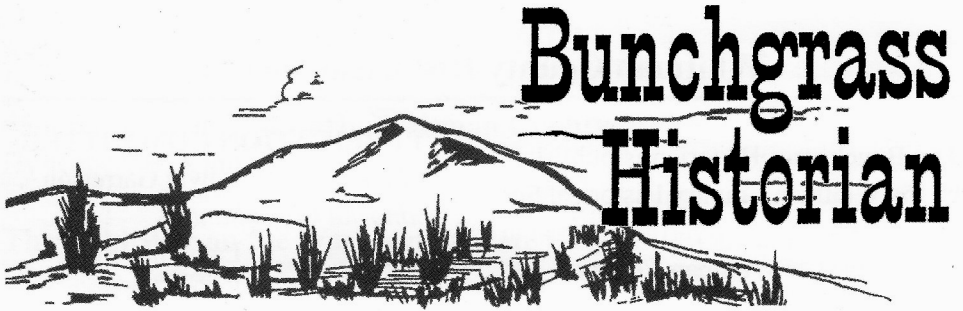


Bunchgrass Historian



**Whitman County Historical Society
Colfax, Washington**

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2005



- ◆ **“Secret Societies” of Early Whitman County**
- ◆ **The Cold War at WSU 1945-1962**
- ◆ **A Legacy of Education: Oakesdale Schools**

Whitman County Historical Society

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COVER

*Detail of the Johnson Cemetery
headstone shown on page 3*



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AUTHORS

Robert King, an avid collector of local memorabilia, has written this article based upon research done in connection with artifacts he has acquired. Additional illustrations come from the artifacts and photographs that have been donated to the WCHS by many individuals over the years. King grew up in Pullman and is currently employed as an archaeologist in Alaska.

WSU senior **Jessie Britton** wrote this article for a WSU History course. Her parents both received graduate history degrees from WSU. Jessie plans next year to continue the study of history in graduate school.

We are pleased to reproduce this delightful and informative piece of ephemera, which was written by **LaVelle Billingsley Gardner** and distributed at an all-class reunion in Oakesdale. The article conveys the enthusiasm with which the towns of Whitman County have supported their schools over the years.

An 1899 headstone for Woodman of the World Otis E. Olmstead, located in the Johnson Cemetery





The 1908 Christmas program in Pullman, staged by the Woodmen of the World (W.O.W.), fraternal lodge, took place in the third-floor ballroom of the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) hall. Shown here are 16 boys performing a drill in which they have formed a W.O.W. with their sticks. Located at 205 E. Main, the I.O.O.F. hall was built in 1892 and housed many Pullman businesses over the years. The building was demolished in the mid-1970s.

“SECRET SOCIETIES” OF EARLY WHITMAN COUNTY

by Robert E. King

In the second half of the 19th century and continuing into the early 20th century, fraternal organizations grew rapidly in the United States. Their rising popularity was a direct response to the economic problems after the Civil War and two major depressions that followed. Through joining lodges, also called “secret societies” due to their having certain “secret” membership rituals, people found social support and economic help (including life insurance). Such organizations also provided co-workers for various causes and new friends looking for a little fun to break the monotony of day-to-day life. Some lodges also did benevolent work, with most having patriotic and sometimes religious overtones in their charters and rituals. Such organizations began in Whitman County soon after its formation in 1871, were flourishing by the turn of the twentieth century, and some even continue today, though with proportionally far fewer members than a century ago.

According to one lodge historian,¹ by 1900 there were over 300 different, and mostly newly established, fraternal orders in the United States. And in Whitman County, as listed in the 1904 Polk Directory of Whitman County under the heading “secret societies,” no fewer than 28 such organizations were functioning in the following 14 towns: Albion, Colfax, Colton, Elberton, Endicott, Farmington, Garfield, Oakesdale, Palouse, Pullman, Rosalia, St. John, Tekoa, and Thornton.

This snapshot of 1904 ignores lodges that may have existed earlier – but not in 1904 – or ones organized at a later date. The author owns numerous badges for lodges not on this 1904 list: for an I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows) lodge in Steptoe, for the Rebekahs of Garfield, for the Knights of Pythias of Albion, and for

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Thornton Lodge No 197—N G, Wm Gibbone; V G, C W Howell; Sec, J W Young; Treas, Horace Comegys. Meets every Tuesday 7:30 p m at Thompson's Hall

Knights and Ladies of Security

Thornton Lodge—Pres, E R Smith; Vice-Pres, Mrs L C Smith; Fin Sec, L L Holt

Modern Woodmen of America

Thornton Camp No 5242—V C, David Miller; Advisor, M Ingram; Clerk, M W Kimm; Banker, L L Holt; Escort, W A Branam; Physician, C S Bumgarner

Royal Neighbors

Thornton Camp—Oracle, Mrs Wm Childrus

Woodmen of the World

Wide Awake Camp No 663—C C, Ira McLin; Banker, Hosey Hughes; Clerk, T J Hastings. Meets every Wednesday 8 p m at Thompson's Hall

Woodmen of Woodcraft

Steptoe Circle No 463—G N, Rose Ericson; Advisor, Gertie Barton; Clerk, T J Hastings; Attendant, E M A Kimm; Banker, Foy Bumgarner. Meets every 2d and 4th Fridays at Thompson's Hall

Listing of the Thornton Secret Societies from the 1904 Polk Directory of Whitman County, page 262

RITUAL
 FOR
SUBORDINATE LODGES
 OF THE
 INDEPENDENT ORDER
 OF
GOOD TEMPLARS.



Adopted at Cleveland Session, May 24th, 1864. Revised at Bloomington Session, May 28th, 1875; at Richmond Session, May, 1886; at Saratoga Session, May 1887; at Chicago Session, May, 1889; at Edinburgh Session, May, 1901; at Des Moines Session, 1893; at Boston Session, 1895; at Toronto Session, 1899, and at Stockholm Session, 1902.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUPREME LODGE.
 1903-5.

Photo courtesy of Robert King

Title page of book used at the Colfax Lodge

Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), the Masons (various orders), and the Woodmen of the World, all of which were represented in at least 11 of the 14 Whitman County towns having lodges in 1904. Nearly as popular were the women's auxiliaries connected to these, namely the Rebekahs (an I.O.O.F. auxiliary), Eastern Star (a Masonic auxiliary), and Women of Woodcraft.

Being within a few decades after the Civil War, three communities, Colfax, Palouse, and Rosalia, had Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) organizations, with their women's auxiliaries, the Women's Relief Corps, active in Colfax and Pullman in 1904. Interesting to us today, several of the fraternal associations found presently in Whitman County, including the Moose and Elk, were not active at that time, with the Fraternal Order of Eagles found only in Colfax in 1904.

the Patrons of Husbandry of Elberton. This illustrates that there were probably other towns in Whitman County with additional lodges thriving during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

As a measure of the great popularity of lodges in Whitman County in 1904, most of these 14 communities had more than one fraternal society, with Colfax having the most—19 different ones in 1904. In the other 13 communities, the numbers of “secret societies” in each were as follows: Palouse and Pullman 13 each; Oakesdale 10; Tekoa 9; Farmington 8; Garfield, St. John, and Thornton 6 each; Colton 5; Albion 3; and one each in Elberton and Endicott. The table on page 12 provides the specific names of the various lodges in each of these communities. The most popular were the Independent



Seal of the Pullman Odd Fellows Cemetery Association



Certificate establishing I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 29 for Pullman, April 21, 1887

The earliest fraternal organization in Whitman County appears to have been the “Independent Order of Good Templars,” which was active in Colfax in early 1873.² Primary to its goals was its advocacy of temperance, thus at its social events alcoholic beverages would have been forbidden. It lasted for about 10 years

and was not found by 1904 in Colfax or in any other Whitman County town. (What this implies about the cause of temperance in Whitman County is unclear.)

In late 1873, Colfax residents who had been Masons elsewhere formed the first Masonic lodge in Colfax. This fraternal organization (also called the Freemasons) was originally imported from England in the 1700s, with many of the Nation's Founding Fathers, including George Washington, being members. Subsequently, its organization, philosophy, and rituals served as an inspiration and model for many later fraternal organizations that developed in the United States.³ The Masonic lodge in Colfax was the first such lodge of its type in eastern Washington north of the Snake River, and the Masons are still active in Whitman County today.

After the establishment of the Masons, Colfax added several more fraternal organizations in the later 1800s. These included the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) in 1878; the Ancient Order of United Workmen in 1881; the Eastern Star in 1886; both the Rebekahs and Order of Red Men in 1887; the Knights of Pythias in 1888; the Woodmen of the World in 1892; the Women of Woodcraft in 1897; and the Macabees, Foresters of America, and Brotherhood of American Yeoman all in 1899.⁴

The pattern seen in Colfax was typical of the other towns of Whitman County. New lodges developed in all the towns as soon as they had enough population to draw from for membership. At Palouse for instance, the Masons first organized in 1885, the Odd Fellows in 1887, Eastern Star in 1892, the Rebekahs in 1896, and the Woodmen of the World sometime prior to 1901.⁵ In Rosalia, the pre-1900 fraternal organizations included the Odd Fellows and Masons, both in 1891, the Woodmen of the World in 1894, the Rebekahs in 1896, Eastern Star in 1897, and the Knights of Pythias in 1899.⁶ Similarly, Tekoa's first lodges were the Odd Fellows in 1890, the Masons and Rebekahs in 1891, the Royal Arch Masons in 1893, the Eastern Star in 1895, and the Neighbors of Woodcraft in 1902.⁷



Photo courtesy of Robert King.

On left: Knights of Pythias badge for Albion Lodge No. 132. On right: Woodmen of the World badge for Pullman Camp No. 110



The Farmington I.O.O.F. Building, constructed in 1892

The surviving newspapers for each of the Whitman County towns provide sporadic details about the early meetings, operation, and membership of these “secret societies.” Drawing from the example of Pullman’s newspaper reportage, we can gain an insight into the general pattern of lodge development and activity in Whitman County. Pullman’s first newspaper, the Pullman Herald, was established November 3, 1888. At that time four fraternal organizations already existed in the town: the Masons, the Ancient Order of United Woodmen, Knights of Pythias, and Odd Fellows. As in some other towns, the last



The first Odd Fellows Hall Building in Farmington was built around 1883. The I.O.O.F. moved out in 1892 and the building burned on February 12, 1897.



Photo courtesy of Robert King

Two badges shown with their reverse sides: I.O.O.F. badge for Garfield Lodge No. 51 and the I.O.O.F. badge for Steptoe Lodge No. 259. The reverse side was worn for funerals. The bright colors of the front side are replaced with black and the additional words: "In Memoriam."

named organization established one of Pullman's earliest cemeteries, which is still in use today.

The premier issue of the Pullman Herald reported on these lodges. By the third issue of the weekly Pullman Herald, printed on November 17, 1888, a new column was introduced under the heading of "Society Directory." It announced that Pullman's "Phoenix Lodge No. 105" of the Ancient Order of United Woodmen "meets every Thursday evening in Stewart Hall." Similarly, it reported that "Pullman Lodge, No. 29, I.O.O.F. [Odd Fellows] meets every Saturday evening in Stewart Hall." Thus, both shared the same building, though on different days.

The November 17 issue also included information on the process of establishing a new Knights of Pythias lodge in nearby Genesee, Idaho Territory—a process probably similar to how many lodges of early Whitman County were started. Two members of the Knights of Pythias from Colfax, five members of the same lodge from Coeur d'Alene, and four members from Pullman all traveled to Genesee to help set up the lodge. Subsequently, the paper reported their success, including having a "magnificent time."

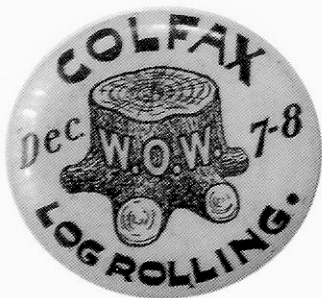


Photo courtesy of Robert King

Pin for 1905 Colfax W.O.W. Jubilee

Between late December of 1888 and early January of 1889, members of Pullman lodges elected new officers for the following year, with installation events and accompanying social events variously reported in the Pullman paper. The first were the Pullman Masons, who installed their recently elected officers on December 28, 1888.⁹ Next on January 7 were the Knights of Pythias, followed by the

Interestingly, the same November 17, 1888, Pullman Herald reported that there was at least one non-lodge functioning in the small town that also provided a social outlet for local residents. The local news column reported, “The Moonlight Club will give another of its social dancing parties at Reaney’s hall on Thanksgiving night. Tickets \$2.50 per couple, including an elaborate supper served from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.” Further, Pullman at this time also had a women’s Aid Society.⁸

Later Pullman Heralds provided additional information on the town’s early fraternal organizations. The November 24, 1888, issue mentioned the local Masons, with Pullman’s order at this time being the “Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.”

The paper reported, “Whitman Lodge, No. 49, A. F. & A. M. meets 2d and 4th Fridays of each month. Visiting brothers invited to attend.”



Reading Room, Knights of Pythias Lodge, Colfax

Thornton																		X	X	X
Tekoa	X		X			X	X	X		X	X	X						X		
St. John	X					X					X	X						X		X
Rosalia			X	X		X		X		X	X							X	X	X
Pullman	X		X	X			X		X		X	X						X	X	X
Palouse	X		X			X	X	X		X	X	X						X	X	
Oakesdale	X		X				X	X		X	X							X	X	X
Garfield		X					X		X		X								X	X
Farmington							X	X	X	X								X		X
Endicott																			X	
Elberton																			X	
Colton							X		X		X	X						X		
Colfax	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Albion										X	X							X		
		Ancient Order of United Workmen																		
		Artisans																		
		Brotherhood of American Yeoman																		
		Degree of Honor																		
		Eastern Star																		
		Foresters of America																		
		Fraternal Order of Eagles																		
		Grand Army of the Republic																		
		Improved Order of the Red Men																		
		Independent Order of Odd Fellows																		
		Knights and Ladies of Security																		
		Knights of the Macabees																		
		Knights of Pythias						X	X											
		Ladies of the Macabees																		
		Masons								X	X									
		Modern Workmen of the World																		
		Order of Pendo																		
		Order of Washington																		
		Patrons of Husbandry																		
		Rathbone Sisters																		
		Rebekahs																		
		Royal Highlands																		
		Royal Neighbors																		
		United Artisans																		
		Woodmen of the World																		
		Woodmen of Woodcraft																		
		Women of Woodcraft																		
		Women's Relief Corps																		

Table of Whitman County Lodges in 1904



Members of the Collfax Lodge No. 14, I.O.O.F. photographed about 1890. All of the members are identified on the back of the photograph by name and occupation.

From The Weekly Commoner (Colfax), December 1, 1905

THE MAMMOTH INITIATION



GREATEST FRATERNAL EVENT



Ever Witnessed in the Palouse
Country.

Five Hundred New Neophytes will be Initiated Into the Nob-
lest Order in the World.

Hundreds of Choppers in the Giant Parade

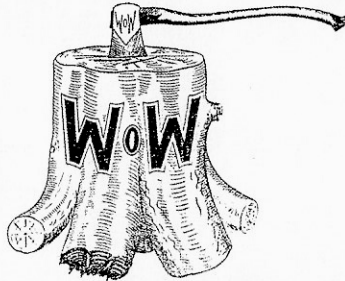
Splinters, Chips, Sawdust and Bark will Fly! and Thousands will
Attend the Woodmen of the World's Grand Celebration, at

Colfax, Thursday and Friday, December 7th and 8th

Choppers by the hundreds will pour into the city. The streets will be jammed; hotels and public houses, restaurants and lunch counters will need extra help to wait on the people who will flock to this city December 7th and 8th.

Head Consul I. I. BOAK

And other Head Camp Officers
will be present.



It will be a regular Fourth of July for the small boy, for the odor of burning powder and brimstone will fill the air, and the noise of the explosion of fireworks will cause the older people to cover their ears to keep out the din.

ALL NEIGHBORS

Are requested to be at the depot at 8 o'clock
Thursday night to form the parade.

W. O. W. JUBILEE

Biggest Fraternal Event in History of the County.

WOODMEN TO OWN COLFAX

Music, Sports, Fireworks, Drills and Speeches
Will Bring Big Crowds Dec. 7th and 8th.

The Weekly Commoner (Colfax) Nov. 24, 1905, pg. 1

also reported: “The Odd Fellows are preparing for their public installation ceremonies and entertainment.” This was followed on January 11, 1889, with the Pullman Herald reporting the public installation of the Odd Fellows’ officers. Interestingly, some of the new Odd Fellows’ officers previously had been elected by other Pullman lodges to serve in their official posts in 1889.¹⁰ For instance, the Odd Fellows elected Mark True, Pullman’s first hotel builder, as “Warden” for the year 1889. Yet four days earlier he had been installed as “Outer Guard” for the Knights of Pythias.¹¹ This pattern of overlapping officers and members continued, with several Pullmanites belonging to multiple organizations. The same was true elsewhere in Whitman County at this time.

For the Pullman Odd Fellows installation ceremony of January 11th, the Pullman newspaper provided more details that tell how such ceremonies were conducted at this time. Three continuing

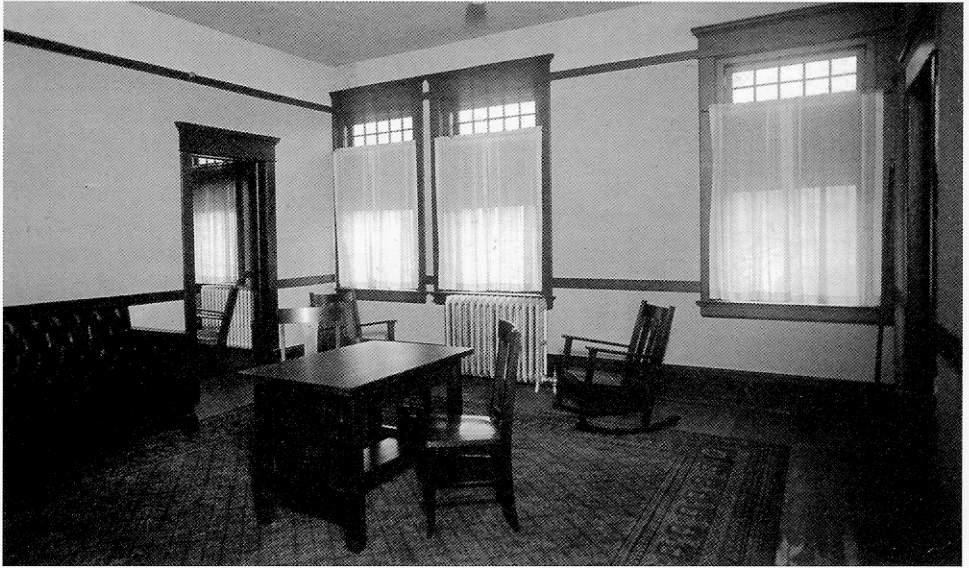
Odd Fellows on January 11, 1889. The Pullman paper carried more details about the last two, including interesting information about their membership.

For the Knights of Pythias, the December 22, 1888, issue of the Pullman Herald stated, “The Knights of Pythias recently elected the following officers for the ensuing year: A. Windus, chancellor commander; E. E. Ellsworth, vice-commander; T. L. Munroe, prelate; J. F. Fariss, master of exchequer; E. Windus, master of finance; J. M. Hill, knight of records and seals; A. Drinkwater, master at arms; R. Lanning, inside guard; M. C. True, outer guard; Orville Stewart, past C. C.”

The same issue of the paper



Courtesy of Robert King
Women of Woodcraft Badge



Ladies Reception Room, Knights of Pythias Lodge, Colfax

officers of the organization presided over the ritualized installation ceremony for the incoming officers, with the paper stating, “There were present twenty ladies and gentlemen from Colfax, and seven or eight members of Oriental Lodge, Palouse City, beside a large concourse of Pullman friends.” The paper added: “At the conclusion of the ceremony the company adjourned to Reaney’s hall and partook of an excellent supper provided by that enterprising caterer. Supper was followed by the standard amusement, dancing, which was kept up in lively style for several hours.”¹²

And so it went. Lots of lodge activities meant the small town of Pullman was abuzz with a variety of events in the concluding days of 1888 and start of 1889. And these were all in addition to a “Grand Masquerade Ball” held on Jan 1st at Pullman’s Reaney’s Hall.¹³ Subsequently, the weekly or bi-weekly meetings of the Pullman lodges in 1889 and later ensured that Pullman, despite its relative isolation, was never without an upcoming event. The same could be said for the other towns of Whitman County.

Fraternal organizations existed in every town of Whitman County and the activities of each certainly paralleled those chronicled in the Pullman examples given here for the years 1888 and 1889. Everywhere fraternal organizations provided much-welcomed outlets for social interaction and entertainment, besides spearheading the completion of certain beneficent projects for their communities. Further, the economic help provided through insurance benefits to the families of deceased members also aided many in very difficult times. In all, the “secret societies” of early Whitman County were very useful to their members and, in retrospect, stand as important early organizations of many of its towns.



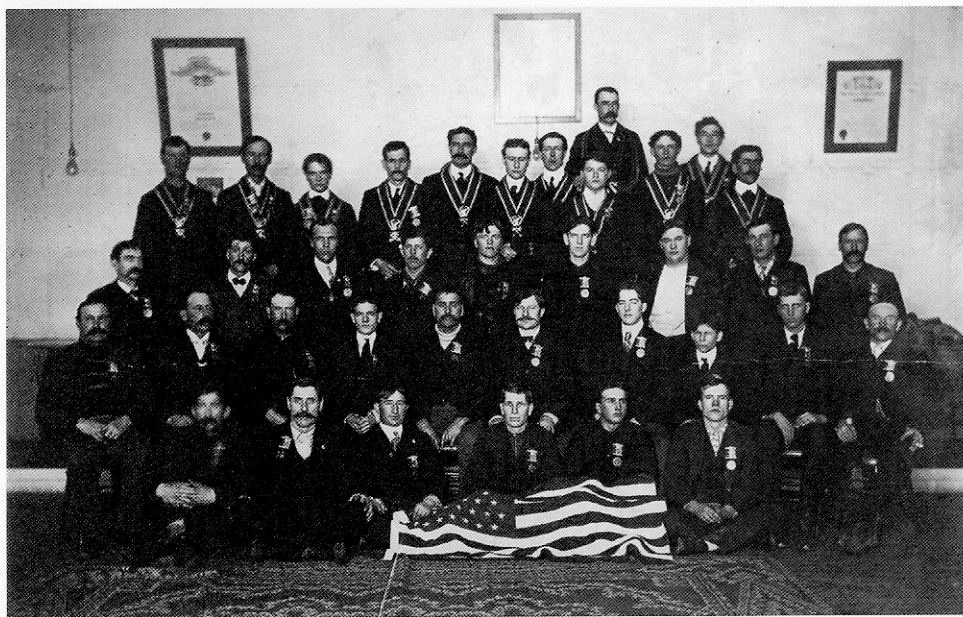
Silk Banner, Royal Camp 116, Woodmen of the World, Colfax

Today people are familiar with the still existing lodge halls or with the numerous photographs of members and their lodge events. Another reminder of these “secret societies” in their heyday is surviving lodge badges. These organizations created a large demand for badges, pins, medals, and buttons, as well as for lodge ritual items.

Lodge badges were worn by the various members at their meetings and also at the funerals of deceased lodge members. For the latter purpose, the badges were worn reversed so that the otherwise colorful front sides of the ribbons (generally red, blue, yellow, or white) were worn turned over to reveal black-colored reverse sides printed with the extra words “In Memoriam” at their tops. Otherwise,

both sides of a typical lodge ribbon (the regular and memorial sides) told the name and number of the lodge and the town in which it was located. Located above the ribbon and suspending it, was a wide, celluloid-covered, intricately stamped metal pin that fastened to the member's clothing. In turn, the upper pin was often further inset with a symbol of the lodge, such as an eyeball for the Odd Fellows or a split log for the Woodmen of the World. Additionally, the upper pin might include the name of the lodge member with an additional lower metal adornment suspended from the upper pin to hang over the ribbon. This additional element, when present, typically included other lodge symbols or embellishments.

Other types of lodge medals commonly used in early Whitman County lodges and elsewhere in the nation at this time included smaller badges featuring the names of the offices held by a member. An example is a "Magician" badge for a Whitman County Women of Woodcraft lodge of the early 1900s.



Colfax Elk's Lodge, Court No. 43, Jan. 6, 1904

Still another style was a round button produced for special lodge events. An example is one for a "Log Rolling" contest sponsored by the Colfax chapter of the Woodmen of the World in 1905 (see page 11). The reverse side of this particular example noted that the "Pacific Regalia Company Makers" of Portland, Oregon, produced it. Similarly, an existing Knights of Pythias lodge badge from Albion of this period is marked as made by "M. C. Lilley & Co." of Columbus, Ohio.

In all, with literally thousands of fraternal organizations existing in the United States at this time with an estimated total membership of nearly 5 million

members by 1900,¹⁴ there was a strong market for such items. Accordingly, there were many manufacturers specializing not only in lodge badges but also other lodge ceremonial paraphernalia, including such “ritual” items as helmets, shields, swords, sashes, and other special props and costumes. The suppliers for some of these items included early national mail-order firms.

Indeed, it appears that some type of lodge badges of early Whitman County could have been ordered directly through the Sears and Roebuck Company. Reportedly, this firm’s 1900 catalog featured over 80 pins, charms, and watch fobs for 28 different fraternal orders.¹⁵ These included ones for the various orders of Masons, the Odds Fellows, Woodmen of the World, Knights of Pythias, and several other lodges that made up the majority of all Whitman County fraternal organizations reported in 1904.

Clearly, in the later 1800s and early 1900s, the “secret societies” of Whitman County were thriving, well-attended organizations responsible for many of the social activities and certain beneficent projects in the early towns of the county. Today, besides surviving photographs of lodge halls and members in costumes, the special fraternal society badges and other adornments are visually interesting and exciting reminders of these important institutions of past years.

¹ Bart P. Snarf, “Fraternalism in America (1860-1920),” Internet article on the Phoenixmasonry Masonic Museum website.

² Edith E. Erickson, *Colfax 100 Plus*, privately printed, 1981, p. 150.

³ Snarf “Fraternalism.”

⁴ Erickson, 150.

⁵ *The Palouse Story: Palouse Town and Country Study Report*, 1962, private printing, pp. 88-89.

⁶ Edith E. Erickson, *Rosalia: Battlefield to Wheat Field, 1858-1988*, privately printed, 1988, pp. 64-66.

⁷ Tekoa Community Development Study History Committee, *The Tekoa Story: From Bunchgrass to Grain*, privately printed, 1962, pp. 84-96.

⁸ *Pullman Herald*, Dec. 15, 1888, p. 3.

⁹ *Pullman Herald*, Jan. 5, 1889, p. 3.

¹⁰ *Pullman Herald*, Jan. 12, 1889, p. 3.

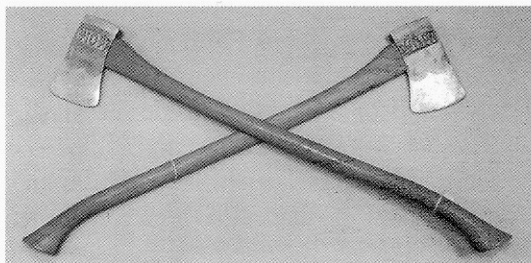
¹¹ *Pullman Herald*, Jan. 19, 1889, p. 3.

¹² *Pullman Herald*, Jan. 12, 1889, p. 3.

¹³ *Pullman Herald*, Dec. 22, 1888, p. 3.

¹⁴ “Snarf, “Fraternalism.”

¹⁵ *Ibid.*



Ritual axes made of lightweight aluminum, from the Colfax Woodman of the World Lodge.

THE COLD WAR ON THE WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS 1945-1962

By Jessie Britton

During the second half of the twentieth century, the Cold War became a part of the national identity, defining the lens through which Americans looked at themselves and the world. The competition for power between the Soviet Union and the U.S. justified restricting individual freedoms and fostered a climate of suspicion, even in small college towns like Pullman, Washington. The Smith Act of 1940, for example, made legal the arrest of people whose loyalty was questionable, allowing government officials to arrest hundreds of individuals, solely on the basis of their beliefs and associations. During the height of the Red Scare in the late 1950s and 1960s, government agents used the Cold War to justify suspension of first and fourteenth amendment rights. The Red Scare also led to an emphasis on military build up and the nuclear arms race.¹

Students at the State College of Washington expressed their understanding and opinions of the Cold War through the campus newspaper, the *Washington State Evergreen*. It offers insight into the small campus community throughout the years following World War II and up through 1962. In fact, the *Evergreen* provided a public forum through which students debated various views about the Cold War. Demonstrating how each community is unique within a larger context, the students dealt with the events of the Cold War in ways that both differed from and coincided with the national trend. During the first half of the Cold War, from the immediate post-WWII period to the Cuban Missile Crisis, the interest of WSC students as reflected in the *Evergreen* ebbed and peaked. Editorials reveal that students were more reactive during the early years of this era than they were as the Cuban Missile Crisis approached.

The immediate post-World War II period brought to campus a focus on international affairs. On March 28, 1947, the *Evergreen* carried a message by the student-run International Relations Club that urged students to inform themselves about the European theater.² Another Pullman area organization, the United World Federalists, called for the creation of a world government as Earth's only hope of escaping extinction. The group insisted that the next war would end any recognizable form of civilization. To prevent that war, people must cast aside feelings of blind patriotism and nationalism for an outlook based on world citizenship. The next year, on May 7, 1948, an *Evergreen* editorial endorsed a petition by Pullman's World Federalists supporting a Congressional resolution that called for a conference

to overhaul the United Nations Charter to create a more effective world organization.³ The World Federalists insisted that good relations with Russia were essential to achieving world peace.

The Student Activities Board regularly brought speakers to campus to inform students about world events that often related to Cold War tensions. On February 27, 1948, the *Evergreen* ran an article about speaker Dr. Ch'en Shou-Yi, claiming to be neither a Communist nor a Nationalist, who discussed the Chinese problem as a reflection of the greater world split between communism and capitalism.⁴ In March 1948, John Scott came to campus to discuss "Russian Policy in Germany and Europe."⁵ Scott called Russian rule in Germany both totalitarian and imperialistic. He supported the creation of a confederation comprised of the sixteen remaining Western European countries to combat the spread of Soviet communism. The film, Alexander Nevsky, was shown in April 1948, providing students with the opportunity to become acquainted with a part of Russian history and culture.⁶

Before 1948 and the invasion of Czechoslovakia, student attitudes as reflected in the *Evergreen* exposed distinct interests. Editorials and news stories focused primarily on the fear of communism and fascism, the atomic bomb and a potential World War III, a new emphasis on international affairs, the United Nations, world peace, and China.

FOREIGN EXPERT GIVES IMPRESSIVE DELIVERY

The Evergreen, March 28, 1947, p. 2

In February 1948, Czechoslovakia adopted a Soviet-style communist government. To the American public, Czechoslovakia's fall to communism was a clear

Soviet victory in Eastern Europe. Secretary of State George C. Marshall denounced the new communist regime in Czechoslovakia as a "Reign of Terror."⁷ The students' outlook changed from an uneasy tolerance of the Soviet Union to a conscious hatred of communism. No longer did they view fascism as the most serious threat. In fact, fascism virtually disappeared from newspaper dialogue.

A more virulent opposition to Soviet-based communism arose. Dr. H.J. Phillips, an open member of the Communist party and a former professor at the University of Washington, sought a venue on the WSC campus to discuss academic freedom. The UW had terminated Phillips' position because of his membership in the Communist Party. On March 4, 1949, an *Evergreen* headline read: "Communists Not Popular in Pullman." After being denied an on-campus venue by the Regents, Phillips sought a place to speak at the local Greystone Church. The pastor, after discovering Phillips' identity, denied the professor the use of his church. The only editorial in the *Evergreen* related to Phillips came on March 11. Student Edward S. Borem, Jr. wrote that the meeting Phillips wished to hold on campus "masqueraded as a beautiful attempt

to allow freedom in our supposed Pullman Iron Curtain.” Because Phillips gave a positive response to the question, “Do you feel that a communist professor has the ethical right to use the classroom as a means of fathering the cause of communism,” Boren stated that Phillips should be banned from every classroom in the U.S. Phillips did finally find a place to speak-in a private Pullman residence.

Prior to the communist takeover of Czechoslovakia, most WSC students considered fascism the major threat to world peace. Prior to this, students did not generally fear a communist invasion. For example, on March 5, 1947,

the *Evergreen* included an article entitled “Roving Reporter,” which sent two student contributors into the WSC community to find students’ opinions on “what do we have to fear from communism and from fascism?” Hal Johnson said, “Internally, we do not have as much to fear from communism as we do fascism.” Another student, Wallace Green, had an even more relaxed stance on the issue, claiming that as long as there is unbiased and free education, “we have nothing to worry about.”⁸ Along the same lines, Wayne Stoll stated his thoughts that communism was a small threat, often overemphasized. On the same day, the *Evergreen* ran a letter to the editor by a student who insisted that concentrating our focus solely on the Russian threat would open the door to fascism.⁹

Not all students agreed. Two days earlier, on March 3, 1947, the paper featured a twelve-paragraph editorial by Paul Carter, who said that “the two ideologies of communism and democracy cannot exist on God’s earth at the same time ... one must go ... war is inevitable!”¹⁰ He wrote of the undercover communists in the U.S. who were contributing to the spread of the communist movement in this country. In order to fight against this movement, Carter called on WSC students and all other individuals to educate themselves in the structures of democracy. After the fall of Czechoslovakia in early 1948, this focus on fear of communism became the general opinion of student writers in the *Evergreen*.

Part of the fear of communism reflected a general fear of nuclear war. U.S. use of atomic bombs during World War II against Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, brought the world into the Atomic Age. With the turmoil evoked by

WHERE ARE THE FOLKS THAT SAID THEY'D HELP
DEFEND FREE ENTERPRISE ?



THE WASHINGTON WATER POWER CO.

The Evergreen, Jan. 9, 1950, p. 7

the Cold War, fear of a third world war brought fear of atomic destruction. In the new atomic culture, Americans prepared for an impending nuclear war by building backyard bomb shelters and drilling school children in the proper behavior during a nuclear explosion. Attitudes at WSC were no different. Students demonstrated their fear of the atomic bomb in editorials. *Evergreen* columns described student opinions both in favor of and opposed to the use of atomic weapons against Russia. They also printed detailed accounts of speakers brought to campus to debate the consequences and benefits of the bomb.

On October 6, 1947, the *Evergreen* included a column describing the formation of a new campus organization for Atomic Education. This committee served to provide information about the consequences of atomic war. A questionnaire distributed by the Atomic Committee found that 800 of 1000 students polled favored some form of atomic education. Atomic bomb related films shown on campus asked questions such as, "Is this the end?"¹¹ By March 1950, the campus had incorporated a twelve-man emergency radiation monitoring team.¹²

After the start of the Korean War, campus radio station KWSC interviewed former legislator Albert F. Canwell of Washington, who encouraged the dropping of atomic bombs on Russia. Canwell told KWSC listeners that "we must inform the world that we will have peace no matter how many (A-bombs) we have to drop."¹³ The next two editions of the *Evergreen*, on December 7 and 8, 1950, carried editorials by students who both supported and opposed the statements made by Canwell. Just as they did on the national level, opinions about the potential of the atomic bomb varied on campus.

Connected to discussions of atomic weapons were serious concerns over the potential outbreak of World War III, such concerns emerged especially after the invasion of South Korea by Soviet-backed North Korean forces on June 25, 1950. An *Evergreen* editorial on July 5, 1950 called Korea a "powder keg"-a view that coincided with the national conviction that the Korean conflict might expand into World War III. The paper ran an opposing view on the same day by Professor Willis B. Merriam of WSC, who did not believe the Korean situation to be critical.¹⁴ He saw nothing new in Korea that had not already been seen in the communist takeover of China. More editorials appeared in the *Evergreen* during the month of July that promoted different points of view. WSC Professor Paul Castleberry called for U.S. military intervention to prevent the South Korean republic from falling unaided to the Soviets.¹⁵ On July 26, 1950, a Korean student on the WSC campus said Korea had more potential for democracy than any other Asian country.¹⁶ Communism, he insisted, appealed only to the needy. The intellectual, well-fed Koreans, on the other hand, could see beyond the bitter candy-coated Communist pill and would strive for democracy.

The Korean War evoked a sense of nationalism on the WSC campus. A July 19, 1950, editorial by George Conn denounced students and American citizens who

insisted on condemning the U.S. for its faults. Some students, Conn insisted, take delight in mocking the American system. He stated that there was a point beyond which liberal thinking and acts should not be tolerated. In addition, to aid the war effort, the state college held well-publicized on-campus blood drives to supply American soldiers. Pints collected at the “Cougar Blood-Letting” drives would arrive in Korea within 72 hours. In January 1951, the campus held a drive with the aim of collecting a minimum quota of 750 pints of blood in a three-day period.¹⁷ A January editorial chided WSC students for their poor turnout, especially compared to the University of Idaho. The drive received only 250 volunteers. Canvassing door-to-door added only another 110 donors, far below the estimated quota of 750. Another campus blood drive in May 1951 yielded the same results.¹⁸

The *Evergreen* typically included a series of joke articles for its April first editions-April Fools’ Day. These articles consisted of fabricated information that was usually completely outrageous. In 1947, the paper ran the front-page headline, “Red Scare Hits School Faculty.” The accompanying article revealed that certain WSC professors, all unnamed, were under suspicion by the house committee on un-American activities for teaching subversive communist propaganda. A professor in the zoology department, for example, was cited saying that “red blood is more pure than blue blood.” The article exposed more subversive professors for grading exams in red ink, assigning books with red covers, and driving maroon-colored cars. The article encouraged students to report suspicious behaviors by their professors and advised instructors that “in lectures, the word ‘Russia’ should always be pronounced with a hissing sound to convey to the students the idea of snakes.”

The next month, on May 12, 1947, the *Evergreen* printed a story that predicted the fall of WSC to communism in the year 1968.¹⁹ The satirical article envisioned a future in which WSC comes to stand for “We Serve Commune,” where students must enter the school through an iron curtain, the buildings have all been painted red, and the new mascot was the shaggy bear. Even the name of the school paper changed to reflect the new campus ideology. The *Evergreen* became the “Ever-red.” This satirical attitude toward the red scare seemed to demonstrate that students felt a certain level of comfort with the status-quo and the safety of the nation. Despite the crises occurring in the national media, the students maintained a sense of humor toward world events.

The Cold War hit particularly close to home in Pullman when Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy linked Washington State alumnus Edward R. Murrow to a “Communist propaganda school in the 1930s.” On March 12, 1954, an *Evergreen* headline screamed, “McCarthy Smears Murrow.” At this time, Murrow’s night-time television show on CBS had dedicated an episode to charges that McCarthy had “stepped over the line between investigation and persecution in the course of his Red hunting activities.” A week later, the *Evergreen* ran a front-page story in defense of “Favorite-Grad Murrow.”²⁰ Dave Brown, its author, wrote, “Murrow is

a liberal with the 'subversive' idea that government officials are open to criticism." An editorial carried by the paper on March 19 defended Murrow as "everything that helps America and her allies." The short-lived but powerful articles in support of Murrow demonstrate greater loyalty to alumni of WSC than to government officials working to secure the U.S. from communist infiltrators. The timing of McCarthy's accusation against Murrow was also fortunate, coinciding with McCarthy's slide from legitimacy.

The following year, the expulsion of instructors from the University of Washington prompted debate about academic freedom. Student opinions varied widely as they dealt with issues concerning the legitimacy of self-proclaimed communists working within higher education. One particular editorial on May 4, 1955, sparked a series of battling opinions for the rest of the month. Edwin A. Kilbum wrote that "unlimited and absolute academic freedom" did not exist on the WSC campus by the process of selecting the most worth-while speakers for the students. This lack of free speech, insisted Kilbum, was actually a good thing. As an anti-communist, the writer did not want communist speakers at the school. Near the end of his editorial, Kilbum stated that "all American communists could be shot and the world would not suffer from their absence."

On May 13, 1954, student F.J. French wrote in support of unlimited freedom of speech, by "radicals, liberals, and reactionaries," as long as "they are not advocating violence." More students wrote in praising those who opposed restrictions on academic freedom. Bruce Johnson's editorial on May 18, for example, equated academic freedom to democracy on the campus. Johnson insisted that "there is no possibility of obtaining this democracy when the administration of a college such as ours disregards the will of the students." Specific events prompted farther debate in the paper about the competing superpowers and the impact of the cold war at home.

On October 8, 1957, the *Evergreen* printed an Associated Press article that announced the Soviet Union's success in launching Sputnik, the first satellite into space. The event prompted President Harry S. Truman to declare the end of the Atomic Age and the beginning of the Space Age. National headlines printed in the *Evergreen* through AP services attributed the Soviet speed in launching a satellite to their better educational systems and the emphasis they placed on math and science. WSC reaction was relatively small compared to the national furor. Only one article not from the Associated Press appeared in the *Evergreen*. On November 15, 1957, the paper printed a clipping received from a WSC grad student, which suggested some additions to the English dictionary based on Sputnik's success. The new addition is "Sputnik v.t. -niked; -niking, 1. To outsmart. 2. To steal a march. 3. To surpass in cunning."²¹

The Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 also evoked little student response in the *Evergreen* despite the nation-wide focus. The apparent lack of concern displayed in the student paper may be misleading. Reaction may have occurred almost

predominately on the campus. A front-page article in the paper on October 24, 1962, warned students of impending crisis in the next 24-48 hours, calling Cuba “probably the greatest crisis since World War II.” The *Evergreen* printed a copy of a proposed telegram to President John Kennedy, created by the WSU Affiliated Student’s NSA Committee, in the form of a petition to be signed by the student body²² The petition contained three options: those who agreed with Kennedy’s actions toward Cuba, those who did not, and those who did not think that the student government should endorse national policies. A follow-up editorial contained the results of the poll: 93.1 percent of students who signed the petition supported Kennedy’s decision to send the navy, 3.5 percent were against, and 3.4 percent believed that WSU should not endorse national policies.

One of the few editorials written in response to the crisis reminded readers of previous American involvement in Cuba during the Bay-of-Pigs invasion. Basil Browne believed that the U.S.-supported invasion of Cuba a year prior to the Missile Crisis gave Cuba the right to “arm herself sufficiently to discourage future attacks.” Browne also brought to readers’ attentions the irony of American protest to Soviet missiles in neighboring Cuba while the U.S. had missiles on the Soviet border in Turkey.

Outside of letters and editorials, the language of the Cold War permeated everyday fixtures in the *Evergreen*, in advertisements. The Washington Water Company Power Company ran a series of advertisements from the late 1940s to the early 1950s, that comprised a single-framed cartoon pitting the free enterprise of the electric industry against socialism in a fierce battle. Captions usually accompanied each cartoon, such as “where are the folks that said they’d help defend free enterprise?”²³ An ad printed on November 21, 1949, contained a scene of three cars, labeled Britain, USA, and Socialism.²⁴ The socialist car barreling down the road had run Britain off the road and Socialism was heading toward the United States with the intention of colliding into it. The caption reads, “Why doesn’t somebody stop these guys?” The Washington Water Power Company printed this ad as a “public service.”

The Bell Telephone System also utilized the Cold War in its



The Evergreen, Nov. 21, 1949, p. 4

advertisements. On February 6, 1948, the company ran an ad consisting of a photograph of a mushroom cloud.²⁵ The caption explained that the speed with which images appeared in newspapers was made possible in part by the Bell System through wire-photo facilities over which news was sent to the presses. On September 21, 1961, a Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company ad in the *Evergreen*, asked students, "would you volunteer to man the first space station if odds for survival were 50-50?" Below was printed the responses given by 1,383 students at 138 other colleges where 36.2 percent said yes and 63.8 percent said no.

In many ways, the State College of Washington can be viewed as a microcosm of the national reactions to the Cold War. The articles, editorials, and letters printed in the *Evergreen* show much student interest and involvement in the international scene in the years immediately following World War II, and an ebbing of this interest as the Cuban Missile Crisis approached. By 1962, students like Basil Browne were reminding the student body about the U.S.'s own fiascos, like the Bay-of-Pigs. During the first half of the Cold War, the *Evergreen* revealed a slow change in student attitudes, serving as a preview for the 1960s.

¹ All general information about the Cold War from Stephen J. Whitfield. *The Culture of the Cold War*. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 231-243.

² International Relations Club, "Foreign Expert Gives Impressive Delivery," *Evergreen*, 23 March 1947, 2.

³ Mario Gonzalez and F. Masson, "World Federalists Score Another 'Victory,'" *Evergreen*, 7 May 1948, 2

⁴ "Chinese Crisis is Convocation Topic," *Evergreen*, 27 February 1948, 2.

⁵ "Scott Reports Russian Plan in Germany is 'Effective,'" *Evergreen* 10 March 1948, 2.

⁶ "Atomic Bomb Movie Initiates Discussion," *Evergreen*, 19 April 1948, 1.

⁷ "Marshall Speaks," *Evergreen*, 12 March 1948, 2

⁸ Stosh Styner and Keith Neighbors, "Roving Reporter," *Evergreen*, 5 March 1947, 1.

⁹ John A. Sandor, "Editorial," *Evergreen*, 5 March 1947, 2.

¹⁰ Paul Carter, "Communism or Democracy-Which Shall it Be?..." *Evergreen*, 3 March 1947, 2.

¹¹ "Time-Life to Review 'Church in Atomic Age,'" *Evergreen* 14 April 1948, 1.

¹² "Campus Has Atomic Squad," *Evergreen*, 22 March 1950, 1.

¹³ Dick Gunderson, "Use the A Bomb Against Russia, Says Canwell," *Evergreen*, 6 December 1950, 1.

¹⁴ W. Merriam, "Korea War Not Too Serious, Geographer Merriam Contends" *Evergreen*, 5 July 1950, 2.

¹⁵ P. Castleberry, "Gravity of Korean Situation Many-Angled Castleberry Says," *Evergreen*, 12 July 1950, 2.

¹⁶ Choan Shik Hong, "Korean Student Interprets Emotional Conflict of War," *Evergreen*, 26 July 1950, 2.

¹⁷ "Blood Donated By Students Will Be Sent to Korea," *Evergreen*, 11 January 1951, 1.

¹⁸ "New Blood Drive Gets Underway; Goal, 540 Pints," *Evergreen*, 15 May 1951, 1.

¹⁹ Ken Mauree, "Communism at W.S.C. in 1968 A.D.," *Evergreen*, 12 May 1947, 2.

²⁰ D Brown, "Favorite-Grad Ed Murrow Strong Defender of Liberalism," *Evergreen*, 19 Mar 1954, 1 & 12.

²¹ "Sputniked?..." *Evergreen*, 15 November 1957, 2.

²² "Telegram to Kennedy Proposed," *Ever-*

green, 24 October 1962, 2.

²³ *Evergreen*, 9 January 1950, 7.

²⁴ *Evergreen*, 21 November 1949, 4.

²⁵ *Evergreen*, 6 February 1948, 2.



A LEGACY OF EDUCATION: OAKESDALE SCHOOLS

By LaVelle Billingsley Gardner

Class of 1953

In 1851 a young couple left their Missouri farm and made the arduous journey across the great plains to Oregon. The adventurous pair were James and Margaret McCoy. In Oregon, the young couple would overcome many hardships, help to establish a settlement, and go on to prosper.

However, in 1877 James, hearing all the P.R. about the eastern Washington territory, decided that it was time to move again and that even greater opportunity awaited. He was 47 at the time and today we would call it a “midlife crisis.” I’m sure Margaret was thrilled when James informed her, “Oh! Honey, we’re going to make another fun wagon trip.” Seriously, the McCoys were a remarkable family—TRUE PIONEERS!

In the late summer of 1877 the McCoys and five of their six children left the comforts of home and set their sights for Washington territory. They reached their destination in the fall of 1877 and staked their claim on a section of land that would become the site for the Town of Oakesdale.

Now you might think that the wagons broke down or Margaret said, “This is it, I’m not going any further.”—Heck! No! James and his sons took their time scouting out the country and chose this very spot. You have to wonder what they were thinking. Guess they liked creeks and bogs.

In the fall of 1878 a large log cabin was built on this section; this building still stands in Oakesdale today. In less than two years, all the surrounding country was claimed by other hardy pioneer families. These early settlers saw there was an important need to be taken care of. Their concern was for their children, that they would have the advantages of an education which many of the settlers themselves had not had the opportunity to get. You have to realize these folks were just beginning to establish their farms and to build their homes. They had little to spare—yet they would get together and pool their resources. In 1880, on the bank of Spring Creek, a 12x12 frame building was erected and the Oakesdale School System began. Of course, since there was no Oakesdale, the school was called the McCoy or the Spring Flat school.

Our early settlers of this area made great sacrifices so that their children had the opportunity of an education. This “Legacy” has continued on through the years.

By 1887, Oakesdale was a booming little town and growing fast. So again, our good folks would meet and make plans for a bigger school to meet the needs. The money for the building material was again donated by the area settlers, plus many fundraisers were held. In the fall of 1887, a two-story, two-room frame



Above: The three-story brick building, with a surmounting bell tower, was constructed in 1891 to replace the 1888 two-story frame school building. When the new High School was built in 1932, the third story, which had housed the high school, and bell tower were removed. Below: The 1891 building, known as the “old grade school building,” was torn down in 1955 to make room for the new grade school building.



building was built on the hill overlooking the new town. Almost before they opened its doors, the school was too small. Now the merchants of the town cleaned out their back rooms and donated the use of the rooms for classes to take care of the overflow. The student enrollment in 1888 was around 135 and expected to increase.

Yes, it was back to the drawing board and yet again our people came through and a large three storied brick building was erected on the hill in 1891. This school was the center and the pride of the Oakesdale area, and this feeling has never changed.

A side note: the frame school building was purchased by a local group to be used as a lodge hall. It was to be moved to a location downtown. During the moving process the building was left to rest over the railroad track. Later that night a train, carrying a vaudeville troop, ran into the building causing extensive damage. Now you have to wonder, what were they thinking?

After the first little school was built at McCoy or Oakesdale, farm families in the surrounding country decided that their “young ens” should have the chance for “reading, writing and figuring”, so they also would get together and pool their limited resources. Starting with the Thorn Creek School in 1885, the countryside would soon be dotted with the blessings of the one-room country school house. These schools were in operation until the late thirties when they were consolidated with the Oakesdale School District. The schools were Cave, Fairbanks, Fletcher, Goldsworthy, Deep Cut, Pleasant Hill, and parts of Belmont and Sain. It took two elections before Thorn Creek residents would agree to consolidation.

Through the years there have been many ways the area folks have supported the Oakesdale School. Mainly they have done just that. Their trips to the election polls at levy time have produced mostly “yes” votes. Well, there has been a time or two that a levy took two trips, but now and then you have to take some time to think things over!

A few of the other ways the folks have shown support are, for example, in 1917 they built the town’s first gym. It was accomplished after a few years of major fund raising and donations. Up until this time basketball games were often held in warehouses (which might explain the low scores). They kept losing the ball in the rafters. The students were very much into dramatics so the stage at one end of the building was very much appreciated. The gym was a most welcome addition to the school and town. When the new Gym was built in 1948 and the old one moved to its present location downtown, you can be assured it wasn’t left on the railroad tracks overnight.

In the early twenties the Oakesdale Town Council, with a strong push from the town folks and students, decided there was a need for an athletic field. They then purchased property from the Harmon Foundation of New York and paid a very hefty price for that time. This field was to be used by the school and town. It is now used for school baseball, little league, and town teams practice and games. It also once held the football field, as most of you know.

In the sixties another huge community project was the construction of the present football field and you had to be here to see this. It was like watching a giant

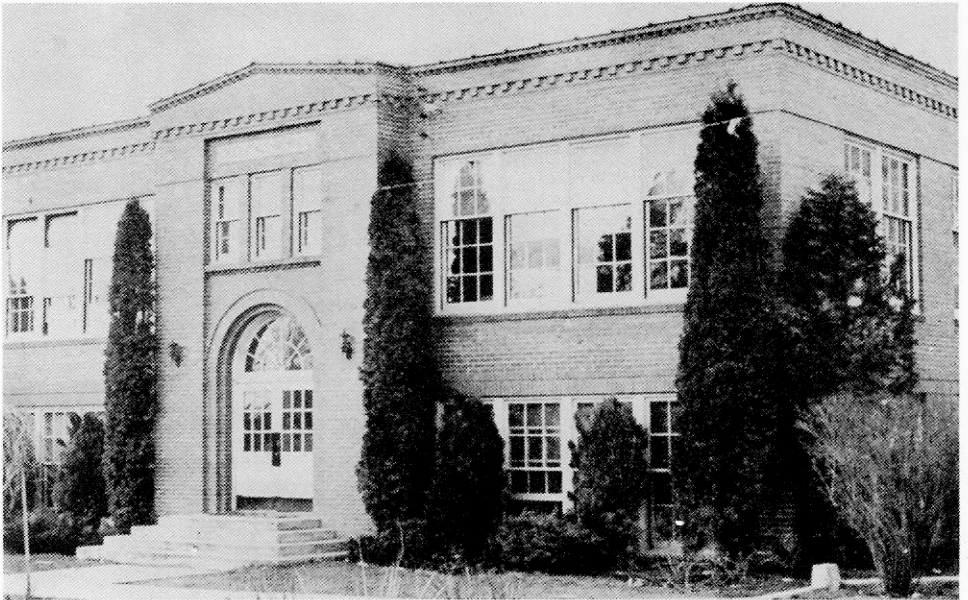
ant farm. You get some of these guys behind a bulldozer and just stand clear! In what seems like a blink of an eye, we had a new athletic field and a dandy one at that.

The organizations of the community have always given unlimited support, from labor on tennis courts to quilt raffles and spaghetti feeds. They have raised money for scholarships and other activities where extra funds were needed. As you can see our needs were well taken care of.

A woman not too long ago made the statement that it takes a village to raise a child. She was just describing life in Small Town, U.S.A. This policy has been practiced here for well over a hundred years. The people of our village, the churches, schools, and our parents have protected us, cared for us, given us guidelines to go by, and yes, sometimes inspired us. But the most important thing was that when we made our own choices for our future they gave encouragement and that extra help to go our own way.

The Oakesdale High School graduates have entered into nearly every professional endeavor you can think of. Their many accomplishments have been outstanding. At first the idea was to offer a sampling of the achievement of our graduates, but the list of names kept growing and growing till it was just overwhelming. Let's just say "Grads, you did great!"

Our early settlers who sacrificed to build that little school 120 years ago would be more than pleased to see that the legacy goes on and will continue to go on for many years to come.



Oakesdale High School, built in 1932

SawLogs Will Blockade the Streets

And business will be almost suspended on account of the big raft of logs which have come to the mill. But don't be alarmed; it is only the Woodmen who are celebrating the greatest fraternal event in the history of Southeastern Washington. They'll all be out for a jolly good time, and who can say that a Woodman doesn't know how to have a good at a big initiation

Bring your horns and bugles and trumpets! Bring your drum and fife and tin pan!
Bring along your voice and help swell the Woodmen yell:



Wow! Wow! Wow!
Who are we then?
Rah! Rah! Rah!
We're the Woodmen!



Part of the full page advertisement in the Weekly Commoner (Colfax) of December 1, 1905, for the two day Jubilee to be held in Colfax by Woodmen of the World from eastern Washington and northern Idaho.



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