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# LATAH LEGACY

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE LATAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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A ground-powered combine operating  
on the Weisgerber farm

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MRS. J. W. WATTS  
917 E. SEVENTH  
MOSCOW, IDAHO 83843

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Newsletter

Mary Reed and Keith Petersen

(Book Review, continued from page 28)

But the meat is in the pictures, and these are excellent. Woolston is an artist who sees with clarity, understanding and compassion. He has a sensitive feeling not only for light and form, but also for meaning in human terms.

The book is well designed and carefully crafted, with sewn binding, heavy cloth-covered board covers, and it is printed on heavy matt-white stock well suited to

the reproduction of the black and white photography.

I was both delighted and instructed, and I highly recommend it.

John Talbott has lived in Moscow since he was 8 years. He has been a consulting wood technologist since his retirement from WSU and has been a photographer for some 50 years. John is currently on the Board of the Latah County Historical Society.

## A LATAH COUNTY FARM

1880 to the Present

by Keith Williams

In the southwestern portion of Latah County and in the northern segment of Nez Perce County lie the land holdings of the Wahl family. Their farm is a composite whole consisting of many different land parcels and several sets of buildings. Passed on to, and improved by, several generations, the sprawling growth evidenced by this conglomeration of lands can not only be indicative of Wahl's personal success, but illustrative of the solvency of large family farms in the area as well. In fact, the farm and the lifestyles of the various generations of Wahls who built it epitomizes life and living conditions on the average large family farm in the Palouse.

The first Wahl to move into the Palouse came to the region in 1879. Born in Baden, Germany, in 1831, Christian Wahl moved with his family to New York state while still a child and received a college education in Civil Engineering there as a young man. At the age of twenty-nine, he came west to California by way of Panama in 1860 and for almost twenty years he taught school, surveyed, and farmed throughout California and Oregon. In 1880, Christian finally reached the Palouse where he took a timber claim of 160 acres seven miles east of Genesee, Idaho.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Wahl farmed and raised fruit and stock as well as occasionally doing contract work in carpentry and serving as a teacher in a local country school.<sup>2</sup> On the farm, Mr. Wahl and his wife, Mary, raised ten children: Ada, John, Sherman, Phillip, William, Diantha, George, Edward and Edna (twins), and Mathias.<sup>3</sup>

In 1887, Christian died in a hunting accident and the eldest son, John, took over the farm's operation. But after John's untimely death by drowning in 1893, the task fell to twenty-three-year-old Sherman, the next oldest son. Always a hard working and industrious fellow, Sherman gave up his formal education in deference to work, only completing the fourth grade.<sup>4</sup> Now that the responsibility for the farm was in his hands, he applied himself even harder to the task, supporting his brothers and sisters and his widowed mother. He put a brother and sister through the University of Idaho at Moscow and a sister through nursing school in Spokane. He also established his other brothers on various homesteads in Latah and Nez Perce counties as well as in Oregon.<sup>5</sup>

Sherman never took a homestead for himself. Any lands which he accumulated were acquired by purchase. He did not own the original timber claim that his father had begun. This became his mother's and remained in her possession, although many of the family debts and responsibilities fell upon Sherman regardless.<sup>6</sup> Partly as a means to liquidate these debts and take care of the family, and partly because it provided a means to establish capital, Sherman brought land whenever the opportunity presented itself. To make these lands more easily farmable, he then improved them, which in some cases included the construction of a residence and other farm outbuildings.<sup>7</sup>

In the mid-1890s, Sherman purchased 260 acres of canyon land near Juliaetta, Idaho, from a brother and another man. The grazing land already had several improvements, including a small two-story house, a modest barn, a woodshed, and a prune dryer. Sherman and his wife, Mary, often stayed at this farm, so they could take their son, Sherman Kellis, handicapped at birth, to a Juliaetta osteopath.



Christian Wahl.

The family's main home was on the land parcel familiarly called the "Weisgerber Place."<sup>8</sup> Located about six miles east of Genesee, the Wahls first acquired it in 1891. Five years later, Sherman purchased it from his mother, and it was here that he and Mary raised Sherman K., Tom, and Elsie.<sup>9</sup> Eventually, the farmstead became the family's headquarters.

The house was a large structure with several bedrooms and a half-floored sleeping loft in the attic.

The Wahls obtained their water from a shallow-drilled well northeast of the house. When the thin galvanized pipe well casing collapsed, the well had to be re-dug by hand by a depth of twenty feet. Unfortunately, this did not provide an acceptable water supply and in 1915 a new well was drilled slightly north of the original site. Possibly, at this time, Sherman joined forces with Mary's father to remodel the home, installing plumbing and an indoor bathroom, thereby making obsolete the outdoor privy, or "Garden House" as Mrs. Wahl preferred to call it.<sup>10</sup> The bath was one of the first in the area and Mrs. Wahl often let visiting friends and neighbors indulge themselves in the rare luxury of an indoor tub bath. Since Mary's father was a tinsmith by trade and handy with metal working, every house that the family lived in had indoor plumbing of one sort or another, although as one family member admitted, "it wasn't always working."<sup>11</sup>

For fifty years, the Wahl family depended on wood heat, which created problems because of the paucity of timber on the Palouse hillsides. Most of the firewood came from the Troy area, a difficult thirty miles from the Weisgerber Place. The dirt roads became impassable quagmires during the fall and spring rains, while the midsummer dry spell turned the routes into choking rivers of dust. Ironically, people looked forward to the winter months when the frozen or snow-covered roads were easier to traverse by wagon or sleigh.<sup>12</sup> The Wahls bought wood cut into four foot "cordwood" lengths as well as "slabwood," a mill byproduct, from the O. K. Olsen sawmill in Troy. To obtain a year's supply of firewood required several overnight trips.

If they did not purchase enough wood before the onslaught of winter, and were unable to make the journey to Troy, the family often burned refuse, wood scraps, and old cedar fence posts (which they usu-

ally split into kindling), and grubbed out trees from old timber claims and orchards. The timber claim trees seldom grew to appreciable size and as a result amounted to little more than scrub. Yet they burned and did provide warmth on a cold winter's night. When none of these options proved available, the family simply drove into Genesee for a wagonload of coal, an expensive solution, but better than freezing.<sup>13</sup> These problems continued until the family traded their wood stoves for oil in 1941.<sup>14</sup>

The family lived quite comfortably during the teens and into the twenties as indicated by some of their major purchases and forms of entertainment. For example, the Wahls purchased several new automobiles during and immediately following World

War I, a time of general economic prosperity for many American farmers. In 1917, they bought their first car, a Model "T" Ford, which was wrecked within a year. Shortly thereafter, they acquired a new and more expensive motor car, a 1918 Dodge. And the next year, they traded in the Dodge for an even more luxurious automobile, a Franklin.<sup>15</sup>

Other extravagances likewise show the Wahls' financial solvency. They not only bought an "English Billiards" table in 1908, but also built a room to house it. Other remodeling efforts included indoor plumbing, a pantry or "cream room," and connection of the cellar to the house. The family also purchased a crank phonograph in 1919, a stereopticon, and other expensive means of entertainment such as a piano.<sup>16</sup>



A corner of the Wahl farm with the Weisgerber farm in the background.

The Wahls enjoyed more traditional pastimes as well. Music filled an important niche in the family's entertainment. Aside from the tunes from Mrs. Wahl's piano, the hired men often played the harmonica or some other small instrument and after a hard day's work, their music furnished a much needed diversion. Reading and games, such as checkers, cards, and charades, helped while away long winter nights.<sup>17</sup> Work itself often occasioned its own recreational outlet, particularly group activities. Harvest, haying, and butchering allowed neighbors to get together and created times for companionship not normally available. They regarded these events as pleasurable experiences, even though they involved a lot of hard work.<sup>18</sup> Meals themselves, often shared with neighbors, provided an event looked forward to even when strictly family affairs. While seldom fancy, they were always hearty with breakfast and dinner (served at noon) the largest meals of the day. Like most farm families, the Wahls ate well. A typical breakfast consisted of eggs, ham or bacon, potatoes (usually fried), and bread, toast, or hotcakes, while dinner could be composed of ham or pork, chicken, or beef with potatoes, gravy, vegetables, bread, and fruit.<sup>19</sup> Also like most farm families, the Wahls raised most of their own meat, dairy products, fruits, and vegetables.

Sherman kept about ten cows and calves that were a mix of dairy and beef breeds. Each year he bred his cows to beef bulls, usually Herefords. The subsequent calves were kept for about two years and then either butchered, sold, or if a heifer, sometimes bred. Young Tom in the meantime put the calves to good use practicing his own informal "rodeoing" talents in calf-riding, which he often regretted, given the tendency of this particular animal toward rather prominent backbones and the relative tenderness of certain portions of the human anatomy.<sup>20</sup>

The family also raised chickens and hogs, which were particularly important to their food supply. The one to two dozen chickens had the run of the barnyard,



Sherman and Mary Wahl; Elsie, Kellis, and Tom.

which made the daily search for eggs a rather uncertain endeavor, but one infused with challenge at the same time. In addition, the Wahls kept two or three brood sows which, along with their pigs, kept the family well supplied with pork for their table.<sup>21</sup>

Gathering eggs, feeding the animals, cleaning their stables and pens, and caring for the garden demanded a large part of daily life on the Wahl farm.<sup>22</sup> Chores included the sorting of stored food (potatoes, carrots, turnips, apples, and so forth) to eliminate rotten vegetables and fruits in order to prevent the rapid spoilage of others in the pile, and butchering.<sup>23</sup>

Butchering days were nearly always a neighborhood community event, a time of companionship and fun, yet a time of hard work as well. Each family butchered several pigs at once, which could mean as many as twenty animals slaughtered in a day, since several families were involved.<sup>24</sup> The hogs were killed, scalded, scraped, and rinsed. Then the carcasses were allowed to hang for a day or two to "stiffen" in preparation for cutting.<sup>25</sup> Since they generally held butcherings in late fall, when the weather turned cool, neither flies and other insects nor spoiling heat created a problem during the hanging period.<sup>26</sup>

The Sherman Wahl family's main preservative measure was salt-curing and smoking, although they canned the choicest portions (pork tenderloin for example) to preserve more of the natural flavor. The meat, particularly pork as the process did not work well with beef, would be cut after hanging for an appropriate period of time, then piled in alternating layers of meat and salt in the back porch area of the house. The salt slowly permeated the meat, drying it out. They continued to add salt until the process was complete and the meat dried. To further preserve the meat, it was hung in the smokehouse to smoke-cure.<sup>27</sup> Meat preserved in this fashion easily lasted a year, although the Wahls occasionally butchered a calf, pig, or sheep in the summertime to allow for a change from salted pork, which became tiresome after a while. When they butchered these animals out of season, they usually shared the meat with all of the neighbors, as they had no effective methods to keep the fresh meat from spoiling.<sup>28</sup>

The Wahl family did have an ice house located in the upstairs or ground floor section of the cellar, but it had been remodeled and was used instead as a bedroom. Although they had a small ice-box, most of the fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables were stored in the cellar or cream room, which maintained a fairly cool temperature. Or they could can the food and store it in these same locations.<sup>29</sup> For

obvious reasons, the family never harvested ice, although they occasionally bought a block or two in town for use in their icebox. True refrigeration did not come to the Wahl residence until after 1939, when they received electrical service.<sup>30</sup>

Wheat was the main cash crop on the Wahl family farm. In addition, Sherman grew oats and barley as horse feed and some timothy hay in the bottomlands for the same purpose. Wheat was sacked and hauled to the railroad at Genesee. Some in the area had switched to bulk shipment as early as the 1920s, but only if they lived close to a town or other shipping depot.<sup>31</sup> The Wahl farm, at its closest point, was seven miles from Genesee, too far to allow bulk shipment by wagon. It was much simpler to bag the wheat and store it until harvest ended, then haul it to the warehouse. At any rate, the Wahls did not switch to bulk handling until the late 1930s.

Because the Wahls farmed their extensive acreage with horses for over four decades, they encountered problems when traveling from one land parcel to another during harvest and other agricultural activities. The family farm sprawled over two townships in Latah and Nez Perce Counties, and it simply was not feasible on a daily basis to travel with thirty to forty horses from the home place to a section three or four miles away. Instead, in addition to the home place, the Wahls maintained separate residences with appropriate farm outbuildings on the isolated land parcels.<sup>32</sup> They then stayed at each one until they completed the job at hand.

But horses, once the bubble of romance about them is burst, meant a lot of extra work and were inefficient. They needed constant care and attention, frequent rest breaks, and permitted the use of only minimal amounts of equipment. For example, a team of eight horses could pull only two, fourteen-inch plows, which made plowing 160 acres seem to take forever to the man riding the plow.<sup>33</sup> They required indirect attention as well. The repair,

cleaning, and oiling of harnesses took up much of winter's "slack time," as did the manufacture of singletrees, doubletrees, and clevices.<sup>34</sup> Although many area farmers held on to horses as long as possible out of a sense of tradition and affection, the Wahl family welcomed the move to tractors, purchasing their first, a caterpillar, in 1930. For a time, horses were kept for such auxiliary jobs as pulling wagons and secondary equipment. But the last horses on the Wahl farm saw work in the late 1930s; none were in use after 1940.<sup>35</sup>

Sherman Wahl did not live to see all of these changes take place as many of them occurred when Tom took over the farm's operation after his death. Sherman died of cancer in 1932 at sixty-two years of age at the time his son, Tom, was attending the University of Idaho. Though not yet through with his degree in Electrical Engineering, Tom left school the spring before his father's death to operate the family farm.<sup>36</sup> Sherman's estate, which his wife Mary and their three children divided equally, amounted to approximately thirty-eight thousand dollars in real estate alone, a substantial sum in the depression years of the 1930s.<sup>37</sup> As the able-bodied man in the family, the vast majority of the 1,675 acres eventually came under Tom's control.<sup>38</sup> With more land than he cared to handle, Tom sold some of the outlying parcels to help clear up some of the debts, which were still outstanding from when Sherman had mortgaged some of his property to purchase more land. This left Tom with 1,355 acres, approximately 1,095 of which were good, tillable land.<sup>39</sup> He could not sell these acres for as much as Sherman had paid because of the depressed economy, yet their sale still helped him to establish a firm foundation for the farm's future operation.<sup>40</sup>

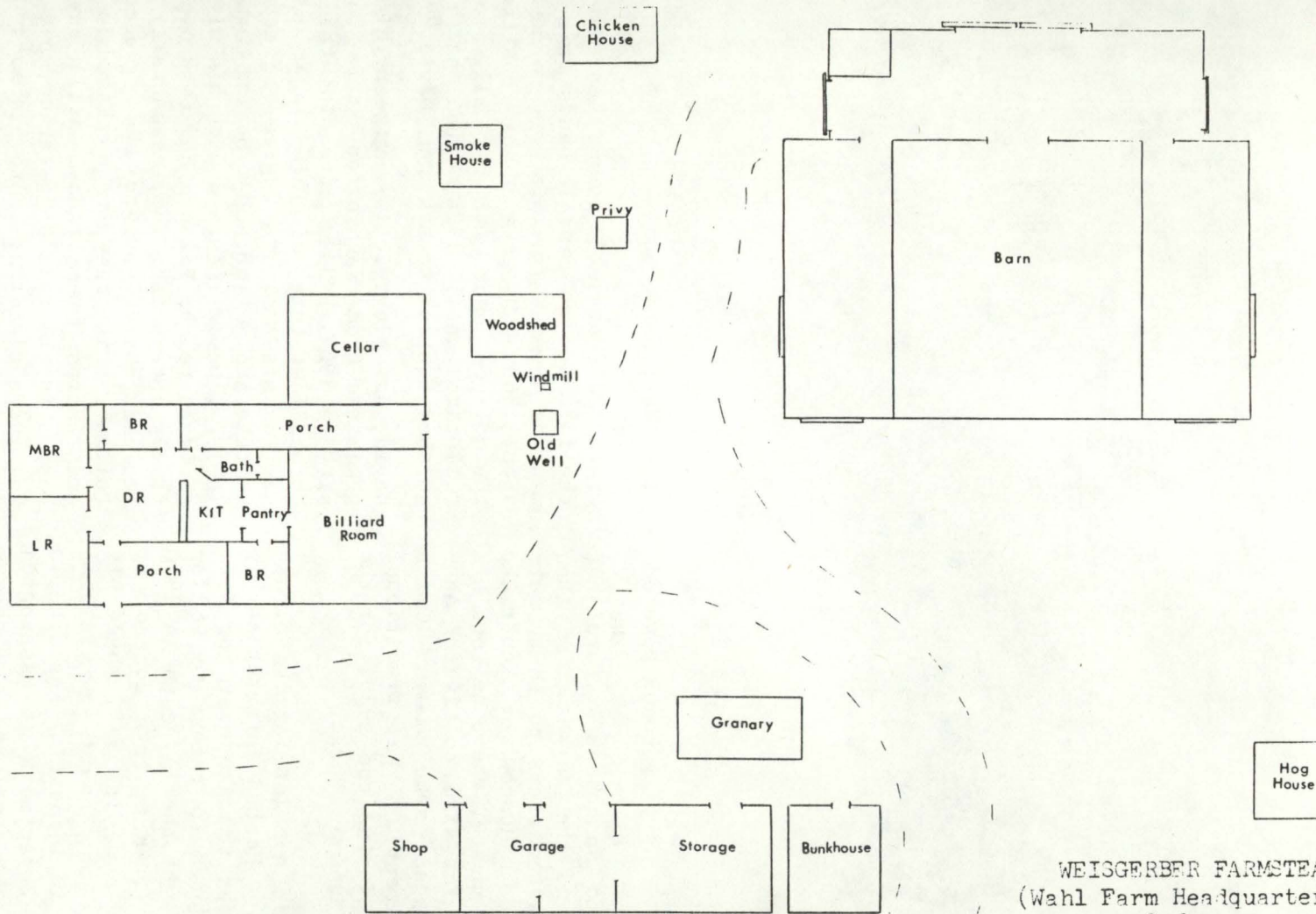
Tom lived with his mother, brother, and sister in the Weisgerber home for the first seven years following his father's death. After his marriage in 1939 to Elizabeth Gamble, he and his new wife moved into another set of buildings on their property, the "old Davis Place."<sup>41</sup>

Sherman and Mary Wahl had purchased the Davis property in 1917 for fourteen thousand dollars.<sup>42</sup> The parcel was first homesteaded in 1878 by David R. Davis, who raised hogs, grains, and fruit.<sup>43</sup> Davis grew prunes extensively and even had his own prune dryer on the farm, a thirty-six by fifty-six structure which handled "a carload of dried fruit in less than a month." In addition to his 850 Italian prune trees, he also had 500 trees of assorted peaches, cherries, pears, and apples.<sup>44</sup> Besides the prune dryer, the property also contained a large, two-story house, a granary, machine shed, smokehouse, and other appropriate outbuildings. Coincidentally, old Christian Wahl himself constructed the farmstead's large barn. Davis had hired him to build the structure in about the mid-1880s. Christian's engineering and carpentry experience apparently had served him well.<sup>45</sup> None of the Wahl family lived on the premises until Tom and Elizabeth's marriage in 1939, yet it had not fallen into total disrepair because the Wahls occasionally used the home to house and feed hired hands. Consequently, the newly-weds did not have too difficult a task to make it livable again.<sup>46</sup>

Under Tom's management, the farm became more diversified than it had been while in Sherman's control. Tom raised little fruit, no cattle, and only kept horses until the late 1930s, but he did run hogs, and, in fact, developed quite a drove. Between 1939 and 1945, Tom kept about fifty sows, mostly Durhams and Belted Hampshires, and allowed them to "hog out" the harvested wheatfields. Since he also grew peas extensively, he found the hogs an excellent means of utilizing waste peas and pea crops that "bleached" on the vine and were, therefore, virtually worthless on the agricultural marketplace.<sup>47</sup>

Tom raised peas from the mid-1930s until the end of World War II in 1945. This came about partially because wheat received a low return during these years, while peas commanded a fair price, and partly because of the wheatlands reduction of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. For the most part, Tom grew these peas





-7-

WEISGERBER FARMSTEAD  
(Wahl Farm Headquarters)  
1896-1939

From a sketch by Tom Wahl,  
not to scale



Ground powered combine, Wahl farm.

under contract to someone who furnished both the seed and the market. He then hauled his harvested crops to their outlets, generally in Moscow or Kendrick, rather than to Genesee, where he took his wheat crops.<sup>48</sup> Tom also cultivated Austrian (winter) peas, some mustard (as a one-time experiment), the traditional oats and barley during the 1930s for the horses, and, of course, wheat.<sup>49</sup>

Tom, however, did not let farming occupy all of his time. He had interrupted his engineering career to take over the farm in 1932, and wanted to return to it for many years. His brother's death in 1940 left his mother free to take control of the farm and so Tom, in 1945, moved his wife and young son, David, to Pullman where he worked in Industrial Research in the Engineering Department at Washington State College. He completed his degree in 1950, remaining in Pullman another two years, while his mother and one of his wife's brothers ran the farm. In 1952, the Tom Wahls moved back to the Davis Place and took control again, although he returned to Pullman to work during the

winter "off-season" even then, leaving the farm in the capable hands of a hired man who worked for him year-round. In about 1960, Tom gave up his position at the college once and for all, farming full-time until 1974, when he relinquished control to his son, David.<sup>50</sup>

David, an electrical engineer himself, graduated from Washington State University in 1962. After attending the California Institute of Technology and receiving his Master's Degree, he moved to Seattle and a job with Boeing in 1964. In 1974, David returned with his wife and children to the Palouse and took over the family enterprise. Tom, essentially semi-retired, moved back to the property in Pullman, which they had purchased in 1946, and remains there today, still participating in the farm's operation, but leaving its administration to his son. David and his family, after living for several years in a mobile home located on the Davis place, constructed a new house on the Weisgerber land in place of the old one and moved his family into it in 1977, where he currently continues to manage the farm.<sup>51</sup>

The Wahl farm, passed on from generation to generation, continues to be a productive entity. A typical large-acreage family farm for the Palouse region, it is not as large as some of the region's corporate holdings. Yet it exemplifies the success of family farming on the Palouse, and shows a typical pattern of growth for full-use area wheat farms.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>n.a., Illustrated History of North Idaho: Embracing Nez Perce, Idaho, Latah, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties, State of Idaho (Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903), p. 673. It should be noted that the Christian Wahl Family spent the winter of 1879/1880 near Johnson, WA, then moved to their timber claim in the spring. "Personal Scrapbook" in Tom Wahl's possession.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.; Interview with Mr. Tom Wahl conducted by Keith Williams, 9/29/82.

<sup>3</sup>Illustrated History of North Idaho, p. 673. A daughter, Saloma, died while the family resided in Oregon in 1875, John drowned in 1893, and one son, William, was an epileptic and could help but little with the farm's operation.

<sup>4</sup>It should be noted that although his formal education ended at the fourth grade, his education continued at home through his father's and mother's efforts. The other children in the family, with the exception of those three who went on to college, went through the sixth grade or so before ending their formal education, but ended up with the equivalent of an eighth-grade education through study under Christian, or later their sister-in-law, Mary.

<sup>5</sup>Interview with Tom and Elizabeth Wahl conducted by Sam Schrager, 1977, transcript, third interview, pp. 8-9, 24, Latah County Historical Society Collection, Moscow, Idaho.

<sup>6</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 9/29/82. For information on some of these debts and responsibilities, see Interview with Mary Wahl conducted by her son, Tom Wahl, 12/23/62.

<sup>7</sup>The construction of farm buildings and even homes on properties far removed from the home place was necessary because of the difficulty in moving horses and horse-drawn equipment long distances every day. Rather than waste hours out of every work day, the family simply moved to the property being worked--therefore, if no residence and outbuildings existed on the property at purchase, a construction project was necessary.

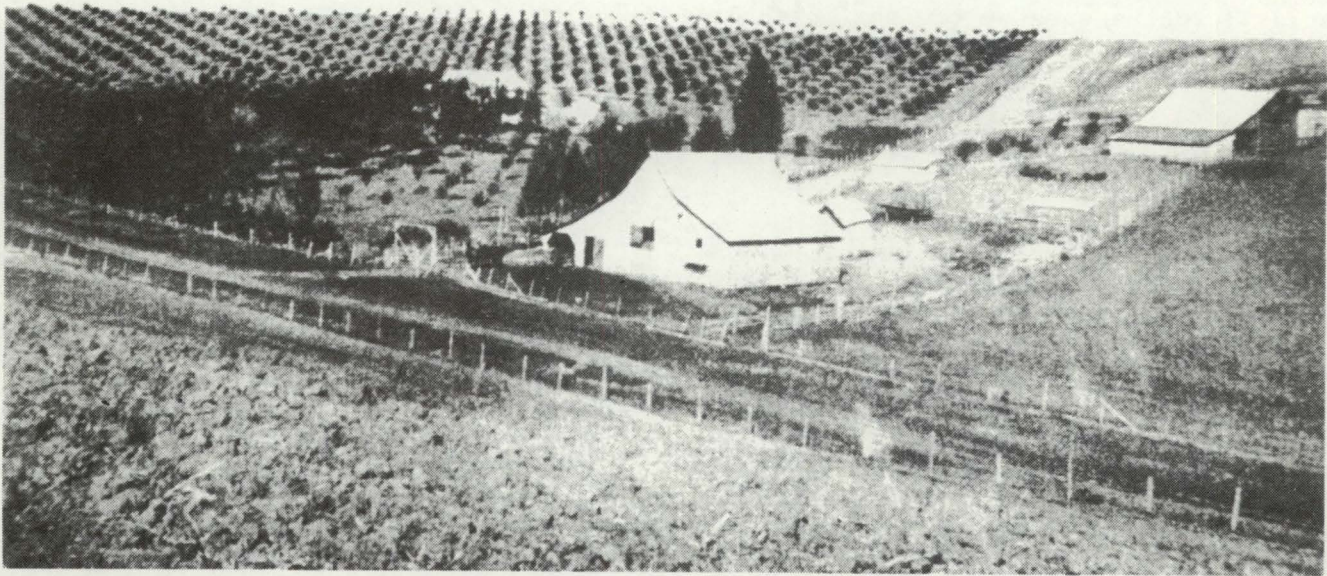
<sup>8</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/16/83.

<sup>9</sup>Title Abstracts, in Wahl Family possession, legal description S.W. 1/4, Sec. 10, TWP 37, N.R. 4, W.B.M. Interestingly, John had purchased this 160 acre tract in 1891 for only \$3,000, \$18.75 per acre.

<sup>10</sup>Interviews with Tom Wahl indicate his belief that the indoor plumbing and bath may have been installed in about 1909. This could well be true, however, it would seem that the pumping capabilities of a windmill would have been much more conducive to the operation of indoor plumbing than carrying water from the well by the bucket and the windmill sat over the new well dug in 1915. A handpump would have worked, except for the fact that the well actually sat quite a distance from the house and there were no pumps within the house itself. See Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/16/83.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid.; Wahl interview by S. Schrager, 1977, third interview, transcript, p. 58, L.C.H.S. Collection. Henry McFarland, Mary's father, had learned the tinsmithing trade from a brother in Corvallis, Oregon, years earlier. Interviews of Mary Wahl by Tom Wahl, 12/23/62.

<sup>12</sup>Wahl interview by S. Schrager, 1976, second interview, transcript, pp. 2-4, 9. Sleighs also sat lower to the ground and were easier to load as a result.



The orchard on the Wahl farm, c. 1900.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., pp. 2-4.

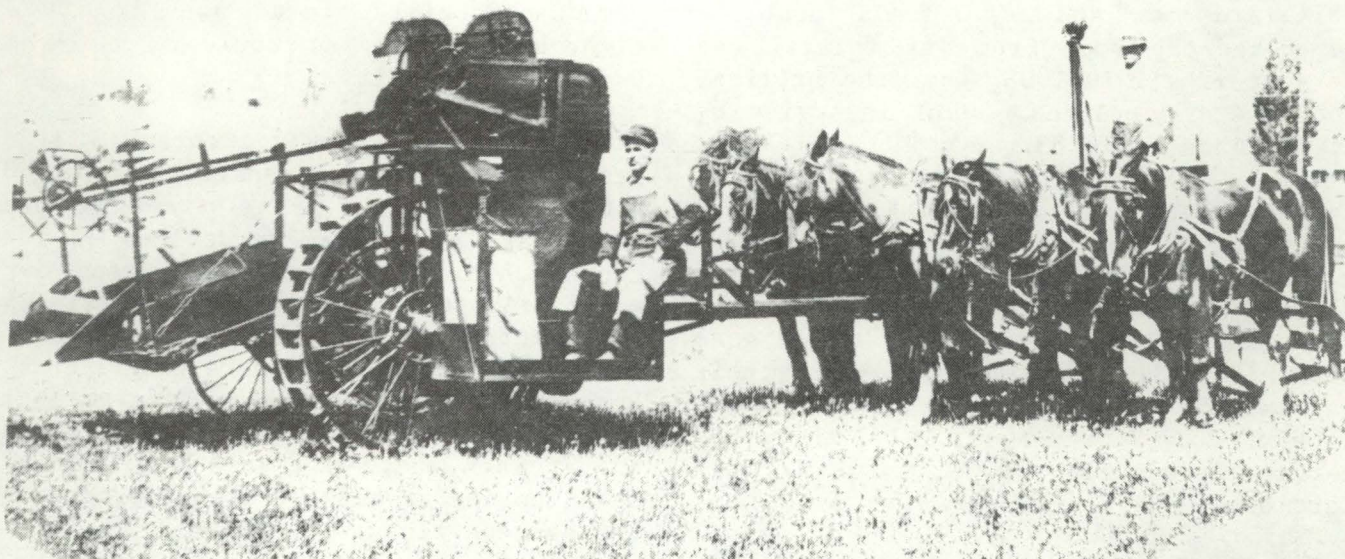
<sup>14</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/10/83.

<sup>15</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/17/82. The outbreak of WWI in Europe brought to the United States an agricultural prosperity as crop prices were swept to higher levels. This was particularly true after the U.S. joined in the war in 1917. In fact, from 1914 to 1919, U.S. crop prices more than doubled with wheat rising from 98 cents a bushel to \$2.16. This was caused by the increased need for U.S. crops as war-torn Europe could not supply her own foodstuffs. The condition actually lasted for about two years after war's end, when Europe finally got back on its feet, then in the latter part of 1920, prices slumped again; see V. R. Wertz, Economic Trends in Agriculture (Ann Arbor, J. W. Edwards Publisher, 1954), p. 237.

<sup>16</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/16/83.

<sup>17</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/10/83; Wahl interview by S. Schragar, 1977, third interview, transcript, p. 22, L.C.H.S. Collection. The first book Tom Wahl ever read was entitled Man on the Box, a sort of dime novel love story which he still has a copy of.

<sup>18</sup>Wahl interview by S. Schragar, 1976, second interview, transcript, pp. 24-25, L.C.H.S. Collection. Using these occasions as neighborhood celebrations is quite typical for the Palouse; for corroboration, see interview with Carl Mantz, 1981 (Mr. Mantz was a farmer near Harvard, ID); interview with Mr. Norla Callison of Kendrick, 1982; and interview with Gilbert Slind and Elif Filan, farmers in the western portion of the Palouse, 1983. All interviews are by K. Williams and are in his possession. Other examples of this may be found in the L.C.H.S. or W.C.H.S. Oral History Collections and in the M.A.S.C. Section of Holland Library at Washington State University.



Side view of an Idaho Harvester, 1911 (not necessarily on the Wahl farm).

<sup>19</sup>Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1977, third interview, transcript, pp. 24-25, L.C.H.S. Collection.

<sup>20</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/10/83. The family did not produce all of their own dairy products. Cheese, a yellow cheddar, was purchased in town by the four pound wedge. See Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1976, second interview, transcript, p. 9, L.C.H.S. Collection.

<sup>21</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/10/83. The family never ran any sheep, preferring to buy their mutton in town or occasionally purchasing one from a neighbor to butcher. Sheep, not eaten often by the Wahls, served mostly as a treat.

<sup>22</sup>Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1976, second interview, transcript, pp. 1-22, L.C.H.S. Collection.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid., p. 6.

<sup>24</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/10/83; Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1976, second interview, transcript, p. 11, L.C.H.S. Collection. Cattle were generally slaughtered individually when needed and the

meat was often divided up among the neighbors, since there was no refrigeration no good means of preserving the meat. This meat was generally eaten fresh, although a small amount was often canned. See Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1977, third interview, transcript, pp. 20-21, L.C.H.S. Collection.

<sup>25</sup>Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1976, second interview, transcript, pp. 15-17, 21, L.C.H.S. Collection.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid., p. 10.

<sup>27</sup>Wahl interviews by K. Williams, 5/10/83 and 5/16/83.

<sup>28</sup>Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1977, third interview, transcript, pp. 20-21, L.C.H.S. Collection.

<sup>29</sup>The "cream room" had once been the location of a stairway up to the attic, which had been half-floored as a sleeping loft. The cream room was a cool place and served as a pantry, although it was not as cool as the underground cellar and most foods were stored there for this reason. The

pantry received the name "cream room" because it was the area used to store and cool milk. Along with this function, it served as a connecting walkway into the "billiard room" and so the family probably remodeled the room from its initial use as a stairwell in 1908, when the billiard room was constructed. Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/16/83.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid.; Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/10/83.

<sup>31</sup>Ibid.; before the railroad reached Genesee, when Sherman was a boy, he had gone with his father, Christian, to haul their harvest all the way to Lewiston. Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1977, third interview, transcript, p. 2, L.C.H.S. Collection.

<sup>32</sup>Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1977, third interview, transcript, p. 11, L.C.H.S. Collection. As an example, Sherman built a two-story house and barn on the property located in Sections 27 and 18 (TWP 37 N.) to use when the family actively farmed that parcel. It should be noted, however, that his brother and sister lived there for a time and the house may have been constructed partially for that purpose. There are other examples, however, which support this point, the buildings on the canyon land for one. Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/16/83.

<sup>33</sup>Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1977, third interview, transcript, p. 12, L.C.H.S. Collection. According to Thomas B. Keith, The Horse Interlude: A Pictorial History of Man in the Inland Northwest (University of Idaho Press, Moscow, Idaho, 1976), p. 37.

A six-horse team with a two bottom, fourteen inch plow plowed four acres a day on steep, hilly terrain. An eight-horse team with two bottom eighteen inch plow managed five acres a day, or six acres if a three bottom fourteen inch plow was used. These are of course averages and many factors must be considered.

Since the Wahls used two sets of two bottom, fourteen-inch plows with eight horse teams, they could plow about ten-twelve acres a day. By comparison, a caterpillar "Palouse Special" tractor would pull an eight bottom plow so could do twice as much acreage easily.

<sup>34</sup>Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1976, second interview, transcript, p. 8, L.C.H.S. Collection. Singletrees, double-trees, and clevises were devices used to connect a team of harnessed horses to a wagon or piece of equipment. Very simply, a singletree was a crossbar with a hook at each end, a doubletree was a longer crossbar attached to a piece of equipment to which two singletrees would be attached, one at each end. A clevis was simply a metal connector between these devices and the harness rings.

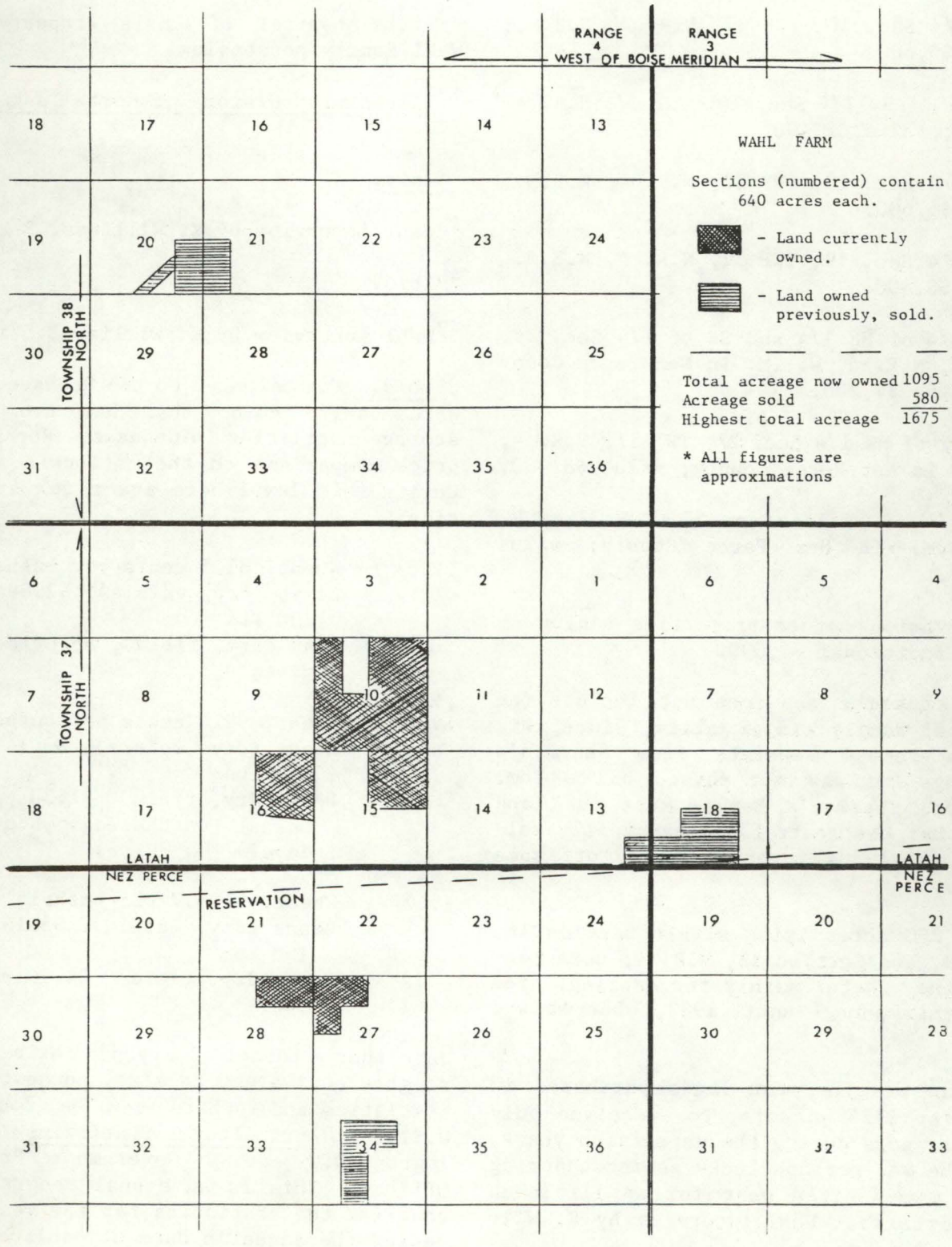
<sup>35</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/10/83; Wahl interview by S. Schrage, 1977, third interview, transcript, p. 54, L.C.H.S. Collection. The use of horses and wagons as auxiliary to tractors was quite typical; see interview with Norla Callison, a farmer on American Ridge near Kendrick, by K. Williams in 1982; and Gilbert Slind and Elif Filan by K. Williams in 1983.

<sup>36</sup>Title Abstracts, in Wahl Family possession, Petition for Probate of Will; Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/17/82.

<sup>37</sup>Title Abstracts, in Wahl Family possession, Petition for Probate of Will. In addition to this Real Estate valued at \$38,000, Sherman left \$800 in rents, issues and profits and \$4,000 in Personal Property.

<sup>38</sup>See map in text. A list of lands included in the estate as given by the Title Abstracts, Probate of Will and Hearings, in Wahl Family possession.

--E 1/2 SW 1/4 Sec. 20, and W 1/2 SW 1/4 Sec. 21, TWP 38 N. R. 4, W.B.M. along with a strip two rods wide in SE 1/4 Sec. 20, TWP 38 N.R. 4, W.B.M.; value \$3,500.



--NE 1/4 Sec. 15, TWP 37, N.R. 4, W.B.M.; value \$6,400.

--SE 1/4 Sec. 10, TWP 37, N.R. 4, W.B.M.; value \$5,600.

--W 1/2 of NW 1/4 Sec. 10, TWP 37, N.R. 4, W.B.M.; value \$2,400.

--NE 1/4 Sec. 10, TWP 37, N.R. 4, W.B.M.; value \$5,600.

--SW 1/4 Sec. 10, TWP 37, N.R. 4, W.B.M.; value \$6,400.

--SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 and SE of 1/4 Sec. 34, TWP 37, N.R. 4, W.B.M. in Nez Perce County; value \$4,200.

--N 1/2 of NW 1/4 Sec. 27, TWP 37, N.R. 4, W.B.M. in Nez Perce County; value \$3,000.

--SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 Sec. 27, TWP 37, N.R. 4, W.B.M. in Nez Perce County; value \$1,500.

--And various other properties adding up to an additional \$6,000.

\*Note that the map does not include the original family timber claim, since this was maintained separate from Sherman's holdings and was not passed on to Tom. In fact, Sherman's mother kept the land under her own control and eventually sold it in the 1930s in order to pay off some debts.

<sup>39</sup>The 260 acres lying within Section 18, N.R. 3, and Section 13, N.R. 4, were canyon land, useful mainly for grazing. Tom kept this parcel until 1983, when it was sold.

<sup>40</sup>As an example, for lands purchased in 1918 for \$125 an acre, Tom received only \$90 per acre during the depression years. Yet, he was perhaps lucky as lands during these times often went for as little as \$40 per acre. Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/17/82.

<sup>41</sup>The "Davis Place" is in the SE 1/4 of Sec. 10, TWP 37, N.R. 4, W.B.M.

<sup>42</sup>Title Abstract of Davis Property, in Wahl family possession.

<sup>43</sup>Illustrated History of North Idaho, p. 720.

<sup>44</sup>Ibid.

<sup>45</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 9/29/82.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid.

<sup>47</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/10/83.

<sup>48</sup>Ibid. Tom belonged to the Genesee Union Warehouse, a co-op that had two grain storage facilities in Genesee. For a crop price comparison on the nationwide level during this level here are a few statistics:

1935-36--Wheat, 81.5 cents per bushel  
Beans (dry, edible), \$2.89 per 100 lbs  
Peas (dry, field), no price given

1937 --Wheat, 99.4 cents per bushel  
Beans (dry, edible), \$3.14 per 100 lbs  
Peas (dry, field), \$1.35 per bushel (on the Idaho State level)

1942 --Wheat, \$105.7 per bushel  
Beans (dry, edible), \$3.14 per 100 lbs  
Peas (dry, field), \$4.49 per 100 lbs

Note that a bushel of dry peas or beans is roughly equivalent to sixty pounds. These statistics and others can be found in U.S.D.A. Agricultural Statistics (Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office). This is an annual report which contains the statistics for the year preceding the annual's date of publication.



<sup>49</sup>Ibid. Austrian Peas were an oil crop, although they were edible and a small market existed in Mexico and other Latin American countries. He raised Mustard for only one season, finding this crop to be unprofitable in his situation. For further information on the Agricultural Adjustment Act and Administration which affected wheat growers during the New Deal, see Edwin G. Nourse, et al., Three Years of Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Publication 73 of the Institute of Economics of The Brookings Institution

(Washington, D.C., 1937); Joseph S. Davis, On Agricultural Policy: 1926-1938, Food Research Institute (Stanford University, California, 1939); or M. L. Wilson, "The Plan for Acreage Limitation" in Agricultural Thought in the Twentieth Century, George McGovern, ed. (Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., 1967), pp 173-186.

<sup>50</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/17/82. Davis, Tom's son, was born in 1940.

<sup>51</sup>Wahl interview by K. Williams, 5/10/83.

[Mr. Williams is a graduate student at Washington State University. This article is extracted from his forthcoming doctoral dissertation entitled "Agricultural Development in Latah County and the Palouse Region."]

Editor's comment: It is readily observable that this article contains a rather large number of footnotes. The editor is aware that some readers would prefer a straight narrative with as few footnotes as possible. In this particular instance, the footnotes add a great deal to the history of the Wahl farm, and farming in general during the first half of the century, and were, therefore, considered an essential part of the article.

While we make no pretense to be a scholarly journal on the order of the American Historical Review, we do try to inform and entertain, but we also feel history should be as accurate as possible, and that a bibliography where applicable can offer opportunities to interested readers to consult additional reading on the subject, should they so desire. In this connection, we would like to receive letters and comments from our readers should they feel so motivated as to offer corrections or additional information on the topics presented. Please address the editor at the Latah County Historical Society.

We are always interested in receiving articles about some phase of Latah County history, or a family, or an event that should be re-told from your perspective. Photographs accompanying articles are also welcome, and will be added to the collection at the McConnell Mansion, or they can be returned if you so desire. In any event, we would be pleased to hear from you, our readers, on any subject, at any time, be it criticism, support, or information.

## FAREWELL TO THE POTLATCH MILL

by Keith Petersen

Author's note: In May 1983, four members of the Historical Society--John Talbott, Mary Reed, Carol Young, and I--spent several days covering the grounds of the Potlatch mill site, trying to gain some impressions of the place. Many of the photos illustrating this article are part of an excellent series of over 250 John took while documenting the site. We would like to thank Paul Tobin and the Potlatch Corporation for generously allowing us to traipse through the mill and for partially funding the photographic project. I would also like to thank him for his friendly conversations during the winter days which I spent going over the company's records. I am indebted to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a grant which made this research possible.

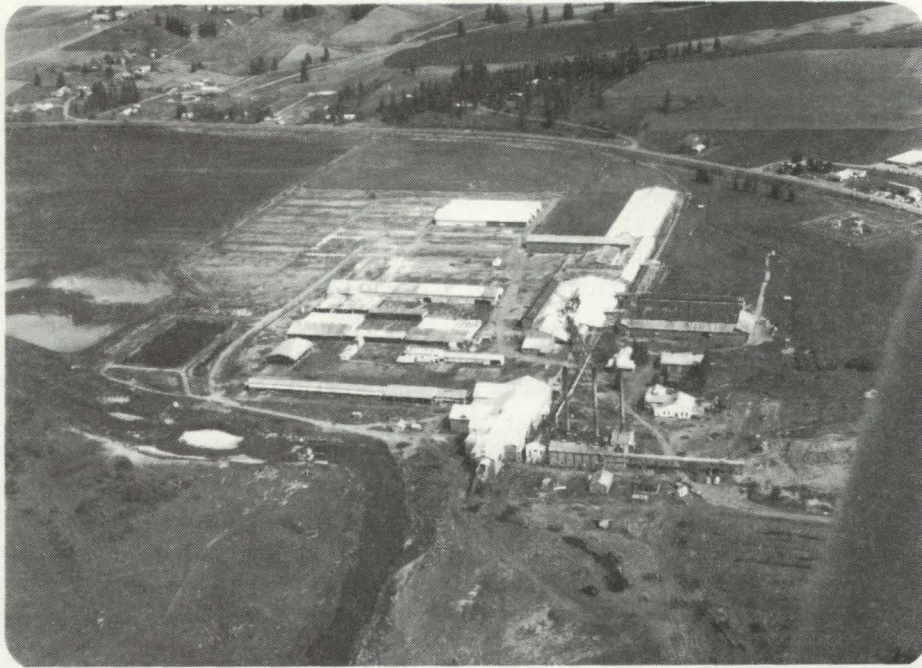
Simply put, the Potlatch mill site is huge. Somewhere near the middle of the plant sits a weathered ramp where Washington, Idaho and Montana Railroad ties rolled out of the sawmill. From this vantage point you are directly north of the sawmill proper, a three-story building over a football field long, the largest white pine mill in the world when built in 1905. To the west is the green chain, nearly 400 feet long. Upwards of 16 men pulled on this chain, sorting and sizing freshly cut, "green" lumber. To the northwest stands the staker where green lumber was separated for the dry kilns. Beyond this is a secondary power plant, the planing mill, four storage sheds, the locomotive repair building, head office, lunch room, and the blacksmith and repair shops.

An impressive grouping, but much cannot be seen from here. Two large, two-story brick buildings, each 40 feet wide and nearly 200 feet long, greet visitors at the mill's entrance. One stored hogged fuel for steam which powered the mill and part of the town. The other, the power plant, has five boilers made, as steel plates on their sides say, for "The Potlatch Lumber Company by the Muskegon, Michigan Boiler Works, 1906." This was the largest belt-drive sawmill in the world. The central belt, five feet wide, five cowhides thick, was anchored in the power plant. West of here the Palouse River

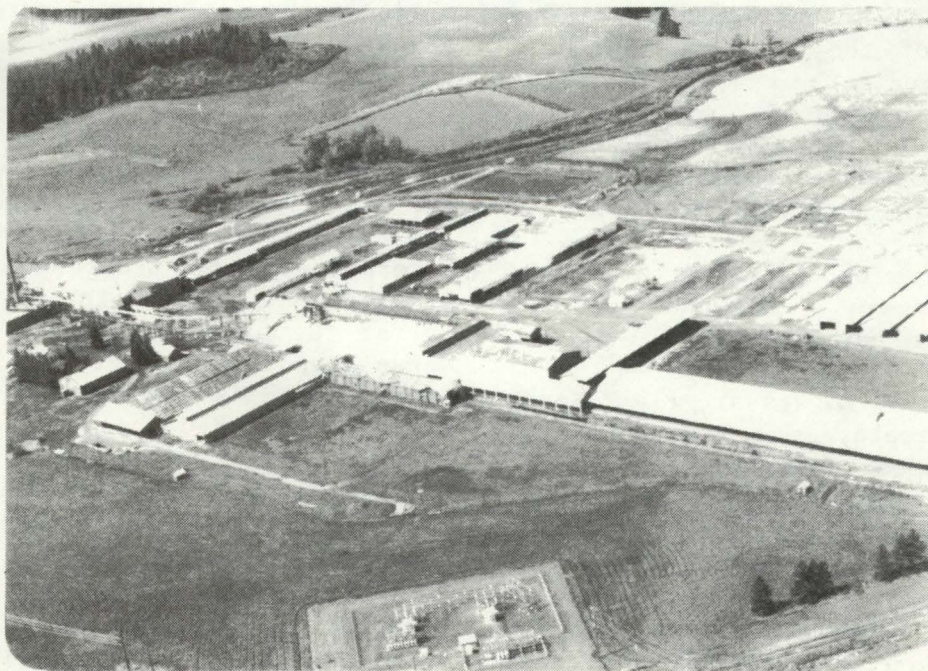
gurgles over the concrete remains of a splash dam which backed water for a log pond. North of the green chain are tracks separating the "green" side of the plant from the "dry." Here a mechanical loader moved lumber from the stacker to one of 24 dry kilns, each 100 feet long. Beyond the kilns are several other large storage sheds and east of the planing mill is the loading platform, over 500 feet in length with seventeen 45-foot high storage buildings attached.

To have walked over the site is to get some feel for the enormity of what Midwestern lumbermen built here. It is quickly obvious that wood was not precious in 1905. Support beams in the sawmill are 14-by-24 inches. In many places cribbed walls of double-rowed two-by-fours sit on their side the narrow way and are stacked over 40 feet high. Most floors are constructed mosaic fashion with the butt ends of two inch lumber intricately laid to form beautiful patterns.

At its best the mill's architecture is cathedral-like. Storage shed Number 2 is a 260 foot long expanse of open beam, unpainted wood construction with a mosaic wooden floor. One wall is made of thousands of cribbed two-by-fours and the ceiling is weathered to a cedar-red. This doesn't seem a storage shed so much as an advertisement in Architectural Digest extolling the virtues of natural wood. All support columns have a beaver-like gnawed



The Potlatch plant, looking north.



The entire Potlatch plant, looking southwest.

look to them--evidence that the building's aesthetics were little appreciated by Hyster drivers hurrying to stack quotas before shift's end.

On a warm day in June I visited the plant trying to capture some impressions of a place I had spent years researching. A rotting 6-by-6 on the railroad tie slide gave way as I sat down and I moved to a more secure support. I was observing the place nearly two years after the last shift cut lumber here. A cool southwest breeze carried the faint sounds of the river. Swallows swooped nearby, miniature divebombers, warning that this was now their territory. Their mud nests lined the eaves of the sawmill. Occasionally I heard a truck on Highway 95. Some were probably log trucks, passing the mill by. A compressor kicked on and off irregularly in the background. Except for this, all was quiet.

A one-word description of the view from where I sat is impossible, but desolate comes to mind. Clover, pigweed and thistles infringed upon the grounds. I ran my hand over the horizontal siding of the sawmill and got a handful of paint chips and slivers. The green chain has a bad sag, and many of the plant's sheetmetal roofs are rust red. The only people about were the watchmen, and if I squinted so I couldn't tell exactly what the buildings were, I got an impression of a deserted Hollywood set from a prison movie.

Two brief notices tacked to an abandoned bulletin board gave a thumbnail sketch of the plant's recent history.

June 3, 1981. R. E. Vassar, Plant Manager, to all employees: Because of the depressed lumber market conditions, Potlatch Unit will not operate on Fridays until further notice.

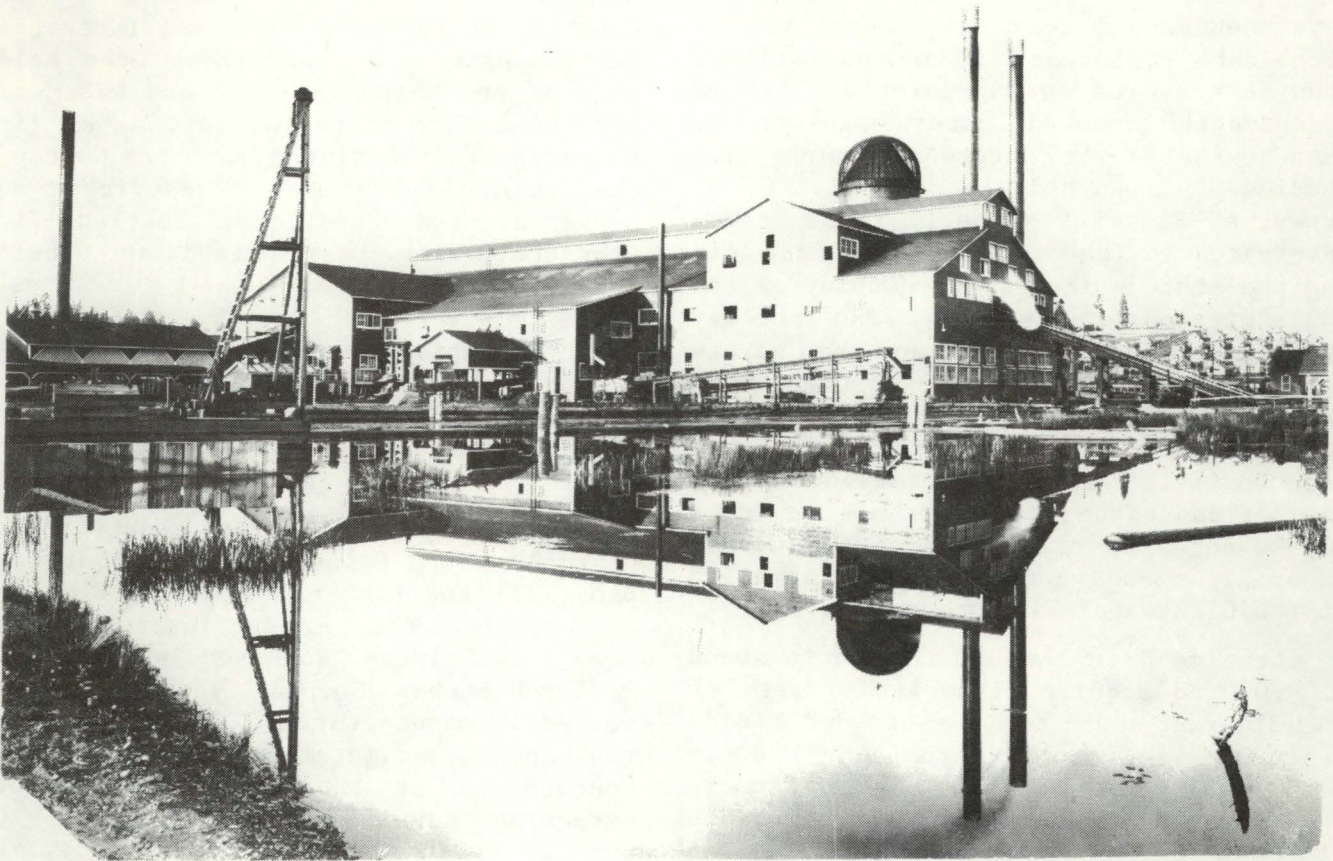
August 13, 1981. R. E. Vassar, to all employees: The Idaho Department of Employment in Moscow has agreed to process applications for unemployment in Potlatch.

At home that afternoon I retrieved a few clippings, refreshing my memory. A Lewis-ton Tribune story, August 13, 1981, announced the temporary closure of the mill. The February 6, 1982, edition of the paper noted the Corporation's statement that the mill would be closed through 1982. Finally, the Tribune reported that on a cold day in March 1983 a Corporate official, in a five-minute presentation to the unit's 200 employees, announced that the mill would be closed permanently.

All things which end have beginnings, and the Potlatch mill's beginning was more optimistic than its ending. The popular conception of the Palouse country--vast treeless expanses with rich crops of wheat, peas, and lentils--ignores the fact that the area's first major industry was sawmilling. Lumbering has continued to be an important cog in the Palouse economic wheel for over a century. The region's first settlers needed timber for fuel, fencing, and buildings, and the first emigrants moved to areas where lumber could be easily obtained.

The area's first sawmill, constructed in Colfax in 1871, was a crude affair with a blade locals said went up one day and down the next. By the 1880s Palouse City outdistanced all rival towns as the leading timber center of the region. Log drives on the Palouse River brought raw material to the town's three sawmills. Throughout the last three decades of the 19th century lumbering remained a small businessman's enterprise in the Palouse. The Palouse River Lumber Company in Palouse City was by far the biggest concern. But the immense stands of timber had not gone unnoticed by Midwestern lumbermen, who dramatically changed the area's sawmilling.

William Deary, born in Canada in the 1850s, was a squat, broad-bodied, deep-chested man 5'9" tall, who wore size 8E shoes, had a 17½ inch collar and weighed over 200 pounds--ballooning to 350 when he retired from active woods work. In the 1880s, Deary moved to Wisconsin and, in 1895, struck a partnership with J. B.



The Potlatch Mill, c. 1908.

Kehl, a moderately successful flour miller and timberland trader. For reasons not entirely clear, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, Midwestern lumber baron supreme, befriended Kehl, and when Kehl and Deary became partners, Weyerhaeuser took a liking to the Canadian lumberjack.

Understanding Midwestern lumbering in this period is akin to reading a Russian novel. An amazing conglomerate of timber families--principally the Lairds, Nortons, Mussers, Denkmans, and Weyerhaeusers--virtually controlled the lumber market. The families were close acquaintances, frequently intermarried, and usually sat on each other's boards of directors. Because Weyerhaeuser was the titular head of the group, these lumber interests were popularly known as "The Weyerhaeuser Conglomerate," although they were active in dozens of individual businesses.

In 1899 these families combined with the Deary/Kehl interests to form the Northland Pine Company. Kehl was President, Deary General Manager, and the firm immediately began purchasing timberland in northern Minnesota. Due to considerable unforeseen competition, the Northland Pine Company was unable to show hoped-for profits and dispatched Deary on two six-month journeys to the south to investigate possibilities there. At the conclusion of his second trip, Deary arrived in Spokane and heard of a state timberland sale in Latah County. After scouting the area he sent back glowing reports on the size and quality of white pine in the region. At the Northland Directors' meeting in May 1901, Weyerhaeuser moved that Deary be given a free hand to purchase Idaho timberlands, a motion which passed unanimously.

Weyerhaeuser had been introduced to the rich Idaho resources six months earlier, when he traveled to Sandpoint and helped organize the Humbird Lumber Company. He then journeyed to Moscow to meet with Charles O. Brown and his son Nat. C. O. Brown, a "State of Mainer," first became interested in Idaho white pine when viewing the state's impressive display at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. He shortly thereafter moved to Idaho, and when Weyerhaeuser arrived in 1900 showed the lumber baron some fine tracts of timber, including the 207 foot high "White Pine King" near Bovill. Suitably impressed, Weyerhaeuser sanctioned the purchase of over 40,000 acres of timberland on the Clearwater River and encouraged the formation of the Clearwater Timber Company.

By the time Deary was authorized to spend \$100,000 to acquire timberlands north of the Clearwater he found a crowded field. Henry Turrish, another prominent Midwestern lumberman and shrewd judge of timberlands, was busily buying stumpage for the Wisconsin Log and Lumber Company. Turrish and Deary engaged in friendly but fierce competition for state timberlands in Latah County. Employing two expert cruisers, William Helmer and Andrew Bloom, Deary prepared for the state sale held in July 1901. But Turrish outbid him and purchased 400,000,000 feet for slightly over \$100,000. After the sale, Turrish magnanimously offered the Northland Pine Company one-half share in the holdings. There was considerable debate at the Northland stockholders' meeting regarding the advisability of joining Turrish. Some pointed out that the state limited logging activities on the land to 20 years, hardly enough for a total harvest, while others mentioned the inaccessibility of navigable streams, necessitating the construction of an expensive railroad. After listening to the debate for a considerable time Weyerhaeuser rose, observed that the consensus seemed to be "that the company better buy the half interest," and so moved. Deary seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

After this first sale Deary and Turrish pooled resources in Idaho investments.

Finally, in February 1903, all interested parties agreed to consolidate the holdings of the Northland Pine and Wisconsin Log and Lumber companies into a new firm known as the Potlatch Lumber Company. Charles A. Weyerhaeuser--Frederick's son--was elected President, Turrish Vice President, with Deary hired as General Manager.

The new company moved into the Palouse in a big way, driving small concerns out of business. But their first moves were not without controversy at directors' meetings.

In 1903 Deary and Charles Weyerhaeuser heard that the Palouse River Lumber Company mill and timber holdings would soon be for sale. The two were interested, but some stockholders wondered whether the Potlatch Lumber Company should get involved in manufacturing. The Laird, Norton, and Musser interests especially were concerned about the high cost of constructing sawmills and railroads, but were in a minority. In the early spring of 1903 the company purchased the Palouse River Lumber Company for \$265,000 and immediately began making improvements on its Palouse plant. In 1904 the company paid \$125,000 for William Codd's timber holdings in Latah County and his Colfax sawmill and promptly closed the mill.

As early as September 1902, Kehl and Deary scouted Latah County woods, planning a route for the logging railroad they were convinced would eventually be built. After the Potlatch Lumber Company was formed, Deary unsuccessfully tried to convince the Northern Pacific Railroad to construct a line into the timber. Failing this, the company decided to build its own road. It would start in Palouse, end in Montana and go forever by the name Washington, Idaho and Montana Railway, despite the fact that the tracks never got further than Bovill.

Palouse businessmen were ecstatic when hearing that the Weyerhaeusers had purchased their town sawmill and now planned to make Palouse the terminus for a new railroad. From 1903 to 1908 the community

thrived, on the order of many of the great western boom towns. A flour mill, brewery, brick plant, and national chain store moved in. Real estate values rose. The city fathers banned brothels from Main Street and encouraged town beautification. Fresh fruit was delivered door to door.

In 1905, the Potlatch Lumber Company announced it would build a new mill and company town ten miles east of Palouse. Palouse residents were shocked, but boosters tried to maintain optimism. Announced the Palouse Republic, "As soon as the large mill is established the company will give employment to about 2000 men the year round. The cost of the operations of the Potlatch Lumber Company along the Palouse river will far exceed \$1,000,000 per year, all of which will be spent through Palouse, the company's headquarters and banking point."

It was not to be. The company found it more prudent to maintain its headquarters and banking facilities in its own town. In 1910 the company closed the Palouse sawmill and in 1911 operations at the planing mill stopped. "People say the loss will kill the town," the Palouse Republic valiantly reported. "Not so. It was expected that as uncut timber went farther and farther away it was inevitable Palouse would not be the best place. Possibly Palouse has expected too much from the sawmill. It has run in fits and starts, labor income has been good but not continuous, therefore sometimes it has had effects. If the mill goes maybe something more permanent will come in."

Nothing did, and the Palouse boom was over. The logging history of one Palouse town ended with the construction of the new Potlatch mill, but the history of another was just beginning.

The lumber company directors sought an expert mill builder to construct their new plant and found one in W. A. Wilkinson of Minneapolis. Wilkinson's grandson "Bud" was later to distinguish himself as a football coach at the University of Oklahoma, but at the turn of the century W. A.



The Muskegon Boiler Works plate.

was the pride of the family, supervising sawmill construction from coast to coast. And he charged dearly for his services. "I told him that I considered \$7,500 ample," wrote Charles Weyerhaeuser to a friend. "But he practically told me that if we did not want him for \$10,000 that he would rather do small jobs by contract for other people, which he claims pays him better." Ten thousand dollars he got. The company also had to find \$300,000 for construction of the mill itself--a mill that was in some ways obsolete from the start.

Wilkinson's brother-in-law challenged him to build an electrically driven mill and go down in history as a pioneer in the lumber industry. But ideas died hard with W. A. and he chose to construct a mill powered by steam, driven by belts and shafts. It was the largest white pine mill in the world, and probably the last large one built with full shaft power delivery.

Quite a sight it was, though, and optimism reigned supreme. "Our new mill began sawing on Monday," wrote Allison W. Laird, Assistant General Manager in September

1906, "and is doing nice work." The Palouse Republic was more graphic:

Tuesday of this week after six days of preliminary testing, . . . the big mill of the Potlatch Lumber Company was in full operation and turning out lumber as though the ground on which it is located, no more than a stubble field ten months ago, had never known anything else than the vibration of the mill's multitude of machinery in restless operation.

Cut lumber it did, and for a time it seemed the rosy expectations of Midwestern lumber barons would be upheld. But the Potlatch Lumber Company faced financial difficulty almost from the beginning. The Palouse River and other area streams were unpredictable, even when splash dams were constructed, necessitating the building of the expensive W.I. & M. Railroad and numerous spur lines. In 1909, at Deary's suggestion, the company constructed another large mill at Elk River, but it never showed the profits expected. Deary like to "cut clean as we go," but such clearcutting of often unprofitable tracts was costly. Faced with these and other difficulties, the company had a hard time selling stock. As early as November 1907, barely a year after the mill rumbled to a start, Deary was ordered to lay-off men and curtail work. "These are times . . . that men have to save every cent that can possibly be saved," Deary informed his mill superintendent. For the next few years the company's profits roller-coastered, but its books never showed consistent black ink.

In 1913, after a long illness, William Deary died. His death came as a blow to those who worked under and admired him, and even the company directors recognized that he had indelibly stamped his impression on the firm. He was a man of "great force and energy," they noted, "of unusual native ability . . . of patience and industry, of tenacity . . . and of dauntless courage." High tribute, but missing from the list was "financial acumen." For some time, the directors had questioned

Deary's managerial abilities. As Weyerhaeuser's son later wrote, "William Deary was a good logger and perhaps was a good woodsman, but he knew very little about any phase of the lumber business after the log arrived at the sawmill." Deary was replaced by his assistant, A. W. Laird--a banker by training--and the company looked forward to better times.

But better times were not to come quickly. In August 1913 Laird wired the directors that business was poor and requested \$100,000 to balance the books. In 1921 he wrote that business was "at low ebb" and announced that both the Potlatch and Elk River mills were shut down, casualties of the post World War I depression. Although the mill closures were temporary, the financial difficulties were not. Potlatch stockholders became increasingly disenchanted. J. P. Weyerhaeuser even suggested that the company divest itself of its company town because the non-logging interests of the firm were proving to be an economic burden.

It was not simply the Potlatch Lumber Company that was in trouble. While the Weyerhaeuser conglomerate had moved into Idaho with great expectations, based upon their hopes for the profitability of white pine, things just had not worked out. Idaho's rugged terrain made logging difficult and expensive. Southern pine was shipped to market cheaper than Idaho lumber. The construction of the Panama Canal tremendously increased the value of Douglas fir harvested in Washington and Oregon, correspondingly decreasing the value of Idaho pine.

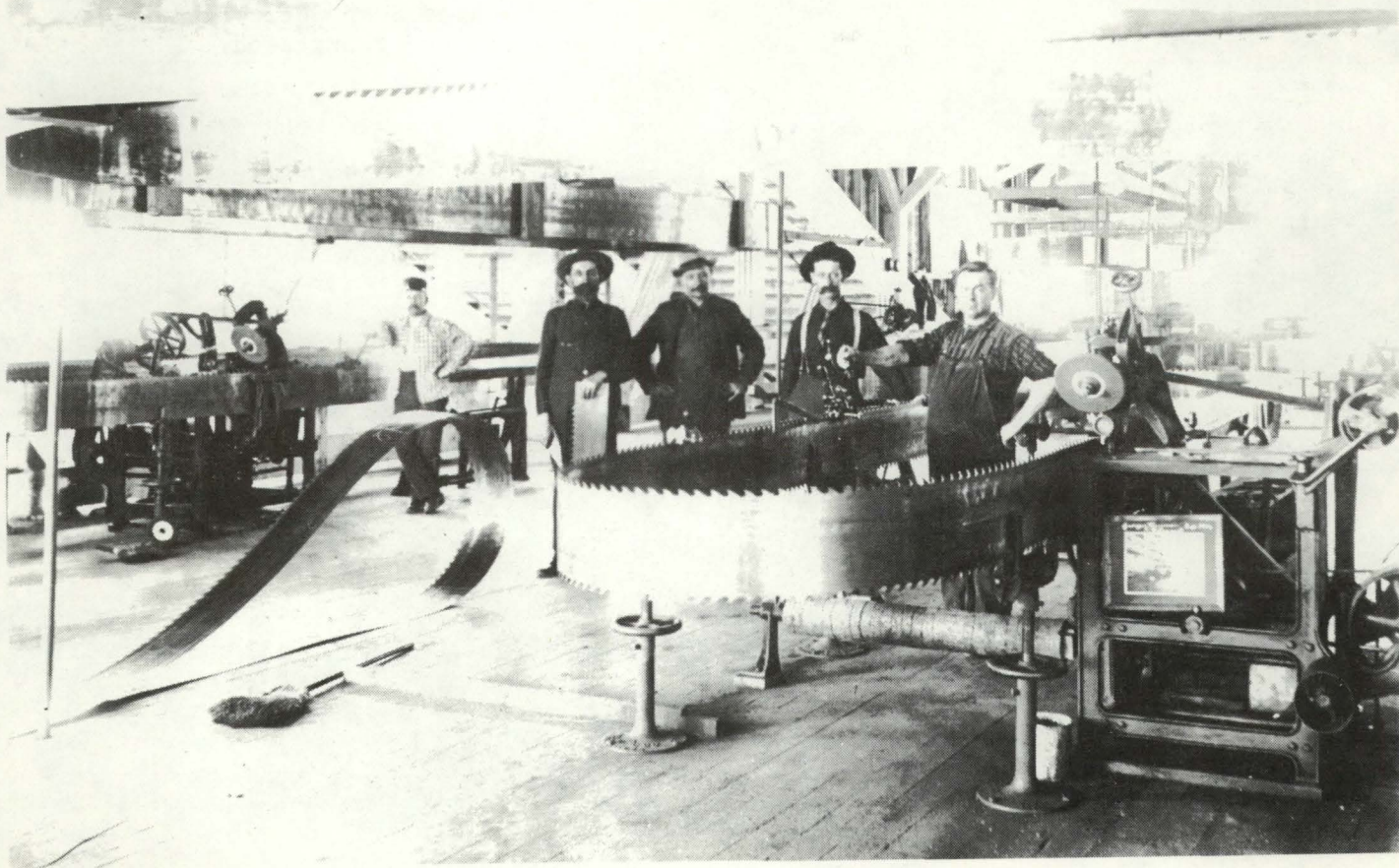
As early as 1926 members of the conglomerate began discussion of the possibility of merging their north Idaho interests--the Edward Rutledge Timber Company in Coeur d'Alene, the Clearwater Timber Company in Lewiston, and the Potlatch Lumber Company--into one concern. The depression of the late 1920s spurred this move and in 1931 the north Idaho Weyerhaeuser interests merged to form Potlatch Forests, Incorporated, with headquarters in Lewiston. While the merger streamlined operations, it was not a quick fix.



In the fall of 1932 the Potlatch unit mill was closed and many town residents believed the merger meant the end of their town. In words reminiscent of statements made 50 years later, R. E. Irwin, assistant manager of the Potlatch unit, stated that the closure was "only temporary until the conditions of the lumber business adjust themselves."

Irwin's prophecy was accurate and the mill opened again, although business throughout the 1930s was slow. The company scratched for every dollar. In 1933 it marketed a Home Carpenter Kit and later sawed play blocks for children. Still, in only one year during the 1930s did the company turn a profit. It was not until the 1940s and the build up for World War II that Potlatch Forests showed consistent profits.

In the early 1950s the company sold its interest in the town of Potlatch to private businesses and homeowners. Town residents have always been fearful of the impact of a mill closure on their community. After all, when first built the mill was almost obsolete, and the company felt it would be profitable only for 50 years. Thus, in 1950 the American Guide Series book on Idaho predicted that Potlatch "will doubtless steadily decline until it is little more than a store and gas station." But the mill did not close after 50 years, and the town continued to thrive after the company sold it. In the 1970s the Potlatch Corporation--the latest appellation for the original Potlatch Lumber Company, a "Fortune 500" firm with international headquarters in San Francisco--gambled and changed the Potlatch mill from one that could cut a



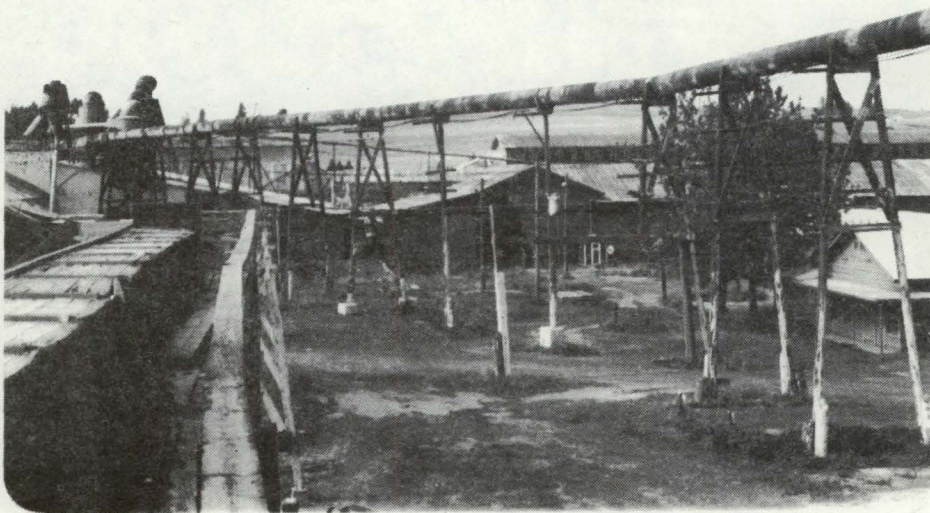
The saw filing room.

variety of dimensional lumber to one specializing in two-by-fours. As long as the housing market stayed strong the gamble paid off, but when housing declined the mill was closed--first temporarily, then permanently. The largest white pine sawmill in the world is now being dismantled by salvage firms.

The periodic rumors about the town dying resurfaced after the final mill closure. But Potlatch is approaching its 80th birthday. Its residents have grown accustomed to booms and busts. They are a gritty bunch who don't put much stock in rumor. They have heard them all before. While Potlatch is proud of its past, and learns from it, it does not live there. The community is now working with the Clearwater Economic Development Association on redevelopment schemes that will utilize the community's unique history, while providing for a new economic base for a permanent future.



The Machine Shop where tools were repaired and fabricated.

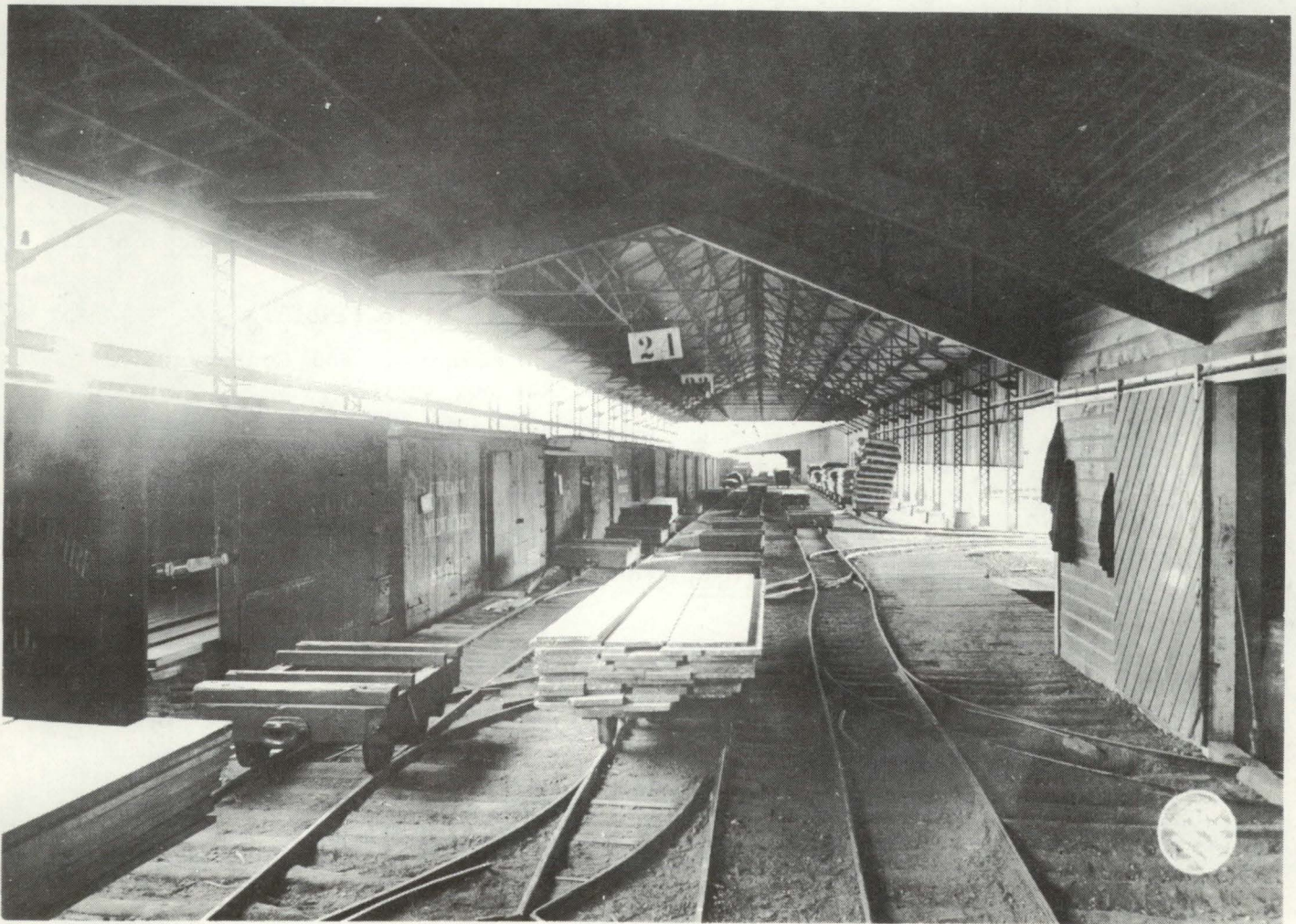


The long pipe is a pneumatic conveyor for transporting wood shavings from the planer mill to the boiler for disposal.

Almost unwillingly I left the mill on that June day. One last time I walked through and under the kilns, ran my hands over the tools in the blacksmith shop, wondered at the size of the headrigs, watched the Palouse River glide over the splash dam, and clambered to the top of the Muskegon-made boilers. I was saddened. This place, which I had seldom seen when operating, had an indescribable fascination for me even when all was quiet. I envisioned Bill Deary and Allison Laird here, walking through the same buildings, shouting over the deafening roar of machinery. I thought of folks like Art Sundberg who worked their entire life time here. All my hours in musty archives and obscure libraries, all the time spent talking to people and

thinking about the place finally had meaning. I was, at last, during my final solitary tour, able to comprehend what it was that had been done here, and how this plant had affected the lives of so many.

I reluctantly started my car and drove past the gate where the watchman waved, past the sign proudly proclaiming 798 safe days worked, past the rusted tracks and weathered depot of the W. I & M. I stopped before turning onto Highway 95 for the trip home and glanced at the two huge boulders in front of the old gymnasium which stand as a memorial to Bill Deary. They seemed a fitting, permanent tribute to a massive man, and a massive idea.



Rail car loading shed, Potlatch Corp.

### Bibliographical Note

Most of the primary material for this article came from two large collections: the Weyerhaeuser Company Archives in Tacoma, and the Potlatch Corporation papers in Potlatch. The George F. Jewett papers at the University of Idaho Library are useful, especially for the history of the company after the 1931 merger. Two other major collections are available to researchers--the W. I. & M. Railway Company papers which were donated to the Latah County Historical Society and are housed in the University Library, and the Laird, Norton Company papers in Seattle. The Latah County Historical Society oral history collection contains several interviews with Potlatch mill workers and the Palouse Republic dutifully carried news about Potlatch developments.

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Ed. note: Through the courtesy of Jack Gruber and Paul Tobin of the Potlatch Corporation, and with the help of Keith Petersen, the papers in Potlatch mentioned in the first paragraph above have been donated to the University of Idaho Library where they will be organized and calendared (i.e., listed) for the use of students and research workers.

Keith Petersen, an independent historian, lives in Pullman and is a former Director of the Latah County Historical Society.

## Book Reviews

Counting Sheep: From Open Range to Agribusiness on the Columbia Plateau. Alexander Campbell McGregor. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1982. 482 pp. \$25.00 cloth. Available locally at Bookpeople of Moscow.

On the rapidly growing list of books about the inland Pacific Northwest Alexander Campbell McGregor's new work, Counting Sheep, stands out as one of the most important new contributions. Moreover, it is the first major piece of writing to focus exclusively upon the agricultural history of the region in a comprehensive way. Relying heavily upon the records of the McGregor Land and Livestock Company as a resource, Alex tells the story of a group of Scottish-Canadian immigrants, the McGregor brothers, who came to the Columbia Plateau in the 1880s to raise sheep and make money at it. The McGregor family business becomes his vehicle for recounting the history of Columbia Plateau agriculture during the past century. His efforts will almost certainly result in Counting Sheep becoming a companion volume to Donald Meinig's The Great Columbia Plain. In fact, any future writing on regional agriculture, especially works about the Palouse, will have to be measured against not one, but both books. The only major shortcoming of Counting Sheep is its title: it conjures a mental image of readers dozing off in comfy chairs. Alex's book does not put readers to sleep.

Among other things, Counting Sheep is a genuine piece of home-grown history. Its author grew up in Hooper, Whitman County, Washington (the McGregor "company town"), received his undergraduate education at Whitman College, and went to graduate school at the University of Washington; in fact, the idea for the book grew out of his thesis and dissertation work at that institution. Today Alex McGregor, descendant of "tramp sheepmen" from Scotland by way of Canada, is an executive with the McGregor Company, the family agribusiness firm that is the topic of his fine book. But there are more Pacific

Northwest ties to this book. The McGregor Company papers, which provided most of the research material for the work, are housed in the Northwest Agricultural History Archive at Washington State University, while some of the initial results of Alex's research appeared in 1974 in two issues of the Whitman County Historical Society's publication, the Bunchgrass Historian. There is, in other words, much of the inland Pacific Northwest in the book and the writer.

In summary, Counting Sheep is the story of four Scots brothers (Alex, Archie, Peter, and John McGregor) who arrived in eastern Washington Territory about 1883. They began herding sheep for ranchers in the area, accepting sheep as their wages. Once they acquired a small flock, the brothers set out on their own; within a few years they had laid the groundwork for an agricultural empire. The odds against their success were large; when the vagaries of the economy did not work against sheep ranchers, hard winters did. One such cold spell is recounted by H. Stanley Goffin:

It snowed and blew and got colder until such a fierce blizzard came on that I could hardly see the horses' heads at times. We froze our noses, ears, and fingers pinning blankets on horses with nails. . . . [My partner and I] rubbed each other each snow and thawed out. [The wind blew so hard we could not keep the fire going.] . . . We walked back and forth in the tent wagon until three the next morning when it quit blowing. . . . After the storm we hunted up sheep for five or six days and got most of them gathered together. Some were smothered in snowdrifts with their heads partly eaten off by coyotes. . . .

Sheepmen were tough; they had to be to survive this kind of life.

In his research, the author discovered that many of the McGregor family successes appeared to come about almost by accident. Between 1890 and 1910, for example, the brothers were forced to buy land on

which to herd their sheep. Homesteaders moved in, crowding out the sheep; as time passed, the railroads were less and less willing to lease grazing rights at favorable rates. Thus, the McGregors simply began to accumulate vast acreages in eastern Washington and northern Idaho on which to graze their sheep. When the profit margin narrowed in sheep ranching, the McGregors responded by planting wheat and raising cattle on their newly acquired land; they had, in other words, made a profit out of necessity. As the years passed, the brothers continued to diversify their holdings and agricultural investments. By 1940,

the McGregor ranch had survived a half century in which the Columbia Plateau had changed from a region of open sheep ranges into an immensely productive land of mechanized agriculture. Peter, Alex, and Archie McGregory had survived to see their "tramp" sheep business develop into a large corporate ranch.

Alex touches on virtually every aspect of Columbia Plateau agriculture, including the introduction of mechanized combines, new wheat varieties, irrigation, and the advent of chemical use in farming. With almost every agricultural advance, the McGregor Company appeared to be in the forefront. It was really no accident at all that this family of tenacious "tramp sheepmen" and their descendants succeeded where others failed. As Alex points out in his conclusion:

The very survival of the McGregor Land and Livestock Company through this period of dramatic change marks it as unusual. Philip Raup, an economist studying "Corporate Farming in the United States," concluded that "up to 1950 the record was one of almost consistent failure."

Alex McGregor's exhaustive study, based on more than a decade of research, does much to revise the commonly held misconceptions about the social and economic changes that took place during the last century on the Columbia Plateau. The thorough index, maps, bibliography, photographs, and extensive appendices

detailing McGregor business history to 1950 add to what the author has done. Counting Sheep does not, contrary to the popular folk myth, put people to sleep. Alex McGregor's way of doing it gives readers the raw material to speculate about both the past and future of American agriculture.

Fred C. Bohm of Pullman is Editor of The Bunchgrass Historian, the quarterly journal of the Whitman County Historical Society. He is a special projects editor for the Washington State University Press and is co-author of the recently published The People's History of Stevens County, Washington.

Harvest: Wheat Ranching in the Palouse by Bill Woolston. Published by Thorn Creek Press, Genesee, Idaho, 83832, 121 pages, 11 x 9 inches, \$24.95.

This portfolio of 55 black and white photographs of grain farming operations in the Uniontown, Washington, area is enlivened by the fresh viewpoint of a newcomer backed by the technical skills of an experienced professional photographer and guided by the sensitive eye of an artist--all in the person of Bill Woolston.

Although published in 1982, the book is, in a sense, already historical: the photographs were made in the mid-seventies when the change from crawler tractors to large articulated wheel tractors was just beginning in the Palouse. Fortunately, it is not limited, as its title suggests, to harvest time only nor just to wheat, but follows the farming operation from April to October.

All the text of the book--other than the rather terse picture captions--is confined to the seven pages of forward by the photographer. While this is adequate to give readers from other areas some feeling for the special character and problems of Palouse Country farming, the local reader may wish more could have been said.

(continued on inside front cover)

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

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

Privileges are identical for all classes; the higher dues represent a much needed donation to help the Society's work. Dues are tax deductible.

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

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



# LATAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Number 4

110 South Adams, Moscow, ID 83843

December 1983

*A GREAT GOOD COUNTRY - A GREAT NEW BOOK*

*Lillian Otness Receives Award*

As most of our members - and Latah County - are aware, the long-awaited guide to historic Moscow and the County has been published. It is now available at many locations throughout Latah County and also by prepaid order from LCHS. Representing five years of meticulous research by Lillian Otness with the help of Carolyn Gravelle and many others, *A Great Good Country* is an accurate, thorough and enjoyable survey of the architectural past. Sales have reflected the quality of the book, surpassing 700 copies sold since the first week of November. Many bought it as Christmas gifts, and when the weather is good again, we expect it will be in demand by tourists. Copies are still available: \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members, plus \$1 for postage and mailer.

Researching and writing *A Great Good Country* is just one reason LCHS Trustee and former president Lillian Otness received a prestigious award this fall. The American Association for State and Local History at its October 1983 meeting in Victoria, B.C., selected Lillian as one of its 37 recipients of a national Certificate of Commendation. This was the only award received in Idaho. The Association cited Lillian for her contributions to LCHS which include serving as the chair of the oral history project (one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest), her contributions to the publications and long-range planning committees, being co-editor for many years of the LCHS *Quarterly*, as well as her work on the tour guide. Hers was the only award from the AASLH received in Idaho.

### *Special Events at the Mansion*

This fall was particularly busy at the McConnell Mansion. On Oct. 5th the Society hosted a presentation by Keith Williams on the agricultural history of Latah County. Keith began his historical research on a farm near Kendrick, and he is now completing his Master's Thesis from W.S.U.

In November there was an exhibit honoring veterans featuring World War II posters from the collection donated by Erma Hansen, now of Spokane, and memorabilia from the two World Wars. The exhibit highlighted a Veteran's Day open house on Nov. 11th to which veterans and their spouses were invited. George Bingman, a veteran of World War I, was our special guest, and he loaned his gas mask to the exhibit. We were very proud to have been a part of Moscow's Veteran's Day commemoration.



On Nov. 13, LCHS hosted an author's signing reception to honor Lillian and co-author Carolyn Gravelle. It was a delightful occasion, providing friends of Lillian and Carolyn and of the Society with an opportunity to thank them for an excellent and invaluable contribution to local history.

MRS. J. W. WATTS  
917 E. SEVENTH  
MOSCOW, IDAHO 83843

LCHS celebrated Christmas with a special exhibit, Christmas tree and greens, and an open house on Friday, Dec. 16th. The exhibit featured dolls, trains, trucks, books, games and other toys from our collection and John and Jeanette Talbott's. As in the past, Mary Blanton's high school classes decorated the tree and the house with old-fashioned ornaments, greens and ribbons. Home-made cookies and hot spiced cider were served at the open house, and a special Christmas atmosphere was provided by Mary and Mark Smith who played carols on the autoharp and recorder. The Mansion was open until 6 p.m. which gave everyone a chance to drop by. We were delighted that many new people--especially children--visited the Mansion during the holidays to share the spirit of a Victorian Christmas. Special thanks to Mary Blanton and her students, the Smiths, Talbotts, and Cora Knott and Laura Bartell who supplied the sweets, and one more thank you to our President Everett Hagen for donating a beautiful tree.

#### *Mansion's Art Appraised*

Noted artists Alfred Dunn and Arnold Westerlund, Professor Emeritus of the U. of I. Art Dept., donated their time and expertise in appraising our collection of original art last October. They reported that many of our paintings are "primitives," and one represents a buck-eye style of painting. These were done very quickly on street corners or even in saloons to sell to passerbys or patrons. Arnold also commented on the beautiful art deco frame around the painting of Governor McConnell.

#### *Monetary Donations*

Robert and Nancy Hosack  
Latah County Genealogical Society  
Palouse Patchers  
Rollo Perkins  
Sophia Marineau  
Ann Wheelock



*Kathleen Probasco and David Leroy*

#### *Lt. Governor's Visit*

The Board of Trustees and guests opened the doors of the Mansion to Lt. Gov. David Leroy and his staff on Nov. 5th. Leroy made a special trip to Moscow to launch the Society's endowment drive. After touring the Mansion and its exhibits and looking over our publications, he complimented us on being one of the most successful local historical societies in the state. After a presentation by Kathy Probasco, Chair of the Endowment Committee, Leroy commented the other historical societies will soon emulate LCHS's efforts to become more independent of government funding. His reminiscences about the history of the McConnells, Mary Borah, and local history set the tone for the afternoon reception.

#### *Memorials*

For Lucille Denevan:  
Mrs. Ralph Hanson  
Cora Knott

For Joe Holland:  
Cora Knott

For Annie Cuddy  
Anna Mitchell

For Elsie Nelson:  
Al and Hazel Wiese

For Chauncey Brockman:  
Jack & Jeannette Petersen

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*News of the Mansion*


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Special thanks to our photographers, Robert Otness and John Talbott for our Newsletter photos.

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*4th Annual Ham Dinner*


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This year's ham dinner was the best attended and the most successful. Despite the rain and wind, a large crowd turned out on Sunday, Nov. 6th. In addition to a delicious dinner, the event introduced our new publication, A Great Good Country. Author Lillian Otness was busy autographing copies all afternoon. Our librarian Chris Talbott and volunteer Marie Powell set up a table of photographs needing identification which proved to be popular along with our publications display and information on the endowment drive. Live music was provided by Clarence Johnson and Jody Engerbretson, the Old Time Fiddlers, and the Dale Curtis Quintet, also known as Jazzmania which played old-time dance favorites. Thanks to everyone who helped, bought tickets, and attended. Special thanks to Cora Knott for organizing and overseeing a very busy kitchen, and to the Moose Lodge which donated its facility.

The McConnell Mansion received a sun-g, new roof this fall, thanks to our Country Commissioners. The old, red tile has been replaced by light grey ones, and more important, the roof no longer leaks. The contractor was Dave Petersen who did an excellent job negotiating the high-peaked Victorian roof.

Inside the Mansion Lorraine Micke is continuing her efforts in renovating the textile storage area and cover and protect them from dust and other damage. The project is being funded by a donation from the Palouse Patchers. We thank them for their generosity and concern.

Time has caught up with some of our furniture. Two pieces are now being repaired by Moscow furniture experts, Mr. and Mrs. Cass. With the advent of central heating and the national aging process, wood portions of old furniture become brittle and can easily splinter. This occurred to two legs on our fainting couch and one leg on another chair. The Casses recommend a solution of equal parts of boiled linseed oil and turpentine for all antique wood to prevent drying and splintering.

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*Changes in Membership Dues*


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Those of you receiving membership renewals will note a new format and a change in the dues structure. Although we have been able to maintain our dues at a \$5 minimum level since 1971, increased printing costs and postage for *Latah Legacy* have forced us to increase, reluctantly, the amount to \$7.50. We sincerely hope this will not be a burden for any of our members. We also thank many of you who have already voluntarily increased your yearly dues. The second change in our membership renewal is a convenient return envelope which will include the new dues schedule.

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*Donations, September to December 1983*


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- Jeanette Talbott - two dress flowers
- Carole Smolenski - letter to W.A. Nixon, Genesee, 1913
- W. O. MacKenzie - photocopy of manuscript of George W. Buchanan and section of a journal written by Angus Mackenzie
- Isabell Miller - pamphlets, *Ground Water Supply at Moscow, Idaho, 1923*; *Permanent Satisfaction in Your Farm Building, 1925*.
- Ken Heglin - Playschool cart and blocks; Gilbert chemistry and microscope and lab sets; gas iron, ca. 1920's; Empire electric presser; Jones Farm Chemical spoon, Frank Robinson, *Ye Men of Athens* and, *Before the Dawn*; 1901 U of I class program; Security Furniture Warehouse potholder; Carter's Drug Store pillbox; Anderson children birth certificates, 1899 and 1908; *Educational Directory, 1934-35*; Cracker Jack Painting and Drawing book, 1917; *Simonds Saws, Knives, Files, Steel, 1923*; *Days of Yesterday and Songs of Palouse Country*, Bert Gamble; A.P. Anderson Flora Degree; *Better Schools Catalog*; two Hodgin's book catalog and price list for U of I, 1933-34; two copies of 1897 land deed for Ernst Anderson; memorial service for Paul Anderson, 1978; Agreement of Mineral Exploration, 1942, Paul Anderson and Monte Christo Gold Mining Co.; 33 photos.
- Marguerite Smiley - Adair family memorabilia from 106 S. Adams
- Carolyn Griffin-Bugert - woman's velvet jacket, long jacket and bodice, ca. 1870s-1900
- Robert Hosack - mail order catalogs from Sears, 1952, 1953, 1975; J.C. Penneys, 1980; and Herter's, 1968.
- Mrs. Marvin Long - photo of horse-drawn hearse from Kendrick
- Margaret Keith - photograph of John Sudderth and Dora Summerfield
- Shirley Caldwell - 24 slides of Moscow cemetery, including gravestones of names given to Moscow streets, foreign born residents, and veterans.
- Nancy Rowley - *Uncoverings 1982* which includes her article on our Red Cross quilts
- Kathleen Warren - six photos of June Davis Wickward Memorial Day 1983, at her former home on Moscow Mountain
- Margaret Smith - two *Model Trustee's Record Books* for Public Schools of District 44, Latah County, 1904 and 1911; two Burnt Ridge Telephone Co. ledgers, Troy, 1907 and 1922.
- Alma Keeling - child's rocking chair, pre-1900 with silk crazy quilt cushion; stool made from tree root with carved head and batting and crocheted piece on seat.
- H. I. Strong - history of the Strong and Ashton families and eight copies of family photos
- Leslie Howells - prescriptions and business ledgers from Owl Drug Store, Moscow

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*Thoughts for the New Year*


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Prospects for the New Year at LCHS appear good, thanks to continued support from Latah County and another operating grant from the Institute of Museum Services. However, a solid endowment fund is more necessary than ever to provide an independent source of funding, especially as the IMS grant cannot be counted on in the future. The publication of *A Great Good Country* has done much to stimulate interest in local history and underwrite our future publications. Beyond this, it is a remarkable achievement for a county historical society and proves that we are indeed a leading historical organization in the Pacific Northwest. Plans for 1984 include a slide-tape show for use throughout the County and a landscaping plan to enhance our Victorian Mansion. We hope to interest garden clubs and enthusiasts in this effort. Please let us know if you would like to help.

With the theme, *Preserve the Past with a Present*, the LCHS launched its endowment drive last fall by sending informational brochures and pledge cards to all members. We thank the following people who have pledged a total of \$6,755 as of January 5, 1984:

Terry Abraham  
Leonard and Jean Ashbaugh  
Nancy Atkinson  
Richard J. Beck  
Maude Carlin  
Helen H. Cunningham, in memory of Mr.  
and Mrs. Christopher C. Hunter  
Ellen G. Duggan  
Mrs. David W. Gaiser  
Mr. and Mrs. William Greever  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Horgan  
Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hosack  
Robert and Arlene Jonas  
Mabel Kayler  
Mrs. C. E. Lampson  
Kyle Laughlin  
Phyllis and Duane LeTourneau  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Magnuson  
John K. McDonald  
Beth Mickey  
Judith and Ralph Nielsen  
Leila S. and A.W. Old  
Olive Taxbox Olson  
George L. Otness  
H. Robert and Lillian Otness  
Elizabeth Lewis Petersen  
Keith Petersen  
Kathleen and Robert Probasco  
Mary E. Reed  
Bruce and Diane Reilly  
Malcolm and Carol Renfrew, in memory  
of Frederick Church  
Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Riedesel  
Dorothy and Stewart Schell  
Bruce Shelton, in memory of Miriam C.  
Shelton  
Mrs. George Smith  
Mrs. Harold Snow  
Leora Stillinger  
John and Jeanette Talbott  
Calvin and Kathleen Warnick  
Amos and Janet Yoder

If you did not receive endowment drive information, please call the McConnell Mansion (882-1004) and leave a message for the committee. If you have misplaced your pledge card, donations may be sent to LCHS with the check made out to the Latah County Historical Society and

marked "Endowment Drive." Pledges may be paid in full or divided into three payments, with the balance due by July 1985. All contributions are tax deductible.

The next phase will be to contact foundations, corporation headquarters and local businesses. If you have any suggestions or would like to discuss the drive in general, please call any of the committee members (you will have a better chance of finding us home in the evening or on weekends).

We want to thank everyone for the support we have received in this endeavor and look forward to receiving pledge cards from all our members!

LCHS Endowment Drive Committee  
Kathleen Probasco, Chairman  
Duane LeTourneau  
Dorothy Schell

*LCHS New Members as of Jan. 1, 1984*

Clarence Aherin, Eugene, Oregon  
Bruce Asplund, Troy  
Joseph Ausich, Moscow  
Delfred D. Cone, Princeton  
Ida Dalberg, Longmont, Colorado  
John England, Moscow  
Gravelle's Juliaetta Orchards  
Alfred C. Hagan, Boise  
William Ingle, Hubbard, Oregon  
Madelene Johann, Genesee  
Sally Johnson, Moscow  
Leonard & Gloria Labine, Moscow  
Beverly E. Lehman, Moscow  
Dan, Janet & Roch Lorang, Genesee  
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Mattson  
Fred H. Meyer, Oakland, California  
James Meyer, Moscow  
Fred C. Rathbun, Littleton, Colorado  
Marcus A. Smith, Moscow  
Carole Smolinski, Clarkston, Wash.  
Dwight and Cleora Strong, Moscow  
Mrs. David C. Valder, Moscow  
Thomas Rex Walenta, Grangeville  
Kathleen Warren, Moscow  
Laurie Welter, Elk River  
Richard Williams, Moscow  
Wilbur Wright, Potlatch  
Amos & Janet Yoder, Moscow  
Thomas & Barbara Hipple, Moscow  
Bernard & Joan Otness, Prosser, WA  
James M. Peterson, Mercer Island, WA

MRS. J. W. WATT  
917 E. SEVENTH  
MOSCOW, IDAHO 83844