the vicinity of Elk River.<sup>114</sup> Some also must have been cooks in boarding houses and private homes, although none could be found for the local area being studied.

#### House Servants

More affluent local citizens sometimes had Chinese house servants. One worked for Judge Willis Sweet in 1893, and another was employed by the Taylor family, who arrived in Moscow in the late nineteenth century.<sup>115</sup> A Kendrick family also had one or more Chinese servants, who were remembered fondly for the part they played in helping to save the family home during the Kendrick fire.<sup>116</sup> Colfax's Old Jake, a lodging house servant, is known from newspaper accounts in which he was accused of robbery by a gambler who was one of the residents. Jake insisted he was innocent but was arrested anyway.<sup>117</sup>

#### Later Railroad Employees

Once the railroad to Moscow was completed, other lines in the area were contemplated, and these may have provided continuing employment for Chinese workmen, although this is so far largely unsubstantiated. From 1885 on some of the Chinese who arrived in Moscow with the coming of the railroad would have remained employed by the O. R. & N. there, since Chinese quarters were among the depot buildings constructed. Possibly they served as section hands as they did in nearby Genesee after 1888 once rail service reached that town.<sup>118</sup>

When the Potlatch Lumber Company built its huge sawmill and created the town of Potlatch in the early 1900s, they also constructed a 49-mile railroad, the Washington, Idaho, and Montana, to get the timber from the forests to the mill.<sup>119</sup> "Hundreds of Chinese laborers were used in building the company railroad."<sup>120</sup>

(to be continued)

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The second part of this two-part article will appear in the next issue.

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#### MOSCOW INCORPORATED.

On Tuesday of this week a petition, as by law provided, was circulated, and generally signed, favoring the incorporation of Moscow. The corporate limits are described one mile square, beginning at a point one quarter of a mile south and west of the corner of section 17, tp. 30, range 5 west, and enclosing one mile square. This boundary takes in the different additions to Moscow, some of James Deacon's (sic) place, and extending north beyond the flouring mill property. The petition is now before the board and will undoubtedly be allowed. In the evening the following business was transacted:

A meeting of the citizens of Moscow, to consider the matter of incorporation,

held at the store of W. W. Langdon, Tuesday evening, July 14th, 1885. The meeting was called to order and its object briefly stated by H. L. Coats. R. H. Barton was called to the chair, and J. H. Maguire elected Secretary of the meeting. A ballot for the purpose of electing five citizens of the town to be recommended to the County Commissioners for appointment as trustees or councilmen resulted in the election of R. H. Barton, A. F. Sanders, M. J. Shields, Andrew Henry and J. H. Maguire. No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned sine die.

R. H. BARTON, Chairman  
J. H. MAGUIRE, Secretary

Moscow Mirror  
17 July 1885, p. 3

THE COLONEL COMES TO MOSCOW:  
REACTION TO TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S 1911 VISIT TO THE PALOUSE

By Don Kaag

Former president Theodore Roosevelt's April 1911 visit to the Palouse country was an event which captured the imagination and galvanized the hospitable western spirit of the Inland Empire's Idaho and Washington residents. He was "Their Teddy," despite his birth and education as a blue-blooded Easterner. They considered him one of their own. Heroic leader of Westerners in a desperate fight at San Juan Hill, two-term president, cowboy, big game hunter, contemporary and equal of the crowned heads of empire, he loomed larger than life. This visit, albeit a supposedly nonpolitical goodwill tour, had definite political overtones. T. R., the de facto head of the Republican Party's Progressive wing, could not help but talk of progressive reform on both the state and national levels. Nostalgia, progressivism, gratitude and Borah were the motivating factors of his visit. He was nostalgic about his visit to the area in his cowboy days. He felt a responsibility to carry the banner and message of reform government, progressivism and responsible citizenship to the nation. He had the desire to see and express his gratitude to the American people for their confidence and support for him during his presidency. Finally, his good friend and progressive contemporary, Senator William Borah, had asked him to visit the people of Idaho on his goodwill tour of the country.

Such was the excitement and anticipation connected with the upcoming visit that local newspapers covered Roosevelt's tour as front page news, from his departure from New York on March 8, 1911, until well after Colonel Roosevelt returned to the East.<sup>1</sup> He spoke to crowds of well-wishers in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington prior to his arrival in Moscow.<sup>2</sup> He gave

his first public explanation of his trip at Houston, Texas, on March 12:

I had long made up my mind that after coming back from my trip in Africa and Europe, I wanted to have a chance to go around this country and if possible speak in each state and to say "Howdy" and "Thank you"; for any man who has been made president of the United States by the American people remains forever their debtor. He is not worth his salt if he has not tried to be president of all the people and his obligation is to all the people.

Roosevelt continued his trip west by special train. Crowds thronged every speech. When he left San Francisco for the rail journey to Portland, the train was obliged to stop at every local station on the line. Crowds of people were gathered in the rain to see and cheer him.<sup>4</sup> After speaking to large audiences in Portland, Tacoma, and Seattle, he arrived in Spokane on the evening of April 7th. The railway station was mobbed. There were in excess of thirty thousand citizens lining the streets of the city to welcome the former president. The local press, in an excess of community zeal, devoted whole issues of newsprint to the Great Man's visit. In addition to the itinerary of Colonel Roosevelt's visit and the coverage of events related to it, they described in minute detail the decor of his hotel suite and the menu of his dinner, to include the culinary qualifications of the imported French chef in charge of the meal.<sup>5</sup> After he had left, the capital of the Inland Empire paid him tribute:

Yesterday was Roosevelt Day in Spokane. The great statesman and leader was the center about which all things revolved, and no more remarkable demonstration has ever been given to a great national

hero than the free spontaneous and unrestrained tribute of admiration and loyalty which Spokane and the Inland Empire gave yesterday to Colonel Theodore Roosevelt . . . it was a demonstration that reached beyond all pre-arranged programs and set speeches. It had the spontaneity and force of an irresistible popular movement, and never before has a private citizen with no mission but that of friendship and no aspiration beyond service, has been given such a magnificent reception. . . .<sup>6</sup>

Moscow, meanwhile, was preparing its own welcome. The town turned to and put into effect elaborate plans to provide transportation, lodging, food, and entertainment for up to thirty thousand inhabitants of the Palouse.<sup>7</sup> The Moscow Arrangements Committee, chaired by Mayor B. T. Byrne, sent letters to the city councils of all of the neighboring towns and villages, inviting their participation and attendance. Two representatives of each community were invited to escort Colonel Roosevelt on the special train from Spokane to Moscow. Two others were selected to provide escort on the train back to Spokane upon his departure. Five special trains were chartered into Moscow from Lewiston, the Clearwater, Genesee, Colfax/Pullman, and Spokane. The Colfax train consisted of seven passenger cars, all of which were packed to capacity upon their arrival. A special railroad dispatcher was sent to the Moscow depot to handle the heavy rail traffic.<sup>8</sup> Small towns up to one hundred miles distant from Moscow, such as Grangeville, had as many as three hundred people signed up to make the trip to see T. R. The editor of the local Moscow newspaper put print to paper on his editorial page prior to the great day, to ensure that the citizens of the city and its surrounding environs fully understood the honor they were being accorded and the stature of their distinguished visitor:

In some respects April 10th will be the biggest day in all the years of Moscow's history. On that day the greatest citi-

zen on this terrestrial ball will be one of us. He is one of us, and this gives warrant for the above statement as to his greatness. There is little question of his being the most widely known and most popular man in the world today. The greatest president since Lincoln, of the greatest republic in the world, he belongs to the world. Broad as has been his field of endeavor within the nation, his influence has not been limited to the bounds of the United States. His good offices and his reputation for fair dealing and integrity have made him the champion of all the peoples of the earth. Who can tell what songs of his praise have been wafted upward from the lips of the women of Russia and Japan? Where is the limit of his influence among the people of European countries who have heard his preachments on modern democracy? Who would attempt to mark the confines of his influence upon the social and political ideals of our own country? On April 10th this man, whose work stands out in such monumental relief, will come to Moscow. He will come as a private citizen. He has requested that he be received as such. Not vainglorious he, but a man of action, who loves to act in the interest of the betterment of the world. There need be no apology offered by any man who lays aside the duties of every day life to see and hear the man whose name will be given a place in American history with that of Lincoln and Washington.<sup>9</sup>

Roosevelt's arrival on April 9, 1911, was a reprise of his arrival in Spokane. Despite the cordoning off of the depot, every available space inside and all of the vantage points surrounding the terminal were filled to capacity prior to the special train's arrival. A crowd estimated at over three thousand persons broke into cheers on the colonel's arrival. The street was blocked between the station and the hotel, but a mounted escort from the University of Idaho Corps of Cadets managed to clear a path for the visitor and his escorting motorcade.



Colonel Roosevelt addressing a large crowd of admiring citizens from a platform in front of the University of Idaho Administration Building. The platform is made with bags of locally produced wheat.

In addition to the people arriving in Moscow by special train, others arrived by team, motorcar, on horseback, and even on foot. On the outskirts of town, camping parties from distant points pitched tents to await the speech on the University of Idaho campus the following morning.

On Monday morning, April 10th, Colonel Roosevelt breakfasted on campus with the faculty, class officers, cadet officers, and distinguished guests. After the morning meal, he was escorted across campus to the speaker's platform by an honor guard composed of members of the Corps of Cadets and the Grand Army Corps.

The speaker's platform on the lawn in

front of the Administration Building was constructed of solid, sacked Palouse wheat, harvested, threshed, and sacked by the "Idaho Harvester," a local Moscow product. No one, including the principal speaker, seemed deterred by the chill winds and the occasional gusts of mixed rain and snow. Estimates of the crowd's size vary from eight to twenty thousand people.<sup>11</sup> Former president Roosevelt's address encompassed his early times in Idaho, the closing of the frontier, progressive reforms, and the individual citizen's responsibility for government as well as conservation and the prudent use of resources.

On conservation, he emphasized timber and water power:

". . . The state must conserve its forces by use. It must use them in such a way as to return them as a permanent asset of the commonwealth . . . it is your duty to keep the state in good condition for the small citizens. A few great lumbermen . . . desire to use up your resources in five years. They are enemies to your development. . . . Your water power should never be parted with in perpetuity. . . . I ask you people of Idaho to look to the future. Don't waste or give away your children's heritage.<sup>10</sup>

On Progressivism and government reform, he emphasized individual citizen's responsibility for government:

You will meet a great many people who will say yes to the proposition of having a government for the people, but there are still men in this country who shy off from the proposition of having a government by the people. . . . The founding proposition was that we are a people fit to govern ourselves. We should caution reactionaries who protest against giving the people real control that their arguments against the Progressive movement are the same ones used one hundred and fifty years ago against establishing a democratic government on this continent.<sup>11</sup>

Colonel Roosevelt finished his speech to tumultuous applause. Later that morning, he left by train for his last stop in Idaho and in the Northwest, at Sandpoint. Following his Sandpoint appearance, he headed East, to the end of his tour and, in 1912, a confrontation at the Republican convention with the presidential incumbent, William Howard Taft. T. R. was a man of and for the people and a Progressive. The people of Idaho supported him for who and what he was. His friend and fellow Progressive Republican, William E. Borah, Senator from Idaho, would support him at both the state level and at the convention for the Republican presidential nomination.<sup>12</sup> Idaho's delegation to the convention was solidly for Roosevelt. Party politics dictated that the incumbent would be renominated. Roose-

velt and his loyalists bolted the Republican party to form the independent Progressive ("Bull Moose") party, with Theodore Roosevelt as its presidential candidate. Borah chose to stay within the Republican party structure, but confined himself to state politics and working on his own reelection. He made no speeches in support of Taft or the national ticket. Many Idahoans supported Colonel Roosevelt for president, but most did it out of personal loyalty, not genuine commitment to an independent Progressive party. After his defeat by Taft, Roosevelt eventually returned to the Republican fold. Most Idaho Progressives chose to return to the progressive wing of the Republican party.<sup>13</sup>

Colonel Roosevelt's visit to the Palouse was, perhaps, the single most significant event of its time for Idaho. People came to see and hear a man who was larger than life, a man whom they admired as being of the same tough fibre as the West. The pride of the Northwest was touched and an outpouring of admiration and adulation was the result. The Colonel, unlike Napoleon, took Moscow by storm.

#### Notes

1. The Lewiston Morning Tribune. March 13, 1911. "Roosevelt Shy on Insurgents: Why He Is Making Tour," p. 1.
2. \_\_\_\_\_. April 3, 1911. "Last Long Tour," p. 1.
3. \_\_\_\_\_. March 13, 1911. "Roosevelt Shy on Insurgents: Why He Is Making Tour," p. 1.
4. \_\_\_\_\_. April 5, 1911. "Roosevelt Off To Northwest," p. 1.
5. The Spokesman-Review. April 7, 1911. "Colonel Roosevelt To Arrive at 9:35 Tonight-Plans Completed," p. 1, 2.
6. \_\_\_\_\_. April 9, 1911. "Roosevelt Meets With Great Reception," p. 1.

7. The Idaho Daily Statesman. April 10, 1911. "Come In Wagons, Live in Tents For Teddy: Enormous Outpouring Of People Into Staid Moscow To See Roosevelt," p. 1.
8. The Colfax Weekly Commoner. 26:32, April 7, 1911, p. 1.
9. The Idaho Post. March 31, 1911. "Everybody Coming to Hear Col. Roosevelt," p. 1.
10. The Idaho Daily Statesman. April 10, 1911. "Warns People To Look To Future," p. 1.
11. The Lewiston Morning Tribune. April 10, 1911. "Roosevelt An Idaho Guest," p. 1.
12. The Colfax Gazette. April 14, 1911.
13. Johnson, Claudius O. Borah of Idaho. p. 167.

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\_\_\_\_\_. April 9, 1911. "Declares He Is Far Ahead Of The Game."

\_\_\_\_\_. April 10, 1911. "Come In Wagons, Live In Tents For Teddy: Enormous Outpouring Of People Into Staid Moscow To See Roosevelt."

\_\_\_\_\_. April 13, 1911. "Roosevelt Ends Trip Through The West."

The Idaho Post. March 31, 1911. "Everybody Coming To Hear Col. Roosevelt," "The Meaning of April 10th."

The Lewiston Morning Tribune. March 13, 1911. "Roosevelt Shy On Insurgents: Why He Is Making Tour."

\_\_\_\_\_. April 3, 1911. "Last Long Tour."

\_\_\_\_\_. April 5, 1911. "Roosevelt Off To Northwest."

\_\_\_\_\_. April 9, 1911. "Roosevelt Not A Candidate."

\_\_\_\_\_. April 10, 1911. "Roosevelt An Idaho Guest."

\_\_\_\_\_. April 11, 1911. "Roosevelt Off To New Fields."

The Spokesman-Review. April 2, 1911. "Roosevelt's Progressive Record Bulks Large," "When Roosevelt First Visited Spokane," "Roosevelt Plans Include Teachers."

\_\_\_\_\_. April 5, 1911. "T. R. Will Address Public At Armory."

\_\_\_\_\_. April 6, 1911. "Woman's Race Suicide Jest Stirs Roosevelt To Reply," "Colored Voters To Hear Teddy."

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Greet Roosevelt Here," "Ovation To Roosevelt From Seattle," "Theodore Roosevelt Has Given An Impulse To Right Thinking, Right Living And Right Doing."

\_\_\_\_\_. April 9, 1911. "Roosevelt Meets With Great Reception," "During His Leisure Hours Here The Colonel Reads French History," "Don't Want Anything Because Have Had Everything, Says Colonel," "Fifteen Thousand Persons Near Masonic Temple To Hear Speech," "Inspiring Scene Occurs When Roosevelt Reviews Colored Troops."

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## LATAH VIGNETTES: WINTER READING

by Keith Petersen and Mary Reed

Okay, it's winter. Might as well face up to that fact. Cabin fever time. Long nights. Cold outdoors. But there's good news: cozy fireplace (or, in our case, cozy space heater); comfortable chair; good books. Perhaps you've lived in Latah County a long time; maybe just a short while; perhaps you don't live here at all. Still, you must have some interest in the place, or you wouldn't be reading this. So, maybe this winter is the time to catch up on your reading about the area. We'd like to tell you about some of our favorite books. Most of the books mentioned below which were recently published are still available for sale. Almost all of those published by the Historical Society

are for sale--and, by the way, they make excellent gifts. Write the Society about ordering information. Some of the older books are out of print, but all should be available at a local library if you live in the county, or on interlibrary loan if you live elsewhere.

D. W. Meinig's The Great Columbia Plain: A Historical Geography, 1805-1910 (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1968) is more than the title suggests. While it is good geography, it is also excellent history--the best book ever written about our region, and the one you must read if you are really interested in how the area developed. Meinig grew up

in the town of Palouse, Washington, and he has an obvious fondness for the region of which he writes. The book is massive, and a little dry, but there is plenty here to allow you to skip around to the parts that interest you most.

The last overall county history written was in 1903, entitled An Illustrated History of North Idaho. A few years ago, Simon Benson of Price, Utah, reissued in paperback the Latah County portion of that book, entitled A History of North Idaho: Latah County (Price, Utah: privately printed), and copies are still available for sale. It's not the kind of book you'd want to curl up with on cold winter nights, but if you are interested in building up a reference shelf, it is indispensable. Kenneth Platt's Some Pioneer Glimpses of Latah County (Moscow: Latah County Historical Society, 1974) is a short booklet which also gives an overview of the county's history--in a more readable format.

There are some entertaining--and excellent--books for those wanting to learn about the first people to travel through the county, the Nez Perce Indians. The best overview is Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1965; abridged, University of Nebraska Press, 1979). A gripping story that reads as well as a good mystery is Merrill D. Beal's "I Will Fight No More Forever": Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1963; reprint, New York: Ballantine Books, 1971).

There are a couple of excellent books detailing how people arrived in the area in the early days, and both are very easy to read. Carole Simon-Smolinski's Journal 1862 (Clarkston, Washington: Northwest Historical Consultants, 1983) is an innovative book. Utilizing first person accounts as resources, Smolinski created a diary about a fictional character--Timothy Nolan--and his 1862 riverboat and overland journey from Astoria into the Salmon River mining country. Admittedly, it is a little earlier than most people

started coming into Latah County, but the account is a gripping, fun--and accurate--tale of how most people arrived here before railroads. Charles J. Munson's Westward to Paradise (Moscow: Latah County Historical Society, 1978) is an autobiographical account of one who came to Moscow about two decades after Nolan's fictional journey, but his account is a wonderful adventure story of dangers, hardships, difficulties--and achievements. In many ways, it is the best book on Latah County yet written.

Perhaps you are interested in Palouse agriculture. Great. There are a couple of fine books for you. Thomas B. Keith's The Horse Interlude; A Pictorial History of Horse and Man in the Inland Northwest (Moscow: University Press of Idaho, 1980), is both a well illustrated, handsome book and the single best source for those interested in the technology of horse farming. Alexander Campbell McGregor's Counting Sheep: From Open Range to Agribusiness on the Columbia Plateau (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1982) is a scholarly account of the rise of the area's largest agribusiness from its embryonic origins as the brainchild of four Scottish brothers. The reading is a little slow in places, but elsewhere the narrative flows well, and it is worth having as a reference. Dora Otter Fleenor's Palouse Country Yesteryears (Moscow: privately printed, 1978) is perhaps the best of the several reminiscences that have been written about the everyday experiences of growing up on a Palouse farm.

Many people know Latah County as the place where "the prairie and the pines meet." To understand the county, you have to know not only about Palouse agriculture, but also about Inland Empire logging. The best book on that subject was written a number of years ago by Ralph Hidy, Frank Hill, and Allan Nevins, Timber and Men: The Weyerhaeuser Story (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1963). This large, well researched book details the growth and development of the massive Weyerhaeuser family timber interests, including Latah County's Potlatch Lumber Company. It is divided into a series of

short vignettes which make for entertaining browsing for those not interested in the entire Weyerhaeuser story. There are some well written sections on the Weyerhaeuser's Idaho timber interests. A valuable, though lesser known, companion book is Fred W. Kohlmeyer's Timber Roots: The Laird, Norton Story, 1855-1905 (Winona, Minn.: Winona County Historical Society, 1972), which details the Weyerhaeuser's long-time companion family, The Lairds and Nortons, and has a particularly good section on the town and company of Potlatch. A recent book, Charles Twining's Phil Weyerhaeuser: Lumberman (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1985), covers the Weyerhaeuser family interests under its third generation leadership and has some nicely written sections on the formation of Potlatch Forests, Inc. It is easy reading. Those interested in logging railroads can pick up some entertaining first-person history in Keith Petersen, ed., Railroad Man: A Conversation with W. J. Gamble (Moscow: Latah County Historical Society, 1981), a short booklet about the Potlatch Lumber Company's Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway. John B. Miller's The Trees Grew Tall (Moscow: privately printer, 1972) not only details the history of much of northern Latah County--particularly the communities of Deary and Bovill--but also has excellent photos and descriptions of some of the smaller scale logging which occurred in the county.

Ron Brockett's The Moscow Opal Mines 1890 to 1893: The First Commercial Opal Mines in the United States (privately printed, 1975) is a short book about another area industry, a little known episode in the region's past. But while the county's economy has long been based on three legs, opal mining was not one of them. Joining logging and farming as the area's most significant economic enterprises is the University of Idaho, and those interested in a light, entertaining glimpse of the school's past will want to read Rafe Gibbs, Beacon for Mountain and Plain: The Story of the University of Idaho (Moscow: University of Idaho, 1962).

Maybe you are interested in some of the

county's colorful characters. Certainly, none is more colorful than Frank Robinson, the founder of Psychiana, which was based in Moscow in the 1930s and 1940s and became the largest mail-order religion in the world. For Robinson's side of how the whole thing started, and his struggle--particularly with more traditional Christians--to keep it alive, see his The Strange Autobiography of Frank B. Robinson (Moscow: Psychiana, Inc., 1949). Frank B. Robinson is not at all to be confused with Frank C. Robertson, but the latter is also an interesting Latah County character who wrote a most readable and highly recommended autobiography entitled A Ram in the Thicket (New York: Hastings House, 1959). Robertson was one of the nation's leading writers of "Westerns," penning well over 100 during his life. Moscow was home to another novelist, Carol Ryrie Brink. Unfortunately she did not write a nonfictional autobiography, but her Four Girls on a Homestead (Moscow: Latah County Historical Society, 1977) is a short, charming story, illustrated by the author, about a childhood summer spent on her aunt's timber homestead in Idaho's white pine country. There will be more about other Brink books later. Elephants and Donkeys: The Memoirs of Mary Borah (Moscow: University Press of Idaho, 1976) details the life of a very political woman: the daughter of a governor, William McConnell, and the wife of a senator, William Borah. Unfortunately, it does not describe her days spent in the McConnell Mansion. Dick d'Easum's Dowager of Discipline: The Life of Dean of Women Permeal French (Moscow: University Press of Idaho, 1983) is a light, popular biography of one of the University of Idaho's best-known personalities. Mary E. Reed and Keith Petersen, Virgil T. McCroskey: Giver of Mountains (Pullman: Washington State University, 1983), is a short booklet about the donor of Steptoe Butte State Park in Whitman County, Washington, and Mary Minerva McCroskey State Park in Latah and Benewah Counties, Idaho.

Maybe the roads will be clear this winter and you will be able to take some weekend drives to parts of the county you always wanted to discover. If so, you are in

luck, for we are fortunate to have one of the best tour guides available to anyone living anywhere. Lillian W. Otness's A Great Good Country: A Guide to Historic Moscow and Latah County, Idaho (Moscow: Latah County Historical Society, 1983) contains 13 tours chocked full of entertaining information. It is a good book to have even if you can tour only by arm-chair. Two other fine books to help you enjoy the area's sites are Lalia Phipps Boone's From A to Z in Latah County, Idaho: A Place Name Dictionary (Moscow: privately printed, 1983, distributed by Latah County Historical Society), and Let's Go! Daytripping in and Around the Palouse (Pullman: American Association of University Women, 1980).

If you are like most people, you will spend most of your winter reading fiction, and there is some excellent fiction about Latah County. Surely Carol Ryrie Brink is one of the West's most underrated novelists. We are fortunate that she wrote a fine trilogy about Moscow and the surrounding vicinity. First--and perhaps best--of the three novels is Buffalo Coat (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1944; reprint, Latah County Historical Society, 1980), which deals with early Moscow history, including the murder of her grandfather. Strangers in the Forest (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1959) was very popular nationally, being condensed by Readers Digest, and is based upon her aunt's timber homesteading experiences near Clarkia. The last of the trilogy, Snow in the River (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1964), examines Moscow history at a considerably later date than Buffalo Coat. If there are young readers in your family yearning to be entertained this winter they will enjoy Carol Brink's three children's books based on local characters and events: All Over Town,

Louly, and Two Are Better Than One, or her most famous book, Caddie Woodlawn, based upon stories told the author by her grandmother.

While Brink's books are in a class by themselves for those interested in the area's fiction, a few other entertaining novels about life in the Palouse are recommended. Both Nona Hengen's Plodding Princes of the Palouse (Woolwich, Maine: TBW Books, 1984) and Harriet Ann Crawford's Country Boy: Story of a Palouse Farm (Puyallup, Washington: Valley Press, 1982) are well-crafted novels. Plodding Princes has the added advantage of being richly illustrated with line drawings by the author, a well-known Palouse artist, making it a handsome gift book. Though both are set on the Washington side of the Palouse country, they are highly recommended for those wanting some entertaining--and educational--reading about our area. Hardly well crafted at all, but certainly fun reading for those interested in gossip about the University of Idaho, is Martin A. Larson's Plaster Saint: A Novel of Heresy on the Campus (New York: Exposition Press, 1953), a potboiler of a novel written by a disgruntled junior English professor who taught on campus in the 1920s. For the curious, the University Library's Special Collections Department has compiled a list matching the fictional characters to their likely real campus personalities.

Well, don't let anyone tell you there is nothing good about our region to read. We have a rich, diverse literary heritage. Indeed, many fine works were not even mentioned here. Each year, exciting new books about our area are being published. Don't let cabin fever get you down. Fight back with a good book. Happy reading!

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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:

	Member	Friend	Contributor	Sustainer	Sponsor	Patron
Individual	\$ 7.50-15	\$16-30	\$ 31-75	\$ 76-150	\$151-499	\$500 up
Family	12.50-25	26-50	51-100	101-250	251-499	500 up
Business	25-50	51-100	101-250	251-350	351-499	500 up

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 local history/genealogy research archives 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. Tuesday through Saturday. Visits to the museum or research archives are welcomed at other times and can be arranged by calling (208) 882-1004.