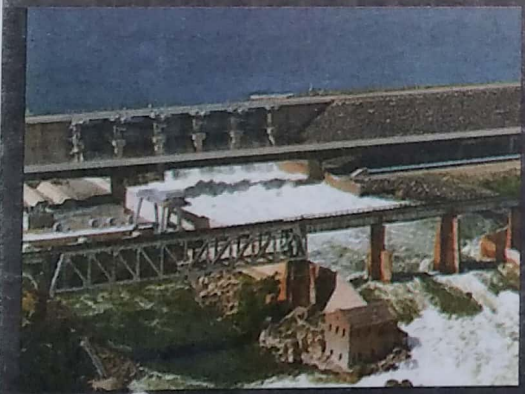
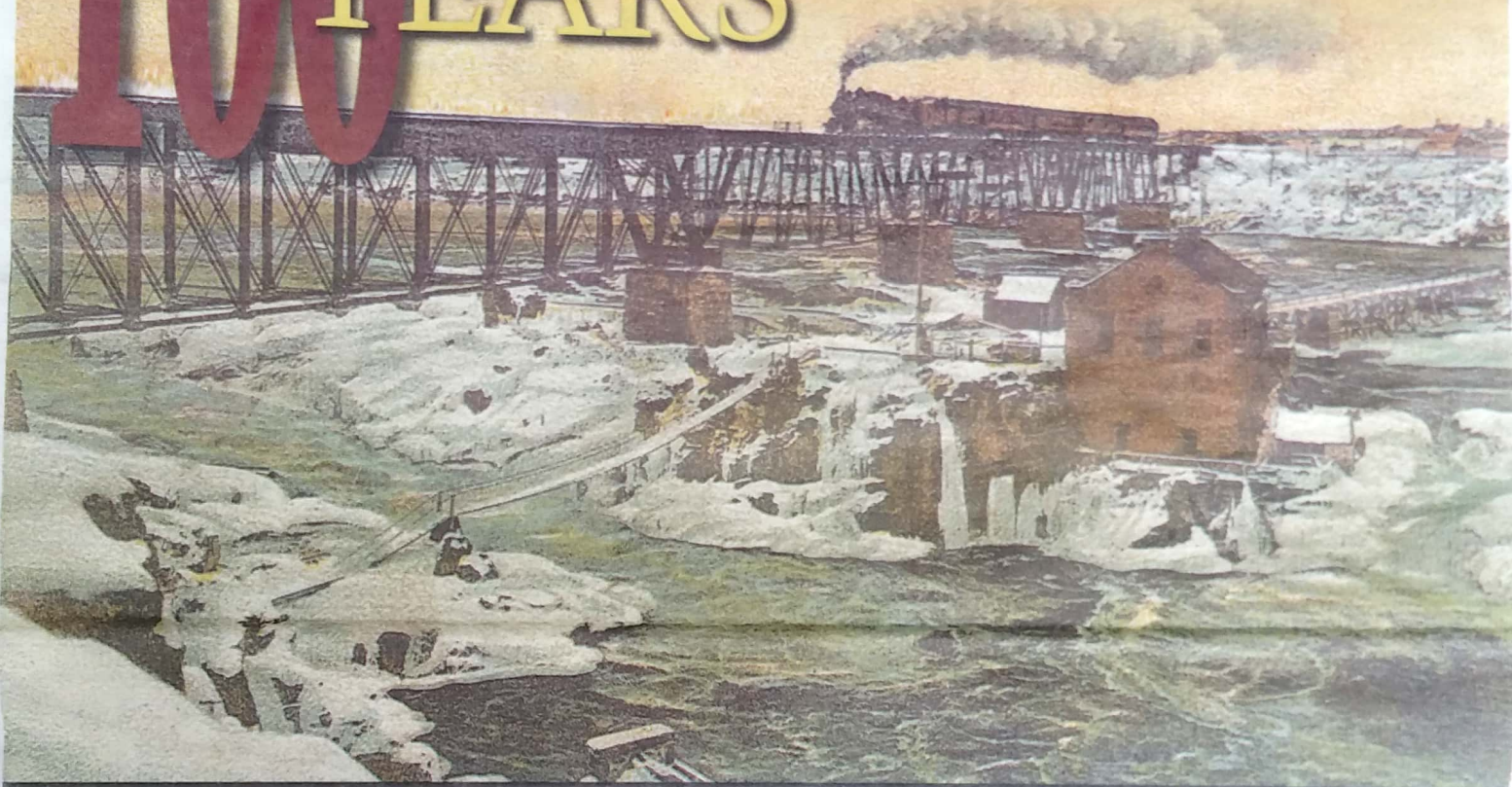


100 YEARS

A look back at Power County's first century



A Special Supplement to

The Power County Press

Published in American Falls, Idaho

Serving Power County continuously since 1902



Family once called old Powerhouse their home

by Daniel Moore
Press staff writer

With water on every side and with the structure looking less and less stable every year, it's hard to believe someone used to live in the old powerhouse beneath the dam.

Charles Johnson, the first superintendent of the power plant there, moved his family into the middle of the river above the falls right after the first power plant was created back in 1902, before the dam was in place and before Power County became a county.

His granddaughter, Polly Johnson Beck, said James Brady, who became the governor of Idaho later on, offered him the job after scouring the area for someone who would have the know-how to run the plant. Before moving to American Falls, he was living in Logan, UT.

Polly's father, Bill Johnson, was a baby when he moved into the house with his mother, father, one sister and two brothers. He grew up in a home where the backyard was a cement platform that went out over the water.

"It doesn't look like a big enough building to live in," Polly said, "but they had boarders as well." Some of Bill's first teachers were teachers who were boarding

with the family.

The family lived five years in the house. They moved in 1907, after the family matriarch, Cecelia, had had enough of her fears of the children falling off the platform or a

train derailling and coming through the house.

The boys had a fun time of it while it lasted, fishing from the backyard and the older boys diving into the water below, Polly said.



Brothers (l to r) Pete, Bill and Charlie camp on the concrete platform that was their backyard.



The first powerhouse in Power County



The swinging bridge was a popular spot for photographs.



The old powerhouse was once the home of the Charles Johnson family

The house was incredibly modern for its time, Bill told The Press in an interview in 1974. While it still had a coal cooking stove, it had a telephone and the first modern bathroom in the area. It also had electricity, of course, since one of the generators was right beneath the house, and included indoor and outdoor lighting and electric heating. The generator created what the 1974 article described as a "pleasing hum" through the house.

The other generators were on the west shore of the river. However, the bridge to the mainland was on the east side. Charles got tired of having to drive and walk around two bridges to check on the generators, so he built a swinging rope bridge from

the house to the west side. That bridge stayed up until the dam was reconstructed in the 1960s. Bill thought it was too dangerous for Polly to use it when she was a girl.

"I kept trying to talk her into taking me out there, but he wouldn't do it," she said.

The house was a cultural center of the community. Bill remembered in his 1974 interview. Parties were regularly held in the house. It was a popular spot for picture-taking, visiting dignitaries and couples getting married. Charles even hauled in enough lumber for Cecelia to plant a garden by the house.

Charles went on to become mayor of American Falls for a few terms. Bill worked for the postal service.



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Dam generates local history for 87 years

by Kurtis Workman
Press staff writer

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 natural falling action of the water to power generators. The power generation station was acquired by Idaho Power Company in 1916.

Privately funded canals were beginning to cross the landscape making already fertile land even more productive. Restraining the waters of the Snake River would mean better control over flooding and increasing water availability for a longer time through the growing season. Having more control over the water also meant more consistent flow over the generator blades in the power plant.

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. Only one building was too stubborn to move. On July 29, 1926 the

"moving road" was closed officially marking the end of the town relocation.

Work on the American Falls Dam was completed 60 days ahead of schedule and the gates were closed on April 21, 1926 and water had been collecting behind the new dam for over a month before the official end of 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 components of the concrete mix and the water the dam was designed to corral were causing a loss in structural integrity.

On Dec. 28, 1973 the United States Congress authorized the replacement of the American



Inside the old dam

Falls Dam. The new dam would not be completed until 1978.

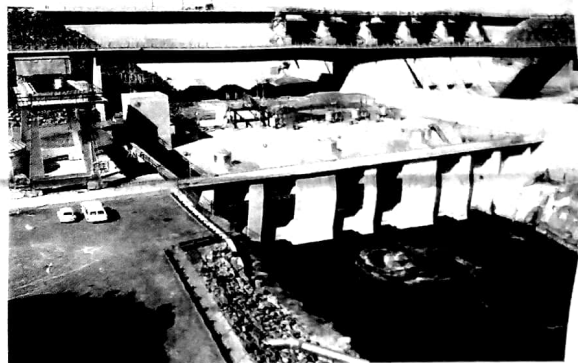
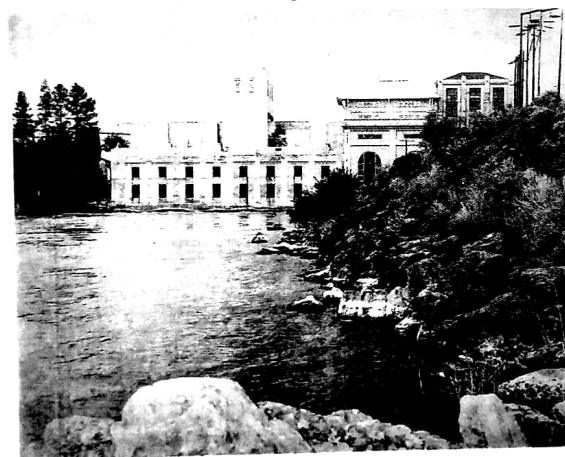
1976 was a big year for the American Falls Dam. In that year work was completed by Idaho Power Company on a new generator facility. The American Falls Reservoir was also lowered in the same year as an emergency measure to stop

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.



Powerhouse by the old dam



The new dam



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Rockland native drove first team of horses over the old dam

by Kurtis Workman
Press staff writer

The construction of the original American Falls Dam brought many people to American Falls. Many left and many stayed after the dam was finished. Those that stayed found work in other places but their time spent on the construction project left an impression that lasted for the rest of their lives.

Charles Lasley was born in Rockland on Feb. 4, 1901. Lasley moved to many places including Soda Springs where

he met his wife Jessie Blackburn. The Lasleys were drawn back to the region when dam construction began. Charles and Jessie moved to American Falls in 1924 so that Charles could take a job working on the dam. Together with his father Lasley drove a team of horses transporting whatever wares needed moving each day.

There were many things that Lasley called accomplishments in his life. Chief among them were his nine children and growing family.

"We enjoy having the fam-

ily come home. At the present time there are 98 of us. Each June our whole family gets together for a family reunion enjoyed by young and old alike," wrote Lasley in Rockland Valley 1879-1979.

Lasley loved horses and earned most of his lifetime income working with the majestic animals; prior to working on the dam Lasley held jobs as a derrick-horse rider and sheep herder. After construction on the American Falls Dam was completed in 1927 Lasley continued working with horses even after he and Jessie purchased a farm in 1945 in the Rockland valley from Ed Webb in East Fork Canyon. Lasley took a summer job in 1968 as a range rider for the Lake Channel Cattle Association.

Jessie was always by his side traveling to the Lake Channel area to pick up Lasley and his horse at the end of the day.

"In 1968 we took a summer job working for the Lake Channel Cattle Association. We did this for four summers. It was there that I broke my last horse

at the age of 70," Lasley wrote.

Near the end of Lasley's time working on the dam his skill with a team of horses led Lasley to receive a unique honor.

"My dad and I worked with

our team of horses. When the dam and bridge were finished it was my privilege to drive the first team across it," noted Lasley.

Lasley retired in 1972, spend-

ing his time fishing and collecting antique farm equipment until his death in 1979. At the time the Charles and Jessie Lasley family numbered 101 direct descendants.



Crowds gather for the dam opening




The powerhouse on the dam



The bridge over the original American Falls Dam



The cornerstone of the old dam



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The dam under construction (above and above right)



Some things never change
Today's young are not as literate

by Paul Harvey
 November 13, 1975

Today's young people statistically are taller, handsomer, healthier, smarter and more capable than any generation which preceded theirs. Except they can't read or write. A million American teenagers, 12 to 17, cannot read or write at a fourth grade level!

A million American youngsters are illiterate. They learn a little bit about a lot of things in school, but they are not learning reading, writing and arithmetic.

So they get to college. They want to be journalists. And they can't even spell.

This year 200 students applied for admission to the University of Wisconsin's school of journalism and most of them—125 of them—were turned away because they did not have even a basic understanding of the English language. They needed only 56 correct answers out of 90—and still couldn't cut it.

One of the washouts, said, "Why should I know about commas and hyphens and stuff like that?"

At the University of Illinois a freshman writes, "I could of done better in finals if I wouldn't of broke my leg at exam time."

Only 8% of this year's Illinois freshmen passed the writing proficiency entrance test.

Universities should not have to teach students to read and write. Part of the problem is grade inflation in high school. "Head 'em up, move 'em out, pass everybody!"

Albert Tillman, University of Illinois, blames television.

He says children are watching instead of reading.

Many colleges and universities, pinched financially and forced to increase enrollments this year, are waiving freshman writing requirements. So you can get into college, through college and out with a degree and remain functionally illiterate. How do they understand their textbooks? They don't always.

Elliott Anderson, professor of English at Northwestern, admits that many teachers do not bother to correct grammar in student essays.

Further deleterious is the insistence by some that "street language," as they call it, because of common usage should be constructed as correct.

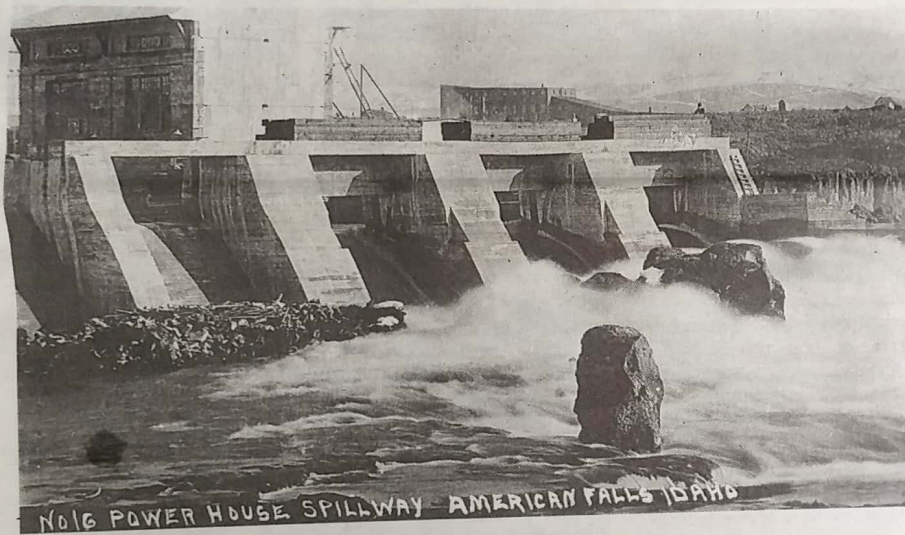
Dr. Dwayne Bliss, assistant superintendent for administration in the schools of Corpus Christi, Tex., says discipline problems are worsened by marginal literacy.

"They can't read and they get bored; they get bored and they get in trouble."

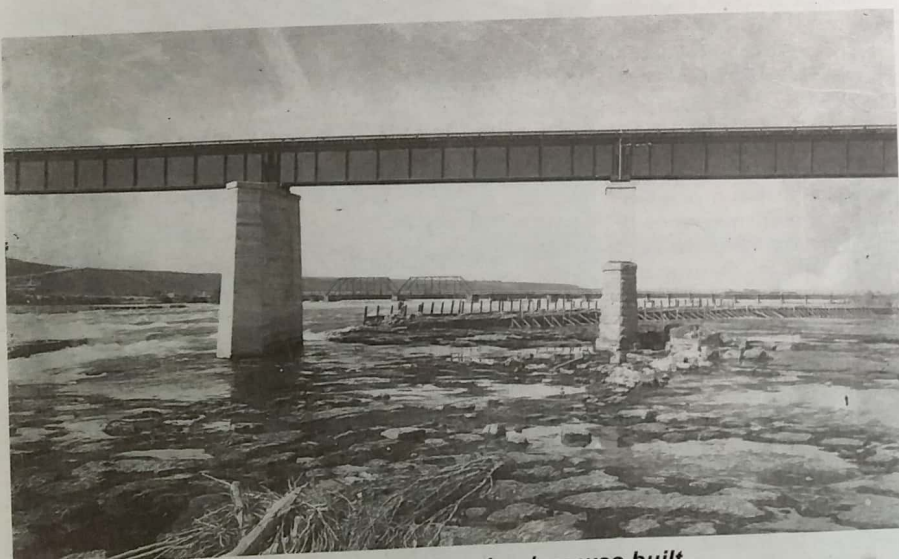
The situation is worsening, not improving. High school graduates taking college entrance exams have scored lower in language skills every year for 12 years, and this year's decline was the steepest yet.

Maybe teachers have been spending too much time striking when they should have been teaching.

And, lest you run out of things to worry about, out of this generation's students will come the next generation's teachers.



Water spilling over the dam



The bridges before the dam was built

Family tradition gives Power County Sheriff unique perspective

by Jim Jeffries

Power County Sheriff

Jim Jeffries became the tenth Power County Sheriff in 2004 replacing Howard Sprague. This was not the first time the sheriff's badge rested on the chest of a Jeffries. Ninety-one years earlier Idaho Governor William "D.W." Davis appointed David Blair "D.B." Jeffries to the post. One hundred years later Jeffries' grandson compares the differences a century has made on the office of Power County Sheriff.

My paternal grandfather David Blair Jeffries was a contractor and he came to American Falls from Ohio in 1909 to build a two story brick home for a cousin (Doctor Everett Sykes). He went on to construct many historic buildings in American Falls, some of which are the senior citizen center, barber shop, Power County Press, and Davis-Rose Mortuary. He built the first house in the new town, which is located at 634 Falls Avenue. Other buildings he constructed were the Methodist Church (1924), five school buildings in the American Falls School District, the Presbyterian Church and Idaho Power buildings in Aberdeen.

He also had a dry farm in the Rockland Valley and was a Deputy Sheriff for Oneida County in 1911 (before Power County existed). When Power County was created from parts of Oneida, Blaine, Bingham and Cassia counties in 1912 he was appointed by Governor D.W. Davis to be the first Sheriff and he served in that capacity officially from 1913 to 1919.

Grandfather said he had one man to help him for only two of the nine years he was Sheriff. That man was George Hanson, who would take over the position of Sheriff in 1919. Grandfather also had to furnish his own horse and wagon team. To deliver supplies for the first bond election in 1913, Grandfather traveled to Arbon Valley through snow drifts as high as the house eaves; the trip took two days.

Times have certainly changed from the one man operation my grandfather ran. The Power County Sheriff's Office now employs twenty-four deputies to operate the E-911 Dispatch, Patrol, Jail, Courthouse Security & Bailiff, Investigations, Driver License, Marine Patrol, and Civil Divisions. Search and Rescue is a volunteer organization the sheriff is also responsible for.

My grandfather was furnished with a Model T Ford in 1914. He had a lot of problems with the acetylene lights on the car and on a couple of trips to Arbon Valley, he made his return trip using lightening to see the road. There were many trips all around Idaho and out of state to transport prisoners, which could be a challenging task considering the mode of travel for the time.

Comparing the job of Power County Sheriff to the days when my Grandfather was doing the job. We now have a fleet of 12 front line vehicles, a boat, two jet skis, two four wheelers, and one snow machine. While we still routinely transport prisoners from other jurisdictions throughout the state and country having a larger staff means we will not leave the county without law enforcement.

As Sheriff, my Grandfather's salary was \$100 per month and in addition he was allowed 10 cents per mile one way for his transportation. My Grandmother, Mary Lanham Jeffries, helped my grandfather with the Sheriff's records and bookkeeping, but she was not paid.

The job of being the top law enforcement officer of Power County has always included a large amount of paperwork and expense. My grandmother may have been able to handle all of the bookwork then, but today each staff member submits reports for every activity. Fiscal responsibility is ensured in the county by an outside auditor who is hired to review our expenditures every year.

Another big change that has added paperwork, personnel and liability to the job of sheriff that was not a concern for my grandfather is jail administration. During his time Grandfather had only a couple of holding cells in the basement of the courthouse. With the 1964 construction of the Sheriff's Office and jail the sheriff's duties have included those similar to a warden. My grandfather did not have to plan meals, manage a staff of jailers, conduct drug tests or the multitude of other tasks associated with managing a jail that averages 16 to 25 inmates.

It is true that more and more tasks have been added to the duties of the sheriff in the century since my grandfather was appointed to be the Power County Sheriff, but there are things he had to contend with that I do not.

Grandfather was Sheriff during the prohibition era, and he recalled some pretty tough characters in his day. One who gave him a rough time was a bootlegger called "Hard Boiled Blackie" and he was arrested many times by my Grandfather.

Cattle rustlers and horse thieves were common, and homesteaders fighting over land were of great concern.

There was one established road in the county and homesteaders fought with each other over the use of it.

For as long as there have been police there have been lawbreakers trying to get rid of officers and deputies.

Another fellow Grandfather recalled was named John Lee. Lee followed him into the jail house as he was arresting another man that was a friend of Lee. Lee pulled a pistol on my grandfather. Grandfather overpowered the man and jailed him too.

After his time as Sheriff, Grandfather remained in American Falls in the contracting business. He retired in 1950 and at the time of his death he had 10 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. One of the grandchildren he spent a lot of time with is Jim Jeffries.

Change may be the word that stands out when you compare what being Sheriff is like between the first and the tenth. Improved roads, automobiles, and electronic technology have made our world a much smaller place to live. Law enforcement has become much more specialized and educated as forensic science mixes with the legal system in order to meet standards that have been established by court case laws. It takes a lot of evidence to obtain a conviction based on circumstances, but proof can also be absolute in cases where DNA is collected and processed correctly.

Communications have gone from nearly nonexistent in 1913 to iPhones that function as telephones as well as a computer sending e-mail, working as a GPS and social media hub. During his time my grandfather's best form of communication was telling someone where he was going and when he expected to return. Whatever could have happened between those times wouldn't be discovered until after the fact. E911 Dispatch is the Sheriff's life line in the field keeping us safe and enabling us to control necessary public safety missions as they

happen. Today press releases to the public are immediately available worldwide via the internet. From a time when there was no television, present day media can broadcast at the scene of an incident.

In 1913 you didn't need a driver license to operate an automobile. That did not become law in Idaho until July 1, 1935, when a license was good for three years and cost 50 cents. In 2013 the Sheriff issues driver licenses which are good for four years and cost \$38 or eight years and cost \$55.

Both my Grandfather and I have worked with a jail where there were just a few prisoners, and no detention officers. During my career, the Power County Jail has gone through tremendous change from those times. We have often been over crowded with prisoners and had only one detention officer on duty per shift.

In 2013 the Power County Jail has just been remodeled and the building is in compliance with Idaho Jail Standards. Because of this and newly acquired staffing, allowing for two detention

officers on duty per shift, we can look forward to getting certified by Idaho Jail Standards in 2014. This certification is something that we have not had for many years, and it is an achievement we can all be proud of. The biggest benefit of having a certified jail is safety for staff and inmates.

In 1913 the Sheriff was the only law enforcement officer in the county. There were no city police and the Idaho State Police did not come into existence until 1919. Patrols and investigations were more reactive than they are today because of travel limitations and a lack of staffing.

So many things have changed, that it is fun to discover what they are. You as the reader will certainly think of some too. One thing that has stayed the same over the past 100 years is the amount of dedication a Power County Sheriff has for the job. I know I can speak for my grandfather when I say we are both very proud and honored to have served the people of Power County. We are thankful for your support.



The original Sheriff D.B. Jeffries was an avid fisherman

100 years: An interview with a centenarian

by Daniel Moore
Press staff writer

What was life like a hundred years ago? Ask Power County resident Esther Ziebach. She just turned 100 last fall, yet remains so sharp she can name dates and places of important events in her life.

What is life like as a centenarian?

"You get a lot of attention you would not have otherwise," Esther said.

And what caused the biggest change in the last 100 years? World War II was Esther's answer. That really put America in the forefront of the world stage.

"Seems like we're always having to help everyone solve their problems," she said. She has a lot of respect for Franklin Roosevelt, and does not like it when people criticize him, she said.

Originally from South Dakota, Esther and her husband Miles came out to Idaho during the Great Depression looking for work. They lived in Pocatello for 10 years before buying a small farm in Aberdeen, which

they ran while Miles sold farm equipment for J.P. Mellhaff full time.

Miles worked in the park service for two years after they were married in the Black Hills of South Dakota, but was then laid off. Before they were married Esther went to junior college and taught school. They were married in 1937.

They knew of the Pocatello area because Miles's father helped settle disputes with Native Americans in the area. They were not the first from the family to move to Idaho, and with family nearby, Southeast Idaho became their home.

Ziebach County in South Dakota is named after Esther's in-laws.

Their farm was a small, 30 acre farm inside the city limits of Aberdeen. Part the farm is now part of the Hazard Creek Golf Course. They kept some animals and grew alfalfa and wheat. Esther was mostly a housewife, but would work harvest every year and help seed potatoes in the spring. Later on she worked at Simplot starting in 1967, and then worked

at Lamb Weston. After retiring they would travel to Arizona for the winters. Miles passed away in the mid-1980s.

She's enjoyed living in Idaho. Touring Europe once was impressive, but she did not see anywhere she would rather be than here.

"I didn't find any country I would consider living in," she said.

The Ziebachs had two children, Tom and Marian. They grew up in Aberdeen, although both moved to American Falls later on. Esther followed them to American Falls. Tom now runs a restaurant in Minidoka, ID, while Marian retired from Lamb Weston and now lives in Idaho Falls.

"She was a great homemaker," Marian said, also saying she would make cinnamon rolls and homemade candy that would attract Marian's friends over for dinner. She always had a positive attitude, Marian said.

How why did she live to be 100? Good clean living, Marian said.

Esther now lives in Edge-

wood Spring Creek Manor in American Falls, which Esther says she enjoys.



Esther Ziebach

Other Power County residents nearing 100:

Erma Moss will be turning 99 in November.

Linda Bartel will be turning 99 in February.

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Barn still standing one century later

by Arnold Burgemeister

While looking through the June 19, 1913 edition of The American Falls Press, I found this item under the People and Events Column. "H.C. Martens is building a big barn."

H.C. Marten, son of Gustof Marten, born Jan. 17, 1886, homesteaded with his father and brothers in South Pleasant Valley. In fact, they built and farmed on three consecutive hilltops where the farms of Dustin Allen, Gary Tiede and Arnold Burgemeister now stand.

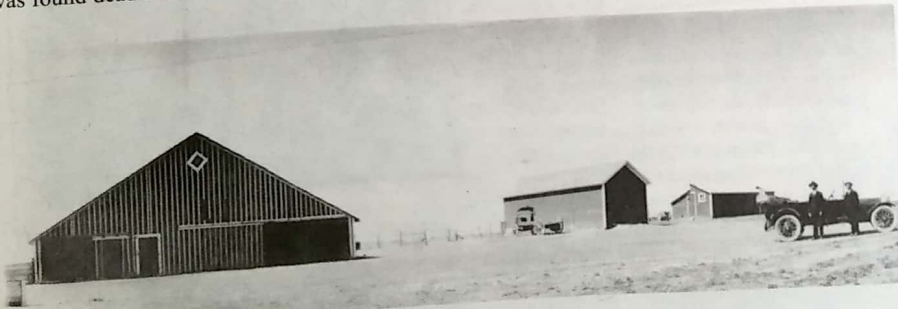
The furthest west of these, now the Burgemeister farm, was H.C. Marten's home. He built a house, chicken coop, grain storage, a wind mill to pump water for the animals, and a large, two story barn with stalls for horses, a center area to store hay, a loafing shed and a loft for more hay storage.

Life was not all roses for the Marten family. On Dec. 28, 1914, Herman's brother, John, was found dead in Herman's barn. Stories went

around that either John was murdered or that he had been kicked by a horse. Since there are no ghosts in the barn, I assume the horse did it. John was buried in the Martin Luther Cemetery and the family had a bell made as a memorial to John and it now hangs in St. John's Lutheran Church in American Falls.

The gist of this story is that H.C. Marten's barn is now 100 years old. The horse stalls were converted by Albert Burgemeister to milking stalls for cows and a small feed storage area was built to hold rolled barley for feeding the milk cows. A metal roof and siding was added to part of it to protect the wood. Other than that it is recognizable as the one Herman built long ago.

The grain storage that he built is still there, also. The chicken coop is gone and the house has been remodeled twice since then. I am thankful for the work that the Martens did to get established in this country, making life easier for my father, Albert, and myself.



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Reflections

Former resident reminisces about “the good ol’ days”

by Jay Nelson

As the holidays approach, I reminisce about my childhood growing up in American Falls in the 1960s.

Christmas vacation from school was filled with good times and my neighborhood had a lot of guys who were good friends and many others who, when my cute nieces would visit Uncle Jay, claimed to be my best friend.

Van Buren Street was a fun place to live, with big trees to climb. Our end of the street had huge Elm trees on both sides that formed a canopy over the road. When it snowed, it turned into a huge snow cave.

We enjoyed lots of outdoor activities, such as snow football. It was usually just Dwight and me, bundled up so much we could hardly run. We would attempt to throw a pass to ourselves, and if we caught it, it became tackle football. The extra clothing provided much needed padding when tackling Dwight, as he wore a big metal brace on his leg that could knock you silly.

We also spent hours, day and night, sledding at Thrill Hill. This spot was steep and dangerous with the bottom crossing a street that saw occasional traffic. Thrill Hill was conveniently located next to the hospital.

Another activity I loved in the winter was plinking at the reservoir. Jim and I frequently patrolled the cycle pits, keeping the magpies honest.

We had lots of indoor locations for fun, too. At one time we had three hardware stores that sold sporting goods and other toys, as well as two other stores that could be called gun shops. We also had two drug stores. The Rockland Pharmacy had the three m's: music, magazines and model cars.

Another hangout was Melody Lanes. The owner was a business genius. Besides bowling and good food, he had pool, foosball, a juke box, and his beautiful daughters worked there.

The Iris Theater provided a

cheap entertainment and lasting memories. I recall leaving *A Hard Day's Night* with Gary and running down the street pretending we were being chased by a mob of screaming girls.

Thanks to my friend Jim, my brother Frank, and my dad,



Jay Nelson and his constant companion Arlo

I was introduced to the sporting life at an early age. My mother tried to discourage this, but A.F. in the 60s was full of hunting and fishing opportunities. Even going to the barbershop was a sporting experience, where there was always hunting and fishing stories being told.

My dad took me to places other kids rarely saw. One place I remember vividly was The Boomerang. It smelled of cigars and stale beer. The proprietor was known for his custom made fishing poles that were famous for landing large trout on the river.

My dad also showed me The Trading Post and Bert allowed minors in the front part of the shop. The back had old men playing cards or snooker, and the front had sporting goods. I often stopped there on my way to school to look over the guns and buy a candy bar.

We were what you would consider poor, but I never realized it. My mother worked hard at Roger's Café and did everything she could to make Christmas special. Since I was born in November, sometimes if I was getting something expensive for my birthday it was also part of my Christmas. This improved my chances for big boy toys.

One year The Trading Post had a pellet gun displayed in the sidewalk window. This gun looked like an Army .45. It shot BBs, pellets and darts; and I wanted it desperately.

I started to hint to my mom and she dutifully noted; little did I know that my older brother had sealed my fate years before when he shot up our knotty pine basement with a BB gun.

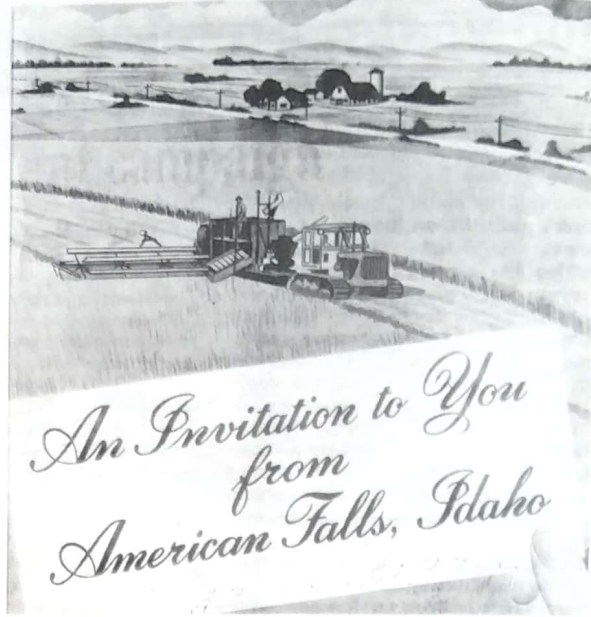
As Christmas neared, I noticed a package under the tree with my name on it. It was the size and weight of the desired gun box.

I was so convinced I was getting the pellet gun that I told all of my friends. When the time to open presents arrived, I made a beeline for the package. Keeping my disappointment to myself, I thanked my mom for the nice cologne gift set.

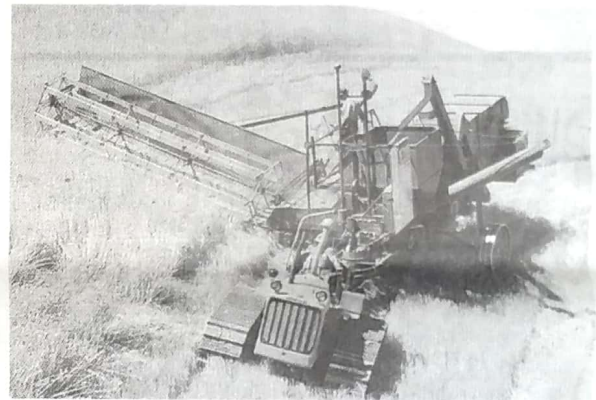
I never got the gun, but I always had bows and arrows; and I bought my own real guns when I got older.

We've lost a lot of good things, but I'll always have fond memories of growing up in American Falls.

Former American Falls resident Jay Nelson now lives in Pocatello, but works in the American Falls area for B&B Sprinklers. He also owns J-Bird Stellar Creation where he creates one of a kind jewelry and art. He can be reached at 208-232-4113.



Cover of a promotional brochure advertising local farming opportunities



Cutting grain on the Kopp family farm was not much different from the artist's depiction

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Music played big role growing up in A.F.

by Jay Nelson
Hey Good Lookin'

There were lots of music lovers in American Falls, and my childhood was filled with classical country hits all over town. Jimmy Rogers, Johnny Bush, Hank Williams; and those were just my classmates!

**Oh Pretty Woman
North to Alaska**

I spent a lot of time at Roger's Café (where my mother worked), and the back room, where I occasionally helped peel potatoes, had a speaker connected to the juke box up front. The booths also had speakers and selections, mostly country western favorites.

I Want to Hold Your Hand

I still love old country songs, but things changed in 1964 when Ed Sullivan introduced us to four lads from England that changed the world. My 19-year-old sister considers "Hold Your Hand" to be the greatest love song ever written, simple and pure, quite the contrast to modern "sex" songs.

Good Vibrations

Along with the British invasion, we Idahoans living miles from the ocean got hit with beach music. Talk about fun stuff: hot rods, surfing, two girls for every boy, stuff the wild bikini.

Summer in the City

Summer mornings in A.F. always had a special feel. With my Stingray bicycle and my skateboard, The Beach Boys easily took me to a special place at a special time. They still do. We had water sports within bike range and the "Nat" had plenty and a juke box.

Born to be Wild

The bowling alley had good tunes for 10 cents.

Elenore

The Arctic Circle had music as well, and when I wasn't feeding dimes into the pinball machine, I was priming the juke box.

These Boots Were Made for Walking

Meanwhile, back at Roger's Café, I was forcing my music tastes on the workers and din-

ers.

Last Train to Clarksville

Besides Ed Sullivan, television brought us Saturday morning with The Monkees, The Raiders, and Dick Clark's American Bandstand. Sunday nights had musical variety shows starring Sonny and Cher, Glen Campbell, and my favorite; "The Johnny Cash Show". Cash was so woven into the fabric of my childhood, I felt like I'd lost a family member when he died.

Crazy

Our radios provided great music as well. Sometimes you could pick up KOMA out of Oklahoma City, and KWIK in Pocatello played country in the daytime, and rock and roll at night time.

It Hurts to Be In Love

Home record players created a need for collecting records and my buddies and I were blessed to have older siblings with some memorable tunes. Gary had John's Tijuana Brass, Dwight had access to Doug's Gene Pitney disks, I had my sister Connie's player and Dave Clark Five singles, and Jim had his own Cream records. Robbie had most of The Beatles' albums and was willing to share with me.

Ride Captain Ride

I put an eight track player in my first car, and it supplied the soundtrack to the unimagined freedom that my '63 Impala offered. My family had ski boats, and my sister June had a player in hers with The Carpenters and Petula Clark.

Run Through the Jungle

When Todd transferred to AFHS, I was ripe for discovering all the wondrous music he was an expert on. He took me to Poky, introduced me to musicians and hippie chicks, took me to the radio station, and set me up with some of my first records. That's all it took. "I grew my hair, gave up prayer and let my freak flag fly," much to my mother's chagrin.

White Bird

Back then, the college had concerts at the Minidome, and

I went to most of them. I also took in some historic shows at the Terrace Ballroom and Salt Palace in Salt Lake City. One artist I idolized was an Okie Piano Player named Leon Russell. He worked with Gary Lewis and the Playboys, Joe Cocker, George Harrison, Eric Clapton, and wrote songs covered by many others. In 1973, Leon released an album of classic country covers and shocked my mother when she caught me listening to "The Window Up Above". That record got me to give the blue grass and cowboy songs another chance and greatly expanded my music tastes.

When I Was Young

I started collecting vinyl in the 60s and mine now number in the thousands. Anytime I want to feel good and remember old times growing up, all I have to do is put on an old worn out LP.

Former American Falls resident Jay Nelson now lives in Pocatello, but works in the American Falls area for B&B Sprinklers. He also owns J-Bird Stellar Creation where he creates one of a kind jewelry and art. He can be reached at 208-232-4113.



A dry view of the grain tower



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AMS: 71 years of innovation

by Kurtis Workman
Press staff writer

Just shortly after America entered WWII Art Vollweiler entered the business world. Vollweiler opened Art's Machine Shop in a modest storefront on Roosevelt Street.

three plow bars together. At the time a large plow bar was up to eight feet wide. This hitch dad built meant that a farmer could plow almost 24 feet at a time. It was a big deal," said Rick.

Art also began making trailers to transport irrigation pipes.

color TV in American Falls," Rick said.

Even with a wide range of skills Art continued to manufacture solutions for farmers. One of his most notable solutions was an automatic potato seed cutter. The machine sized the seed stock and then sliced the potato into equal seed sections from different sized potatoes. This machine completed these complex functions in an age that did not have computers or scanners.

Finding a need and filling that need with a quality product has kept AMS moving forward since the very beginning. A meeting with a staff member of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) about the needs of the organization set AMS on their current road.

"Tex Perrin was a guy with the SCS out of Nebraska; he was the guy that got us started in the soil-sampling business. The SCS was in the middle of mapping the soil profile for the nation and he happened to be talking to my dad about needing a more effective way of gathering samples. Dad built an auger that was easier to use than picks and shovels. He used a three and a quarter inch sleeve from a Mercury car for that first auger," said Rick.

The choice of the three and a quarter inch diameter barrel was the result of a Ford Motor Company design that did

not work out. Ford found the three and a quarter inch sleeves did not work the way they had thought it would. Art was able to acquire the unused piping at a lower cost.

The design of that first auger has not changed much in the intervening years.

"We have changed our connections between bits and the handle, but we still use the three and a quarter inch diameter barrel. I am not sure why we have never changed it other than it works so why mess with it," said Rick.

Rick bought the company from his father in 1980 and almost immediately continued his father's tradition of listening to customers to lead company innovation.

"I went to an environmental conference in 1982. Super Fund sites were just becoming a thing. I didn't know what I was doing. I had just a couple of cardboard signs and some augers laid out on a bare table. I was surrounded by all of the big names in the industry with their big signs and practiced sales people. Customers started coming to that booth asking if we built our products in stainless steel. That is how we started our stainless steel line. We are now known, worldwide as the leader in soil, soil gas and ground water sampling equipment," said Rick.

In the 90s AMS began work-

ing on well sampling equipment. Rick said the big issue at the time was meeting the rigorous demands of California regulations.

"We came up with a system that would deploy a probe that instantly analyzed the water as the well was being purged, while containing the water in separate tanks for disposal later. In California everything that comes from the ground is considered contaminated until proven otherwise. Being able to have those readings immediately was helpful in directing where the water would go when they took it to the disposal site," said Rick.

The mid to late 90s brought about the PowerProbe. Originally called the EnviroDrill, the equipment combined direct push probes with rotary auger



The original Art's Machine Shop location on Roosevelt Street

using his blacksmith skills Vollweiler catered to the local farming community, repairing worn equipment and inventing solutions to increase farm productivity.

Vollweiler's son Rick said his father started making his work with quality work.

Dad did just about anything that required welding or metalwork. He started making hitch-

trucks that allowed a person to gang Rick said selling the pipe trailers was the first time Art's products were sold outside of the area.

"Those trailers were sold to farmers all over Idaho and northern Nevada," said Rick.

Art expanded into new business ventures over time.

"He was a licensed plumber and he was the first RCA appliance dealer in Idaho. I think we had the first TV and the first



Catalogue offering the seed cutting machine invented by Art Vollweiler

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drilling. According to Rick the PowerProbe is AMS's largest product line.

"We have mounted them [PowerProbe] on pick-ups, skidsteers, heavy-duty trucks. I don't even know exactly how many variations there are of that line," said Rick.

Throughout the years AMS products have been used all over the world for a wide variety of projects including looking for buried bodies in Orange County, CA, Noah's Ark in Turkey and possibly Mars.

"We built some probes for the Mars Rover project. They don't tell us if they used it on the actual mission, but we did get an order as part of that project," said Rick.

Another thing that has

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 12

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PAGE 10

changed for the company is the name.

"Dad opened under the name Art's Machine Shop with the slogan "See Art before you start". Then I changed the name to Art's Manufacturing and Supply, but that became a mouth full. I changed the name to AMS to remain current," said Rick.

Rick points out there are things that have not changed since the company's beginning.

"We have always followed dad's philosophy of quality. I say that if you can't sign your name to the product it doesn't leave here. When dad started out people used to say he was overpriced. In our archives we

offices, and production floor," said Rick.

Expansion has not just been a project for Rick; Art added extra material storage with the purchase of two surplus boxcars from the Union Pacific Railroad. Rick did add his touch by adding a roof between the two boxcars increasing the physical size of the AMS operation again. More floor space was added when the Power County Highway District moved to a new facility on Lamb Weston Road. Rick purchased the old highway district shop turning the building into a finish shop where PowerProbes are finally assembled, and expanding the AMS footprint to half of the 100 Block of Harrison Street.

Changes in the physical size are not the only changes AMS has seen in the past 71 years. The reach of the company has expanded beyond even Rick's

expectations.

"I had no idea it would go as far as it has," said Rick.

From a humble forge AMS now sells to customers all over the world without anyone really leaving home.

"Our website is a major investment for us. We have one of the best websites in the area and in the industry. We take orders directly from the website, offer financing, and offer training all from that one webpage," said Rick.

Rick is not the only AMS employee impressed by the company's website, www.ams-samplers.com, Art's grandson and company president Marc Chipps said he enjoys the time-saving benefits of the website.

"I remember standing at the fax machine sending 30 or more pages of technical drawings to customers. It took hours. Now we send the whole thing in an email," said Chipps.

AMS continues to grow with distributors selling augers and samplers on every continent except Antarctica, and an AMS sales office in Atlanta, GA.

It may seem unusual for a company that is a global leader in their industry to operate in a small Idaho town, but for Rick the choice to relocate his father's business is one change he has never considered.

"From a purely business standpoint we have kept the company in American Falls because the building is here and it would be very expensive to build and relocate. I have never really considered moving the

company because of the community. This community has



The PowerProbe is the latest in soil sampling technology made by AMS

been very good to us," said Rick.

Chipps agreed the support for the company is why it remains an American Falls company.

"We can do business from anywhere in the world. Most of our products go to populated areas, where there are people there is contamination. Less than one percent of our busi-

ness is done in the state of Idaho, so we will probably never have a showroom here, but this community has always supported us and worked with our company. We have the choice to do business anywhere and we chose to do business from home," said Chipps.

Having the option to live and work in American Falls doesn't always mean doing business is easy. Rick said there are unique challenges for the company.

"We have people coming in from all over the world to tour our facility and buy our products, but there is no place to have them stay. During the day we bring them here to tour our facility and we patronize the local restaurants. There is a part of hosting guests that requires a nicer meal and fancier accommodations. For that we have to go to Pocatello," said Rick.

Chipps said customers coming to AMS are fascinated by the region in general.

"We often take our guests on tours of potato farms and processing plants because that is what Idaho is famous for and they want to see the famous Idaho potatoes. They are also interested in the things like Yel-

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 12



Art (l) and Rick (r) Vollweiler demonstrate the hand auger that revolutionized their company

have the first journal my dad kept. The first entry is for a job for a Pleasant Valley farmer for 75 cents. Which at the time was a huge amount, but dad built things so they never came back. We still feel the same way today," said Rick.

AMS is not the longest operating business in American Falls. That honor goes to Rockland Pharmacy. However AMS holds the record for being the oldest business in a single location with the same family name. Art's Machine Shop moved from Roosevelt to the current location at "Harrison at Oregon Trail". The Harrison location was an upgrade in size from the Roosevelt shop, but still tiny in comparison to the complex of buildings that is now home to the manufacturing company.

"When I bought the company the whole thing was in this building, office, shop, material storage was all in a building of about 6,000 square feet. We have doubled the size of our



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Iris Theatre was the place to be for many years

by Madai Montes
Press Intern

The American Falls movie theater can be traced back to 1917 in the old American Falls town site. The theater was named the Irene Theatre. When it was moved to the new American Falls town the theater was placed on Roosevelt St. In 1928 the Irene Theatre was renamed the Iris Theatre. In 1933 the theater was moved onto Roosevelt St. The Iris Theatre was located where the US Bank parking lot is today, displaying the same building structure as the old Horseshoe Bar.

Melvin Morris owned Iris Theatre and showed movies at the one screen theater for 20 to 40 cents. The first movie theaters were in black and white. Sound was introduced in 1927 and color was introduced in 1934.

Morris also operated theaters in Rockland, Aberdeen, Bancroft, Pocatello and Soda Springs. His sons later built the Starlite Cinemas in Chubbuck.

Moon Wheeler of American Falls whose father ran the drug

store across the street from the Iris Theatre, recalls how the theater played a huge role in 1940s American Falls.

"There were no televisions so the theater was very popular, we had no other entertainment in the evenings," said Wheeler.

The theater, being a great source of entertainment for the younger people, was packed almost every day.

"It was open seven days a week, and the theater had between 200 to 250 seats. They had tiny restrooms," said Wheeler.

"There was a fairly small balcony upstairs, which sat 30 to 40 people and we would just try to go up there; especially if we had a date. It was a lot darker up there," said Wheeler.

The Iris Theatre was a one screen movie theater. This was very common for many years. The Iris would play between two or three movies a week.

"They always had ads for coming attraction and newsreels. I was lucky that I could bum coins off of my father to go across the street to the mov-

ies," said Wheeler.

The Iris held Saturday matinees. These matinees were usually westerns, said Wheeler.



Westerns were a popular choice for matinees at the Iris Theatre

Cartoons would play as well in weekly increments.

"The matinees were serialized so that the kids would come back the next week to see what happened," said Wheeler.

The Iris, just like theaters of today sold goodies to satisfy their customers; however, these goodies would not be accompanied by drinks as is the common tradition today.

"The Iris sold candy snacks and butter popcorn, which I craved as a child. The drug store across the street stayed open until the movie theater customers came out of their late movies because they craved drinks. They didn't have drinks at the theater; at the time it was pretty expensive to have a drink machine. You had to have a carbonation machine and a huge tank for carbon dioxide. It was too much of a hassle," said Wheeler.

Wheeler could go to the

movie at any time and not have to show ID to watch inappropriate movies, because those types movies were not shown.

"There were no ratings, no inappropriate content. It was a straight laced society, very Victorian. Sex was not shown. The first suggestion of sexual content was in a western with a woman named Jane Russell and you could see her cleavage, but that was as sexy as it got," said Wheeler.

The theater was a "social center" where friends would come together and meet and hang out afterwards.

However, times change, and slowly the theater started to lose its popularity.

"Television was having a comeback and it wasn't so expensive to stay at home and watch TV, lots of changes in society's behaviors. There was no need for a movie theater," said Wheeler.

"Think about it; the family did everything. They sold the snacks and the tickets. They were there every day. The big, heavy reels took a crew and the complicated projectors took a lot of money," said Wheeler.

Wheeler suggests that the heavy costs and time put into running the theater started to lose its worth to the Morris family. As television remained popular the Iris Theatre started to fail.

"The theater was out of business; several smaller theaters were out of business because of television competition. The original owners had a theater in Rockland as well. As transportation got better, Rockland started shrinking. The highway

to Pocatello was receiving lots of improvement," said Wheeler.

The theaters in Pocatello were cheaper and had more screening options. The smaller theaters in Rockland and American Falls could not keep up.

The refurbishing and renaming to the "Americana Theater" in 1975 was done by Hal Holden who was an elementary school teacher. He was granted a loan to refurbish the theater. The wooden seats were not very comfortable and Holden replaced those with fabric seats. However Holden gave up in 1977, the theater was just not popular anymore.

The Americana Theater burned down on Oct. 5, 1978. It was vacant when the fire claimed the theater along with other businesses in the same building. The fire started around 11:45 p.m. but was out around 6 a.m. the next day.

The fire started when a restaurant in the basement ingited for unknown reasons, the hardware store on the main floor had enough wood to give the fire strength and soon the entire building burned down including the apartments upstairs. Those living in the apartments were evacuated just in time. No one was hurt during the fire.

"All was lost so it was impractical for a replacement building," said Wheeler.

There is no longer a movie theater in American Falls. However, the Little Theater grants audiences around the area entertainment while the movie theaters in Pocatello remain popular to American Falls residents.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

lowstone so we arrange for them to see the park, but it does make it more difficult for us to accommodate them when we have to commute them back and forth to Pocatello," said Chipps.

According to Rick having more amenities in American Falls would help AMS in another area.

"Sometimes we have trouble finding qualified employees that want to come here to work. More and more people are getting used to having the selection of stores and longer operating hours. It is tough to attract people to move, and live here when they learn they have to travel 30 minutes to get the things they are used to," said Rick.

Rick is realistic yet optimistic about American Falls.

"The town is on a decline. This town needs more stores, businesses and morale, but it will come back. It always does," said Rick.

Looking forward still requires AMS to have its ear to the ground listening for what the sampling and testing industry wants next.

"The industry is looking for ways to get electronics underground. There are great advances in electronics that could tell us a great deal about what is going on under the surface, but they are delicate. The PowerProbe can exert over 70,000 pounds of pressure to drive a bit into the ground. Imagine what that would do to your iPhone," said Rick.

Finding a way to put an iPhone 50 feet under ground or some other direction, according to Rick, listening to the industry is key to keeping AMS on top.

"What got us here was innovation and innovation will continue to take us down the road," Rick said.



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Davis Mortuary, an essential part of the county's history

A.W. Davis began Davis Mortuary at the turn of the century, his son H.L. Davis kept the business running after his father's passing. Jim Davis, H.L. Davis' son, took over the mortuary for a short time before selling the business to Mark Rose who took over the business and added his name to the company.

Matthew Rose, son of Mark Rose, said the practices used by morticians haven't changed much in the last 100 years. "Different metals and chemicals are used than 100 years ago but that is about it," said Rose.

Bud Kelly, a mortician under H.L. Davis, explains the changes that occurred over the last 50 years in Power County.

Kelly was the county coroner as well as a mortician. In the years that Kelly ran for county coroner he was never opposed.

"I guess nobody else wanted it. It is not a very popular occupation. The good thing about being a mortician is that you will never lose your job," said Kelly.

Kelly, who is now 88, retired at 65 and declares not much has

changed in the preparation of the deceased except for the price.

"Cost is greater than when I worked. A funeral was less than \$1,000 when I worked. Now they are around \$9,000 to \$10,000. I am amazed at the number of cremations. There were very few cremations when I worked. With the rise in funeral costs, people just don't have it," said Kelly.

Kelly said becoming a mortician isn't something you can decide to become overnight, it's hard work.

"Becoming a mortician isn't easy, you can't just become one. I went through two years of apprenticeship, one year of college, and I had to pass the state board exam," said Kelly.

The practice of completing a two year apprenticeship, receiving an associates degree, and passing the state board exam remains the same.

Kelly is no longer a licensed mortician. The rising costs of renewing licenses encouraged Kelly to stop renewing his license yearly.

"It is costly to get a license

and keep it. I am not a licensed mortician now. A license used to be \$25, and then \$50, now it's \$75," said Kelly.

Kelly worked under Davis up until his retirement. He said the reason he enjoyed being a mortician was because of the help the mortuary offered families.

"Helping a family at a really rough time is the only way you can stay in it," said Kelly.

Kelly said the Davis Mortuary used to offer additional services to help keep the business afloat.

"We used to run a furniture store along with the mortuary; it took both businesses to make ends meet. We also ran the ambulance business before the county took it over. Somebody had to be on the phone 24/7 because there were no cell phones. Many mortuaries had ambulance businesses because they had facilities to

support the transport of bodies to the hospital. We had to take first aid classes and advanced aid classes, too. The number to call was 226-2147, there was no 911," said Kelly.

Kelly said that the changes present in the City of American Falls seem to be minor.

"American Falls has disintegrated since then. We used to have four grocery stores and now we have one. We used to have one bank and now we have four. There is no clothing store and only one hardware store. The empty buildings around town tell a story," said Kelly.



Davis-Rose Mortuary today

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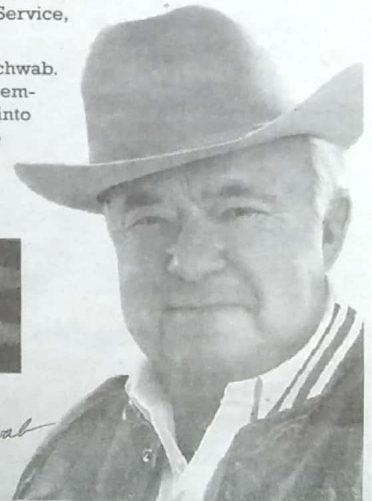
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An old ad for Davis Furniture and Mortuary

Early years were tough for Pleasant Valley settlers

by Arnold Burgemeister

The majority of the ancestors of the homesteaders in Pleasant Valley first went to Russia on the invitation of the German born Czarina, Catherine the Great. She offered freedom from taxation and military service and the promise to allow them to maintain their religious and cultural heritage. The Germans were well known for their farming abilities.

In 1871, however, the Russian government began withdrawing the special privileges and the search began for a better life for themselves and their families.

To these people who had tamed the cold, windy steppes of Russia, the challenge of the open, arid high plains of America held no dread. It is exactly these types of people that the American railroads, (in Power County's case, the Oregon Shortline) were pushing for settlement. The people whose determination made the steppes of Russia blossom would now make America the bread basket of the world.

In 1908, Blaine and Oneida counties of Idaho were opened for homesteading and families and young men from Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Russia, as well as Washington, North Dakota, Oregon and other areas began to move into the area. Many only had enough money to pay their filing fees.

Power County was established from those counties in 1913 and by 1915 there were approximately 325 homesteads filed in Power County's Pleasant Valley area.

On their land in 1909, there was no electricity, no wells for water, no roads, not much of anything but the acres and acres of sagebrush.

Many of you may have different accounts or memories that your families have told you over the years about the early settlers, but this is the information that I have to go by.

Elisabeth Adolf interviewed many of the last living members at the time she compiled this information. They were: Henry Mayer, L.K. and Christina Adolf, Joe Kucera Sr., John Dockter, Mrs. Karl (Katarina Becker) Bauer, Mrs. Henry (Mary) Kranzler, John (Lydia Rast) Tiede, Mrs. Robert (Rosina) Radke.

Earliest to come as homesteaders were the Martin Radke family who came in 1908. Mrs. L.K. Adolf, then Christina Radke, was 12 years old when her family arrived from Ritzville,



Harvest at Hardy Bredings' 24 horses teamed

WA, in November. Her father, two brothers, and sister Theresa (Theresia) (who became Mrs. Henry Burgemeister) had come in August to establish four claims and built a shack for housing. When Mother Radke and the rest of the children, including Sophia (Eymann), arrived at the depot in American Falls, Ludwig Adolf, Sr. was waiting for a train to take him back to Oregon after having been to Pleasant Valley to help three of his boys, Immanuel, Ben, and L.K., take squatters rights and also claimed one for himself. The Radke family spent the night on the floor waiting for someone to come get them. The one Radke son, Robert, was married and when his family came later to join him they were met by four bachelors: John Tiede, Adolf Hoffman, George Weber and Ferdinand Geske. The Robert Radke daughters remember that they offered George Weber a meal of knoepfle and they asked how many could he eat, and he answered greedily "75". Christina remembers her first Pleasant Valley meal because it tasted so good. Her sister, Theresa, had made knoepfle which she had cooked on a piece of tin over a fire built in a hole in the ground.

Until the time that they took possession of their land, only the shearers were interested in grazing their sheep on it. They met a man by the name of Lava Jack who lived in a log cabin at the edge of the lavas. They soon learned that his

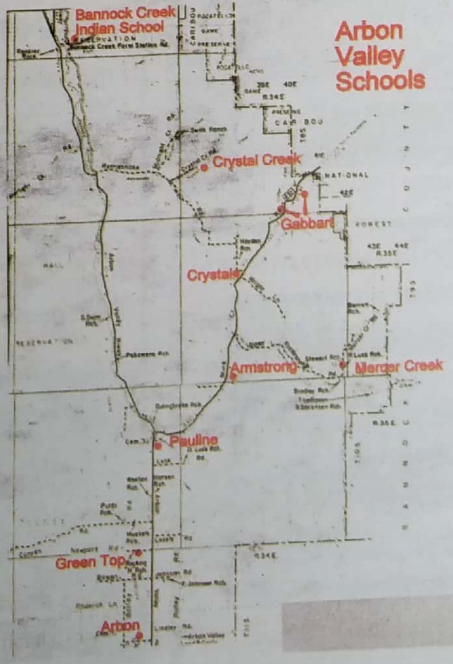
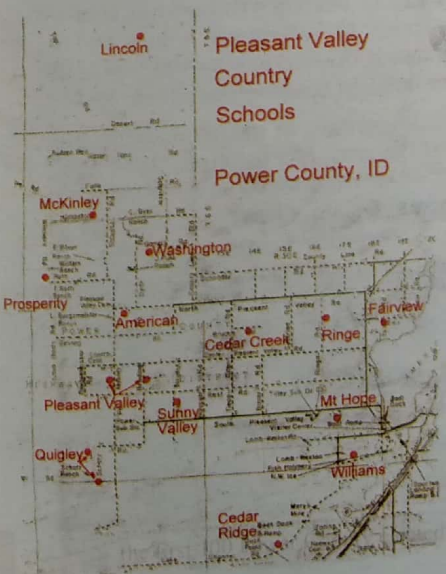
real name was John Hoff. L.K. Adolf said that he was an outlaw. However, he lived peaceably with his new neighbors while digging holes looking for gold.

Weekly reports were sent by Martin Radke to a German pe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



A Pleasant Valley School



Patricia Hernandez
Associate Broker
REALTOR • ABR • SRES • SFR

My love for real estate started when I was a child. When we visited my grandmother in California each summer, every weekend she would take us to look at all the model homes in the area. I loved spending hours and hours looking at homes. You might say real estate has always been my passion.

I wish she would have lived long enough to see me become a realtor. It would have brought a smile to her face.

I have been a licensed realtor since July 2007. Over the past 6 years I have enjoyed helping numerous buyers and sellers with their real estate needs. I feel very blessed to have been able to help so many wonderful people. I have always been a very social person and loved to help others. I have a strong work ethic and believe in a start to finish service.

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CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 15

ridical in the Dakotas, the "Dakota Freie Press" about the progress in Pleasant Valley and this lured a number of families from there, which included the Rasts, Seefrieds, Bauers, Neus, Gehrings, Mayers, Beckers, Kranzlers and Winters. Those who came from Washington were the Funks and Spieses.

Henry Mayer was asked why he came, and he answered "Well, they tell young men to go west, go west young men, go west". His homestead was 1 mile west and 3-1/2 miles north of the Pleasant Valley Martin Lutheran Church.

The journeys to America were no joy rides: they were mistreated while traveling across Europe, they had seasickness on the ships, the uncomfortable train trips across the American continent had many delays and there were times that they had no food to eat. In New York Mrs. Kranzler said that they, the Seefried family were quarantined in the hospital for 15 days.

The women and children came to American Falls by passenger train and the men had to bring the supplies and livestock, some with horse and wagon, and others rode freight cars with their stock to keep them fed, milked and watered. A free ticket was allowed for one person per rail car to take care of the cattle, but others stowed away in bales of hay. They had to be very quiet when the "brakey" walked over the top of the cars so he wouldn't hear them.

Each person of age was allotted 160 acres of land and it was undeveloped sagebrush land. The first order of business was to put up a temporary shack for shelter and some kind of barn or shed for the animals.

Mrs. Tiede remembered living in the barn during the summer where the dirt was so loose that it was ankle deep. Soon a 16x16 brown sided house of two rooms was built for them by L. Adolf, Sr.

Mrs. Bauer said that they lived four years in a temporary shack and she herself built a chicken house of mud and rocks except for the roof which her husband Karl helped her put on. It stood until they moved to town in 1945.

A trip to town for loads of lumber took most of the day, walking behind the horses with their load through the sagebrush where there was scarcely

a trail to follow.

Language was a continuing problem. Esther (Burgemeister) Neu recalls her father bringing home gasoline instead of kerosene for the lamps. The people who had sold it to him eventually realized the mistake and quickly drove out to the farm to "Save the Day."

Members of the families helped wherever they could because there was so much work to be done. The sagebrush had to be cleared and this was done by plowing first and then using rails drawn by horses to pull the sagebrush loose. Whatever was still standing was hoed out by hand. It was piled up and burned or brought home and used for fuel. Mrs. Tiede said that it made a very fine material for fuel, "You touched a match to it and it was just like gasoline." Many rocks also had to be cleared away before the fields could be cultivated and planted.

After all of their hard work, the first year's crops were of-

ten harvested by the rabbits or grasshoppers. It wasn't long before some of the farmers moved on to other places, others consolidated and built better homes.

The home on the Art Adolf place was the first "Big" permanent home in the area. It was built in 1909 in various stages.

The Karl Bauer home, built in 1915, was the first brick home in Pleasant Valley and is still standing.

The Kranzlers put two houses together, a 16x18 and an 18x24 purchased from other neighbors.

The homes were simply furnished; often the walls were covered with oilcloth. Rudolf Rast built one piece of new furniture each year for his home and was very generous in building furniture as gifts and doll furniture for children, many of which were cherished by those who owned them. Beds were covered with straw ticks, and homemade feather quilts were used for warmth.



Harvest in progress



Spuds sacked after harvest

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Supplies were limited and very careful use had to be made, since trips to town were infrequent. Cows and chickens provided protein. Theresa Radke, later Mrs. Burgemeister, worked at a hotel in town to earn enough money to buy a cow for her family. Rabbits were plentiful and they tasted good, but after a while even they got tiresome. It was difficult to find ingredients to make a tasty meal. They owe a great deal of gratitude to J.P. Mehlhaff, Sr. who went broke staking many of the

settlers for groceries and supplies. Some people who moved away never paid him back. He would always put a little candy in the sacks for the children. L.L. (Colonel) Evans also let them buy groceries until their first crops were harvested and sold.

Clothing was homemade whenever possible and was passed down until no longer

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 17

Dennis & Donna Smith, along with their son Joaquin and his wife Sarah, bought Napa Auto Parts from Chuck Carpenter in the spring of 1998.

We immediately increased the inventory, painted the building, and brought everything up to date. In 2005 Joaquin's brother & his wife, Kade & Jesalee Smith, came on as partners.

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wearable. Mrs. Tiede said "When the collars wore out, you replaced the collars and kept wearing the garment." Her parents sent her fabric from North Dakota and once her father sent a whole bolt of one color. Before that bolt of blue fabric all wore out the children had grown very tired of it. Mr. Rast bought shoes for his children at sales. If they would stay on their feet, they "fit".

The entire family worked very hard. The women milked the cows, fed the pigs and chickens, turned the milk separator by hand, did all the housework, sewing, and gardening and then had to find time to help with the poisoning of gophers, loading header boxes, stacking hay and hoeing weeds in the field (which included Russian thistles.) Along with all of those chores, they still had to take care of their children.

The men had all they could handle with building their homes and barns, doing field work with the horses and equipment, hauling grain to town or Quigley, making firewood and fence posts and building roads. It is noteworthy that in those days the rainfall was quite plentiful—about 16-17 inches yearly—and when the men had the teams of horses working in the fields and it rained hard, they had to take the horses anywhere from a short distance to several miles home to get them out of the bad weather. The temperatures ranged from -16 to 100 degrees during the year.

Medical care was handled with many home remedies in the early days. Green drops and Alpenkrauter were good for just about everything. When



An early photo of an homestead

children were sick, you just put them to bed and kept them warm or gave them a sweat bath. Mrs. Katarina Adolf was the first midwife. After she and her husband moved away, Martin Radke took over the service. Martin Radke died at home during a January blizzard from an undetermined cause and while Pastor Sprattler came to comfort the family, his own child died. In later years the Winters family had a telephone and they called the doctor for Herbert Rast when he had pneumonia, but the doctor didn't arrive until the next day, 12 hours later. Mrs. Winter laid a hot plaster of steamed onions on his chest and then she stayed there all night. It stunk like everything, but the next morning he was breathing regularly. The doctor came, too, when the Roth family had diphtheria. He "accidentally" broke out a window and covered it with canvas to let more fresh air in.

Entertainment

In spite of long hours of work, the people found time to have fun. The schools had athletic and scholastic competitions. The schools were also used for square dancing. "We had a good time," as Mr. Adolf recalled with a smile, "the caller named Charlie Banker, couldn't even carry a tune." They also had a baseball team. Some of the names that were remembered were: John and Bill Martens, Emmanuel and Fred Radke, Adam Ills, Jake Walter, and L.K. Adolf. They played teams from Roy, Bo-

nanza Bar and Flat Top. Out of the nine games played, they only lost one.

Toys for the children were home made. They included sheep bones which were used to represent toy animals. Christmas gifts consisted of a box with an orange, an apple and some nuts.

Pastor Sprattler organized a band and an orchestra and then trained the musicians himself. The Radkes had an organ which they had ordered from Montgomery Ward for the amount of \$50. Grandfather Radke was angry that they had indulged in such a luxury when they were so poor, but the girls thought it was "real nice" of their dad because they had so little fun and it was the joy of their lives.

Education

Christina Adolf attended the first school. Classes were held in the shack of Mary Williams. Many of the children couldn't speak English and the teacher couldn't speak German. Schools soon sprang up wherever there were enough children to warrant a building. Since children had to walk or ride a horse, they never were too far away. The names of the schools indicate the spirit of the people; Pleasant Valley, Prosperity, Mt. Hope, Sunny Valley, Washington, Lincoln and American. At one time there were 11 schools in the Pleasant Valley area. At least two were later used as homes and are still standing.

Weddings were happy times, but Mrs. Kranzler said that when

she and Henry were married, "We got married one day, and worked the next."

Martin Luther Church

Since most of the Germans from Russia were Lutheran, they started building a church in 1913 and were far enough along to hold Christmas services in the basement. Heating the building was a coal stove. Since the Henry Burgemeisters were the closest neighbors, they got the job of heating the building before the congregation arrived. The church was the focal point of the valley for weddings, funerals and Sunday services. It

had its own cemetery with some of the first homesteaders buried there. It served the valley until 1946 when there were enough cars so that residents could drive to St. John's Lutheran Church in American Falls.

In 1912 there were approximately 325 homesteads in Pleasant Valley. At the present time there are several families still living and farming in Pleasant Valley whose ancestors homesteaded 100 years ago. These included names are: Bauer, Burgemeister, Funk, Gehring, Rast, Roth, Schatz, Schritter and Tiede.

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Crowds gather for church services



Some winters were tough for everybody

Toughness key to Arbon Valley successes

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 De-

pression 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 adventure. 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

Life and limb lost in Arbon Valley shootout

St. Patrick's Day 1921 was an infamous day for the otherwise peaceful Arbon Valley.

A hot temper and firearms are not a good combination as the residents of the area discovered that day.

Charlie H. Ball was a homesteader from Kentucky. Being from outside the area and having an unusual accent made Ball stand out from other settlers of the time.

It is reported Ball was not one to socialize with his neighbors although local children would visit him to hear his accent and mimic him, an activity Ball seemed to have enjoyed. It was an interaction with two adults that led to the tragic events of that day in 1921.

According to the recollections of Tom Dillie, the whole thing started when Ball got into an argument with Dick Steed in the Pauline Store. Ball left the store in a heated attitude and more trouble for Ball was just down the road.

Allen Roper and three other friends were playing hooky from school that day and were sitting on a hillside overlooking the road to Ball's cabin. In an account documented by Roper's son Bill, the elder Roper along with his three friends were sitting on a hillside overlooking the canyon road when the trouble began.

"From where the four boys were located on the hillside, they could see the two team

drawn wagons approach each other on the canyon road below. After passing the two wagons stopped. The man on the wagon going up the canyon stepped off onto the road and walked back to the second wagon. After a moment the boys saw the man on the road point his arm at the man on the wagon who threw his arms up in front of his face and then fell back as his team bolted and ran down the road. The delayed sound of a gunshot followed," recalled Roper.

Dillie's retelling adds more detail and speculation to the opening moments of this tragic day.

"He [Ball] left the store in an angry frame of mind and hadn't gone far when he met Ed Brandt. He and Brandt had words before and at this time they resumed their quarrel. Ed lost his temper and shot at Mr. Ball and Mr. Ball returned the fire, the bullet passed through both the upper and lower parts of Ed's arm as he was raising his gun to fire again," wrote Dillie.

No one remembers what Brandt and Ball were at odds about, but Roper offers a plausible explanation.

"Apparently the two men had words as they passed their wagons that day over some standing feud they had. What their differences were is not known, but they did own ad-

joining property up the canyon draw, known as Gooch Hollow, and it is thought the feud may have been over boundary lines," Roper wrote.

According to Dillie Brandt's team of horses did not run away as Roper and his friends thought but rather Brandt drove the wagon back to the store while staying low in the back of the wagon.

"Ed dropped to the bottom of his wagon and drove to Pauline where he told the people there that old man Ball had gone crazy and shot him without provocation," wrote Dillie.

This one lie triggered a series of events that would leave one man dead and Ball without an arm.

According to both Dillie's and Roper's accounts word was sent to American Falls about the shooting, but neither Sheriff George Hanson nor Deputy Bill Oliver was in town. The only person left from the local law enforcement community was Charlie Torrance, who, according to Roper was the truant officer and according to Dillie was the probation officer of the county.

Torrance took the responsibility upon himself to see what he could do. According to Roper, Torrance organized a posse

CONTINUED ON
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Harvest took plenty of horse help

Owned by Gary Chaney and John Elleson, Dam Lumber started in May of 1979. In 1991, the current building was built, expanding the yard between the new and the old buildings.

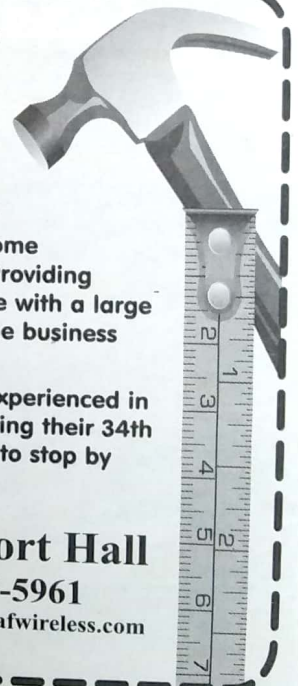
Dam Lumber has Ace Hardware products. Plumbing supplies, electrical fixtures and components, paint, hardware, doors and cabinetry along with some fishing supplies and ammo are some of the main reasons for the success for the store. Providing quality products and supplies at a reasonable price with a large selection enables Dam Lumber to be an asset to the business community of American Falls.

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to assist in the arresting Ball.

"Charlie Torrance organized a group to return to arrest Mr. Ball. It is not known if he actually deputized anyone or was just backed up by the curious group gathered by the arrival of the wounded man and his wagon," recalled Roper.

Dillie's account claims that Torrance was met by the group.

"When Charlie arrived at the Ball ranch he found a number of men were already there," wrote Dillie.

Dillie also reported other men had made an attempt to apprehend Ball prior to Torrance's arrival.

"Joe Dawson had tried to bring Ball in, but Ball told him to get off his place and stay off. Hyrum Secrist was the deputy sheriff in Arbon Valley and he ordered Ball to surrender. Ball came out of the house and one of the men shot him in the arm," Dillie wrote.

Meanwhile Roper and friend Ray Horton had deduced what was coming next after Brandt had made his claim of being shot at without provocation by Ball. Horton and Roper snuck back to a vista near Ball's residence to watch the showdown.

According to Roper's account he and Horton tied up their horses in a nearby gully and made their way to the vantage point near Ball's cabin on hands and knees in time to see the encounter between Ball and Dawson.

"An out rider, Jodi Dawson, was riding along the ridge above and to the rear of the Kentuckian's cabin. Having seen him, Ball began to walk up the canyon draw toward him [Dawson]. After leaving to pursue the ridge rider, Ball saw the deputy and his followers arrive at his cabin. Ball turned and headed back to the cabin with shotgun in hand," wrote Roper.

Ball's return path to his cabin took him within a few feet of the hidden boys. Roper reported, upon reflection, he felt certain had he and Horton been discovered Ball would have shot them thinking them to be an ambushing part of the crowd gathering around his home.

"Passing within only a few feet of the two boys hiding in the brush, Ball would have most likely shot them if they had been spotted, dad believes, as he [Ball] believed a lynch

mob was awaiting him," wrote Bill Roper of his father's retelling.

The attempts to apprehend Ball made for a gruesome scene once Torrance finally arrived according to Dillie's story.

"Kawallis was shot in the hand and Herbert Swim had his leg broken. Such was the situation when Charlie Torrance arrived on the scene. He [Torrance] told the men who were there that they were using the wrong tactics and that talk would do more towards quieting Mr. Ball than bullets," wrote Dillie.

Despite Torrance's peaceful suggestions bullets would rule that day. According to both Roper and Dillie, Torrance approached the cabin as Ball rounded the corner of the home headed in the opposite direction.

"Mr. Ball came around the corner of the house from the rear. 'Are you the law?' He inquired. Mr. Torrance didn't reply to the query, but pointed his gun at Mr. Ball. Mr. Ball quickly raised his shotgun and shot Charlie with both barrels. He [Ball] then ran back around the house. The wounded men were then loaded into a wagon and taken back to Pauline where they were transferred to automobiles and rushed to Bethany Deacons Hospital in American Falls," Dillie wrote.

Roper recalled a more complex battle that involved more than just Torrance and explains how Swim's leg was broken.

"Halt in the name of the law,"

Deputy Torrance commanded Ball as he stepped from behind the cabin. 'Halt hell' was Ball's reply as he jerked the shotgun to his shoulder and shot the deputy in the chest and stomach. Pitching over in the cabin yard, the deputy was left lying as the gathering with him scattered in all directions. Some random shooting occurred between the man and the scattered group, but it soon became a duel between Ball and one other man, Herb Swim. The two men traded shots at each other as they maneuvered from one side of the log building to the other. Swim had retrieved an old 30-30 caliber rifle discarded by a man named Eric Young, who had originally borrowed it from Allen Roper's parents. The rifle was infamous for jamming as the cartridges swelled tight in the gun barrel after firing. How Swim was able to eject the shells after each shot in a normal manner is still a wonder. Finally Swim was shot in the leg and Ball had been hit also, presumably by Swim," Roper wrote.

According to Roper neither he nor Horton knew when or how Torrance was collected from the yard outside Ball's cabin and taken to American Falls for treatment along with the other wounded men.

After the disastrous shootout Ball escaped the Arbon Valley and sought treatment for his wounds in Pocatello.

According to Dillie and Roper Sheriff Hanson and Deputy Oliver has returned to

American Falls. Hanson then organized a posse to go after Ball.

"By this time Sheriff Hanson and Deputy Oliver had returned, so they organized a posse and headed for Arbon. Besides Sheriff Hanson and Bill Oliver the posse was composed of Pete Hanson, Dr Schlitz, Tom Oliver, C. Lee French, Kirby Torrance, W.P

Lund and W.G. Griwold. posse was followed shot by a mob of about 15, h ily armed men all bent on destruction of this 'madman' wrote Dillie.

Reports indicate the posse did not reach Arbon Valley u




Local saloonkeeper of the Bottle and Jug House, "Doc" West (right), poses with "Judge" Oliver and the cash contributed for booze on the last day the saloon was open. Pressure from local prohibitionists resulted in a local option election, and Power County went dry.

**Celebrating
110 Years!**

The American Falls Advertiser 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.

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. 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.




The Power County Press

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til after nightfall.

"They scoured the hill all night looking for the 'desperado,'" Dille wrote.

The intention of revenge on the minds of the mob was noted by Dillie and Roper.

"Returning after dark, the group found that Ball was no longer at his cabin and began tearing open his sack of grain and finally burned the cabin down," wrote Roper.

"In the meantime the mob in Arbon Valley, filled up hi well, destroyed his harness and cut open his wheat sacks scattering the contents on the ground," wrote Dillie.

While the mob was exacting some level of revenge Ball made his way to the Mink Creek area and the ranch-home of Mr. Whiting. Whiting transported Ball to the hospital in Pocatello where his injured arm was amputated just above the elbow.

Torrance succumbed to his injuries at the hospital in American Falls.

Ball was later captured and tried for the events of St. Patrick's Day 1921. Ball was found to be protecting his life and property at all times and was subsequently declared not guilty of all charges.

In both accounts the authors noted the humanity involved in the event.

"Being somewhat unpopular with the hooky-playing boys, Roper and Horton had joked earlier that they hoped the truant officer would get shot. After seeing the seriousness of his wounds and condition while being taken out of the canyon, Roper recalled how low he and his friend felt knowing their dark humor had come true," wrote Roper's son.

"He had a knack for leading boys and keeping them out of mischief; always providing something constructive to do. During his term as probation officer, he gilded many boys making of them better men. It was a real loss to the community when he died. He said before he died, that he was sure Ball wouldn't shoot him, and the one mistake he [Torrance] made was carrying a gun," wrote Dillie.

Power County Sheriff Jim Jeffries said there is no indication Torrance was deputized to act as an official deputy that day.

"He may have felt obligated to act by his position of truant or probation officer, but there is nothing in our records that he was officially deputized. He is the only person in the history of the county to be killed while attempting to function as a law enforcement officer in any capacity," said Jeffries.

Fifty year hobby preserves vanishing community

by Kurtis Workman
Press Staff Writer

Changes moved people around especially earlier in the century. Communities that formed around water sources blossomed and then withered when a rail line came to the next town over. A county was formed from parts of three others and commerce began to flourish in the once sleepy burg that is now the county seat.

This progression of population describes the community of Roy in southeast Power County. The area south of Rockland flourished in the late 1800s and early 1900s as family after family moved in to the valley, mostly from the Midwest, looking for farm ground and a new life. A community hall, several schools and stores sprang up clustered near the center of the valley floor to serve the growing population. In 1915 work began on a church funded in part by the Congregational Missionary Society. By 1946 the valley had electricity and telephones.

But the winds of change were blowing through the valley. The school board had been combined with the Rockland school district and that change was looking like a permanent change. Many of the original families had moved out of the valley toward bigger towns like American Falls and Pocatello. The Roy post office closed in 1959 marking the end of the hamlet's official status as a town.

For the people that grew up in Roy there is no place like home. Darrell Quinn and his sister Darlene Quinn-Richardson have undertaken a nearly 50 year hobby to preserve the history of Roy, ID.

The idea to chronicle the history of Roy began with the Quinn's archive of childhood photos.

"We had some old pictures and started talking to other people from the valley who gave us some of their pictures," said Darrell.

The sibling historians eventually began taking advantage of the annual Roy picnic to further their collection.

"When we used to have the Roy picnic we would ask people to bring 'utensils, a side dish and old pictures'. That is where we got a lot of our stuff,"

said Darrell.

The passing years and the fading buildings made compiling the history of their hometown even more important to Darrell and Darlene.

"We wanted to keep the history alive. When Darlene and I are gone who will show people where we were and what we did?" said Darrell.

Darrell and Darlene have received help from people outside of Roy as well.

"Doug Glascock and Lee Kress gave me maps of the valley. Delane Anderson and I are still working on the DVD of the valley," said Darrell.

Darrell has used the maps he obtained from Kress and Glascock to make one larger master map that shows every single homestead with names of the registered homesteader. With the help of Anderson, Darrell recorded an oral recitation of the homesteads to a camera mounted on the dash of Anderson's pickup as the two toured the Roy area.

After gathering numerous photos, copied newspaper clippings and personal narratives from past residents Darlene put her artistic touch to the project by making a scrapbook that is

now 85 pages and growing. Each page has pictures and stories mounted on colorful paper and photo frames. Darrell said the scrapbooking is all Darlene's work.

"I can't take any of the credit for the scrapbooking. Darlene did all of that and she got the largest part of the pictures and newspaper clippings," said Darrell.

Darlene and Darrell's scrapbook has been called a treasure by the Power County Historical Society, but there is no plan yet of where the compendium of Roy history will go once Darrell and Darlene are gone.

"We still have to talk about where the book will go after us, but there are a couple of places we are considering. We just want it somewhere that people can access the history of Roy for years to come," said Darrell.

Even though Darlene and Darrell are considering the reality of passing the book on to future generations they are not finished with their hobby.

"I think we have found something about everything, but there are still stories and pictures left to find," Darrell said.



A cemetery by the North Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church



Darrel Quinn, left, and Darlen Quinn-Richardson stand in Roy with friend Bobby Schmitt

Roy and Landing blossomed early

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 including: 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, which eventually became permanent.

In 1959 the post office closed.

Information provided by Darrell Quinn



A harvester in Rockland



Steam powered harvesting in Power County



A horse and wagon makes its way through

*American Falls Press Thursday,
September 22, 1927*

Dempsey once begged meal at Power City restaurant Challenger for heavyweight title made brief appearance in Power City

Fight fans the country over will be grouped about radio sets tonight, when Gene Tunney, heavyweight champion of the world, and Jack Dempsey, ex-champion see to recover his crown, crawl through the ropes at Soldiers' Field, Chicago, for "the battle of three millions." Regardless of the outcome of the ten rounds of milling, Tunney is to receive \$1,000,000 and Dempsey \$450,000.

It will interest Power City folks to that Dempsey, the greatest drawing card fistiana has ever known, once made a brief and inconspicuous appearance in American Falls. He dined as the guest of Harvey Beatty, and then departed at the request of night officer Joe Watts.

One cold night in 1915 a penniless stranger entered Harvey's Cafe and asked for something to eat. He explained that he was without funds, but offered to work for his meal.

It so happened that there was an acute shortage of coal in American Falls. While the stranger was eating Mr. Beatty and another patron of the restaurant began discussing the fuel shortage, and the former remarked that he was then using his last scuttle of coal; adding that he did not know where it would be possible to get another.

The stranger listened in silence, but before leaving he volunteered to go out into the highways and hedges and look into the coal situation. When he did not return Mr. Beatty thought no more of the episode.

Several years later Danny O'Brien, a flashy middleweight who fought in Southern Idaho for several year and once prepare for one of his big contest, took dinner at Harvey's Cafe. He sought Mr. Beatty out and asked him if he knew Jack Dempsey. On receiving a negative reply O'Brien said that one night in training camp, Dempsey had told him of him of his visit to American Falls. The pugilist described Mr. Beatty perfectly, and remarked that before he was able to locate a pile of coal that was unguarded, he was ordered out of town by a policeman.

In the next three years Dempsey fought his way to the top of his class, and took the championship of the world from Jess Willard at Toledo.

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A City on the move in 1925 **Snake River shapes city**

The City of American Falls is a small quiet town with a pre-dominance of modest historic homes that “traveled” nearly a century ago, long before “mobile homes” became common.

In 1884 the town included a hotel, livery stable, and saloon. Today a hotel (276 Roosevelt), saloon (572 Fort Hall), and the livery stable (748 Falls),

square and a park along a ravine leading to the river. Contracts included 9 miles of water mains, 7 miles of sewer lines, 12 miles of streets, 8 miles of sidewalks, as well as power lines and foundations for the structures being moved. Fifteen hundred shade trees were ordered March 12 to be planted by March 30. The largest build-

ing moved was the Grand Hotel (276 Roosevelt) which took two weeks to move. St. John's Lutheran Church held services in the middle of its move while still on wheels.

Three of the homes moved and one church described below are on the National Register of Historic Places. St. John's Episcopal Church (328 Roosevelt), built in 1912 for 12-14 members, was part of the move in 1925. The “Warwas House” at 275 Polk Street was built in 1914 and moved from the soon to be flooded river townsite in 1924. It was the home of Richard Warwas, an American Falls High School teacher, his wife Winnie and their two daughters. After Winnie's death in

1921 the house was sold to the Bureau of Reclamation in 1924. It was then purchased by Grace Cronkite for \$1,710. Grace, her mother, and two brothers moved into the house; living arrangements including more than a nuclear family were also common 100 years ago. After Grace married Glen Barnard in 1928 they provided winter lodging for Pleasant Valley school children Grace had previously taught.

The “Walter Sparks House” at 408 Roosevelt was built in 1907 at the river townsite. It was the home of Nettie Hauk, her sister Eveline Sanford and her two children. The house, garage, and chicken coop were moved to its present location in 1925 when it was purchased by Walter Sparks; he was one of the first Power County Commissioners in 1913.

The “William Davie House” at 703 Hutchinson was built between 1911-

18 and was also moved in 1925. The Bureau of Reclamation appraised the house at \$2,800 and sold it for \$635. William Davie, his wife, son, and three teachers lived in the home in 1930. His daughter sold the home to Dr. Frank Harms in 1953.

Other relocated homes can be identified by common architectural style, “Miracle Block” concrete foundations, and a unique cut of the exposed eaves. Some were constructed out of leftover concrete foundation blocks (454 Tyhee).

The construction of American Falls Dam resulted in the new “designed community” well above the new Reservoir. That project provided the irrigation water storage which supplies southern Idaho's agricultural economy. Only the American Falls dam site had the capacity to store the necessary water.

The location of ancient human settlements across the globe show the strong understanding people have always had for the need of water. The area now known as Power County is no different. Native Americans have long clustered next to the Snake River.

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 in-

ing 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



St. John's Lutheran Church was one of several churches moved from the original town site. Congregation members held church while the church was in transit.

as well as churches from the river townsite are located in the “Reclamation Addition” to the City of American Falls.

The federal Reclamation Service authorized an American Falls Dam in 1920 that would cover about 75% of the town of American Falls; 344 homes, three hotels, six churches, one school, a hospital, and 46 businesses were among the structures to be removed from the river-town site. That federally-funded public works project purchased the structures that would be flooded and land for the new “planned city” with the “Reclamation Addition”. The estimated cost of moving from the “river town site” was \$3 million. The new city would include a large central



Before the construction of the American Falls Dam, river transportation was a regular mode of travel through the county.



The original American Falls was a bustling hub of commerce at the time the city was relocated to its current location

Submitted by
Dr. Don Johnson,
American Falls Historic
Preservation Commission

cident 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 and as a warning to future travelers.

In 1925, the Bureau of Reclamation began the job of mov-

“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.

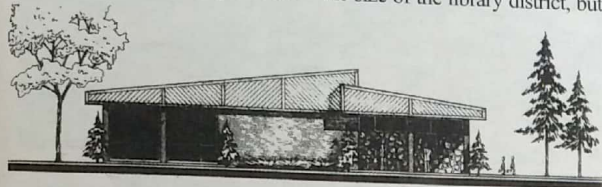
The effect the Snake River has on American Falls continues today. A portion of the local income is derived from recreationists traveling to the reservoir for fishing, camping and boating activities. Local landowners, the federal government and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes continually wrestle with the balance between preservation and equal access along the river.

A.F. Library grows with community

by Kurtis Workman
Press Staff Writer

A small building moved from the original town site with no plumbing housed the entire 10,000 book collection of the American Falls Library, until 1979.

The idea of building a new library began to take shape at the



First proposal drawing of the American Falls Library published in The Power County Press

start of 1978 when the 10 member board of library trustees started talking in earnest about finding a funding source for a new building. Pictures of the proposed building appeared in the Jan. 1, 1979 edition of The Power County Press.

In the search for increased funding the American Falls Library Board hit upon the idea of expanding the size of the library district to include more county residents. Board members began considering using the American Falls School District boundaries as a model for the expanded district.

Along with the idea of making a larger tax base, the library board discovered a state sponsored grant that would cover a significant portion of the construction cost.

Power County Press Editor Bob Crompton used his column in the April 6, 1978 Power County Press to promote the idea of expanding the size of the district.

"So how do you spend more than \$100,000 for a library and cut taxes? By spreading the load over a greater geographical area and a much greater tax base," wrote Crompton.

Crompton explained to his readers expanding the library taxing district would reduce taxes on four-fifths of the current tax payers while increasing the library operating budget by 400 percent.

The American Falls Library District sought the legal counsel of Ben Cavaness. At Cavaness' urging legal notices were published in The Power County Press and a public meeting was scheduled for May 17, 1978.

At the public meeting at the Power County Courthouse, Cavaness offered a compromise to prospective taxpayers.

"If the new library is built, it will include an agricultural section with market reports and other

aids to farmers," offered Cavaness.

On July, 12 1978, Power County voters agreed to expand the library district. "Power County passes library election" read the front page headline of The Power County Press on July 13, 1978. The vote not only increased the size of the library district, but

it also dissolved the sitting 10-member library board with a five-member panel.

Librarian Ann Gallinger applauded the decision.

"I am happy the election passed. We are so crowded and have no bathrooms or space to process books," said Gallinger.

A passing vote, larger tax base and a new, smaller, board of directors did not signal a smooth path to a new building. In October of 1978 confusion in the wording of Idaho state tax code caused some of the larger taxpayers like Union Pacific and Idaho Power to question the ability of the newly enlarged library district to levy taxes immediately. The conflicting language of the state law made it appear as though the library district would have to wait two years after establishment before receiving funds from the newly annexed patrons.

Cavaness advised the objecting taxpayers in order to challenge the new taxing district they would have to file their taxes under protest and let the courts make the decision on the application of the wording of the law.

The front page of the Dec. 21, 1978, Power County Press announced "Idaho Power, Simplot protest library tax." According to the article J.R. Simplot, Idaho Power and Simplot Soilbuilders

filed their respective taxes under protest. The number of companies registering objections to the new tax increased in January to include several divisions of the Union Pacific Railroad and Mountain Bell.

"Union Pacific Railroad, Union Pacific Land Resources Corporation, Pacific Fruit Express and Mountain Bell were the latest companies sending letters with tax statements that listed the reason for protest," stated The Power County Press on Jan. 4, 1978.

The uproar about the bigger taxing district turned out to be a flash in the pan as none of the protesting businesses actually filed suit against the American Fall Library District and on Feb. 18, 1979 the funds were released to the library clearing the matching funds for the library to qualify for state library construction grants.

After the funding sources were cleared up things began happening fast for the American Falls Library. Gallinger declared April to be "Free Fine Month" as a way to recover overdue materials prior to moving the library to temporary quarters.



An addition tripled the size of the American Falls Library in 2006-2007.

"They can be sorted and repaired in preparation for the new library. Also it is less expensive to forego the fines than to replace the books," Gallinger told The Power County Press.

One month later, in the middle of Free Fine Month a help wanted advertisement appeared searching for a new librarian. April also brought the first signs of a tentative schedule for the construction process. The Power County Press

reported invitations to bid would be sent out around the middle of May and that submitted bids would be opened at the beginning of June. The close friendship between the American Falls Library and the neighboring Episcopal Church was demonstrated again with announcement of where the American Falls Library would call home during construction.

"During construction, which could take eight to ten months, the east wing of the Episcopal Church will be used as a temporary library," reported The Power County Press.

June of 1979 brought the election of the new five-member board: Christine Smith, Art Adolf, Vard Meadows, Gene Madden, and Karla Wynn. Along with a new board a new head librarian was selected to replace Gallinger who was moving to Boise to be with her husband, Duane, who had left earlier in the year to take a job. In the midst of a total rebuild Gail Hagelstein took the reins.

As with most large construction projects, timetables slipped and the opening of bids was moved to June 14. Nine bids were received by the deadline and

the library board the 150 days listed in the bid was the official deadline, allowing for delays and overruns. Another construction company, Finlayson Construction offered a 120 day schedule in their bid, but Finlayson Construction submitted a bid that was \$2,500 higher in cost.

In the months that led up to the opening of the new library facility the board of directors authorized a new fine rate of two cents per day for overdue materials and replacement cost of a lost book was set at the "full price of the book plus a 75 cent handling charge." The library called for bids for new shelving and on Oct. 4, 1979, announced Hasco of Salt Lake City, UT, as the winning bidder. The new shelving cost \$10,387.

Some things have stayed the same at the American Falls Library; the board of directors is still a five member group serving six-year terms. The current library board includes: Chairman Norman Wright, Vice-Chairman Todd Winters, Treasurer Kryst Krein, Kurtis Workman and Elli Glascock.

There have also been changes in the nearly 35 years since the

opened on June 14, 1979. Aspen Building Systems of Pocatello was awarded the contract to construct the new library building at the cost of \$205,425. Don Marler of Aspen Building Systems predicted the new building would be completed in 120 days, but told

"new" library was constructed. In 2006 a remodel and addition tripled the size of the library. At the time nearly 10,000 books were moved into the Episcopal Church. Today the American Falls Library holds over 55,000 books as well as computers, movies and magazines.

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Rockland Pharmacy pharmacist Frank Casabonne (l) and former owner Ralph (Moon) Wheeler (r) stand inside the newest and current of the 101 year-old business

Pharmacy travels with times and town

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 operate by Mose Kramer, was a starting place for young pharmacist

Rod Tucker.

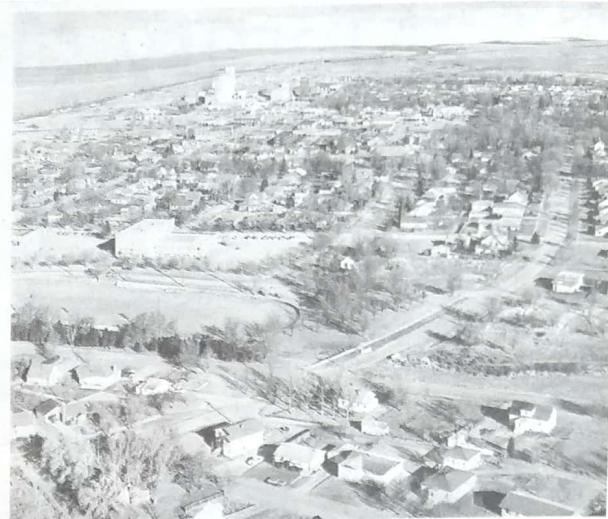
Tucker interned at Falls Drug then worked for Wheeler briefly before leaving the area for a short time. Tucker returned to American Falls to run Falls Drug until 1988 when Wheeler and Tucker decided to combine their efforts and files.

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



American Falls, from an aerial view



Folks gather for a baptism

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State park commemorates notorious day and desert beauty

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 tradi-

tion of carving their names into the massive basalt boulder that now occupies the center of the park.

Information provided by Kevin Lynott



Massacre Rocks



Above: Early look at Indian Springs Natatorium which is still in operation.



Right: Crystal Ice Caves, located in the lava flows of the Great Rift, was once a big attraction but was closed many years ago.

Word spread quickly about Neeley

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 al-

ready 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 lime stone 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

Fred and Albinia Gehring came all the way from the Ukraine to farm in Pleasant Valley over a hundred years ago. Four generations later, we're still going strong. We're proud to be a part of the place we call home.

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Two views of the old Bottle and Jug on the Snake River (above and below)



The American Falls LDS Church



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE AMERICAN FALLS
View of the American Falls from a bridge on the river



American Falls High School band



A parade of cars make their way through Power County



Trappers show their catch



Hunters prepare for a rabbit drive



The American Falls High School girls' basketball team



A blacksmith shop in Power County