



LATAH LEGACY



**"A Pressing Need..." University of Idaho's
Blue Bucket Inn**

**Growing up in Latah County—Stories My Mother
Told Me**

**An Introduction to the Trade Tokens of Latah County,
from the 1880s to 2022**

**History of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Moscow, Idaho:
Some Corrections and Additions**

Poetry:

A Little Bit of Heaven

Remembering My Gem of Idaho

Latah County
Historical Society



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“A Pressing Need...”

University of Idaho’s Blue Bucket Inn

By Ariana Burns, Palouse Anthropology*

In the early years of the University of Idaho there was no dedicated space for student recreation. Many different facilities met some of the needs, including the University Hut which had concessions and a room for dancing, but it wasn’t until Miss Permeal French paid for the Blue Bucket Inn to be built that there was a single meeting place for social gatherings.

The Blue Bucket was a multi-use facility near campus that served the entire campus community for 13 years as a popular gathering place for faculty and students.¹ It was purchased in the 1930s by the University to become its student union. The building underwent several renovations and ultimately demolition, making way for the Student Union Building (SUB) on Deakin Avenue. In 2015 the SUB was renamed the Bruce M. Pitman Center in honor of the retiring dean of students and vice provost for academic affairs who had served the campus community for over 40 years.²

Innovating ways to engage students in university activities was not new for Miss French. By 1924 she had established herself as an educator and proponent of women’s education. French was the first woman elected to state office in Idaho in 1899 as the Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction.³ This was two years after a state



Dean Permeal J. French and University President Harrison C. Dale. 1938 commencement. *UISPEC PG2_109-004*

constitutional amendment granting women’s suffrage.⁴ Idaho women had to wait another twenty-two years before they were able to vote on the national level.



Blue Bucket Inn during construction. 1924. *UISPEC PG2_2-93-463*

French came to the University of Idaho to serve as dean of women in 1908 and continued until her retirement in 1936.⁵ Rafe Gibbs wrote of her influence on students in his history book on the University of Idaho, *Beacon for Mountain and Plain*:

Many men as well as women sought her counsel. She had a touch of the autocrat and much of the gentle lady.... She

DANCE <i>at the</i> BUCKET	HOMECOMING DANCE <small>A Good Floor and the Best Music in the State</small>	FRIDAY
	FOOTBALL FROLIC <small>Music By The BLUE BUCKET BAND</small>	SATURDAY
	ARMISTICE SPECIAL <small>Music by Our Popular Band Under the Direction of Ray Kelley</small>	MONDAY

The University Argonaut ad. November 7, 1930.

was on call as a speaker at alumni banquets through the West Coast area. She could not walk into such a gathering without receiving a standing ovation. Alumni considered her a University of Idaho legend long before her death...⁶

She created several U of I traditions, like Campus Day, and was involved in the creation of the U of I Associated Women Students.⁷ During the Depression when parents were looking to “send only John to college—and not Jane,” French toured the state speaking on the importance of women’s education.⁸ She was considered one of the best known and best loved educators in Idaho of her time.³

In 2021 Dr. Kathy Aiken gave an inspiring presentation on Dean French at the Latah County Historical Society (LCHS)’s “Suds with a Scholar” speaking event. She covered French’s trailblazing and her impact on Idaho education.

Dean French believed that students, faculty, and staff should engage with each other and have fun. For that they needed a recreation center. To meet this need, she spent her own money to build the Blue Bucket Inn.⁹

Before the Inn social activities were scattered about campus and town. U of I alumnus and Moscow resident Louis Boas shared his remembrances on the need for a gathering place with LCHS in an oral history interview:

...All we had in town was a picture show. And ...almost every weekend there was an all-college dance. Usually in the old gymnasium, which is now the women’s gym....

[S]he saw the need for another recreation area, and she built with her own money the Blue Bucket Inn. She financed; paid for it; hired a manager and ran it.¹⁰

In 1924, workers broke ground on the two-story Inn. The upper floor was a ballroom with fireplace, a service room, and two cloak rooms. The ground floor



Junior Cabaret in the Blue Bucket Inn. *Gem of the Mountains* yearbook. 1931.

held the Tea Room, soda fountain, two dining rooms, and a kitchen. Under the canopy glowed a blue glass shaded lamp that resembled a blue bucket.¹



Blue Bucket Orchestra circa 1932. LCHS 17-03-190



Blue Bucket Chorus Line circa 1932. LCHS 17-11-032.2

Boas remembered the Blue Bucket Inn teeming with a variety of activities, including relaxing:

...lower floor was a soda fountain and chairs and tables where you could go and get a coke or a sandwich or cookies and things and upstairs was a dancehall.... it was a hangout. Just the way the Student Union is now. Go down there and get a cup of coffee or a coke, coke and root beer were more popular than coffee. Coffee is a later thing, but you dropped in there and get a five-cent glass of Coca Cola and hang around. Buy a bag of peanuts and chat.... And the fraternities and sororities would rent it for their big occasions. Their pledge dance and sweetheart dance and so forth.... It was a nice place; very nice. Comparable to the present Student Union. It was not as big, but it was a good dance hall.¹⁰



Watercolor model of the proposed Student Union. Far left is the Blue Bucket entrance. 1936. UISPEC PG2-143-001

Dean French said the name for the Inn came from a legend of a lost mine in south central Idaho overflowing with gold - enough riches to fill a covered wagon's blue bucket.¹¹

Mrs. Walter McCrea of Kendrick was the first manager of the Blue Bucket Inn when it held a soft open on Saturday, September 13, 1924. The drapes had not arrived for the Tea Room and some of the décor was missing but the soda fountain was installed. They were ready to serve meals.^{12, 13} The Inn was a hit even though the faculty were the main patrons of the Tea Room. Wallpapered and decorated with pictures, the Tea Room boasted linen tablecloths and fresh-cut flowers.¹

The *Argonaut* gave the new center a rousing review: The Blue Bucket inn, if the opinion of some 1500 students amounts to anything, has come to stay. Since



U of I Pep Band in front of Blue Bucket Inn. LCHS 17-03-189

In the summer of 1925, Elsie Nelson joined as manager. Another alumna, she had lived in Ridenbaugh Hall where she met and became friends with Miss French. French asked her to come in and help, which she did, promising to stay for a year, which became two. Nelson wrote in her book, *Today is Ours*, that she directed the meals and social functions at the Blue Bucket. She hired music for the all-college dances as needed and chaperoned. If she had questions about events or protocol she would consult French. She never wanted the students to get in trouble for her mistake.¹¹

school opened it has become a campus community house. To be in the best form is to take your lady friend to the Blue Bucket. The service is of the best. Pretty co-eds, and handsome eds are there to supply your wants, whether it be a fancy drink or a regular good home-cooked meal.... the elaborate, spacious and wonderful ball-room has been the talk of campus. The management announces that an orchestra, to be known as the Blue Bucket Orchestra, has been engaged to play every Friday and Saturday nights.... The management wishes to announce that the Inn is open to students any hour of the day, and that everyone is cordialy [sic] invited to attend.¹⁴

Running the facility proved to be too much for one person and at the beginning of the New Year Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Ralph were brought in to help. Both were alumni and Eugene Ralph also ran the Varsity Grocery with Robert Wood. An ad in the *Argonaut* promised no policy changes, and food would continue to be of high standards at a moderate price.¹⁵

Lunch was simple and economical. It came with a main course, vegetable, and choice of dessert. Nelson had twelve students and a cook



Joe Titus Orchestra in front of the Blue Bucket Inn with name change, 1939. Note the blue bucket lamp hanging under the center of the awning. UISPEC PG9_2-2812-001

reporting to her.¹¹ Her book also contained reflections on life during the Depression:

In spite of a looming depression and declining farm prices... [s]tudents had less money to spend, but made the best of the situation at hand. Looking for jobs, no one asked how much pay, only whether they could earn one or two meals. The exchange rate was two meals a day for three hours work, with cash paid only to those who worked extra time at cleaning or for special functions.¹¹



Junior prom in the Blue Bucket Inn ballroom. April 1937. UISPEC PG2-085-3

Just for You!

All
Fountain
Orders

Delicious
Quick
Lunches

The BLUE BUCKET INN is maintained for YOUR CONVENIENCE. Centrally located, it is serviced by University Students. Meet your friends at YOUR Social Headquarters

The Blue Bucket Inn

The University Argonaut ad. October 4, 1940.

It should be noted that Nelson was paid in cash to manage the facility.¹¹

After she departed Robert G. Wood took over management and in 1928 spent \$7,000 (over \$121,000 today) on remodeling the Bucket Inn. The exterior was altered to an “Old English” motif. The front of the building

was extended to create a reception hall. An orchestra pit was added to the upstairs dance hall.¹

The following year, the Blue Bucket Inn hosted the first recorded meeting of the Mortar Board, the U of I's honor society chapter.¹⁶

In January 1931, the junior class held an informal mixer with three hours of dancing. Class dances often had limited attendance and this one was no exception, as determined by Miss French in her role as the Dean of Women. Only college juniors were permitted to attend. Miss French and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Buchanan chaperoned.¹⁷ At this time, Jesse Buchanan was an assistant professor in the Department of Engineering. He would later leave the university and return in 1946 to serve as the tenth university president.

The majority of the dances charged an admission fee to cover costs and by 1932 this practice was wearing on the student body. It could get expensive very quickly for students who wanted to attend all the dances. They asked for a change in policy.

Bob Wood suggested dropping the fee if students paid an extra 60 cents on their Associated Students of the University of Idaho (ASUI) fees. The students seemed to be in favor of it, believing that the current method put a financial strain on poorer students and kept them out of the social mix. The *Argonaut* quoted student Bill Bircumshaw:

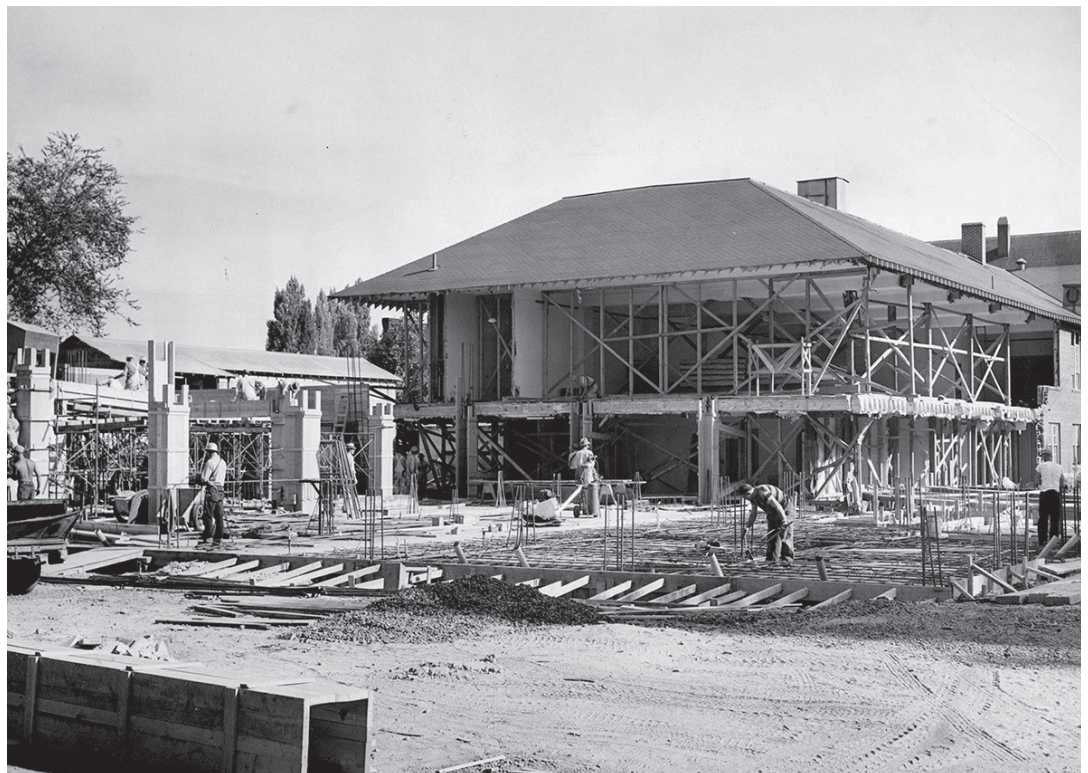
I know of many good dancers who can't go to the

regular Bucket dances due to limited finances. This would relieve the situation and create a better spirit on the campus.¹⁸

In the end, the decision was up to the upper class and no change was made.¹⁹ Wood then offered season dance tickets: \$2.50 for 12 dances, which is almost \$57 now.^{20, 21}

Prohibition was repealed in 1933 and Wayne Mayburry, a Bucket employee, had the privilege of tapping the first keg. Dean French was reported to tolerate the alcohol sales but didn't appreciate the Inn gaining the nickname: "The Dean of Women Saloon."¹

Around this time the interiors were remodeled. The sofa and easy chairs were removed to be replaced by rawhide woven chairs. The Tea Room also went, and small tables came in with no tablecloths. Burgers were served for 15 cents (about \$2.50 now). The clientele seemed to take the changes well as the Blue Bucket Inn remained a popular hangout.¹ Bridge tournaments were held there along with the variety of



Construction of the Student Union Building addition. 1949. *UISPEC PG2 143-005*

dances, banquets, and talks. The *Argonaut* reported Miss French and her card partner won first place at a tourney in 1934.²²

French retired from the university in 1936. While the Blue Bucket had been a popular venture, it had not been a lucrative one. Its riches were as elusive as the lost mine it took its name from. Louis Boas remembered the endeavor was bankrupting French.¹⁰

She went broke. Well, she tried to make money. She wanted to break even on it, and she never did and finally she went broke in it. She was losing money and the University bailed her out. Don't tell the legislators that in the south of Idaho that they bailed her out, and they bought it. Not as much as she paid for it, but they bailed her out and she got most of her money back and then the University ran it for a few years as the Blue Bucket.

The university had been trying to construct a student union building for years. The ASUI needed production space for its publications: the *Argonaut* newspaper, the *Idaho Blue Bucket* literary magazine, and *Gem of the Mountains* annual. They also needed offices for student government and space for the continually growing student population's activities.

Raising the money was difficult. The Regents had applied repeatedly to get a grant from the Public Works Administration (PWA). Part of the New Deal and the



Louis Boas. *LCHS oral history collection*

National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, PWA awarded grants to state and local government projects to get the economy moving again. Perhaps one of the more famous PWA projects was Grand Coulee Dam.²³

Unable to raise the money necessary to construct a new building, the university purchased the Blue Bucket to serve as its first student union. The Regents authorized a bond for \$130,000 (\$2.8 million today) for the purchase of the Inn and its furnishings.²⁴ The adjoining lots were also purchased to allow room to grow when funding became available. Also included in the bond was funding for a stadium and golf course. The state didn't put any money in or appropriate funds.²⁵

The Blue Bucket Inn was remodeled and a new wing built to the north. The university planned on it being self-supporting with the exception of the hostess' salary. It



1960 open house at the SUB after third addition completed. *UISPEC PG2-143-01*



Shannon and Cheri perform for "Jazz in the Bucket." *Gem of the Mountains* yearbook, 1964.

had space for the publications, the graduate manager and staff, ASUI offices, and offices for Associated Women Students. It paid rent to help cover the university's costs maintaining the first student union.^{24, 26} Bob Wood left the campus not long after and Wayne Mayburry went on to open the Nobby Inn on Main Street.²⁷ The Nobby Inn is now the Breakfast Club.

Updates and remodeling were done on the Inn to make it "one of the most modern restaurants in the Inland Empire." New

counter space was added to speed up service at the new chromium trimmed fountain counter. A steam table, big refrigerator, and electric dishwasher were added, and the new manager, Bob Robinson, created new soda syrups and ice cream flavors.²⁸

Once the University of Idaho took over the facility, renovations were completed about every decade, modernizing and expanding. The SUB had some type of eatery named after the Blue Bucket. In the 1930s-1950s there was the Blue Bucket Café, followed by the Blue Bucket Inn Pancake House, and in the '70s the Blue Bucket snack bar. In the '90s it was redesigned into a lunchroom area, and there the name was finally put to rest.¹



The Blue Bucket recessed seating area after remodel with shag carpet. *The University Argonaut*, January 12, 1975.



Gordon Slyter, SUB board chairman, Dorothy Ugstad, senior member of the board, and University President Ernest Hartung at the Blue Bucket grand opening. *The University Argonaut*. January 24, 1975.

promised summer remodel in 1973 the *Argonaut* complained that the only thing that had changed in the Blue Bucket was the prices. They had expected new interior access to the Bookstore, two new food and drink lines, along with cashier booths and tables. New carpet and drapes were also a possibility. An interior design class had drawn up sketches of what the remodel would look like and those sketches were given to the University's Physical Plant to have construction plans drawn up. The Plant did not have the time for the project, and after a delay the work was eventually outsourced to a company in San Francisco. Once construction plans were in hand, then the bidding for the work would begin. Dean Vettrus, manager of the Student Union, expected the remodeling to be done the next year.³⁴

By 1957 the Student Union was sometimes referred to as the ASUI Student Union.²⁹ In 1960, the Blue Bucket Inn came under the responsibility of student government via the Student Activity Council.³⁰

The sixties brought more changes. The Inn, still attached to the more modern additions, was demolished and replaced with a new Bookstore. But the university kept the Blue Bucket name for the café inside. The Blue Bucket Café was designed as an inexpensive place to eat. In 1964 the café introduced "Nativity Night," providing food from other countries and "atmosphere." A Sunday dinner was added. Many living groups did not provide that meal. And pancake dinners followed soon after, offering a variety of flavors.³¹ "Jazz in the Bucket" offered musical entertainment featuring on-campus talent about once a month. Bridge never seemed to go out of style.^{32, 33}

The 1970s heralded a new decade and a new look but one that was slow coming. After a

Some of the renovations started that spring. Vettrus described it as a two-stage project. New windows and doors were in place, but the cafeteria and snack bar were yet to be updated. Much of the design was still being planned and would include earthy colors and textures to give a warm atmosphere. A concessions area would allow the purchase of candy, cigarettes, and magazines. The Regents had approved funding this part, and the second stage needed another \$140,000 (\$770,000 today).³⁵



L-R: SUB Food Service Manager Dean L. Vettrus, Assistant Foods Manager Marie Bippes, and Cafeteria Manager Mary Humphreys in the SUB's Blue Bucket Café. *UISPEC PG2-214-02*

The next phase would replace equipment stolen from the SUB stereo lounge, install better lighting in the ballroom, and put an awning over the exterior exit not far from the cafeteria.³⁵ A year later the building was ready for a grand opening and the *Argonaut* reported that the Blue Bucket had a country club feel without the beer. None of the seats were movable; visitors sat on the carpet with feet tucked under tables that were set into the floor. The seating area offered varying degrees of privacy. The notorious shag carpeting was glued down. It matched carpeting already in the SUB which had lasted thirteen years. Heat retaining glass was installed to be more energy efficient. The work was done with capital improvement bonds.³⁶

Reviews and opinions of the remodel were mixed with some students writing to the *Argonaut*. Student Rod Spidah expressed dismay in a letter to the editor: "Is Liberace coming?"³⁷

Fellow student Richard K. Linville was also mystified:

...I stopped to admire the remodeled SUB coffee shop.... Being confronted by a flowing maze of red and blue shag carpet, I found myself wondering how it came about that I should be paying for this synthetic sea of stupidity.³⁸

In an editorial on the amount of money the SUB lost the previous year, *Argonaut* editor Kenton Bird paused to remark on the new look of the Blue Bucket:

In a related but unrelated development, students also returned to an attractively remodeled SUB. Besides just looking nice, it is hoped that the 'new Blue Bucket' will attract enough business to make it on its own...in the clubby 'Cocobana' atmosphere of the "new SUB." The décor really does create a unique atmosphere (once you get over the initial shock) and you'll find the prices competitive.³⁹

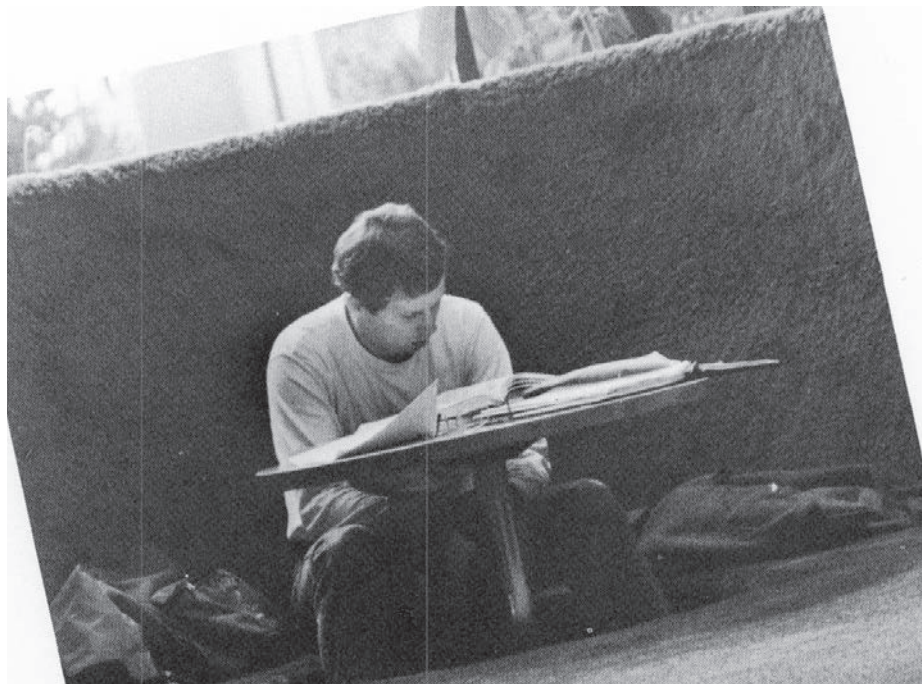
Bird is now a professor of journalism at the University having served as director of Journalism and Mass Media and as director of General Education.

People queried in the *Argonaut's* "Person on the Street: How about the bucket?" gave mixed reviews. Most complained about the tables, that seating excluded people with mobility issues, and was a "tremendous waste of space." Others liked the personal/public atmosphere and complimented the look of it.⁴⁰

At the dedication new and past members of student government were in attendance, including ASUI president

Dirk Kempthorne.⁴¹ Kempthorne would go on to become U.S. Senator for Idaho, Idaho governor, and then U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

A new Blue Bucket lunch area was created in 1983, making a comfortable and inexpensive place to eat. The university was unable to meet requests for a non-smoking area as the space was too small, but it offered lunch and



The Blue Bucket recessed seating area with the blue shag carpet. *Gem of the Mountains* yearbook. 1988.

the first modular salad bar.⁴² This was the last large-scale remodel the Blue Bucket would see. In 1995 it was replaced by a food court and the name was left behind.⁴³

After the university acquired the Blue Bucket in 1937 and until it became the Pitman Center, it went through about eight major renovations. It was a primary gathering place for students until 2000 when the Idaho Commons was constructed in the center of campus.² In 2019, the Commons was renamed the Idaho Student Union Building.

Today the Bruce M. Pitman Center houses university and community services and hosts events and entertainment in its two ballrooms.² It is also the welcome center for U of I visitors, students and prospective Vandals.² While the building has changed, it still provides much of the engagement that Miss French had envisioned for it back in 1924.

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* Palouse Anthropology is a group of researchers interested in preserving the micro-history of the Palouse through the collection and compilation of historical artifacts and oral histories for the benefit of researchers and future generations. palouseanthro@gmail.com

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GROWING UP IN OLD LATAH COUNTY

Stories My Mother Told Me

By Helen Jones Wootton

MY MOTHER was a great storyteller, and her childhood adventures seemed almost magical to me. I used to ask her to “tell about the little stove, tell about the circuses” and so on. When I moved back to Idaho, she and I had some fun times having her re-tell those stories into a tape recorder. Well into her nineties, she was still a great storyteller. So here, in her own words, are some of those stories.

BEGINNINGS

I was born July 13th of 1916 and christened Helen Shirley Town. But I never, ever, used my first name. I was always plain Shirley Town. And, no, I was not named after Shirley Temple, who was not even born until 12 years later! When I was born, most babies were born at home. However, I was born at the Asprey hospital in Moscow, located on Third Street west of the present Moscow High School. The Asprey Hospital was a cottage hospital or lying-in hospital, and my parents probably chose it because they were living at “the old Town home place” with lots of extended family and little privacy. The house had seven bedrooms and was built by my grandparents, Albert L. and Gertrude Town, with lumber hauled with team and wagon from the mill in Lewiston. The house still stands and is located just beyond the corner where Mountain View Park is.

My parents were Harry Oliver Town and Mable Moore Town. The Town family came to Moscow around 1875 and the Moores later around 1909. My grandparents, Fred and Helen Johnson Moore, bought land on the ridge above what is now Walmart and ran a dairy and orchard. You can still see some of the trees he planted there.

My dad did not like farming! Unusual for the time, he was interested in engines and electricity, so we moved around a lot when I was little while he worked at different places.

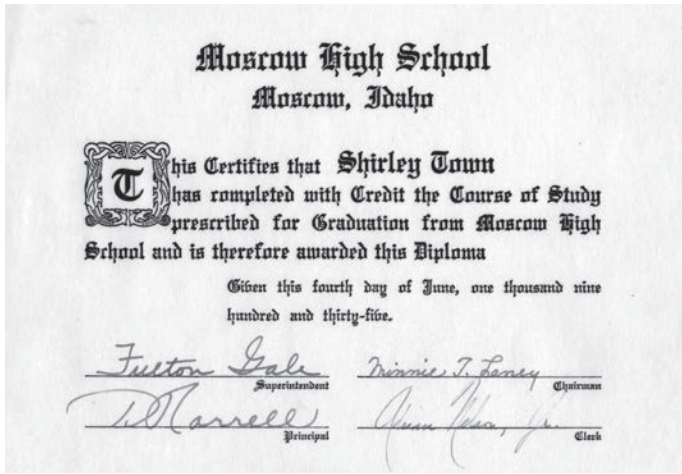
We even lived in a cabin on Moscow Mountain for a time while he had a sawmill with his brother Walter. It was a wonderful place for me and my brother to play – it was just the two of us, no cousins, so we became very close. One thing we did which I would never have allowed my



Helen Shirley Town ca. 1917 (All family photos courtesy of Helen Wootton)



Darrell Town, age 3, and Shirley Town, age 6



Above: Shirley Town graduated from Moscow High School on June 4, 1935.
 Right: Herb Carleton and Shirley Town, Moscow High School Graduates, 1935



in the barrel, being careful to warn each other “Don’t drink the wigglers!” (which were baby mosquitos). We also liked to pick wild strawberries. With a bit of snow and cream from our cow, we made strawberry ice cream.

We didn’t go to school – my brother was only five and my mother gave me lessons at home. Mom was a good teacher and made the lessons fun.

children to do was to ride the sawmill carriage as it went back and forth feeding lumber into the big saw blade!

The cabin we lived in had no modern plumbing, but a pipe ran from the spring to a barrel by the cabin, so we had water. When we wanted a drink, we used a dipper

SCHOOL DAYS

The Hunt School

My first school was called the Hunt School, located seven miles NE of Moscow, uphill from what was called Luvaas



Cousins and childhood playmates: left to right in back, Darrell Town, Shirley Town, and Laurence Stockwell, with Wade Stockwell in front



Shirley Town with her older cousins Mert (left) and Don Town perched on Harry Town's car

Pond. It was off of what is now called Idler's Rest Road. My teacher was Ruby Halland. It was a one-room school for grades one through eight and had about 15 kids. It was heated with an old stove that burned big chunks of wood cut up by neighbors. I went to first grade there and thought it was a lot of fun. We had plays to dramatize a story complete with costumes. We would call our parents in to see the pageant. One time I got to be Little Red Riding Hood.

The schoolhouse had two doors, one for the girls and one for the boys. Each door had a sort of covered porch called a cloakroom where we hung our coats. My family lived very close to the school, so I could go home for lunch, but sometimes Mom would pack me a lunch so I could eat with the other kids. Dad was farming then.

The Miller Place and Whitworth Grade School

One year we were living in a rented house on Third Street near present day Wendy's. It was called the Miller Place. We used to walk from there up to the University barns and look at all the beautiful big draft horses. We also liked to look at the bulls. They were huge and frightening and kept behind secure gates in stalls. We used to ooh and aah about how mean they looked. Then on to the pig barn and the sheep barn. No one seemed to mind as we were quiet and loved the animals.

We also walked clear across town to school – the old wooden frame Whitworth Grade School – located where

the present brick high school is, across from the brick high school now known as the 1912 Center.

Whitworth School was one level with two steps up to a landing. There were eight classrooms, one for each grade. Each grade had its own teacher. Miss Lena Whitmore was my teacher. There were about twenty kids in each grade – kids came from all around, some came by horseback and some walked.

Even though I loved to read, I didn't particularly like school. But I liked to play at noon. The boys would chase the girls and "put them in jail." I remember one boy said to me, "You can't run very fast

but you can run a long time!" Mostly I couldn't wait to get home to my horse!

There was another grade school in Moscow, the old wooden Russell School, which they tore down to make the present brick one.

LATER CHILDHOOD

In 1924 my Grandma Town divided up her properties among her children. She gave my dad the old Strauss place, located at the NW corner of what is now Mountain View Road and Youman's Lane. We lived there for the rest of my childhood and part of it is still in the family.

Friends of My Childhood

My mother had three married sisters all living in the area, and my father had a married sister and three married brothers all living in the area, so I had a total of 22 first cousins plus my brother and we had a lot of fun together. These cousins spanned three generations and most of them were boys. The two girl cousins my age were Elene Town (later Morse) and Winnifred Jean Mendenhall (later Emerson/Brent). We were also very close to another family, the Carletons, and eventually they became actual family when Laura Carleton married Don Town. Anyway, Elene, Jeannie, Laura and I were great pals and lifelong dear friends.

I also had three friends from Moscow High School who remained my friends all our lives: Helen Turinsky (later Callaway), Jeanette Fleener (later Talbott) and Barbara Peterson (later Carey).

Community Dances

I can remember when we used to have dances at people's houses. They usually had a piano and someone would play the violin and saxophone. They would roll back the rug. We called them "Kitchen Sweats." The dances were round dances, square dances and quadrilles (country waltzes).

There were also dance halls in the area, like Riverside located just before the Y at Potlatch, and the Troy Dance Hall this side of Troy. There was another dance hall at the rodeo grounds at Roland's Pond east of Moscow at what later became Robinson's Lake when the dam was built and is now Robinson Park after the dam was breached.

All ages came to the Kitchen Sweats, mostly neighbors. The children were put to bed upstairs three or four to a bed. When I was about twelve or so my folks taught me to dance. They were both good dancers but Mom often had



The little Monarch stove burned up in the house fire, but it looked like this picture of a full-size stove.

to play the piano instead of dance. Later she was part of a regular dance band that played all over the county – Mom (Mable Town) on the piano, Leo Hall on the drums and the two Clarences (Fleiger and Stevenson) on the sax and violin.

Dad's brother-in-law, Charlie Jester, was a square dance caller. He was a little short man and when he barked out the calls I swear his feet left the floor! Was a really lively little man. One night my brother got to laughing so hard at Uncle Charlie at a dance in the Rebecca Hall that he had to hide behind the piano to laugh.

At the Troy Dance Hall the orchestra and the dancers were separated from the rest of the floor by logs placed around the central area. The outside ring was for roller skating and that was a riot. Sometimes the orchestra had to quit playing, they were laughing so hard at the skaters in a tangle!

The Little Monarch Stove

The local hardware store had a miniature Monarch wood-burning kitchen stove as an advertisement for the full-size stoves they sold. Somehow Grandmother Moore convinced



Ready for adventures: on left, Shirley Town (back), Elene Town and Maxine Draper on "Betty" with Shirley's dog Zane; on right, Darrell Town (back) and Duane Town on "Ruth"



Mable Moore Town with "Prince"

them to sell it to her and she gave it to me. She was a good customer so they sold it for ten dollars. The little stove worked just like a big one – burned wood, had an ash door and burners on top. We used it a lot.

My mother would buy little packages of oatmeal and farina and little cans of vegetables and I would cook them on the little stove. I was about ten or eleven and I actually didn't know how to cook. The neighbor boy, Gib Copenhaver, had a kind of crush on me and would come and watch me "cook." One day I took a package of farina and dumped it into a kettle of cold water, and he actually ate it, poor boy!

Once my cousin Elene Town and my brother and I put the stove on a stone boat (a crude wooden sled) and hitched a pony to it. We drug it to the far side of the pasture and set up camp. It was raining, so after we got the stove going, we covered it and us with a blanket. We forgot something, so we sent my brother Buddy on the pony back to the house to get it. When he came back, he yelled "The Indians have attacked! The roof's on fire!" so we scrambled out, but the fire was blazing merrily and that ended that expedition.

Circuses

We had our circuses mostly in the barn. The pigs were hippos, the Jersey cow was a deer and the dark-colored cow was an elephant, rabbits were kangaroos. We taught our ponies to jump over small things in the barn. We built a cage and caught a white cat wild in the neighborhood. I can still see my cousin Elene stuffing that cat in the cage. He was scratching and biting and she had this determined

look on her face and the cat went in, willy nilly. He became the tiger for the circus, a white tiger. Aunt Hannah had made delicious relish sandwiches for lunch and while we were eating our tiger escaped.

Horse Adventures

Laura Carleton and I would ride horses on Moscow Mountain. A favorite place was named Monterey by our great-aunt and uncle, Callie and Arthur Dobson, who had a cabin there. This was on the ridge between Moscow Mountain and what we always called Baldy (now called East Twin). One time Uncle Clarence Town loaned us a horse named Billy to ride there. Uncle Clare gave us a chain to tie Billy up because he was likely to break free. We attached the chain to the cabin porch post and the



A favorite hike was to Moscow Mountain Lookout. Shirley dated a "Forest Service guy" for a while.

next thing I knew poor Billy was running around the cabin with the post chained to his neck! I thought he would bash his brains out! Somehow I was able to talk to him and calm him and put him in the barn. He almost destroyed the cabin; one side of the roof was sagging.

There was a big tree at Monterey surrounded by a ring of daffodils where one of the Dobson babies is buried. I wonder if it is still there. Dobsons also built another place they called Woodland. It was on the ridge leading to Troy where there was a ski area for a time in the mid-1950s. For years you could see the big notched logs from the cabin.

Our cousins Elene and Duane Town lived across the road from us. They each had a pony. Ruthie was a Shetland pony and Betty was a little bigger Bitterroot pony. My brother and I wanted a horse so bad and after a long search we found one. Uncle Louis Mendenhall's sister Dessie and her daughter Sally agreed to sell us this bay saddle horse named Prince. We paid \$45 for horse and saddle. We were in heaven! Prince was a delightful saddle horse. His former owners told us Prince would teach us to ride and indeed he did! He was a bay with black mane and tail with black knee socks and was bigger than the two ponies.

Anyway, the four of us would get together and hitch the littlest pony Ruthie to a coaster wagon and put two of us in the wagon, the other two on horseback, and off we would go to explore. We traveled far and wide, often up on the

mountain. We liked to explore old abandoned houses. We took our dogs: my dog Zane, a Boston Bull Terrier, and their dog Brownie, a Water Spaniel of some sort. Zane later had puppies and we kept one for my brother who he named Pardner.

One time we decided to go on a picnic. So Elene and Duane came up with Ruthie already hitched to the wagon with a bag of cookies inside. Elene was riding Betty. When we went in the house to get more stuff to lunch on, Ruthie got tired of waiting and turned completely around in her traces and started munching the cookies!

We used to herd cows by horseback. What is now Mountain View Road was a "county road" with little traffic other than horse-drawn wagons and buggies. We would drive the cows out to the road and let them graze the road banks. My cousin Elene and a neighbor girl Thelma Copenhaver and I would take the cows out in the morning. At noon we would bring them back to their respective corrals and give them a drink and let them lie down for a couple of hours, chewing their cuds. Then our brothers, Darrell and Duane, and Gib Copenhaver would drive them out for the afternoon.

Harvest Time

My dad used to run the steam engine at harvest time. This engine was used to run the separator which threshed



Threshing crew at harvest time. Harry Town ran the steam engine shown on the left.

the grain. The straw was blown out into a straw pile and the grain came out a different place. A man was there to catch the grain in sacks, which were sewed shut and loaded onto a “bundle wagon” pulled by horses to town to the grain elevators.

The cook house was a wagon that followed wherever the outfit went – neighbor to neighbor. The cook house was sort of like the camp trailers of today. It had a stove and table and benches with a few cupboards. There was a water barrel outside. The cooks were often my Grandma Town and Aunt Sarah (Mrs. Clarence Town). Sometimes Aunt Hannah (Mrs. Sherman Town). There was a man, called a “flunkie,” who drove a wagon to town for supplies and water. My brother Darrell and my cousins Elene and Duane and I often followed the cook house on our ponies. Sometimes we were lucky and got pie or cake or cookies!



Shirley Town (later Jones) with her mother Mable Moore Town (later Mendenhall)



Shirley Town in photo taken by Jeannie Mendenhall

Mom's Back Troubles

Around 1930 my mother developed serious back trouble. After a long time Dr. Einhouse sent her to Shriners' Hospital in Spokane to a surgeon, Dr. Langworthy. He operated on Mom's back and said it was tuberculosis of the spine, but that she would be okay and would walk again. They cleaned the TB out of her spine and told her to stay in bed for six months after she got home. What a happy day when she came home! They had to bring her from Spokane on a stretcher in a box car on the train! It was warm, and Dad was with her, so it was okay.

Mom was in a plaster cast from under her arms to below her hips. We had a hospital bed in the front room for her.

We had different people who came to help us – cooking and getting us kids off to school. One was an “old maid” named Betty Dowdy. The first thing she did was to throw out my dad's dandelion wine! She was very entertaining.

She believed you could catch diseases over the telephone and also you could smell cigarette smoke over the phone! Another helper was afraid every man was ready to rape her!

All in all they weren't much help and didn't supervise us very well. My brother and I built all sorts of rabbit pens in the back yard. It was bad I guess—plus the hired help threw all the garbage out there.

Finally Mom's cousin, Lucy Moore from Glendive Montana, came to help. She and Dad spent time trying to clean it up before Mom could come out there. When she came out she nearly fainted, it was still such a mess! A few weeks later Mom went back to Spokane and when she returned, she was wearing a "celluloid jacket" instead of the plaster cast. It looked like a corset.



Jeannie Mendenhall in photo taken by Shirley Town

A Misadventure

Cousin Jeannie Mendenhall was my special friend and we did the darndest things together. One time there was a football game at the U of I and we wanted so much to go, but only had money enough for one ticket. A boy nicknamed "Fats" was around our place a lot, helping out. He had left a pair of his striped overalls there. Jeannie and I decided to get both of ourselves in that pair of overalls – one in each leg – I guess we had it in our minds we could pass as one if we got up to the game. We did pretty well trying to walk down the road, until we fell over in a ditch. We just lay there unable to move until Jeannie's older brother came along and helped us up. How we planned to sit down at the game I don't know.

Devastating Fire, Age 13

I remember we had been to town to buy new spring clothes that day. That night all of a sudden my mother was shaking me awake, yelling "We got to get out! The house is on fire!" We ran downstairs, my brother was already out. We went through a wall of flame in the kitchen. Both of us got our hair singed and our eyebrows burned off. My poor dad was trying to empty a washtub of water on the fire in the bathroom and was badly burned. We lost everything, got out only with what we were wearing.

My father had been remodeling the old ranch house and I remember the beautiful new white toilet in the bathroom. Mom had also set up her iron and ironing board in there. The overhead light had a plug-in that the iron was plugged into. Both were turned off with a switch on the wall. I will always think it was me that turned on that switch when I went to the bathroom before bed.

We tried calling our dogs and cat, but none came out. Mom ran in and grabbed some quilts for us. My dad was yelling at her, using his pet name for her "Kidder – get out of there!" Wrapped in quilts, we walked to the neighbors. Dr. Armstrong came out but told my dad, "Harry, I don't know what I can do for you." Dad suffered all night until Dr. Einhouse the next day bandaged him.

This was at the beginning of the Great Depression (1929 -1939). No one had much but all the county responded with what they could. I wound up with 119 dresses! My uncle was building a garage down on the corner and he drug it up to our place with a team. My folks fixed it up into a house and added on a kitchen. We lived there until us kids were grown. Rural people did not suffer as much as city people during the Depression. We always had plenty to eat. We had an orchard, a cow and pigs, also berry bushes and a garden. We kept a well. Mom canned everything she could and even put eggs in a crock and poured treated water over them.

An Introduction to the Trade Tokens of Latah County, from the 1880s to 2022

By Robert Lee Sappington



In approximately 630 BCE an early state-level society in southwest Asia began stamping items out of precious metals for use in trade; these artifacts are considered to be the world's first coins. Coins are a type of money that is standardized and authorized by a government for exchange. They generally have a stated value which facilitates their use in transactions as legal tender. The collecting of coins, formally known as numismatics, began in the United States in the mid-19th century and a companion field of collecting was named exonumia in 1960. Exonumia refers to all items related to, but outside the study of, coins. It includes medals and tokens, as well as all sorts of badges, watch fobs, jewelry, casino tokens, wooden nickels, and other objects. Most items within the world of exonumia are made of metal but some are made from rubber, plastic, wood, and even cardboard. Medals are struck for commemorative, political, or other reasons but do not have monetary value (Jaeger 2008:2).

While there are many types of tokens and definitions vary, for the purposes of this article a trade token is a substitute for coinage or a form of coin-shaped advertising (Rulau 1999:3). Trade tokens are issued for commercial purposes and those under consideration here are also known as merchant tokens or store tokens. It is common for a trade token to have a stated monetary equivalent, ranging from a fraction of a cent to \$10, or to be "good for" something, such as a beer. Trade tokens are most commonly made of metal but they have also been made from wood, plastic, cardboard, and other materials.

The use of trade tokens in American history began during the colonial era when those items were struck by hand, one at a time, so that output was limited. In the early 19th century aluminum was more valuable than gold, but by the late 1800s its value had dropped. The first extensive use of aluminum in the manufacture of tokens was in the early 1890s, especially during the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892-1893 (Rulau 1999:5; Jaeger 2008:25). Factory capacity greatly increased by the late 19th century (Jaeger 2008:10) so that manufacturers produced numerous trade tokens for businesses as needed. Production estimates ranged from 50 to 1000, with most runs being in the neighborhood of 100 (Hansen 2006; Pincock 2015) or between 500 and 1000 (Schell 1970). The first study of Idaho trade tokens reported that the Salt Lake Stamp Company provided the majority of the tokens stamped for Idaho. It was in business from before 1900 until 1967 or later (Schell 1967). More recent research has

identified manufacturers in California and Spokane that also produced tokens for establishments in Idaho.

Most trade tokens were round but as new machinery became available they could be produced in square, cloverleaf, octagonal, scalloped, and other shapes such as horseshoes. In addition, some tokens had cutout designs, including stars, moons, diamonds, numbers, and letters, and some had round or square holes in the center or elsewhere. Sometimes numbers, letters, or shapes were subsequently stamped into them. Most tokens are made from a single material but some are bimetallic with different metals used for the rims and centers.

The prime purpose of trade tokens was to attract people to the specific establishment where the token had value (Jaeger 2008:20-21). To get people to use them in the first place merchants sold them in quantity at a small discount to their stated value. Among the advantages of using tokens was advertising, convenience in making change during small transactions, security as an alternative to having cash on hand, and as payment for deliveries when money could not be left out. Trade tokens were also distributed and often kept as souvenirs. Tokens were used as substitutes in times of coin shortage; tokens also served as payment or wages in logging or mining camps where they restricted spending to certain locations.

A unique category of trade token is an advertising mirror. The first advertising mirrors appeared in the 1890s at the same time that the first political pins were made (Erickson 1991:112). The advertising surface of most mirrors was celluloid with the reflecting surface on the reverse being made of glass or a shiny metal such as tin. There were three standard shapes. Saloons used “good-for” mirrors with denominations of 5 cents, 10 cents and 12 ½ cents in trade. Most mirrors were issued from about 1900 to 1915 or until Prohibition. All known mirrors from Latah County are marked as either good for a drink or for 12½ cents in trade; there are examples from Genesee, Moscow, and Troy.

The prohibition of alcohol began in Latah County in 1908 and was in place across Idaho in 1916. It lasted until repeal in 1933. During that time the use of tokens in taverns and saloons was limited.

Wooden trade tokens first appeared in Washington State during the Great Depression. “Wooden nickels,” bearing the image of an American Indian and buffalo that resembled the designs that were in circulation from 1913-1938 on U.S. 5-cent coins, appeared as souvenirs at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1933. Wooden nickels still appear today with one or both of those designs on one side with the other side often being used as a marketing device. Wooden nickels have been documented in 11 towns in Latah County.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was in existence from 1933 to 1942, with camps in Latah County near Bovill, Genesee, Potlatch, Moscow, and Troy. One camp used tokens in Moscow. During World War II a federal law prohibited the manufacture of metal tokens of the same size as any coin. This led to a switch to tokens being made of plastic, wood, and other materials.

In many cases, historic tokens now represent the only physical vestige of a long-defunct business or pioneer town. These artifacts represent a direct connection to the past through material culture. Tokens are still being produced for transportation, vending machines, and arcade games, as well as for advertising and promotional purposes, but they are no longer part of everyday life.

The first book on Idaho trade tokens appeared in 1967 (Schell 1967) with a follow-up in 1970 (Schell 1970). At that time the author had looked at 9000 tokens from Idaho and provided the first photographic documentation of many of them, although contextual information was limited. Another study of Idaho tokens appeared in 2000 and has been periodically updated; it is now reprinted on demand (Pincock 2016). The definitive book on Idaho trade tokens appeared in 2006 (Hansen 2006). It incorporated information from the earlier sources and assigned unique numbers to all tokens. All of these studies have been combined into the online Token Catalog that covers many countries and all states with more than 12,100 entries for Idaho (TokenCatalog.com).

Idaho and Latah County

Although they are very scarce, trade tokens appeared shortly after the creation of Idaho Territory in 1863. The earliest known tokens in Idaho Territory date to 1865 with the oldest known in Latah County being in the 1880s for J. W. Lieuallen’s Bakery in Moscow and the C. (Charles) Snyder grocery store in Juliaetta. When Latah County was formed in 1888 tokens were already in use.

A total of 98 named communities and towns have been identified in Latah County (Boone 1983:111). Businesses or organizations in Latah County that used tokens included hotels, general stores, bakeries, creameries, cigar stores, taverns, pool halls, fraternal and veterans’ organizations, and others. Most tokens provide a name and town on one side (the face, front, or obverse) with the value in trade or merchandise on the other (tail, back, or reverse) side. Most tokens identify the business or organization by name and town, but in cases where the town was not indicated many of these “mavericks” have been identified through historic research (Rulau 1999;

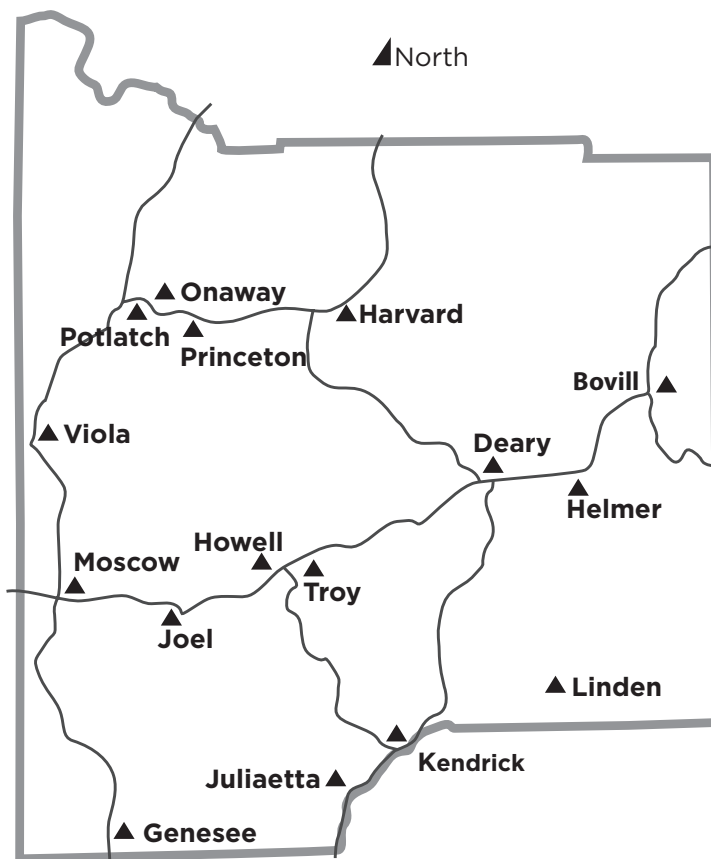
Jaeger 2008:25). Few tokens from Latah County provide specific street addresses or dates. Tokens reflect changes in ownership or the purpose of a business, such as a shift from a saloon to something else during Prohibition.

Most of the historic trade tokens that were made for establishments in Latah County are aluminum or brass, while modern examples are made from wood or plastic. Wooden tokens are currently valid for a movie pass at the Kenworthy Theatre in Moscow, and plastic tokens are still in use for beer and mixed drinks at the Corner Club in Moscow.

Nearly 500 trade tokens have been identified from 16 towns in Latah County. Many of these towns were larger a century ago than they are today and some communities have disappeared. For example, the number and variety of tokens in Bovill from approximately 1907 to the 1930s reflect its prominence as the third largest town in the county at that time. Some trade tokens represent well-known businesses while others remain a mystery. Samples of tokens are discussed and photographed here, but space considerations and lack of documentation prevent a

Towns in Latah County that are known to have used trade tokens.

Name of town	Number of businesses/ organizations	Number of token varieties issued
Bovill	11	39
Deary	11	34
Genesee	13	32
Harvard	2	3
Helmer	1	1
Howell	2	2
Joel	1	3
Juliaetta	6	11
Kendrick	18	27
Linden	1	1
Moscow	76	200+
Onaway	5	9
Potlatch	5	33
Princeton	7	9
Troy	25	61
Viola	3	3
Total	187	468+



Map of Latah County showing the locations of the 16 towns that are known to have used trade tokens.

complete review of all of the nearly 200 establishments that used tokens over the past 130 years in Latah County. Encased cents, Moscow Mardi Gras tokens, and “wooden nickels” without a stated value have been omitted. All the following tokens are good for a certain amount in trade or merchandise (ranging from 1/20 cent to \$10), an item (such as a beer or quart of milk), a bottle deposit, or a service (such as a flat tire repair). Dating has been based on information in the Idaho trade token books (Hansen 2006; Pincock 2015), the Token Catalog, historic sources (especially Boone 1983 and Otness 1983), and on resources such as business registers and phone books. Token manufacturers often used the same reverse dies for multiple clients and other researchers have identified specific manufacturers and their periods of use, which provide further means for dating certain specific tokens.

This article is an introduction to the topic of trade tokens. Only brief sketches are provided for these 16 Latah County towns since much more information is available elsewhere. A selection of photographs has been included to show the range of shapes and values for the various tokens with an emphasis on early or historic examples, but a few recent or current examples have also been included.

Not all tokens have been reported and photographs for some known tokens are not available; some readers may have examples that could be added to this study. The accompanying photographs have been provided courtesy of the Token Catalog, adapted from Idaho token books, and/or from the author's collection; when available, individual item numbers from the Token Catalog have been provided.

...



Token from Davis and Thorp in Bovill (TC-123664). This is one of the oldest tokens from Bovill, dating ca. 1907.

Bovill

The vicinity of Bovill was originally known as Warren Meadows. The town was named for its founder and first postmaster Hugh Bovill, who bought the area in 1899 and intended for it to be a resort for sportsmen. He established a general store and the Bovill Hotel in 1901. The town of Bovill was incorporated in 1907 and the post office was established at that time. Potlatch Lumber Company began operations in the area shortly thereafter, and Hugh Bovill soon left the area. The Washington Idaho and Montana Railway (WIMR) reached there in 1907 and Milwaukee Road arrived in 1910. Bovill quickly became Latah County's third largest town, but the boom subsided in the 1920s and it became a quiet village by the 1930s (Petersen 1987:111). The population of Bovill was 589 in 1920 and 260 in 2010 (Boone 1983:11-12; Kersting-Lark 2019:5; Miller 1972; Monroe 2006b; Otness 1983:139-145).



Token from L. G. Verdon in Bovill (TC-109168). The die was in use 1905-1920. Note that this is one of the few holed tokens in Latah County.

Eleven businesses, including a drug store, taverns, pool halls, and others, issued a total of 39 tokens. Mark Davis opened the Davis and Thorp Drug Company in Bovill in 1907 and it issued a brass token good for 5 cents. L. G. (or Gus) Verdon operated the Pastime pool hall in 1914 and used four brass tokens that were good for 5 to 50 cents. William Watt ran a confectionary and pool hall in the 1920s-1940s; W. M. Watt had a pool hall and restaurant that were listed in the high school annual in May 1921 (Monroe 2006:17). Together William Watt and John (or Jack) Mallory issued four tokens. Recently Bailey's Bar issued wooden tokens that were good for a rain check, and the Elk Tavern had three varieties of wooden nickels good for one beer.



Square token from Smith Mercantile in Deary (TC-40435). Note that it is good for \$5.00.

Deary

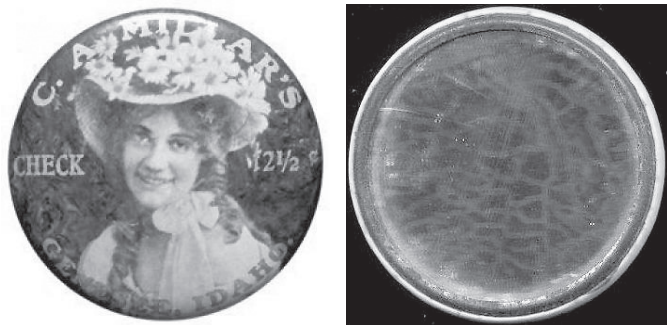
The town of Deary was established in 1907 and named for William Deary, who was a Potlatch Lumber Company employee and the manager of the WIMR. The town was incorporated in 1912 and by 1914 there were two churches, a bank, a hotel, a weekly newspaper, four sawmills, a new two-story school, and more than a dozen other businesses. As with most early towns in Latah County it was affected by fire, in 1923 (Boone 1983; Monroe 2006b; Otness 1983:134-136; Petersen 1987; 110-111).

Eleven businesses used a variety of 34 tokens. Twelve different trade tokens were issued by Smith Mercantile which opened 1910-1911; values ranged from 5 cents to \$5.



Wooden token from Fuzzy's Tavern in Deary ca. 1988 (TC-362480). It was good for one beer.

Tokens were also issued by Deary Mercantile in 1921-1931, the W.T. Ferguson livery and transfer station ca. 1921, Smith Mercantile Company, and others. The most recent use was by Fuzzy's Tavern which issued several different wooden nickels that were good for a beer ca. 1988.



Mirror from C. A. Millar's in Genesee (TC-124942). Note that it is a check for 12½ cents. Millar's was listed as a saloon in 1908-1909.

Genesee

Genesee is one of the oldest communities in Latah County as Euro-Americans settled in that area for the rich Palouse farmland in the 1870s. According to some reports the valley drained by Cow Creek reminded an early visitor of his home in the Genesee Valley in New York and the area became known as Genesee, with the community soon being known by that name as well. When the Spokane and Palouse Railway bypassed the town in 1888, the original community (old Genesee) moved to the vicinity of the



Octagonal token from Follett Brothers Mercantile Company in Genesee ca. 1915-1928 (TC-124947).

railroad terminus in 1889. By the time the railroad reached Lewiston in 1898 "new" Genesee had become an important shipping point for agricultural products. By 1903 Genesee had two banks, a flour mill, a brewery, three hotels, three hardware stores, four saloons, and eight general stores, as well as millinery shops, a photographic studio, a confectionary, and weekly newspaper. The population

is now half of what it was during the boom days but it remains an important agricultural center (Bennett 2021; Boone 1983; Kersting-Lark 2019:7; Otness 1983:167-176; Scharnhorst 1989).

Beginning in the 1890s there have been 13 businesses that used a total of 32 tokens. The Follett Brothers began business in old Genesee but soon moved to new Genesee with their general store. The family-owned business was in operation for over 70 years (Bennett 2021:14); a photograph shows the exterior of the store in 1911 (Otness 1983:172). H & A (Henry L. Hardy and John L. Acrea) operated a confectionary and pool hall in 1910 that used brass tokens good for 5 cents (Scharnhorst 1989:1). Edwards and Son opened the Pastime Pool Hall in its present location in 1920; despite several ownership changes it is a local landmark still in operation (Bennett 2021:13-14). There are exterior photos of the Pastime in 1913 (Monroe 2006b:41) as well as interior photos in 1920 and later (Monroe 2006b:42; Scharnhorst 1989:32).



Token from E. W. Edson in Harvard ca. 1914 (TC-125333).

Harvard

Harvard was a WIMR station plotted and dedicated on 28 May 1906. Local Homer W. Canfield selected the name Harvard, a choice that led to a trend for naming places in the area after other college names. The post office opened in 1906. Harvard was never more than a tranquil trading center (Boone 1983:43; Otness 1983:121-122; Petersen 1987:110).

Only one historic token is known from Harvard. E.W. Edson operated an establishment with billiards and cigars in 1914 and issued a brass token good for 5 cents in trade. More recently, the Harvard Tavern issued wooden nickels with both "Indian head" and buffalo designs from approximately 1983 to 1991.



Token from the Campfire Pavillion in Helmer (TC-45729). This is the only known token from Helmer and dates to the late 1920s.

Helmer

The village of Helmer was founded in 1906. It thrived in the early years as the head of a shortcut route to homesteads in the upper reaches of the Potlatch River, McGary Butte, Ruby Creek and Elk Creek areas. The town was named in honor of early-day Potlatch Timber Company timber cruiser William Helmer. The town was platted in 1906 and had a schoolhouse and general store by 1910, but growth ended within a decade. The post office was established in 1907 and was discontinued in 1929 (Boone 1983:44-45; Otness 1983:137-138).

The Campfire Pavilion was opened by Fred and Nola Lawrence as a dance hall and roller-skating rink in Helmer in 1926. They issued an aluminum token good for 5 cents. A recent wooden nickel from the Helmer Store and Café had no stated value.



Token from John Davidson in Howell (TC-145255). This is the only known historic token from Howell.

Howell

Howell was an early railroad station on the Northern Pacific Railroad line between Troy and Cornwall. It was named for local settler Murt Howell and appeared on 1898 and 1914 maps (Boone 1983:47). John Davidson used the only historic token in Howell; it was a brass token good for five cents. More recently, a wooden nickel good for a free drink was used by the Howell Bar.



Token from Pop's Tavern in Joel (TC-125848). Date unknown.

Joel

The town of Joel was founded in 1890 when the Northern Pacific Railroad was extending its branch line east to Troy and decided it needed a depot for its engines. Local businessman William Kaufmann offered to donate land to the railroad if it would name the depot after his son Joel. Joel Station was established in 1891 and a post office was established in 1892 although the order was rescinded in 1893. Joel appears on 1898 and 1914 maps. It once had a sawmill, several hay and grain warehouses, a filling station, an Oddfellow's Hall with a grocery store on the first floor, and a Methodist church (Boone 1983:50; Otness 1983:127). The only tokens in Joel were issued by Pop's Tavern in brass with three denominations good for between 5 and 25 cents in trade.



Token from C. Snyder in Juliaetta (TC-125849). The die was in use 1882-1884.

Juliaetta

The community of Juliaetta was founded by Rupert Schupfer and named Schupferville in 1878. The post office was established in 1882. The first postmaster was Charles Snyder, who named the office after his two daughters. The name of the town was soon changed to that of the post office. The railroad reached there in 1891 and the town was incorporated as Juliaetta in 1892. By the 1900s it was a promising community with a flour mill, a sawmill, a



Token from Foster's School of Healing in Juliaetta which was open 1903-1911 (TC-602671). Note that it is good for "admission to school one day."

lumber yard, grain warehouses, two general merchandise stores, a drug store, a meat market, a shoe store, millinery shops, blacksmith shops, three hotels, and a weekly newspaper (Boone 1983:51; Cross 1892; Kersting-Lark 2019:12; Otness 1983:156-160).

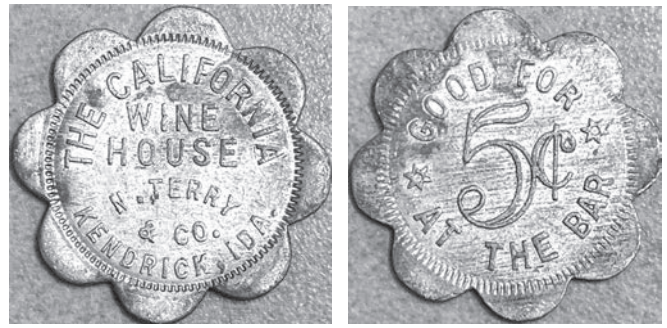
The earliest token in Latah County was made of brass and issued in the early 1880s by Charles Snyder for his grocery store. A key part of early Juliaetta history was the Foster School of Healing founded by Dr. Foster and in operation 1903-1911 (Monroe 2006b:51). The school issued a unique aluminum token good for "admission to school one day." Ten other tokens were issued by five merchants, including the Juliaetta Cannery which was in operation in 1915 (Monroe 1906b:54), W.W. Bowker ca. 1922, H. M. Hedler ca. 1928, and the Juliaetta Pool Hall (date unknown).



Token from the Monogram Pool Hall in Kendrick (TC-109264). The business was in operation 1911-1931.

Kendrick

This town was founded as Latah by John Kirby in 1889. Based on the promise that the Northern Pacific Railroad would build a line through the town, the name was changed to Kendrick in 1890 in order to honor the chief engineer of the railroad. Its location along the Potlatch River led to the development of water power for flour and lumber mills, but the town flooded in 1900. Kendrick had



Scalloped token from the California Wine House in Kendrick (TC-394665). This saloon was in operation 1903-1909; the die was in use 1902-1905.

previously been ravaged by a fire in 1893 and it burned again in 1904. Population declined from 1920 to 2010 (Boone 1983:52-53; Gravelle 1991; Kersting-Lark 2019:8; Otness 1983:149-155).

Eighteen parties in the town have issued a total of 27 tokens. Two early businesses that were operating prior to the 1904 fire were the Lorang Cigar Company and the Court Saloon (Gravelle 1991:28-29). Businesses that appeared after the fire included the Hotel Kendrick ca. 1912-1917, the Stanton Brothers grocery and men's furnishings store with four brass tokens good for 5 cents to \$1 ca. 1910-1923, the Monogram Pool Hall ca. 1911-1931, and others. The Baker-Lind Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3213 began in 1967. It has used two variations of plastic tokens that are good for one drink and is still operating in fall 2022.



Token from Farrington and Smith in Linden (TC-74475). This store was in operation ca. 1900-1909.

Linden

Linden was a community in the Cedar Creek area in the southeast part of Latah County. It experienced a gold rush in 1879, and a post office was established in 1889 with the town being named for Linden, Missouri. Linden appears on maps from 1883 to 1914. The post office burned and was discontinued in 1929 (Boone 1983:58-59). The only token from Linden is from Farrington and Smith who operated a store there ca. 1900-1909.



Token from J. W. Lieuallen's Bakery in Moscow (TC-617905). Note that it is for 1 loaf of bread. This token pre-dates Idaho statehood and is one of the earliest known in Latah County.

Moscow

The first permanent Euro-American settler and founder of the town that would become Moscow was Almon Asbury Lieuallen who arrived in 1871. The area was called Tatkinmah by the original Nez Perce inhabitants, but it was soon known as Hog Heaven due to the abundance of camas roots that the settlers fed to their hogs. Lieuallen and his neighbors James Deakin, Henry McGregor, and



Octagonal token from David & Ely in Moscow ca. 1904-1915 (TC-41802). Note that it is good for \$5.00 in merchandise.

John Russell soon met to lay out a town where their four homesteads converged. By the time Lieuallen applied for the first post office in 1873 the town was known as Paradise Valley, but the postal service soon requested a name change to avoid similarly named towns. Samuel M. Neff, who managed the mail, reportedly chose the name Moscow to honor his hometown in Pennsylvania. The need in the area for a source of supplies was acute. Lieuallen opened a general merchandise store in 1875, with the first local sawmill started in 1877 to provide lumber for most of the first houses. In 1879 James Maguire and William J. McConnell opened a general merchandise store on the southeast corner of Main and First Streets. This was considered a mammoth enterprise for a town with a population of 25 (Emery 1979, originally 1897). By 1881 Moscow had a population of over 300 with three general merchandise stores, two hotels, one hardware

store, and a variety of butcher shops, saloons, blacksmith shops, farm implement stores, and professional offices for doctors, dentists and lawyers (Monroe 2003:38-39). The first newspaper, the Moscow Mirror, began in 1883 and by 1885 the first railroad had arrived in the town that was



Cloverleaf token from The Boston, "Idaho's Price Maker," in Moscow ca. 1903-1906 (TC-617631).

well on its way to being a commercial force on the Palouse. Between 1885 and 1888 many of the original wood buildings were being replaced by brick structures. One of the first brick buildings on Main Street was the Hotel Del Norte.

Latah County is the only county in the United States to have been created by an act of Congress; Moscow became the county seat in 1888. The Idaho Territorial Legislature selected Moscow as the home of the University of Idaho in 1889. By 1890 Moscow had electricity and public waterworks, and a third railroad had arrived so that Moscow was also the transportation center for the Palouse. By 1910 Moscow had 23 retail stores including a



Obverse view of two mirrors from the Moscow Hotel Bar (TC-595208 and TC-126665). Note that both are good for one drink.

florist, five confectionaries, four drugstores, two jewelry stores, three dairies, one bookstore, and one automobile dealer. Services were provided by three banks, thirteen real estate agents, three insurance companies, one mining



Mirror from The Wonder in Moscow (TC-8879). This saloon was in business 1904-1908. Note that the mirror is a trade check for 12½ cents.

broker, four dressmakers, two theaters, one billiard parlor, one undertaker, three plumbers, and one horse dealer, as well as by a variety of lawyers, dentists, veterinarians, and teachers (Boone 1983:67-68; Monroe 2003; Otness 1983).

As the largest town in the county it is not surprising that Moscow has had the greatest number of tokens, with 76 establishments issuing well more than 200. Almon Asbury Lieuallen's nephew, John W. Lieuallen, came to Moscow in the 1880s and opened a grocery store on Main Street; a trade token for one loaf of bread is the oldest known token from Moscow (Pincock 2015; Rulau 1999).

Moscow has a long history of downtown department stores. The Badger Store opened on Main Street by Frank A. David in 1896 (Otness 1983:17). A variety of ten trade tokens were used, all aluminum and round; denominations



Token from CCC Company 1312 which was located just south of Moscow (TC-126600). The die dates to the 1930s.

ranged from 5 cents to \$1. In 1899 Frank David and his partner Wellington Ely purchased the Dernham and Kaufman Building and opened the David & Ely Store (Otness 1983:22-23). David bought out Ely's interest around 1919 and the complete three-story department store operated as Davids' until 1979. George Creighton and Foster Hall took over an existing building in 1896 and used it for their Chicago Store. Eventually Creighton

bought the building and changed the name of the business to Creighton's; his partner's descendants ran Creighton's until the 1980s. Creighton's used a series of ten aluminum tokens ranging from 1 cent to \$1. Other early stores that used tokens included the Boston, which used four brass tokens ranging from 5 cents to \$1 from 1903 to 1906, and Williamson's, which used five tokens ranging from 5 cents to 50 cents in value from 1904 to 1915 (Rippel 1980; Williamson and d'Easum 1976).

Moscow had a number of early hotels that used tokens for trade. An early history of Moscow written in 1897 included the Hotel Del Norte, the Moscow Hotel, and the Commercial Hotel (which burned in 1908) (Emery 1979, original 1897:30). All three of these establishments used



Token from the Blue Bucket Inn in Moscow (TC-126593). The Blue Bucket was in operation 1924-1936; the die dates to the 1930s.

tokens, and the Moscow Hotel also used tokens in its bar and cigar store. The Moscow Hotel Bar used two mirrors that were each good for a drink; the Moscow Hotel Cigar Store used three separate tokens. Other cigar stores also used tokens. John Blanchard was making cigars in Moscow in 1889; before long his business expanded to include billiards as well (Otness 1983:33). John's son Charles Blanchard used two brass tokens; a photo of Charles and George Blanchard's Cigar Store ca. 1895 is on the cover of the Latah County Historical Society Quarterly [Volume 8(4)] in 1979.

Saloons, taverns, and bars commonly used tokens. The Wonder was in business from 1904 to 1908. It used an aluminum token for 5 cents as well as a series of five mirrors as 12½ cent trade checks, each mirror with an image of a different woman. The Corner Club opened in 1948 and has used a variety of approximately 30 tokens throughout its history. The earliest ones were brass and aluminum and were good for a cash amount in trade. Plastic tokens were in use by its 40th anniversary in 1988. Tokens are given out when the owner or a customer wishes to provide complimentary drinks. As of November 2021, nine types of tokens for the Corner Club were

in circulation in colors including black, white, bronze, and green, and in both round and octagonal shapes; all are good for specific types of beer or mixed drinks, as indicated. The Corner Club may be the last establishment to maintain the tradition of using tokens.

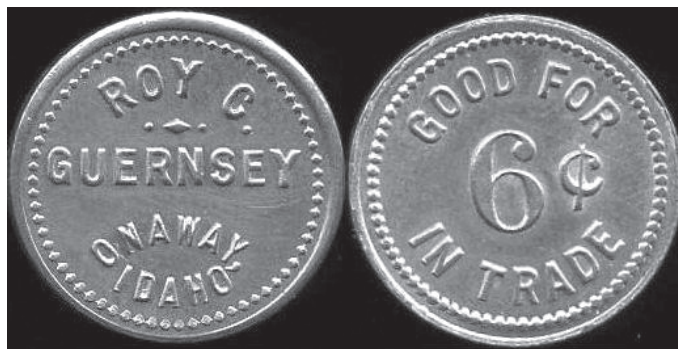
Numerous fraternal organizations also used tokens. The Benevolent Paternal Order of the Elks used six brass and aluminum tokens ranging from 10 to 12½ cents in value, while the Eagles Capricorn had single plastic and wooden tokens. The Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge has issued three brass tokens, including one for their 50th anniversary in 1962; this appears to be the only token in Latah County with a date on it.

Many tokens in Moscow are unique; only a few are mentioned here. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was in existence from 1933 to 1942. There were camps in Latah County near Bovill, Genesee, Potlatch, Moscow, and Troy. Company 1312 was located slightly south of Moscow and used tokens good for 5 and 25 cents. The University



Modern wooden token from the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre in Moscow (no token catalog number). Note that it is good for one admission to a movie.

of Idaho (UI) is a dominant force in Moscow; there is one token associated with it. Dean of Women Permeal French decided in 1924 that there was a need for a dining and recreation center for students. She constructed a two-story brick building at her own expense and named it the Blue Bucket Inn after a lost Idaho mine. It had a tearoom and restaurant on the first floor and a ballroom on the second floor (Aiken 2021:33). After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933 it served beer for a few years until UI banned the beverage from campus. UI purchased the Blue Bucket Inn from French in 1936 and remodeled it; it eventually became the Student Union Building (Aiken 2021:33; Otness 1983:62). The Kenworthy Theatre was built in 1926 and became the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre in 2000; it recently used a wooden token that is good for admission to one movie.



Token from Roy C. Guernsey in Onaway ca. 1928-1931 (TC-8716). Note that it is good for 6 cents.

Onaway

Onaway was originally known as Bulltown after the local Bull family. It began as a stage stop on the Wells Fargo line that was “on the way” to the mines in the 1880s. Onaway ceased to thrive after the company town of Potlatch was established nearby, but it survived since Potlatch was a dry town and Onaway was not (Boone 1983:74; Kersting-Lark 2019:14; Otness 1983:115; Petersen 1987:83-84). Five establishments in Onaway used a total of 9 tokens. Roy C. Guernsey used four tokens in 1928-1931; he was unique in issuing the only six-cent token in Idaho (Pincock 2015). The recent Onaway Tavern wooden tokens list it as being in Potlatch.



Octagonal token from Potlatch Mercantile Company (TC-127858).

Potlatch

Potlatch is unique in Latah County due to its having been founded as a company town by Potlatch Lumber Company (PLC) in 1905. It once had the world’s largest white pine lumber mill (Boone 1983; Otness 1983:115-116; Petersen 1987). PLC owned all the real estate, houses, stores, schools, and churches in town, but there were no saloons. Nothing was owned privately until 1952 when Potlatch began to sell part of its holdings. The mill closed in 1981 and the remaining buildings became private property shortly thereafter. The post office was established



Token from the Balch Brothers in Potlatch (TC-57085). The die was in use 1918-1928.

in 1904 and has been in operation since that time.

Five entities in Potlatch issued a total of 33 tokens. Potlatch Mercantile Company was operated by PLC and was in business from 1907 into the 1960s when it burned (Petersen 1987:132-135, 208). “The Merc” used tokens in seven denominations and sizes ranging from 1 cent to \$5. Balch Brothers used 11 tokens from 1911-1918. Ralph S. Smith was the postmaster in 1909-1910; R. S. Smith used two 5-cent aluminum tokens. The most recent use of tokens was by Marvel’s Wagon Wheel (later Dale’s Wagon Wheel) opened in the 1960s; it used a series of plastic and wood tokens for cocktails and beer until at least 2013.



Token from the Eagle Saloon in Princeton ca. 1904 (TC-127910). Note that it is good for 6 ¼ cents.

Princeton

The community of Princeton was founded by Orville Clough in 1896 and named for his hometown in Minnesota. When the construction of the WIMR began, Princeton was already a town with a post office, store, blacksmith shop, two saloons, and a livery stable, and was a stagecoach stop for the Palouse-Hoodoo stagecoach. As the railroad was being constructed the name Princeton was among seven other stations named after colleges (Boone 1983:85; Otness 1983: 120-121). Seven merchants used a total of nine tokens. There were several early saloons, including the Eagle Saloon ca. 1904. The J. Parks pool hall had aluminum tokens good for 5, 10, and 25 cents in trade



Plastic token from the Princeton Tavern (TC-363664).

ca. 1920. More recently, the Princeton Tavern used plastic tokens for bottled and draft beer.



Token from Christie Brothers in Troy ca. 1920-1931 (TC-338273). Note that it has a fingernail moon cutout and is stamped C on the obverse and W on the reverse.

Troy

The Troy area was homesteaded in 1885 and the community was originally known as Huff’s Gulch. The name was changed to Vollmer in 1890 when the Northern Pacific Railroad was built through here, and the first store and post office were established in 1891. John P. Vollmer was unpopular within the community after foreclosing on notes in the 1893 depression, and many people wanted to change the name of the town. After a series of refreshments were provided by a Greek railroad worker, citizens voted and the name Troy, “the most illustrious name in history



Token from W. M. Duthie in Troy ca. 1904-1915 (TC-186864). Note that it is good for \$10.00.



Token from Carl Anderson Groceries in Troy (TC-61823). The business was in operation 1918-1923.

and literature,” won over Vollmer, 29-9, in 1897. By the early 1900s Troy had a bank, a flour mill, general stores, two meat markets, three saloons, several sawmills, and 35 other business establishments as well as two doctors, one dentist, and a weekly newspaper. The population was 700 in 1908. It has grown little since, but it remains the center of a rich farming and logging district (Boone 1983:102-103; Cross 1992; Kersting-Lark 2019:11; Otness 1983:128-133).

Troy is second to Moscow in terms of trade tokens, with 25 establishments having issued a total of 61 tokens. Troy is the only community in Latah County that had three merchants with tokens good for \$10, which is the highest known denomination. Thomas H. Christie operated a general store 1900-1920 and H. H. Christie and Christie Brothers used a total of ten tokens until 1931. William Duthie moved into Troy in 1900 (Driscoll 1970:66) and operated a general store from 1905-1915 that used seven tokens. Carl Anderson owned a grocery store from 1918-1923 that used a set of seven brass tokens in denominations ranging from 5 cents to \$10. There is an interior photo of the store in 1919 (Driscoll 1970:26).



Token from the Viola Billiard Hall (TC-44439). Date unknown.

Viola

The community of Viola is one of the oldest settlements in the county. It was originally known as Four Mile. The post office was established in 1878 and its name was

changed to Viola in 1882. Viola was a former station on the Spokane and Inland Empire Railroad (Boone 1983:105; Kersting-Lark 2019:10; Otness 1983:111-114). Trade tokens were used by three different entities: John’s Tavern, Mony’s Place, and Viola Billiard Hall. All the tokens are aluminum and good for 5 cents, but little additional information seems available.

In summary, trade tokens were already in use here when Latah County was formed in 1888. They became common in the early 20th century and circulated in 16 county towns. Most of the towns where they were used have declined in population, or even disappeared altogether, so these items represent tangible artifacts from the history of the county. Trade tokens were in use at hotels, saloons, cafes, grocery stores, cigar stores, and other businesses, as well as in fraternal and other organizations. Nearly 500 different trade tokens have been identified from Latah County and a few are still in use in Moscow. Materials were originally metal, mostly brass and aluminum, but those in circulation in the 21st century are wood and plastic. Most are good for a specific amount of money in trade or merchandise, usually 5 cents, but they ranged in value from 1 cent to 10 dollars. Some were good for specific commodities, usually a beer or a mixed drink, but others were good for a loaf of bread, a quart of milk, a bottle deposit, or a day in school.

This article is intended as an introduction and only a selected sample of trade tokens from Latah County have been included here. Many more known trade tokens were not included, and there are undoubtedly others that have not been reported. It would be quite possible to add documentation from newspapers, postcards, telephone books, business directories, and other sources to augment the historic context of these tokens for a book-length format (O’Hara 2021). The author encourages readers to provide tokens and/or information on these establishments to the Latah County Historical Society, which would enable us to produce an expanded version of this study.

Acknowledgments

When I arrived in Moscow in 1975 brass tokens were in circulation at the Spruce Tavern and the Alley; I saved a sample of them. Knowing of my interest in coins and history, my neighbor Ed Button gave me a set of old tokens in the early 1980s that his relatives had saved from Anderson’s Grocery in Troy, That would eventually lead to this article. Ed also introduced me to the modern tokens at the Corner Club on a field trip in 2021. As I began to collect tokens I was encouraged by Dan Lute of Boise, Earl Bennett of Genesee, Mike Fritz of Spirit Lake, and Richard

Hansen of Pocatello, all of whom provided information, including how to find the books and other resources for researching Idaho tokens. I am especially indebted to Richard Greever of Keaau, Hawaii, who began the token catalog in 2006 (TokenCatalog.com) and encouraged me to access its records and to use its photographs for this article.

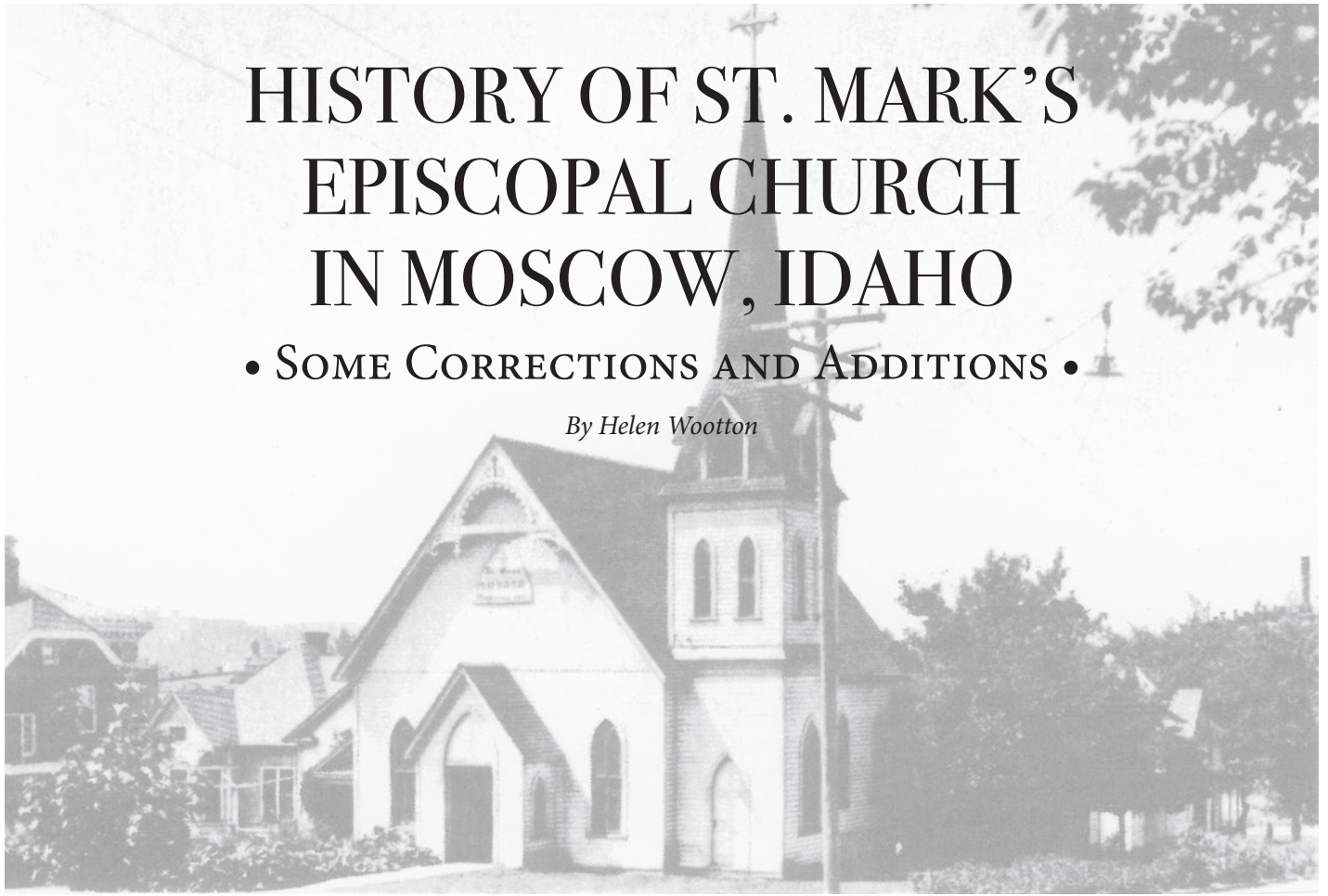
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HISTORY OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MOSCOW, IDAHO

• SOME CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS •

By Helen Wootton



St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1891-1937

Source Correction: Church Consecration Date

In many articles about St. Mark's original church we will read that it was built in 1891 but not consecrated until 1899. This is a self-perpetuating error.

The error stems from an item from *The Mirror* which either gives the date incorrectly or it was copied incorrectly. "On November 22, 1899, the Right Reverend Ethelbert Talbot, Bishop of Wyoming and Idaho, dedicated the church office..."

- The missionary bishops of that time were an intrepid bunch, always on the road visiting their far-flung parishes and even traveling back East to raise funds. No missionary bishop would ever leave a church he had planted for eight years without being consecrated.
- November of 1899 is clearly the incorrect date for these reasons:
 - Bishop Talbot had not been the Bishop of Wyoming and Idaho for over a year. Bishop Funsten was its bishop in 1899.

– Northern Idaho had not been part of the Missionary District of Wyoming and Idaho for over a year. In 1899 it was part of the Missionary District of Spokane.

- Episcopalians consecrate many things besides churches and this article specifically says the "church office." We know that the rectory was built after the church was built and connected to the church by a breezeway and that the rector's office was later a part of the rectory. This article surely was talking about that occasion, whatever the date.

The consecration document itself was burned with the church in the great fire. So the only way to get the actual consecration date is by the eye-numbing task of combing through eight years of old newspapers on microfiche.

For these reasons I have chosen not to include a consecration date in my history of the church, but want my readers to know that the 1899 date is incorrect, no matter how many times it has been printed.

Additions: Early Priests

Photographs of two early St. Mark's priests were not included in my initial instalment of the history of the church in Moscow.

The Reverend Jonathan Watson served as vicar from around 1908 to June 1917. Notable events during his tenure were a serious fire in the guild hall that had been added to the church-rectory building, a typhoid epidemic in Moscow during which his daughter was critically ill, and the beginning of ministry on the University of Idaho campus.

The Reverend H. H. Mitchell served St. Mark's from 1921 to 1932. He was the first priest to be called "father" rather than "mister" and was beloved by my mother's family.



The Rev. H.H. Mitchell
January 1921—May 1932



The Rev. Jonathan Watson
c. 1908 – June 1917

Addition: Canterbury House with Connected Rectory

A better view of the rectory (on the left) connected by a breezeway to the Canterbury House (on the right). The

rectory was built in 1936 and the Canterbury House in 1946. Both were located on a double lot, #612 and #618 Elm Street, on the University of Idaho campus. Both



buildings (and both lots) have not existed for fifty years, the area now having been returned to the University.



Silver filigree cross currently in use in St. Mark's (photo by Elaina Pierson)

Correction: Processional Cross

The silver filigree cross now in use in St. Mark's is not the cross that was saved from the 1937 fire. That cross was of burnished brass. The present cross (shown here and pictured in the first instalment of the church history) was purchased with Memorial Funds in 1967.

Correction: Source Material

In the St. Mark's file at the Latah County Historical Society, there is an undated account of a meeting between some women of St. Mark's Episcopal Church and a woman who had been a long-time member during the early years

of the church, Mary Williamson d'Easum. In the account there is this exchange:

Mary is discussing her friend, Pauline Mitchell, daughter of the rector at that time, when she is interrupted by someone identified as Elsie Mann. Mary says "You are Pauline? Elsie Pauline, don't know where I get that. Mitchell, I guess."

I took this at face value and included a note in my history of St. Mark's that Elsie Mann was Elsie Pauline. That was not true. It is impossible to tell how the error occurred in the transcript of that meeting – some misunderstanding between Elsie and Mary or something misheard by the transcriber. The error was printed in the first edition of my history but has since been corrected and does not show up in the now on-line version. I regret the error.

Additions: Related Photographs

As mentioned in Mary d'Easum's memories of the church, the Mitchell family had a cabin on Moscow Mountain that was a popular gathering place for students.



Mary Williamson (d'Easum), Dorothy Parsons, Dick Taylor, and Pauline Mitchell



The Mitchell cabin on Moscow Mountain

Mary and Pauline Mitchell were good friends and enjoyed outings to the cabin and nearby surroundings.

Photos courtesy of author.



There was an old stamp mill "above cabin" – a good uphill hike of two miles from the Mitchell cabin.



Near the cabin there was a pond. Left to right, Pauline and Herbert Mitchell, Mary Williamson, and Leland Chapman

A Little Bit of Heaven

I love an old farm house with picket fence,
A porch where hangs a creaking old oak swing;
I love the rooster's crow at dawn of day,
And evening time, when crickets sweetly sing.

I love the purr of tractors in the field,
The cloud behind of swirling, twirling dust;
I love a weathered barn that seems to smile;
A hayfork, now abandoned, gone to rust.

I love a herd of cows in pastures green,
And ponies, saddled up for picnic time.
I love a field of rippling, golden wheat,
And combines' swaths, like poetry in rhyme.

I love a fence of wood that's tumbling down
Beside a country road that winds along;
A barefoot boy and girl with fishing poles,
A sparkling stream that sings a lilting song.

The country is a magnet to my soul,
And how I pray in heaven there will be
A farmstead waiting just around the bend,
And dusty, winding lanes to welcome me.

By Sandra Town Lytle

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Sandra Town Lytle was born in Moscow, Idaho, in 1945. Since 1985 she has been writing articles and poetry and was once nominated for the Pushcart Prize, which honors literary works published in small presses each year.

Remembering My Gem of Idaho

I live in Moscow, Idaho,
Where I was born so long ago.
These golden wheat fields still impart
The scent they once wrapped 'round my heart.

Our town's a treasure to behold
Near barns of red and fields of gold,
And ah, Fort Russell's just sublime,
Especially in Autumn time!

We've built new things but kept some old.
Like friends they're worth their weight in gold.
We need reminders of the past
And builders who made things that last.

In my front room, you'll surely see
The island-lover side of me,
With Polynesian shells and fans;
Of course, my pics of kids and "grans."

Samoan tappa's on one wall
And tiki gods gaze over all
My shells in baskets everywhere
And huge capiz shell windchime there.

My grandma's Bible's by my chair;
And in a leather-bound book there
With gilded edges, you will see
My published world-wide poetry.

My kitchen holds some great antiques,
And way up high goose Shakespeare peeks
Around old mixing bowls and tins
For his friend Poe with impish grins.

My bathroom holds mementos of
The coast of Oregon I love.
I also love my seashell leis,
The souvenirs of travel days.

A seascape hangs above my bed
Inspiring sweet dreams in my head
Of when my precious sis and I
Combed beaches where the seagulls cry.

On Saturdays, I'll likely be
At yard sales with my friends. Then we
Will shop the farmers' market for
The fruits and veggies we adore.

On Sunday, off to church, I'll go
To honor God, whom I love so.
He gently guides me through each day
And always listens when I pray.

My heart will swell with pure delight
If on a splendid summer night
I hear the UI carillon
Play melodies to dream upon.

The hours I'll treasure most will be
Ones shared with friends and family
And those I'll spend at twilight time
To pen my thoughts in lilting rhyme.

My gem called Moscow, Idaho,
Is such a part of me I know.
I'll never leave this town I love
Until God beckons me above.

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