



April 89

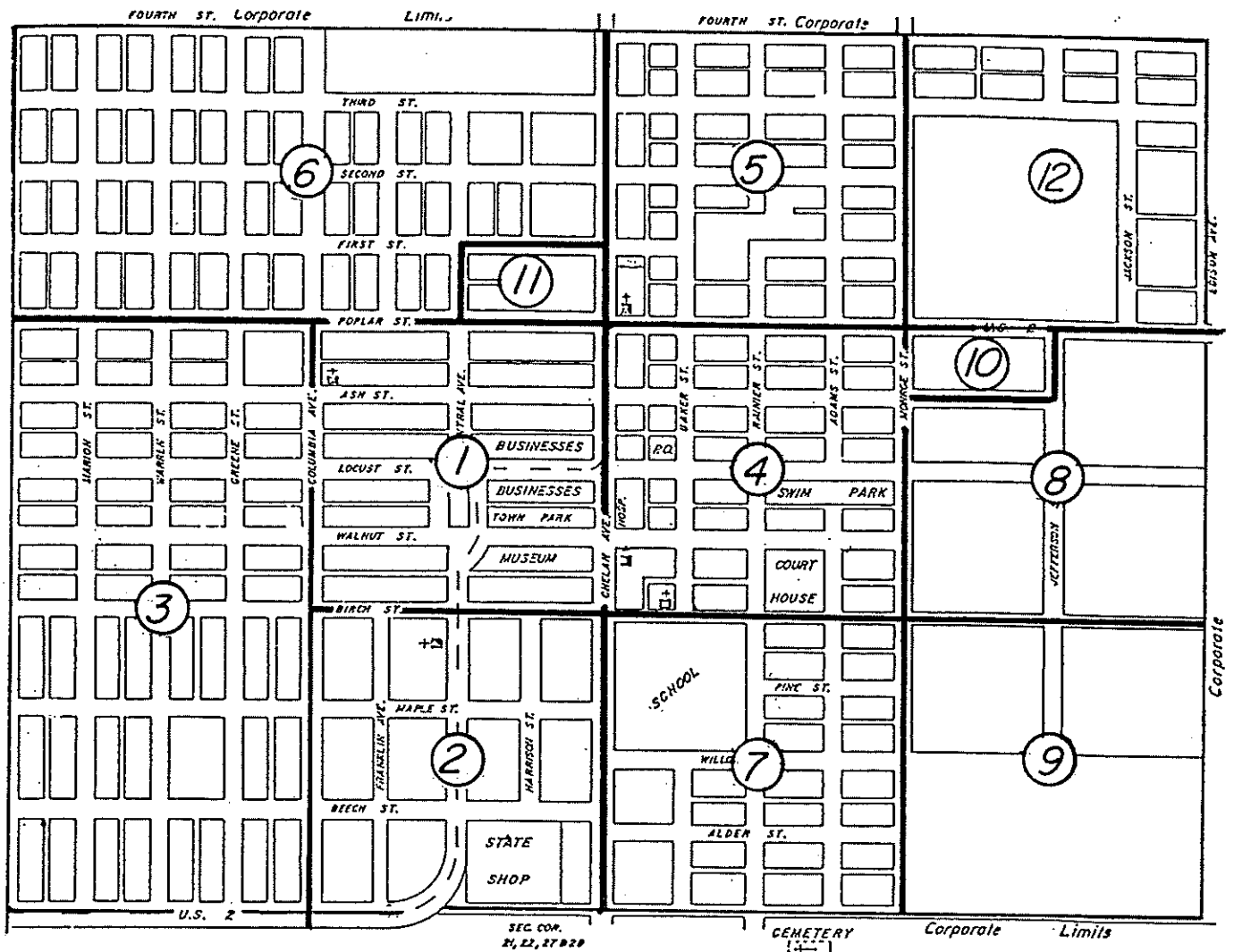
This is a gift - a gift of honor, respect, and gratitude to the people who came to this area to carve a niche for themselves and their families building a community of pride.

We share their pride and revel in their accomplishments. Like the pioneers, we too, have trod unbroken ground. None of us knew anything about writing a book, but we forged ahead hoping our efforts would be worthy and acceptable to our readers. We have tried to present a true picture of how life was in the days of the early settlers and some of the changes taking place through the years. We have tried to make this informational, educational, and a fun account of our history.

Please forgive any omissions, misquotes or errors. Source material was sometimes difficult to obtain. The "Monday at Nine" crew have done the best we could in the time allotted. We hope you enjoy this presentation of our "Beginnings."

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WATERVILLE

EARLY PLAT'S

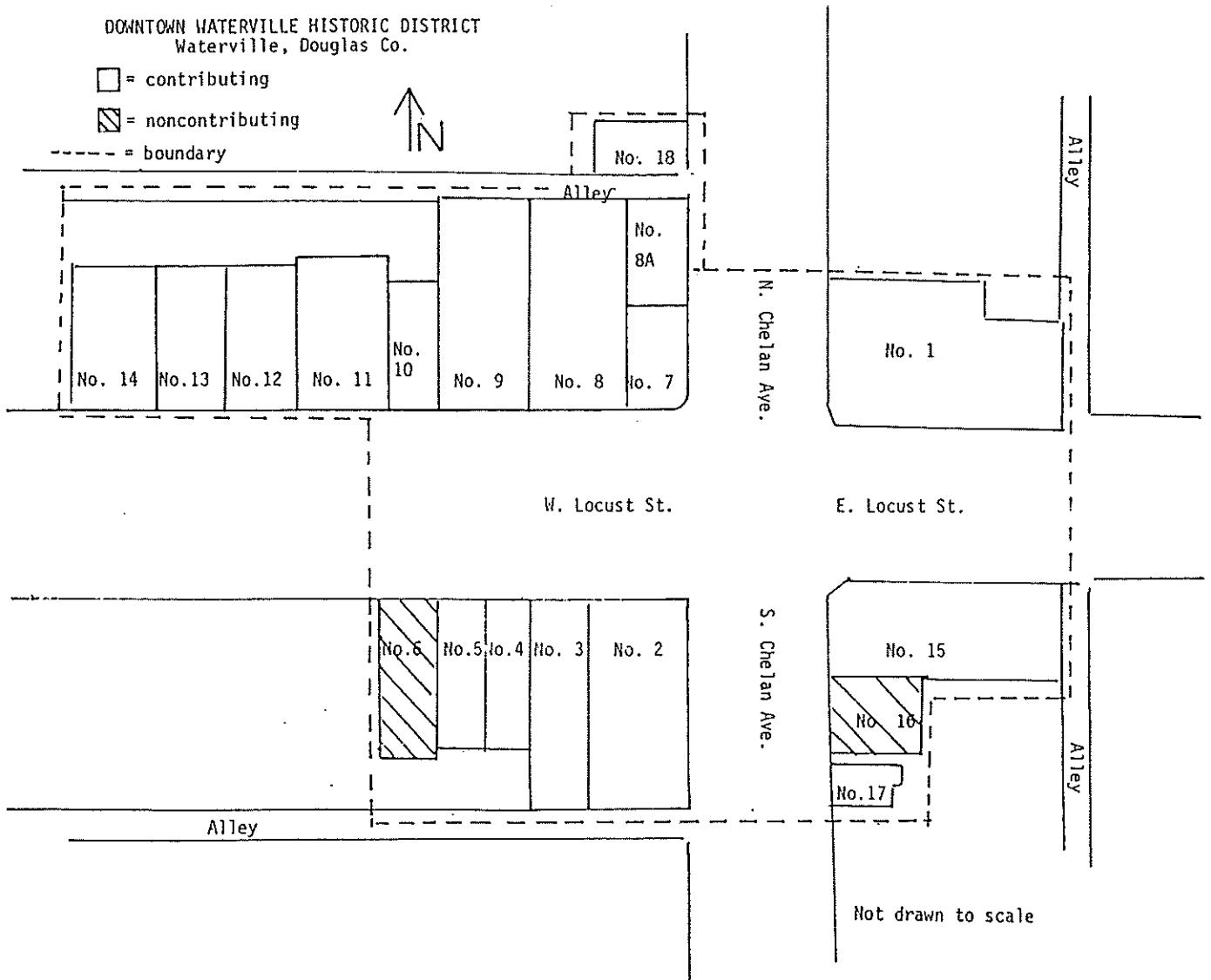
①	TOWN OF WATERVILLE	Oct. 27, 1886
②	GREENES 1st. ADD.	Dec. 22, 1888
③	GREENES 2nd. ADD.	Feb. 21, 1889
④	KINCAIDS 1st. ADD.	Feb. 29, 1889
⑤	WALTERS ADDITION	Feb. 26, 1889
⑥	WILCOXS 1st. ADD.	Feb. 28, 1891
⑦	KINCAIDS 2nd. ADD.	Feb. 14, 1891
⑧	KELLOGGS 1st. ADD.	Nov. 28, 1903
⑨	KELLOGGS 2nd. ADD.	Oct. 2, 1905
⑩	BRETT'S ALTERATION	Mar. 25, 1911
⑪	WILCOXS 2nd. ADD.	Mar. 17, 1917
⑫	WALTERS 3rd. ADD.	Jan. 20, 1891

DOWNTOWN WATERVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Waterville, Douglas Co.

□ = contributing

▨ = noncontributing

- - - = boundary



Beginnings

Build a dream and leave your mark on the history of the land. This was the goal of at least two of the pioneers who came to the area we know as Douglas County.

J.W. Adams, one of the men whose specific goal was to form a town, was instrumental in the formation of Douglas County. He worked with Walter Mann and H.A. Meyers platting a townsite seven miles east of where Waterville now stands. They called their town Okanogan. Walter Mann "held down" the town - the only indication that it even was a town was the tent he lived in while Adams lobbied the territorial legislature.

During this time, there were only about 100 inhabitants in the area that was to become Douglas County. (This area covered what is now Douglas and Grant Counties). Most of the pioneers that had settled in this area could be found near Badger Mountain.

Adams' efforts were successful and the act creating Douglas County was signed by the territorial Governor on November 28, 1883. Since it was the only "town" in the area, Okanogan was named county seat.

Being a professional townbuilder from Kansas, Mr. Adams soon set about extolling the virtues of the area and promoting settlement here. He encouraged people to open businesses in Okanogan and in the spring of 1884 a store and saloon opened. By the end of the summer of that year there was a first class hotel and several houses, but no water had been found in the area.

Two wells had been dug to depths of 60 and 80 feet. Both proved to be dry holes. In a last ditch effort, Adams hired a well driller by the name of Jack Lockwood in the spring of 1885. Throughout Okanogan's history, it was not uncommon to see a sign on a settler's door with the message "Gone for water - back in a week."

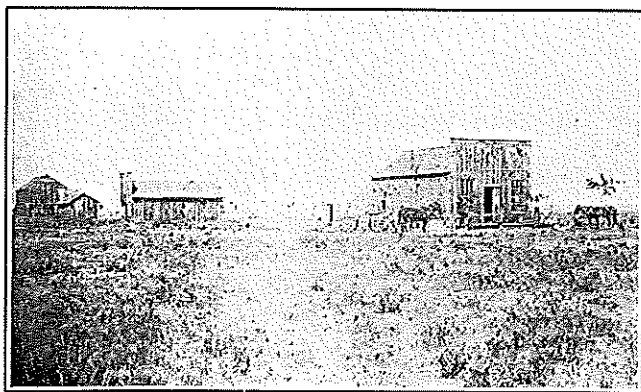
All efforts to make Okanogan the hub of activity were doomed to failure because of a lack of water. That summer Lockwood and crew drilled to the depth of 286 feet, and still no sign of water.

Coming from California in a covered wagon, Platt Corbaley followed Indian and Chinese trails. He brought with him his wife Nellie, their one year old daughter and his wife's mother, Mary Jefferson. They were the first white women west of Moses Coulee. He found the place he liked on May 8th, 1883. He staked a squatters claim near the foot of the west end of Badger Mountain. The next morning he started cutting logs for his cabin.

Ole Ruud came a few weeks later. He brought his surveying instruments with him and it was not long before he was doing survey work. Mr. Ruud chose a site several miles east of the Corbaleys at the foot of the mountain near a canyon that now bears his name.

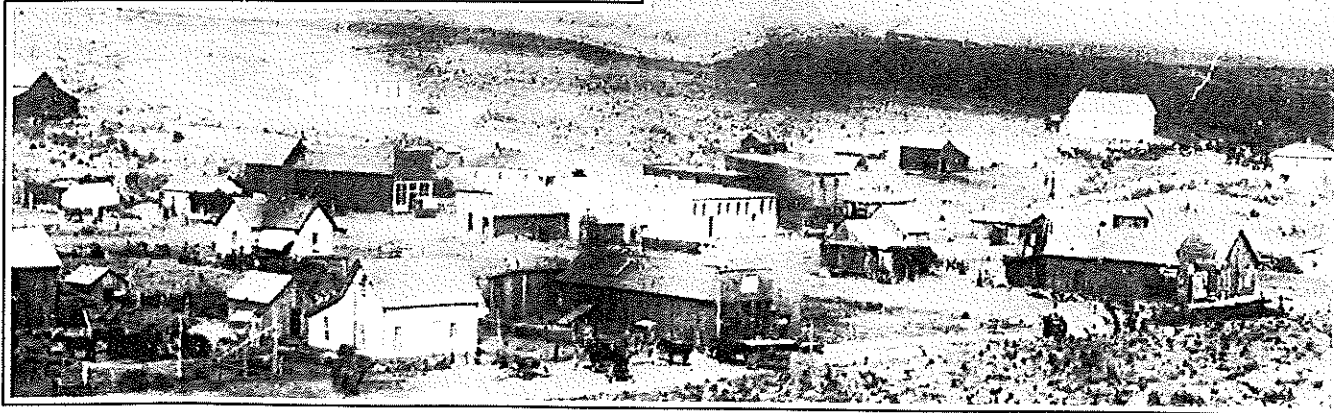
J.W. Stephens with the help of freighter E.D. Nash moved a saw mill in and set it up in the woods in back of the Corbaley home. Major Nash took up land joining the Corbaley claim and built his cabin with a store front. He opened his business and earned the title of pioneer merchant. The area was platted and called Nashland.

In 1884 the site of Douglas was chosen by Ole Dale as a place of residence. In 1886 the townsite was platted and took up the race for county seat honors. The first business enterprise in Douglas was a blacksmith shop started by Henry Thompson in the fall of 1885. In 1887 a general store was opened by S.



◀ OKANOGAN, 1884

DOUGLAS, 1904 ▼



Barnhart and the same year O.O. Wright put in a drug store. Following county seat removal from Okanogan, in 1887, Douglas fell heir to the Okanogan post office.

Douglas is situated at the intersection of the Ritzville and Spokane Falls roads, and was the nearest route from Ellensburg to the Salmon River mines of the Okanogan country. The rush to those mines in 1887-88 made Douglas important as a stopping point. Fire destroyed much of the town at various times, but the German Lutheran church, built in 1915, remains a conspicuous landmark.

The original townsite of Waterville and Green's First and Second Additions was taken as a squatter's claim by Stephen Boise in 1883. Mr. Boise built a log cabin, barn and dug a well. He passed the winter and the following year fenced about fifteen acres of land. Ten acres were under cultivation.

In the summer of 1883 H.N. Wilcox came and settled on the quarter just north, now the Wilcox Addition. He spent the winter in Cottonwood Springs, so it was reported that he had abandoned the place, and that spring the land was "jumped" by Howard Honor. The outcome of this was told in the first issue of the *Orondo News*, July 1889 according to Dr. J.B. Smith:

"... in the latter days of March, 1884, we met Howard Honor hauling a load of lumber from Nash and Stephens saw mill. We were invited to go with him to 'Jumpers' Flat' (now the site of Waterville) as he had jumped the ranch of H.N. Wilcox. We helped Mr. Honor put up a cabin and stopped with him at the ranch of Charles Hall. Within a few days Mr. Wilcox pulled in to occupy his ranch, and there was a parley between the men in which the use of Winchesters was proposed, but reason prevailed and Honor took up his present ranch."

The building of a town on the location of Waterville was conceived by A.T. Greene, who is known as the

"Father of Waterville." Mr. Greene first came to the Big Bend country in 1884. In the spring of 1885 he purchased the Boise claim. In the fall of 1886 he married Dell Turner of Davenport and brought her home to his land. He enlisted the help of J.M. Snow, surveyor, in planning the town. He relenquished one forty acre tract and the two men platted the townsite.

The town was named Waterville in consideration of the plentiful well in sharp contrast to the dry wells in Okanogan.

The first attempt to remove the county seat from Okanogan occurred in the spring of 1885. The scheme was to move the county seat to the present community of Douglas by a direct vote of the county commissioners. This was an illegal move and was defeated by a two vote majority.

During the Democratic convention held at Okanogan, the Waterville supporters were boosting their towns claim to the county prize by having a "barrel of water" to show the boasted water was indeed a reality.

In the 1886 election Waterville won by a 56 vote majority. On May 2, 1887 the county commissioners officially declared Waterville the new county seat. The county auditor refused to move. The prosecuting attorney issued an order to the sheriff for the necessary record removal. This was done and the change was made without futher incident.

The first commercial building constructed in Waterville was a blacksmith shop operated by E.E. Stowell. The second building erected was an office for J.M. Snow who was elected probate judge. In December, 1887 a post office was secured for Waterville and A.T. Greene was named postmaster. By the spring of 1888, eight buildings could be found on the townsite. A.T. Greene built the original Douglas County Courthouse in September 1889 at a total itemized cost of \$4,046.70. His bid was submitted as follows:

WATERVILLE, 1920



"To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County, Washington Territory, Gentlemen:

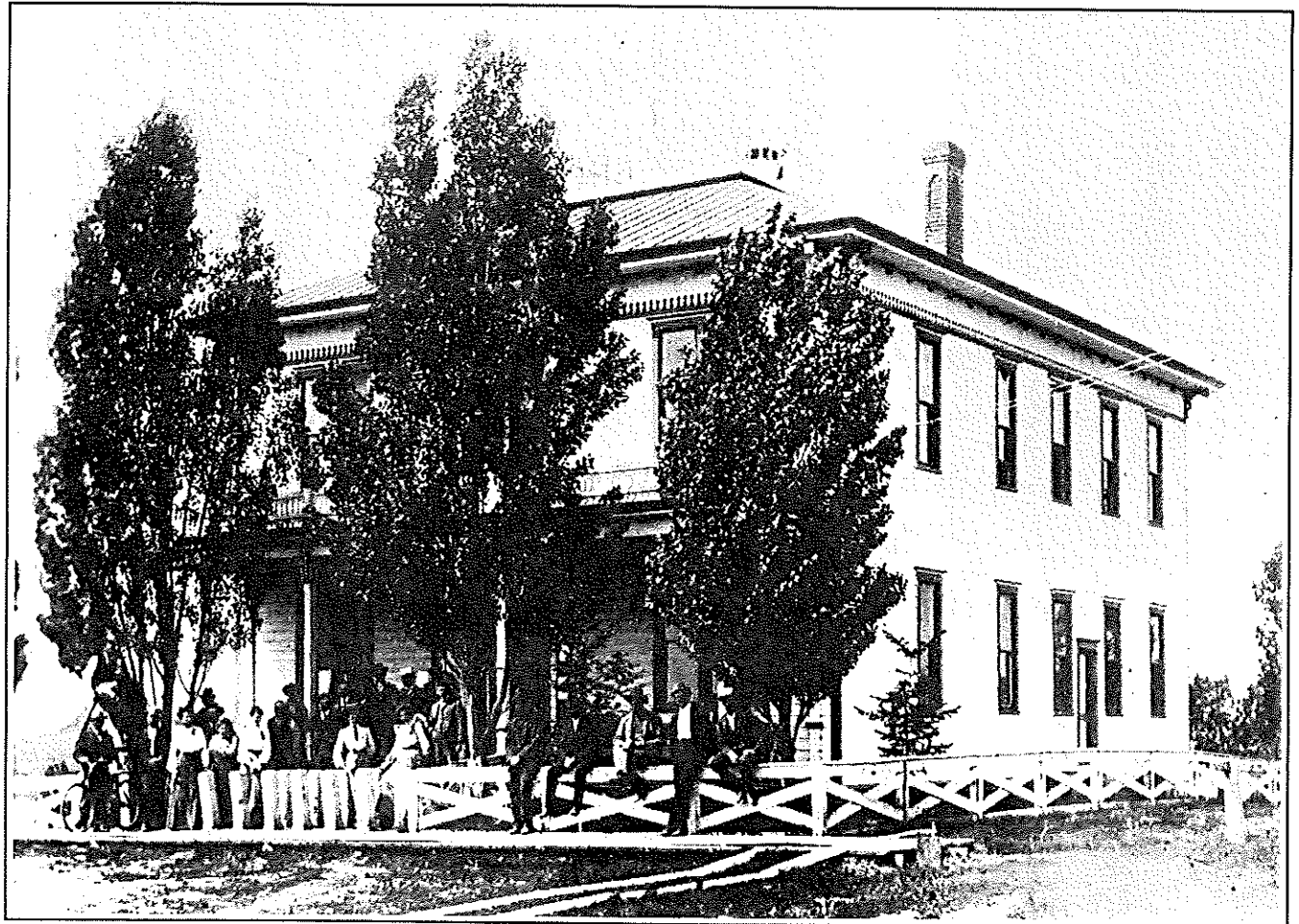
I herewith submit the following proposal for the erection of a courthouse in Waterville, Washington Territory. I will erect upon block 31, in Greene's 2nd. addition to the town of Waterville, W.T., a good and substantial building of not less than 1200 square feet of floor area and two stories high. Said building shall be fitted with five rooms in the lower floor; and with a courtroom suitable for all purposes of the District Court, and a large jury room on the upper floor. The entire building shall be furnished in a good and workmanlike style and shall be completed and ready for occupancy on or before the 1st. day of September, 1889, and shall be worth not less than \$3,000.00. When said building shall have been completed and accepted by your agent, I will make and deliver to your honorable body a good and sufficient deed, conveying a fee simple to Douglas County, all of said block 31 and herein described building for the sum of \$1.00."

The citizens of Waterville petitioned for incorporation under the District Court of Washington Territory, Fourth Judicial District in the fall of 1888. On March 22, 1889, the petition was granted. Washington became the 42nd state on November 11, 1889. On April 14, 1890, a petition was signed by thirty residents asking for a special town election to vote on the proposition of the Town of Waterville being organized and incorporated under the general laws of the state. The election was held on Saturday, May 3, 1890 and although the vote was light, there was no opposition to the proposition to re-incorporate. Waterville was now a legal incorporated town under state law.

It was 1892 before water was turned into the town's mains for the first time. Waterville had lived up to its name and supplied ample water for its population which at that time was between 350 and 500 people.

The dream of A.T. Greene to build a town was successful. Despite all hardships, the settlers persevered. His dream has endured for a century. Present day inhabitants who call this "home" will keep the dream alive.

FIRST COURTHOUSE



Historic Business District

The townsite of Waterville was platted on a quarter section of land composed of eight blocks laid out in a rectilinear pattern with a grid of streets running north-south and east-west and lots reserved for a public park, schools, fraternal halls, and a courthouse. Subsequent additions throughout the late 19th century extended the grid and by the early 20th century the city encompassed about one square mile.

Initial commercial development in the late 1880's and the early 1890's resulted in construction of isolated frame structures scattered throughout the central part of the original plat with some larger buildings (notably hotels) concentrated on Walnut Street south of the historic district.

By the early 20th century, with the construction of substantial brick blocks near the intersection of Locust Street and Chelan Avenue, the focus of the city's commercial district shifted and the intersection (and adjacent brick buildings) quickly assumed the character of a city center. By 1911, newspapers referred to the crossroads informally as a "public square," reflecting the district's role as a focal point for commercial activity. Today, that portion of Locust Street and Chelan Avenue which runs through the district is a part of U.S. Highway 2.

The Downtown Waterville Historic District includes most of the brick commercial structures built in the city in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Pre-dominance of brick distinguishes the district from other areas of town. All but one of the contributing buildings are constructed of brick bearing walls laid in common or stretcher bond. Local brick yards, first established in 1889, provided most of the material.

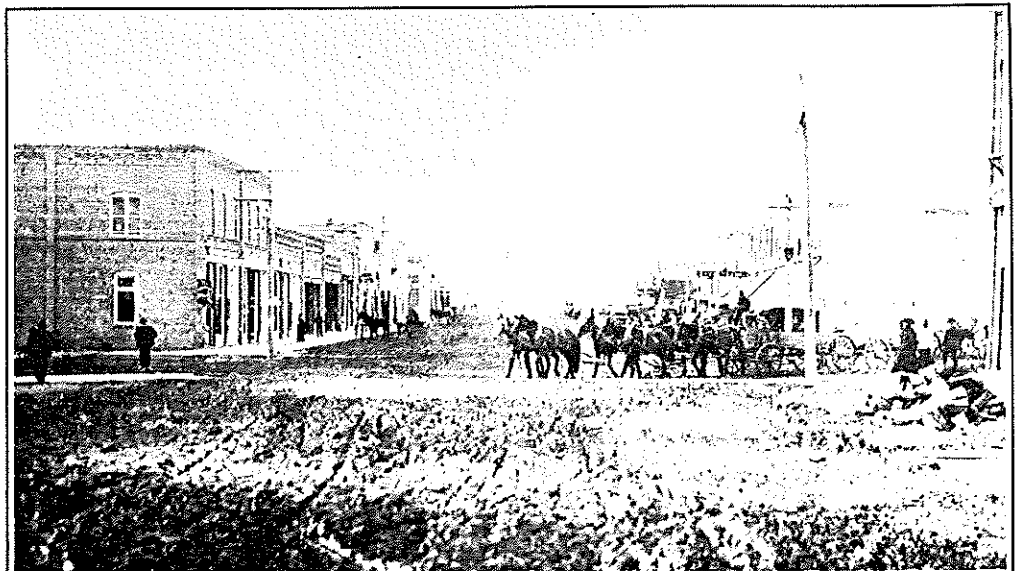
In addition to the coherence created by the use of brick, most of the buildings in the district were constructed during a relatively brief time span (over half

were built in 1902 and 1903 alone). Many of the buildings share party walls and were constructed by the same builders. As a result, buildings in the district reflect many of the same architectural forms and features.

The oldest structure in the district (the First National Bank/Kincaid/IOOF block) and first large brick block in Waterville, was constructed in 1891 on three contiguous lots (under separate ownership) at the northeast corner of Locust Street and Chelan Avenue. A single builder (using Waterville brick) constructed a well-integrated, two-story building composed of three bays and measuring 80 by 75 feet. The storefront bays originally featured large plate glass windows with kickplates, iron columns and iron lintels (some of which survive), while the upper floor is punctuated with regularly spaced windows with double-hung sash, brick hoods, and stone sills. Brick piers rise between the bays, and the elaborately corbelled brick cornice crowns the building.

Within a decade, the surrounding area was rebuilt in brick, with contiguous one and two story buildings on either side of Locust Street west of Chelan. Typically, buildings from the second period of growth (1902-1905) had storefront bays. Only two of these structures varied from the common pattern. They were the Douglas County National Bank Building, which employed neo-classical style architecture, and the Centennial Feed Building, which was the only frame structure within the district.

Several properties of historical interest in the commercial development of the city exist outside the boundaries. The Waterville Hotel is located one-half block to the west, the Nifty Theater is located one-half block to the east, and the Hospital building is located one-half block to the north.



FACING LOCUST STREET
PHOTO TAKEN PRIOR TO 1911

**Building #1:
First National Bank/Kincaid/IOOF Block
Constructed 1891-1892**

Construction of the original block was "the beginning of making our city compact and substantial," according to news accounts of the day. The three property owners agreed upon uniform style, scale and material. The result was a substantial structure unrivaled in size and sophistication for at least a decade. And because construction coincided with (or perhaps was precipitated by) the establishment of a brick yard in the city, the block was Waterville's first major brick building.

The First National Bank, which was located in the corner bay, was founded earlier in the year by W.R. Ballard, President; R.E. Steiner, Vice President; and W.L. Wilson, Cashier. Original directors included A.R. Foote, A.T. Greene, A.L. Rogers, and M.B. Howe. The bank was capitalized at \$50,000 and received its first shipment of currency in March. The bank remained in the corner location and rented out upstairs offices until 1905 when the Masonic Lodge (organized as the Badger Mountain Lodge in 1889) purchased the structure. The Masons had previously met in the neighboring IOOF Hall.

The Kincaid Block was constructed by James Kincaid, one of the original settlers who helped plat the town. Kincaid rented both floors to a variety of businesses; including clothing shops, dry goods stores, and a boot and shoe firm. The most notable tenant in the early 20th century was the Alexander Mercantile Company. Fire insurance maps indicate that the upstairs rooms were reserved for the Armory Hall in the early 20th century.

Founded in 1889, the Waterville IOOF chapter is the oldest fraternal organization of Douglas County. The lodge, which had a frame hall at the site, decided to build a brick structure in 1890 and dedicated the completed hall in 1892. The ground floor offices were

rented to the Douglas County Bank (see building #7) and the United States Land Office through the first decade of the 20th century. The land office did booming business and conducted more than 2,700 transactions in 1902 alone.

**Building #2:
Waterville State Bank -
Carpenter and Maltbie Block
Constructed 1902-1903**

Nearly a decade after the major brick block on the northeast corner of Chelan and Locust was completed, construction of this structure began on the southwest corner. The building represented the first brick construction in almost a decade and together with adjacent brick blocks constructed simultaneously on the east, helped identify the intersection as a major commercial hub.

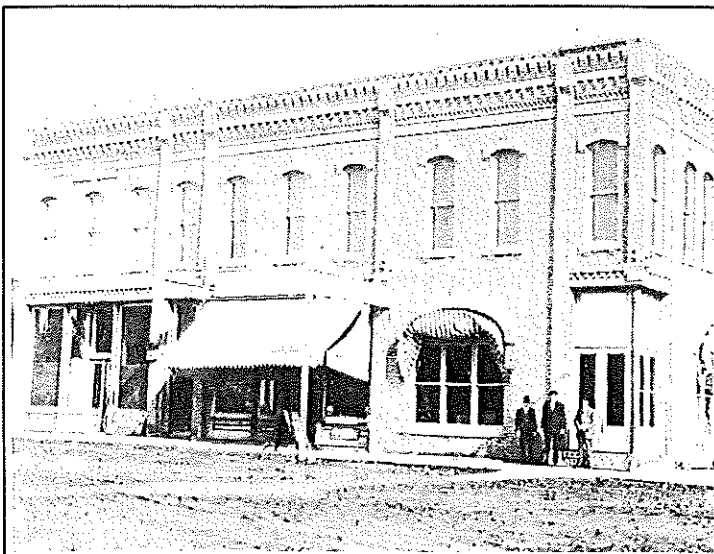
Construction evolved in several stages. Initially, C. A. Carpenter and A. L. Maltbie constructed a one story brick building on the eastern lot to house their hardware and implement business. Within a year, they had torn down an adjacent frame structure on the corner and constructed a two story building. At the same time, they added a second story to the original brick building and integrated the two into a single structure. Construction of the building was supervised by C. W. Moon (contractor for the Waterville Hotel) with a crew of brick layers and masons from Wenatchee.

By 1905, the Waterville Bank had moved into the ground floor of the corner structure and remained at the location for several decades. Founded in the early 20th century, the bank was capitalized at \$30,000 in 1907. C. T. Hansen served as bank president at that time. The second floor of the corner lot was used as a carriage shop, and by 1909, as a theater and dance hall. By World War I, the Post Office occupied the rear storefront on Chelan Avenue.

**Building #3:
The Fair Store Building
Constructed 1902-1903**

This storefront retains the original iron lintels and columns as well as the original plate glass display windows and kickplates. The contractor was C. W. Moon.

Contemporary with its neighbors on either side, the Fair Store was owned by R. E. Steiner, who tailored the building to meet the needs of William Dunn's dry goods and clothing business. The shop was outfitted with a gallery, special store shelving, and other modern conveniences. The Fair Store remained in that location for many years; a machine shop was located in the basement.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

**Building #4:
Granis Harness and Saddlery Building
Constructed 1902-1903**

The Granis harness shop originally occupied this building (although it later located in the Waterville Hardware building). Fire insurance maps indicate that a restaurant was located here in 1922. In constructing the brick block, Granis anticipated that insurance rates on his new structure would be considerably lower than the rates on his old frame building.

**Building #5:
Clary and Beyers Saloon
Constructed 1902-1903**

The original frame building on the lot, owned by local builder Frank Malfa, was rebuilt in brick at about the same time that the adjacent row of brick blocks on the east were constructed. Malfa retained carpenter L. Thomas East and brick mason J. A. Minnick and rented the store to the saloon. By 1922, the building was used as a confectionery.

**Building #6:
The Mid-State Bank Building
Constructed 1905-1908.**

Built somewhat later than the adjoining blocks this was the last contiguous brick block constructed along Locust Street and forms and appropriate boundary for the historical district. Initially, the building was occupied by a saloon and barber shop (separated by an internal frame partition). By 1914, and for many years thereafter, the property was used as a bakery.

**Building #7:
Douglas County Bank Building
Constructed 1911.**

The Douglas County Bank was the first financial institution in the county established about 1890 by A. E. Case and Frank Ford. Initially located in the Odd Fellows Hall, the bank was one of the principal sources of funds for area farmers and ranchers. In 1907, the bank was capitalized at \$50,000; by 1920, the bank had capital reserve of \$100,000.

The neo-classical style of the bank is unique in the downtown district - a bold statement that the bank was a stable and imposing institution on the economic landscape. When completed, the newspaper called the building a "credit to the town." The bank remained at the location until 1980 when it was sold by Rainier Bank to the city.

**Building #8 and #8-A:
Rogers and Howe Building and Annex
Constructed in 1903.**

A.L. Rogers and M.B. Howe were proprietors of the first mercantile business in Waterville (1887). In 1902, they received permission from the city council to construct a new brick shop on the north side of Locust near the corner of Chelan. In January, Rogers went to Spokane and Seattle in search of proper plans. When complete, the structure was the largest store in the area. Shortly afterward, Rogers and Howe sold a portion of the corner lot to the Douglas County Bank and constructed an annex north of the bank.

**Building #9:
Cooper Block
Constructed 1903.**

Although Dr. Cooper died before completion of the block, R.E. Steiner oversaw construction of the imposing two story mercantile establishment (constructed simultaneously with its neighbors). The eastern bay was a general store, the western bay a drug store.

**Building #10:
Guibert Block
Constructed 1903.**

This building remains one of the best preserved structures in the district. The Guibert Block is a one story brick building with a completely intact facade. Anton Guibert built this imposing one story brick block at about the same time as the Cooper and Rogers & Howe Blocks to the east. Guibert was the proprietor of a jewelry business, pharmacy, and later sporting good store.

**Building #11:
Meat Market Building
Constructed 1910-1920.**

The one story brick building is composed of two storefronts framed by brick piers. These storefronts have been completely altered, but the structure appears in historic photographs from about 1910 and insurance maps of 1922 identify the store as a meat market.

**Building #12:
111 West Locust Street
Constructed 1922-1944.**

This simple, one story brick structure is divided into storefront bays which retain the original transom windows. The upper wall is decorated with the outlines of brick panels. Fire insurance maps indicate that a series of frame structures were located here until at least 1922.

**Building #13:
Waterville Mercantile
Constructed 1905.**

This plain brick structure was built to house a mercantile store (which it remained until the early 1980's). Sometime prior to 1915, an addition was built on the eastern side.

**Building #14:
O. C. Knemeyer Building
Constructed 1914**

O. C. Knemeyer was a prominent Waterville merchant who had the building constructed by E. Pfuller in 1914. It took just 60 days to complete the construction of this structure. Initially, the building housed the Post Office and the Frank and Frank Billiard Hall.

**Building #15:
Waterville Hardware Building
Constructed 1912**

This large hardware emporium and harness shop was the last major structure built at the pivotal intersection of Locust and Chelan. Waterville Hardware remained here until about 1980.



**Hotel Waterville
Constructed 1903**

It was built by a group of businessmen. Under supervision of C. W. Moon, it was constructed of brick with an elevated foundation of basalt boulders hauled by wagon from Douglas Creek five miles to the east. Its Jacobean Revival style has been slightly altered by exterior changes.

The hotel had twenty-six guest rooms. Many original interior elements remain. It has been closed as a business since 1977. The present owner resides there.

**Building #16:
Garrett Hardware Building**

This is a one story contemporary building.

**Building #17:
Malloy Building
Constructed 1916**

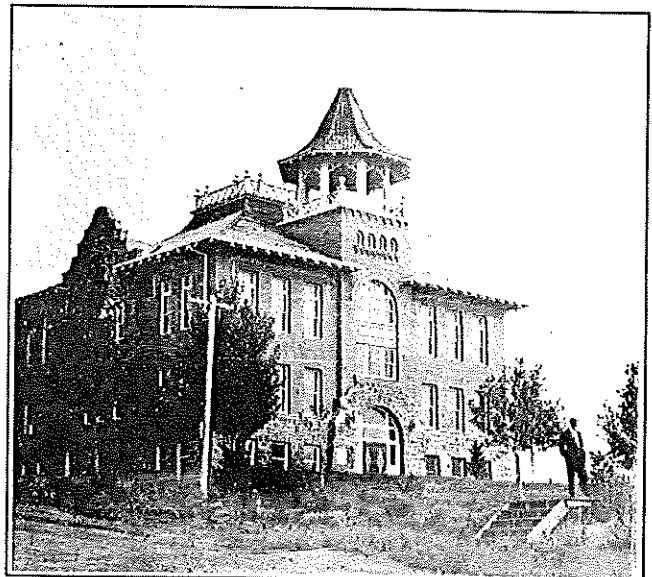
This one story brick building has large arched windows with radiating brick voussoirs and stone key-stones. The central entry has a round arch with construction date encised. One time Mayor, attorney Malloy built the structure as an office.

**Building #18:
Centennial Feed Store
Constructed 1907-1909**

The Centennial Feed store is a one story frame structure with a boomtown false front. The original corrugated metal remains on the side walls. Built to house a plumbing and tin shop, this is the last remaining frame structure which once characterized the downtown section.

**Douglas County Court House
Constructed 1905**

The Douglas County Court house is an interesting example of courthouse architecture in that it seems at the same time pleasant and imposing. The tower spire and roof detailing are an almost whimsical contradiction to the solid and simple structure below, lending considerable interest to what is otherwise an ordinary building in most respects. The brick and stone building was built in 1905 as authorized by Commissioners J. A. Wilburn, E. O. Whitney and John McKay. It was designed by Newton C. Gauntt, Architect and constructed by William Oliver, Contractor. This courthouse is a very pleasing eclectic design and is an asset to the community and the county.



Schools

*The OLD COUNTRY SCHOOL fast passing away
Is now just a memory of yesterday.
How happy the times which may recall
When school days again returned with the fall.*

*Turn back the pages let memory recall
A time when you went back to school in the fall.
These fond recollections in memory held fast
Bring to mind happy school days we had in the past.
— Author Unknown —*

RURAL SCHOOLS

In the early days there were many one-room schools. The majority of one-room school teachers were girls and if they were able to pass the "teacher's examination," they were qualified to teach after graduation from the eighth grade. Some, of course, had more education, but regardless of education they had to be self-reliant, dependable and able to handle all ages of children for some girls and boys, mostly boys, were as old or older than the teacher.

A family with children in the school usually provided board and room for about a third of the teacher's salary. Often the teacher rode a horse to school, long skirts and all, sometimes with a child clinging to her waist. At times a horse and buggy were provided for transportation, so upon arriving at the school she would first tend to the horse, supplying food and water. Sometimes there was a barn, sometimes only a hitching post. The barn, if there was one, also served as a woodshed, and her first duty was to get a fire started in the wood stove so the building would be warm when

the students arrived. She was also expected to have the room spic and span and a bucket of drinking water on hand.

Since the school was the hub of the community, the teacher was regarded as a leader in the area. Her school programs were always well attended and she was a prominent figure in the literary societies that met in the schoolhouse.

One such teacher remembers one visit from the County Superintendent in a year, and assistance was available from that office by mail.

There were many one-room schools in the Waterville area, but they gradually disappeared as the smaller schools consolidated with the larger ones as transportation made it possible. The teachers were very popular with the bachelors, and the school districts were kept busy recruiting.

Truly the one-room school teacher was an admirable person and was a role model for many students.

MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL, 1895



Rules of Conduct for Teachers

- 1) You will not marry during the term of your contract.
- 2) You are not to keep company with men.
- 3) You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
- 4) You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
- 5) You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have permission of the Chairman of the Board
- 6) You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
- 7) You may not smoke cigarettes.
- 8) You may not dress in bright colors.
- 9) You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
- 10) You must wear a least two petticoats.
- 11) Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
- 12) To keep the schoolroom neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily; scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water; clean the blackboards at least once a day, and start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.

WATERVILLE SCHOOL

An early issue of the BIG BEND EMPIRE reports that Richard S. Steiner, who was a first-year settler and became County Auditor, taught the first public school west of the coulees. The term commenced December 7, 1885, and closed February 26, 1886. The location was not given.

On February 25, 1889, when he extended Kincaid's First Addition to the townsite in the southeast part of town, Mr. James H. Kincaid gave a city block of land to the school district for the Waterville school building. By 1893 the district had completed this building. It was a New England type wooden frame structure of six good sized rooms. It was built in three two-story L's, one to the north, one south and one to the east. These joined the bell tower with the entrance steps and doors on the west side of the tower. Inside the first floor were hallways leading to the lower school rooms. Over a third story in the tower was the bellroom with its green painted louvered windows. Above, the bell tower roof sloped up to a cupola with its fenced edge and its flag pole surmounted by a bright metal ball.

The school building was always painted white with a red roof. The square school yard was surrounded by a white board fence.

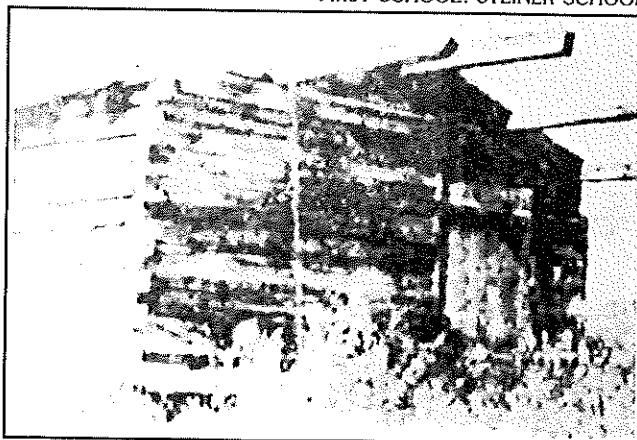
The commencement exercises were always held in the Christian Church in the northwest part of town.

DATELINE WATERVILLE

1899: Tuition Rates: Waterville Public Schools

The following tuition rates will be charged non-resident pupils attending the Waterville public schools coming term: High School: Year \$12, Quarter \$4; High and low grammar Dept.: Year \$10.50, Quarter \$3.50. Intermediate and Primary: Year \$9, Quarter \$3. All tuition payable in advance. A discount of 10% will be allowed those paying the full year rate in advance. No pupil will be enrolled except on presentation of a receipt for tuition. G.E. Steiner, Clerk

FIRST SCHOOL: STEINER SCHOOL



Union High School No. 1

Union High School, District No. 1, of Douglas County was organized in the spring of 1900 under an act of the Legislature of 1898, providing for the uniting of contiguous common school districts lying in the same county for high school purposes. The school board consisted of fifteen men as District No. 1 was composed of five schools: Mountain View, Waterville, Fairview, Pearl and Pioneer.

The first meeting was held in 1900, and it was ordered that grades nine and ten should constitute the Union High School for that year. Two teachers were hired for the ensuing year. The Board also took action looking toward an immediate establishment of a scientific course of study on a basis that would meet the

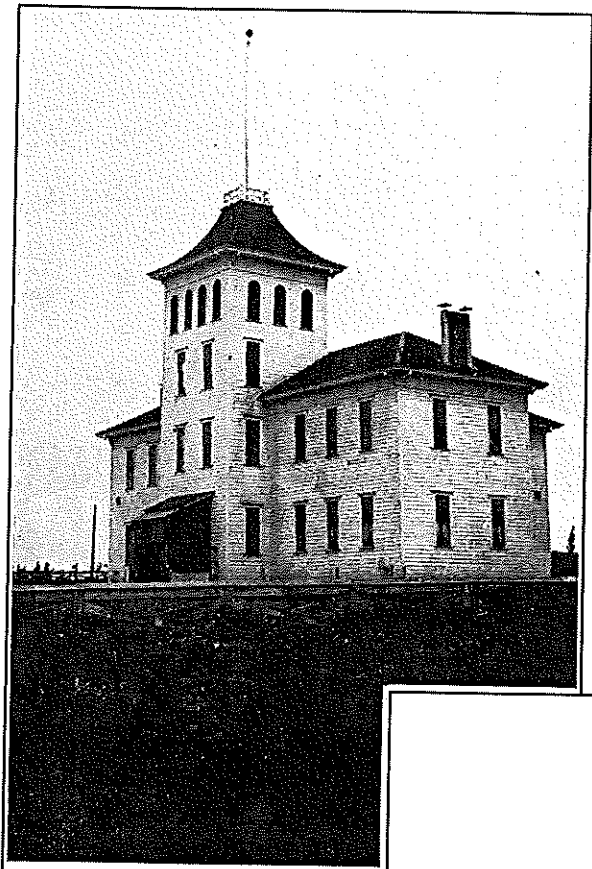
approval of the State University and other schools carrying scientific courses. It was their intention to start this new project on a successful road by allying it closely with the higher institution of learning of the state. The history of the school has demonstrated their wisdom.

Because such a large board was unwieldy, a resolution was passed in January of 1901 that the Union board should consist of the Chairmen only of the separate boards.

So the first year's work was carried on with three grades and two teachers. The following year, 1901, the 12th grade was added and was graduated as the first class from the Union High School in May, 1902. With the addition of the 12th grade, a third teacher was added.

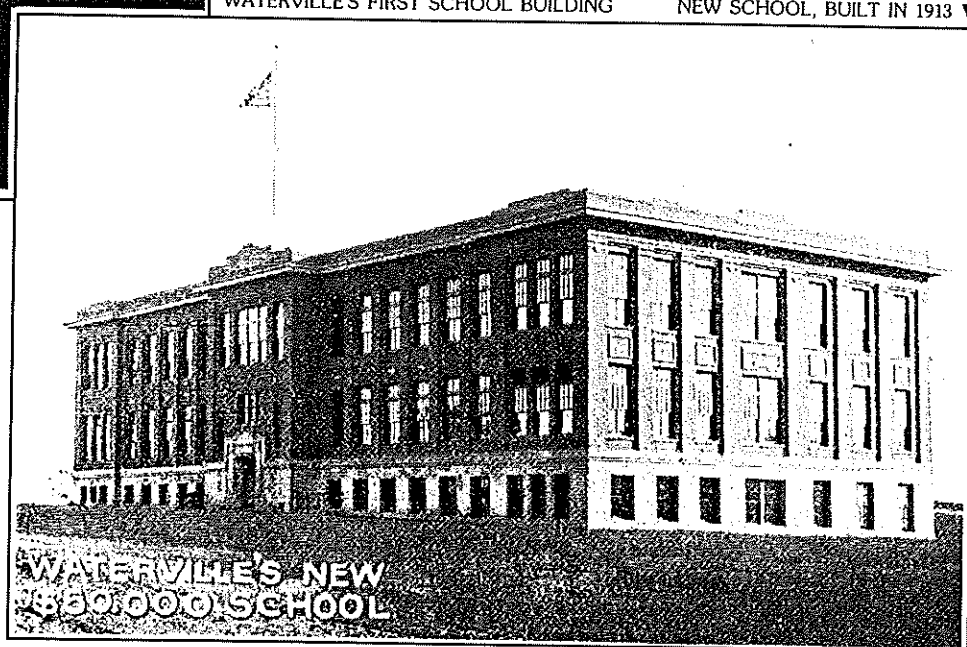
There were 22 graduates of the four classes of 1902-1905. Of these, ten continued studies after graduating: five followed teaching and seven pursued business vocations.

In the early 1900's increased population and consolidation of schools indicated that a new school would be needed in the near future. In March of 1913 the old high school building was moved to the northeast corner of the ground, to give room for the excavation of the basement of the new building. A bed of sand and gravel had been discovered south of town which was abundant and of excellent quality. This would be used for the school and soon excavation for the basement was started. Frank Malfa opened up his first kiln of about 200,000 bricks which would be used in the construction of the new school.



◀ UNION HIGH SCHOOL
WATERVILLE'S FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING

NEW SCHOOL, BUILT IN 1913 ▼



By July the brick work on the upper story would soon be completed and then would come the inside finishing. There would be 26 rooms on two floors, and the basement making it three stories high. In the basement would be the gymnasium, separate showers for boys and girls at each end, lunch room, two manual training rooms, store room, etc. There were two No. 11 Kennewane boilers for heating purposes, hot and cold water throughout, toilets on every floor and electric lights in every room.

On the first floor were rooms for the various grades, and both first and second floors were to have as many large windows as possible to in, thus giving plenty of light and ventilation.

The auditorium on the second floor was 40x70 feet with a seating capacity of 300. The gym had 114 opera chairs. A large septic tank was built with plans to connect with the city sewage.

The new building belonged to Consolidated District No. 105, which takes in six districts. In the school districts north of town those schools would hold class in the fall of 1913. For those students in the south districts a first-class wagon was purchased by the

board and the children were to be hauled to and from school in this covered wagon and sleigh, the driver going to the house for them and returning them to their own doors. In the winter this sleigh was to be equipped with footwarmers and there would be no chance for the children to get cold.

The school has between 50 and 60 acres of tillable land adjacent to the school so that the students may learn farming as well as other branches.

Remember . . .

We pre-school children could hardly wait for the City snow plow to clear a path on our sledding hill south of the Christian Church, called 'Weigman Hill.'

The shaped plow consisted of two large planks, bolted together in an 'A' shape and pulled by two or four horses. This depended upon the depth of the snowfall. We could go from the church for five blocks to the Laymance Garage, where the Texaco Service Station is now. It seemed much farther, when we walked back pulling our heavy home-made sleds.

After the City graded all the streets our sledding hill was gone.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING DEDICATION

October, 1913

Sunday afternoon the new school building was dedicated and this week has been moving week. Now all are splendidly housed in the new building which is the pride of Waterville and a monument to its enterprise and push. The assembly room was crowded and the hallways outside also.

The program was as follows: M.B. Howe, in a neat speech, presented the new building. He gave in part a history of the Waterville schools and contrasted the beginning with the present modern building. He carried his listeners in mind from pioneers days to the present and the contrast showed that Waterville had well kept step with the march of progress.

J.C. Gilbert presented to the school a flag which was a present from the Mitchell Pharmacy. It was given to a couple of school boys who at once ran it up to the top of the flag staff which adorns the building.

Gladys Logan's solo, "Lincoln's Face," was written by W.H. Stocker, the sage of East Wenatchee, who is well known here. Many of us were surprised to find him such an excellent composer although we know him to be a genius.

Rev. Gabriel Sykes, the M.E. pastor, delivered the dedicatory address - a splendid tribute to the church, home and school, showing how intimately they were related and must always go hand in hand. He referred to the mistake of the old countries in making the church first and the school secondary. They forced people to be church members, but did not compel

education and left it voluntary. The United States, he said, had revised it and compelled education and left the church voluntary. This, he thought, had been the cause of our wonderful progress, compulsory education and voluntary church.

The children of Waterville are to be congratulated on the splendid school accommodations which this building affords. Well heated, well lighted and splendidly ventilated rooms with every modern convenience of water toilets, gymnasiums, shower baths, etc. to make the school pleasant and profitable. If the children of now-a-days do not learn, it is not because of unpleasant environments and conveniences. Our one regret is that we were born too soon to get the advantages like these and had to take our school catch-as-catch can.

A new gymnasium, with a stage and two class rooms, was built in 1943 as the existing one in the brick building proved inadequate for the growing need for sport facilities.

The Industrial Arts building, housing manual arts, home economics and music, was erected in 1960. It was named in honor of a popular manual arts teacher, E.J. Rejniak. The original 1913 frame building, where manual training classes had been held, was sold in 1961 for \$25 with the stipulation that it be torn down.

In 1969 the present two-story building, housing grade and high school classes, was constructed and the first classes were held there in the fall of that year.

The brick building was razed in 1970.

Churches

First Religious Service

On May 8, 1884, at 11 a.m. the first religious service was held in Douglas County in a private home three miles southwest of where Waterville is now located. There were twenty-eight brave pioneers in attendance.

Elder Richard Corbaley had charge of the services.

This service was followed by a bountiful basket dinner and the afternoon was enjoyed greeting and meeting new friends.

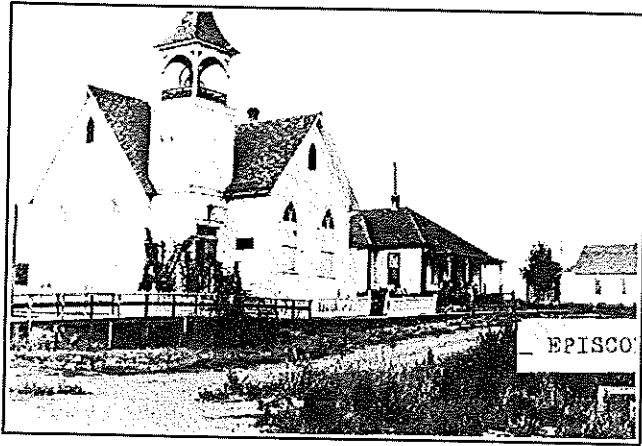
A few years later after Waterville had won the county seat, a young man rode into town horseback. He said he was a Sky Pilot. He had noticed there weren't any churches, but he wanted to hold a service.

There were only a few buildings and a couple of saloons. It was arranged that a service could be held in

the Josh Clary Saloon. Clean sawdust was quickly hauled down from Stephen's sawmill to replace what had been on the floor for sometime. The pictures on the wall were turned to face the wall and the bar was cleaned. Planks were placed on beer kegs to provide seating, and everything was ready for the service.

It happened there were a couple of Indians and a few cowboys from near Coulee City in town. They were invited to attend the meeting along with almost everyone in the area. The Sky Pilot was a very good speaker. One of the cowboys passed his hat and it was filled. The Sky Pilot was well paid for his time spent in Waterville. Everybody was happy.

After the meeting Mr. Clary rearranged his place of business and was ready for the evening trade.



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Episcopalians met in the various church buildings during the 1880's, and the services were presumably bi-monthly morning and evening. At that time they had what they called Circuit Riders for distant outposts, and not until 1917 was there a resident vicar. By 1905 they had acquired a lot at the corner of East Birch and South Baker, and the first service in the permanent house of worship took place in Waterville on November 15, 1905. There were 35 members present for the morning service.

For a period after World War II the church was rented to different church groups. Then in April, 1956 the first shovelful of terra firma was turned at a special service, preparatory to the erection of a new parish hall, members aiding the contractor.

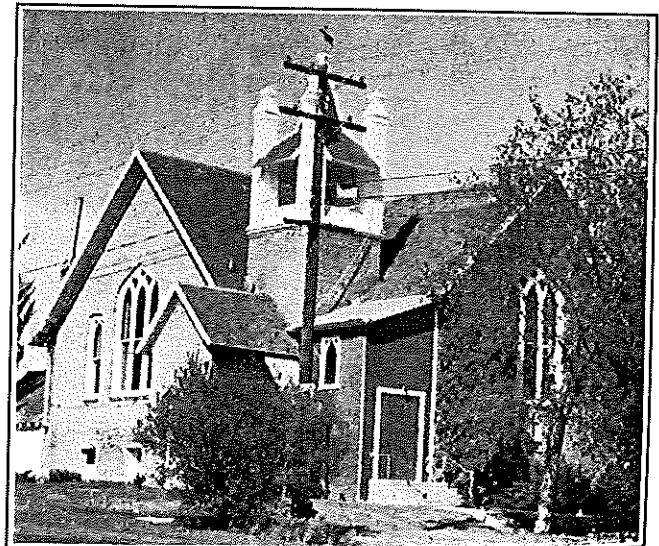
However, in the late 70's and 80's church membership decreased. A "closing service" was held July 26, 1987, and the building was de-consecrated in 1989.

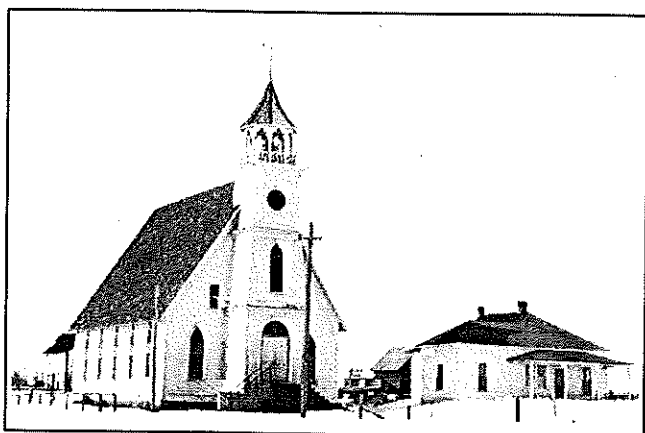
METHODIST CHURCH

The original church located at Columbia and Ash Streets was built in 1889 and was the first in Waterville. The original effort to build was a heroic one and the building was used by all denominations for years until one by one each became strong enough to build their own churches. Money was raised for a belfry and a bell. When the old bell cracked a new bell was put in position. At first some slight confusion was occasioned by its similarity of sound, when struck rapidly, to the fire bell. The old bell, the first brought into the country, was put away as a pioneer relic.

Since the old building became warped and out of repair (made of Badger Mt. lumber), the trustees decided in 1906 to build a new church, on condition that the full amount of \$5,000 be raised before beginning work.

The brick building, on the site of the old one, had a full basement and was heated by a furnace. The auditorium would seat about 250 and had an inclined floor. There were class and Sunday School rooms and a pastor's study.





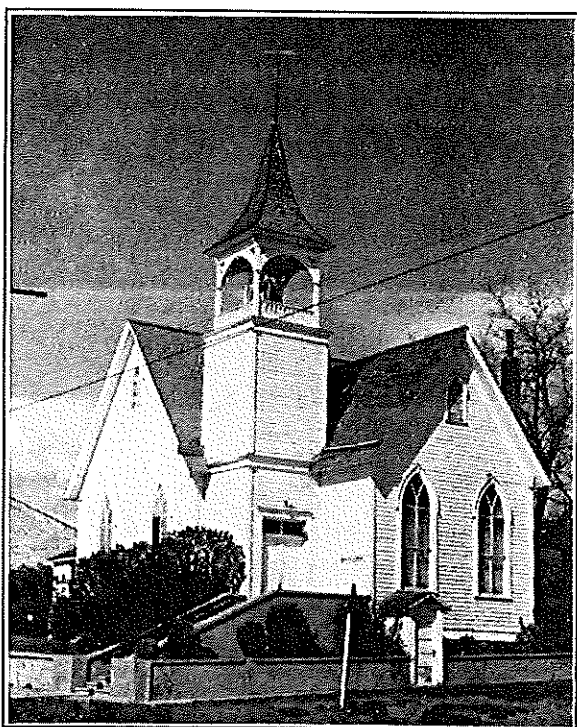
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

In the spring of 1890 a priest came from St. Mary's Mission in Omak to Waterville to say Mass monthly in private homes. In the spring of 1892 several lots in the western part of town were purchased and construction of St. Joseph's Church was begun at once. The congregation, by making heroic efforts, was able to complete it by winter.

In 1916 the project of building a larger church was undertaken. The old church and rectory were sold and new lots acquired at the corner of Poplar and Chelan Streets.

On these lots the second St. Joseph's Church, a permanent brick building, was erected in 1916 and was dedicated on April 20, 1917. This is the present church building which to this day remains in good condition.

In 1923 the resident pastor undertook the project of building the present rectory located next door to the church.

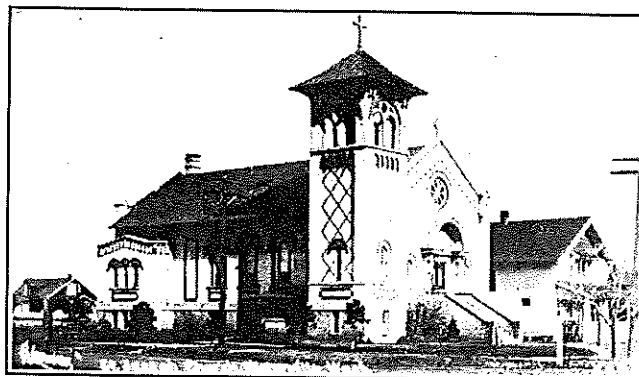


CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian Church of Waterville was organized in the fall of 1889 with 37 members and was without a building until 1892. Mr. Rash Wilcox donated the lots, located on North Franklin, for the church and parsonage and the buildings were put up during the summer of 1892.

The church had an outstanding assembly room for the time, with balcony and an opera floor. Three hundred could be seated in three blocks of comfortable pews made accessible by two aisles on each side of the central group of seats. The first High School graduation of 1895 was held here, as well as the Episcopal Church confirmations and music recitals. The Sunday School rooms in back of the alter were very good dressing rooms for the town and school plays.

They were without a minister for seven or eight years before finally uniting with the Federated Church in 1927. The building was torn down in 1927.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The original Waterville Presbyterian Church was organized November 9, 1890. A building at the corner of So. Chelan and Birch was erected in 1893, dedicated January, 1894, and was clear of indebtedness at the time of dedication. The interior of the church was nicely finished, the seats being grained and varnished, giving them the appearance of hardwood finish. A very unique piece of furniture for the pulpit, was a sofa which was made by three members.

The church was dissolved April 12, 1940, by the Presbytery of Wenatchee. Its members had worshipped rather anonymously in the Federated Church of Waterville. However, in 1943 the spirit and number of Presbyterian adherents justified a request to the Presbytery for reorganization in order that they might function on a parity with the Methodists, Baptists and Christians already members of the Federation. This reorganization was accomplished in September, 1943, and they became members of the Federated Church at that time.

The church building had been rented to the American Lutherans for several years and in December, 1943, it was purchased by them.

BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist Society of Waterville perfected an organization with a membership of about twenty in July of 1892. The new church building, located on West Poplar Street, was formally dedicated to its religious uses December, 1892. The church was crowded, and the people of Waterville were praised for having such a fine modern church.

In 1908 the Baptist Society began the erection of a new parsonage on their lots south of the church. The building was to be 28x28, two stories, would have seven rooms and closets, and would be modern throughout. The Society was highly gratified at their success in being able to erect a much needed parsonage.

The church was taken down in 1937. The parsonage still stands in 1989, now being used as a private home.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

On September 23, 1889, a small group of sincere and willing men, sons of German immigrants, gathered in the school house of District No. 15 and organized a congregation. It was during this first meeting that they decided to build a church in Douglas, which was to be 24x40, and construction began later in the fall. Labor was donated and the lumber was bought from a saw mill on Badger Mountain.

On November 26, 1889, the congregation was incorporated, and many Lutheran families soon joined the new congregation.

In November, 1914, it was decided that a new church should be built in Douglas. The beautiful new church,

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, "kirch" the cornerstone reads, served the Lutherans of Douglas until the congregation merged with Waterville's in 1961, when it was vacated.

In the fall of 1948 the congregations of St. Paul's and American Lutheran of Waterville prepared to build a new parsonage in Douglas, as the minister served both congregations. Final completion was celebrated on July 1, 1949.

Symmetry of design, the crested windows and towering spire of the old church combine to draw the eye up. Long unused, empty and locked, this sturdy building still seems to dominate the landscape as you drive into the tiny community of Douglas.

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

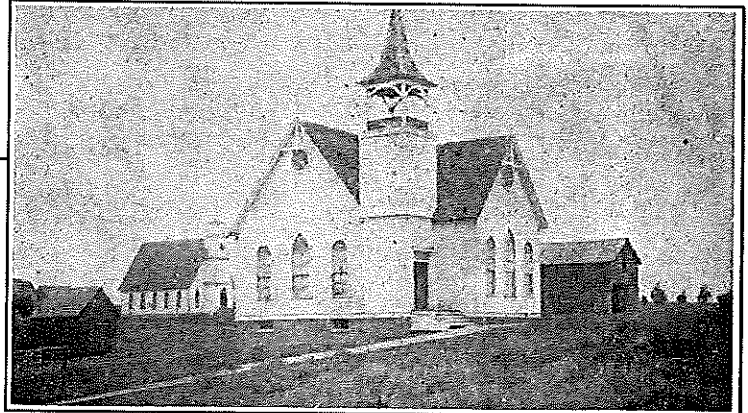
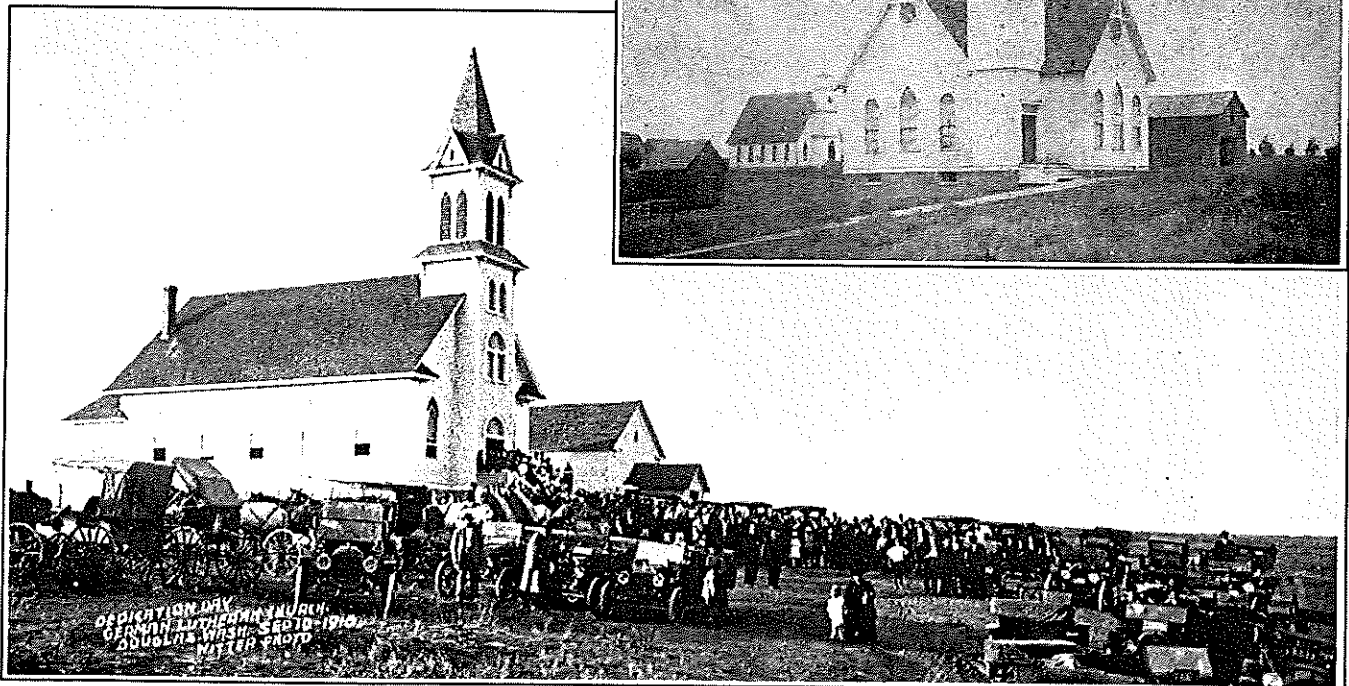
In the early part of 1961, definite plans for the merging of the Douglas and Waterville congregations were made in the form of seven resolutions drawn up by a committee. These were accepted by a vote of the members and the name United Lutheran Church was adopted on April 9, 1961.

In 1963 the building of a new church in Waterville was voted upon favorably at a congregational meeting and a building committee was elected by the church council.

The new building located at So. Chelan and Walnut Streets was built in 1968 and the old building was torn down in 1973.

▼ GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

▶ BAPTIST CHURCH



AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

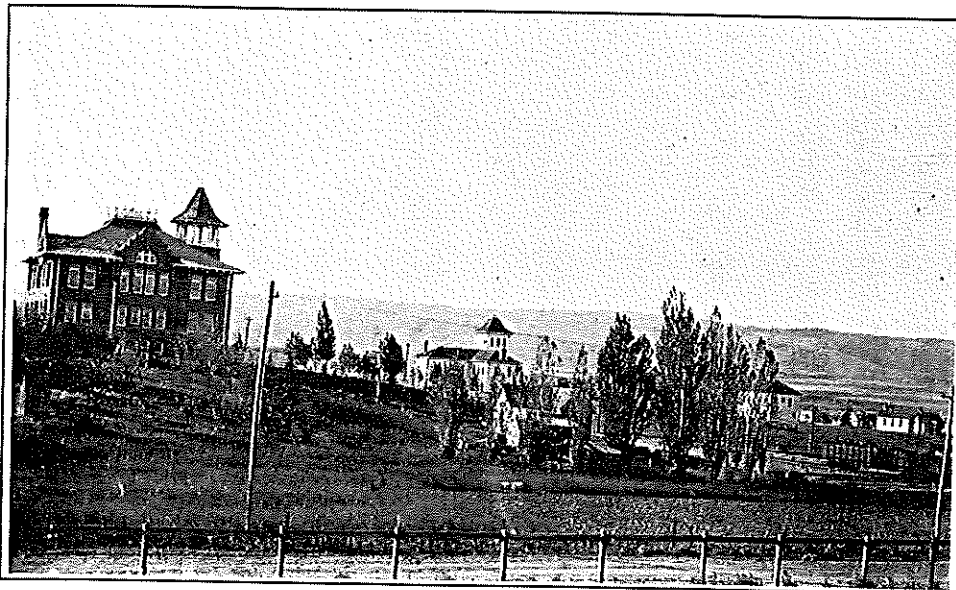
Early in 1935 the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Douglas found that there were persons interested in having Lutheran services in Waterville. He proceeded to initiate an instruction class for young people in Waterville, meeting alternately in Waterville at the Corbaley Hall and in Douglas. The first regular worship hour took place in 1936 in Corbaley Hall, and it was decided to continue to hold services there. The group formally organized in January 1942.

The Lutherans rented the Presbyterian Church, located at So. Chelan and Birch Street, when it was not in use, and on December 1943, it was purchased. The interior and exterior of this building and the grounds were greatly improved until the two churches merged in 1961. It was taken down in 1973. The steeple was plucked off by a crane and went to Elmer City where it would grace the lawn of a home there. The church bell had been transferred to the new church.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

In the fall of 1931 a Wenatchee pastor started the church under the name "Church of God Four Square," and the first services were held in the pastor's home, then later moved to a former bank building. It was later moved to the old Presbyterian Church building and then to another building near the Waterville Auto Company building.

In the late 1930's, the building owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church was purchased, torn down, and a new church built, and the name was changed to Assembly of God. While the building located on So. Central Street was being constructed, services were held in private homes. This is the same building that is being used today, although it has been remodeled several times.



THE FEDERATED CHURCH

The depression years brought much hardship to the area. Beginning about 1916, with crops being short, many churches found it difficult to support both the church and a minister. The Baptist Church and the Christian Church worshipped together in the 1917-1918 era and in 1919 the Presbyterian and Christian groups were sharing services.

In 1926 the Baptists joined with the Methodist denomination and the Federated Church was born. The Christian congregation formally joined in 1927, and the Presbyterian Church officially joined in 1943, each denomination retaining its own identity. Later a Community Group was formed for those who did not wish to affiliate with any one denomination.

As the church grew, problems began to arise, including the lack of Sunday School rooms, upkeep and improvements. In 1954 a building fund was set up and in 1966 the Building Committee began plans for an Education Building across the street from the brick church at the corner of Columbia and Ash Streets. It was completed and dedicated April 12, 1970.

As originally planned, a new sanctuary was added to the Education Building in 1985-86 and was dedicated November 9, 1986.

The brick building, now weathered to picturesque soft rose tones, was taken down in March, 1989.

DATELINE WATERVILLE

December 5, 1895. Saturday evening a coffee supper will be served at the local Salvation Army headquarters at 15 cents. Proceeds to go to the self denial fund.

May, 1896. There will be a "swearing in" of soldiers at the Salvation Army next Sunday night.

November 11, 1897. Elder Corbaley will preach at his residence in Waterville next Sunday morning at 11. All are invited.

November 1899. Elder R. Corbaley will commence a series of discourses next Sunday at 11 o'clock a.m. in the new house on Central Avenue, this city, belonging to the Church of God.

EARLY WATERVILLE

Transportation

ROADS

Douglas County Road No. 1 was a wagon route from the then county seat Okanogan to a cluster of homes on Badger Mountain. Road No. 1 was petitioned for by fifteen landowners in February of 1885. Ole Ruud and two "viewers" O.H. Kimball, and D.W. Martin, started their work on April 6 and finished it three days later. Apparently a viewer was a combination witness and survey helper.

In 1885, E.C. Burch and K.L. Cummins put a steam ferry on the Columbia above the mouth of the Wenatchee River and gave recently formed Douglas County assistance in construction of a road from the river to the Waterville plateau by the way of Corbaley Canyon.

When the Corbaley Canyon road was ordered opened in 1886, George W. Blair and C.C. Rickman established

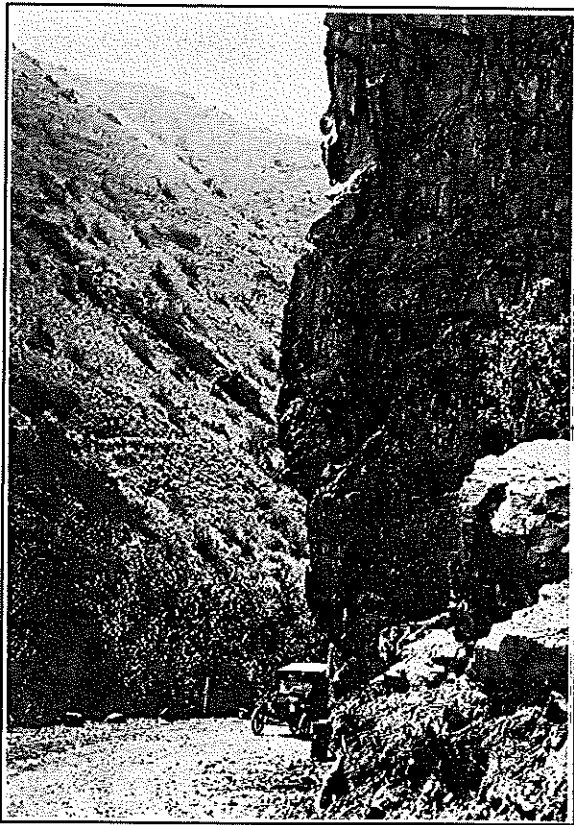
stage and mail service between Ellensburg and Waterville. Corbaley Canyon was a nightmare for men and horses alike, going and coming, steep and treacherous, and winters turned the route into an icy bobsled run. They had to wrap chains around the runners of the loaded sled to prevent it from shooting downhill out of control.

In the early 1900's the automobile began to replace the horse and buggy. Some cars did travel the Corbaley Canyon road with its tortuous winding and steep grades.

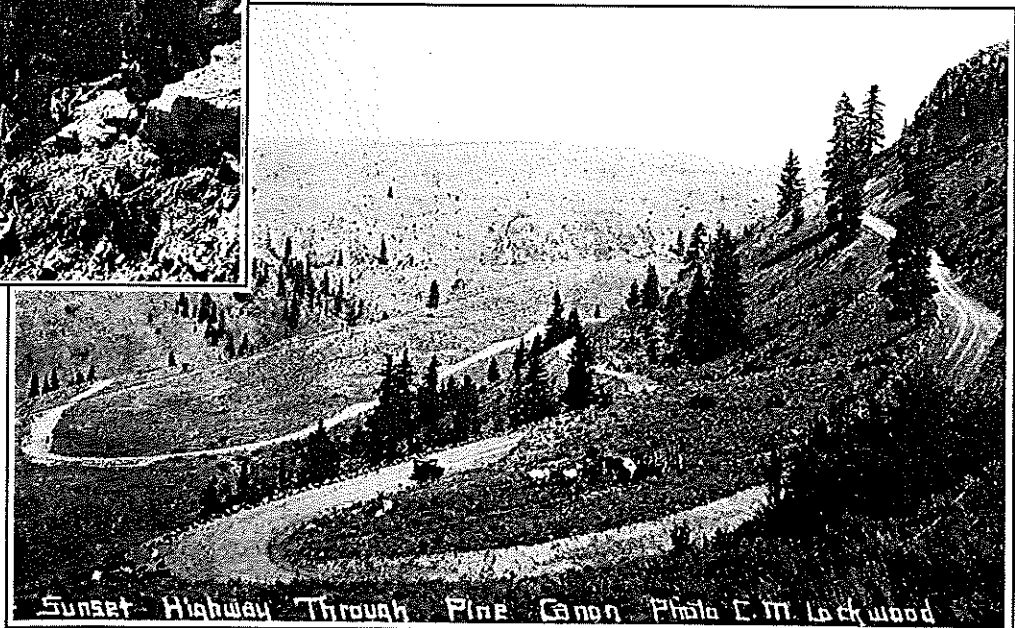
The Pine Canyon road starts from the large rock formation where in the last thirty or so years the seniors of the Waterville High School have been marking it with the year of their graduation. The road follows up the creek bed and makes numerous switchbacks to get to the top of the plateau.

The highway commissioners decided to build this 5 miles of road with convict labor in 1914. In the spring the work was placed in charge of Walter L. Bowen, and an honor camp was established. Between 80 to 100 men worked on this road which was all done by hand. A splendid highway was built with a 5 percent grade. The camp was situated just below the present county land-fill. On June 30, 1916, when their part of the work was finished, 60 honor men were given their freedom.

Pine Canyon road was opened in late 1916, and it was a much safer route. The state made other improvements in 1923 and 1927, and applied the first bituminous coating on the road in 1930.



◀ SUNSET HIGHWAY THROUGH PINE CANYON ▼



Sunset Highway Through Pine Canon Photo E. M. Lockwood

DATELINE WATERVILLE

December 21, 1933

PINE CANYON ROAD WILL BE IMPROVED

Word has been received here by the Commercial Club that \$20,000 has been allocated for work on the Pine Canyon Road. This information was received from the State Highway Dept. through its Wenatchee office.

Not only is Douglas County assured of this amount of money for improvement of Pine Canyon, but it is also assured that an additional \$15,000 may be available for work in the county. One of the projects under consideration is Douglas to Alstown, clearing a level of the county road down Douglas Creek.

As far as Waterville is concerned the improvement of Pine Canyon is by far the most important project. The work should have been done long ago!

After the 1948 flood, the State Highway Department surveyed and built the highway on a higher level. Later they constructed a new upper portion of the road in the canyon and made a new approach to the town of Waterville. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held August 4, 1965, and the new Pine Canyon Highway was dedicated.

STAGE

Stage lines from Spokane Falls or Ellensburg in the late 1880's had no definite time when they would arrive in Waterville. Mail was received at odd times. Provisions and supplies were freighted from these places with prices ranging from \$40 to \$60 per ton. Flour, bacon, feed, and grain were very expensive. At Newhouse's, the only grocery shop in Waterville, food supplies were often low while waiting the arrival of wagon trains.

The Broadhead and Buchanan's stages were located in Waterville, in the 1890's. These stages made daily trips to Orondo via Corbaley Canyon.

In 1900, Claude Maxwell from the Coulee City area, at the age of 20, drove a nine passenger stage from Coulee City across the Grand Coulee, over the high sage brush plateau, into and out of Moses Coulee and down again into the Douglas Creek Canyon and to Waterville and back again every other day. This route followed roughly the same route as the present State Highway 2.

His vehicle wasn't like the stage coaches seen on television. Instead it was a wagon with seats across pulled by a four-horse team. The passengers had to endure all types of conditions, whether it be cold, heat, dust or wind.

On January 3, 1901, Rev. Reimann took the stage at Coulee City to come to Douglas to be the new minister. The stage left at 5 a.m. and it was 20 below with drifting snow. The driver asked, "Parson, have you got plenty of warm clothes?"

Rev. Reimann recalled, "I had put on two suits of underwear, had a heavy coat, warm mittens but guess my cap wasn't adequate for the rigors of the wintry blasts. When we got up the hill and started across the Big Bend plateau, my face was about numb. I opened by suit case and took out a towel and wrapped that around me. I finally reached Douglas, but it was an ordeal."

The Stage route crossed different types of terrain, Mr. Maxwell reported. "The climbs weren't so hard on the stage horses. It was the downgrades that stove'em up. Their legs would get stiff after a few months; they had to help hold the stage from a free roll and it was hard on 'em."

Farmer was the mid-way lunch stop on the route. It was also a mail delivery and pick up point. The halfway house, located at a residence at the top of Moses Coulee east of Farmer was referred to as the dinner house. "Lunch



was usually ready for the passengers unless the cook was likkered up," Maxwell recalled. "If he was, I'd go to a nearby farm house and borrow bread or what food they could spare and we'd make out."

The passenger fare for the stage was three dollars one way. The stage went about 5 miles an hour on the 45 mile one way trip.

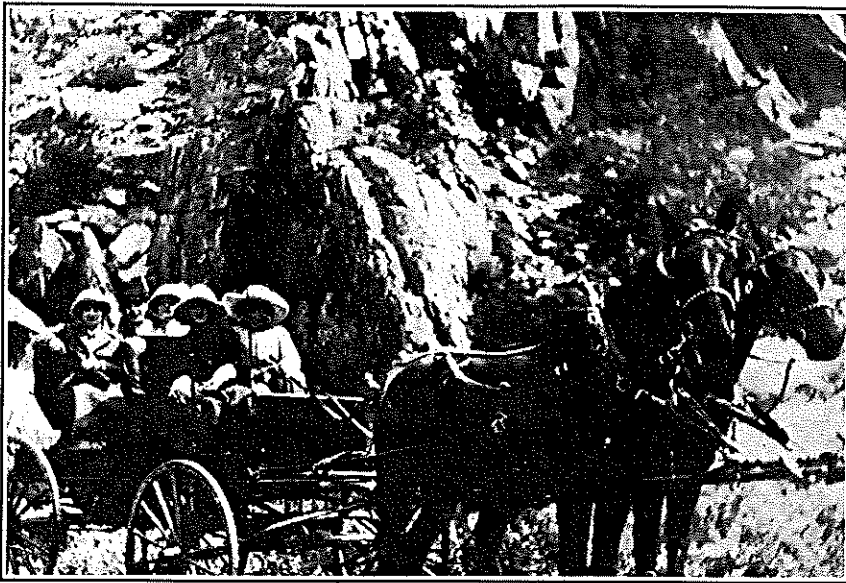
The stage driver pay was \$30 a month with room and meals furnished at overnight stops.

April 1916: Wenatchee-Waterville Stage

Tom Jett of the Stage-line has sold a half interest to F.C. Sloman, and a new six-cylinder seven passenger Reo and a new five passenger Overland have been added to the equipment.

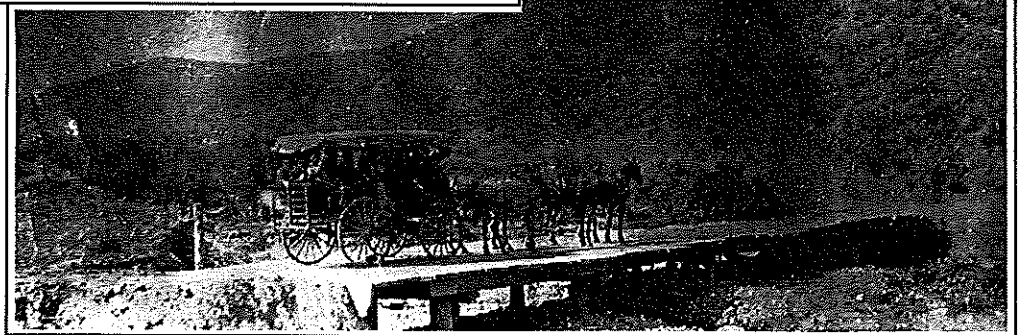
June 1914: New stage between Waterville and Wenatchee

Clint Town and Tom Jett have established an auto stage line between here and Wenatchee, which is proving very popular because of its convenience. They are carrying all kinds of parcels as well as passengers and the Seattle Times. At present they are running a Maxwell and a Buick car, but have in contemplation a larger and heavier car.



◀ AT THE MOUTH OF CORBALEY CANYON

▼ EARLY DAY WATERVILLE STAGE



THE TRAM

The idea of building a tramway from the plateau west of Waterville to the Columbia River for the more economical transportation of wheat was conceived by A.L. Rogers, who worked hard to get the farmers interested in the enterprise. A survey was made in May of 1899 at which time a practicable route was found.

Nothing further was done at that time. Later Mr. Rogers sold his interest to the Columbia River Tramway Company.

July 17, 1902, The Columbia River Tramway Company had let the contract for building the tramway from the breaks northwest of town to the river. Messrs.

McKinney and W.W. Stevens, who were stock holders in the company, were in town and stated that the tramway would be built and ready for business October 15.

One of the most ambitious and elaborate wheat movers was the cable tram built down the bluff 3 miles north of Orondo. It extended about two miles from top to bottom with spans across two deep canyons. It consisted of a moving cable supported on wooden towers and carrying large steel buckets. The buckets were shaped like a bread loaf pan, nearly four feet long, three feet wide, and about two feet deep. The filled grain bags were stacked in the bucket then swung down the two mile route to the steamboat landing.

Lumber and other freight and merchandise were hauled up on the return trip. The more daring or trusting even rode the buckets, although there's a story that at least one of these aerial trips came to a halt half-way down the tram when the power was shut off. The daring rider spent the night helplessly swinging in a bucket far above the ground.

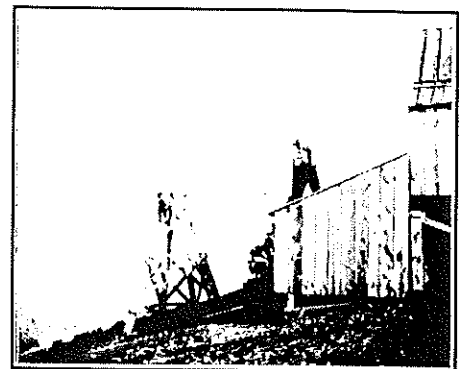
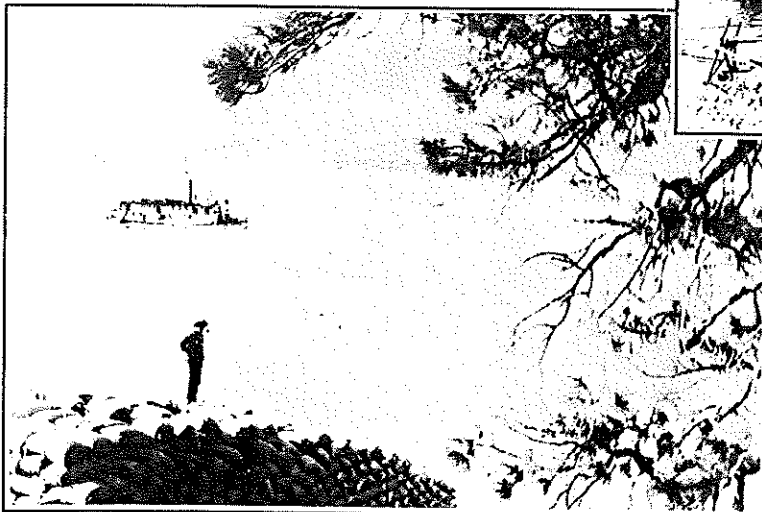
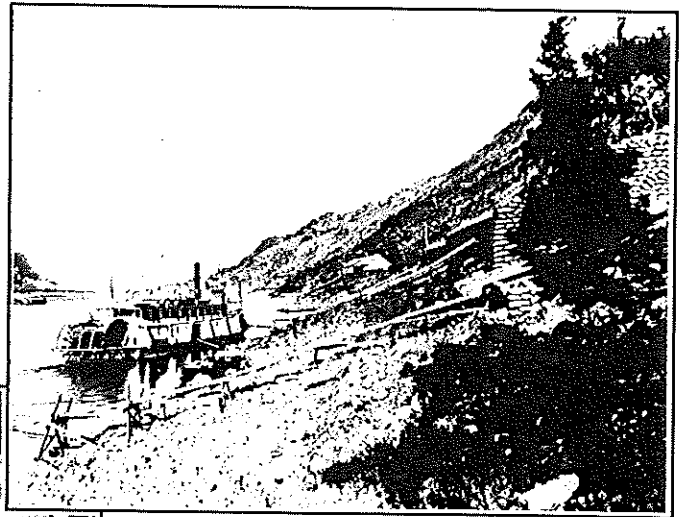
The original idea seems to have been that the weight of the downward bound loads would operate the tram. This apparently was not satisfactory so an engine and drum were installed at the top terminus.

In 1902, proprietor, W.W. Stevens announced that in order to handle the wheat rolling in he would have to run day and night. One day last week over 80 wagon-loads were brought there. It was necessary to run all day Sunday. Coal cost \$9.25 in ton lots at the tram. Thousands of bushels of wheat a season went down the tram. The tram company is said to have collected two cents per bushel on wheat shipments. The boat haul to Wenatchee cost another six cents a bushel. The tram operated until 1910.

A news article in March 1917 stated: *Columbia Tram sold for taxes. Last Saturday Sheriff Jordan sold the old tram, six miles northwest of Waterville for delinquent taxes for the years 1903-1910, amounting to about \$1,300 and interest amounting to about \$1,700. Ike Statman of Seattle bid it in for \$1,875. He plans on dismantling it and shipping it to Seattle in the spring.*

In 1973, a helicopter was hired by Paris Wainscott to pick up two of the heavy buckets from the canyon where they had lain since the line went out of business. They were displayed at the North Central District Fair in September 1973. Now one bucket can be seen at the Waterville museum and the other is on display at Rocky Reach Dam.

TRAM TOWERS — CABLE TO SEND BUCKETS OF WHEAT DOWN TO STEAMBOATS ON COLUMBIA RIVER AND BACK UP TO BIG BEND PLATEAU WITH LUMBER OR SUPPLIES.



RAILROADS

The Shortest Railroad

The increase of population and grain production in the Waterville area was a constant reminder of the need for a connection with a trunk line railroad. On February 24, 1894, R.S. Steiner, president of the Douglas County Board of Trade, called a meeting to consider a proposal by Francis H. Cook, president of the Lake Chelan and Columbia River Railway Company, for the construction of a railroad which would connect Waterville with the Great Northern. The plan called for financing this road by the pledge of town station grounds, a water supply, and the production from one acre of wheat for every 160 acres harvested. This proposal was rejected by a committee of the board.

At subsequent meetings the farmers and businessmen offered to pledge money, wheat, and labor, and a committee was selected to correspond with several railroad companies to ascertain the amount of a subsidy that they might expect should they decide to build the railroad.

In 1907, Waterville interests incorporated to build a line from Waterville via Moses Coulee to Beverly and ultimately to down-river points giving access to the Portland grain market. This proposal may have helped expedite Great Northern. Planning for work began the next year on its Mansfield branch.

July of 1908 it was apparent that the Great Northern would soon start building the Mansfield branch. A.L. Rogers sought to sell the Northern and Southern

company's right of way through the coulee and into Waterville to the Great Northern. But the representatives of the latter, in addition to refusing to purchase these doubtful assets, indicated that they would ignore Waterville entirely. Under the construction of the Mansfield line, the offer was again made for the nominal price of one dollar, on condition that the Great Northern agree to build into Waterville, but it was again rejected.

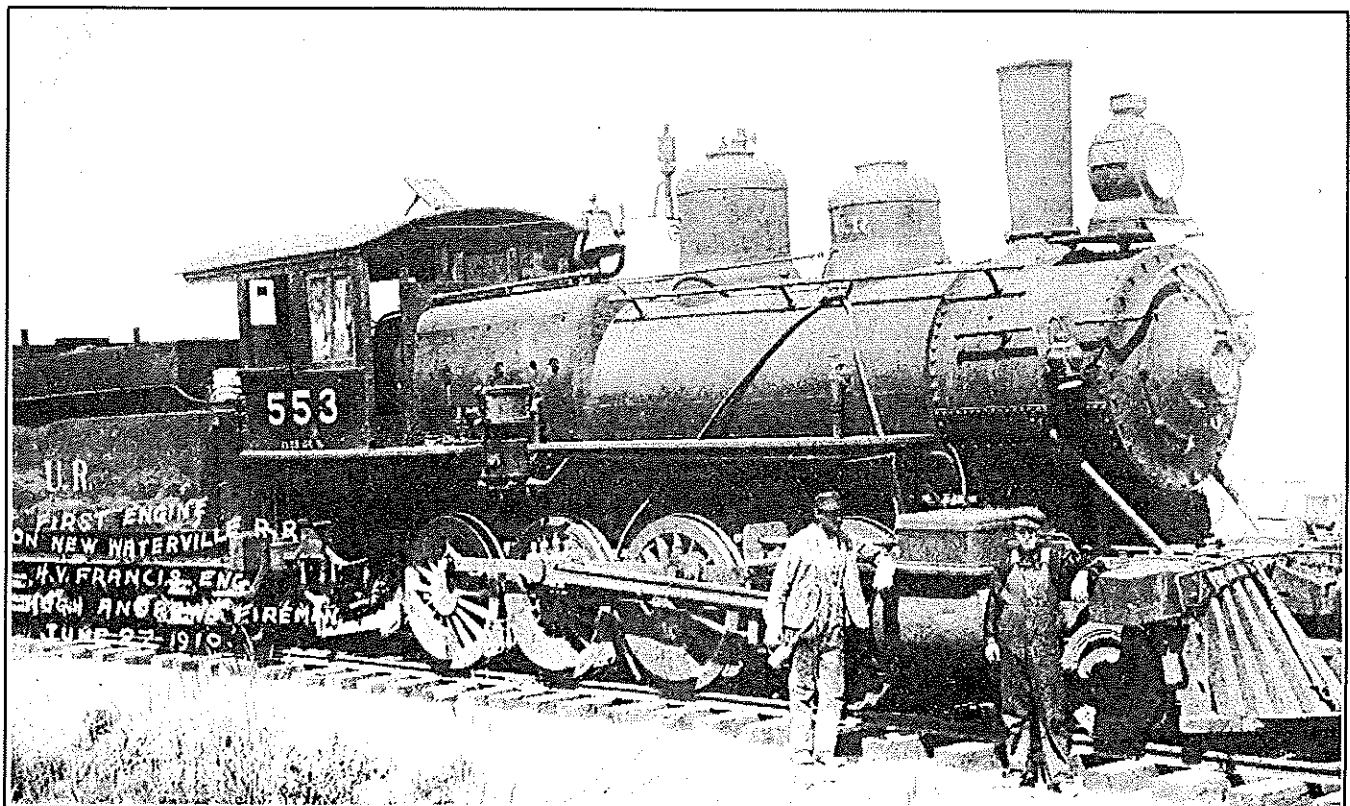
Completion of the Mansfield branch was celebrated on October 9, 1909, when the first passenger train, which included Chief Engineer Hogeland's private car **Manitoba**, arrived in Mansfield.

Waterville, however, was five miles from the railroad's nearest point, which was Douglas. A few months earlier a group of Waterville farmers and businessmen had formed their own railroad company. They had raised eighty thousand dollars and built a one line railroad which was the world's smallest railroad both in length of track and inventory of rolling stock.

On the morning of Thursday, October 14, 1909 John Mohr, contractor for the construction of the Waterville-Douglas railroad, and a crew of men and teams turned up the first dirt for the line at a point a quarter mile northeast and just on the edge of Waterville.

The new railroad connected with the Great Northern at Douglas, and was completed in the summer of 1910.

When the Waterville Railway Company built their 4.5 miles of track from Douglas to Waterville, Great



Northern agreed to loan the ties, rails and fastenings, with the understanding that the items could be reclaimed with 30-days written notice to the Waterville Railway Company. In 1927, Great Northern was thinking of reclaiming the rails, etc. from the Waterville Railway Company and the following letter was written September 30, 1927, asking Great Northern to reconsider:

Dear Sirs:

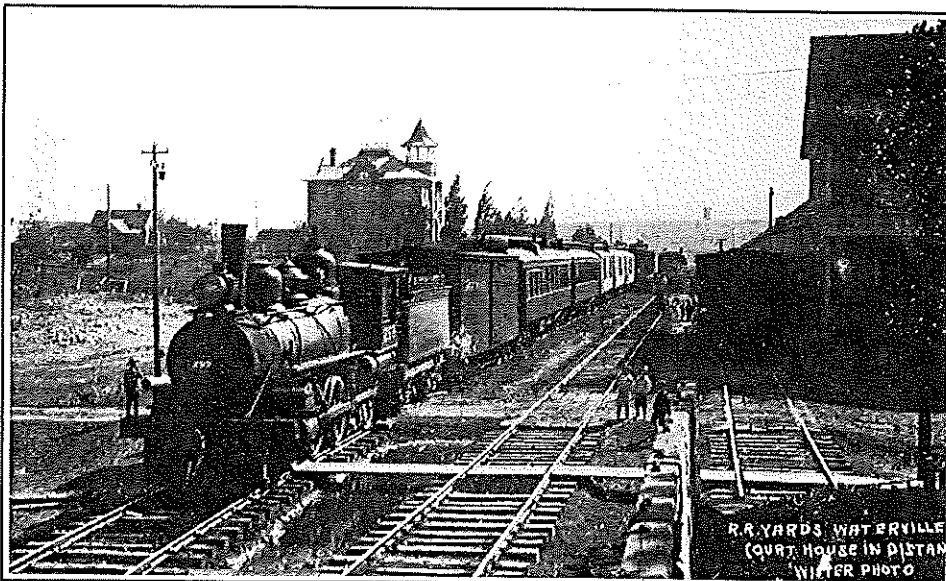
We herewith respectfully submit to you a general report of the history of the building, maintenance and operation of the Waterville Railway for the past eighteen years, and its economic value to the future progress and welfare of this upland country.

The City of Waterville, its terminus, is located on a great treeless plateau about two thousand feet above the Columbia River. Water was the dominant and controlling factor in the settlement and development of this whole country west of the Moses Coulee. The fundamental economic importance of this fact was determined forty odd years ago in the establishment of this community center. It was located upon Government land, and title to its lots was acquired from the Federal Government. It was a public economic necessity in its location. It became, and was for many years, the

distributing point of all North Central Washington. During this period of time, much permanent community wealth has been established. A \$100,000 Court House, \$75,000 High School building, gravity water system from living springs on Badger Mountain, sewer system, graded streets, trees, parks, playgrounds and many fine residences. In fact the interlocking relationship of the people of this whole plateau was, and is now, vitally connected with this Waterville Community Center.

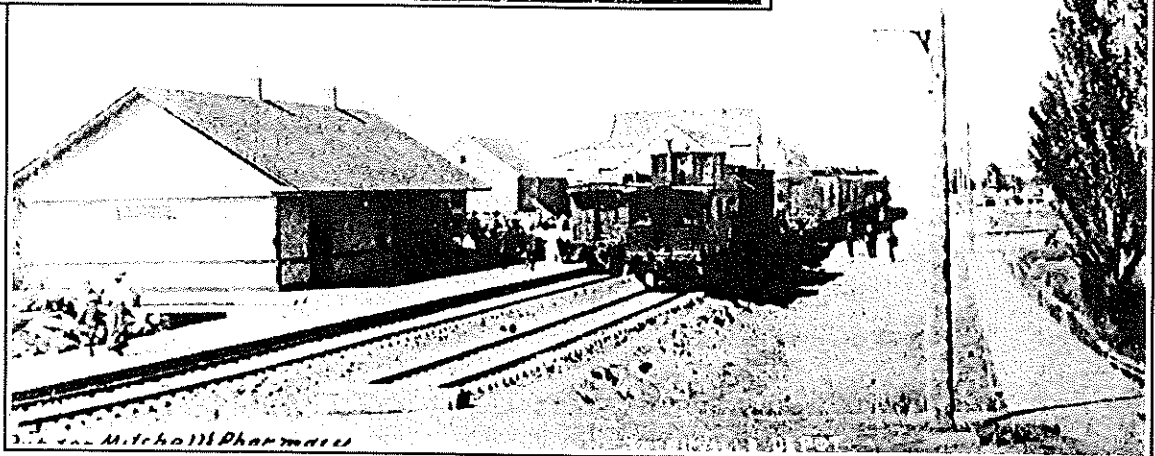
Farmer Union Grain Companies have elevators and flat houses at all stations on the Mansfield branch, but their main offices and buildings are in Waterville. The Farmer's Independent Telegraph and Telephone Company covers the whole County, but its main building and offices are at Waterville. Their stockholders, like those of the Waterville Railway, are distributed with small holdings more or less all over the County. They are all interlocking, community institutions based on the economic needs of an agricultural people living on this high plateau.

Upon the building of the Mansfield branch in the year 1909, it was a great disappointment to the people of the whole territory that the Great Northern Railway



◀ WATERVILLE RAILROAD YARDS

▼ WATERVILLE DEPOT



Mitchell's Photo

Company could not economically build, maintain and operate its branch into Waterville.

The economic necessity of a railroad connection was so patent to the people, that in three weeks time, they subscribed and raised Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) in cash to build the Waterville Railway.

The Great Northern Railway people recognizing its importance and its economic necessity in the future development of the whole County, generously came forward and furnished the tract material, knowing that this transportation problem could be solved much more economically by a small short line railroad that was not subject to the many laws, rules and regulations of the Interstate Commerce and Public Service Commissions. Therefore, in response to your Comptroller's letter dated January 29, 1927 to-wit:

'We are carrying in the account 'Miscellaneous Physical Property, Rails and Track Material loaned to others' an amount of \$26,347.65, in connection with rails and other track material loaned to the Waterville Railway Company as covered by agreement, dated November 22, 1909, Comptroller's Contract No. 8864. This material was loaned to the Waterville Railway Company. The Contract provided that the Great Northern may, upon thirty days notice in writing to the Waterville Railway Company, demand return of such material.

It might be desirable to enter negotiations with the Waterville Railway Company for the sale or lease of this material."

In digging through the records of the Waterville Railway Company and in consultation with its officers who were parties to the above contract and agreement, we find there was a verbal agreement and understanding duly acknowledged by all parties present. "That, so long as track material was used for the benefit of the community as a whole, and all traffic assembled was turned over to the Great Northern Railroad, there was to be no charge made whatever. But if by chance, the control of the Waterville Railway should pass into other hands that were opposed to the best interest of the Great Northern Railway, they reserved the right and power to protect their interests on thirty days notice, as stated in said contract." This seemed good business on the part of the Directors of the Waterville Railway, and they made no objections. We are attaching hereto a list of our Stockholders and their individual holdings, fully demonstrating that it is still a community institution and operated as such.

It may be that your Comptroller never was aware of this verbal agreement and understanding, also that the officers of your Company may have forgotten that such an understanding was agreed upon. Eighteen years is a long time to stand on a verbal agreement. In a short time those who are parties to this contract will have passed away. Therefore, the Directors of the

Waterville Railway feel there should be some evidence made of this verbal agreement by attaching the same to the original contract and save future confusion and misunderstanding.

For eighteen years this community railroad has been maintained and operated as an independent line on the local earnings of its legitimate territory. Last year was the first time that it ever asked for a participating joint rate on out-going wheat tonnage. The Traffic Department of the Great Northern Railroad readily granted it. The road was built for community service rather than anticipation of profits. The cooperation of the two Companies in all their business relations have always been pleasant and agreeable.

We are attaching hereto the Financial Statement of the Waterville Railway Company for the year ending December 31, 1926. The comparison tonnage report thereto attached for the past four years on out-going and in-coming freight is only a small indication of what the wheat growing sections of Central Washington have been up against in the past ten years. The deflation of wheat prices and all farm land values, coupled with several years of short crops and the total freeze out of 65,000 acres of winter wheat in the winter of 1924 and 1925, put the farmers of Douglas County on the bum. The shipping in of feed and seed for several years was like carrying coal to New Castle. It exhausted the liquid assets of the people and closed every Bank in the County. On March 25, 1925, through the heroic efforts of the old pioneers of the Waterville Community by putting up collateral and pledging their credit-made State Banking Department, they opened up a new Bank, taking over its assets and liabilities and saved close to Four Hundred Thousand deposits, the most of which represented small savings of hundreds of farmers scattered all over the County. This very act was the salvation of the future of this whole upland country, and made possible a Three Million bushel of wheat for export with plenty of seed and feed for the 1928 crop. It was a tragic, but glorious battle we have won, and are headed for better days.

There will be sown 110,000 acres of winter wheat this fall on good summer fallow lands, with plenty of moisture to bring it up before winter sets in. There is also 30,000 acres ready for spring seeding. Douglas County has come back and the farmers are greatly encouraged.

The Waterville Railway Company has been up against some mighty hard problems, besides the lack of tonnage and short crops.

The disastrous effect of the automotive industry and the craze for private cars, trucks and auto buses almost annihilated our passenger, express and L.C.L. business, but our out-going and in-coming carload tonnage has come back and will justify the maintenance and operation of the road.

Waterville Station will ship 300,000 bushels of wheat

or better this year. Possibly 10,000 Tons. The City is filling up with outside people, which will increase the in-coming tonnage. The peak of the Automotive industry has been reached. The basic principles of sound economics in all transportation problems will prevail in the end. The people will get over their joy riding spree when their bellies are empty and their credit exhausted. We are living in hopes that the Great Northern Railway will some day see their way clear to put a Gasoline Dinkey on the Mansfield Branch and give the people daily mail, express and L.C.L. service. We believe this would do much to overcome the automotive competition, stabilizing conditions and bringing new people into the County, and in three years' time, we would be back to the regular daily train service.

Paradoxical as it may seem, Douglas County has no bonded or warrant indebtedness and has about \$12,000 in the Treasury. The Waterville Union Grain Company has no indebtedness and paid a dividend three months ago. Most of the business men are solvent. It was the Banks of the County that busted the farmers by extending too generous credit.

Respectfully Submitted,
/s/ D.M. Fraser, Vice. Pres.
/s/ J.C. Brennesholtz
/s/ Wm. Scaife, Manager

This railroad remained in use until the 1948 flood destroyed its bridges and track. This line was never rebuilt, and the tracks were taken up in 1954.

It is very interesting to think that during the thirty-eight years of service this railroad, which for some time maintained a passenger coach in addition to its single

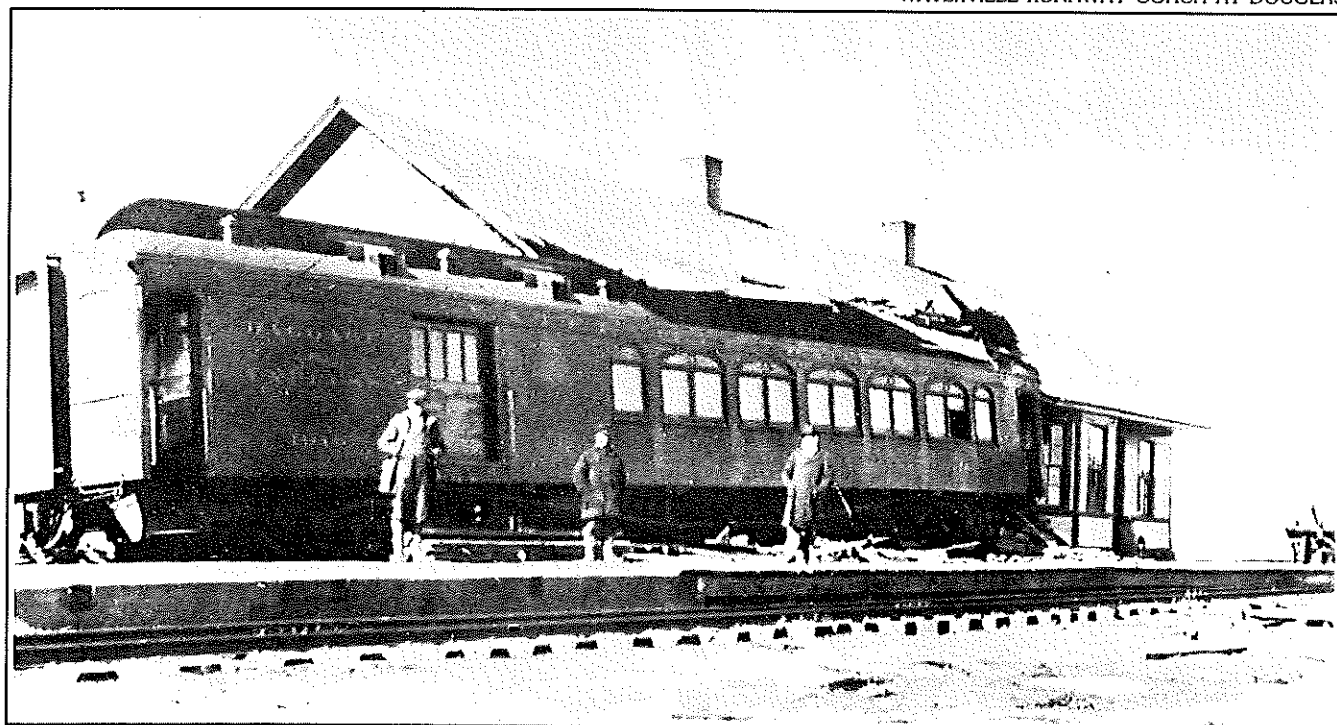
locomotive, was never in debt.

A round-trip ticket from Wenatchee to Douglas on the Great Northern Railway was \$2.15. Fifty cents was the fare on the Waterville Railway between Waterville and Douglas.

What was to have been a routine rail trip turned into a frantic ride when the passenger coach broke loose and sped toward Douglas on February 26, 1920. The 60-foot 12-wheeler coach had been left in front of the Waterville depot while the rest of the train backed into the siding at a wheat warehouse to pickup loaded wheat cars. Somehow, the coach's brakes were released, allowing the car to run free. The five passengers on board did not notice anything was wrong until the car built up speed in its mad race down the grade to the Douglas terminal. The engineer, fireman, and brakeman were all on the engine at the time. When they saw what was happening they started down the line in pursuit of the runaway car, but were unable to catch it. The coach was traveling about 40 mph as it neared Douglas. Upon hearing the approaching coach, Jack Brady, who was station agent, looked out the door to see it heading toward him. The car plunged through the depot building. The impact of the crash pushed the depot four feet off its foundation. Miraculously, no one in the depot or the coach was injured.

Burlington Northern filed for abandonment of the Mansfield-Douglas branch railroad line in December 1984, and it became official January 31, 1985. On March 2, 1985, the last train left the Douglas Depot and closed the final chapter on the history of the railroad in Douglas County.

WATERVILLE RUNAWAY COACH AT DOUGLAS



AIRPORT

On December 21, 1933 the WATERVILLE EMPIRE PRESS had the following news item:

Airport may be established here - LOOKING FOR GROUND.

There is a good chance for the establishment of an emergency airport at Waterville.

Waterville is on the direct line of the new transcontinental air route, and the Department of Commerce will furnish funds for the preparation of a suitable landing field. The Federal Government demands that all fields must be municipally or county owned and will provide from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for the conditioning of the same. All fields must be 4,000 feet long and 400 feet wide, and must be prepared and lighted according to the government standard.

The question of lighting the field is one which will have to be considered locally.

The Airport Committee of the Commercial Club viewed a number of proposed fields Monday afternoon, and the tract best suited for the purpose is the 40 acres of the Corderman place adjoining the fairgrounds, but other sites were visited.

Plans for the field will be prepared by the county engineer's office and will be submitted to the administrator for Washington.

In 1940 the Commercial Club gave \$400.00 to start the Airport just east of the fairgrounds.

Weldon Barnes used a tractor for leveling and the C.C.C. boys were involved in helping prepare the 1200 foot field. In 1950, the field was extended to it's present length of 2900 feet. For a while it was under city ownership, but now belongs to the County.

It is mainly used by private and spray planes. Approximately 80 outside planes land here a year.

The Big Bend Country

October 17, 1905

By Elder J.E. Fitch

Come all ye sons of labor, who wish to change your lot;
Who've spunk enough to travel beyond your native cot;
Leave the crowded cities, where work is overdone;
And come with us and settle, in Eastern Washington.

Take either northern railway, to reach this godly land;
And ticket through to WATERVILLE, the CAPITAL of the Big Bend;
For here in all directions, as far as we may go;
Thousands of quarter sections are waiting for the plow.

The climate here is healthy, malaria is unknown;
For oxygen makes healthy men, our people breathe "ozone!"
The soil is rich and fertile, a hidden mine of gold;
Producing with good culture, at least a hundredfold.

We mostly get good water, by digging forty feet;
Sometimes they strike the solid rock, their labors to defeat;
But there are lakes, and springs, and streams, and the Columbia too,
To furnish all with water, the Big Bend country through.

Down to the Exposition, at Portland, as you know,
We sent from Douglas County, the finest grains that grow.
There was a great competition; but the "judges" who were wise;
Awarded us the "medals" the highest golden prize!

Wenatchee's big red apples, are justly lauded to the skies;
But when it comes to golden harvests, fair Douglas takes the prize!
Three cheers for Douglas County, gold and silver medals too.
Three cheers for brother Hensel, so faithful, just and true.

Hurrah for the land of the setting sun, Hurrah for the State of Washington.

Written after Waterville grain won medals at the 1905 Portland Exposition.

Communication

POSTAL SERVICE

The first post office established in Douglas County was not until the summer of 1884 when one was secured for the county seat. Prior to that time, mail for Douglas County residents came by way of Spokane Falls and was brought very irregularly by freighters who went to the Falls for supplies. For this service the settlers paid thirty-five cents a letter.

During the years there were many rural post offices that served the residents, but for the purposes of this book only a dozen in close proximity to Waterville are listed. Post offices moved from site to site in their locality. They occupied different buildings, shared quarters with commercial establishments, and were given space in residences.

Rural Post Offices

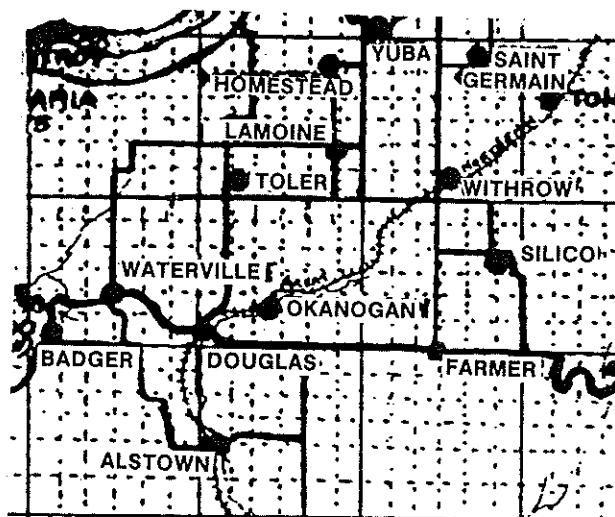
ALSTOWN: Established May 9, 1913, Mrs. Mildred Elliott; Julius Hollenbeck, January 21, 1916; John H. Thomas, January 26, 1921; Charles A. Bean, December 1, 1921; Nelson H. King, August 24, 1929; Miss Martha B. Reiff, June 24, 1931. Discontinued June 15, 1934; mail to Waterville.

BADGER: Established September 19, 1884, Platt Corbaley; Edwin D. Neal, June 23, 1886. Discontinued March 24, 1890; mail to Orondo.

DOUGLAS: Established February 14, 1888, Oliver O. Wright; James Cloninger, August 18, 1893; Marcellus S. Cannon, November 27, 1896; James L. Kelly July 12, 1898; Ephriam Finch, December 4, 1899; Mrs. Oliver (Mary) Wright January 3, 1901; rewed 1902-Mrs. Levi Lewis; Joseph W. Wolverton, January 25, 1905; Miss Bena Kief, July 3, 1909; Christianson Williamson, January 24, 1912; George McClelland, December 7, 1917; Miss Lettie Williams, March 4, 1918; William F. Puffert, June 7, 1920; Warner V. Friel, April 1, 1936. Discontinued July 12, 1968; mail to Waterville.

FARMER: Established September 4, 1895, John R. Morgan; Nels C. Larsen, December 15, 1902; Carl M. Jensen, March 4, 1915; Mrs. Nels C. (Anna E.) Larsen, December 7, 1917; James B. Hutchens, June 15, 1934; Bert Peterson, April 1, 1937; Leonard W. Schacht, October 24, 1944; Mrs. Floyd (Nettie) H. Byram, November, 1954; Mrs. George C. (Clara) Malone, October 14, 1961. Discontinued May 26, 1961 - replaced by Farmer Rural Station of Waterville. Established May 27, 1961, Mrs. Clara Malone, discontinued March 21, 1969.

HOMESTEAD: Established January 15, 1891, Michael M. McDermott. Discontinued October 28, 1891; mail to Waterville.



LAMOINE: Established as TOLER April 2, 1901, Milner M. Toler; Leonard N. Bragg, May 4, 1905; renamed LAMOINE February 7, 1906; Conrad Winn, June 28, 1909; discontinued August 15, 1910; mail to Withrow.

OKANOGAN: Established June 10, 1884, A.A. Wilson (in name only) Benjamin L. Martin, July 8, 1884; Walter Mann, March 3, 1886. Discontinued November 28, 1888; mail to Douglas.

SILICO: Established February 19, 1891, James B. Holmes. Discontinued January 25, 1897; mail to Farmer.

SAINT GERMAIN: Established September 27, 1904, Mrs. Michael (Madelia) St. Germain. Discontinued July 15, 1913; mail to Withrow.

TOLER: Established April 2, 1901, Milner M. Toler; Leonard N. Bragg, May 4, 1905. Renamed LAMOINE February 7, 1906.

WITHROW: Established March 4, 1910, James E. Andrews; William H. Murray, February 1, 1915; Mrs. Frank C. (Clara) Philips, December 8, 1919; Mrs. Warren L. (Mabel) Badger, May 1, 1946; Mrs. Edward S. (Ferol) Ramm, February 4, 1954; Wilfred R. Bryan; Mrs. Helen L. Elsbree, January 22, 1959; Mrs. Bernice E. Harvey, July 28, 1962. Discontinued December 29, 1967; mail to Waterville.

WITHROW RURAL BRANCH: Established December 30, 1967 Mrs. Jack M. (Marilynn) Adama.

YUBA: Established April 27, 1901, Elmer F. Banker; discontinued July 14, 1906; mail to Howard.

WATERVILLE POST OFFICE

Waterville founder Albert T. Greene, became its first postmaster on November 1, 1887. The new post office was located in the courthouse on the corner of Walnut and West Jackson Streets. Mail was supplied from Ellensburg and Spokane Falls.

Early in 1888, Milton B. Howe and his brother-in-law, A.L. Rogers, came to Waterville to start a general store. The post office was soon moved to a corner of the store, and Mr. Greene relinquished his postmastership to Howe.

During these early years, mail was carried by stage. The severe winter of 1889-1890 made it difficult for the mails to get through, and heavy snowfall cut the town off completely, and no mail was received or carried out. Eventually, the mail was hauled in by toboggan or on snowshoes, but normal delivery was not restored until April when the roads were finally free of snowdrifts.

Lucien E. Kellogg became Waterville's third postmaster in 1889. Kellogg was a newspaperman, and established the first local newspaper, the Big Bend Empire.

By September 1894, Waterville had daily mail service from Wenatchee. In addition, a Star Route from Coulee City provided daily mail carriage to the small post offices of Baird, Spencer, and Farmer. The Badger Mountain Star Route began in 1896 and carried mail to the Great Northern Railroad at Columbia Siding.

John Shuart began his term as postmaster on December 18, 1890, and one year later was succeeded by Mastain W. Miles. On November 25, 1893, Mrs. Emma Porter took over as postmistress. Her term was followed by Joseph G. Tuttle, who was appointed on February 12, 1898.

Charles C. White became postmaster on February 7, 1906, and while serving he moved the post office to a wooden building which stood approximately where the Douglas County Health Clinic is located today.

On June 30, 1910, C. William Frederickson was appointed postmaster and served four years. During this time, mail was carried by the Great Northern Railroad from Wenatchee to Douglas and brought into Waterville by the Waterville Railroad Company.

The next postmaster, James M.G. Wilson, took office on June 23, 1914 and during his term the post office was moved to the Shultz Building which is now known as the Central Building.

Matthew M. Miller, who managed the Waterville Transfer Company, succeeded Wilson on February 24, 1923.

Railway service was discontinued in 1925 and replaced with twice a day delivery by Star Route from Wenatchee. A southward route was established in 1934 to serve patrons of Alstown when their post office was closed. This route was combined with the Mansfield-Withrow-Douglas route.

Bert Schmitz served from 1936 to 1950, then Nellie Burke Schmitz became acting postmistress. She was succeeded by her brother, Paul Burke, who was acting postmaster prior to Keith Marney's tenure.

Nellie Burke Schmitz had also been postmistress of Mansfield from 1913 to 1922 before her marriage to Bert Schmitz.

Severe flooding in the spring of 1948 disrupted mail service for many months. Merle Daling, who was a postal clerk at the time, said there was so much mud everywhere that it was impossible to go from Waterville to Douglas for two days.

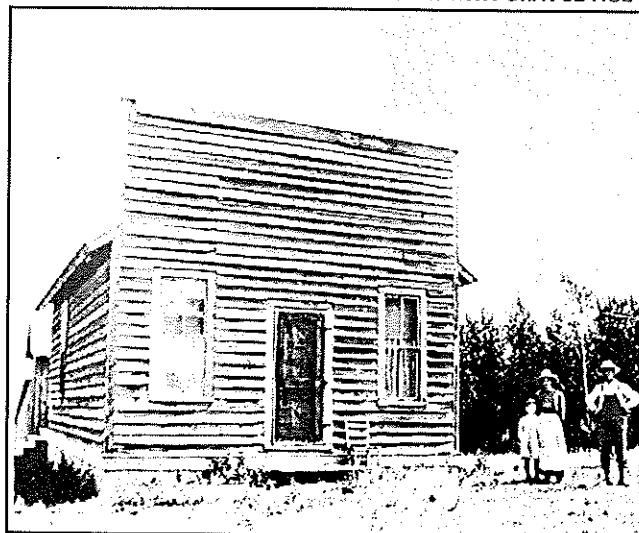
"Mrs. Ernie Frost, who was the Star Route driver from Wenatchee, became stranded in Pine Canyon while attempting to make her delivery," he said. A truck was hired and the mails were brought in through Ephrata, as Pine Canyon had been washed out by a flood. Later in the spring when the new Pine Canyon road was in construction, Daling would go half-way down the canyon and meet Mrs. Frost who would bring the mail up in a rented jeep.

Keith S. Marney took over the postmastership on July 28, 1954 and served until his retirement on July 9, 1982. Marney was president of the Waterville Chamber of Commerce for two years, and president of the North Central Washington District Fair Association. He was also President of Douglas County Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters.

On May 10, 1966, the Waterville post office was moved from what is now the laundromat in the Masonic Building to its current home on Locust Street. Mrs. Barbara Firoved, the present postmaster, was appointed on December 25, 1982. She had been a postal clerk for 29 years prior to her appointment.

October 31, 1987, the Waterville Post Office celebrated its centennial with appropriate festivities.

BADGER POST OFFICE, BUILT IN 1884
PICTURE TAKEN IN 1912. BOB & LUCY TOLER WITH GRAYCE AGE 6



NEWSPAPERS

Waterville Empire Press

In 1888, the first newspaper, the *Big Bend Empire*, was established in Waterville, Washington by L.E. Kellogg, primarily as a promoter for the settlement. At that time, Waterville had only five or six buildings.

The Empire from 1888 to 1905, and another newspaper, the *Douglas County Press*, from 1902 to 1905 are the only papers for which files, although incomplete, still exist. There were other papers established during this time, but no information or files now exist. The Empire and Press were the largest, most influential, and most successful of all the early Waterville papers, eventually combining into the *Waterville Empire Press* which has been the only newspaper in Waterville since 1921.

One of the main traits of early papers was their booster spirit directed to making Waterville into a boomtown. The papers were also generally political in nature and very colorful in style.

In 1888, Waterville was a new settlement in North Central Washington consisting of maybe five or six buildings on a windswept plateau. The settlement had few people, neither a railroad nor access by water, no school, no church and no assurance of future prosperity. But it did have the Douglas County seat, and a land promoter who wanted to make Waterville a boomtown. This promoter realized the role a newspaper could play in attracting settlers, and so helped to persuade one of the pioneer newspapermen of Eastern Washington to bring his press to Waterville.

The pioneer, Lucien E. Kellogg, was a native of Ohio. He had taught school for four years and worked in two printing shops in Ohio before coming to Washington Territory in 1876, where he established newspapers at Colfax and Cheney before selling out in 1884 to go into the land and stock business. In 1886 he became acquainted with the land promoter in Waterville who persuaded him to come here.

Just getting his press to Waterville from Spokane proved to be the hardest experience in Kellogg's life. In December of 1887 he shipped his press and type to Ritzville, the railroad point nearest to Waterville and hired a freighter for the rest of the way. They left Ritzville about December 20, just as the first snow was falling. After being forced to spend two days at Moses Coulee (at the McCartney Place) they started again, but were unable to get through and spent Christmas Eve camped in the snow. They returned to the McCartney Place and stored the press in a chicken coop, heading for Waterville on horseback. After stopping midway for warmth, coffee and sourdough bread in a prairie dugout, Kellogg reached Waterville just before dark, but with a frozen ear and two frozen fingers. The first issue of the *Big Bend Empire* was printed February 2, 1888. It was a six-column folio with



Lucien E. Kellogg
'A Man of Character'

a few headlines. Subscription price was \$2.00 a year. Kellogg continued publishing the paper until 1891. The ownership changed hands three more times until 1921, when it was merged with the *Douglas County Press*, established in 1902, to form the *Waterville Empire Press*.

A primary purpose of the pioneer editor was to attract settlers to the community, for if the community flourished, so would his newspaper. Rarely was anything negative said about the town in early papers. In the early years, this booster attitude seemed to pay off for the settlers of the community. A year after the Empire began, the population of Waterville was estimated at about 300 to 350 people. There were two general stores, three hardware stores, four grocery stores, one drug store, two butcher shops, four saloons, five attorneys, three physicians, one undertaker, one newspaper, and two bakeries. In 1895, the Empire used eight column inches to list the advantages the town had, including "a railroad-to-get, a cozy little jail, one policeman, five churches, telephone connections" and "a glorious future."

Kellogg and the Waterville editors following him frequently experienced delays in receiving supplies as well as problems in getting the papers to subscribers because of bad weather and unreliable postal services. The editor often had to apologize in print for delays.

Another problem the pioneer paper often faced was

getting the customers to pay their subscriptions. There were often notices in Waterville papers that the editor needed wood and produce which could be paid off in lieu of money for subscriptions.

In 1905 the *Douglas County Press* had a circulation of 800 as compared to the *Empire's* 750. But there were many other papers that did not make it. In the first 44 years of the Big Bend newspaper history, 25 weeklies and one monthly publication were brought in existence in the county, of which only three remained in 1932. Regardless, the *Empire* and the *Press* weathered the storms until 1921 when they merged to form the *Waterville Empire Press*.

Patent pages (boiler plates) were used until May 30, 1889, when, because of an increase in settlers, subscriptions and advertising revenue, the *Empire* became all home printed. But in the fall of 1889, it again returned to its patent pages, and it was not until the fall of 1891 after Kellogg sold the paper that it again became an all home printed paper. Items in the paper were not printed in neat packages, and it was up to the reader to distinguish between straight news, editorial comment, and advertisements. They were often mixed together and under few headlines. News content included such things as a farmer asking the return of an axe and the 1899 fire in Seattle. Editorials ranged from comments on the State Legislature to suggestions to the farmers that they not sell their wheat at the present rate because the grain elevators were running a monopoly. However, it was up to the reader to determine what was news and what was opinions and

advertisements. Writing was done in an extremely flowery and colorful style.

The *Big Bend Empire* was published by L.E. Kellogg from February 2, 1888, to June 25, 1891. At that time it was sold to D.C. DeGolia, who had published the *Waterville Emigrant*, a paper started in 1889. On September 1, 1894, DeGolia sold to Edward Johnson, who had been publishing the *Douglas County Democrat*, a paper started in the spring of 1891.

Mr. Johnson continued to publish until December 1895 when it passed into the hands of Joseph G. Tuttle and Fred McDermott. On December 7, 1899 McDermott left the paper and Tuttle continued to publish until it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stoddard and combined with the *Douglas County Press* in June of 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard had previously published the *Douglas County Press*, a paper started in 1902.

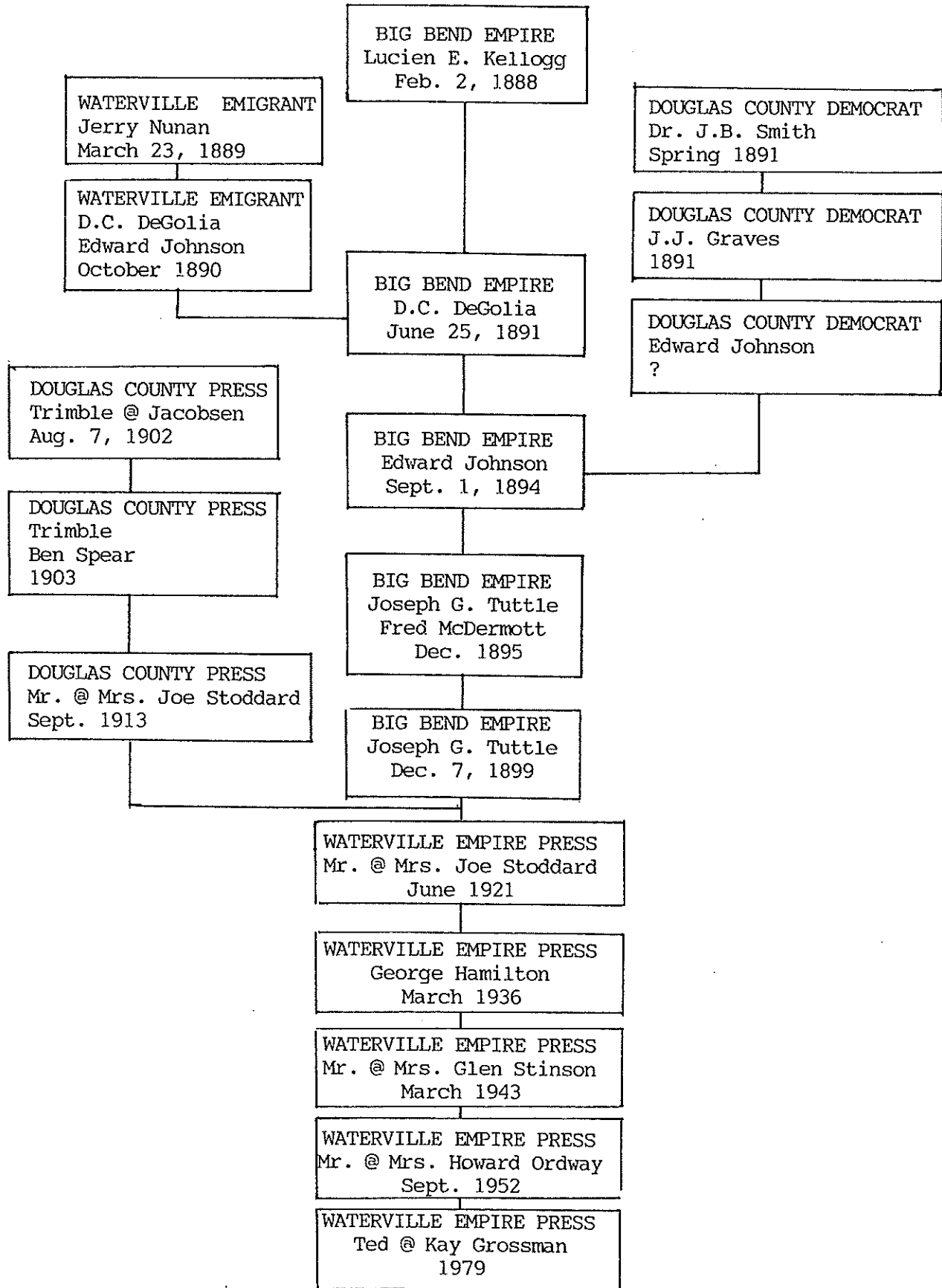
Now the *Waterville Empire Press*, the paper was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard until March of 1936 when George Hamilton assumed editorship. Mr. Hamilton published until Mr. and Mrs. Glen Stinson took over in 1943. Mr. Stinson had been a printer for Mr. Hamilton for many years. In September of 1952 the paper was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ordway. Mr. Ordway had previously worked for the *Wenatchee Daily World*.

The Ordway's sold to Ted and Kay Grossman in 1979. Following the Grossman's, Mr. Lloyd Mathews, then Marjorie Simmon, Jim and Carolyn Gill and most recently Jay Robins has taken over production of the weekly paper now captioned *THE EMPIRE PRESS*.

WATERVILLE STREET SCENE, 1915



Chronological Development of the WATERVILLE NEWSPAPERS



TELEPHONE

The Telephone Girl

*The telephone girl sits in her chair
And listens to voices from everywhere,
She hears all the gossip, she knows all the news,
She knows who is happy and who has the blues;
She knows of our troubles, she knows of our strife,
She knows every man who talks mean to his wife;
In fact, there's a secret 'neath each saucy curl
On that quite, demure-looking telephone girl.*

— Author Unknown —

*If the telephone girl told all that she knows,
It would turn half of our friends into bitterest foes;
She could sow a small wind that would be a big gale,
Engulf us in trouble and land us in jail;
In fact she could keep all the town in a stew,
If she'd tell the tenth part of the things that she knew.
Oh! Really now, doesn't it make your head whirl
When you think what you owe to the telephone girl?*

A single iron wire connected Waterville and Wenatchee in 1893 to bring the area's first telephone service. Five years later a line came from Spokane to Wilbur, and the following year from Wilbur to Coulee City.

In 1900 the Coulee City-Waterville connection was completed making possible service to Spokane, Portland and San Francisco. That year a line was extended from Waterville to Brewster and Chelan and a year later, in 1902, the line was extended from Wenatchee to Leavenworth and Cle Elum, making connections through to Seattle and other coast points.

Appearing in the January 8, 1903 Waterville paper was the following item:

'McCullom, Hill and Company of this city have inaugurated a barbed wire telephone system extending 20 miles northeast to the Yuba Post Office and J.D. Logan's place. Communication is established and works smoothly. Headquarters is the McCullom, Hill and Co. store.

Already on the line are F.M. Alexander, Geo. Kuder, M. Kuder, C.W. Hensel, Wm. Domrese, Fred Richter, S. J. Brown, J.M. Fletcher, S.W. Winn, Carl Schmidt, J.W. Cunningham, L.W. Barnes, Fred Bachinay, H.B. Griffith, E.F. Banker, J.D. Logan, McCullom, Hill & Co.'

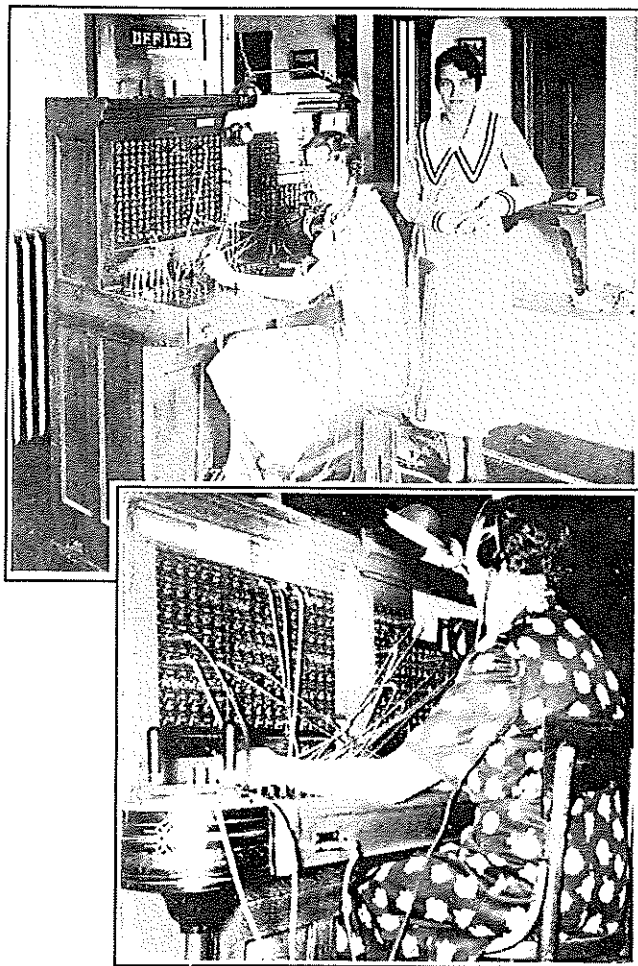
Phones were sold to farmers at \$3.00 each with line on the barbed wire fences. These were wall phones with a crank.

The first switchboard was in the home of Mr. & Mrs. J.Q. Adams. Later the Farmers Independent Telephone Company organized and sold stock. This was eventually sold to Interstate (G.T.E.)

The first telephone building in Waterville was located on the corner of Ash and Chelan. In 1913 the building that now houses the Hensel Law Office was built by the Interstate Telephone Co. Operators for local calls were on one side of the building and Pacific, Bell & Bell long distance on the other side.

Charge to customers for local service was \$1.50 per month. Automation of phones came in 1954.

Some of the operators who worked for the phone company were: Emily Brownfield Lehrman, Gladys Brownfield Barnes, Alma Gunkel Law, Frances Gunkel,



ABOVE: Emily Brownfield Lehrman, Chief Operator,
Gladys Brownfield Barnes, Operator.
Photo taken in 1928.

BELOW: Retta Godlove

Ethel Slusser Jones, Ethel Rander, Edna Slusser George, Katherine Weir, Frances Weir, Freida Uhrich, Nellie Jensen Hardin, M. Arlene Gaff, Leona Dutton, Inger Koenig, Alice Schneider, Retta Godlove, and Flora Johnston Snow.

Abe Arbogast was lineman for many years, then Bill Rambo when Abe retired. Henry Moritz was the night operator for a long time.

Celebrations

FOURTH OF JULY

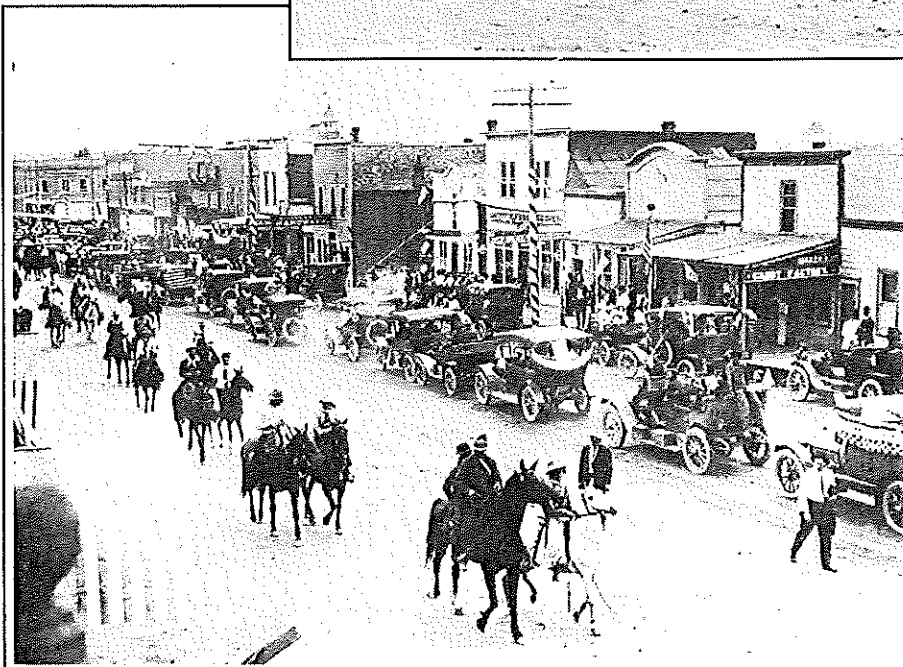
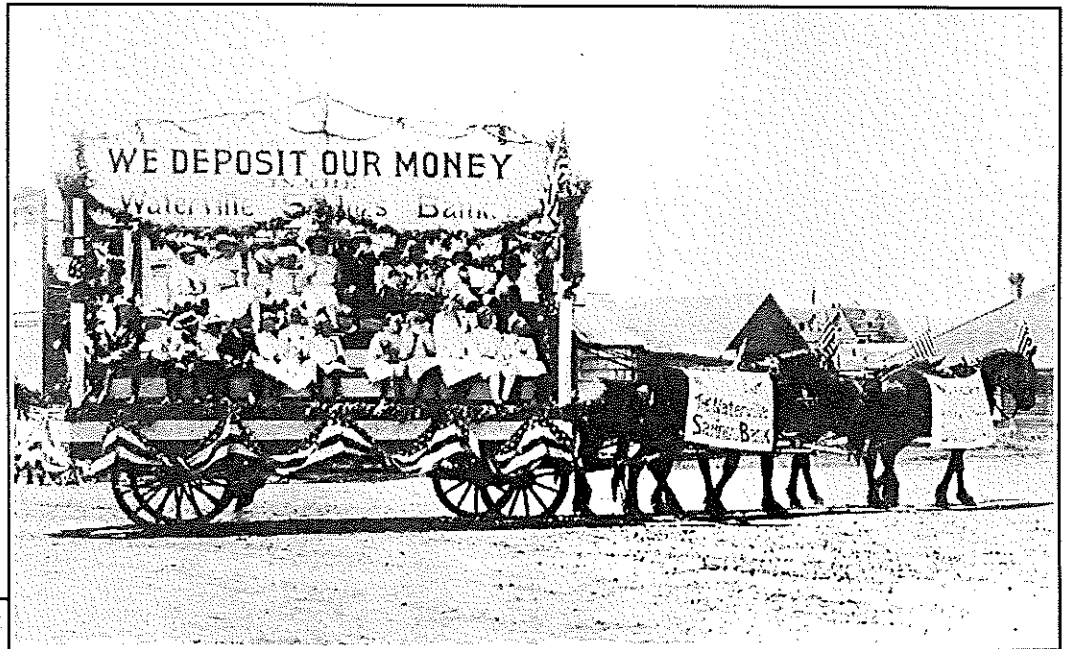
HOW WE CELEBRATED!

The Most Imposing Ceremonies ever Witnessed in the Big Bend.

The march of progress in the Big Bend was never more noticeable than was illustrated by the gorgeous procession on Independence day 1889 in Waterville. Last year was the first celebration ever held in Waterville, when it was estimated that some five or six hundred people were in attendance. This year it was generally conceded that from 1,500 to 2,000 people participated in our National holiday exercise at the Big Bend Metropolis. Visiting strangers who were present were heard to express their wondering admiration at

the magnificence and grandeur of the procession. It was a liberal compliment to the patriotism and enterprise of the citizens of our thriving city and surrounding country, and suggests the continued growth of Waterville. The program was carried out from first to last as advertised in the papers and bills. The day was fine. Just enough breeze to give the flags and banners a lively fluttering to the tune of patriotic music.

Forming at the corner of Chelan avenue and Poplar street, the procession marched through the principal thoroughfares in the following order: First, the Waterville brass band consisting of James B. Gray, leader, R.S. Steiner, Siegel Steiner, O.D. Porter, Frank Lockwood,



▲ JULY 4, 1911

◀ THE FOURTH OF JULY, 1914
THREE DAYS OF GRAND CELEBRATION.
APPROXIMATELY 10,000 PEOPLE CAME.

A.L. Maltbie, Heggley, J. Dayle and O.C. Knemeyer, then followed the veterans of the late war, the order of A.O.U.W., then the Liberty car in which rode forty-two little girls, each representing one of the United States. In this car also rode a representation of the Angel of Peace in the person of Miss Myrtle Phillips, the angel of war, in black, with black wings by Miss Alice Bingham, and the Goddess of Liberty by Miss Ogle. The army was represented by W. Mitchell, and the navy by Mr. Adams. Next came the lady equestrians tastily dressed, riding their prancing steeds with grace and skill. Then came the Waterville Fire Department with its members gaily attired drawing the wagon purchased by the city, beautifully decorated with flags and evergreens. Following this was a brigade of Indians under the leadership of the enterprising Wapato John of Lake Chelan. This feature alone would be better than a circus in large eastern cities, but in Waterville constituted only one of the many attractions of the day. It was about 11 o'clock when the procession preceded by R.W. Starr, personifying Uncle Sam, reached the grand pavilion opposite the Empire office. Every seat was crowded with brave men, fair ladies and happy children. F.W. Alexander as Grand Marshal soon succeeded in getting order, when Chas. Liftchild, Esq., as President of the day assumed his duties. He made an appropriate address which was well received and warmly applauded. His allusion to

Mr. A.T. Greene, our generous and popular town proprietor, who is now lying on the sick bed, were especially appropriate. Then came the regular program of exercises as follows:

"Hail Columbia," Waterville brass band. Prayer, Chaplain Elder Fitch; Song, "America," Choristers; reading, "Declaration of Independence," O.D. Porter; song, "The Flag Without a Stain," Quartet; Declamation, "Independence Bells," Frank J. Havens; music, band; oration, Hon. D.C. DeGolia; song, "Star Spangled Banner," choristers; "Finale," band.

As the crowd began to retire the choristers sang "Red, White and Blue." This creditable combination was composed as follows, under the leadership of O.V. Wallace:

Sopranos: Mrs. P.G. Van Alstine, Mrs. Colin Gilchrist, Mrs. Josie Howell, Mrs. E.C. Stevens, Mrs. A. Phillips, Mrs. Delila Ogle, Mrs. C.A. Carpenter, Mrs. I.W. Powell, Mrs. E. Peach, Mrs. L. Woods, Mrs. S. Hardin, Mrs. Cora Davidson, Mrs. Annie Corbaley, Misses Maude Ogle, Clara Morvant, M. Phillips, Etta Moore, Estella Gard, M. Wood, Mollie Gard, and J. Dayle with violin.

Altos: Mrs. J. Nunan, Mrs. E. Stanley, Mrs. Josh Clary and Mr. Henry Smith, with cornet.

Tenors: Messrs. M.B. Howe, Chas. Hobson, J.H. Robb, J.T. Brownfield, Arthur Gard, Joel Brownfield,



July 4, 1893, Pioneers of Douglas County

Back Row standing: Howard H. Honner, Bill Mitchell, Walter Mann, Arch Barraman, Al Pierpont, Stanford Huntley. 2nd Row: Billy Walters, Hector Patterson, Judge Nash, Tom Powers, Billy Wilson. 1st Row seated: Geo. Kenever, John Buzzard, John Benack, Horatio Wilcox, J.W. Stevens.

J. Brockman.

Basses: Messrs. O.D. Porter, G. Shaffer, W. Fitch, C.C. King, C.V. Ogle, A.L. Corbaley, Clithis Hobson, Wm. Brownfield, James Kelley, S. Brownfield, Herman Hupe.

After dinner the surging crowd assembled on Chelan avenue where the games and contests came off: a free-for-all horse race, saddle horse race, boy's race, men's race, fat men's race, and wheelbarrow race. The sports concluded with a game of ball between the Waterville and Badger clubs with a score of 30 to 37 in favor of Waterville.

4TH OF JULY

The celebration of the glorious 4th of July was done up in grand style by the stalwart pioneers of Douglas County in 1885. It was a joint affair of a sabbath school picnic and a gathering of neighbors get-together. In those days, red meat was quite scarce. The men of the area decided nothing was too good for the celebration, so they purchased a steer from Peter Wapato, a Lake Chelan Indian, and the story goes they had to pay a fancy price! The meat was cut in ten and fifty pound roasts and roasted by the women for the celebration dinner. It would have done your soul good (to say nothing about your appetite) to have seen the tables spread with the luscious roasts of beef, fried chicken, pies and cakes, and other sweetmeats. The hungry denizens waded into it, but like the "miracle of old", after the feast there seemed to be more gathered up in the baskets than there had been in the first place!

DECORATION DAY, 1889

A goodly number of people took part in memorial services in Waterville last Thursday. The old "soldier boys" who twenty years ago walked proudly to the music of fife and drum to preserve this Union, continue to respond to the call of duty, though the battle of life is making rapid inroads on their ranks. The procession formed in front of Hilscher's store, and were conveyed to the public cemetery where Cap. Miles is buried and fairly "covered him beneath a weight of flowers." Mr. Hilscher made a patriotic address, when the comrades and their friends returned to Bradley hall to listen to the excellent memorial address delivered by D.C. DeGolia, Esq., after which Messrs. J.P. Moore, H. Hilscher and others responded to calls for short addresses. Altogether the exercises were interesting and served to brighten the fires in the hearts of the old boys and those who were born too late to stand shoulder to shoulder with them. The only unfortunate circumstance was the failure of the Sons of Veterans to participate, especially those who play the fife and drum.

Big Bend Empire - July 11, 1889

HARVEST DANCES

Dancing was definitely the social highlight of the week during the fall. Dances at Withrow, Farmer, Bourton's Barn, and Mansfield drew big crowds that enjoyed the music of the Wills family. Rixta Wills is still playing the piano in Wenatchee for those who love the music the pioneers danced to.

MEMORIAL DAY - MARCHING TO THE CEMETERY WITH FLOWERS



CHRISTMAS, 1887

O.D. Porter, uncle of Mrs. Dorris Nelson, wrote her of the first Waterville Christmas celebration. It took place in Bradley's hall, a good sized building erected for the town to grow up to. Around 300 people attended. A meeting to plan the event took place in a small building the Masons had erected (to hold a lot under the Government Townsite Act). This building was used as a school room and Mr. Porter was teacher in this first school in Waterville. He was chosen chairman of the Christmas Celebration.

There was no church; only a Methodist preacher, Brother Williams, who came from Portland. He was 75, but full of life and enthusiasm and preached whenever he could get a crowd together. He was a big help to Mr. Porter, who appointed Brother Williams as finance chairman.

The next day Brother Williams told Porter who his financial helpers were. "Brother Porter (he called everybody Brother), you may be surprised at my choice of one of my helpers. I chose Brother Fox as one. He can get money from a source you and I would not dare - all he gets will be diverted from a bad channel to a good cause." Now Brother Fox was George Fox, a professional gambler. Brother Williams was on the right

track. At the next meeting Mr. Fox brought \$105. Other members of the committee brought in \$200 so the treasury was well fixed for the celebration.

Such a gathering! Indians, saloon keepers, barkeepers, gamblers, cowboys, ranchers, stockmen and their families. The Indians came in as the program started and were content to sit on the floor up front. Two enormous fir trees were placed on each side, which was filled with candles and bright packages. Stockings were hung across the arch. The Indians gazed in awe; they would call attention to each other as dolls, jumping jacks and other bright articles appeared. No one had thought of the Indians when the gift buying was done so some of the citizens took their names off the stockings and put on the names of the Indians. In the toe of each sock was a surprise; an English walnut that had been split and a tiny black doll put in the place of the kernel and then glued together again. This made a lasting impression on some of the Indians as they kept their little treasure "A little baby dwells within."

Since many had traveled by cayuse from remote corners of the county, some of the crowd stayed until New Years, returning home with their precious gifts and memories of "an awfully good time."

EASTER

Following the development of the present Pioneer Park adjacent to the business street, a community Easter Egg Hunt was started by the Bachelorettes and continues on. Community sunrise services, a joint effort by local churches became a tradition, with the combined choirs presenting an Easter cantata. The Lions Club offered Easter breakfast following the service at their building on the Fairgrounds that was the social event of the weekend.

October 1939: HALLOWEEN PRANK

Those who reminisce about the tameness of Halloween pranks today as compared to the times when wagons were dismantled and reassembled on the roofs of neighboring barns will feel the possibility of a return to the "good 'ole days" in this story. Halloween pranksters at Waterville Saturday night led a cow belonging to Vern Copeland up two flights of stairs to the office of Superintendent J.A. Scarborough. There she remained until late Sunday morning when a teacher living across the street from the school was disturbed by the cow's bawling and opened the building to investigate. The pranksters were never apprehended.

FIRST EASTER EGG HUNT

The first Easter Egg Hunt in Waterville was held Sunday, April 13, 1941 in the park and in the charge of the Bachelorettes, was a successful affair and gave pleasure to about sixty children and a good crowd of adults looking on. Twenty children under six participated and the remaining children were up to twelve years of age.

Nine golden eggs were hidden in the park and the children finding them received a special prize. The first three bringing in the golden eggs were Clayton Leming and Nyle Barnes, who were given live rabbits, and Vincent Burke who was given a bowl of goldfish. The next six received Easter novelty baskets filled with candy. They were Alice Osborne, Harold Stinson, Murette Stubblefield, Billy Koenig, Helen Planetz, and Arnold Schacht. Twenty-two dozen eggs were colored and distributed.

*You know you are in a small town when . . .
Third Street is on the edge of town.
Every sport is played on dirt.
You are run off Main Street by a Combine.
The editor and publisher of the newspaper carries a camera at all times.*

Civic Growth

Just What Every Outsider Wants to Know About the Big Bend

BIG BEND EMPIRE, April 25, 1895

The surface of this country is not one unbroken, monotonous prairie. Along the eastern border it is comparatively level and almost entirely occupied by farms. Grand and Moses Coulee, about ten miles apart, are two gigantic fissures, running north to south many miles, opening out at last upon the flat lands in the south part of the county, at present used exclusively for range stock.

The western and northern part of the county is a high plateau with the wooded Badger mountain bisecting it from west to southwest. The land is rolling and in places rugged, but by far the greater portion of it is susceptible to cultivation.

The climate of Douglas County, the Big Bend proper, is all that could be desired. It is exceedingly healthy and epidemic diseases have never been known. The heat is

never excessive in summer, as the winds from the mountains, and all our winds come from the west, tempers the atmosphere. The nights are simply delightful.

In winter considerable snow falls and a few days are often severely cold. The snow is of the greatest advantage to the country, however, as it is nature's reservoir that fills the earth with the necessary moisture for the summer crop. Farmers depend largely upon this snow, as little rain falls during the summer months. During the past winter, snow laid on the ground from 2 to 3 feet deep for 3 or 4 months, but the thermometer only marked 8 degrees below zero once, and that for but a few hours. Colder days do occur, but they are the exception, not the rule. Take it all and it would be difficult, with regular changes of seasons, to find a more agreeable climate anywhere on earth.

Waterville Has:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| A railroad - to get | Two drug stores |
| A new creamery | Three physicians |
| A good city government | Four saloons |
| A United States land office | A cozy little jail |
| One national bank | A county courthouse |
| One flouring mill | Six lawyers |
| A high school | One policeman |
| Five churches | A fine city park |
| Two newspapers | Elegant residences |
| Six groceries and general stores | A brick block |
| Two hardware establishments | Three hotels |
| A fine clothing house | One bakery |
| One furniture store | A jewelry store |
| Three blacksmith shops | One paint shop |
| Two butcher shops | Two carpenter shops |
| One electric plant | Three livery stables |
| Complete waterworks | Two stage lines |
| An efficient fire department | Three mail routes |
| A chemical engine | One express office |
| Two hose carts | Telephone connections |
| A crack militia company | A wide awake community |
| An armory | Two millinery establishments |
| Some good marksmen | A solid foundation |
| A cornet band | The brightest of prospects |
| An athletic club | Magnificent view, and a bright future! |

WATERVILLE



A.B. DORSEY
1919-1920



J.D. BONAR
1910-1914



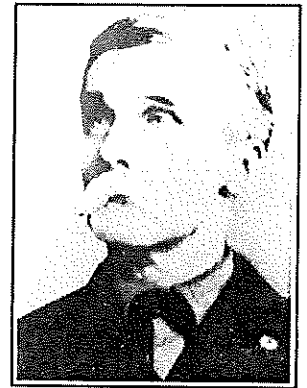
M.B. HOWE
1906-1908



R.W. STARR
1904-1906



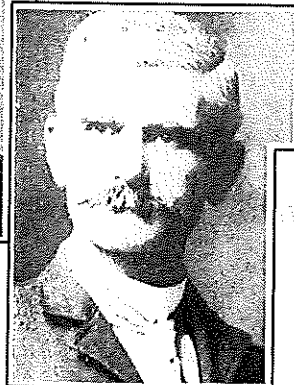
M.B. MALLOY
1903-1904



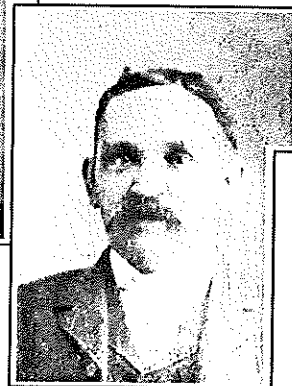
A.T. GREENE
1889-1890



F.R. CORBALEY
1902-1903



R.S. STEINER
1901-1902



C.A. GRANIS
1898-1900



E.K. PENDERGAST
1896-1898

MAYORS

Not Pictured

A.J. DAVIS - 1890-1892

L. RICARD - 1892-1893

P.E. BERRY - 1893-1896

I.M. HUNTER - 1908-1910

W.A. HENRY - 1914-1919



E.W. FAWLEY
1920-1921



C.S. VALENTINE
1921-1933



J.R. JONES
1933-1945

C.C. SMELTZER
1945-1952



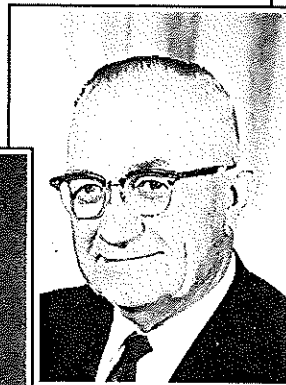
E.M. THOMAS
1952-1953



ED HOFFMAN
1988

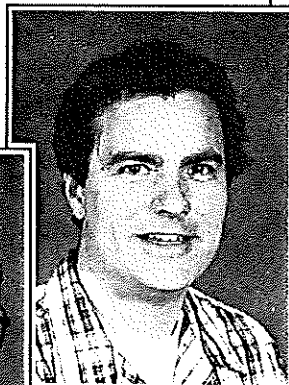
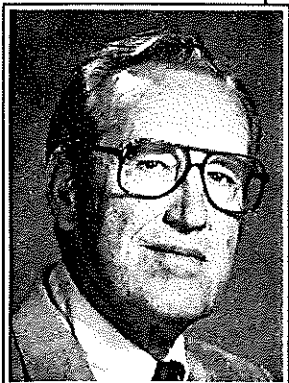


R.G. GOLLEHON
1953-1973



H. PETERSEN
1973-1975

F.G. BARNES
1980-1987



C.E. HAMMOND
1976-1979

Waterville City Clerks

Kirk Whited.....	March 7, 1889
D.C. DeGolia	July 22, 1889
S.L. Bohan	May 15, 1891
Charles C. King.....	January 12, 1893
J.J. Graves	July 3, 1893
John E. Hoppe.....	January 9, 1894
Charles E. Peach.....	January 10, 1895
F.A. Lockwood.....	April 1, 1895
W.S. Trimble.....	December 1, 1902
P.R. Stanway.....	February 1, 1904
T.J. East	April 10, 1905
O.R. Hopewell	*August 7, 1905
M.E. Lies	June 15, 1906
Arthur McGuire	June 3, 1907
J.E. Walker	January 14, 1908
O.R. Hopewell	*June 16, 1913
R.W. Waterhouse.....	April 20, 1914
R.C. Miller.....	November 7, 1921
John Thomas	January 15, 1940
C.C. Will	April 17, 1941
Mable Knowles.....	*January 1, 1955
Dorothy Hanes.....	August 5, 1957
Clarice Besel.....	June 2, 1958
Mable Knowles.....	*March 1, 1974

* served 2 different terms



Appointed Waterville City Superintendents

Charles Osborne

Clyde Smeltzer

Eric Koenig

Clarence "Kink" Smith

Carl Koenig

Myrtle McKay

Myrtle McKay, a native of Waterville, served 32 years as Treasurer of the Town of Waterville, having been elected in 1937. The part-time position was combined with that of librarian in 1940 so she was also librarian for 29 years. She retired in 1969.

Electric Light and Water System

The franchise of the Waterville Improvement Company for the purpose of putting in an electrical light plant and water system in Waterville was granted final approval in July 1891.

Brought by horse drawn wagons from Coulee City, it required twenty wagons, each drawn by four horses to bring all the necessary equipment.

Steam generated, the plant was located on the A.L. Rogers' homestead one mile south of Waterville. The boiler was fired with four-foot wood, brought from Badger Mountain by oxen.

On February 7, 1893, Waterville leased the water and lighting system and operated under that lease until November 24, 1896 when the Waterville Improvement Company offered to sell. The town of Waterville purchased the Electric Light and Water plant for the sum of \$5,000. This included the forty acres where the plant was located plus the Walters forty where the reservoir was located.

In 1905 the city contracted with Gray and Son for a fifteen year lease. From 1919 to 1923 the Wenatchee Valley Gas and Electric Co. provided power. Years between 1924-1949 Puget Sound Power and Light were the suppliers. 1949-1950 source was Chelan County Public Utility District. Since 1950 Douglas County Public Utility District has been the supplier.

STANDPIPE

That gleaming 40-foot steel tank on the south skyline still has a business-like appearance. Erected in about 1908, the facility hasn't been used since the early 1940's. The town has so far declined offers from junk metal dealers and people who think the tank would make a good grain bin. Waterville students sometimes make the trip to the top of the hill and scramble up the ladder with a can of spray paint to leave their year of graduation for all to see. To most observers it's just a lonely reminder of the past.

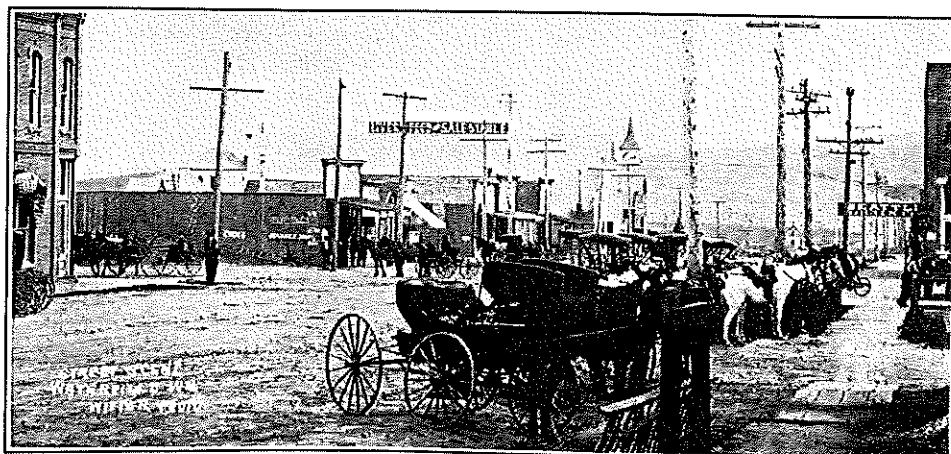
April, 1912: Water Question Settled

Negotiations have been going on for the past year or more between the city council and J.W. McGinnis in regard to securing certain springs on Badger Mountain for the purpose of furnishing water for the city. For a time a law suit looked to be the only way out, but better judgment prevailed and yesterday the parties to the transaction got together and agreed upon a settlement satisfactory to both parties. In compliance with this agreement, Mr. McGinnis, Councilman Kincaid and Attorney Arthur McGuire went to Wenatchee where they were to meet the attorneys for Mr. McGinnis and go before the judge and have the decree signed, thus closing up the negotiations which will give the city clear title to the desired water. The terms of the deal is to pay Mr. McGinnis \$7,500. This is certainly better than a long and distressing condemnation proceedings and the bitterness always engendered in litigation. Both Mr. McGinnis and the city are to be congratulated on the amicable settlement. It means that the city can go immediately to work and hope to have the work completed by next fall.

Oct. 1912: Badger Mt. Spring Connected

The connections were made with the standpipe Monday evening and the water was turned on from the spring on Badger Mt. The city pump ceased to operate and Waterville will now secure its water from the pure mountain springs under a gravity system. The springs have been fenced and put in shape so that nothing contaminating can come in contact with them.

The city council and Mayor Bonar, who have worked so faithfully for the past two years to achieve this, are deserving of the greatest of praise. Often they met with obstacles which seemed impossible to overcome. But through it all they labored without recompense other than that of "well done thou good and faithful servants." If the mayor and city council do not enter into the joys of the Lord, they can rest assured that the citizens of Waterville will give it to them if in their power.



WATERVILLE STREET SCENE

Fire Department

The first fire department was organized in the town of Waterville on May 5, 1889. The meeting was called by A.H. Murdock in the office of A.T. Greene. The fire department consisting of twenty-six members was established. A.H. Murdock was chosen as fire chief. Those elected to the department were A.E. Case, John Kelley, Ed. Kelley, A.T. Greene, R.A. Steiner, P.G. Maltbie, Sam Bohhan, Jim Kincaid, C.A. Carpenter, M.B. Howe, George Hollingshead, H.C. Thomas, Dr. Cooper, R.W. Stare, Dr. C.C. Gilchrist, A.L. Rogers, L.E. Kellogg, Jim Rader, Frank McKam, A.W. Terney, A.L. Maltbie, Jim Kelley, W.J. Stanley, Frank Schebel, and O.D. Porter.

The department went to work to secure fire equipment. Their first equipment consisted of an old wagon which was purchased for \$15; a twenty foot ladder, two twenty-five foot hooks, and twelve two and a half gallon buckets, made by Murdock for \$17.60.

As there was no water system, they built a fifty gallon cistern just west of the Waterville Hotel. This cistern was kept full at all times with a hand pump so that in case of fire, they would have an ample supply of water.

The first fire was the Fire Chief Murdock's house. The bucket brigade stopped the fire at once.

Later the next year, they bought rubber coats and hats and a ninety gallon chemical tank mounted on a two-wheeled cart; hand drawn by the boys who really

put out the fires then. They drew up bylaws. When a vacancy occurred on the department, an application was presented to the organization which was voted in, sometimes out. (That was pioneer days).

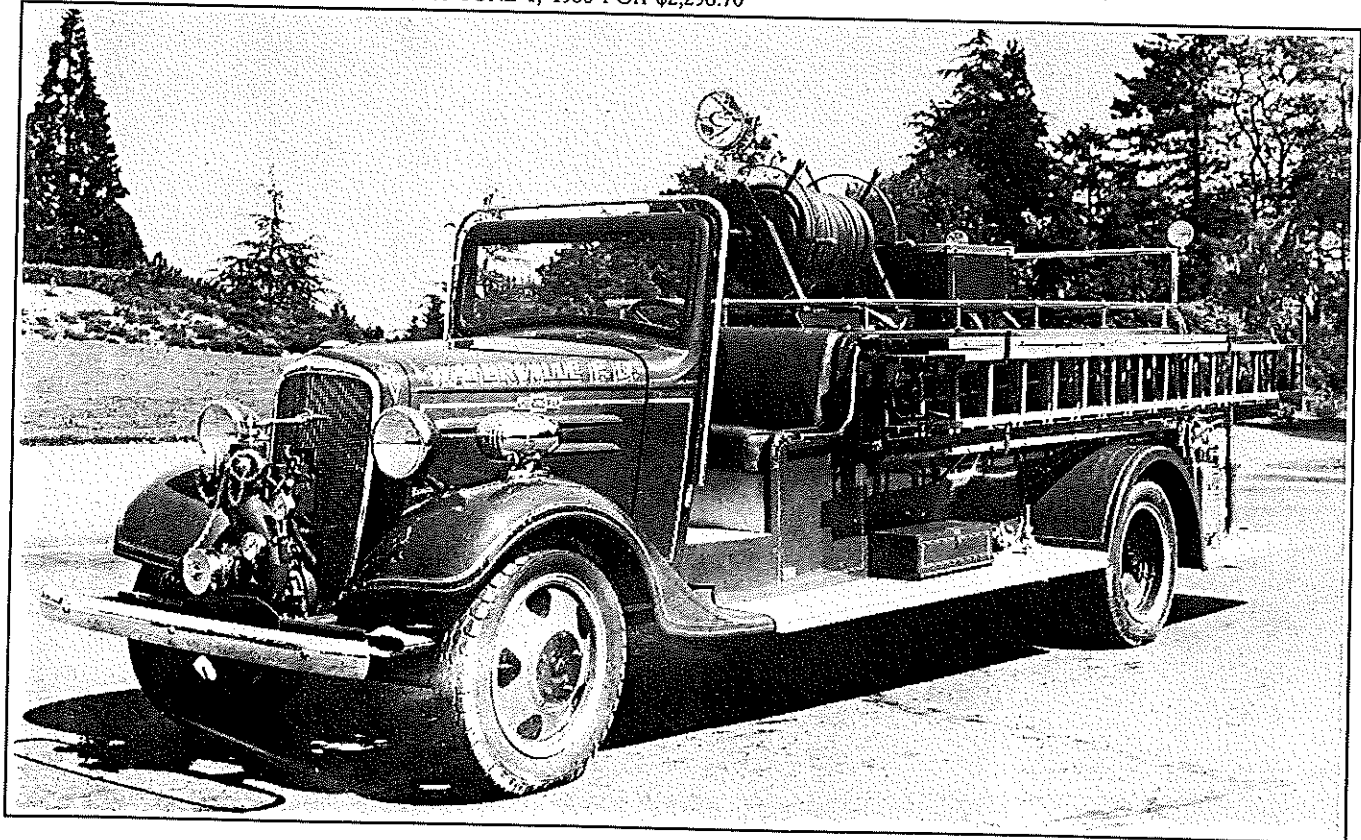
Today (1939) Waterville has an up-to-date fire department that consists of a new Chevrolet truck, with long wheel base that has a five hundred gallon pumper, a two hundred gallon booster tank and carries 1000 feet of 2½ inch hose, 400 feet of 1½ inch hose, 200 feet of 1 inch booster tank hose; two 2½ inch shutoff nozzles, two 1½ inch shut off nozzles, one 1 inch fog nozzle and one 2½ inch fog nozzle. It also has fire axes and bars, one 3 gallon soda acid extinguisher, two gas masks, first aid kits, rubber coats and hats.

The truck is equipped with three spot lights for work at night. The town has a five horsepower electric fire siren system that operates from both the telephone office and the fire station. They have in their charge an H.H. Inhalor which was purchased jointly by the county and town. They have a five man first aid team which will answer calls anywhere in the county.

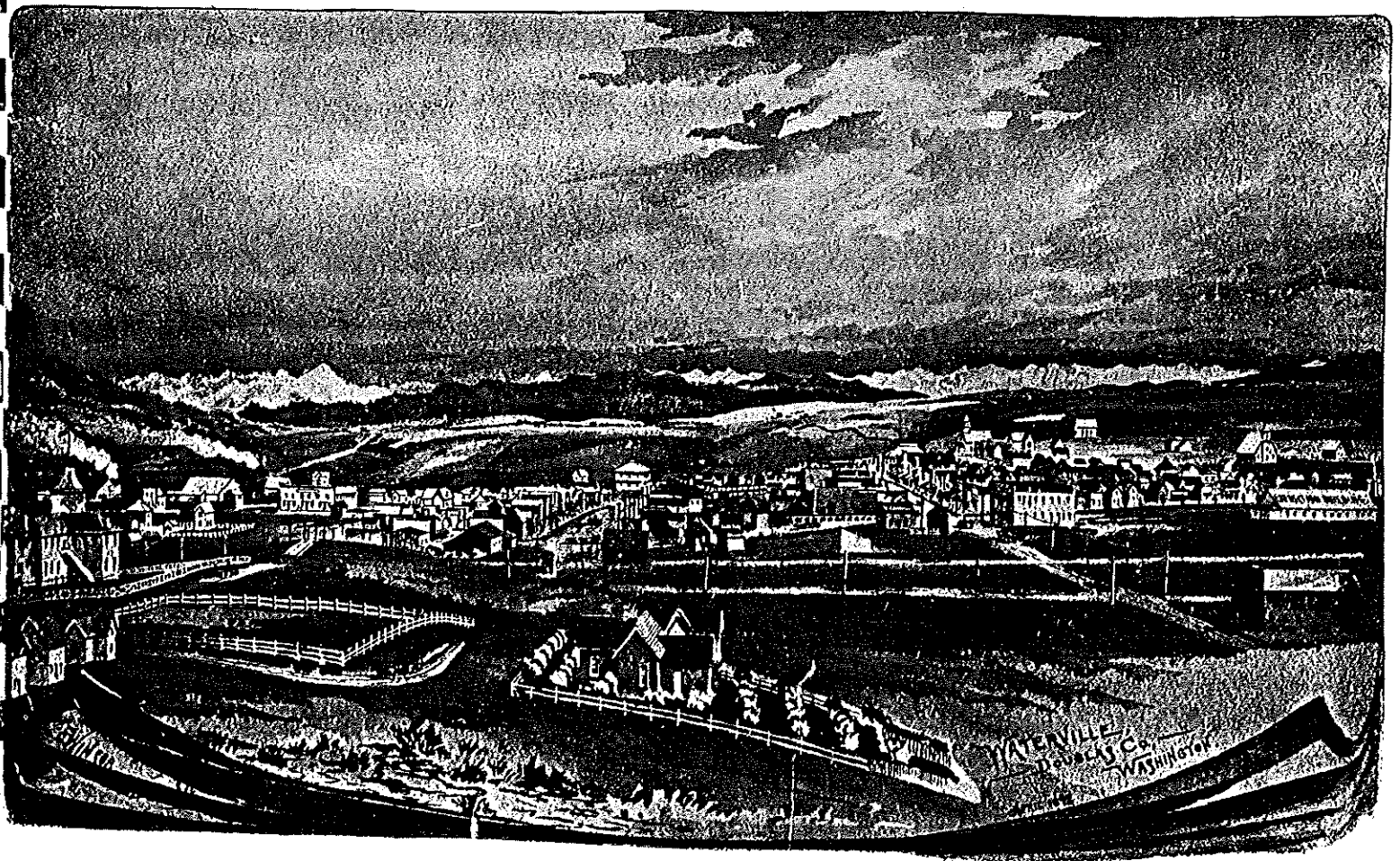
As they could afford it and the weather permitting, fire hydrants were added a few at a time, located conveniently over the townsite. There is a total now of 35 hydrants in Waterville. They have been painted according to the law.

Today's fire department operates under bylaws approved by the town council.

1936 CHEVROLET FIRE TRUCK BOUGHT JUNE 1, 1936 FOR \$2,296.70



Beginnings



DATELINE WATERVILLE, January 17, 1941:

In making his annual report as fire chief of Waterville, C.R. Osborne disclosed the fact that for the first time in forty years, there was no insurance loss by fire whatsoever in Waterville.

There were only four calls during the entire year; one false alarm, one rubbish fire, and two chimney fires. The two chimney fires were extinguished quickly and there was no property loss.

To keep alert and in practice, the department answered practice alarms as required by law and held regular meetings at the fire department. The Waterville Fire Department is proud of its 1940 record.

There are many duties for a fireman besides fighting fires and rescuing people from burning buildings, as A.H. Murdock, one of the oldest fire chiefs in the state found out when he was called upon by his grand

daughter, Martha Emma Snyder, to save her kitty which had fallen into a 25 foot well.

This situation called for careful planning, but Murdock was not one to give up. Making a 12-inch hole, he was able to see by flashlight the kitten floating around on a small piece of wood. Too small for a ladder through this small hole, his ingenuity came to his aid. With some small boards, he made a three-sided elevator to which he fastened some sack twine and with a piece of meat nailed to the floor board of the elevator, he lowered the hoist into the well. Always hungry as kittens are, it climbed aboard to eat and was carefully raised to the outside world and safely into the arms of its little mistress.

Al Murdock is proud of himself and his ability to still serve as a fireman when the need arises to act quickly.

1936 Waterville Volunteer Fire Department

Back Row: Forrest Harmon, Clyde Smeltzer, Gale Beard, Ban Spillman,
Dave Dorsey, Joe Wilson, Earl Jordan, Cal McClure, Jack Houston
Front Row: Walt Spiecker, Wally Gibbons, Ted Besel, Chas. Osborne - Chief,
Lyonel (Tramp) Knemeyer, Chas. Garrett, Keith Slack, Harry Wilson, Claude Will



Swimming Pool

Appearing in the December 20, 1926 City Council minutes was the following item: Mayor C.S. Valentine discussed the matter of purchasing a site for the proposed swimming pool.

March 21, 1927 minutes related that Park Board Chairman, Paris Wainscott appeared before the council and presented estimates and plans for the proposed pool.

Mr. Wainscott returned to the April 4th council meeting with a proposal for financing. Councilman E.B. Porter made a motion that the town of Waterville match between \$2,000 and \$2,500 in funds with the community for construction costs. Donations to be subscribed by December 15, 1927. Records show the subscription period was extended to February 15, 1928 and they totaled \$2,535.02.

The pool was built on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Rogers. Dedication Day was July 4, 1928. There was a huge picnic in what was called the "tourist park," ball-game and dance in the evening.

Mrs. Sumner Mitchell, President of the Civic Club (which was organized for the express purpose of raising the swimming pool funds) had charge of the

program. The club had raised money with bazaars, dances, card parties, and bake sales.

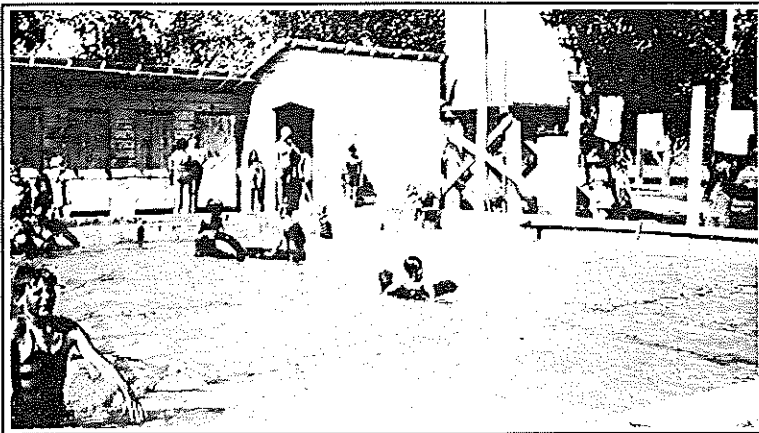
Messrs. Paris Wainscott, Dr. J.H. Winstanley and C.R. Berg had a well dug 12 feet square and 24 feet deep. They found a good flow of water and with the additional flow from the Waterville Market and the Ice Plant refrigeration there was an ample water supply. Gus Burgeson was the builder.

An unused tank belonging to the city with a 6,000 gallon capacity was repaired, painted and erected by the pool. A pump was brought in from the fairgrounds to be used for drawing water into the tank and into the bathhouse on the northside. There was no heating device until after the new bathhouse was built on the south side in 1959 constructed with Lion Club labor as well as other volunteers.

In 1958 the community of Mansfield began bringing their children for Red Cross swimming instruction.

Improvements to the pool prior to this time included concrete walks, bathhouse and filtration equipment in 1947.

A new fence was installed in 1957 and charges for pool use were again collected. In 1965 new decking and



◀ A HOT SUMMER DAY

▼ DEDICATION DAY - JULY 4, 1928



a heater were installed.

June 19, 1977 was Dedication Day for the present pool. \$85,000 of the \$300,000 cost was raised by Town of Waterville General Obligation and Councilmatic bonds and a grant from the Interagency for Outdoor Recreation provided the balance. Today's swimming pool complex provides a skating rink for winter use. There has been extensive landscaping and development of the park which adds to the enjoyment of the area.

In 1932 there were 15,000 swimming pools in the United States. Waterville was a very progressive town to be included in that number. In 1934, Waterville had 7 certified Junior Life Savers and one examiner. Jack Sutor had served as first lifeguard and manager when the pool opened in 1928. George Hopewell and Bill Dahlke shared the duty in 1929 and Charlotte Mitchell, the first Red Cross certified lifeguard, took over in 1930.

Charlotte served as pool manager as well as lifeguard, and she remembers the continuous cycle of filling, draining and cleaning. It would take three or four days after it was filled to become warm enough to enjoy, then in another six or seven days it would be dirty. It would be cold water, then warm water, then green water, but she didn't remember anyone getting rashes.

Many could not afford the \$5.00 fee for a season swim ticket so Charlotte proposed to the Council that

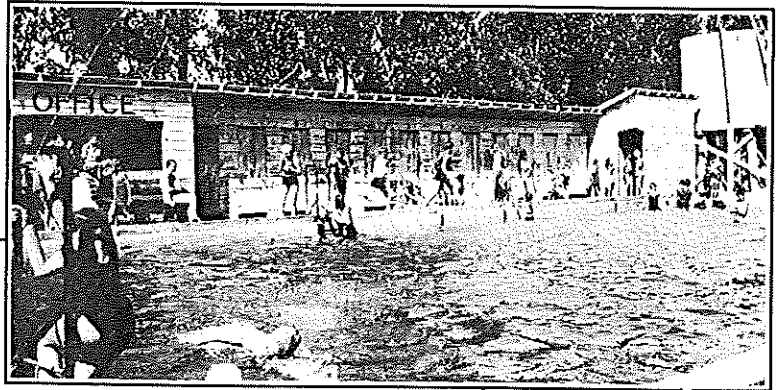
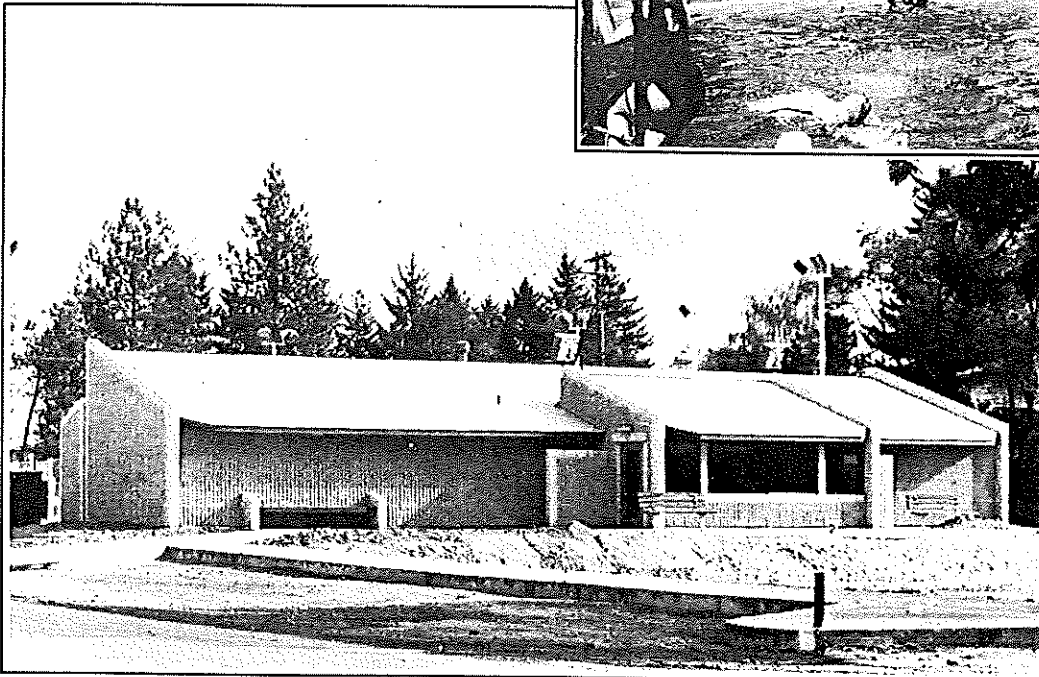
she would work for a dollar a day if the kids could swim free. Her proposal was accepted and Charlotte began teaching many Waterville youth swimming skills. Charlotte had learned to swim in Lake Chelan and the Columbia River and had taught swimming to freshman girls at the University of Washington.

Before the pool was built, some of the boys would skinny dip in Corbaley's pond, now the sewer lagoon. On Thursdays the girls got to swim and the boys had to wear suits.

The three women who started convincing the town that a swimming pool was needed were Charlotte's mother, Alberta Mitchell, Louana Berg, and Miriam Ellis. They soon had the town involved.

Paris Wainscott, always supportive of community endeavors, helped with the excavation of the first swimming pool. He brought his two mules in with a Fresno Plow to dig the excavation of the pool in 1928. The new modern pool is still in the same location.

▼ NEW BATHHOUSE BUILT IN 1959



Parks

Many festivities used to center around the little bandstand that stood in a park south of the Waterville train depot for many years. Old timers remember the twice a week band concerts in 1912. Some say the bandstand was built at the time the railroad came to town in 1910, and the engineer was the instigator. In later years the stand was moved near the swimming pool, then to the fairgrounds, then the gun club grounds. The sides were enclosed and it was used for meetings, card games and turkey shoot events.

During Mayor Henry's term, A.L. Rogers was appointed park commission chairman. Many trees were planted.

Mr. Rogers donated 19 city lots, the north half of blocks 17 and 26 to the city for park purposes. It was given with the provision that it remain a park and not be converted to any private use.

In the spring of 1935 Mayor John R. Jones conceived the idea of converting some vacant lots in the center of town into a city park. This met with the approval of many of the citizens of the town. Trees, plants and shrubs were donated. The women of the town worked diligently to make "Pioneer Park" a place of beauty. Dedication day was held with the usual full ceremonial proceedings.

Etta Schlenz had drawn the original plans for Pioneer Park. In the early years Mr. Lovejoy, the caretaker, started seeds in hot caps so there would be early flowers. His \$50.00 monthly salary stretched the budget and there were no funds for bedding plants.

Charlotte Mitchell and Bob Hensel, children of park

supporters Alberta Mitchell and Ruby Hensel were paid 50 cents per day in the "war on weeds" in the new park.

Shrubs in the sunken garden were donated by a women's military unit in World War I. They were Boxwood from Washington D.C. Several Weeping Birch were donated by E.M. Thomas to commemorate the war veterans.

The fireplace was built by D.L. Webster of East Wenatchee from rocks gathered from around the area. George Hill built the gazebo that has an electrical outlet and covered table for serving refreshments.

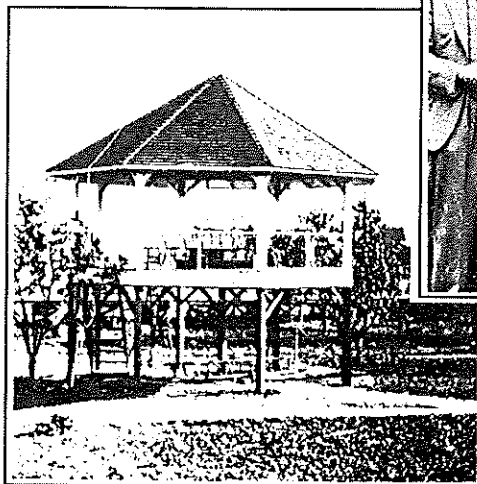
Doris Wilson was a park volunteer from 1948-1977. In honor of her many years of service, on May 20, 1979, 16 twenty-foot scarlet oak trees were planted, replacing diseased Idaho Black Locusts recently taken out, in living dedication to her caring commitment.

The monument in the west end of Pioneer Park was designed by Clarence Mitchell. It was intended that a sculpture of a pioneer woman would be placed atop the monument. A small scale replica was commissioned and set in Mayor Gollehon's office for several years. Cost and some dissatisfaction with the design led to the sculpture model being returned to the artist and the project abandoned.

For many years the Garden Club would plant flowers in the spring and Camp Fire clubs would plant trees on Arbor Day.

1989 brought another park change, when Horse Shoe pits were installed at the west end.

WATERVILLE BANDSTAND



DEDICATION OF PIONEER PARK, SEPTEMBER 23, 1939

Left to Right: City Mayor, John F. Jones, Park Board Members: Mrs. A.J. Hensel, Mrs. A.R. Dickson (Nell), Mrs. Sumner Mitchell. Governor: Clarence D. Martin, Park Board Members: Mrs. W.F. Schluenz. Mrs. E.M. Thomas, Mrs. W.P. Brown and Father Juda.

Badger Mountain Ski Club

The Badger Mountain Ski Club has been an outstanding example of community cooperation through the years since its inception in 1939. Born of an idea formulated in the "47" Club, the organization was formed in the fall of 1939. Bus Schmit acted as chairman until the officers were elected. First officers were President Willis Jones, Vice President Eric Sanstrom, Secretary Kay Sanstrom, Treasurer Freda McKay, and Trustees Oliver Nelson, Albert Mitchell and Warner Friel. The site was chosen after Eric Sanstrom, Wally Gibbons, Albert Mitchell and Oliver Nelson skied the northern slopes of Badger Mountain. Enthusiasm ran high. The club bought the ski lift from the 47 club for \$50 and 400 feet of rope from Waterville Union Grain for \$20 to start with one rope tow lift. The first ski lodge was a cabin built in 1888 by Al Pierpoint and occupied by A.L. Rogers, well known pioneer of Douglas County, who lived there with his family until 1909. Henry Kummer donated the cabin to the club. It was moved a distance of 3 1/2 miles to the hill and pulled in place with the Planetz & Viebrock tractors. Charles Osborne tapped the city water main right by the cabin.

C.C.C. boys cleared the brush. Doors and windows, a porch, and a cook stove were added, and the kitchen, operated for several years by Ida Pearl Mitchell and Lucille Gibbons, was a welcome treat.

It has been down through the years a club of volunteer help. All work was done by members, who took turns in operating the hill, taking tickets, shoveling snow, cutting and hauling wood. The first ski instructions were taught by Eric Sanstrom, and through the years the Ski Schools have taught hundreds to ski. Some years the enrollment was as high as 450 in the classes. So growth necessitated a new lodge. Again, with community volunteer labor, a fine new building was erected in October of 1961, for approximately \$8,000 including labor. The mortgage was burned on March 31, 1962. It became a center for the snowmobilers too - the Lions Club hamburgers gave them an excuse to come by the Lodge to visit and rest. Nearby ski areas and lighter snowfalls have curtailed attendance, but the Club is still active, weather permitting, and still operates on a volunteer community basis. It is an important chapter in Waterville's history.



▲ BADGER MOUNTAIN SKI LODGE

EARLY SKIERS ►



They Died Young in the Big Bend

by Charles Kerr

A look into the turn-of-the-century death records for Douglas County is enough to temper anyone's nostalgia for the good 'ole days.

People died young, miserable and in dozens of ways now prevented by antibiotics, according to certifications filed in the office of the County Auditor for the decades from 1891 to 1911.

The records include the name, age, sex, birthplace of the victim, the cause of death, the name of the person who reported it, and the names and birthplaces of the parents.

Causes were not always attested by a physician, and even when they were, were not always clearly identified.

Various reporters had different names for the same illness - names in many cases no longer used.

Thus, there was not a single entry of "appendicitis" although it's certain there must have been some. Probably some of the five cases described as "inflammation of the bowels" would now be diagnosed as appendix trouble. One such case was listed as "inflammation" of the bowels.

Three things strike with special force the person who browses through the old records: The extreme youth of most of the victims, the number of violent, accidental or intentional deaths, and the small number of extremely aged. Only about 20 were listed as being from 70-94 in age. It's likely that the immigrant families who homesteaded the county included few really old people, however.

At the other end of the life span the mortality was terrible. Out of about 275 deaths in the register 50 were children of one year or younger - seven at birth. Forty-six died before the age of 10. Twenty died in their teens, 19 in their 20's, 15 in the 30's, 16 in the 40's, 11 in the 50's, and the rest at 60 or older. Only eight were listed as taken by old age. In only nine was no cause assigned.

The toll of infants was ascribed to a wide variety of causes but most of them were either respiratory or digestive tract troubles.

In the respiratory class were bronchitis 7, croup 6, diphtheria 11, whooping cough 2, tonsillitis 2.

Fatal digestive troubles of babies included the intestinal conditions called cholera morbus and cholera infantum (we'd probably say food poisoning for the latter) 5, diarrhea 6, dysentery 4, indigestion 1, summer complaint 2.

Also helping to fill the pioneer graveyards with those pathetic headstones were scarlet fever 7, scarletina 1, erysipelas (a strep infection) 3, and measles 9.

Polio is nowhere mentioned, but one wonders if it wasn't the real illness in the seven deaths attributed to brain fever, the eight for paralysis and the 11 for meningitis, which largely took their toll from young

children.

Causes of from one to three deaths each were listed as anemia, apoplexy, asthma, bullet, 'cirrhosis of the hair' congenital malformation, diabetes, Dypheora, enteritis, epilepsy, intussusception (a telescoping of the bowel), liver and spleen trouble, malaria, multiple sclerosis, murder, phlebitis, remittant fever, rheumatism, spine disease.

Among the violent deaths traffic accidents ranked high. Traffic accidents? Before there were motor vehicles?

Yes. In May of 1891 there's an entry that a four-year old boy was fatally injured when run over by a wagon. Within the next ten years appeared reports that a lad of 14 died in a similar accident, a housewife of 17 was killed in a wagon upset, and a Great Northern section boss was killed by a train at Rock Island. In 1896 a man of 60 was killed "12 miles northeast of Waterville" when he was kicked in the chest by a horse.

This latter might be more properly considered a farm accident, of which there were many. A boy of 6, standing near a splitting operation, bled to death after being hit in the head by a flying wedge. In 1906 a man of 42, digging a well on his farm near St. Andrews was killed when a charge of dynamite exploded prematurely. A 60 year-old Badger Mountain widower was killed by a bull in 1898.

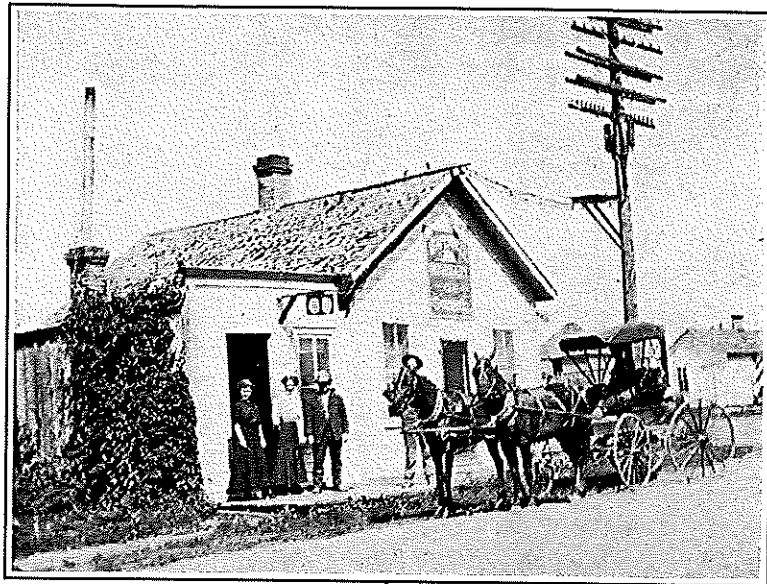
There were several deaths from exposure, on February 6, 1893, Frank Pierpont was listed as having frozen to death seven miles west of Coulee City. The same month another man 60, was described as dying from exposure and lack of food. One wonders what the story was behind the double fatality at Bridgeport in December 1897. A carpenter, 52, and another man 27, were listed curtly as "froze."

They had what is now called crib death, too. One entry on the death of a small baby said simply "found dead in bed." Another case was termed due to "inanition."

Among adults the main killer was pneumonia—25 cases. The term tuberculosis does not appear, but consumption and phthisis apparently were the names then in use for this condition which took 28 persons. There's only one misspelled entry for the illness that during World War I swept the world killing millions. This one death was reported from "legrip."

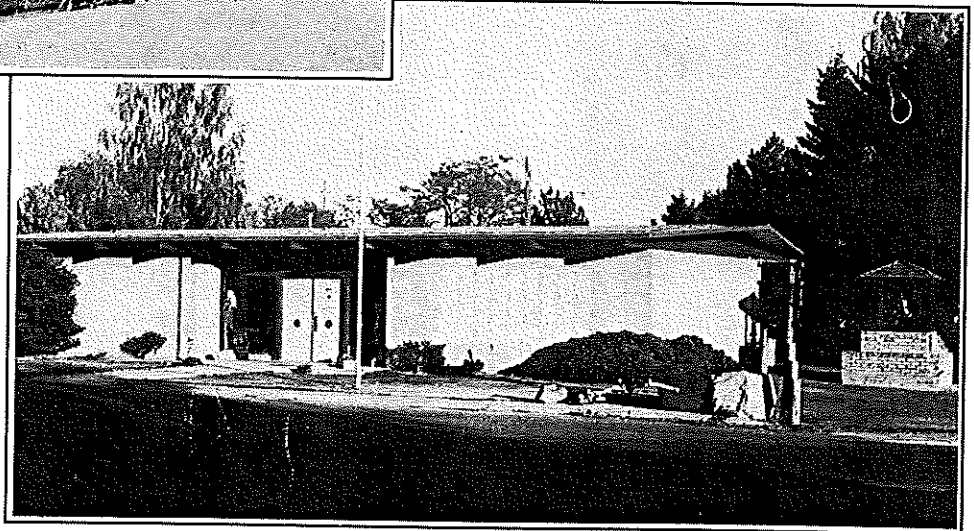
The record lists one suicide by hanging, one in which the victim slashed his wrists and two by poison. A 28-year old Farmer housekeeper died of "Morphine or some narcotic poison." A 38-year-old Waterville area housewife took strychnine. Strychnine killed a one-year-old girl and "fly poison" a boy age 1.

A bit surprisingly, only three deaths were ascribed to childbirth.



◀ WATERVILLE INFIRMIRY

▼ WATERVILLE MUSEUM



NIFTY THEATER

July 1912: To 'Nifty' Patrons:

On next Saturday, July 13, when Messrs. Underwood and Wainscott take over the 'Nifty', while I may have a cheerful face and merry word, it will be with the feeling that I am leaving the best place in the Northwest. Other places may have bigger buildings and more people, but they can't beat Waterville when it comes to good treatment and friendship. I know that I am leaving the 'Nifty' theater in better hands than mine. The boys will give you the same good shows and the same courteous treatment. There will always be a mighty warm spot in my heart for Waterville and I assure you that I will always be a booster for you.

So long, and don't forget 'Merry' Merriman.

GARAGE

November 1913: T.B. Jones; new garage is completed and ready for occupancy. It is provided with a large office and big display windows. A large supply room adjoins this. The space for autos has a cement floor and is as near fireproof as possible. T.B. has taken the agency for the Buick car.

MUSEUM

DATELINE: Feb. 4, 1959

A historical museum featuring a sizable display of rock formations of the area and belongings of pioneers is planned as a visitor's attraction.

It was labeled "a great potential for bringing in tourists" by George Prescott, director of the state Tourist Division in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, as he conferred with Waterville Commercial Club leaders in regards to state help in publicizing the proposed museum.

Prescott told the group that in order of importance, tourists were most attracted by: 1. industries, 2. scenery, and 3. historical markers or points of interest.

Club President Keith Marney told Prescott that plans called for erection of a building in the city park area. Prescott said this was an ideal spot for it allowed children to play on the grass while their parents viewed the historical pieces.

William Schluenz, retired hardware and real estate man, said he'd offered his rock collection (of about 4,000 pieces) to the museum. Other pioneers have also offered early-day pieces.

LIBRARY

At a largely attended meeting in the waiting room at the depot, the ladies organized a library association with some forty odd members signing up and paying a year's dues.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. A.B. Dorsey and after discussion it was decided to organize by electing a board of five directors who would have charge of the matter. Their duty, to promulgate a set of by-laws, fix the price for books per week, etc.

A ballot was taken with the results that Mesdames Stevens, Dorsey, Hendricks, Wiley and Birdie Brenne-sholtz were elected directors. The vote was taken by ballot and to the few mere men who were present it was interesting. As this is to be a ladies movement, mere men have nothing to do but pay over the membership fee. The few men who were present voted the names without the prefix "Mrs." but the ladies all used it so that one was able to detect the men's ballot.

They have secured the Masonic building next to the Pacific States Telephone office and a meeting has been called there for Saturday, December 7, at which time the by-laws will be adopted.

Thus the library has been started on its way to usefulness and future generations will rise up and call these ladies blessed who started it on the road to its success.

Waterville Bakery

March, 1912: Mrs. Fitzgerald sells bakery business.

Some 11 years ago Mrs. M. Fitzgerald opened up a produce and bakery business on Walnut Street opposite the south end of Park avenue. At the end of three years she added a stock of dry goods and although continually adding to it, she continued to conduct the bakery business. But finding she must give it up, she looked about and was fortunate in securing a good man who wanted to enter the business and sold it to Mr. Geo. Yeager, who has bought the Geo. Hollings-head building and will put it in shape to conduct business. He is said to be a first class baker and should do well here.

Remember . . .

Remember when Governor Clarence D. Martin came to Waterville at fair time about 1937. He was dressed in his engineer's clothes and took the throttle and drove the train from Waterville to Douglas and back, with a group of Waterville citizens and friends riding as passengers. One of his biggest problems was the trouble he had getting the train started back up the grade from Douglas because some pranksters had greased the tracks.

LAUNDRY

June, 1912: THE WATERVILLE LAUNDRY

Two years ago W.J. Harrington started the Waterville Laundry. The City was much in need of such an institution.

Starting it with but little experience himself was no small undertaking, but Mr. Harrington had the right idea. He procured the best of machinery and a first-class man to operate it. But he found that to make it a success he must get down to business and learn all the details himself. He now employs six helpers besides running a wagon to collect and deliver and it is kept busy. Besides the city work he sends out baskets to Palisades, Douglas, Withrow, Mansfield and enjoys a good trade at each place. Mr. Harrington is now contemplating the addition of another washer. He is to be commended for his energy in pushing the business to a success and is entitled to the trade and patronage of the community.

Oct. 1913: LAUNDRY MANAGEMENT

L.H. Quinn and Sarah Fachnie have formed a partnership and leased the Waterville laundry and will conduct it. Both have been with the business more or less and understand it well.

Nov. 1913: Charley Hamilton has bought out the laundry of Mr. Harrington and took possession the first of the week. Charley is an old laundry man with several years' experience. He has overhauled and repaired the plant.

Jan. 1914: Chas. Hamilton who has been successfully conducting the laundry for some time, took in a partner last week in the person of E.B. Pratt of Seattle who is an experienced laundryman and will have charge of the business. The firm name will be Hamilton and Pratt.

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

May 1914: NEW STUDIO OPENS

After many wanderings, Mr. Lockwood has returned, built a bungalow studio and is now ready to open his doors to the public. He is a graduate of the Illinois School of Photographs and Photo Engraving and his knowledge of the wet plate process makes him one of the best in lantern slides, copying, enlarging and photos for reproduction in half-tone work.

He has a complete outfit, the best money could buy, his lens alone costing him \$129. With this lens he is able to handle babies without the usual fuss and worry. He has 140 square feet of glass, flooding the room with light. His camera stand is one that he can lower to the floor for babies or raise for higher objects. He is also equipped for handling view work. He expects to be a help to amateurs, doing their work reasonably and ready for delivery in 24 hours.

Men Who Served in The Wars

Going back 100 years to April, 1889, men and women of Douglas County have gone to war - first in the Spanish-American War 1895-90, World War I and World War II, the Korean War and the Viet Nam War.

In Uncle Sam's new army in World War I, the State of Washington was to furnish 7296 men - Douglas County 127. A few names included in this first draft call: John Willard Brett, Raymond Walker Dorsey, Edwin Leonard Johnson, W.P. Brown, Norris Sykes and John Wesley Zones.

On the second Draft call, 41 passed their physicals and had not filed claims of exemption. A few of the names called were: Paul Guske, Alfred Pedersen, Oliver H. Dezellem, and J. Finley Webb. Others were rejected for physical disability, and still others filed exemption claims on account of dependents.

In World War II out of 7000 inducted from the four county area of Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan, nearly 300 gave their "last full measure of devotion" on some one of the far flung fronts: European theatre, the Philippines, the Pacific Islands. We can follow their paths around the world. Thirty-three men largely from the air force were killed in accidents in the U.S.

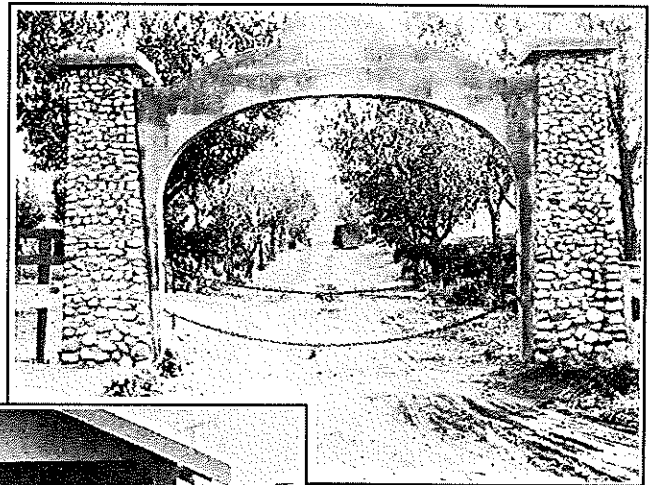
Selective service under the Chairmanship of Hilda Gormley handled the draft procedure in Douglas County.

North Central Washington's stake in the peace is a large one. The price paid by this area for the victory that cost 270,000 American men killed was more than double that of the nation as a whole. According to the latest information, one North Central Washington man was killed for every 274 in total population of four counties. Nationally the figure is one for every 602.

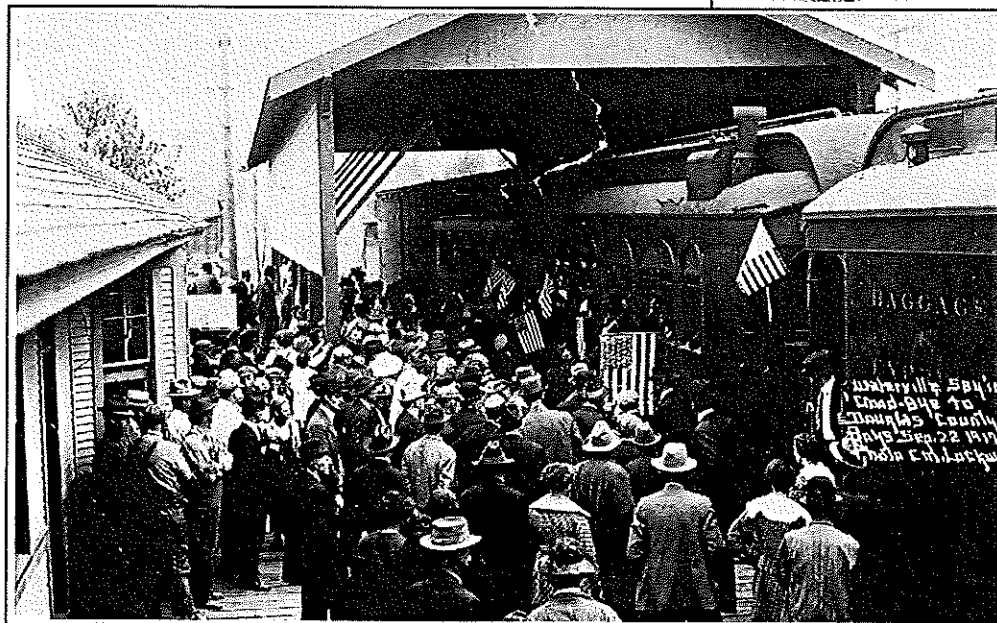
Every Memorial Day the American Legion puts out flags on every Veteran's grave. These graves in the local cemeteries are for 20 Civil War, one A.J. Davis a Confederate; 5 Spanish-American, 42 World War I, 36 World War II, 1 from the Korean War, and 1 from Viet Nam. There were 30 not identified as to which war. Most are buried in the different sections of the Waterville Cemetery, 10 in Mausoleum, 3 in old Waterville Cemetery, 3 in Catholic cemetery, 6 in Douglas, 4 in Farmer, 4 in Fletcher, and 1 in Robins Cemetery.

Our Waterville Museum has a very interesting newspaper article (Wenatchee Daily World) dated May 29, 1946 with many veterans pictures and information.

MEMORIAL ARCH ►
DEDICATED TO OUR WAR VETERANS



WATERVILLE SAYS GOODBYE TO DOUGLAS COUNTY BOYS
▼ SEPTEMBER 22, 1917



May 1911: SOLDIERS FORM OUTPOST

A number of the old soldiers met in the office of the Columbia Grain Co. and organized an outpost. J.F. Badger was elected commander and W.A. Henry, adjutant. At the present time there are 11 members. The soldiers will join the Ladies Cemetery Association in making arrangements for the observance of Memorial Day.

June 1911: OLD SOLDIERS

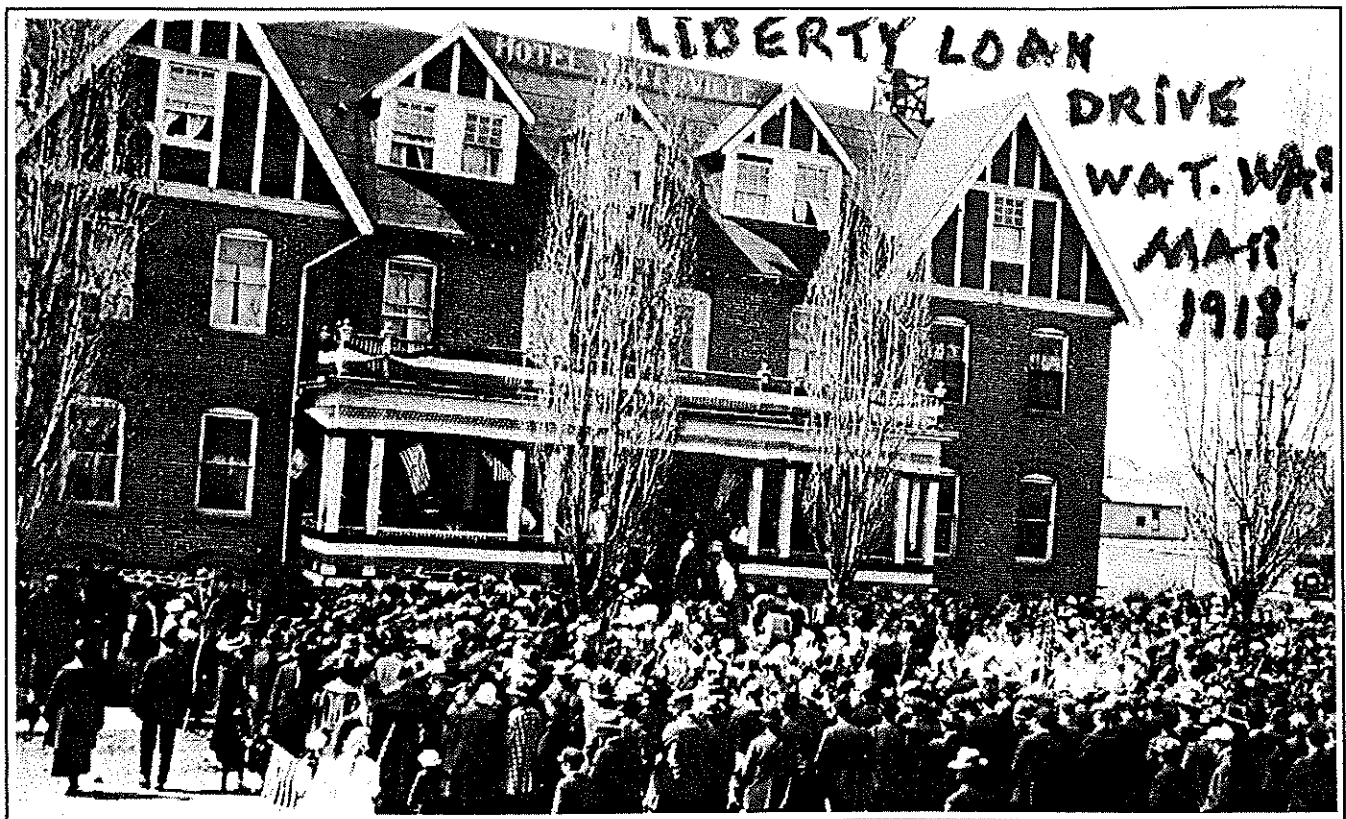
A list of the old soldier heroes laid to rest in cemeteries here, together with the name of the company in which they served follows: Sylvester Brennessholtz, Co. E, 12th Indiana Infantry; R.C. Pitcher, Co. I, 9th Michigan Infantry; J.D. Maltbie, Co. A, 27th Iowa Infantry; T.H. McCormick, company unknown; Samuel Canterbury, Co. C, 86th Illinois Infantry; Edwin Powers, Co. G, 11th New York Cavalry; Smith Hardin, Confederate John Sheehan, Co. A, 1st New Jersey; H.A. Miles, Cap. Co. C, 14th Iowa Infantry; Thos. Ogle, company unknown.

The old soldiers still living in the vicinity are: J.F. Badger, W.A. Henry, J.R. Lambert, Isaiah Brown, H.W. Rathbun, S.C. Ricedorf, M. Eckert, W.H.H. Walker, C.A. Talcott, J.J. Garrett, Col. A.F. Leach.

June 1913: GOES TO GETTYSBURG

Lewellyn Woodin of Withrow is the only Gettysburg veteran in Douglas County who went Wednesday of this past week on the special train provided by the state which passed through Wenatchee yesterday. The Gettysburg veterans of the state are to be taken to the reunion at Gettysburg which takes place on the 50th anniversary of that memorable and decisive battle of the war of the rebellion.

Mr. Woodin was born in Warren County, Pennsylvania, and enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment in June, 1862, and was mustered out in 1865. At the battle of Gettysburg he was with Hancock's corps and was wounded. He saw service with the army of the Potomac and was at Spotsylvania where he was also wounded.



Liberty Loan Drive

Douglas County people turned out en masse as this picture would indicate for the third Liberty Bond Drive in the spring of 1918. They gathered in front of the Hotel Waterville (which still stands today). During the drive, the Naval Training Station Band of Seattle

toured the area in an effort to help North Central Washington raise its bond quota of \$842,000. Douglas County's share was \$213,000; Chelan County, \$327,000; Grant County, \$118,000, and Okanogan County, \$184,000.

Organizations

Masons

Badger Mountain Lodge #57 was one of the last Masonic Lodges chartered while Washington was still a territory. The Masons living in 1888 and 1889 had come from many of the eastern and central states. These Masons, J.W. Stephens, C.E. Rogers, R.P. Webb, Oscar Redfield, F.W. Powell, J.D. Maltbie, J.F. Holbrook, I.M. Derifield, C.M. Bolton, C.M. Stephens, W.W. Mitchell, James Walters, C.P. Peach, Thomas Q. Butler, Sam C. Robins, and C.W. Hensel had been properly vouched for and recommended as Masons in good standing were desirous of establishing a lodge in Waterville.

About the time the Masons began here, the town of Waterville was designated a governmental townsite and each settler was allowed to choose a home or business site. The Brethren chose a corner lot to use for a building site. Another settler, Colonel Cornehl, thought the Masons had no right to the site and "jumped" the Lodge's claim and erected a small building. After a heated argument between the jumper and W.W. Mitchell, during which the other Brethren moved the building, the Masons reclaimed their lot. The Masons never did build on the lot, but for many years, three buildings there housed the first telephone office in Waterville, a library, and a business office. After these businesses moved to other sites, the Masons released the lot to the city. (This lot was just west of what is now Cort's Auto Repair.)

The Masons' first petitioner was Norman Stanley Titchenal, after whom Titchenal Canyon was named.

The Masons rented the IOOF Hall for its meetings for \$132 per year, including fuel and electric lights. Hard times hit in 1894 and grain at the market price was taken in payment for the \$4.00 dues.

In April, 1902, the Masons joined with the IOOF in the establishment and operation of the Fraternal Cemetery.

In 1906 the Masons purchased the present building for \$6,000. The building was erected in 1892, and had been used as a bank and for business offices.

Masons J.W. Stephens, County Commissioner, and Sheriff Sam Robins moved the Douglas County records from Okanogan to Waterville on May 23, 1887. Mason Dr. J.M.F. Cooper organized the first Union High School District in 1900.

The Masonic Hall, after it had been remodeled, was the community meeting place and many banquets and gatherings were held there.

On May 10, 1906 the Masons laid the cornerstone for the Douglas County Courthouse.

Waterville Lodge of Oddfellows

On November 8, 1888, F.M. Scheble, W.W. Mitchell, R.G. McKay, W.H. Anderson, and E.T. Church, a small group of Oddfellows, met to consider the possibility of organizing a lodge in Waterville. A charter was granted and on January 2, 1889 Waterville Lodge No. 57 was instituted.

The first officers were as follows: F.M. Scheble, Noble Grand; W.W. Mitchell, Vice Grand; A.T. Greene, Recording Secretary; L.E. Kellogg, Warden; J.W. Stephens, Treasurer.

Waterville Oddfellows Lodge was the first Fraternal Society to be established in Douglas County.

Quoting from a paragraph from the Minutes of January 16, 1889, Hall committee made a report to the effect that they had secured the upper story of Mr. Rounds building for a lodge room. A few months later a building committee was appointed to get estimates and plans for a building which the new lodge wanted for their own. On December 30, 1891, their new home was completed.

The pioneers of Waterville Lodge laid a firm foundation for Oddfellows as the members who came in since those pioneer days have been carrying on the work of this fraternal order, to this day.

Waterville Rebekah Lodge No. 77

On December 2, 1895, Sarah E. Smith of Spokane met with the Oddfellows and their wives and sisters for the purpose of organizing a Rebekah Lodge. The Rebekah decree was conferred on the following Charter members: Catherine H. Carpenter, Mary R. Gilchrist, Ida D. Pendergast, Clara B. Starr, Jennie M. Maltbie, Libbie M. Maltbie, Villa Steiner, Maggie Bymer, Colena Smith, Lizzie M. Steiner, Sophronia McCollum, E.K. Pendergast, R.W. Starr, M.D. Smith, A.L. Maltbie, C.A. Carpenter, G.W. McCollum, and S. Bartholomew.

The Lodge was named Faithful, but was changed to Esther at the second session. On December 21, 1895, the name was changed again and Waterville Rebekah Lodge No. 77 was chosen.

Since those early days there have been approximately 500 men and women instructed in the mysteries of the Rebekah Degree in this lodge.

Two of our members have served as President of the Rebekah Assembly of Washington - namely Edna Smeltzer in 1952-53 and Fay Reid Bowers in 1972-73. Many have served in appointive positions and brought more honors to our lodge.

Waterville Rebekah Lodge actively assisted in the instruction of Tempest Rebekah Lodge, Wenatchee in 1889; Cascade Rebekah Lodge, Chelan in 1901; Coulee City Rebekah Lodge in 1905; Reliance Rebekah Lodge,

Entiat in 1911; Withrow Rebekah Lodge in 1917; and Alkaziah Rebekah Lodge, Coulee Dam in 1951.

The 1989 officers are: Myrna Smith, Noble Grand; Calla Peck, Vice Grand; Lola Cover, Secretary; Grace Hoffman, Treasurer; Shirley Daling, Warden; Nadra River, Conductor; Doris Matthiesen, Chaplain, Edith Ogle, Inside Guardian; Jackie Osborne, Outside Guardian; Sharin Brown, R.S.N.G.; Eva Paine, L.S.N.G.; Kay Smith, R.S.V.G.; Cozette Brady, L.S.V.G.; Deloris Rock, Musician; Clara Rock, Color Bearer; and Fay Bower, Past Noble Grand.

Harmony Chapter No. 56 Order of the Eastern Star

Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Maltbie went to Spokane in 1898 and were initiated into Electa Chapter. Returning to Waterville, they began the work of forming a Chapter.

Ten years after Badger Mountain Lodge No. 57 was constituted, a recommendation was made for an Eastern Star Chapter in Waterville. On February 3, 1900 Harmony Chapter No. 56 was organized and was duly Instituted on June 15, 1900. Charter members were: Dr. J.M.F. Cooper, Nancy E. Cooper, Isaac M. Derifield, Emily J. Derifield, Antoine Guibert, Libbie Maltbie, Tressa Maltbie, Jane Miles, Sophronia McCollum, Ida D. Pendergast, E.K. Pendergast, Caleb Rogers, Cyrene Rogers, S.C. Robins, Ida H. Robins, J.W. Stanley, Margery Stanley, Peter Sutor and Hanna Sutor.

The first Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron were Libbie Maltbie, and Dr. J.M.F. Cooper. In the ninety years of its existence, Harmony Chapter has initiated nearly 500 members. The members of the Chapter have assisted Worthy Grand Matrons in constituting Astral Chapter No. 75, Wenatchee in 1903; Silver Star Chapter No. 93, Chelan in 1906; and Puritan Chapter No. 144 in Bridgeport in 1912. Mansfield Chapter No. 162 merged with Harmony Chapter in 1987.

The ninetieth group of officers serving Harmony Chapter at the present time are; Eileen Slagle, Worthy Matron; David Slagle, Worthy Patron; Mary Meinzer, Associate tron; James Smith, Associate Patron; Kay Smith, Secretary; Cora Prey, Treasurer; Juanita Koch, Conductress; Cindy Garrett, Associate Conductress; Luana Wilkinson, Chaplain; W. Ross Wilkinson, Marshall; Dorothy Wainscott, Organist; Leslie Farthing, Adah; Dorothy Harman, Ruth; Geraldine Hawkins, Ester; Alice Hill, Martha; Glenda Hauso, Electa; Cliff Prey, Warder; and Calla Peck, Sentinel.

Philomathic Club

In November, 1902, Mrs. E.T. Trimble and several other ladies met for the purpose of forming a literary club. They named this club Philomathic (one who loves learning, a scholar). Seventeen ladies became charter members, with Mrs. Trimble as President, Mrs. G.F.

McKinney as Vice President, Mrs. Walter Mann as Secretary, and Mrs. W.J. Stanley as Treasurer. The club color was lavender and the club flower was the sweet pea.

Programs covered such topics as foreign countries, their literature, people, rulers, political turmoil, and art. Topics in the 1915 program included five minute talks on the Flying Machine, Automobiles, Wireless Telegraphy, and the Phonograph. The Moving Picture as a factor for Good or Evil was also studied.

The social highlight of the year was the club "Annual" with the husbands. Glowing records attest the many sleigh rides, dances, and evenings of entertainment the members and their husbands enjoyed.

The club had "thimble" parties where they sewed toys for the Washington Childrens' Home. On several occasions they collected books to be sent where needed for recreation, such as hospitals and the state reformatory. The club made Red Cross comfort kits and were 100% enrolled in war savings stamps and bonds.

In 1948, the club adopted a French boy named Henri for a year. Each month the members would send a package of food and clothing. A two year old girl was later adopted.

With the sixties came a greater desire to become more involved in the community. The school library benefited when the members spent many hours in book covering and card typing. The club purchased a book cart that would transport mini-libraries to the classrooms. The city library was in need of a world globe, so the members worked to purchase this item.

Perhaps the most widely praised project is the local telephone directory covering the 745 prefix.

Our city is now graced with easily readable street signs, thanks to the instigation of the Philomathic Club.

So difficult to list the aims and accomplishments of over eighty years in such a small space, but perhaps the spirit of the Philomathic Club can best be expressed by the words of Homer found in the first club program book "To be a speaker of words and also a doer of deeds."

1948 Flood

as remembered by Etta Schlenz

On the 16th day of June, 1948, occurred a major catastrophe, the like of which had not happened in the county for 54 years. The Columbia River had been at flood stage for some time and our commiserations had been with the people along that stream, because we were high and dry and free from any danger.

On the 16th cloudbursts broke upon us with all their fury. Pine Canyon was washed out, the wheatlands were flooded, great streams of water flowed in every direction and our railroad at Douglas was completely demolished.

Commercial Club — Waterville Chamber of Commerce

The Waterville Chamber of Commerce had its early beginning in the Commercial Club. In the April 12, 1906 edition of the "Big Bend Empire" the following notice appeared:

"A COMMERCIAL CLUB: A meeting will be held at the city hall tomorrow afternoon for the purpose of organizing a Commercial Club for Waterville. Every businessman and farmer in this vicinity is asked to be present to assist in the organization. All the surrounding towns have live, active clubs of this character and there is no good reason why our city should be without one. On the contrary there are many strong reasons why we should organize one at the earliest moment."

An organization meeting was called by A.L. Rogers and concerned citizens met at the town hall for the purpose of organizing a Commercial Club. There was not a very large attendance, but those present started the movement by electing Mr. Rogers chairman and E.F. Weston secretary. Messrs. R.C. Littlefield, J.M. Friel and F.E. Weston were made a committee to solicit members and draw up a constitution and by-laws.

At the first meeting of the club Al Rogers was chosen President, E.W. Matthews, Vice President, Ralph Littlefield, Secretary, and Geo. P. Wiley, Treasurer. The officers, all leading businessmen, took over the project with a determination to make it a success. The membership fee was fixed at \$5.00 and dues at \$1.00 per month.

Quarters were located and correspondence opened up with similar bodies in other places, especially Seattle and Spokane. It is up to the citizens of Waterville to make this project "a go" and render the club useful to the town and surrounding country.

The Club planned to have an exhibit room, to be filled with samples of the grain, grasses, fruits, vegetables, etc., which we produce so abundantly, so that the stranger within our gates may have an opportunity to judge fairly of our land by seeing its main products.

The possibilities of such a club for Waterville are great, and it is the duty of EVERYONE to get into line and pull as a unit for the general good.

Water and electric power were a source of concern in 1906. Reported in the August 1906 edition of the *Big Bend Empire Press* "Waterville Commercial Club met at Bradley's hall last Friday night and discussed many questions of importance to the town.

"The report of various committees was heard, after which Mr. Rogers, President, explained to the club that as Messrs. Thompson & Brown of the Waterville Milling Co. had received word from the Entiat Power Co. that they would not furnish them with power to run nights after October 1st, he believed that the club should take some action in the matter and do what

they could to assist this firm in securing sufficient power to keep the mill running. G.D. Brown of the firm was present and stated that if they were unable to run the mill 24 hours a day they would close down altogether, as it would not pay them to run only during daylight. The closing down of this mill would mean the diverting of from \$300 to \$500 per day from Waterville and vicinity to some other place where power could be had.

At the August 23, 1906 meeting of the Commercial Club all of the current officers were re-elected. The subject of power for city lighting and manufacturing purposes came up on the report of that committee. Geo. H. Gray & Son, owners of the Entiat Power Company, who have the present contract, were reported as having contracted for improvements that would increase their capacity 40 to 60 percent, which will be sufficient for present needs. Reports from those interested in the city's water supply indicated that an ample supply would probably be secured from wells being developed on the Steiner ranch one mile south of town."

April 1907 found the Club deciding to secure the room in the basement under the Savings Bank, formerly occupied by the auditor, at a cost of \$10.00 per month. It was to be fitted up as a reading room; tables for writing, chairs, etc. put in, and would be open daily, in the evenings and on Sunday, for the accommodation of the public. Young men were permitted to join, the fee being half of the businessmen's fee. This was to be an inducement for the young men to join and the room would be made pleasant for them to drop in with a friend. Through the newspaper local populace was encouraged to donate needed items. "Anyone who has good literature and wishes to contribute can leave it here. Magazines, books, daily and weekly newspapers will be desirable."

In 1908 the Commercial Club decided not to celebrate the Fourth of July at Waterville, but give the people a rest. The Club had many ideas for using money raised to defray the expenses of the Fourth. Some members suggested that the same amount be raised and used in securing a park and beautifying it, others that it be used in a sewage system while there were those who contended that it could be profitably used in planting trees and beautifying the city.

Over the years members of the Commercial Club continue to address community problems through committees on finance, roads and highways, city improvements and agriculture.

In 1912 members of the Club took up the matter of advertising the Potato Carnival by making excursions to the different towns and communities and taking along advertising matter.

April 1913: W.A. Henry of the Waterville Commercial Club went to Wenatchee to meet with the Club of that city and talk over the proposition of putting an extra train on the Douglas branch of the G.N. It was the consensus to try and induce the G.N. to put on a gasoline engine running a passenger train over the line in addition to the regular mixed train now in operation.

January, 1913, Wenatchee World: At the Friday meeting of the Waterville Commercial Club the committee on ways and means reported that the estimated cost for acquiring grounds for fair purposes, improvements, and track building, etc., would be in the neighborhood of \$7,000.

April 1917: NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: A large crowd of businessmen and farmers were present at a banquet for the purpose of organizing a new Chamber of Commerce. The roster was passed around and every person present signed up. The dues were to be \$1 for membership and \$4.00 per year dues. It was verbally decided not to hold a Fourth of July celebration, but to support Mansfield.

January 1918: The WATERVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE has an ad in the paper in the interest of Thrift Stamps and War-Savings Certificate campaigns. It is a concise statement of the working of the law. Committees appointed are Roads and Highways, Finance, Membership, Entertainment, City Improvement, Agriculture, Public Policy, Legislative and Merchants.

February 1919: The annual Chamber banquet was a great success and the largest of its kind ever held. There had been \$1299 collected and \$1261 expended. There were 28 new members added to the club, making a total of about 90 members.

Chapter Z, P.E.O.

Chapter Z, of the P.E.O. Sisterhood celebrated its 75th anniversary on April 16, 1988. The local chapter of this international organization was started in Waterville on April 25, 1913. The charter members of Chapter Z were: The Misses Cora Brown, Zilpha Wilson, Emily Rogers, Elizabeth Smith, Sylvia Zoll, the Mrs. Nell Dickson, Mary Rogers, Birdie Gritsch, Catherine Dorsey, and Bess E. Beatty. The P.E.O. Sisterhood is a Philanthropic and educational organization interested and dedicated to bringing increased opportunity to women for higher education. Many of these original members were early day school teachers in Waterville. The aims to seek growth in knowledge and culture, and to obtain wisdom from nature, art, books, study and society has made this organization a cultural asset to the one hundred and two Chapter Z initiates through the years.

Chapter Z has maintained an active interest in education for women. Local scholarships have been given since 1985 and an outstanding girl graduate has been given a Citizenship Award since 1948.

Mrs. Robert Hensel lent distinction to the local chapter by serving as president of the Washington State Chapter in 1982, following six years service on the Executive Board.

Camp Fire

In searching the records, it was found that Waterville had a Camp Fire club as early as 1919, and possible even 1913, only three years after the parent organization formed.

Some of the people involved with Camp Fire in the early years include Leona Stauffer, Mary Alice Garrett, Cozette Brady, and Mary Westerman.

Camping out was particularly enjoyed by the early Camp Fire Girls. Camp Fire gave the girls a variety of learning experiences while they had a lot of fun. Members earned beads in seven areas: nature, outdoors, sports and games, home craft, citizenship, business and handicrafts.

At times there were as many as 60 members in the program that spanned the time from second grade through high school with different activities for the four different program age levels.

In 1975, Camp Fire become coeducational. Later a program for kindergarten age was added to the program that had moved down to include the first grade.

Camp Fire is designed to encourage the members to become caring self-motivated individuals feeling good about their unique abilities.

Members of this 1929 Camp Fire club from left to right, top row, Marjorie Dahlke Wilson, Shirley Conner, Marie Fletcher, leader, Sylvia Thulean, and Virginia Hill. Second row, Helen Hopewell, Louise Takahara, Naomi Estill, Emma Esther Hensel Johnson, Arlene Ewing. Front row, Alice McKay, Ada May Underwood, Bessie Low Kummer Stephens, and Myrna Kummer Nelson.



Boyscouts

According to the North Central Council of Boy Scout records, the first official Waterville Boy Scout troop was organized in 1934. There were, however, troops affiliated nationally before the North Central Council was formed in 1924.

One of the early Waterville scouting activities was raising potatoes. The potato patch was located where the grade school building now stands. Some of the boys involved during the period between 1913-1920 were Carl Fritts, Joe Waterhouse, Harold Porter, Cy Wilcox, Lawrence Howe, Edmond Knemeyer and Sid Zimmerman. There were at least six more boys involved when L.O. Anderson was with the Waterville school system.

The scouting program has through the years been a positive influence on many boys growing up here, interest waxing and waning probably due to interested and committed adults working with the program.

4-H

The first 4-H club in Douglas County was started in Waterville in August 1917 by Edith Greenberg. Her canning club had a membership of 15 girls, but the meeting attracted 150 people. L.L. Sellars started a livestock and stock judging club.

In May of 1918 a rabbit and garden club was started in Withrow and Bridgeport.

A pig and sewing club was started in July of 1918 on Badger mountain.

The types of clubs formed were based on the fact of war time.

A March Empire Press item related the following 1939 news: Waterville 4-H club Stitch Savers have the following officers: President, Erma Planetz; Secretary, Emily Polson; Treasure, Mrs. Eric Sandstrom; Reporter, Joyce Jones; Vice President, Betty Lou Bonwell; Song Leader, Verna Reid; Historian, Marjorie Will; Chairman, Mrs. Bill Stewart.

One club formed in the Waterville area in the thirties was probably the forerunner of the Douglas Livestock Club. Fred Ruud was a member and his father Oliver a leader. Other early leaders include Carl Daling, Glen Gormley, Walter Schneider, Ted Mittelstaedt, and Bill Viebrock.

By 1961 Douglas had 201 club members, 52 leaders, and 57 Junior leaders.

The fundamental principle of 4-H work remains "learning by doing."

You know you're in small town when . . .

You are run off Main Street by a Combine.

The biggest business in town sells farm machinery.

The runway of the airport is terraced.

Waterville Grange #835

In 1925 F.P. (Dad) Waters came to Waterville for the purpose of trying to establish a grange. When Dad Waters first came he sought out Leslie Clark, and Tom Hedges who were secretary and president of the Farmers Union. They brought with them Henry Goll and John R. Jones.

After much discussion, the first Grange organizational meeting was held. Ninety interested people attended. Mr. Waters had hoped for at least 100 people, so Mr. Goll picked out the names of those he thought would be interested but not present at the meeting. He paid their dues so they would be on the Charter and in this manner 113 names were presented for membership on April 8, 1926.

The first officers elected were: T.S. Hedges, Master; John R. Jones, Overseer; Emma Jones, Lecturer; Henry Goll, Steward; Harry Jones, Assistant Steward; Gladys Slusser, Lady A. Steward; Harry Slack, Chaplain; L.D. Clark, Secretary; Chas Slusser, Jr. Gate Keeper; Blendina Dean, Ceres; Marguerite Gaskill, Pomona; Pearl Daling, Flora; W.E. Gaskill, Treasurer.

Later it was stated that this was the largest Grange ever organized in the State of Washington. The membership at one time swelled to 400.

In 1933, a Juvenile Grange was formed with 25 members and Mrs. Catherine Burgess as Juvenile Matron.

For many years the Grange sponsored an annual picnic at the Douglas Grove on the Fourth of July, with fine attendance. The main attraction after dinner was a baseball game and horse shoes in the afternoon while the ladies caught up on the latest gossip and tried to keep the kids out of the creek. Then there was the local fair, with one of the popular events being a greased pig race. The master and secretary of each grange worked as a team. After they caught their pig, they had to load it in an old car and race around the track.

In 1934 a Grange Supply Station was organized with a paid up membership of \$1200.00. Adelbert Schick was the first manager. Memberships were solicited at \$10 each and no one could buy there who was not a member. The principal stock was oil, gas and grease. Later, machinery and other supplies were added and the public was invited to participate in the savings.

In 1939 the Grange purchased a building that formerly housed a machine and blacksmith shop for \$1,000. After much renovation, in 1945 the Grangers moved their records from the Odd Fellows building to their own.

Through the years, the Grange has participated in establishing a Hospital, cemetery beautification, improvements of the tennis courts, making bandages for the Phillipine Leper colony, and participating in the yearly fair.

HELP



THE FIRST OF OUR BOYS HAVE GONE!

Others will follow soon, ready for service abroad. Our hopes, our prayers, our fears go with them, but we must stay at home. When in the thick of the fray, some fall with aching wounds, will your dollar help to ease the pain, supply clean clothing, or restore the shattered body to health and strength? Waterville needs 500 members of the Red Cross to carry on this work. Our campaign begins on Saturday, next. When the committee asks for YOUR dollar, give it gladly.

Let the boys at the front know that the "home folks" are working and giving that comfort and care may come to them in time of need.

JOIN THE RED CROSS NOW

Red Cross

(Excerpts from the Waterville Empire Press)

April 1917: Mother's club meets and organizes RED CROSS. Have arranged for a Red Cross meeting. G. Skyes will give a brief history of the Red Cross.

Temporary organization formed. Owing to the fact that the necessary blanks had not arrived, it was impossible to form a permanent one.

May 1917: RED CROSS. A mass meeting will be held at the Nifty Theater for the purpose of perfecting the organization of a Red Cross chapter in Waterville. Permission to form a chapter in Waterville is a high honor to have conferred on our city as it is seldom that permission is granted to so small a city as Waterville and the best promoters here expected was an auxiliary chapter to act in conjuncture with Wenatchee.

June, 1917: By Proclamation the President set aside a "RED CROSS WEEK" and in this time one hundred million dollars is to be raised in the USA to be donated and consecrated to the high and holy purpose of this international humane and Christ-like organization for the relief of a suffering humanity. Of this, Douglas County is apportioned \$11,000 and the drive began at a stirring meeting. The canvassing was done by school districts.

(That summer and fall the Waterville Chapter of the RED CROSS started auxiliaries in Withrow, Bridgeport, Mansfield and Orondo.)

November, 1917: Masons donated the use of their new hall to the RED CROSS.

December, 1917: RED CROSS GAVE AN old time dance, proceeds to go to one of our most worthy institutions. Shipped 270 Christmas packages. Junior Red Cross organized.

May, 1918: The APOLLO CLUB, a MEN'S CHORUS from Wenatchee will give a concert for the benefit of the local RED CROSS.

November, 1918: WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM Northwestern headquarters that the work done by the RED CROSS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY is of such a high standard as to merit a place on the Honor Roll of the Nation.

January, 1919: All RED CROSS work is to be suspended upon completion of the work assigned, no later than Jan. 30.

March, 1919: RED CROSS HAS URGENT call for clothing for the devastated districts of Europe.

December 21, 1933: Red Cross Over the Top. Mrs. C.C. Will, chairman of the Douglas County Red Cross Chapter, states that the drive in Douglas County was a success. The quota for this county was \$200 and this amount was exceeded by \$15.

Mrs. Will feels very grateful to all those who contributed and also the workers in the various districts who gave so freely of their time in behalf of the work.

Waterville Assembly #48 Order of the Rainbow Girls

1934 was a year in the middle of the "Great Depression" and with little cash available for activities, most activities had to be "home made" and without much cost. Realizing the value and the need for a girls organization, the members of Harmony Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, petitioned the State Grand Assembly of the Order of Rainbow for a charter to start a Rainbow Assembly in Waterville. Their petition was started with 30 charter members from Waterville and Orondo, many of the girls were daughters of the Star members sponsoring the assembly and friends, as it was not necessary to have Masonic affiliation to be a Rainbow Girl.

The Order of Rainbow, is a Masonic affiliated organization for girls in their teens, stressing service and the basic tenets and ideals of patriotism, religion, loyalty and service. It tries through ritualistic work to teach poise, social grace and ideals that help make girls responsible citizens.

The first officers were installed on April 20, 1934. Vera Chandler of Orondo was the first Worthy Advisor (head officer) and Mrs. A.J. Hensel was the first Mother Advisor (adult advisor).

After a year, on March 28, 1935, the assembly was constituted as Waterville Assembly #48. The assembly was a success. The Mother and Daughter Tea was an annual spring event and attracted a large crowd. Their Christmas Tolo was a highly attended dance of the Christmas season attracting high school students and college students home for the holidays. It was an elaborately decorated formal ball with dance programs. In later years, dance programs were dropped, but the dance continued to be a looked-forward-to formal holiday occasion.

In the years prior to the Second World War, the Odd Fellows had a similar organization for boys called the Junior Odd Fellows, and they and the Rainbow Girls frequently joined forces for parties and dances.

Rainbow stressed strong community support and involvement. The club was dedicated to service and each year there were donations to charity. Members also helped in national drives, and received a citation from Jerry Lewis for their work one year. In 1979, during one of the fund drives they raised over \$1,100 to

help the Douglas County hospital. They contributed to a service project which was generally funds like the Heart Fund, Cancer Fund or other national charities. Throughout the 55 years the assembly was in existence, the members were leaders in school and other youth activities.

Local Rainbow Girls, after having served as Worthy Advisor, were eligible to be Grand (State) officers and over the years many of our girls were appointed and served one year terms as Grand Officers. These terms culminated with Grand Assembly, a three day State convention held in various Washington cities. During the 1969-1970 year, Debbie Marney, of Waterville Assembly, served as Grand Worthy Advisor of Washington and Idaho which at that time had about 12,000 members. She also served as a Supreme (national) officer at Supreme Assembly that year.

During the late 1970's and into the 1980's the assembly consistently ranked among the ten best assemblies in the State. In 1979, they were named the Top Assembly in the State.

Probably 400 to 450 girls were members of the assembly throughout their teenage years, with over 150 of them serving as Worthy Advisor, and 27 serving as Grand Officers. Times change, and interests and values seem to change with them. With the advent of girls' sports in school, interest in all other activities waned. After 55 years Waterville Assembly #48 turned in its charter on December 31, 1988 for lack of members.

Waterville Garden Club

The meeting to organize a Garden Club at Waterville was held at the City Hall on May 14, 1935. Charter members were: Mrs. Sherman Harms, Mrs. C.C. Will, Mrs. Sumner Mitchell, Mrs. Arthur Hensel, Mrs. Harry Smeltzer, Mrs. Frank Malloy, Mrs. Charles Osborne, Mrs. M.W. Miller, Mrs. R.C. Miller, Mrs. W.P. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Schlenz, and Rev. and Mrs. Kincaid.

They joined the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs in May, 1940. The first garden tour was in 1940 and continued for many years ending with a tea in a home, a yard, or at the park. For several years the Club also had an Iris show and silver tea at the home of Mrs. Laymance.

One of the first projects was the planning and erecting of the Vista House and fireplace at the top of the ski hill on Badger Mountain. Next they undertook having names of streets posted. The letters were made by the boys at the CCC camp. The next project was house numbering. The Garden Club was instrumental in arousing interest in an attractive fireplace in the park and helped in building it there. Each spring the Garden Club served lunch to those taking part in the city clean-up.

For many years the Garden Club was in charge of the flower booth as the fair grew from a county to a district fair. They also sponsored the wardrobe of the girl chosen Princess Waterville to participate in the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival, supplied her chaperone and gave a Princess Tea to which other princesses in the area, and the public, were invited.

The Waterville Wranglers

Sunday, February 19, 1950, forty-five horse-minded people met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Case, to form a riding club. L.R. Hall, vice president of the Appleatchee Riders and Ted Howard, Field Marshall, were guests.

They told about how they organized their club and the different obstacles to look for. A.J. Hensel read the incorporation papers he made up for the club. Jack Ramsey read the by-laws set up by the committee.

The first annual meeting was scheduled for the first Tuesday following the first Monday in April. Temporary offices for the club were elected as follows: C.H. Nordby, President; Louis Case, Vice President; Stella Ramsey, Secretary; Clarence Still, Treasurer; William Viebrock and Jack Ramsey, Trustees.

Throughout the years, the Waterville Wranglers participated in many horse related events, including trail rides and drill team. Although the emphasis on horses has diminished, the family get-togethers still continue today.

Bachelorettes

"Bachelorettes" was a club for single, working girls in Waterville. It was organized in 1939 and held monthly dinner meetings in the dining room of the Waterville Hotel. The fourteen charter members were Katherine Burke, Ellen Mae Carroll, Helen Freeman, Miriam Hawes, Bernice Holcomb, Frances Hosler, Evelyn Jensen, Evelyn Ludeman, Clarice Mitchell, Jeanne Nelson, Eva Ogle, Esther Reimann, Sylvia Thulean and Louise Wilson. Eva Ogle and Ellen Mae Carroll served as first president and secretary. More than forty women were members during the club's existence.

A chairman was appointed for each meeting. Dues were 10 cents for the "kitty" each meeting. Members were dropped when they married or if they missed three consecutive meetings. Activities were both social and community projects, one of which was the first Easter Egg Hunt in the city park.

The Bachelorettes disbanded in 1944 or 1945, evolving into the Business and Professional Womens' Club.

Business and Professional Women

The Business and Professional Women's Club of Waterville received its charter March 15, 1950. The B.P.W. is primarily a civic organization that seeks to promote the betterment of the community, and as funds are available, to add to its improvement. The Waterville chapter was an outgrowth of the "Bachelorettes", a social group of young professional ladies employed in the various businesses in town. The B.P.W. is remembered for its organization of the Ice

Cream Socials held each summer in Pioneer Park, and continued through the years by other clubs. It supported the auction for the benefit of the Hospital; it hosted bi-annual Naturalization Days at the Courthouse and held town meetings and hearings of political issues before elections. Annual spring style shows for the ladies will be long remembered. First officers were Doris Wilson, President; Lydia Skeen, 1st Vice President; Elsie Britt, 2nd Vice President, Winnie Bartholemew, Secretary, and Ella Knemeyer, Treasurer.



▼ 1952 STYLE SHOW ►



Waterville Lions Club

The Waterville Lions Club was chartered December 29, 1941, by 16 men of Waterville.

Charter members were Dave Dorsey, Paul English, Myron Estill, Harold Jensen, Willis Jones, Albert Mitchell, Jack Schlosser, Robert Powell, Albert Schmidt, Clyde Smeltzer, Walt Speicker, Art Dirnig, Joe Wilson, William Volz, Roy Kerkow and Wallace Gibbons. Three charter members are still living: Albert Mitchell, Joe Wilson and Myron Estill, now of Montana. This Club became a part of the Lions Club International.

Lions Club International can be compared to the United States. The power that caused this transfiguration in national government is the same that has caused Lionism to succeed. First, organized effort banded together in a common cause. Second, men, great in natural ability, strong in character, studying successful activities of other Lions Clubs, and applying these methods in their own communities through the co-ordination of effort created by the central directing body, the international office. In 1940 there were 3817 clubs of the National organization with 137,727 members.

The present secretary of the Waterville Club Chet Stein of Orondo has made a concentrated effort to put the history of the Waterville Lions Club together. The largest fund raising project was started early in the history of the Club. The first Lions Den in Waterville was a small circus tent located on the Fairgrounds of the North Central Washington Fair for serving meals to fair workers, exhibitors and people who attended the fair. Later a permanent building in cooperation with the Fair Association was constructed and known as the Lions Den. Large commercial ovens were installed, as well as walk-in coolers used for storing beef, and large stainless steel refrigerated vats to store broth for the preparation of the "specialty of the house" ROAST BEEF DINNERS.

After nearly 40 years of serving meals to the community, the Fair Association raised the percentage assessment to participating organizations cutting the profit margin. Finally in 1983, the Board of Directors of the Waterville Lions Club decided that they could no longer ask volunteers to operate the Lions Den for such a small return. The Lions sold all of the equipment that they owned to the Fair Association for \$3,000.

The Lions then started a "corn dog" pup stand and this is operated each year during the fair.

Another fund raising activity that has now been dropped due to lack of support was the weekly Bingo held in the late 70's and early 80's. It was revived again in 1985, but after losing money, it was decided to let it go.

Another fund raising event by the Waterville Lions Club was a concession for hamburgers and beverages at the Ski Hill. This was an enjoyable project with plenty of volunteers available, and a wonderful chance

to see the youth of Waterville in action.

The Ski Hill was shut down in 1986 and 1987 because of an unavailable affordable liability insurance. After much study and in cooperation with the Ski Club and the Town, who owns the land where the ski hill is located, the Lions Club sponsored and have an agreement of "hold harmless" with the City of Waterville so the community is again enjoying the local ski hill. The hamburger concession is back in operation - an example of serving the community.

Over the years the Club has purchased glasses and paid doctor bills for underprivileged children, furnished a room at the local hospital and helped raise funds for the hospital, ambulance and other projects.

Under youth activities, the Club has sent boys to Scout camp, and Boys' State, helped furnish playgrounds, presented awards to outstanding boys, gave an award to an outstanding 4-H Girls' Club.

In 1986 and 1987 the Lions Club helped the community in many ways, such as: helped sponsor swim team, sod for Little League ball field, collected \$200 for hearing aids, assisted small local girl with eye exam and glasses, served 200 dinners to Ducks Unlimited, served Easter morning breakfast, spent 50 man hours fencing the Little League ball field, helped with American-Foreign student exchange, Boys' State and many more.

The Waterville Lions Club has contributed much to Waterville and its people.

Douglas County Cattlemen

Problems of cattlemen in Douglas County in 1937 caused a small group to attend the annual meeting of the State Association in Yakima. From this beginning more attended the annual meeting in Omak the next year.

Through the cooperation of George A. Kirkwood, county agent at the time, and Mr. A.J. Hensel, cattleman and attorney a group was called together at Mansfield July 8, 1938, and the Douglas County Cattlemen's Association was born. Con S. Maddox, Extension Husbandryman, was present to help and Horace Bozarth was elected the first President.

The first year the membership was 30 scattered all over the county. Since that time, the association has been taking an active part in local and state affairs. A.J. Hensel was later honored to serve as president of the state association representing Douglas County.

You know you're in a small town when . . .

You dial a wrong number and talk for 15 minutes anyway.

The polka is more popular than disco on Saturday night.

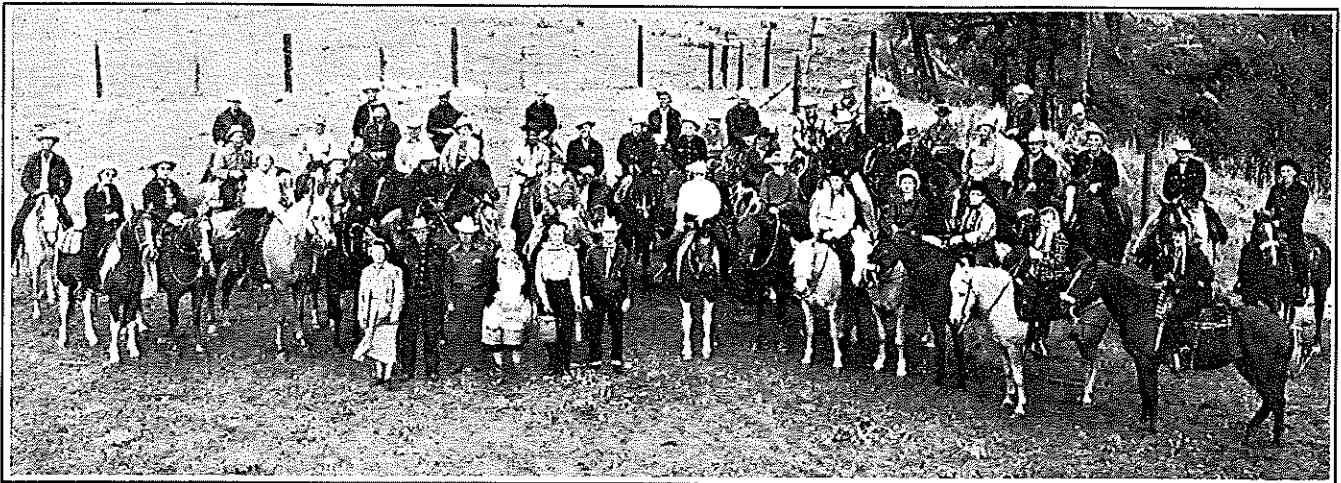
Cow Belles

The Douglas County Cattlemen announced December 12, 1952 that their wives had organized a County Cow Belles organization. The state had organized in May the preceding year. Their aim was to work with the Cattlemen and further promote the education of the public about beef.

Officers elected were President Mable McLean; Vice President, Merle Janssen; Secretary-treasurer, Stella Ramsey. Twenty women signed the Charter membership list at this meeting.

Cowbelle Trail Ride

Trail Boss Hayden McKee; others taking part were Lela and Karen McKee, Lloyd, Mabel and Phyllis McLean, Paul and Estelle Rice, Jack and Stella Ramsey, Hank and Ellen Gallaher, Bill and Alma Viebrock, Andy and Merle Janssen, Jasper and Jerry Bechtol, Clark and Rosella Perry, Wes and Garnet Rinker, Mrs. Matt Snyder, Boyd and Gene Jenkin, Kenneth Wegner, Gerry Poole, Marcel Yeager, Claude and Clyde Miller, Chris Larson, Ted Rice, Wade Troutman, Vern and David Adams, Ronald Davis, Fred and Robert Nelson, Phil McKay, Roy Brown, Floyd Craig, Lester Allen, Jack Nelson, Bay Hodges, and Bob Jess.



Waterville Bicycle Club

Bicycling was a popular pastime in North Central Washington even before the turn of the century as this picture would indicate. Known as the Waterville Bicycle Club the group is preparing to take off on a jaunt. In May, 1896, pictured are from left: Lou Knemeyer, Mrs. Al Maltbie, Al Maltbie, Mrs. Kate Carpenter, Joe Tuttle, Frank Corbaley, Alice Dallam Ellis, Harry Thomas, Mrs. Colin Gilchrist, Mrs. Goby Steiner, J. Minnick, (standing behind Mrs. Gilchrist and Mrs. Steiner), Charles Carpenter on the high bicycle, Pete Knight, Mrs. Matt Smith, Charlie Ruud, Sevilla Steiner McMillan, R.W. Starr, Irene Porter Broulett, Nellie Beyers and Boy Beyers.



Agriculture

Washington Association of Wheat Growers

In November of 1931 over 200 wheat growers from Douglas, Adams, Grant, Franklin, and Lincoln Counties met in Odessa to set in motion an organization looking forward toward government aid in the way of seed wheat loans and loan money to cover operating expenses for the year 1932.

They were hopeful that the State of Washington might be included in the list of 21 draught and flood stricken states for which the Administration was considering a \$60,000,000 relief appropriation.

The idea of an independent wheat growers organization grew out of the activities of men in the Washington-Idaho Wheat Growers League, the Northwest Crop Improvement Association and the Agronomy Advisory Board of the Board of Regents of what is now Washington State University.

The Agronomy Advisory Board existed to give ADVICE on Agricultural matters with special emphasis on wheat breeding and research.

J. Adelbert Schick attended a meeting in Ritzville in December of 1954 which was called to discuss the legal problems affecting a new farm organization.

Finally the WAWG was organized in December of 1955. Three Directors from each wheat producing County in Washington were elected to serve as Committeemen.

Through the years the WAWG formed a Washington Wheat commission, developed a Western Wheat Quality Laboratory at Pullman, Washington, studied freight rates, and worked for changes in United States grain standards for wheat.

The Douglas County Association of Wheat Growers, a unit of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, adopted its by-laws the 13th day of April, 1955. Harold Beard was the first President and Carl E. Thomsen was the Secretary.

Grain Companies of Waterville Area September 14, 1899:

On last Saturday a meeting of farmers was held at the courthouse in Waterville to organize a farmers grain and warehouse company. Preliminary steps were taken by the election of three directors: A.N. Thompson, J.A. Banneck and H.N. Wilcox. The first and last gentlemen were not present, but it was thought that they would serve. The object of this company is to store, buy, handle and ship grain, and to deal in staple supplies, etc. A draft agreement was read and adopted temporarily by the meeting, as a basis of action.

Civilian Conservation Corps

A United States federal agency created in 1937 to furnish work and training for unemployed young men and to advance a program for the conservation and building up of the nations natural resources. By legislation the enrolled strength of the corps was limited to a maximum of 270,000 junior enrollees, 30,000 war veterans, 10,000 Indians, and 5,000 territorials. It was liquidated by act of Congress on June 30, 1943.

Company 6435 was organized in Alabama and came to Waterville July 26, 1940. The men of the company were placed on various work crews, under the supervision of the Soil Conservation Service. Their camp was located west of the fairgrounds and they had facilities for recreation, an athletic program and educational opportunities. There were approximately 200 men in the company.

Federal agencies that had work done by the C.C.C. include:

- National Forestry Service
- State Forestry and Private Camps
- State Park Service
- National Park Service
- Soil Conservation Service
- Bureau of Reclamation

Waterville camp, under the direction of Soil Conservationist Charles Bisbee was engaged in a program of erosion control which included stream control and building dams, planting trees and other shrubs, and promotion of contour cultivation. Dr. B.J. Ellis served as camp surgeon. Maynard Sanders: *"I worked in the infirmary under Doctor Ellis, who was the contract physician. I came with a train load of new enrollees*

CHARLES BISBEE AT CCC CAMP



from Amirtan, Alabama, most of whom had never seen snow - or like me, been farther than the local county seat.

You can imagine our feelings when we detrained at Douglas expecting the Indians to appear over the hill to scalp us.

It was a wonderful learning experience. I returned south to bring another company to Waterville.

Of course I found my true love in Waterville."

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District was established February 15, 1941, the Moses Coulee District June 4th that same year. Foster Creek was established June 27, 1942.

The first district supervisors were Wm. J. Dahlke, T.R. Hedges, A.J. Hensel, John McDonald and George Wilcox. Soil conservationist was Charles Bisbee.

The aims of the conservation districts is to create public awareness of the dependence of man on the basic resources of the soil and water and his obligation to use wisely and conserve these resources.

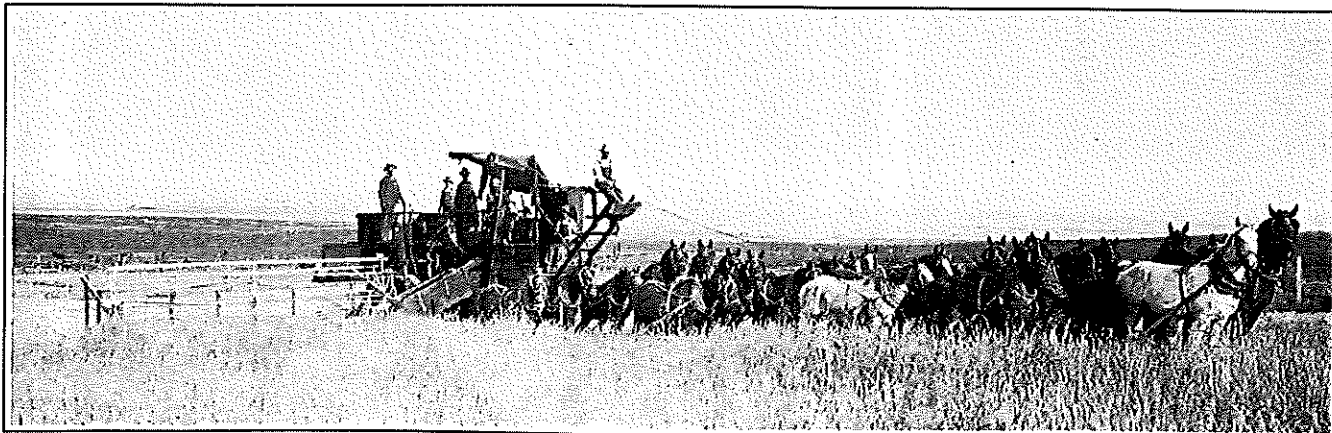
They encourage development of specific and comprehensive plans in each district depending on conservation needs.

Remember . . .

1889: Muscat wine, Sasparilla and ironwater at Clary's?

The Big Bend Hotel is the pioneer establishment of the town. It has lately been largely added to and overhauled to accommodate its increasing business. W.R. Wetsel is the new proprietor and has the faculty of making his guests feel at home.

HARVEST SCENE ON T.G. DARK RANCH



Wheat Wives

The Wheat Wives was formed in 1979 when a group of local women met to see what they could do to promote the use of wheat. The women have been meeting ever since and have found a variety of projects which include scholarships, informational brochures, displays, recipes using whole wheat, and selling articles which depict the wheat industry.

Each year on National Agriculture Day a display has been set up. Educational material and recipes have been handed out. A poster contest with a wheat industry theme has been sponsored for grade school children with awards for winners.

Wheat Wives decorate the Wheat Grower Booth at the North Central District fair and provide the Wheat King crowns. For the past several years the group has been selling fresh cinnamon rolls, coffee, and wheat related items to the fair-goers.

Wheat weavings, holiday decorations featuring wheat and homemade breads are also available from the group.

Waterville Roller Mills

Al Thompson erected the Waterville Roller Mills in 1903. Originally the mill had a daily capacity of 100 barrels of flour and later increased to 200 barrels. The flour was known as "Pride of the Big Bend," "High Flight," "Harmony," and "Rock Rose." There was also a flour mill at Mansfield that turned out "Golden Harvest" flour. The Big Bend wheat farmers hauled their sacked grain to the Waterville Roller Mill and warehouse by mule drawn wagons. In 1908 they lost their grain warehouse. It collapsed and came crashing to the ground literally smashing it to pieces. It was a 30'x90' building attached to the south side of the mill and contained about 10,000 Bu. at the time. Each side wall was thrown out several feet, the whole of which with the exception of the roof being a complete wreck.

Waterville Union Grain Company

The original Articles of Incorporation of Waterville Union Grain Company were dated August 8, 1908, and filed August 10, 1908, with the following men as incorporators: C.V. Ogle, J.A. Minnick, H. Tolle, H.B. Duncan and J.D. Logan; along with J.Q. Adams as the Manager. The principal place of business to be Waterville, Douglas County, Washington.

The objects for which the corporation was formed was to engage in and carry on the business of buying, selling and storing grain and farm products as warehousemen, of buying and selling all farm supplies, and general to do and transact any lawful business necessary to carry into effect any and all the above mentioned purposes and objects.

The amount of the capital stock of this corporation shall be \$2,000.00, which shall be divided into 160 shares, at the par value of \$12.50 each, and the existence of which shall be 50 years.

The number of Directors was set at five and the above named incorporators were the original Board of Directors.

The term of existence was set at 50 years and they were still operating at the end of that time, so amended

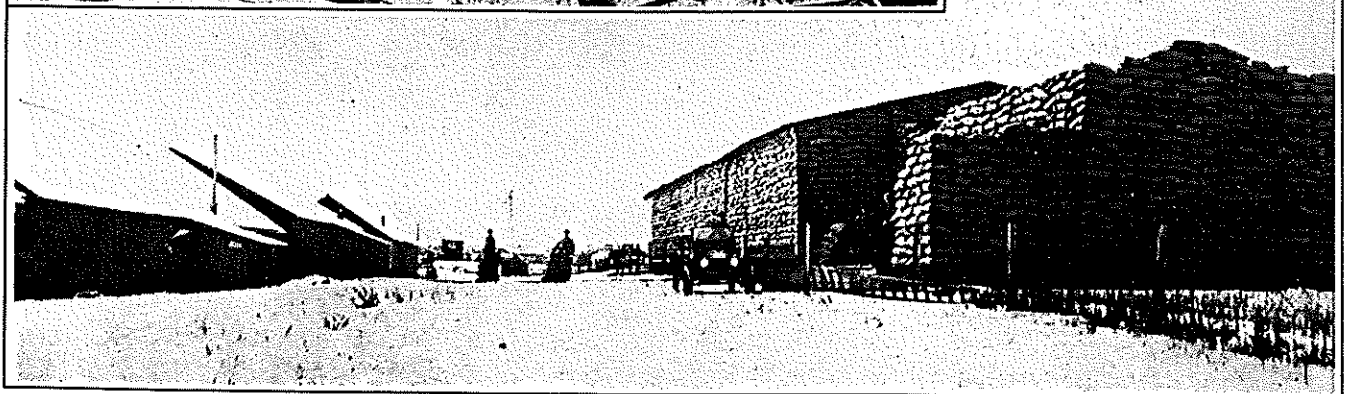
articles were filed July 31, 1958, making the time of existence perpetual and increasing capital to \$352,000.

In the first year of operation the company constructed two warehouses at a total cost of \$1,066.00. One warehouse was constructed at the edge of the wheat area, five miles northwest of Waterville, being on a plateau 2,000 feet in elevation above the Columbia River. The second was built on the banks of the Columbia River. The warehouse at the top of the hill was a receiving station for sacked grain brought there by horse and wagon. The two warehouses were connected by a tramway which carried the sacked wheat in large buckets, traveling by cable to the lower warehouse. Wheat from the lower warehouse was then shipped by river steamer down the Columbia to rail or port. The tramway was not owned by the Grain Company and they were charged a tariff for its use. It was originally a gravity operated mechanism and a unique method of handling the problem of transportation before the coming the railroad into this area.

It was a humble beginning for the Waterville Union Grain Company. From 1908 to 1935 represents a period of gradual expansion, and the success of the



◀ WATERVILLE UNION GRAIN WAREHOUSE ▼



company dubious at times and earnings small. In 1936 management was changed and resulted in growth and increased earnings.

The authorized capital stock was increased three times. One was June 29, 1910, by 760 shares; the second was August 25, 1914, to a new total of 2,083 shares; the third was July 15, 1918, to a new total of 7,040 shares at par values of \$12.50 per share. All funds derived from the sale of this stock were used for the construction and expansion of facilities.

The company owned and operated grain storage facilities at Waterville, and five other town or stations on the branch line of the Great Northern Railway running between Wenatchee and Mansfield. They were at Alstown, Douglas, Supplee, Withrow and Mansfield. In the early days of the company, until about 1933-1935, much or all grain in the territory was handled in sacks; but with the modernization of grain farming it began being delivered in bulk and all facilities were converted for bulk storage.

There were several managers during the early years of Waterville Union Grain Company and some names that come to mind were: Herb Price, Pat Friel and Joe Higgins.

In 1936, L.M. Smith was hired as the new manager. He was thoroughly experienced in the grain business having been employed by Sperry Flouring Mills Company in their grain division. After the change in operation it showed continuous growth and increased its storage facilities from 705,000 bushels in 1935, to 2,140,000 bushels in 1953.

Mr. Frank M. Schreck was hired by Waterville Union Grain Company in 1948 as Assistant Manager and succeeded Mr. Smith as Manager in 1958, continuing in that capacity until 1972 when the company was sold to Almira Grain Growers, a farmers co-operative.

The name was changed to Central Washington Grain Growers, Inc. and is a wholly owned farmer co-operative. The new company now includes facilities in five counties; Douglas, Chelan, Okanogan, Grant & Lincoln.

September 21, 1899: The Farmers' Co.

Considerable work was accomplished at the meeting of the Farmer's Warehouse Co. last Saturday at the courthouse. The proposed plans of organization were carefully discussed and at the conclusion a number of shares of stock at \$25.00 each, were subscribed and arrangements made to have the papers give country circulation. If the stock is signed through the country as is expected by those promoting the venture, the new company will have a pretty substantial standing and will be at work shipping the grain of the farmers in a very short time.

January 1914: FLOUR SHIPPED

The first car of flour to be shipped out by the Douglas Mill Co. will go out tomorrow to Seattle. They have been meeting with excellent success in placing their flour and from now on carloads will be more frequent.

Dairy and Ice Plant

A May 1911 news item relates: A NEW INDUSTRY Waterville is to have a new industry and it is one that is very badly needed - a dairy farm - and will be hailed with delight by a large number of citizens who have in the past been unable a great part of the time to secure sufficient milk and cream for household use.

This new industry will be started on the ranch of I.B. Lovejoy, one-half mile south of town and one of the best places in the country for such an enterprise. The farm had been purchased from Al Rogers.

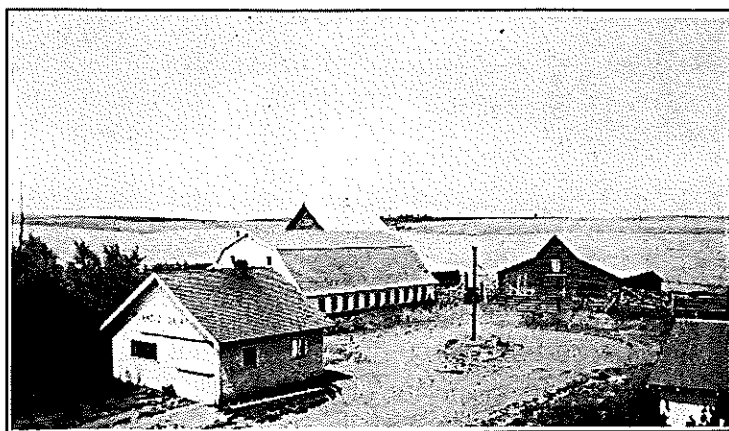
Mr. Lovejoy and son, Harry, in company with Silas Town have organized the Waterville Dairy Co. and are now engaged in securing the best milch cows they can find. They have thirty acres of alfalfa and will erect a good dairy barn and silos in which to keep green feed. They expect to bottle the milk and cream and make daily delivery, while also carrying fresh vegetables in their wagons for sale.

All the animals used in this dairy for milking purposes will be examined by a veterinary for tuberculosis and no diseased cattle will be kept on the place.

Around 1919, they built the ice plant to sell ice cream and ice as well as milk.

At first Silas Town, and wife Vera Lovejoy Town, operated the retail business which was located on Ash Street.

Since most people thought of ice cream as a summer dessert, and since people didn't have money to purchase ice unless it was necessary to keep food from spoiling, selling ice cream and ice was a seasonal business. For that reason, the ice plant operated only five months a year - from May until the last of September.



PLANETZ DAIRY

As soon as electric refrigerators came on the market, people no longer had to put up with the inconvenience of an ice box.

Eric A. Sandstrom and his wife Eva operated the "Coldspot Spring Dairy" from Badger Mt. The name was chosen for the wonderful cold spring they had on the ranch. From about 1918 to 1932 the Sandstroms drove the dairy route into Waterville by horse and sled (sleigh in winter), also doubling as a school bus route, bringing the children in to school. Milk was bottled in glass. The Sandstrom's raised five boys and two girls. When Mr. Sandstrom retired from the dairy to become a brewmaster in Spokane, the boys continued to operate the dairy.

Henry Planetz started a dairy around 1928. His dairy was located at the corner of Third and Columbia streets where the three story Planetz home also stood. Approximately 30 cows were utilized. Originally all the milking was done by hand by Planetz and one hired man. Later an electrical device was used. The milk was then transferred to the milk house for processing. It was either cooled and bottled raw (there was no pasteurization then) or was separated with the skim milk fed to the hogs and the cream sold to customers.



Delivery was made to Waterville area residents and business houses twice a day in the summer and once a day in the winter. Delivery was made in a 1937 Chevy panel. During the winter, delivery was made by sled and when the roads were muddy, a horse and buggy were used. Milk averaged 9 to 12 cents a quart.

A notice in an August paper relates that Saturday August 9th would be the last day the Planetz Dairy would deliver and that all accounts must be cleaned up by August 15th, 1941. Poor health and high costs have prompted Mr. Planetz to take this action.

New barn pictured was built in 1939.

GOOD CROP: 1908 picture of produce from Douglas County. Noted for its superior grain and enormous sized potatoes, the Big Bend was also yielding cabbages 16 to 20 inches in diameter and beets in like proportion.

Seated in exhibit of produce displayed at the fair in Waterville in 1908 are Bruce Stanley and Dave Dorsey.



Waterville Potato Carnival & Fair

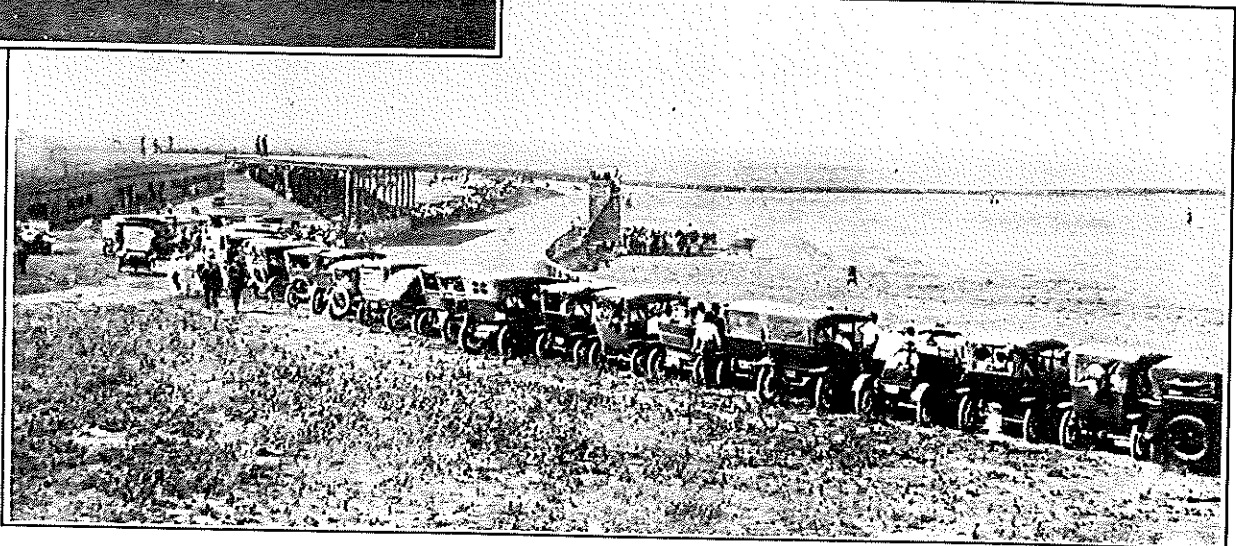
Since 1895, Waterville has been a city of celebration. The Douglas County Industrial Exposition was held at that time. The "fair" city had its first Potato Carnival, November 1-3, in 1911, in recognition of the bumper crops of potatoes grown throughout the Big Bend area. The gala event was held in tents in the downtown area and the main office was in a small building behind the old Nifty Theater which is still standing today. The objective of the festival was to spread general knowledge and interest in potatoes. Instructors from Washington

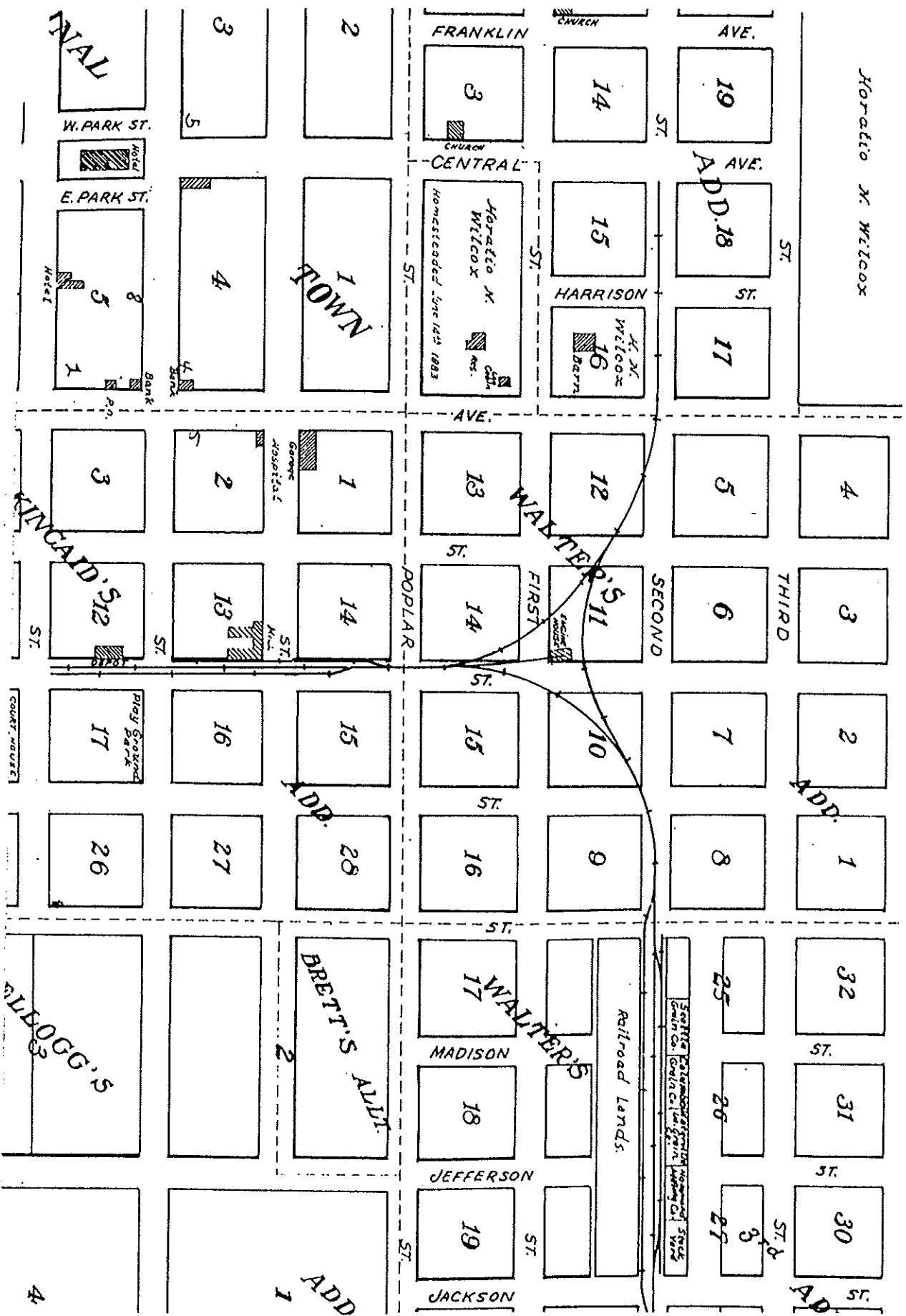
State College (now Washington State University) and commission men handling sales and distribution were on hand to discuss the growing, handling and marketing. The Potato Carnival was held for several years but in 1913 it became known as the Douglas County Fair & Potato Carnival. In 1941 it became the Douglas County Fair but no Fair was held during the war. In 1944 the North Central Washington District Fair, as it is known today was started.



▲ BUILDING HOUSING FIRST POTATO CARNIVAL
NOVEMBER 1-3, 1911

◀ DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR, OCTOBER 6-10, 1914 ▼





RAILROAD ROUTES IN WATERVILLE TOWNSITE

Pioneers

The following list of names has caused the committee more trepidation than any other part of this endeavor. We have tried to include adults who were here by 1889. The difficulties included lack of available records and SPELLING. Were there Beymer and Biehmer families in addition to the Bymers? A Sofer as well as Soper, or were these just spelling variations? We do not know, so have included the variations where we have not been able to verify they are the same.

We are sure there were other people here struggling to establish a home, but were removed from that part of life where their names were recorded.

We also restricted this list to the area closely surrounding Waterville. May all pioneer families be assured that whether or not your ancestors names appear we commend all who came to this place and toiled to make life easier for the next generation. We ask your indulgence concerning any names we missed. There were no slights intended.

A

Aberley, Miss
Ackers, Benjamin
Adams, J.M.
Adams, J.W.
Alexander, E.F.
Alexander, F.M.
Alexander, G.C.
Anderson, Henry M/M
Anderson, Sam
Anderson, W.H.
Andrew, Anna Powers
Armstrong, L.W.
Arthur,

B

Baker, Wm. M/M
Banner, John
Barnes,
Barnhack, Hadley
Barnhart, Stuart
Barrowman, Arch
Bartholomew, S.
Bartol, Geo. W.
Beckrich, Nick
Beymer, Chas.
Biehmer,
Bingham, Alice
Bishop, L.E.
Bohan, Sam
Boise, Stephen
Bolton, C.M.
Bonar, J.D.
Bonwell, P.W. M/M
Bosworth, F.H.
Bracken, Peter
Bradley, Geo.
Bray, Matt
Brennesholtz,,J.C.
Brockman, J.H. M/M
Brown, Geo.
Brown, Isaiah
Brownfield, Dan L.
Brownfield, John C.
Brownfield, Joel M/M
Buchanan, Col.
Burger, Jacob (Bunger)
Burgess, Albert
Burton,
Butler, Thomas Q.
Buzzard, John
Buzzard, Morris
Bymer, Maggie

C

Calkins, Henry
Carpenter, C.A.
Carpenter, Fred
Case, A.E.
Chase, Edward S.
Church, E.T.
Christianson, Jas.H.
Clark, O.
Clark, Perin
Clark, Tom
Clary, Josh
Close, Fred Kummer M/M
Colman, A.L.
Colman, Bert
Coonan, L.J.
Cooper, Calbe
Cooper, Dr. J.M.F.
Cooper, Joe
Cooper, Leslie
Cooper, Ray
Coordes, E.J.
Corbaley, A.L.
Corbaley, Platt
Corbaley, Richard
Corderman, David M/M
Corderman, Manly
Cornehl, Col.
Cornell, A.E.
Corson, Herbert
Coyle, S.A.
Crawford, J.
Cronch, W.E.
Cumbo, Geo.
Cunningham, James
Curry, A.P.
Cusick, T.J.

D

Dahlke, Wm. M/M
Dale, O.A.
Daling, Ihn M/M
Dallam, Frank
Davidson,
Davis, A.J.
Davis, Kelly M/M
Dayle, J.
Deatley, E.F.
DeCamp, Harry C.
DeGolia, D.C.
Derifield, I.M.
Detwiler, Lewis
Dickey, Frank
Dickey, John

Dickson, A.R.
Domrese, Henry
Domrese, William
Doud, E.F.
Dunn, Robert
Durant, Fred

E

East, Thomas
Eckert, Mike
Enrich, Al
Enrich, Ted
Estes, W.B.
Ernst (Ernest), Will
Ernst (Ernest), Joe
Eustus,

F

Farris, Mrs. Esta
Ferguson, Kit
Ferring, Charles
Filer, Wm. P.
Fitzgerald, J.J.
Feldtman, Jacob
Feldtman, Nicol
Fletcher, C.E. M/M
Fletcher, Fred
Fletcher, John M.
Ford, David
Fox, G.W.
Friel, J.M.
Fuller, Hattie
Fyfield,

G

Gard, Arthur
Garrett, Charles J.
Garrett, J.F.
Garrett, J.J.
Gettman, Henry
Gilchrist, Dr. C.
Gillispie, Al
Godlove, H.C.C.
Goll, John H.
Goodman Bros.
Gormley, Albert
Gormley, John M.
Gormley, Wesley
Gorman, W.
Gould, Wm.
Granis, C.A.
Graves, C.A.
Gray, James B.
Green, Frank

Greene, A.T.
Gritsch, Anton
Gritsch, Frank M.
Gritsch, John
Guibert, Antoine

H

Haislet, John
Halfhill, Robert
Hall, Ed
Happe, Jon
Harden, Smith (Hardis, Harding)
Harris, C.A.
Harsh, Dan E.
Hedges, H.S.
Heggley,
Havens, Frank
Hendricks, Geo. W.
Hensel, Albert
Hensel, C.W.
Hensel, Geo. Hensel, Levi
Hensel, Sam
Hilscher, H.
Hobson, Charles
Hodde, Frank
Holbrook, J.F.
Hollingshead, Eli
Hollingshead, Geo.
Honner, Howard (Honor)
Howe, M.B.
Huff, Howard
Huff, John
Hundley, Sanford
Hupe, Harold

I

Irwin, John
Isley,

J

Jacobsen, Julius
Jacobson, Al
Jacobson, Matthias
Jacobson, Robert
James, Nat
Janssen, John
Jefferson, M.A. M/M
Jensen, Lewis
Jensen, Peter
Johannes, C.A.
Johnson, J.W.
Johnson, Moritz
Johnson, Nickolas
Jordan, Agnes
Jordan, Sanford

K

Kamholz, C.W.
 Karheck, Henry
 Kaufman, Frank
 Kellogg, Charles
 Kellogg, Lucien
 Kelly, Ed
 Kelly, Jim
 Kelly, John
 Kelly, Joe
 Kenney, John
 Kimball, O.H.
 Kincaid, Geo.
 Kincaid, J.H.
 King, (photographer)
 Kirchner, Peter
 Koenig, Leo
 Knemeyer, L.C.
 Kneever (Knuver), Geo. M/M
 Kummer, Ernest

L

Larson, Hans Peter
 Laurence, Bessie
 Laymance, Henry J.
 Lawrence, J.C.
 Libby,
 Liftchild, Charles
 Logan, John D.
 Long, John
 Lovett, J.
 Lowry, James
 Ludeman, Dick
 Ludeman, Heiko
 Ludeman, Henry
 Lytle, A.A.

Mc

McCoy, Sam
 McCollum,
 McCurdy,
 McKay, John
 McKay, R.G.
 McKay, Wm.
 McLean, John
 McMullins,

M

Maltbie, A.L.
 Maltbie, P.G.
 Mann, Walter
 Martin, B.L.
 Mathews, I.W.
 Melvin, James
 Miles, Cap. H.A.
 Miller, Amos M/M
 Miller, Mathew
 Minton,
 Mitchell, Charles E.
 Mitchell, J.J.
 Mitchell, William W.
 Mohr, John
 Monk, Jacob
 Monk, Frank
 Moore, Etta
 Moore, Ira
 Moore, Mary C.
 Morvant,
 Murdock, A.H. M/M
 Murray, Judson

N

Nash, Major E.D.
 Nash, Lucius B.
 Nelson, N.P.
 Nelson, Ole
 Newhouse, Isaac
 Norman, A.B.
 Norton, William
 Norton, John
 Nunan, J.

O

Oberstadt, Julius
 Ogle, C.V.
 Ogle, Clint
 Ogle, E.H. M/M
 Ogle, Ira
 Ogle, J.E.
 Ogle, Josephus M/M
 Ogle, Tom
 Ogle, W.H.
 Okland, Chris
 Owens, Jim
 Owens, John

P

Paine, John
 Paine, Thomas
 Painter, Francis M. M/M
 Painter, W.S.
 Patterson, Hector
 Paulsen, Peter
 Payne, Manford
 Peach, Mrs. Charles
 Pearl, J.W.
 Pendergast, E.K.
 Pepper, John
 Peters, Geo.
 Peters, Henry
 Peters, John
 Petersen, Nels
 Petersen, Nes
 Petersen, Peter
 Pierpoint, Al
 Piper,
 Pizers, Asie
 Porter, E.B. M/M
 Porter, E.W.
 Porter, O.D.
 Porter, R.H.
 Powell, F.W.
 Powers, Jess
 Powers, Thos.
 Prange, Henry
 Prange, Deney

R

Rader, Jim
 Race, H.W.
 Redfield, Oscar
 Renn, Lois Ridenaur
 Richards, D.R.
 Richert, Anna
 Richter, Fred
 Robb, J.H.
 Roberts, George R.
 Roberts, Robert T.
 Robertson, Daniel
 Robins, Sam C.
 Robins, Schiller S.E.

Rock, S.
 Rogers, A.L.
 Rounds, Frank W.
 Roundy, R.R.
 Rubenek, Wilhelm
 Ruud, Ole

S

Schneble, F.M. (Scheble)
 Schmidt, Carl M/M
 Schmith, John C.
 Schneider, Philip
 Schneider, Leonard
 Scott, Peter
 Shaeffers,
 Shammon, L.K.
 Shearer, John
 Sides, Will
 Silverthorn,
 Silvia, Frank
 Skey, James
 Skink,
 Slack, Harry M/M
 Slack, Richard
 Smith, Mrs. Ed.
 Smith, J.B.
 Snow, J.M.
 Soper, David M/M
 Spear, Ben
 Speed, R.E.
 Sprauer, Stephen
 Sprauer, Stephn
 Stanley, Claude M/M/
 Stanley, W.J. M/M
 Stare, R.W.
 Starr, George
 Steiner, R.S. M/M
 Steinke, Rev. M.
 Stephens, J.W.
 Stevens, J.W.
 Stretch,
 Stoddard, Wm. M/M
 Stowell, E.E.
 Sutor, Jennie
 Swanson, Albert
 Swanson, Alfred

T

Taylor, T.
 Taylor, Flora
 Tenney, Bert
 Termey, A.W.
 Tichenal, D.J.
 Tichenal, Louis
 Tipler, I.R.
 Thomas, J.C.
 Thompson, H.R.
 Toler, M.M.
 Turner, J.Y.
 Tyler, F.C.

V

Van Alstine, P.G.
 Venneberg, Charles
 Viebrock, C.H.
 Viebrock, John

W

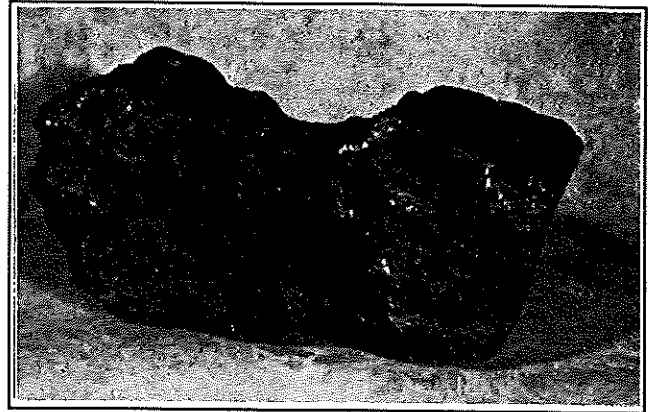
Wallace, Cinde
 Wallace, O.V.

Walleberg, Edmund
 Walmer, Joe
 Walters, William
 Ward,
 Warren, Rev. J.M.C.
 Waters, R.J.
 Watson, Ben
 Webb, R.P.
 Westerman, H.G. M/M
 Wetsel, W.R.
 Weyen, Nankie
 Whinery Brothers
 White, C.M.
 Whited, Kirk
 Wilcox Brothers
 Wilcox, Charles M/M
 Will, C.F.
 Williams, Brother
 Willis,
 Willms, Geo.
 Willms, Harold
 Willms, Hero (Herre)
 Wilson, J.D.
 Wilson, J.M.G.
 Wilson, W.R.
 Wilson, Wm.
 Winn, John E.
 Witte, Carl
 Witte, Charles M/M
 Witten, Henry
 Witten, John
 Witten, Wm.
 Wright, Oliver O.
 Wixon, John E.
 Wixon, W.M.
 Wolf, Ed.
 Woodin, Gene

This-n-That

Waterville Meteorite

The Waterville meteorite is said to be the first meteorite recovered in Washington. It was found in 1917 on the Fred Fachnie farm, 16 miles northeast of Waterville, when it became entangled in a combine during wheat harvest. Examination has determined it is of nickel-iron composition. It is a granular octahedrite with abundant troilite (iron sulfide) inclusions. Original weight was 82 pounds. It has been cut away to 73¼ pounds. The Waterville meteorite probably fell as part of a "shower" that occurred June 17, 1917 according to astronomer Walter M. Grizzle. An eleven pound meteorite identified by composition as part of the same fall was found near Withrow.



WATERVILLE METEORITE

Waterville Meteorite fell January 7, 1917 on Fachnie Farm near Waterville, Washington. Largest nickel-iron meteorite found in past century in this country. Weighed 82½ lbs. In outstanding permanent collection of meteorites on display in Douglas County Historical Society's Museum, Waterville, Washington.

Withrow Meteorite

Found in the spring of 1950 lying on a field one mile west of Withrow by W.C. Nollmeyer. The cut, polished, and etched surface reveals the meteorite to be of medium octahedrite with secondary crystallization of the type ascribed to cosmic heating. Original weight was 19¼ pounds. This meteorite is of different material, hence a different fall. It exploded on the way down according to reports.

Thieves At Work - 1898

The crisp atmosphere around and about Waterville has been heavy with blasphemy the past week. City Attorney Canton had a toothsome looking duck, dressed and ready for the baking pan, hung out in the cool night on a nail on his back porch. Mr. Canton retired, his thoughts dwelling pleasantly upon the feast for the morrow. Awful was his wrath at stepping out his door next morning at the sight of the empty nail.

But he wasn't the only sufferer. Mutton chops and cabbages were missing from O.C. Knemeyer's cellar. Joe Brockman lost a quilt from his clothes line. J.C. Lawrence is minus 500 feet of lumber. Overshoes and underclothing were stolen from various parties. Nine dollars worth of groceries were taken from a farmer's wagon. The electric people lost valuable pliers which could not be replaced and the water-works people, lead piping. Maltbie & Brennescholtz lost tools to the value of nearly one hundred dollars and Matt Smith's till at the Windsor Hotel was tapped.

Wm. Walters chased a man out of his cellar Sunday night. Other depredations have been reported and City Attorney Canton and Deputy Sheriff McCann were on the war path on Monday.

F-104 Jet Crashes at Farmer

"Hurling out of an overcast sky at perhaps 1,000 miles an hour or more, a jet fighter slammed straight into the ground near here Wednesday morning, killing its pilot." So begins an article in the April 13, 1960, edition of The Wenatchee World reporting on the startling crash of a F-104 Jet from Larson Air Force Base.

Armed with two live rockets, it smashed into a wheatfield owned by Lawrence and Clarence Eggers, located two miles east and two miles south of Farmer. The plane erupted in a flash of fire and a tall mushroom of black smoke and dust. Pilot, First Lt. William T. Tilson, 25, of Limestone, Tennessee was killed.

The impact of the crash and huge explosion was felt in Waterville 18 miles away. An eight foot crater and small bits and pieces of the aircraft scattered over a one-half mile fan-shaped area were all that remained.

Lawrence Eggers, working on his ranch, was closest to the scene and reported the accident to the Douglas County Sheriff.

Albert and Henry Westerman working in a field about two miles southwest of the crash site reported *"...it came nearly straight down. Then there was a flash of flame and then the black smoke and the dust."*

Crash time was fixed at 11:15 a.m. and by 12:45 p.m. an Air Force helicopter had arrived carrying the first Air Force men to guard the wreck area.

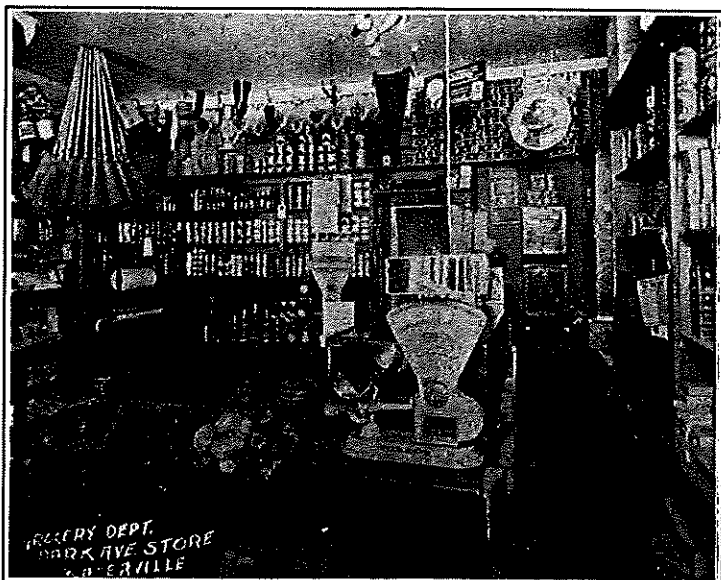
The jet was a sleek, spearshaped craft with each wing only 7½ feet long from fuselage to tip. Such a craft had set the world air speed record of 1,404 miles an hour in 1959.

An Indian Wedding - 1898

Jim Timantawah, a young buck of the Okanogan realm, and Elaine, an Indian maiden with painted cheeks and eyebrows, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony in an upstairs office over the land office, Friday, the Rev. W.C. Beebe officiating. The two came down from the Okanogan by cayuse Thursday and next morning made their purpose known, also the extent of their pocket book, which it was found necessary to increase by "chipping in" to the sum total of two dollars required for the purchase of the marriage license. This done, just before noon, in the presence of the Honorables P.E. Berry and J.C. Lawrence, land office register, County Attorney Pendergast, three or four attorneys, two newspapermen and a half-dozen other prominent localites, the ceremony was performed. After more "chipping in," the sum of which was turned over to the bride, a general hand-shaking proceeded and the most hearty and effusive congratulations were showered upon the pair. The ceremonies were then pronounced concluded and securing their certificate, the couple departed for Okanogan.

Feb. 1913: Brick House Sent by Mail

Frank Malfa, of the Waterville brick yard, sent by parcel post a brick of local manufacture to be used in building a brick house at the Coliseum, Chicago, during the Clay Products exposition. This brick will be one of the 25,000 sent by parcel post from every brick plant in the U.S. to be used in the construction of this house which will be given away and re-erected after the exposition. The idea was originated to test the merits of the parcel post system. A record of each brick from the time it is mailed until it is delivered in Chicago will be kept in order to see how speedily Uncle Sam can deliver a brick house by mail.



The Masquerade - 1889

The social season of the old year closed or rather the new one began, with the most enjoyable party of the winter's season in the Big Bend—The Masquerade. It might be thought by people living in older communities that a masquerade a hundred miles from the railroad would be quite a primitive affair, but strangers who witnessed the party at Bradley Hall given by the Waterville Social Dancing Club pronounced it in every way equal to similar occasions in larger towns.

The music was furnished by the Waterville Social Club orchestra directed by the well-known accomplished artist, Mr. Geo. Crawford, which is sufficient guarantee that it was unexcelled.

Following are the names of those present with their characters represented: Chas. Peach, Indian; Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Stephens, Dutch couple; Miss Aberley, Milkmaid; Mrs. Silas Pearl, Columbia; Mrs. Josh Clary, Big Bend Empire; C.V. Ogle, Town Dude; Johnny Paine, Clown; Will Ernest, Clown; George Hollingshead, Negro Dude; C. Carpenter, Flour; Mrs. Chas. Peach, Old Woman; G.W. Fox, Clown; Mrs. Fox, Day and Night; M.B. Howe, German; Ed. Wolf, Russian; Judge Snow, Devil; Joe Ernest, Clown; Bert Tenny, Cow Boy; John Keeney, Clown; Joe Kelly, Negro; Al Murdock, Poor Man; Mrs. Geo. Hollingshead, School Girl; James Kelly, Lady; Cora Brown, May Queen; Mrs. Libby, Sailor Girl; Gene Woodin, Clown; Mrs. Carpenter, Red Riding Hood; Mrs. Ed. Smith, Pop Corn Girl; Ben Watson, Turk; Kit Ferguson, Page; Mrs. P.G. Van Alstine, Negro Wench; Mrs. Murdock, Queen; Will Sides, Clown.

Mrs. Geo. Hollingshead was awarded the prize, an oil painting, for the best sustained lady character.

E.E. Stephens was awarded the prize, a cup and saucer, for the best gentleman's character.

One of the most prominent agreeable features of the occasion was THE SUPPER given by J.W. Willis at his hotel on Locust street. The only opinion expressed was that it was the best supper ever served in the Big Bend. The variety was large, and the style in which it was prepared and served caused many well merited praises.

GROCERY DEPARTMENT, PARK AVENUE STORE

Mt. St. Helens

At 8:32 a.m., May 18, 1980, Mt. St. Helens erupted. Within minutes three billion cubic yards of rock and glacial ice had been blown from the mountain peak. Superheated winds and gases hurling projectiles of fractured rock swept through 150 square miles to the north of the mountain. In a wink of time, whole forests fell striped of leaves and limbs.

Floods choked the area rivers with mud and debris. A column of ash rose 14 miles high and, pushed by winds from the south and west, headed east blocking the sun for hours and covering row crops in Eastern Washington. Four days after the blast, ash had reached the East coast and eventually was tracked around the globe.

Nature began renewing itself almost immediately, healing its vast scars. Today wildflowers and grasses are turning the gray blast area green. Small animals that survived are multiplying. Elk and other large animals are returning. Returning too, are tourists, campers and hikers who will likely number over 700,000 this year. Helicopters and airplanes furnish the best overall view.

Now there is Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument of 110,000 acres. Outdoor classes are available for studying the effects of the eruption.

Several around Waterville heard what they thought was a sonic boom when Mt. St. Helens erupted. They later saw a big black cloud go over, and thought it was a raincloud, but it left a fine layer of ash. Three Greyhound buses were stranded in Waterville three hours that Sunday afternoon. Highway #2 through Waterville remained the only road open to through traffic from Spokane to Seattle before eventually closing for a time just east of town. The ash spread in an easterly direction. Spokane was hit harder than Waterville. Ritzville had 2000 tourists stranded there by six inches of gritty ash. They tried to leave Ritzville, but were forced to return on account of bad roads. Even now along road sides in Moses Lake, Lind, etc. white ash appears.

It was said: "I'm glad I was close enough to be part of it, but I'm glad I'm not in Yakima. Waterville is just fine with me."

Some of the local golfers had been at a tournament in Moses Lake and after the eruption, wanting to get home they took county and off roads to avoid closures and eventually arrived in Waterville. It took a major overhaul to get the car back in running condition.

Ward and Owen Nelson recall walking out to the city dump north of town to recover used Model T. tires (without wire in the rims). These they brought in to sell to Harry Lovejoy at the Ice Cream plant. He used them to fire the boilers for steam to clean the dairy equipment. Each tire was worth five cents!

A Quick Trip

On Friday evening, April 6, 1900 R. S. Steiner, F.S. Steiner, Thos. East And R.W. Starr returned from Seattle, at which place they attended the meetings held by William Jennings Bryan and they of course were very well pleased with their trip, all being Democrats. On arriving at Orondo they got aboard Colonel Buchanan's stage. As they knew that the Colonel was never beaten in a horse race they began urging him to race with a bicyclist up the canyon and into town, but the Colonel knows a thing or two about racing, and offered to make all kinds of bets that he would beat the bicycle in, but could get no takers only for the beer. After leaving the canyon and getting in ahead of the bicycle, the race to town began and those on the stage had a rough ride of it, at one place the passengers going several feet in the air. As the roads were rough on the side the bicyclist was compelled to keep behind the stage, and whenever the man attempted to pass "Buck" would jockey him by turning in ahead and was compelled to keep behind the wagon

The stage came into town ahead of time and with the horses on the run and also ahead of the bicycle and the passengers enjoyed the race very much. The bicyclist says, however, that he could have come in ahead had he known the race was on in earnest, but we don't think he knows the Colonel as well as we do. By the way, the race saved all from a soaking rain storm which came on a few minutes after the arrival of the stage. The occupants of the stage say it was one of the quickest trips ever made from Orondo to Waterville and afforded them great amusement.

March 1914: Blazing Trail Across Country

A representative of the Automobile Blazing Association of the U.S. was in town and the object of this association is to blaze a way across the continent from New York to Seattle. The line of this through the state of Washington will pass through Spokane and Waterville by Snoqualmie Pass. They literally blaze the way across the continent so that a wayfaring chauffeur, although a fool, may follow it even on the darkest night. In a contract with the Bell Telephone people they are using their poles. A red and white band is placed around the poles just high enough so that the lights will strike it to guide the driver on the way. When they strike a city they are put at every block, and the same stripe is put on the garage they occupy and the hotel designated. In Waterville the T.B. Jones Brick Garage is the one which will receive the sign. Waterville is recognized in all the advertising and it will bring many passengers this way.

First Grain Crop in 1884

The very earliest pioneers were stockmen, and the first grain crop was a ten acre patch grown by J.R. Lewis, 1884. Cayuses turned into the corral built around the stack of grain threshed it, and then the grain was spread out on a smooth surface where it was fanned by the wind. After several weeks it was clean and ready for market.

The Winter of 1889-90

Hardship was not uncommon to the early settlers of the Big Bend. The cruel winter of 1889-90 proved no exception. The extreme cold and snow left roads impassable! Travel was mostly by snowshoe, even by April there was still four feet of snow.

The devastation to cattle in the area was extreme. Approximately 40 percent died from either starvation or inclement weather. The ranchers fed their livestock all the available fodder they had, including stored seed wheat. Many of the cattle died from drowning in potholes when trying to get water through the ice. It was said that this harsh winter destined the change of the county's economy from cattle to wheat.

First Train Was Pulled By Horses

One of our "old-timers" commented on the story in the nearby daily about the original railroad here. He said they missed the point by not telling how in the spring of 1910, between John Mohr and Henry Kummer and his father, they got 8 head of horses, and they pulled the first railroad car from the Douglas line into Waterville along the tracks. The car contained the terra cotta for the bank building, and they were afraid it would be jounced around to much. Our source, who prefers to remain anonymous, says he himself took the car back empty with a stick of wood to brake the wheels.


Waterville 1915 Basketball Teams


The 1915 girls and boys basketball teams are gathered here: left to right standing, Verna Adams, Cora Leslie, Agnes Friel, Edith Greenberg (girls coach), Anita Laymance, Agnes Severson, and Florence Sykes. Left to right seated, Neut Waters, Milt Wolverton, Arthur Burks, Cecil Mitchell, Bryan Friel, and Beverly Wilson. Not pictured is the boys coach, L.O. Anderson.


1920-1921 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS North Central Washington

Pictured left-Captain Warner Friel, extreme right coach George Pflaum. Members on top of ball from left are Claude Taylor, Sy Wilcox, Charles Jensen, Harry Wilson. Second row from left Gene Fritz, Eldon Armour, Harold Porter, Lawrence Howe, Lynn Minton, and Robert Davis.









**WATERVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL**

TEAMS PLAYED

23	CASHMERE	22
24	LEAVENWORTH	12
25	CASHMERE	10
26	MITTROM	11
27	LEAVENWORTH	11
28	FOXY TEAM	11
29	ALPINE	20
30	WALLA WALLA	20

**WATERVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL**

Basket Ball
Team

1920-1921 Champions
North Central
Washington

Memories

48 FLOOD

A Memory, Never Forgotten

Written by fifth-grader Hilary Peterson from information from "Grandma Ruth" about experiences in Douglas.

The rain provided a steady tap-tap-tap against the attic's roof. Clearly, the storm brought back memories to my grandmother and she began to speak.

I remember back in 1948, June 10. Harold and I were standing in what used to be our living room, knee-deep in water. We had returned to get some clothes for the children. A book floating around in the muddy water carried a tiny, shivering mouse.

I said to Harold. "I've never saved a mouse before, but I fear for this one's life."

As Harold started upstairs, my mind wandered back to the day before when swirling winds and high creek waters sent the ladies sewing group home early.

This morning had dawned a beautiful, sunny day but the humidity in the air suggested coming danger. By noon the water had risen to our front steps.

A call came from my brother Bob. He anxiously said to get out of the house—fast! Harold took MaryBeth and I took Thomas. We ran to the top of the hill.

We watched as the Douglas Creek waters rushed down through the gully tearing our house in two. My heart was filled with thankfulness as we held our children and each other safely on the hill.

As Harold returned with the clothes from the upstairs, I placed the book on the mantle. The mouse could now live also.

You know you're in a small town when . . .

Pickup Trucks outnumber passenger cars 3 to 1.

You drive into the ditch five miles out of town and the word gets back before you do.

You can't walk for exercise because every car that passes offers you a ride.

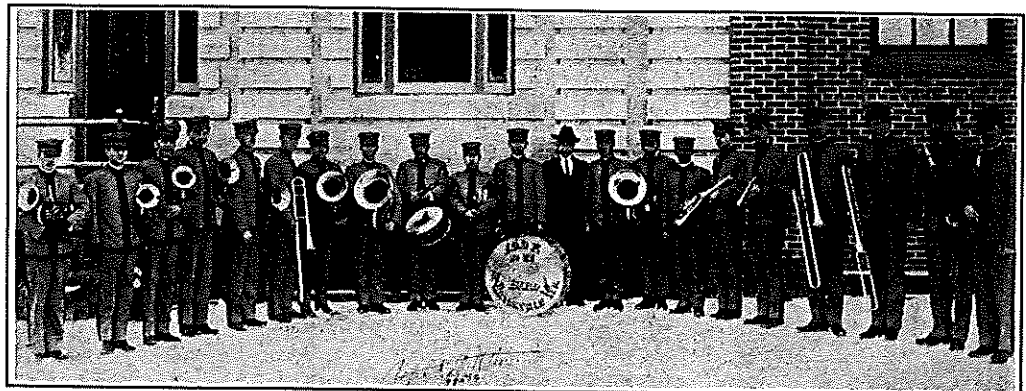
Valet

A serious mishap occurred to one of our citizens who had to black his own shoes and curl his own hair and be his own valet in general. While blacking his shoes one day, it occurred to him that it would be a nice thing to have a strip of rag for a polisher. He set his wits to work and happened to think that he had a worn night shirt that could furnish the required "polisher." He dived into the dresser drawer and drew it forth, decapitating a nice slice off the tail, which made a fine polisher. On retiring that night he was horrified to find that he had clipped the tail from his new nightshirt and as he is only able to own one at a time, is in a quandary as to how he can renew the tail which was bobbed off. He is waiting to see whether the tariff is going to be removed from night shirts, when he hopes they will be cheaper and he can afford two.

Horse & Teeth

One of our prominent citizens keeps a driving horse. The horse became rather languid in his eating and it was thought the cause was his teeth. So he was given over to the care of a veterinary who cleaned and trimmed his teeth nicely. It seems the owner did not know that the dentist No. 1 had treated the horse, so he ordered another dentist to perform the operation, which he did. By this time another dentist from Wenatchee happened along and he also treated the horse, cleaning and brushing up his teeth until they shown like ivory and reported a good job and received his pay. By this time Nos. 1 and 2 came around for their pay, and explanations were in order, when it was found that three dentist had treated the horse in one day and the horse is said to be waiting for others to come. The owner is now seriously thinking of selling the horse, which he can at least guarantee as to the condition of his teeth.

IOOF BAND



Salad Dressing

Nalley's or Miracle Whip

QUART JAR 29c

TOMATOES

Happy Home Brand
Solid Pack

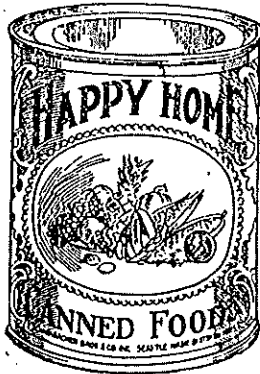
NO. 2 1/2 CAN 20c

ONE
POUND
29c



- SWEET PICKLES C H B Quart 35c
- CHATKA CRAB MEAT 35c
- H H BONELESS CHICKEN, Halves Flat 50c
- PRESERVED GINGER, 1 lb. Stone Jar 25c
- NONE SUCH MINCE MEAT 15c
- DATES, Lion Cello Wrap Pkg. 30c

- Shelled Walnuts, California Halves, 1 pound .. 50c
- Candied Cherries, Pkg. 15c
- Tomato Sauce 5c
- Pimentos 10c
- H H Shrimp 15c



- Whole Ripe Figs, No. 2 .. 27c
- Goose Berries No. 2 25c
- Royal Ann Cherries,
No. 2 25c
- Grapefruit, 2 No. 2 35c
- Assorted Preserves,
Large Jar 49c
- Golden Kernel Corn,
No. 2 15c
- Chicken Sandwich
Spread 15c
- Old Fashioned Dills,
Quart Jar 30c
- Cut Wax Beans, 2 No. 2 .. 35c
- Asparagus Pack Beans 30c

BULK GOODS

- White Beans, 10 lbs. 49c
- Red Beans, 10 lbs. 45c
- Macaroni or Spaghetti,
5 lbs. 35c
- Fancy Blue Rose Rice
5 lbs. 35c
- Globe Pop Corn, 5 lbs. 25c
- White Raisins, 1 lb. 10c

Make Someone Happy this Christmas with a basket of Wholesome foods. Select your items from our complete stock and we will wrap, pack, trim and deliver your baskets. Or if you prefer we will make up an assortment for you.

BAKER'S COCOA

1 lb. 25c
Chocolate
Two-lb.
cake
39c



XMAS CANDIES

- Chocolate Covered
Carmels 30c
- French Mixed 35c
- Broken Mixed 15c
- Large Gum Drops
2 lbs. 35c
- Plain Satin Mix
2 lbs. 25c

- CELERY 5c—2 for 15c
- ORANGES, 2 doz. 25c
- SWEET POTATOES .5c
- LETTUCE, large solid
..... 2 for 15c

JELLATEEN

Assorted

5 PKGS. 25c

- Jumbo Peanuts, 2 lb. .. 19c
- Almonds IXL 20c
- Brazil, large re-washed
2 lbs. 35c
- Walnuts, No. 1 23c

JAP ORANGES

PER BOX 90c

- Cherries H H
5-oz. Jar 15c
- Olives, Stuffed 15c
- Ripe Olives H H,
55 count 20c
- Ripe Olives O M, 2 for 25c

He Built a Store - Called it Douglas

Jesse Wallace More Than Just Another Pioneer
Widow Tells of Early Days As Ex-Big Benders Meet in Coast Fog
By Grace Christianson Gardner

SEATTLE, April 16. The other morning I was going to town in a dense fog. The danger made everyone in the car talkative. The lady near me said, "Seems like old times. Where I came from everybody knew everybody else." I said, "Me too - it was 50 miles to town, then 25 miles."

She asked "Where?" I said "The Big Bend," She said, "Me too." Her name used to be Jessie Soper of Soper Flats, just out of Moses Coulee up Douglas creek, beginning in 1884.

So I made a new friend out of an old one - who was my neighbor both here and over in the Big Bend although I had not seen her for 40 years.

When Jessie Soper married Jesse Wallace back in 1884 at Douglas, it was more than just a wedding. The event was to go down in history as the first wedding there in Big Bend. And Jesse Wallace was more than just another pioneer. He named a town, Douglas; he built and operated the first store, the first school house, and he was its first superintendent.

Thereby hangs a tale. It happened like this.

About two miles north of Douglas, two men by the name of Adams and Mann had a fine townsite laid out. They called it New Okanogan. They built a large store, and the Spokane stage made regular trips to its door. They set out trees and drilled a deep well. They drilled considerable more than 200 feet, but "met no gusher, not even a seep." Water was hauled from Douglas lake.

Then in 1884 came Jesse Wallace. He took up a preemption claim near the new townsite, but down near the source of water, he built his store and called it Douglas. He built the sturdy little schoolhouse that was used for 50 years.

Down on Douglas creek at the mouth of the Fansler canyon lived Jessie Soper, oldest of four children. A year earlier, her father had left Michigan and come to Walla Walla, thence by covered wagon to Douglas creek, where near Moses Coulee, he took up his homestead. There were few young women in the Big Bend, so Jessie Soper was popular at frontier parties at Douglas. Here she met Jesse Wallace whom she married.

She tells an early-day story:

"At one of these old time parties we had in Douglas, I met a fine, big cowboy named Manford Payne.

"He had come from Missouri with his parents. They lived on the creek a little below Douglas. Old man Payne was running from the law in Missouri where he had shot and killed a man. He thought by coming to Douglas he would be lost to the world, safely hidden. But Spokane authorities were on his track. Two officers came in a buckboard to get their man. They found Payne hoeing potatoes. He offered no resistance.

"Well Manford let the officers get a little start. Then he strapped on his six-shooter, and set out to overtake the buckboard and opened fire. He killed one officer and his own father! The other officer ran for his life. The day was one of the hottest of summer. He left the dead men and returned home, saying nothing. Soon the other officer, the most frightened man we ever set eyes upon, walked into Douglas. Then Wallace and other men brought in the dead men.

"But Manford was not arrested. No one came for him. No one dared to arrest him. For years he was never seen without his holster. But finally he gave himself up. He was not imprisoned. There were no witnesses. He wouldn't kill his father. They let him go. There was little law and order there then."

The Wallaces moved to Lakeside on Lake Chelan where they lived until his death, and also where their two sons, Earl and Clayton, grew up. Jessie Wallace moved to Seattle and married Mr. Skoglund, where for many years she has resided.

It is most interesting to hear this woman of 72 (with not a gray hair) tell of life when she was a girl on her father's (David Soper) claim down between the lava crags of Moses Coulee creek. Their cabin had a stone chimney that stood for 50 years after the old cabin tumbled. The Soper place was a wayside inn to incoming settlers, and Mrs. Soper seemed always to be on hand when we in the Coulee were born. She always walked down the four miles to our place.

Jessie says: "Father had milk cows but raised no hay, and the hard winter killed even our cows. But talk about a garden, we had the finest garden in the Big Bend! Our table was well filled, at least everyone said so. We sold stuff too. Mother raised geese. One time we heard a great commotion. Father only had a shovel at hand when he saw a cougar grab a big gander. He took a bit out of her neck."

I said, "Sometimes we imagined we saw cougar tracks on the creek, but we didn't really think cougar were there!"

"Father was always calling this animal he saw a cougar. He said it had a long tail. Maybe you wouldn't believe deer were on the creek too. Real early mornings we heard crackling in the brush, and later found their tracks.

"Father found a spotted fawn up one of the gullies and brought it home. You see he had a 160 and it covered quite a lot of those bunch grass hills each side of Douglas creek. We called it Douglas creek until it sank. Remember it sinks out of sight for a spell? After it begins again we called it Moses Coulee creek the last few miles before it reaches the Coulee. "That little fawn we raised to a big doe. Father set out some poisoned

grain to kill gophers and Nancy, our deer died. She always looked so pretty in the willows there. We missed her."

Jessie Soper said further: "Everyone over there will recall my brother Al Soper, head of the round-up for years. When fences and settlers came it was too tame for Al. He took up a homestead near Moosejaw,

Alberta, 100 miles from Edmonton. He went overseas during the war and was wounded in the hip. After the war he went back to raising cattle.

Jessie says of her lost brother, "It was fitting that Al should go the way he did. He loved cattle. He was rounding 'em up when the last round-up came for him."

HOTEL WATERVILLE

Christmas Dinner

Turkey, Goose or Steak

FOUR-COURSE DINNER

11 A. M. To 4 P. M.

50 Cents

FOR SPECIAL PARTIES A WHOLE TURKEY WILL
BE SERVED AT THEIR TABLES

\$1.00 a Plate

Phone 102 for reservations

March 2, 1889

March 2, 1939

You are cordially invited to attend the

Golden Jubilee Celebration

Waterville, Washington

commemorating the 50th anniversary of its incorporation

Unveiling of Pioneer Monument, 5:30 o'clock

at City Park

Banquet 6:30 o'clock

Community Hall

Indian Scare

From Nell Dickson's notes

Chief Moses was chief of the Sinkiuses, a tribe of Indians who roamed the area, and lived on the Columbia Reservation, northwest of the Okanogan River, when the white man moved into this area. He had assumed leadership of the Sinkiuses in 1858, after the death of his father Half Sun in 1850, and his older brother Quiltencock in 1858.

He was a very fine, smart Indian friendly with the white people. He told the early pioneers that there would never be any Indian trouble here. He was peaceful and his tribe was peaceful, and he believed the Indians and whites could learn to live in peace.

The Indians were camped on Badger mountain one year as was normal when they spent about three weeks on the southern part digging and drying camas.

Sometimes they would bring buckskin gloves and moccasins that they had made during the winter to sell to the Badger Mt. men.

One day there were signal fires all along Badger Mt. They were noticed by the settlers and everyone was very frightened. The Indians could easily have wiped out the white men because they had them outnumbered. The white men gathered and rode horseback up the mountain to find out what was happening.

The young bucks were gathered around just whooping it up and having a fine time. Chief Moses was off to one side with his blanket wrapped around him. The white men tried to explain that the militia had been notified and would be arriving soon. Moses didn't pay any attention to them.

Most of the men could speak a little siwash. Mr.



CHIEF MOSES

Godlove spoke their language quite fluently. He walked over to a bunch of bucks, thinking he might learn their plans. They were too drunk! He couldn't find out anything.

He had a pair of handcuffs in his pocket. He slipped them on one of the bucks. They had never seen anything like them.

Early Day Gypsies

The Gypsies are in town! The word spread as the men, women and children jumped out of their big vans and headed for the stores.

My mother was employed by the Waterville Mercantile, a dry goods and grocery store, around 1915. Ed Dahlke, the owner, always warned the employees about the Gypsies. He cautioned, "Drop whatever you are doing and watch them closely and by all means don't let them try to tell your fortune." As closely as they watched, many items vanished in the large pockets of their long, full, colorful skirts. The children were also well trained in the art of stealing.

When my dad was a little boy, living on the farm, he and his brothers and sisters had a frightening experience with these people. Their parents had gone to town to buy the weeks supplies and left the children at home with an older sister. There was a knock on the door and there stood four Gypsies with more in the wagon parked in front of the house. The woman asked to speak with their parents the the children told them they had gone to town. The four then pushed the children aside and started ransacking the house. They

spied my Grandmother's freshly baked loaves of bread, sweet rolls and pies. They scooped it all up in their baskets and ran out of the house, but didn't take anything else. They had always heard that Gypsies would steal little children and were relieved as they drove out of the yard.

The Gypsies always dressed in very bright colors with many strands of beads around their necks and big loop earrings. I can remember being shocked to see the little children with the big loops running through their ears.

They never committed any serious crimes, other than stealing, but the Sheriff was always notified and they were soon ushered out of town.

I had a great fear of these people as a child but learned that they are a happy humorous group and the records prove that they show a comparative absence of serious crime.

As the years passed by the visits were far and few between until they were not seen at all in the smaller towns.

Myrna K. Nelson

Memories

(A.H. Murdock's 80th Birthday Party)

There were three sawmills on Badger Mt. in the 1880's. The first one was established by L.B. Nash. The next year another mill was established by Charles A. Harris and the third by L.E. Bishop.

In the first tax roll, which was in 1885, there were 392 persons who were assessed. The total taxes assessed amounted to \$3,415.37. One hundred ninety-seven acres was all the land that had been improved at that time.

Whole herds of cattle were frozen in the killer year of the winter of 1889-90. Matt Bray lost 3,000 head at one time along the breaks of the Columbia. Other stockmen with thousands of head suffered similar losses. The Big Bend was a great sweep of bunch grass when this group of earlier settlers arrived. It was an ideal stock

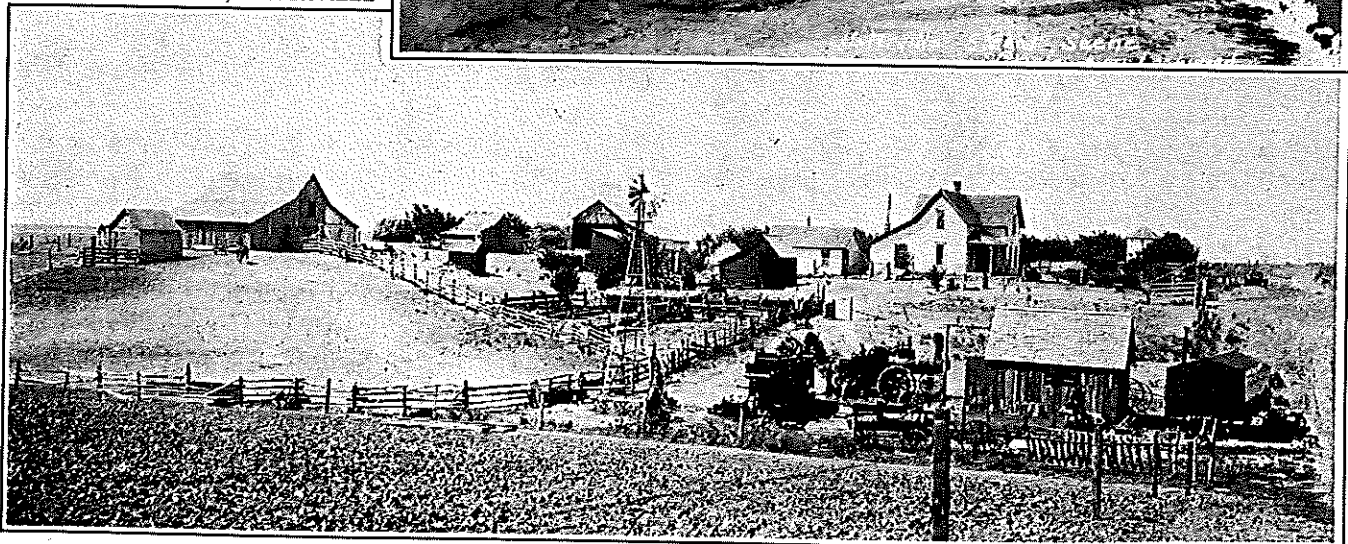
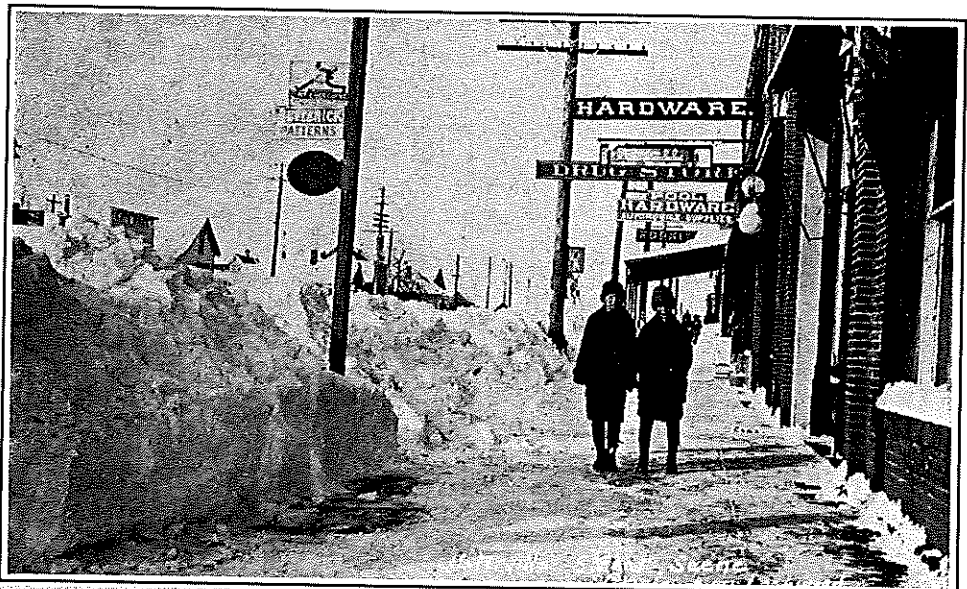
country. Jack McKay said "one of the tough years on wheat was in 1907 when there was no money for wheat and they had to take script instead."

Direful days came in 1888 when the people were attacked by mountain fever which was diagnosed as a kind of typhoid. Altogether 26 young people died in the small community that year. Dr. Colin H. Gilchrist went out on horseback from place to place.

In 1903 the Stevens tram was built from the top of the hill down to the Columbia. Wheat was hauled down at 2 cents a bushel. Freight from the tram on from Orondo was six cents a bushel to Wenatchee. In 1890 wheat was 18 cent a bushel for first grade. McKay's wheat had some smut in it so he received only 13 cents a bushel.

WINTER STREET SCENE ►

▼ I.W. OGLE RANCH, WATERVILLE



EARLY DOCTORS

1888 - Dr. Gilchrist - Just received a ton of pure drugs and more are on the way.

Nov. 1888 - Dr. Hollingshead - corner of Walnut & Central, also had furniture store in Bldg. back of Dr.'s office

Apr. 11, 1889 - Dr. J.M.F. Cooper

1897 - Dr. E. G. Preston - dentist

1903 - Dr. Leslie (from Kentucky). Office at Hollingshead Pharm.

Dec. 1903 - Dr. Adams located in office over Cooper Pharmacy

THE FAIR

Clothing, Furnishing Goods, Hosiery
Hats, Caps, Underwear, Shoes, Ribbons
Corsets, Notions and Groceries

Salesman _____ Waterville, Wash., _____ 193_____

M _____

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IN CASE OF ERROR PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP

SO SAY WE ALL I



Ole Ruud — "On the 17th of May 1883, I sowed a small patch of barley and planted one pail full of potatoes which I cut small, one eye to a piece. The yield of this in the fall was six sacks well filled. Many people came around during the summer to see my crop and all expressed satisfaction that the country could at least grow potatoes and barley. Walter Mann and a stranger came to see my crop and were particularly fond of potatoes and wanted some to eat. I at first refused because they were not yet full grown and I wanted to save the whole crop for seed next year. This counted for nothing, potatoes they must have. I took a pail and dug under the hills till I got it full and told them the price was one dollar which they paid and said it was cheap enough."

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