

The IDAHO magazine

May 2002

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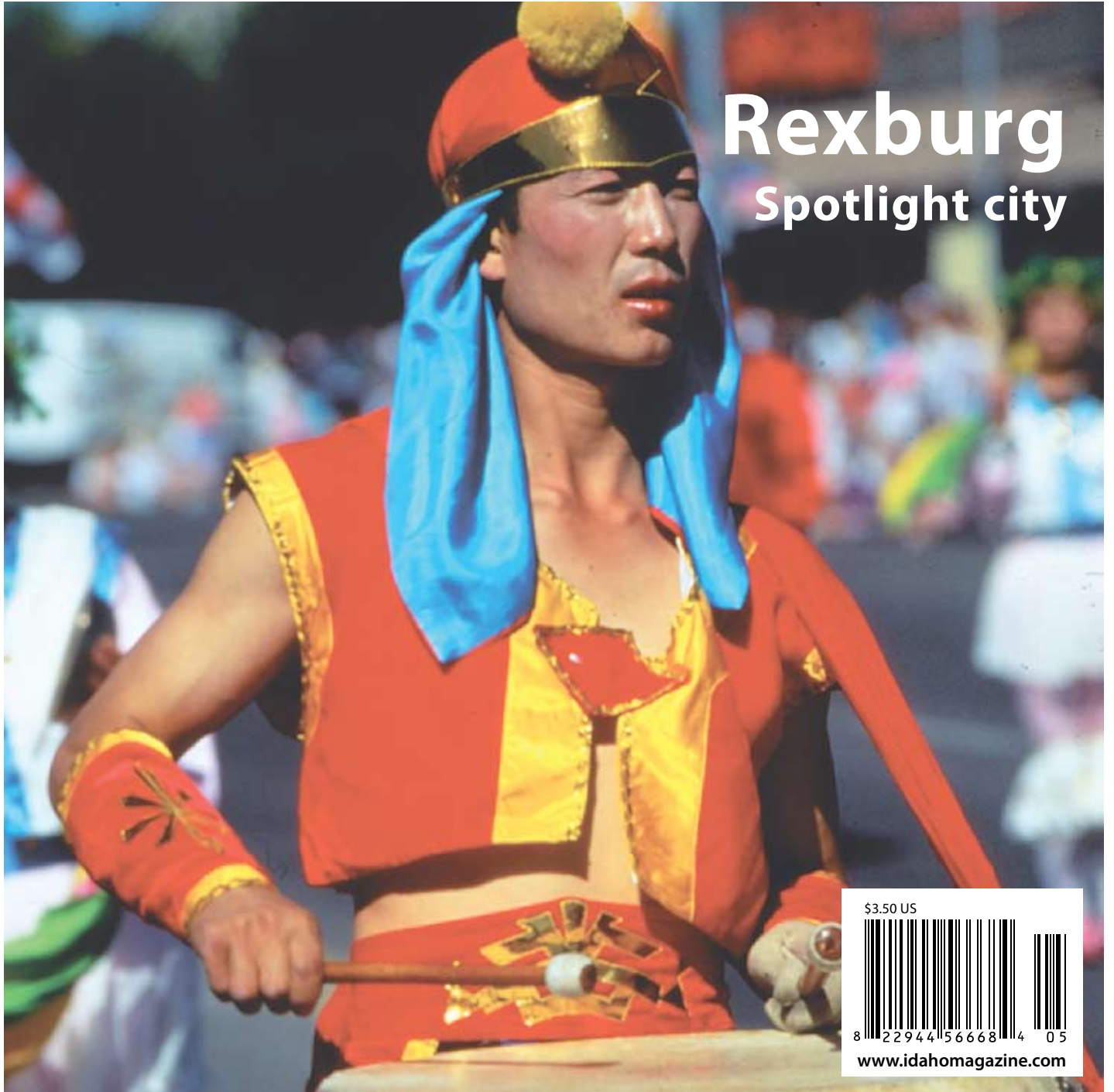
IDAHO

magazine

MAY 2002

Rexburg

Spotlight city



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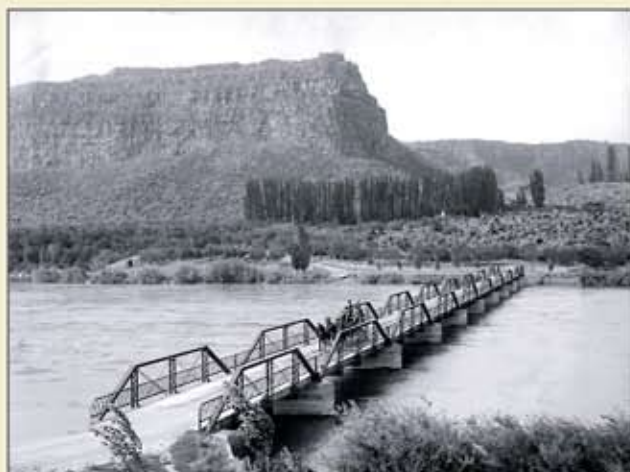
“Cara” Series: Past and Present

1999-2000, Multiple Canvases; 43” x 17”

My research into the ancient indigenous cultures of Mesoamerica has allowed me to recognize facial similarities between the contemporary Mexican American students I work with and the indigenous peoples of Mesoamerica. Each student was selected because their facial features resembled those of an ancient indigenous portrait.

Alma Gomez

B e c o m e a p a r t o f I d a h o ' s l a n d s c a p e



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A Visit to Another Time 17

The Warhawk Air Museum in Nampa offers visitors a look at life in the forties.

By Eric Miner

Rexburg—Spotlight City 24

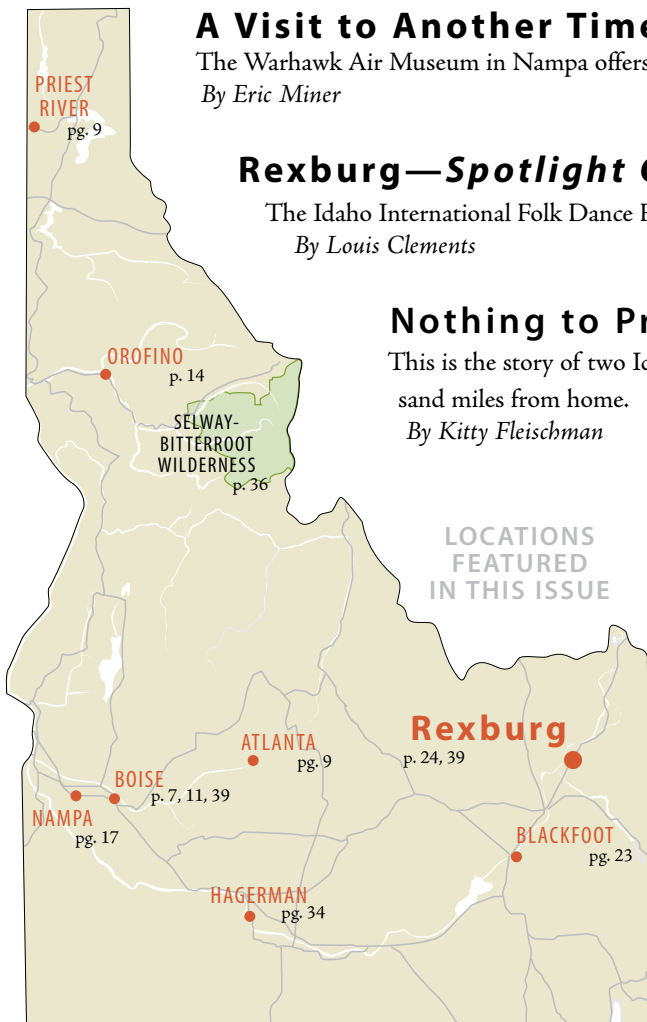
The Idaho International Folk Dance Festival is just one good reason to visit Rexburg.

By Louis Clements

Nothing to Prove 39

This is the story of two Idahoans whose lives briefly intersected nearly forty years ago, twelve thousand miles from home.

By Kitty Fleischman



With warmer weather just around the corner, and traveling season within sight, this month's *IDAHO magazine* showcases several *must see* venues for the summer. Starting in Rexburg, our Spotlight City, you won't want to miss the Idaho International Folk Dance Festival, and the Warhawk Air Museum in Nampa offers a look back at the lifestyle and technology of the forties.

If you're looking for something closer to home check out our new *IDAHO magazine* events calendar for May and June.

With the return of warmer weather some of our feathered friends will be winging their ways to summer destinations. These *neotropical migrants* fly in for the summer to nest and raise their young, then it's back to the tropics when the cold weather sets in.

All that, and many more interesting aspects of Idaho.



Idaho Artists 7

Idaho painter Brent Melander captures nature's beauty by going to the mountains.

Heritage Trust 9

The Charbonneau Hotel and the Atlanta Cemetery are being restored carefully and methodically.

Animal Kingdom 11

Neotropical migrations bring many colorful songbirds, and more avian visitors, back to Idaho from as far south as Colombia.

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Entrepreneurs of the future get a head start thanks to the Orofino Kiwanis.

One Spud Short 23

Skiing adventures through the briar and the bramble.

Rock and a Hard Place 34

After lying buried for a few million years the resurrection of the Hagerman Horse seemed like a good reason to party.

Northern Exposure 36

Gene Alford wanted a place in the Boone and Crockett record book—he got a few of them.

Free Range Verse — *Streets of Laredo* 45

This variation of the Irish ballad *A Handful of Laurel* follows a similar story—aka *The Cowboy's Lament*.

Trivia 48

This month's questions and last month's answers.

Cover Photo:

Idaho International Folk Dance Festival participant.
Photo courtesy Rexburg Chamber of Commerce

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Calendar of Events

Bear Lake - Convention & Visitor Center

(800) 448-BEAR

June 8 Idaho Free Fishing Day

Boise - Chamber (208) 472-5200

May 3-19 Annual National Paddling Film Festival
7pm @Esther Simplot Performing Arts

Bonnors Ferry - Chamber (208)267-5922

May 1 Opening of Boundary County Museum.
For info (208) 267-7720

4 Opening of Farmer's Market
27 Memorial Day Veterans Parade &
Ceremony. For info (208) 267-3358

June 8 Lion's Club Fishing Clinic. For info
(208) 267-5571

21,22 Kootenai River Days. For info
(208) 267-5922

Burley - Mini-Cassia Chamber (208) 679-4793

May 17 Idaho Youth Ranch Benefit Golf
Tournament @ Burley Municipal Golf
Course. call (208) 322-6664

17,18 Burley Area Merchants Association Spring
Festival

Cavendish

May 3-5 Palouse Practical Shooters Boomer Shoot

Coeur d'Alene - Chamber (208) 664-3194

May 4 "Springtime Jazz" with the NIC Jazz
Ensemble @ 7:30 p.m. Free admission

10 Night of the Stars. Silverwood "Stars"

18 Garage Sale and Chili Cook off by
American Cancer Society
call (208) 667-9749

18,19 Coin and Antique Show call 208-664-9771

26 Coeur d'Alene Marathon, North Idaho
College call (208) 665-9393

Every Sunday in June

Coeur d'Alene Summer Concert Series
1:00-4:00 thru Labor Day

Every Thursday in June

Coeur d'Alene Summer Concert Series 6-9
p.m., thru Labor Day @ Sherman
Square Park

June 14,15 The Car d'Alene Classic Car Show,
Downtown Coeur d'Alene
call (208) 667-4040

15,16 Rock Show-North Idaho Gem and Mineral
Club (208) 773-2357

29 Health and Wellness Fair call 208-666-6847

Donnelly

May 11 Firemen's BBQ

Fish Haven

June 15 Bear Lake West Hospital Golf Tournament,
Fish Haven Idaho (208) 945-2744

Fruitland - Chamber (208) 452-4350

May 11 Spring Fair and Parade call 452-4350

June 22 Annual Golf Tournament at Scotch Pines
Golf Course in Payette call 452-4350

Garden Valley

June 1 Long Valley Museum opens

Hagerman - Chamber (208) 837-9131

May 24,25 Hagerman Fossil Days
25 Parade @ 11:00

The Old Time Fiddlers play at the
senior center

Jerome - Chamber (208) 324-2711

May 10,11 5th Annual Idaho Open Fiddle Contest
@ Jerome High School

10,11 1st Annual Jerome Heritage Festival
Downtown Jerome

June 8 Annual Jerome County Historical Society
Live History Day at the I.F.A.R.M.
(208) 324-2711

Kellogg - Chamber (208) 784-0821

May 11-18 Elks Roundup

June 2 Staff House Museum-Pie Social

Lewiston - Chamber (208) 743-3531

May 5-9 Artrain USA! Lewis-Clark Center for Arts
and History (208)799-2243

17-31 Fly Fishing - Arts from 8 th grade
perspectives (208) 799-2243

23 NAIA World Series Banquet @ Lewiston
Elks Lodge (208) 743-3531

24 -31 NAIA World Series (208) 799-2471

25 Bleacher Bums Readers Theater
(208) 799-2243

26-27 Eastern Washington Jr. Rodeo
(208) 746-6324

June 4-9 North Idaho Senior Games by Area
Agency on Aging (208) 743-5580

6 Old Fashioned Football (208) 746-6324

20-22 LCSC Lewis Clark Symposium on Corps of
Discovery and Nez Perce Tribe. @ Lewis-

Calendar of Events

Clark State College (208)797-2282
or 800-879-0458
20-22 Lewis & Clark Discovery Faire
(208) 743-3531 or (800) 473-3543

Kooskia

19,20 Kooskia National Fish Hatchery, Kids Free
8:30-3:00 call 476-4591

Meridian - Chamber (208) 888-2817

June 8-9 City Amateur Golf Tournament Cherry
Lane Golf Course, 888-4080
8 Paint the Town Saturday, Kiwanis
International, Contact 887-1020
20 Meridian Chamber Pancake Feed
Thursday, 5-7 pm, Dairy Barn
call (209) 888-2817

Mini-Cassia Area - Chamber (208) 679-4793

June 1, 2 Mini Cassia Car Show @ Cassia County
Fairgrounds. call (208) 678-9150

Montpelier - Chamber (208) 847-0722

June 15 Third Annual Montpelier Sidewalk Sale,
Flea Market up and down 4th Street and
Washington Street (208)847-0067

Moscow - Chamber (208) 882-1800

May 8 19th Annual National Paddling Film
Festival @ Kenworthy Theater, 7pm doors,
show at 8PM
26-9/6 Memories of the Palouse and Prairie

Oakley - Mini-Cassia Chamber (208) 679-4793

June 15 Historic Oakley Home Tour
call (208) 862-3313

Orofino - Chamber (208) 476-4335

June 16 Dworshak/Orofino Hatchery, Kids Free
Fishing Day call (208)467-4591

Osburn - Chamber (208) 753-7151

May 9 VFW Loyalty Day Parade
call (208) 753-7151

Pocatello - Chamber (208) 233-1525

May 11 19th Annual National Paddling Film
Festival - 7pm @ ISU Pond Student Union
Building Theater call (208) 282-0211
31,6/1,2 Portneuf Rendezvous - Return to the Past.
Points for period dress!
call (208) 237-4475

Priest Lake - Chamber (208) 443-3191

May 25-27 Spring Festival

Roseberry

June 7,8,9 Payette Cub Regatta sailing event
Payette Lake

Rupert - Mini-Cassia Chamber (208) 679-4793

June 20 Trout & Potato Feed @ Rupert Square
5:30-8pm call (208) 436-0221
or (208) 434-2424

Salmon River Valley - info (208) 628-3320

May 7 George Winston, Grammy Award-winning
pianist - SAC
18 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Elk
Camp & Banquet
25,26 Fun Fly, radio flyers - Salmon RC Flyers
June 1,2 Salmon Motorcross Races
6 Cattlemen's Appreciation Dinner,
6pm Fairgrounds
14 Concert/Dance - Big Sky Mudflaps - SAC

Soda Springs - Chamber (208) 547-4964

June 5 Pizza's Run Car Show and Art in the Park
@ City Park

Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber (208) 774-3411

June 15 HP Women's Challenge (Bike Race)
22 Sawtooth Relay (Running Race
Stanley to Ketchum)

Sandpoint - Chamber (208) 263-2161

May-September Summer Sounds, Every Saturday

May 3 What About US? Big Boy Ballet Company-
Male comedy review with Dance of the
Sugar Plum Fairies. 8:00 (208) 263-9191.
18 Idaho State Chili Cook-off- at the Old
Powerhouse call (208) 263-0329.
31 Art Lecture-Dinner Series III -art lecture in
Hope at 6:00 p.m. (208) 264-5481.
June 8,9 Timberfest- at the Bonner County
Fairgrounds, call (208) 263-5520.
5 5th Annual Plan Center Golf tournament-
@ the Elks Golf (208) 263-0887.

Wallace - Chamber (208)753-7151

May 10 Five Grand Give-A-Way Reverse Drawing
11 Depot Day Festival and Antique Car Show
June 1 Opening Day Route of the Hiawatha
Bike Trail
13-15 Gyro Derby Days Celebration



Idaho News

Statewide Events

Idaho Archeology and Historic Preservation Month: All of Idaho is the stage in May as the Historic Preservation Society presents *Preserving the Spirit of Place*. Events are stretched across the state from Ashton to Emmett and Idaho Falls to Post Falls. Archeology and historic preservation is the theme of seminars and presentations that will help people learn about Idaho's past. All events are free and open to the public. For more information contact the Idaho State Historical Society at (208) 334-3847.

Idaho Farmer's Markets, May-October: This year there are 21 farmer's markets located throughout Idaho. Offerings vary at the different locations, but many market vendors feature organic produce, gourmet foods, and arts and country crafts. Many small acreage farmers make their livelihood growing, producing, and selling fruits, vegetables, herbs, honey and farm fresh eggs. Consumers meet face-to-face with these growers and learn more about the producers and growing process that brings these foods to their table. Admission: Free. Contact: Idaho Department of Agriculture, (208) 332-8500

Do you have a special event in your town in June or July? Drop us a note with the vital information and we'll make sure friends and neighbors across the street and across the state know about it.

Write: IDAHO magazine
Calendar of Events
4301 W. Franklin Road
Boise, ID 83705
fax (208) 336.3098
e-mail: ahottinger@idahomagazine.net

Local Gatherings

CALDWELL

Fourth Annual *Mariachi Festival*, May 1 - May 30. A recital of mariachi music students from throughout the Treasure Valley, will be held at Albertson College of Idaho - Jewett Auditorium. The festival also includes traditional folk dances. Contact: Hispanic Cultural Center
(208) 442-0823 or (208) 466-4677

COTTONWOOD

Victorian Tea at St. Gertrude, May 11. Celebrate Mother's Day at a Victorian tea party at St. Gertrude's near Cottonwood. Events include tours of the chapel, a Victorian fashion show and period music. Admission: \$15. Contact: Historical Museum at St. Gertrude 83522-9408, (208) 962-7123 (208) 962-8647

HORSESHOE BEND

Horseshoe Bend Area Chamber of Commerce First Annual Banjo Festival, May 25-27.

May 25th - 26th Chamber of Commerce Official Kick Off Breakfast in the city park @ 10:00 am. Banjo Contest starts May 25 @ 1:00 to 5:00 pm in the Community Hall.

Sunday afternoon the Boise Banjo Band @ 2:00pm. For entry information Contact: Horseshoe Bend Chamber of Commerce (208) 793-3229

LEWISTON

NAIA College Baseball World Series, May 24-31. Ten teams compete in a double elimination baseball tournament held at Lewis-Clark State College. Contact: NAIA World Series, (208) 792-2471

ROGERSON

Idaho Walleyes Unlimited, May 18-19 Walleye catch and release fishing tournament with raffle and barbeque. Anglers compete for up to \$8,000 in prizes. Contact: South Central Idaho Tourism & Recreation @ (208) 732-5569 or (208) 732-5454

SUN VALLEY

An Evening with Deepak Chopra is the main event Sunday May 26, at the Sun Valley Mountain Wellness Festival.

Acknowledged as one of the world's greatest leaders in the field of mind body medicine, he will speak about his newest book, *The Deeper Wound: Recovering the Soul from Fear and Suffering*.

Other speakers include National Public Radio call-in doctor Zorba Paster.

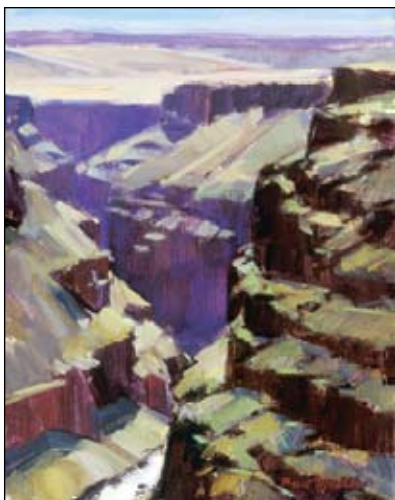
WALLACE

Northern Pacific Depot Day, May 11. This old-time Wild West party features a festival with food vendors, a car show, music, a craft fair and free museum tours.

Admission: Free. Raffle tickets sold for prize of 100 ounces of pure silver, dinner for 8 @ The Depot, and a gift certificate @ Idaho Silver Shop. Contact: Northern Pacific Depot@ (208) 753-6141.

Earthly Engagement

by Brent Melander



The Bruneau, 14 x 11

At Initial Point, the location of Idaho's original survey mark, I set up my easel to paint the Owyhee Mountains. Snow capped and backlit, the peaks glow pale lavenders into a cool lemon-blue sky and the high desert below begins to turn emerald green under the warmth of early spring. Favored for their remote

reaches, magnificent canyons, and exceptional quality of light, the Owyhees are a painter's vision.

My interest in Idaho history, and passion for art, have led me to investigate the land in a profound way—to paint oil landscapes *en plein air*. My paintings are analogous to a journal; they record my personal impressions while I explore Southern Idaho's natural wonders. The experience of working in nature is one of the essential reasons why I paint. Nature, where the landscape blends with the movements of atmosphere and light, offers the ultimate classroom and it's available to everyone.

As I prepare my easel I know the sunlight will remain constant for about two hours before the scene begins to change dramatically. So first I concentrate on sketching a simple and interesting layout with a brush.

Next, using transparent colors, I block in the larger shapes to unify the overall composition. The goal is to end up with a believable impression, but never an exact copy of the scene.

I simplify details to strengthen

forms, choosing the essentials quickly, building up from dark to light and thin to thick, yet holding back the final highlights until called for. It is the artist's hope to translate nature's suggestion and make it his interpretation.

I paint in a direct way, putting the right color in the right place and the confidence shows in the strokes. Too much mixing takes the life out of paint; I get the vibration of half-mixed colors by loading the brush with mixture combinations.

Light is color, harmonious, and luminous. The color rays of light vibrate across each other in the atmosphere, introducing both warm and cool versions of color onto everything. I try to be sensitive to the slightest variation of tone for the expression of light is the desired result.

Painting in the open air can be a very peaceful way to spend time—enjoying the solitude and nature's sounds on a perfect day. The excitement of discovering new territory is always compelling as well, taking me around the next bend in the road to



Owyhee Autumn, 20 x 24



Little Buckaroo Canyon, 8 x 10

find a painting. Sometimes I am lucky enough to encounter amazing wildlife, or visit with curious folks that have never encountered an outdoor painter.

But it's not always so easy—year-round the painter's patience is tested with various occupational hazards, like too much wind, rain, or snow. Extreme heat and cold can only mean trouble, as do all those little things like stickers, bugs, and snakes.

Did I mention choking road dust, mud or impassable roads and how about the hundred miles or more just to get

there? Gaining access to the elusive *masterpiece spot* can sometimes seem like an impossible dream. Then there is the challenging hike with all the equipment, the need to gain permission before entering private land and the issues with barbed wire that always adds to the challenge. But really it's part of the fun to just be in these places. The historical significance of painting the Idaho landscape today is what it's all about, to honor the raw beauty of this land, as it naturally exists.

Artist Brent Melander lives in Boise.



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Priest River and Atlanta Restore Resting Sites

by Heritage Trust and IM staff
Photography by Erich Korte

Hotel Charbonneau

The discovery of gold in British Columbia in the 1860s sent thou-

sands of miners traveling through northern Idaho. Some remained in the Pend Oreille region and established many of the small communities that still exist today including Priest River.

By the 1890s mineral explora-

tion had expanded to the Priest Lake area, although none of the mines produced significant returns.

Charles and Dora Charbonneau built Priest River's *Hotel Charbonneau* in 1912, adding on to it in 1920. The hotel, built close to the railroad depot, was the only commercial hotel when Priest River was a booming logging town and full of boarding houses.

Traveling salesmen and professional people, many of them from Spokane, came to town on the train and stayed at the hotel.

In the early 1920s silent screen actress and filmmaker Nell Shipman stayed at the hotel when she was passing through town on her way to and from her movie studio on Priest Lake. One of the remaining features of the grand old queen of the river is the 1950s lounge.

The Heritage Trust has been helping *Priest River Revitalization* restore this beauty as a local community center.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF IDAHO HERITAGE TRUST



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF IDAHO HERITAGE TRUST

Atlanta Cemetery

This mining town in northern Elmore County lies on the Middle Fork of the Boise River. Gold was discovered in the area in 1864 bringing a rush of miners to the region and it was settled by southern sympathizers after the Civil War. The name stems from the Battle of Atlanta, won by Union General William T. Sherman, that coincided with the discovery of gold here.

More than one hundred graves have been documented on the small rise southeast of town. The first grave is dated 1870 and the most recent is 1985, but the dates of the individual graves reflect the heaviest years of mining activity in the district; 1875-1885, 1902-1912 and 1931-1953.

Many graves are enclosed in a wooden picket fence, each with a unique design. The restoration of these fascinating fences and markers is funded by the Heritage Trust. It's a long and difficult process because much of the original material is on the ground. Workers are disassembling and cleaning the remaining pieces and milling replacements when necessary to finish the restoration.



Winging Their Way Home

by Greg Kaltenecker



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF IBO

Adult Cooper's hawk.

Idaho's summertime avian residents will continue their annual cycle of returning to the state in spring.

Where have they been? Many of the bird species common in Idaho during summertime are considered *neotropical migrants*, which means that they breed at northern latitudes in the U.S. and Canada, but spend the winter in southern Mexico or even farther south. Warmer temperatures and ample food make the long migration worthwhile for the birds.

Neotropics refers to their wintering grounds: the tropics of the New World. These birds are only in Idaho for a short time. Arriving in April or early May, they hurry to attract mates, build nests, lay eggs, and to hatch and raise their young. They begin to prepare for fall migration in late July, and by mid-August, they are on the move south again.

Most of Idaho's *neotropical migrants* winter in western Mexico, from the state of Sinaloa southward. The western tanager, a brilliant yellow songbird with an orange head, common in Idaho's forests during the summer, fits the typical pattern. Some species, though, like the distinctive yellow warbler, winter as far south as Colombia.

Look for distinctive birds like the Bullock's oriole, which breeds near streams or lakes and weaves an intricate hanging nest. The lazuli bunting, a brilliant blue songbird, is one of the most common breeding birds in southwest Idaho at lower elevations. This bird has an interesting *buzzing* song that's hard to miss.

Songbirds are not the only *neotropical migrants*. Swainson's hawks,

seen throughout Idaho in May and June, spend the winter months eating grasshoppers in Argentina. In addition to Swainson's hawks, other common migratory raptors include turkey vultures, osprey, Cooper's hawks, and sharp-shinned hawks. Many water birds, like double-crested cormorants, terns, black-crowned night herons, and grebes all may winter south of the border.

Watch your feeders closely this spring, and when you head out for a hike take your binoculars and look for Idaho's *neotropical migrants*. But hurry, because in a few short months, they will be gone again, winging their way to warmer climes.

Greg Kaltenecker is the director of the Boise State University Idaho Bird Observatory.



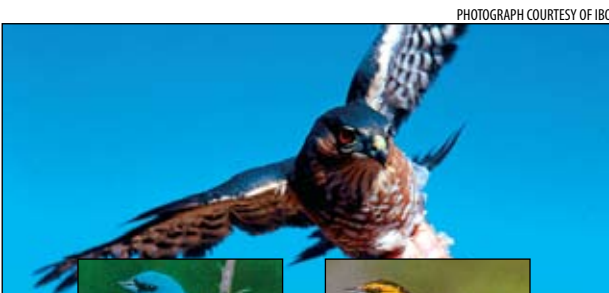
(Below) The orange-crowned warbler is a common breeding bird in Idaho forests.

(Below Right) The yellow warbler is another common breeding bird found near streams, lakes and marshes. Its song is a rapid sweet-sweet-oh-so-sweet. They are known to winter as far away as South America.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF IBO



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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BNA



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BNA

(Above Left) Western sharp-shinned hawks winter in the western portion of Mexico from the state of Sinaloa southward.

(Far Left) The lazuli bunting is a common breeding bird in southern Idaho.

(Left) Bullock's orioles can be found nesting near lakes and streams in Idaho. They build an intricate hanging nest. They are also one of Idaho's most colorful birds.

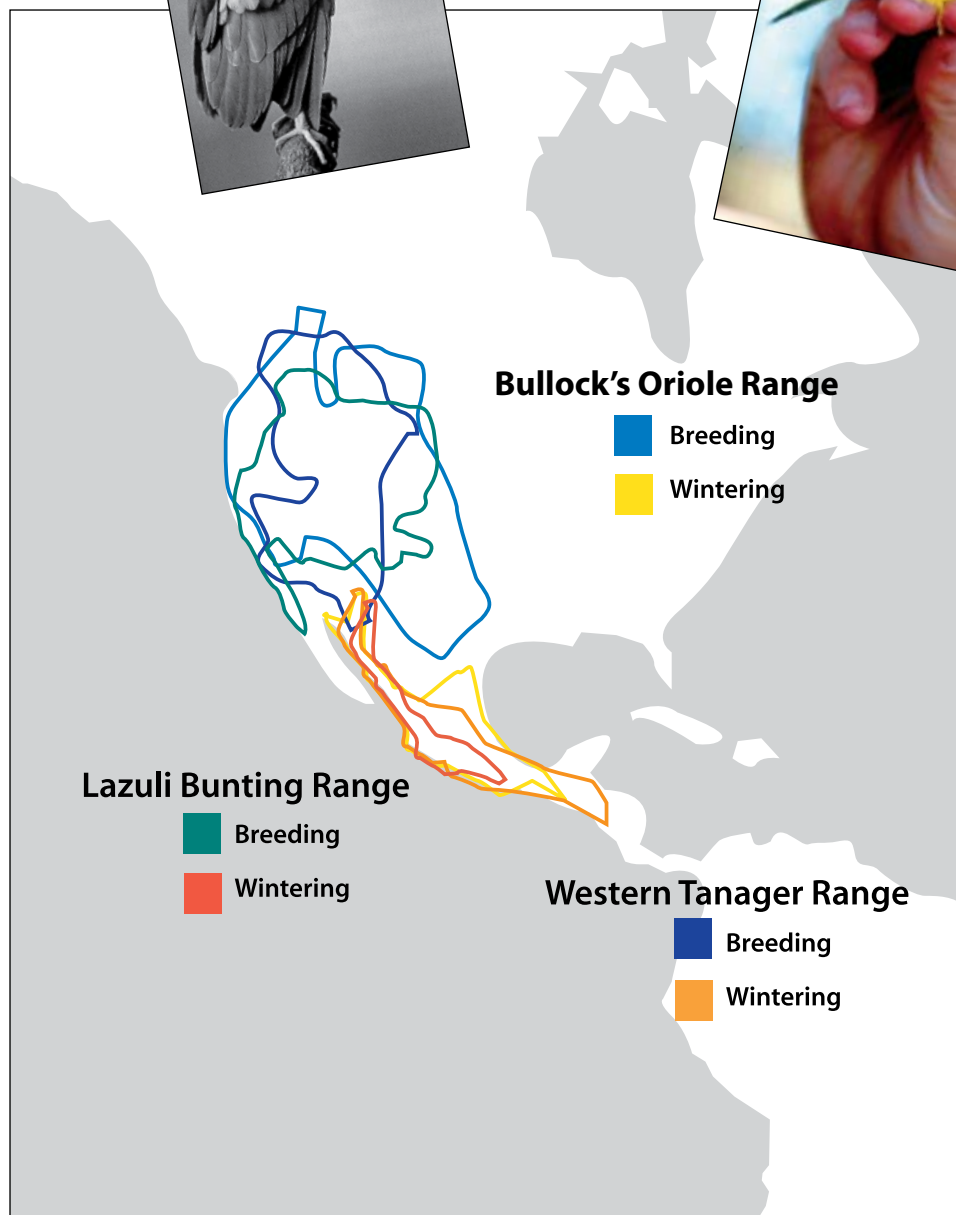
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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BNA



(Top Left)
The black-crowned night heron breeds in colonies in Idaho and may spend the winter as far away as Mexico.

(Top Middle) Townsend's warbler is the official bird of the Idaho Bird Observatory. They can be found in many Idaho habitats during spring and summer.

(Top Right)
Wilson's warbler is yet another brilliant neotropical migrant songbird, common in Idaho during the breeding season.

Future Leaders at Work

By Nancy C. Butler

A group of young Orofinians is “doing something positive in a world filled with negativity,” according to local Kiwanis Governor

Mike Butler.

Orofino Kiwanis Club started the *K-Kids*, a community oriented youth group at Orofino Elementary School last fall. Since then they’ve acquired more than fifty enthusi-

astic members involved in a variety of projects that serve the community and teach the students leadership skills.

The third through sixth graders meet each Wednesday at noon



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF KAWANIS CLUB OF OROFINO

K-Kids prepared Valentines for Brookside Landing and Clearwater Health and Rehabilitation.

and have what their faculty adviser, Colleen Bausch, calls a "working lunch." They start with a brief business meeting while eating lunch and then go on to their current projects.

K-Kids is the newest of the Kiwanis Club's sponsored youth groups and Orofino's group was the 376th to be chartered in the United States under the two-year-old program. Orofino's Kiwanis Club sponsors the organization and provides some of the funding and advisers to help with the program. The Orofino club is the only North Idaho club sponsoring *K-Kids*. The Kiwanis also sponsor youth groups for junior high, high school and college students.

Kiwanis adviser Stephanie Sweener sees *K-Kids* as a way to build a stronger community and teach the youths how to be responsible with finances from fund raising to managing the costs of their projects.

One of their first projects was making Christmas

cards to give to residents at Brookside Landing Retirement Community and Clearwater Health and Rehabilitation. *K-Kids* President Kacie Presnell said the project helped her learn that "it makes you feel good to give nice cards to someone you don't know." In February, they made Valentine cards. The projects are Kacie's favorite part of club activities. She said she has also learned that being president is hard work.

K-Kids members also do morning announcements for the school, prepare welcome baskets for new students and raise funds to sponsor a needy child in another country through *World Vision*.

Bausch is very enthusiastic about the group. "I think it is great. The earlier we get these kids involved in community service the better," she said. Though the group was only chartered in December 2000 she already sees the members building self-confidence and learning responsibility. She said, "at first Kacie was a little timid

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POCATELLO AND IDAHO FALLS

doing the morning announcements, but now she is booming through it." Bausch cited that as an example of confidence building in the *K-Kids*.

With *K-Kids* ranging in age from eight to thirteen years old, Bausch also sees the members fostering cooperation to accomplish projects and promote the organization. The students take responsibility by developing meeting agendas and preparing news articles for the paper. The secretary is also learning about note taking while keeping minutes of the meetings. Through the process, the students are also learning to conduct meetings under parliamentary procedure.

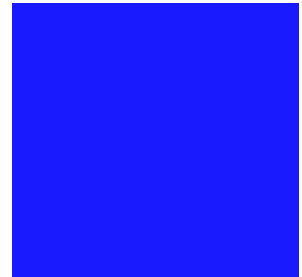
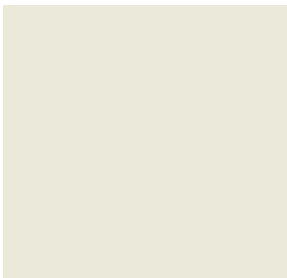
Working from their motto, *We Build*, the group functions within the policies of the school administration while providing opportunities to work together in service to school and community. They are also developing leadership skills, fostering development of strong moral character and encouraging loyalty to school, community and country. The *K-Kids* program is designed specifically to operate on a local club basis, with no district or international structure.

One local advisor noted "*K-Kids* are future leaders at work." With a good start *K-Kids* can make a difference.

Writer Nancy Butler lives in Orofino.



WARHAWK AIR MUSEUM



A Visit to Another Time

By Eric Miner

You pull open the glass door and step through a wrinkle in time. The mid-20th century waits on the other side as the smooth strains of Glenn Miller's *Moonlight Serenade* invite you in. The sound and surroundings take you back to a more simple time, a time when a united America rose up to face the challenge of tyranny and struck it down—back to the 1940s.

Inside the Warhawk Air Museum in Nampa, two P-40 Warhawk fighters in full World War II colors stand quietly, as if awaiting their next mission. A vintage Willys Jeep sits beside them, ready to drive their pilots back to the briefing hut. Wartime paraphernalia such as ration cards, posters, uniforms, bicycles, and hundreds of mementos bring the 40s

to life. If you lived during that era, the memories come in a flood that is very powerful. If you're too young to remember, one of the smiling volunteers will help you understand the significance of each piece of history in the exhibit. Or you can just listen in as the older visitors, their hearts opened by their surroundings, share their memories with those nearby.

Nestled among trees and pastures on the north side of Nampa, the Warhawk Air Museum is the creation of Sue Paul, museum curator, her husband, John, and a dedicated group of sponsors and volunteers committed to preserving the memory of this crucial period in American history.

"When visitors walk through the museum doors they experience World War II through the eyes of the ordinary American, either at home or abroad," Sue said. "It's personal, people history."

The museum's roots go back to John's childhood passion

for airplanes. In 1965, John found a “basket case” P-40 Warhawk resting on crates in a hangar in Half Moon Bay, California. Unable to find a bank that would lend him the three thousand dollars the owner was asking, he borrowed money from his father and hauled the airplane to his home in Oakland.

For the next several years John and Sue restored the fighter in their garage and back yard—looking for parts while visiting air shows throughout the United States and Canada. Proceeds from the plane’s use in the film *Tora, Tora, Tora* helped the project along. Other vintage planes found their way into John’s garage and later, when he could afford it, hangars. At one point he even found a farmer in Canada with a nearly complete P-40 buried in his field! John rounded up the necessary equipment, exhumed the veteran war bird, and trucked it back to Oakland.

John’s contribution to World War II aircraft preservation is significant: no more than twenty-five working P-40 Warhawks exist in the world, of which he has restored five. In the mid-1980s John and Sue, concerned with what they saw as a deteriorating quality of life in Oakland, decided to relocate their manufacturing business. In 1988 they moved the business to Meridian. They’ve never regretted the move. “We love living here,” Sue said.

PHOTOGRAPH BY IM STAFF



PHOTOGRAPH BY IM STAFF



PHOTOGRAPH BY IM STAFF

*(Top) Curtiss P-40 Kittyhawk WWI Fighter—
This airplane was used as a major prop
in the movie Pearl Harbor.*

*(Upper Left) A museum volunteer shows a
curious and enthusiastic class around the
many marvels of the Warhawk Museum.*

*(Left) WW II Jeep in the colors and markings
of D-Day the Allied invasion of Normandy,
France, June 6, 1944.*

*(Right) World War II era sedan in the museum collec-
tion. During the war, automobile factories were used
to manufacture airplanes for the war effort.*



To house their planes the Pauls soon built a seven thousand square-foot hangar at the Caldwell airport. Word spread quickly about the gregarious newcomers and their beautiful vintage airplanes. Visitors showed up in ever-greater numbers, and the hangar gradually came to be regarded as a kind of unofficial museum. Some of those visitors suggested that Sue and John display other kinds of wartime items. Many visitors loaned, and later donated, their personal memorabilia so that others could share the feeling of the experience.

John's two P-40 Warhawks took a brief hiatus from Caldwell in 2001 to

be used in the filming of the movie *Pearl Harbor*. The planes were flown to San Diego, where they were shrink-wrapped, and loaded aboard an ocean-going barge bound for Hawaii. The airplanes were featured extensively in footage with three of the film's stars, Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett and Kate Beckinsale.

After ten years of air shows at the Caldwell airport, and with donations pouring in after every event, the hangar was bursting at the seams. In 1999 the Pauls opened the Warhawk Air Museum. Shortly after it was awarded official status as a non-profit educational museum and a board of direc-

PHOTOGRAPH BY IM STAFF



tors was seated.

In 2001 the museum moved to its current location at the Nampa airport. The beautiful, new twenty thousand square-foot building is, to say the least, impressive. With its wartime aircraft insignia (white stars with red circles in their centers, on a blue background) at either end, and large black letters announcing the museum's name, the hangar is a show-piece for aviation and WW II history.

A library with hundreds of donated reference books provides source material for student reports, background information about museum items, and patrons' reading enjoyment. Two conference rooms house classes hosted by the museum and can be rented for meetings and functions. (Guests have included the Make-A-Wish Foundation and



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF IM STAFF

WW II Fokker DR-1 Triplane. This was the same model of plane flown by German Ace, Manfred Von Richtoffen (The Red Baron). This replica was donated to the museum by Dean Wilson.

the Idaho Governor's Conference on Tourism.) Larger museum functions are held right on the hangar floor among the airplanes and other displays.

But *people history* is the heart of the museum. This place exists to educate and the Pauls go to great lengths to make the 1940s a familiar place to the young people of the area. Busses from southwest Idaho schools regularly drop off students at the museum. Sue and others conduct tours for these groups, placing museum displays in the context of the times and explaining their meanings.

Volunteers, many of them local veterans of World War II, are on hand most days to help the students. During the



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WARHAWK MUSEUM COLLECTION



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WARHAWK MUSEUM COLLECTION

(Top) Guests gather for the 2001 Make-A-Wish Foundation dinner at the museum.

(Bottom) Sue Paul, museum curator, with John and their first P-40.

2001-2002 school year Sue arranged for nearly fifty veterans to be on hand when three hundred students from Centennial High School arrived for a guided tour. Small knots of students gathered around each veteran, listening intently as their silver-haired guides shared tales of sacrifice, courage, and the work-a-day rigors of the war years—both at home and abroad.

One of these veterans, Robert Wickard of Meridian, drove a truck onto the Normandy beach two days after D-Day and fought his way across France and Germany. He said of the Centennial High students, "Those kids were very interested. They asked intelligent questions and took good notes. It was clear most of them had prepared well and I think they got a lot out of the day."

This is education that can't be gained in a classroom. It is education at the most fundamental level—person-to-person—where students touch history through the lives of those who actually lived it. The museum has been so successful that NASA selected it as part of their Space Place Club,

a national space education program including traveling displays and presentations by visiting astronauts. The museum has also received grants from prestigious organizations such as the Whittenberger Foundation, the Idaho Community Foundation, and Key and Capitol One banks.

The museum offers opportunities for educators, as well. Lili Saum and Kelli Dean, two teachers formerly from the Meridian School District, joined the museum last year to develop World War II curriculum materials for classroom use and to help other teachers utilize the museum in their programs. "We're having a ball," Dean said. "If they ever want to get rid of us they're going to have to boot us out of here!"

Nor does the education go only one way. The mood of the place acts like a tonic on its visitors, and soon they're



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WARHAWK MUSEUM COLLECTION

Ground crew members repairing a damaged B-17 bomber at Gowen Field, Boise, in the spring of 1944.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WARHAWK MUSEUM COLLECTION



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WARHAWK MUSEUM COLLECTION

John's two P-40 Warhawks being shrink-wrapped and carried by an ocean-going barge bound for Hawaii for the filming of Pearl Harbor.

sharing their own experiences in a thousand and one stories from every part of the forties. Doctor Robert Higgins, a Washington State physician, smiled as he looked over a collection of black, wooden airplane models in one of the museum's display cases. "I used to make those," he said.

During World War II, he was living near a U.S. Army air base and he carved models for the *Aircraft Recognition* classes conducted there. "The Army paid fifty cents for a good model of a single-engine plane, and a dollar for a twin-engine model. I found I could carve and paint single-engine planes a lot faster, so I specialized in those. It was a good way for a boy to make pocket money in those days."

If you're lucky, you might find one of the many Idaho veterans who have donated their wartime memorabilia to the museum—someone like Jim Biggs of Boise. Jim was wounded when a German anti-aircraft shell penetrated the B-17 in which he served as engineer and top-turret gunner.

"We were lucky," Jim said. "The round didn't go off or we would have been blown to bits. Instead, it hit the oxygen bottles near my position, and I was wounded by the fragments as those bottles exploded."

Jim's uniform and Purple Heart are on display at the museum. Included in the display is a photograph of his plane with a gaping, five-foot-wide hole in the fuselage.

Displays in the museum emphasize home front activities as well. Pictures of scrap drives, useful home items such as lamps made from old artillery shell casings, and War Bond posters attest to the unique nature of home life during the decade.

A particularly interesting wall display shows advertisements from the popular magazines of the day. Companies such as Ford, General Motors, and Kelvinator had changed their production to supply machines and implements for allied armies. Knowing the war would eventually end and





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markets would again turn to consumer goods, these companies maintained their images by showing how their products were helping win the war. Cadillac's ads, for example, show P-38 Lightning aircraft built in Cadillac factories. Packard informed Americans of its Merlin aircraft engines, and Oldsmobile showed how it built military aircraft under license from Bell.

Some home front items strike a poignant note. The museum displays several service star flags. These flags were hung in the front windows of homes whose families sent their fathers, sons, and some cases, daughters to war. One blue star on a white field represents each person in service. When a family member died in military service a gold star was sewn over the original blue. One hand-made flag at the museum has two stars, the lower one loving embroidered over with gold thread.

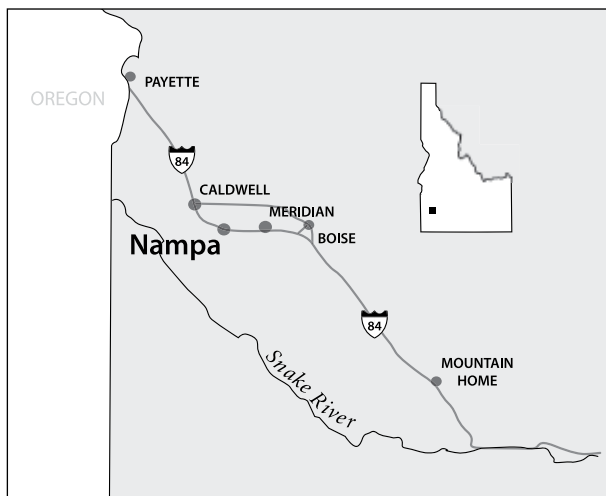
Given its history of growth, John and Sue built the museum to allow for expansion. There is plenty of room south of the current building for new sections, and future plans include a Korean War display as well as one devoted to Vietnam.

The one thing that will never change, though, is the personal nature of the museum, and the smiling faces of the volunteers reinforce the museum's focus on people.

"This is a homey place; people tend to linger here," Sue said. "They smile and visit and remember. We've worked hard to make it a family destination."

And with plans for expansion visitors will be able to enjoy the museum and visit different eras from the not too distant past.

Writer Eric Miner lives in Meridian.



Winter Willow Wonderland

An inveterate skier, Pocatellan Clarence Hall, who grew up in Blackfoot, said he was a senior in high school when a huge winter storm hit leaving about eight inches of new powder. He walked over to his friend Lyle's house and they were trying to decide what to do with the wealth of new snow.

Clarence said, "Lyle suggested taking his horse and going skiing behind him at the old York farm. That sounded like a good idea, so I was off for home to get skis and warmer clothes.

"When I got back, Lyle's younger brother Dave decided he would like to go with us. That meant two on ropes and one riding the horse through the farm and down to the Blackfoot River.

"At the gates, which the Indians opened for the Highline Canal, the hills were too steep for the horse, so we rode on Canal Road, finding an easy slope where the horse could pull us up to the top.

"Lyle volunteered to be the first to try riding the skis, but the brush was pretty thick and it didn't look good. He was right because he ran into a lot of brush and crashed.

"I started to brag a little. 'I'm going to show you two how to ride to the bottom in nothing flat.' I went up the hill above Dave, slipped on the skis and took off. I heard one of

them say as I went past, 'don't go too far.'

"There were no fancy turns, just straight down. I had no idea how fast I was going, but I went airborne. The construction cut into the hill made a perfect ski jump and with the speed at which I was going, I sailed over the Highline Canal.

"Still sailing through the air, I looked at the Blackfoot River that was half frozen. Water was covering the ice in the river. All I was thinking was, 'I'm heading for the river.' But just below me was a cluster of willows. I reached down between my legs and grabbed a handful of them. With my head between my legs, I held on.

"My feet came out and up as I dove headfirst into the willows. One ski stayed on, the other sailed out onto the river.

"Lyle and Dave came running down the hill to pull me out. The willows were about twelve feet above us.

'Did you ever do a 180-degree turn in the

air with two skis?' I asked them, adding 'Be careful, I've lost my glasses.'

"Looking up at the willows high above us, they were safe and sound, floating on the branches that waved in the wind. Lyle shook the willows to get them down."

We didn't need a camera to capture the memory and we certainly didn't need to try that stunt again.

Clarence said Lyle passed away a couple of years ago, but Dave still lives in Blackfoot.

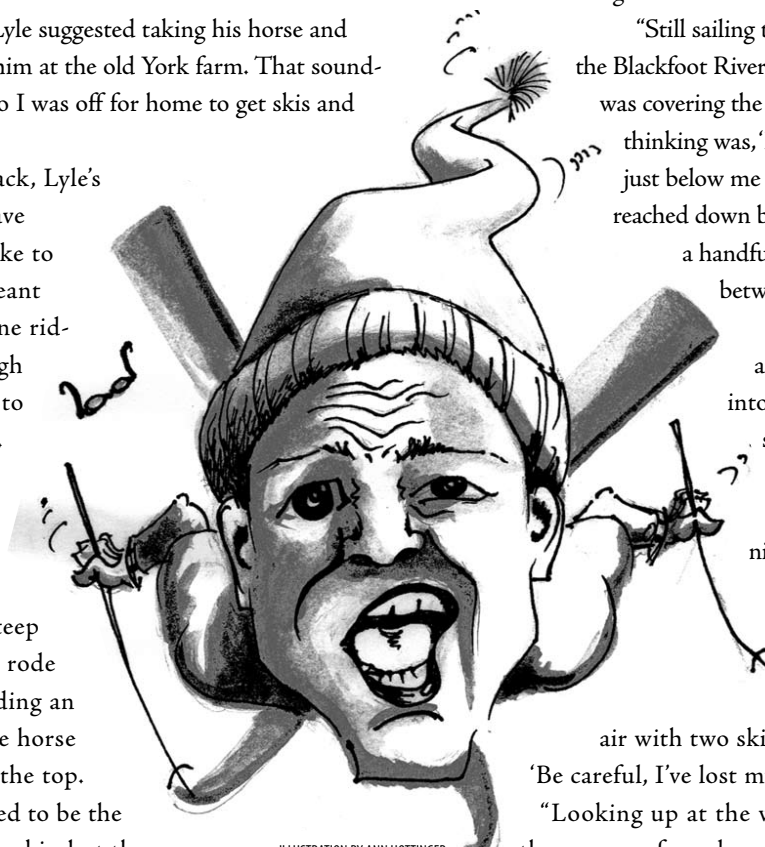


ILLUSTRATION BY ANN HOTTINGER.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BYU-IDAHO COLLECTION



Rexburg

Spotlight city

Rexburg has grown from little more than a fur trading post to the home of a major Idaho university (BYU-Idaho) all the while keeping that small town aura. It has seen its share of trouble with the Teton Dam Flood and the damage left in its wake. In the 1860s, while Salt Lake City was growing, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) was looking for places to start new communities. After the Utah Northern Railroad moved through Eastern Idaho the LDS community created a pioneer town that became a thriving community. With tourism, agriculture and an international folk dance festival on the docket Rexburg continues to improve and impress.

Early Rexburg

By Louis Clements



PHOTOGRAPH BY REXBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

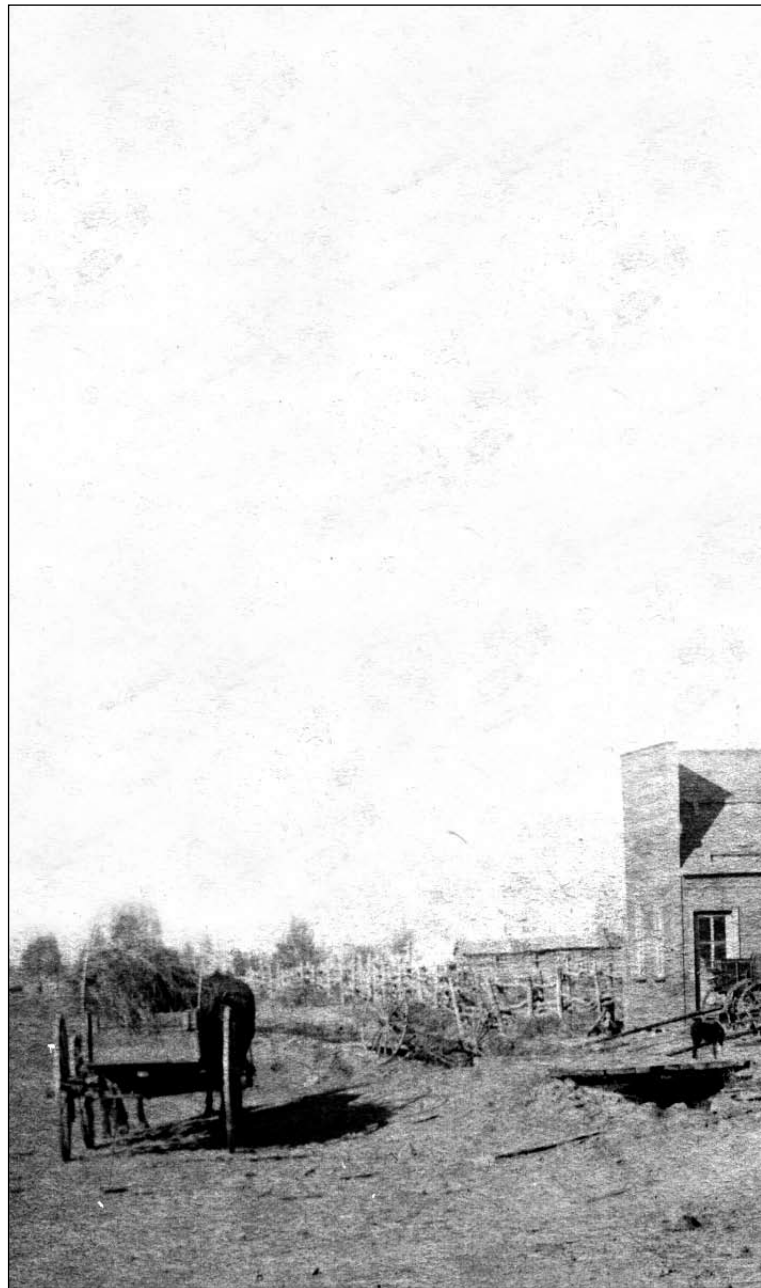
Richard Beaver Dick Leigh was an early Rexburg area resident. Brigham Young is believed to have given him his sobriquet.

In 1810 Major Andrew Henry crossed a pass and entered the northeastern point of Idaho that is surrounded by Montana and Wyoming. He camped at the shimmering mountain lake that was later to share his name.

He followed the North Fork (Henrys) of the Snake River and built a fort just north of present-day Rexburg. This was the first American fur post west of the Rocky Mountains. He stayed just a year but through his descriptions of the streams and the abundance of beaver the area became the crossroads for many future trappers.

No Native Americans made the Rexburg area their home but many came through on their hunting and gathering trips. Tribes that visited the region include Bannock, Shoshone, Snake, Blackfeet, Crow, and an occasional Sioux. Word spread about the excellent hunting and trapping that could be had along the Teton River which flows through Rexburg, and the two forks of the Snake River flowing to the north and south of the town.

The most fascinating of the first white settlers of the area was a man known as *Beaver Dick*. His real name was Richard Leigh. He was born in England but came to America and learned the art of trapping while working for the Hudson Bay Fur Company. This brought him out



West where he met Brigham Young, who is said to have given him the nickname of *Beaver Dick* because of the prominence of his front teeth. In 1876 he was living with his Shoshone wife, Jenny, just west of Rexburg.

Tragically he lost his wife and six children to smallpox. He married a second Shoshone woman, Susan Tadpole, and they lived with three children just northeast of Rexburg. He guided the Hayden survey party through eastern Idaho and into Wyoming. Jenny Lake in Jackson Hole is named after his first wife. He also guided Theodore Roosevelt to bag a trophy buffalo north of Rexburg.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints



PHOTO COURTESY OF REXBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(LDS) was experiencing tremendous growth in the late 1800s. Thousands were pouring into Salt Lake City and Church officials were on the lookout for promising places to encourage the immigrants to settle.

In 1882 the Utah Northern Railroad was expanding through Eastern Idaho to connect the mining fields of Montana with the main east-west rails in Utah. LDS citizens were hired to construct the bed for the rails. John R. Poole was one of these construction men who spent his spare time exploring the land east of the rails. It was Poole who suggested to the church officials in Utah that they inspect this land to see if it could be used for settlement.

Bramwell's Blacksmith shop on Main Street in 1886.

William Preston of Logan, Utah, visited the area and gave a positive recommendation for settlement. The leaders of the church chose Thomas E. Ricks to select the site for a town and to become the spiritual leader, bishop, of all who would follow. Surveyor Andrew S. Anderson was with the first group of seven sleighs to arrive in the Rexburg area.

Beginning March 10, 1883, Anderson laid out the town streets into ten-acre blocks with Main Street being 132 feet wide. The town was named Ricksburg after the

bishop. The name was changed to Rexburg, the German stem name for Ricks, before it was registered at the territorial land offices.

People started arriving and homes were being constructed. With many hands a log house could be erected in a day and the town began to take on the shape of a community. By June the city canal that would bring water to the town was under construction.

A sawmill opened in October to supply the much-needed planks for home construction. Bishop Ricks established the first general store. A typical pioneer brought seed for crops, seedlings for fruit trees, and food supplies for a year.

Other business interests soon opened on Main Street. The first flour mill in eastern Idaho was constructed in 1884 in Rexburg and a post office opened that year as well. A pony express delivery between the railroad at Market Lake

(Roberts) and Rexburg thrived for several years.

In 1886 sixty-eight people died from diphtheria bringing about the organization of the Rexburg Hygiene and Physiological Reform Society. They taught basic medicine and mid-wife techniques.

Education was provided to the pioneers as early as 1884 with members of the L.D.S. Church providing the teaching. The church then opened the Bannock Stake Academy in 1888 to formalize education of the Saints of the Rexburg area.

Grain was the primary crop in the early settlement period as it provided food for both man and beast. It also provided a money crop for the settlers. The large bench area east and south of Rexburg was considered good for the grazing of sheep and cattle. In 1898 dry-farm wheat was grown until a crop change that led to huge farms of potatoes in the 1900s.



COURTESY OF REXBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Academy students gather in front of the academy sometime in 1913.

Rexburg in the 1900s

From the small farms established by the pioneers in Rexburg, the cultivated land in Madison County has grown to more than one hundred seventy thousand acres. Another forty thousand acres are pasture and range land. There are an additional 12,645 acres of forest and woodland on the eastern side of the community.

A major change came to the community in 1900 as the St. Anthony Railroad continued its way through the valley all the way to Yellowstone Park after coming to Rexburg in November 1899. This railroad established a valuable marketing service to the agricultural community. By 1915 a loop rail line was built to the west and the east of Rexburg to better serve the outlying areas.

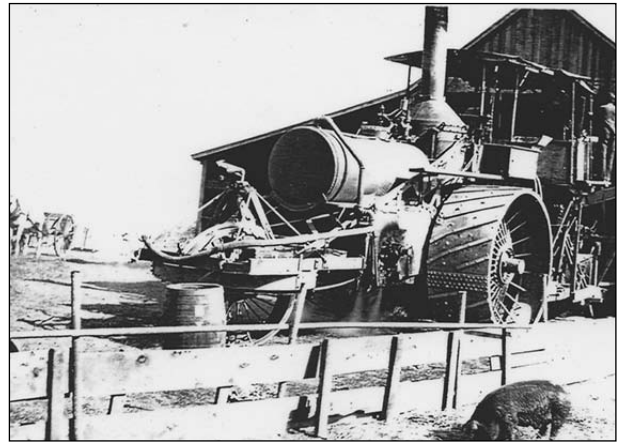
Community leaders saw the potential of an economic boom as early as 1913 when they organized to improve the state highway between Pocatello and Yellowstone Park. Today Highway 20 brings more people to the park than any other access.

Through the whole century agriculture has been the main economic provider. Canals have wound their way through the whole area to bring much needed water. A sugar beet factory was constructed northeast of Rexburg in 1903 creating Sugar City.

Potatoes evolved from a garden variety vegetable to become the mainstay of the economy. The warm days and cool nights proved to be perfect for the growing of this crop. In 1954, eight thousand acres of potatoes were in production in the Rexburg area compared to nearly thirty-nine thousand acres grown in 1999.

Telephone service began in Rexburg in 1897. This service was sold to Mountain States Telephone Company in 1911 at which time there were two hundred thirty-nine *muttering machines* in the area. By 1950 there were six thousand five hundred telephones in Rexburg. Electric lines were strung on poles down Main Street in 1903 bringing the community into the world of modern convenience.

Madison County was created in 1913 from the



COURTESY OF REXBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A steam tractor used on the Rexburg Bench.

southern part of Fremont County. Rexburg was named the county seat. This brought the infusion of county offices and elections to a level never before experienced. By December 1920 the present courthouse edifice was built. Steady growth characterized the community and new industries came into the area. Most industry was associated with the agricultural business.

In December 1951 a thirty-two bed community hospital opened its doors. Maintained by the county, this facility became a regional care provider for the whole upper Snake River Valley.

A modern airport was constructed on the western edge of the town in 1961. An extension was made to the runway in 1972 bolstering the Ricks College aeronautical training program.

A major shock to the community came in 1976 with the collapse of the Teton Dam and the resulting flood. The economic damage of the flood was estimated to be at one billion dollars.

Interestingly the flood seemed to act as a stimulus to growth. Instead of losing population there was an increase of activity. Economic boom was the result of all the rebuilding. An eighteen-hole golf course was built. The highway leading out of town to the north became a business center with the addition of malls and new stores. Housing on the fringes of the community began to eliminate farms.

Rexburg Today

Rexburg's population is 15,791 (1999) which is a 10.4% increase from 1990. It is located in a high country valley at an elevation of 4,850 feet. The Teton Mountains can be seen to the east, the Centennial Mountains to the north, and many different mountain ranges can be seen beyond the desert to the west.

The area is semi-desert with an annual precipitation of only 13.77 inches contributing to the importance of water supplies throughout the history of the region. The rich soil is the result of ancient volcanoes and their lava flows.

Although agriculture remains first in economic impact in the community of Rexburg, many large business enterprises also dot the landscape. BYU-Idaho is the largest employer in the community. *Artco*, a mail order printing business, is next with several hundred employees. Technology companies have sprung up to take advantage of the large labor supply.

Tourism is causing a major impact on the community as well. Located just a short drive from Yellowstone Park,

Jackson Hole, Craters of the Moon National Monument, and excellent hunting and fishing, tourists are becoming an important economic factor.

About thirty years ago, the chamber of commerce began a program to entice visitors from the hot regions of Arizona to spend their summer in Rexburg with its much milder climate. Around fifteen hundred of these Sunbirds will reside here for a couple of months staying in college housing.

Since the first folk dance festival in 1986, thousands of dancers from around the world have made their way to Rexburg for a week long pageant of dance and music. Rexburg changes into a world community for two weeks each summer as many different languages are heard, colorful costumes are seen, different music is performed, and cultures are shared. The *Idaho International Folk Dance Festival* has been listed several times as one of the top one hundred events to see in North America.

Started in 1888 as the Bannock Stake Academy, Rexburg's school of higher learning struggled to keep afloat through its early years. In 1902 the name changed to Ricks Academy in honor of Thomas E. Ricks, the founder of the town.

With the addition of higher education classes the name



PHOTO COURTESY OF REXBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Fishing is just one tourist activity that is having a major economic impact on the region.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REXBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dancers share their cultures every summer at the Idaho International Folk Dance Festival.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REXBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The campus of BYU-Idaho under the moonlight.

was changed to Ricks College in 1923. Ricks College also served the community as a high school until the first graduation class of Madison High in 1930. The Ricks name remained with the school until 2001 when the name changed to Brigham Young University-Idaho.

With this name change the school went from being one of the largest private two-year colleges in the country to one of the largest universities in Idaho. BYU-Idaho employees work hard each summer to adorn the campus with flowers making it one of the most popular tourist spots in the community.

The Rexburg Tabernacle Civic Center houses the Teton Flood Museum. The Tabernacle was used by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for religious services until after the Teton Flood when it was then sold to the City of Rexburg. In 1983 the museum opened its doors with a flood exhibit, historical exhibits, and special exhibits about the Upper Snake River Valley. The library of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society has the most extensive collection of historical documents in the valley concerning the flood and area history.

Twenty miles of sand hills located just north of Rexburg are becoming more popular with off-road enthusiasts each year. These dunes are the remnants of a huge lake that filled the region until it drained to the Pacific through the Snake River. These hills turn into little com-

munities each weekend as thousands of people take their two- and four-wheelers onto the sand. It is also a popular place for family picnics and hiking.

The combination of agricultural interests and recreation has transformed Rexburg into an environmentally clean community that can appeal to almost every interest. Expanding business has created an atmosphere of job opportunity. The future of growth in Rexburg seems to be assured.

Writer Louis Clements lives in Rexburg.

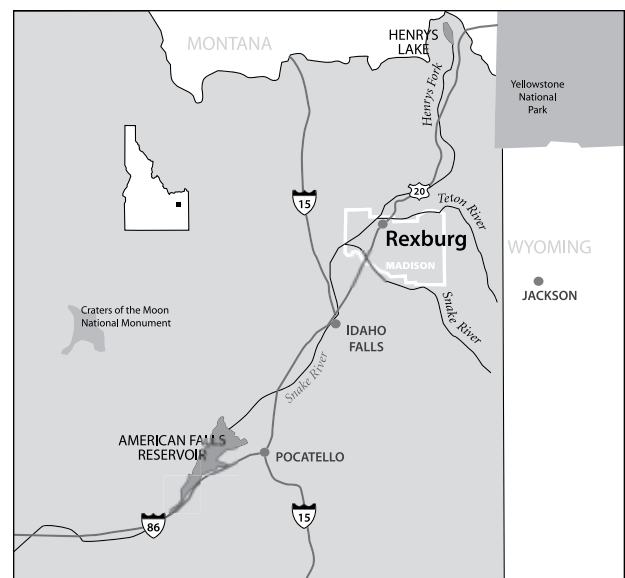




PHOTO COURTESY OF REXBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Teton Dam burst at 11:57 a.m. June 5, 1976 causing a flood that stretched more than a dozen miles wide and thirty feet deep. American Falls Dam finally halted the flood waters.

Teton Dam

Construction of the Teton Dam began in 1972 and the reservoir began to fill in the fall of 1975. It was designed to provide irrigation, flood protection, electrical power and recreation. Located twelve miles northeast of Rexburg it rose more than three hundred feet and stretched more than three thousand feet across the canyon it blocked. The reservoir stretched for seventeen miles behind the dam.

The dam collapsed on June 5, 1976 just as water behind it was approaching its capacity for the first time. Two days earlier engineers at the dam observed small springs down stream. On June 4, another small spring was found one hundred fifty feet downstream from the toe of the dam. Clear water was flowing at approximately twenty gallons per minute.

On the morning of June 5 major leaks were discovered and efforts to channel the flow were initiated to keep the water from the powerhouse. At the time the dam was not believed to be in jeopardy, however, a wet spot on the downstream face began eroding the downstream wall.

At 11 a.m. a whirlpool was observed in the reservoir and gradually increased in diameter but maintained a fixed location. At 11:30 dozers on the downstream side, attempting to fill the eroding bank were lost in the expanding downstream crevice. The erosion path on the downstream embankment was approximately in line with the whirlpool.

The crest of the embankment fell into the water at 11:55 a.m. and the dam was breached at 11:57. At the time of the failure the reservoir was almost full and contained an estimated eighty billion gallons of water. There were approximately a dozen deaths related the dam's failure. Damage was estimated at one billion dollars.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REXBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Idaho International Folk Dance Festival is just one summer highlight.

Rexburg Calendar of Events — 2002

- | | | |
|------|--------|---|
| May | 6 | Cantabile Singers Concert — Tabernacle |
| | 21 | Madison High School Graduation BYU — Idaho Viking Stadium |
| June | 3 | Idaho International Folk Festival tickets go on sale. |
| | 5-9 | Fort Henry Buckskinners Mountain Man Rendezvous |
| | 8 | Free Fishing Day Statewide |
| | 5, 12 | Upper Valley Arts Council Concert — Tabernacle |
| | 19, 26 | |
| | 14, 15 | Rigby — Jefferson County Stampede |
| | 15 | Rigby — Jefferson County Parade |
| | 20 | Chamber Sunbird/Senior Ice Cream Social, BYU — Idaho Manwaring Center West Ballroom |
| | 26, 27 | Annual pro-form Air-Borne Jump Rope Team Performance & Potato Bar |
| July | 17 | Youth Culture Day — Ages 6-16, 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. Free
Opening ceremonies—8 p.m. BYU-Idaho Viking Stadium Free |
| | 22 | International Parade — 5 p.m., International Street Festival — 5:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.
International Street Dance 9:00 p.m. — 11:00 p.m. |
| | 23 | Rexburg Youth Culture day Ages 6-16 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. |
| | 25 | Festival Student Performance 7:30 p.m., BYU — Idaho Viking Stadium |
| | 26 | Festival Main Performance 7:30 p.m. BYU-Idaho Viking Stadium |
| | 27 | Festival Main Performance 7:30 p.m. BYU-Idaho Viking Stadium |

For more information call 208-356-5700

Hagerman Horse and Fossil Days

by Kelly Kast

In the early 1920s, Hagerman rancher Elmer Cook stumbled across an unusual object in a field near his home. He believed his discovery might be important, but for many years he had a tough time getting anyone else interested.

In 1928 he showed his discovery, some fossilized bones, to Dr. H.T. Stearns of the U.S. Geological Survey. Stearns passed the bones on to Dr. J.W. Gidley of the Smithsonian Institution and in 1929, the Smithsonian sent Gidley to Hagerman to follow up on the find.

It wasn't long before Cook's fossil bones were recognized as a rare and extraordinary treasure. The find led Gidley to the largest single sample ever found of an extinct species of horse. In 1930 scientists gave it the name *Plesippus shoshonesis*. Later it was determined to closely resemble *Equus simplicidens* and renamed. Today, most people simply refer to it as the Hagerman Horse.

Dating back three and a half mil-

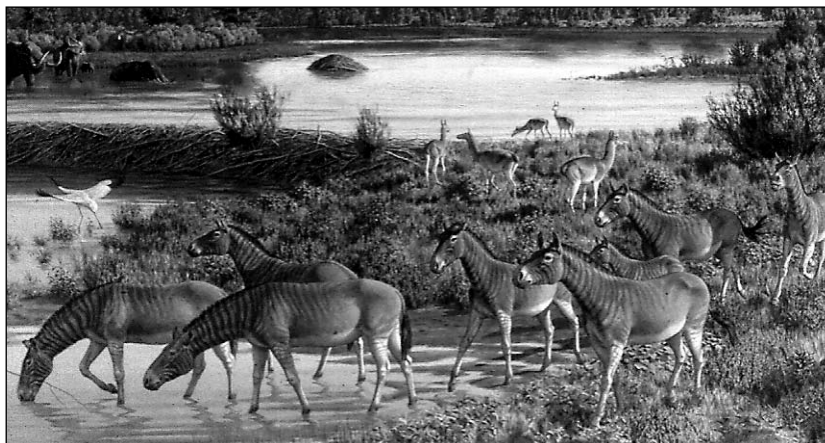


PHOTO COURTESY OF HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Hagerman Valley as it might have looked three million years ago.

lion years, the Hagerman Horse is the earliest known representative of the modern horse. Scientists believe it was closely related to Grevy's zebra of Africa and was about the same size.

In all, the Smithsonian conducted four excavations at the Hagerman fossil beds, recovering more than one hundred fifty horse skulls and about twenty complete horse skeletons. Three skeletons of the horse were mounted and put on display at the National Museum of Natural History where they can still be seen today.

But with the final Smithsonian excavation in 1934, interest in the Hagerman find once again dried up.

In the 1950s and 1960s, C.W. Hibbard of the University of Michigan rekindled the importance of the area by conducting excavations with an emphasis on a commonly ignored part of a dig, the fauna. He discovered a phenomenal amount of specimens including the bones and teeth of mice, shrews, fish, frogs, turtles, and other small animals.

His excavation, coupled with the

work done by the Smithsonian showed more than anywhere else in the world, the sediments at Hagerman preserve the greatest variety and abundance of animals from a portion of the late Pliocene epoch, known as the Blancan era.

Suddenly, a tiny Idaho town had become a site of international interest. Now, museums in Washington D.C., Pittsburgh, Denver, Chicago and Copenhagen, Denmark have the Hagerman Horse on display.

In recognition of the importance of this site, Congress in 1988 set aside 4,394 acres as the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. The same year, the Hagerman Horse was named the Idaho State Fossil.

It was another jewel in Hagerman's crown, and as far as the people of Hagerman were concerned, a darn good reason to celebrate with Fossil Days.

The first Fossil Days celebration coincided with the opening of the monument in 1988. This year, Fossil Days will be held on May 24 and 25. Events will include guided tours of the monument, rafting excursions on the Snake River, live music, craft and food vendors and a parade.

But Fossil Days celebrates much more than the Hagerman Horse. It also shares the tradition, culture and history of the little city that reigns as the Snake River Plains' Garden of Eden.

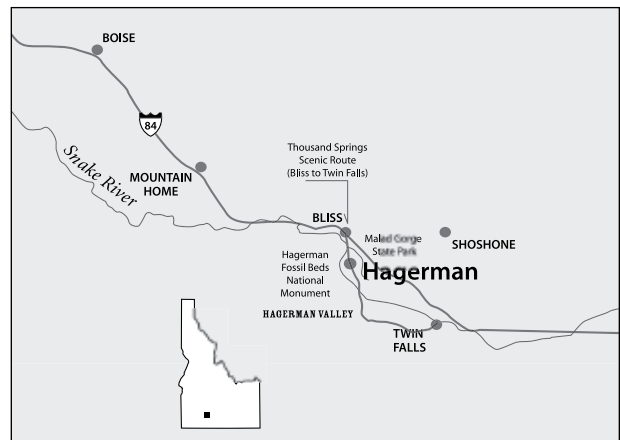
Because of its location next to the Snake River, Hagerman has a fairly mild climate year round, and fishing, hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing and water recreation opportunities abound.

Within a few miles of the town, exist four of Idaho's state parks: Billingsley Creek, Malad Gorge, Box Canyon, and Niagara Springs. Hagerman is also the center of the Valley of the Thousand Springs and the Thousand Springs Scenic Byway runs the length of town.

Nearby is the Hagerman National Fish Hatchery and the Hagerman State Fish Hatchery. With numerous other commercial hatcheries in the area, the Hagerman Valley contributes seventy percent of the nation's commercial distribution of fresh and frozen trout.

For the people of Hagerman, Fossil Days is a way to celebrate both the past and the present. For folks who attend Fossil Days, it's a chance to explore the diverse history and scenic beauty of the unique canyon wonderland.

Writer Kelly Kast lives in Bliss.



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Topping Teddy

by Joe Evancho

From the time he arrived in Idaho shortly after World War II, Gene Alford had one goal in mind. He was after a mountain lion that would give him the Boone and Crockett big game record held by the conservation club's founder, Teddy Roosevelt.

The twenty-sixth president took his cat in Colorado in 1901.

Roosevelt created the Boone and Crockett Club in 1887 after realizing how unregulated management would destroy wildlands and the animals that inhabit them.

During the next several decades, Roosevelt, through his club, championed the passage of laws that helped establish the national forest and park systems.

Later, the club's *Fair Chase* statement and philosophy became the foundation for hunting and game laws across America and since the 1930s, the Boone and Crockett Club has maintained the records for North American big game animals.

In the winter of 1961, sixteen years after he set his sights on his lofty goal, Alford believed he had taken a cat that would give him Teddy's record but, due to a technicality brought up by the club officials, he was denied his trophy.

Although his 1961 cat wasn't the world record, a look at the Idaho record

book shows that in Alford's hunting history he has bagged three of the five largest cats in the state and all his cats came out of the Selway drainage in Idaho County.

Hunting mountain lions was a common conservation practice after World War II with bounties on cats and other predators that were thought



PHOTO BY JOE EVANCHO

Alford with his hound at his property up on Kidder Ridge above the Clearwater River

PHOTO COURTESY OF GENE ALFORD



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENE ALFORD

(Above left) Idaho's biggest cats come from the Selway region in Idaho County. (Right) Alford's 1988 record mountain lion skull on display.

to decimate big game populations. Very few people hunted lions for a living and those that did worked for the bounty or for outfitters who hired them to improve big game numbers by eliminating the vermin.

"Lion hunters like myself, were the poorest of the poor," Alford said. "We spent all our time hunting lions the old fashioned way—with a dog or two and our own strong legs to follow the lion through its territory. It's not like today with ATVs, four-wheel drives and radio collars for the hounds. None of those things fall into what I'd consider *fair chase*," Alford said.

To get by while he was seeking his trophy cat, Alford would guide big game hunters in the Selway country in the fall. When the snow came and the season ended he'd stay on at camp and hunt lions in the wilderness—alone. Snow depths would reach three feet or more and temperatures would dive below zero overnight, and then stay there. Blizzards would keep him in his tent for days.

Today, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness region is as desolate and remote as it gets—covering more than 1,340,000 acres. The primeval valleys and mountain wilderness are nearly as impenetrable today as they were in the last century and the centuries before. It is the third largest wilderness area in the Lower forty-eight and no place for a tenderfoot. Knowledge of the terrain can be the difference between life and death.

"In this country ice is the biggest adversary," Alford said. "When the rivers and streams freeze there's a big temptation to use that ice as a trail and it's risky. Some years there wasn't any ice and that was best because there wouldn't be any temptation. From my way of thinking ice is the most dangerous thing there is. If you slip on a hillside you go down like a bullet until something stops you; and usually it's something big.

"But if you can find a place on the frozen river that is used by elk there is a good chance it will hold you. You have to use good judgment and common sense on the ice."

Since World War II Alford has spent many of his winters in the frozen

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wilderness hunting lions. Today the eighty-year-old hunter lives near Kooskia on the highland meadows above the Clearwater River with his dogs, horse and mules.

"Right behind here is Indian Country," the wiry outfitter said pointing with a hand that is cracked and chapped toward the pines and rolling hills of the Nez Perce Reservation. Soft spoken, Alford talks like a man that has a lot to say but isn't really sure he wants to make the effort. The words he does use are chosen carefully.

"Beyond that country is the Selway wilderness. That's where all the big lions come from." Five of Idaho's top ten Boone and Crockett lions were taken from the Selway and in 1961 Alford tracked his dream cat there.

His dream was simple enough; he was after the biggest lion. That year, after spending hours upon hours tracking cats through hip deep snow and over frozen rivers in the haunted wilderness, he finally got his lion and he thought it measured larger than Teddy Roosevelt's cat taken sixty years earlier.

"In 1961, I had the record beat, but I shot my lion in the head and they wouldn't give me the record." Alford wasn't complaining, he was just saying it as it was. "You see Teddy was Boone and Crockett's first president and I've been told they didn't give me the record because they didn't want anyone to have a lion that was bigger than Teddy's. Now that may or may not be true but it is what some people believe."

Boone and Crockett Club measures the size of the skull in determining trophy animals. Today, Roosevelt's cat is tied with five others for seventh place. Alford's mountain lion from 1961 is tied with eight others in twelfth place.

"When I found out it wasn't gonna count I thought 'ah hell, I'll just go out and shoot myself a bigger lion' and I did. It just took me twenty-seven years. By that time some other fella had a lion that was even bigger than mine."

Alford's 1988 cat is the number two mountain lion taken in the world, second only to one taken in British Columbia in 1979.

Tracking a cat is no easy task as mountain lions, officially called *cougar* in Boone and Crockett Club record books, are the biggest of the purring cats, ranging in weight from

eighty pounds to more than two hundred pounds. Although the mountain lions of North America are large cats, they are grouped with the smaller felines because they purr rather than roar like the lions of Africa.

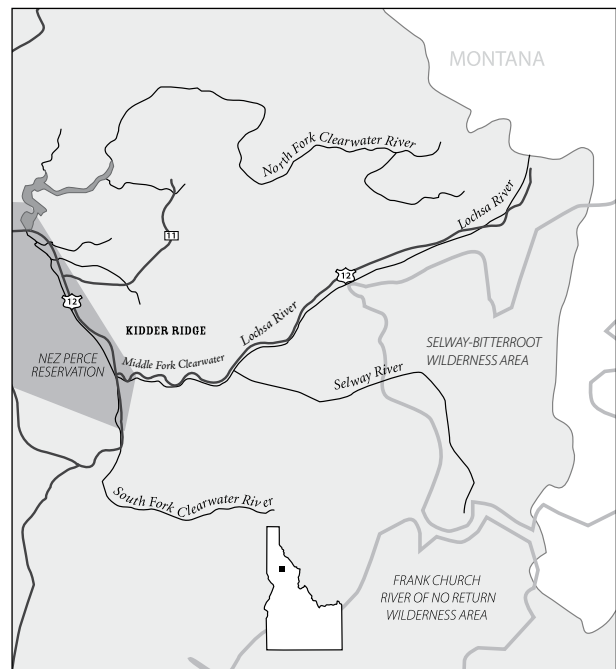
"Lions are gypsies," Alford said, "and inclined to do a lot of traveling. If you get on the long end of the track you might be a day or two behind and in that day or two the animal could move out of the country."

"They don't know when they are being followed and if they've had no experience with dogs they won't know they are being tracked until the dogs are right on top of them. Once the dogs get close, the cat is up the tree. They're fast for a while but they have no wind."

"I don't shoot lions anymore," Alford said. "It's not for any particular reason, but I sure like to watch the dogs work." Alford's way of life has taken him into some of the most rugged areas a man's mind and body can go, but he is unimpressed with himself.

"It's rough work," he said, "but if you don't break any bones, and don't slip on the ice, it can be a satisfying way of life." Especially if you've topped Teddy after all.

Joe Evancho is editor of IDAHO magazine.



NOTHING TO PROVE



PHOTO COURTESY OF ED FREEMAN

Ed Too Tall to Fly Freeman was the only pilot in the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion with prior experience.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SATOKO NAKAYAMA

Jimmy Nakayama, as a twenty-year-old PFC in the U.S. Army.

War stories have abounded since the beginning of mankind. From within the snarl of issues and motivations that lead to wars, two simple, undeniable truths emerge: one is that war brings out the best in those whose hearts are noble, the second is that no act of valor will alter the fact that young men will die.

This is a story of two Idahoans whose lives briefly intersected nearly forty years ago, twelve thousand miles from the homes and families they loved. The man who died, lives on in the memory of the man who risked his own life to save him.

We honor them both.

By Kitty Fleischman

Had it not been for Joe Galloway, a UPI reporter who witnessed and recorded the savage battle at Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam, it would have remained nothing more than a sad memory for the men who served there, the long-forgotten first battle in a war many Americans have refused to remember.

But Galloway was there, and he eloquently wrote his tortured, poignant memoirs in the book *We Were Soldiers*

Once, and Young. It is a story of unbelievable bravery under fire in the first real battle of the war in Vietnam, an incredible-but-true story of courage and anguish, destruction and triumph. This year it leaped to life on the screen in the movie *We Were Soldiers* starring Mel Gibson.

The 1st Cavalry Division was led into the battle by Lt. Col. Hal Moore who took his men into battle with the pledge that he would be the first to set foot on the battlefield, the last to leave, and a promise that no one would be left behind.

Two Idahoans figure unforgettably in Galloway's book: Boisean Ed *Too Tall to Fly* Freeman, who was a pilot with the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion Company A which was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, and Jimmy D. Nakayama, a Rigby native, who served with Moore's unit.

Originally from Neely, Mississippi, Ed grew up "wanting to see what was over the horizon." He quit high school at seventeen. Feeling very patriotic and standing in admiration of an older brother in the Navy, Ed enlisted in 1945 and spent two years on a ship. "I hated the ocean. Every morning when I got up it looked just like the day before. You couldn't even tell if it had moved during the night."

After two years in the Navy, Ed was ready to go back to high school. He'd been through the Philippines, had seen a bit of the world and was comfortable settling back into the high school routine.

Ed considered college on the G.I. bill, but decided on a career in the Army. He wanted to be a pilot, but the Army informed the lanky six-foot, four-inch soldier he was "too tall to fly." The nickname stuck. He fought as an infantryman in Korea, but was disappointed in the foot soldier's life. Troops serving in Korea were poorly-trained, and poorly-equipped,

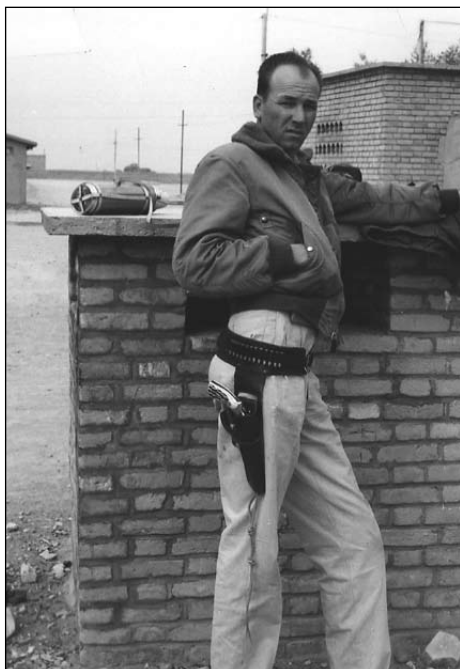


PHOTO COURTESY OF ED FREEMAN

Freeman finally got his chance to fly when the army upped its height restrictions.

Ed said, nonetheless he earned a battlefield commission at Porkchop Hill.

Later, fueled by the need for more helicopter pilots, the Army changed its regulations for height and *Too Tall to Fly* grabbed his opportunity to take wing.

Stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., he met Barbara Morgan, a Glenss Ferry native, who was visiting her brother. The two were married, later returning to Idaho.

From 1963 to 1965, Ed worked as the regular Army advisor to the Idaho National Guard at Gowen Field. Then he was sent to Vietnam. When he shipped overseas, Barbara took their children and returned to Glenss Ferry.

For Jimmy Nakayama, life began in Rexburg. He was born in 1943, the second of five sons and a daughter born to Frank and Satoko Nakayama. "Jim was always popular with his classmates at Rigby High School. He was always full of jokes. He had a good sense of humor and an optimistic outlook. He was good at sports, particularly baseball, though he was too short for basketball," said Satoko.

Fred Nakayama, the youngest son, said. "Jim was a good guy. In the hierarchy of brothers, Jim was the older brother who protected me" from the torments of the two brothers between them in age. Fred looked up to his older brother and



PHOTO COURTESY OF SATOKO NAKAYAMA

Jim and Trudie Olson Nakayama at their wedding.

Nov. 10, 1965

Hi Sweetheart,

Well here I am in the nice beautiful jungle ~~of the~~ Man this day sure has been messed up. This company of Infantry may be good fighters, but their organization leaves little to be desired. Almost as bad as our own company. We got up at 4 this morning and arrived at the Infantry C.P. at 5. Then we just sat around, and sat around until 11:30. Then we loaded up on some trucks and commuted to the bustling Anbar airstrip, where we again sat around and waited. Around 3:30 they finally

was happy to tag along with him, carrying the decoys when they went hunting together. "Jim was an avid hunter," he added.

Fred laughs as he recalls one of his favorite memories of Jim. "One night when he had brought down a goose, he was determined to clean it himself. He was plucking the goose when we went to bed that night. When we got up the next morning, there was goose down floating through the air and feathers all over the place. Jim was still working on that goose."

Jim signed up for the Idaho National Guard immediately after high school, and he had earned the rank of lieutenant before signing up for the regular Army.

"I didn't want him to go into the Army, but what could I do?" Satoko said softly.

Satoko has many reasons for her objections. Born in Sugar City, her father's health forced her parents to move the family to Washington in the 1920s when she was a youngster. She was educated and married in Seattle.

She and her husband, Frank, were settled in Tacoma and had small children when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Their family was of Japanese ancestry, and they were ordered to relocate to Idaho. They still had connections in Sugar City, and did not want to go to the relocation camps. Ultimately they were allowed to stay in Sugar City, she said. Frank was inducted into the Army, and the sheriff made daily visits to check up on the family's activities and whereabouts.

Jim ended up marrying his high school sweetheart, Trudie Olson. Because of his Guard experience, he skipped basic training. He was a private first-class, having had to relinquish his Guard rank until he could attend Officer Candidate School in the Army. He attended Jump School at Fort Benning. The Army would be his career.

"He had a leader's personality,"

Trudie said, "he was a popular guy in high school, a genuinely nice guy. He had a knack for finding the humor in situations."

Trudie and Jim were young, deeply in love, their marriage was perfect and they had a new baby on the way. They were building a life and a family when he left for Vietnam. Trudie says she missed him, but their letters kept them close, and they knew he would be home before long.

"He was completely optimistic. Jim couldn't mail the letters every day, so he carried them with him and wrote a little every day," Trudie said. "His letters were full of personal things." They expressed his love for her, eagerly anticipated the birth of their baby and they planned their future.

Neither Ed nor Jim had been in Vietnam very long before the battle at Landing Zone X-Ray began on Nov. 14, 1965.

The Army dropped a small force near the Cambodian border to find the enemy. They discovered two regiments of well-trained, seasoned North Vietnamese regulars. There were more than two thousand men preparing for combat when Moore and his unit dropped in on them. The four hundred Americans found themselves vastly outnumbered and fighting for their lives in the middle of a People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) sanctuary where neither the South Vietnamese nor the French had penetrated for more than twenty years.

Moore's men found themselves facing a relentless attack from a heavily armed and highly motivated enemy force. Landing helicopters became a problem and they blew out a section of trees to create another small landing area. The helicopters were landing barely within the American perimeter. Casualties were heavy. Medical supplies, water and ammunition were in short supply.

The helicopters were pivotal in the battle, hauling in support and supplies, flying out casualties. Ed said, "I tried to be as cool as possible, even when I didn't feel it. Fear is contagious." In his late thirties at the time, Ed said he was just about the oldest man in his unit, and the only one to have been in combat prior to that ferocious battle. "It was controlled chaos. It would have been even more confusing to outsiders. Radios were squawking continuously." Because of the intense enemy fire, the pilots of the medical evacuation helicopters refused to enter the hot zone.

At that point, courage shifted gears into heroism. Refusing to leave the men stranded in the field, Ed volun-

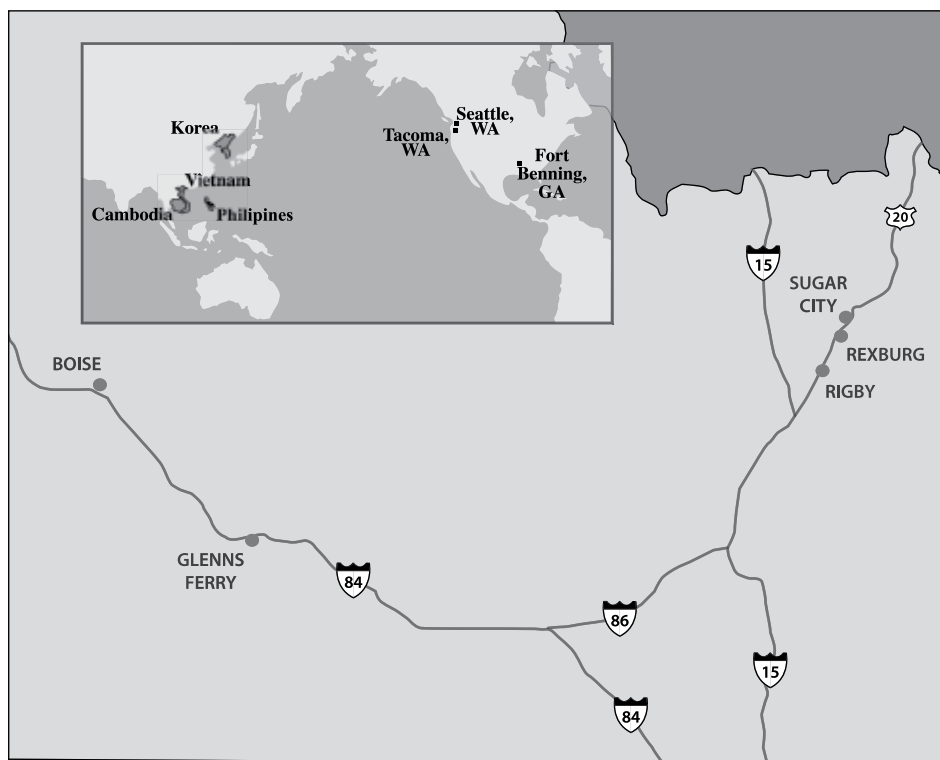
teered to fly his unarmed helicopter on one mission after another. For more than fourteen hours, he carried supplies to the besieged unit and brought wounded back to safety, braving heavy gunfire, without regard for himself.

While the book mostly recreates the scenes of the horrors on the ground, Ed recalls the battle from the pilot's seat. Gunfire pelted his helicopter, landings were tricky. The helicopters were the key factor for saving the beleaguered ground troops, he said.

On the second day of the battle, when the feverish pitch on the ground reached the point where Moore knew they could no longer withstand the overwhelming numbers of the enemy pouring upon them, he radioed the code "Broken Arrow," a chilling message indicating they were being overrun. It was time to pull out all the stops.

Fighter-bombers were called in. Bombs and napalm rained from the sky. In the heat of that horrible day, Jim Nakayama suffered terrible burns from the napalm. He was carried to Ed's helicopter by Galloway and a soldier, and gently lifted aboard.

The movie captured the moment when Jim was brought on board. Posed with the question, "do you remember Jim



Nakayama” Ed Freeman’s eyes well with tears, and he responds simply, quietly. “Yes...I still see him.”

For Freeman, as the movie’s helicopters chopped their way to the landing area, he suddenly was overwhelmed by the memories, the smells of death that rose from the area. “It was horrible. You could smell it for miles before you could see it. I could smell it again.”

Attending the premiere with his family, he and the other survivors of the battle, wept freely. His granddaughters comforted him, sympathetically patting his back during the movie. His daughter-in-law leaned toward him and whispered, “I am so sorry you had to relive this, Ed.”

He answered her, “I relive it every day. Now you understand why I still can’t sleep, why I’ve had nightmares for thirty-five years.”

Ed finished his tour. “Twice I returned to an ungrateful nation,” he said, “first from Korea, then from Vietnam.” Still, he said, it was his job. He was a professional soldier. He retired from the Army and flew helicopters for the U.S. Department of the Interior, mapping countries all over the world. Now Ed is a “professional grandfather.”

For Trudie and the Nakayama family, the aftermath of the battle took a different turn. On Nov. 17, 1965, two days after he was evacuated from Landing Zone X-Ray, Jim died from his injuries. He was two days short of his twenty-second

birthday. Their daughter, Nikki, was born days before Jim died, but no one had been able to reach him to notify him of her birth. Among his personal effects, Trudie received a partially-burned letter he had been writing to her at the time he was struck down.

Fred, who was fourteen at the time, said the family mourned together, but then, absorbed in their grief “it seemed like we kind of drifted apart.” The brothers who were not then in the military hurried to enlist, again over Satoko’s objections.

They wanted to avenge their brother’s death.

“It’s been a tough life,” Satoko says, barely above a whisper.

“I’m very bitter.”

When he was old enough, Fred enlisted in the Army and had orders for Vietnam. With one son gone and another already in the Air Force in Vietnam, Satoko took action and had Fred’s orders changed. To his chagrin, he was sent to Germany. At the time, he wasn’t happy about it, Fred said, but in retrospect he’ll admit that Mom knew best.

“One thing I’ve come to realize over the years,” Fred said, “is that every time a soldier dies, he’s someone’s brother, someone’s son—no matter which side he’s on.”

Barbara recalls the worst shock for her during the time Ed was overseas was the time he sent her flowers. Responding to an ad he saw in *Stars & Stripes* offering to ship red roses to a spouse anywhere in the world, Ed wanted to show his love. He sent in his money, and the flowers were delivered. Coming home with the children from an outing, Barbara was unnerved by the sight of the bright flowers on her porch. She was certain, she said, that Ed had died and someone in town had gotten wind of it before her. She figured it was to be the first of many condolences. Ed sent her no more flowers.

Trudie was adrift. She stayed with her parents for a while, but her life plans were with Jim. She was happy to have Nikki, but with Jim gone, her dreams were gone.

“I didn’t look at his remains, because he was burned so badly. Eventually I decided that surely he wasn’t dead. It was some kind of mistake. He had been taken prisoner somewhere. I had dreams of him coming back. I still have an idealistic view of what we would have been.” Her mother convinced her to start college, so she did. It was eight years before she married again, but it didn’t work out.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SATOKO NAKAYAMA

Nikki Nakayama on her wedding day, poses with Satoko, her grandmother



PHOTO COURTESY OF ED FREEMAN

In 2001, Ed Freeman was awarded the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony with his wife Barbara, and their family in attendance.

She and Jim had had everything. “Our marriage was still perfect. We were completely optimistic, and we had our whole future ahead of us.”

Nikki, who never had a sense of what it would have been like to have a father, didn’t really start thinking about what she didn’t have until she had a stepdad. When she was a young teen, her mother and stepfather were divorced. Then it was back to “me and mom. That’s how it was.”

Trudie never really said much about her father during the time she was growing up, Nikki said. The first clue she had to the intensity of their relationship was at the funeral of her Grandpa Nakayama. “There was fresh dirt everywhere, and there was mud on my dad’s gravestone. My mother was sobbing, crouched on her hands and knees, cleaning off the mud with her bare hands.” The image startled Nikki, but she still didn’t think much more about her parents’ relationship until the movie came out and her mother started to talk about things. Trudie shared Jim’s letters with Nikki. “It was very intense. I realized how much they loved each other. Being married, having children of your own opens your eyes to a lot of things anyway, but I have a whole new respect for my mother. It’s been very hard to see her go through it.”

For most of the nation, interest in that long-ago and far away battle started with the book and has grown with the movie. At first feeling as though it was

just dredging up old memories, Trudie said she recently has started to feel some closure on the topic.

Nikki said she is feeling more comfortable asking her mother and her family questions she never felt she could ask. She is finding out much more about the father she’ll never know, the father who often referred to her as the “little renegade” when he wrote almost daily, from the far side of the Earth, anticipating her birth.

With pride in her voice, Trudie says Nikki has many of her father’s traits, especially his sense of humor.

Eventually Ed and Barbara retired to their dream home on the banks of the Snake River in Glenns Ferry, but craving more activity, they later moved to Boise.

The ultimate triumph of this story comes decades later. In 2001 Ed Freeman was notified that the Distinguished Flying Cross he received after the battle had been reviewed and upgraded to a Medal of Honor. His family was flown to Washington, D.C., for the awards ceremony and an audience with the president.

He seems to enjoy the recognition that comes with the nation’s highest honor, but Ed Freeman wasn’t thinking about glory the day he volunteered to fly those perilous missions. He did it for the men who needed him. He did it for Jim. And Ed seems like a man who takes the pomp and circumstance in his stride.

He recently had a meeting in a Boise restaurant. The meeting was to discuss his Medal of Honor, so he wore the medal to the meeting. The young woman who seated him admired his “blue necklace.” Ed smiled at her and told her it was a “Blue Light Special” from Kmart, but she didn’t need to hurry down to get one. His was the last one they had in stock.

A man of valor has nothing to prove.

Kitty Fleischman is publisher of IDAHO magazine.

Streets of Laredo

*As I walked out in the streets of Laredo,
As I walked out in Laredo one day,
I spied a young cowboy wrapped up in white linen,
Wrapped in white linen as cold as the clay.*

*"Oh beat the drums slowly and play the fife lowly;
Sing the Death March as you carry me along.
Take me to the valley, there lay the sod o'er me,
I'm a young cowboy and know I've done wrong."*

*"I see by your outfit that you are a cowboy."
These words he did say as I boldly walked by.
"Come sit down beside me and hear my sad story;
Got shot in the breast and I know I must die!"*

*"My friends and relations they live in the Nation:
They know not where their dear boy has gone.
I first came to Texas and hired to a ranchman,
O I'm a young cowboy and I know I've done wrong."*

*"It was once in the saddle I used to go dashing:
It was once in the saddle I used to go gay.
First to the dram house and then to the card house,
Got shot in the breast and I'm dying today."*

*"Get six jolly cowboys to carry my coffin;
Get six pretty maidens to sing me a song.
Put bunches of roses all over my coffin,
Put roses to deaden the clods as they fall."*

*"Go gather around you a group of young cowboys,
And tell them the story of this my sad fate.
Tell one and the other before they go further,
To stop their wild roving before it's too late."*

*"Go fetch me some water, a cool cup of water
To cool my parched lips," then the poor cowboy said.
Before I returned his spirit had left him
Had gone to his Maker, the cowboy was dead.*

*We beat the drum slowly and played the fife lowly,
And bitterly wept as we bore him along.
For we all loved our comrade, so brave, young, and handsome,
We all loved our comrade although he'd done wrong.*

— Francis Henry Maynard (1876)



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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF REXBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May's Idaho Trivia

1. Which Idaho river is the longest stream lying totally within the state?

The Main Salmon River is 425 miles long, starting in the Sawtooth and the Salmon River mountains of central Idaho. It flows northeast and is joined, at Salmon, by the Lemhi River, after which it flows west and is joined by the Middle Fork and the South Fork, then goes north to join the Snake River. The river's canyon is one mile deep and ten miles wide in some places.

2. In which year did the Teton Flood occur?

See page 32.

3. Who was the first Idaho player named to the National Baseball Hall of Fame?

Walter Johnson — When the Washington Senators paid the nine dollars cost to bring in nineteen-year-old Walter Johnson by train, they could not have realized the bargain they had just made. For twenty-one seasons, Walter "Big Train" Johnson left opposing batters standing in their tracks. With 416 victories, he ranks second on the all-time win list behind Cy Young. He compiled an unbelievable 2.17 career ERA, holds the record with one hundred ten shutouts, and pitched fifty-six consecutive scoreless innings in 1913. He was rewarded by joining baseball's first class of Hall of Fame inductees in 1936.

June Trivia Questions

1. How far is Idaho's southern border from its northern border?

2. Over what pass did Lewis and Clark first enter Idaho?

3. How many of the two hundred persons buried in Idaho City in 1863 died of natural causes?

Questions or comments? Contact Jane Freund at IdahoTrivia@aol.com



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