
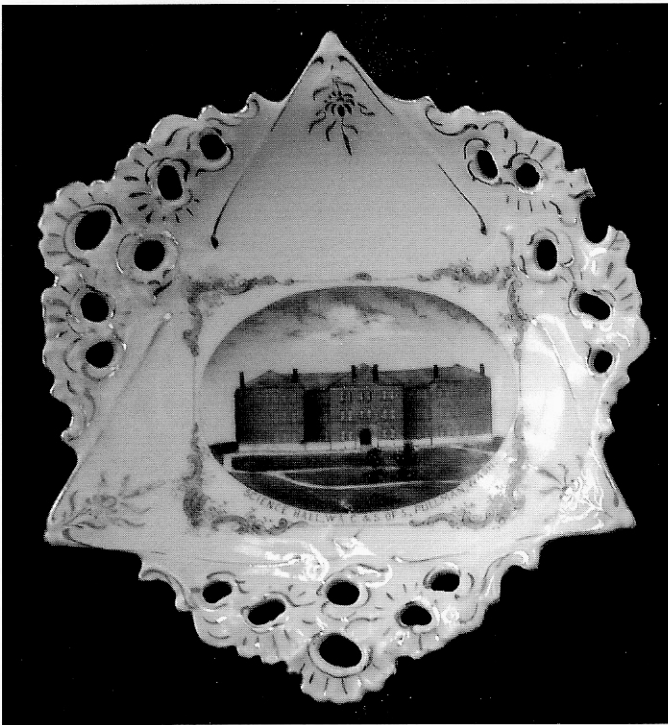


Bunchgrass Historian



Whitman County Historical Society
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- ◆ Souvenir China of Pullman
 - ◆ Timothy Emerson's Carnegie Hero Medal
 - ◆ Riviera and Dr. Enoch A. Bryan Reservoir
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Whitman County Historical Society

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

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Whitman County Historical Society
P.O. Box 67, Colfax, WA 99111
e-mail: epgjr@wsu.edu
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COVER

Science Hall, WAC&S
Courtesy of Robert King



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AUTHORS

Robert E. King, known to our readers as a Pullman historian and an avid collector of Pullman memorabilia, provides us with an article inspired by his impressive collection of Pullman souvenir china. Pursuing various sources, King has teased out the story of this china. He has used not only his own collection, but pieces in the Holland Library, WSU, and in the Dorothy Matson and Ivan Shirrod Collections of the WCHS.

Miriam L. Stratton, a local author, was asked by the editor to write the story of this Carnegie Hero Medal. The medal had been donated to the WCHS by Donald H. Ellingson, acting as representative of the Emerson family. Don Ellingson, whose mother was the younger sister of Tim Emerson, expressed the family's desire that this unique piece of family and local history be preserved, displayed, and made accessible to the public.

Don R. Clarke tells us the little-known story of Dr. Enoch Bryan's attempt to build a utopian community on the Snake River in the second decade of the 20th Century. While his plan did not succeed, the naming of the reservoir behind Little Goose Dam is a commemoration of his vision for the development of the Snake River.

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The Riviera Company own a beautiful tract of irrigable land on Snake River in Columbia County, Washington, on what is known as Brown's Bar. The Snake River canyon is the best land and safest from frost, for peaches, apricots, grapes, apples and small fruits in the State of Washington. Railway and river transportation at hand. The tract will accommodate about fifty families. The pumping will be done by electricity, the lift being from 35 to 75 feet.

THE RIVIERA COMPANY

Riviera,
COLUMBIA, WASH., *April 26*

SOUVENIR CHINA OF PULLMAN: Collectibles of a Bygone Era And the People Who Sold Them By Robert E. King

So what is “souvenir china”? Souvenir china usually refers to the small decorated chinaware items made 90 to 120 years ago as attractive keepsakes for people to collect. It came in a wide variety of forms and was adorned with decals made from engravings of real scenes, often hand-colored, showing various early town businesses, schools, courthouses, streetscapes, or other local or regional scenes.¹ Often the decorations were done in such exquisite detail that the pieces today are seen as artistic gems of a time long gone.

There are many forms of souvenir china. Among the more common are plates of various sizes (some with perforated edges to insert ribbons for holders or artistically curving edges), teacups and saucers, toothpick holders, and small vases and pitchers. All of these shapes are known to have been produced as souvenir china for distribution by Pullman businesses as there are surviving examples of each. Additionally, other decal-decorated items include pin and card trays, miniature shoes, hatpin holders, piggy banks, mugs, pipe holders, baskets, condiment holders, salt and pepper shakers, plus many other pieces (some involving animals) best described as whimsical and amusing.

While not well known today, souvenir china pieces were very popular keepsakes in the late 1800s and early 1900s. At least six Pullman stores distributed them



for around twenty years, from the late 1890s until World War I. Many businesses in other towns of Whitman County also distributed china during this time period, and souvenir china pieces are known from Colfax, Garfield, Oakesdale, Palouse, Tekoa, Rosalia, and even Winona. This reflects a national trend that was occurring in many other American towns and cities. These small decorated china collectibles were mostly sold by the various businesses for ten cents or



more, although others may have been given as gifts to loyal customers or for special promotions.

The sources for most of these pieces were porcelain factories in Germany and Austria, where they were handmade to fill special orders placed on behalf of individual town merchants by import companies specializing in souvenir china. The best known of these firms was the Wheelock Company of Peoria, Illinois. It was the importer for over two-thirds of the known souvenir china of Pullman. Starting in the mid-1890s, agents for souvenir china, including Wheelock representatives, contacted various town firms to solicit business. While this type of decal-decorated souvenir had been produced at least as early as the 1870s, its popularity increased dramatically after such pieces were marketed quite successfully at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. This led enterprising firms like the Wheelock Company to create a wider market in which they soon sold thousands of localized scenes (also called "views") on imported china.

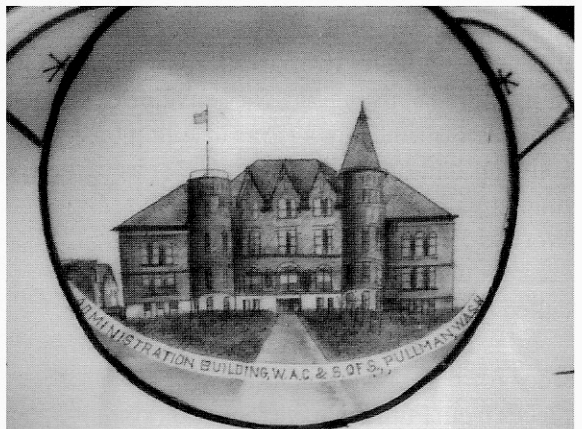
Due to an import law, virtually all pieces of souvenir china on their reverse sides (or bases) were marked with the importer's name. For example, two typical pieces from Pullman have these markings: "Wheelock China made in Austria for O.



G. Devenish, Pullman, Wash.” and “Wheelock made in Germany for C. M. Waters, Pullman, Wash., Dresden.” The latter is an example listing the specific place such items were made, although most just stated the country of origin.

Typically, for small businesses such as those in Pullman, only a limited number of souvenir pieces were made at any time. Women were most often the recipients of such items, either by purchase for themselves or as gifts they received. Specific information on the distribution of souvenir china is difficult to find, although sometimes ads or notices in the business columns of local newspapers mentioned its availability. For example, an ad in a 1908 Sprague, Washington, newspaper stated: “Souvenir china views of Sprague, St. Joseph’s Academy, High School, Myrtle Hospital, combine thresher and out door life. [available at] Myrtle Pharmacy, A. L. Hamley.”²

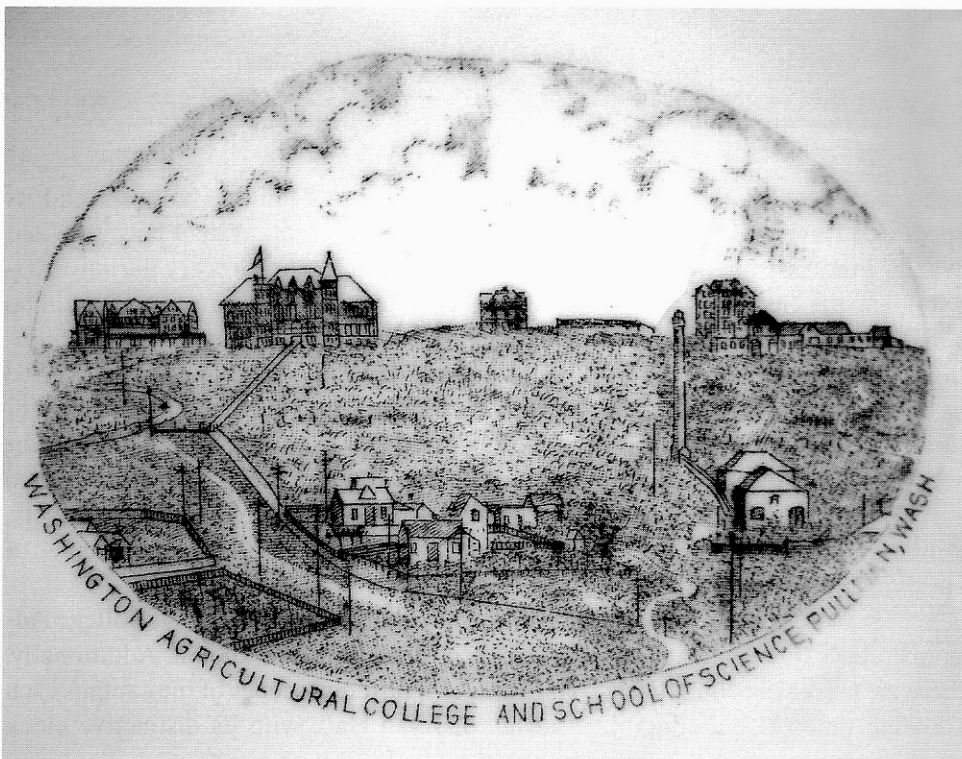
Although the Wheelock Company was the supplier for most souvenir china in Pullman, there were also at least two other



sources. One was the “M. Seller and Company” wholesale import firm of Spokane, Washington. This company was listed in the earliest Spokane city directory (1889) as located in the Washington Building, where it specialized in “crockery and glassware.” It remained in business at least into the early 1940s, long after the popularity of souvenir china ended. In 1905, the firm’s listing in the Spokane City Directory reported that it was a wholesale and retail dealer in crockery, glassware, cutlery and willowware, with the firm located on Howard Avenue. By 1910, it had moved to West 318 Riverside Avenue, which was about the time that some pieces of Pullman souvenir china were being supplied by this firm, as evidenced by its name also listed on the reverse sides of some known pieces.

Besides Wheelock and M. Seller and Company, there was at least one other supplier of souvenir china for Pullman. Some pieces offered by the Gem Variety Store of Pullman in the early 1900s were marked as supplied through the Carson Crockery Company, a firm based in Denver for many years. Whether other wholesale firms supplied the Pullman trade is unclear, as one piece of Pullman china has no markings and could have come from any of several other national china import firms active at this time.

Six Pullman stores are known to have distributed souvenir chinaware deco-



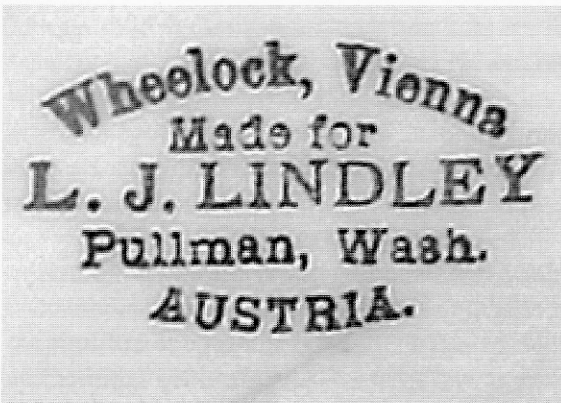


rated with decal'd Pullman scenes. They include the Lindley Hardware and its successor Devenish Hardware, in the period 1897 to 1903; Waters Furniture and Wexler Furniture for the time 1902-1913; Perkins & Kanne Grocery during 1905-1906; and the Gem Variety Store, 1910-1921. Of the existing examples of Pullman souvenir china, there are at least eleven different scenes. Nine depict early buildings or views of what is now Washington State University. These pieces are marked as either showing scenes of "W.A.C. & S. of S." (meaning the Washington Agricultural College and School of Science) or "W.S.C." (Washington State College), the school's name starting in 1905. They include two different views of each of the two early residence halls for men and women, Ferry Hall and Stevens Hall respectively, with scenes of Stevens Hall much more popular, judging by the larger number of surviving examples.

The next most popular views on Pullman souvenir pieces were of the college Administration Building. At least two different depictions are known. Additionally, there are pieces showing Science Hall, plus two different scenes of the campus each showing multiple buildings. One includes Bryan Hall, with its distinctive clock

tower completed in 1909, while the other does not, indicating a pre-1909 date. Otherwise, the only other known examples of Pullman china pieces show either the gothic style Pullman High School, built in 1892, or a view of the Pullman business district looking down Main Street toward the campus. So far, there are no known souvenir china pieces showing early Pullman churches.

The disruption of World War I stopped the production and export of souvenir china from Europe, although some pieces were later manufactured elsewhere, including England and the United States. Most of these post-war examples, however, do not have the same quality and attention to detail seen with the pre-war European pieces. In effect, the war ended the golden era of this type of artistic keepsake. In Pullman, souvenir china pieces distributed by C. M. Waters and the Gem Variety Store were the very last of this style of collectible that had become



familiar to Pullmanites through the efforts of Louis J. Lindley and his store. Following World War I, a few different styles of ceramic pieces were occasionally made for Pullman collectors, but none attained the detail and charm of these earlier china pieces. Today, Pullman souvenir china items have once again become the prized keepsakes that they were 100 years ago.

Appendix: Pullman Businesses That Offered Souvenir China

The six Pullman stores known to have distributed souvenir chinaware decorated with Pullman scenes are listed below in the approximate order in which they opened for business. Included in the description of each store is information on its owner or operator.

L. J. Lindley Hardware Store (ca. 1897-1899)³

Louis J. Lindley was born in December, 1864, in Bond County, Indiana and died sometime after he left Pullman about 1904. He married Neva Wolfe in 1892 in Whitman County. They had two children: Howard C. and Eveline S.

Lindley grew up in Indiana and was a teacher for three years before coming to Whitman County about 1890. He taught for two years and then became a grain dealer for four years. For one year he operated a hardware business in Colton, and, after selling that, he purchased the Pullman Hardware store which he renamed

L. J. Lindley Hardware. He operated it for three years,⁴ first at a location on Main Street next to the Fariss Brothers, but after January 1898 in the the Mercantile Building on Alder Street (now named Kamiaken.) At the end of 1899 he sold his hardware business to O. G. Devenish. That, however, did not end Lindley's career in Pullman. During 1899-1900, he served as an alderman for his ward in Pullman. By 1901, Lindley was operating a different business, the "Golden Rule Bazaar," which in 1903 he renamed the "White House," specializing in women's clothes, gloves, and dry goods (Pullman Herald, 3 October 1903). Subsequently, the 1904 Polk's Directory of Whitman County reported that L. J. Lindley was president and manager of the "Tolmie-Rose Company," a dry goods business in the Leitch Block of Pullman. His distribution of souvenir china, however, appears only to have occurred during his ownership of the earlier hardware business. At present, only fancy shaped small dishes or cups and saucers are known to have been distributed by Lindley, with scenes only of Stevens Hall and the Administration Building.

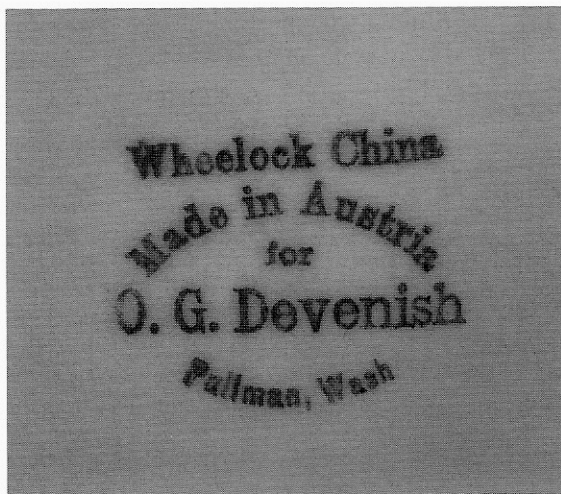
O. G. Devenish Hardware Store (ca. 1900-1903)⁵

Oscar Grant Devenish, son of Richard and Mary Emma Devenish, was born Dec. 31, 1868, on his parents' farm in Washington County, Indiana. He married Lena M. Menkel in January 1894 in Sprague, Wash. They had two daughters: Gwendolyn (born Sept. 1894) and Olive (born June 1896).

Oscar grew up on his parents' farm and on April 13, 1890, arrived in Lincoln County, Wash. where he homesteaded 160 acres, later buying another 640 acres. In the fall of 1896, he sold his land and devoted his full time to his duties as the elected county sheriff. After his term was up in 1898, he resumed farming; but in the fall of 1899, he sold his land and moved to Pullman, Wash.

Devenish then bought out Louis J. Lindley's hardware business, which he operated for about four years on Alder Street. He apparently quit the trade in late 1903.⁶ Whether he sold out or just liquidated his business isn't clear. By 1920, he was living with his wife and family in Fort Worth, Texas, where he worked as a broker for an oil company. In 1930, he was still working for an oil company but was living with his wife and two grandchildren at Ellensburg, Wash.

Known pieces of Pullman souvenir china distributed





by Devenish include only small plates and saucers, with the latter suggesting that cups also may have been made. Existing examples of scenes include Ferry and Science Halls, plus the Administration Building.

C. M. Waters Furniture Store (ca. 1902 – 1913)⁷

Charles Miller Waters was born Feb. 28, 1867, in Illinois, and died June 1, 1948, in Los Angeles, Calif. Charles married Addie M. Waters about 1889. They had one daughter, Harriet Mildred (born ca. 1890), who graduated in 1911 from Washington State College.⁸

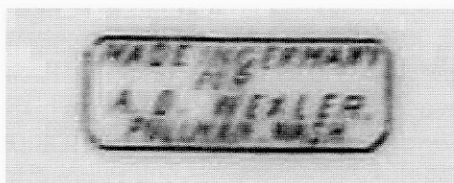
The local paper reports that Waters operated a furniture store on Main Street in Pullman as early as 1902.

The 1910-11 Polk's Whitman County Directory lists his store at 133 Main, with his residence at 1207 Kamiaken Street. He operated the business until about 1913, when he sold out and moved to the Los Angeles area. On July 11, 1913, the Pullman Tribune reported that Waters had recently purchased a furniture business at Santa Monica, where the 1930 federal census still lists him as living, as a furniture merchant with an \$18,000 home.

Because of this firm's longer existence in Pullman, its souvenir china is relatively abundant. Common scenes depicted include Steven and Ferry Halls, Science Hall, the Administration Building, plus a panoramic shot of the campus. One unique item is a matched pair of toothpick holders, with one showing Stevens Hall and the other Ferry Hall. Also very attractive and different among Waters' souvenir china pieces are 3 matched horse-shoe shaped plates depicting not only Stevens and Ferry Halls, but the Administration Building. Other forms include round plates. No cups and saucers are presently known.

A. D. Wexler Furniture Store (1903)⁹

Alfred Duncan Wexler was born July 25, 1851, in Eastern Tennessee. He died Dec. 7, 1936, at his home at Pullman, and was buried beside his wife in the Pullman City Cemetery. He married Seraphina ("Sarah") Hunt (1854-1936) Dec. 27, 1876, at Fall Branch, Tenn. They had seven children: Mary Stella (1879-1968), wife of Cortez R. Miller (1880-1961) of Pullman; Ada H. (b. ca. 1883, d. pre-1936); Herbert V. (b. ca. 1885, d. pre-1936); Ethel B. (b. ca. 1887), wife of Elbert A. Kincaid; Fred H. (1889-1935) of Pullman; Harry E. of Escondido, Calif. (1893-1969); and Horace Maynard (1897-1961) of Pullman. According to his obituary, A. D. Wexler



graduated from Grants University in Athens, Tenn. and became President of that institution. He also taught in the public schools of Tenn. and later entered the mercantile business.

A. D. Wexler and his family moved to Pullman in October 1902 and soon after opened a furniture store. The Jan. 3, 1903, Pullman Herald noted he bought out the furniture store owned by Straight & Sargent. For whatever reason, Wexler owned the business for only a few months, selling out in later 1903. Subsequently, he devoted his attention to farming. For many years he was on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank in Pullman. The 1915-16 Polk's Whitman County Directory lists him as Vice President of this bank, with his home at 410 Oak Street. His last residence in Pullman was at 1505 Ruby, as reported by Pullman phone books of the mid-1930s and the 1930 federal census.

With Wexler in business such a short time in Pullman, he may have distributed the fewest number of pieces of souvenir china of any Pullman merchant. Today, only a single example is known marked with his store name on the back: a small plate showing Stevens Hall.

Perkins & Kanne Grocery Store (ca. 1905-1906)¹⁰

Roy T. Perkins was born about 1878 in Minn. and died after 1930. He married Emma L. DeForest about 1906. They had one son: DeForest Perkins (1907-1988) of Seattle. By 1910, Roy,

his wife, and son were living on East Second Avenue in Spokane. He was then employed as a salesman for a wholesale house. In 1930, Roy lived in Seattle and was a salesman for a tea and coffee company.

His partner, Wesley B. Kanne, was born about 1882 in Minnesota of German emigrant parents. He was single and in his early to mid 20s when he entered the grocery business in Pullman with Perkins. By 1910, Wesley had moved to Spokane, where he was working as a house carpenter. He was then living as a lodger in a home on College Avenue. By 1930, he was still single and was manager of a farm in Buena Vista Precinct in Polk County, Oregon.

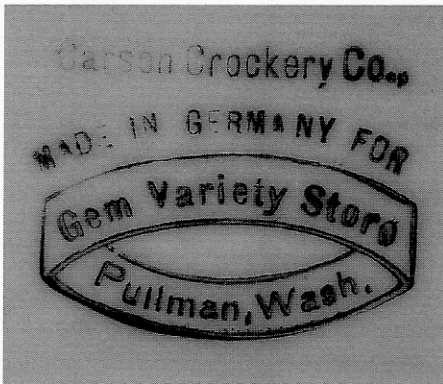
Roy T. Perkins and his partner Wesley B. Kanne were reported by the Feb. 4, 1905 Pullman Herald as new operators of the former Richardson grocery store, previously operated by Frank D. Richardson.¹¹ Perkins and Kanne were listed as grocers on Main Street in Pullman in the 1905-1906 Polk's Whitman County Directory, but were not listed in the 1908-09 Directory. In 1905, Wesley B. Kanne was boarding with his partner at Perkins' home on State Street in Pullman.



Pullman china souvenirs distributed by Perkins and Kanne include small plates and cups, plus fancy-edged small dishes. These pieces show not only scenes of Stevens Hall and the Administration Building but also a panoramic view of the campus. Further, Perkins and Kanne is unique in producing souvenir chinaware showing the old Pullman high school. This was done on both plain and fancy small dishes, plus on small cups textured to look like thimbles with handles resembling a pair of scissors.

Gem Variety Store / The Variety Store (ca. 1910 – ca. 1921)

The Gem Variety Store, also called the Variety Store, was a general merchandise firm in Pullman. Its advertisements in the Pullman Herald start about 1910,



with O. G. Brackett listed as its proprietor. The business's location at that time was 120 Main Street (where Neill's Flower Shop is presently located). Later, the October 1915 phone directory for Pullman reported that the "Variety Store" was at 124 Main Street. Sometime afterwards, the store passed to a new operator, Thomas W. Leonard; and by 1919, he was reported in business "next to Dutton's" (that is in the Web Block currently undergoing restoration) in ads in the local paper. Leonard operated the Variety Store through at least

1921, although it is doubtful that souvenir china pieces were being sold that late in Pullman since the main source of supply for them ended several years earlier.

Surviving examples of their Pullman china are among the most numerous of all such souvenir pieces. Forms include small plates and cups, plus unique small vases and pitchers. Only three scenes are known to appear on this firm's souvenir items: Stevens Hall, a panoramic view of campus, and a scene of downtown Pullman looking along Main Street toward campus.

¹ A good source on souvenir china is Laurence W. Williams, *Collector's Guide to Souvenir China: Keepsakes of a Gold Era*, Collector Books, Paducah, Kentucky, 1998.

² *The Independent-Times*, Sprague, Wash., Friday, Oct. 23, 1908, p. 8.

³ For L. J. Lindley see *An Illustrated History of Whitman County, State of Washington*, pub. by W. H. Lever, 1901, p. 318.

⁴ Esther Pond Smith, Whitman County Historical Society Archive, Coll. #1 gives these dates based on his ads and other information printed in the local newspaper.

⁵ For O. G. Devenish see *An Illustrated History of Whitman County*, 1901, pp. 330-331. See also Federal census returns: 1870 Washington Co., Ind., Posey Twp., p. 155a; 1880 Washington Co., Ind., Posey Twp., p. 504a; 1900 Whitman Co., Wash., North Pullman Pct. #51, p. 232a; 1920 Tarrant Co., Texas, City of Fort Worth, p. 225a; and 1930 Kittitas Co., Wash., 2nd Ward of Ellensburg, p. 137b.



Unknown to the author before researching this article, Devenish was a relative to his great-great-uncle by marriage, Ralph Devenish.

⁶ Esther Pond Smith, WCHS Archive, Coll. #1.

⁷ For Charles M. Waters see the California Death Index; various Whitman County directories cited in his write-up; federal census records: 1910 Whitman Co., Wash., Precinct 4 of Pullman, p. 278b and 1930 Los Angeles Co., Calif., District 1488 of Santa Monica, p. 171a; Esther Pond Smith, WCHS Archive, Coll. #1.

⁸ 1912 WSC *Chinook* yearbook, p. 46.

⁹ For A. D. Wexler see his obituary, *Pullman Herald*, Friday, Dec. 11, 1936, p.1; his wife's obituary, *Pullman Herald*, March 13, 1936, p. 1; federal census records: 1910 Whitman Co., Wash., Precinct 4 of Pullman, p. 280a, and 1930 Whitman Co., Wash., Precinct 3 of Pullman, p. 225b.

¹⁰ For Roy T. Perkins see the federal census: 1910 Spokane Co., Wash., 1st Ward Spokane, p. 172a, and 1930 King Co., Wash., Block 3259 Seattle, p. 140b; on Wesley B. Kanne see the federal census: 1910 Spokane Co., Wash., 4th Ward Spokane, p. 257a; and 1930 Polk Co., Ore., Buena Vista Pct., p. 1b.

¹¹ Esther Pond Smith, WCHS Archive Coll. #1.

All the illustrations for this article were provided by Robert King.

TIMOTHY L. EMERSON
CARNEGIE HERO MEDAL AWARDEE
By Miriam L. Stratton

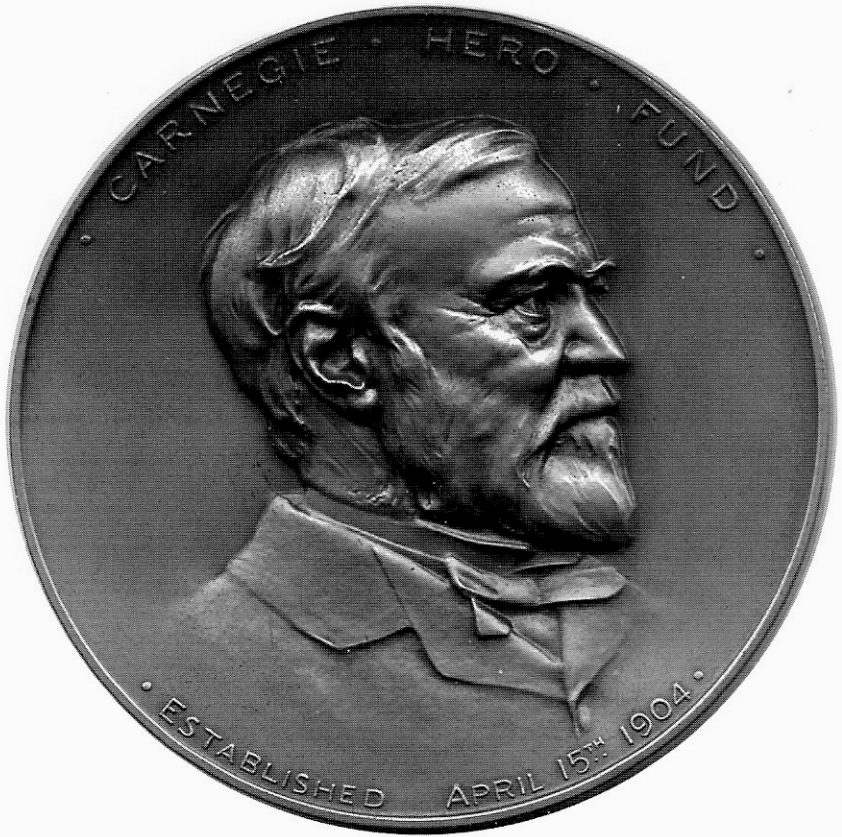
“Timothy L. Emerson who died attempting to help save Shelona M. Witter from drowning, Silcott, Wash., June 23, 1918.” So reads the bronze inscription on the Carnegie Hero Medal awarded the Emerson family.

Timothy Lawrence Emerson of Pullman and his friend, Cyrus C. Milan of Lewiston, each received a Carnegie Hero Medal for their attempts to save a young woman from drowning in the Snake River. A press release from the Carnegie Hero Fund stated that Emerson “waded from the bank a few seconds after Cyrus entered the water. He sank six to 10 feet from the point where Cyrus sank and was drowned.”¹

The dramatic story, as recounted in the *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, Monday, June 24, 1918, tells of two 17-year-old boys who were at the river near Silcott shortly before noon on Sunday as part of a group of young people. (Silcott is situated in Asotin Country near where Chief Timothy State Park is located today.) Some of the girls were learning to swim. One of those, Miss Shelona Witter of Moscow, was towed by rowboat into deep water and let loose to swim back to shore. After a short distance she called for help as she sank. While the other waders were only in up to their waists, Miss Witter had inadvertently waded into a hole nearly twelve feet deep. Emery Pearce was the first to go to her aid, diving to bring her to the surface; but Miss Witter clung to Pearce in a way that prevented him from breathing and swimming. He forced her to break her hold. Witter’s father, who had waded into the river pushing a boat, completed the rescue of his daughter. Pearce, exhausted, exclaimed, “I am all in” and grabbed hold of the boat. However, Milan, seeing the struggle between Miss Witter and Pearce, had jumped in fully clothed to go to Miss Witter’s rescue. Milan was considered to be an expert swimmer. After swimming but a short distance he called for help and sank, to be carried away by the current.

As Milan called for help, Emerson, discarding his coat but otherwise fully dressed, rushed into the water to rescue Milan. Both boys disappeared together. Others on the scene began searching for the bodies at once. Milan was found four hours later near where the drowning took place. Searchers did not find Emerson until the next afternoon near the same site.

Upon being notified of his brother’s drowning, Jay Noble Emerson, accompanied by John and Carl Gerding, Dr. Archer and D.F. Staley, rushed to Silcott to join in the recovery efforts. A number of Pullman and Lewiston men used hooks and grappling irons to drag the bottom of the river. “The body [Emerson] was brought



to the surface by means of sturgeon hooks attached to a clothes line with which John Gerding was dragging the river from a boat rowed by F.E. Sanger. Emerson was found about 50 feet below the point where the body of the Milan boy was recovered.”²

The news of the drowning shocked the Pullman community as Tim belonged to a prominent and well-known business family in Pullman. “Tim Emerson was the son of R.A. Emerson, of the Emerson Mercantile Company of Pullman and was a brother of J.N. Emerson, who recently opened Emerson’s cloak and suit house in Lewiston.”³

According to an account written five days later in the *Pullman Herald*,⁴ Tim Emerson worked at the Harry McKenzie orchard near Wawawai and had gone to Silcott to be with some friends from Moscow. He had refused his friends’ urgings to go in swimming because he had promised his mother he would not go in the river, which she considered dangerous.



This same article gave a somewhat different perspective of the events leading up to the drowning, quoting the father of Miss Witter, C.E. Witter of Moscow. When there were shouts that his daughter was drowning, he waded up to his shoulders and pushed a boat out to where Emery Pearce was attempting to save her. When Pearce broke the hold of Miss Witter, her father was able to grasp her and Pearce caught hold of the boat saying, "I'm all in." Mr. Witter did not realize there were others in the water and took the boat back to shore. When he heard that there were two others, he waded back thinking he could grab the boys when they came up, but they never did.

The *Pullman Herald* further reported that Emerson's heroism was all the greater because "he was an inexperienced swimmer, having learned only last summer while attending the Y.M.C.A. vocational conference for high school boys at Seabeck."

Timothy Lawrence Emerson was born December 29, 1900, to Rufus Andrew and Barbara Ellen Emerson, who had come to Pullman in 1907 to help their

eldest son, Jay Noble Emerson, run a mercantile store. Jay Emerson, who was 21 years older than Timothy, had joined Edwin S. Burgan in the Burgan and Emerson Mercantile on the NW corner of Main and Kamiaken. When Burgan moved to Spokane, the business became Emerson Mercantile, which operated for many years in Pullman, changing locations and names until finally closing in 1982.

Timothy had gained the respect not only of his peers but of his elders because of his “industry and manliness.” Because he preferred to work outdoors rather than in his family’s store, he chose to work in a fruit orchard during that summer. Both Tim and his friend Cyrus Milan “were industrious, enjoyed the highest regard of their employers and the friendship of all who knew them.”⁵

Donald H. Ellingson, a nephew of Tim, recalled his family’s account of the award. He wrote, “Apparently the Carnegie Medals were awarded, at least partly, because there was a \$500.00 cash award that went with it. My grandparents did not need it, but the other boy’s father had died, he was the oldest and was supporting or helping support his family. So for them it was a double tragedy.”⁶

Tragedy prompted Andrew Carnegie to found the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in 1904, when a devastating coal mine disaster killed 181 men. Two of those who survived the explosion had reentered the mine in an attempt at rescue but died in the effort. Three months later, Carnegie set aside \$5 million to “recognize civilian heroes...and to provide financial assistance for those disabled and the dependents of those killed helping others.”⁷ In the past 100 years, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission has awarded over 8,700 medals for heroism and distributed nearly \$27 million in awards, grants, tuition, and other assistance.

R.A. Emerson received a letter dated two days after the drowning of his son from Frank G. Moray, President of the Congress of Youth that Tim had attended the previous summer. Moray remarked on the sacrifice of the two boys who attempted to save the life of a young woman and offered his heart-felt sympathy. He had lost his own young son and shared some of his grief and offered hope for a life of service beyond death with “that great Teacher.”⁸

The *Pullman Herald* entitled its column, “Gave His Life For His Friend,” and concluded, “...Tim Emerson’s relatives and friends will always have the consolation of knowing that he died, as he lived, unselfishly thinking of others before himself.” The Whitman County Historical Society is honored to preserve this medal as a testimony to young Timothy Emerson’s sacrifice and example of heroism.

¹ http://www.plumsystems.com/db/chf/plum_press.asp?id=19285 (1/27/2005)

² *Pullman Herald*, June 28, 1918, page 1.

³ *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, June 24, 1918.

⁴ *Pullman Herald*, June 28, 1918, page 1.

⁵ *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, June 24, 1918.

⁶ WCHS Archive Coll. No. 382, letter of Donald Ellingson, July 14, 2000.

⁷ Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, http://www.carnegiehero.org/fund_history.php (1/27/2005)

⁸ WCHS Archive Coll. No. 382, letter of Frank Moray, June 25, 1918.

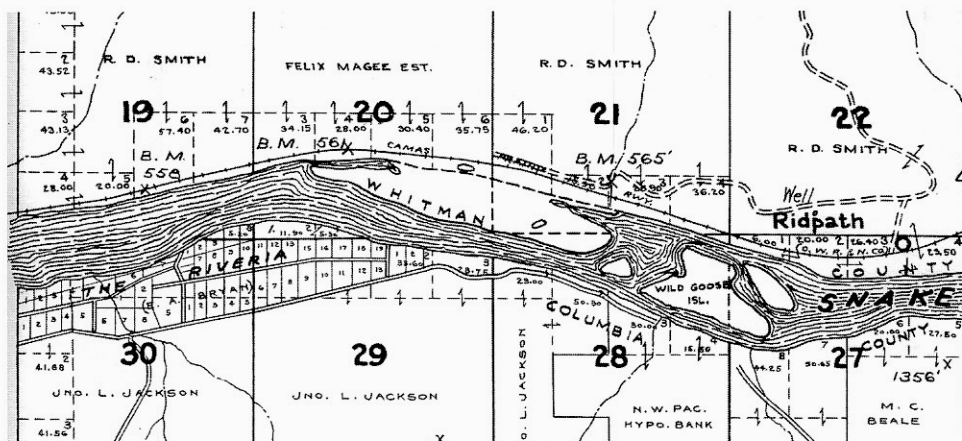
RIVIERA AND DR. ENOCH A. BRYAN RESERVOIR

By Don R. Clarke

Riviera: A Modern Utopia

The summer of 1969, with the completion of Little Goose Dam, backwater caused by the closing of the floodgates began to cover the small town of Riviera and the small orchards that had been there. The reservoir behind Little Goose Dam was named for Dr. Enoch A. Bryan. This is a story of the plans Dr. Bryan envisioned for a modern utopia called Riviera, and why the reservoir was named for him.

It was 1908 that Dr. Bryan discovered the ideal spot for his dream of a settlement. He found a large area of tillable land suitable for irrigation, with plenty of water from the Snake River and an ideal climate for a long growing season. The location, six miles east of Riparia, was on Brown's Bay between Little Goose Island and Large Goose Island. Deep within the Snake River Canyon, the site is fenced on the south by high rock cliffs and on the north by the Snake River, with a similar barrier of towering rock. The half mile long site was as isolated as any spot on the river. The proposed town was on the Columbia County side. In 1909 Dr. Bryan filed Articles of Incorporation for The Riviera Company with the Auditor of Whitman County. He named himself Vice-President and Manager of the company. The other directors included his wife as Secretary-Treasurer, his son Arthur Bryan, Thomas Neill, and G. L. Buland as President.

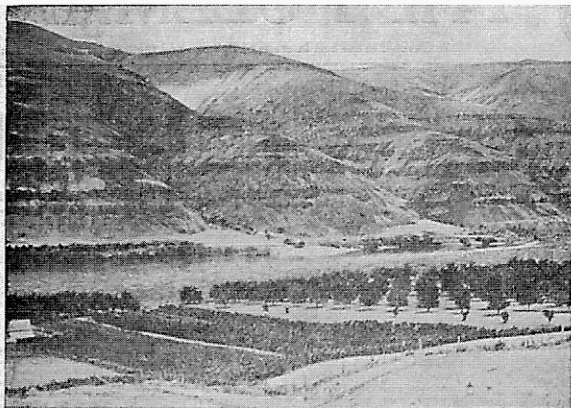


1957 Metsker's Atlas of Whitman County

In 1909 Dr. Bryan's company purchased 300 acres from J. L. Mohundro. At the same time they bought the Starbuck Electric Company from Pietrizzki family. The Riviera Company built a power line down the Snake River bluffs as well as a road to the new settlement. They platted the land in five and ten acre lots. They also laid pipe to carry irrigation water from the river.

The central town site was platted in small lots. The company erected a store, post office, blacksmith shop and school. Later they built a structure used as a store-room and maintenance shop. At this time a boarding house was built. Dr. Bryan built a cottage for himself and his family, overlooking the river. Streets were built in the business district, roads constructed to the orchard lots, and a well was drilled for household water.

The land was sold at \$300 per acre; some of the best land for fruit sold for \$400 per acre. There was a charge of \$4.50 per acre each year for water, power, and maintenance of the irrigation system. Purchasers were required to pay one fifth down and one fifth each year.



RIVIERA

The Golden Opportunity, is Knocking at Your Door

Rich Fruit Section on Snake River, owned and promoted by home capital, will go on the market next

Wednesday, October 19th

STOP! LOOK! LISTEN!
PREPARE for the Change THAT'S COMING

EVERY YEAR the population of the country has been crowding more and more to the city.

Every year the cost of living is going higher and higher.

The same wages buy only half as much food and clothing as ten years ago.

Fars-seeing men are alarmed and have rounded a warning.

The people must go back to the soil to avert a financial crash.

The backward trend has already started in many localities.

It will swell to a National movement within the next few years.

Then watch the price of land soar—it will never be as low as today.

Get a tract of rich fruit land now and be safe—prepare for the morrow.

GET LAND NOW—Get in on the ground floor and enjoy a wonderful increase in value.

You don't need to give up your present position and work on the farm to make money.

Because **THE RIVIERA COMPANY** will plant the land with any kind of fruit you desire.

In peaches, apples, grapes, apricots, plums of all varieties and cherries of all kinds.

THE RIVIERA COMPANY will irrigate, cultivate, prune and care for your tract.

They will turn the land over to you in four years a complete project—in living, growing, income-bearing reality—a home with plenty and luxury in short—**RIVIERA**.

THE RIVIERA has a delightful climate the year round.

THE RIVIERA has an inexhaustible water supply—the Snake river.

THE RIVIERA will have stores, postoffice, school and a home for hundreds of people.

THE RIVIERA will easily be worth \$1,000.00 per acre in less than five years.

WHY—Because your own experience tells you that bearing orchards in favored fruit sections, like this, never sell for less than that sum.

WHY—Because **RIVIERA** is 650 feet above sea level—ideal—and is next to California in saltness of market.

WHY—Because experts on soil from our own College have examined the soil and pronounced it ideal for fruit culture.

WHY—Because of its railroad facilities, access to markets and immunity from pests.

WHY—Because of its topography—it has a **PERFECT** air drainage.

WHY—Well just ask **JONES & SANGER** for some literature and see for yourselves what Prof. Falkington, famed the world over as a grape expert, has to say.

See what Hon. W. L. LaFollette says; see what J. L. Dumax, Esq., President of the State Horticultural Association has to say; see what Ben Palmer, another "old timer" on Snake river, has to say in favor of this great fruit section.

Remember this it is not promoted by strangers, but by a man whom you have known and highly respected for the last two decades, a citizen of our own fair city—President E. A. Bryan, of the Washington State College.

Remember this can not last long when offered on such easy terms. "He who hesitates is lost."

Come and select a tract from the map and if you are not satisfied with your choice after a personal visit to the land you may have your choice of that remaining. Platted in tracts of from two to five acres.

Call or write immediately to Jones & Sanger for descriptive literature. Office, Room 7, of the First National Bank Building.

Pres. E. A. Bryan
Owner and Manager
Pullman, Washington



Jones & Sanger
Sales Agents
Pullman, Washington

The Starbuck Electric Plant had a 250 horsepower capacity. Bryan's company upgraded the plant when they bought it and increased the horsepower. The plant furnished electricity to Starbuck during the day and at peak hours. During the night the company used the power to pump water into a pond for irrigation. The company bought a chop mill but soon leased it out. The water was pumped from the river to a holding pond. A flume was built to the pipes that distributed the water to the plots. The pipes were concrete and constructed on the site.

The soil was volcanic ash and river silt, a very rich soil. The land was well adapted to irrigation. Water was plentiful and the growing season was long. The pumps had a capacity of 1500 gallons per minute. The acreage was planted in alfalfa, tomatoes, and melons. The orchard plots were planted to apple and soft fruit trees. One man, who grew up at Riviera and was interviewed in later years, stated that the watermelons weighed as much as 100 pounds. Melon and tomato plants were loaded with enormous amounts of fruit all season.

The first year, Dr. Bryan advertised in the local papers. At first the company got a lot of publicity for the project, and for a time the colony thrived. There were a number of orchards and over a dozen homes were built. At one time there were thirty-five children in the school, according to Fred Malcome, son of S. L. Malcome, who lived on the Snake River below Little Goose Island and attended the Riviera School. His sixth grade teacher was Lizzy Thompson. Fred also remembered that when his dad's wagon broke down, he would take it for repairs to Allie Ray, who owned the blacksmith shop in Riviera.

Soon, however, problems began. Nearly every spring the high water runoff of the Snake River destroyed the irrigation flume and ditches that were the supply line for the irrigation system. Each year the demand for more power caused frequent failures at the pumping station. The concrete pipe, laid from the flume to the orchards, was poorly constructed and failed to hold water under pressure. Dr. Bryan's solution to this problem was to build a timbered sluice to supply water by gravity for irrigation. This helped for a while, but frequent power failures limited the amount of water pumped in. The water supply was inadequate, and the flumes leaked.

By 1915 only a scattering of orchards were left, and they were struggling for existence. With the start of World War I, the dream colony collapsed. Those still at the colony at the start of the war left to work in war plants or farming. The last family to leave Riviera was the caretakers, Mr. and Mr. Morse, who lived in the Bryan cottage. They were still there in 1918. They sent their four children to the Riviera School, where they were the only pupils taught by the teacher, Miss Dorothy Miller.

The Riviera Company own a beautiful tract of irrigable land on Snake River in Columbia County, Washington, on what is known as Brown's Bar. The Snake River canyon is the best land and safest from frost, for peaches, apricots, grapes, apples and small fruits in the State of Washington. Railway and river transportation at hand. The tract will accommodate about fifty families. The pumping will be done by electricity, the lift being from 35 to 75 feet.



Riveria School about 1917

Teacher, Dorothy Miller; Students: Inthe Morse, Inez Morse, Laurence Morse, Richard Morse

After the war four or five houses were still there, the only evidence of a community that had once been there. These buildings and a barn were burned when a grass fire swept the area, several years after the war. Only the indentation of the reservoir and ditches remained to be seen later on the bar.

Dr. Bryan's envisioned Utopian colony collapsed not for lack of capital or water, but because of the failure to secure enough power to lift the water from the river. No effort was made to resume colonization. This venture cost Dr. Bryan a large sum of money. He had taken over the stock of the other shareholders soon after the community was started. Some of the old time Dayton area residents estimated his loss as high as \$100,000. To this writer, this seems a little high for the times but no doubt he lost a lot of money on his dream community.

Enoch A. Bryan Reservoir

In 1965, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers started work on the Snake River selecting a site for the foundation of the Little Goose Lock and Dam. During

the drilling to find a solid foundation for the dam, the team drilled three-inch exploratory holes at the dam site. Some holes reached the 200-foot level and tapped into artesian wells. One well was recorded at a flow of 250 gallons per minute. Further drilling gave geologic evidence of an artesian well formation throughout the land bench. Had Dr. Bryan known of this a half century earlier, his water problems would have been solved.

In 1961, Catherine May, congresswoman from Yakima representing eastern Washington, introduced a bill to name the reservoir to be created by the Little Goose Dam on the Snake River, designating the backwater Dr. Enoch A. Bryan Reservoir. Mrs. May had introduced a bill earlier, but it had not been enacted for lack of support. The Washington State College class of 1915 asked her to reintroduce the bill. With strong local support from eastern Washington communities, the bill passed.

The reservoir of Little Goose Lock and Dam covered the site of Dr. Bryan's town. Mrs. May said "the naming of the reservoir would be a fitting memorial to a man who may have been too farsighted in the building of Riviera, but whose vision was responsible for a new and lasting educational philosophy that of a true people's university."

Dr. Bryan, president of the WSC (now WSU) from 1893 to 1916, built the college from modest beginnings into a great institution. Dr. Bryan was an influential and early spokesman for the causes of reclamation, irrigation, and conservation of natural resources, who envisioned a modern Utopia between Big Goose Island and Little Goose Island on the Snake River. In Catherine May words, "Dr. E. A. Bryan Reservoir is a fitting memorial."

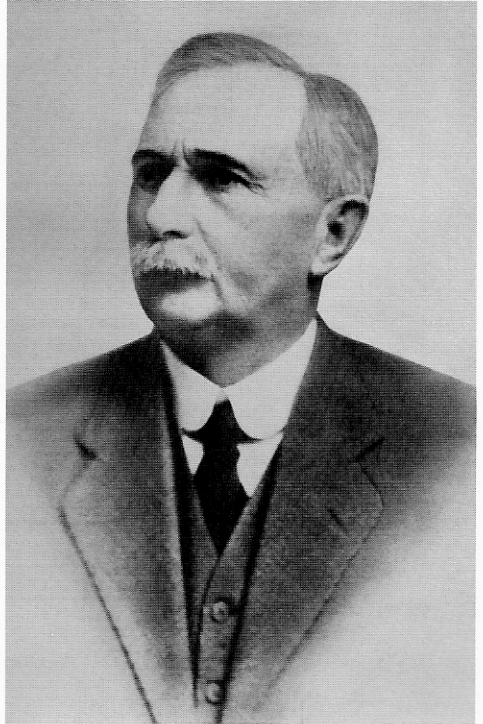
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Enoch A. Bryan

Enoch A. Bryan



The Beautiful Riviera



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