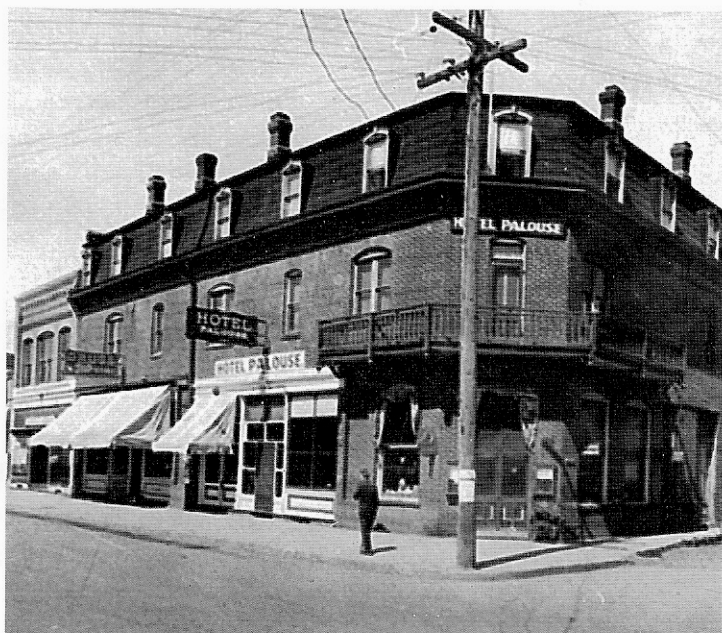


Bunchgrass Historian



Whitman County Historical Society
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- **The St. Elmo: Through the Years**
 - **Pullman in the Early 1890's - A City or Not?**
 - **Barb Wire Talks: An Early Rural Telephone System**
 - **Roy Bailey: 48 Years at WSU Farm**
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Whitman County Historical Society

The Bunchgrass Historian is published by the Whitman Country Historical Society. Its purpose is to further interest in the rich past of Whitman County.

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COVER PHOTO

*The St. Elmo Building in the early
1930's.*



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THE ST. ELMO: THROUGH THE YEARS

by Yvonne Zeitler

Introduction

Hot and cold running water in every room! An elevator connecting each floor! These were some of the things the first owners of the St. Elmo Hotel in Palouse, Washington used in advertisements to get people enticed to stay. The St. Elmo began construction in the spring of 1888, and was completed in the fall of the same year. The St. Elmo was the first hotel in Eastern Washington to have an elevator and hot and cold running water in each of its 56 rooms. The hotel was in itself a sign of Palouse's modernity.

The St. Elmo has managed to stay standing despite its many owners and near collapse, thanks in part to its current owners, Bob and Jackie Strack. They have been working with members of the town to restore the St. Elmo to its old splendor. With the help of volunteers, they have been able to restore much of the hotel, with hopes of reopening it. The hotel has been closed to the public since 1993, having lost much of its business. The St. Elmo, once a sign of the town's modernity, is now a sign of Palouse's past.

The St. Elmo

The St. Elmo came to Palouse literally in a blaze. It was the cause of the May 17, 1888 fire on Main Street. While still under construction, sparks from a pile driver set a nearby building on fire. There was a steady wind blowing that morning and the fire quickly spread to the rest of Main Street. Within hours of the first spark most of the commercial district of Palouse was burned to ashes. After the fire, the St. Elmo was one of the first buildings to open, because it had the advantage of being under construction when the fire spread.

When the St. Elmo opened its doors in November 1888, it was the tallest building on Main Street, standing three stories high. The St. Elmo opened its doors as the most modern hotel in Palouse, and Eastern Washington, housing 56 rooms, an elevator, hot and cold running water, and a telephone in each room. All being virtually unheard of, especially in a small town like Palouse. The total cost of the hotel had been in excess of \$21,000, with most of the construction being done by A.R. Cannon.

When the St. Elmo opened, there were twelve smoke stacks on its roof, which were used for heat. The hotel had enough fire places to keep its guests warm at night. If you stayed at the St. Elmo, there was no reason for you to be cold. The St. Elmo was a great achievement in territorial days of Washington. The smoke stacks have since been replaced with a more modern electrical heating system.

It was the dream of F.J. Clinton, the first owner of the St. Elmo, to make Palouse more modern. The St. Elmo soon became known as the greatest hotel between Spokane and Lewiston, and Spokane and Walla Walla (West, 23). The St. Elmo also had one of the best sample rooms in the state, where salesmen could display their goods for prospective customers. Boarders in the hotel could see the sample room, from the second floor through the large glass widows that overlooked the rooms. From there, potential customers could view the salesman's merchandise and decide if they wanted to buy anything. The sample rooms were connected to the lobby, which people would use to get to the other shops on the first floor of the hotel.

The balcony, which was connected on the east corner on the second floor of the hotel, was once an intricate part of the hotel and the city. It helped to add character and to promote guests meeting each other. Many of the occupants of the hotel were full time residents of all different professions. Some were physicians, lawyers, painters, and clerks. The balcony served as a meeting place for guests to get to know one another. The balcony was also used for making announcements pertaining to the town, or other events deemed important to the hotel owners. For example, on July 4, 1910, the balcony was used to announce the results of the boxing match between Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries. Johnson knocked out Jeffries leading to the first Black Boxing Champion of the World (Marks, 4). The balcony can no longer be seen on the St. Elmo, it was taken down some time in the mid-1900's.

One thing the St. Elmo lacked in the early years was central heating. In the 1930's, the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team came to the Palouse to play the local team. A representative for the team had come out a few weeks before the team arrived and had booked several rooms in the St. Elmo. Although the fires had been started in each room, it was an especially cold day and the rooms were still cold and drafty when the players arrived. One of the Harlem players learned of another hotel in Palouse, "the Congress", which did have central heat. The entire team packed up, and moved to the other hotel (West, 24).

Businesses of the St. Elmo

The first floor of the St. Elmo housed Palouse businesses: the St. Elmo Bar, the Bank of Palouse City, a Barbershop, and the Tailor and Gentlemen's Clothing Store. The Barbershop was opened in 1889, unlike the other three, which were opened in 1888. The St. Elmo Bar was the longest running business in the St. Elmo, opening its doors in 1888, and not closing them until the 1980's. The bar boasted of serving the "finest wines and liqueurs of all kinds." Their advertisements also boasted of having several card-playing rooms and a room with both a billiards table and a pool table.

The bank occupied the space on the East side of the first floor, running in the hotel for only one year. The clothing store was owned by J.L. Folsanby and was

located in the larger commercial space on the West side of the first floor. By 1902, Mr. Folansby had moved out, and A.J. Fussy had moved in, where he opened up Fussy's Department Store. The room that used to hold the Palouse Bank was made into the Cochran Tailor Shop, after the bank had moved across the street.

Between the years of 1901 and 1906 the St. Elmo also had a hat store, located on the second floor of the grand hotel. The hat shop was run and owned by Mary Jane Bechtol. From her shop, she could look out over Main Street, and if she wanted, could go out on the balcony and watch the people as they walked past the St. Elmo. Mary Jane made her own hats and only went into business after her husband left her. She needed to make money to support her family and since she enjoyed making hats she decided to go into business for herself selling her hats to the wealthy women of Palouse (Marks, 6).

By 1906, A.J. Fussy had lost his lease, and was forced to close his store. The room became home to the Palouse Pharmacy, run by Mr. R.L. Smith, who rented out a small corner of his shop to the Reynolds's Jewelry Store. In the 1930's Judge G.D. Kincaid had opened a real estate and insurance office in the East corner of the hotel. In the 1930's Clarence Abernathy owned the barbershop, and Mrs. Wilson, the hotel owner's wife at the time, ran a dining room behind the lobby. The pharmacy was still located on its lower floor but the jewelry store had moved.

The St. Elmo Hits Hard Times

When the St. Elmo first opened in 1888, its investors viewed it as a success. The hotel was able to rent each of the 56 rooms almost nightly. In 1893, everything changed when the panic of 1893 hit Palouse. The St. Elmo was hit hard, it was



unable to keep owners. The hotel had few tenants, and consequently went into receivership. It was then bought for \$6000, but was repossessed, and re-sold again for \$7000, but was yet again repossessed. In 1902, the panic was beginning to fade, and the hotel was bought again, this time for \$10,000.

Between the years of 1909 and 1930, the St. Elmo hotel ownership passed through many hands. One of the many owners had been G.W. Gales, who bought it in 1910 and re-named the St. Elmo, the Hotel Gale. Gales was also the owner of the Swartz House, a hotel that had been built in the 1890's, which was the St. Elmo's biggest competition. In 1930, the St. Elmo had changed ownership again. John Wilson and his wife bought the hotel and re-named it the Hotel Palouse.

During the 1930's the constructions of highways from Colfax to Moscow kept the hotel full with construction workers. But by the mid-30's, John Wilson had decided to put the hotel up for sale again. Edgar McKinney decided to buy the St. Elmo from Wilson. After Edgar McKinney bought the hotel, he had the lobby moved to the second floor, to open more space on the first floor to lease out. He leased the old lobby space to Bill Greenwood, who remodeled it into a tavern called "The Club." The tavern was later sold to Emery Bratner, who renamed the tavern "Chucks" after his son and partner. After Chuck retired, the ownership of the tavern changed hands many times. The final owner was Dee Wolfe, who shut the doors of the tavern a few years after buying it.

The St. Elmo Gets Some Help

The St. Elmo hotel was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986, after residents of Palouse realized the value of such a place. The hotel was finally abandoned in 1994, after the last owner Kenny Alsterlund had tried to restore it. Bob and Jackie Strack bought the hotel and have been cleaning it up. They are restoring the hotel to its old splendor, after years of decay and poor maintenance. In November 1995, they were able to put a new roof on the hotel, with the help of Palouse area volunteers (Field). They are fixing the hotel up, re-wiring, plastering the walls, and other miscellaneous renovation projects.

Note: In Summer, 2001, the Stracks relocated to Florida and have listed the St. Elmo's for sale to a qualified buyer.

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PULLMAN IN THE EARLY 1890'S – A CITY OR NOT?

**by Robert E. King
Anchorage, Alaska**

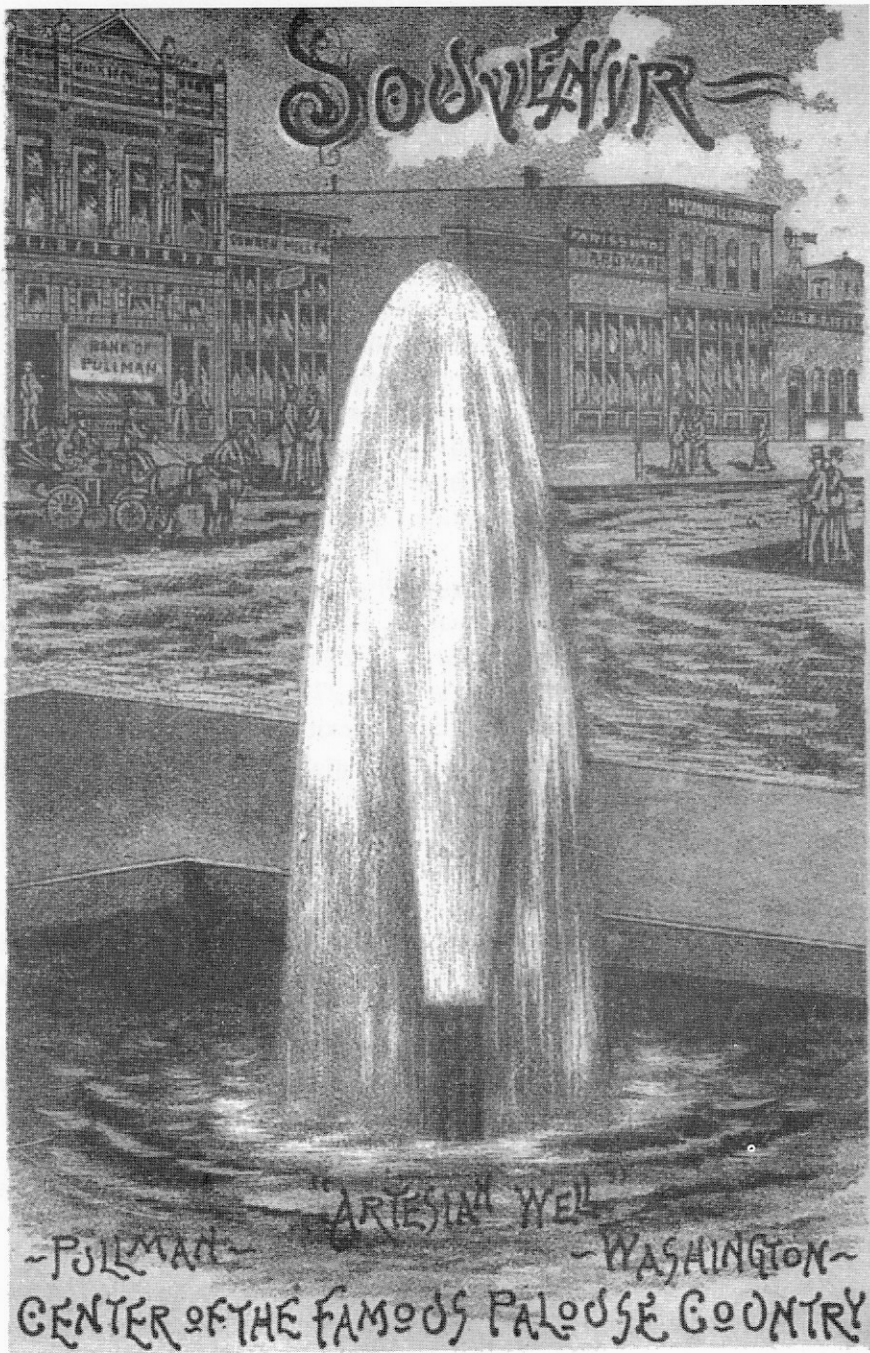
For a few years in the early 1890's, the question of whether Pullman was a legally incorporated city or not was unclear. It would take a ruling in 1894 by the Washington State Supreme Court to decide the matter. And when it did, the legal implications affected several other towns in Whitman County and elsewhere throughout the state. This article summarizes this curious situation.

This episode is but one more example of a now-forgotten story about Pullman's past. It's one that surprised me when reviewing older issues of the *Pullman Herald*, Pullman's newspaper of that time. One of the front page headlines in the March 30, 1894 proclaimed, rather curiously I thought, "Pullman is a City." The accompanying article then presented details justifying such a headline. Here's what happened.

Going back to 1888, Pullman originally incorporated as a city that year under the terms of a law passed on February 7, 1888 by the Washington Territorial Legislature. Subsequently, after statehood in November 1889, the legislature passed a new act for the incorporation of towns on March 27, 1890, and Pullman reincorporated under it. But what happened next was perplexing, being explained in the final 1894 ruling of the Washington State Supreme Court quoted in the paper: "The act of 1888 was declared unconstitutional, and it was further held that the city could not reincorporate under the act of 1890, for the reason that so much of said act as attempted to confer such right was unconstitutional."

So where did that leave Pullman? Essentially in legal limbo, or so it seemed! What it meant was that without being clearly recognized as a legally incorporated city, its authority and mechanisms to govern, including passing laws, enforcing ordinances, taxing, and even spending public monies, were in question. But Pullman was not alone in this dilemma. Also caught up in this legal snafu were Palouse, Oakesdale, Tekoa, and Farmington. But their response was different than Pullman's. Pullman's was to wait it out and to bring the matter to the Washington State Supreme Court following still another act of the state legislature.

The new act, dated March 9, 1893 was passed in response to the frustrating situation Pullman and other towns found themselves in. Its purpose was to legalize the incorporation or reincorporation of cities and towns under the disputed 1890 act. But the 1893 statute also came under legal challenge! It was at that point that Pullman decided to make itself the test case and take the matter to the Washington State Supreme Court. The 1894 ruling, as noted, was in Pullman's favor upholding the legality of the 1890 act. That meant that Pullman's reincorporation as a city in 1890 had been valid after all, and that the same was true for the many other commu-



Courtesy of Robert E. King

Postcard circulated by the Pullman Board of Trade immediately after the fire of 1890 seeking to attract investors to “come to Pullman.”



Courtesy of Robert E. King

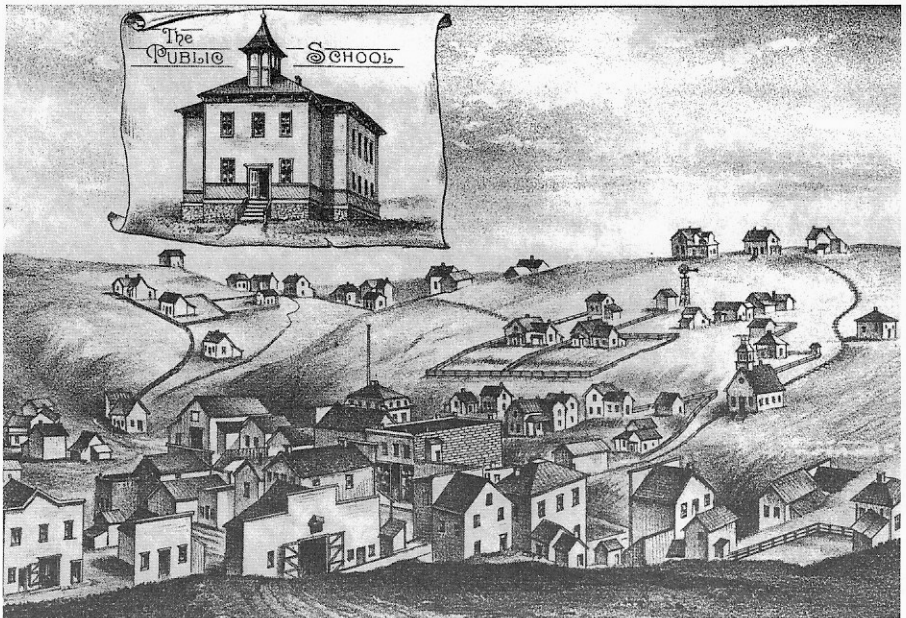
Pullman had the only artesian wells in the state in the 1890's. This well was only 78 feet deep and discharged 1000 gallons of water per minute. The photo was taken by L. Taylor, an early area photographer, only days before the fire of July 3, 1890 which destroyed downtown Pullman.

nities statewide which had established city governments under this law. Thus, as the *Pullman Herald* headline also proclaimed: “There is no Flaw in the City Government,” and all the town’s actions in the earlier 1890’s were legal after all.

But what about Palouse, Oakesdale, Tekoa, and Farmington? Rather than wait for a final legal resolution of the situation in 1894 like Pullman had, they chose a different but more costly solution. The newspaper reported that these cities, and some others in other counties equally in legal limbo “...proceeded at once to reincorporate and city officers were elected under the new incorporation.” But with the 1894 ruling: “...those towns that reincorporated must now go back to the old city government, having been to the expense and trouble of reincorporation for nothing.”

The article concluded with Pullman giving itself a pat on the back. It observed: “Pullman, however, with the usual get-there-ness, decided to make a test case, and be sure of her ground. The outcome of the test proves the wisdom of the step...”

Wisdom: Yes, in retrospect it could be interpreted as that. But good lawyers and maybe even a little luck were involved as apparently there were certain legal reasons to believe Pullman’s case might have failed in front of the Washington State Supreme Court. Nonetheless, with the favorable ruling by March of 1894, this curious twist in the history of Pullman—as a city or not—came to an end. And recalling it over a century later only points out that there are still many fascinating episodes in the history of Pullman and other Whitman County towns yet to be rediscovered!



WCHS Archives

Drawing of Pullman in 1889 - before Statehood and the disastrous fire of 1890.

BARB WIRE TALKS

An early rural telephone system

Written by Miriam Stratton
with Dorothy Sevier Matson, Researcher

Telephone communication came to the Palouse in 1884 in the form of government telegraph lines which the U.S. military installed to reach northern outposts. Charles B. Hopkins, a pioneer newspaperman in Whitman County, secured government consent to install telephones on the old military telegraph line, one at Colfax and one at Almota. This service “provided a very important connection from the steamboat landing and ferry at Almota to Colfax, which was then the center of trading and commerce in the area.”¹ Harold Doolittle recalled that first telephone line in Colfax. At nine years of age, he served as messenger boy at \$2 a week. Zoie Davenport, the first operator, summoned Harold when a call came in. She filled out a notification card stating who called for whom. Harold delivered the message to the person being called who would go to the telephone office and use a wall phone to return the call. Harold’s uncle Frank James and Herman Chapman were linemen. Harold, a “skinner”, drove his grandfather’s team from pole to pole when working on the line.²

Later, C.B. Hopkins and others purchased the government line which formed the beginning of a system extending to Palouse and Moscow via Pullman; then Garfield and Farmington via Palouse. All extensions were accomplished by the fall of 1885.³ “About 1886 a cheaply constructed branch of the C.B. Hopkins telephone system was expanded from Colfax to...Uniontown, Lewiston, [and] Genesee. In May of 1890...all the territory lines out of Colfax were sold to the Inland Telephone and Telegraph Company of Spokane. Hopkins became its general manager”⁴ Robert Riley hired on as lineman for the telephone company and Elva Lanning took charge of the telephone exchange in 1897.⁵

Moys Telephone Company in the Onecho area organized February 2, 1893. Thirty original stockholders, including prominent Whitman County area families such as Hickmans, Aeschleimans and Millers, met to construct a telephone line from the C.R. Moys farm to Colfax. Moys Telephone company constructed one main line for \$1107.06 and three spurs, one each to John Chestnut, Henry Hickman and H. Klaus. Moys Telephone Company eventually became part of the Pacific Telephone Company in 1940.⁶

While sufficient citizens in Pullman enjoyed the convenience of telephones to require a new Bensel’s city directory to be published in 1891,⁷ few in the rural areas had that advantage. Until, that is, J.S. Klemgard and J.L. Metsker initiated the

idea of the barb wire telephone system in the county. While on a cattle buying trip to Heppner, Oregon, Mr. Metsker learned of such a system between farms. On Metsker's return, he involved his partner J.S. Klemgard in planning a line between their two homes. Metsker and Klemgard were partners in a breeding operation of Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle.⁸

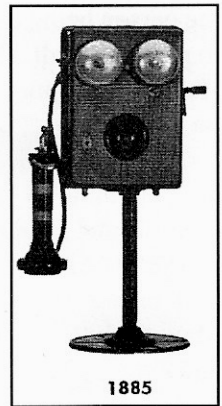
Mr. Klemgard, in defense of the project, informed doubters that large cattle ranches in Texas provided their cowboys with pocket telephones which they carried to ride the range. When a cowboy wanted to communicate with ranch headquarters, he went to a fence, connected the phone and rang through to the house for conversation.

Ordinary barb wire could convey voices with no insulation. Barb wire fences connected with ordinary telephone wire. Where gates or roads made a break in the fence, farmers set poles to carry the wire to the other side and reconnect with the fence.

The *Pullman Herald* wrote this awakened much interest, but the project was viewed with skepticism by many; however, many farmers declared their intention of building similar lines "and soon the entire county may be covered with a network of barb wire telephone systems."⁹

Phones ordered from Chicago cost \$12 each.¹⁰ All one needed was to hook up a mouthpiece and receiver onto the fence at each end. Electrician Harry Jackson assisted in building the line. He tested it by carrying a small phone and calling from various points along the line to Mr. Klemgard's house.¹¹

In 1901, the barb wire telephone line ran nearly nine miles. It connected the farm of J.S. Klemgard, then County Commissioner for the second district of Whitman County, to True's Palace Hotel in Pullman. Pullman became the center of an extended system including forty miles of line around Rosalia with another line in the Endicott area.¹² A barb wire line ran fifteen miles from the J.F. Thayer ranch to Pullman.¹³



True's Hotel became the first central of the primitive but serviceable system. Soon the hook-up connected ten farmers over the barb wire circuit. Lou Wright came into the endeavor to act as central.

Mrs. Nora Klemgard remembered the barb wire telephone. "The families of James and John Klemgard and of John Metsker had the first rural telephone in the community, and the line was of barbed wire. At first we used it just among the three families, but later it was hooked into the Pullman exchange. I remember the troubles we had with this phone system. Someone was always going through the gates with a high load and breaking the wire. Then we'd have to go out, find the break, and repair it. If two breaks occurred at the same time—as sometimes happened—it took a lot of looking to locate them."¹⁴

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The PULLMAN STATE BANK

We Solicit Your Banking Business

4% on Time Deposits

OFFICERS

R. C. McCroskey, President

J. L. Metsker, Vice Pres.

A. R. Metz, Cashier

R. E. Doty, Asst. Cashier

PULLMAN AND ALBION



The Inland Cooperative Association

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

"Home of the Palouse Dollar"

4% on Savings Accounts

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits \$100,000.00

OFFICERS

M. W. Whitlow, Pres.

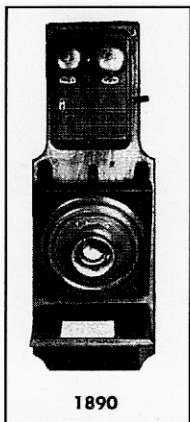
M. Schultheis, Jr., Vice Pres.

O. L. Waller, Vice Pres.

F. C. Forrest, Cashier

C. F. Anderson, Asst. Cashier

FOR MAY, 1917



Reminiscing about “the early days”, Mrs. Charles W. Bean told about their barb wire communications system in the Wawawai Canyon. They called it the “broom wire line” and the half-mile line connected three families in the canyon: C.I. Martin, D.M. Holt and Charles W. Bean. “Concave wooden or cork disks or plaques, similar in size and shape to those we used to paint and hang on the walls, were used both as receivers and transmitters. Broomwire was passed from the center of these through the walls of the house and strung along the fence posts. The Martins had one disk on the side of the house toward the Beans—the Beans being ‘central’—[who] had one on the side toward the Martins and another on the side toward the Holts.

When the Martins and the Holts wanted to communicate, the Beans took the message on one side, walked across the room and relayed it to the other party. This crude instrument was both telephone and radio, for...we could sit in our living room and hear the Martins play their organ.”¹⁵ (In 1902 the Washington Agriculture College Band utilized the barb wire to serenade farmers.)¹⁶

J.B. West recalled his family using the barb wire telephone. “The electric current required came from dry batteries installed in each telephone. With no insulation between the barbed wire and the posts, there was a lot of static on the line, and the batteries would soon lose their charge....The first telephone I remember was the one installed in 1904 in the homestead shack that Father had built by the Ickes Road. On December 31, 1903, a dozen farmers living along this road met to form a company to construct a telephone line for their own use. It was to be about seven miles long, ending in the town of Palouse....Each of those present at this first meeting contributed \$5.00 toward the formation of the new company.” The new company launched its effort with a total capital of \$60.00.”¹⁷

“After about two years of operation the ‘pasture line’ system retired from the active field in favor of the newly incorporated Ewartsville Telephone Company which was formed in 1903.”¹⁸

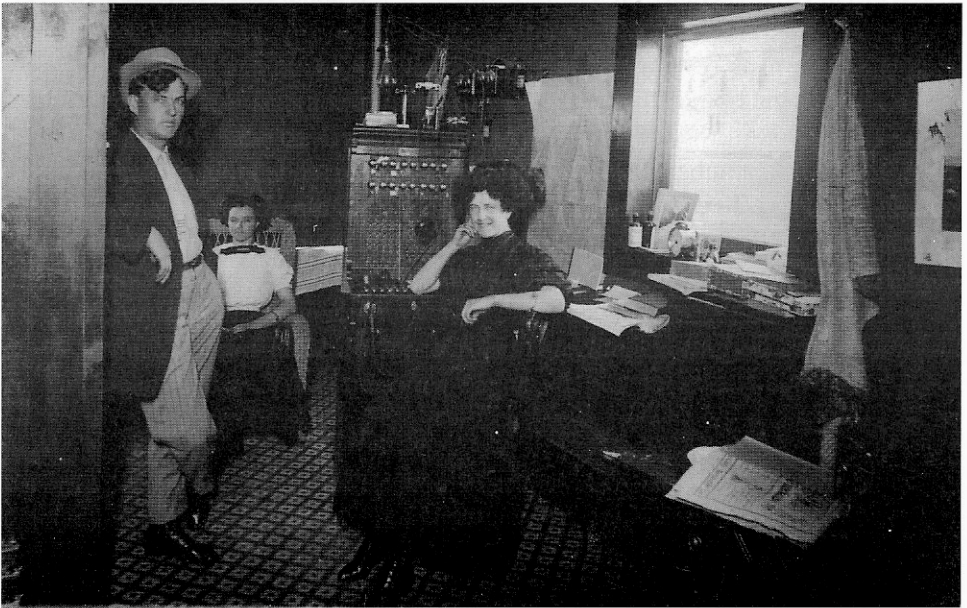
The minute book of the company showed that on December 13, 1902, J.S. and J.M. Klemgard, N.C. Meyers, U.S.G. Story, C.D. Martin, James Haines, A.J. Whitten and J.H.T. Smith met to discuss the neighborhood telephone system. The group decided to incorporate “to build and maintain a telephone line between Pullman, Almota, Wawawai and the intermediate country.” And so the rural telephone in the Pullman area came into being.

The group collected \$40 at their first meeting from the eleven persons subscribing to \$25 worth of stock apiece. They set the capitalization of the company at \$1,000 with additional shares selling at \$1 apiece. They organized a by-law committee that decided on a limit of twelve phones per line and that persons had to hold at least twenty shares of stock to be connected to the circuit.

Added rules enjoined anyone from using the “phones on the corporation lines without permission from stockholder owning or controlling the same,” also, “single conversations shall not exceed five minutes when the line is asked for by others.” Recognizing that others on the line may listen in to conversations, users could not use “foul, abusive or profane language, or impersonate any other individual with fraudulent intent.” To keep the lines as free as possible for legitimate use, “children under 10 years of age are not allowed to use the phones unless accompanied by parents or other person in charge of them.” The corporation set a penalty of loss of stock for anyone caught repeating conversations to another’s “discomforture”. Non-stockholders could make a call (with permission of owner) for 25 cents.¹⁹

Anticipating the formation of the company, J.S. Klemgard traveled to Sandpoint, Idaho to buy poles to rebuild lines on tall poles using conventional telephone line. It extended twenty miles carrying twenty telephones, all in the homes of farmers. The new “high lines” were touted to have “all modern conveniences.” The *Pullman Herald* counted 500 miles of line having been built in the past few years.²⁰

The 1903 incorporated Ewartsville Telephone Company expanded its business and the corporation increased its capital stock to \$5,000 in 1904.²¹ Becoming a serious business entity, it “completed over fifty miles of overhead lines in February, beginning at Pullman.” Large poles with cross arms and insulators carried six wires.



Tekoa's telephone operator

WCHS Archives

Four wires stretched five miles to a crossroads at Roe Bryant's place. The corporation ran two wires "south and southwest to nearly all the farms south of Union Flat and on the head of Almota Creek. Two wires ran from Willow Creek taking in nearly all farms west of Pullman for twelve miles." A third line ran "from the Bryant place southwest past the Grange Hall to the farms lying along little Almota Creek." The *Pullman Herald* announced that "The company has been fostered by Ewartsville Grange No. 114 and wants to build a power plant on Union Flat whereby, the farm homes penetrated by telephone lines can be lighted by electricity during the winter months."²²

In December, 1903, the corporation absorbed the Young and Hinrichs line for \$300 in stock.

J.H.T. Smith served as the first Secretary-Treasurer for over twenty years. J. Klemgard managed the Association as Secretary-Treasurer for thirty years. In 1954 the system consisted of seventy phone lines, the first rural dial system remained a cooperative and was fifty-five years old.²³

About 1907, the Stockholders decided to buy all branch lines and extend lines across the river. In 1911, the Ewartsville Telephone Company became the Ewartsville Telephone Association.²⁴

About this same time, a "Farmer's Line" came into being at St. John and Ewan. Margaret (Maggie) Welden Frederick said that "the first switchboard consisted of twelve bells hung on the wall with a switch under each, and only two sets of plugs. She had Jim Jennings tie a different colored string on each bell so she could tell which one was ringing. The board was battery operated and the calls were made with a hand operated crank. A rival telephone office in town, had the added advantage of long distance service. Mr. and Mrs. 'Doc' Arthur Heglar operated that line until September, 1913 when the two lines merged under the name of St. John Cooperative Telephone and Telegraph Company."²⁵

The Pacific States Company came to Pullman to provide service. Mr. M.S. Parmeter, district manager, chose the middle room on the ground floor of the Flat-iron Building as his central office. He announced that all old phones in use in the city would be removed and new up-to-date instruments installed. The new phones operated on a common battery. Users did not need to dial an operator; simply removing the receiver put the caller through to central.²⁶

In 1912, when the Pacific Company offered to consolidate all the county lines, representatives of those lines voted down the proposition. Instead, representatives formed a corporation to consolidate the rural and local telephones with headquarters at Colfax. "Hundreds of miles of telephone lines had representation at this meeting and all were enthusiastic over the prospects of getting a home company capable of supplying the needs of the county at a normal cost," reported the *Colfax Commoner*. Representatives from Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, headquartered in Spokane, argued that the farmers of Pullman and environs had signed a

five year contract with Pacific States. When this statement proved to be untrue, the delegates voted to keep the Inland Cooperative Telephone Company in existence, turning down the offer of the Pacific company. The delegates went on to elect officers and subscribe capital stock.²⁷

The *Pullman Herald* announced a 300 per cent increase in the number of telephones in and around Pullman by 1915.²⁸

It is perhaps impossible from the viewpoint of our current technology to understand what the telephone meant to families separated not only by distance but by limited transportation. To hear another's voice in friendly conversation, to conduct business, to respond to emergencies, all expanded and enhanced the lives of the early rural families. The foresight of a few forward-looking individuals brought a sense of community to otherwise isolated families. It began with a wire, barbed and otherwise.

¹Weis, Viola Owen Geisler, *Uniontown Its Beginning Its Centennial*, self-published, 1994.

²Harold Doolittle papers, in *Palouse Country early Telephone History* in the WSU MASC.

³An Illustrated History of Whitman County, W.H. Lever, Publisher, 1901.

⁴Weis, Viola Owen Geisler, *Uniontown Its Beginning Its Centennial*, self-published, 1994.

⁵PH, 5 June 1897, PH 10 July 1897.

⁶Moys Telephone Company minute book in Whitman County Historical Society library.

⁷PH, 17 January 1891.

⁸PH, 2 March 1901.

⁹PH, 2 March 1901.

¹⁰PH, Golden Jubilee—4 November 1938.

¹¹PH, 2 March 1901.

¹²An Illustrated History of Whitman County, W.H. Lever, Publisher, 1901.

¹³PH, 13 July 1901.

¹⁴PH, 18 March 1954.

¹⁵PH, Golden Jubilee—4 November 1938.

¹⁶PH, 1 January 1902.

¹⁷West, J.B., "Early Telephones in the Palouse Country," *The Bunchgrass Historian*, v. 5, no. 4, Winter, 1977.

¹⁸PH, Golden Jubilee—4 November 1938.

¹⁹PH, Golden Jubilee—4 November 1938.

²⁰PH, 14 November 1903.

²¹PH, Golden Jubilee—4 November 1938.

²²PH, 13 February 1904.

²³Letter from Neal Klemgard to Dorothy Matson, March 18, 1954.

²⁴PH, Golden Jubilee—4 November 1938.

²⁵Gosney, Ethel K., "The Farmer's Line and Brief History of St. John and Ewan", 1967.

²⁶PH, 20 January, 1906.

²⁷Colfax Commoner, 22 March 1912.

²⁸PH, February 1915.

ROY BAILEY 48 YEARS AT WSU FARM

by Don Clarke

Roy Bailey was born in Southern Idaho. He started working at Washington State College in 1924 as a farm laborer. His main duties were general farm work and taking care of the work horses. In the 1920's all of the farm work and part of the harvesting was done with horses. Threshing was done with a stationary thresher and a steam engine.

One of the jobs Roy enjoyed the most was driving a six horse team during the livestock exposition held each year in the fieldhouse on campus.

When I was in grade school, I remember the six horse team and wagon. They were large Percheron horses and weighed 1800 pounds or more. The horses were well-matched with a white blaze on their foreheads and white stocking feet. WSC raised their own colts and sold some at auctions. This helped improve the farmers' own teams.

In 1938, E.O. Holland, president of Washington State College, promoted Roy to head teamster on the college farm at a salary of \$100.00 per month. Later, Edward Johnson, Dean of the College of Agriculture, requested a salary increase for Bailey. Justifying the raise, he wrote to President Holland, "As a teamster and blacksmith, he shoes the horses, does excellent work at forge welding. He does the plot work for all of the agriculture departments, is one of the best teamsters and all around workman that can be found anywhere."



WCHS Archives, Karen Dunn Collection

Mowing on the WSC Farm, 1932. R.K. Leonard driving lead team.

In 1944, Roy was appointed farm manager with seven men under his supervision. Together, they managed all of the farm land and equipment. Roy kept all of the farm records and bought parts for all of the farm machinery in the various agriculture departments.

Although he always enjoyed working with horses, times were changing. Tractors were now being used in the large fields. The first field tests at the college with tractors were in 1919. They were used more and more in the 1930's as horses were slowly phased out. Wheel tractors were used later in the plots and by 1945, tractors did almost all of the farm work.

Roy retired December 31, 1972, at the age of 65. He had worked for 42 years at the time of his retirement, the employee with the most years of service to Washington State University. His wife, Wanda, worked for many years at the Student Book Store and his daughter, Lawana, was a high school teacher in Foreign Languages at Grandview, Washington.

Roy died September 5, 1994. His wife survives him at Pullman.

Acknowledgments:

"Roy Bailey Retires," Pullman Herald (Pullman, WA.), January 11, 1973.

"Ends 48 Year Service," WSU Hilltopics (Pullman, WA.), February, 1973.

Photo Credits: Mrs. Karen Dunn nee Leonard. R.K. Leonard, uncle of Mrs. Dunn worked with Roy Bailey.



WCHS Archives, Karen Dunn Collection
WSC horse teams mowing hay on WSC Farm 1933.



WCHS Archives, Karen Dunn Collection

WSC 4-Horse wagon Team 1933. Roy Bailey on Right.



WCHS Archives, Karen Dunn Collection

WSC wagon team of shires. Roy Bailey driving. Sign says “The little international open house at the Field House tonight at 7:30.”



WCHS Archives, Don Clarke Collection

Early Cat Demonstration Pullman WA 1919

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