

A History of Tautphaus Park,
the Tautphaus Family
and those that followed.

A Power Point Presentation

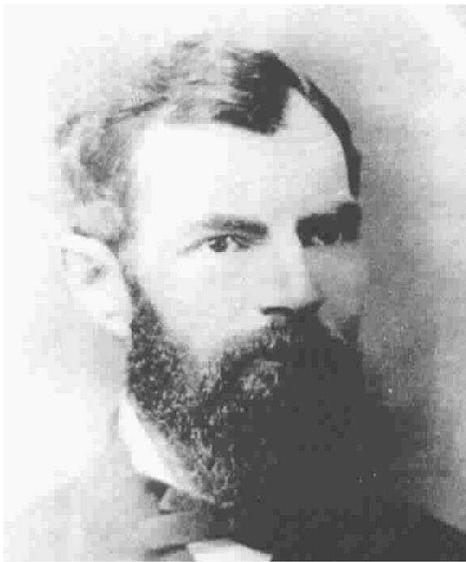
As compiled and presented by Jim Bennett

At the Museum of Idaho April 12, 2006

and being updated for 2011 presentation

The different eras of Tautphaus Park

**Tautphaus Era
1886-1909**



C.C. Tautphaus

**Boosters
Club Era
1909-1914**

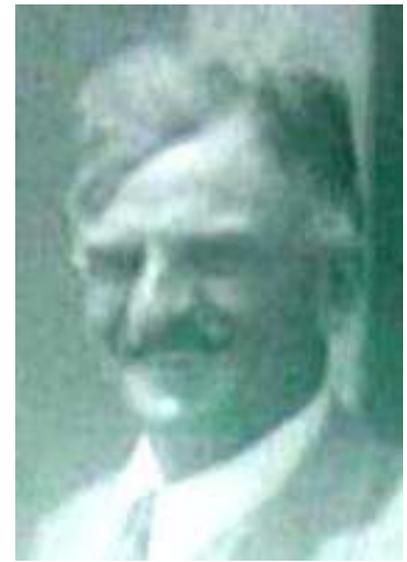


**Reno Era
1912-1932**



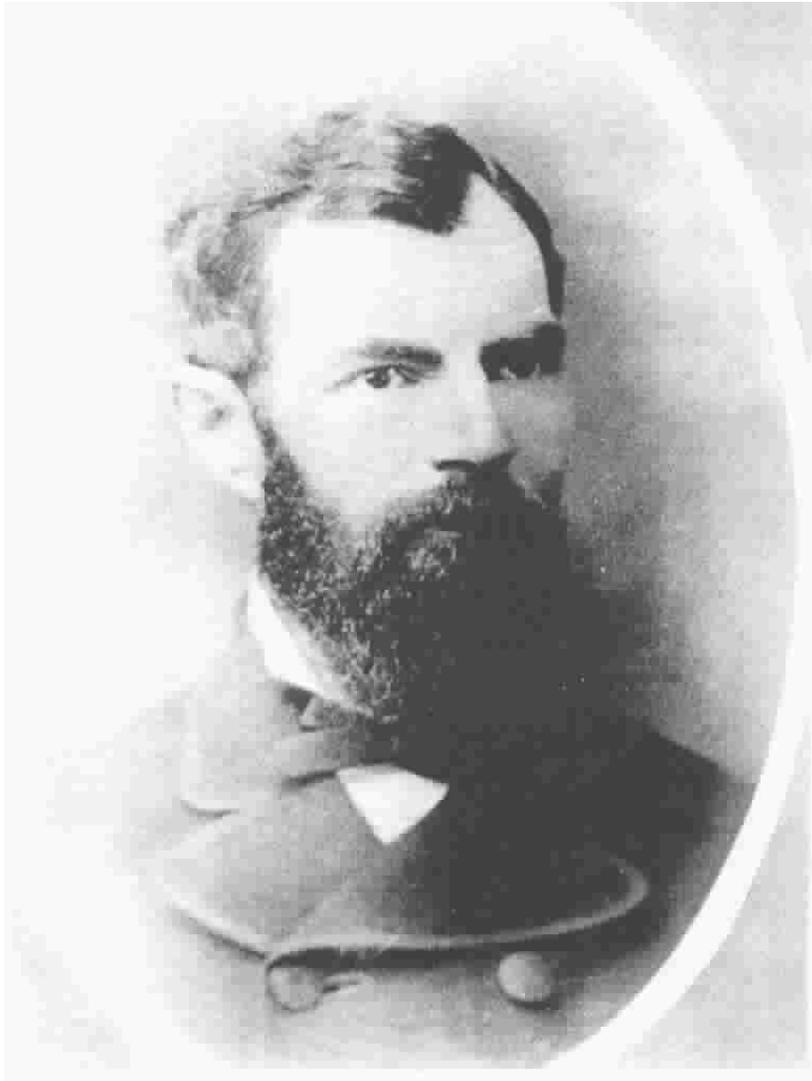
Frank Reno

**City Park Era
1934-present**



Mayor Brazilla Clark

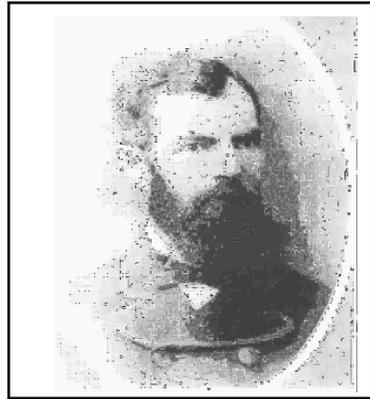
Charles and Sarah Tautphaus



1841-1906
Died at 65



1840-1917
Died at 77



Charles C. Tautphaus and Sarah Kane Tautphaus

Charles C. Tautphaus, 1841-1906, of German ancestry, came to New York when he was six. He sailed around the cape of South America to reach California where he settled.

Sarah Kane, 1841-1917, Irish Catholic, came to New York City as a 6 month old infant. At 15, she and a sister also sailed around the Cape to reach California.

Charles and Sarah met and married and lived in Anahiem, CA, where between 1871 and 1882, they bore 5 daughters. In 1882, they moved by wagon to Butte City, MT, where Charles was a partner with Thomas Moffitt in the “Palace Meat Market” where they also bought and sold live stock. He also engaged in mining, freighting, and farming.

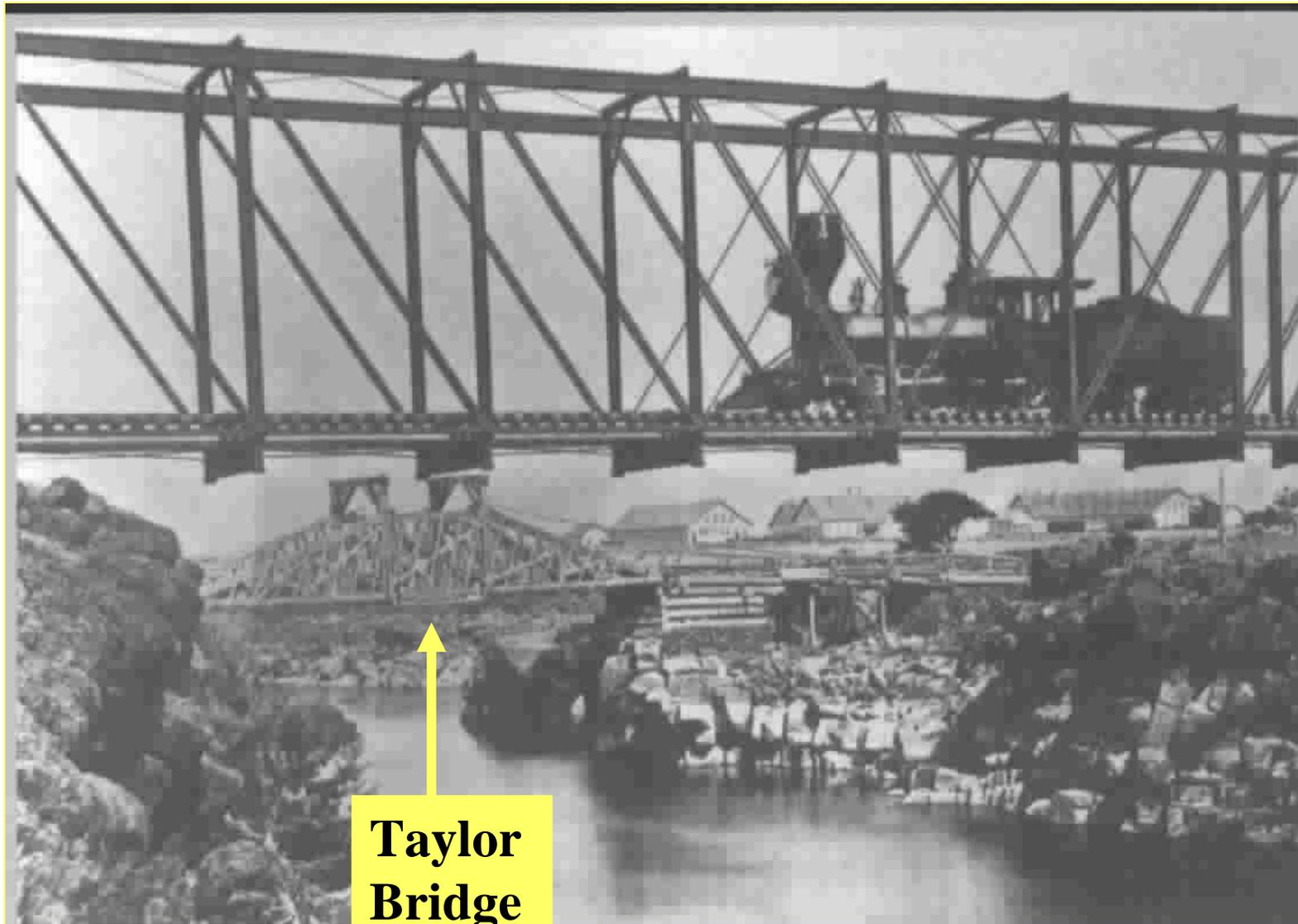
Charles Tautphaus visits Eagle Rock in 1881

Times Register, April 18, 1881. “C.C. Tautphaus, Mr. & Mrs. Kelley and Adam Sauer accidentally poisoned at the Kelley ranch south of Eagle Rock when Mrs. Kelly used what she thought was baking powder to make biscuits. They all recovered within a few days.”

Apparently this didn't dampen the Tautphaus interest in the area as he returned 3 years later to buy a large block of land.

Eagle Rock at that time was a dry, windswept, unlevelled, foreboding sort of a waste land that only grew sturdy sage brush and jack rabbits.. Eagle Rock had come into existence when Matt Taylor erected a bridge across the Snake River in 1865, and entrepreneurs started businesses to cater to the travelers and, later, to the locals who were coming to the area. Limited farming existed along the creeks.

The railroad came to Eagle Rock in 1879. The population was about 550 but spiked to 1,500 during the few years the railroad shops were here during 1882-1884 and then declined.



**Taylor
Bridge**

Tautphaus bought his building in 1885 for \$3,000 to house his meat market.

This is a 1906 photo of Eagle Rock Street.



1884 Land Purchase

Always an entrepreneur, Tautphaus could see the potential of the area once water from the river could flow onto the thirsty fertile volcanic soil. He couldn't get Eagle Rock out of his head and decided he had to have some of it. In 1884, the Tautphauses and partner Moffitt came down from Butte City, found the ground they wanted and filed homestead rights on three sections of land south of Eagle Rock.

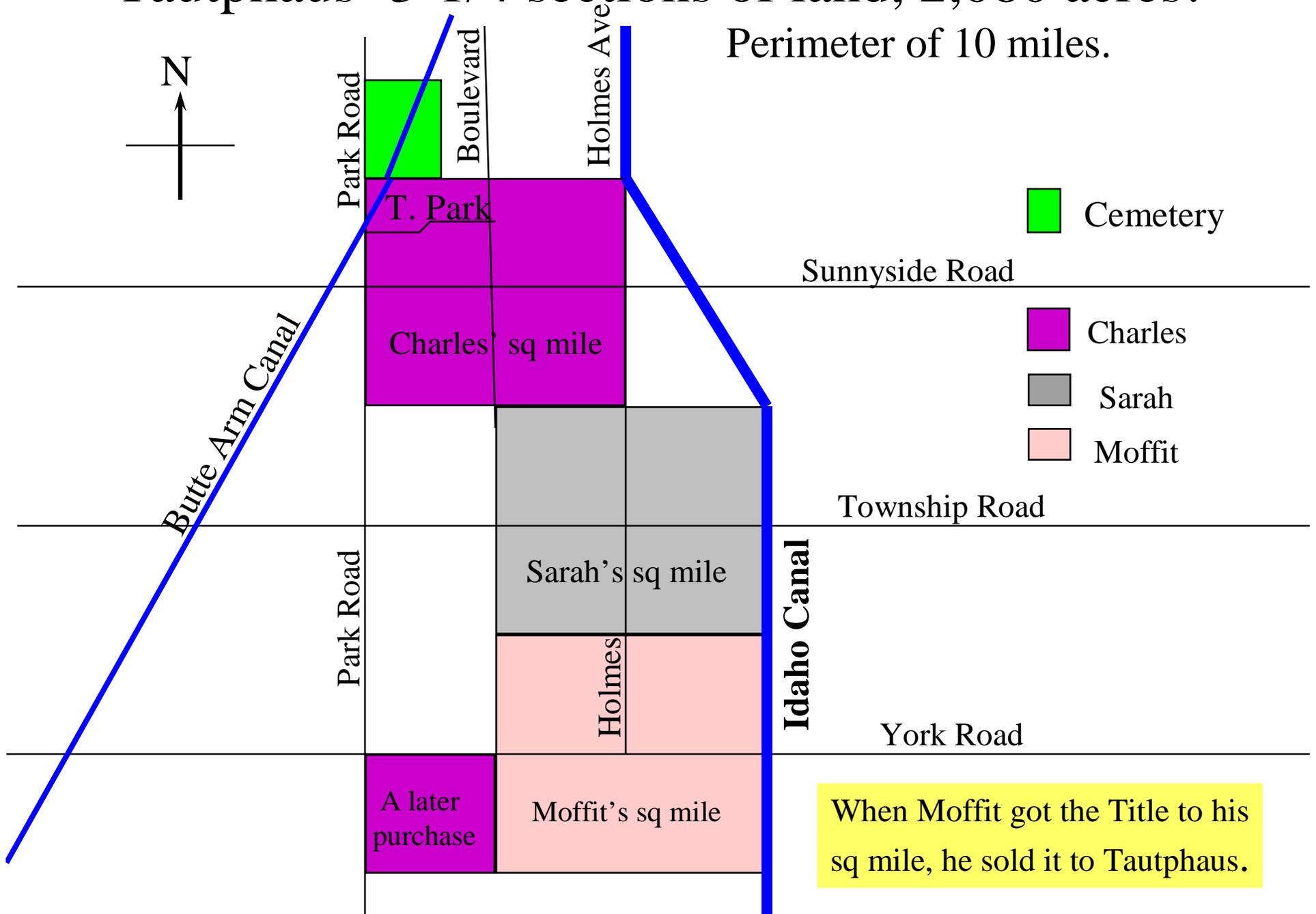
The cost was \$1.25 per acre with only 25 cents down and the remaining \$1.00 due in 5 years. Can you imagine, a section of land for only **\$800** with only **\$160** down? What a deal! Real value, however, would come only when it could be irrigated.

Apparently Moffitt bought his land as a favor to Tautphaus, because as soon as he got title, he sold to Tautphaus.

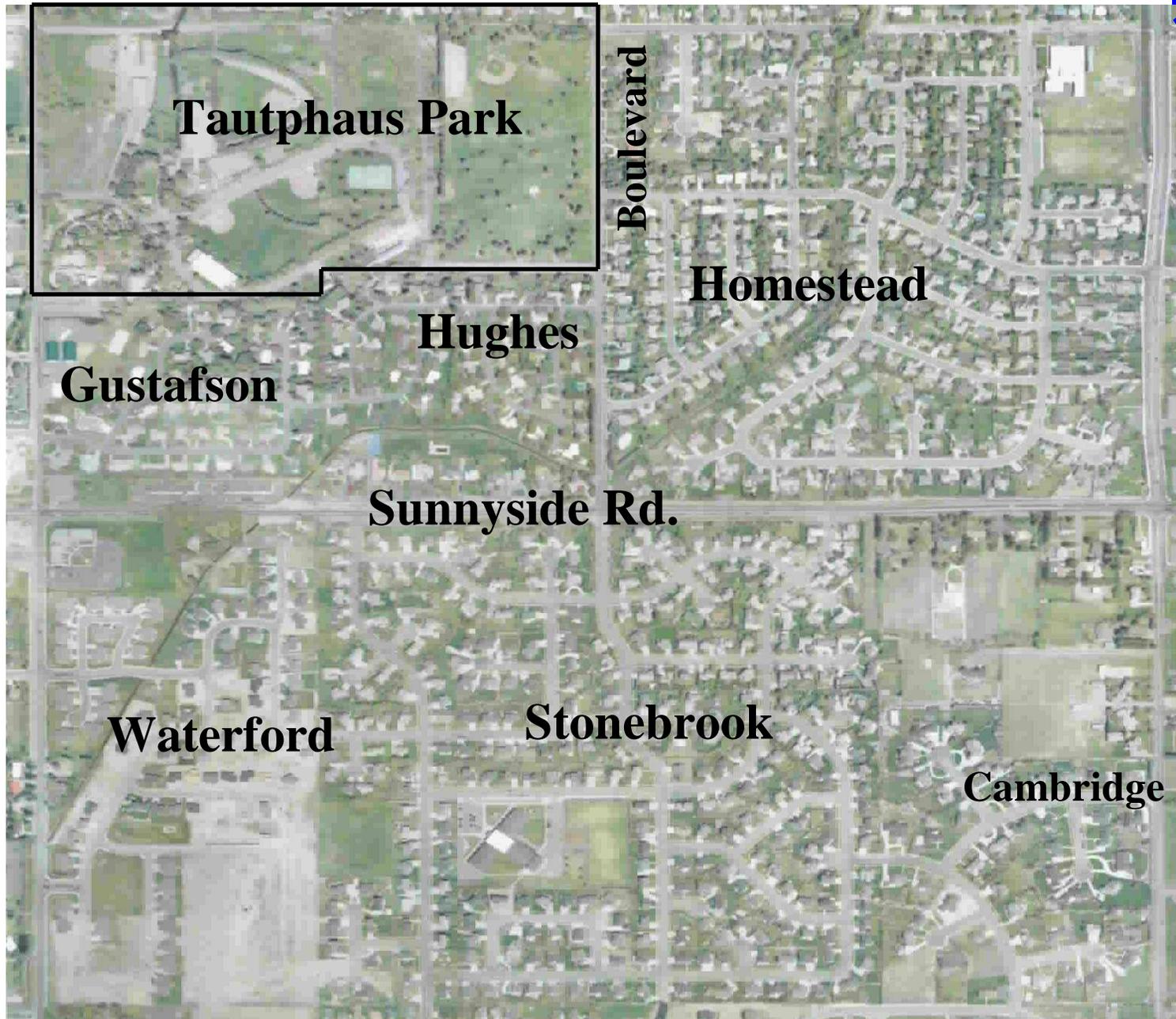
Tautphaus later purchased another 160 acres adjoining his other land, giving him a total of 2,080 acres or 3 ¼ square miles.

Tautphaus' 3-1/4 sections of land, 2,080 acres!

Perimeter of 10 miles.



Charles square mile today.



Sarahl's square mile, south of Charles & 1/2 mile east.



Moffits' square mile, south of Sarahs. Later sold to Tautphaus.



1886 Tautphaus Family arrival in area.

- Charles and Sarah Tautphaus, age 45 & 46

The five daughters aged from 4 to 16

- Charlotte Gertrude “Lottie” age 4
- Kathrin, Marie “Kate” age 10
- Mary Bertha “Minnie” age 11
- Elizabeth M “Lillie” age 15
- Sarah Josephine “Josie” age 16

The 5 Tautphaus daughters

Sarah

Elizabeth

Mary

Kathrin

Charlotte



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

The five Tautphaus daughters.
Mary, Elizabeth, Kathrin, Sarah and Charlotte



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Kathrin Marie Tautphaus Johnston, 1876-1964.
Kathrin was county treasurer from 1912-1922.



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Elizabeth Tautphaus Roepcke, 1871-1916



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Charlotte Gertrude Tautphaus Kinney, 1882-1967



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

The Tautphaus Family Dream

In 1886, the Tautphaus family moved from Butte, Montana, to their ranch south of Eagle Rock. Their dream was to develop an oasis in the middle of the desert, construct a large lake, with trees, orchards, flowers, and pastures.

The lake was to be the focal point of the family dream. Remember, there were no dams on the river nor man made lakes around at that time. No Palisades Reservoir, Blackfoot Reservoir, Island Park Reservoir, American Falls Reservoir, Jackson, Lake, Gem Lake - - - You get the idea, a lake here in the middle of the desert was unheard of.

With work horses and equipment, the lake was dug. The locals thought Tautphaus was a bit strange for digging his lake in the middle of the desert where there wasn't any water. His plan was to get water from Sand Creek several miles north east of his ranch. He started digging a canal from Sand Creek but abandoned it when he found out what the natives already knew; that Sand Creek wasn't a dependable source of water. Water would have to come from the Snake River later.

Tautphaus and The Idaho Canal Company

Perhaps Tautphauses greatest contribution to the area and local economy was his formation of the Idaho Canal Company along with others in 1889 to get the water to the thirsty fertile valley soil. It was capitalized at \$500,000 of which he was the principle stockholder with a 37 % ownership. Tautphaus had previously filed on 100,000 inches of water to be taken out of the river 8 miles above Eagle Rock which was to provided the water for the Idaho Canal.

The canal runs from Bear Island 8 miles above Eagle Rock to waste into the Blackfoot River 34 miles away. The canal was constructed mostly with team and scraper. In addition three graders were used known as New Era Graders and Ditchers. They were pulled by 12 horses, eight head on lead and four on a push wagon behind. All the blasting that was done was accomplished by hand with a sledge hammer.

Pioneers Nels Just and his son James held the construction contract. Nels Just is the great grandfather of business man Charlie Just, and the great great grandfather of local attorney Charles Just.

Tautphaus made sure the route of the canal bordered his large block of land to give it excellent water availability and vastly increased value.

The Butte Arm canal branched off the Idaho Canal at 14th Street and Holmes Avenue and flowed through Rose Hill Cemetery to finally fill his 6 acre lake, cascade to the lower level of his ranch and on toward the Shelley Butte to irrigate more farmland.

The Idaho Canal System waters 55 square miles of some of the most fertile farms in the valley. A terrific economic boost to the area!

Insolvency of the Idaho Canal Company

In 1903 a foreclosure sale of the Idaho Canal Company was held to satisfy debts of \$275,000. All assets were sold for \$75,000 to the Idaho Canal and Improvement Company headed and substantially owned by James H. Brady, of Pocatello. Brady 6 years later became Governor of Idaho, and later U S Senator. Brady is the great grand father of Jerry Brady, presently publisher of the Post Register and a candidate for Idaho governor.

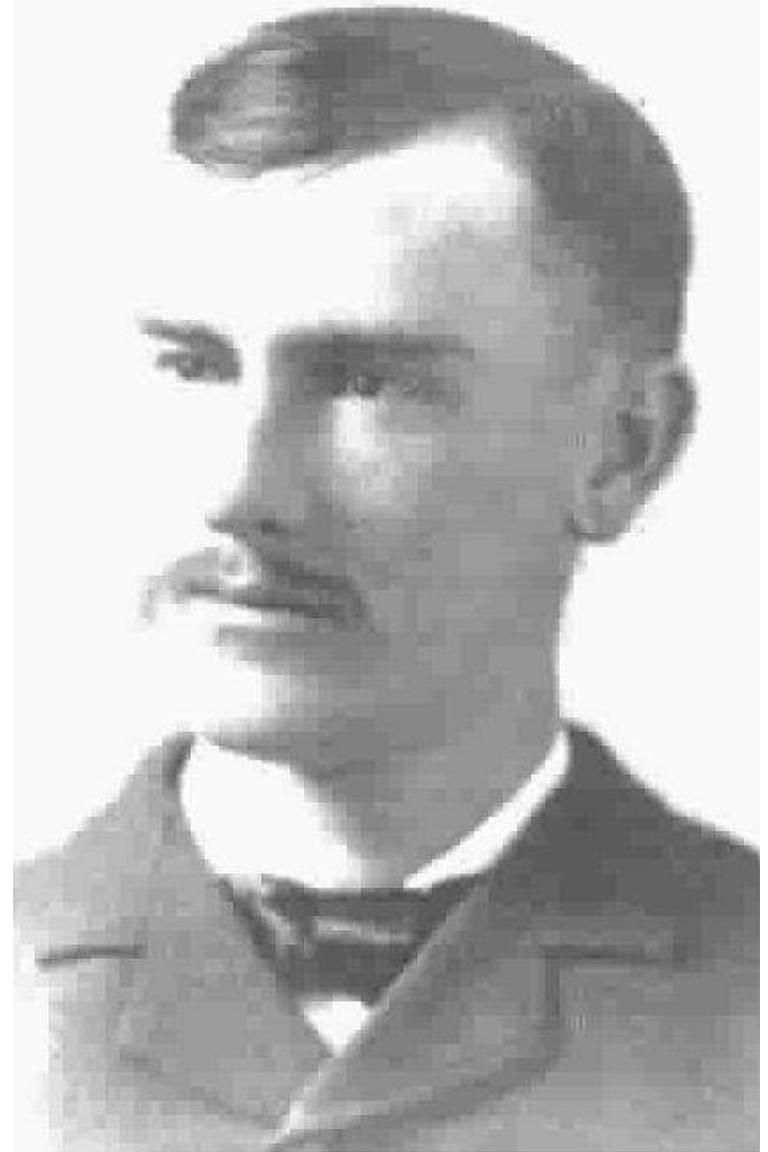
Tautphaus had invested well over \$180,000 to help establish The Idaho Canal Company in 1889. It's insolvency was a devastating loss..

In 1905, the Idaho Irrigation District was formed and after 3 years negotiations with Mr. Brady, purchased the Idaho Canal and Improvement Company in 1908. As an irrigation district, canals have the power to tax their patrons to meet expenses.

Edward P. Henry

Edward P. Henry married Sarah Tautphaus who died in 1902. He then married her sister Mary in 1903.

Henry was a prominent farmer east of Eagle Rock. He was president of the Cedar Hollow and Foot Hills Canal Company in 1888 which was later acquired by the Idaho Canal Company in 1894 and made a part of their system.



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Son in law Fred Johnston and son in Alaska in 1921.
Fred managed the Fair Store where he started in 1899.

Courtesy Museum of Idaho



Son in law John Kinney at Tautphaus' horse barn.



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Son in law John Kinney, conductor.



While working on the Marysville canal near Ashton, ID.



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

The Tautphaus Lake

- Took several years to build in the latter 1880's.
- Several more years to get water to it in 1890.
- 6 acres in size and beautifully landscaped with trees, bushes, flowers, and apple orchard to the north
- Used for picnicking, boating and swimming in the summer and ice skating in the winter.
- Complete with boat house and a raft in middle.
- Abandoned about 1947 because of several drownings and the related liability.
- West quarter of the lake was filled in to create a large picnic shelter and parking lot.
- Sunken ball diamond added to east end of lake.

Boat dock at Tautphaus Lake



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Postcard scene showing early picnic held at Tautphaus Park near lake.

Courtesy Museum of Idaho

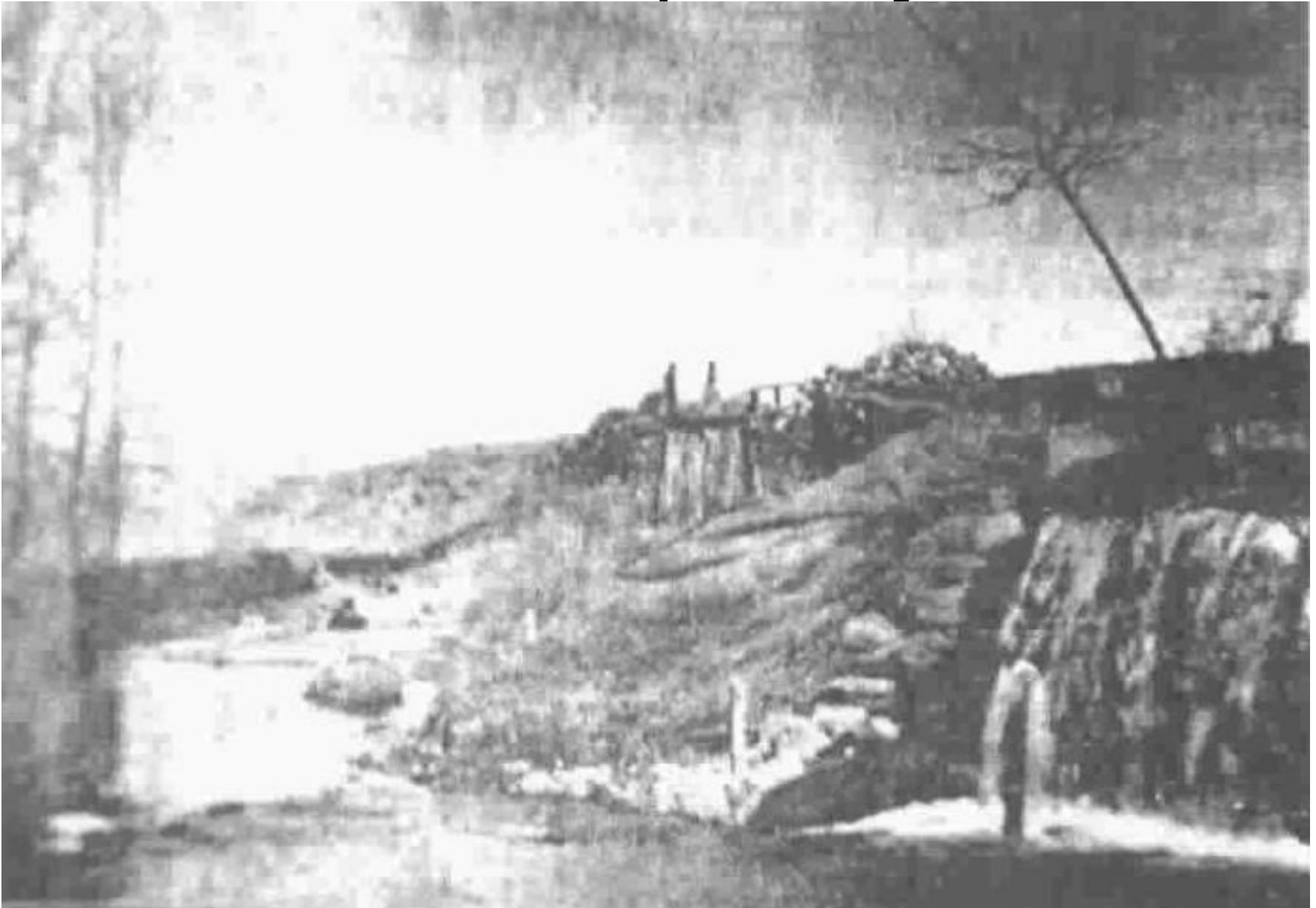


Early day camping at Park



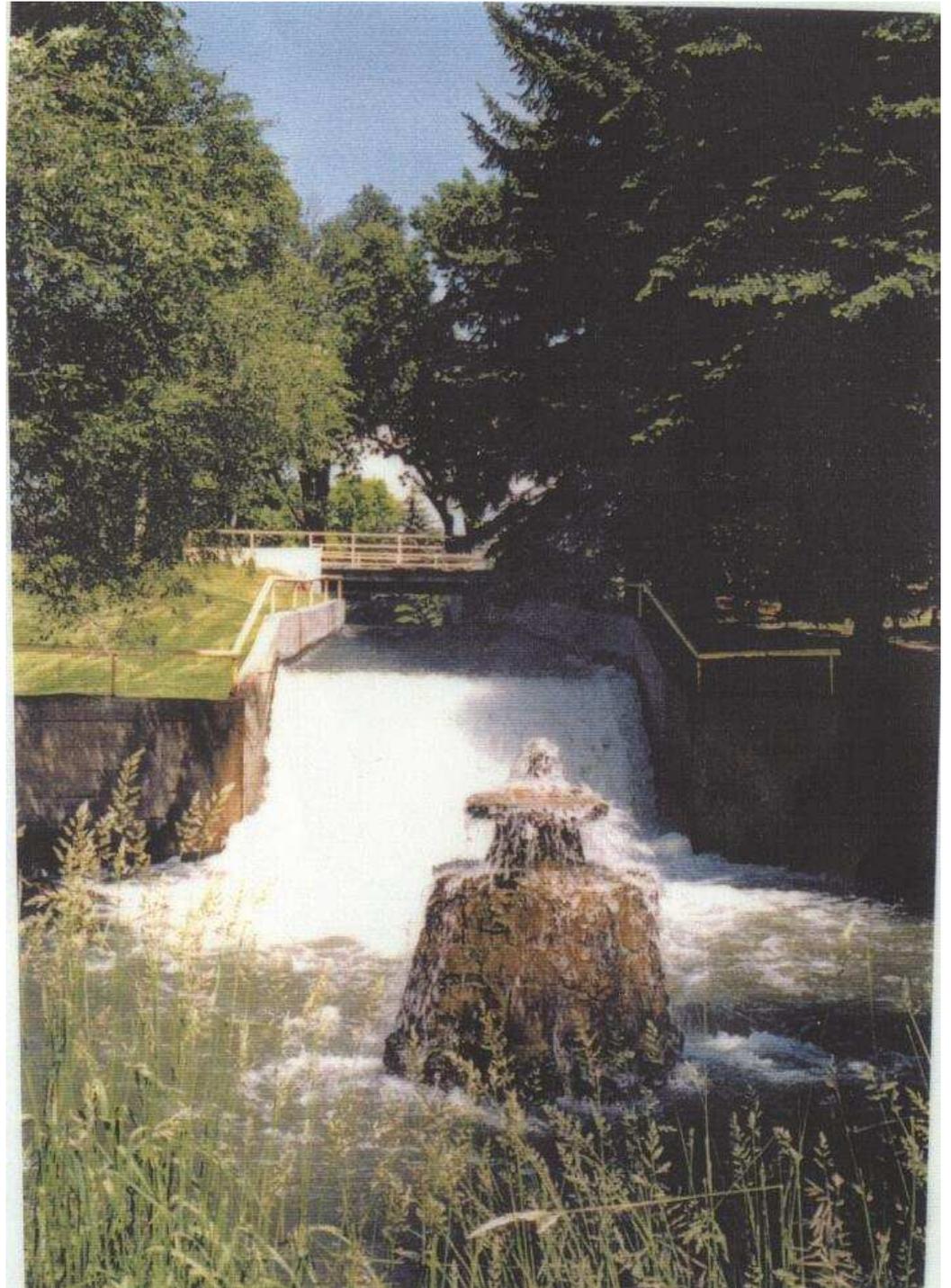
Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Old fountain and spill way from lake



From 1906 Telephone directory

Fountain and
spillway
today



Tautphaus Enterprises

- Building on Eagle Rock Street purchased for \$3,000 in December, 1885 while Tautphaus was living in Butte City, MT. Building housed his meat market and the hall upstairs was used by the Presbyterian Church, Masonic Lodge and for community events.
- In 1890 as president of the Eagle Rock Land & Development Co. he purchased a major portion of the Rail Road Addition in Eagle Rock for later development of the down town area.
- Prospecting for gold in Alaska
- Meat packing and cold storage building at his ranch south of Eagle Rock. Ice was cut on his lake and stored for use through out the summer months. Burned down in 1895, at loss of \$8,000.
- Canals. Some of the canals Tautphaus was involved with were The Idaho Canal and the construction of The West Side Canal near Idaho Falls, The Marysville Canal near Ashton, and a large canal in Bruno area near Mt. Home.
- Freighting in Tonapa, NV while waiting for a large construction project to open up. It was here that Tautphaus died of pneumonia in 1906 at the age of 65.
- His careers encompassed cattle broker, butcher, freighter, road builder, canal builder, developer, farmer, and miner.

1998 Gold Mining Expedition

Breaking with customs that left women at home, Tautphaus took his two daughters Katherin & Sarah and Sarah's husband Edward P. Henry on a 6 month gold mining expedition in the rainy Yukon Territory. They ran out of food for themselves and for their animals, their mules got stuck in the mud and were eventually buried up to their necks. In the end they went home without a single nugget of gold.

The trip wasn't a total failure though, he did discover gold on a later expedition.

1896 newspaper ad for Tautphaus butcher shop.



The man who toils

Is the man who ought to have the best things to eat, because his system requires it. Workmen and everybody else who want the best meat come to the Tautphaus Meat Market. I run the best market in town. My place is clean. The meat is tender and fresh. Prices are low enough to suit anybody.

**C. C. TAUTPHAUS,
Manager.**

Market in Tautphaus Building,
Front St.

Orders by Mail Promptly

1896 newspaper ad for meat market.

Idaho Falls
Live Stock,
Cold Storage
and Dressed
Meat Co

Fresh,
Salt,
Smoked and
Pickled
Meats.

Pure
Leaf
Lard.

Fish
Oysters
and Fruits
in Season.

Orders by Mail Promptly
Attended to.

Market in Tautphaus Build-
ing, Front St.

C. C. TAUTPHAUS,
Manager

1908 Newspaper ad for poultry store.

FOREST HILL POULTRY YARDS COMPANY

E. M. Tautphaus, G. J. Ripley, Proprietors.

**BREEDERS OF HIGH
CLASS, STANDARD
BRED POULTRY.**

**BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS
WHITE WYANDOTTES
S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS**

*Choice Cockerels and Eggs for hatching at reasonable
prices Satisfaction guaranteed.*

We are local agents for

"MANDY" LEE INCUBATOR & "MANDY" LEE BROODER,

Geo. H. Lee Company's Poultry Remedies and Supplies, G. E. Con-
key's Poultry Remedies. We carry a full line of Oyster Shells, Grit,
Cut Bone, Blood Meal, Egg Maker and Lice Killer.

We submit your orders for

STRICTLY FRESH EGGS AND DRESSED POULTRY

Orders carefully filled and delivered promptly. Visitors welcomed.

TAUTPHAUS PARK.

Phone 195-5.

1880's Ad from Butte, Montana

Ad lists stock cattle & milch cows, wholesale & retail.

Tautphaus & Moffitt
PALACE MEAT MARKET.

*Choice Beef, Veal, Mutton,
Sausage etc. Bologna al-
ways on hand.*

*Stock Cattle and Milch Cows,
Wholesale and Retail
Buyers.*

Tautphaus & Moffitt
Palace Meat Market,
142 W. PARK.

MEAT DELIVERED TO ALL PARTS OF THE CITY.
Orders by Telephone Promptly Attended to.
Telephone No. 75. **142 W. PARK.**

The Idaho Falls Boosters Club Era

In 1909, the Idaho Falls Boosters' club purchased from widow Sarah Tautphaus a 160 acres tract to be converted to city park, public amusement grounds, fair grounds and racetrack at a cost of \$35,000 with an anticipated \$48,000 additional by selling shares at \$10 each. One hundred acres was to be sold in small acre tracts. The area had been named for Charles Tautphaus and was known as Tautphaus Park, a name the Boosters Club would retain to honor the Tautphaus family who had welcomed visitors in the past.

A huge grandstand was erected with a race track in front, a band stand, rest rooms, fountains and other amenities.

The grand opening of the new Tautphaus Park was held on July 25, 1910, in conjunction with Pioneer Day, when 4,000 to 5,000 people attended the double celebration. Events included horse races, speeches and athletic programs.

Tautphaus Park with its beautiful tree lined lake and fair grounds became the center of community events and leisure activities. It was a "must see" for all visitors to the area.

Idaho Falls Gains Tautphaus Park, 1909

The Idaho Falls Boosters' Club was organized early in 1909. George M. Scott had convinced fourteen prominent men of the city to join him in developing the Boosters' Club. They initially had one major goal: secure property on which to build a place of public amusement for the citizens of Idaho Falls and surrounding areas.

The Idaho Falls Boosters' Club met several times during the summer of 1909. They talked about various properties available in the area which might be suitable for an amusement park. They visited several sites. Finally, in early October, they were able to secure an option to purchase the most desirable of the possible sites. The tract encompassed 160 acres and the price was \$35,000. The land was about one mile from downtown Idaho Falls and had already been substantially developed. It contained a ten acre lake and roads lined with full grown trees. The area had been named for C.C. Tautphaus and was known as Tautphaus Park, a name the Boosters' Club would retain.

The members of the Boosters' Club had one problem. They didn't have enough money to purchase the Tautphaus property. The first payment of \$500 was due on October 16th. Forty-five

hundred dollars was due in April, 1910 and the remaining \$30,000 was due on December 1, 1910.

The boosters had a good plan to finance the purchase and development of the park. The club was incorporated under the laws of Idaho. Forty thousand dollars worth of stock would be sold in the corporation, the money to be used for the park. Four thousand shares would be sold at \$10 a share. Additionally, every man, woman and child was encouraged to buy, for one dollar, a lapel button or hat pin on which the inscription "I Am One" had been stamped in gold letters. The wearer signified that he or she was one of the boosters of Idaho Falls and had helped purchase Tautphaus Park. A person walking down the streets of Idaho Falls without an "I Am One" button was conspicuous and looked upon with suspicion.

The Boosters' Club project was successful. On December 9, 1909, the Tautphaus Park property was transferred to the club. One hundred acres would be sold in small acre tracts. Sixty acres would be developed into a fairground, race track and city park, and donated to the city of Idaho Falls.

Tautphaus Park is a beautiful park today, and is a monument to the farsighted members of the 1909 Idaho Falls Boosters' Club.

Idaho Register Article, October 8, 1915

“The Tautphaus Park property has been bought by Frank Reno of this city, who will use a greater part of the farm property as a show place and sales place for the purebred cattle and sheep raised on his ranch west of town at Reno. The deal was negotiated by the Smith Realty Company of this city, and J. Ed Smith has been warmly congratulated on being able to make the deal, which is the largest for suburban property ever made in the city. Briggs & McConnell, who, as attorneys for Mrs. Tautphaus, represented her and her daughter, County Treasurer Kathrin T. Johnston. Mr. Reno plans building a handsome residence on his new property. Mr. Reno has announced that it is his idea to improve the park property, which has been used as a fairgrounds for the past few years, and the home of the War Bonnett Roundup, and assist in every way in conducting the best county fair and livestock show in the state. The park was taken over from the Tautphaus estate by the Boosters Club several years ago and transferred by that organization to the Bonneville County Fair Association. The debt was too great for the association to meet and the property reverted to the original owners.”

The Reno Era

J. Frank Reno once owned a dairy farm near Dillon, then in 1884 became partner in a Blackfoot toll bridge. Reno later acquired and developed a 2,000 acre spread now known as the Reno Ranch 20 miles north-west of Mud Lake. Reno operating vast sheep, horse and cattle holdings in Lemhi, Clark and Jefferson Counties.

In 1912 he probably leased rather than purchased Tautphaus Park from the Bonneville County Fair Association for use as a show place for his award winning Cotswold and Hamshire sheep, and his shorthorn cattle. Reno was very pivotal in organizing events held at his Reno Park as it was then known.

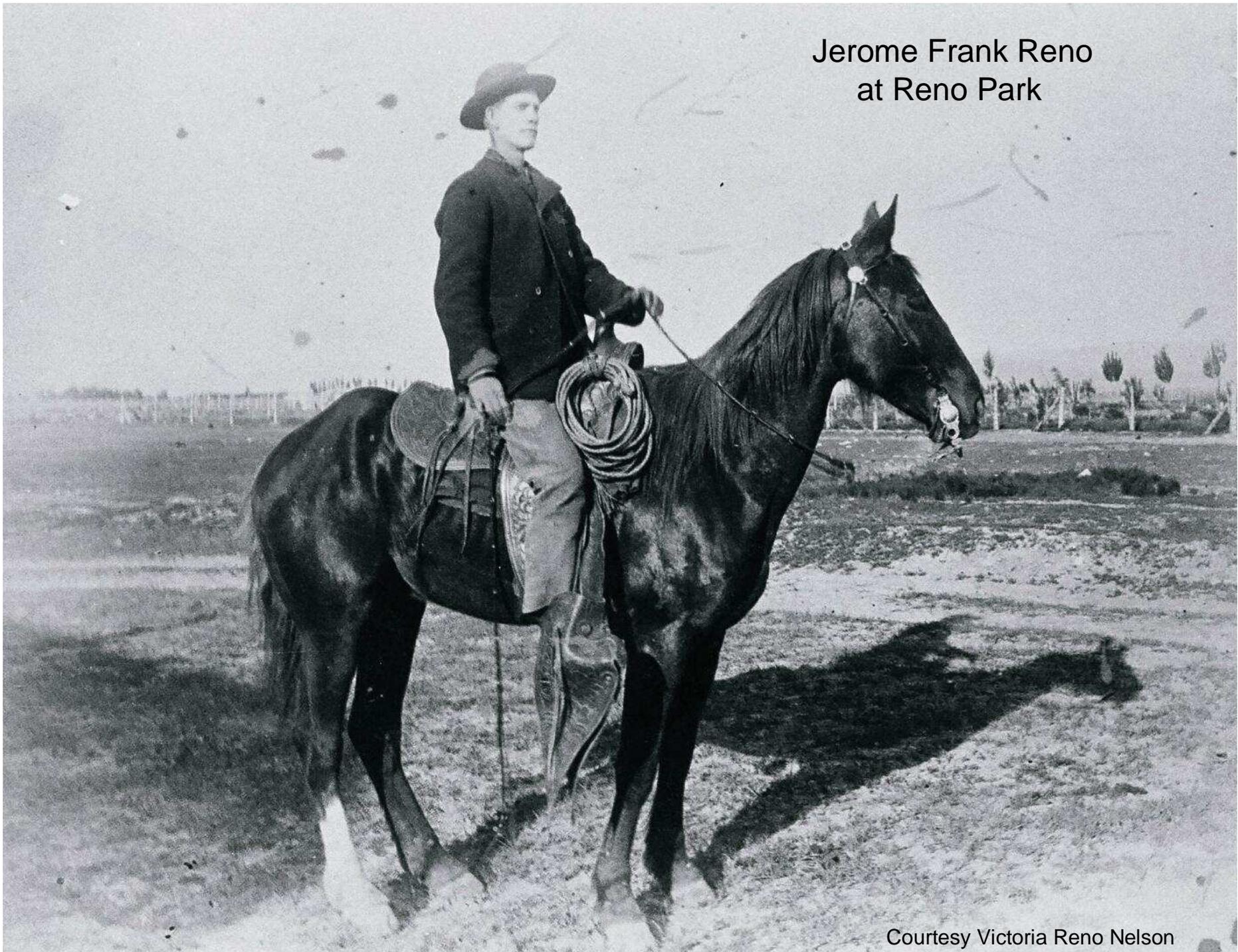
Some time later the Boosters' Club transferred their interest in the Park to the Bonneville County Fair Association who later abandoned the property in 1914, because of over-whelming debt. This voided Reno's interest in the Park and the property reverted back to Sarah Tautphaus..

Jerome Frank Reno 1855-1925
Agnes Bolette Reno 1862-1941



Courtesy Idaho State Historical Society

Jerome Frank Reno
at Reno Park



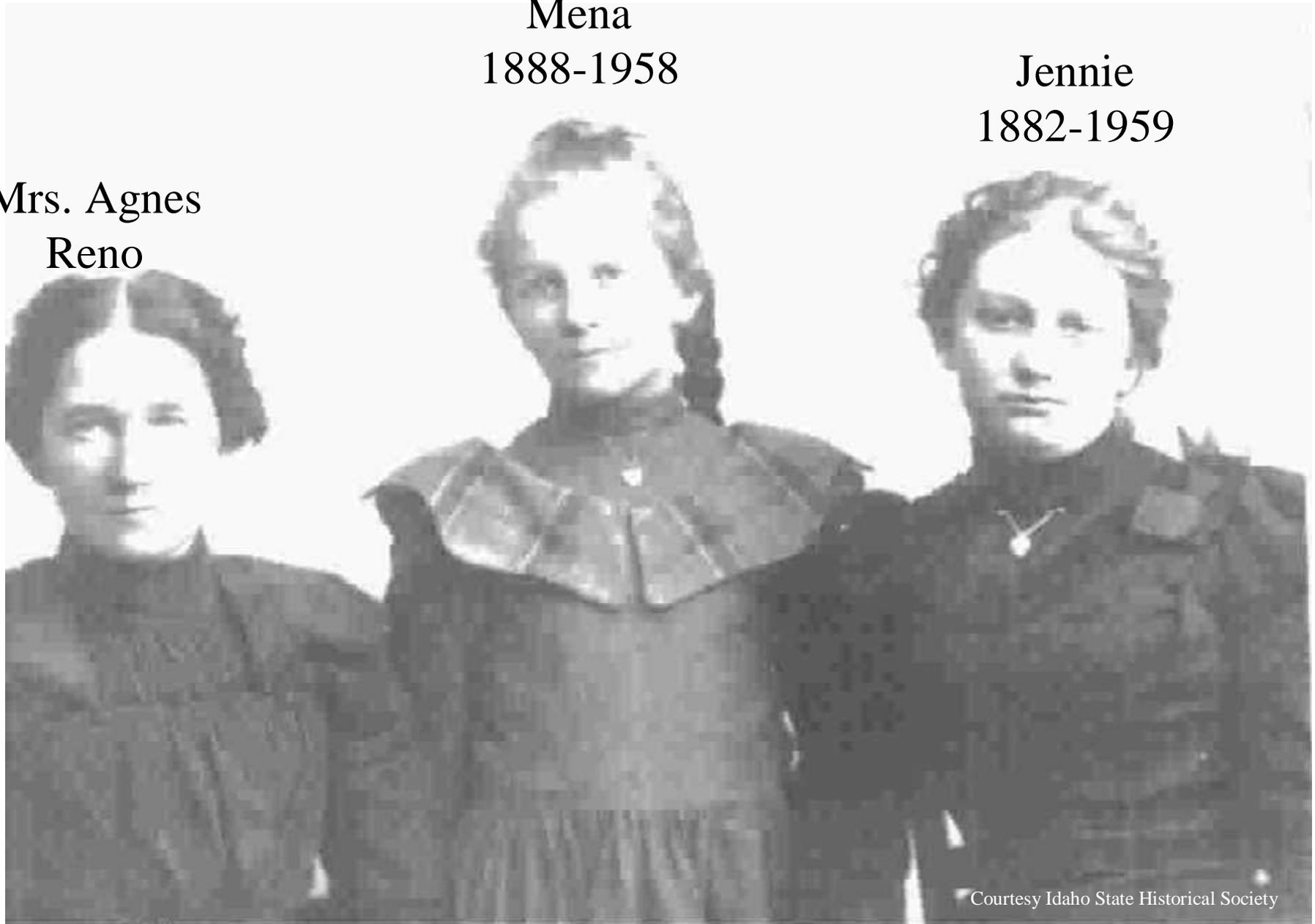
Courtesy Victoria Reno Nelson

Mrs. Agnes Reno and daughters.

Mena
1888-1958

Jennie
1882-1959

Mrs. Agnes
Reno



Courtesy Idaho State Historical Society



Mena Reno

The Reno daughters, Mena & Jennie, never married and lived in the home below located at the north west corner of Elm & Ridge Streets in Idaho Falls. After their deaths, Wood Funeral Home bought the property for Parking.

Courtesy Victoria Reno Nelson



Jennie Reno



The Reno Children at Reno Ranch



Courtesy Idaho State Historical Society

Seaver, Torrey & Mena Reno while living at the Reno Ranch.

Willie (not pictured), died at about 16 when dragged to death by a runaway horse.

Seaver died a few years later at 19 of contaminated water.

They are buried side by side at the old Reno Ranch, in graves was once covered with wild roses.



Reno Sheep Grazing in Reno Park



Courtesy Victoria Reno Nelson

Frank Reno showing his prize winning sheep.

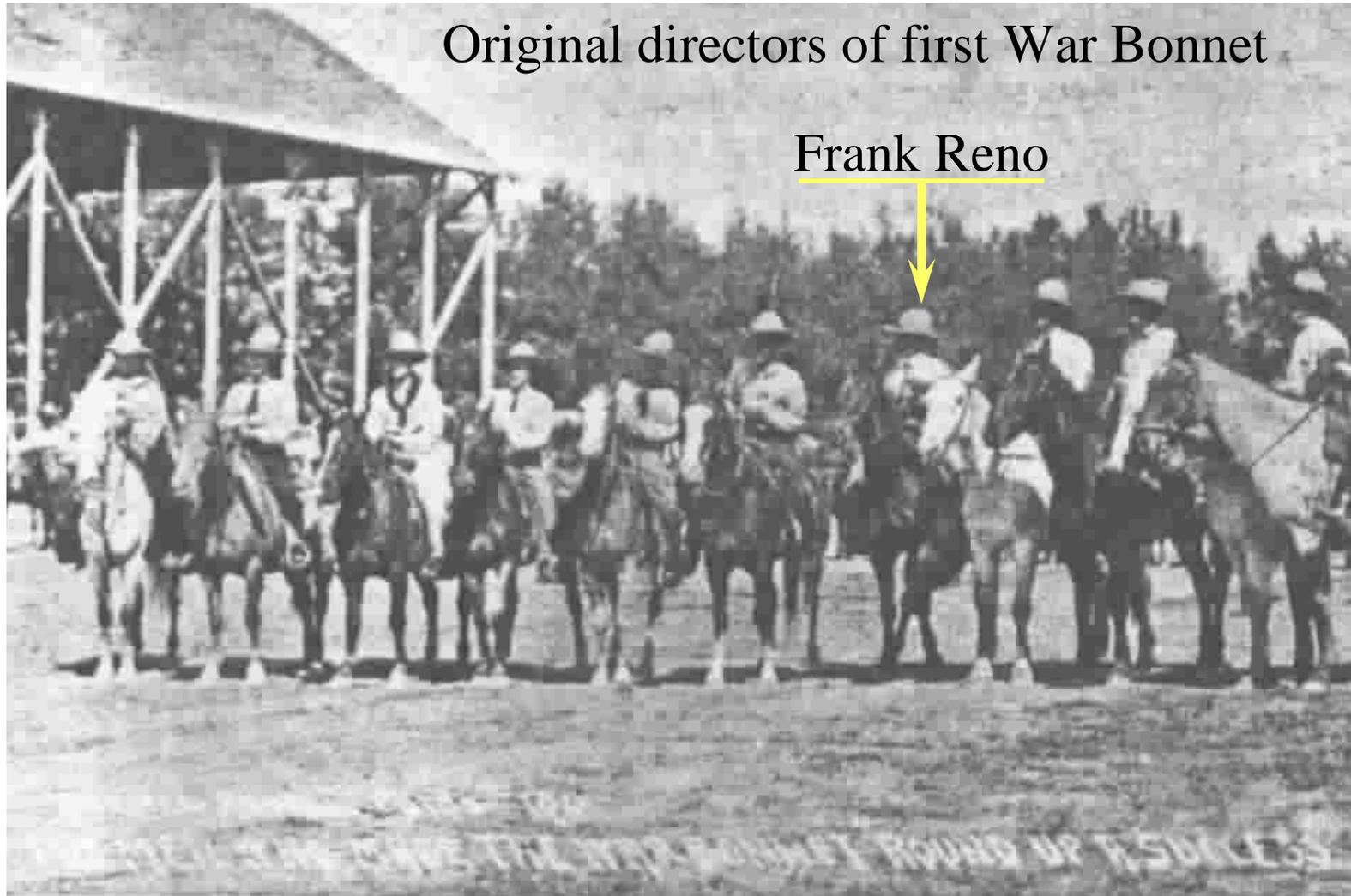


Courtesy Idaho State Historical Society

The 4 War Bonnet Rodeo winners. The trophies are goat hair chaps and 3 saddles.

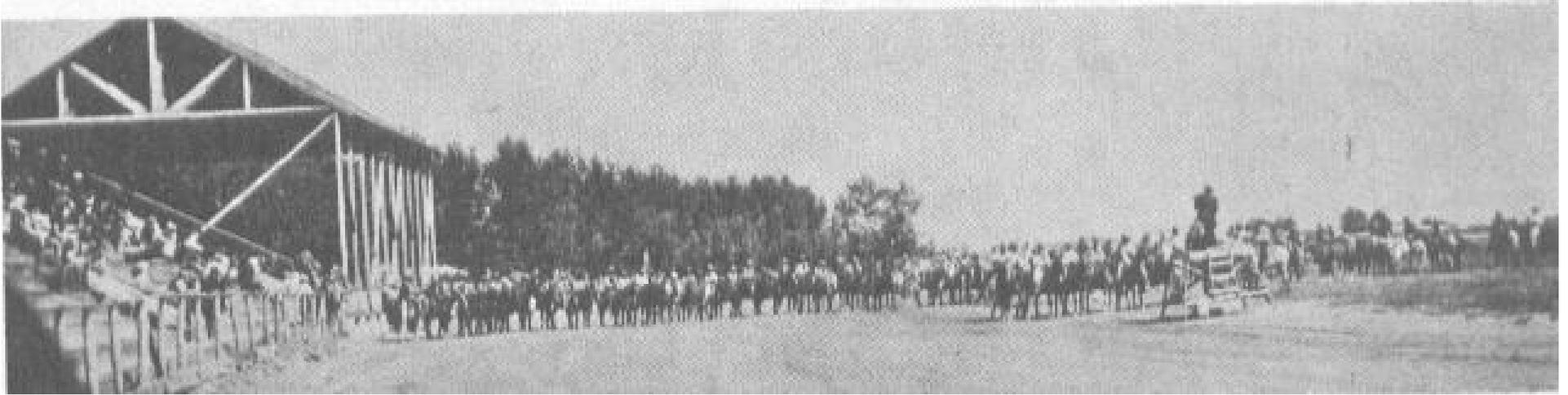


In 1912, \$5,000 was raised to finance the first War Bonnet Rodeo. It ran for 5 days at Reno Park in September 1912. It continues to this day.



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

War Bonnet Rodeo, 1912



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Frank Reno was instrumental in the formation of the War Bonnet Rodeo in 1912, and it's continuing success over the following years. He had a huge live stock and horse ranch at the Reno Ranch west of Mud Lake. Anything connected with live stock and ranching held his keen interest and involvement. He used Reno Park to exhibit his award winning live stock and worked to promote the Bonneville County Fair.

Frank Reno purchases Reno Park

In 1915 Frank Reno purchased the park from Sarah Tautphaus, and announced plans **“to build a handsome residence and improve the property and assist in every way in conducting the best county fair and livestock show in the state.”**

Times were great and Reno grew his vast empire to encompass holdings in 3 counties. His son Torrey once said that his dad often kept \$100,000 operating expense in his checking account.

Unfortunately times sometimes change for the worse. After World War I, the economy faltered and the once vast Reno empire came upon financially difficult times. The Reno Park property reverted to the Sarah Tautphaus heirs in 1920.

Reno later had some health issues including the loss of a leg and died in 1925 at the age of 70, thus ending an interesting, productive and respected life.

Grave Marker of J. Frank and Agnes Reno at Rose Hill Cemetery



Mena Reno buys Reno Park in 1922

Frank Reno's 34 year old daughter, Mena, purchased the 58 acre park property from Abraham Parent who months earlier had purchased it from the Sarah Tautphaus estate. Even though it was a private park, the county fair, rodeo, Pioneer Day, Independence Day and other celebrations continued to be held there. Mena's brother, Torrey, was active in aiding her in operations. I would suspect that rental fees were collected much as Sealander Park does today.

Following the stock market crash of 1929 and the severe depression that followed, Mena Reno lost the property in 1932, to the American National Bank, a forerunner of today's U S Bank.

War Bonnet



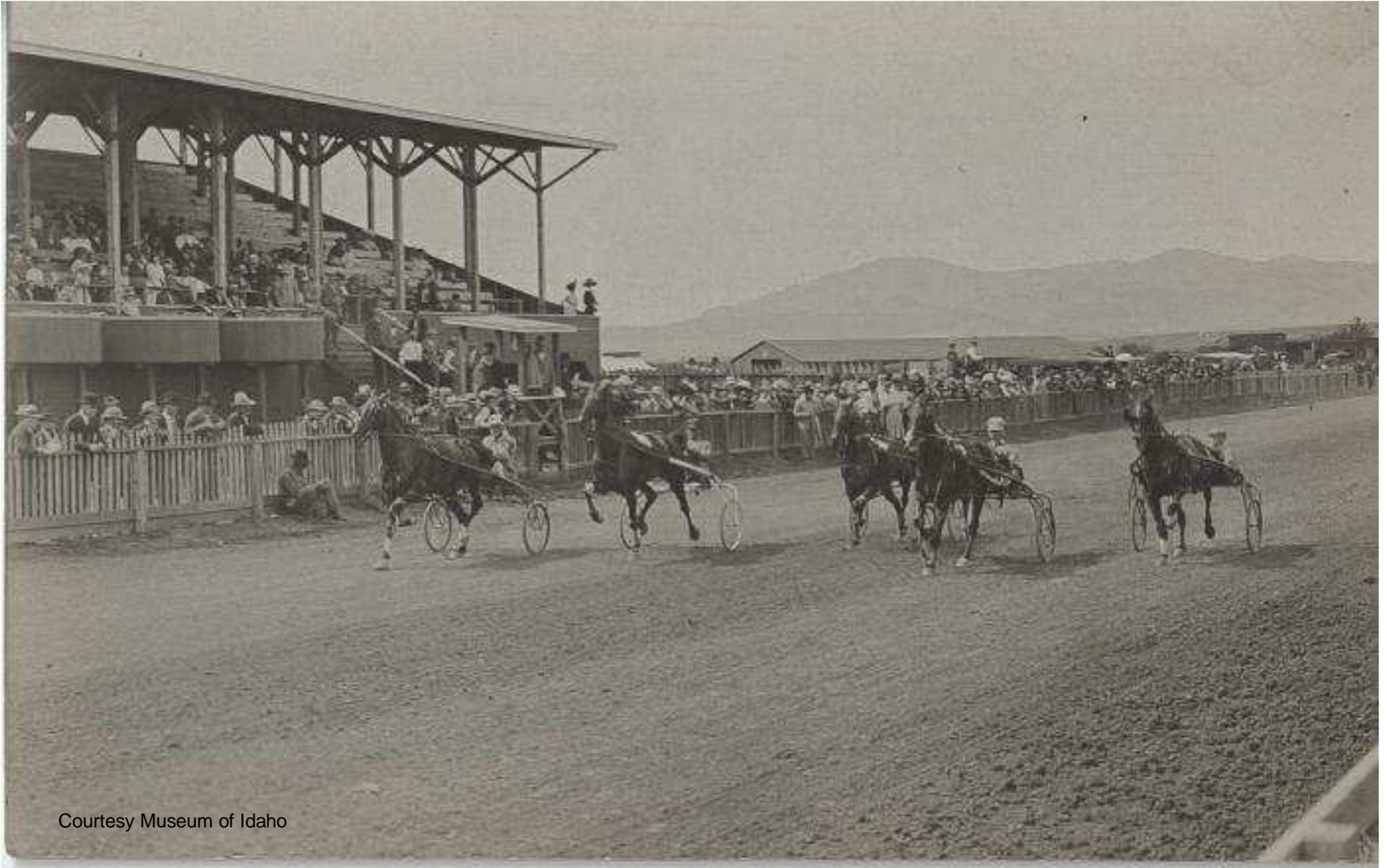
Courtesy Museum of Idaho

War Bonnet Rodeo women's bucking contest.



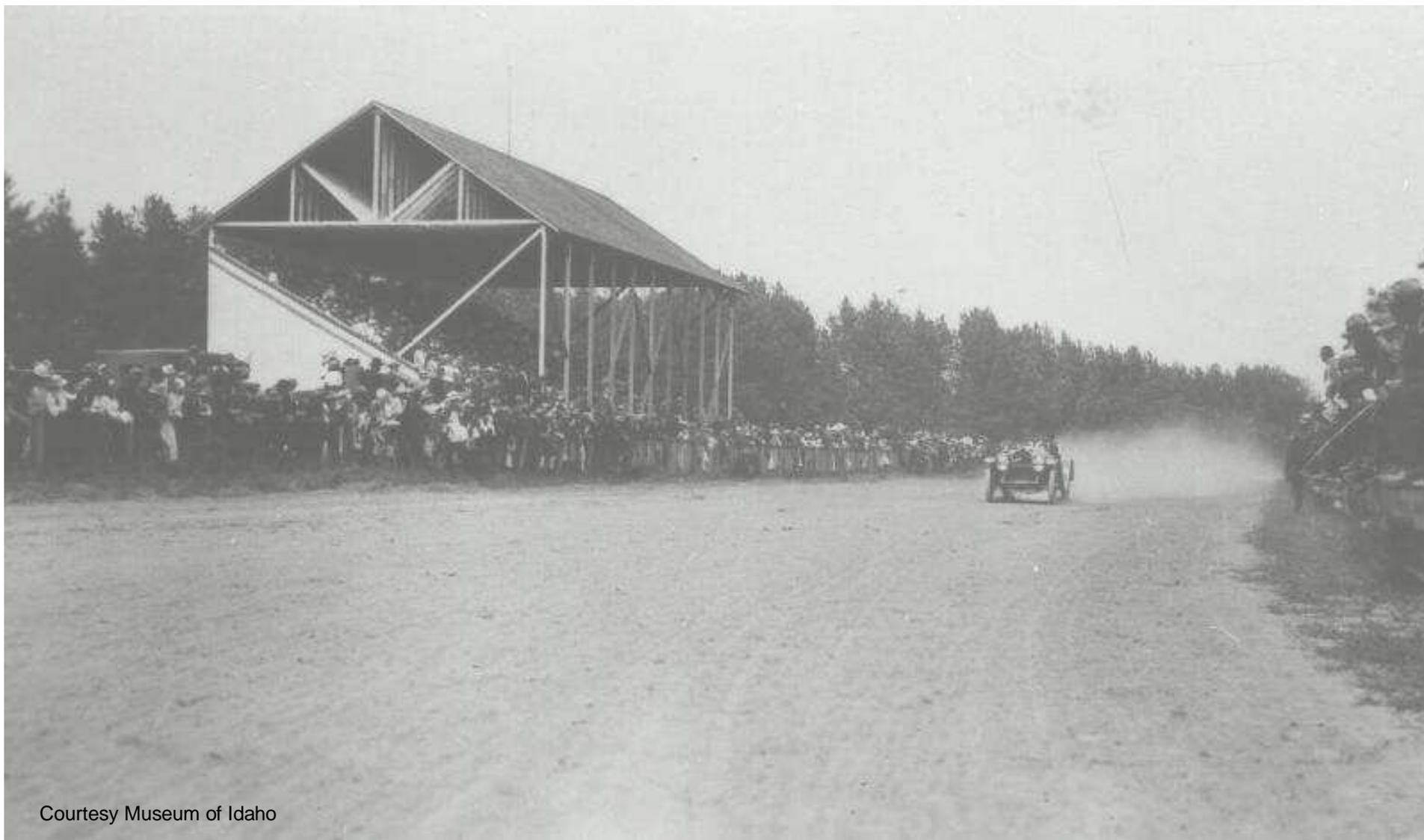
Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Sulky Race



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Auto Racing



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

First recorded aviation in Idaho Falls

In Spring of 1911, Charles Willard assembled and flew his Curtis biplane from the fairground at Tautphaus Park, only 8 years after the Wright Brothers first flew at Kitty Hawk. The next few years saw a series of aerial exhibitionists perform there and in nearby pasture lands.

Local author Connie Otteson relates the following storey in her just published book “Unsung Heroes and Settlers of Bonneville County, Idaho”. In 1912 James Albert Owen wrote in his journal, “I bought a brand new black surrey buggy, just in time to take a load of children to Reno Park for a demonstration of the Wright Exhibition Flying Team. When the plane took off, there was a terrific roar, then intense upward suction and a huge cloud of dust. The team of horses became so frightened, the children had to scramble out of the rig. During the rest of the demonstration, I held them on a shorter rein since they became frantic whenever the machine roared overhead.”

Noted Aviator Tommy Thompson at Reno Park 1927



Courtesy Marshal Scott

Volker Tri-motor at Reno Park 1927



Courtesy Marshal Scott

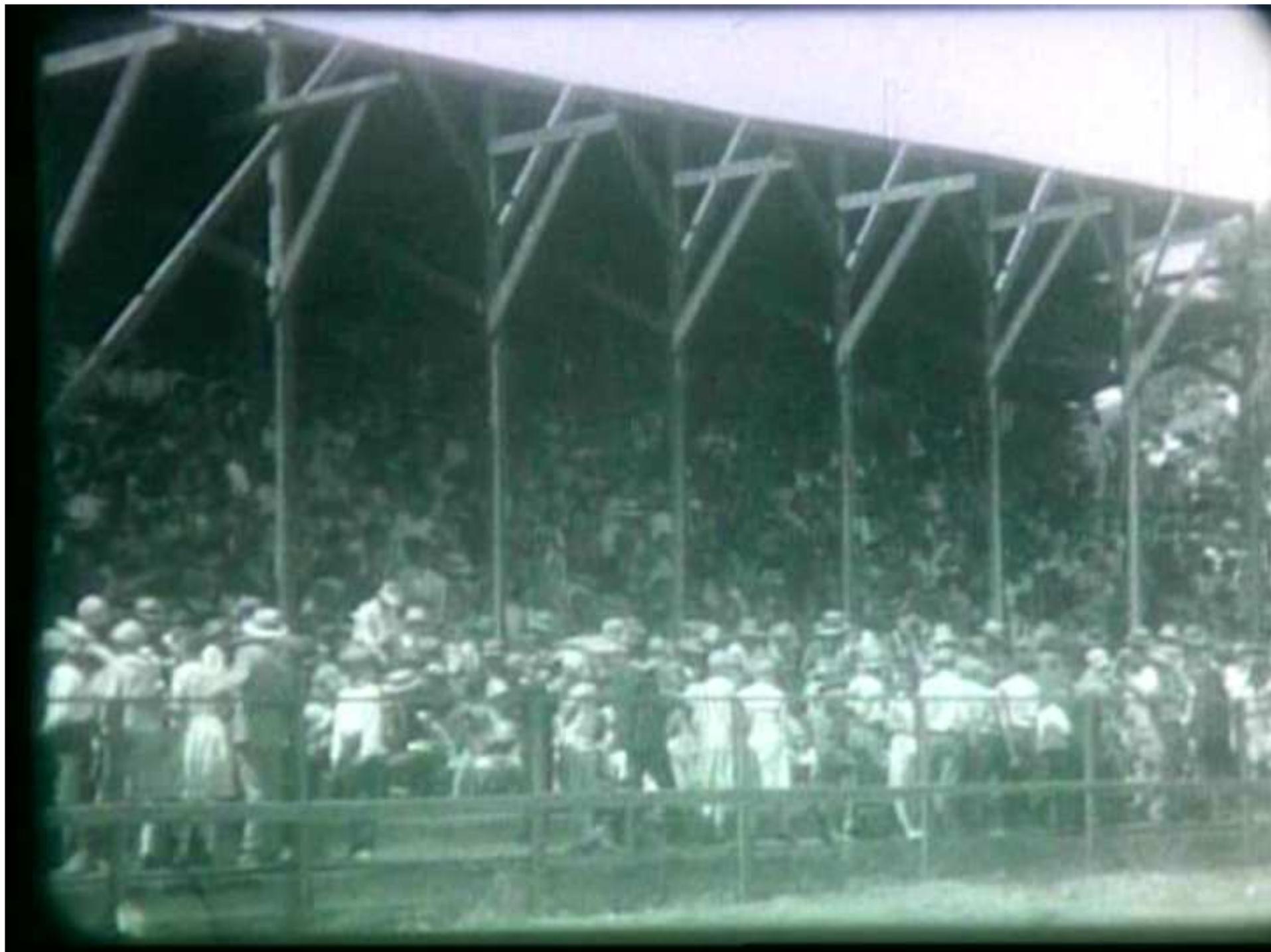
Full Featured Movie shot at Reno Park

In 1915 one of the first full featured movies filmed in Idaho was shot at Reno Park. It was a Wild West movie entitled “The Cow Puncher” produced by a Chicago company and captured cowboys and Indians participating in the annual roundup, portraying what the “real west” was really like.

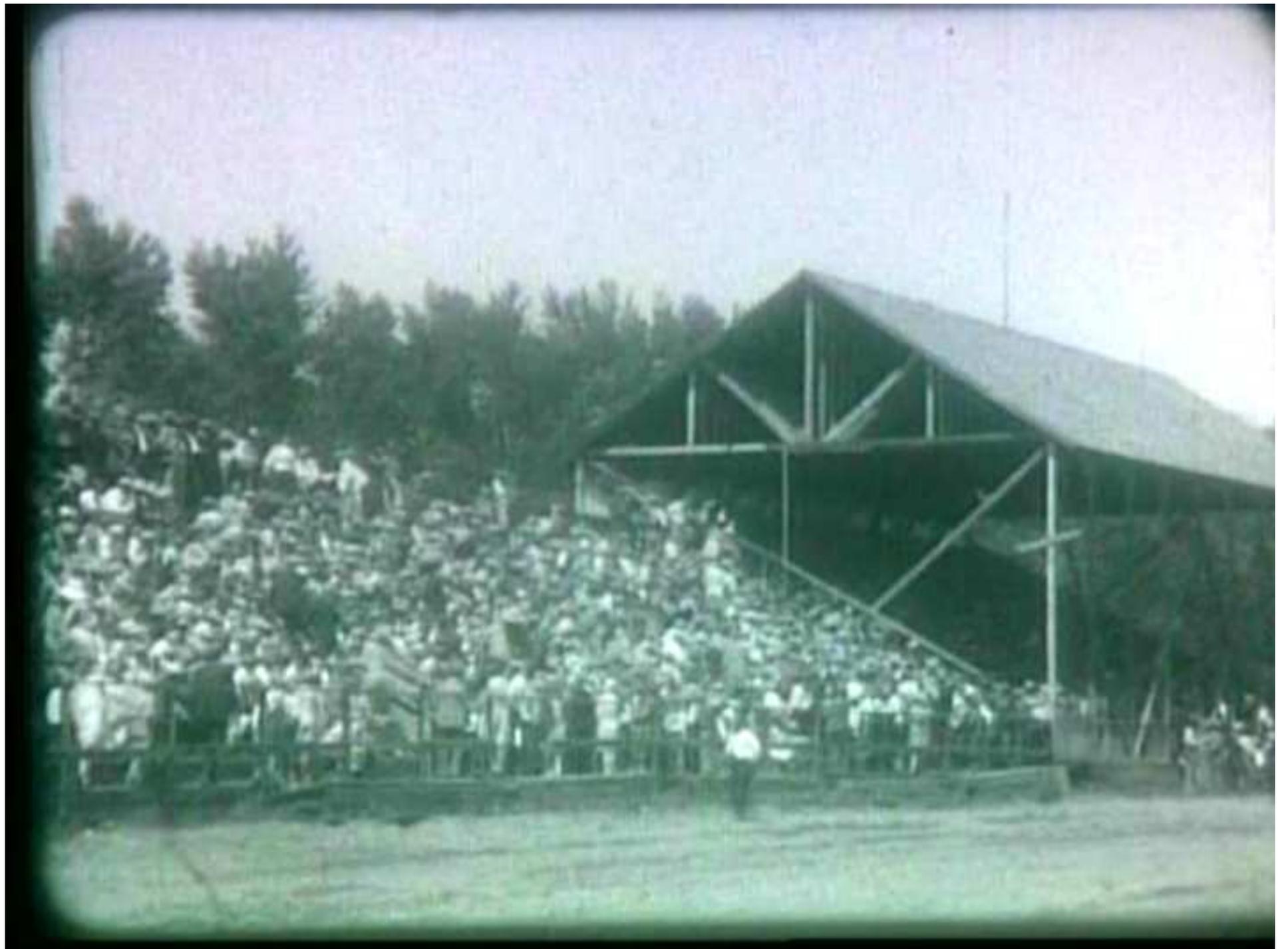
The Grandstands at Reno Park 1927

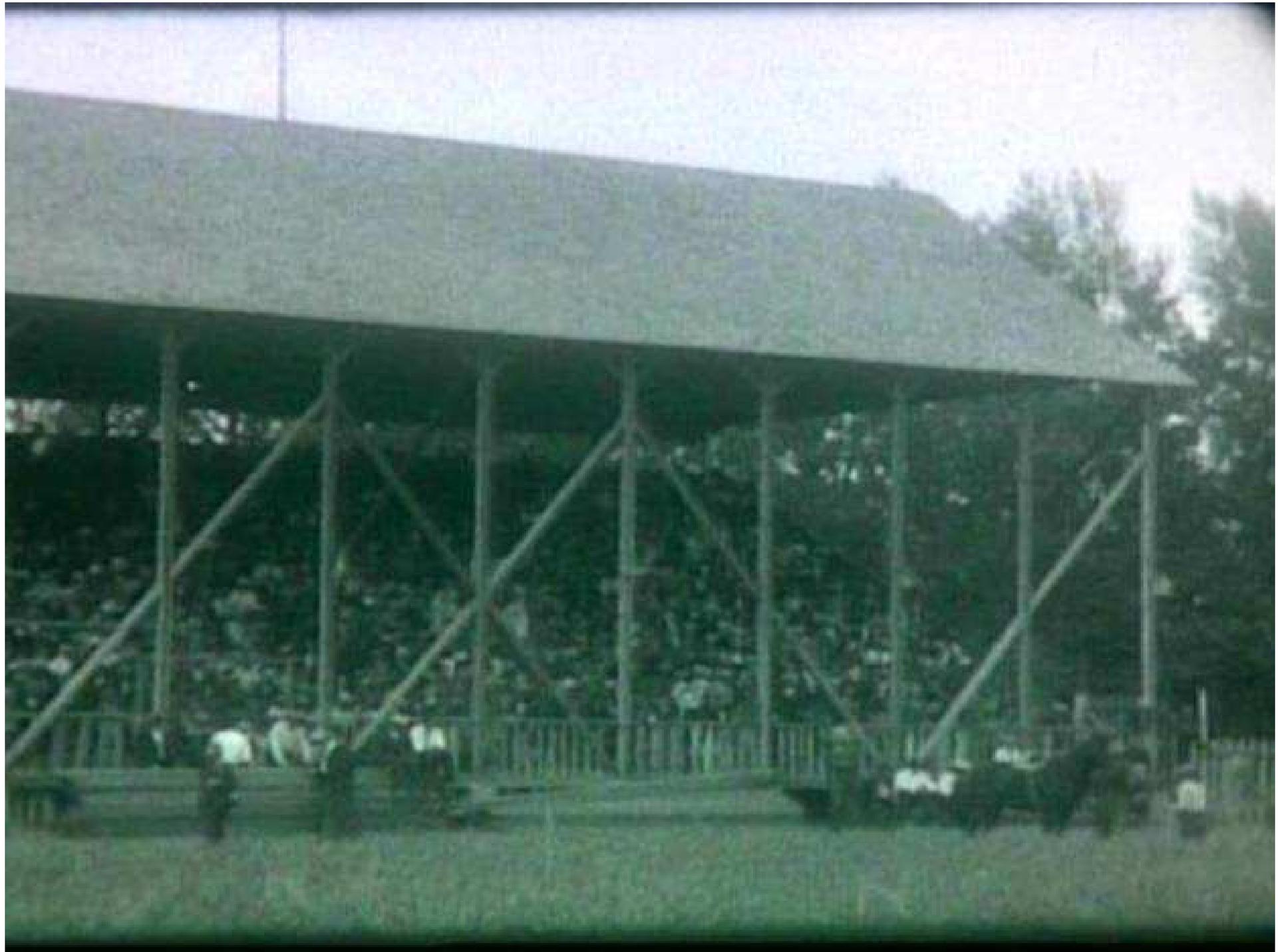
Panorama picture was created from multiple 16 mm film frames shot by Marshall Scott and provided me by his son Gary Scott.











1927 Bathing Beauty Contest at Reno Park
Notice the lake in background.
Cleo later became Judge Henry Martin's wife



Courtesy Marshal Scott

Another beauty at Reno Park, 1927



Courtesy Marshal Scott

Little Bathing Beauties at Reno Park 1927
Little girl in umbrella is Francis Poitevin McGill



Courtesy Marshal Scott

Japanese American Culture at Reno Park 1927

Grandstand is in background.



Courtesy Marshal Scott

More Japanese American Culture at Reno Park



Courtesy Marshal Scott

Japanese Sumo Wrestlers 1927 at Reno Park



Courtesy Marshal Scott

Dueling in front of Reno Park barn that later burned.



Courtesy Marshal Scott

Monument of the two Reno girls, Jennie and Mena at Rose Hill Cemetery

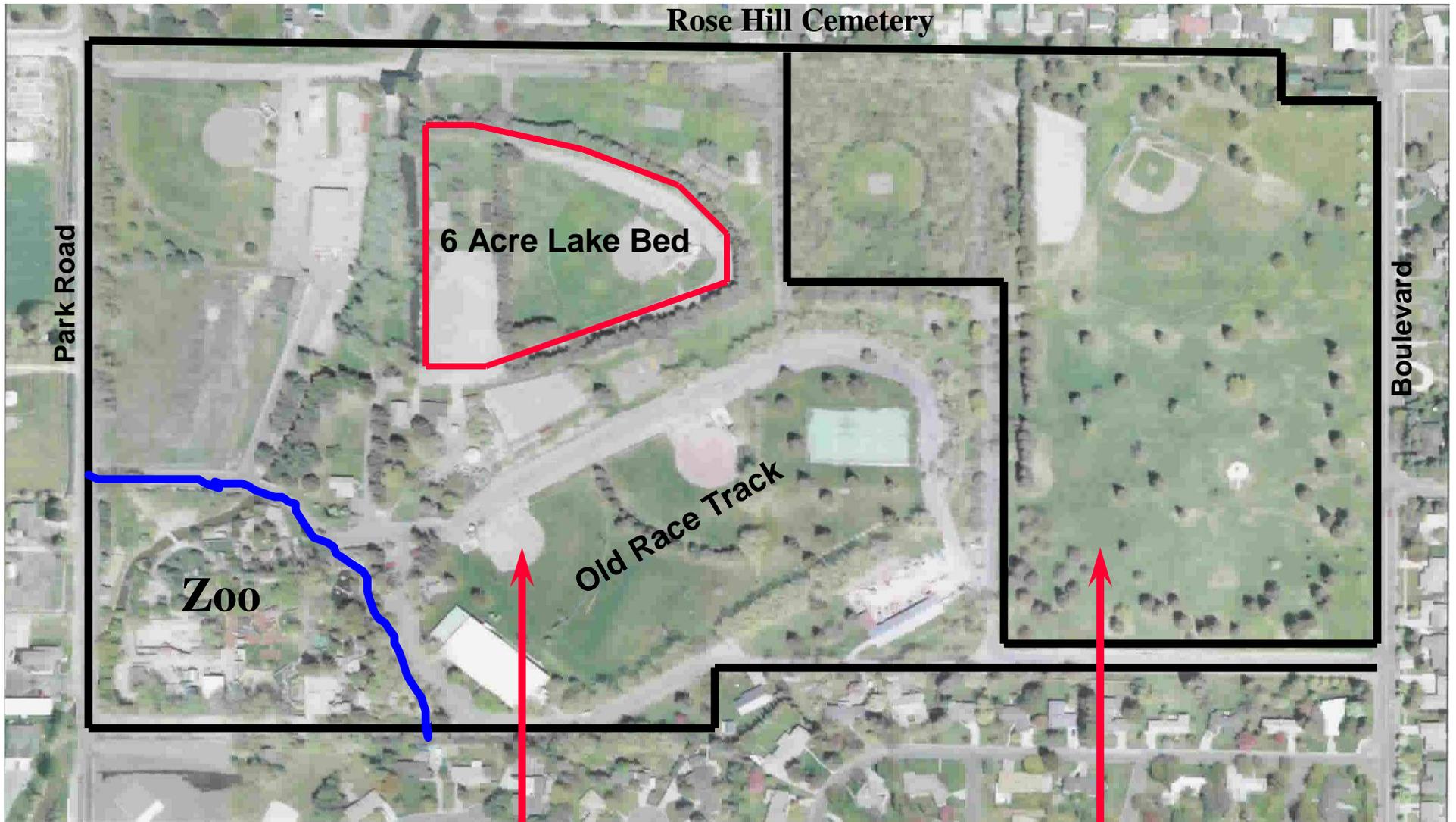


City of Idaho Falls buys Park property. Reno Park now become known as City Park.

In 1934 the City signed an option to purchase the Reno Park property for \$13,500 from the American National Bank. The option was for \$1,000 to be paid at signing with the remaining \$12,500 to be paid the following year to secure the deed. The acreage was 61.28 acres.

In 1942 the city purchased the east 24.7 acres from D. F. Richards, the president of the American National Bank, for \$7,944. Until it was grassed and put into the park system, both Richards and the City used to rent out the farm ground. As a youth I used to work the ground while working for my older brother Henry Bennett who rented the farm land.

Tautphaus Park – 85 Acres



1935 Purchase, \$13,500
61.28 acres

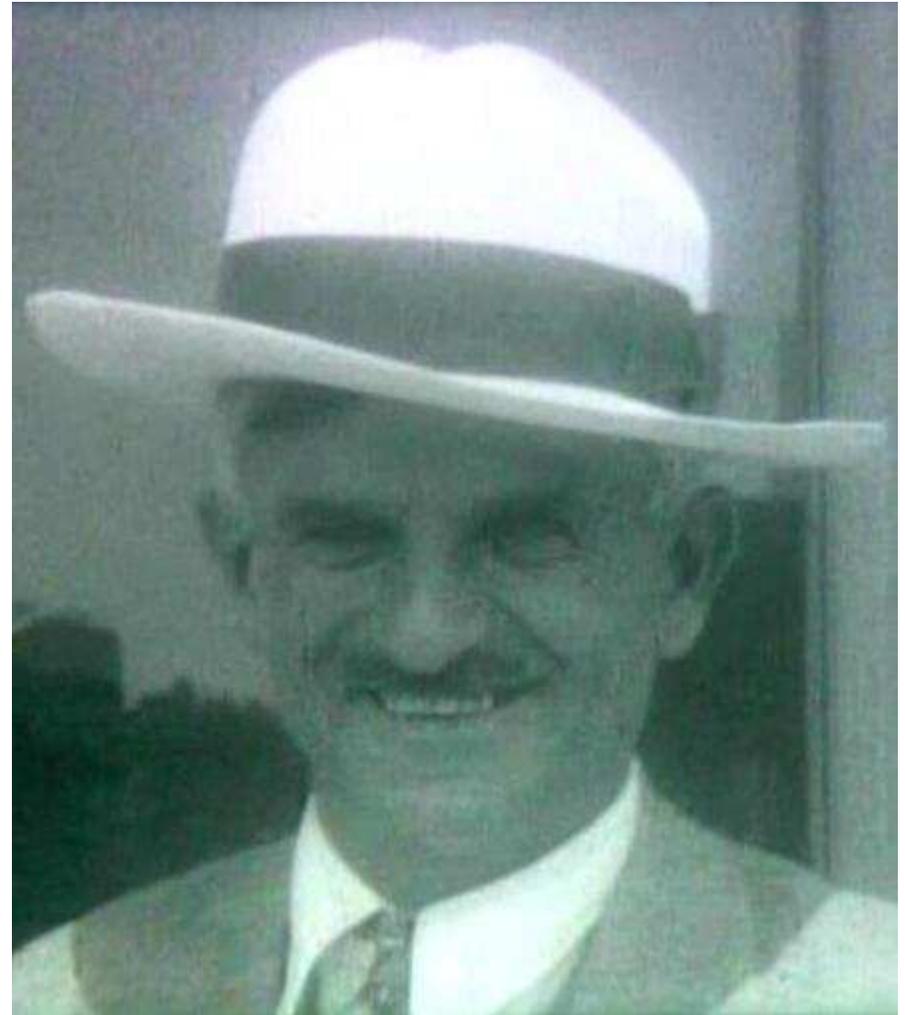
1942 Purchase, \$7,944
23.7 acres

Mayor Brazilla Clark, 1927

It was during Brazilla Clark's administration that the city purchased the park in 1935.

Mayor Clark went on to become governor of Idaho as did his brother Chase Clark.

Their father Joseph Clark was the first mayor of Idaho Falls and as a surveyor laid out the Idaho Canal route.



Courtesy Marshal Scott

Starting in 1934 Log structures were built by several federal programs including the WPA. \$62,000 was spent for log structures and other improvements.

- Rest room, shower and dressing rooms near lake.
- Home for caretaker.
- Two large horse barns.
- Huge exhibition building.
- Heated housing for monkey & birds, etc.
- Service building for zoo.
- Animal pens & shelters for zoo animals.

Dressing rooms for bathers, later, The Log Hut Built for lake bathers in mid 30's.



Superintendents Home built by in 1934.
Now the Zoo executive office.



Superintendents Home built by government in 1934.
Now the Zoo executive office.



Courtesy Leo Larsen

One of the two horse barns built by WPA in mid 30's.



Photo by Jim Bennett

Huge log exhibit building built WPA in mid 30's & burned in 1979.
Mounted riders are officers of the War Bonnet Roundup.



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Civic Club dance in log exhibition building.



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

German prisoner of war camp World War II. Prisoners were captured by Gen. George Patton in Africa.



Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Road above big log exhibition building.

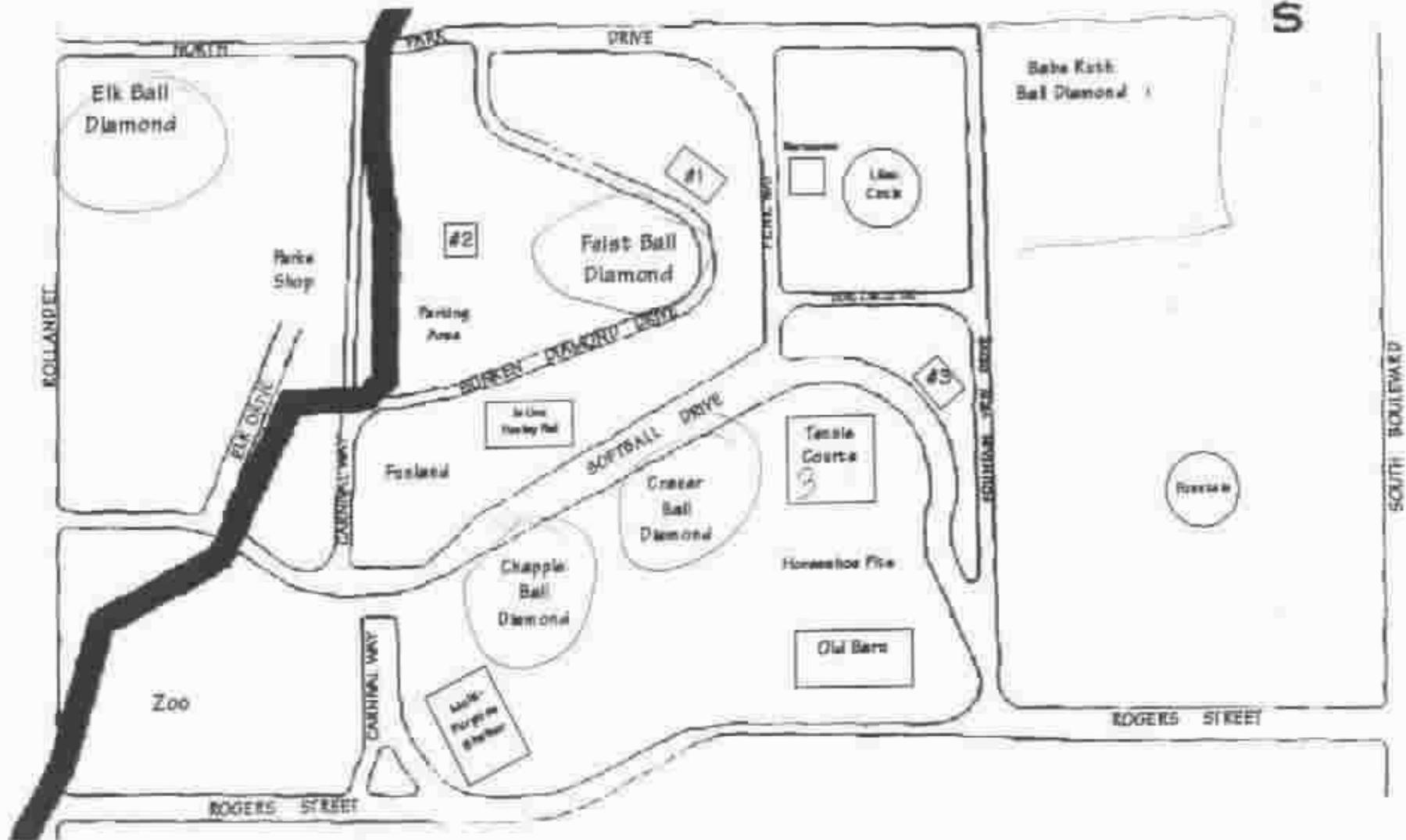


Courtesy Museum of Idaho

Tautphaus Park from the air – 1950's.



Tautphaus Park



Ice Skating at the Park

The lake, as long as it existed, always provided ice skating in the winter. When the large log exhibition building was built by the WPA it provided inside skating as well. A fire in the large fire place provided a place to huddle around and warm up.

After the lake was abandoned about 1947 and the Log Exhibition building burned in 1979, skating and hockey suffered.

About 1983 a grant from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation provided funds to build a new multipurpose building. Later in the 1980's funds were raised to add ice making equipment and inside skating rink so that the skating season could be greatly extended. A wonderful facility for skaters and hockey play. During the summer all sorts of activities are held there, such as political rallies, car shows, pancake breakfasts, scouting events, displays, and large gatherings of all types.

Disabled Playground Located where 6 acre lake once was.



Photo by Jim Bennett

Skate Park



Photo by Jim Bennett

Large fountain in east section of Park



In 1972 the Luxton estate donated \$10,000 toward the \$23,600 cost of the new fountain.

Pranksters sometimes add soap or ink for fun.

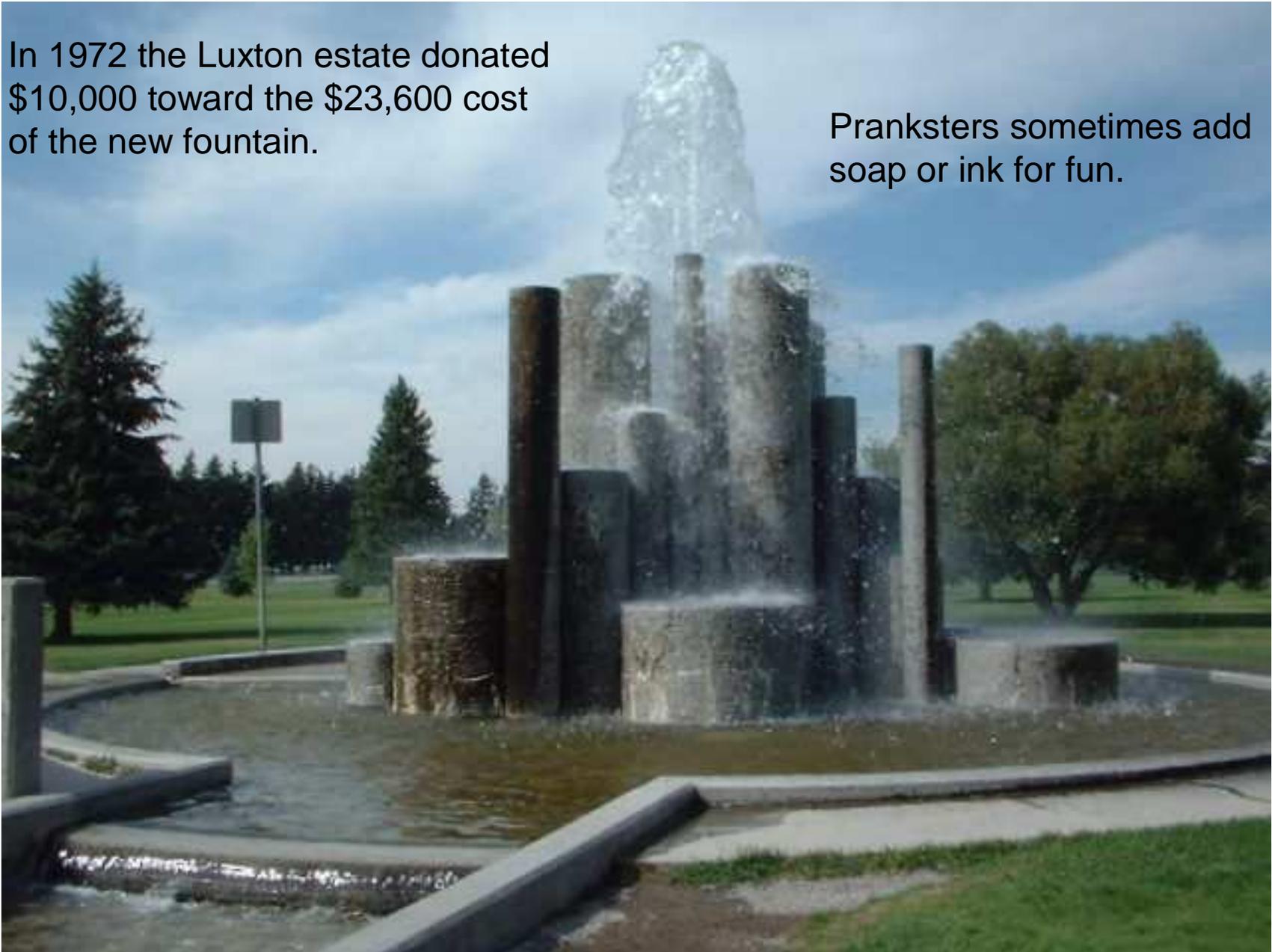


Photo by Jim Bennett

City Park renamed Tautphaus Park 1943

In 1943 a group of citizens headed by John H. Senter wanted to memorialize the contributions the Tautphaus family had made to the area and petitioned the city council to restore the name Tautphaus Park to the park. And so it was.

John Senter had been an officer in the Cedar Hollow & Foot Hills Canal Company formed in 1888 and headed by Edward P. Henry who later became Tautphaus' son in law. The company was subsequently acquired by the Idaho Canal Company in 1894. Senter was no doubt a personal friend of Tautphaus.

The old dressing rooms for bathers, now the Log Hut



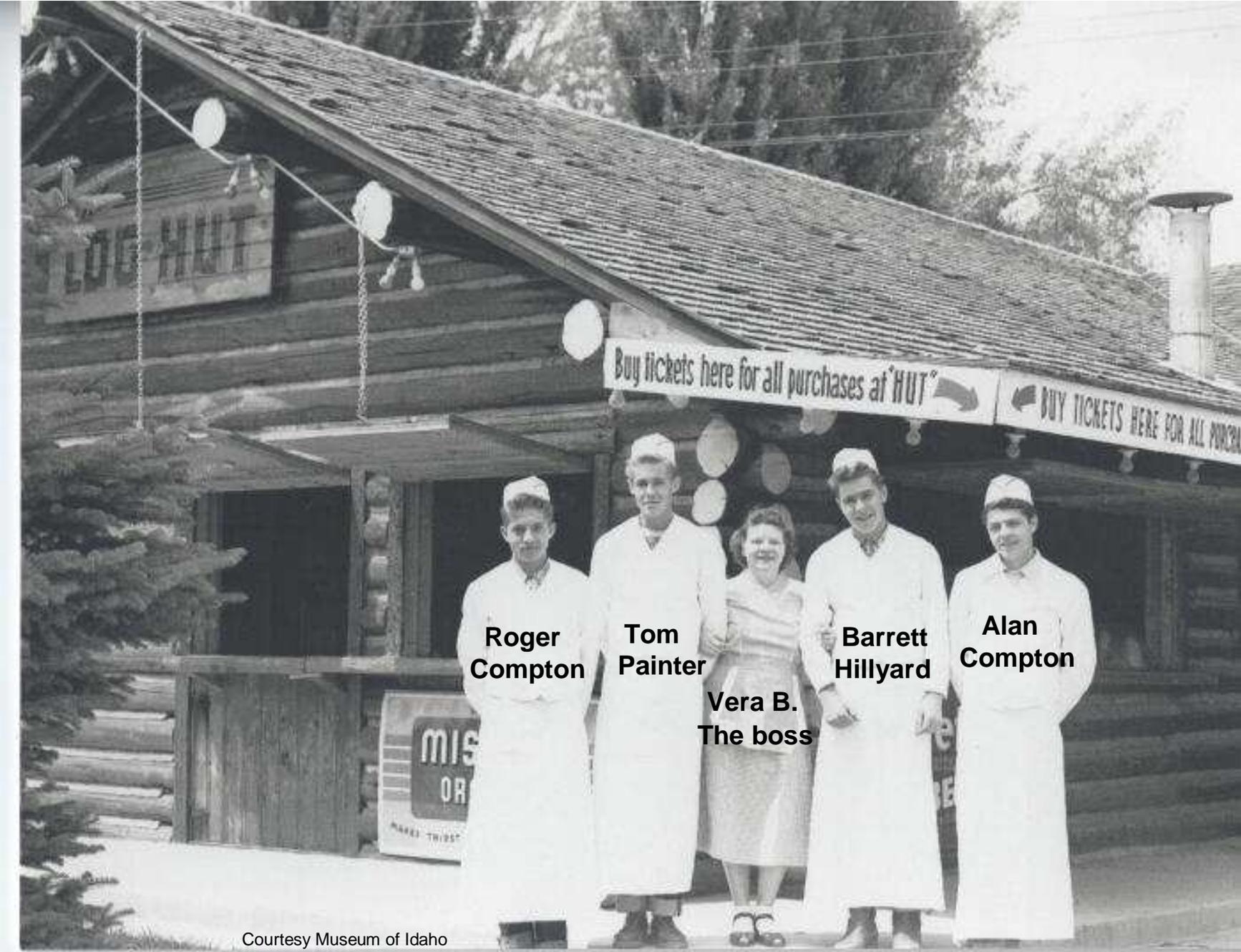
Amusement Park & Concession Stand.

In 1947, after the lake was abandoned, 4 business men, (Glenn Crabtree, Joseph Gesas, Brad Minor and Cecil Bateman) converted the dressing rooms into a chicken restaurant. To increase foot traffic to their restaurant, they added a merry-go-round and Fun Land was born.

The Merry-go-round was brand new and still has its original horses. Other rides were added: a Ferris wheel, octopus, train ride and swings. The little planes on the swing ride were made of gasoline drop tanks from B-17 bombers. The train was imported from Italy. Miniature golf was added later.

The restaurant became the Log Hut concession stand, complete with nickelodeon, dance floor and some of the best burgers in town.

Log Hut Staff, late 40's



**Roger
Compton**

**Tom
Painter**

**Vera B.
The boss**

**Barrett
Hillyard**

**Alan
Compton**

Busy day at Funland



Courtesy Leo Larsen



Courtesy Leo Larsen

Plane Ride. Planes were made from B-17 fuel drop tanks.
The Log Hut in background was the old dressing room for swimmers.



Courtesy Leo Larsen

Merry-go-round only one of two in U.S. in original location.



Courtesy Leo Larsen

Merry-go-round brand new in late 40's.



Train ride imported from Italy

Courtesy Leo Larsen



Courtesy Leo Larsen



Courtesy Leo Larsen

Leo Larsen becomes owner.

Soon after Funland started, young mechanic Leo Larson was hired to keep the equipment running. The owners later made Leo a deal he couldn't resist, and so became the new owner. Having owned Funland for over 50 years, Leo decided in 2000 that it was time to quit. He couldn't find a buyer and so was anticipating selling it piece by piece to a "ride" broker.

Ann Rehnberg read about the plight of Funland in the Post Register. Always fascinated by the small amusement parks that were disappearing from Americana, she approached Leo and several days later was the new owner.

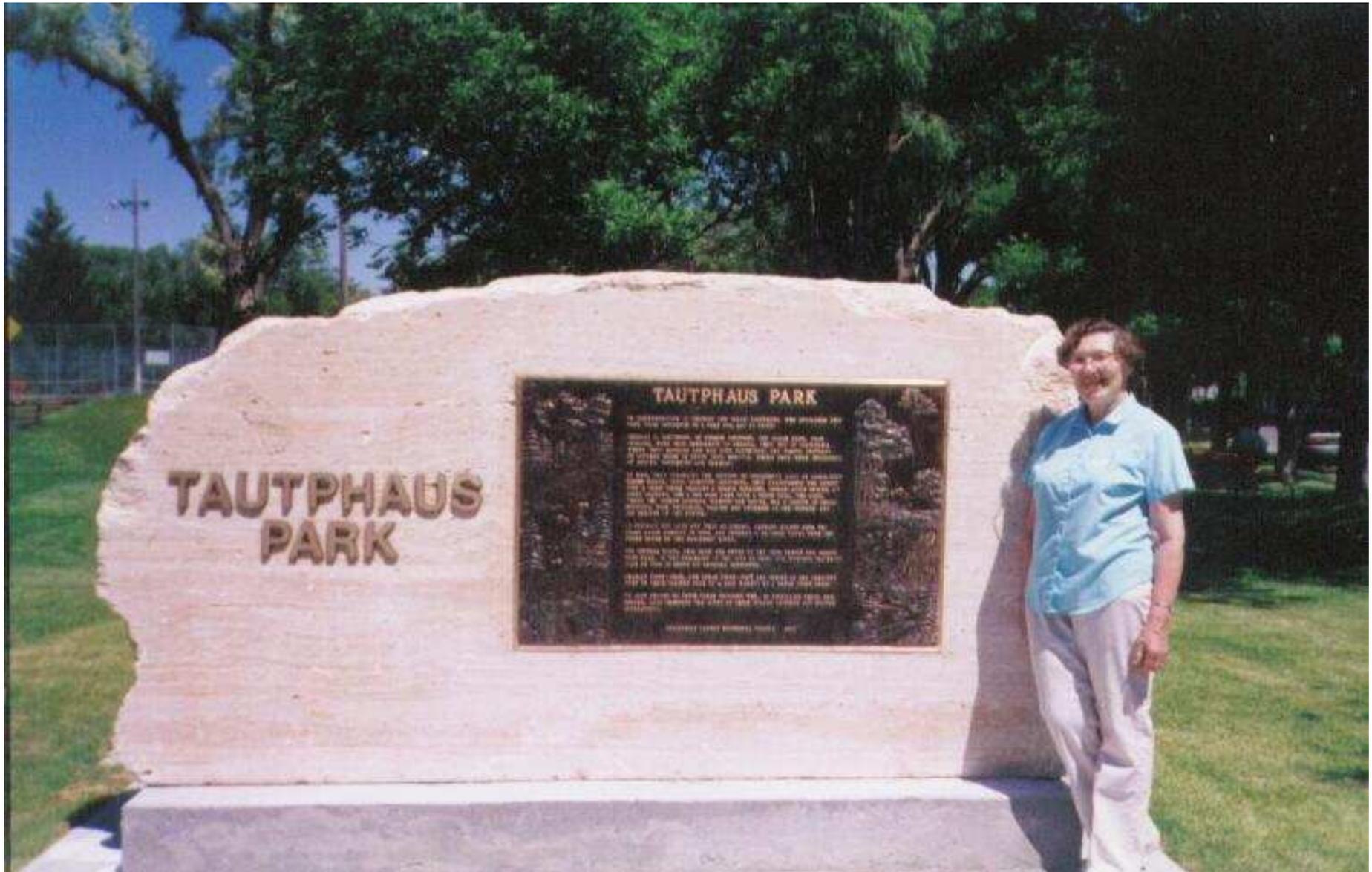
Rehnberg loves Funland and is trying to get it listed as a Historic Site to insure its preservation forever. So far she's been unsuccessful. The city has not yet signed off on the deal.

The Tautphaus Memorial Monument

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the City's ownership of Tautphaus Park in 1995, Nancy Henry and Jim Bennett decided that there should be a monument to celebrate the Tautphaus Family who first created this beautiful oasis in the middle of the desert. Their contribution to the early history of the area wasn't well known and we felt it should be memorialized.

So that all contributions to the monument could be tax deductible, the Bonneville County Historical Society agreed to sponsor the monument if we did the work and raised the money. Donations of \$7,000 were raised including some from 3 descendants of the Tautphaus family.

Tautphaus Memorial Monument with local artist Elaine Lingren McChesney who did the art work.



Bronze bust by David John Stosich
Commissioned by Jim Bennett
Placed on Tautphaus monument in 2010 to celebrate
the 75th anniversary of City ownership.



TAUTPHAUS PARK

IN COMMEMORATION OF CHARLES AND SARAH TAUTPHAUS, WHO DEVELOPED THIS AREA FROM SAGEBRUSH TO A PARK FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

CHARLES C. TAUTPHAUS, OF GERMAN ANCESTRY, AND SARAH KANE, FROM IRELAND, WERE BOTH IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICA. THEY MET IN CALIFORNIA, WHERE THEY MARRIED AND HAD FIVE DAUGHTERS. THE FAMILY TRAVELED BY COVERED WAGON TO BUTTE CITY, MONTANA, WHERE THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL AT MINING, FREIGHTING AND FARMING.

IN 1884, THEY PURCHASED TWO SECTIONS OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN EAGLE ROCK (IDAHO FALLS). USING PRIMITIVE EQUIPMENT, THEY TRANSFORMED THE DESERT INTO A FARM WHICH INCLUDED A WOODED HILLSIDE, POPLAR-LINED DRIVES, AN APPLE ORCHARD, AND A SIX-ACRE LAKE WITH A WATERFALL. THE LAKE, WHERE THE SUNKEN BASEBALL DIAMOND NOW EXISTS, WAS A CENTER OF SOCIAL ACTIVITY, WITH PICNICKING, BOATING AND SWIMMING IN THE SUMMER AND ICE SKATING IN THE WINTER.

TO IRRIGATE HIS LAND AND THAT OF OTHERS, CHARLES HELPED FORM THE IDAHO CANAL COMPANY IN 1889, AND DESIGNED A 30-MILE CANAL FROM THE SNAKE RIVER TO THE BLACKFOOT RIVER.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, THIS PARK WAS OWNED BY THE RENO FAMILY AND CALLED RENO PARK. IT WAS PURCHASED BY THE CITY IN 1935 AND NAMED TAUTPHAUS PARK IN 1943 TO HONOR ITS ORIGINAL DEVELOPER.

CHARLES (1841-1906), AND SARAH (1840-1917), ARE BURIED IN THE CEMETERY NEXT TO THEIR BELOVED PARK IN A PLOT MARKED BY A LARGE STONE CROSS.

Bonneville County Historical Society, 1995

John Kinney, great grandson of Tautphaus, spoke at the memorial dedication and expressed his appreciation.



Nancy Henry

Concurrent with the dedication of the Tautphaus Monument, an exhibit on the history of Tautphaus Park was shown at the Museum of Idaho. Nancy Henry was in charge of the exhibit and was tenacious in locating surviving members of the Tautphaus family to gather information and pictures. Other information was gathered from newspaper archives, city council minutes, interviews and other sources. She obtained the Reno pictures from The Idaho State Historical Society.

Nancy vows that she will write a history on Tautphaus Park at some time in the future. I'm looking forward to it.

The 5 Ball Diamonds at Tautphaus Park

- **Feist**, sunken diamond in old lake bottom.
- **Chapple**, next to the multipurpose building.
- **Cramer**, next to the tennis courts.
- **Elk**, at lower level off Park Road.
- **Babe Ruth**, east of Lilac Circle.

The 5 diamonds have a full schedule of league play for both men and women. Scheduling is handled by Parks & Recreation.

3 Picnic Shelters in the Park

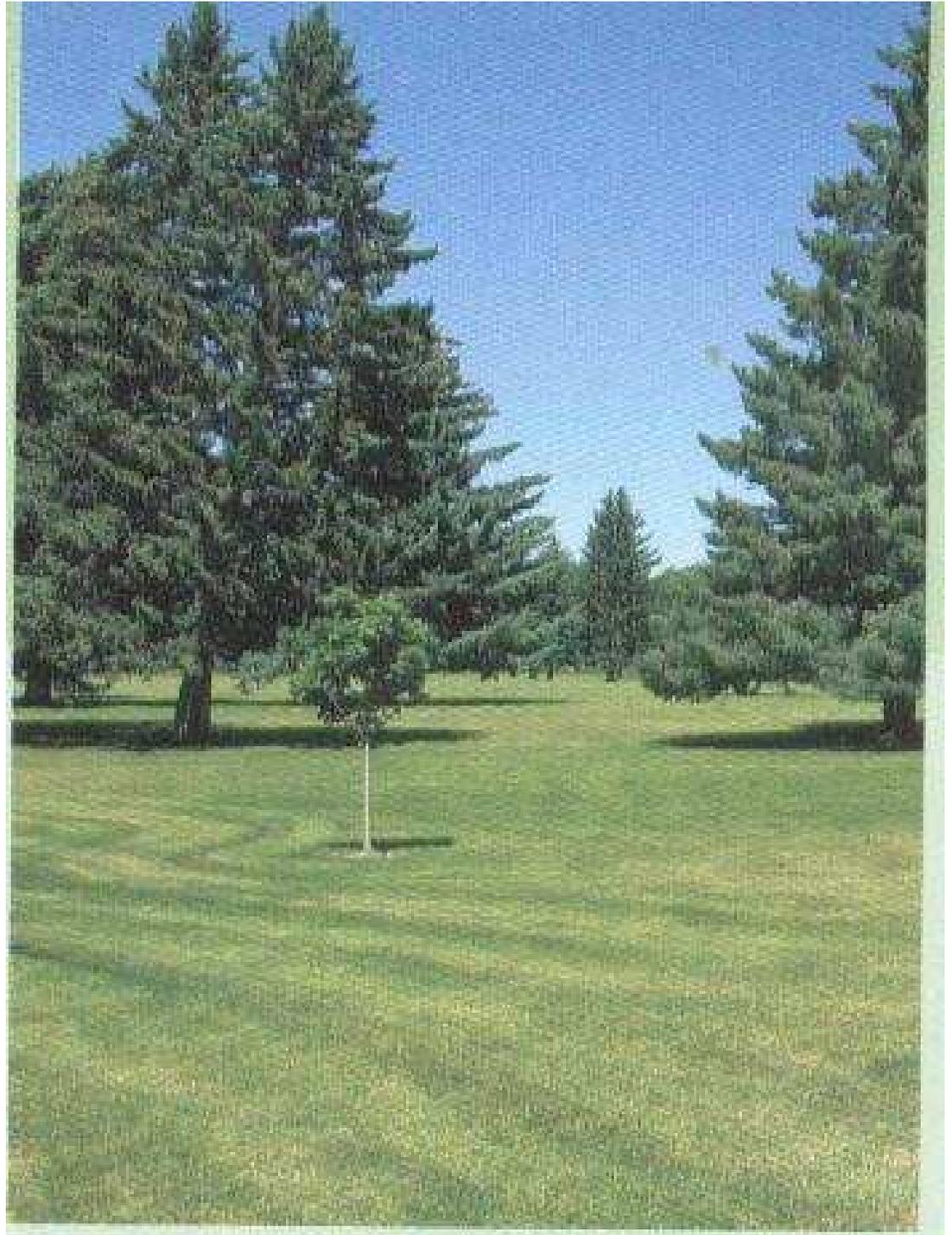
- # 1, near Lilac Circle, accommodates 120 people.
Rental \$ 120
- # 2, near Fun Land, accommodates 90 people.
Rental \$ 90
- # 3, near Tennis Courts, accommodates 90 people
Rental \$ 90

The Parks & Recreation Department schedules reservations.

Individual picnic table are scattered throughout the park for your use without reservation. Or, if you're young and agile, just throw a blanket down and picnic the old fashioned way.

Other Attractions of the Park

- Tennis courts
- Playground equipment.
- Horse shoe courts.
- Skate board park.
- Acres of grassed areas.



Ah - - Sweet Memories of the Park

Swimming in the lake.

Picnicking

School reunions

Ice skating

Fireworks

War Bonnet Rodeo

Band concerts

Softball leagues

Touch Football

Settler's Festivals

Art shows & exhibits

Horse Shoes

Hockey

Car shows

Kite flying

Dog training classes

Fun Land rides & treats

Political rallies

Easter breakfasts

Visiting the zoo

Sunbathing on a blanket

July 4th celebrations

Pioneer Day celebrations

Walking & jogging

Thanks to the Tautphaus family and all those that followed; each adding their contribution to making “Our Park” truly unique and a memorable part of our lives.

Tautphaus Deaths

Charles Tautphaus died in 1906 of pneumonia while freighting near Tonapa, Nevada, while waiting for a large contract to open up. He was 65 years old. During the 20 busy years of his life he spent in our area, he accomplished so much.

Sarah Tautphaus (1840-1917) died at age 77 while living with a daughter, Mrs. E.P. Henry, in Long Beach, California.

They are buried along with other family members in the cemetery just over the fence from their beloved park and ranch. Their plot is marked by a large granite cross and is just east of the canal that he was instrumental in creating. Visit it sometime and pay your respect.

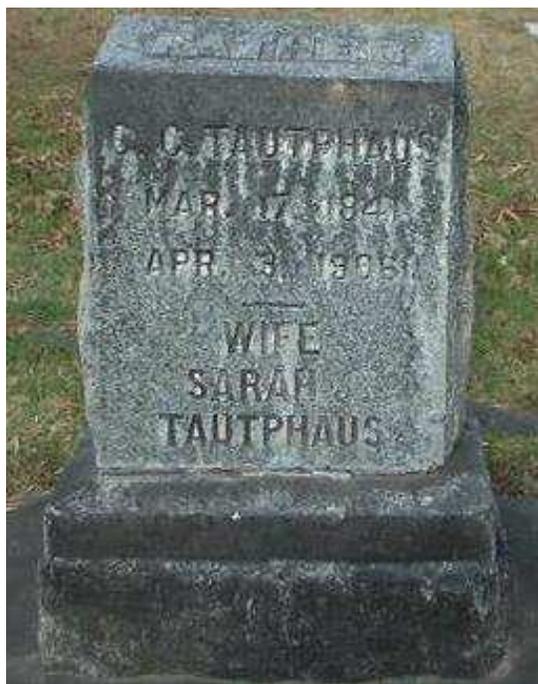
We owe these early pioneers our thanks and gratitude for their contributions to the area.



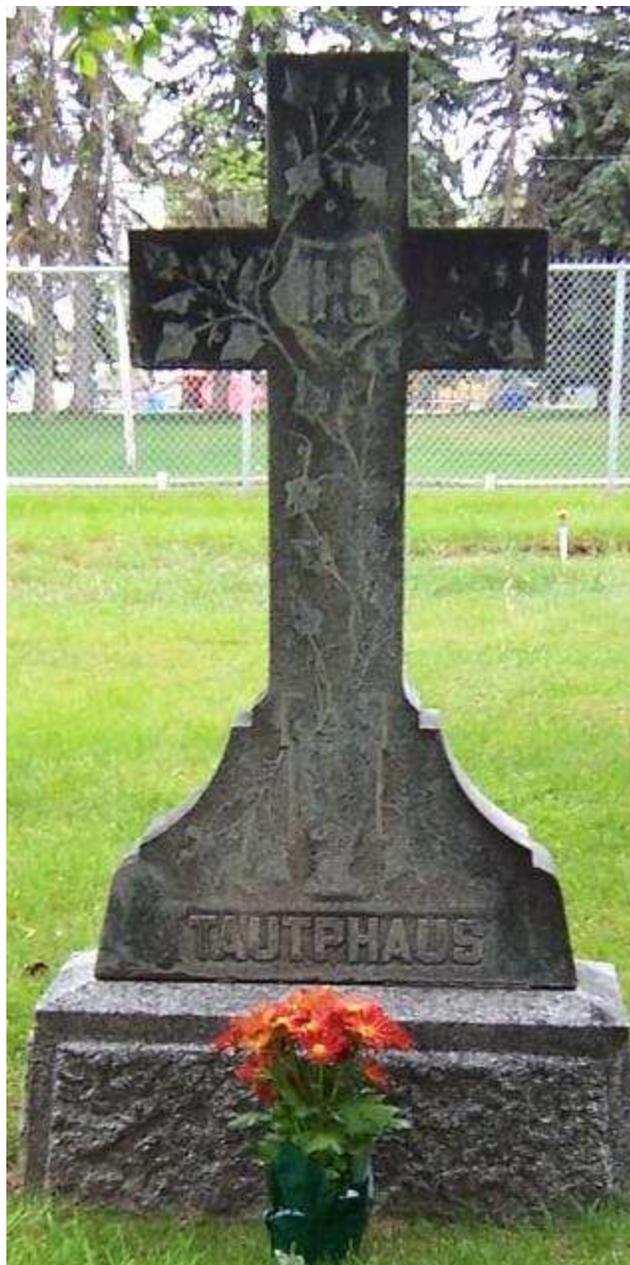
Tautphaus Family Plot at Rose Hill

Photo by Jim Bennett

Granite Cross at
Tautphaus Grave Site
next to their “Park”
they so loved.



Charles & Sarah Tautphaus Monument



Entrance to Zoo & Gift Shop

Building used to be the Cookie Shack on 17th Street, a 1995 gift from a local business man.



First collection of zoo animals.

The first collection of zoo animals consisting of elk, deer, antelope, badgers and a coyote were originally maintained by the Alfred Heslop family on their own property. In the summer of 1934, the hoofstock were moved to Highland Park and the rest to Sportsman's Park on the river. The zoo animals were later moved to City Park.

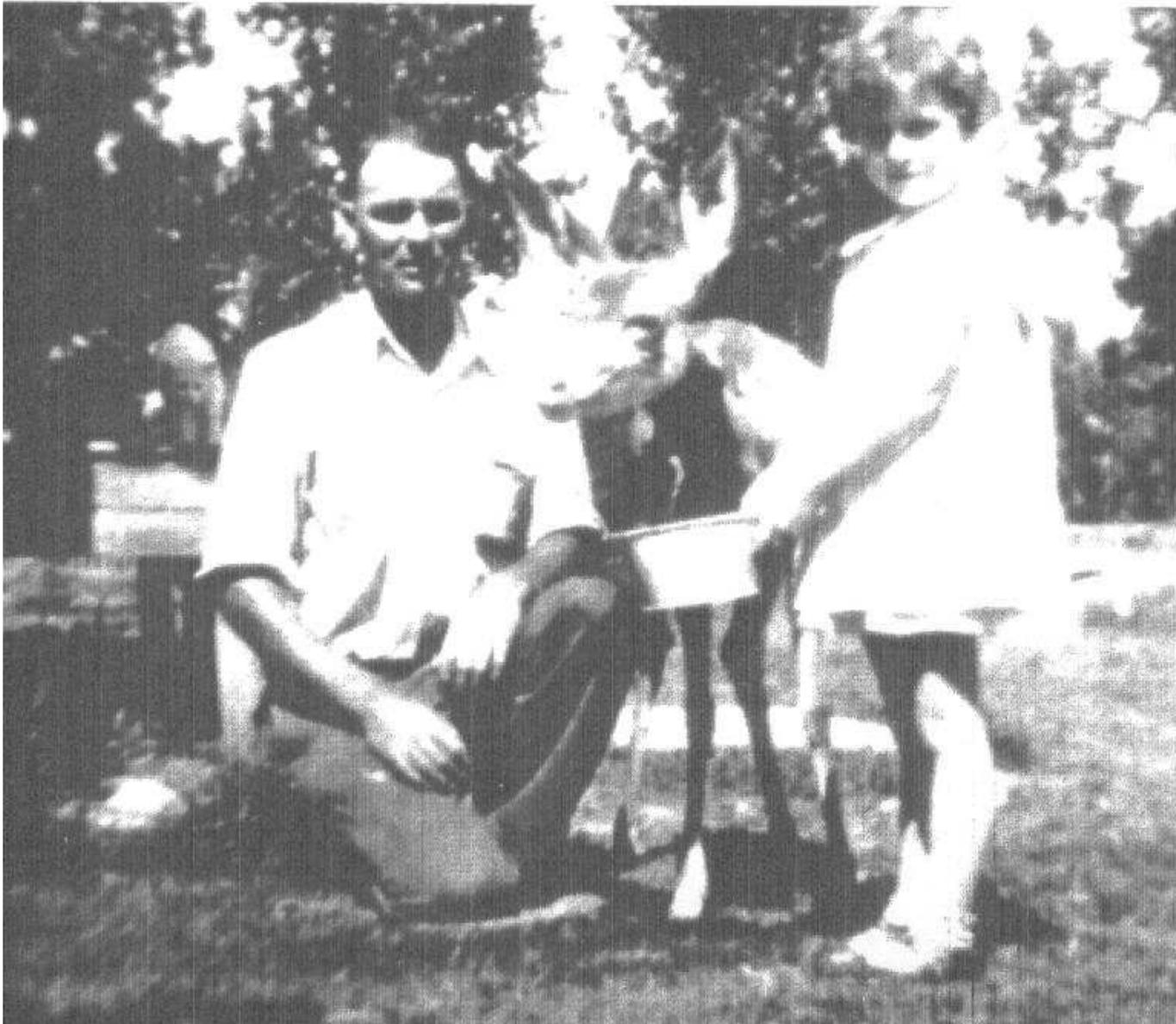
Al Heslop became the first resident superintendent at Reno Park when the City bought it in 1935 and changed the name to City Park. The zoo animals were moved there at that time and animals continued to be added to the zoo.

The Heslops and their family of 4 girls lived at the Park until 1951 when Al became Bonneville County Sheriff. While at the park the Heslop girls operated a small snack stand on their front porch.

Al Heslop and 2 bear cubs.



Al Heslop & daughter with moose.



Coleen Heslop feeding a mule deer.



Superintendent Bill Gersonde arrives 1991

Bill came here from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs and has instituted many improvements. In 1991-1992 a commissary, maintenance shop, indoor animal holding facility and hay storage building were added.

While many additional species and exhibits have been added to the zoo, some animals aren't found here because by agreement, the Pocatello Zoo specializes in North American animals while the Tautphaus Zoo specializes in exotic animals.

The Zoo participates in the captive breeding management program of 8 endangered species

In 1998 the zoo became the first zoo in Idaho to be accredited by the American Zoo & Aquarium Association.

In 2000-2001 a joint Society – City campaign raised \$280,000 for the CHC Animal health Care Center, a veterinary facility to provide health care, isolation, and quarantine for the animals.

The Zoo has many outreach programs for the community; school tours, classes, slumber parties, picnics, docent training, etc.

More on the Zoo

The 7 acre Zoo is home to over 330 animals including tigers, zebras, penguins and lemurs and various birds. You can pet a goat or feed a lamb in the Children's Zoo, meet a porcupine in the Animal Encounters show, or just relax on a bench surrounded by the birds of South America.

In 1989 nearly an acre was developed with spacious, natural terrain exhibits with running water for African lions, Siberian tigers and mountain lions. Some birds were given new spacious exhibits. Others were mixed with the hoofstock in open multispecies exhibits.

The Tautphaus Park Zoological Society was created in 1993 to assist and support the zoo. The Society has sponsored several fund raisers and special events including Zoobilation, the Zoofari ball, Boo at the Zoo and Bear Bash to raise money for exhibits and renovations.

Also in 1993 the Docent program was developed to provide volunteer resources for public education programs, special events, and animal maintenance.

Summer School at the Zoo.



Sleep over at the Zoo.



Earthday at the Zoo.



Boo at the Zoo!



We like each other!



Photo by Robert Brower



Zoo monkeys



Post Register Photo

Peacock at the Zoo



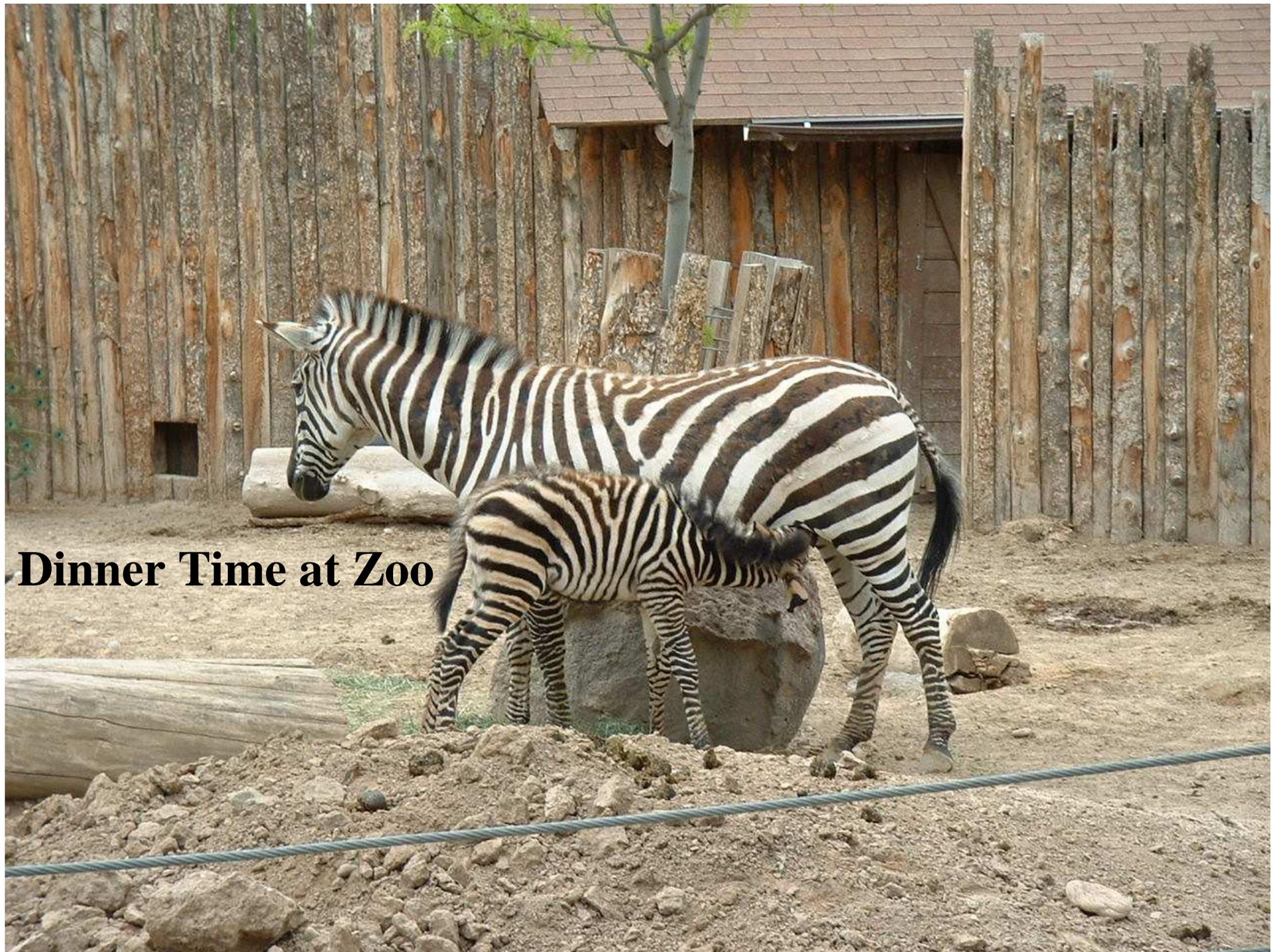






You wanna monkey around?





Dinner Time at Zoo

Thank you for sharing with me the
history of the Tautphaus family,
their Park and those that followed.

- - - Jim Bennett, April 8, 2006