

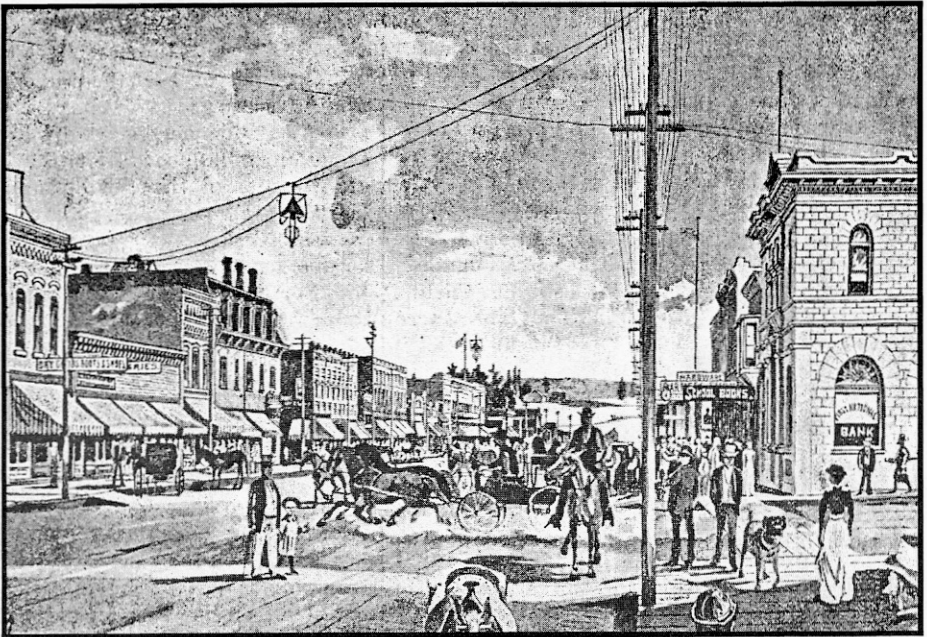
Bunchgrass Historian

Whitman County Historical Society Quarterly

Volume 14, No. 1

Colfax, Washington

Spring 1986



Palouse Main Street

Recovering the Heritage

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THE COVER

Main Street, Palouse. *Northwest Magazine*, Sept. 1892

The Bunchgrass Historian is published four times a year by the Whitman County Historical Society, Post Office Box 67, Colfax, Washington. Its purpose is to further interest in the rich past of Whitman County. Produced by Colfax Publishing Co.

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| —Basic Membership | \$7.50-\$12.00 |
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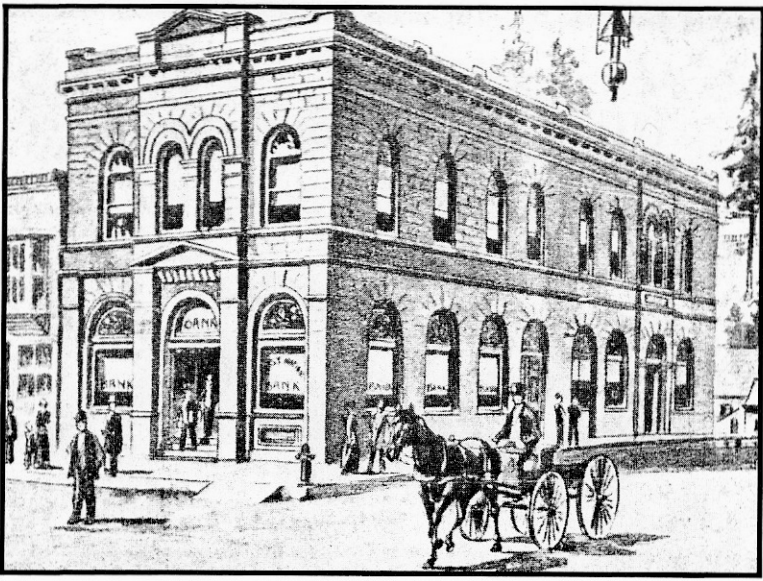
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P.O. Box 2371
Pullman, Washington 99163

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Current and back issues of **The Bunchgrass Historian** may be obtained by sending a check or money order in the amount of \$2.00 for each issue requested to:

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1st National Bank - Northwest Magazine, Sept. 1892.

Palouse

In the early 1980's, residents of Palouse and its environs began to explore the possibility of renovation of the Palouse Main Street area. An effort known as the Palouse Main Street Project emerged. One of the aspects of this project has been a collection of information to be used in applications for the placement of Palouse buildings and structures on the National Register of Historic Places.

One building central to this effort is the St. Elmo Hotel, the city's landmark commercial building. Portions of the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places make up the first of the following short essays on the town of Palouse. It is followed by the description of the hotel as it appeared to the journalist of the 1890's. A few reminiscences of early Palouse are added to provide a backdrop. The reminiscences are taken from the Palouse Community Study History of 1962.

The St. Elmo Hotel, 1986

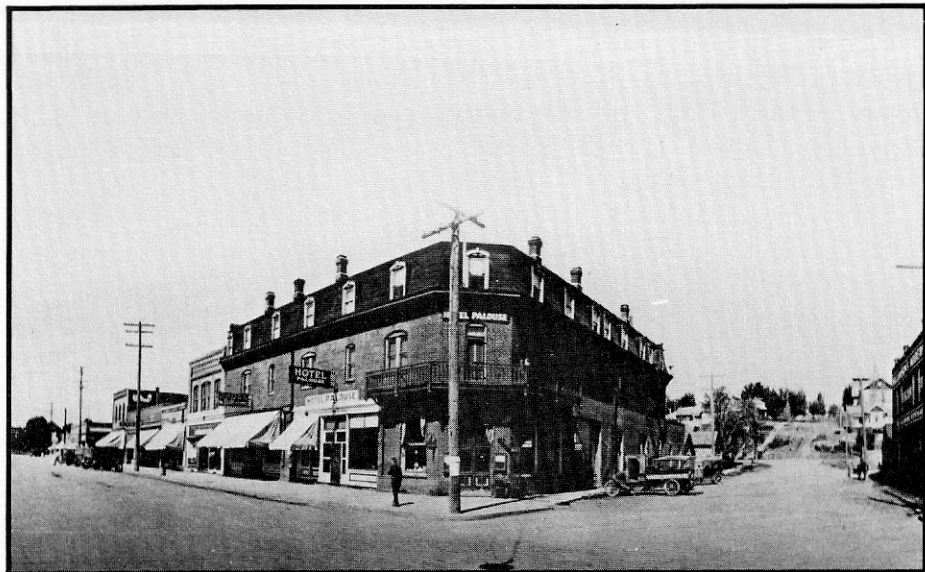
by
Nicholas J. Manring
and
Deidre Busacca

Description

The St. Elmo Hotel is a distinctive French Second Empire-flavored three-story building in Palouse, Washington. Although in a deteriorated state, few alterations have impacted its salient architectural features. The hotel's principal facade is its south facade, along Main Street. The east facade is along Beach Street; the north facade lies along an alley; and the west wall of the building forms a common wall with the city's City Hall.

The building takes the shape of a rectangle, measuring seventy-five feet by eighty feet, with the southeast corner cut away. The first two stories are of common bond pattern brick; the top story is of wood construction. The French Second Empire style is exemplified in the mansard roof with metal decorative shingles along the street facade. Eaves on the south and east facades have boxed cornices with frieze and brackets, all of metal. None of the original twelve single chimneys now protrudes above the roof line. First story fenestration consists of large fixed glazing—including transoms—along Main Street and regularly spaced large double sash windows with flush radiating arches alternate around the facade in a 2:1:2:1 rhythm. Fifteen Victorian segmental dormers with smaller double sash windows are spaced along the street facades of the third story. The dormers have plain side surrounds with curved head surrounds. A balcony which hugged the cutaway corner on the second floor has been removed.

The interior of the hotel contains a variety of decorative elements relating to late-Victorian taste. Doors and windows are banded with fluted mouldings and plain corner ears on the second floor, and with plain recessed transoms. Walls and ceilings are of lath and plaster, overlain with decorative wallpapers. Doors are principally four paneled with an inverted cross.



In excess of twenty suites of varying sizes are on each floor. Many have eight pane double-hung windows facing the corridors. The central suites and the common areas at the heads of the two stairways open onto a central, skylit court. Near the center of the building is the elevator, made by the J. W. Reedy Elevator manufacturing company of Chicago. It is believed to date from the hotel's construction in 1888. A long straight stairway near the east facade connects the first two floors. A shorter, straight side stairway joins the upper two stories. All original newels and balusters have been removed, as has most of the plaster and the third story ceiling. Many windows are missing panes of glass.

Due to the deteriorated condition of the building the upper two floors are not now in use, and the skylight has been covered. The first floor is occupied with a tavern—located in the former hotel lobby and bank quarters; and a ceramics shop at the west end of the building. The ceramics shop retains the room's decorative pressed metal ceiling.

Significance

The city of Palouse was, from ca. 1880 to ca. 1920, a key transportation and supply center for far eastern Whitman County and the central panhandle of Idaho. The St. Elmo Hotel, situated on Palouse's Main Street, was a significant part of Palouse's commercial district, and was closely associated with a number of Palouse business people. The building itself is one of the only surviving French Second Empire style structures in the region.

The property appears to have been unimproved until the spring of 1888. *At that time, the Palouse City Hotel Company began the construc-*

tion of the present hotel. John G. Powers, first chairman of the Trustees of the Town and a prominent town merchant, was chairman of the Company's board of directors. A. A. Kincaid, pioneer area financier, was the secretary of the board. The first tenants in the non-hotel portions of the building included J. H. Wiley, first mayor of Palouse, and A. M. Cannon, pioneer Spokane banker.

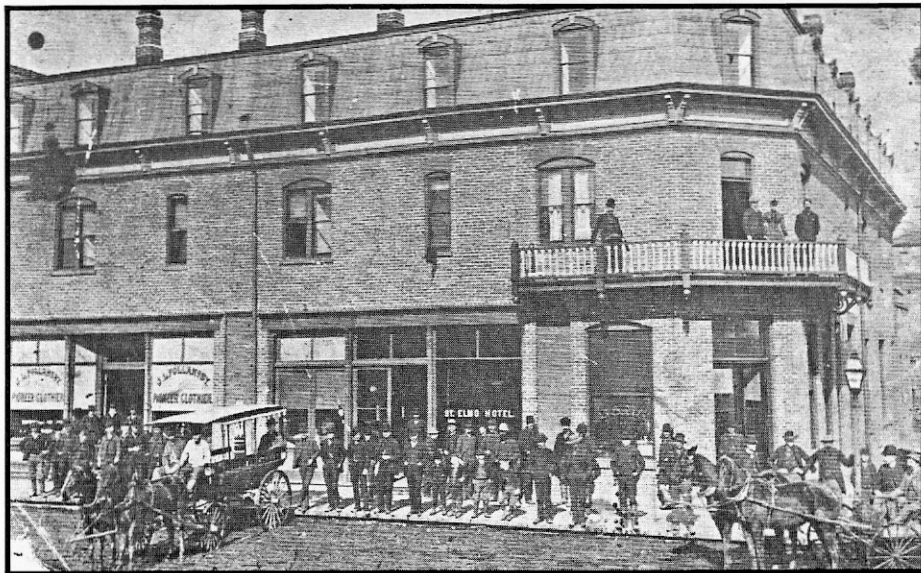
It is believed that actual construction started in May. On May 17, 1888, sparks from a pile driver, while being used in foundation work on the St. Elmo Hotel, ignited a near-by frame structure. Within hours, most of the commercial district—then primarily of wood construction—was reduced to ashes. Being already under construction, the St. Elmo was one of the first post-fire buildings along Main Street. Concrete foundation work was done in May; the second floor in July; the roof, elevator and metal cornice in August. The cost of the hotel was in excess of \$21,000.00. The prime contractor was A. R. Cannon, brother of A. M. Cannon. The interior was plastered and contained 56 rooms. Each of the three floors was supplied with hot and cold running water, and was connected by an elevator; both significant achievements in territorial days.

In addition to the Hotel itself, the St. Elmo Hotel building contained other commercial enterprises on the ground floor. In the cutaway southeast corner space, A. M. Cannon leased space for a bank. The first such bank was the Bank of Palouse City (1888-1889), followed by the First National Bank of Palouse City (1889-1892), and later by the Palouse Farmer's Bank, which went into receivership in the Panic of 1893. Also located in the building was the St. Elmo Bar, featuring pool and billiard tables and the "finest wines and liqueurs of all kinds." In 1891, a barbershop was located in the Hotel, and circa 1910, a pharmacy.

The St. Elmo Hotel contained as one of the town's chief Hotels and boarding house through the 1910's, and as a Hotel and boarding house through the 1940's although under different names. The Palouse City Hotel Company, however, maintained an interest in the property only until April of 1896. At that time, the Hotel building was deeded to the Company's principal creditor, the Northwestern and Pacific Hypotheek Bank. In 1913, as the Hotel Gale, the St. Elmo Hotel still boasted its own bus and dray wagon for transporting guests and baggage to and from the town's railway depots.

As one of the first buildings built after the 1888 fire, as the largest (three-story) Main Street building, and with its unique Mansard-like roof, the St. Elmo Hotel Building was a symbolic cornerstone for the town's economic growth in the 1890's. Today it remains the visual heart of the community.





The St. Elmo Hotel

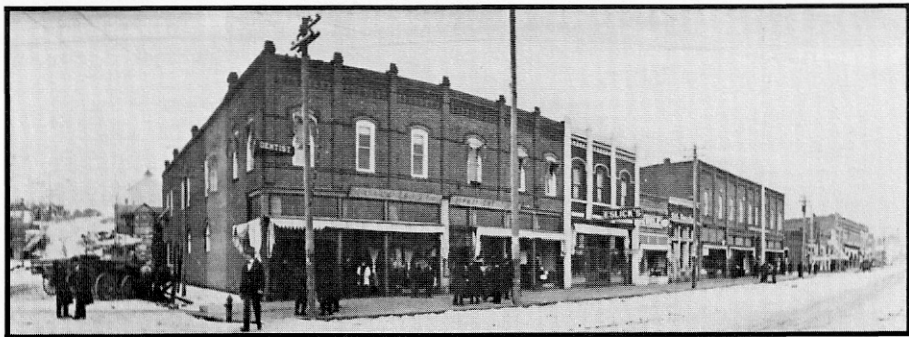
From an Edition of Palouse News

The St. Elmo is the only first class hotel in the city and one of the best in Eastern Washington. It is a three story brick building containing 50 comfortable and well lighted guest chambers, besides a large office, dining room, parlor, and pool and billiard hall. The house is supplied with the modern conveniences of electric lights, telephone, hot and cold water, electric call bells, etc.

The rooms are comfortably furnished and kept in the best possible condition. Large and well lighted sample rooms are reserved for the convenience of drummers, among whom the St. Elmo is very popular.

F. J. Clinton, who leases the hotel has had an extensive experience in the business, having been connected with hotels at Great Salt Lake, and others in Utah. His great aim is to secure the comfort of his guests, and his constant endeavor is to make them feel the sentiment expressed in this verse:

“Of all the lands I ere have seen,
Of all the places I have been
I still have found where ere I roamed
My warmest welcome at an inn.”



Palouse Main Street, looking east

Interview With Carroll Wiley

Mr. Carroll Wiley, an old time resident of Palouse, came here at the age of 13. He had been reared by his aunt until that time and came to this country because he had been told it was the best place to settle. His father's house was the old Christian Church parsonage, built in 1886 by Charlie Toloner.

On one early day Fourth of July, Bill Reed was appointed Constable of Palouse. The gang of Palouse Country was the Jensen Rock gang. They came to town this Fourth to celebrate. They got rowdy in the saloons and a saloon keeper called in Constable Reed to quiet them. There was no jail, so Reed took them to the livery stable and tied them. He got down the street about a half block and one of the others came and grabbed Reed, the one he was taking to the livery stable started to run and Reed just swung around and shot him right through the heart.

Mr. Wiley ran the pottery, where the park is, in 1899. The clay for the pottery came from the Twitmeyer place, across the road from the Tom Cox house. This clay was of very good quality. To reach the clay they had to dig through about five feet of dirt. Mr. Wiley put \$500 in the pottery to get started and then had to get a job to try to have money to finance the mill. All he ever realized from the mill was the work of digging clay, which was very difficult to dig. The reason they did not make any money was



Palouse Main Street, about 1920

because everything they made sold so cheaply. Gallon jugs they made were sold in stores for ten cents each.

He went to school with Garrett Kincaid for one year and about all they did was sit back in the corner and expectorate tobacco juice out the window.

Wiley related the taking of a contract from a man by the name of Hendron, to dig a well, for one dollar per foot. This contract included the hiring of a man to help him. The City drilled one well 100 feet deep along the river and a little later drilled two more. They are known as the artesian wells today.

In his role as fire chief, Mr. Wiley related several experiences. Their pump was operated much like a hand car, and built up quite a pressure. There were about six lengths of hose and about every evening during the summer they would run everyone off the street with water. When the big town fire started they couldn't get water from the pump at all. They stopped the fire by hanging blankets over the side of the brewery and the building where the Union Oil Station is now, then kept the blankets wet.

When Mr. Wiley and his wife were married in 1892, they lived in the Dicus house. At one time they had a big barn where the old Dart house is now located.

Mr. Wiley, now 92 years old, has a remarkably clear memory of the early days in Palouse. He has since moved away from Palouse and now lives in the Odd Fellows Home in Walla Walla.

Interview With William Meinig

Mr William Meinig and his family came to Palouse in January, 1903. They came to Palouse because the people told his father that Palouse was the best town between Lewiston and Spokane.

In 1902 or 1903 the school was changed from 10 grades to 12. This brought about a revamping of the school system, as they didn't have enough room. Mr. Meinig went to the fifth grade in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. Miss Blodgett was his fifth grade teacher. The south hill grade school was built in 1906. The first and second grades were held in the old school behind the high school building. He used to skate to school.

He and his family used to live in the old Redman home; in fact, his family built the home in 1903. The house had a half basement and a rock foundation and the cost of building it was \$1500. The head carpenter got \$2.40 for a 10-hour day and the helpers got \$1.00 for a 10-hour day.

At one time the Post Office was located where the Soil Conservation Office is now, then it was moved to the old bakery building, and the next time it was moved, the present location was chosen.

The Callison house used to be the Harvison Hospital. However, it was a home before it was a hospital.

The Hypotheek Loan Comapny loaned money to several of the farmers so they could buy farms. In 1893 there was no crop, because of too much rain. Several of the farmers lost their land.

N. Williamson, Moscow, sold pea seed to Harry Linden, which he brought to Palouse and planted; this was about 1917. The pea seed was the first pea seed in Palouse.

Interview With Cora Ball

Mrs. Ball's father came west to California in a wagon train in 1848. Her mother came to the Palouse area in 1876 and homesteaded the farm 6 miles southeast of Palouse, where Mrs. Ball was born.

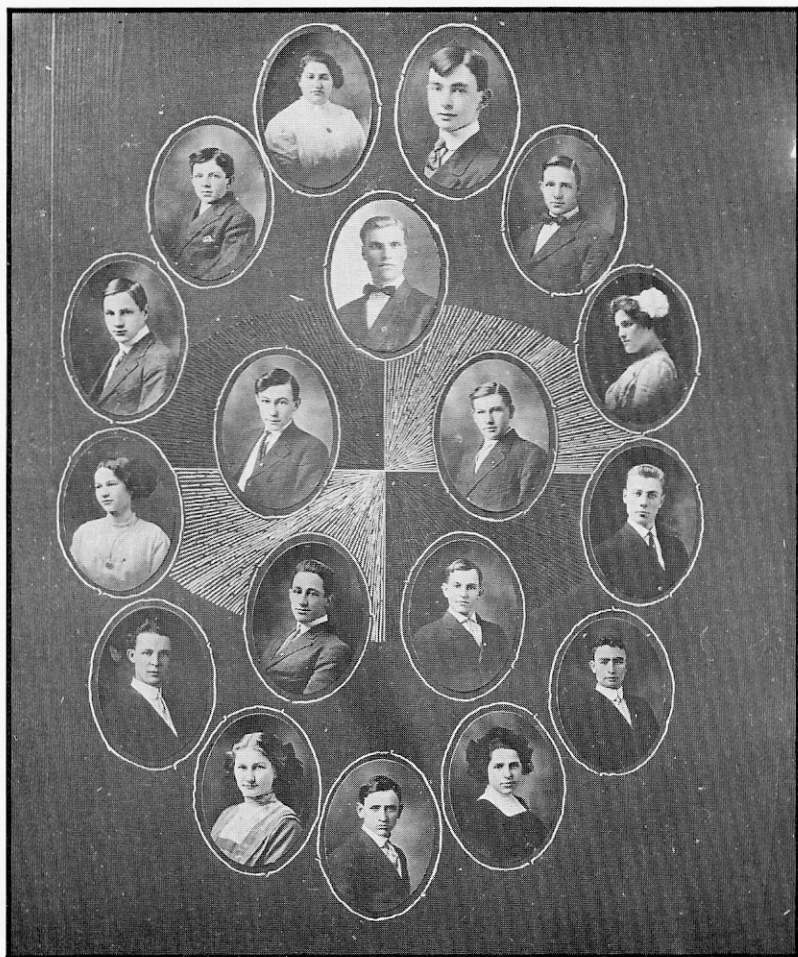
Mrs. Ball said that Mrs. S. E. Parker bathed and dressed her when she was born. Mrs. Parker now resides with her son Floyd at Clarkston, and will soon be 100 years old.

The butte north of their farm was a signal point for the Couer d'Alene and Nez Perce Indians, and she recalled seeing smoke signals sent from this butte. One of the main Indian trails crossed near the butte and portions of the trail are still visible.

A spring and a camp ground on the butte were used regularly by the Indians, and some arrowheads have been found there. Mrs. Ball recalled that Chief Joseph had stopped at this camp ground to rest while travelling through the Palouse Country.

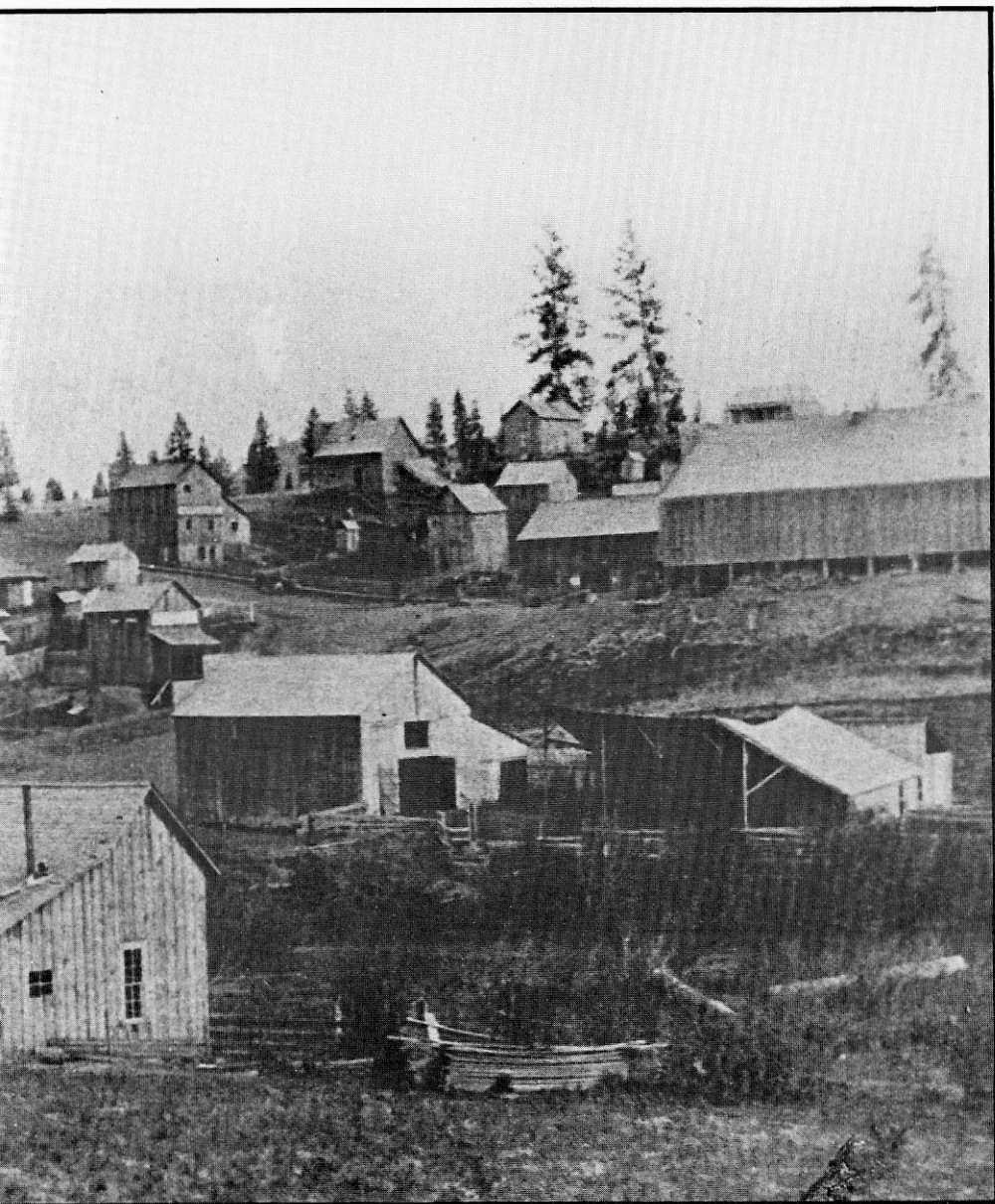
Mrs. Ball said their family home was the first house to be painted in the entire area between Spokane and Lewiston. She attended the Angel School.

She said that Viola was named for Viola Teal. The Teals had a hotel and store there.



Palouse High School Class of 1912



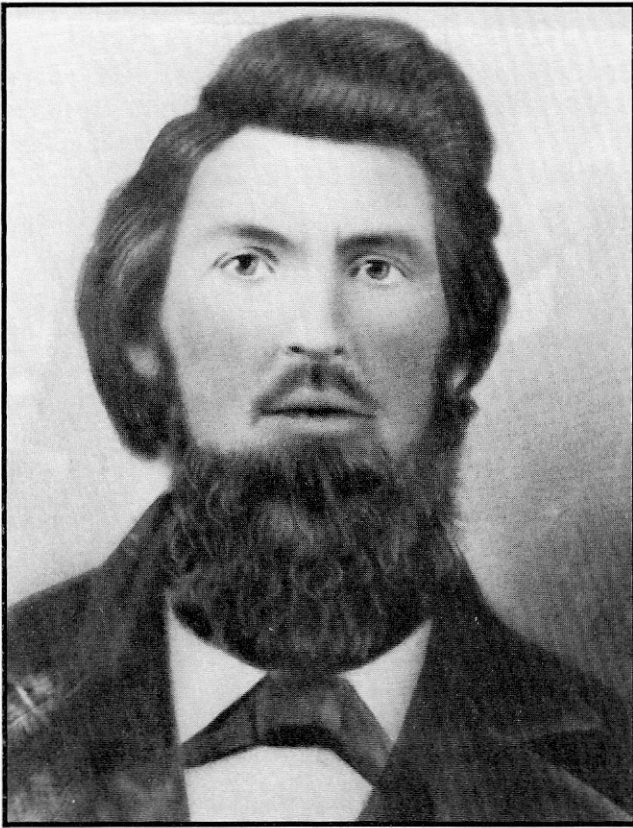


Palouse, 1882



Palouse High School Class of 1909





C. C. Branham

Branham Precinct

In the early 1930's James E. Lindsey, a resident of Pullman and employee of the Post Office, interviewed a large number of people throughout Whitman County as sources of information of local history. He then wrote accounts based on his interview notes, accounts later published in local newspapers such as the *Pullman Herald*.

Presented here are three of Lindsey's histories. These are stories of people associated with the Branham, or Whelan, district, an area immediately northeast of Pullman along the small stream called Missouri Flat Creek. The stories are not specific of the Whelan district for these people moved and changed occupations from time to time. Thus their stories cross through Moscow, Palouse, Pullman, and even further afield.

George William (Billy) Reed

by

James E. Lindsey

The family of Scotch origin but was a while in north Ireland and came to Virginia where J. M. Reed, the father, was born. The mother, Mary Miller, was also born in Virginia but the family was German. Thus are combined two strains that make up a large part of the average American of today.

At the age of fifteen Billy was bound out to his brother-in-law to learn the carpenter's trade. This was the custom of the time and for seven years he "belonged" to this relative, who boarded and clothed him when teaching his carpentry by the practical method of making him his assistant in house building, etc. Mr. Reed has very limited schooling but his alert mind picked up a very extended education in the school of hard knocks.

G. W. Reed was born Nov. 22, 1850, in Nenwton (Fredericksburg), Virginia. In 1859 when Billy was eight years old the family moved to Missouri opposite Alton, Illinois. From there they made a short move into Lincoln County, Missouri. There the father died in 1877. In the family were six boys and six girls. G. W. was the second child. Most of the family remained in Missouri. There are three brothers and one sister still living.

When his father died in 1877, G. W. had come to California two years previously and that year he came on to Palouse, July 4, 1877. He landed at Almota and came on by team to Palouse, through Colfax. For a while he worked for the stage company. He was not a driver but the agent. At this time there were three promising towns in Whitman county. Colfax was the largest, more important then than the village of Spokane Falls. Palouse was but little behind in prospects as an excellent stand of timber stood all around the town. Farmington ranked third and its name is an excellent description of town.

The first sawmill in Palouse was built by Farnsworth, Worley and Company. Of this firm, G. W. Reed was the company (the third partner). Many homesteaders came here to get lumber for their little homes. It was here that the then young bachelor Billy Brabyn sent a bright twenty dollar gold piece, earned building the Northern Pacific Railroad, and with it bought enough lumber for his house except shingles. This mill was sold in 1878 and his next job was as mine host in a hotel in a part of Palouse known as the old town.

Feb. 17, 1878, he was married to Adda Branham by Reverend E. S. Anderson, the first Methodist preacher to work regularly north of the Snake River. The bride's father, C. C. Branham, had come from Kansas in August, 1877. Mr. Branham was a very influential citizen. He secured the first school and Three Forks (Pullman) children were in the Branham district. There was a Branham Post Office for about a year and the town was slated to the junction

of the line to Moscow and Lewiston. Construction had already begun when promoters of Pullman induced the engineers to start at Pullman Junction with the Moscow line. Mr. Reed had cast his lot with the fortunes of Branham (Whelan Station) and thus he has been a booster first for Palouse, then Whelan and in later years for Pullman.

The first school house was of logs brought from Moscow mountains. It was a gathering place for religious services as well. Mr. Branham died in 1888 and is buried in the cemetery on the little hill near the Whelan Grange Hall. Mr. Reed secured most of the lots from those who had purchased in the "boom" and later sold them to Johnnie Hooper, except the lot where the Grange Hall stands. The voting precinct is still called Branham in honor of the pioneer.

Mr. Reed's hotel was above the mill in old Palouse. Later the business part of town moved down on the flat below on lands of "Modoc" Smith. This was in 1882, about the time Pullman had its beginning. Palouse was then a saw-mill town; later brick and pottery; at present split peas and all this time the usual grain shipping has furnished the city its prosperity.

G. W. Reed took up a homestead, the Northeast quarter 15-15-45 E.W.M., a half mile north of Whelan in 1884 and proved up in 1891. From this land he hauled one load of flax to Wawawai receiving a dollar a bushel for the seed. He sold wheat to homesteaders for seed or feed till the Northern Pacific reached Whelan in 1887. He had only a plow and a harrow, preferring to work in the mountains getting out shingles, posts, etc. and trading to others for plowing. He hired the wheat cut with a self rake, as it was then called. This machine left the bundle on the ground ready to be bound by hand. Having his own granary and selling to his neighbors he got the Wawawai price without the long haul.

In 1891 he came to Pullman and engaged in the grocery business under the firm name of Bragg and Reed. R. B. Bragg, his partner, bought him out and in 1899 he was in Tacoma in the grocery business. 1900 found him back on the farm again, where he remained about two years. Next he came to Pullman, buying into the furniture store of Dr. White. Buying out his partner he sold furniture alone a while and sold an interest to Mr. Smith. They put up the well-known sign "Walk a block and save a dollar." As the rival furniture store was a block away, he explained to his rival (C. M. Waters) that it might be possible to walk either direction to save the dollar. He soon sold out to Kimball and Roth, as had Mr. Waters.

Mr. Reed's wide acquaintance with the county made him the successful candidate for Postmaster of Pullman in 1914. He was appointed by President Wilson and served till 1921. During three years of this time the writer (J. E. Lindsey) served under him as a rural carrier out of Pullman. While he was Postmaster, business grew till Pullman changed from fourth to third class and College Station was established. Now while Pullman and Colfax are about the same size it often happens that both post offices in Pullman are ahead of the

rival town in postal receipts. This comes from the great postal business of the college and students.

Mr. Reed and his wife went to California in 1921 and there in San Diego she died March 24, 1922. During the next five years he was a while in St. Louis; then at a daughter's in Salt Lake and twice on trips to California. On a trip from Spokane to Seattle he met some ladies also traveling to Seattle. Miss Annie Banks from London, England, was on her way to visit her sister, Mrs. L. P. Surridge, who lived near the home of Mr. Reed's daughter. Miss Banks and Mr. Reed were married January 15, 1927 and they have since occupied the home on Kamiakin Street in Pullman.

Of Mr. Reed's four children, William E. is a sheet metal worker in Portland, Oregon, Lula B. died when a few months old, Lelia Maude (Rivers) lives in Spokane and Gladys Hazel (Tipping) in Seattle.

Mr. Reed has been school director in Branham and in Pullman. He was elected on the Pullman city council but resigned. He became an Odd Fellow in 1888 and holds a twenty-five year jewel. He has helped to build three Methodist churches in Pullman. The first was on the present school grounds. The second was also on this site but later moved to near the old Opera House on Grand Avenue, and the structure, then a residence, was burned along with the Opera House in 1911.

Mr. Reed planted one of the first orchards in the country. It was in 1882 before filing on the quarter section. His apples were of the Genitan variety. (The kind called by some Gray Romanite and when nurserymen no longer found sale for them by other names called them the Will Do Apple.) They were better than the Ben Davis he later planted on account of their good reputation in the East.

Mr. Reed says he always had good neighbors. The reader will be able to guess the reason why. When Pullman was endeavoring to drive out the saloons he fought on the side of the drys. When the Democratic state convention met at Walla Walla he and our former townsman Hugh Todd were for Woodrow Wilson while most of the convention were for Champ Clark. By the unit rule the entire vote was cast for Champ Clark. This of course did not hurt in the least Mr. Reed's candidacy for the postmastership. John Squires was one of his closest contestants, but Mr. Reed had the backing of the McCroskey family, always influential in Whitman County politics.

Mr. Reed has always been a booster for Washington and looks forward to great things for the Northwest in the future. The resources are so many and so varied; the population yet so small compared with what the country can support; coupled with so many drawbacks in other localities that is almost certain our population will increase and that calls for houses to live in and workers to build them. This spells prosperity for all lines. In fact this is that famous CORNER where prosperity has been keeping herself there many years, just waiting till the politicians get over experiments and let the people get back to work.

William H. Brabyn

by

James E. Lindsey

September 1934

About a half mile north of Pullman almost hidden by splendid spruces is the farm house of W. H. Brabyn. His fertile farm cornering on the Northern Pacific Railroad is described as the northeast quarter of section 32; township 15; range 45 E.W.M. This farm is located in the Pullman Watershed Soil Erosion Project, but is one farm that needs comparatively little attention from the experts. After years of cropping the hill top is heavily covered with stubble that will not be burned off but will hold the snow and conserve the moisture from rain.

Mr. Brabyn was born September 18, 1863, in the Cornwall section of England. His people were miners and members of the family settled near Doddville, Wisconsin, (possibly Dodgeville) to be near the lead mines around Dubuque, Iowa, and Galena, Illinois. As a young man Mr. Brabyn worked for a while on a farm in Cornwall. Owing to the warm ocean currents the grass is green year round. On one farm of 80 acres he gave the equipment as 30 head of cattle, three hundred sheep and five horses. In addition to the manure furnished by so many livestock, the farmer also bought and used commercial fertilizer. Wheat, turnips and mangels were staple crops.

Modern equipment was beginning to be used but fifty or sixty years ago when he was there the wheat would be cut with a sort of header and left lying in the swath to dry, when it would be bound by hand. The climate was damp; rain could be expected every week, so drying wheat or hay was a difficult task. Thrift and good farming methods were ingrained in the young emigrant from Cornwall and helped make Mr. Brabyn one of the more successful farmers of the Palouse country. He has kept his original claim and still farms it although he has at times owned various other tracts and city lots.

Mr. Brabyn left southern Wisconsin for the Northwest March 14, 1877. He took up his present home as a time claim in September, 1877. He held this a while as a timber culture but later changed to a preemption and proved up in 1881 paying the \$1.25 per acre. (It was \$2.50 per acre with fifty miles of the Northern Pacific main line.) Being a bachelor he was not at home as were married men and as the Northern Pacific was being completed he helped in that work. He was employed in various saw-mills along the line in Idaho and Montana getting out timbers for the railroad. He hired married men to run his ranch. W.I. Clark broke out 80 acres in 1883 and 1884.

To the first settlers the county looked to rough for farming. The hills were covered with bunchgrass which was not difficult to break out. Nearly always the first crop was flax. A field full of lovely blue flowers was a pretty sight. Flax was grown for seed not to make linen. The pressed seed yielded linseed

oil for paints. Flax was considered hard on the land and followed after a year or possibly two with wheat. At first spring wheat was grown and a crop produced every year. A few disced in the shattered grain was seed for a new crop but this was not general. A Mr. Huntley of Rebel Flat had a volunteer crop of 30 bushels that saved him from going broke.

The original purpose of summer fallow was to kill the wild oats. This naturally was followed by the growing of fall wheat though at first spring grain had done better. Some thirty years ago the change was just being made. There was not noticeable erosion. In the fall of 1901 a wagon rough-locked down a steep hill at Johnson. It seemed incredible to one coming from lands where a ditch alongside the road might destroy the roadbed that an immense gully would not form there before the next summer. However the grass roots and other humus held the rain and no gully formed.

Soon after summer fallowing became common, erosion became noticeable. Professor W. J. Spillman at Washington Agricultural College recommended *Bromus iocremis* as an excellent hay as well as a sod forming grass that would combat erosion. Mr. Brabyn secured some of the seed and planted 10 or 12 acres in meadow. He noticed that there were two kinds of grass in the plot and has some seed taken from the side where the grass seemed best and thriftiest. This was quack grass. It still does exceedingly well on his farm!

About 1903 alfalfa was becoming general as a meadow and soil building crop. Mr. Brabyn has never sown alfalfa alone. His usual method is to sow three pounds of timothy and five pounds of alfalfa together. It makes a better hay and much better pasture. This usually remains for five or six years and then the land is again put in grain. The hill top of his farm has been in meadow twice in the last 25 years and this year produced a heavy stand of straw, much of it lodging lowered the yield of wheat.

At first seeding was done by hand but in 1885 he purchased a broadcast seeder that was in demand on several other farms. Next the shoe drill had a vogue. A short chain followed the shoe to cover the grain and was followed by a drag harrow. Next came the single disc and now the double disk drill. The hoe drill was never popular as it gathered the trash while the other types ran over the obstructions. It was not usual for fall wheat to form a complete cover as is common in eastern states. Oklahoma Agricultural College has conducted experiments in pasturing off the wheat in the fall to prevent too-rank growth. Such is unnecessary in the Palouse.

There were few hog fences and so hogs were kept confined till the grain was out of the field and turned loose to fatten among the stubble. Horses too were turned out and usually accumulated fat that tided them through the winter sheltered and fed on the lee side of a straw stack. Some of the better farmers fed hay after the new year and their work stock were stronger for spring work. Many burned the remainder of the straw before the farm work began in the spring; a few soon after threshing. Mr. Brabyn usually hauled out the stack bottoms as manure.

Colfax and Moscow were trading points although Almota and to a less extent Wawawai were shipping points for Whitman County till the 80s. Stores carried bacon, dried apples, self-rising flour, beans, sugar and coffee. Each town would soon have a blacksmith shop and a harness shop. Lee and Stewart has the first store in Pullman, near where is now Jenner's pool hall. Mr. Downing from Colfax started the IXL cash store that only lasted about a year. There was little cash in the country. Most farmers ran bills for a whole year, settling after harvest. Mr. Brabyn due to his Cornish thrift did his buying for cash at a considerable savings to him.

Branham (Whelan) promised to be a better town than Pullman as the Northern Pacific began building their line to Moscow up Missouri Flat from that point. Some Pullman citizens bought lots there at \$75, each that later went to make up Johnnie Hooper's little farm. The first house on Brabyn's land was built in the northwest corner to be nearer Whelan. G. W. Reed was managing a saw-mill in Palouse at the time and Mr. Brabyn sent him a \$20 gold piece to pay for a lumber bill. The house was 12 feet by 24 feet, one story and a half, and this paid for the lumber except for shingles. The house was box style but battened on the inside with 2x4s. This house built in 1880 served him for ten years. Part of the present home, 24x24, was built in 1890. An addition was built on the north side in 1908.

In the early days there were four or five leading citizens who were boosters for Pullman. These were Thomas Neill, A. T. Fariss, Dr. Webb, E. H. Letterman and Walter Windus. Their enthusiasm led them to many promotions. Mr. Brabyn was always a conservative. A one room school was moved to the Swain lots and later burned on the site of R. G. Lyle's residence. The next building was a two story wooden building where the present old high school stands. Before this was in use (or paid for) the "palatial" building, burned in the spring of '33, was erected. Pullman school warrants sold for 25 cents on the dollar. J. R. Ruply was then a butcher and made a good part of his fortune dealing in those warrants. Some conservatives went into the school house after the Clerk Merriam had gone home, reporting no election as nobody had come to vote, and elected Brabyn director.

At first roads followed the water courses. When the township was surveyed in 1874 they found a road leading from "Three Forks" up Missouri Flat toward Moscow Mountain. This road was especially important as wood, lumber and fences all came from the mountains. As land was fenced roads were crowded over hills and around corners in a way that still plagues engineers and travelers. The era of hard surface road building closely followed the general use of the automobile, 1912-on. A splendid hard surfaced road leads past Mr. Brabyn's farm from Pullman to Spokane.

Besides a term as school director, Mr. Brabyn served on the election board for many years. He believes in giving good measure when selling onions. He believes the auto and tractor are here to stay though deprecating installment buying. He would limit the size of farms by a graduated tax. The larger the

farm the higher the tax.

Mr. Brabyn has fat, well rounded cattle and horses yet hires tractors to do his plowing. He has always been willing to let the other fellow speculate. Prefers owning the mortgage and minimizing the risk. While taxing down big farms, they would exempt grass lands from taxes to facilitate erosion control.

Mrs. W. H. Brabyn, Mary Murdock, was born in Abingdon, Illinois, August 25, 1862. Her grandfather Murdock was Scotch. His wife (Cain) was English. Her mother's father was Pennsylvania Dutch (Lutz) and his wife (McClain) was Scotch-Irish. She is a lively as might be supposed from her ancestry. She taught school in Illinois. Her father died in Iowa in 1883 aged 48. She came to Nebraska in 188?, proved up a claim in Colorado, 1891-93, then back to Nebraska. She then had a news stand and clerked in Kearney, Nebraska. She came to Pullman via California in 1901 and clerked in Blackman Brothers store till 1904.

She married W. H. Brabyn December 23, 1904 and has lived on their farm since. Her mother died in 1907 aged 70. She has long been a member of the Christian Church. For many years she served on the election board of Pullman Country precinct and none and for a long time has been the registry clerk. They have no children but an older brother of Mr. Brabyn makes his his home with them as does here sister Ethel for part of the time.

The farm has not changed ownership in 57 years and still rates as one of the fertile wheat growing farms in the greatest wheat growing country in the world. Soil erosion is not a major problem on this farm. A 5,000 bushel elevator alongside the railroad track furnishes storage for the wheat grown on the farm. This couple rank among the most useful conservative citizens.

Carson W. Taylor by **James E. Lindsey** **September 1934**

Great-grandfather Taylor came as a stowaway to Pennsylvania. He reared a large family and was a public spirited citizen being interested in the welfare of his community. One son, Joseph, was the grandfather of the subject of this story. His children were: James; William and Ann, twins; John; Renwick; Jennie; and Ed. Two others, Walter and Wallace, were soldiers and lost their lives in the Civil War.

Renwick W. Taylor married Jessie Greer, daughter of Joseph D. Greer, a pioneer of Johnson, Washington. Renwick made some profitable deals in Tacoma real estate and returned and built the house at Johnson now occupied by Earl Harper. He again went to Tacoma and died there. Ed Taylor was also a resident of the Palouse country for some years.

The Carson family lived near Allegheny, Pennsylvania (Pittsburg area). William Taylor and Jennie Carson were married there in 1820. Carson W. Taylor was born near Allegheny, Pennsylvania, September 29, 1863. There

was a younger sister and brother, but the mother died in 1868 and the two younger children soon after. The grandfather brought young Carson with him to Keokuk, Iowa, till his father remarried, when he was once again with his father.

William Taylor married Emma Jenkins in 1871. They have one son, Walter, who is now a doctor in Ashland, Illinois. He was born in 1872. William Taylor married Isadora Cole in 1878 for his third wife. They also had one son, Ora D., born in 1879. He and his wife were killed in a railroad wreck on the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation line, being burned in the wreckage.

William Taylor was a Baptist minister and preached in Idaho and in Washington. He was a fluent speaker and was elected to the legislature of Idaho. In later years he was in the real estate business and founded the town of Orting, Washington. He died about 1893.

William Taylor had remarried in 1871, Carson came to live with him. He was with his father for two or three years when he went to live with his uncle George Willoughby, who had married his father's twin sister Ann Taylor. He was with them till he was fifteen years old. Their home was in Iowa. His father was now located in Moscow, Idaho, and sent for Carson to come out to him.

It was not then a journey of a day by airplane nor of four days by train. He spent eight days on the train to reach Kelton, Utah. This is northwest from Salt Lake and from that point the mail stage came up into the Palouse country. The route was by way of Boise, Baker, Pendleton and Walla Walla to Colfax. He would crawl in on the mail sacks to sleep but was travel sick on the road. Any fifteen year old boy could appreciate the thrill of going out so far alone to a new country but few could have the stamina to go through it.

His father came down from Moscow to meet him and take him to his new home. The house was on main street where later George Webber had his harness shop. There were possibly 150 people in the frontier town and there was enough wild and wooly west to satisfy most any boy at the time. The livery stable was made of poles. There was a two story box hotel with the sheathing not yet sawed off. McConnell and Company had a store where they sold everything from needles to chain harness. There was a small store in the Post Office kept by Asbury Llewallyn.

When the stage came in the letters were read off as they were sorted and when the recipient was in the office it was handed to him otherwise put in the pigeon hole to await his calling for it. Felix Warren was one of the prominent men connected with the stage lines at the time. Goods were freighted in from Walla Walla.

Jim Shields brought in the first load of walking plows. The store would trade wheat on account in the winter and in the spring when the roads were passable this would be hauled to Wawawai and goods freighted back to the store. William Taylor had a pre-emption near Clinton and a homestead near Staley. He also took up a timber culture near Whelan and held it a while till

Carson could file on it as a homestead. This he did in 1886 and he still owns the Northeast quarter 21-25-45 E.W.M. one mile from Whelan.

Mrs. Sarah Engle married a Mr. Bartle for her second husband and they lived near Johnson, selling their farm to Charles Gray about 1900. They moved to California where Mrs. Bartle died. Sarah Engle was the daughter by the first marriage.

In 1886 Carson W. Taylor and Sarah Engle were married. Their first son Claude began life on January 18, 1887. He now lives in California. Dwight Taylor was born March 17, 1889. He married Vesta Calloway in 1914. His son Carl was born in 1916, daughter Wilma in 1918 and son Dale in 1920. They live on Military Hill in Pullman. Dwight is the Washington State College teamster.

Sarah Engle Taylor died in 1890 in the Sound country. On June 5, 1892 Carson Taylor and Lou Bowden were married in Franklin, Michigan. Their children born near Whelan were: Aileene born in 1894; died when eleven; Mary born in 1895, married L. B. Sims and they live in Spokane; Jennie, born 1900, married Earl Naffziger youngest son of Joe Naffziger—their home is near Smiley, Saskatchewan, Canada; and Carson W. Jr., born 1902, who had a twin that died at birth. Carson Jr. is still with his parents in the home.

Carson Taylor has been deputy assessor for his precinct for twenty-five years. He helped organize Whelan Grange and has occupied all chairs except that of master and he has declined to serve in that office. Mrs. Taylor was the first L.A.S. and he was Chaplain. He has been treasurer since January 1921. His birthday, September 29, 1933, was the occasion when Whelan Grange honored him with a party. They invited him to come and help clean up the Hall and made it a surprise.

Whelan Grange was chiefly social in its work until the King's came into work when the Grange became noted all over the state for obtaining cheaper gasoline and other farm necessities for their members. Whelan took the lead and other Granges organized the Grange Supply in Pullman. The savings to the grangers had lead other granges to form similar cooperatives throughout the state.

At first all plowing was done with "footburners" by which is meant walking plows drawn by two or four horses. Carson Taylor brought the first gang plow to the neighborhood. Usually one or two crops of flax were grown and Little Club wheat every year till in the nineties. They hauled flax to Pullman after the O.R.&N. was built but before the Northern Pacific came in 1887.

Like nearly all others he first harvested with a header and threshed from the stack. Then he used the binder till 1929 when he began combining the grain. He always aimed to have ten or twelve acres in alfalfa after it was introduced. His first few crops of peas were "hogged off." In 1934 he had forty acres of peas that did well on the fall plowing but poorly on the land plowed in the spring. His practice has been to summer fallow alternately with wheat but expects to raise peas instead of summer fallow.