CVV: SUMMER 2013

A publication by the Idaho County Free Press

















ICFP ARCHIVE

People, Places, History

For families fortunate enough to call this region home, living in North Central Idaho means mountain views and prairie landscapes; sunrises and sunsets of envy to any magazine cover; and friendly, helpful neighbors who realize rural living can be a state of mind more so than simply a place with one stoplight.

Historically, we live upon the grounds of great geographic wonders and evidence of native civilizations going back hundreds, possibly thousands, of years. More recent history includes the first influx of settlers looking to strike it rich during the gold strikes of Florence, the logging of the vast forest lands, cattle

and sheep ranching and prairie lands put to the plow. Along with these opportunities came wagons and eventually railroad tracks bringing needed goods, services and people to fill the shelves at the mercantiles and homes of budding communities; communities that still prosper and others whose names are lost to all but the true locals.

This edition is a perfect match to be researched and produced by Idaho's oldest weekly newspaper. Residents will use it to reminisce: to look for family members in the photographs and reremember some of the features and news snippets. Visitors will use it as a

guide during their travels and to better understand the desire to live here (and we locals promise not to test you on the proper pronunciation of Kamiah, Kooskia or even Doumecq).

While this edition of County Wide can barely begin to explain through words and photographs the complete picture of our hardy pioneers, it's a start, and it's with our pleasure we present a glimpse of our collective past as we look toward our future.

Andrew McNab
Publisher
David Rauzi
Editor

ABOUT COUNTY WIDE:

County Wide is an all-new quarterly feature of Idaho County's weekly newspaper, the Idaho County Free Press. These editions are included and mailed to subscribers every quarter in SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER, APRIL and JUNE. These editions will also be included with the editions sold at our venders throughout North Central Idaho and will be offered as a guide to our visitors.

The **summer** edition features our region's history as told through news stories from past issues of the Idaho County Free Press, and original advertisements and photographs.

About County Wide: The spring edition features the region's community celebrations, rodeos and wild water pursuits. The summer edition is dedicated to the local history through a photographic look at our region's past and the written history of people, places and things. Fall highlights fishing, western heritage, wilderness exploration and the start of hunting season. The winter edition is, of course, dedicated to the sights and activities during the snowy season

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

The publisher wishes to acknowledge the contributors of photographic art in this issue which includes the talents of Free Press staff researchers Lorie Palmer, Andrew Ottoson and David Rauzi, as well as from the Grangeville Bicentennial Historical Museum.

We are currently in search of quality art and commentary for inclusion in future editions.

Photographers and writers are urged to contact us for information:

IDAHO COUNTY FREE PRESS 900 West Main, PO Box 690, Grangeville ID 83530; 208-983-1200, 800-252-0233.

MAIN COVER ILLUSTRATION (FRANCES KERLEE, LORI SPARKS, CLORAH SEBASTIN; 1910) COURTESY BICENTENNIAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM





Cowboy Jack Hoxie: Silent Western film star

Salmon River Cowboy starred in silent features, Wild West Shows

By David Rauzi IDAHO COUNTY FREE PRESS

Before DVDs, before Cinemascope, back to the days of the silent silver screen, Idaho County cowboy Jack Hoxie rode to the rescue across the lawless West again and again.

From the early 1900s into the mid-1930s, Hoxie performed and many times starred in approximately 1,200 movies, a wellknown actor in the genre that included such names as Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson, Harry Carey, William S. Hart and Buck Jones.

Born in 1885 in Oklahoma, Hoxie moved to a ranch in the Salmon River canyon with his mother, Matilda E. Quick Hoxie – a half Nez Perce Indian — following the death of his father, who was killed in a horse accident weeks before his birth. Here he became a ranch hand and cowboy and a rodeo rider, and after his mother remarried and the family moved to Boise, Hoxie worked as a U.S. Army packer and continued his horseback riding competition. He joined Dick Stanley's Wild West Show in 1909, and four years later on the rodeo circuit he was approached by Hollywood to perform in his first film, "The Tragedy of Big Eagle Mine."

Hoxie's film career continued in 1914 when he went to work in Hollywood as a stuntman. The 6' 1" cowboy soon moved into performances in a series of low-budget Westerns made by Sunset Productions, and during the decade worked in around 35 films before being cast in the staring roll of Sky Bryce in the Lightning Bryce movie serials.

His stardom grew through a series of pictures produced through several film companies until 1923 when he was put under contract by Universal Pictures and per-



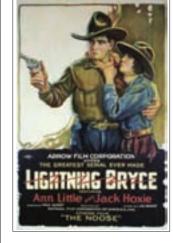
approximately 1,200 movies.

HOXIE MOVIE POSTER; WIKIMEDIA.ORG









formed in several notable star-studded films of the era including "Where is this West?" and "Hello, Frisco," and also acted with his stepbrother, Al (Stone) Hoxie, in several pictures. For Hoxie fans, his best role – portraying Buffalo Bill – was "The Last Frontier" in 1926, which also was very successful for the studio.

An interesting side trivia: It was during this time – 1925 - when his stepfather, Scott Stone, was convicted of the kidnapping and murder of two young Los Angeles women. He was sentenced to death, but it was later commuted to life imprisonment.

Following dissatisfaction with his contract, Hoxie left Universal in 1927 – the advent of sound in the movies — and continued making films with his last silent picture being "Forbidden Trail" in 1929. Sound proved the end of Hoxie's career, though he made a brief comeback in low-budget films in the early 1930s - his last film was in 1933's "Trouble Busters."

When his film career hit the skids, Hoxie returned to circuit rodeos, carnivals, briefly ran a dude ranch and trained horses, served as an Alameda police officer and worked several Wild West shows, among which was the Bud Anderson Wild Animal Circus that visited Grangeville in 1940. He continued his public performances – the last being in 1959 for the Bill Tatum Circus – after which he retired to his mother's old homestead in Oklahoma. Hoxie developed leukemia and died in 1965 at age 80.

(Left) Jack Hoxie visits with kids during one of his circus appearances in the 1940s. At different times, Hoxie starred with the Lewis Brothers and Downie Brothers circuses. (Right) An undated photo of Jack Hoxie. ICFP ARCHIVE





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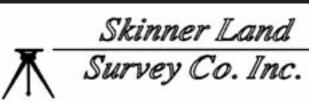
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The Idaho County Free Press typesetting room of 1901 shows the labor-intensive use of block wood type, heavy layout banks and the scent of linotype, an alloyed metal similar to lead. ICFP ARCHIVE

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Historic Weekly

Carrying news of gold strikes and football games for 128 years

When A.F. (Aaron) Parker pulled the first sheets of a 4-page newspaper from an —even then— antiquated Washington hand press on June 18, 1886 he started a lasting business that is now in its 128th year of publication. The Idaho County Free Press has outlasted numerous competitors and has withstood bad economics and business decisions, floods, fires and disasters to maintain its position as the oldest weekly newspaper in the State of Idaho.

The 30-year-old Englishman had been on the Prairie numerous times but returned after editorial stints in Lewiston and Coeur d'Alene to found the Idaho County Free Press. Parker was a self-proclaimed Jeffersonian Democrat (as were the next two owners) and it appears he was never shy to proclaim his political views in his adopted homeland. It is unknown whether Parker was an American citizen, or whether it really mattered at the time. A year's subscription was first advertised as \$3.00, in advance, but was later lowered to two. Either because of the economic climate of the frontier or his politics, the Free Press failed to attract profits during the founder's tenure. Parker sold the paper fourteen years later but there is a host of evidence of Parker's involvement with the new community and its newspaper did not end with the sale as numerous letters, articles and editorials prepared by him appeared on a fairly regular basis for at least the next 30 years. A.F. (Aaron) Parker died in 1930.

The new owner was a Scotsman by the name of Elmer McBroom. Little is known of this editor but he was evidently much less radical and was the first one to promote the idea of the county seat moving to Grangeville from Mt. Idaho and urged the consideration of a Lewiston-to-Prairie railroad.

McBroom edited the Free Press from 1900 to 1907.

Next in line was **L.A. Wisener**, a mid-westerner and yet another Jeffersonian Democrat. He modernized the weekly by taking advertising away from the front page and was less likely to over-editorialize the news submissions.

Ill health forced Wisener to sell the now established weekly to J.C. Safley in 1907. Safely was a college graduate of the University of Idaho and had worked as editor for newspapers in Iowa and Illinois prior to his arrival locally. He added lively feature stories and news "strictly for women". Correspondents from the surrounding towns were added and the paper took on a more modern look. During this tenure Safley bought out the competing newspaper, The Globe, a much smaller offering than the Free Press. The purchase left only "The Standard" as the local competition for news, advertising and editorials. The Standard was as much a Republican-oriented weekly as the Free Press

was Democrat.

The Olmsted name was connected to the Free Press for nearly 50 years beginning with E.M. (Eugene) "Pop" Olmsted's purchase of the operation on August 7, 1924. Olmsted, a conservative Republican, was certainly interested in seeing his business enterprise succeed and started by rooting out all the subscribers who hadn't paid their yearly subscription. This effort dropped the circulation of the Free Press to 1,100 from 1,700 weekly editions but it came back quickly after the delinquent readers –some for as long as 30 years – dropped by with their three dollars in hand.

John and Gene Olmsted had grown up in the newspaper business and by the death of their father in 1949 had learned the trades; Gene on the news and editorial side, John on the printing and advertising end.

The "younger" Olmsteds retired in 1973 when they sold the newspaper and printing operation to **Robert and Marilyn Stolley**. The Stolleys converted to "cold type" in 1975 and located the new press plant in the bottom floor of the remodeled building at Main and Mill. A partnership developed to form Central Idaho Offset which published the Free Press, several other area papers and printed job

The Free Press was sold once again in August of 1981 when it was purchased by its first "non-local" owner. Eagle Newspapers, Inc. (ENI), a then relatively small newspaper corporation, made their first venture into Idaho with the purchase of the nearly 100-year-old newspaper enterprise. Eagle



Newspapers at the time owned a dozen or so newspapers of like size within Oregon and Washington State.

The first publisher for ENI was William Cassel and he stayed within the community for five years and was at the helm during the paper's centennial celebration and special news editions and coverage. A few years later Jim Wolfinger was named publisher for a period after the purchase of the competing advertising publication "The Shopper".

Andrew McNab was named publisher in September 1993 while David Rauzi was named editor in 1997.







An undated photo taken during Halloween of staff at the Imperial Hotel, Main Street in Grangeville. The hotel was destroyed by fire



Frank Hogan's Barber Shop in Cottonwood, circa 1925.

ICFP Archive



Staff at the Grangeville Creamery, Main Street, pictured around 1950.

ICFP Archive



Men and kegs of beer outside the Cottonwood R.A. Nims James E. Pepper Whiskey Bar during a Fourth of July celebration, pictured

in 1913. ICFP Archive



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Radio Messages say Keeler Jap prisoner

April 23, 1943

On Thursday and Friday of last week, Mrs. N.A. Keeler of Grangeville began receiving from unknown radio listeners differing versions of a short wave message from Tokyo to the effect that her son, Floyd Chester Keeler, reported missing in action a year ago, was alive and "okay," and that he sent love and greetings.

The messages are apparently from the one source, and there are discrepancies due to noise. Mrs. Keeler's name was spelled both Peeler and Keller. Floyd's name was given as both Clyde and Chester, his age varied from 20 to 40, his rating was stated as sailor, cook and electrician, and the ship called Polk, Cook and Pope. But they all confirm Mrs. Keeler in her belief, which has never wavered in the year since Floyd was reported missing, that he is alive. She has confidence, too, that he has not been crippled or terribly injured, as she had sometimes feared.

Wounded; returning to U.S.

May 6, 1943

HARRIS RIDGE (Special) – Word has been received by the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Laine, that their son, Arvie Laine, has been wounded in North Africa and will be returned to the United States. No particulars were given as to the extent of the injuries, but it is hoped that he is not seriously wounded and that he will be able to come home soon for a visit with home folks and friends.

Arvie was among the first boys from Idaho County to be drafted, going with the third call, February, 1942. He has been home once since leaving. He attended high school in Kooskia and had worked on the Nez Perce National Forest prior to his leaving.

Weeks breaks arm at Kamiah sawmill

Feb. 18, 1943

KOOSKIA – Glenn Weeks had the misfortune to break his arm Monday at the sawmill in Kamiah where he is employed. Arnold Milton took him to the hospital in Orofino.

Fred Parks left Sunday to return to Moose Creek. Fred Shaner took him as far as Selway Falls.

Mrs. Frank Keough and children of St. Maries arrived Saturday to visit at the Fred Shaner home and with other relatives.





(Left) Members of the Grangeville Volunteer Fire Department battle the Stockman Bar Fire on May 21, 1980. (Above) An ad for "good cigarettes" from the May 3, 1923, issue of the Idaho County Free Press.

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Dixie is evacuated

Jan. 5, 1983

The small town of Dixie, located about 45 miles south of Grangeville, was evacuated Monday morning, Jan. 4, after a repair man broke a valve off a propane tank and the escaping gas threatened the tiny community.

Some 20 individuals who live in Dixie through the winter walked about a mile to a residence through nearly 27 inches of hard-packed snow in 20-degree weather.

Special Olympics in Grangeville

Feb. 23, 1983

The smiles on the faces of athletes beamed as warmly as the sun Saturday, at Grangeville's first Special Olympic Winter Games for areas I and II.

Some 110 athletes and coaches, as well as 100 volunteer helpers, converged on the Sno-Drifter's snowmobiling lodge Saturday morning for a full day of skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, tobogganing and other outdoor winter sports.

Meleah and Kerry McCulley, who helped organize the games, were very pleased with the results of the months of planning the Olympics.

"We've had incredible support from individuals, businesses and organizations,"

Town turns out to oppose Love group

Sept. 7, 1983

More than 1,200 people turned out at the Grangeville High School gym Tuesday to hear experts in the field testify about the problems the Love Family brings into the communities in which they live.

Experts testified about allegations made about the mind control they exercise over their members, the lack of medication, their illegal use of drugs and their defiance of laws in towns which they live.

The meeting was called by concerned citizens of Grangeville, and consisted of city councilmen, plus experts in the field. Dr. Allen Chenoweth chaired the meeting.

"We're well on the way towards winning the battle, just from the turnout," Chenoweth said. Chenoweth contacted a New York attorney who said that the Love Family would have won the battle to move to Grangeville if 10-12 people had turned out here. Chenoweth added that if the gym was full, the town had won the fight to keep the Love Family out of the area.



An undated photo of the Alexander & Freidenrich department store on Main Street, Grangeville. GRANGEVILLE BICENTENNIAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM



Getting around Idaho County's remote back country mining district during the winter used to involve a horse-drawn sled.





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ONE-ARM MACHINES PROVE ATTRACTION

Jan. 21, 1943

Someone, or more than one, evidently are determined to gather in all the coin slot machines from Orofino to Grangeville, Orofino was hit first last Wednesday night, and on Thursday night the maurauders visited Kooskia and Grangeville.

Four machines in the Imperial club, located in the Imperial hotel here, were pried loose from the stands, taken out through a back window, from which an iron grating had been wrenched, carried to the front of the hotel, where a car or truck was in waiting, and left for parts unknown.

The small safe in the club was not touched, and no liquor was taken, according to Rex Myers, attendant, who discovered the theft the next morning.

The same night, the night police, Merden Shaw, together with others, was investigating the apparent robbery of Cones Market and Jones & Lindsley stores. The basement door of the market ws propped open and the front door of the Jones and Lindsley store was found open, all of which might have been a blind.

IDAHO COUNTY TO GET 250 JAPS

May 27, 1943

According to information, the first assignment of Japanese internees will arrive at the former Lochsa federal prison camp above Lowell on the Middle Fork of the Clearwater some time today. The camp has been cleared of the federal prisoners, and has been made in readiness for the new occupants, who will continue the work on the Lewis-Clark highway.

D.A. Remer, who has been camp superintendent in the past will remain in the same capacity under the department of justice it is reported.

While no official information has been received as to the number of Japs to be placed on the road job, it is understood that there will be 250 when the quota is full. Seventy will arrive in Kooskia today, and about the same number on Friday, it is said.

There are about 50 miles of unfinished highway between the prison camp and the road that has been built from Missoula.



An undated photo of a portable cookhouse on the Camas Prairie, likely pictured during harvest time.

GRANGEVILLE BICENTENNIAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM



LONE WOMAN LOOKOUT ON JOB IN HIGH TOWER

June 17, 1943

Mrs. Lucy Weisbrod, the first woman to be employed on the Nez Perce Forest in a full lookout position, is now stationed at Quartz Ridge, 12 miles above Castle Creek ranger station. Other women have assisted their husbands on lookout points, but Mrs. Weisbrod is the first to occupy one alone. She sleeps in the cupola of a 100-foot tower and spends most of her daylight hours in the tower looking for fires. She prepares her meals in a cabin at the base and carries water for drinking and cooking from a mile distance.

Water for other purposes is hauled by truck and stored in a 300-gallon cement tank. Her husband, Richard Weisbrod, who occupied the point last season, is in the Army and is stationed at Murphy Field, Fla.

Move old tramway elevator to Pardee

July 15, 1943

WOODLAND – Frank Simler completed tearing down the tramway elevator this past week. He shipped the lumber to Pardee and plans to haul it up the hill by truck. The original tramway warehouse and elevator which were built about 1899 was replaced with

a new elevator about five years ago, under the management of T.E. Robinson.

One of County's Indian soldiers dies as Jap Prisoner

Word has been received by the father, Charles Amera of Kamiah, that his son, Alvin Amera, has died while a prisoner of the Japs on the Philippine Islands. Mr. Amera, Sr., and his daughter, Mrs. Stella Penney of Lapwai, were visitors in Grangeville on Tuesday, consulting with L.E. Myers, American Red Cross county chapter chairman, and others, in reference to war insurance and pension money for the aged Indian father of the soldier boy.

The Amera family lived at Ferdinand many years where Alvin attended school and played basketball, as did his nephew, Frank Penney, who was with him on the Islands and is now a prisoner of war.

FROM THE OLD TOP RAIL

July 5, 1951

One of the highlights of the rodeo has been the trick riding of Donna Plastino. She has worked out her act and trained her horse entirely by herself. At first she even built her own trick riding outfit. Later on, some people in Lewiston helped her out by buying a new trick riding outfit, and she takes every advantage of the saddle in her spectacular exhibition. Donna is the queen-elect of next year's Lewiston Junior rodeo.

Bill Gill cranked up his 2-cylinder, 1907 Black – a horseless carriage if there ever was one – and took off in a cloud of smoke down Main Street.

Police officer M.R. Shaw was going to arrest him for speeding but couldn't catch him as he was going all of 10 miles per hour.

Corporal Joe Sperli, wounded Korean War veteran, stepped out smartly in leading the parade on July 4. Joe is recovering from a wounded left arm.

From the Kooskia Mountaineer

March 27, 1913

J. L. Gross returned from Florida this week and judging from his opinions of that country it is a good place to stay away from.

The annual harvest festival will be held in Kooskia this year as usual. The dates will be set for either the latter part of September or early in October.

Finishing work on the interior of the new Hotel Selway is being pushed as rapidly as possible, and the opening date will soon be announced.

"A note given in payment for a worthless jackass is voice," was the ruling of Judge J. Stanley Webster of Spokane a few days ago, in deciding the case of J.LO. Callahan, U.P. Kinglsand and W.A. Grunewald, which was taken under advisement a short time ago after a hearing.







Jury Brings Verdict in Jones case late last Night

Dec. 13, 1928

With a crowded courtroom for over two days the state has been trying to prove a case against Oliver Jones, 35, farmer of Camas Prairie, arrested last fall for attempted assault upon Frances Hunter, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Hunter of near Harpster, and the defense has as stubbornly resisted.

Sensational developments were expected from the audience that came from many miles to see and hear, but they were in a part disappointed.

This paper does not handle the details of a case like this, and considers that testimony of this character should be kept where it belongs – in the courtroom.

The case was given to the jury composed of C.G. Pell, Bert Baker, Oscar Chase, Ben Baker, Guy Cleveland, LeRoy Swineheart, C.E. Kelley, M.R. Shaw, John C. Case, J.O. Morris, I.C. Minert, James Hobart, yesterday afternoon and it was past midnight before they filed back into the courtroom with the verdict, "Guilty with a recommendation of leniency."

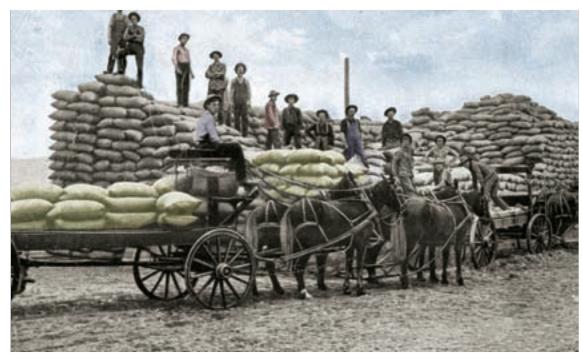
BATTLE OF THE SEXES

Feb. 28, 1929

Mere man has hitherto viewed with a certain complacencency the increasing power and activity of the other sex, but figures recently published by Government authorities seem to indicate that the battle is about over. These figures show that women now control the spending of 85 cents out of every retail dollar. They influence the purchase of 61 percent of men's haberdashery, 90 percent of his automobiles and motor supplies and 62 percent of hardware sales.

"This tendency of women to control the buying is increasing," declares the editor of Farm and Fireside in a belated appeal to the farmers of the country. This used to be a man's world. But unless men wake up, the day will come when they will all be mere work-horses for triumphant femininity.

"Glory save us! What's the world coming to? Is the time near at hand when makers of sheep dip will have to put it up in perfume bottles? When a



An undated photo of a "wheat blocade" in Grangeville.

GRANGEVILLE BICENTENNIAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM



These Idaho County loggers are using a gas-powered cross-cut saw in this undated photo.

GRANGEVILLE BICENTENNIAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

farmer will have to take his wife along to decide whether she likes the lines and upholstery of the new manure spreader? And when he will have to change his new horse collar because his wife wants the colors to be mauve and cerise instead of good old blue and white? Will a man even be permitted to select his own chewing tobacco?"

U.S. MAIL ROBBED

Sept. 10, 1903

The stage carrying the mail between Grangeville and Hump was robbed last Saturday at Moore's Station while the driver and passengers were at dinner. The stage reaches this station at about 11:30 o'clock and stops for dinner. The house is about 100 yards from the barn and Saturday when the driver returned he found the registered pouch cut open and the registered letters robbed of their valuables. The postmaster here says there were a

number of registered letters that day but only the senders know their contents. One was sent by the Bank of Camas Prairie and contained \$185 which was being sent to John Brown. There was probably no great amount of money in the pouch and it is surprising that anyone would risk their liberty for so small a reward. As yet no clue has been found to the identity of the robbers and as nothing but money was taken there is but little chance for their capture.

WILL TRY OUT NEW HELI-COPTER MACHINE

Dec. 6, 1928

Geo. Wilkin, inventor and mechanic states to a Free Press representative that he will try out his newly patented helicopter model at the Lee Howell blacksmith shop between 1 and 2 p.m., Saturday, December 8.

This model, which has been developed by Mr. Wilkin will be

put to trial on that day to show its lifting capacity.

ISMAY BEING INVESTIGATED

April 26, 1912

J. Bruce Ismay, of Titanic fame, is being investigated, but that's all it will amount to. Investigations in this country, especially the senatorial kind, only result in a waste of time and money.

Makes murderous assault; suicides

March 13, 1913

Paroled from the California State Prison at San Quentin less than two months ago, where he was serving a sentence of five years for forgery committed at Checo, California, in 1910, Clarence Walker, son of Robert N. Walker, a wealthy retired farmer of Camas Prairie, in a murderous attack on the Beck home about the hour of four, Monday afternoon, shot down

his bride-to-be, sent a leaden pellet into the body of Mrs. Beck, fired point blank at Mark Howard, wounded Policeman Brown and snuffed out his own life with the fifth shot, making the place look like a shamble in less than five minutes.

BROTHER NOT INSANE AS REPORTED

Oct. 13, 1893

Henry Ternan writes us from Clearwater that his brother, who was reported to us and published as being insane some weeks since, is no more out of his head that we are. He was simply suffering from a throat disease brought on by excessive use of tobacco, and exposure to cold and wet, which partially deprived him of the power of speech. He is again his former self, and we hasten to make the most ample apologies for the unjust charge of insanity published in these pages.

RED RIVER FAMILY HAS PET COUGAR

March 7, 1963

Some people consistently ignore signs or tend to discount the message the sign carries.

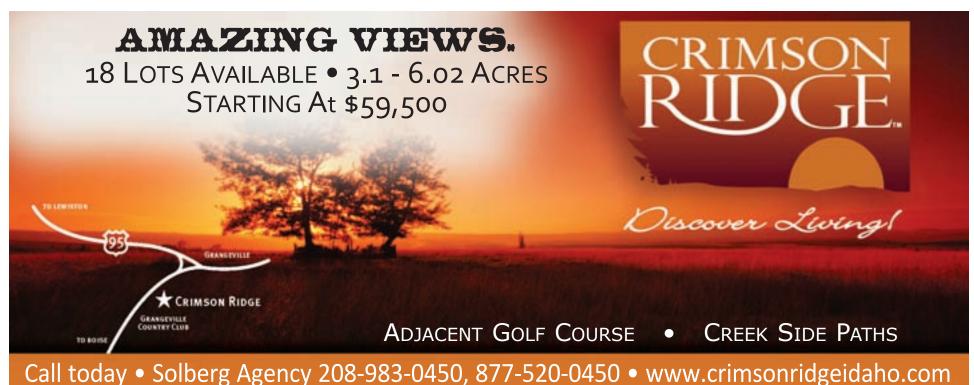
From now on, Joe Fox, Lewiston division sales supervisor for Washington Water Power Co, will almost certainly be numbered among those people who read signs carefully and give considerable thought to just what they might mean.

He didn't pay too much attention to the two signs along the road that clearly and bluntly said, "Don't Shoot Our Pet Cougar," and as a result Joe is a little older and a little grayer today.

The Smith's pet cougar, affectionately known as "Cougar Joe," is about one year old and as much a household pet as are their dog and her four pups.

When Fox walked up to the Smith's front door Cougar Joe rose to greet him. Fox froze in his tracks and began a hurried count of all the good marks that he might have in the book. It has been reliably reported that for several days thereafter Fox was exceptionally kind to his salesmen and small children.

The Smiths acquired Cougar Joe when the cat's mother was killed by a hunter.





Unidentified hunter, circa 1930. ICFP Archive

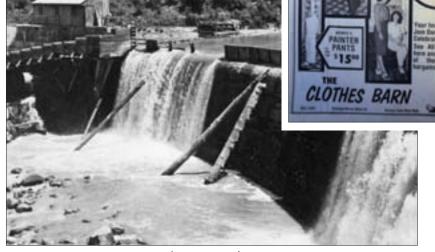




GRANGEVILLE BICENTENNIAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Above are undated photos of Idaho County agriculture history: a combined header and thresher; and loggers using a gas-powered cross-cut saw.

At left, an advertisement in the Sept. 10, 1980, issue of the Idaho County Free Press advertising fashion jeans and more at the Clothes Barn.



Power plant on the Clearwater River (undated photo)



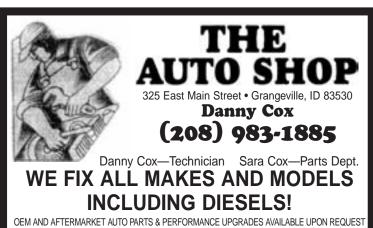
Fossil find in Kamiah during road work.



Imperial Hotel, Grangeville, destroyed in fire, February 1966.









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The Life Center's Ministries include Loving Hands TLC Thrift & More; Concerts; Conference; Impact Youth Ministry; as well as monthly ministries for seniors, men, women, young adults, and more.

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Gridiron Tragedy: 1916 season canceled

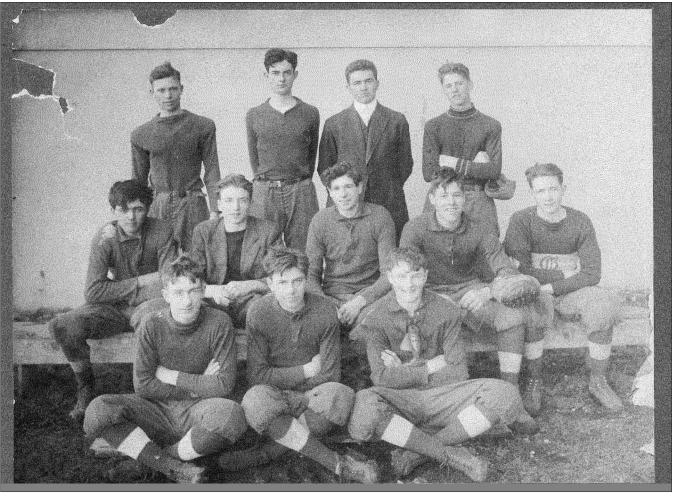
By Andrew Ottoson
IDAHO COUNTY FREE PRESS

What to do about football-related injuries, as a topic of conversation, is among the nation's oldest continuous lines of barstool bickering. Today, although the professional league's practices are under the mainstream media microscope, there is no trace of indecision in Idaho County about whether football is an appropriate activity for people of a certain age. This decision was made here nearly a century ago, after an on-field tragedy caused Grangeville High School to shut down its nascent football program.

This story begins in the bygone era of burgeoning American industry during the years leading up to World War I –

when Grangeville was home not just to a timber mill, but to a brand new flour mill, and all the local news was reported in a newspaper with no sports page. But after a group of players who hadn't previously played football found a way to beat Lewiston 25-12 during their third game in 1915, the team, winless since 1909, was front page news. Football again made the front page leading up to the 1916 opener, a 6-0 loss to formidable Nezperce at the long since relocated Border Days Arena.

(Not only times and places have changed; some traditions have as well. For instance, Border Days, the rodeo



GRANGEVILLE BICENTENNIAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The nascent Grangeville High School football team was front page news with a win over Lewiston, 25-12, in the third game of its 1915 season. The football program was discontinued after a player, Floyd Gilbert, died as a result of on-field injuries during the 1916 season, but was restarted during the 1920s. Pictured are (from left) the members of the 1915 team: back row Floyd Gilbert, Mack Gregg, coach Fay C. Robinson and John Long; middle row Leo Carpenter, George Allen, Guy Sherwin, Homer Eimers and JB McDonald; front row Ern Richards, Denny Howard and Mac Leonard.

and heritage festival Grangeville now held around the Fourth of July, was held after harvest in those days. In 1916, they "Cut 'Em Loose" Sept. 29-Oct. 1, and the season opener was played that Saturday, Oct. 2.)

The football team made the front page again – this time alongside the senior class photo – after the Oct. 16 rematch against Nezperce, during which full back and team captain Floyd Gilbert was dealt an injury that proved fatal. He was 19 and popular and regarded as a good student among the 367 enrolled at Grangeville High School, the graduates of which were, according to the front page that proclaimed

the start of football season, "readily admitted into the large universities which are always strict in their requirements."

Floyd Gilbert went down in a collision with a Nezperce ball carrier, a tackle attempt on which Gilbert took a hip or a knee to the face and sustained broken vertebrae that the doctors and facilities of the time were ill-equipped to handle. Later, the Nezperce player sustained a broken collarbone, and the game was called off by the coaches even before word of the severity of Gilbert's injuries came from the hospital. He died before the paper came out the following Thursday, and all these

details, and many yet more heart-breaking, were front page news, as would doubtless be the case today. The Grangeville High School team cancelled the rest of the 1916 season; by one account, all of the football equipment was burned.

But by 1929 - and possibly much sooner - the Grangeville students had started playing football again. (Records from this time are incomplete, as the home team's newspaper rarely reported losses, shrouding the date and outcome of Grangeville's return to the gridiron in mystery.) Their return raises the hard issue, which is emotional at its core: why would people who bore witness to such an enormous and terrible loss on a football field ever embrace football again? Details about what must have been difficult deliberation over a fundamental question – to play or not to play? may yet be hiding out in

the old newspapers and yearbooks. But the answer at which Grangeville eventually arrived – to play! – hints at what makes Idaho County special today: the people here have long been courageous and wise, shying away from no task which can be accomplished by combining proper equipment with proper technique and a proper reward.

And we still believe young men and women ought to be free to choose their own adventures; however deep the forests, however steep the mountains, however powerful the waters rushing downriver may be.



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Campbell's Ferry: partying hard in the New Year

By Frances Zaunmiller, Jan. 10, 1963

Campbell's Ferry, Jan. 1 – Allison ranch started the New Year with a party that began late midday Dec. 31 and lasted through most of New Year's Day.

Whitewater ranch was put in moth balls, while the Dudleys and Granddad Ray visited. The weather was clear and warm that last day of the year. Perfect for horseback riding. No need for snow glasses, for the slopes are bare of snow. Shore ice along the river bank widened to form ice bridges at Yellow Pine Bar and Big Eddy. Two smaller bridges between that two.

The great pile of popcorn balls and lots of coffee waited on Allison table and stove. A perfectly normal Canyon of the Salmon get-together. Noisy, except when it was quiet.

Everyone was going to watch the New Year in (you know, you can actually see that time transition, if your eyes are open, just so, and no one in the room blinks even one eyelash). Someone at Allison must have blinked while Harold Dudley rang the party line.

When that phone rang, the Ferry house was asleep. But, not for long. Happy New Year's were exchanged. From the Ferry receiver came sounds of whistles and Cook's cap pistol, a radio going full blast, plus the revelry of a happy house-full.

The day of January one was bright, clear sky changed to overcast. Dudleys went back to Whitewater. The Ferry tuned the radio to football games. Evening party line discussion was on the subject of the proposed law to outlaw helicopter, spotting plane and radio direction to assist hunters. The party line hopes that this session of State Legislature will do more than bury the issue in committee. After all, murder was wrong, before a man-made law was established to outlaw the practice. This present practice of airborne assistance is just as wrong.

This day before tomorrow's mail is pushed back and forgotten, each person who disapproves of violation of sportsman's morals, each person who wants that Idaho hunting return to the fun that it has been, should today write to the legislators at Boise, stating your desire for clean hunting in Idaho and also, the need for a law to eliminate in the future, the copter, spotting plane and radio-directed hunting.

DIAL PHONES READY FOR GRANGEVILLE

Feb. 21, 1963

Grangeville area citizens can expect telephones changed over to dial system by late summer, Robert Hankins, Lewiston district manager for the Pacific Northwest Bell Co., told members of the Chamber of Commerce and their farmer guests Tuesday evening at the Charcoal Broiler.

Hankins said company engineers had accepted the building in the southwest part of the city that day. Six Western Electric men are now on the job and will grow to 14. Three installation men are here now and seven more are to arrive.

The new installation represents an investment of \$466,700, and is the newest of central office equipment. The installation is being set up for 1,180 lines and can be expanded to 2,360 which should take care of Grangeville up to 1980, Hankins said.

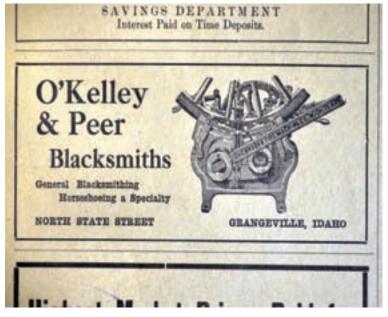
7-DEVILS PEAKS NAMED Oct. 24, 1963

The Board on Geographic Names, U.S. Dept. of Interior has made official descriptions of portions of the Seven Devils mountain range lying within the Nez Perce National Forest, according to John R. Milodragonvich, forest supervi-

For many years, the highest peak in the area has been known as He Devil, elevation 9,393 feet, located immediately southwest of Big Sheep Lake.

Based upon recommendations by the late A.H. Marshall of the Mazamas, a Portland, Ore., mountain climbers' club, and by residents in Riggins nearest to the area and considering local usage, the Board of Geographic Names officially designated seven additional peaks, keeping the "devil" theme in mind. This makes eight official peaks: Tower of Babel, 9,628 feet; Devil's Throne, 9,280 feet; The Goblin, 8,890 feet; He Devil, 9,393 feet; The Ogre, 9,210 feet; Pyramid Mountain, 8,650 feet; She Devil, 9,280 feet; and Twin Imps, two peaks with elevations of about 9,000 feet.

The legend of the Devils goes back to an Indian who became lost in the range during a storm. He became hungry and tired and thought he saw seven different apparitions – Seven Devils – before returning to his people who recorded the legend.



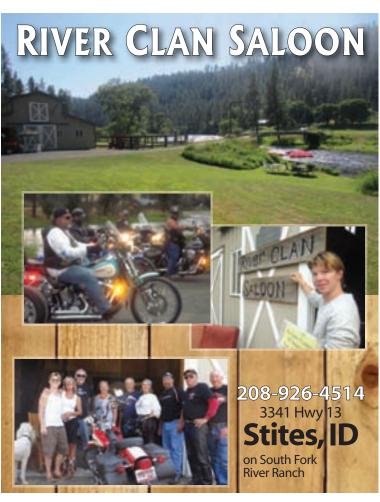
MANY PEOPLE SUBSCRIBE TO \$17,000 PROJECT; READY BY SUMMER

April 6, 1939

Pioneer Park is destined to become one of the city's most popular summer playgrounds. Reason: The building of a municipal swimming pool.

A crew of WPA workmen under direction of Carl Keller will begin pouring concrete for the big tank next week. The municipal swimming pool project was begun little over a year ago by the Lions Club and public subscriptions amounting to over \$4,700 were solicited by the club. A WPA grant of over \$12,000 was made several months ago. When completed, the pool will represent an expenditure of over \$17,000.

The pool is located in the southwest corner of the park and is 45x90 feet, having a depth at one end of nine feet. It will be completely plumbed for heating and purification of the water. It is hoped to have the tank finished and ready for use by mid-summer.







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Moonshine is just everywhere

March 8, 1923

Benjamin Franklin Rose, grizzled veteran of the palmist days in Idaho County, on Wednesday, at an official inquisition held by Prosecuting Atty. F.E. Fogg, before Probate Judge W.L. Campbell, in the courthouse in Grangeville, squealed on a reputed moonshine and bootleg ring in the Clearwater country, extending "all the way from Kamiah to Stites," according to Rose's testimony.

Bent with age and dissipation, admitting that he had been a "periodical drunkard all my life," Rose laid before the county officials details of wholesale liquor traffic, particularly in Stites and vicinity. He named men who were reputed to be moonshining, and others who, he said, were selling booze in Stites.

"It's everywhere above Stites," Rose told officials. "All you've got to do to get the evidence is to go there and hang around a while. You can get all you want at Kamiah and Kooskia, also."

Asked to name bootleggers at Kamiah and Kooskia, Rose told the officials that he didn't know any individuals there who were in the business. "It's hard to get in unless you've got the money to buy it," he asserted. He said he was



broke and consequently the bootleggers didn't solicit his trade, although he expressed a fondness for the cup that cheers.

"I've gone to church and prayed to God to give me strength, but I just can't overcome it" Rose remarked, in telling the officers of his desire to turn over a new leaf.

Indians tell where booze came from

The expose' came following the arrest of James and Charles Ellenwood, Indians, and brothers, 10 days ago. The Indians admitted burglarizing the Millard restaurant in Stites, and said they committed the crime because they were drunk, and that Frank Rose had given them the booze.





ABOVE: Shepherds still move sheep the old-fashioned way, as seen in this photo from March 2000.

LEFT: Locals and visitors packed the grandstand for the 1919 Grangeville Border Days rodeo, as they have since the event's founding more than a century ago.

BELOW: Decades before these unidentified men handed the work that sustained their lives off to the next generation, the lumber in their hands sprang up in one of Idaho County's towering forests.

PHOTOS FROM ICFP ARCHIVES













By Lorie Palmer IDAHO COUNTY FREE PRESS

We've all heard the names and wondered, "Where is that town?" Chances are the towns you hear about still exist in some form or another in Idaho. Some Idaho County towns were booming mini-cities in the 1800s and even through the 1900s.

DENVER

Denver is located 10 miles northwest of Grangeville and was first called Centerville. An issue of the Free Press in the 1890s reported, "Denver, Idaho, will stand as a rival to her

Colorado namesake for the hand of commercial affluence." During that time Denver was home to a flour mill, drug store, school, bank, two newspapers, livery stable, post office and several churches.

DOUMECQ

Doumecq (pronounced do-mac) is bordered by the Salmon River on the north and east, Rice Creek on the west, and extends to a spot near Camp Howard to the south. At one time ferries made their way here and the area boasted a post office and school.

GOLDEN

Golden is located approximately 40 miles southeast of Grangeville on the South Fork of the Clearwater River near the mouth of Ten Mile Creek. Mining districts kept this area moving as well as the Lone Pine Mill.

JOSEPH PLAINS/BOLES

This area begins at the Salmon River south of

LEFT: From "Number, please" to dial tone: The heart of Grangeville's manual telephone system was mechanized in 1963. Pictured from left are: Mary Lou Benedict, Vivian Knivila, Angele Hazelbaker, Lynn Earp, De Ann Lyons and Joan Denham. RIGHT: A Grangeville base-

ball game in 1968.

in 1911.

BELOW: Horses were shown on Grangeville's main streets

Cottonwood and includes about 12 miles of narrow,

windy road taking travelers to the top. The cemetery there still has about 20 graves. The area was home to a school and post office.

WINONA

4 Clearwater

5 Cottonwood

6 Mt. Idaho

7 Grangeville

8 Golden

9 Elk City

Winona: Located at the foot of a butte about nine miles southwest of Kamiah, this townsite was originally named Lowe. It hosted a blacksmith shop, livery stable, town hall, school and church.

Other towns that were once more heavily populated include:

CLEARWATER: Located nine miles south of Stites and 18 miles east of Grangeville, this town began as a way station for freighters traveling into the mountains. It was originally named Independence Flat and held its own post office, store, show house, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, church and more than one sawmill.

10 Boles

11 Doumecq

12 Joseph

13 Riggins

14 Florence

15 Dixie

DIXIE: Dixie can be found 26 miles south of Elk City. Mining kept the town active in years past where a log schoolhouse, bar and hotel existed.

MT. IDAHO: The oldest town on the Camas Prairie, located five miles northwest of Grangeville, Mt. Idaho was once the county seat. The town was one way station for those on their way to Florence mines. It boasted an elementary and high school, courthouse, jail, churches, laundry, post office and grange hall.

To read more about Idaho County history, see the book Idaho County Voices, edited by Zona Chedsey and Carolyn Frei and published by the Idaho County Centennial Committee in 1990.



1 Kamiah

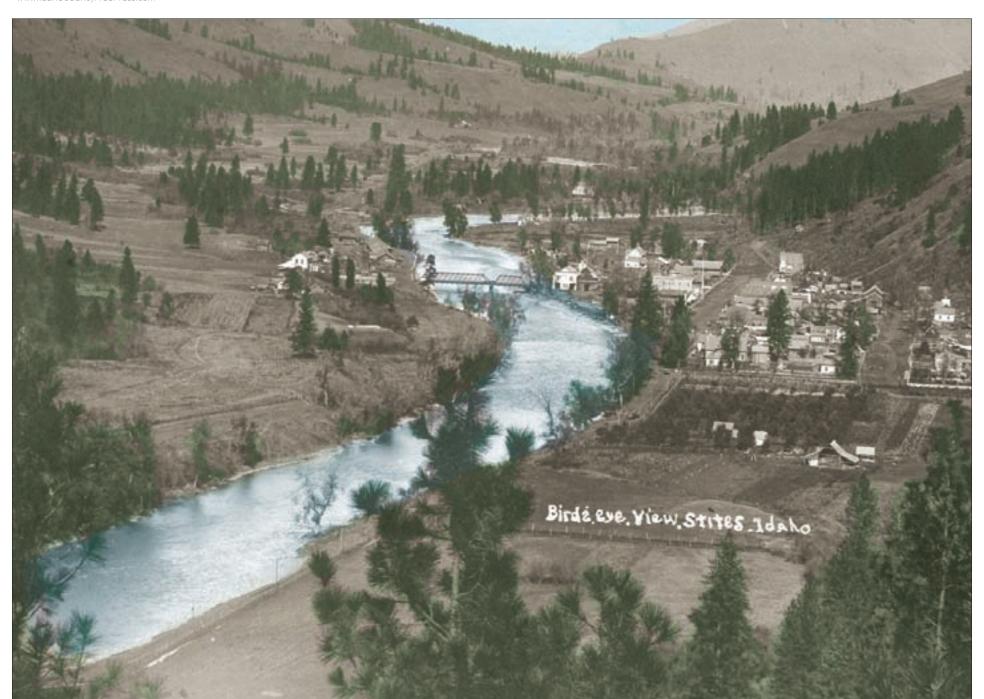
2 Kooskia

3 Winona









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AND ALL POINTS

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Grangeville Bicentennial Historical Museum An undated photo of Stites, a South Fork Clearwater River community which was a commercial center and is a hunting and fishing hub.

wish I could show you the little village where I was born...lovely there...I used to think it too small to spend a life in, but now I'm not so sure." ~ Mary Kelly







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