

Spokane And The Inland Empire

compiled by Peggy Mandin

Once again we are printing a few excerpts from the book *Spokane And The Inland Empire* written by N.W. Durham and published by the S.J. Clarke Publishing Company in 1912. Chapter titles are in bold.

Founding The First Churches Around Spokane

He (Mr. Eells) returned to the Puget Sound country, but the summer of 1876 found him back in the interior, giving his Sundays to the white people in the vicinity of Colville, and most of his week days to the Spokanes at various places. During nineteen weeks of this summer he held forty services with the Indians and forty more with the whites. He delivered, too, the address at the first fourth of July celebration held at Colville.

In 1892 a church was erected at Chewelah, and notwithstanding Father Eells was then living west of the Cascade mountains, the people there felt that none could grace so well the occasion of the dedication. Fifty-four years to the day, after he first camped on the site of the town, he offered prayer in this new church. "It may be a weakness for me, an old man, to go so far, four hundred and fifty miles back and forth, to accept the invitation," he wrote of this journey, "but if anybody else had camped on that spot, and held services there fifty-four years previous, perhaps he would have the same weakness."

A gift of a bell for this church was his last important act for any church. He bought it in New York, and paid for it a few days before his death. Said the Rev. H.L. Hallock at his funeral: "Its first tones in Eastern Washington will ring out a tender requiem – nay, rather a glorious tone of rejoicing for the work he has accomplished, and the crown of life he has gone to wear on high."

Catholic Missions In The Inland Empire

After several months of mission work west of the Cascade mountains, Father Demers ascended the Columbia in July, 1839, visiting Walla Walla, Okanogan and Fort Colville, "baptizing all the children that were brought to him in the course of his journey." He was the first ordained priest to spread the Catholic faith in the Inland Empire. His journey to the interior consumed three months, and he returned in October to Fort Vancouver. The following year Father Demers repeated his journey of 1839, again visiting Walla Walla, Okanogan and Colville.

In 1845 Father Nobili and Father Ravalli were called into active service. The former was sent to found a mission in New Caledonia (in northern British Columbia). Father Ravalli was ordered to found a mission in the Colville valley, and built the first chapel there, on a hill between the fishery at Kettle Falls and Fort Colville. This chapel was named St. Paul's. After a few months, however, he was called to St. Mary's on the death of Father Zerbinati. Here he remained till 1850, when that mission was closed for sixteen years.

Governor Stevens' Overland Expedition Of 1853

...Stevens resolved to push on to Colville, and at half past eight the next morning broke camp and started north. On the way there they were joined by an old Indian from the Yakima country, who had been directed by Garry to meet the governor and impart further information

concerning the party of white men he had seen beyond the Columbia River. The old man stated that a large party had reached the banks of the river opposite Colville the day before. "I was satisfied from his accounts," says Stevens, "that the party was McClellan's, and accordingly determined on going to Colville tonight..."

At a point twenty-eight miles from Colville the governor was told that he could not complete the journey that day, as it was growing late and parts of the road were bad, "but being determined to do so we pushed on and reached Brown's at 5:45, who informed us that the distance to Colville was eighteen miles. After partaking of some bread and milk, we resumed the road with the same animals, dashing off at full speed, going eight or nine miles an hour most of the way, and reached Colville at nine o'clock. Mr. McDonald, the trader in charge, gave me a most hospitable reception and addressed a note to McClellan, who had just gone to his camp near by, informing him of my arrival. McClellan came up immediately, and though I was fairly worn out with the severity of the ride, we sat up till one o'clock. At 11 we sat down to a nice supper prepared by Mrs. McDonald and regaled ourselves with steaks cooked in buffalo fat, giving them the flavor of buffalo meat. I retired exhausted with the fatigues of the day."

"During our stay at Colville," wrote Stevens, "we visited McDonald's camp. Near it there is a mission, under Pere Lewis, whom we visited. The Indians about the mission are well disposed and religious. In the evening we listened to the thrilling stories and exciting legends of McDonald, with which his memory seems to be well stored. He says intelligence has reached him through the Blackfeet of the coming of my party; that the Blackfeet gave most singular accounts of everything connected with us. For instance, they said that our horses had claws like the grizzly bear; they climbed up the steep rocks and held on by their claws; that their necks were like the new moon; and that their neighing was like the sound of distant thunder. McDonald has, of course, given a free translation of the reports made by Indians."

Governor Stevens An Ardent Inland Empire Booster

...From Fort Colville to where the Columbia bends suddenly to the west there is a good deal of excellent land. It will be safe to pronounce the whole country north of the Spokane, and lying between the main Columbia and the Kootenay and the Coeur d'Alene mountains as a cultivable country, although the dense forests will be an obstacle in the way of rapid occupation of the country.

"But here comes in another element of wealth: The country about Colville and on Clark's fork has been pretty thoroughly prospected for gold, and it exists in paying quantities throughout that region. On the Kootenay river are found mines of lead, copper, quicksilver, sulphur and platinum; and there can be no question, from information derived from practical miners, from geological explorers, and especially from the testimony of the Jesuit fathers, DeSmet, Hoecken and Ravelli, that this is a country very rich in minerals."

Barney's Restaurant, Barney Miller, Barney's Junction

by Bill Brauner

I do wish that I would have kept track as to how many two eggs over easy, whole wheat toast and hash browns that I had for breakfast at Barney's junction; I am sure that it was more than one hundred.

I was in Spokane early one morning and had gotten down on North Monroe, just a few blocks north of the Spokane River, and decided to look for a place to have breakfast so I walked into Barney's restaurant. There were two people there, a lady and a guy, and they were kind of yelling at each other and sort of slowed down when I walked in. I found out much later that the lady was telling Barney Miller that you can't be this close to the courthouse and not be a union shop.

A couple weeks later I had noticed that a new guy had taken over the restaurant that was at the junction where the highway left 395 and went down the west side of the lake or over the mountain towards Republic. So in a week or so I stopped there to have breakfast. That was the first of probably several hundred meals that I enjoyed as I became a close friend of Barney and his sweet wife, Clare.

For quite a few years Barney and me joined with two other close friends, Art Avey and Art Mikelson; we were called the goon squad, and maybe worse than that when we headed into that little place down the highway and begged for all of the cash that we could legally squeeze from the poor merchants so our kids, big and little, could have a nice fourth of July fireworks on Lion's Island. I do believe that we are still able to show our many newcomers that we can show them a good time, even if our buddy Art Avey is 90 years old.

Now back to Barney of Barney's junction fame. When the restaurant burnt I kind of joined with two of Barney's best friends, Dick Hurst and Frank Giddings, and once again the restaurant was the place to have a swell dinner. We do know that we can't live forever, and when Barney's wife, Clare, passed away she had asked Judy, a close friend of theirs, to look after Barney, which she did. Then there was a notice in the paper to come to Barney's to have free

coffee and cake and help Barney celebrate his 80th birthday. I had been in Spokane and decided to stop at the Colville Eagles to have a beer and a very pretty blond girl stopped to wait on me. I asked Lisa her name, then, have you ever jumped out of a cake? I was ready to duck or dodge a beer in the face, when she was very polite and I asked her if she knew Barney Miller. I said we would pay her \$50 for five minutes.

We "built" the cake in Frank's shop; he put the frosting on (mortar). Lisa did just as good as a Hollywood actress would; came popping out, shoved Barney into a chair and before Barney could recover she had both of his cheeks covered with lipstick. About a month later Barney still had a little lipstick on his face, and I probably would have had, also.

Is it possible to ever thank God enough times for sparing and saving us as many times as he has me? I was born near the river bank when and where Dad, Carl Brauner, was operating the ferry boat; I was the third son of Carl and Ruth Brauner. After three or four days Mom and Dad knew that I would not be here much longer and somehow found two milk goats whose milk must have agreed with me; I'm still here! The next summer the goats broke into the back porch and ate some of Mom's laundry soap; I refused their milk for a couple of days.

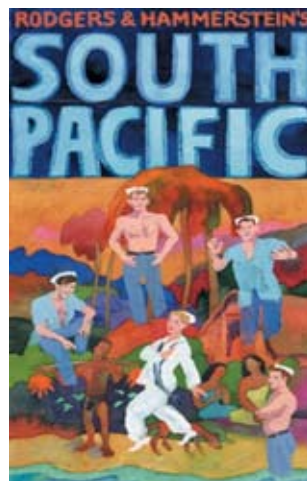
The summer of 1926 Mom and us were "hanging out" in an old shack at Dad's homestead property across the Columbia River from Bossburg. I was out against the house loading sand with one of Mom's spoons into my dump truck and a huge rattlesnake crawled by me. No, I did not try to load it into my truck, but went yelling for Mom.

Lisa did a swell job, but did not show up for my 80th!

So we do all know Barney's junction will always be there, but not the same without Barney and Clare!

With many fond memories,
Bill Brauner

South Pacific Coming To Woodland Theater



Woodland Theater's production of the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *South Pacific* has sailed into rehearsals with a promising cast of local talent.

The show will be performed on the Woodland Theater stage March 5-7, 11-14, and 18-21. Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m.

Opening night and Thursday shows are \$10 per person. All other performances are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and senior citizens.

Tickets for the musicals performed at the Woodland Theater sell quickly. Tickets are available at Main Street Floral, 104 N. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114; phone is 509-684-9096.



Reserve Your Seats Now

Kettle River Grange Spring Play

The Kettle River Grange Players are busy rehearsing their 2010 spring play: Vergil's *The City Slickers*. Mark your calendars for this hilarious three act farce.

The backward Sludge family is trying to deal with a variety of family predicaments when two "city gals" arrive on their doorstep desperately needing a telephone. As the gals hang around waiting for a ride the country bumpkins warm up to the "city folks" who are trying to help them with their problems. Easier said than done, as you will see when you join us.

Performances will be as follows:

- Fridays April 9 and 16 at 7p.m.
- Saturday April 10 at 7p.m.
- Sundays April 11 and 18 matinees at 2p.m.
- Wednesday April 14 at 7p.m.
- Dinner Theater Saturday April 17

Tickets will be available at the door, except for the Dinner Theater. Advance tickets for the April 17 Dinner Theater will be available after March 10. Ticket prices and dinner menu to be determined. Call Diane Lamberson at 509-684-1163 for more information.



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