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Pioneer Social Life—School and Church



—Clifford Ott Photo

Nestled among the tall conifers is the old Eden Valley church. Built in 1885, it served as a religious and social center for many years before becoming the Sunshine Club house. Photograph taken in 1978.

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In This Issue

We have tried to show the important role which the country school and church played in the life of the pioneer communities in Whitman County.

When possible, even if for very short periods each year, most settlers were anxious for their children to receive some education. True, funds were limited as well as was the training of the teachers who often were little or no older than their oldest pupils. It was not uncommon to have pupils 18 and 20 years old who had advanced no farther than others 10 and 12 years old. At first, advancement was based on what “reader” had been mastered, not on the basis of graded classes.

Children and young adults went to school when they could be spared from work on the farm, with the result that many never got past the third or fourth reader even though they were of marriageable age—even married—by the time they had completed the first couple of readers. But they had the basic skills in reading, writing and arithmetic which had to serve them for life. The fortunate ones were able to go to high school, where available, in town boarding out during the week and going home on weekends. How many present-day young people would care to be in the equivalent of the third grade when they were 18 or 19 years old?

The church became not only the spiritual center of the rural pioneer community, as well as that of the village, but it was the social center also. Here the families met for Christian worship services, christenings, weddings and funerals, also for picnics and other social gatherings. For many farm wives the church was the only place where they could meet other women to talk about “girl things.” It was here too that they could express their thanks to God for the strength to carry their daily burdens, often heavy and sore.

In addition, we have presented in this issue, the sketch of a family whose name is perpetuated in a very popular recreation center and an early census record. We hope you find our enjoyment in our efforts. [Editor]□

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Pioneer School and Church Life

By Louise Leenderstsen

Turnbow Flat School School District No. 19

In 1874, on land adjoining the B. R. Turnbow property, Sarah Hughes, wife of I. I. (Shang) Hughes, taught school in her home (See: **Bunchgrass Historian** Vol. 1 No. 3), but no record of a school board in the Turnbow Flat area has been found predating 1879. It was not until two years later that a school house was built.

In July of 1881, a meeting of the Board of District 19, Whitman County, Washington Territory, (school) was called for nominations of a school house site. It was ordered that the location would be a point at the west line of J. E. Turnbow's Ranch on the south side of the county road between Palouse and Colfax. They levied a tax of 10 mills on the dollar of taxable property to build the school which was to be 20' x 30' x 12' having a balloon frame, weather board and ceiling. It was estimated that 4000 feet clear and 3000 feet of common lumber would be needed for its construction. Then on November 1, 1884, B. R. Turnbow acting as a committee of one gave a report on the building which we assume was finished because the committee was discharged. In 1885, 1886 and 1887, the board had recorded annual meetings for the election of a director, and a clerk at each meeting.

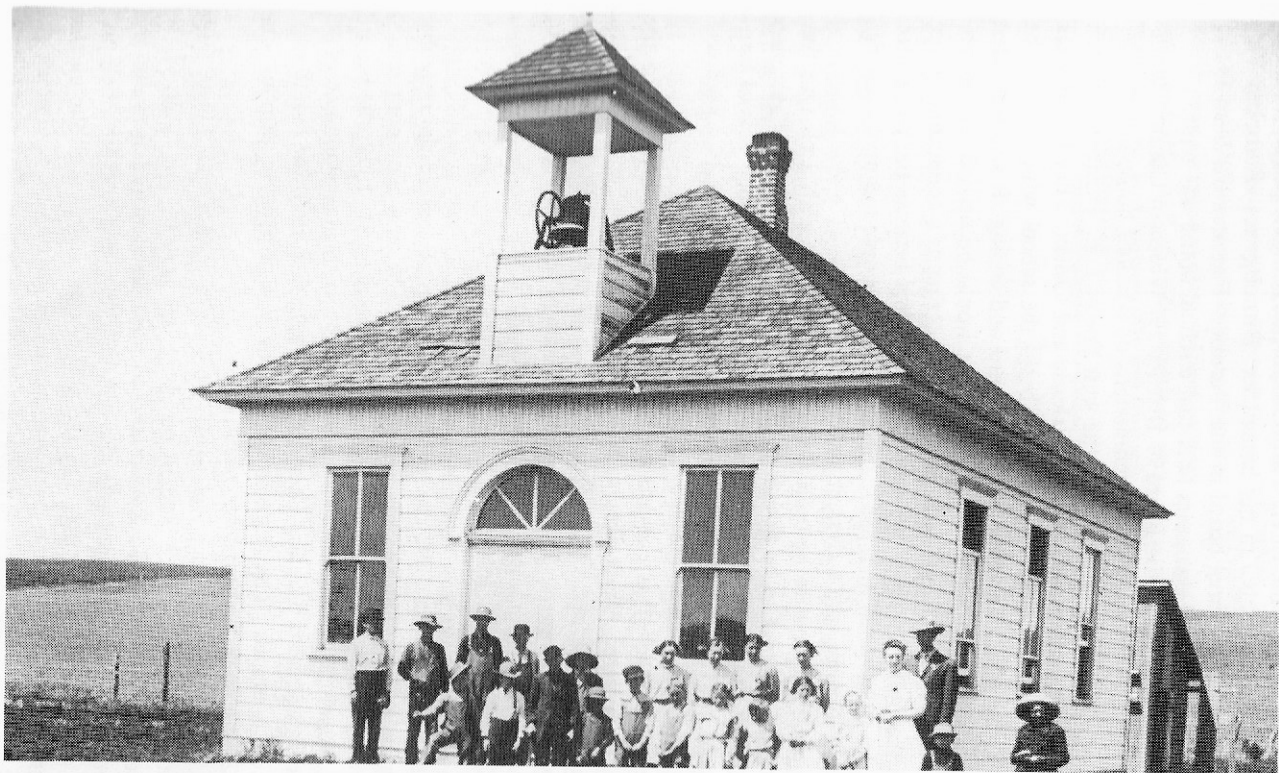
A privy was contracted out to be built 4½' x 6½' x 6' high with a pit four feet deep, double box and the roof to be shingled. The door was to be made of matched lumber. This building cost \$6.50 and a well was dug for 70 cents a foot. School furniture was bought in 1891 for \$209.00. Stove wood was bought for \$1.14 a cord and had size specifications listed when ordered in 1895 by the Board.

Names frequently read of as comprising the school board or involved in the school in other ways were: Albert Ewert, Isaac Fisher, I. I. Hughes, Ed Powers, George Turnbow, Wm. Harper, O. A. Turnbow, J. E. Turnbow, B. R. Turnbow, W. P. Turnbow, Matt Roberts, J. D. Halliday, Sarah Turnbow, Jeff Turnbow, Roscoe Turnbow, Oliver Heitzman, Joe Franzen, G. Z. Ickes, C. A. Blair, C. I. Daniel, E. E. Klots, M. D. St. John and W. W. Bruner.

The records showed that in 1891 the legislature at Olympia passed the Law that a Daily Attendance and Annual Records had to be kept. The first classroom record covered the period from September 5, 1892 through November 23, 1892; the second term was from March 27, 1893 through June 30, 1893 with an enrollment of 26 students, ranged in age from 6 to 16. They hired teachers then by three-month contracts for \$40.00 a month. The highest enrollment was thirty-five pupils. The teachers paid \$2.50 a week for board and room.

In August 1900, the board met and agreed to have a new school house built with dimensions of 24' x 36' x 12' and to purchase one acre of land from O. A. Turnbow and the same from E. T. Powers and to have an eight-rod frontage and twenty-rod depth. Price to be \$25 per acre. Freight bill, for a bell and for a bell pull were approved at this August meeting. The old school was sold at a public auction for \$12.25. During the summer time there was constant repairing to be done on the building, fence, sidewalk and always window panes. There was quite a turnover of teachers. Some contracts included the janitorial job too. At first their contracts were for three months, then six months; then eight months; finally 9 months.

One is surprised when reading the annual early school records that the pupils had a fairly large library of books which included many of the classics. We still enjoy



—Photo Courtesy Mrs. M. D. St. John
Turnbow Flat School 1910—Back row: Blane Turnbow, Grant Turnbow, Wade McGhee, Maurice Malsed, Alvin Franzen, Caroline Abbl, Mary Turnbow, Tina Blane, Blanche Turnbow, Harold Powers. Front row: Dean Ickes, Marian Malsed, Paul Powers, Harvey Bridgefarmer, Harold Bridgefarmer, Henry Turnbow, Loreen Turnbow, Betty Blane, Ella Blane, Catherine Holleday, Florence Archibald (teacher), Dale Ickes and Edwin Franzen.



—Photo Courtesy Mrs. M. D. St. John

Turnbow Flat School, 1906—Located on the Palouse-Colfax road, this school was built in 1901. Later used as a church by the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) from 1915-1920. The teacher wore a heavy black wig which created much merriment among the students.

these books today having read them as children and now rereading them to grandchildren or for our own pleasure. Of the 177 titles reported in 1913-1919, we find such titles as Bird's Christmas Carol, Beautiful Joe, Hans Brinker, Franklin's Autobiography, How our Grandfather Lived, Bleak House, Grimm's Household Tales, Ivanhoe, Rover Boys at Oxford, Little Women, Miles Standish, Washington and his Generals and of course, Pilgrims Progress. But the teachers report for 1892 had to give a "No" to the question "Is the school supplied with a Webster's Unabridged Dictionary?" This was rectified in 1893.

Upon the consolidation or closing of the school in 1924; W. P. Turnbow who was clerk at the time called a meeting to discuss the transportation of the children to Palouse. A motion made that a contract be made with Mr. C. A. Blair to haul the grade school pupils at the rate of 50 cents per pupil per day; the high school students would have to furnish their own transportation. In May of that year, Emma Blair and Olive Kendall were the only students.

After this, in the 30's, it was the club house for the Sunshine Club and 4H activities. There were families that lived in for some time. At the end of the 40's or early 50's it was torn down. Now the land it stood upon has again become a farm field.

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints established a branch in Palouse on October 17, 1915 with 17 charter members. They used the Turnbow Flat School House as one of their places of worship, according to Lena Lorene Turnbow Howard. She told of the baptisms being held in the Palouse River below the barn of her father, John Turnbow. The branch was closed out on March 25, 1920.

School Inventory, 1896

On March 2, 1896, the teacher, N. R. Steward, reported the following inventory of furniture and supplies in the Turnbow School; twenty double seats, two recitation seats, one desk, one manakin, one writing chart, one map of the world, one mathematical chart, one globe, one bucket, one mirror, one ax, three towels ("Pretty dirty") and one broom ("Well worn"). All items, except as noted, were reported as "Very good."

Financial Report

At the end of this same school year, the financial report showed an income of \$339.49 with expenditures of \$314.30, leaving a balance of \$25.19 with which to start the new school year. What a far cry from modern school financing!

Eden Valley Church

Having finally settled down in their soddies or log cabins or other types of homes. The early pioneers in Whitman County were anxious to band together to form religious congregations and as soon as possible, to build church edifices. At first, some of these settlers met in private homes or in the country school houses until land could be acquired for church buildings through purchases or donations from concerned members. So it was with a small group of Church of Christ communicants in the Eden Valley area lying between Palouse and Colfax, who in 1885 formed themselves into the Eden Valley congregation.

Prior to building their own church building in 1885, church services were held



—Photo Courtesy Mrs. M. D. St. John

Eden Valley church and congregation, ca. 1910. The imposing belfry never contained a bell.

in the old Eden Valley school located at the corner of Lange Road and the Palouse-Colfax highway. When built, the church served the Eden Valley school and Turnbow school district communities uniting the two groups in a common interest. The church was located about two miles east of the Eden Valley School, and was built in a grove of trees which still has beauty and charm ninety-five years later.

Early records of the church show that there was no full-time pastor; preachers being hired to come on once or twice a month at salaries averaging about \$6.00 per sermon in the early 1890's.

Ministers would come on Saturday, stay overnight at the home of one or another or the church members until Monday and then be on their way home.

Not only did the church serve as a center for formal church services but for many social gatherings, weddings and funerals as well. The church was incorporated in 1889 as the Eden Valley Church of Christ thus becoming the first Christian Church in Whitman County.

After church services were over, while the adults visited, the children would play among the trees in the grove sometimes pulling the smaller trees down to ride on them as if they were bucking broncos. When the congregations broke up families went directly home or would go visiting for the remainder of the day. The day of rest was truly a day of relaxation and a period for bonding the church members more closely together spiritually and for their physical needs in a pioneer community.

The church was supported by cash offerings which were not large but which were supplemented or supplanted by gifts or produce such as hay, hams, onions, plums, flour, beans and at one time the miller, C. S. Chase who ran a mill at Lincoln,* gave a half barrel of flour valued at \$1.20. Such giving of produce was most common following the Panic of 1893 when cash-money was a scarce commodity.

Those wishing to join the church did so by immersion baptism in the Palouse River, by letter of commendation transfer from another church or "by relation," the meaning of this term is not explained in the records.

Separation from the church was by letter of commendation (or just by "letter"), without a letter or by dismissal for "disorderly walk" and conduct which was "unscriptural." Even as in our modern churches, disharmony and dissention raised their ugly heads occasionally. Happily, the rift was often healed and the wayward member was again taken into "full fellowship."

The last wedding took place in the church in 1917 and religious services were discontinued in 1923.

*Lincoln, also called Chase's Crossing was located on the Palouse River between Elberton and Palouse and is now part of the Derwood Lange property. A sawmill and flour mill were located at Lincoln.

Eden Valley Cemetery

For the sum of \$36, the Eden Valley Church on February 16, 1889, bought from Patrick H. and Sarah G. Lewis a piece of wooded land adjoining the church property on the east. Thus the need for a proper burial site was satisfied by purchase of the beautiful hilly grove. Prior to acquisition of the cemetery it was a common practice to make burials in family plots or in the orchards. There is a story told of one woman who requested that she be buried on her farm as she had spent so many lonely hours there and that she should just continue to do so. Some reburials took place when the cemetery became available.

Used as a burial site until recently, the cemetery records show the earliest burial

The Church of Christ
W. W. W. Oregon.

To the Disciples of Christ
wherever this may come.

Greeting;
This is to certify that the bearer
Sister Margaret Callison is a
member with us in good standing
and full Fellowship, and as
such we commend her to
your Christian love & Obviation

By order of the Church this 18th day
of Sept. 1898

H. G. Callison
Diar

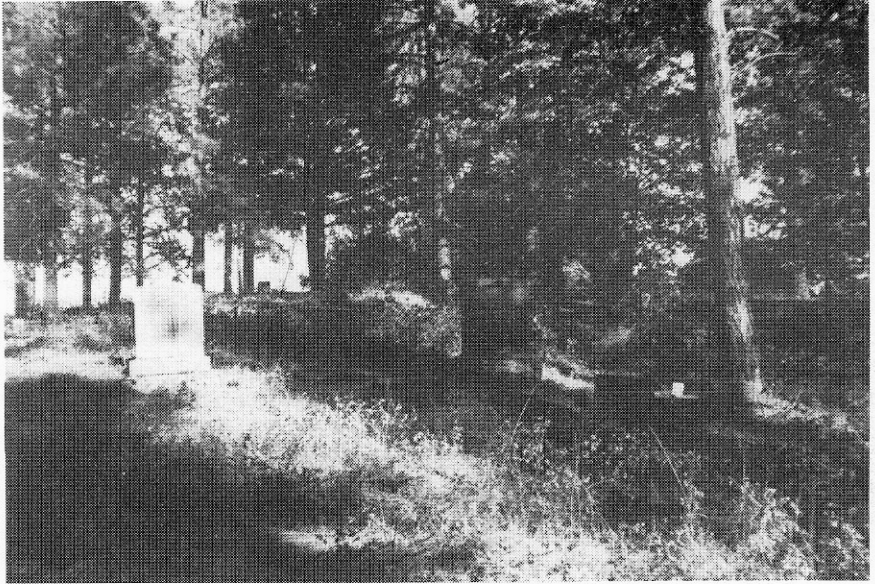
Church Membership Letter of Transfer



—Photo Courtesy Marie (Blair) Lindgren

Promotion Day at Eden Valley church, ca. 1920.

to be that of Lettice Pedigo who died June 29, 1879. Another stone records the burial in 1880 of Mary Fisher who was born in Pennsylvania in 1796, three years before the death of George Washington. As in many pioneer cemeteries, it contains the graves of the many infants and young children who succumbed to the all-too-virulent children's diseases. Other graves contain the mortal remains of men who fought in the Civil War. The sale of the church property in 1977 did not include the cemetery.



Eden Valley cemetery served the area for many years.

Organization Of The Sunshine Club

On November 6th, 1930, Miss Lessie Brunner held a meeting at her home to start this new club. The charter members were the Misses Lessie Brunner, Emma Blair, Mamie Turnbow and the Messrs. Ruth Brunner, Ruth Blair, Sarah Burgess, Elizabeth Green, Ethel Gross, Bertha Linden, Lelah Lange, Ethel Maryott, Elzora Powers, Martha Seagle, Sarah Turnbow, Mary Turnbow, Grace Wiley, Lou Wiley, Ollie West, Inez Wery, Lena Parvin, Louisa McClure, Grace Nagle.

It was noted that the hostess was limited to serving three dishes. They met twice a month; in the winter months it was an all day meeting with each person bringing one dish. It wasn't until 1936 that the men were invited; they spent the afternoon after dinner doing repairs, cutting, chopping and piling wood for the club house stoves. Other times they enjoyed visiting with their neighbors and playing some cards. The "Sunshine Reading Club" held their first meetings in their homes and Turnbow School House for nine or ten years. A program would be like readings of "Little Wranglers," "Home," and "The Art of Making Friends."

After a few years, the members decided they would rather have a social club and so "Reading" was dropped from the name. They were now the "Sunshine Club" and used the theme "To Scatter Sunshine in our Community." Later on

the colors were yellow and white and the flower was the Sunflower. They also had a club prayer that was repeated and then a club song that was sung at times.

Can you believe their first guest day was in a home with thirty-five in attendance? The first picnic was held at the Gus Linden Home which many of us remember as a spacious yard with big trees. The first settler here lived in a soddy.

The **Palouse Republic** sponsored a cooking school and the club was asked to attend. At this time the 4H clubs were becoming active in this area and the Sunshine Club voted to support one. Besides financial and the other forms of support the club also gave parties for the 4H'ers. The club house was used for Achievement Meetings and later the town clubs also used them. In August of one year the club gave a picnic for the 4Hers in the city park. A heat shower caused those present to seek shelter under the highway bridge. All were fortunate in not falling into the river. Refreshments were served in the tool house.

The Country Gentleman League or Magazine later sent out questionnaires for homemakers for many years. The members sent them in and money was received by the club.

At one meeting there was a "beezy" conversation about the bees inside and how to get rid of them. The next time they were gone and no one knew what happened to them.

Guest Day was a special occasion for the group. Their programs had much effort put into them; they would consist of special music, sometimes from the children of the neighborhood, outside speakers, skits, book reviews and other interesting events. Refreshments were also special.

The Polyanna exchange lasted for many years. Each member would draw a name and remember the person's birthday or anniversary keeping it secret for a year. Pinochle parties were held for many years for the community.

Emma Day, one of the early members recalls Christmas as a happy time in the long ago when there were lots of little ones in the neighborhood. We always had a tree; sometimes the members would cut one. We usually started with a potluck dinner. Then we'd have a program with the kids and the bigger ones too, whomever we could persuade to recite a poem or sing a song. Then we'd hear sleigh bells on the porch and in would come Good Ole St. Nick with presents for everyone; always plenty of candy, nuts and a popcorn ball. At first there was a limit of 50 cent on our exchange gifts, then \$1.00 and then \$2.00. The children all grew up and there were no longer any who wanted to put on programs or any need for Santa Claus.

To keep the club treasury filled, they had a "Penny Drill" at each meeting which didn't help too much, in addition they would have a Silver Offering to help make up deficiencies resulting from having given many gifts. At first, one of their projects for raising money was a Chamber of Commerce dinner for Palouse and then later had included the teachers. In the 1930's they would charge 50 cents a plate; sometimes the menu consisted of chicken, rolls, baked beans, mashed potatoes, salad Jello, cake and pie. These continued till 1944. The bazaars, food sales, and quilt raffles started then. They'd also serve lunch at a farm sale.

Furniture was bought like the table and chairs, but donations were always accepted, such as the piano. Also the light fixtures were from the old Eden Valley School.

Being an active community, there was a need for a reporter for the **Palouse Republic**. There were two ladies appointed, one each for telephone line No. 5 and No. 6.

In the middle 30's, the extension service was already having programs for the

rural clubs. Sometimes the Extension Agent would come to the club, but most times they were held in Colfax. Ladies in the area all remember those sessions on sewing and upholstery.

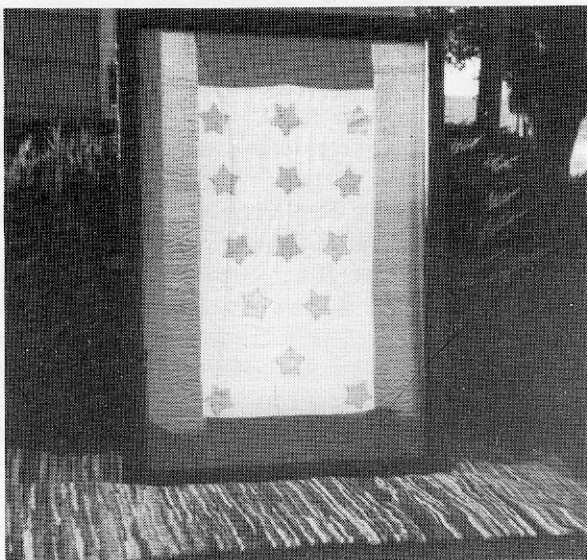
When a mother was ill in a home, the club appointed two members of the club to call on her and help for a two-week period. A pound party would be held at a meeting, clothes boxes were filled, vegetables and fruits were given to the needy families.

In December, 1935, there was a committee in the club that was working on finding out if the empty Eden Valley Church was for sale, but found it was only to be rented for \$25 per year. The club felt it was too high and no one knew about the condition of the building. This was the last of any record in the minutes that was found until those of the spring of 1939. They were told there was a possibility of the old Eden Valley Church and ground being sold independently from the rest of Grandma McClure's estate.

The investigating committee reported that \$30 was a fair price for the building, plus \$20 for the two acres. Also it would be necessary to replace twenty-two window panes, one or two corners had to be lifted, also, the outside door needed to be replaced. Then there was also a lawyer's fee. A petition was formulated after much discussion that read "We, the members of the Sunshine Club are soliciting the support of our members for the purpose of buying the Eden Valley Church as a club house. At the next meeting the report was given that individual subscriptions totaled \$51, in addition to having \$14.86 in the treasury. A motion was made to buy the church for a club house. On December 7, 1939, they had their first all-day meeting. In May, 1942, the secretary sent a sealed bid to the executor. The cost was \$45.10 and the attorney fees were \$4.30. There were three trustees appointed to receive the deed. The 1940 picnic was a neighborhood affair at the club house; about 90 neighbors, friends, former members, and 4H parents and youngsters attended. Visiting, baseball and horseshoe playing were enjoyed. At this time, the records show that it was written, "Looks as though our club house nestled among the pines will be a future neighborhood pleasure."

War Years

The Red Cross had an office which was organized in 1940 in Palouse and the club had a member who acted as chairman. She received the material and information on what was to be made, such as quilts, baby quilts, shirts, pillows, and wool throws. Members were appointed to help in the community for the annual drives; they also sold bonds and bought bonds. On the 3rd War Loan Drive they won an \$18.75 bond for aiding in the selling of the most bonds by the womens clubs. One meeting a month was spent sewing as several women would bring their sewing machines, but they would also go into the sewing room in town. At one meeting the men then loaded scrap iron. They bought a Readers Digest subscription for three dollars to donate to the Ft. George Wright Hospital and donated items were given to the soldiers. In September, one member said she had made eighteen flannel shirts. At Christmas time there were always cookies sent to the hospitals and our boys in the service. Ollie West received a pin from the Red Cross in recognition of her making approximately 150 bedside bags and eight sweaters one winter. As a club they were unable to receive a sugar rationing card . They ceased serving refreshments between April and September as a War Time Measure. A Service Flag was made for club relatives, including fathers, husbands, sons and brothers. This was framed



Service flag for World War II men

and hung on the wall where it remained until the building was sold.

There wasn't much activity any more with the Red Cross; so the club decided to help a P. J. VanEmmanas family in Amsterdam, Holland. They started sending boxes. Some years later the Van Emmanas came to America and visited the Sunshine Club to express their appreciation in person.

This year, 1946, they were also asked to adopt an "uncle or aunt" from the county hospital. They adopted a 80-year-old lady and remembered her on special occasions.

The Palouse Grange was renting the building for their meetings before their own building was constructed. They were generous to lend their silverware, trays and coffeepots to the members. The clubhouse was even used for family dinners.

One time they thought it would be worth trying to have the husbands serve at one of the all day meetings. But after a couple of tries they found this not such a good idea, women still had to do too much of the work. The ladies kept the men for the dishwashing chores.

In 1952, during the Korean War, Christmas boxes were packed for the boys in the service.

In 1960, this was the first time they had lost anything by having the club house broken into. Then the next time they lost their silverware, coffeemaker and the drapes were stolen from two of the windows.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, the meetings were down to once a month; sometimes the meetings being held in the club house, many times in the homes. Young women were beginning to work out these years and older people were moving to town, but they were still regular in attendance. There were from 16-20 people that continued to pay dues, but only about four to seven who attended the meetings. They were receiving meeting notices from the Extension Service but no one was interested in attending. Officers were still elected and months of meetings were cancelled in the winter time.

There were two meetings held in the Spring of 1971. At one of the meetings there was much discussion of electing officers and disbanding of the club. This was

tabled. Several years later a group of concerned members met to discuss what to do with the club house. They found out that the Whitman County Historical Society was not interested as there were too many changes in the original building and no one else was interested in keeping the club going.

Then in September 1977 a meeting was called. It was made into a motion to sell the building to a member of the club or to a first-generation family relative of a member of the club; it was voted that it was to be sold to the highest bidder. The club house and the land upon which it stood was sold to Terry Blair of the Palouse area.

At a meeting in the Newspaper and Printing Museum in Palouse in the summer of 1978, the club was dissolved after nearly fifty years of service to its members and the community.

Historic Marker Being Placed

Through the cooperation of Mike Werner, Director Whitman Parks and Recreation Department, a large historic marker is scheduled to be put up adjacent to the Palouse-Colfax highway at the foot of the road leading to the cemetery. This marker will be a gift of the late Sunshine Club using funds derived from the sale of the church property.

An Eden Valley Community Cemetery Project was formed in 1978 at the time of the dissolution of the Sunshine Club with any residual funds existing after the marker has been built to go to the maintenance of the cemetery.

Eden Valley School

This school's birth, growth, and demise in many respects paralleled that of the Turnbow School and a host of other pioneer schools in Whitman County.

With the permission of the author, J. B. West of Palouse, excerpts from his column "Memories of the Palouse" printed in the **Palouse Republican** January 23 and 30, 1974, are inserted here:

The earliest record of the Eden Valley school found in the County Superintendent's office was the following report submitted by Charles Chase, Clerk, for the year of 1888:

The enrollment consisted of 19 males and 19 females with 16 students being under five years of age and there were two married women.

A budget report listed in that report is as follows: Amount of money on hand at the beginning of the year, \$22.93; Amount to the District by the County Superintendent, \$239.90; Amount to Teachers wages, \$180.00; Fuel and other expenses, \$3.00; Amount paid for school purposes, \$20.00; Amount of funds to

Credit of District, \$62.68; Estimated school furniture, \$50.00; Estimated value of apparatus such as maps, charts, and globe, \$25.00; Average Salary paid Teacher, \$45.00.

When asked if the school was furnished with a Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, the answer was no, and the school lasted four months.

It appears that the one teacher not only had to teach all eight grades but to also run a nursery school for a number of the younger brothers and sisters. This was no doubt the custom for some time as I attended that school for a couple of months after I had turned five. My older brother was started at seven, and



—Photo Courtesy of J. B. West

Second Eden Valley school on Lange Road, J. B. West, now 86, started his schooling here. He is standing in front in 1915.

I went along with him.

In 1891 a new schoolhouse was built. The Colfax road turned north at the Fisher farm for several hundred yards to avoid the low land along the creek. The new school site was just east of where this road intersected with the Chase Road. An acre or two was deeded to the District by John and Dolly Catherine Fisher on payment of \$50.00. The School Directors were Andrew J. Chase, A.J. Evens and W.V. Ewing. Ben Palmer, the last operator of the Chase mill turned in the lowest bid and was awarded the construction job. This time the schoolhouse was built with planed lumber and it was painted.

An entrance hall was added at the front where pupils hung their wraps, and where a bucket of drinking water was kept on a bench, with a dipper hanging on the side for all to use. Daily, two boys were chosen to fill the pail with fresh water at the Fisher wall. A large wood burning stove sat at the back in one corner of the schoolroom to supply the heat.

At the far corner of the schoolyard, a small shelter was built for the few horses the children rode to school. In the corner back of the schoolhouse stood the outhouse, a small building with two rooms. There was ample room for playgrounds. The most popular game was baseball. While I attended, there was never enough boys for two teams so "work-up" was played. Games were played before school, at both recesses and at noon. During my five years in the school, girls never joined in any games. They stayed indoors, with the teacher (when she was a woman) at all times where nice young ladies should be.

The average attendance was around twenty for those early years, but the school was equipped to seat 44. About the year 1904 the enrollment began to increase and in several years it reached the peak of 45. A chair was placed at the rear of one row of seats where there was a desk but no seat, to accommodate the 45th student. After that, enrollment dropped when many families began leaving the area. The new irrigation districts drew many of them, and the new Potlatch mill and logging jobs offered a better living than they were making on the 80 or 160 acre farms. Many of the smaller farms were being absorbed by their larger neighbors.

Mrs. Lange writes that in 1900 the four months term was extended to six months. It is not known when it was lengthened to eight months. The years I attended, school began the last week of September and ended about the middle of April.

Jim, Clark and Ike Luce have been mentioned as being early teachers at the Eden Valley school. The school operated for nearly fifty years and there must have been almost as many teachers employed, as one year seemed to be as long as any of them cared to stay. In 1899, the year I started to school when five years old, the teacher was Walter Callison, a local boy, followed the next year by Mrs. Annie Besse. Other teachers mentioned, but not the year they taught, were Della Chase, a local girl who later married a Mr. Messick, Whitman County Surveyor; C.A. Savage, and George Martin, who married a daughter of "Cash-up Davis." They made their home in Elberton.

When I returned to school to enroll in the fourth grade in 1904, the teacher was Hattie Colburn.

The next year the teacher for the first half of the year was a Miss Kenoyer, who had only a permit to teach. She was replaced by a new arrival, Miss Aiken from Pennsylvania, who later taught in the Pullman schools many years. She was followed by J.G. McCune, a married man with two small children who lived on the Callison place. He was a very fine teacher and I became very attached to him, but he stayed only the one year, and I never heard of him again. He was followed by Lulu Brown who left after one year. My eighth grade teacher, I was the only one to graduate that year, was Mae Wiley, a member of a local family. She was an excellent teacher. She later married Hugh Coleman and she, with her husband, had long teaching careers.

Families living north of the school, who had children that attended when I did were: Four in the Elliott family who lived at Chase's Crossing, Boggs, Evans and McManamans. A nephew of the latter family lived with them. His last name was Lacey. Other names were Hopkins, Beals, Swanson (no relation to Nels), W.A. Wiley, who had moved from the Callison farm, Burgess and Lange who still live there. Back off the road, N.E. of the school was a farm where Oscar Mitchell lived. He later owned the Blakhawk Livery Stable in Palouse.

There apparently were several Chase families involved in the early history of the Eden Valley area. Andrew J. Chase is listed as a member of the school board who built the new school, and it was his daughter, Della, who taught there. It is claimed that Andrew J. Chase was the one who built the sawmill and grist mill, while a Whitman County History gives the builder a

Charles Chase. Mrs. Andrew J. Chase was a sister of John Hughes, who will be remembered as the man who operated the dray line in Palouse for many years. He was the father of Mrs. Pearl Lueck. She says the Chases built the Lange house originally, reared a large family, and that both of them lived there the rest of their lives. Della, the school teacher, was their eldest daughter.

At least once a year an entertainment was held some evening during the winter. I remember one of them very well. Every student took part in it. There was a low platform about six inches higher than the main floor where the teacher's desk was. A curtain was hung across the room so that the participants could get ready for their appearance. I had memorized a poem, and I was scared stiff when the curtain was pulled aside and I had to stand up before all of that crowd, but I got through it somehow. Many of the elders took part also with their musical instruments, and singing. There was no organ or piano at the school. Henry Hunt set up his phonograph with its huge horn and played records all evening.

All of the women brought baskets of food, and after the program the curtain was closed and a fishing pole was supplied. At a cost of 50 cents each male could drop his line over the curtain and a basket would be hooked on it. The basket I drew was so heavy I had a hard time getting it over the curtain. It belonged to a woman I did not know. I was terribly embarrassed, but she was very nice and she found seats for us. I forgot my embarrassment when she removed the napkins and revealed all of the goodies in it. I believe the money collected was used to buy library books. □

Boyer Park

By June Critchfield

Boyer Park, Boyart Siding, McKenzie's or Hunt's Bar—whatever you call it, the location of the place is the same. On the Snake River a short distance upriver from Almota. Owned in the early years by Thomas and Johnnie Hunt, who planted the orchards there it first became known as Hunt's Bar. The brothers took many prizes with their displays of fruits exhibited at fairs in Colfax, Spokane and Walla Walla.

In 1928, the Hunt Brothers sold out to Arthur E. Boyer and Ray McKenzie. Mrs. McKenzie was a sister to the Hunt Brothers.



—Photo Courtesy Mrs. Jack Pence

Bridgette and Arthur Boyer, 1945

Arthur E. Boyer was the son of Charles S. Boyer. His grandfather was John F. Boyer who married Sarah Baker, a sister of Dr. D. S. Baker of the Rawhide Railroad fame.

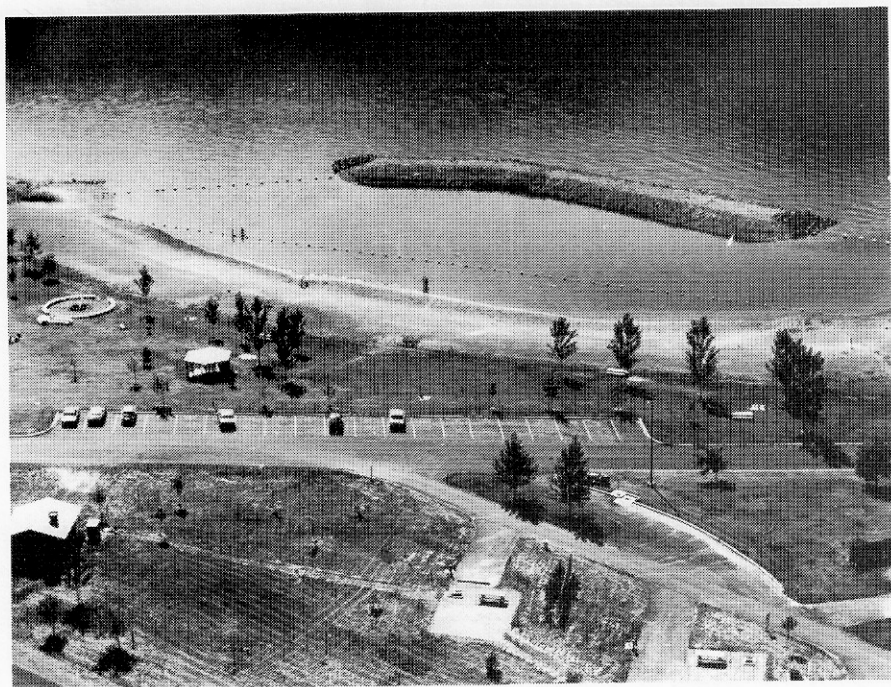
Dr. Baker had been in business at Walla Walla for some time. In 1862, he took John F. Boyer of Sonora, California, in as a partner in his commercial trade business. The combine of the Baker and Boyer families eventually brought about the establishment of the Baker-Boyer Banks. A Baker-Boyer Bank is still doing business in Walla Walla today.

Footnote: I am especially indebted to Ruth Boyer Stribe of Gainesville, Fla., to Imogen Boyer Pence of Boise, Idaho, to Matt Johnson of Clarkston, WA and to Michael Taylor, Administrative Officer of Granite-Little Goose projects of the Army Corps of Engineers at Lower Granite dam, and to Stanley K. Vanairsdale, Resources Manager, at Lewiston for the Army Corps of Engineers, for information and photos. also, thanks to Jim Wolcott and Orel Dugger of the Corps.



—Photo Courtesy of Army Corp of Engineers

Boyer Marina on the Snake River above Almota



—Photo Courtesy of Army Corp of Engineers

Boyer Park

Purchase of the Hunt Bros., property was not the first Snake River venture for Arthur E. Boyer. He had managed a ranch at Truax in Garfield county from 1914 to 1924. It was owned by various members of the Boyer family. The Truax property was about ten miles upriver from Hunt's Bar. After the tragic drowning of their little son Edgar at Truax in 1922, the family felt compelled to move away from the river. They moved to California in 1924, where Mr. Boyer worked in the prune orchards around San Jose for two years. After that, they moved to Yakima where he was an apple inspector for the state.

After Boyer and McKenzie bought the Hunt property in 1928, Mr. McKenzie operated the place, while Mr. Boyer went to Wawawai as assistant manager to Don Hunter, the manager for the Riverside Orchard Co. of California, which had just bought several large fruit orchards on the river from White Bros. & Cram, a Lewis-ton concern.

When the depression hit in 1930 and things tightened up everywhere, the Boyer family moved back to the Truax ranch as the owners could not meet the mortgage payments. Mrs. Boyer crossed the river every morning to teach school at Bishop one year. Her five students were her own two girls, Imogen and Ruth, Edith and Luella King and Kenneth Batty.

In 1933, Art Boyer bought out Ray McKenzie's interest in the Hunt's Bar property. Mr. McKenzie wanted to move to Almota where he was in charge of the grain elevator operation. The Boyer family moved to Hunt's Bar then, and here Art, his wife, Bridgitte, and their daughters Imogen, Ruth and Dorothy made their home for several years.

It was during the time the Boyer family lived there that the railroad siding was installed to accomodate the fruit grown in that area. This siding was named Boyart for Art Boyer. Having developed an extensive ripe fruit trade with the wheat ranchers above Almota who wanted perfect tree-ripened fruit for canning, the siding was in constant use during harvest season. The ranchers would order ahead of time and the day their order was ready he would phone them. The fruit was then shipped by rail to Almota where the ranchers picked it up the next morning. This way the fruit did not have to be packed. At this time they did not have a road between Almota and Boyart.

In 1946, Mr. Boyer sold the ranch and moved to Seattle, where he managed the Calhoun Hotel, which was owned by the Boyer family. But he had been involved in fruit farming on the Snake River for 30 years.

Mr. Boyer died in 1962, while on a vacation trip to Vancouver, B. C. Mrs. Boyer died in 1971 at Palm Springs, California where they had made their home after retirement.

Today, forty acres of Hunt's Bar near the old Boyart Siding is the site of Boyer Park and Marina, built by the Army Corps of Engineers and enjoyed by residents of both Whitman and Garfield counties as well as campers and boaters from far outside the immediate area. It has been well named. □

Heaviest Snow in Twenty-seven Years—Big Flood Follows

Alvin Torry, who has kept tab on the precipitation in the Palouse country for many years, informs **The Republic** that the snowfall during the months of December, January and February was six feet and three inches, the greatest, Mr. Torry says, in 27 years that he has lived here.—**Palouse Republic**, March 11, 1910.

Data Abstracted From The 1880 Federal Census For The County of Whitman of the U.S. Washington Territory

by
Donn L. Cochran
1978

Prominent Citizens enumerated as residing in the City of Colfax of The Washington Territory:

Note: In the main text, columns A B and C, indicate the following:

- A The place of birth of the **individual** listed.
- B The place of birth of the **father** of the individual listed.
- C The place of birth of the **mother** of the individual listed.

	Age		A	B	C
Ewart, James	44	Hotelkeeper	Scotland	Scotland	Scotland
Janet P.	48	(wife)	Scotland	Scotland	Scotland
Frankie	20				
Nettie	17				
Ada	13				
James H.	9				
Edward	7				
Eva	4				
Perkins, James A.	37	Legislator	Illinois	Kentucky	Kentucky
Jennie	25	(wife)	Illinois	Scotland	Scotland
Minnie	6	(daughter)	Washington	Territory	
Myrtle	4	(daughter)	Washington	Territory	
Stella	4 mo.	(daughter)	Washington	Territory	
Ewart, Robert	23	Gen. Mdes.Store	Illinois	Scotland	Scotland
Mary L.	19	(wife)	Oregon	Ohio	
Charles	1		Wash. T.	Illinois	Oregon
Eells, Cushing	70	Preacher	Mass.	Conn.	Conn.
Porter, Charles D.	40	Justice of Peace	Maryland	Maryland	New York
Libbie	28	(wife)	Penn.	Penn.	Penn.
Oysten, William	28	Policeman	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
Bellenger, Jacob H.	39	Agent for Sale of Machinery	New York	New York	New York
Hanna H.	39	(wife)	New York	New York	New York
William H.	12	(son)	New York	New York	New York
Blanche	10	(daughter)	New York	New York	New York
Clarence J.	7	(son)	New York	New York	New York
Elinor E.	4	(daughter)	New York	New York	New York

Wolfand, Oliver L.	28	Surveyor	Ohio	France	Ohio
Renshaw, Baxter	33	Postmaster	Missouri	France	England
Addie	25	(wife)	Oregon	France	England
Dewalt	6 mo.		Wash. T.	Missouri	Oregon
Kennedy, Thomas	33	Co. Treasurer	Missouri	Kentucky	Kentucky
Truax, Richard A.	42	Sheriff	New York	New York	Ireland
Sarah A.	36	(wife)	Michigan	New York	New York
Clara A.	13	(daughter)	Minnesota	New York	New York
Bertha E.	4	(daughter)	Idaho	New York	New York
O'Dell, James V.	45	Lawyer	Kentucky	Virginia	Kentucky
Clarissa M.	41	(wife)	Missouri	Kentucky	Missouri
Nora T.	19	(daughter)	Missouri	Kentucky	Missouri
Boone, William W.	52	Lawyer	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana
Sarah V.	25	(wife)	Missouri	Tennessee	Tennessee
Sarah A.	20	(daughter)	Oregon	Indiana	Missouri
Charence D.	2		Wash. T.	Indiana	Missouri
William W. (Jr.)	1		Wash. T.	Indiana	Missouri
Turner, William S.	53	Preacher	Penn.	Penn.	Penn.
Susan E.	59	(wife)	Mass.	Mass.	Mass.
Annie C.	15	(daughter)	California	Penn.	Mass.
Ruth A.	13	(daughter)	California	Penn.	Mass.
Miller, George A.	42	Dentist	New York	New York	New York
Mary A.	33	(wife)	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Dolittle, Irwin B.	25	Druggist	Illinois	Ohio	Ohio
Ida	22	(wife)	Nebraska	Ohio	Ohio
Harold J.	3	(son)	Nebraska	Illinois	Nebraska
Fred	2	(son)	Wash. T.	Illinois	Nebraska
Hopkins, Charles B.	24	Printer/publisher	Oregon	New York	New York
McCormick, Ed.	31	City Marshall	Illinois	Scotland	Scotland
Elvira	21	(wife)	Wisconsin	New York	Scotland
Beach, Edward W.	40	Hotelkeeper	Illinois	Vermont	Vermont
Rebecca	36	(wife)	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
Harvey	23		Oregon		
Woodward, Samuel D.	32	Probate Judge	Maine	Maine	Maine
Henrietta	27	(wife)	California	Ohio	Ohio
Oscar E.	5	(son)	Wash. T.	Maine.	Calif.
Harold	2 mo.	(son)	Wash. T.	Maine	Calif.

This concludes the section on . . . Some Prominent Citizens Enumerated on the 1880 U.S. Census for the Washington Territory (City of Colfax).

Some Additional Data Pertaining to the City of Colfax and the Washington Territory:

1. Population for the City of Colfax: **444**
2. Oldest Female Residing in the City of Colfax:
Nancy Parkhurst, age 65, born in New York.
3. Oldest Male Residing in the City of Colfax:
Rev. Cushing Eells, age 70, born in Massachusetts.
4. Oldest Female Residing in Whitman **County**:
Magna Jacobs, age 75, born in Pennsylvania.
5. Oldest Male Residing in Whitman **County**:
Elijah Harris, age 80, born in Virginia. (residing in the Farmington District)

Total Population of **Whitman County**: **7,930** (This figure includes 500 Chinese born Orientals residing in the County and employed as laborers for the railroad).

1. A total of **87** individuals are shown residing in the Penawawa area of the County.
2. A total of **321** individuals are shown residing in "Texas City" . . . an area in the County.
3. A total of **2,222** individuals are enumerated under District Number 1.
4. A total of 2,105 individuals are enumerated under District Number 2 . . . the Farmington District.

Most Frequently Named **States** Given as Places of Birth By Male and Female Adults Residing in the **City of Colfax**.

State Named	Males (Frequency)	Females (Frequency)
Ohio	22	8
New York	19	5
Oregon	14	21
Illinois	13	8
Iowa	9	3
Missouri	9	9

Most Frequently Named **Counties** Given as Place of Birth By Male and Female Adults Residing in the **City of Colfax**.

Country Named	Males (Frequency)	Females (Frequency)
Germany	11	2
China	11	--
England	4	--
Sweden	3	2
Poland	3	--
Ireland	3	1
France	3	--

The birth statistics presented above for the City of Colfax is representative of the entire County. This is particularly true when the data for the larger number of white and oriental railroad workers residing in the county is excluded. The three most frequent countries named by this group are: China, Ireland and Germany.

FOOTNOTE: Source: Microfilm: U.S. 1880 Census Whitman County, Washington Territory, Federal Archives and Records Center, Laguna Niguel, California.