

---

# LATAH LEGACY

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE LATAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

---

IN THIS ISSUE:

- The history of the generation and distribution of electrical energy in Latah County
- Tramways
- ALMA LAUDER KEELING and The Un-covered Wagon, part seven



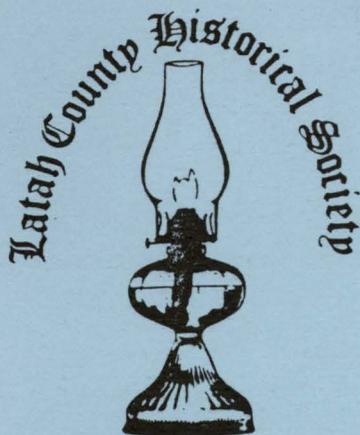
A tramway car partly loaded, and Arthur Perryman and Herman Schupfer at the top of the Juliaetta Tramway about 1912

---

Summer 1985

\$1.50

---



Published quarterly by the Latah County Historical Society, 110 S. Adams, Moscow, Idaho 83843. Subscriptions included in annual membership dues.

Vol. 14, nr. 2

### CONTENTS

EARLY HISTORY OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER SYSTEMS IN THE TOWNS OF KENDRICK, JULIAETTA, TROY, DEARY, BOVILL, AND ELK RIVER, IDAHO, NOW BEING SERVED BY THE WASHINGTON WATER POWER COMPANY by Herman C. Schupfer.....	1
THE EARLY ELECTRIFICATION OF LATAH COUNTY, IDAHO: POWER GOES RURAL by Keith Williams.....	10
BOOK REVIEW: White Pines and Fire: Cooperative Forestry in Idaho, by Albert B. Curtis.....	19
LATAH VIGNETTES: TRAMWAYS by Keith Petersen and Mary E. Reed.....	21
ALMA LAUDER KEELING by Jeanette Fleener Talbott.....	25
THE UNCOVERED WAGON (part 7) by Alma Lauder Keeling.....	27

#### Latah Legacy

Editor: Stan Shepard  
Assistant Editor: Mary Reed  
Book Review Editor: Keith Petersen  
Compositor: Kathleen Probasco

#### Newsletter

Mary Reed

#### The Latah County Historical Society

President: Duane LeTourneau  
First Vice President: Lillian Otness  
Second Vice President: Leora Stillinger  
Secretary: Keith Petersen  
Treasurer: Leonard Ashbaugh

Director: Mary Reed  
Curator: Lorraine Micke  
Librarian: Chris Talbott

EARLY HISTORY OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER SYSTEMS  
IN THE TOWNS OF KENDRICK, JULIAETTA, TROY, DEARY,  
BOVILL, AND ELK RIVER, IDAHO, NOW BEING SERVED  
BY THE WASHINGTON WATER POWER COMPANY

by Herman C. Schupfer, 1892-1974

KENDRICK, IDAHO

Kendrick had one of the first electric light systems in this group. This was a steam-engine-driven generating plant installed some time before the turn of the century in 1893. This was discontinued some time later and until 1915 coal oil lamps were mostly used. Some of the business places were served by a carbide gas system. For street lighting a hollow copper wire was attached to telephone poles, to the street lamps and gasoline was forced to these lamps from a tank located at a central point. These lights were lit and turned off by the town marshal.

In 1915 Arthur Dunkle and Frank Candee decided to install an electric light system in Kendrick. They had in mind to install the plant about one mile above town and dam the Big Potlatch creek for power, but after closer study it was decided to install diesel-engine-driven generators in town.

A building was built on the street corner of lot ten, block two. An office was located in the front part and the 2,300 volt generating equipment in the rear. Distribution lines were built, houses wired and within a short time the "Juice" was on the lines and places began to light up.

The house wiring was mostly done by Art Dunkle, Frank Candee, Dave Center, Otto Schupfer and Leslie Roberts.

An 11,000 volt line was also built to Troy (see under Troy). In a short time the demand for electric power was greater than was expected. An electric power grain elevator was being built, the water-powered

flour mill was being moved into town and also to be driven by electric power.

With this increase of load a change had to be made and more power secured or generated. Mr. Dunkle's father-in-law, Mr. A. Wilmot, who was financing this Potlatch Electric Company, disposed of his Gem Cafe at Wallace and moved to Kendrick. Mr. Wilmot reorganized the company, named it the Potlatch Consolidated Electric Company, secured additional financing, and had an 11,000 volt line built to Moscow and secured power from the Washington Water Power Company. Soon thereafter, with the increasing demand for electricity the voltage on the Moscow-Troy-Kendrick transmission line was changed from 11,000 volts to 22,000 volts and the wires on the Kendrick-Troy line were changed from iron to copper. Generating with diesel power had been discontinued.

JULIAETTA, IDAHO

The Juliaetta generators were located in the Juliaetta flour mill. This was a water powered mill and was located southwest and across a short street from block five in Juliaetta. The generators were installed in 1903, two connected in series, 220/440 volt C.D. In 1920 this mill and generating equipment was destroyed by fire. It was then owned by Frank Vincent.

From a 1911 advertisement:

JULIAETTA MILLING & LIGHT CO.  
Holbrook & Martin, Props.  
"Pride of the Potlatch" patent flour.  
Electric Lighting--Electrical Supplies.

In 1921 the Juliaetta distribution system was acquired by the Potlatch Consolidated

Electric Company of Kendrick. This was mostly all rebuilt and a 2,300 volt line was built from Kendrick and 24 hour electric service was made available for the people of Juliaetta.

#### TROY, IDAHO

From [date missing] and until 1916 the electric light system in Troy was owned and operated by the Washington Water Power Company. Electricity was generated by the Troy Lumber Company, at their planing mill, by steam. This was a 110/220 volt a.c. with 2,300 volt distribution system. In 1916 this distribution system was acquired by the Potlatch Electric Company of Kendrick. An 11,000 volt transmission line was built from Kendrick and Troy was served by the diesel-driven generators at Kendrick. This was soon changed as a transmission line was built to Moscow and power secured from the Washington Water Power Company.

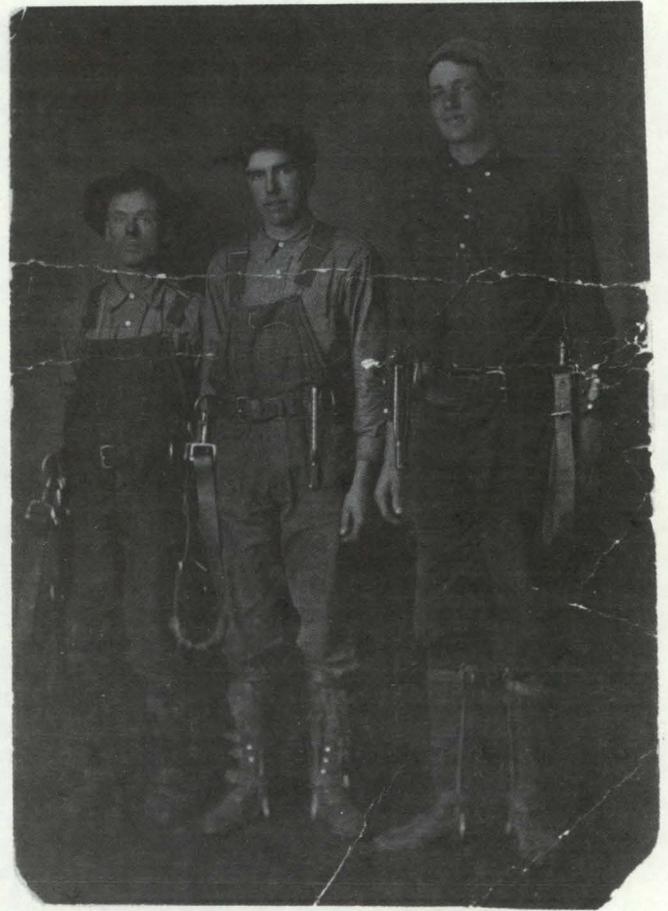
#### DEARY, IDAHO

Deary was served by a town-owned gasoline engine driven 220 volt d.c. generating plant. This was installed in [date missing]. In 1927 this was discontinued as the Potlatch Consolidated Electric Company of Kendrick had built an 11,000 volt transmission line from Troy and began serving Deary in July. This was within a few months acquired by the Washington Water Power Company.

#### BOVILL, IDAHO

Bovill was served by a town-owned, steam-driven generating plant. This was quite a combination--a 150 HP. steam engine driving a 50 KW. 220 volt generator--with steam supplied by a 40 HP. boiler using cord wood for fuel. Installed in 1911. A large 40 HP. gasoline engine was used until 1923.

The transmission line that was being built through Deary to Bovill was purchased by the Washington Water Power Company and power was supplied to Bovill in the fall of 1927.



Walter Coble, Herman Schupfer, and "Slim," a guest lineman, for Potlatch Con. Electric Co. 1917.

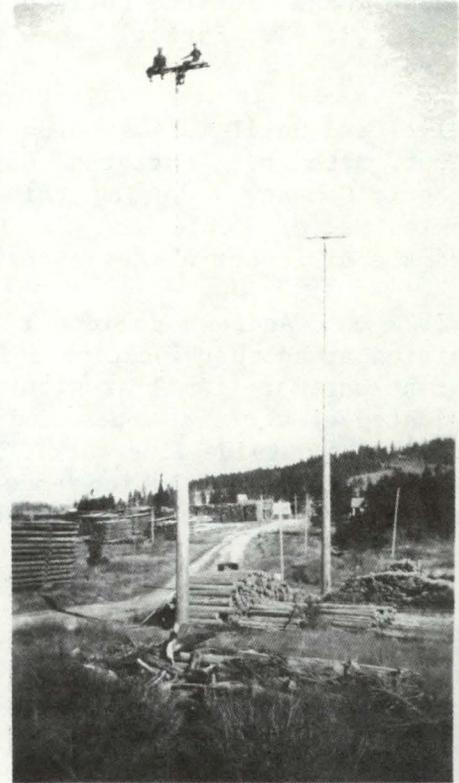
#### ELK RIVER

The Elk River System, installed in 1910, was one of the most up to date electric installations at that time. It was installed for the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company in conjunction with the saw-mill that they were constructing. This was an all electric mill, driven by steam engine generated electricity which was generated at 550 volts a.c. and was also transformed up to 2,300 volts to supply the town of Elk River and also for loading logs, shop and other uses outside of town.

This mill was discontinued about 1930 and a 22,000 volt transmission line was built to Bovill and power was purchased from the Washington Water Power Company. This was operated by the town of Elk River un-



Herman Schupfer in his Kendrick Office,  
1930.



H. Schupfer and Phil Johns atop an  
80 ft. pole. W.W.P., Bovill, 1928

til 1948, at which time it was sold to the Washington Water Power Company.

#### FROM 1903 to 1973

In the earlier days the use for electricity was for lights only and the electricity was on the lines only from the time it got dark until about midnight. The cost for each residence was a flat rate of \$1.50 a month in most of these towns, this was for 16 candle power carbon filament light globes. In case too many were being used, an additional charge was made or a meter was installed. Metered rates for residence use generally started at 15 or 20 cents a kwh and then reduced in steps according to the amount used during the month. Business places were usually checked for the number and size of lights that were being used at one time, also meters were sometimes installed.

There was no Public Utilities Commission at that time and different charges were

made to fit the situation as decided between the supplier and the user.

As time went by, different electrical appliances came into use, and one of the first was the electric iron. This called for a change in service. An "ironing morning" was established and electricity was kept on the lines one morning each week, until about noon. This was most generally on Wednesdays. This service was made available in all of these mentioned towns with the exception of Elk River, as they had continuous service.

Each light system in the different towns was operated and maintained individually in those days.

By 1908 I, Herman Schupfer, and my brother Otto had worked on telephone lines between three different grain warehouses and having learned pole climbing, we were generally called upon by the Juliaetta Light Company to do their line work when needed.

We also worked for the Potlatch Telephone Company (R. H. Porter) when help was needed.

In 1917 and until 1924 we also helped Mr. Wilmot with his Potlatch Consolidated Electric Company. During this time Art Dunkle, Walter Coble and C. J. Andrews were the different electricians.

In 1924 Mr. Andrews decided to accept a position at another location and with work that he was more familiar with. He was a graduated electrician but could not get used to the outside line work. I took the job temporarily but which ended with my retirement from the Washington Water Power Company in 1957. This job consisted of anything that had to be done in order to give the best service possible, also line building, maintenance, house wiring, meter reading, collecting, selling appliances, and whatever happened to be necessary in this line of business. My brother Otto and Phil Johns of Juliaetta and P. L. Chaney of Troy were generally available when help was needed. In 1924 Eben Adams was hired to replace the lady bookkeeper who had resigned. He also helped with the meter reading and collecting.

#### EARLY FARMERS SERVICE (160 acres or more)

These were connected not as a profitable investment but for checking farms for future profitable revenue.

The first installation was at the Frank May ranch out of Kendrick in 1916. A little later the Chas Smith ranch out of Troy was connected. In 1925 the next installations were made on American Ridge, out of Kendrick. The Ira Haven, Sam Bigham and Frank Benscoter ranches were connected. In 1926, each of these ranches was using between 15 and 30 kilowatt hours each month. The use of electrical equipment was increasing rapidly, and the prospective need for increasing the electrical supply encouraged Mr. Wilmot to decide to expand his system to Deary and Bovill.

At this time a cooking rate of 3¢ per kwh, and waterheating at a flat rate of \$2.00 a month for a 500 watt heater was in effect. The general residence rate started at 15¢ and reduced at 2¢ steps to a minimum of 5¢ per kwh. each month. The commercial rate started at 8¢ per kwh. with an additional 40¢ for each 100 watt of connected load used. Larger motor rates were \$3.50 a hp. for the highest 15 minute demand used during the month, no kwh. were metered or figured. As this power was purchased from the Washington Water Power Company at a peak demand rate a different deal was sometimes made if power used was only on off peak period.

#### 1927

As it had been decided to built a 22,000 volt transmission line to Deary and Bovill and rebuild the lines in the town, a crew of local men were hired, including Willard (Tony) Eichner, Gus Blum and myself, as foreman. Tony soon learned the pole climbing and he and I did practically all of the climbing on this entire job. We had about a dozen men in our crew. The hole digging was contracted at one dollar each. The pole setting and wire work was done with pike poles and hand tools. A model "T" Ford with flat bed was purchased for our line truck and which was the first mode of transportation owned by the Potlatch Consolidated Electric Company. The working schedule was a ten hour day, a six day week and pay was thirty cents an hour.

By the first of July this line was completed as far as Deary (twelve miles), a substation built, the town lines rebuilt for 2,300/110-220 volt service and the power turned on.

A few months later, as this transmission line was nearly completed to Bovill, the Potlatch Consolidated Electric Company (Mr. Wilmot) had sold to the Washington Water Power Company and a District office was established at Kendrick with Jack Barnes as manager and a local office at Bovill with Victor Casebolt as manager.



*Herman Tony Axel*

*Roy Fred 1927*

Rebuilding the Bovill Line, 1927. The Ford 'line' truck with Herman Schupfer sitting on the tail gate. Others, left to right: Tony Eichner, Axel Burklund, Roy Wells, and Fred Fonholtz.

We were instructed to complete our rebuild job at Bovill as we had it planned and Al Wetzel would be sent from Spokane with his crew to build the substation. Our crew had been reduced to five men--Axel Burklund, Fred Fonholtz, Roy Wells, Tony and myself. Guy Blum had left our crew for a time to help on forest fire patrol and was helping at Kendrick again at this time. The lines built, transformers up and connections made Tony and I were ordered to bring the truck and tools and come to Kendrick. This we did, but with winter weather having set in this proved to be quite a chore, through mudholes, snow and whatever was to be encountered on the old dirt roads at that time. The other three men of our crew were laid off. Casebolt and Mike Barnes were left in Bovill to look after the needs there.

The organization at Kendrick at that time, taking care of Kendrick, Juliaetta and Troy were Jack Barnes Manager, Eben Adams bookkeeper, Tony Eichner stock clerk and Otto, Gus, Phil and myself were the line crew, salesmen, installers (including wiring and plumbing), demonstrators, re-

pair men, meter readers, collectors and at times our wives would get involved when help was needed to teach the housewife how to bake a cake or operate her new electric equipment, also helping with the cooking schools which were held at the different towns.

Casebolt and Mike Barnes were transferred out of Bovill a few years later, the Bovill office was closed and Bovill was served out of Troy.

About 1930 the Kendrick District office was moved to Troy leaving me stationed at Kendrick a local representative with Phil, and Otto when needed.

Between 1930 and 1940 in Troy as manager were Fred Campbell, replacing Jack Barnes, Wilbur Foster, replacing Campbell, and John Black, replacing Foster.

In 1935 a 66,000 volt transmission line was built between Moscow and Orofino, through Juliaetta and including a substation there. This voltage was later raised to 110,000 volts.

About 1942, with the war facing us, many changes were made. The Troy District office was closed. Deary and Bovill were placed under Kendrick supervision and extra help furnished from Moscow when needed. Troy was served out of Moscow.

In 1948 the town-owned light system and the transmission line from Bovill was purchased by the Washington Water Power Company from the town of Elk River. Within the next few years a new substation was built, the distribution lines rebuilt and the socket type meters were installed on the houses. At the time of this transfer, Leonard Foster was their electrician. He added electric ranges, water heaters and other electric appliances in his general merchandise store after the transfer and did wiring and installing and did a good job of load building and helping in case of trouble. Elk River was also placed under Kendrick, the meter reading at Deary was placed out of Moscow.

At the present--1973: Kendrick, Juliaetta and the Clearwater Power Company (R.E.A.) are being served out of the Juliaetta substation. A 110,000 volt branch line from the Juliaetta switching station to the Deary substation serves Deary, Bovill and Elk River.

The supplying of electricity was a hard struggle in those early days, the use of it was limited, also the distance of transmission was limited on account of the low voltages generated.

Some people felt that it was being extravagant to use more than the minimum (10 kwh.-\$1.50 a month). They would watch the meter and use an oil lamp part time. Neighbors would compare and the ones that got by without "going over" were the winners.

As time went by many different generating plants were in use with some using alternating current and a higher voltage thereby being able to serve a larger area. Some of these were as follows:

A water powered plant was on the Clearwater River, beyond Grangeville, serving

Grangeville and some of the surrounding country.

A water powered plant on Lolo Creek, above Orofino, serving Orofino and that neighborhood.

A water powered plant above Asotin, serving the Asotin-Clarkston neighborhood.

A water powered plant on Clearwater River, near Lewiston built about 1925. Now being dismantled, 1973.

The Idaho-Washington Light and Power Company of Moscow with T. W. McGowan as President, and F. M. Shields as Manager, advertised in 1914 of having capital stock of \$500,000 and continuous service to Moscow, Pullman, Genesee, Tekoa, Garfield, Oakesdale, Palouse, Farmington, Colton and Uniontown. These are now served by the Washington Water Power Company.

A power plant and dam has just been completed (1973) on the North Fork of the Clearwater River near Orofino. This was built by Bonneville Power and is capable of distributing power at 550,000 volts AC. to their plants on Snake River and to Montana.

#### 1903 TO 1973

It is hard for the present generation to realize the changes that have been made through the use of electricity. For fuel, wood had to be cut and split, by hand tools, hauled home with horses, piled in the wood shed, carried into the house and placed in wood box daily, then start the fire and feed the stove or heater according to the heat desired (temperature control), ashes to take out. A nice dinner on a hot day with a hot stove nearby. No refrigerator, surplus food must be taken to the cellar which was generally under the house. No ice water, no electric fan just a hand fan or some paper--a hot house with no way to cool it. On wash day, wash on a wash board, use a hand powered wringer, hang clothes on line or find a place in the house to get them dry, draw water from the well, heat water on stove



The snow and cold of winter presented numerous difficulties which were borne with patience and good will, and probably some suffering. At the top Herman Schupfer can't get near enough to read meters with the naked eye, and is using a telescope of some sort.

Below illustrates a not uncommon winter scene in Elk River, with a vehicle buried under some four feet of snow. The latter scene was taken during the winter of 1948/49.



in wash tub etc. etc. This now all done by flipping a switch or turning a knob.

As the home makers were better acquainted with the use of electricity and not as much demonstrating or trial installations necessary the Washington Water Power Company discontinued the sales and repairing of appliances and cooperated with the dealers in the promotion of sales. Also house to house collecting was discontinued and pay stations were located in business places.

A great change in the maintenance and operation of an electric system has occurred during the years. Material and tools were carried in a large canvas bag or a wheelbarrow or children's wagon was used. In the Kendrick-Juliaetta area, between towns it was generally going one way by passenger train and the other way by foot (4 miles). From Kendrick to Troy and back was by train but by foot while being there.

On maintenance work on the Kendrick-Moscow transmission line, a team, rig and driver would generally be hired from the livery for the first lap to a farm house where a fresh outfit would be hired. At times, in the winter the team would have to be unhooked from the sled or rig and be driven through the snow drifts, a number of times, before the sled or rig would be pulled through.

The roads were generally not plowed out until the snow storm was over, or even a few days later, but the trouble-shooting had to go on, one way or another, by snow shoes, skis or on foot, when no other way was available. In the summer time a car or truck was generally available.

My brother, Otto, and I started helping the Juliaetta Light Company in 1908, when needed. In 1917 also started helping the Potlatch Consolidated Electric Company (Mr. A. Wilmot) when needed. In 1924 I was employed full time by the Potlatch Consolidated Company and continued on with the Washington Water Power Company

until my retirement in 1957, the last 27 years I was stationed at Kendrick as local representative, also serving Juliaetta, Deary, Bovill and Elk River.

On my retirement in 1957, Dean Hollenbeck was appointed and in 1964 he was transferred to Tekoa and Clair Reed was transferred from Colfax to take his place. This is a diversified job, reading meters and maintaining service in the Kendrick valley, in sunshine one day and then doing the same the next day, at Elk River and mountains, on snow shoes, 50 miles from Kendrick.

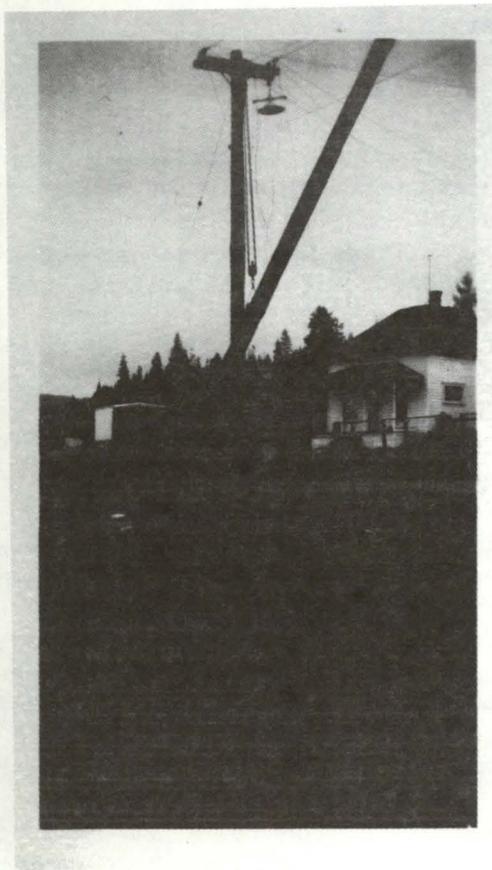
At the present these towns and surrounding country are well taken care of for electric service. The Clearwater Power Company serves most of the rural farming country and the Washington Water Power Company serves these towns and the rural country from Deary east to Elk River. Also the small tracts on the hill side and along the Big Potlatch Creek in the Juliaetta-Kendrick valley are served by the W.W.P.Co. for a distance of about ten miles.

The use of electricity has increased immensely since my early days. If a meter read over 10 kwh. (\$1.50 minimum) an explanation was often necessary.

There were very few electric ranges or water heaters in use in these towns until 1928 at which time a drive was made by the W.W.P.Co. to sell the electricity users electric ranges, water heaters, refrigerators (new on the market) and all other small appliances. The old wood ranges and other wood or oil burning appliances were taken in on trade and installment payments to be made along with their monthly bill. This was the starting time that the use of electricity was taking effect and it has increased up to this time (Dec. 1973) but now the reports of a shortage has caused Bonneville power System to cut off much of its interruptible power to aluminum plants and others. W.W.P.Co. seem to have enough but may have to share with other systems.

It has been a pleasure to have been involved in the promoting and building utilities in these communities, both electric and telephone. Having lived among these people most of my life as neighbors and friends I was naturally interested in these communities. In working for the different promoters and companies I generally felt I was also working for the people served, and enjoyed that progress in the community was being made.

I enjoyed working for the three different owners of the Juliaetta Light Co.--Mr. Holbrook, Mr. Martin and Mr. Vincent, for



New Bovill pole being raised with the help of the Ford truck. 1927.

the owner of the Potlatch Consolidated Electric Company--Mr. Wilmot, and for the owner of the Potlatch Telephone Company--Mr. Porter. My brother, Otto, and I acquired this telephone company in 1915.

It was through the experience with these companies that qualified me as an electrician and whatever was necessary to maintain and operate the electric system for the Potlatch Consolidated Electric Co. I feel very thankful to these people who gave me the chance, also to all others who had helped--also including the country people, who in case of trouble or working on the lines, fed us and team, and helped when needed.

I am proud to have worked for a great company like the Washington Water Power Co. after they acquired the Potlatch Consolidated Electric Co. and to have a hand in supplying electric service to people in outlying towns and places who wholeheartedly appreciated all of our efforts. My thanks to the personnel and co-workers for the co-operation and interest shown me during my years of work.

\* \* \*

Herman C. Schupfer lived all of his life in Juliaetta, and was prominently involved in the development of electrical power generation and distribution in southern and eastern Latah County. He was also involved in the creation of telephone service in Kendrick and Juliaetta. He wrote these interesting accounts, and had several copies printed for distribution prior to his death in October 1974. The copy used for this article is in the library of the Latah County Historical Society.

All of the photographs used in this article and in the following article by Keith Williams were supplied by Alberta Schupfer Turner and the H. C. Schupfer family and are used here with their kind permission.

## THE EARLY ELECTRIFICATION OF LATAH COUNTY, IDAHO:

### POWER GOES RURAL

by Keith Williams

Electrification in Latah County brought with it many changes which affected both urban and rural dwellers. Electricity provided the means by which people could move beyond manual labor and pre-industrial working conditions to convenient, labor-saving devices which revolutionized lifestyles. Urban areas received benefits much earlier than the rural countryside. In Latah County, towns such as Moscow and Kendrick had electricity as early as the late 1880s, yet it did not effectively reach out into rural areas until the 1930s with the inception of the Rural Electrification Administration (R.E.A.).

With the advent of electricity, people no longer had to depend upon coal oil or kerosene lamps and lanterns. The incandescent light bulb, much more efficient and a lesser fire hazard than the early lanterns, dispelled the old tradition of "early to bed, early to rise" as activities no longer depended upon daylight hours.<sup>1</sup> The incandescent bulb extended daily activity hours and provided the individual with more working, and conversely, more leisure time. These extended hours, when coupled with the myriad assortment of labor-saving appliances and tools developed to utilize electric power, increased individual productivity and also reduced labor expenditure.

Some changes actually made life healthier. Indoor plumbing, made practical by the electric pump, ended the necessary trips to the well-house and "privy." These trips had been inconvenient and conducive to illness because they exposed the family to harsh weather and unsanitary conditions. Some appliances contributed to health problems as well. The gasoline heated clothes iron gave off noxious

fumes, and the wood range in the kitchen subjected the cook to excessive heat in the summer.<sup>2</sup> Electricity brought with it replacements for these devices and many others. These advantages, however, were not enjoyed by rural dwellers until well after the establishment of electrical systems in urban areas.

In order to fully understand the spread of early electrification in Latah County and its eventual move into the rural countryside, it is important to understand its urban beginnings. Electrical service in the county began in Moscow, the largest town in the county and the county seat. The M. J. Shields Lumber Company installed a steam generator for its mill in 1888 and supplied power to a portion of the city as well. In 1892, Shields organized and sold shares to the Moscow Electric Light and Power Company which then took over the city's distribution system.<sup>3</sup> In 1904, the company contracted with the city of Moscow to expand its services. At the same time, it arranged with the Lewiston Water and Power Company, the forerunner to the Lewiston-Clarkston Improvement Company, for hydroelectric power to be sent to the towns of Moscow, Pullman, Genesee, and Uniontown.<sup>4</sup> In April 1907, Moscow Electric Light and Power reorganized its field of operations and changed its name to the Idaho-Washington Power Company.<sup>5</sup> The Idaho-Washington Power Company began purchasing power from the Washington Water Power Company which had built a high voltage transmission line through the Palouse country to Moscow and Genesee.<sup>6</sup> The Washington Water Power Company, a Spokane-based firm incorporated in March of 1889, purchased the majority of the Idaho-Washington Power Company's holdings in July 1913. These holdings included the distribution system in Moscow, Troy,

and Genesee as well as a steam generating plant in Troy.<sup>7</sup>

After the Washington Water Power Company acquired the Idaho-Washington Company in 1913, it negotiated with the Lewiston-Clarkston Improvement Company for the 22,000 volt line and substations which had connected the Moscow/Genesee area to Lewiston.<sup>8</sup> Washington Water Power purchased the line in April of 1914. It then used the line to send its own power to these areas and to supply electricity wholesale to the Lewiston-Clarkston Improvement Company.<sup>9</sup> Washington Water Power's takeover of these areas proved to be beneficial to the customers in the region. The Improvement Company had suffered from a lack of power during peak load periods which resulted in shut-downs to the area residents during certain hours.<sup>10</sup> While the Improvement Company had been extended beyond its effective capacity, the Washington Water Power Company easily furnished the necessary electricity.

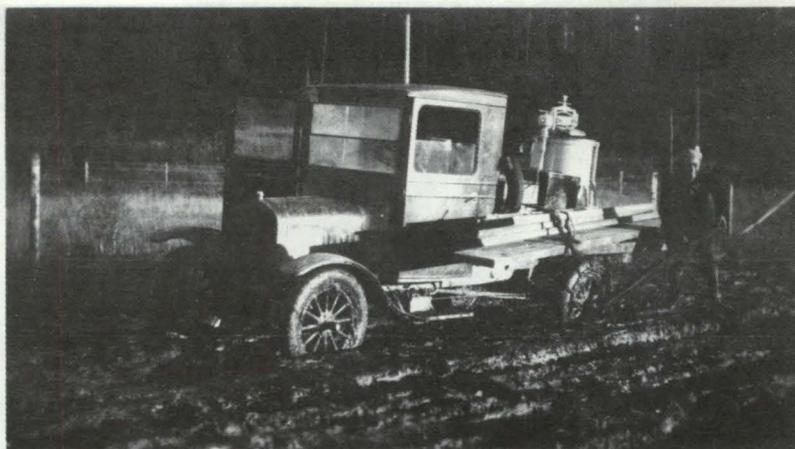
Aside from Moscow and Genesee, other areas of Latah County had electricity as well, some of them at fairly early dates. Kendrick had a steam generator constructed in 1893 to supply the town's lighting needs. A short-lived venture, the town quickly changed back to old-fashioned coal-oil street lamps. Incandescent bulbs did not replace the lamps again until 1915 when private concerns built a diesel generating plant.<sup>11</sup> In January 1916, Washington Water Power sold its Troy steam plant and distribution system to the small electric company in Kendrick owned by Andy Wilmot, Arthur Dunkle, and Frank Candee. The Kendrick-based company now constructed a line between Kendrick and Troy to enable it to utilize the diesel plant for Troy's power supply. In September 1916, Wilmot's company reorganized as the Potlatch Consolidated Electric Company. It then expanded its operations and in 1917 ran a high voltage transmission line from Troy to Moscow which allowed them to purchase electricity from Washington Water Power.<sup>12</sup> Potlatch Electric Company then dismantled its Kendrick diesel plant.



A. W. Wilmot, owner and promoter of P.C.E.Co., supplying 24-hour power to Kendrick, Juliaetta, Troy, Deary, and Bovill, 1915-1927.

The Potlatch Consolidated Electric Company controlled the distribution systems of other Latah County towns as well. Juliaetta had had two waterpower generators located in the Juliaetta flour mill since 1903. The mill burned in 1920, destroying the generators. In 1921, Potlatch Consolidated acquired the system and began supplying the town's power needs.<sup>13</sup> Deary, served initially by a municipally owned gasoline generating plant, received power through a newly constructed Potlatch Consolidated line from Troy in 1926.<sup>14</sup> P.C.E.C. also began an "Early Farmer's Service" which they used to supply a few of the region's farmers, but only if their farms encompassed 160 acres or more. The company connected two area farmers in 1915 and several more in 1925, but complete rural electrification did not result. The program basically existed as an experiment to see if larger scale rural electrification projects could be profitable.<sup>15</sup>

A common hazard in early motoring. Stuck in the mud on the Bovill Highway.



An infrequent hazard. Water over the creek banks and this WWP crew had to take to their boat.

A third hazard. Tony Eichner and Axel Burk-lund caught in the snow between Deary and Bovill, 1927.



Bovill, a small town in the eastern portion of the county, also had two town-owned steam generating plants which had been installed in 1911. A gasoline plant replaced the steam generator in a very short time and provided the town's power until 1923. In 1927 the partially completed P.C.E.C. transmission line from Troy and Deary to Bovill was purchased and completed by the Washington Water Power Company.<sup>16</sup> W.W.P. then purchased all holdings and distribution systems of the Potlatch Consolidated Electric Company.<sup>17</sup> By that time, virtually all of the county's towns had some form of electrification systems but rural areas could seldom obtain electrical service from these private companies.

Population centers with higher numbers of potential customers per square mile were capable of supporting private generating and distribution systems. Rural areas, on the other hand, required miles of transmission lines in order to service the widely separated farm dwellings. The line construction became expensive in itself, but yet another factor was involved. These individual town generating plants, whether steam driven, diesel, or gasoline, produced a relatively low voltage, direct current power which could not be effectively transmitted great distances. Resistance within the lines themselves depleted the initial voltage.<sup>18</sup> Substations solved the problem, but the more expenses incurred during construction, the higher service rates had to be and the less likely that farmers would purchase enough power to make it profitable for the private company to install rural electrical systems. One man who worked for a private power company in Latah County described an incident illustrative of the Company's difficulty in maintaining sales at a profitable level:

There's one of the places that we had put in seventy-five watt lamps, and the lady was tickled. When her husband came home he took them to town and traded them all off for, I believe it was twenty-fives. That kept [their bills] down. It [rural electrification] just wasn't a paying proposition in '25.<sup>19</sup>

Since the private firms viewed rural lines as unprofitable they usually refused to construct them.<sup>20</sup>

Country dwellers sometimes obtained electrical service from private companies in other ways. Some constructed the extension line from their farm to the nearest inter-urban transmission line themselves and then deeded the line to the power company, while others simply compensated the power company for all expenses incurred.<sup>21</sup> Either way, with line construction costs at approximately \$1,000 per mile during the 1930s, the farmer seldom believed he could afford such luxury.<sup>22</sup> Because of this when they did receive electrical service they generally tried to be as sparing as possible. They did not realize that this frugality may have actually cost them money. In a study done in Red Wing, Minnesota, in 1923, the Committee on the Relation of Electricity to Agriculture (CREA) demonstrated that the installation of time-saving electrical appliances on the farm brought a decrease in operating expenses which far outweighed installation costs and service charges. Along with the more efficient utilization of the farmer's time, electricity carried with it to the farm a happier, healthier life overall. The study showed that the more money expended for appliances and tools and the more electricity actually used, the greater the return for both the farmer and the utility company which furnished the service.<sup>23</sup>

In the early years of service, the use of electrical power was generally restricted to lighting, therefore the highest consumption occurred during the evening.<sup>24</sup> This gave utility companies only a short service day in which to recover costs and profits. High rates resulted. With the development and widespread acceptance of appliances, the need for power became constant and prices lowered. This created a higher demand as more people began asking for service. In turn, the development of more efficient generating plants, which increased the availability of electrical power resulted.<sup>25</sup>



Two jeeps helping with the service truck up Elk Butte, c. 1939.

Table 1

APPLIANCE DEVELOPMENT (PARTIAL LIST)<sup>26</sup>

-1900	Lighting
1905	Electric Iron
1910	First Practical Electric Range, Electric Washing Machine
1915	Elevators, Water Pumps, Water Tank Heaters, Printing Presses

After WWI Vast Influx of Appliances  
(partial list below)

Air Pump	Shredder
Churn	Drill
Cream Separator	Ice Cream Freezer
Cow Milker	Ice Machine
Feed Cutter	Refrigerator
Lathe	Meat Grinder
Circular Saw	Sewing Machine
Hay Press	Vacuum Cleaner
Thresher	Hay Hoist
Ensilage Cutter	Gristmill
Bone Cutter	Corn Husker
Drier	Sprinkler System
Corn Sheller	Curling Iron
Electric Truck	Electric Clippers

With the 1920s and the increased development of labor-saving devices for agricultural use, rural dwellers began to

seriously consider the possibility of electrifying their farms. A few, situated near inter-urban transmission lines, could connect with these existing systems. Others began looking into the possibilities of installing electric generators. Gasoline generators were one of the more popular types. The generating plant itself could be purchased at an average price of \$500 dollars which included the engine, generator, and storage battery. Wiring usually cost from \$100 to \$250 and annual operating costs averaged \$140.<sup>27</sup> Other types of home generating plants included waterpower plants (water wheel or turbine), steam and windmill. As a rule, these home generating plants proved impractical for individual farm use. Few farm generators of any type were used in Latah County. Out of 1,061 rural dwellings lighted by electricity in 1940, home generators supplied only eleven.<sup>28</sup> The rest purchased their electricity from private companies, as previously mentioned, or through independent cooperatives.

The first cooperative in America was organized in 1913 when a group of Lynden, Washington, area farmers organized to obtain service from the Puget Sound Power and Light Company.<sup>29</sup> Cooperative action

provided the best means of obtaining electricity, however there were too few of these independent cooperatives to effectively service the entire rural population. In Latah County, the Kennedy-Ford Power Line Company existed as the area's only independent cooperative. Formed in December 1934, it serviced only portions of the upper-county.<sup>30</sup> Throughout the country as a whole, only fifty successful independent cooperatives existed prior to 1935.<sup>31</sup> In 1932 only 10% of all United States farms had been electrified.<sup>32</sup> Idaho had 30.7% (12,809) of its farm dwellings lighted by electricity in 1930.<sup>33</sup> In 1934, Latah County had 31 miles of rural distribution lines which served 177 rural customers, 160 of them farmers. This was only 8.4% of all Latah County farms.<sup>34</sup> Effective electrification of the rural countryside did not begin until after May 11, 1935, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 7037 which established the Rural Electrification Administration.

The Executive Order increased the rate of rural electrification tremendously. The Rural Electrification Administration tied into "one bundle several of the New Deal's fondest hopes--low cost power, conservation of natural resources, and the raising of the level of farm life."<sup>35</sup> R.E.A. cooperatives functioned under the same basic principles as the Rochdale, which was established in England and was one of the earliest and most successful cooperatives in the world. The principles were: (1) open membership; (2) democratic control; (3) invested capital receives no profits, only interest; (4) return of gains to members is proportional to their patronage; (5) political, religious, and racial neutrality must be maintained; (6) cash trading only, no credit given; and (7) education in cooperation must be provided.<sup>36</sup> These guidelines helped assure that everyone had an equal opportunity to enjoy the benefits of electricity. R.E.A. cooperative members received electricity at more reasonable rates than those offered by private companies because of several factors: (1) R.E.A. engineers found ways to construct distribution lines at nearly one-half the cost-per-mile of those built

by private companies; (2) R.E.A. served as a lending institution giving loans at low interest which were usually twenty to twenty-five years in duration and often were extended to thirty-five; (3) R.E.A. cooperatives could get low, wholesale energy rates.<sup>37</sup>

The Rural Electrification Administration became extremely popular among major farm organizations such as the National Grange and the American Farm Bureau. Both urged farmers to form cooperatives and utilize the R.E.A.'s lending programs.<sup>38</sup> Although essentially an agency within the Department of Agriculture, the R.E.A.'s administrator, named by the President and confirmed by the senate, had the authority to make his own decisions. Designed to keep the program from being subjected to excessive political pressures, this helped to maintain objectivity in the implementation of rural electrification projects.<sup>39</sup> Farmers recognized the benefits of a program such as this and increasingly sought the advantages offered by the use of electricity. In fact, some rural dwellers impatiently awaited the time when their farms would receive electricity. One man exclaimed, "If the R.E.A. does not get around soon to helping me electrify my farm, I intend to go into the business of raising lightning bugs."<sup>40</sup> An R.E.A. supervisor once stopped at a farm which had recently had electricity and a modern plumbing system installed and asked the housewife how she liked the new equipment. "I don't know how I ever got along without it," she replied. "I would almost rather give up my husband than my plumbing."<sup>41</sup> Perhaps not all rural residents were so enthusiastic, but the success of cooperatives certainly indicated an overwhelming interest.

This organized activity was not well received by the private companies however. They had long been reluctant to extend their lines to include farmers and rural dwellers but now began to see that profits were possible and resented the involvement of government-sponsored cooperatives. In some parts of the United States their rebellion escalated at times to rather extreme measures. When private

companies learned that a group of farmers had begun organizing to build their own rural distribution system, they sometimes sent in a construction crew and raised a line through the center of the proposed cooperative area. The power companies never intended these "spite lines" as complete rural electrification projects. They were simply designed to prevent the success of the cooperative efforts to keep them from infringing on the company's "franchized territory."<sup>42</sup> A few of the farmers would be served in this manner, the rest left to fend for themselves, now without sufficient numbers to organize an effective cooperative organization. Yet spite lines never occurred within Latah County. Area residents were left alone to proceed with rural electrification efforts at their own pace.

In Latah County several cooperatives began to serve the electrical needs of the farmer. Three operated in the Genesee area. The Farmer's Power Corporation formed in June 1936, serviced twenty-five customers, and had fourteen miles of line. Rimrock Power and Light Company, established in November 1937, provided power to twelve customers over 8.5 miles of distribution line. The Thorncreek Power and Light Corporation also began in 1937 and served twenty-one Genesee area residents with 14.2 miles of line.<sup>43</sup> Between February and November 1936, community meetings were held at Kendrick, Troy, and Deary to "outline the Rural Electrification Program and to set up temporary organizations." A great deal of interest was shown by those in attendance and a board of directors was elected which would represent all communities and districts of the county to the R.E.A. Application was made in December 1936 to the R.E.A. for approval of the project.<sup>44</sup> With their approval, the R.E.A. "requested that Latah County consolidate with Nez Perce, Benewah, Shoshone, Clearwater, and Lewis counties. This consolidation was completed and a Board of Directors perfected the non-profit cooperative association named the Clearwater Valley Light and Power Association and secured a loan from the R.E.A."<sup>45</sup>

The largest cooperative in the county, the

Clearwater Valley Light and Power Association, Incorporated, received \$1,062,000 from the National Rural Electrification Administration and constructed 1,077 miles of distribution lines throughout the area, eventually absorbing smaller cooperatives and extending lines through virtually every part of the county.<sup>46</sup> The Clearwater Valley Light and Power Association essentially completed the rural electrification of Latah County.

By 1938, 350 cooperatives existed in the United States, evidence that the Rural Electrification Administration cooperatives served their functions well. In the next decade the number had tripled.<sup>47</sup> By the end of 1941 approximately 30% of all United States farms had been electrified, and the figure had leaped to 86.3% by the end of 1950.<sup>48</sup> Statistics for Idaho show that 60.4% (26,384) of the state's farm dwellings received power in 1940.<sup>49</sup> Latah County had 1,050, or 59%, of its farms receiving current from distribution lines that same year.<sup>50</sup>

Rural electrification was essentially completed by the 1950s. In 1952, 90% of all United States farms received electrical service and Idaho had a 96% electrification rate.<sup>51</sup> By one means or another, private company or R.E.A. cooperative, American farms had become overwhelmingly electrified. The farm wife now had all the conveniences and comforts of the city housewife, the farmer had access to any labor-saving device or tool he desired, and they had the power to run them.

Through electricity, farms operated more efficiently. Productivity rose higher than ever possible in the pre-electrical age on the farm where manual labor accomplished most tasks. The Rural Electrification Administration, the guiding force behind the rural electrification movement, helped to organize cooperatives which now serve twenty-five million people with service territories that encompass 73% of all United States land.<sup>52</sup> The non-electrified dwelling, whether located in urban or rural areas, is now the exception and not the rule in Latah County, and in the United States in general.

## NOTES

1 D. Clayton Brown, "Farm Life: Before and After Electrification," Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums Annual, Vol. 1 (Smithsonian, 1975), p. 1.

2 Ibid., p. 2; Interview with Mrs. Mabel Callison, Kendrick, in author's collection in Pullman, WA.

3 Washington Water Power Company, "The Washington Water Power Company: Reclassification of Electric Plant Statements A to I Inclusive" (Spokane). Note: An in-house publication referred to as "The Class book" within the company, this work will hereafter be referred to as WWP, "The Class Book," with appropriate pages cited.

4 Ibid., p. 53; Lewiston-Clarkston Improvement Company Records, Washington State University Archives and Special Collections, Cage 311, Container 103. Moscow Electric Light and Power Company received Genesee's Franchise in August 1904. Genesee lumbermill owner, Mr. C. E. Wood, was listed jointly in this Franchise agreement.

5 WWP, "The Class Book," p. 54.

6 Paul T. Bockmier, "History of Washington Water Power Company," Washington State University Archives and Special Collections, The Bockmier Papers, Cage 94, Series V, Box 4, Folder 32, p. 1.

7 WWP, "The Class Book," p. 52-54. Washington Water Power Company also acquired the distribution system in various other Washington and Idaho towns at this time.

8 Lewiston-Clarkston Improvement Company Records, Washington State University Archives and Special Collection, Cage 311, Container 381. These lines had been built in 1904-05.

9 WWP, "The Class Book," p. 60.

10 Ibid., p. 55.

11 Herman Schupfer, "The Beginnings and Progress of Electrical Service in Kendrick, Troy, Juliaetta, Deary, Bovill, Elk River and Communities." Unpublished typescript Latah County Historical Society Archives, Moscow, Idaho, 1974, p. 1.

12 WWP, "The Class Book," p. 94.

13 Schupfer, "The Beginnings and Progress of Electrical Service," p. 2-3.

14 Ibid., p. 3.

15 Schupfer, "The Beginnings and Progress of Electrical Service," p. 6.

16 Ibid., p. 3-4.

17 WWP, "The Class Book," p. 94.

18 Schupfer, "The Beginnings and Progress of Electrical Service," p. 9.

19 Interview with Mr. Herman Schupfer, Kendrick, by Rob Moore, in Latah County Historical Society Oral History Collection. Mr. Schupfer is speaking of the Potlatch Consolidated Electric Company's "Early Farmers Service," 1925. P.C.E.C. sold power at a ten kilowatt minimum for \$1.50 per month. Farms in the area averaged between ten and twenty kilowatts per month.

20 Marquis Childs, The Farmer Takes a Hand: The Electric Power Revolution in Rural America, reprinted (New York: Da Capo Press, 1974), p. 35. See also Michael Green, "A History of the Public Rural Electrification Movement in Washington to 1942" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Idaho, 1967), p. 68-69.

21 Green, "A History of the Public Rural Electrification Movement," p. 68-69.

22 Gustav Henry Bliesner, "Farm Electrical Studies in the Pacific Northwest (M.A. thesis, Washington State College, 1939), p. 16; see also Childs, The Farmer Takes a Hand, p. 42. It should be remembered that farm prices collapsed in 1921 and low returns for produce lasted through the depression years; see Childs, The Farmer Takes a Hand, p. 33.

- 23 Childs, The Farmer Takes a Hand, p. 39-41.
- 24 Sam Churchill, "Electricity on the Farm Saves Time, Money," Yakima Herald, December 6, 1964.
- 25 Childs, The Farmer Takes a Hand, p. 49.
- 26 Green, "A History of the Public Rural Electrification," p. 71. For further information, see also Frank Koester, Electricity for the Farm and Home (New York: Sturgis and Walton Company, 1913), p. 93-94.
- 27 J. P. Schaenzer, Rural Electrification (New York: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1935), p. 108-109.
- 28 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, United States Census for Agriculture: 1940, County Table X, p. 144.
- 29 Dates differ as to the establishment of this first cooperative. Green, in "A History of the Public Rural Electrification Movement," p. 73, believes the date to be 1913. Childs, The Farmer Takes a Hand, p. 63, placed the date at 1914. Between these two dates I chose to use Green's interpretation since he is a PNW writer and so, theoretically, nearer his sources. Thomas Galazon, "Co-ops Co-opted: Rural Electric Cooperatives have Joined the Forces They Once Fought," The Progressive, 44 (April 1980), places the first cooperatives as late as 1920, somewhat later than is probable.
- 30 Hobart Beresford, et al., Idaho Committee on the Relation of Electricity to Agriculture, Bulletin #12 (1938), p. 18. The Kennedy-Ford Power Line Company was a Latah County cooperative even though its mailing address was Palouse, Washington.
- 31 Rural Electrification Administration, "A Guide for Members of REA Cooperatives" (Washington, D.C., July 1939), p. 15.
- 32 Childs, The Farmer Takes a Hand, p. 29.
- 33 U.S. Census for Agriculture: 1940, State Table II, p. 105. In comparing the overall percentages of the United States with the Idaho percentages it must be kept in mind that while Idaho has a high percentage of relatively large, successful farms, particularly in its southern half, the United States as a whole has a tremendous diversity in farm sizes and economic levels. It must also be remembered that the PNW has a history of being "progressive."
- 34 Hobart Beresford, et al., Comp., United States Rural Electrification Survey for the State of Idaho (Moscow, ID: 1934), p. 4. Latah County had approximately 1,888 farms in 1935, U.S. Census for Agriculture: 1940, County Table I. In noting that Latah County had a much lower percentage than Idaho as a whole, the rough, mountainous terrain and diversity of farm size in the county should be remembered.
- 35 Childs, The Farmer Takes a Hand, p. 53-54.
- 36 REA, "A Guide for Members," p. 19.
- 37 *Ibid.*, p. 12. Along with these functions the REA also contained divisions such as Legal, Finance, Engineering, research, and Utilization at their national headquarters to supervise and protect the activities and interests of their member cooperatives, n.a., "History of Rural Electrification Administration," unpublished, n.d., Smith-Agricultural Engineering Department Papers, Washington State University, p. 1.
- 38 Clyde T. Ellis, A Giant Step (New York: Random House, 1966), p. 43.
- 39 *Ibid.*, p. 4.
- 40 Childs, The Farmer Takes a Hand, p. 116. Quotation put into first-person by author.

41 Green, "A History of the Public Rural Electrification Movement," p. 244.

42 Childs, The Farmer Takes a Hand, p. 66, 76-78; Ellis, A Giant Step, p. 45.

43 Beresford, I.C.R.E.A. Bulletin #15 (1940), p. 16.

44 Latah County Extension Agent, Annual Report for 1936, University of Idaho College of Agriculture Extension Division (Moscow, ID), p. 24-25.

45 Ibid., Annual Report for 1937, p. 31.

46 Beresford, I.C.R.E.A. Bulletin #15, p. 3.

47 Childs, The Farmer Takes a Hand, p. 77, 82.

48 Brown, "Farm Life Before and After Electrification," ALHFAM Annual, p. 3.

49 U.S. Census for Agriculture: 1940, State Table II, p. 105.

50 Ibid., County Table X, p. 144; there were 1,777 farms in Latah County in 1940 according to the census.

51 n.a., "History of Rural Electrification Administration," Smith-Ag. Engineering Papers, Washington State University, p. 3.

52 Galazon, "Co-ops Co-opted," The Progressive (April 1980).

#### BOOK REVIEW

White Pines and Fires: Cooperative Forestry in Idaho. Albert B. Curtis. Moscow: The University Press of Idaho. 1983. 150 p. Paper. \$19.95.

Fire has always been the timber industry's number one enemy. Forest fires can destroy entire landholdings and bankrupt companies. It is surprising that it took so long for American lumbermen to form cooperative timber protective associations as a means of battling this menace. The nation's first such organization--the Clearwater Timber Protective Association--was formed in northcentral Idaho in 1905. It was shortly followed by several northern neighbors, the Potlatch and Coeur d'Alene Timber Protective Associations, and the Pend Oreille Fire Association. Historians have paid little attention to the development of timber protective associations, and this book provides the first look at Idaho's contribution in this field. Although the title is somewhat misleading because this work deals almost exclusively with the Clearwater and Potlatch Associations and only sparingly with forestry in the rest of the

state, the volume nonetheless fills a significant gap in regional historical literature.

A. B. "Bert" Curtis moved with his parents to Orofino in 1910 and began working in the Clearwater River woods as a fire fighter in 1918. In 1927 he became Chief Fire Warden of the Clearwater Timber Protective Association. In 1945 he was named to the same position for the Potlatch Timber Protective Association, and when these two were merged in 1966 he became Chief Warden of the new Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association, retiring in 1968. He was, therefore, a prime figure in the story about which he writes.

Curtis tells a fascinating tale. The area's first lookout station was constructed in 1900 and was staffed by Mable Gray who, upon spotting a fire, would saddle her horse, fire a shot to alert timber cruisers in the area, and ride hellbent to the nearest location where she felt she might be able to recruit helpers to fight the conflagration. Beginning in

these early times, Curtis traces the story of firefighting through the time when lookouts were equipped with telephones and later radio communication equipment, and finally to the day when helicopters and airplanes made lookouts virtually obsolete.

While this is primarily the story of combatting forest fires, there is much other detail here to hold the attention of local historians. Curtis goes into considerable detail on some of the early homesteaders of the Clearwater area, as well as some of its more interesting characters, such as the infamous Bill Moreland, "Ridge Runner of the Clearwater." Several people with Latah County backgrounds played prominent roles in the development of cooperative forestry and receive detailed biographical treatment by the author, such as Theodore Fohl, C. O. and Nat Brown, and Charles Munson.

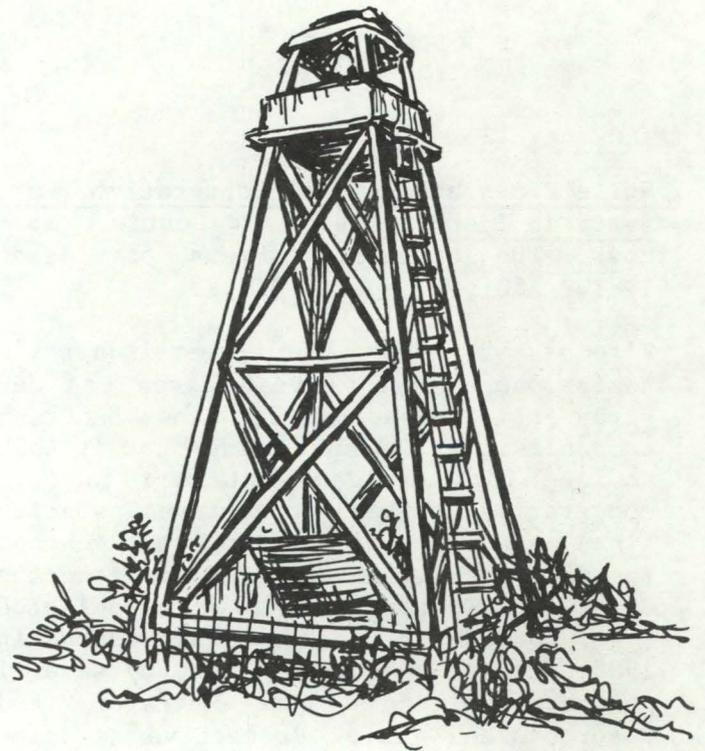
White Pines and Fires would have benefited by closer editing to eliminate some typographical and historical errors. For example, Coxey's Army is called Cox's Army (p. 14); A. W. Laird of the Potlatch Lumber Company is referred to as A. B. Laird (p. 19); and the District Engineer of the Walla Walla District of the Corps of Engineers is called the "Chief of Army Engineers," a title that actually belongs to his boss in Washington, D.C. (p. 40). There is also a considerable amount of repetitiveness in the text, and the narrative sometimes jumps around chronologically, which disrupts the flow of the story. These are all matters that the University Press should have paid more attention to. A detailed map of the area, footnotes, and a bibliography would have also been helpful.

Despite these problems, Curtis tells an interesting story. Written as it was by one who witnessed many of the events, this is actually a rich primary source. It will be of value to future historians of Idaho forestry, and of interest to those who want to learn more about the region's logging past. The author is to be com-

mended for preserving the story of an often-overlooked aspect of Idaho's rich lumbering history.

--Keith Petersen

KEITH PETERSEN's primary research interest is Idaho forestry history and he is currently writing a book on the Potlatch Lumber Company and the town of Potlatch.



Bertha Hill Tower No. 5  
built in 1925

## LATAH VIGNETTES

by Keith Petersen and Mary E. Reed

## TRAMWAYS

The change is most apparent from an airplane. Flying over the Palouse and other area prairies you quite frequently and abruptly come to deep canyons--sheer, rugged walls descending to twisting rivers below. It is a singularly unique sensation to fly low over the landscape, low enough to distinguish kids playing and cattle moving, low enough that even those with fears of flying are lulled into a sense of security because the land is so close at hand--and suddenly the Snake River canyon drops below the airplane. In a matter of seconds you are no longer a modest distance in the air, but have added 2,000 feet to the space between you and security. It is not the same in a car, but stop the next time at the top of the Lewiston grade and take time to really look. You will be gazing down into one of the deepest canyons in the country. Although we have tamed this landscape with a multi-lane highway, a person should still feel a sense of wonder and humility.

The Snake River canyon is the region's biggest, but other streams have cut through the earth over eons and created

their own defiles, streams like the Clearwater and the Potlatch. We move over and through and around them with relative ease today, but to the area's first farmers these were barriers damnably difficult to negotiate. Yet steamboats plying the rivers provided the first connection with outside wheat markets at Portland, and rail beds later skirted river edges. Farmers, in order to survive, had to figure a way to transport grain from their upland farms, down the canyon walls, to boat and train landings on the river shores below. Economic necessity was the mother of invention here, and the means which entrepreneurs and farmers developed to counteract the channeling forces of nature were unique and diverse.

The simplest, though hardly easiest solution came first. The trip down canyon walls merely became an extension of the journey across the prairies to the chasm edge--people took the plunge by horse and wagon. Wheat, which was sacked in those days, was stacked into wagons after threshing. Teamsters followed primitive roads carved in various hillsides to



With the Snake River in the background, we can see three of the surviving supports of the Interior bucket tramway, located near Wawawai. Photo, by K. Petersen 1983

steamboat landings below. Logs or brush were sometimes tied behind to slow the descent. The roads themselves contained many switchbacks, and in some places, such as the trail leading to Bishop's Bar on the Snake in Whitman County, turntables were built so wagons could negotiate the sharpest corners.

This shipping method was too protracted to be economical, so inventive farmers searched for more effective means of transporting wheat to riverbanks. Major Sewell Truax was apparently the first area resident to come up with a better solution when, in 1879, he built a 3,200 foot long chute down the banks of the Snake in Washington. The first chute was hardly an instant success. Wheat was unsacked at the top, poured into the four inch chute, then resacked at the bottom. Not only was the method time consuming, it was hazardous to the crop. The grain flowed down so quickly it was partially ruined by friction. After a couple of years Truax lined the chute with glass, but still problems persisted. Finally, baffles were installed which did slow the descent, but the chute frequently clogged. Primitive as the method was, it was more efficient than hauling wheat by wagon and within a few years other grain chutes lined both banks of the Snake. They were soon replaced, though, by an even more ingenious system.

When Averill Harriman built the Sun Valley resort in the 1930s, the most dazzling tourist attraction was the world's first chairlift, invented by a young Union Pacific Railroad engineer named James Curran when Harriman needed to find a way to get skiers up mountain slopes. The idea was new to skiing, but had Curran been around fifty years earlier he could have seen precisely the same devices working in reverse on the banks of this area's rivers. Here they were called bucket tramways, not chairlifts, but they were an equally inventive transportation system.

Farmers loaded wagons full of sacked wheat and journeyed to the head of the nearest bucket tram. There the wheat was unloaded a sack at a time and placed on arm-like metal projections which were attached to

heavy cables. The cables were supported on poles or towers running up the canyon walls. Bucket trams ran by gravity--loaded wheat going down forced unloaded "buckets" back up in a perpetual motion. About every fifth bucket coming up could also haul supplies to prairie farmers without upsetting the gravity-forced movement of the operation. Bucket trams had two major advantages over grain chutes: there was no friction damage to the crop; and wheat did not have to be sacked, unsacked, and sacked again prior to shipping.

Eventually, area farmers began shipping grain in bulk rather than in sacks, and several of the bucket tramways were converted to operations more closely resembling real buckets. At Culdesac, for example, 55-gallon oil drums were cut in half and fastened to the existing cable tramway.

Besides Culdesac, bucket trams were located on the Snake at Kelley Bar, which had 146 buckets attached to two and one-half miles of cable, and at Interior, just below Wawawai. This tramway is currently the best preserved of the many area grain transporting devices. Another bucket tram hauled wheat down the Potlatch River canyon to Kendrick. Two others operated on the Clearwater River, one at Lenore, which was also converted to a bulk operation and worked until 1937, and one just east of Nezperce, which also hauled bulk grain until the highway along the river was constructed in the 1930s and the tram was forced out of operation because of fear that grain might drop on the road.

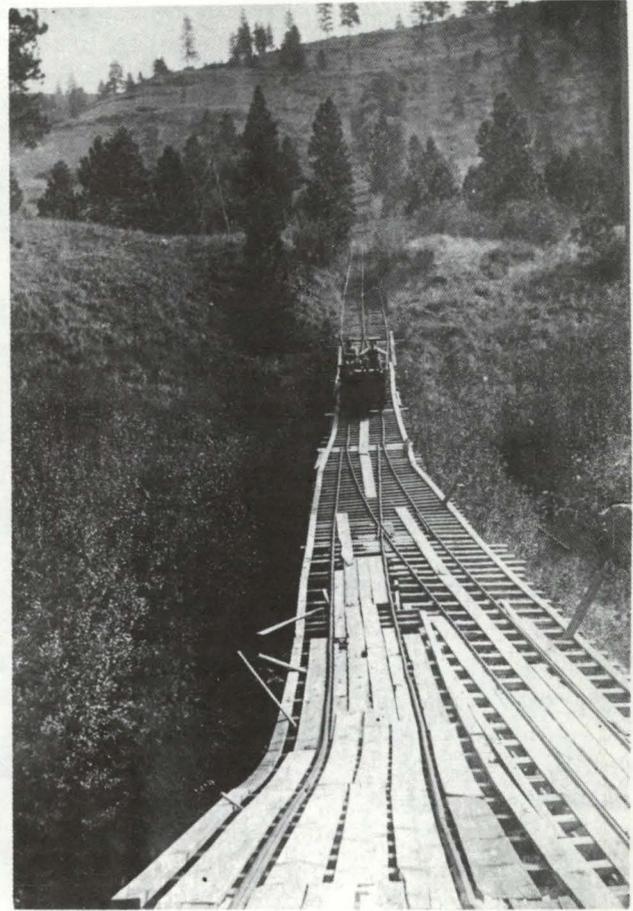
Area farmers were nothing if not inventive, and they constantly searched for faster methods of shipping grain down to riverbanks. Their search led to the most efficient method devised to get wheat down mountain slopes prior to trucks and highways--the rail tram. Probably the first rail tram was built across the Snake River from Wawawai in Garfield County in the 1880s. Tracks, originally wooden 2 x 6s covered with strap iron, ran down the hillside. A cable, exactly the length of the track, had a car attached to each end and was then looped over a pulley at the

top. The car at the top was loaded with wheat and, when started down the hill by the brakeman, forced the empty car up the hill for refilling. At the middle of the run the tracks split so cars could pass one another. This tram remained in operation until 1891 when it was dismantled with parts used to construct the MayView tram about a mile away--the most efficient of the area's tramways.

Another rail tram, Latah County's largest, was constructed in the 1890s at Juliaetta. Built at a cost of \$25,000 by grain dealers Lawrence & Porter, the Juliaetta tram transported grain from Potlatch Ridge to the Juliaetta flour mill.

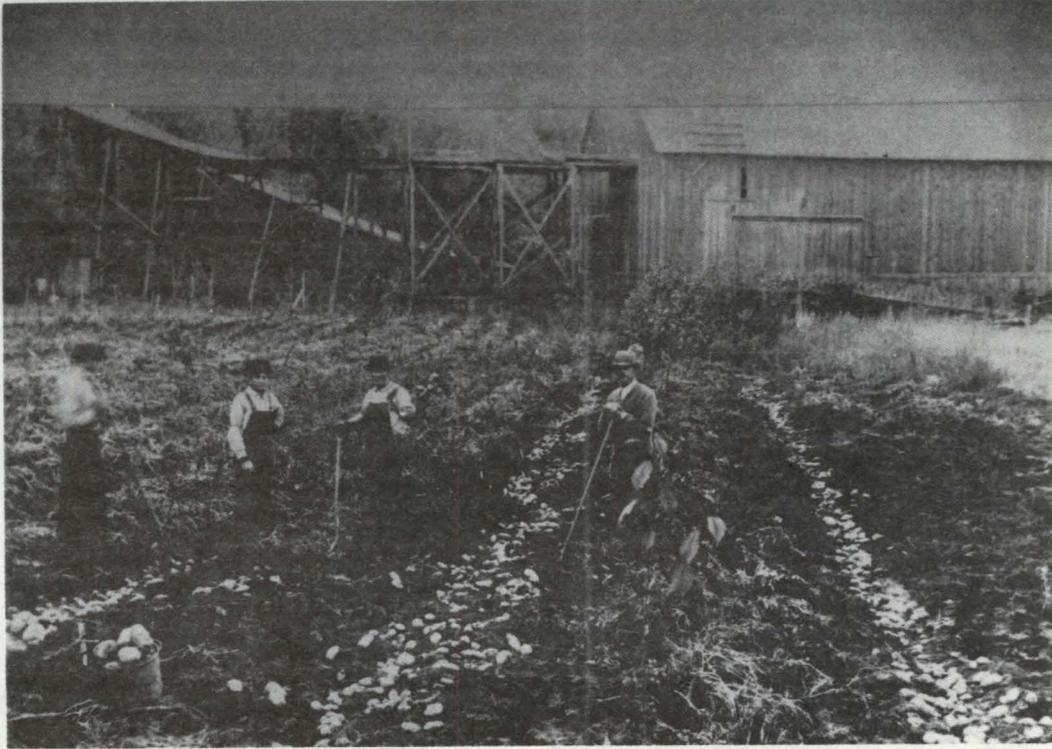
The MayView tramway on the Snake in Garfield County, however, was the biggest and longest-lasting of the region's many trams. It was constructed in 1891 as a community project with financing by contributions from local farmers. The MayView rail tram was also operated by gravity and had a track separation in the exact middle of the run for car passage. A loaded car carried forty-five sacks of wheat. It took approximately eight minutes to load the car and three to four minutes for its descent. While the other car was loaded at the top, the car at the bottom was unloaded. "Here was technological advancement and automation" ninety-five years ago, noted Arthur Earl Victor, who often watched the MayView tram in operation. "The modern engineer . . . with his computer, is doing fine, but we can pause to give credit to these old fellows who worked with picks and shovels and monkey wrenches and axle grease, for at least breaking a little trail for us." In a normal run, about 2,000 sacks a day were transported at MayView.

The MayView tramway operated until 1942. While the region's trams were primarily used by farmers, others also made use of this efficient mode of transportation. In 1920-21 a tramway was constructed at Joel by the Moscow Fire Brick and Clay Products Company to transport clay to the railroad from a pit north of town. A



The Juliaetta tramway about 1912. As the cars approach the warehouse, the track divides so that they can be switched to the lower (right), or the upper level of the warehouse.

tramway at Washington State College in Pullman hauled coal from railroad freight cars to the campus steam plant in the early 1900s. The tramways have now been replaced by better combines, improved highways and trucks, and more and larger grain storage bins. You can still see the cut in the bank where the Juliaetta tramway ran, and there are enough remains at Interior and MayView to get a feel for those operations. But the iron is rusting, the wooden towers and trestles rotting. It won't be many years before the physical evidence of the region's many canyon wall transporting devices will completely disappear.



Sparetime gardening adjacent to the Juliaetta Warehouse. Note, in the background, the divided tramway track entering the upper and lower levels of the warehouse.

For More Information: Very little work has been done on Latah County's tramways. For the Juliaetta and Joel trams see Lillian Otness, A Great Good County: A Guide to Historic Moscow and Latah County (1983). The Herman Schupfer interview in the Latah County Historical Society oral history collection contains good details on the Juliaetta operation. The best material on the numerous Snake River tramways and chutes is in June Crithfield, Of Yesterday and the River (1964). For the MayView tram see Arthur Earl Victor, "The MayView Tramway," The Pacific Northwest-erner, Summer 1965, pp. 33-47; and Norma

Gimlin, "May View Tramway Tragedy," The Record, 1973, pp. 61-5. Diane Pettit's article on "The Lower Clearwater River," Lewiston Morning Tribune, 27 May 1984, contains excellent information on the Lenore tramway, and Susan Tiede's "Tramways Served Camas Prairie Before Railroad Arrived," Farm & Ranch Chronicle, 25 March 1982, deals with the Nezperce tram. Finally, the David Stearns papers, Cage 4148, Washington State University Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections, contain excellent details on the workings of a bucket tramway.

## ALMA LAUDER KEELING

The Latah County Historical Society and the Moscow community lost a long-time friend and benefactor when Alma Lauder Keeling died May 16, 1985.

She was born August 17, 1894, the youngest of four children born to Wylie and Minnie Taylor Lauder. Her older brother and sister died in infancy in a scarlet fever epidemic that swept the country.

Her grandfather William Taylor came to Paradise Valley in 1871--later called Hog Heaven and finally Moscow. The willow tree in front of the Latah Care Center once sheltered the Taylor family home.

In later years Mrs. Keeling described her young self as being timid, afraid to smile because of prominent front teeth, and very self conscious about her height which she reached early. In spite of that and her less than robust health which plagued her in late adolescence and early years of maturity, she remembered her youth with much pleasure.

Especially fond memories were those of living in their new barn while their brick house was being built in 1900. The brick was furnished from her father's brickyard. Another lasting and happy memory was spending what would have been her eighth grade term with her mother and brother, Ralph, on the Lauder's Moscow Mountain homestead. The family decision to spend a winter there helped them "prove up" on the land sooner.

She once wrote that since reading material was scarce at the cabin brother Ralph, whose chore it was to build the morning fire, sometimes diverted his attention with reading the Seattle Times or Spokesman Review which had been used to paper the walls of the kitchen lean-to.

Following Alma's graduation from Moscow High School in 1914, she followed her brother's example and, with her mother as a companion, filed for a homestead adjoining his near Condon, Oregon.



Alma Keeling attending the Museum Christmas party in 1974

Years later she wrote "Looking Back With a Smile, Christmas on a Sagebrush Homestead" from which the following is excerpted:

How, we wondered, were we to put a little Christmas atmosphere in that barren little homestead cabin to greet Daddy when he came? Leave it to Mother. She grew up learning how to "make-do" or "how to make something out of nothing" as she called it. We always marvelled at her pioneer ability to do just that.

She sent Ralph to look for the "prettiest" sagebrush on his place for, of all things, a "Christmas tree"! Now here was the tree safely anchored by small stones in the only water pail we had. This she sat at the foot of our bunks on an apple box wrapped in her one red apron.

But how to trim our tree. . . . In those days we had a cleaning soap called Sapolio which came with its bars wrapped in silver colored paper. So Ralph and I were set to work cutting out little paper stars out of our one pasteboard shoe box while Mother made flour and water paste on our little cookstove. Soone we had dozens of little silver colored stars waiting to be hung by sewing thread on our little sagebrush Christmas tree. When finished even Ralph and I admitted it was beautiful . . . with that one big star at the top to remind us of the star of Bethlehem! When Daddy came he properly admired it too, in his conservative Scottish way. We were all very happy.

This was to be the last Christmas that the family was together for Ralph drowned the following year (1916) near his home. The sorrowing family spent the following several years proving up on Ralph and Alma's homesteads.

Following the Oregon period Alma attended the U of I and went to Europe with her parents. The highlight of the trip was their attendance at the Oberammergau Passion Play in 1930. She wrote, "It was all so wonderful. How I wish everyone in the world could have the privilege I did of seeing the 300 year old Passion Play." With slides she purchased there depicting scenes in the play Alma shared this moving experience with many area groups.

Shortly after returning to Moscow she spent a year in Spokane at Whitworth College sometimes inviting classmates to visit her Moscow home on the weekends.

She was ordained in the Christian church and served as a pastor of the Christian church in Albion, Washington, before her marriage to Reverend George P. Keeling in 1934. They served churches in Kamiah, Kooskia, Stites, and St. Maries, then spent five years at the Methodist Church in Asotin, Washington. Reverend Keeling died in 1948 soon after they returned to

the Lauder family home in Moscow to retire.

Mrs. Keeling sadly regretted having no children but her influence was felt in many young lives in the Epworth Leagues she directed, the companions of her school years, and more recently the students who rented apartments in her family home. Many former student renters kept up a loving correspondence.

She was keenly interested in the community and in pioneer history. She wrote of her own pioneer background in "The Un-Covered Wagon," a privately published book now being serialized in the Latah Legacy. She was a long-time member of the Business and Professional Womens Club, Latah County Pioneers, Gem State Writers Guild, a charter member of the Latah County Historical Society, and a generous contributor to many Christian causes.

The changes she saw in her lifetime both saddened and gladdened her. She spoke of the buttercup meadows where the train lines now cross Moscow--of the joy of hearing the coyotes howl nearby while feeling snug and safe inside the Moscow Mountain cabin. Gladly she left behind the cleaning of lamp chimneys and the filling of lamps with coal oils, and cleaning under the claw-footed bathtub was not missed.

But we'll miss her--this erect, direct, look-you-in-the-eye independent woman. Always striving to do her best as her Christian faith directed.

Perhaps an anonymous quotation found loose in her husband's Bible which she kept says much of what she felt.

I sought to hear the voice of God  
And climbed the highest steeple  
But God declared, "Go down again!  
I dwell among the people."

--Jeanette Fleener Talbott

## THE UN-COVERED WAGON (Cont.)

by Alma Lauder Keeling

Part 7 (Chap. 24-25)

## CHAPTER 24: THE LAUDER CLAN

Having been Miss Lauder for many years during the time that Sir Harry Lauder, the Scotch singing comedian, was at the height of his popularity, I got used to being asked when I was introduced to a stranger, "Any relation to Harry Lauder?" I usually answered the expected question by a vague, "You never can tell! It could be that our ancestors came from the same clan in Scotland." It mattered little to me whether they did or not, as I was not interested in claiming relationship to a celebrity. But they had to have their answer. (I understand there is a town in Scotland named Lauderdale with an old parish church there erected in 1673 under the patronage of the Duke of Lauderdale called the Lauder Kirk.)

When William Lauder and his wife, Mary Cameron Lauder, moved from Canisteo, New York, to Ruffin, North Carolina, their two boys were aged twelve and fourteen. The youngest of these boys was destined many years later to become my Father.

The parents and little sister went on to North Carolina by train, but the two boys were to drive a four-horse team and wagon into which was piled all their early goods. Considering the distance, hundreds of miles, these two young lads must have been considered trustworthy indeed to be assigned such a responsibility by their parents.

In Ruffin, where they lived on a farm, the children all grew up and married. But, as I have already mentioned, young Wylie was made a widower by childbirth when he was only twenty-one. After his marriage to Minnie Taylor out in Idaho, he went back to North Carolina to bring his little Lelia back to Moscow with him. But, the child had a real adjustment to make for she had never known any other mother but her Grandmother. Even her own Father was almost a stranger to her, as she had seen him only on those rare occasions when he went back to North Carolina to see his little girl and visit his parents. So the child was unhappy in these new surroundings and her Daddy sensed it. He knew, too, that an ageing couple back in North Carolina missed their little girl very much. So when his parents came out West later for a short visit, it was agreed between them that Lelia should return with them for a few years longer. Her Father never saw her again, as she died of pneumonia at age seven.

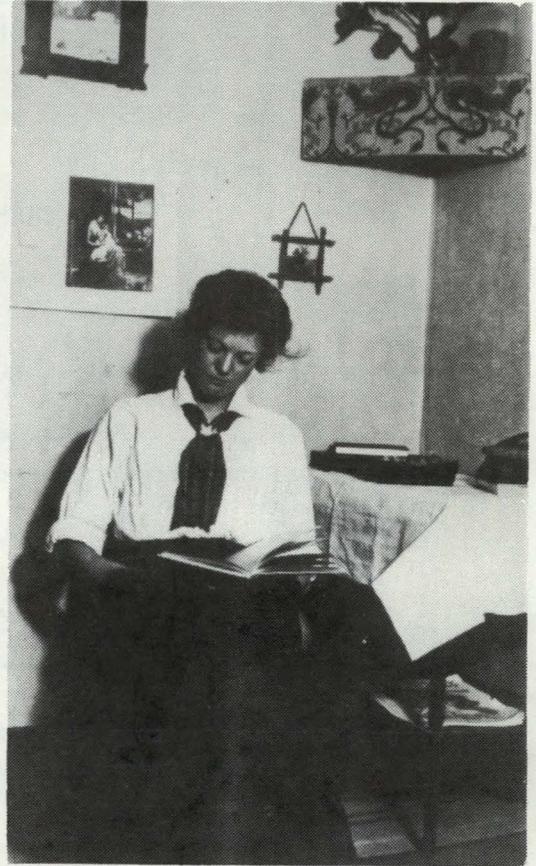
Several years after this, Grandmother and Grandfather Lauder came west again, this time to stay--the West has a way of calling people back! I have no remembrance of Grandfather Lauder, as I probably seldom saw him since I was only three years old when he died of what was then called "old age pneumonia." But I do remember a little more about Grandmother Lauder. Believe it or not, it was the little treat she always gave us children when we went to see her--battered bread, sometimes hot out of the oven, and sprinkled generously with sugar--that I remember her most for. We didn't get that at home, so it made quite an impression on my young mind! After Grandfather's death, she lived with her son, Will, and his family.



Homesteading as a child on Dad's Moscow Mountain timber claim where Mother, Ralph and I spent every summer, and one terrible winter. The snow was so deep, it covered our cabin windows.

#### ALMA LAUDER KEELING PHOTOGRAPHS

I in my 2 room cabin which Ralph built for me. Mother decorated it. I occupied it for only one winter before Ralph was drowned. Later, Dad spent 2 winters there to prove up on our claims.



Christmas that first year on Ralph's Home-  
stead. Dad came for a visit. Ralph took  
this family picture by the light of a  
coal lamp. He tripped the shutter with a  
string.

The one thing I remember about the house in town where they first lived on East Third Street, a couple of doors up from the corner of Van Buren, was standing on the upstairs porch with the others one Sunday morning and watching a team of horses and a hack clattering down the street with a dead body covered with canvas on the floor of the hack! This was William Steffen, who that morning had shot Dr. W. W. Watkins, and who later shot himself when surrounded by a posse at his home. It was discovered, when the shooting from his upstairs window finally ceased and the sheriff's men stormed the house, that he was out of ammunition. Rather than be taken, he turned the gun on himself. Powder marks on his clothing were proof of this. The poor fellow was unquestionably mentally unbalanced. In his room, at his Mother's home on the old cemetery road, notes were found that bore this assumption out. He had a "black list" with the names of a number of Moscow citizens, against whom he had some fancied grudge and who were slated to die at his hands. Dr. Watkins just happened to be the first one he ran across that Sunday morning in 1904. On another scribbled note he had written, "I didn't get the right one after all."

As a child, when we would take our occasional trips out to the cemetery with old Billy and the buggy, I used to shudder as we passed that bullet-riddled house on the County Road! It was finally torn down and a nice home built in its place.

This shooting episode, the result of which I viewed from Grandmother Lauder's upstairs porch, is the only memory I have of her home over town. The buttered-bread-and-sugar treat came when she and Uncle Will Lauder's family moved to the home they long occupied on Elm Street, near the University. Grandmother had raised three children of her own and a little granddaughter to age seven, so she knew that children are always hungry!

My Father's brother, William C., met a tragic death while superintending a crew of men blasting out rock southeast of town for the new stone Methodist Church which was about to be built on the corner of Third and Adams. The Methodists, until now, had occupied the white frame church on East Sixth near Jefferson--the one I started to Sunday School in when I was five years old. But, the Methodists were coming up in the world now and were building big stone churches in many strategic communities such as Lewiston, Moscow, and Pullman. So the old frame church on Sixth was sold to the Lutherans. Since their own big new Lutheran Church has been built on West A Street, that old first Methodist Church is now owned and occupied by the Grace Baptists. It is still a nice little church.

While dynamiting out this rock for the new Methodist Church, dedicated in 1903, Uncle Will discovered a fuse had not done its work, so, rather than send one of his men to discover the trouble, he went himself. Just as he reached the scene the blast came, throwing him high in the air with the dislodged rock, upon which he came down, breaking his back and suffering internal injuries. He lived but a few days under Dr. Gritman's personal care in the old Gritman Hospital at Seventh and Main. (Dr. Gritman took my tonsils out in this same old hospital, years later, carrying me in his arms afterward--a dead weight--to my room below the surgery; there was no elevator.)

I have no recollection of Uncle Will's funeral, but I assume it was in the old Methodist Church on Sixth Street because his family were Methodists. All I remember about it was the "gorgeous," I thought, floral piece I made for the funeral! Mother had formed a cross frame out of fine chicken wire and showed me how to fill it with beautiful sweet peas from our own garden. People didn't go to the florists, if any, in those days and order expensive floral pieces for funerals. I thought that finished cross was "just beautiful"--and it was! I even remember Mother's advice to sprinkle it lightly with water and lay it on the cool cement floor of the cellar off the kitchen, to keep it fresh for the funeral.

Grief stricken by the tragic death of her son, his Mother, my Grandmother Lauder, followed him to her grave in less than three weeks! I do remember her funeral very well, probably because her death meant more to me than Uncle Will's. Also, it was in a strange church where I had never been before. Grandmother was a Presbyterian, so the funeral was held in the old white frame Presbyterian Church, whose semi-circular seating I so much liked when I occasionally attended the church in later years.

At the funeral I remember so well sitting on the front seat by my Mother and Father and Brother, Ralph, and Daddy's widowed sister-in-law and her daughter, Margaret, and looking at Grandmother in the open casket. Her white hair, parted in the middle, was pulled straight back behind her ears, as she always wore it, and gathered in a knot at the base of her neck. On her black dress was that lovely little enameled bow pin which I have always admired. She was an ardent "white ribboner" (W.C.T.U.) and through her gentle Christian influence my Father grew up to be a complete "tea-totaler." He was, in fact, once an honorary member of W.C.T.U.!

I had occasion to tease him about this some years later. It seems that an enterprising lady in this worthy organization conceived the bright idea of touching the Moscow business men who leaned in their direction, of course, for "honorable membership" in their group for a fee of \$1.00, naturally. Dad, as usual, contributed and thereby became an honorary member of the W.C.T.U.!

Not long after this honorary membership business, Mother, Dad, and I attended the wonderful Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany. While spending a few days in Munich before taking the scenic bus ride up into the Bavarian Alps to Oberammergau (Ober-Ammer-gau, meaning "upper Ammer plateau"), Dad's seventy-fifth birthday arrived. Our private tour manager, who was a personal friend, decided we should celebrate! He arranged with the hotel's chef to supply our smaller group with a birthday cake in the hotel's private dining room. The huge cake, decorated with seventy-five glowing candles, was brought by the chef's assistant into a dimly lit room, to the singing of "Happy Birthday to You." Dad, of course, was very much flattered by all this attention! When the chef's assistant cut the huge cake, the first piece was passed to the guest of honor, who was instructed to taste it. We saw Dad's face pucker peculiarly at the first bite! When asked if it was good, he said, "Yeah," noticeably without enthusiasm. It was viciously spiked, and he knew it! No doubt the chef thought that the greater the occasion, the greater should be the spike! That's why I teased Dad about it afterward--an honorary member of W.C.T.U. celebrating like that when far from home and nobody would know! As usual, he just grinned.

#### CHAPTER 25: BEAUTIFUL SCOTLAND--ANCESTRAL LAND

While we were on this trip to Europe in 1930, Dad decided we should do a little adventuring of our own not included in the Cook Tour. What was a few hundred dollars more to what it had already cost us? He had always wanted to see Scotland, his Father's native land, and felt a sort of mystic kinship with the Scots. At the same age of eighteen when Grandfather Taylor had left his native Ireland--Dad's Father had left his Scotland! Now that we were so close, it seemed a shame not to take advantage of this trip, even if it were not included in the tour. So we left the rest of the party at London and boarded what was then called "the longest non-stop railroad in the world"--from London to Edinburgh, 400 miles, without a break! (It may still be that.)

While on this train mealtime came, and I was seated at a table for two on one side of the dining room with a little reserved Scotch lassie who never once glanced in my

direction! I didn't try to engage her in conversation, for I was sure my friendly approach would be cold-shouldered. But I did watch her eat, with much admiration and amusement! The table was less than two feet wide, so I couldn't have missed seeing it if I had tried. With her fork turned upside down on her plate, she began piling peas on it with her knife until it could hold no more. Then she deftly lifted it to her mouth without losing a pea! I would have had to practice a long time before I could do that, but she had probably been practicing all her life. That is still the custom in much of northern Europe.

At Edinburgh, where we were to spend two days, we visited some interesting places that we felt Dad's Father had seen when he was a venturesome young lad before coming to America.

One of the most interesting places to a person who knows his history is Edinburgh Castle, built on a sheer, rocky cliff. Here stern Protestant Queen Elizabeth the First, of England, had imprisoned her Catholic cousin, Mary Queen of Scots. And here, our guide told us, Mary's baby was born while she was confined to the castle. "Baptismal regeneration" being a strict tenet of the Catholic Church, her baby must be baptized at once. But how? We were told that no priest was allowed to visit her in her confinement, but a sympathetic servant in the Castle made arrangements with a local priest to be on hand with the sacred water when they would lower the baby in a basket over the sheer cliff. So the child was properly baptized and the basket pulled up again by the servant! (Whether this is authentic history or not, I do not know. But it makes a good story.)

While here in Edinburgh, we took a steamer ride on beautiful Loch Lomond. On the bonny, bonny banks of Loch Lomond, Mother and I picked some of the purple Scotch heather then in full bloom all over the hills of Scotland.

One of our most unforgettable experiences in Edinburgh was a visit to Grayfriar's Kirk. The tall, wrought-iron fence which enclosed the churchyard had a gate which swung open for us and our guide to enter. We were directed to a marble shaft about seven feet high upon which we read the following inscription: "Here lies Grayfriar's Bobby, the little sheep dog who sat for thirteen years on his master's grave. This memorial was given by the school children of America, admirers of Bobby." Then we learned the story we had not known before. We were told by our guide that this little dog from the Scottish highlands had followed his shepherd master to his grave, trotting under the casket where he was not noticed. (No dogs are allowed in the cemetery in Scotland.) He hid under a broken slab in the churchyard until the gates were again closed and locked. Then he sought out the new grave and planted himself upon it! For thirteen years--in summer sun, and winter cold and sleet--he kept watch over that grave, never leaving it except when the gates were open for a few hours in the afternoon and he could sneak across the street to be fed by the kindly innkeeper. The story had spread all over Scotland and Bobby was allowed to stay. Finally, old and rheumatic, he was found dead upon his master's grave! A special dispensation from royalty allowed him to be buried beside his master--the only dog in all of Scotland to be buried in a human cemetery! Just outside the churchyard is a drinking fountain low enough for a dog passing by to stop and have a drink of this pure Scotland water. Above the fountain is a life-size bronze replica of little Bobby, named for his unpredictable contemporary, Bobby Burns. It is a sweet story, but all the more touching because it is true. A few years later when I was spending some days in Spokane's Sacred Heart Hospital, Mother had come up to be with me and was browsing, as usual, among the books of the library to find something interesting to read and while away the time. Here she spotted the title, "Grayfriar's Bobby," and having already known the skeleton of the story as heard at

Grayfriar's Kirk, she was delighted to be able to read the book with all the details; it is written in Scottish dialect but one soon gets used to that. I, too, was delighted to later find the same book in the basement of our own City Library in Moscow. It is truly a fascinating little dog story.

Another high point in our visit to Edinburgh was meeting an old friend in such an unexpected place. We had been shown through Robert Burns' well preserved home and were later browsing through the souvenirs offered for sale in the basement. I had chosen a plaid-bound copy of "Lady of the Lake" as a memento of this visit to Edinburgh, and Dad was just paying for it when I heard a resounding slap and a big booming voice crying, "Why, Mr. Lauder! Imagine meeting you here!" I turned to see Idaho's long-time Congressman wringing Dad's hand as if he had just discovered his long-lost brother! Burton L. French had represented Idaho in Congress for nearly thirty years, and we had followed with much interest his career in our own Idaho Legislature and later in Washington, D.C. He had boarded at our house when he came to Moscow to enter the Law School here, and was, in fact, one of those boarders at whose feet I sat under the table when at my first--and last--attempt at "barbering." It is quite a thrill to meet an old friend from home when one is half way around the world!

Beautiful Scotland, how I would love to go back! I won't be going, but the memory of that trip to Grandfather Lauder's native land will never grow dim. It was well worth the extra cost to us.

From Edinburgh we returned to London on the same non-stop railroad and turned again home. The rest of the touring party had gone on back to America on an earlier boat, but we didn't miss them. Mother and I both knew that Dad was well qualified to look after us the rest of the way home.

When, only a few years after this, Dad was to leave us for another Great Adventure, we were so glad that we had had this wonderful trip together. We were even at that time headed into the so-called Great Depression of the 30's, and if we hadn't gone when we did, we could never have gone. We went primarily to see that wonderful 8-hour-long Oberammergau Passion Play, which I would also love to see again, but this would not be given again for another ten years. It, too, was the inspiration of a life time!

On the way back to our good old U. S. A., the Atlantic Ocean gave us a little sample of what it could do when really roiled up, but that, too, was an interesting experience--for those of us who could stay on deck. For several days we had had a storm at sea, and when on the worst night more than half of the passengers in the two big dining rooms had to keep to their berths (including Mother), Dad and I ate as heartily as ever--between grabbing at our plates to keep them from being dashed off the table! The salt air sure gives one an appetite, if he can take it! Just for the fun of it, after supper that especially bad night, Dad and I went up to the top deck and watched the old boat roll! He was such a good sport and such a wonderful friend. On this whole trip of several weeks, at seventy-five, he was the best traveler in the bunch! Never a complaint, and always drinking it all in with boyish curiosity. He was a great traveling companion!

Dad was a full-blooded Scotchman--combination of Lauder and Cameron--and a more generous man I have never known! I have sometimes resented the crude jokes hurled at the Scotch, as though "Stingy" were their middle name! Frugal, yes, but stingy, no! It is a matter of semantics. Affection and generosity were my Father's outstanding characteristics, which contributed much to my happiness when growing up in the home.

Picture Credits:

- p. 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12 14, courtesy  
of Alberta Schupfer Turner and the  
H. C. Schupfer family
- p. 20, drawing of photo from White  
Pines and Fires, by Lis Shepard
- p. 21, Keith Petersen
- p. 23, 24, 25, Latah County Hist. Soc.
- p. 28, Alma Lauder Keeling

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

NOTE: Due to the high cost of returned issues, we appreciate being advised of changes of address

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