

WALLOWA QUARTERLY

Magazine of the Wallowa History Center

— Preserving Our Past for the Future —

CONFECTIONERY,
CIGARS AND TOBACCO

In This Issue

Nez Perce Trails

McBain Murder Case

Wallowa Memories, 1940s

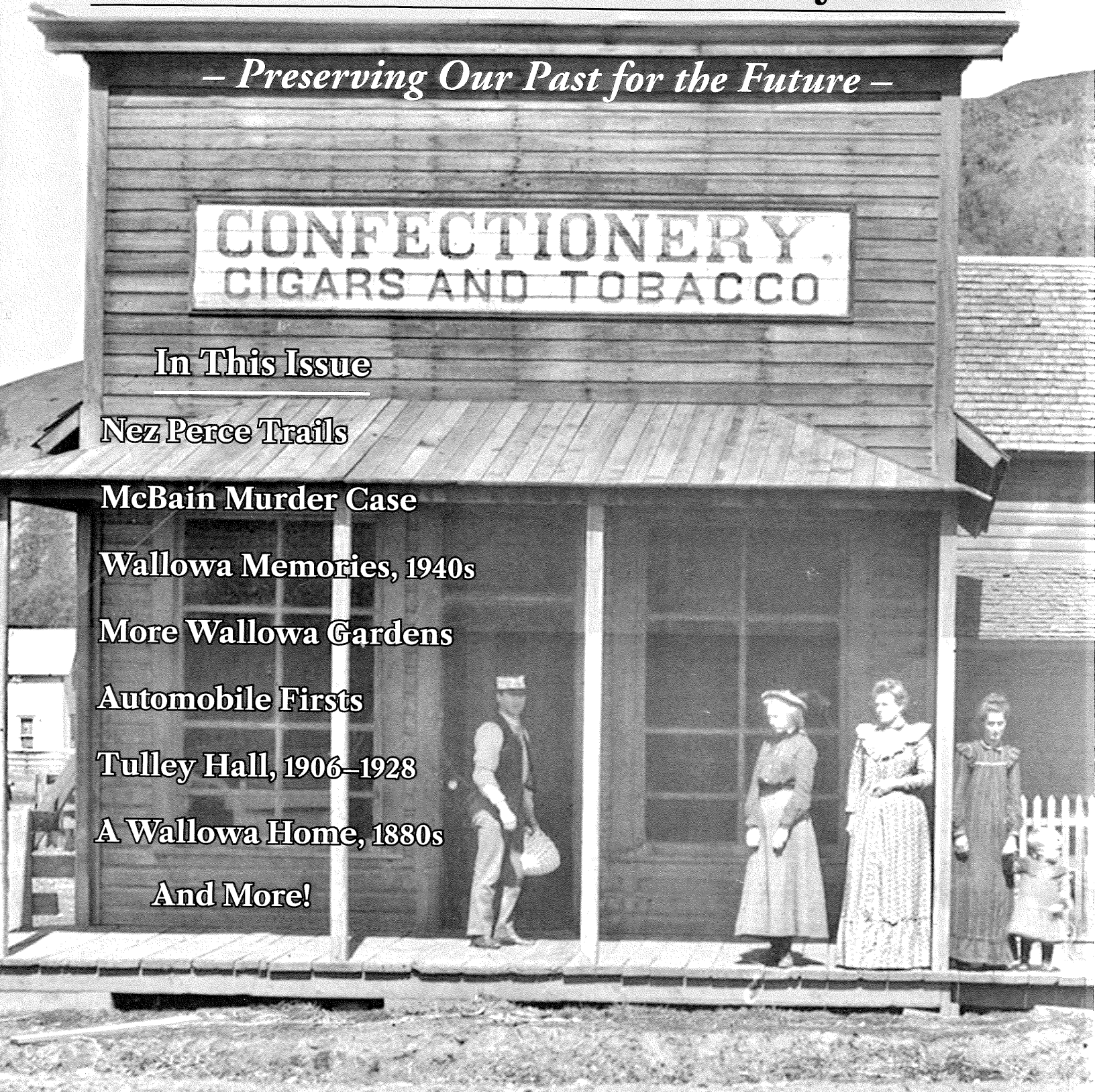
More Wallowa Gardens

Automobile Firsts

Tulley Hall, 1906–1928

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And More!



WALLOWA QUARTERLY

SPRING 2022

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Front cover: One of Wallowa’s early confectionery stores, possibly on First Street (undated).

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WALLOWA QUARTERLY

PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES EACH YEAR: SPRING • SUMMER • FALL • WINTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Research Tools

By David Weaver, WHC Board President

There's nothing quite like reading an old Wallowa County newspaper to get a sense of "the times." Take, for instance, these little bits of news from the *Lostine Reporter*, March 1, 1917:

Wanted: Live chickens at the bakery.

Mrs. Wm. Hunter is confined to her home with tonsillitis.

If you have any hides, pelts, horse hair, poultry, or wool, call Thos. Siegman on the phone, 504 black.

F.B. Leonard lost his slaughterhouse by fire Wednesday morning. C.M. Goodman lost 1 hog and Roy Haun 10 hogs that were hanging in the cooling room.

Or these from the *Wallowa News*, August 8, 1902:

Everybody busy haying. Harvest hands are scarce.

Homer Bennett, living a half mile east of town, has the small pox.

A load of emigrants from near Corvallis stopped in town Monday with a view to locating.

Although it has been ordered that all thistles in the city limits be destroyed, we notice some almost bloomed that remain standing.

These molecular news items from the "local" columns of such Wallowa County newspapers as the *Lostine Reporter*, *Wallowa Sun*, *Enterprise Aurora*, *Joseph Herald*, *Flora Journal*, and *Wallowa County Chieftain* formed the core of their journalistic work. In addition to what the editors gathered themselves, they had correspondents, writing under pen names, who provided regular news updates from the dozens of now-disappeared and nearly-forgotten little settlements scattered across the county—Utopia, Joy, Arko, Zumwalt, Grouse, to name a few. In many cases, these correspondents provide the only source of information we have today about the daily lives of the people in these far-flung, and often short-lived, communities. Here's a sample from "Country Lass," under the heading "Leap Lines," in the *Enterprise Aurora*, August 16, 1895:

Hot and dusty.

Forest fires are numerous hereabouts.

Mrs. Bert Hammock, we are glad to learn, is much better.

Oh my! You should see George Hearing in his new buggy.

Miss Elsie Bunnell was thrown from her horse last Thursday, no serious injuries were received.

These bits of local news are endlessly fascinating and are a rich source of information for those investigating family history or researching specific historical topics. Until recently most of these old newspapers from Wallowa County have been very difficult to access. To read them would require a visit to a university library or historical archive to retrieve a roll of microfilm, thread it onto a hand-cranked projector, and then scroll through each photographed page of the newspaper until you found what it was you were looking for. A tedious and time-consuming process if you happened to be looking for something specific.

The Wallowa History Center has a solution to this. On our website (www.wallowahistorycenter.org) we have a number of historical local newspapers covering a range of time-frames from both Wallowa and Union counties. These can be found under the RESOURCES tab on our website. All these newspapers are searchable by key word, making research easier and faster. Or, if you like, you can read a single edition cover-to-cover. Check back regularly, as we continue to add to our collection.

(Pssst...from the Wallowa History Center website you can also access the Enterprise Public Library historical newspaper collection—and they're searchable, too!) Happy searching!

LANGUAGE DISCLAIMER *Historical material in the Wallowa Quarterly may occasionally contain language considered to be stereotyped or prejudiced. Retaining this language, however, is often necessary for understanding the historical context in which it is used.*

NEZ PERCE TRAILS IN THE WALLOWA COUNTRY

Nez Perce Harvests

By the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region
Adapted from *Lostine River Watershed Analysis* (1997)

The Nez Perce people lived in the Wallowa country for 10,000 years prior to European settlement. They hunted, fished, and gathered berries, roots, and other plants. In the 1730s, the Nez Perce introduced horses [to the region], and by the mid-1800s were grazing cattle in the Wallowa country.

During the months of July and August, salmon runs were harvested along the Wallowa River and its tributaries. A major fishing and meeting area was at the confluence of the Lostine River and the Wallowa River. It is here that the fishing season began, lasting for approximately two months. The early Wallowa settlers referred to this gathering place as "Indian Town."

The Nez Perce lived on lower Joseph Creek, the Grande Ronde River, the Imnaha River, and the Snake River during the winter months. In the spring they moved from the low-elevation river valleys to the surrounding uplands where camas roots were harvested. From late spring to fall the Nez Perce inhabited the Wallowa River Valley from Wallowa Lake to the northwest end of the valley near the town of Wallowa. In the late summer and early fall, elk, deer, sheep, bear, and salmon were harvested and preserved for the coming winter months. The Native American diet consisted of 50 percent fish, 30 percent plants, and 20 percent game.

Winter Camps

By Gerald J. Tucker

From *Historical Sketches of the Wallowa National Forest* (1954)

It would appear from what artifacts have been found, that ancient man in the Wallowa country lived for most of the year along the major streams. The Grande Ronde River from Troy to Snake River and lower Joseph Creek supported many villages and camps. Migrations between winter quarters in the canyons at lower elevations and summer hunting and fishing grounds did not require long

moves in the Wallowa country. Twenty or thirty miles or less was often sufficient to achieve a complete change of climate and adjust to the seasonal food supply. Family groups or sub-tribal units of from four to a dozen families seem to have been the normal number of people moving and living together as a unit. Small parties of hunters no doubt penetrated into the remote vastness of the mountains and canyons, but the larger groups maintained their main camps near the rivers and camas fields.

Subdivisions or bands of the Nez Perce are said to have centered on one or more villages and generally included several fishing camps. These constituted local groups over each of which a single chief, usually a war chief, held some power. Five of these local groups in Oregon are as follows:

1. *Imnama*: Imnaha River band
2. *Walwama*: Wallowa River band
3. *Inantoinu*: on Joseph Creek.
4. *Koiknimapu*: above Joseph Creek on the north side of the Grande Ronde River
5. *Isawisnemepu*: near the mouth of Joseph Creek on the Grande Ronde River

To and From the Grande Ronde

By John H. Horner and Grace Bartlett
From *Wallowa: The Land of Winding Waters* (1949)

The Enterprise-Lewiston Highway follows in a general way the route of the Indians to and from the Grande Ronde Canyon. Instead of cars, there were once long lines of Indians winding through these hills, headed up or down according to the season.

At any time of the year it would have been a colorful sight, with the blankets of the Indians, their shawls, feathers, and beads catching the sun, their spotted ponies standing out in contrast against the grassy hills. In the fall, their pack horses would have been heavy with the winter supplies of meat and fish, the pounded roots and berries. In the spring, every face must have been eagerly looking forward to that first glimpse of the distant Wallowas.

Fish, especially salmon, formed a major part of the Nimiipuu [Nez Perce] diet, as well as the Pacific lamprey eel and crayfish. Fish were caught with scoop nets, seines, hook and line, harpoons or spears, shot with arrows, and trapped in weirs. They were split, cleaned, hung on poles to dry, or smoked on wooden racks. Roots, such as kouse, camas, bitterroot, and wild carrot were boiled and baked and some dried and stored for the winter. Berries, including huckleberries, raspberries, choke cherries, wild cherries, and nuts, tubers, stalks, and seeds rounded out the diet. — Nez Perce National Historical Park

Nez Perce Calendar

By Allen P. Slickpoo and Deward E. Walker, Jr.

From *Noon Nee-Me-Poo: We, the Nez Percés* (1973), and from the Nez Perce National Historical Park

Wee-Lu-Poop: January Season of cold weather. The winds are bitter and travel is difficult.

Ah-La-Tah-Mahl: February Fires are needed to stay warm but wood is scarce. Sometimes it is necessary to turn to neighbors for wood. Also, season of hard time to build fire.

Lah-Tee-Tahl: March The first flowers begin to bloom.

Kah-Khee-Tahl: April First harvest of roots known as *keh-kheet*, the first root food of the season.

Ah-Pah-Ahl: May Season for digging khouse roots and making *ah-pah* (or *up-pa*), a baked loaf made from ground khouse.

Toose-Tee-Ma-Sah-Tahl: June Late season for digging khouse, when roots are ready at higher elevations. To some it is also *Heel-Lul*, time of melting snow in the mountains.

Khoyt-Sahl: July Season of the run of blueback salmon in Wallowa Lake. The meat is red and good.

Wa-Wa-Ma-Ahl (or **Tah-Ya-Ahl**): **August** Chinook salmon migrate to the rivers' headwaters and spawn. It is also "*Ta-yum*," time of midsummer heat.

Pee-Kuhn-Ma-Ahl: September Fish migrate downstream to wintering pools and salmon fingerlings travel to the ocean.

Hope-Lul: October Season when the tamarack needles are shedding and the trees turn color.

Sekh-Lee-Wahl: November Trees now shed their leaves and days are colder. Hunting time.

Ha-Oh-Khoy: December New life begins in the cow elk or season of the fetus in the womb of the deer.

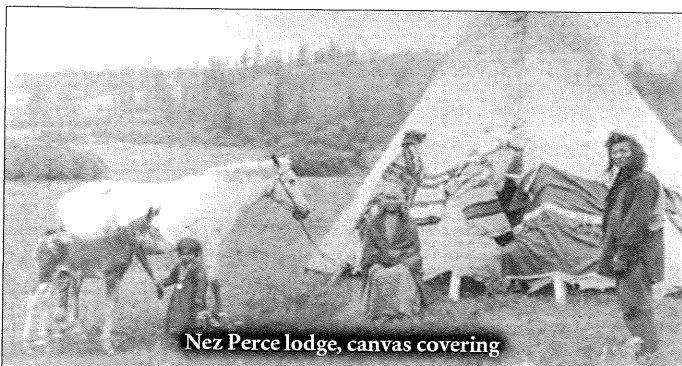
Nez Perce Lodges

From the Nez Perce National Historical Park

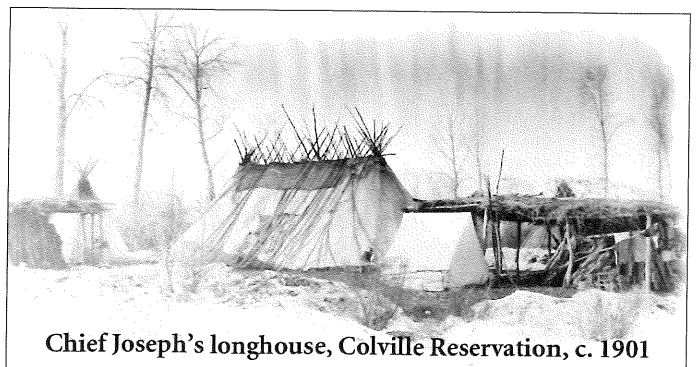
"The village...consists of one house only which is 150 feet in length, built in the usual form of sticks, mats and dry grass. It contains 24 fires and about double that number of families." – Lewis and Clark, describing a Nez Perce longhouse

The Nez Percés constructed several different types of homes, from the excavated pit house to the tipi and long house. The tipi was popular throughout North America because it was so readily transportable...Layers of tulle mats were tied to the poles like shingles. In higher and colder elevations hides were sewn together and draped over the frame. The mats or hides overlapped in the front where wooden pins were used to secure them. The top was left open for a smoke hole and the bottom opening formed the door. In winter, dirt was piled around the base to keep out the cold, and in summer the flaps were left open and the lower part of the tipi covering rolled up, permitting air to circulate freely.

Long houses were most common in winter, where several families lived together communally. The size varied from 30 to 150 feet long, depending on the size of the village. The fires were arranged in a row down the middle of the house, about 10 or 12 feet apart. There were two families for each fire. The area around the fires was kept clear, with personal belongings and bedding kept around the outside walls. There were two or more small entrances on one side of the house. The beds around the outside walls were elevated by layers of dry grass and the inner bark of cottonwood trees, forming a soft mattress. As trade increased, canvas replaced the mats and hides, and tipis [and longhouses] got larger and easier to move.



Nez Perce lodge, canvas covering



Chief Joseph's longhouse, Colville Reservation, c. 1901

Geographic Names & Locations

By John H. Horner and Grace Bartlett

From "Some Wallowa County Geographic Names..."
Wallowa: The Land of Winding Waters (1949)

GRANDE RONDE According to some Indian [names] this means "Winding Water," also "River That Flows Into the Far Beyond." Others say it means "Where Very Little Snow Falls" or "Horses Winter Well." Both terms were very applicable. Many of the Nez Perces' horses were wintered here each year when their owners camped at the mouth of Joseph Creek and on down the Grande Ronde River to the Snake.

INDIAN VILLAGE On the Chesnimnus ridge. Called this by the early white settlers because so many Indians camped there to hunt in the fall after leaving the fishing grounds at Wallowa Lake. After hunting here for a time, they took their different routes to the canyons with hundreds of horses packed with dried venison and fish for their winter food.

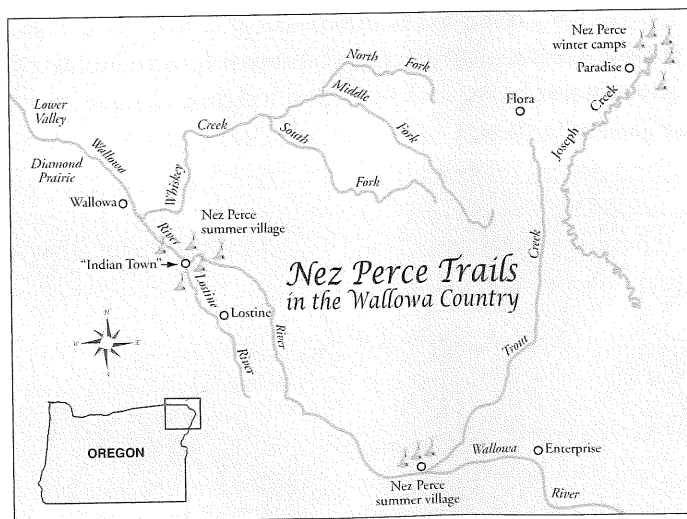
JOSEPH CREEK Empties into the Grande Ronde River in Washington. Indian name was *An-an-a-soc-um*, meaning "Long, Rough Canyon." Named *Joseph* later because Old Joseph's main winter camp was at or near the mouth of this creek. Trails from this camp went branching out to enter the Wallowa country at different points. Each spring the Indians watched, from points nearby, for the first signs of the Chinook [warm, dry] winds, which would mean they could leave their winter camps for the Wallowa Valley.

The Wallowa Valley Route

By Gerald J. Tucker

From a letter to Thomas L. Griffith,
Bear-Sleds District Ranger, Wallowa (April 10, 1965)

The route from Wallowa Valley up Trout Creek and via Snow Hollow Hill and Sled Springs to such northern points as Flora, Paradise, Lost Prairie, and Troy was an old



Indian trail. The major prong forked off at Sled Springs and reached the valley near the mouth of Whiskey Creek and the forks of the Wallowa and Lostine rivers. Old Chief Joseph's village used [this trail] during the redfish [kokanee] and Chinook [salmon] runs, for camas-gathering was located at the forks of these rivers.

The small Nez Perce wintering villages along the Grande Ronde River from the Schumaker place just below the mouth of Deer Creek up the river to Troy and the large village there used this trail as the major direct route to the Wallowa Valley. Chief Joseph's own band of [Nez Perce, which] had its winter villages on lower Joseph Creek and the lower Grande Ronde River, found it more convenient and direct to travel to and from the Wallowa Valley via Cold Springs, Indian Village, and Zumwalt.

The fifth band, who lived on the Imnaha River, were quite isolated from the others during the winter months. They used separate trails in going to and from the Wallowa Valley, except that they frequently camped in the fall of the year at Indian Village for a while with members of [other bands] before separating to go their separate ways to their winter villages. The first settlers of the Wallowa country and the military detachments and their scouts explored the area first by traveling over these and other well-used Indian trails.

The Road to Indian Town

By D.B. Reavis

From *The Mountain Sentinel* (September 29, 1877)

A low range of hills covered with bunchgrass divides Lower from Middle Valley. The north hillsides are covered with timber of a good quality. Some small streams of pure mountain water gush forth from the hillsides, furnishing all the water needed for these valuable farms.

The land near the river on the south side of this part of the valley is rocky and gravelly, too much so to admit of cultivation, but between that and the foothills the soil is generally good and will admit of about two claims in width. The forks of the river is immediately opposite the lower part of this, the Middle Valley. Two valuable claims finely watered by bubbling springs lay immediately in the forks. This place [the confluence of the Wallowa and Lostine rivers] is known as "Old Indian Town." A very large number of old willow wigwams are still to be found here, and a dozen or more Indian graves, fenced in with a rude fence of poles. Here I was told lay the body of Old Joseph, father of the present chief of that name. To this place the Indians have usually made their annual trips, camping and hunting for several weeks at a time, repairing the fencing around the graves of their fallen chief and hanging over his grave a fresh horse hide.

“Dastardly and cowardly”

THE MCBAIN MURDER CASE

Part 1 of 2

“Sheriff Blakely has lodged in the county jail at Enterprise a man named McBain who confesses to killing two men in self-defense near Promise last Sunday. There are numerous conflicting reports concerning the tragedy, and it seems to be impossible to get the true story.”

– Joseph Herald (April 14, 1905)

The Crime

– John H. Horner, *J.H. Horner Papers* (1953)

One of the most dastardly, atrocious, and cowardly crimes ever committed in Wallowa County happened on the ridge between Grossman and Deep creeks in 1905, when James McBain shot and killed Theodore [age 21] and Charles [age 19] Trost over a homestead claim. McBain was sentenced to life in the Oregon State Penitentiary on one charge and another still hanging over him.

The Shooting

– *The Morning Oregonian* (April 11, 1905)

There occurred at West Grossman, about 25 miles northwest of [Wallowa] some time yesterday, the most sensational shooting of many years. J.H. McBain, an engineer of Grand Junction, Colorado, who came here several weeks ago to take a homestead, shot and killed two young men named Trost, who had jumped his claim.

McBain came west several weeks ago, surveyed the claim, putting up notices to that effect, and made contact with B.S. Brady to erect a house on the land. When Brady went to work on the place, he was ordered off by the Trost brothers, who had taken possession. McBain, who had in the meantime returned to Colorado, was notified.

The story of the encounter is that when McBain went to his claim, he worked one day without molestation, but on the second day met the claim-jumpers and ordered them off. Then one of the Trosts raised an ax against him. In self-defense, McBain shot him. The other brother shot a hole through McBain's hat with a single-barrel shotgun. McBain then shot him to death while he was attempting to reload his gun.

Thomas Brady, a timber locator, heard the shooting and went to the scene, where he found the two men dead and McBain keeping watch. Brady then advised McBain to come to Wallowa and give himself up. He came to Wallowa and went to the Wallowa Hotel, where he ordered supper. It was set before him, but he could eat nothing. He then called A.S. Cooley, attorney-at-law, and told him the circumstances. This is the first trouble known in this county over claim-jumping for many years.

The Confession

– Joseph Herald (April 14, 1905)

As near as the *Herald* can learn, McBain squatted on a piece of land last summer and shortly afterwards left for Colorado, where he spent the winter. This spring, two brothers named Trost settled on the claim and erected a house and other buildings. McBain, hearing of this, came to Promise and went out to the claim where an altercation arose, and during the fracas the Trost brothers were killed. McBain went after a physician, told of the shooting, and was perfectly willing to give himself up and abide by the decision of the law.

The Charges

– *Daily Sentinel*, Grand Junction, Colorado (April 15, 1905)

J.H. McBain, the well-known railroad man of this city, who shot and killed two brothers, Theodore and Charles Trost, who had jumped McBain's claim at West Grossman, Oregon, on Monday, is held by the authorities for murder, being so charged by the coroner's jury. A special from Wallowa announces that the evidence was heard by the coroner's jury yesterday. The jury declared that the shooting of Theodore Trost was in self-defense, but the evidence led the jury to believe that the shooting of Charles Trost by McBain was uncalled for and not in self-defense. McBain is in prison at Wallowa. No evidence as to when a trial will be given McBain has been received. McBain is a member of one or two local lodges, and these organizations will probably fully investigate the affair. Mrs. McBain has been expecting a letter from her husband for the past two days.



Theodore Trost

The Statement

– *La Grande Evening Observer* (April 18, 1905)

At the coroner's inquest held to inquire into the killing of the Trost brothers, the following statement was made by J.H. McBain, the man who did the killing:

On Saturday morning in company with Oran Brady, I went to my claim to see the Trost boys. When we arrived there, they were absent, and after waiting several hours for them we returned to Oran Brady's house. Before going I examined their shack and found a .32 caliber revolver. I unloaded it and put it in my pocket as a precaution against their using it on me in case there was any trouble. I forgot it and carried it away with me and left it at Brady's cabin.

On Sunday morning I returned to my claim to see if I could find the Trost boys. I took with me my .42 Smith & Wesson revolver and Mr. Brady's .32-40 Marlin rifle. I arrived there about 7 a.m. and found the Trosts getting breakfast in front of their shack. I entered into conversation with them about the claim, but they would not get off, and after some talk about it I told them I would get an officer of the law and put them off.

When I said that, the elder Trost [Theodore] jumped up and grabbed an ax and said, "You can't run any bluff on us," and started for me. The younger one [Charles] picked up a .22 rifle and fired at me, the bullet passing through my hat. I fired at him and he ran. The other one came at me with the ax. I opened fire on him, and at the first shot he fell by the edge of the shack and seemed to be trying to get something from it. I thought he was after a gun, and I fired two more shots into him as he lay upon the ground.

I then turned on the other one. He was about 40 yards away with the rifle and seemed to be hunting a cartridge in his pockets. I opened fire on him and emptied my rifle, four shots, into him. He was then lying on the ground and was trying to reach the rifle lying beside him. I drew my revolver and ran up close to him and fired four shots into him.

Seeing that they were both dead, I sat down and waited for someone to come along. In about three hours, two men came by and I told them what I had done. They agreed to stay with the bodies and I went to Mr. Brady's and from there went to Wallowa to surrender to the authorities, which I did, and then went back with the justice of the peace to hold the inquest.

The Inquest

– *La Grande Evening Observer* (April 18, 1905)

We, the jury duly empanelled to inquire into the cause of the death of Theodore Trost and Charles Trost, find that the said Theodore Trost and Charles Trost came to their death by shots fired from a rifle and a revolver held by one J.H. McBain, and that the said J.H. McBain shot and killed Theodore Trost in self-defense. The shots fired at Charles Trost were fired feloniously with intent to kill.

The Findings

– *Wallowa County Chieftain* (April 20, 1905)

Considerable excitement was created throughout the county last Monday when word was sent that two men had been killed over a land dispute. The air was full of wild rumors. The sheriff, coroner, and deputy district attorney arrived at the scene of the tragedy Tuesday. An inquest was held and James H. McBain was accused of feloniously killing Charles Trost. The coroner's jury ruled that McBain shot and killed Theodore Trost in self-defense.

The Indictment

– *Joseph Herald* (April 28, 1905)

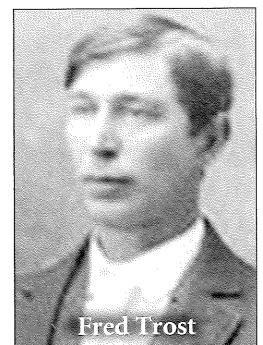
In the matter of the State of Oregon vs. J.H. McBain for the killing of the Trost brothers, the defendant was indicted for murder on two counts, to each of which he pleaded not guilty. The trial was set for May 16.

[Note: The indictment for the murder of both Trosts came in spite of the coroner's jury's judgment that the killing of Theodore Trost was in self-defense.]

The Trial

– *Joseph Herald* (May 12, 1905)

Next Tuesday, J.H. McBain will be tried at Enterprise for the murder of Chas. and Theodore Trost near Grossman on April 9. Mr. Fred Trost, a brother of the murdered men, and E.S. Clark of Falmouth, Kentucky, arrived in Enterprise last week to be present at the trial. Mr. Clark is a very able attorney and will assist in the prosecution of McBain.



The Verdict

– *The Sunday Oregonian* (May 21, 1905)

After being out nearly 24 hours, the jury in the case of James H. McBain, tried here for the murder of Charles Trost April 9, rendered the following verdict this morning: "We, the trial jury in the above entitled action, hold the defendant guilty of murder in the second degree."

It is reported that the first ballot taken stood ten to two in favor of murder in the first degree, and stood so until this morning, when they agreed upon the above verdict.

The murderer made no demonstration when the verdict was read, and aside from being somewhat pale, which was perhaps caused by the fact of his having eaten nothing since yesterday noon, no trace of emotion appeared in his face.

When Sheriff Blakely took him back to his cell, he remarked that he would rather hang than be sentenced for life.

The trial of J.H. McBain for the murder of Charles Trost began May 17. Last March, McBain was located in a quarter-section of timberland in this county, and after posting notices returned to Colorado to bring out his family.

Soon after McBain left, the Trost brothers commenced to build a cabin on the tract chosen by the Colorado man, and by threats drove off two men who were building a cabin for McBain. McBain returned at once when notified that his claim had been jumped and went out to the Trost brothers' camp. He found the camp deserted for the time being. Sunday morning, McBain went again to the camp.

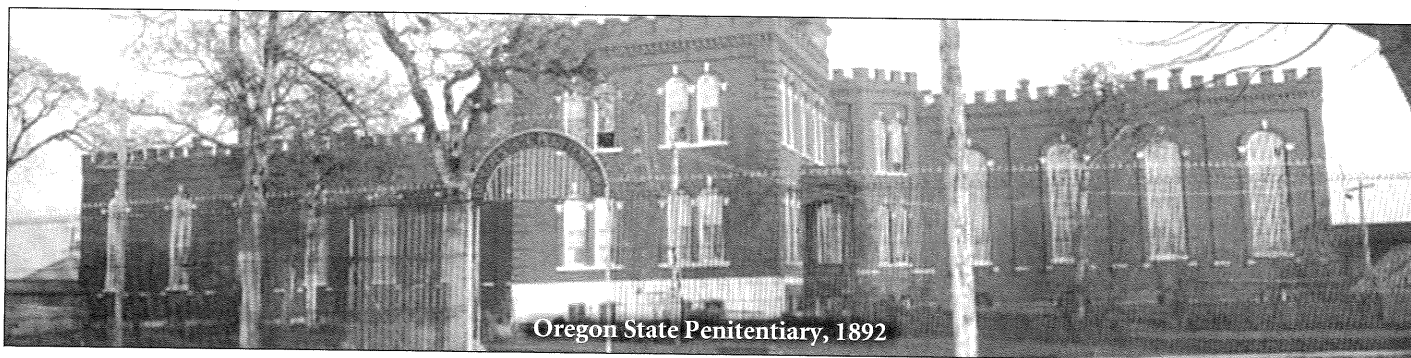
Soon afterward, Thomas Brady, who had located McBain on the tract, heard shots and, in company with several neighbors, went over to the scene of the tragedy. Upon arrival they were told by McBain that he had to kill both of the men. He said one of them had advanced upon him with an ax, and the other shot a hole in his hat. The hat was introduced in evidence by the defense. Charles Trost had seven bullet holes in his body. McBain had borrowed a .32-40 rifle from Thomas Brady's son.

The Sentence

— *Wallowa County Chieftain* (May 25, 1905)

After deliberating nearly 21 hours, the jury on the McBain murder case brought in a verdict of murder in the second degree. The murderer was sentenced to life imprisonment in the penitentiary at Salem. McBain was defended by A.S. Cooley of Wallowa and J.R. Wyatt of Albany, Oregon, who is reputed to be one of the best lawyers in the state. McBain may consider himself fortunate that he was furnished with such able counsel. Had it been otherwise, he might have been swung so high that he could look down and see the splendor of the new Jerusalem. While many have remarked that the jury let the murderer off too easily, we wish to say that it was composed of 13 of Wallowa County's best citizens and they should not be censured for their decision. This has been the greatest criminal case ever tried in the history of Wallowa County and should be a warning to all "bad men" that Wallowa County is not the place to come for the purpose of shooting down its citizens. Sheriff J.M. Blakely and Jap Ellis left Tuesday morning for Salem with the prisoner to incarcerate him in the penitentiary.

(To be continued summer issue of Wallowa Quarterly.)



Oregon State Penitentiary, 1892

Claim Jumping

Typically, claim jumping—illegally taking possession of another's land claim and then holding it by coercion or force—belonged more to the realm of miners than to homesteaders in the American West. After all, huge tracts of land in 160-acre parcels were open to homesteading, and making a claim on one was a simple matter.

"At that time," James W. McAlister recalled about staking a claim on a Wallowa Valley homestead in the summer of 1872, "it was a custom, and was usually all that was necessary to hold a claim, to lay a foundation of four logs and post a notice in the center describing the boundaries of your claim. It was respected by newcomers."

Nevertheless, disputes did occasionally arise over these claims. In fact, the Winslow Powers family, among the valley's first settlers, was confronted with such a situation. "In their search for a suitable homestead," Winslow's son James remembered, "the Powers family forded the Wallowa River just east of where the town of Wallowa now stands. About a half-mile east of this crossing, Mr. Powers...let his stock spread over the flat to feed and rest, and began preparation for procuring winter's feed. After a few days, however, a middle-aged man came along and said that he had claimed the land that Mr. Powers was starting to improve, and that he would kill any man who attempted to take it from him."

"This world is big enough for all of us to own a home and yet live in peace," Mrs. Powers said. "Let's move on." So the family moved back to the Lower Valley, and they located their homesite soon after.

WALLOWA MEMORIES, 1940s

By Armand Larive, Jr.

From *The Wallowa Record* (July 16, 1959)

There are many things about Wallowa and its people that stick in my mind when I recall my boyhood here. My father [Armand O. Larive] became school superintendent for this community, and brought my mother, [my brother] David, and me here [from South Dakota] in 1942. We lived in Wallowa six years, between my ages of six to twelve.

Being young then, many of the things I recall may seem insignificant, such things as daily hikes up Green Hill, swimming in Bear Creek, or peering in a ramshackle garage behind the library to marvel at Mr. Rinker's old Franklin [automobile], or stopping in for popcorn at Mrs. Hauprich's store before going to the movies.

The only school buildings then were the brick building and the white frame gym, which had two old barrel stoves that used to get red hot during basketball games, and finally caused the fire that burned it down [in 1949].

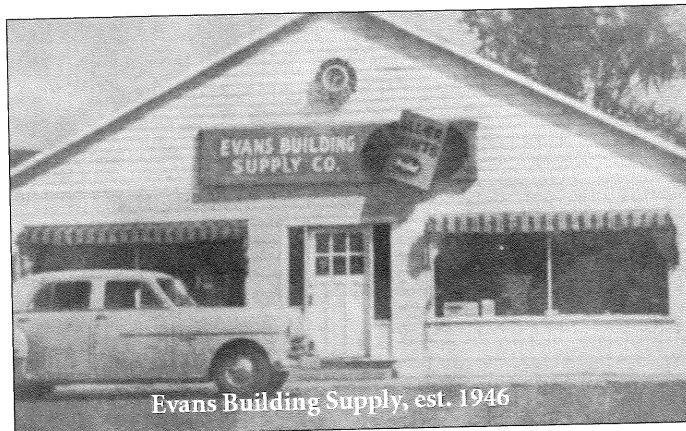
Mrs. McMillan, Mrs. Conner, Mrs. Knighten, Mrs. Ecker, Mrs. Fleshman, and Mrs. Kate Goebel were some of my tolerant teachers. Ethel Conklin (since married) and Mrs. Ann Mahoney patiently attended my dubious efforts at the piano.

Many of my pals have grown up and left the county now. Steven and Dallas Johnson and Jim Bevans were close friends of mine.

Bennie Marshall and I made extravagant plans for a gas model-airplane which we never built; Jack Groves and I developed a car driven by his mother's washing machine motor, which we once rode to McKenzie's drug store [City Pharmacy] for a Coke. It broke down on the way back.

Gerald Dixon, Ladd Osborn, Vern Shell, and I carried on extensive warfare in various backyards.

Dallas McCrae used to take me, and as many tires as we could carry, up Tick Hill, where we would roll them



down into his father's fence. I was a great admirer of such older boys as Jack Evans, Bud Lewis, and Ralph Graham, or anyone who played football, was tough, or could lag marbles well.

My brother, David, made a business of collecting beer bottles and old radios with Bob Chrisman.

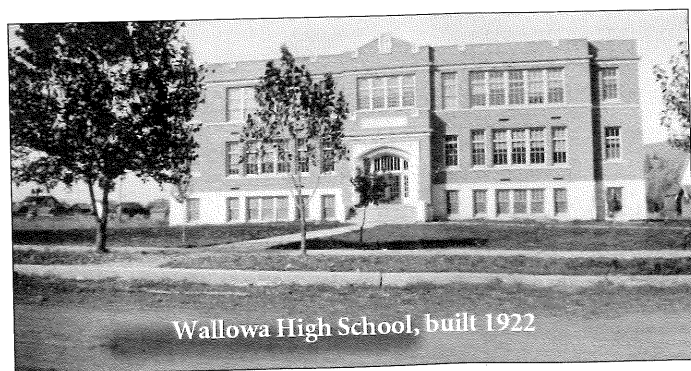
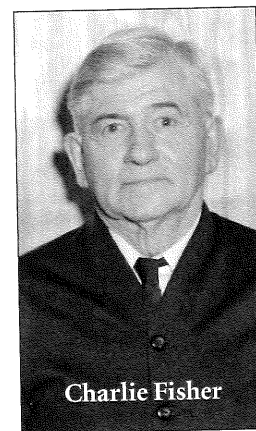
I remember once, when we lived in the house that Bill Fisher now has, that David stuck his finger in our lathe while my father was using it, and we had a whole basement full of people trying to help get the finger out. Everett Dixon finally saved the day by freeing it with a hacksaw.

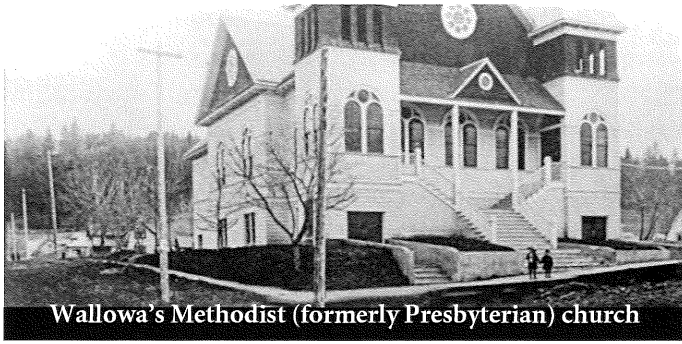
Mrs. Jennie Conklin lived in our upstairs apartment and was a great friend and entertainer of the Larive children, especially of my little sister, Ann Marie.

I used to get my haircuts from Charlie Fisher for 50 cents, and ran many errands down the hill to Shorty McKenzie's store.

I mowed Mrs. Frick's lawn and settled up with her in money and maple bars.

Of particular interest were trips to Evans Building Supply to see the latest thing Mr. Evans had built or to admire his inlaid wooden pictures.





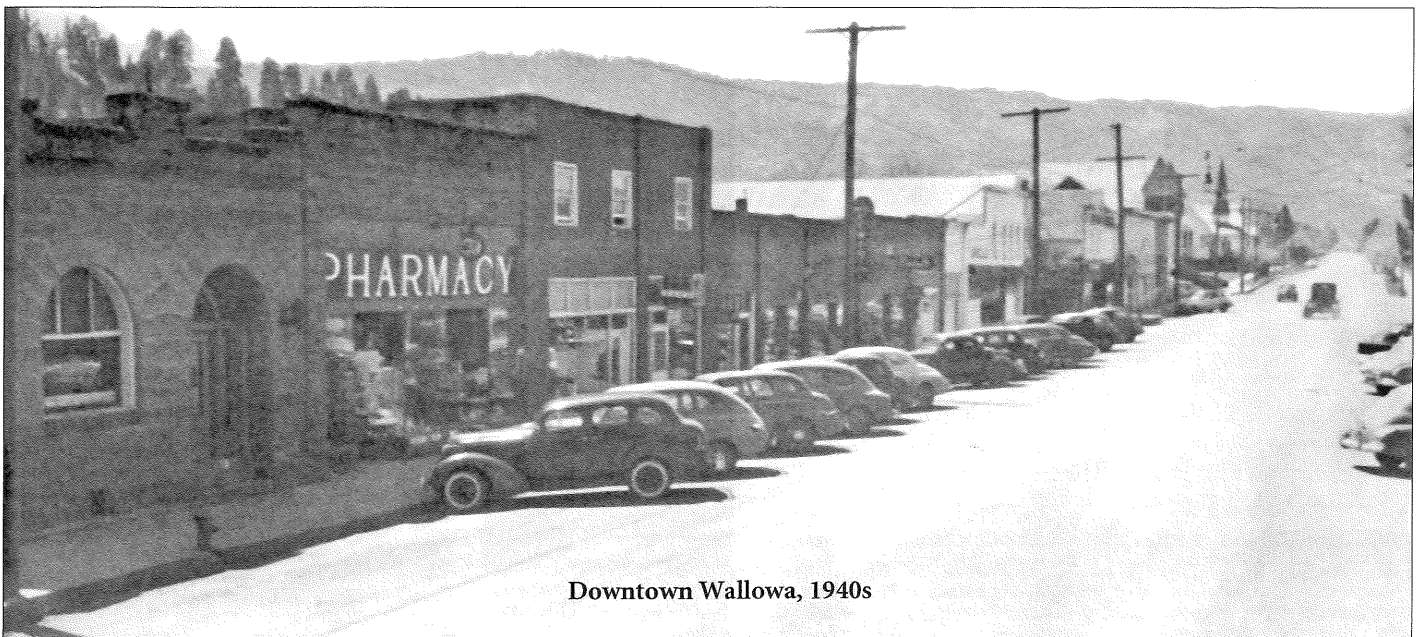
Wallowa's Methodist (formerly Presbyterian) church

I recall how restless I was during the Methodist church services, and how Rev. Pollock reprimanded me and my friends for crawling around under the pews. In returning, I find Wallowa much the same as it always was as far as the open-hearted friendliness of the people is concerned. Of appreciable differences are the new homes, fresh paint, and general upkeep, which has changed the face of the town in the last 10 years. The mill, too, has certainly grown since we lived here. By recalling these things now, it helps me realize how greatly indebted my family and I are to the fine people of Wallowa, and the years we spent in this community.

“Another good friend was Bunky Larive, a philosophy major and a heavy pipe smoker. His room was always thick with smoke from his pipe. He was the son of a school [superintendent] in a small town in [Oregon]. Bunky went on to become an Episcopalian minister...I used to go to Bunky's house on long weekends and during holidays to stay with his family.” – Chong K. Lewe, a friend of Armand's (whom everyone evidently called “Bunky,” even in Wallowa) during their days at Whitman College.

Wallowa Timeline: 1940s

- 1940 WHS graduates 34 students, largest graduating class in its history to this point.
- Eagle Cap Primitive Area becomes designated wilderness area.
- U.S. Census lists Wallowa population as 838.
- Methodist church, Presbyterian church, and Wallowa Church of Christ swap buildings.
- U.S. census: Oregon population approximately 1.1 million.
- 1941 U.S. enters World War II.
- 1942 *The Wallowa Sun* newspaper merges with *The Enterprise Chieftain*.
- 1945 World War II ends.
 - J. Herbert Bate Lumber Company buys Bowman-Hicks sawmill in Wallowa.
- 1946 Workers at the Bate sawmill vote to unionize.
- 1947 Grain elevator built at Wallowa.
- 1948 Creamery Association moves cheese factory to Wallowa.
- 1949 School gymnasium burns; new grade school, gymnasium, and heating plant built.



Downtown Wallowa, 1940s

MORE WALLOWA GARDENS, 1928–1973

I remember when working in a flower garden was looked upon as a belittling way for a man to earn money. One man hired to dig, threw down his spade when told a place for flowers was being made, declaring, "I ain't got so low as to earn my victuals making a posy bed!"
– Elizabeth Liddy Norris, House Beautiful (1918), appearing in the Wallowa County Reporter (August 22, 1918)

Grandma Fleshman

– *The Wallowa Sun* (August 16, 1928)

Grandma Fleshman has been quite successful in growing the most beautiful flowers and tender vegetables of various kinds, and it only goes to show what can be done with a little water and a generous amount of energy toward making a home attractive. Mrs. Fleshman said she got a lot of enjoyment out of growing nice flowers, and when she tired of working in her vegetable garden, she said she rested by working among her flowers. And certainly she has beautified her home with her front yard flower garden this summer. And we might add that the lovely flowers and tender vegetables together with the hospitality of this estimable lady makes visitors have that feeling that they want to go back again.

Bessie Baird

– *The Wallowa Sun* (July 30, 1933)

Congressman Walter M. Pierce said [during a recent visit to Wallowa] that...he and Mrs. Pierce had, before coming to the banquet, visited the flower garden of Mrs. J.C. Baird. He paid a compliment to Mrs. Baird and the town of Wallowa on the beauty of this monument, stating that in their travels they had seen nothing any better.

Mrs. J.W. Ryan

– *The Wallowa Sun* (September 22, 1938)

Bear Creek gardeners lead again this week and sustained their reputation. This end of the valley is winning [so far] this year for being a gardener's paradise. Mrs. J.W. Ryan tugged a 1-1/2-pound California sweet onion out of her sod garden Monday, and it may be seen in The Sun window, together with some excellent specimens of ripe tomatoes, also plucked from vines in Mrs. Ryan's garden. Mrs. Ryan has already picked two bushels of ripe tomatoes.

Mr. and Mrs. George R. Evans

– *The Wallowa Sun* (March 7, 1940)

Mr. and Mrs. Evans are both very fond of flowers, and their yard is a veritable flower garden from the first peep of the hyacinths to the fall chrysanthemums and other late flowers. They take an especial delight in their peonies and have numerous kinds of choice plants.

Mrs. Glenn Sherod

– *The Wallowa Sun* (September 11, 1941)

A beautiful bouquet of dahlias from the garden of Mrs. Glenn Sherod in Middle Valley graces the new Sun office this week. Mrs. Sherod has nearly every variety of dahlia known, from the little pompom to the immense quill-like petaled flower resembling the big mums. (Also gracing the new office was a bouquet of beautiful gladiolus from the garden of C.T. McDaniel.)

LaVonne Bird

– *The Wallowa Record* (July 9, 1942)

Whether it is the warm, fast-growing weather or her genius as a gardener, LaVonne Bird's radishes are digging postholes in her Victory Garden. Two she dug Friday measured more than 12 inches long each.

Mrs. C.E. Gorbett

– *The Wallowa Sun* (October 29, 1942)

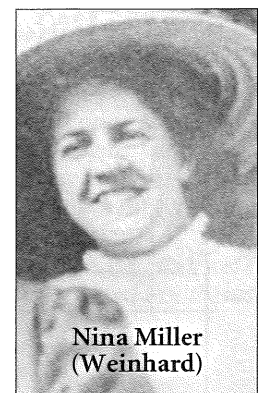
The benign climate of Promise-land was reflected last week in a mess of green corn picked by Mrs. C.E. Gorbett from her garden. At the same time, Mrs. Gorbett reports the dahlias of her flower garden were in profuse bloom. That was October 23. Dahlias in the valley have long been forgotten. The frost did not seem to hit as early and as hard in Promise as in the valley, for Mrs. Gorbett frequently has late flowers and vegetables.

Nina Miller Weinhard

– *The Wallowa Record* (June 9, 1949)

Visitors are almost dazzled by the beauty of the irises in Mrs. W.F. Weinhard's iris garden [in Lower Valley]. Two hundred varieties in nearly every shade and color combination meet one's eyes as we walk through the beds.

Some Mrs. Weinhard has had for years before a first blossom appeared, and it is indeed a pleasure to her to note the different kinds. Purple, lilac, and yellow are



Nina Miller
(Weinhard)

predominant in the coloring, but the yellows have been developed to make some almost pink and others bronze, which shade into almost brown-velvet.

Every different shade of purple is to be seen, from almost red to deep mulberry, and then the lighter shades, orchid to almost white. There are many white varieties, some having a pure-white center with deep-purple outside petals lined with yellow. It is difficult for a flower fancier to choose her favorite, and when asked hers, Mrs. Weinhard replied:

“Well, the mulberry rose is lovely (a lavender color) and harvest moon (almost bronze) and the prairie sunset (almost salmon colored), but I do think the white ones are lovely.”

Mrs. Weinhard says she makes three trips daily to look at the irises—one in the morning, again at noon, and in the evening. They are indeed a source of pleasure to her, and she is very happy to have visitors come to see them. Mrs. Weinhard has secured her irises from Cooley’s and the National Iris Gardens, both Oregon firms.

Almost as exciting as blossoming time at the Weinhard is the time the annual catalog for irises is published. Many happy, excited hours are spent deciding which plants to add this year. And it is a wise choice, for the gardens are lovely, and the plants themselves are tended with loving care.

Chris Jackson

– *The Wallowa Record* (August 18, 1955)

Chris Jackson can be justly proud of his ability to grow beautiful flowers. Chris makes his home with his son Lester and family at the east side of town. The beautiful profusion of sweet peas, hollyhocks, and sweet Williams that presents such a gorgeous sight as one passes along the highway has received the special attention of Chris during the spring and summer season. Early morning finds Chris busy with the task of watering and weeding his flower plots and clipping the sweet pea blossoms that have burst forth. Chris celebrated his 86th birthday August 1st and is exceptionally active for one of his years. He gains much pleasure from his hobby of flower growing.

Tom Baird

– *Wallowa County Chieftain* (June 7, 1973)

Wallowa’s Tom Baird, the vegetable gardener of a year ago, won’t have as much produce for sale this summer because he couldn’t find enough land to plant. Instead of the eight acres of land a year ago, Tom will be cut down to two acres of land plus three garden plots in the city of Wallowa. In talking about last year, the young farmer says, “I came out a lot better than I thought I would.

I didn’t make a whole lot of money, but I did all right. I made wages on the deal, I guess.”

This year, as it was last year, potatoes will be Tom’s main crop, as they will fill most of the two acres located on Marion McCrae’s land. He has planted some onions, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, beets, and carrots on his garden plots. All will be placed on sale locally.

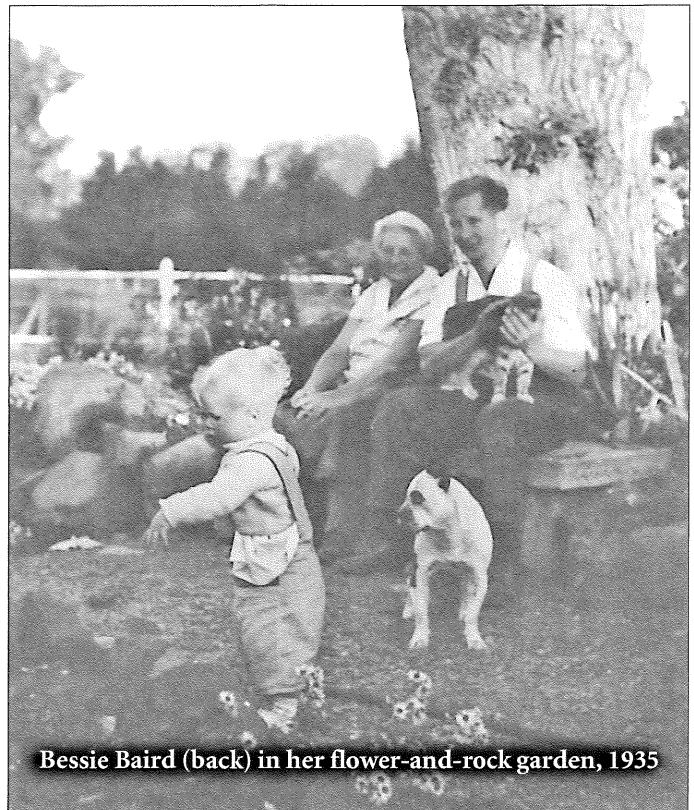
Helping Tom with his potatoes is Marion McCrae.

Tom states that last year was a valuable experience in learning what to do and what not to plant.

“There’s no money in tomatoes, squash, and green beans. My most profitable crops were potatoes, onions, carrots, and beets.”

To fill the slack time this summer caused by the much smaller crops—he trimmed trees all winter and should be through this coming week—Tom is thinking about building two greenhouses in Wallowa, one for vegetables and one for flowers. Initial planting began about one month ago.

So, land poor but ambitious, Tom Baird is again in the vegetable business.



Bessie Baird (back) in her flower-and-rock garden, 1935

With the passing of Mrs. Baird [on July 9, 1935, at the age of 64], Wallowa loses one of its most highly-esteemed and interesting citizens. Her most notable achievement was in the culture of a beautiful flower and rock garden. She studied the subject and mastered scientific details, and at the same time learned all the practical essentials. – Excerpt from the obituary for Bessie Richardson Baird (1870–1935), *The Wallowa Sun* (July 18, 1935)

AUTOMOBILE FIRSTS

With the completion of the road from Elgin to Wallowa, the stagecoach passes from activity into history. No more long rides in a rocking stage over dizzy heights and long sweeping grades. No more cold rides in the blinding snowstorms of winter. No more rising at unseemly hours to catch the stage. The train has succeeded the stage to Wallowa, and from here to Joseph an automobile will carry the passengers next week. — The Wallowa Sun (September 25, 1908)

1900

First Auto in Oregon

When E. Henry Wemme brought the first horseless carriage—a Locomobile Steamer—to Portland in 1900, the machine was still considered a rich man's toy.

“When it arrived at Mr. Wemme's store, several of his store employees uncrated it and put it together and then attempted to get up steam,” reported William Gill. “Well, they filled 'er up with water and gasoline and tried to light the burner, when all of a sudden a fire started under the auto and everybody, myself included, started for the tall timber, and just about the time I went around the corner she went BANG! The fire was put out and the little auto was standing there on the sidewalk somewhat singed—but still in the ring.”

*E. Henry Wemme came to Portland in 1882, made a fortune in tents and awnings, and was fascinated by automobiles. As early as 1888 he undertook to build one himself but gave it up. Instead, in November 1899, he took delivery on a Locomobile—a one-seat affair looking like a buggy, sans horse, with an engine under the seat. — John Terry, *The Oregonian* (June 18, 2011)*



E. Henry Wemme (left) and Oregon's first auto

What was once a novelty quickly began to catch the public's fancy. In 1907, when Oregon first imposed a license fee on motor vehicles, 236 of them were registered for a total of \$708 in fees. — Michael C. Taylor, *Road of Difficulties: Building the Lower Columbia River Highway* (2008)

The Locomobile Company was one of the first American auto manufacturers. Founded in 1899 in New England, the company made steam-powered cars until 1903, then switched over to internal combustion engines until going out of business in 1929.

1906

First Auto in Wallowa County

F.D. McCully brought in his first car in 1906, three years before a machine was owned in Enterprise. [Note: Some put the year at 1905 or even 1904.] Mr. McCully's machine was an Olds, driven by two cylinders and steered by a lever of the “goose-neck” design. The car was called an Olds Scout and was short and with far larger wheels than are now used. The front dash was straight upright and not curved because the agents said that looked more like the front of a common buggy and so would not scare horses, but this proved a delusion, for various animals took fright at the machine, and Mr. McCully recalls how they bolted from the road and into the fences. — *Enterprise Record Chieftain* (June 28, 1928)

1909

First Auto in Wallowa

E.A. Holmes Receives Studebaker Touring Car

The first automobile to be owned by a Wallowa resident arrived in town last Friday. E.A. Holmes is the proud possessor of the machine, which is a five-passenger Studebaker. Considerable delay was met in getting the car here. It should have arrived the second of July, but after a number of delays finally arrived on the 20th of August. It is proving quite a source of pleasure to Mr. Holmes and his friends, and is a great object of curiosity among the small boys. — *The Wallowa Sun* (August 27, 1909)

First Auto Experiences

One day as I was washing dishes, my brothers Jay and Levi rushed in all excited, saying an automobile had gone up Valentine Hill and if we hurried we'd see it come back. Mom nodded, "All right," and away we went, down through the field to sit on the old rail fence until the car came back down the hill. It was the first time I had ever seen an automobile. It must have been around 1910.

One or two people owned cars in Enterprise and maybe one or two in Wallowa. Jim Morelock sold the first cars. I think they were Overlands. The top folded down and rested on the back of the back seat. If you wanted to put the top up, you put side curtains on with snaps. There were little windows of clear glass. Of course, you cranked them to start. When our grandmother bought one from Morelock, she said that they had to teach my brother Tony to drive it. He was maybe 16 at the time. They showed Tony all he needed to know. No problem there.

One day she told me I could go to town with her in the car, which we called an "automobile." She and I got in the back seat, and Tony began to crank the car. Those cars didn't always start quickly. After he had cranked a few minutes, she said, "Tony, don't you think it's wound up enough to go to town?" It started and we were on our way.

As we neared the little hill by the Wilson place where Ovesons now live, she said, "Tony, don't forget to put the damper on," meaning the brake. Soon it started to rain lightly, and she said, "Tony, will you stop and put the lid on?"

George Ratcliff had bought a new car shortly before that, and he came down on Sunday to take us all for a ride around the valley. That was a real thrill to ride in one of the first cars. — Kate J. Goebel, *I Remember* (2001)

F.D McCully, who bought the first automobile owned in the county, said that on one of his drives, he and Bert Hammack were coming to Enterprise [when] they met a single buggy in which two young women were riding. When the young ladies saw the strange contraption coming, they did not stand on ceremony but dropped the lines and jumped out of the buggy and over the fence to escape. Mr. McCully said the horse did not seem to be so frightened, but Mr. Hammack got out of the car and held the animal while the car passed, and the young ladies got back in the buggy. — *Enterprise Record Chieftain* (August 8, 1929)

WALLOWA'S FIRST AUTOMOBILE HERE

E. A. Holmes Receives Studebaker
Touring Car—Arrived Last Friday.

The first automobile to be owned by a Wallowa resident arrived in town last Friday. E. A. Holmes is the proud possessor of the machine which is a five-passenger Studebaker. Considerable delay was met in getting the car here. It should have arrived the second of July but after a number of delays finally arrived on the 20 of August. It is proving quite a source of pleasure to Mr. Holmes and his friends and is a great object of curiosity among the small boys.

First Carload of Cars

J.P. Morelock, the county agent for the Overland Automobile Company, received a carload of four cars of this popular make today. Mr. Morelock has the distinction of being the first auto agent to ship in a carload of cars at one time.

This year's Overland, with its many improvements over last year's model, is being sought by many people in this valley who have other makes of cars, knowing that the Overland is the best and cheapest car on the market today, considering all points in a car. — *The Wallowa Sun* (November 4, 1915)

First Wallowa Dealership

Overland Home Now Being Erected

J.P. Morelock Erecting Garage for Growing Business

The building boom struck Wallowa Monday morning. J.P. Morelock, the Overland county dealer, started work on his new garage, machine and repair shop on the corner of First and Storie streets. The structure is to be of brick 84 x 50 feet, the fronting on First to be 84 feet, with concrete floor over the entire building.

On the Storie Street corner will be the office and showroom 20 x 50 feet with a double-door entrance and plate-glass front. The east side of the building will be partitioned off 15 x 50 feet for a repair room, leaving a standing room for storage for cars in the center of the building 48 x 48. There will be double-door entrances both front and rear to all departments besides one on the Storie Street side, and the whole front is to be of glass, giving ample light throughout the building. There will be three

or four large windows on the Storie Street side besides five on the east side and several in the rear of the building.

In the office section at the rear of the building will be a ladies' waiting room with toilet and wash stand.

The building will be set back seven feet from the property line on First for a driveway where air and gas will be served.

Mr. Morelock has put in much time and hard study figuring out these plans with his architect, and the building will be one of the best equipped and most up-to-date garages in the Northwest. — *The Wallowa Sun* (September 28, 1916)

TULLEY HALL, 1906–1928

What (and where) was Tulley Hall?

Standing mid-block on the south side of Wallowa's downtown Main Street, Tulley Hall's life was flanked by fire. The first of these, which came in 1905, the year before Tulley Hall's construction, destroyed four business buildings. The second was the 1928 blaze that not only burned the same block, but also may have started in the vacant Tulley Hall.

"No one was supposed to be in the building, reported the *Enterprise Record Chieftain* on December 6 of that year, "and if the fire started here, apparently it resulted from a visit by midnight trespassers."

In the 22 years between infernos, however, Tulley Hall, also known as the Tulley Building, served the community as a gathering place for events ranging from city council meetings to wrestling matches, and as a home to businesses as diverse as millinery stores, billiard parlors, and shoe shops.

1906 Walter A. Tulley

Walter A. Tulley. Dealer in fruits, cigars and tobacco, jewelry, stationary, confectionery, soft drinks, musical instruments, and other novelties. Also manager of Tulley Hall, Wallowa, Oregon. – Ad in *The Wallowa News* (April 13, 1906)

1906 Stockmen's Meeting

Monday evening the stockmen from many foreign localities began to assemble for the meeting held Tuesday for the allotment of range in the Wallowa and Chesnimnus forest reserves. The stockmen represent many thousand sheep, horses, and cattle. They come from other counties as well as this, also from Washington...The preliminary meeting was held in the Tulley Hall, and the great crowd was easily accommodated. The floor was covered with shavings which made it an ideal meeting place. – *The Wallowa News* (November 9, 1906)

1906–1907 Town Play

Do not fail to see the Wallowa Dramatic Company in that touching drama, *Millie, the Quadroon*, at the Tulley Hall, December 19. The plot of the play is laid in the old slavery days, with scenes both North and South. The play is snappy, the love story is deep, and the comedy parts are bright and witty. You will be sorry if you miss it. – *The Wallowa News* (November 30, 1906)

Tulley Hall was filled to its utmost seating capacity on last Friday night by an eager, expectant audience to witness the popular drama...There were a number of visitors from Lostine in attendance,

and this is much appreciated, for it was quite a sacrifice to come 10 miles over such rough, muddy roads. – *The Wallowa News*, (January 4, 1907)

1907 Dancing Academy

Tomorrow evening there will be a public meeting in the Tulley Hall for the purpose of organizing a dancing academy and school of instruction...By request, H.H. Thomas will meet the people of Wallowa who are interested in learning the art of dancing as well as correct action in walking. – *The Wallowa News* (January 11, 1907)

1909 Billiard Parlor

O.T. Pipes of Ontario, while on a visit to his father...became impressed with the future of Wallowa and has leased the Tulley Building for one year, and is fitting it up for an up-to-date billiard hall and soft drink house. The building is being thoroughly remodeled and re-papered, and the new firm will be ready for business the latter part of next week. – *The Wallowa Sun* (February 5, 1909)

1909 Barber Shop

There are three barber shops in Wallowa. James Fish has succeeded to the Gate City shop, and Wm. Snider has opened another in the Tulley Building. – *The Wallowa Sun* (February 19, 1909)

1912 Electric Show

Scenes of the Titanic disaster will be shown July 3rd and 4th at the Tulley Building near the post office. Morelock's Electric Show will be moved there for those dates. There



Tulley Hall, early 1910s

Have a question about Wallowa history? Send it to the Wallowa Quarterly editor (highberg@eoni.com), and we'll do our best to answer it.

are two reels of the pictures, which are genuine photos and which show everything that is possible to show of the disaster – *The Wallowa Sun* (June 28, 1912)

1912 Public Library

The Ladies' Progressive Club has been working the past two weeks perfecting the arrangements [for opening a library in Tulley Hall]. Part of the lower floor of the Tulley Building has been rented [for the library] and is now being fitted up. A traveling library service has been secured, which will be augmented by books purchased or donated and owned by the local association. – *The Wallowa Sun* (November 28, 1912)

1913 Racket Store

Wallowa is to have a new store. J. Samallow of Chicago will open a racket store [predecessor to the variety store] in the Tulley Building. Mr. Samallow has stores of a similar nature in the West, having been in the racket store business for years. His son will be in charge of the local establishment. Workmen are now busy repairing the Tulley Building. A new front and a new floor will be built. All of the partitions will be replaced. The new store will handle a great deal of merchandise, such as dry goods, dishes, hardware, and tin ware. – *The Wallowa Sun* (March 13, 1913)

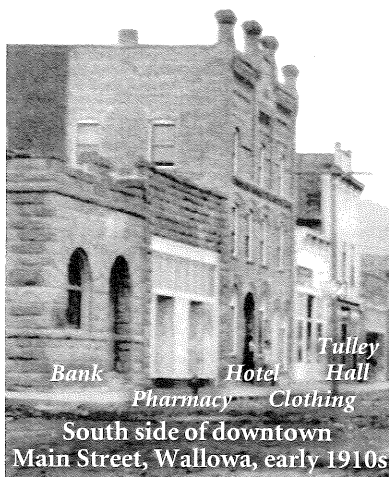
1914 Millinery Store

Miss Della Eshom is arranging this week to open a millinery store in the Tulley Building on Main Street. Special announcement will be made next week. – *The Wallowa Sun* (September 3, 1914)

I now have on display the finest line of up-to-date millinery ever brought to Wallowa. Ladies are cordially invited to call and see at the Tulley Building on Main Street. – Miss Della Eshom, *The Wallowa Sun* (September 10, 1914)

1915 Lunch Counter

J.C. Baird Tuesday rented the Tulley Building on Main Street from E. H. Tulley for a period of one year and will remodel the interior and open up a lunch counter and short-order house. For the past year Wallowa has not had a short-order restaurant, which has been needed badly. People coming to town and wanting a meal would have to wait till the regular hours at the hotels to get meals. Mr. Baird is a first-class cook and we predict that he will do a good business with his lunch counter. – *The Wallowa Sun* (September 9, 1915)



1915 Law Office

W.G. Trill on Saturday of last week moved his law office from the Stevens Building on the corner of First and Storie streets to the second floor in the Tulley Building. In his new quarters he has fixed up two office rooms in fine shape, and they are very comfortable. His many clients and friends will find him in his new quarters from now on. Call on the judge and inspect his new office rooms. – *The Wallowa Sun* (September 23, 1915)

1917 Meat Market

On Monday morning, a new meat market will open for business. Lloyd & Finley are the new proprietors. The shop is in the Tulley Building, formerly occupied by Ralph Nicoles, who moved his shop across the street and a half block west. – *The Wallowa Sun* (March 1, 1917)

1918 Butcher Shop

The Rohr butcher shop, which has occupied one of the Schiffler buildings, has moved to the James Tulley Building. Mr. Rohr has made several changes in the old shop since moving in, and when he gets settled will have a neat, up-to-date meat market. – *The Wallowa Sun* (April 4, 1918)

1920 Shoe Shop

O.K. Shoe Shop. Old Shoes Made New. Tulley Hall. Over Baird's Variety Store. All Work Guaranteed. It Pays to Fix 'Em Up. O.D. Rich, V.D. Brown, proprietors. – *The Wallowa Sun* (January 1, 1920)

1922 Labor Meeting

The wage differences between the employees and the Nibley-Mimnaugh Lumber Company were amicably settled Wednesday evening at Tulley Hall. This wage scale allows for a minimum wage of three dollars for an eight-hour day. About 100 men are now employed by the local lumber company, 60 of which are working in the mill and 40 in the logging camps. – *The Wallowa Sun* (April 6, 1922)

1928

For Sale

I have listed the Tulley Building, formerly occupied by Baird's Variety Store, at a very attractive price. If you are interested, call at once. L. Couch, Real Estate Dealer – *The Wallowa Sun* (October 4, 1928)

TRAVELING WITH THE STREAM

A Wallowa Home of the 1880s

By Clara Winters Ross (1876–1967)

Adapted from her memoir, *The Home in Wallowa*, and other writings

Note: In spite of the subtitle of Clara Winters Ross's memoir, her home was closer to Joseph than it was to Wallowa. She, like many others of her time, seems to have referred to the entire valley with the singular place name of "Wallowa." Nevertheless, her memoir reveals what frontier life was like in the 1880s, no matter which part of the region you called home.

It was probably the spring following our winter in La Grande that my family finally moved into our new home in Wallowa. I was between four and five years old at the time. My father had been in to make the final arrangements for the house, which had various outbuildings on two sections of land.

When we first arrived, there were two small log cabins on the place, one close to the house at the side of the rock-walk leading to the dairy, and the other across the road and toward the barns. Later, these cabins were disposed of.

The land also came with riparian water rights covering two streams, one running close by the house, and the other across the road from what was to be known in after-years as the "Home Place."

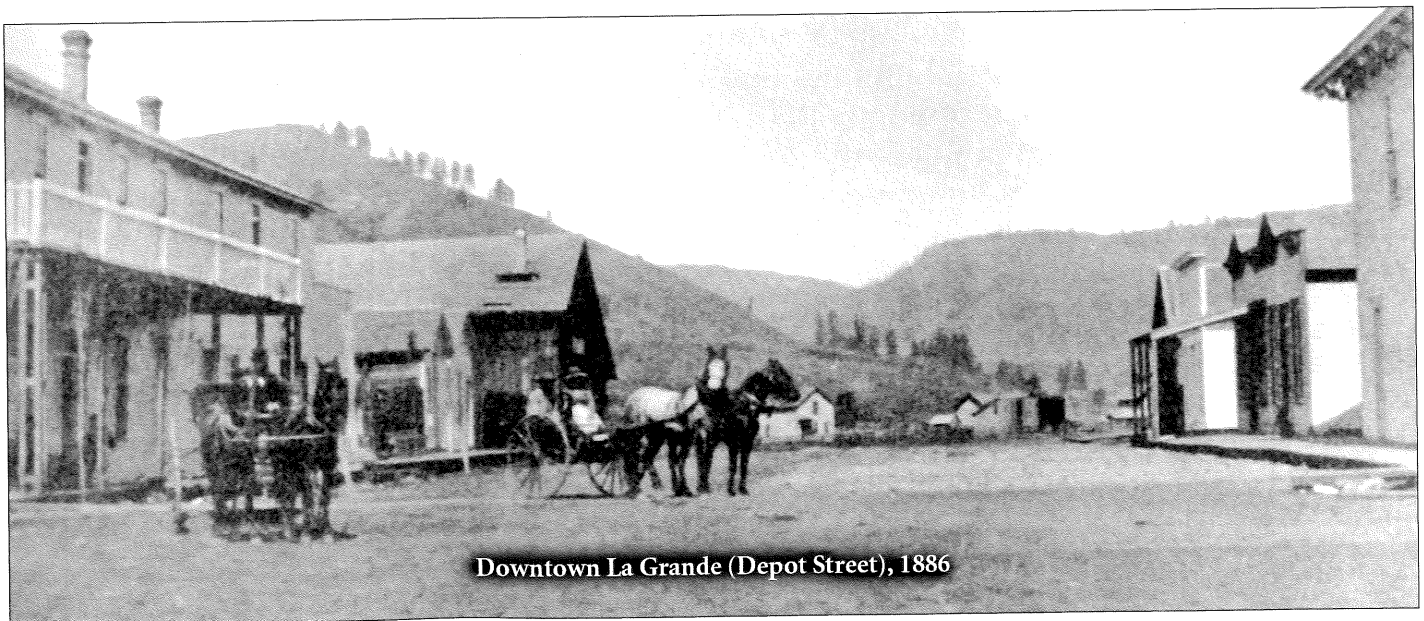
In years to come, my father was to have constant trouble and extensive law suits to protect his riparian water rights to the water in our two streams, which he required not only for household use and water for animals but also, more importantly, for irrigation. He was constantly going out to La Grande to court, defending these water rights.

He was either fortunate or in the right in each case because he never lost a law suit.

There was a tense time, however, when certain papers needed in a suit were not to be found. I had gone up to the old log house on the hill and, being left there alone, decided to do some cleaning. There was a box of old papers there, and I decided some of them didn't look clean, and the handwriting on some of them looked coarse and dirty, so I burned them in the fireplace. I couldn't read, but the nice-looking ones I saved.

I noticed a tenseness and a stir in the house that morning before Pa left for court, and finally my mother asked me very gently as to what papers I had burned. I told her I just burned the dirty ones. Someone's fine Spencerian handwriting probably saved that lawsuit for Pa because he didn't lose the suit.

The house we moved into in Wallowa was a fairly large house of hewn logs, pegged together with wooden pegs rather than nails. It was not chinked, as I remember, but closely fitted together, probably with dowel pins. A long



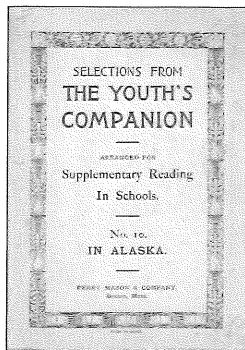
lean-to kitchen had been built on before we moved in, and there was an upstairs with a fairly high ceiling, a large room in front and a smaller, dark room in the back.

The main building had a large front room with a fireplace and a smaller room partitioned off in the back, variously used for a parlor with wall-to-wall carpeting, or for an extra bedroom that would accommodate two beds.

The sleeping quarters for the [hired] men was no problem. They habitually bunked in the barns, on the hay in the lofts, or they could, and some of them did, use the old, long, low log cabin on the hill for their quarters. Later, the new blacksmith shop that my father built on the second stream across the road from us was used for a bunkhouse for the men.

After a few years, my father built the new house of lumber, attached to the old log house on the hill, and we lived there while someone else occupied the Home Place and cooked for the hired men. We used the log cabin part for a kitchen. My mother sealed it with house lining and whitewashed it, and it was clean and comfortable, with a fireplace in one end of it.

The new addition had a large front room where we used a wood heater in winter, a sleeping quarters, and an attic. The attic was my special place. Old copies of *The Youth's Companion* and other magazines were stored there, and I used to go up there to sort and read them. My father objected to our reading novels or what he called, "trash of any kind." It was all right to read newspapers, so when he was home I was careful to keep an open newspaper in my hands, with the book I was reading securely lodged within.



When we moved in, there were three log barns on the lower place. They were reached by a wagon road that ran past the front of the house, into the upper fields, and across a round-log bridge. Two of the barns were joined by a roof perhaps 15 feet long, built up at the sides like a fence. This space was used for storing hay. When the hay had been somewhat used up, we kids would climb up the ladder nailed to the end wall of one barn, stand in the opening, and jump down on the hay, then run to the other barn, and climb its ladder, and jump out of that opening, making a race of it.

There was another barn on the hill-house side of the road, in the meadow where the wire grass grew, but this barn was never used to stable horses or store hay. We used to climb up to the peak of the roof and rip the shingles off to look at the wide, yellow-mouthed swallows, little and naked in their nests.

These barns were probably built around 1883, when my father began to build up his sheep band. There was a sheep corral, and the sheds were built along one side and on one end of the corral. They were open in front and were probably eight or nine feet high in the front and sloped to about six feet in the back. We had a strong hemp rope fastened to the long supporting pole in front, a good swing. The game was to swing hard and high enough to kick the shingles off the roof of the shed. Eventually, we had a hole that let in a lot of light. When we heard my father inquiring of my mother about the shingles that were missing on the sheds, we ceased and desisted.

The dairy on the Home Place was probably built after we moved into Wallowa. It consisted of a frame building of lumber with a little stream running through it to keep it cool, and racks on two sides for the milk pans. The floor was at least partly of flat rock to keep down any dust. It was always dark and cool and used for nothing but to store the milk and to churn, work, and pack the butter. There was a big square churn (with a picture of a cow on all four sides) with a crank at each end so two little girls could roll

it over and over, with the good thick cream going "clunk-clunk" as it fell from side to side. We got so we could tell by the sound, we thought, when the butter "came."

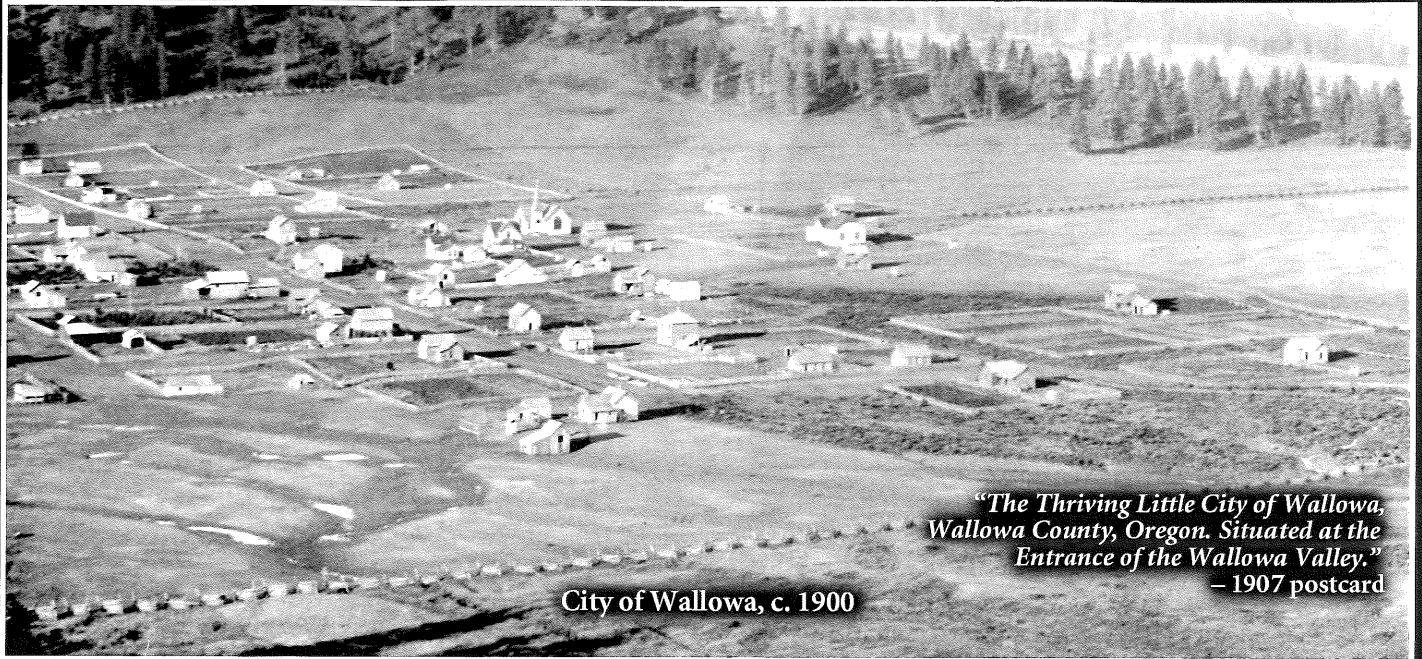
There was also a long, narrow butter table that sloped to a point at the end. It stood over the little stream to drain the buttermilk and water. It had a pole with four sides to work the butter, and a rounded handle to hold onto.

The blacksmith shop was built on the second little stream, and Dick Ashton worked there, doing all the blacksmithing for the farm and such work as the surrounding neighbors' farms brought in. The bellows, the anvil, and the iron for horseshoes must have been brought in from the outside. There was, before Pa built this new blacksmith shop, an old one off the roadway above the house, probably built of logs and later abandoned and torn down.

Now I think I have mentioned all of the buildings and farm equipment of this layout in Wallowa except the peeled-log corral. It was large and round and located across the little stream from the house and behind the dairy. You crossed this little stream, rather deep and swift flowing here, on a wide plank with two buckets of milk, one in each hand, or a little child could stand there in the middle of the plank and, by gazing into the water, get a far ride to any distant place. The minute your eyes moved from the water, however, you were no longer traveling with the stream.

Wallowa Then & Now

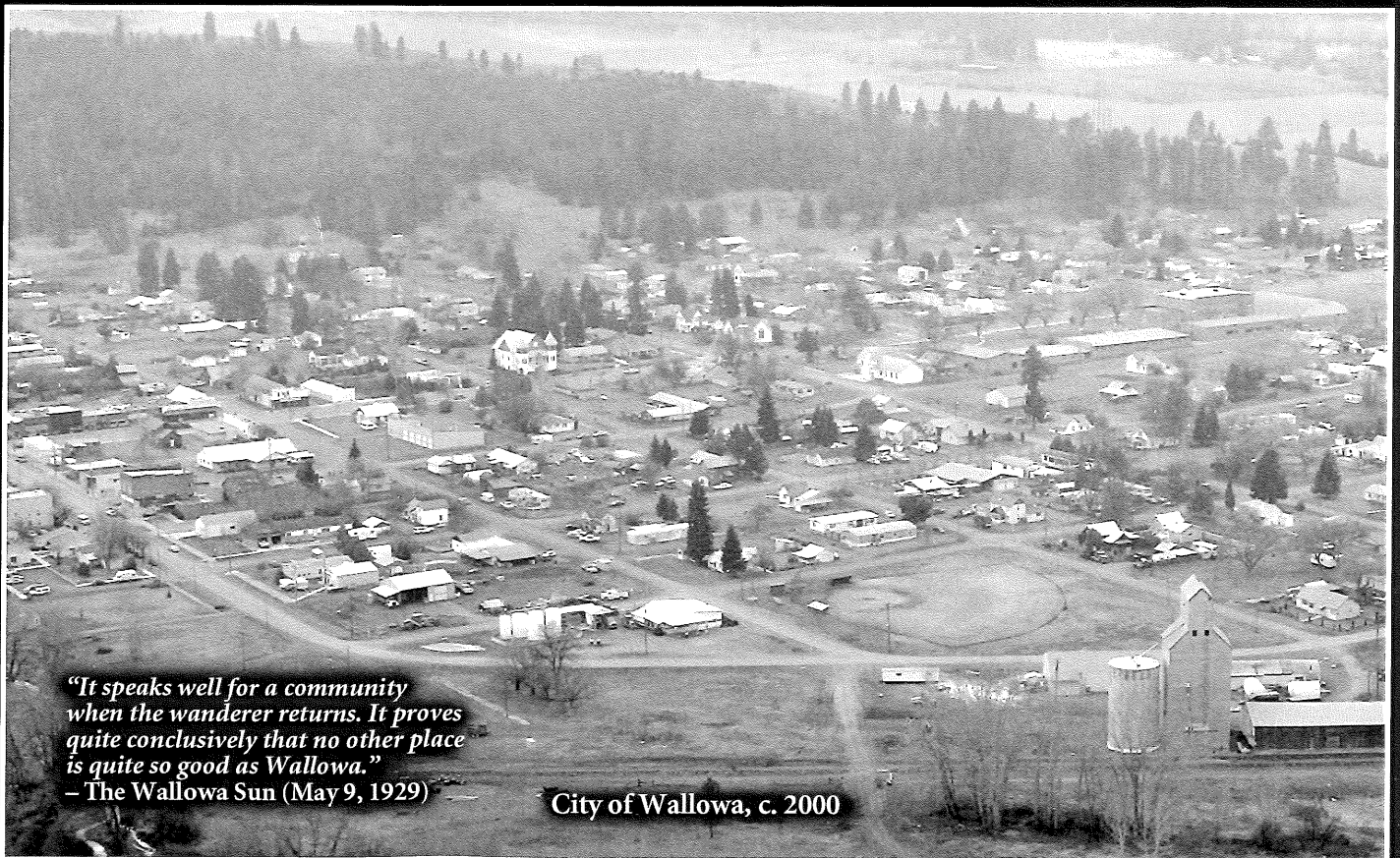
CITY OF WALLOWA (1900 & 2000)



*"The Thriving Little City of Wallowa,
Wallowa County, Oregon. Situated at the
Entrance of the Wallowa Valley."
- 1907 postcard*

City of Wallowa, c. 1900

Two views of Wallowa a century apart



*"It speaks well for a community
when the wanderer returns. It proves
quite conclusively that no other place
is quite so good as Wallowa."
- The Wallowa Sun (May 9, 1929)*

City of Wallowa, c. 2000

WHC has set the following schedule for the release of WQ: February (winter), April (spring), August (summer), October (fall).
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