

THE FALLS-POWER AND GENERAL NEWS.

A Live Representative of American Falls, Laekuaomua, Rockland, Nootleville, Bonanza Bar, Tilden and the District Generally.

VOL. 1, NO. 19.

AMERICAN FALLS, IDAHO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1895.

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The Old Warrior Free From Flies.

New York—A special from Washington says Maximo Gomez, the Cuban commanding general, has demanded nearly \$60,000,000 from the United States and refuses to disband his "army" until the money is paid. He has repudiated the arrangement made by Calixto Garcia, who came to Washington with authority from Gomez to provide for the return of the Cubans to their peaceful pursuits, and whose work was barely accomplished before his sudden death on December 11th.

Gomez alleges that his army consists of 40,000 men, and he insists that most of them shall be paid for three years' service at the rates that prevail in the United States army. He fixes the date of the Cuban declaration of independence February 24, 1895, as the beginning of the period for which himself and his forces are to be remunerated, and for himself, with the rank of lieutenant-general, he will be satisfied with \$11,000 annually, the American rate for that grade.

Gomez has also about twenty major generals, for each of whom he wants \$7500 annually, and his "army" is equipped with nearly 200 brigadier-generals, each rated, according to the United States army, payable at \$5500 annually. This aggregates the nice little sum of \$3,783,000 for generals alone; then there are colonels, lieutenant-colonels and majors whose numbers run into the thousands.

The privates do not amount to much for they are comparatively few, but each of them will require \$618, and the army paymasters, who figure out the total, have reported that over \$57,000,000 will be required to gratify all the demands Gomez has made, which is an average of \$1455 a man.

Is it Not Time for Our Government to Act?

A special to the New York *Herald* from Manila says the Spanish civil prisoners have not yet been released. Tales of suffering, hunger and dishonor come from the provinces. Young Spanish girls are forced to live in open shame with low Bornians. Their parents, being powerless, appealed to Aguinaldo. His reply was a letter from a dishonored child—extracted after God knows what suffering—saying she is happy and contented.

Ladies have suffered dishonor to save their husbands from cruel treatment.

Five priests have died in one province from hunger and cruelty, although \$60,000 had been sent by the corporation for their maintenance.

Appeal has been sent to the American nation in the name of God to stop the tragedy.

The Gallows Robbed of Their Victim.

A special from Boise to the Salt Lake *Tribune* says "Diamondfield" Jack Davis did not hang at Albion on Wednesday as arranged, the federal court having intervened. Monday morning his attorneys appeared before Judge Beatty with an application for a writ of habeas corpus. The petition attacked the constitutionality of the information law under which Davis was prosecuted.

Judge Beatty denied the writ, but hesitated about issuing an order to the sheriff to stay proceedings pending an appeal to the circuit court. The statute is not very clear. The right of appeal is absolute, and it is also provided that, pending the determination of the appeal, any further proceedings by the state shall be void.

The judge desired the state to stay the execution, but the governor did not think it was his province to issue a reprieve. Judge Beatty then issued a peremptory order to Sheriff Burke, and it was taken to Albion by W. H. Puckett of the law firm of Hawley & Puckett, Davis's attorneys.

Shortening of Distances.

Cheyenne—Representatives of three big railroad contracting firms of Chicago, Lincoln and St. Paul went over the Wyoming division of the Union Pacific to examine routes of three proposed cut-off lines to be built this year, so as to make estimates for their construction. The cut-offs will be between Howell and Cooper Lake, eighteen miles; between Harper's and Medicine Bow, thirty-five miles, and a continuation of the present Carbon cut-off, by which the main line will pass through the Hanna coal camp. By the new routes the main line of the road will be shortened twenty miles and number of grades lessened. Simpson's hill, one of the heaviest grades on the line, will be avoided by the Carbon cut-off. The new line will be laid of the heaviest ties and rails. The surveys have been completed, the contracts will be let at once, and work commenced as soon as the weather will permit.

Mormon Missionaries Attacked.

London—Lively scenes have occurred at Bristol in connection with the Mormon propaganda there. Elder Herbert L. James of Salt Lake City heads the mission. An anti-Mormon league has been formed and its members attacked the meetings of Mormons. The police consequently are obliged to guard the mission-house.

Violent anti-Mormon posters have been displayed in the streets, and a mob smashed every window in the mission-house at the last meeting, and hooted, stoned and spat upon the elders when they merged into the streets. Two women missionaries were compelled to seek refuge in a police station. Elder James expects a serious disturbance at the next meeting.

Our Cattle and Sheep Friends.

The following sheep herds are wintering on Rock creek:

F. J. Gooding, Jos. Achin & Co., Johnson & Eldredge, Theo. Swanson, Douglas & Nelson, Hunter & Philbrick, North & Irvine, Coates & Ludlow and one or two smaller bands, in all about 75,000. Hay is still plentiful and most are feeding light, some bands now entirely grazing toward the river.

At Warm creek there are two home bands and on the desert in the neighborhood the bands of Taylor and Driggs, Philbrick, Orme, Coates & Ludlow, in all about 35,000 head, all grazing out and now doing well. The average losses have been very light this winter.

Early in the spring some more bands will move out into this section. With all the sheep in the neighborhood of the Falls would it not be possible to do some shearing right here, a most convenient point? THE FALLS-POWER is confident that the business men would help out the proposition, either for hand or machine shearing. Clippers will be eventually worked with the power, but there is no reason why a start should not be made by hand this spring.

Cattle on the ranches of Sparks, Sweetser & Burroughs, Burke and other holders are doing well and there will be some early spring shipments of neat beef from this old historic shipping point.

Falls Literary, Musical and Dramatic Society Entertainment.

On Thursday last the above society gave a public entertainment in the new Odd Fellows' hall, which is just about ready for occupancy.

A good attendance of the public rewarded the efforts of the members, and the program went through with great spirit.

Bidding on the lunch baskets prepared by the various ladies of whom the shadowy presentations appeared on the screen brought in quite a little addition to the society's funds to help its weekly meetings.

The dramatic club connected with the society is also hard at work on rehearsals, and the public may expect the result upon the local boards before the nights get too short for the footlight's glare.

Our New Assessor.

Thos. Smith, the county assessor, was in the city Tuesday rounding up the property owners. He left for Rockland and will be back to the Falls next week. He executes a somewhat unpleasant duty in a pleasing way as to the manner born, although he only left the office of W. C. Parkinson & Co. on Friday last.

His late opponent, Martin Johnson, still hopes to successfully contest the election, in June, there being only two votes between him and Mr. Smith so that a recount might change the result. Meanwhile possession is 9 points of the law.

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Dam forced moving of town

"Ten months ago there was not a building in the Reclamation addition in American Falls and now the new city has every appearance of a full-fledged county seat town with a wonderful water system, new sewers, improved streets, adequate lighting and miles of sidewalk," M. M. Meyers, president of Chamber of Commerce told the group in early February of 1926.

Headlines in the February 4 edition of the American Falls Press told the story: "Not a building In Our New City Ten Months Ago--Fifty Stores and 300 Dwellings Have Moved To Reclamation Since April, 1925--Growth Good."

All of this, the moving of an entire town, was required when it was determined a dam was to be built over the Snake River near American Falls. The entire town, or where it once was, would be covered by the largest man-made reservoir ever built in the United States

After determining the dam

would be built at American Falls, plans got underway rapidly and the new townsite was picked.

Lots in the townsite went on sale October 4, 1923. Owners of residences being moved had their first choice of lots and businessmen were later allowed to determine where they wanted to locate. Only after current residents had selected their spots were the newcomers allowed to pick spots.

The city was the sole agent in handling the sale of the lots and as they did so, they put aside \$10,000 for trees and parks.

On November 15, 1923, United States Supreme Court Chief Justice Taft ruled the government could take privately owned land by condemnation for reclamation use in American Falls if necessary.

This supreme court ruling was necessary when one land owner asked for too much money for 120 acres he owned in the area of the new townsite. He was forced to

sell to the government so the land could be used if necessary for the new American Falls.

Water was first supplied to the new townsite in April of 1924. The government also announced a planned bargain sale on all of the buildings bought by the government, which couldn't be moved economically. They were sold for salvage purposes only.

Union Pacific moved a new depot into town. The last spike was driven for the new railway and depot on November 26, 1925.

Other large projects were undertaken in early 1925.

The new high school, expected to house 328 students the first year was completed. On Friday, January 8, 1925 it was dedicated.

Plans were also discussed to move the Bethany Deaconess Hospital from the old town because the rising water in the reservoir was nearing it.

In early January of 1925, discussion at a chamber of commerce meeting centered around fire risks in the new town. A committee headed by J.P. Melhaff headed the investigation. A surveyor for the Idaho Insurance Rating Bureau told the chamber there may be a problem with newly moved farm buildings on Roosevelt Street unless fire walls were built between them.

M.M. Meyers, president of the chamber, however, asked for additional consideration of the

situation. The Press account of the meeting said: "President Myers asked the speaker for additional consideration in his rating of risks in American Falls because of the low moral risk that existed here as demonstrated by the fact that since the town began its moving program, there has not been one serious fire."

Not all went smoothly, though, when on March 20, 1926 the first real crime was reported in the new town.

The American Falls Press account said: "The first robbery in the new city occurred early Saturday morning when the Golden Rule store suffered a loss estimated by proprietor W.L. Newton at \$500. He has failed to account for eight men's suits, fifteen silk dresses, nine dozen

Continued on page C-3

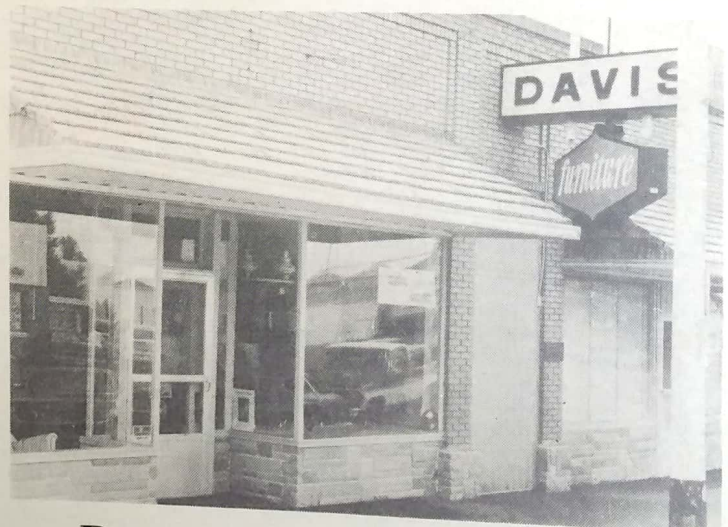


A GRAIN ELEVATOR gets moved to its new location, out of the way of the water soon to cover its former site.



A lot of things have changed since 1925.....

but one thing has remained constant.



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Dam forced town move

Continued from page C-2

and other articles such as handkerchiefs, sock, etc."

The burglar or burglars, out the bottom panel in the door and thus gained entrance. Once inside they took four of the best suit cases off the shelves and proceeded to fill them with merchandise," the reporter said.

Most of the town had been moved by then and as the water level started to rise behind the dam, operations were coming to a close in the old town.

In the new town now are more than 50 business concerns, all of which have been established in the new homes since September," a Press report said. Every professional man in the town has now moved into new quarters and every lodge is provided with a hall for meeting purposes in the new city. In addition to this, all the churches have been moved or rebuilt."

The most conspicuous accomplishments are the new Power County Courthouse, completed in December (1925), the American Falls High School, which was occupied the first of the year, and the many new business blocks, some of which are still under construction. When they are completed, four or five new homes will have been provided in American Falls.

Despite the rapid building of the city, the construction program

is not yet completed and spring will find renewed activity in the building line. Several large institutions like the Boise-Payette Lumber Line, the American Falls Mills, the Zaring Grain Company and the Reclamation offices will have to be moved. Among them will be the Bethany Deaconess Hospital which will have to be moved to escape advancing water in the reservoir."

Business and professional men have, in many instances, made

great sacrifices in loss of time and expenditure of money, to relocate in the new town. Despite small capital and inconvenience they have moved, practically to a man, and now are reaping the reward of their enterprise and energy with the best business they have experienced in years," the American Falls Press account concluded.

"Three helping one another will do as much as six men singly."

Spanish proverb

Early editor praised American Falls school

Editor's Note: The following is an article from the first issue of the first actual newspaper known to have been published in Power County.

The Falls Power
February 2, 1899

Our School

Coming from Albion with its Normal, we naturally did not expect much to compare at the Falls in the way of schools, but

found ourselves agreeably surprised at the splendid rock building, so well furnished and so well filled with many bright faces of girls and boys.

What is still more surprising, at the head of all, and the ages of some of the pupils are advanced, is, not a stern domineer, but an attractive lady, ruling by the law of kindness and reason, and what is most delightful, but so seldom realized, all parents speak well of and all pupils are attached to their teacher. In spite of the difficulties of a mixed school Mrs. Washburn's faithful work has told well and we are only sorry as the head of a family that the term is so far spent.

If American Falls doesn't have the advantage of Mrs. Washburn's services another session it will be a town loss, but we prophesy greater things, for her in her profession, should she remain teaching, for she has the tact to educate--not merely to teach--education meaning a drawing out of the best in a pupil, and she has evidently the natural love for the work as well.

To the Chicago friends so greatly interested in this town-site, our school trustees are much indebted for the timely help which raised so substantial a school building.

**"The fool wonders,
the wise man asks."**

Disraeli



CHURCHES WERE MOVED too, as indicated in this photo of the moving of the old Presbyterian Church from the old town. The building was later purchased by the Lutheran congregation. An incident is told of church being held in the church when it was halfway between its old and new site on a Sunday.

The hanging on the old wooden bridge

In the past, myriads of colorful stories of early life in American Falls have centered around the old wooden bridge that crossed the Snake River before the dam was built.

One of these stories has been related by Judge A. J. Watts, now deceased. The story of the hanging on the old bridge was told to him by his mother who was an eye witness to the event.

"My brother Seth was the postmaster and storekeeper for the Oregon Short Line back in 1882, during the building of the railroad. He was always sent to the railhead. He was in American Falls at the time of the hanging."

"He told me that two 'badmen' by the name of Tex and Johnson were causing the people of American Falls a good deal of trouble during the year of 1882. These two men were known as gamblers, robbers, and all-around gunmen."

AN EXAMPLE OF ONE OF the brutally mean acts the two men perpetrated is recalled by Mary Hunter. Mrs. Hunter was doing research on the history of American Falls and came up with information.

"In the early days the Oliver House was a boarding house and

place for people to stay while temporarily in American Falls. Sometimes when there were too many people for the beds, they would just curl up in a blanket on the floor," said Mrs. Hunter.

"These two outlaws, Tex and Johnson, one night entered the Oliver house and shot off the toes of one of the sleeping guests.

Then they laughed at the victim," she said.

Returning to Judge Watts story: "After a while the citizens got tired of Tex and Johnson and decided that something would have to be done. They formed a vigilante committee and marched down to the saloon. It was the hang-out of Tex and Johnson."



THE OLD RAILROAD BRIDGE from which outlaws Tex and Johnson were hung can be seen in the lower right corner of the photo with the old town of American Falls in the background.

"The instant the vigilantes entered the saloon, Johnson pulled his guns and began shouting and firing. Tex got a chair and went to work batting heads. Somehow Tex got his feet tangled and fell and broke his right arm. The next instant the two outlaws found themselves subdued.

"THEY WERE LED TO THE railroad bridge that was being constructed across the Snake River. The two outlaws were decorated with rope neckties for the hanging.

Research completed by Mrs. Hunter indicated that one of the outlaws did not want to be hung with an old rope. He felt that the

hanging at least justified a new rope.

One of the men, jumped off the bridge, according to Mrs. Hunter, stating "I will be in hell 10 minutes before you get there."

The other outlaw hung on to the edge of the bridge for dear life after being pushed off and pleaded with the vigilantes to spare his life.

"YEARS LATER, WHEN THE American Falls Dam was completed, the railroad had to raise its bridge twenty-one feet. In leveling off a spot on the west side, Ed Himes, who ran the Cook and Drug Company, uncovered the graves and came up with a skeleton and a pair of high-heeled boots."

Construction men were elated. They took the boots to a pool hall and placed them on a shelf where they remained for years.

The skeleton was dropped into a hole in the lava rocks.

Settler rates

Settler's rates from Feb. 15, 1903 to April 30, 1903 on the O.S.L. (railroad) to Pocatello included \$30 from Chicago, \$22.90 from Minneapolis, and St. Paul, and \$26 from St. Louis, according to the July 18 issue of the American Falls Advertiser.

The issue also carried the story of a sale of 160 acres of land, complete with a house and well, being sold for \$1,000.

Residential lots were going for \$10 to \$25.

A wagon bridge was scheduled to be built across the Snake River at American Falls in the fall.

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THE FIRST Pleasant Valley School building, as shown in a painting by Emil Neu, may have been just one room, but was nonetheless used not only for school, but occasionally for rallies, church meetings or other special events.

Eleven schools once served P.V. patrons

In the earlier years when some type of farmhouse dotted every 80 to 320 acres of farmland, there were several school districts and many schools in Pleasant Valley, not to mention the rest of Power County.

Emil Neu, American Falls artist and carpenter, and his wife Helena made their home in Pleasant Valley for many years. They are attempting to re-construct a map of the area as it was in the early years including the schools and farm families who lived in the area.

The job is a difficult one because the population and schools were so mobile. Land allotted was not sufficient to support a family and farms were constantly enlarging and families moving.

School were easy to move, the Neus said. There were few basements involved, no plumbing, or electricity. Drinking facilities would have not been approved by OSHA. Usually a bucket and "community" tin cup was what it amounted to.

Most of the eleven or so schools in the Pleasant Valley area were used for about five years or less, the Neus recalls.

THE PLEASANT VALLEY School, constructed in 1913, was the first school west of the Snake River. It was located about a half a mile west of the Art Adolf farm. It served longest, and was largest, housing, up to 42 students in its prime.

Its one room was large enough that it was also used for special meetings and rallies in off-school hours, the Neus said.

After transportation became simpler and school districts were consolidated the building was moved to the Adolf Mauch property where it became a machine shop.

Other schools in the Pleasant Valley area included the Mount Hope School, located on the South

Pleasant Valley Road about a mile west of the American Falls-Aberdeen highway; the Sunny Valley School, about a mile west of the present Otto Tiede Farm; the Anderson School, located in the Quigley ares. The latter was moved to the Schatz Farm and called the Quigley School, the Neus said.

Quigley was a small community in the south western section of Pleasant Valley. It included a post office, store, grain elevator, and four wheat receiving platforms.

The Prosperity School was located about a mile south and three miles west of the old Pleasant Valley church. It was later moved to two other locations.

The American School was about a quarter of a mile east of the Pleasant Valley Church and the McKinley School about three and a half miles north of the Roth Farm. After about one year in that location it was moved and for three years was located about a half mile south and half mile east of the Mayer homestead.

Other schools were the Ringe School, west a mile on the North Pleasant Valley Road and a mile south; the Cedar Creek School, located between the Central and North Pleasant Valley Roads, about two and a half miles west of the highway; and the Fairview School, a two room structure located about a half mile east of the highway, where it remains and has been remodeled and added on, serving as a home.

The Northwest School was one school that also remained until it was of no use as a school and was remodeled and used as the Lutheran parsonage. It was located a mile south and two miles west of the Pleasant Valley Church. It was later moved to Fairview.

Serving farther south in the county were the Cedar Ridge School, east of Lake Channel, and the Lake Channel School, south of Lake Channel.

Schools were moved to fit students

The early changing of area school locations was understandable with the times.

The Homestead Act allowed 160 acres of dry farm land per family minus the size of acreage owned by the farmer on his previous farm, if he had owned one. Eighty acres of irrigated land was the maximum, according to Mr. and Mrs. Emil Neu, who are mapping the farms as they used to be in Pleasant Valley.

It soon became apparent the the 160 acres was not sufficient to fill a family's needs, and the

maximum was raised to 320 acres of dry farm land.

Some bought others out, and or moved north and west taking up that land. Thus the student population was continually on the move.

Transportation was more difficult, so in most cases it was simpler to move the rudimentary school structures to where the need was more centralized than to transport the students.

The gradual movement began just west of American Falls and moved westward and northward, the Neus said.



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Rockland Pharmacy
AMERICAN FALLS

School districts were many but learning was just as hard

By Jim Smith

Hearing names like Excelsior, Crystal, Mount Hope, Sunbeam and Greentop you might expect to be making a trip into a national park. In reality the names were only a few used for the many school district's in Power County's past.

Other names were more common but still somewhat unusual: Neeley, Garn, Rockland, Rockland East Fork, Landing, Mountain View, Roy Arbon, Pauline, Cedar Creek, Fairview, Pleasant Valley, Cedar Ridge, Fail Creed, Warm Creek and Lyons were all different school district's in earlier Power County history.

These districts in turn were made up of a number of schools, but unfortunately many of their names have been misplaced and forgotten over the years.

Census marshall's in those days kept records of the number of children in attendance at each district but they did not record the names of the individual schools.

District sizes varied. District two, Neeley, had a student population of 275 in 1914. District 24 had four students in 1918.

Mrs. Mary Hunter taught in Central School, which was in the Rockland district and remembered classes with around eight pupils. Or as she said "One in each grade except for the third (which she did not teach) and two in the eighth grade."

"We were very fortunate to have a pump outside the school," she said. "We did not have to carry water from the streams like many other schools."

An outhouse had also been set up near by and Mrs. Hunter said every Halloween "The darn thing was tipped over."

When school was in session during the winter, coal and wood had to be provided to keep the interior of the building warm. Temperatures of 30 below and three foot snows were not uncommon.

During the time when she taught at the Bannock Creek Indian School, located between American Falls and Pocatello in the Arbon Valley area, Mrs. Hunter said students were given added attention.

"Once each morning children lined up and brushed their teeth, and once a week they had to take a bath," said Hunter.

Although she only taught for one school year, during 1937-38, Central School still lacked many conveniences common to larger communities, and the situation had not changed much by 1941 when Mrs. Idona Thornton taught for two years.

"In my first year of teaching I had five students," she said.

Her little one-room school house was located on the road just before reaching Lamb-Weston and was named Williams' school.

"The hot lunch program was just getting started, and we had big packets of split pea soup

which were warmed over a pot-bellied stove," she said.

She was better-off than Mrs. Hunter, she had a piano in her school.

"I remember just after the children had gone home one day I heard some hobo's coming from the railroad, so I played the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as loud as I could play, to make it sound as if there were a lot of people in the building. I don't know whether or not that was the first time the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" scared off hobo's."

Conveniences were still few where she taught. There was still the old out house 20 paces from the door, and many of the younger children had to learn how to use the outdoor toilet.

"I had a lot of trouble with one little first-grader because she didn't want to close the door. But I finally convinced her," Mrs. Thornton remembered.

Still she recalls the kids seemed to learn a lot more, by learning from their older classmates. She said one of the girls learned a lot about geography and helped the other pupils.

At the time Mary Hunter was teaching school, courses in history, spelling, math, reading and hygiene were all a part of the curriculum.

Study was intensive. By the time a student reached the eighth grade he had to pass a test to graduate to the high school level.

At high school, student population was still very low with only 328 pupils in 1926, when the new American Falls High School opened its doors. This compares to the 476 enrollment figure for 1976.

Teachers salaries have improved considerably over the years as Mrs. Hunter will attest. She only recieved \$80 each month for her pay.

Mrs. Thornton was better rewarded, receiving \$100 a month.

County clerk records indicate teachers contracts for 1919 salaries varied from \$80 to \$105.

In 1957 a consolidation act ended many of the rural schools and according to Mrs. Hunter it didn't please many people.

Under what was called the "Classroom Unit" plan the smaller schools would receive less money for education than the larger schools.

This first plan was more by parent choice. It was not until the mid-60's that consolidation was made mandatory dealing the final blow to rural schools.

Many of the rural schools are now gone, either torn down in the name of progress or incorporated, like the Williams' School, into newer homes.

"You can't see it for looking but the Williams' School is now a part of Willis Williams' residence," said Mrs. Thornton.

Shortly after the one-room school was abandoned Williams' bought the building and moved it, incorporating it into his home.

So although names like Excelsior, Sunbeam and Greentop may

be forgotten, the schools built in these districts may continue serving some of the very people they helped to educate.

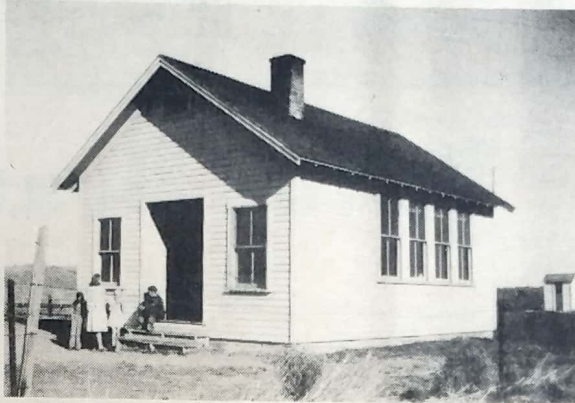
"The best way to suppose what may come is to remember what is past."

Lord Halifax

Named to roll of honor

Students attending school at American Falls who earned roll of honor for November of 1902 included Elsie Barnard, Irene Oliver, Guy Oliver, Lorean Barnhart, John Abercrombie, James Duto, Homer Davis, Beatrice West, Emma Wheeler, Guy Corneford, Lillie Johnson, Clyde Kemmer, Harter West, Velna Bush, Pearl King, and Velma Kemmer, according to the American Falls Advertiser issue of Jan. 10, 1903.

Ethel Sparks was the teacher.



WILLIAMS' SCHOOL AS IT APPEARED IN 1941, the out house can be seen in the background. The school has since been incorporated into the Willis Williams' residence near Lamb-Weston.

Pickles used for bait

An early news article states one of the methods used for bait fishing in the nearby Snake River.

"Sam Winters reports that the people are fishing for trout with ordinary cucumber pickles for bait with almost phenomenal success. The trout seem to like the flavor of the pickles and fight to get at the bait. The discovery was accidental."

Winters said, "Merchants have requested him to withdraw his statement about pickles as trout bait until they can get in a new shipment."

1903 news

In news listed under County in the Jan. 10, 1903 issue of the American Falls Advertiser, an article stated that 'Santa Claus at the Glendale Primary caught fire, but the flames were extinguished.'

Rockland news in the same issue stated 'Many complaints are being made about missing overshoes at our dances.', and 'Merchant Southwell is doing a good business judging from the number of rigs in front of his establishment.'

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Cronkhites accounted for six early teachers

When you talk of education in Power County, it would be difficult not to think of the name Cronkhite.

Seven of the nine children of Mr. and Mrs. George Cronkhite, of Hortonville, Wisconsin, came to Power County, and six of them taught in the area.

Ed and Dan were the first of the family to come, followed by Cora and Bess. Then came Ruth followed by Grace (Barnard), and later the parents and a son George.

Only the two older children did not come and settle in the area.

Dan taught at Horse Island. He later was a partner in a restaurant business in the old town. He served in World War I and was a guard of the American Falls Dam during WWII, prior to his death.

BESS [THE LATE MRS. J. G. Vaughn] taught at Arbon and then in American Falls. She and her husband, who had been in the business department of the Fall Creek Mercantile, moved to Oregon, where they made their home until their deaths.

Ruth taught at the Mount Hope, Fairview and Ringe Schools. She and Grace, who taught at the Cedar Creek School, rode horses as transportation to and from their respective schools.

Grace recalls that her horse bucked, so she walked a lot. It was 10 miles from American Falls to the Cedar Creek School. Grace said that the students she taught were best. The school itself was well equipped, including a phonograph, and a player piano and organ in the basement.

Grace's only bad recollection of the two and a half years she taught was her horse, Jack. She was so afraid of him that she left the saddle on him for several days.....afraid she couldn't get it off, and afraid that if she did she couldn't get it back on.

Her students became aware of her predicament and came to the rescue by caring for her horse and saddling and unsaddling him.

She taught 15-20 students from the first through eighth grades.

After her teaching she went on to Gooding College, and later to Boise where she studied music. She then worked at the Fall Creek store where her brother Ed was in charge of the men's department. Grace had worked there during the Christmas school breaks. She took over management of the women's department.

She then married G. F. "Chappie" Barnard and they began their own business, "The Gift Shop which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year.

GEORGE, WHO CAME TO American Falls with his parents, taught at American Falls prior to receiving advanced degrees, and teaching at Albion, and colleges in Dillon, and Billings, Montana. He is presently retired and living in Texas.

Ed was the only one who did not teach here, however, he met his wife Eloise, who was teaching home economics in American Falls High School.

Ed was first a clerk in the Remington Hotel, followed by

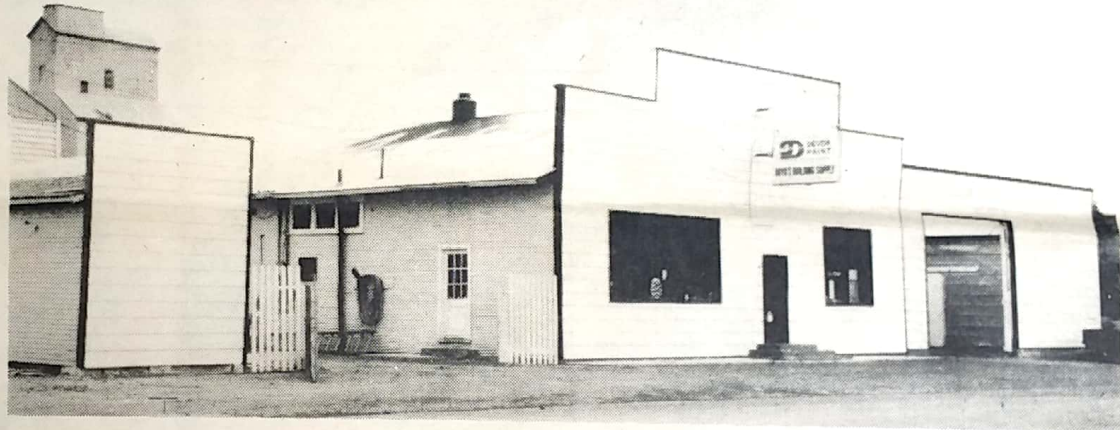
work in the Riverside Grocery and Fall Creek store. He was then American Falls' postmaster and prior to his death managed the American Falls Golf Course.



THE LAKE CHANNEL SCHOOL, pictured in a painting by Emil Neu, housed about 12 students in the 12 x 14 foot structure after its construction in 1927.

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Homesteading could be precarious

The simplest shack would often be used to establish a homestead in the early days of the Power County area. Sometimes farmers would plan to homestead an acreage and wake up in the morning to find a shack already on the land.

Some would work land and fail to file their homestead claim. In some such cases farmers would have a grain crop on the land and waken to find a shack on the land and a file claimed by the intruder who had discovered their omission and now owned the land they had worked.

"A man who is master of patience is master of everything else." Lord Halifax

Moonshiner eludes federal officer

[Editor's Note: Moonshiners were prevalent in years when Power County, then Oneida County, was dry. This news item was taken from The American Falls Press, Thursday, July 22, 1926.]

A fusillade of shots from the automatic pistol of Deputy U. S. Marshall Buckinaw of Pocatello, started the south end of the city Saturday afternoon as Jack Carty, alleged moonshiner sought to escape the serving of a warrant of arrest held by his would be captor.

Carty met Buckinaw at the door of the old Vogle house where he was living. Learning Buchinaw's mission, Carty re-entered his home ostensibly after his coat, but in reality to seek a rear exit.

BUCKINAW DETECTED THE

ruse to defeat him and shot at Carty as he left his house and gained the machine shop in the rear of the Charles Johnson residence. From there he fled on foot to the winging bridge across the Snake River above the Power Falls. Carty, gained the rocky bank on the other side, hit the temporary highway bridge and doubled back through the Utah Construction camp, to his house, where a waiting car picked him up and left the country.

Buckinaw, in hot pursuit, got in five shots, all without effect and Sheriff Lowry who assisted in the chase as called was unable to locate the man. Carty has not been heard from since. The warrant held by Buckinaw was two years old.



HELENA NEU shows her husband, Emil, the home she would like, in the Farmer Game created over 44 years ago by Mr. Neu. All of the pieces of the game were made by Mr. Neu. The game is similar to monopoly except that the occupations are limited to farming. The game was often played in the evenings by farmer neighbors in the Pleasant Valley area. In the background is Mr. Neu's painting of a Rockland farmhouse.

Farming was a game, as well as a gamble

What did farmers do for evening entertainment in the days before a television set lighted at least one room in most homes?

They will tell you that they did more dancing, and socializing by visiting neighbors.

In the latter category, Emil Neu created a game which often used to carry over from one evening to the next for several days, the inventor said.

It was like a "busman's holiday" in that it's name was "Farm" and it centered around the very business the residents had been involved in all day long.

The game, created over 44 years ago, was played just like the career of farming.

Similar to Monopoly, small squares of wood, made by Mr. Neu, would be thrown to determine how many acres of what crop were grown, and whether the crop quality was nothing, poor, good or excellent. The price per bushel, or etc., or the crop would be determined in the same way.

A banker was an essential part of the game, of course. It was the banker who would loan money or pay, as the case may be.

A farmer could not buy machinery until he owned his land free and clear, making it a little more difficult than the real thing.

The player had to figure taxes, interest, etc. to determine his success.

The game set the Neus have presently was made 40 years ago. Some of the pieces indicate a great deal of foresight, including a pump and sprinklers sketched by Mr. Neu on one of the cards.

Mr. Neu never got around to

patenting the game, but says he plans to do so.

Mrs. Neu recalls that neighbors would come and play the game, leaving it set up and partially completed during the work day and return to it the next evening, for several days in a row.

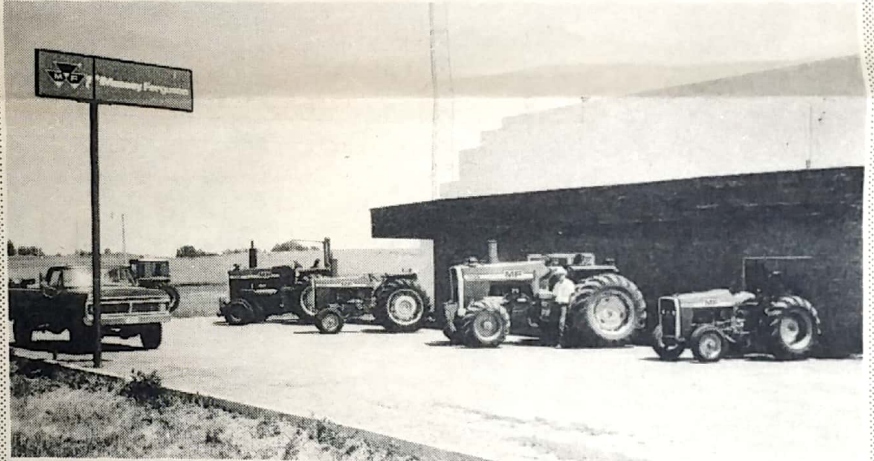
The game included three throws of the wooden square for prices for farmer to choose for to sell wheat, beets or potatoes. If he had previously earned a grainery, he could hold his wheat for a better price hopefully to be earned in future throws of the squares. If he had no grainery he would have to sell on one of the three throws, just as he would with potatoes or beets.

Red beans were used to represent cattle and white to represent sheep.

A sample of land prices as stated on the cards indicated 320 acres of dry farm for \$9,000.

Bridge petition

The Jan. 10, 1903 issue of the American Falls Advertiser included a petition form for a bridge across the Snake River at American Falls. Addressed to the members of the State House of Representatives and Senate, the petition called for an appropriation of \$10,000 for the building of a wagon bridge across the Snake River at American Falls, which the petition pointed out was 'located within fifteen miles of five counties, namely: Oneida, Blaine, Bannock, Cassia and Bingham, and directly in the path of the overland wagon road to Western Idaho.'



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You could get anything here

By Mary Lea Hammond

To Alvin Litz, the American Falls of the past was a rough place. He recalls that during the construction of the original dam in 1925, you could get anything from a kiss to a blackeye.

Al has lived in American Falls ever since he was nine. Now, at 73, he still works a full day for the City of American Falls. He lives in what is considered by him to be the oldest house in town. It is located on McKinley Street, the old original main street. The old fashioned catwalks and design of the house seem to verify its age.

"I'M GLAD AMERICAN Falls doesn't appear to be as rough during the second dam construction," he commented. In 1925 there were three crews of 300 men each, one crew was working, one crew was sleeping and one crew was drinking.

"I wish you could have been in this town then. It was a regular Nevada. There was open gambling and slot machines everywhere. There was no street lights because the city couldn't afford them. By the time the town was moved, there was no money left. The darkness promoted some of the roughness," Al said.

Al came to American Falls with his family in 1911 from South Dakota. His father, Henry came to homestead on a place in Raft River.

ONE OF THE FIRST EXPERIENCES Al recalls after arriving here is walking over the old wooden bridge to the Bottle and Jug House. "I had a glass of beer with the men."

When asked if he wasn't a little young he chided "No, they'd sell beer to anybody."

When Al was 15, he first worked for the Wadsworth brothers in Raft River. Then he started working for the railroad, as a gandy-dancer. He worked on a section of tracks from American Falls to Quigley. He continued that work for five years.

Then he began a 23 year career with Oneida Elevator. One of the things he is remembered for, is his ability to pick up a 140 pound sack of wheat with his teeth. Then he would throw it over his shoulder. "It took a long time to learn that, but I practiced until I mastered it," Al said.

IN THOSE DAYS WE HANDED the wheat in sacks," commented Al. "We got to be fast. Neut Houdyshell and I could take 100 sacks every 5 minutes and pile them up."

Al has worked for many managers at Oneida. When he first started working Elmer Nye was the manager. Then Glen Journey took over the management. Al has also worked with Russ Collings, Vard Meadows, Woody Meadows and Jim England.

In the winter time, when the grain was all stored Al used to deliver coal for the elevator. "We shoveled all the coal onto the truck with a shovel, and off with a shovel," Al said. "Farron (Demps) Lounsbury and I could

haul as high as 3,000 tons of coal a month."

An experience that Al says he will never forget came from a coal hauling. He had just made a delivery to a house. While waiting for the owner to come back to sign the delivery slip, Al spotted a pack of Bull Durham and decided to roll a cigarette.

"Boy did that pack a whallop," Al said. "If I'd smoked all that cigarette I would of had to go home and quit working for the day. It was my first and only experience with marijuana."

IN THOSE DAYS, THE GRAIN elevators also served as a bank, according to Al. "One day I was sent to Pocatello after a load of fuel. I was told to bring back a box of stationery. The box was put in the glove compartment of my old model truck and I brought it back. As soon as I got here, Bud Griffith, the bookkeeper, asked me if I had the box of stationery. I told him yes, it was in the glove compartment. It turned out that it was really \$20,000 cash for a man across the river."

Al worked for Oneida Elevator when the last three carloads of wheat were taken out of it just before the railroad was moved. "Those were the last three loads of wheat in the elevator before the reservoir was filled," according to Al.

AFTER WORKING FOR Oneida Elevator, Al worked for the county for 20 years, working with heavy equipment for road building. He was 30 when he married Lora Simermon. She was 24. They bought their present house for \$600. This house used to be Bill Johnson's fathers. It is in its original location.

Al now works for the city, building and repairing roads and anything they find for him to do.

When he returns home in the evening he relaxes by smoking a pipe. "I used to have a few beers too," said Al, "but I haven't had a drink in seven years—doctor's orders."

"There's another thing that I don't do any more," said Al "That's dance. I used to dance when I was drunk. I don't drink anymore, so I don't dance."

Caught with 300 bottles of beer

[Editor's Note: This news item was taken from the American Falls, Press, Thursday, July 22, 1926. Bootlegging was prominent at the time because the county had gone dry.]

John Hamlin is in the county jail this afternoon as the result of a raid conducted today by Sheriff Lowry and Deputy Oliver. Who caught him in his home with 300 bottles of beer and 20 gallon brewing.

"You've got me red handed boys. Do what you want to do with me," said Hamlin when caught.

Hamlin indicated this afternoon that he would plead guilty to the charge of possession and manufacture and take his medicine at once. The rest should serve as a warning to other possible violators according to Sheriff Lowry.



AL AND HIS WIFE LORA SIT in front of their house on McKinley street. It's still in its original location and is considered by them to be the oldest house in town. In its prime, it was on the main street, in the downtown area of American Falls. The Campbell and Stebbin's store was just across the street from it.

Paxton's murder

[Editor's Note] The story of the murder of Paxton as told by Josh Munn to Nora Ann Harriman was taken from a book entitled "Idaho, Legend and Story," written by the Pocatello Chapter of Idaho Writer's League.]

"When I came to this district in 1884, there was no law north of Malad, Idaho. The respectable and law-abiding citizens were expected to take the law into their own hands and not bother the sheriff at Oxford."

"At that time a Texan by the name of Sparks used all of Oneida County, which extended from Utah to Montana, for his grazing range. He had 70,000 head of cattle and his base camp was in the Snake River Bottoms."

Being only fifteen years old and a little afraid to apply for a job at Sparks' Muleshoe outfit, competely manned by tough Texans, I stayed at American Falls and watched the Oregon Short Line grow towards Shoshone Falls."

American Falls consisted of a hotel and livery stable, a store, a

cafe, saloon, and depot. Most of the people hanging around worked for the railroad, the stagecoach line, the Muleshoe, and the business houses. The rest were "rough."

"ONE DAY SPARKS CAUGHT a very likeable cowpoke named Paxton blotting a brand on a Muleshoe steer. Sparks had been suffering russion losses for some time and laid the blame on a no-good gunsinger named Jackson. Sparks wasn't ready to hang Paxton and get into trouble, so he thought of a way to rid himself of both Paxton and Jackson."

"He went to American Falls and hired Jackson to kill Paxton."

"Jackson was a coward. He didn't dare give Paxton a square draw, so he pretended to be Paxton's friend. All day the two men drank together. Paxton became so drunk he could hardly walk. Still Jackson was afraid to pull a gun."

"Along towards evening Jackson invited Paxton to a meal at the cafe, and sat trembling from head to foot until Paxton's entire attention was absorbed in guiding his fork to his mouth. Then Jackson leaped to his feet

and shot Paxton in the head."

Immediately Jackson found himself the object of a furious posse. Hitting leather, he galloped southward and was never heard from again."

Doc West

By B. W. Davis

Doc West was what I considered a fine and honest businessman.

Doc ran for sheriff in the fall of 1916. He was elected. He died before he was able to take office.

NATURALLY IN MY TIME, I have attended many funerals, but I have never seen a cosmopolitan gathering that compared to his funeral. People from Ogden, Salt Lake, Idaho Falls and Pocatello were there. There were church people, all types of businessmen, Indians, cowboys, doctors, dentists, lawyers, school teachers, and every other class that one can imagine.

It has never been my privilege to meet any man who combined so well all the things to make up a strong, decent character who was at the same time an outspoken, fearless individual, as Doc.

A respected saloon keeper

[Editor's Note:] This story is from the recollections of Pocatello lawyer, B. W. Davis who spent his early days in American Falls. It is about an incident that occurred in Doc West's Bottle and Jug House.]

By B. W. Davis

W. A. (Doc) was a character and a man of character. Doc West was one of the prominent businessmen and citizens of American Falls in the late 1890's and early 1900's.

In those days a man, on occasions, was required to be tough to command the respect of a certain element. But Doc West was kind, honest, intelligent, industrious, thoughtful and considerate of his fellowman. He had one of the finest and most delicate senses of humor and never allowed his humor to in any way embarrass others.

Doc West was at ease under any circumstance. That was one of his remarkable traits. He could have walked into the White House on invitation and he would not have to conduct himself in any different manner than he would have in walking into Joe Gish's poolhall in American Falls.

DOC GAVE EVERY MAN due consideration for his views and was loathe to express his own, whether they were in accord with others or not. He was a saloon keeper, but he had a license and he operated that saloon in a legal manner.

The bar at the saloon ran along the north side of the building and it was an especially large and long bar. There was one door, the front door. It faced east, facing American Falls and the river. It was at the east end of the bar.

Another door, the back door, opened to the west. In the southwest corner of the building was a card room where individuals could gather without being bothered by other patrons. It was assumed they sometimes gambled there. A door opened from that room, directly opposite the middle of the bar. There were several windows in the building on the south and east side, but it is my recollection there were none on the north. It was dark behind the bar except for the large glass mirror that ran the full length of the bar.

One night four men stopped their horses back of the saloon, which was right against the hill and in front of a cellar or cave that Doc had at the place. One man held the horses, one of them went to the front door, one to the back door and one entered the building through one of the windows into the card room. That made one man to the east, one to the west and one almost directly to the south. Doc was standing in the middle of the bar, and as has been related, was a large man.

THE THREE ROBBERS ALL pulled their revolvers at the same time, shouted to him to hold up his hands.

West dropped behind the bar, grabbed his revolver, got to the west end where he had that robber dead to rights. He fled when Doc shot at him.

Doc poked his head around the bar, took a couple of shots at the man at the front door. That man left. Then Doc boldly approached the fellow who was directly to the south. Doc was sheltered for a little bit here.

All of the robbers ran, all of them got on their horses, and all of them got away. They did not cross the bridge, but went back west into the sagebrush country.

IT IS A PROFOUND MYSTERY to everyone who visited the scene or who looked at the bar how Doc West kept from being shot.

Two bullets criss-crossed directly across in front of where Doc West was standing and one entered the bar from the front. The bullet went squarely through, directly where Doc had been standing. The hole was there. You could see all of it. It was certainly not easy to understand how he ever escaped injury.

Probably his coolness and deliberateness unnerved the robbers.

Doc had used up his cartridges.

He was not able to take any shots at these men as they left.

He also was an ice man. He supervised the curing, storing, and delivering. He delivered the ice himself in the summer months with a team of horses and an ice wagon.

There were some who thought that any one who dealt legally or illegally with intoxicating liquors was not the best type of person. It was amazing the respect that the people of American Falls, especially the church people had for Doc West. He loved to tease them.

One summer he raised the price of ice a quarter a pound. He told the ladies that it was necessary because they were giving him so much trouble over his saloon business.

Doc West's Bottle and Jug House was moved after Oneida County was voted dry. There was no use for the saloon building any more.

Doc moved the building to a 10 acre farm that he owned west of

American Falls, only about a mile from the west end of the bridge.

He moved the house onto a cement foundation where he had a full basement, and to make sure that Power County would never be entirely dry, in one corner where he made a wall a little extra thick and heavy, he placed a couple of bottles of whiskey, a jug of wine and two or three bottles of beer.

I first saw Doc West one evening, probably in the middle of July, 1913. We were practicing baseball in American Falls.



It is my understanding that he had been a proficient semi-pro baseball player. At the time I first met him he was catching. He must have been in the neighborhood of 50 years old.

He was still an excellent hitter and would stand at the plate and delight in having someone pitch to him.

Occasionally Sam Porter would

catch and I would pitch to Doc. I would give Sam the sign that we would give Doc one just where he wanted it, and "Oh man," how he would hit it.

He ran for sheriff in the fall of 1916.

One day Doc and several of his friends were standing on the sidewalk on the north side of American Falls. They were discussing their chances and politics in general.

I came from my office and was walking toward them and met a gentleman by the name of Weeks. He was a large fellow. We visited a little. Then I proceeded to where Doc and the group was speaking.

I remarked to Doc, and it was entirely untrue, "What have you ever done to that man Weeks? He's down there just cursing you and working against you. You better have a talk with him and see if you can get him straightened up."

Doc stood there for probably 20 seconds, scratched his chin, rolled his head and said, "Well that's funny Davis, I don't ever remember doing the man a favor."



"In order to form a more perfect Union..."

We can handle it.
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Bottle and Jug provided spirits

Prohibition brought a peculiar situation in American Falls in the early 1900's.

American Falls was in Oneida County. The county seat was Malad and Blaine County was just across the river.

It was up to the counties to vote as to whether they wanted to go 'wet' or 'dry', that is for or against prohibition. Blaine County went wet and Oneida went dry.

W. A. West and Co. located a saloon just across the river so residents of American Falls could cross the wagon bridge and imbibe some liquid refreshments.

An ad appeared in the Nov. 6, 1913 American Falls Press, to this effect. "From this time on, no more drinks will be served over the bar at West's Saloon across the river, the place having been converted into strictly a Bottle and Jug house, a family liquor store where high class wines, liquor and beer can be bought in any quantity."

Bill Johnson, 89, still living in American Falls recalls that most people would walk across the wagon bridge to the saloon and then stagger home, "It was a mile, like going from the elevators across the river," he said.

He added that the headline read, 'No More Joy Juice Across the Mahogany', referring to the wooden bridge as 'the mahogany.'

Johnson recalls that the location of the Bottle and Jug house was a little south of where the present boat docks are not located.

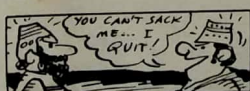
buildings bought by the government. Other large projects were undertaken in early 1925,

He also recalls that the sign on the business was a picture of a bottle and jug, instead of having it spelled out. Merchandise for the house was unloaded from railroad cans at the Borah Siding.

"On their way home many people would throw their empty bottles into the water below," recalls Johnson. "The bottles would collect in the rocks and would have to be emptied out regularly by employees of Idaho Power," he said.

Skip Davis, owner of Davis Furniture and Mortuary, recalls that there was an old dugout behind the place. "I can see that dug-out in my mind's eye now," he said. "I think they lived there."

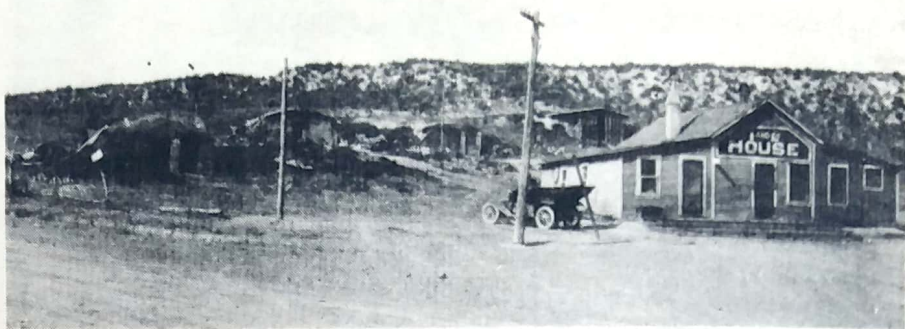
Skip also has in his collection several tokens good for 10 cents in trade at the Bottle and Jug house.



Legend has it that "sack" was the last word uttered before tongues were confused at the Tower of Babel.

Others recall that even the kids would collect funny whiskey flasks and take them to the saloon for a ten cent return.

The owner of the Bottle and Jug House was W. A. West, more commonly known as "Doc." West. "According to Johnson he was elected sheriff in 1916 and died before he could take office."



BOTTLE AND JUG HOUSE and adjoining dugouts.

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