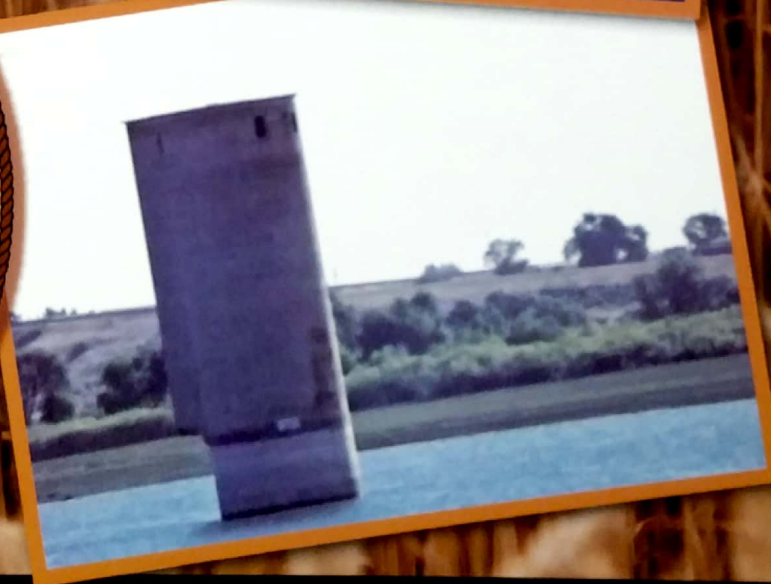
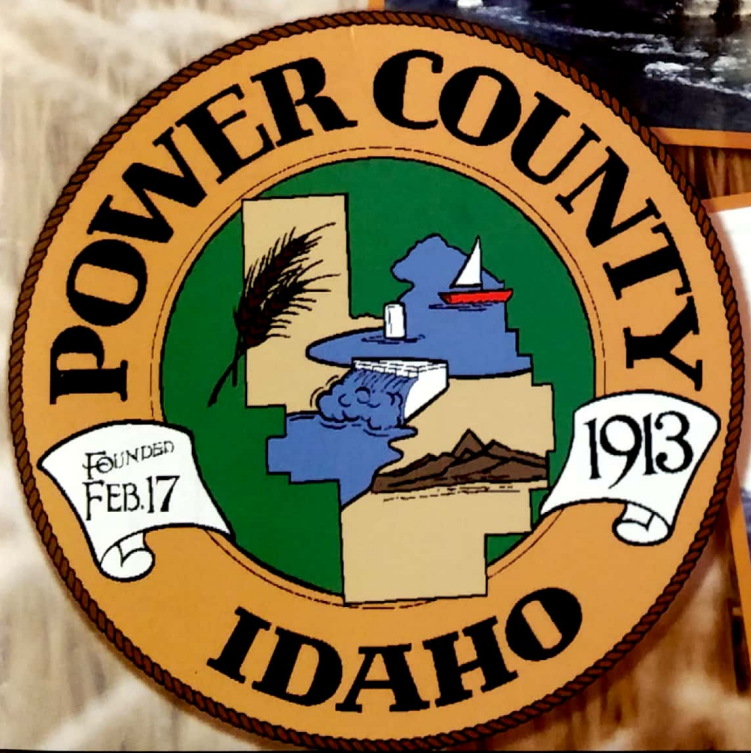


# Inside:

- Six years to make a county
- 80 year old shoots cougar, scares moose
- Why is Massacre Rocks poorly named?
- Two thieves get hung up in American Falls

# Power County Centennial 1913-2013





# Commemorating a milestone

In just about every generation there is at least one major milestone to commemorate, be it an anniversary, or first time event.

For the people of Power County the centennial celebration is one of those milestones for our community.

It is surprising how much work goes into planning a celebration. The amount of information that is compiled about the last 100 years is astounding. The task of sorting through and organizing that information to tell a story from the beginning is daunting.

The amount of people that have come forward to help gather and organize the story of Power County is humbling. From all corners of the county people have interviewed relatives, friends and neighbors, they have traveled to meetings packing books and pictures under their arms.

The flow of information started slowly but as these intrepid historians got the word out stories began to materialize at an increasing rate.

As more and more stories were told it became obvious how rich our history really is. It is hard to express an adequate amount of appreciation to those who shared their memories and mementos, so we simply say thank you.

It is even harder to express our gratitude to everyone who took on the task of collecting the history of Power County. We hope that our simple thank you and the knowledge you have gained are compensation enough.

For our community we hope this book, and centennial events will encourage you to explore, even deeper, the rich and interesting history of this place we call home. We also hope that it will help you look forward to the next century and prompt you to leave your mark here as well.

The work of documenting our history and our future does not end with these celebrations. Please join us in continuing to build our archives. This can be as complex as writing a book or as simple as taking a photo or writing down an interesting story, then sharing a copy through the Power County Historical Society. Don't let misgivings about talent or ability stand in your way; personal style and experience are as important a part of history as the dates and times.

Thank you again for sharing your experiences and we look forward to hearing more stories of the people of Power County in the next 100 years.

**The Power County Historical Society  
Centennial Committee**

POWER COUNTY  
STATE OF IDAHO



Vicki Meadows, Chairman  
Ron Funk  
Delane Anderson

543 Bannock Avenue  
American Falls, Idaho 83211  
Phone: (208) 226-7610  
Fax: (208) 226-7612

At the dawning of the Power County's second century it brings great pleasure to look back on the many people, and events that have made this a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Recognizing the broadness of our County who wouldn't want to call this place home? Just look around at the many contrasts of our County. From the lush cool wooded areas of the Rockland Valley to the stark desert lava formations past Pleasant Valley, it clearly shows the differences one small area can contain.

Just like the landscape the faces of Power County residents tell a tale of hard work, love and diversity. The story of Power County is the story of America. Native Americans and trappers flocked to the area for the natural bounty the land provided.

Early settlers intending to head farther west stayed when they saw the opportunity available to them for the price of some hard work. The railroad recognized the potential in the county to make transit easier. The United States Government and Idaho Power seized the chance to use the features of Power County to bring light to the Upper Northwest.

Power County has seen its fair share of the down times as well, we have watched our sons and daughters commit themselves to war, mourned the nation's loss during those wars, struggled through depression and recession alongside our countrymen and packed supplies on horseback and in airplanes to support our neighbors during harsh winters right here at home.

No matter how dark the night has seemed the communities of Power County repeatedly pull together to endure. Then in the end the people of our home celebrate the new dawn. In as much as good citizenship starts at home, the small things we do to make our own areas more beautiful have a much bigger impact than we might think. We all have something valuable to contribute, we just have to figure out what it is and make it happen.

It is our privilege to be some of the many current leaders of this county, and an honor to follow in the footsteps of those who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of stewardship of this place because it is the home of so many outstanding individuals.

Please enjoy this publication as a "snapshot" of our home, and accept our invitation to visit, stay, and possibly call this wonderful place your home as well.

Sincerely

The Power County Board of Commissioners

*Vicki L. Meadows - chair, / Ronald J. Funk / and J. Delane Anderson*



# Six years to make a county

The creation of Power County was not an easy one; in fact it was quite dramatic as far as legislative processes go. Creating Power County took six years and numerous votes.

The first attempt to make a new county was made in 1907 by Oneida representative Wilford Bennion along with the support of W.H. Philbrick and William Burk. The initial attempt was defeated in the Idaho House by one vote.

Philbrick tried again to push legislation to create Power County in 1909. In one afternoon the House voted 16 times to table the proposal. Each time the voting to kill the bill ended in a

tie until a new representative came to cast the deciding vote to kill the bill.

Later in the 1909 session Philbrick reintroduced the bill but this time with a small modification. Philbrick suggested calling the new county Shoup County. The idea of creating a new spot on the map was shot down again after at least one lawmaker changed their position. Again the prospects of a new county failed passing the legislature by one vote. This time it was the Senate that killed the bill.

“This time a senator who has since reached a position of prominence, changed his opinion, overnight, and became an enemy instead of a friend,” reported the American Falls Press in 1909.

In 1911 the issue of making Power County was in front of the legislature with a new champion leading the way. David Burnell carried the bill easily through the House but the Senate voted to postpone the bill indefinitely; by one vote.

Burnell reworked the bill and reintroduced it to the 1911 legislative session, once again the measure sailed through the House gathering a super majority, but, again, the Senate tabled the bill indefinitely; by one vote.

The tide would change in 1913 when Senator Davis helped the bill through the Senate and Burnell, now chief clerk of the House, carried the beleaguered bill through the House successfully.

The American Falls Press applauded Burnell’s and Davis’ efforts.

“To these two men belong whatever credit is due servants for fruition of a long-deferred hope,” stated the American Falls Press in 1913.

On February 17, 1913, six years from the starting line, the bill to make Power County received the signature of the governor, and became law.

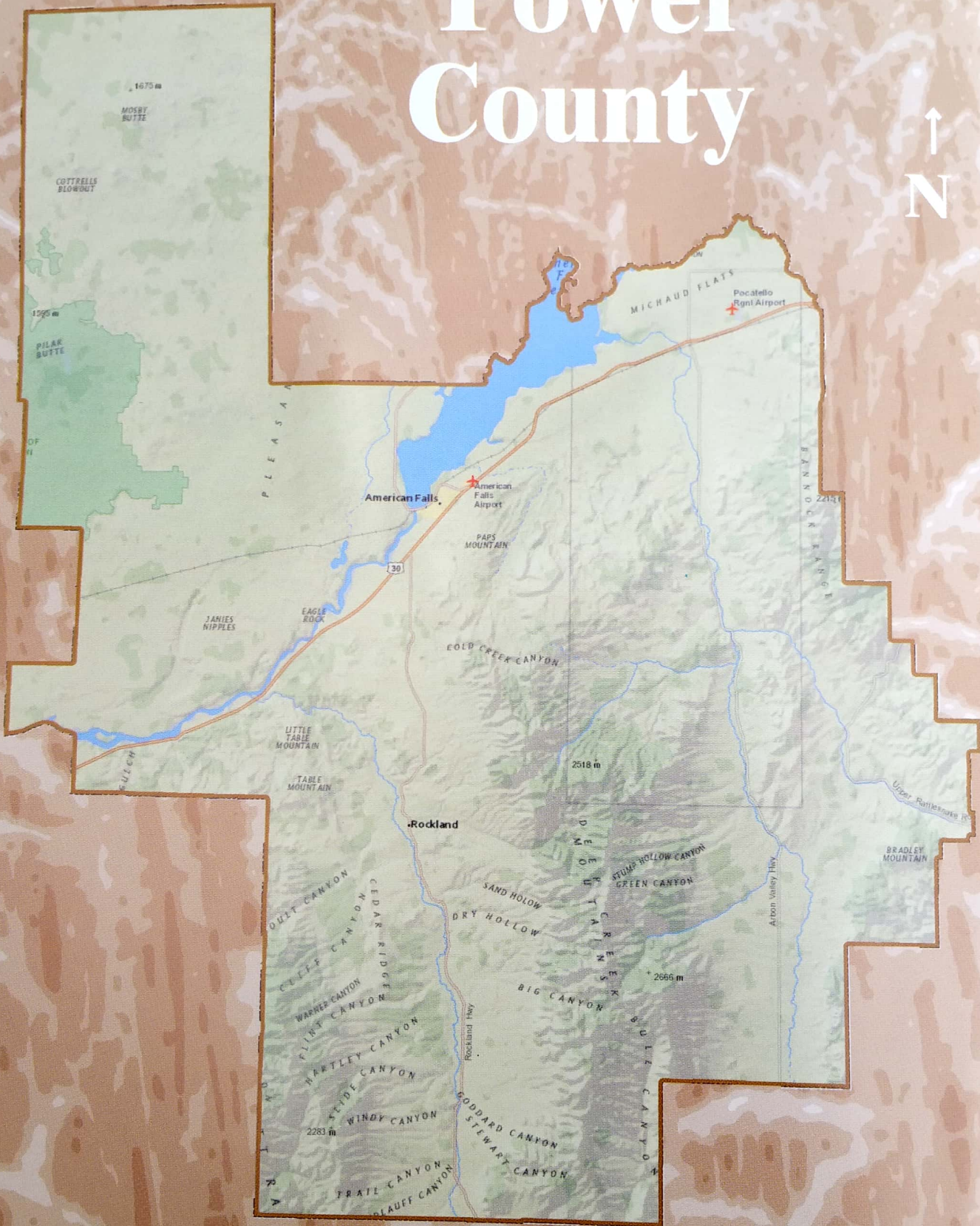
## Power County, Idaho 2010 United States Census

Founded:	Feb. 17, 1913
County Seat:	American Falls
Area:	1,443 sq. mi. 903,040 sq. acres
Population (2010)	7,766
Population distribution:	5.9 persons per sq. mi.
Under 5:	9.5%
Under 18:	30.9%
Under 65:	12.4%
Female:	48.4%
Housing units:	2,931
Households:	2,597
Average Per Household:	2.93
Home Ownership:	74.2%
Multi-Unit Housing:	7.1%
Median Home Value:	\$135,600
Median Household Income:	\$41,797
Businesses:	493
Non-Farm Business:	161
Non-Farm Employment:	2,148 9.2%





# Power County





## The American Falls Dam

When the push started to make Power County its own entity, electricity was already a major thread in the fabric of the community.

Two events converged in 1902 to jump start the creation of the American Falls Dam and Reservoir. The first was The National Reclamation Act that allowed money from the sale of public lands to be used to fund irrigation projects in the western United States. The second event was the construction of a power generation station on the American Falls.

The original power plant on the American Falls used the falling action of the water to power generators. The power generation station was acquired by Idaho Power Company in 1916.

With benefits to farmers and power companies coming together, the idea of a dam on the Snake River quickly gained favor. The preferred site of the dam was chosen, but a large obstacle stood in the way: the town of American Falls. American Falls was a bustling town with a prominent crossing already in place and a connection to the railroad.

In 1923 the federal government used eminent domain to acquire

the American Falls town site as well as land nearby to relocate the town. Beginning in 1925 moving companies were brought in from as far away as Texas to relocate the 344 residences, 46 businesses, six grain elevators, five churches, three hotels, school, hospital, and flour mill to the new town location. While most buildings were transported on beams inserted under the structure and pulled by tractor, the Methodist Church was just too cumbersome for transport as a whole building. The red brick church was disassembled, transported and rebuilt brick by brick in its present location.

On July 29, 1926 the "moving road" was closed officially marking the end of the town relocation.

The American Falls Dam was designed by Frank A. Banks, designer of the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington. Banks' design stood until 1978 when a replacement dam and power plant took the place of the original structure.

The beginning of the end for the original American Falls Dam came in the early 1960s, when core



samples of the concrete revealed an unforeseen chemical reaction between the concrete and the water was causing a loss in structural integrity.

On Dec. 28, 1973 the United States Congress authorized the replacement of the American Falls Dam. The new dam would not be completed until 1978.

In 1976, work was completed on a new generator facility. The American Falls Reservoir was also lowered to stop the oncoming flood waters from the collapsed Teton Dam. American Falls was the end of the line for the destructive flood.

The new dam replaced the horseshoe shaped dam with a straight composite dam standing 94 feet high, holding back 1,672,600 acre-feet of water covering 56,000 acres of area.

## Frank A. Banks

Born into a New England family that had resided in the Northeast for over 200 years, Frank A. Banks heard about the West from his classmates at the University of Maine. Intrigued by the stories he heard Banks decided to see the Western United States for himself.

Trained as an engineer Banks began his career with the U.S. Reclamation Service, now known as the Bureau of Reclamation, in 1906 on the Lower Yellowstone Project.

Banks' career path is the Snake and Columbia rivers. Six dams along the two rivers owe their design and construction to the leadership of Banks. Banks spent six years, 1920 to 1926, working

as the Chief Designer of the American Falls Dam.

Banks' work on the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington led newspapers to call him "the man that put the Columbia to work."

In "10,000 Famous Freemasons A to J Part One" by William R. Denslow and Harry S. Truman, Banks is noted to have received an increased degree in the orga-

nization from the American Falls Lodge 58 on May, 17 1919. Banks was also awarded the Distinguish Service Award from the Department of the Interior shortly before his retirement.

The reservoir created by the Grand Coulee Dam is named Banks Lake in his honor.



# Settlement of American Falls

The first permanent settlement of American Falls was founded in the 1800s and located on the west bank of the Snake River, on the opposite side of the river from the present location. In 1888 the "town" was moved across the river to, what is now called, the "original town site".

The falls were a significant landmark for trappers and settlers even before the official founding of the town in 1880. The small city derives its name from an incident at the falls.

According to the story, a group of French trappers were traveling along the Snake River in dugout canoes with a Native American guide and a dog. When they got close to the falls the guide suggested the party pull out of the river and portage their canoe and supplies around the falls.

The trappers insisted they could navigate the "rapids." The guide and dog refused to ride in the canoe from that point. The trappers attempted to ride over the falls. Only the dog and guide decided to walk around the falls. None of the trappers survived.

The falls were thereafter called American Falls because the trappers had died at a falls in America.

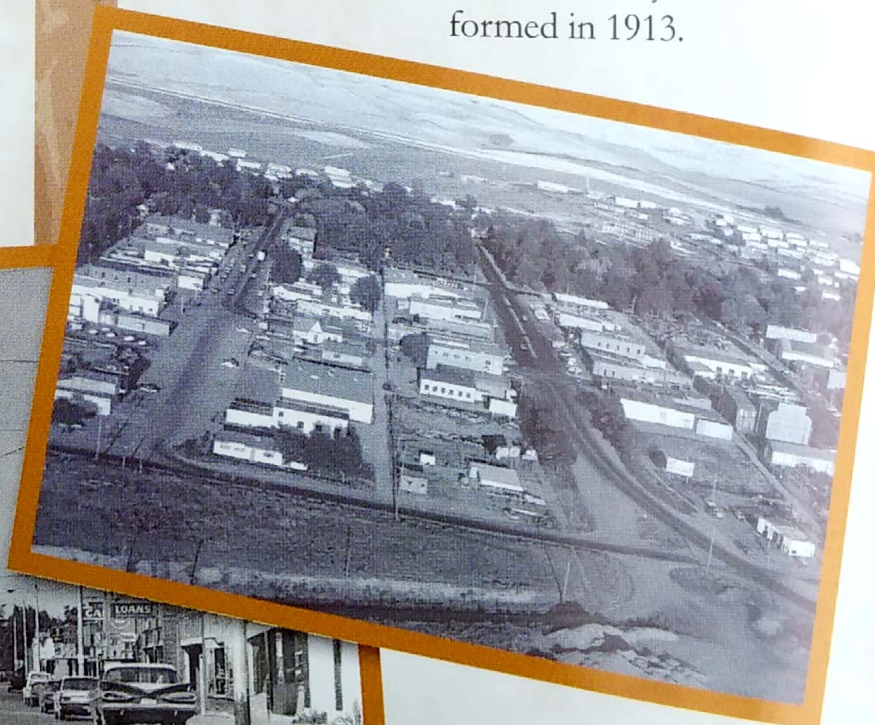
In 1925, the Bureau of

Reclamation began the job of moving American Falls once again to make way for the American Falls Dam. In all 344 residents, 46 businesses, three hotels, one school, five churches, one hospital, six grain elevators, and one flour mill were moved from the original town site, making this the largest government relocation project of its time. Depending on the quality of the building, dwellings would be relocated to one of three neighborhoods on the east, south and west side of the new town square.

The Dam was completed 60 days ahead of schedule on April 21, 1926. The dam's gates were shut and the spring run-off started to collect in the reservoir which would eventually cover 25 miles upstream. On July 29, 1926 the "moving road" across the Dam was officially closed, ending the relocation of American Falls.

A second dam was completed in 1978 to replace the original structure after concrete tests in the 1960s showed deterioration of the concrete. The town did not have to be relocated this time.

American Falls has been the county seat of Power County since the county was formed in 1913.





# Rockland Pharmacy

Rockland was a burgeoning town in the early 1900s with a grocery store, blacksmith and other businesses. In 1911 Perry Scherer added his name to the list of Rockland proprietorships when he opened Rockland Pharmacy.

After several years of enduring a flagging economy Scherer moved his business to American Falls just a few years before the entire town was relocated to its present location. Scherer was hoping to stave off closure by serving the growing number of residents of American Falls.

In 1930 Ralph Wheeler Sr. purchased the pharmacy. Rockland Pharmacy occupied several different locations in the American Falls downtown area before moving to its current location next to Ken's Market.

In 1954 Ralph (Moon) Wheeler Jr. graduated from Idaho State University with a degree in pharmacy. Moon returned to American Falls to work with his father.

"Dad worked for about two weeks after I returned and then said 'I'm out of here,'" said Moon.

While Moon learned the ropes of running a business long time employee Russ Fuller stayed on as the second pharmacist at Rockland Pharmacy.

There was a second pharmacy operating in American Falls. Falls Drug, owned and operated by Mose Kramer, was a starting place for young pharmacist Rod Tucker.

Tucker interned at Falls Drug then worked for Wheeler briefly before leaving the area for a short time. Tucker returned to American Falls to run Falls Drug until 1988 when Wheeler and Tucker decided to combine their efforts and files.

Moon decided to retire in 1995 after serving in the Idaho Senate. The continuing education required to maintain a pharmacist license was becoming a bigger part of the job.

"It was tough to keep up with the changes in the industry," said Moon.

Rod and his wife Jayne continue to run Rockland Pharmacy, along with its trademark ice cream counter. The Tuckers have expanded the business to include a Radio Shack franchise.

*Information provided by  
Ralph (Moon) Wheeler Jr.*





# Come Back in Time

by Terry J. Workman

*This is an article originally written for Grit Magazine by American Falls writer and high school English teacher Terry J. Workman. Grit Magazine declined to publish the article. Emil Neu passed away since this article was written but his art work continues to generate the same enthusiasm today as it did during his life.*

Most of old American Falls is under water and had been since 1927. For the newcomer, the only evidence that a town once existed underneath the American Falls Reservoir is a lone cement grain tower thrusting itself out of the water on the east side of the reservoir.

Walk into almost any restaurant in American Falls and you will see original paintings on the walls, portraying the history and historical landmarks of the area in the early 1900s. The style is primitive and the frames rustic, in keeping with the times and places they depict.

As newcomers and old-timers alike study the paintings, an eagerness to know about those times often wells up inside them, a yearning to feel what those people felt tugs at their hearts, and a desire to step into the pictures and past overwhelms them.

Who is the artist who brings all these emotions to the surface? His name is Emil Neu and his pictures may be found anywhere from the wall of a local diner to a home in Japan or Italy.

Emil Neu is 87 years old and has been drawing and painting since he was in third grade. Emil says it didn't matter what he painted on back then, paper sacks, cardboard boxes or whatever "just so the color got on it," said Neu.

Emil sold his first painting, a map of the United States, to the superintendent of schools when he was 10 years-old for \$2.

"I thought I was really something," remembers Neu.

It was his second sale that spread his talent outside of the area. One of the local farmers had come to

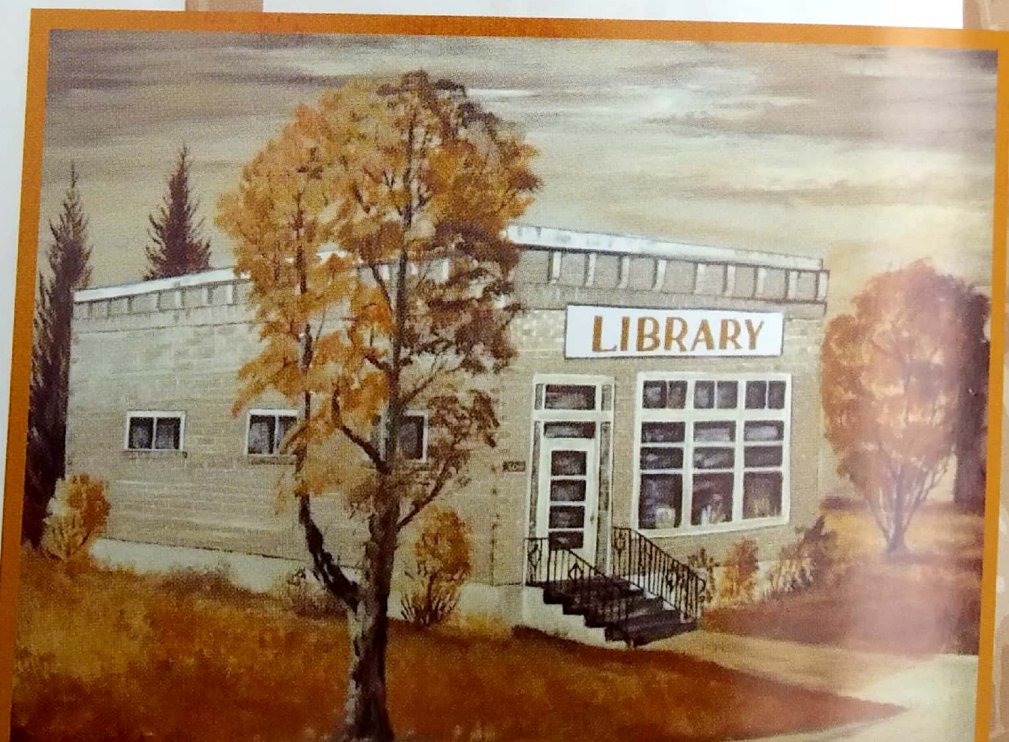
town to purchase a new horse-drawn Rummley combine. The farmer had just hooked up his team of horses to the new combine when something spooked the horses. They went galloping down the street with the combine behind them. In their panic the horses tore down the town outhouse.

"I thought that was pretty funny, so I drew a picture of it," Neu said.

The Rummley combine company salesman evidently agreed. He paid Emil \$4 for the picture.

Today, the walls of Emil's basement art studio are covered with paintings capturing those early days in Southeastern Idaho. On Emil's walls the cement granary is not surrounded by water, but horse-drawn buckboards as farmers wait to unload their harvest in 1912. In another picture a farmer and his team are just about ready to cross the Snake River, on the recently completed, 860-foot bridge which was constructed at a cost of \$10,000. In another picture it is 1910 and you can board your team of horses overnight for 50 cents, which includes a half bale of hay. Being a thrifty person you can park your buckboard near the stable and sleep in it instead of squandering a dollar on a motel room. Cleaning up in the morning is no problem, a hand pump and horse trough is nearby. You are welcome to use them.

Whether you came to Emil's studio to buy a painting, discuss art, discuss history or just pry into Emil's memory you will always be made to feel welcome. Come back in time, again. Maybe next time you can stay longer.





## Banana memories of Emil Neu

by Kurtis Workman

Among the many jobs I have had I have twice worked at a grocery store, and at some point at both stores a manager has mentioned the industry statistic that bananas are the most purchased item in the industry. I can't help but think of Emil Neu when I hear bananas are the most popular grocery item in the world.

Emil loved to share the history he had experienced with anyone that showed an interest. The first time I met Emil I was too young to connect the paintings hanging in businesses around town to the man who was telling us stories of the old town.

Every year, after the water would leave the reservoir and the remains of American Falls would appear the teachers at Hillcrest Elementary would organize a field trip to the old town site. In the week leading up to the trip teachers would prepare students with lessons of how the dam was built and how the town was moved. The fun part of the lessons was other kids identifying their homes as original buildings or being able to pick out a historical building I passed on my way to and from school.

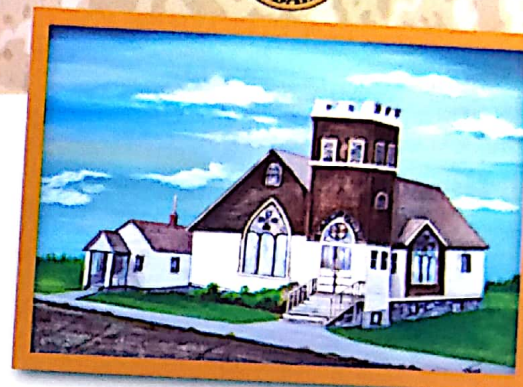
At that time the trip to the reservoir was a school wide event.

The younger kids would cluster around the granary while their teachers point out things they had talked about in class. The older students were allowed to wander around a little more freely. Some teachers had maps; small clumps of students would race around trying to identify the foundations of various buildings. Still even others made their teachers nervous by picking up every piece of broken glass and rusty metal hoping to find a significant chunk of history to bring back.

My third grade year an elderly gentleman was wandering around the ruins watching the children. My teacher gathered up a bunch of us and introduced us to Mr. Neu.

Mr. Neu explained that he grew up in American Falls, not the current American Falls but the one we were now standing in. He pointed out where the churches had stood and where the rail line came through. It is the first time I can remember seeing someone remember something so vividly they were transported back in time. His eyes took on a distant look and he spoke as if the buildings were still there and people bustled from store to store doing their daily shopping.

Emil told a story of his childhood. He said having a train station made American Falls lucky because one of the regular trains that came through American Falls was the Fruit Express. The train would stop to pick up



wheat and potatoes in American Falls and rail workers would sell fruit from damaged crates off the train cars.

As he remembered it the purchaser of the fruit would not accept broken crates of produce but he speculated some of the crates were not broken during shipping.

Emil explained large ice blocks placed in the back of each train car was how the fruit was refrigerated meaning the trains had to stop often to replenish the ice. The short life of the ice and frequent stops made fruit like bananas and oranges a luxury for most people of the time, but American Falls had a steady supply of fruit because of the Fruit Express.

According to Emil the people bought bunches of bananas, not a hand (five or six bananas) like we buy today, and would hang them from a hook on their porches.

After dark Emil and his friends would run up and down the streets and alleys taking one banana from each bunch.

Every time I see an Emil Neu painting I wonder if I could just step into the painting and circle around the building would there be a bunch of bananas hanging there.





# Hanging in American Falls

American Falls has not always been the genteel town by the dam. In the beginning the railroad access and river crossing drew as many ne'er-do-wells as upstanding citizens. In 1883 two miscreants found themselves less than upstanding.

Known only by their first names, Tex and Johnson were known by reputation as gamblers and suspected thieves, who were believed to have stolen money from several men.

Tex and Johnson were told to leave American Falls and never come back. They were also informed that returning to American Falls would be their own misfortune. Instead of leaving the area the duo took up residence in a tent city across the Snake River opposite the town.

Tex and Johnson did return and were spotted entering the bakery. The criminals were surrounded and

captured after a gun fight. Tex lost an arm in the battle but Johnson was unharmed.

Ropes were placed around their necks and the men were led to the railroad bridge over the falls. Tex reportedly jumped while Johnson had to be pushed.

Fred Nuffer witnessed those events in 1883, but it wouldn't be the last time Nuffer would see Tex and Johnson.

According to his account in *The Nuffer Family History*, Nuffer saw Tex and Johnson 36 years later.

"I happened to be placer mining in 1919 on the Snake River about 5 miles below American Falls. One day I saw a bunch of men; I went up to them and asked what the excitement was. They had been digging postholes for an electric line to a brickyard. They said they had dug up two men with their boots on. I told them the men were Tex and Johnson. They had been buried there in 1883. They asked me how I knew. I told them that I was there at the time," said Nuffer.

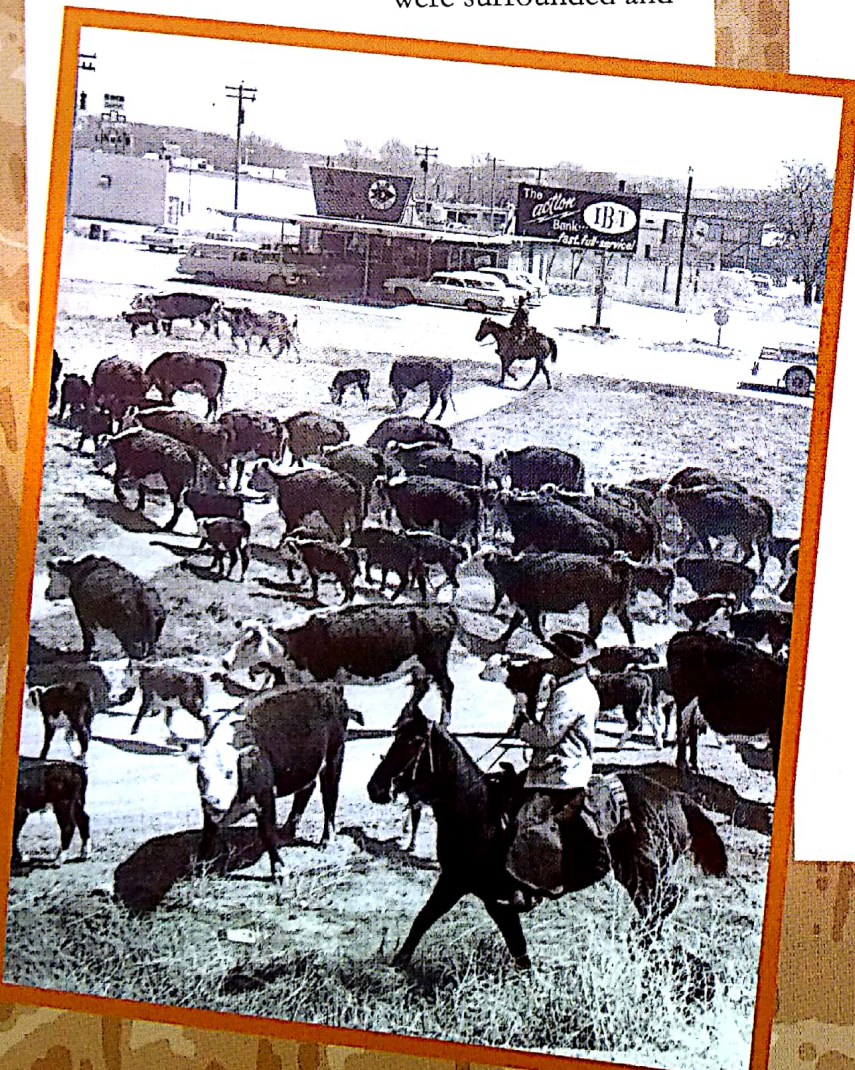
"The workers said, 'You must be right' because old Doc Brown, an old settler, had told them the same thing," recalled Nuffer.

According to Nuffer, the workers had taken the bodies into town and were told to bring them back and bury them in the same place.

"They were in the act of covering them up when I came upon them," said Nuffer.

Tex and Johnson were buried in an old grove next to a rock rim where the drainage was good; the bodies were still in recognizable condition.

*Information provided by Jacquie Alvord  
from The Nuffer Family History*





## “Diamondfield Jack”: American Falls outlaw

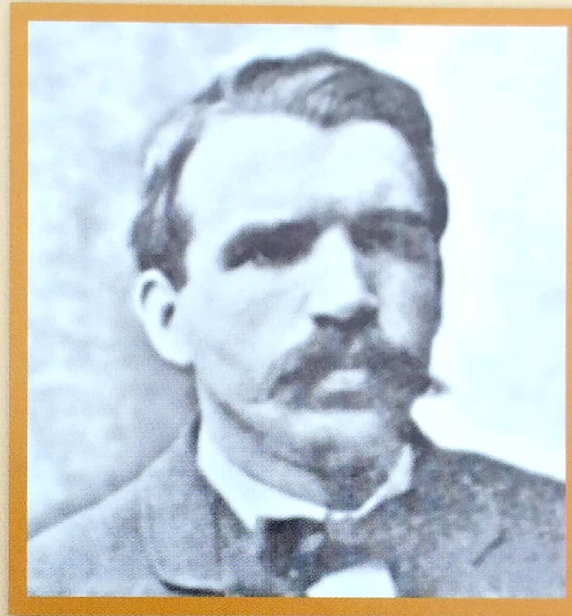
Jackson Lee (Diamondfield Jack) Davis came to Silver City, ID, following the rumor of a diamond strike. The diamond strike never produced a single gem other than Davis' nickname.

Diamondfield Jack tried his hand at prospecting around Southern Idaho but nothing ever panned out. Needing money Diamondfield Jack took a job with the Spark-Harrell Cattle Company. The competition for grazing land was fierce, Diamondfield Jack was hired to keep sheepherders off the cattle company's lease land near the Idaho-Nevada border.

Davis put the fear into the sheepherders after wounding William Tolman. From that night on the sheepherders would change the placing of their beds nightly fearing the cattle company security would come in the middle of the night and shoot at the heads of their beds.

Diamondfield Jack was on the run. It is believed that he spent at least a little of his time hiding out in American Falls.

A year later Davis went back to work for Spark-Harrell. At the same time Diamondfield Jack was back on the job two sheepherders were murdered. The primary piece of evidence was .44 caliber bullets that appeared to have been fired from a .45 caliber gun. Diamondfield Jack was known to have used .44 caliber rounds when .45 caliber bullets were not available.



By this time Diamondfield Jack had taken it on the lam again headed for Mexico. Authorities captured Diamondfield Jack in the Arizona Territory and he was sent back to Idaho for trial.

Diamondfield Jack was convicted of what had come to be called the Deep Creek Murders and sentenced to hang on June 4, 1897.

The day before Diamondfield Jack was to be executed word came that two other men had confessed to the Deep Creek Murders. Diamondfield Jack was sent to the Idaho

State Penitentiary in Boise until December of 1899 when he was transferred back to the Cassia County Jail.

After all of his appeals had been heard Diamondfield Jack was again sentenced to hang, this time on July 3, 1901. The confession of the other two men to the murders was beginning to sway the public's view of Diamondfield Jack and the Idaho Board of Pardons moved the

execution date to July 17, 1901.

Just three hours before he was finally to be hanged, word came that Diamondfield Jack's sentence had been commuted to life in prison. He was taken back to Boise where he stayed in prison until he was pardoned by Governor Frank W. Hunt on December, 17 1902.

After his release Diamondfield Jack left for Nevada where he struck it rich; founding five mining settlements including one named Diamondfield, NV.



# The settling of Roy and Landing

The area in southern Power County was a vast open place until around 1908 when settlers looking for a chance to homestead found the valley. Breaking out ground from sagebrush and native grasses these settlers built farms and a community.

Many of the earliest residents of the Roy/Landing area came at the urging of friends or family members that had already come to the area. The Roy family, led by Henry Clay Roy, for which the community would be later named, were enthusiastic boosters of the valley.

“My folks were originally from Texas, but farmed in Missouri for five years before coming to Idaho. During that time they became friends with many people that would later follow them to Idaho and the Roy area. My older half brother, Clug married Bessie Armstrong and the Armstrong family came to Roy as well, taking a homestead near the Schrimsher family. My other half brother, Rip, married Mollie Schrimsher,” said Roy.

The Kildews were close neighbors in Missouri. They also followed, homesteading near Sage Hen Springs. Even more came from Missouri includ-

ing: Lou Howard, Lou Parson, George Yates and Otto Jones,” said Roy.

In 1909 the O’Hara family arrived to homestead and brought the first teacher to the growing community.

“The O’Hara’s came a year ahead of us in 1909. Mrs. O’Hara taught school from her home until the Mountain View School was built,” Roy said.

Roy’s mother became the first Postmistress with John Robinson serving as the first mail carrier. In 1915 Ed Peterson built a general store and the post office was moved into that building. That same year the community was officially named Roy.

Settlers came and went and the march of time took its toll on the small community. Businesses started moving to the larger towns of American Falls and Rockland. In 1944 the Roy school board met with the Rockland school board to consider a temporary consolidation of the two districts.

In 1959 the post office closed.

*Information provided by Darrell Quinn and Darlene Quinn Richardson*





# 1948 blizzard hits Roy hard

There was a January thaw that cleared the valley pretty well, but February came, and that is when all heck broke loose.

There was snow and blowing snow; blizzard conditions most every day. The road was closed for a long time.

The winter of 48-49 was so bad the left side of the road was piled so high with snow it buried the phone lines. We were not allowed to go on the right side of the road because you could touch the power lines.

Just before the snow my father, Kenneth Quinn, came to American Falls to get a truck load of slack-coal but only made it back to within a half mile of our home. He left the truck parked near Grandma O'Hara's place.

One of my daily jobs then became to saddle the horse and go through the field around the back of our place to get two

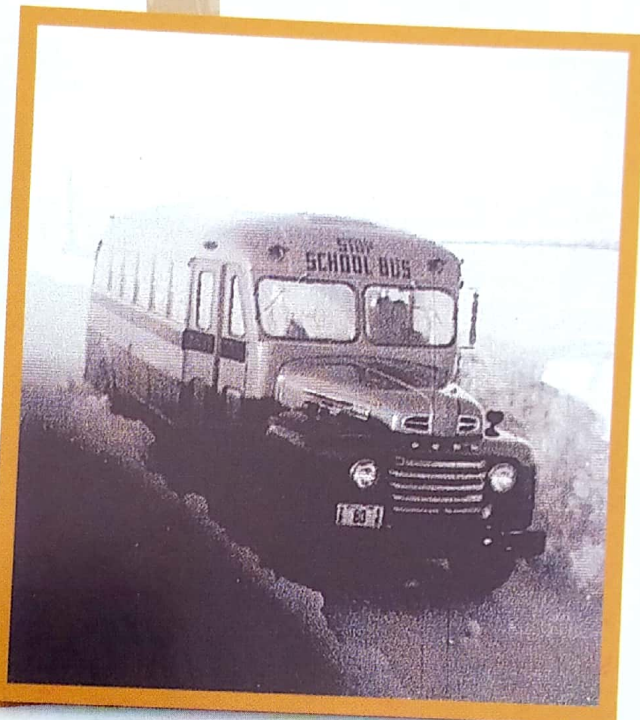
sacks of coal. I would fill the sacks, tie them together and set them across the saddle.

Going through the field was a three-quarter of a mile trip to end up only a half mile away from home, but the snow wasn't as deep through the field.

My dad told me if I ever got lost in the snow to throw the reins over the neck of the horse and hold on to the tail and follow the horse back home. I had to do this several times and it always amazed me how the horse

knew exactly where to go.

We ran out of hay for the cows and had to have more brought in by airplane. We would make an arrow with used oil and an airplane would fly by, drop four or five bales then turn around and make another pass. We would then go out with the sled and bring the bales in one at a time.



*Information provided by Darrell Quinn*





## History of Arbon Valley

Arbon Valley was one of the last areas opened to homesteading in the United States. Beginning in 1890 and lasting until 1918 people flocked to the valley looking for a chance to build a new life, but the terrain and weather did not make it easy for the newcomers.

Persistence is a consistent trait of those who call Arbon home. That determination grew the valley in the early years. In very little time the valley was dotted with schools, dance halls and churches. Movie showings and dances drew young people to the valley.

Barns became an important part of life in the valley. Barns meant keeping horses healthy through the winter, which meant field work could be started when warmer temperatures

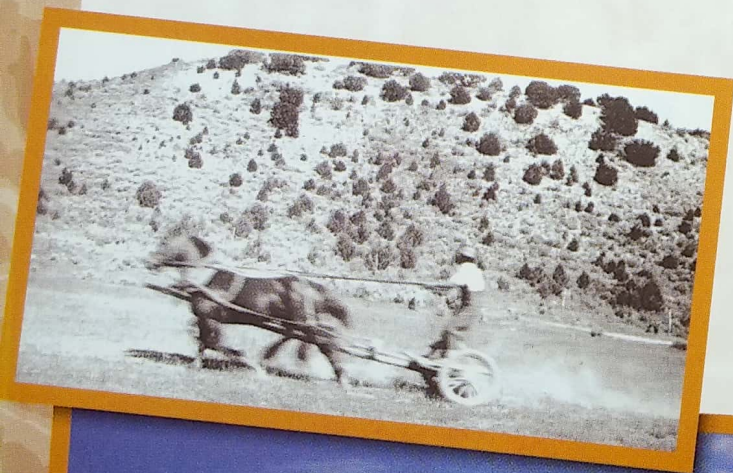
released winter's grip on the fields. Soon the valley was littered with barns.

As time wore on homesteaders began to look to American Falls and Pocatello for better opportunities. The Great Depression took its toll on the valley. While there were not the dust storms like in the Midwest the weather was dry and crops were lean. Each year fewer and fewer children returned to school. Farms consolidated as families left.

The Great War called many of the young people from Arbon. Some gave their all and those that returned to the States often went looking for other adventures. Some did return to farm. After the war those who returned to their fields found more favorable prices and mechanization making farming an easier business to be in.

The 1940s also saw electricity light up the valley and eventually telephones would follow. Starting with 10 party-lines the valley is closer together than ever before with cell phones and the internet covering the vast distances between neighbors and markets.

*Information provided by  
Hans Hayden*







## Nelda Williams: Kills a cougar, scares a moose

Having staying power is a tough skill to come by in the Arbon Valley, but the finest example of tenacity and determination is Nelda Williams.

Williams has lived in the valley her entire life, learning the value of hard work and self-reli-

ance through long winters, late night calving, harvests and farming in general all the while keeping her children in check.

Williams never complains about the labors, she views her life as full, and takes pride in her accomplishments, chief of which is her ever-growing family.

Not one to be slowed by age Williams still exercises her independence even in the face of nature. The Williams yard is large and covered with trees and a perfect place for wild animals to call home. At one time a mountain lion decided to become a close neighbor. One day the cougar decided to buddy up to Williams' pickup truck. Williams waited until the cat moved to the side of the truck and with a single shot the octogenarian fixed the problem.

On a second occasion after the cougar vacated the area a moose had the same idea that the Williams' yard would make a nice home. After several days of observing the moose Williams decided this would be a good photo opportunity.

When the moose spotted Williams it charged her. Waving her cane and shouting Williams frightened the animal away.

Idaho Fish and Game officers came and captured the moose. Neighbors joke the moose was very lucky considering what happened to the cougar.

*Information  
provided  
by Hans Hayden*









# The Power

Number 25 In Our 58th Year

# Power County Press

Consolidated with the Power County News, Blackfoot, Idaho, Thursday, June 26, 1936

WEATHER THIS WEEK

High temperature	61
Low temperature	31
Precipitation, inches of rain and sleet	0.00
Wind	Light

YEAR AGRICULTURE

Wheat	100
Barley	100
Oats	100
Hay	100
Stocks	100

No. 12

## WHEAT MARKET

Dark hard winter, 11 percent 120  
 Dark hard winter, 12 percent 120  
 Dark hard winter, 13 percent 120  
 Soft white, 14 percent 120  
 Soft white, 15 percent 120

## VOLUME XXXIX

### Black Bowler and Son Start Chinchilla Farm

There is a new industry in American Falls which promises to be a profitable one. It is a new industry in American Falls which promises to be a profitable one. It is a new industry in American Falls which promises to be a profitable one.

### Home Economics Teacher Married In Coeur d'Alene

Miss Margaret B. Mason, who has taught home economics in the American Falls high school for the past three years, was married on Tuesday, June 24, to Mr. C. O. Johnson, of Coeur d'Alene.

### Pushing Work On Palisade

The work on the Palisade dam is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible. The work on the Palisade dam is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

### Distinguished Guests To Attend Moose Meeting

The Moose lodge at American Falls is pleased to announce that a number of distinguished guests will attend their next meeting.

### Moose Offers Parade Prizes

The Moose lodge is offering prizes for the best parade float in the city. The prizes will be awarded at the next meeting.

### PLANT NEEDED TO ROUND OUT HUGE PROJECT

The completion of the American Falls Reservoir project requires the construction of a power plant. The completion of the American Falls Reservoir project requires the construction of a power plant.

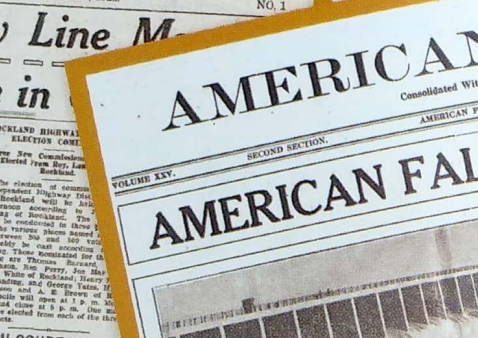
# AMERICAN FALLS PRESS

Consolidated With the Power County News and The Blackfoot Times

AMERICAN FALLS, IDAHO, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1937

## AMERICAN FALLS DAM IS COMPLETED

SECOND SECTION



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### Jim Heer Will Present Piano Concert In Aberdeen Fri. June 19

Jim Heer of Aberdeen will present a piano concert on Friday night of next week, June 19, at 8:15 p. m. at the Aberdeen high school, which will be the final presentation of the Community Betterment Fund drive.

### Feds Review Rules, Use Of Lake Walcott

Last Thursday evening regional officials of the federal Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to review fishing and boating regulations on Lake Walcott and to discuss with the state fish and game officials the possibility of making changes to improve fishing and recreational use of the lake.

### Funeral Services For Jim Payne At Pocatello

Funeral services were held for James Oscar Payne, 44, at the McEhan Funeral Chapel at Pocatello Tuesday.

### Cars Collide On Sunbeam Road

Mrs. Dean Meadows was injured slightly Sunday afternoon when the car in which she was riding with her husband collided with a vehicle driven by Fred Gohl 4 miles South East of Pocatello at about 4:15 p. m.

### Elected Sec.-Treas.

Doreen Husse, who will be secretary next year will be secretary-treasurer of the Women's Governing Council at Bethel College. Doreen is the daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. August Husse of American Falls.

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### Ray C Dies

Mr. Ray C. ... died at ...

### Brain

The condition of ...

### Funeral Services

Funeral services were held for ...

### Funeral Services

Funeral services were held for ...

### Funeral Services

Funeral services were held for ...

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The Power County Press

Number 25 In Our 58th Year

Official City and County Publication

American Falls, Idaho, Thursday, June 18, 1959

COUNTY ADJUTOR

Ten Cents

Jim Heer Will Present Piano Concert In Aberdeen Fri. June 19

Jim Heer of Aberdeen will present a piano concert on Friday night of next week, June 19, at 8:15 p. m. at the Aberdeen high school, which will be the final presentation of the Community Betterment Fund drive. The 100% benefit raised from the concert will be used to purchase a grand piano for the community, a project which is being backed by every organization in Aberdeen. Tickets may be purchased from a member of any organization.



Jim Heer

Fern Nute Davidson, had intended to play at the concert with Heer, but she was called out of the state.

Ray Groom Dies Following Brain Surgery

The community was shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Raymond Groom, 42, of the prominent Power County firm, who passed away June 18, at the St. Luke's City hospital following surgery.

New School Addition Bids Due Friday

Advertising for bids on the new Hillcrest Grade School addition will be completed this Thursday and bids will be opened Friday, June 19th, according to Superintendent Wesley Frazier.

Sparks Appears On 2 Citations This Week

John Sparks appeared before Judge Latta this week on a complaint signed by Marion Kessler against Sparks for keeping a horse within the housing zone contrary to city code. No fine was imposed, Sparks was brought into court later in the week by Sheriff Rufus Neal for exhibiting a deadly or dangerous weapon.

Project Will Get Underway In Two or Three Weeks

Union Pacific officials today announced the forthcoming construction of a new center span over the Snake River at the present site of the railroad bridge. The project will get underway sometime within the next two or three weeks.

Weather and local news snippets including 'Distinguished Guests To Attend Moose Meeting' and 'Moose Offers Parade Prizes'.

Advertisement for 'Fees Review Rules, Use Lake Walcott'.

Advertisement for 'Funeral Services For Jim Payne At Pocatello'.

Advertisement for 'Falls Nurses Graduate Friday Exams June 22'.

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Advertisement for 'Project Will Get Underway In Two or Three Weeks'.

Advertisement for 'County declares farm disaster status'.

Advertisement for 'Transportation, hot lunch okayed for private school'.

Advertisement for 'Four take petitions for A.F. city election'.

Advertisement for 'Road warrior'.

Advertisement for 'Canuck road warrior peddles through town'.

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## Crompton's Press' ownership spans half of county's history

While newspapers have been around with various names, shapes and owners since long before Power County was formed, the bulk of newspaper history in the county has been shaped by publishers named Crompton.

Early newspapers to this area began prior to 1900, with names like The Falls Power and The Boomerang. Rockland's first newspaper, started in 1910, was named The Rockland Times.

The actual predecessor to The Power County Press was the American Falls Advertiser, which began publishing in 1902. The Advertiser eventually became The American Falls Press.

By the late 1930s, the majority of the newspapers had all been combined into one weekly edition, The Power County Press. A politically inspired competitor did pop up again in those early years, with the advent of The Power County Booster.

A number of owners and publishers were listed for those early newspapers. The list of publishers included Tom St. John, Waldo Taylor, O.H. Barber, K. E. Torrance, O.J. Quane, A.M. Quane and W.R. Quane.

But it was when they were combined into The Power County Press that the first longtime publisher, former Coloradan L.R. Scott, ran the newspaper for 18 years, from 1937 to 1955. He then sold to a fellow Coloradan, Bill King, who kept the paper until November of 1959.

In November of 1959 a young Utah journalist named Robert Crompton and his wife Erma took a liking to the area and purchased the newspaper from King. About a year later they purchased The Aberdeen Times.

The Cromptons began a legacy that has seen the newspapers under that family's ownership for over a half century, and counting.

Robert and Erma Crompton both became deeply involved in the business, along with the community. They both served as presidents of the American Falls Chamber of Commerce, along with leading roles in other civic groups. All five of their children, Kim, Brett, Becky, Kelly and Elizabeth, all were active in the newspaper business at some point. They also purchased two more newspapers, The Gooding County Leader and The Lincoln County Journal, during the 1970s, but sold them after only a few years of ownership.

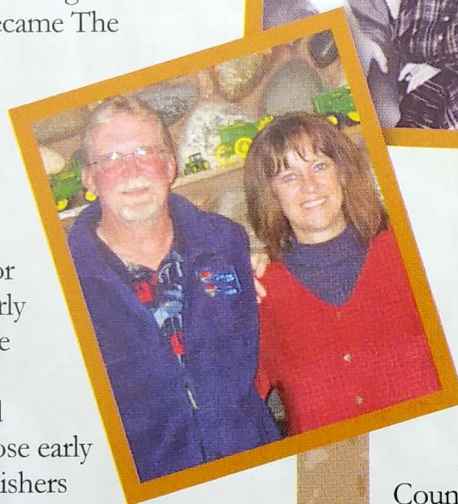
The Cromptons also entered into a partnership with two other weekly publishers and purchased Litho Printing in Pocatello.

Bob Crompton became the longest serving publisher of the newspaper, at 20 years, but a heart attack in 1980 cut his career short at the age of 54.

While Erma remained active in the business after his death, son Brett took over as publisher at the age of 25, and worked alongside his mother until health issues sidelined her from the operation. She died in November of 2011.

Brett has surpassed his father as the longest serving publisher of The Power County Press and The Aberdeen Times, having been publisher for about 32 years. He is also one of the longest serving publishers in Idaho. His wife, Debbie, is also involved in the business after having been asked by her husband to fill a vacancy briefly in 1997. She has never left. Their two sons, Robert and Preston, have both worked part-time at the newspaper. Only time will tell, but a third generation of the Crompton family might continue the tradition of newsprint ink flowing through their veins.

Brett has remained a minority owner in Litho Printing, with his brother, Kelly owning the majority. They have since purchased The Burley Reminder, another printing operation in Burley, which actually prints the family newspapers, along with several other newspapers from throughout southern Idaho.





## Lupe Valdez: First resident of Rockland

The earliest known settler of the Rockland Valley is Hidalgo Guadalupe (Lupe) Valdez. One major contribution Lupe made to the Rockland Valley was proving the area was inhabitable year-round. Cowboys originally thought the area only good for summer range because the winters were so harsh.

Lupe came to the valley after leaving Mexico. Lupe's father wanted him to become a minister. Lupe lived with an Indian tribe in Lower California before moving to Idaho. Lupe went

into the freight hauling business traveling between Boise and Cheyenne, WY. Hauling freight

brought Lupe into contact with several cattle companies. Lupe decided to give up freight hauling and become a cowboy, working cows ranged in the Rockland Valley.

Lupe demonstrated the livability of the Rockland Valley by constructing a dugout just east of the current Rockland City limits on the farm now owned by Jim Woodworth.

Lupe was also the first irrigating farmer in the valley. He dug a ditch to water his fields. That ditch would later become known as The City Ditch.

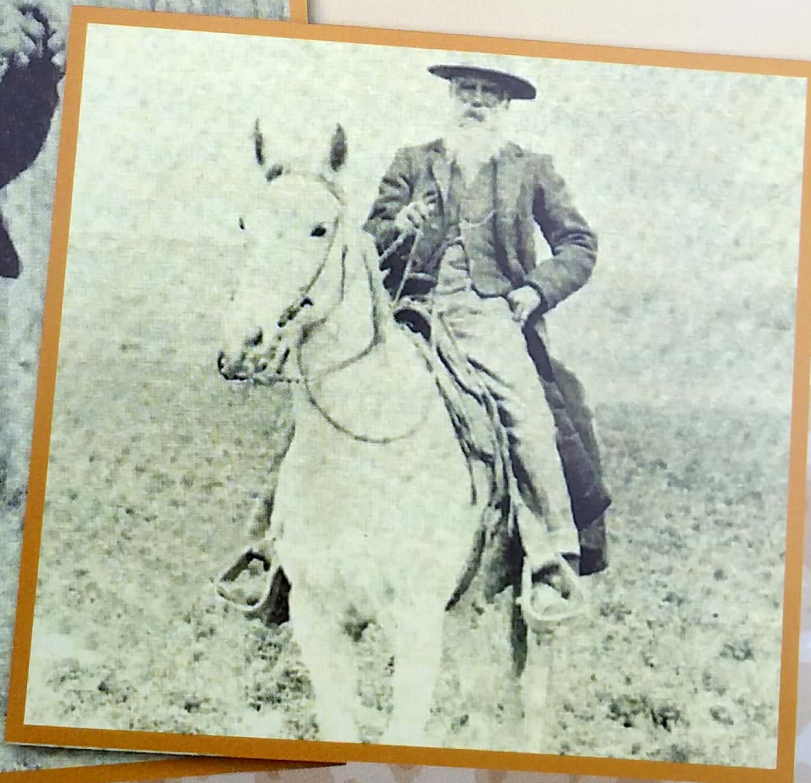
As more people took their lead from Lupe and settled in the valley, Lupe decided the area was becoming too crowded. Lupe moved to the west side of the valley, and upgraded to a small log cabin near what is now known as Lupe Springs.

Farmers bringing wagons of goods to the valley would drive through the marsh area around Lupe Springs to get the wood of their wagon wheels wet causing them to swell and fit snugly in the rims again.

This meant Lupe came into contact with every new settler that came to the valley. Lupe was the official Rockland welcoming committee,

greeting many of the families that still call Rockland home.

*Information  
provided by  
Janice Freeman*







## Rockland's mercantile stores

There have been several general merchandise stores in Rockland, beginning in 1884 with The White Elephant built by Hyrum Frodsham, and S.N. General Merchandise owned and operated by Sam Morris.

In 1912 the Peterson brothers, Ralph, George and Ed, came to the valley and started an enterprise. Starting with the Rockland Cash Store (later renamed Rockland Mercantile) they opened a separate candy store in Rockland, and a general merchandise store in Roy.

The depression claimed S.N. General Merchandise, Ralph and George moved away, leaving Ed to run the Rockland Merc until his death in 1945.

Long-time meat department employee Roy Cowman bought the store after Ed's death. Cowman led the store through its golden era. Cowman would affiliate the store with I.G.A. Cowman became a major supplier of eggs and meat to the network of stores. Cowman added cold storage to the facility and ushered in the change to self-service by adding carts.

The association with I.G.A. made it possible for Rockland residents to find a



wide range of goods at the Rockland Merc including corsages for school dances.

Rockland resident Dorothy May recalled Cowman's pride.

"The remarkable thing about Roy (Cowman) was his genuine love for his profession and the pride he took in giving service to his customers. Oh how this man was missed after his death," said May.

Curtis Coman took over the store after Roy Cowman's death. In 1971 Paul Sjelin and William Green bought the store. Green and Sjelin were followed by several owners including: Milton Poulson, Alvin Ralphs, Ray Jenks, Delford and Reynold Ralphs, Terry Rawson and Fred Tomkinson. None could recapture the former prestige of the Rockland Merc.

In 2000 the building was torn down to make way for the new Direct Communications telephone office building.

*Information provided  
by Dorothy May*





## Education in the Rockland Valley

There has always been a strong emphasis placed on education in Rockland. Some of the most notable people in Rockland history have made their mark on the people of the valley through education.

Ruth Allen was a kind, loving person and carried that love into her classroom. Allen taught for 31 years in the Rockland School system. Many Rockland children had her for fifth and sixth grades.

Former student Janice Freeman remembers Allen's talent of dividing her attentions.

"It was amazing that she could teach 18 fifth graders and then slide over to the other side of the room and teach about 17 sixth graders while the others would work on their assignments," said Freeman.

According to Freeman, Allen had a crafty knack for encouraging her students to continue learning.

"Besides the regular lessons, if we came in from recess quietly she would read to us for 10 minutes from some of the great library books. It was approaching the summer break, and we were in the middle of 'Girl of the Limberlost.' I was so upset that school

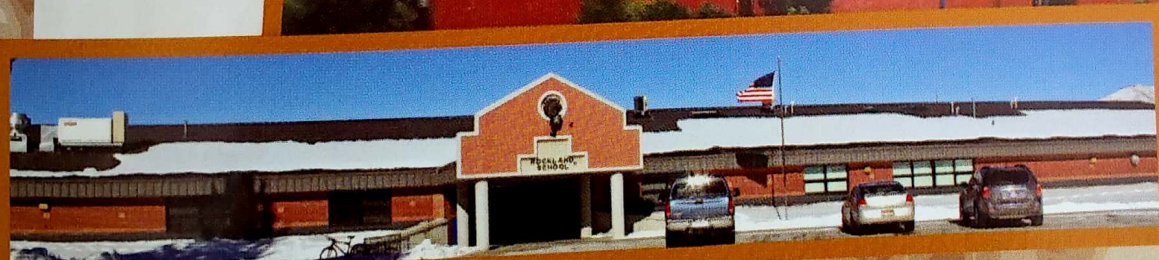
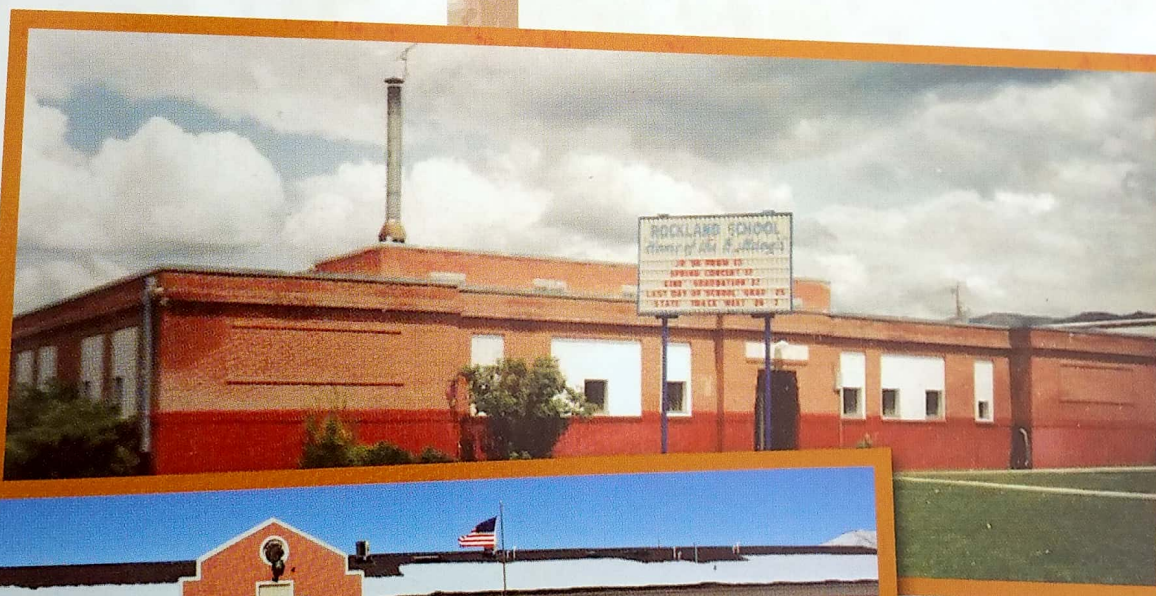
would be over and I would never find out what happened in that exciting story. I'm sure it was her way of instilling in us the love for reading during the summer months," recalled Freeman.

T.H. Bell was also influential in shaping the strong education tradition of the Rockland School System. Coming to the valley in 1947 as Superintendent, Bell led the district until leaving in 1954.

During his time in Rockland he oversaw the consolidation with the Landing School, moving the school building to make way for a home economics building and shop. Bell also spearheaded the construction of a new gymnasium.

Bell continued his work in education after leaving Rockland as a Utah Commissioner of Higher Education. He served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Utah Board of Regents from 1976 to 1979, and then as Secretary of Education under President Ronald Reagan.

*Information provided by  
Janice Freeman*





# Massacre Rocks State Park

Massacre Rocks State Park is 900 acres of high desert beauty along the Snake River southwest of American Falls.

The "Gate of Death" or "Devil's Gate" is a narrow space between two lava rock outcroppings. The passage was named by Oregon Trail pioneers who feared the jutting rock formations provided a perfect hiding place for ambushing Native Americans.

While two days of skirmishes between Indians and settlers did occur on Aug. 9 and 10, 1862 only 10 settlers, from the five wagon trains involved, were killed. The battles did not take place at "Devil's Gate" but farther down the trail near Raft River, making Massacre Rocks State Park one of the most poorly named parks in Idaho.

The other notable geological formation is a gap in the volcanic cliffs across the Snake River from the visitor center. This gap was formed over 14,500 years ago when the waters of Lake Bonneville burst through the weakening rock and drained down the Snake River Basin. Lake Bonneville is

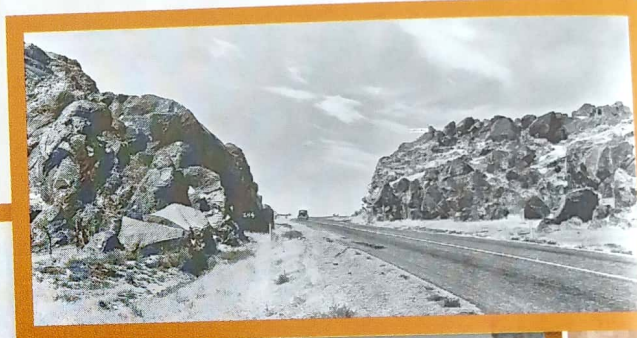
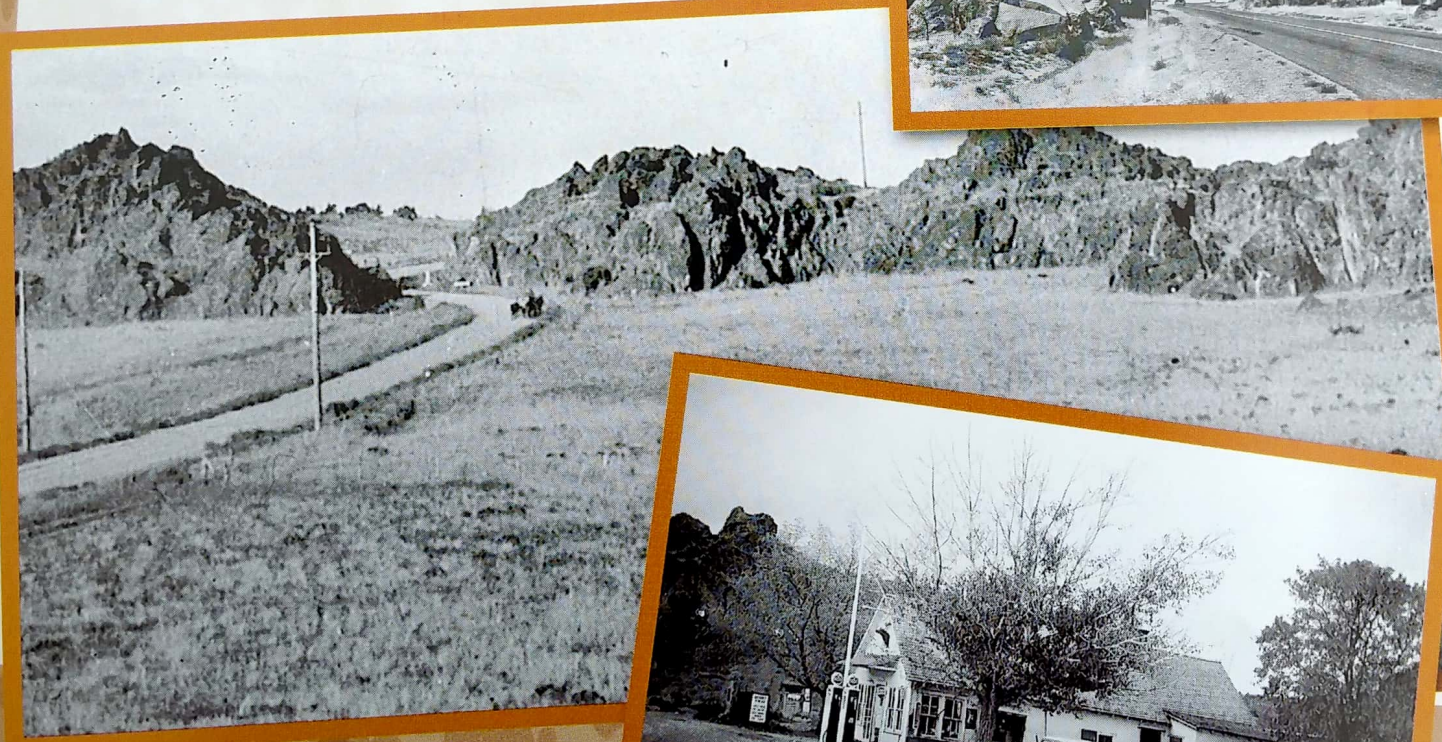
another improperly named part of area history. Lake Bonneville is better described as an inland sea, covering most of Utah.

Despite its unfortunate moniker, Massacre Rocks State Park boasts 200 species of birds, 300 species of plants, as well as all the conveniences of a modern interpretive center and campground with 42 full-service camping spots.

Near to Massacre Rocks State Park is a small picnic park that is more aptly named. Register Rock is a lush area tucked away in a small ravine off of I-86 near a creek that flows toward the Snake River.

Oregon Trail travelers would stop to rest at the spot, and while there made a tradition of carving their names into the massive basalt boulder that now occupies the center of the park.

*Information provided by Kevin Lynott*





## Rugged "River" Joe lived in Massacre Rocks area

The most mythic figure in the history of Massacre Rocks State Park lived there before the 900 acre reserve became a state park. Julius "River Joe" Winter made his home on the northern bank of the Snake River, just up river

from where the boat ramp on the south side is today.

Born on Nov. 18, 1885, Winter came to Idaho in 1914 when he took a homestead in Minidoka County. In 1934 he pitched a tent on the banks of the Snake River. Winter spent his time trapping and mining for gold. For the first two years he had only a layer of canvas to separate him from whatever nature could dish out.

For 25 years River Joe would move away from the river that gave him his name during the summer and work as a fire lookout at Mosby, six miles northeast of the Crystal Ice Cave.

During the summer months Winter would cross the river by boat. Visitors could ring a bell that had been rigged across the river. If Winter wanted to talk he would take his boat across

the river. If he wasn't in the mood, ringing the bell all day long would produce no results.

Winter built a sled with 12 foot long runners for winter crossings. Barrels were attached to the front and back of the sled to keep Winter afloat should the ice break.

Winter died on Dec. 28 1967, the remnants of his cabin can still be seen from I-86.

*Information provided by Kevin Lynott*





# Neeley settled in 1880s

Originally called Neeleyville the area just west of American Falls was settled by Mormon pioneers in 1881. William and Homer Pease came to the area in the spring of 1881, and discovered a rich and promising area to homestead.

They returned to Utah with news of this new territory. The Pease brothers gathered their belongings, families and friends for the move to Idaho. When the pioneers returned to Idaho they camped near Warm Creek. In the morning the intrepid settlers were greeted by a foot of snow.

The settlers built dugouts near the creek for homes and after just a couple of months the first baby born in Neeley arrived. George William Morgan was born on Christmas Eve 1881.

The winter of 1882 was particularly hard for the new residents of Neeleyville. Norma Christensen Weber left Utah with 28 head of cattle. By spring of 1883 only one remained. Several families lost children during the winter when a diphtheria outbreak hit the settlement.

The winter of 1882 also brought church services to the area. Sunday school was taught by Sarah Morgan, who was chosen for her singing voice and level of education.

Neeley was named after William Neeley. Neeley was called to the position of bishop of the Neeley Ward by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints President Wilford Woodruff. Neeley along with his First Counselor George Stanger and Second Counselor Samuel Higgenbottom were charged with organizing the Neeley branch of the LDS Church.

The settlers were often harassed by both Native Americans and cowboys.



Settlers were often greeted by Indians sitting on their doorsteps that refused to move until they were given something to eat. The cowboys were much more bothersome, often shooting at the settlers as they passed by, joking as they rode away “there is no use dodging the bullets already past you.”

For many years the wild resources sustained the settlers, but winters still made it difficult to maintain herds of domesticated animals until the introduction of Lucerne or Alfalfa as a forage crop. The new plant made feeding cattle through the winter much easier.

In 1899 a formal school was built out of local limestone quarried by Julius Sorenson and bricks baked in a kiln built specifically for the project. The school became a community center hosting, dances, suppers and even roller skating.

No specific date is known when the “ville” was dropped from the name, but like the name the number of residents in Neeley got smaller. The school was combined with American Falls, farms were consolidated.

Today the area is still a provider of alfalfa and home to many as the subdivisions of Snake River on the Falls and Riverbend Estates see new homes built each year.

*Information provided by  
Norma Christensen Weber*



## J.J. Sorensen, first Justice of the Peace

James Julius (J.J.) Sorensen was just two-years-old when his parents joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The family endured the harassment of their neighbors and former friends for their conversion until 1863 when Maren and Rasmus Christian Sorensen decided to immigrate to the United States.

J.J. was originally named Jens Julius, and in the Scandinavian naming tradition should have adopted his father's first name with the suffix "sen" as his last name, making him Jens Julius Rasmusen. But as with many immigrants, the naming traditions of various cultures were not understood or honored, and on the manifest of the B.S. Kimbal his name was anglicized by the British crew to James Julius Sorensen. The family kept the new name as part of their new life.

The Sorensen family settled in Eden, UT, until J.J. and wife Elizabeth moved to Red Rock, ID, just south of Downey.

Unable to make the farm work J.J. got work building the railroad crossing at American Falls. Sorensen found the area five miles west of American Falls to be a lush land with a large amount of potential. Sorensen homestead an 80 acre tract of land for which he received a land patent from the U.S. government in 1889.

Sorensen laid out the foundation for the family home using the North Star, telling his son

Lawrence he wanted their home to be square with the world.

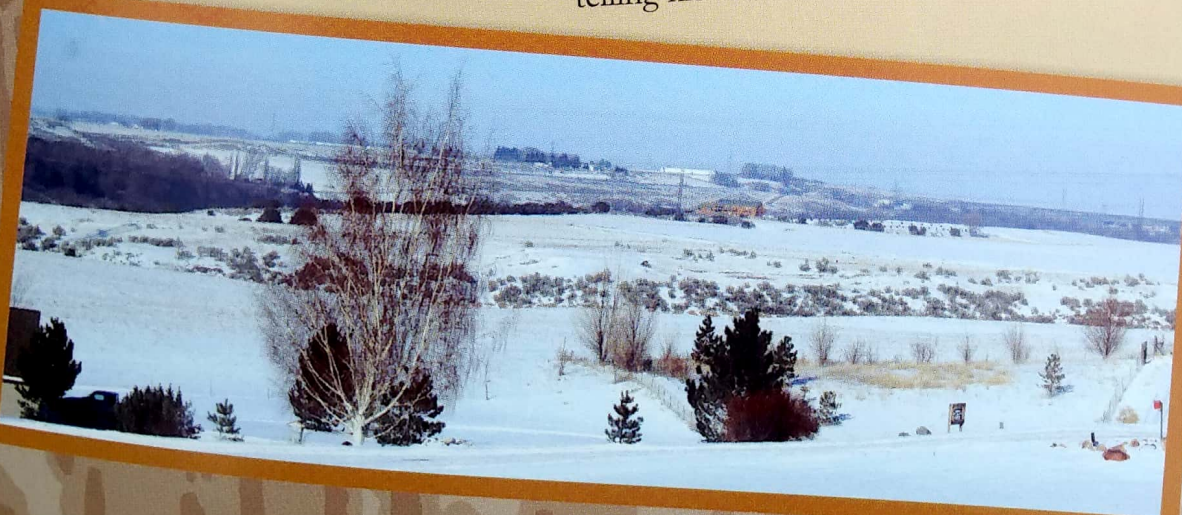
J.J. was a gracious host and would open the home to travelers requesting food and lodging along their journey. Travelers were attracted to the Sorensen home because of the oasis J.J. and family had created. They had a large yard surrounded by hay fields and an orchard.

By the early 1900s Lawrence had taken over farming operations and J.J. had become interested in prospecting. J.J. discovered gold on an adjacent 160 acres the family had acquired after homesteading the first 80 acre tract. No records remain to indicate how much gold was found on the Sorensen farm, but the discovery gave J.J. gold fever. J.J. would continue as placer miner along the Snake River for many years after.

The first county election was held in the Sorensen home in 1894. J.J. won the office Justice of the Peace with just 13 votes; he would serve in the office for many years.

In 1925 J.J. punctured his foot with a nail while working in the barn. The wound eventually became gangrenous, and J.J. Sorensen passed away from the infection on April 1, 1925, at the age of 72.

*Information provided by  
Nancy Zaring Anderson*





## Four Tiede generations grow farm operation over 100 years

Tiede Farms started in 1908 when John Tiede homesteaded in Pleasant Valley west of American Falls. The original farm was 320 acres and consisted of dry land crops. For years it was farmed with horses. John's first tractor was a model 20 Caterpillar.

John and Emma Rast Tiede had three children, Fred Tiede, Otto Tiede and Bertha Bethke. John Tiede's son, Otto, returned to the farm after fighting in WWII and was among the early proponents of drilling wells to bring irrigation to the area. In the early 1950s, the Tiede farm added irrigation crops with potatoes and sugar beets.

Otto and Helen had four children, Vicki Meadows, Debbie Erickson, James and Patty.



Jim graduated from American Falls High School in 1974 and returned to farm with his dad. He and wife, Debbie continued to increase the size of the farm and upgrade systems and equipment.

They have four children, Jacklyn Taylor, Meredith Galvan, Erin Kress and Alex. After graduating in 2006 from College of Idaho, Alex returned to the family farm.

Today, Alex rents over half of the potato acres from his parents. The new generation has changed the face of the farming industry with the introduction of computers and GPS.

In 2008, the Tiede family celebrated 100 years in Pleasant Valley as a four generation farm.

*Information provided by Debbie Tiede*





# Gilbert Breeding flew coast to coast

Gilbert Breeding was a first generation American. The son of German immigrants that came through Ellis Island in 1894, Breeding came to American Falls in 1912 with his parents to homestead 320 acres of sagebrush covered land.

Gilbert married Gertrude Roth. Together they had two sons and a daughter; Ralph, Marion and Larry.

The Bredings were always innovating. Gilbert, along with his father, were the first farmers in Pleasant Valley to handle wheat in bulk rather than sacking the grain in the field. This was made pos-

sible by using the technologically advanced hydraulic dump truck.

In 1947 Breeding took 10 days of flying lessons and got his pilot's license. Breeding purchased a plane and was hired by the Red Cross to deliver supplies to the Cold Water area during the winter of 1948. Other pilots would use Breeding's

plane to keep supplies moving to the snowbound area. Breeding and the other pilots used the frozen Snake River as a landing strip. On one of those landings the plane broke through the ice. The pilot escaped safely, but it took ten days to retrieve the plane. Breeding flew coast to coast, even to Cuba in the pre-Castro era. Breeding logged 6025 flight hours.

Breeding was a lifetime member of St. John's Lutheran Church and served for many years as a Power County

Highway Commissioner. Gilbert Breeding passed away in 1995.

*Information provided by  
Arnold Burgemeister*





# Power County Hospital

Even before there was a Power County there was a hospital in American Falls. During the early 1900s German Mennonite settlers from Kansas and Oklahoma moved to the area to establish a community. As part of their settlement plan the Mennonites built schools and hospitals to support their settlements.

In 1910 efforts began to start a hospital in American Falls with support coming from Mennonite churches in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and Oklahoma.

The Bethany Hospital and Deaconess Home opened in a temporary location in October 1912

The construction of the American Falls Dam meant Bethany Hospital would



have to move. It was determined it would not be cost effective to move the building. The United States Reclamation Service paid the Mennonite Church \$19,000.

The new hospital, located at 550 Pocatello Avenue, was opened on Sept. 16, 1926. The new facility had 42 rooms, wider hallways, a large dining facility, and could accommodate 21 patients. The hospital's operations were vested in a board of trustees for the first time.

The name of the medical center was changed to Schiltz Memorial Hospital after Dr. Clarence F. Schiltz who served the community as physician from 1916 to 1932.

In 1958 the Idaho State Board of Health inspected the hospital and found the facility lacking. The state gave the Power County Commissioners until Dec. 31, 1959 to bring the building up to standards, build a new facility, or face losing the license for the hospital.

After it was determined renovation was not cost effective voters overwhelmingly approved a \$200,000 bond to pay for half of the cost of a new facility. The other half was paid for by a Hill-Burton grant.

Ground was broken on the new building in March of 1960 and the ribbon cutting was held in April of 1961.





The name of the hospital was changed to Harms Memorial Hospital in the early 1980s in honor of Dr. Frank Harms who had served the area from 1940 to his retirement in 1980.

The Power County Commissioners created the Power County Hospital District in 1986 to generate tax revenue to support the medical facility that had struggled financially at various times in its history.

Since that time Harms Family Clinic, CT scanner, occupational and speech therapy departments have been added to the list of services offered by the Power County Hospital District.

In 2010 the board of

trustees voted to rename the hospital once again. The Power County Hospital continues to serve residents of Power County and southern Bingham County, and continues to plan for the future with plans to eventually construct a new facility near American Falls High School.

*Information provided by  
The Power County Hospital District*



## Dr. Frank Harms

Dr. Frank Harms was born in Cordell, OK, in 1914. The son of a doctor, Harms attended Bethel College in North Newtown, KS, for his bachelor's degree, then the University of Oklahoma where he followed in his father's footsteps by earning a medical degree. Harms served his internship in Portland, OR, at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Harms began fully practicing as a family physician when he took over Dr. MacKennon's

practice in Aberdeen in 1940. Harms moved to American Falls in 1953 with his wife Lois. Harms was actively involved not only in practicing medicine but in the administration of Schiltz Memorial Hospital until he retired in 1980 after

suffering a minor heart attack.

Harms and his wife Lois were heavily involved with community activities including Boy Scouts, school athletics, and blood drives. Harms was the



charter President of the American Falls Rotary Club. Lois Harms was a charter member of the Hospital Auxiliary, as well as the president of the Southeast Idaho and Idaho Medical Associations.

Schiltz Memorial Hospital was renamed Harms Memorial Hospital shortly after Harms' retirement in honor of his 40 years of service to the community.

Dr. Frank Harms died March 28, 1981, of a heart attack while visiting friends in Colorado Springs, CO.

*Information provided by  
The Power County Hospital District*





## Power County Commissioners

Adolf Winters  
Walter S. Sparks  
Andrew May  
M.E. Walker  
C.F. Eggers  
G.A. Bramstadt  
R.W. Peterson  
E.C. England  
E.E. Zaring  
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Russell Lindley  
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Lois Bauer  
Ralph (Moon) Wheeler  
A. James Davis  
Lynn Thompson  
Gary C. Mayer  
Judy Woodworth Meline  
Myrna Farnsworth  
Kent Rudeen  
Ken Estep  
Valerie Hoybjerg  
Janet Chapman  
Vicki L. Meadows  
Ray Zimmerman  
Ronald Funk  
Delane Anderson

## Power County Sheriff

D.B. Jeffries  
George Hansen  
Frank E. Lowry  
W.L. Oliver  
E.E. Zaring  
L.E. Davis  
Wm. Hoehnen  
Rulon Neal  
Howard Sprague  
Jim Jeffries

### D.B. Jeffries

David Blair (D.B.) Jeffries was a baseball player who played with Honas Wagner, a mason (both as a profession and a member of the fraternal organization) and the first sheriff of Power County.

Jeffries had come to American Falls to build a brick home for his cousin Dr. Sykes. He stayed to help construct several churches and businesses in American Falls and Aberdeen.

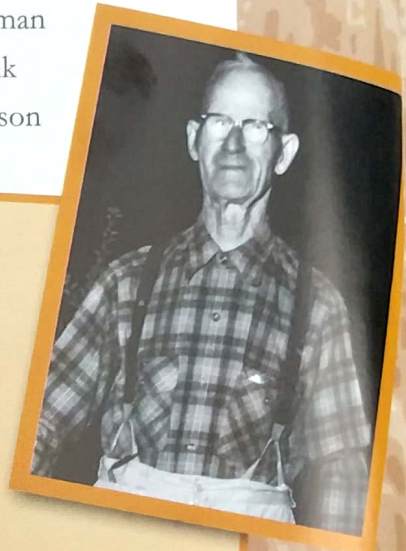
In 1911 Jeffries was a deputy sheriff of Oneida County under Sheriff David Davis. When Power County was formed in 1913 Governor D.W. Davis appointed Jeffries as the sheriff of the new county.

Jeffries served three two-year terms as sheriff from 1913 to 1919.

Jeffries contended with the wild aspects of the burgeoning county including bootleggers, horse thieves and over-excited landowners arguing over road usage.

In one incident John Lee followed Jeffries into the county jail as he was arresting another man. Lee pulled a Colt .38 and threatened Jeffries. Jeffries reportedly overpowered Lee and arrested him as well.

Jeffries' grandson, Jim, is the tenth and current Power County Sheriff.





## Power County Coroner

Harry R. Hager  
A.W. Davis  
H.L. Davis  
Bud Kelly  
Mark Rose

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Nettie Rice	Pearl Calloway
Linda Belle Houschildt	Lucille Porath
Mabel Stuart	Melba Ferguson
Jennie Anderson	Julie Zacharias
Benita Mehlhaff	Bobbie Mauch
Amanda Coon	Deanna Curry

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Spencer Baird	Lyle Eliassen
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P.A. Anderson	Paul Laggis
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L.R. Schou	

## Power County Clerk

David Burrell	Carl Adams
Paul Bulfinch	Lois Nunnelley
C. Lee French	Helen Hall
C.A. Coon	Marjorie Glascock
H.C. Allen	Carol Schreiber
Hazel Stuart	Christine Steinlicht

## Power County Assessor

Paul Bulfinch	Oleen Strokes
O.F. Crowley	Pons D. Hunt
O.W. Pollard	Bettie Jo Hunt
J.G. Vaughan	Fenton Nelson
James England	Luciel Vincent
E.C. Winter	Douglas Glascock
Byron Crowder	







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