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THE IDAHO WORLD
A PIONEER CHRONICLE OF THE TERRITORY
1863-1918

By

Ronnie R. Hayes

B.A., Idaho State College, 1962

Presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the

degree of

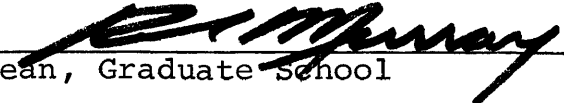
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Hayes, Ronnie R., M.A., Autumn 1981

Journalism

The Idaho World / A Pioneer Chronicle of Its Territory
1863-1918 (238 pp.)

Director: Warren J. Brier

This study traces the history of the Idaho World from its beginning as the Boise News in 1863 until the World suspended publication in 1918. It also includes the contributions of the World's editors, many of whom became political leaders in Idaho Territory and early statehood.

The research sources include weekly and daily newspapers, magazine articles, photographs, maps, historical files, memos, letters, and interviews.

The World and its editors fulfilled the duties of a frontier newspaper by "boasting" the community and territory to attract settlers and capital and to establish law and order. Its early editors practiced vituperative journalism, but as the gold-rush era subsided, their stands moderated.

The last of the World's editors, Charles E. Jones, was dean of Idaho's early-day journalists. He and his predecessors were visionaries who pleaded for social and economic improvements. Their influence helped some of those improvements to eventually arrive. The problems associated with a frontier newspaper are chronicled in the World, which is an invaluable resource for journalistic contributions of Idaho history.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	ii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vi
INTRODUCTION	1
Chapter	
I. ESTABLISHING A NEWSPAPER	12
II. THE <u>BOISE NEWS</u>	18
III. THE STREET ERA	37
Editor's Duels and Threats	52
Vigilantes and the <u>World</u>	58
IV. O'MEARA'S STYLE	73
V. DEMOCRATIC, BUT NOT BILLINGSGATE	91
Ainslie's Politics	93
Other <u>World</u> Campaigns	100
"Fresh" News and Mail	103
Indian Wars, Chinese, and Women	106
Ainslie and His Contemporaries	115
VI. <u>WORLD</u> CHANGES	119
New Quarters	124
VII. NEW OWNERS, NEW EDITORS, NEW ERA	128
Campaigns Against Ainslie	157
VIII. THE JONES EPOCH	171
Statehood and Old 'Prints'	177
IX. THE <u>WORLD</u> IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY	187
Somber and Lighter Reportage	203
Women Typos and School Papers	208

X.	"SLAP! BANG! HERE WE ARE AGAIN!"	215
XI.	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE <u>IDAHO WORLD</u>	227
.		
	SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	234

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure

1.	Idaho City about 1875, and the Butler brothers, John and Thomas	14
2.	Washington hand press used to print the <u>Boise News</u> and the <u>Idaho World</u>	25
3,4.	The Jones family and Idaho City residents in front of the <u>World</u> office in the 1880s; and George Ainslie	61
5,6.	<u>Idaho World</u> editor and publisher Charles Jones and editor Thomas J. Sutton	72
7,8,9,10.	Charles Jones, Egbert Jones, Emma Jones, Amelia Jones	84
11,12.	Idaho City penitentiary and photograph of the city in the 1880s	94
13,14.	Charles Jones in front of the <u>Idaho World</u> office about 1918; and Heman Jones	104

Map

1.	Idaho City and other Boise Basin communities	vii
----	--	-----

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INTRODUCTION

A newspaper was considered an important asset to a frontier town. It was helpful in competition for trade, in attracting settlers and capital, in seeking prizes such as county seats and territorial capitals, in establishing law and order, in defending a town or region from attacks in other journals, generally, in "boasting" the community. The Idaho World, established at Idaho City, Idaho Territory, in the 1860s, was one such newspaper.

The first printing press in western America was established at a frontier site that eventually would become part of the Territory of Idaho--a land contested by England, the United States and Indian tribes.¹

In 1839, 25 years before the Idaho World was founded, the missionaries of the Hawaiian Islands gave a small printing press and type to the Presbyterian missionaries of Oregon.² The outfit was shipped to Walla Walla, then packed by mules to Henry Harman Spalding's mission on the Clearwater River about 12 miles east of its junction with the Snake River. E. O. Hall and McCready, a man whom history

¹John Hailey, History of Idaho (Boise: Syms York, 1924), I, p. 364.

²Ibid.

remembers only with a last name, put the press together.³ Hall worked for Spalding at the mission, but Spalding found McCready, a printer from Montreal, Canada, wandering along the Clearwater River. The Lewiston Nez Perce News of August 27, 1885, reported that McCready "was at once installed as publisher, and rendered invaluable service in compiling a spelling book in the Nez Perce native tongue. . . ." The two men thus became the first editors and printers in the Idaho Territory.

Spalding had other materials published, usually books of the Bible, but use of the press diminished and it finally was sent back to Oregon. Because there was no population to support it, the first newspaper in Idaho would have to wait until after the discovery of gold in 1860. When settlement came it was unique--a west-to-east invasion of itinerant miners from California and Oregon followed by Southern sympathizers, many from Missouri, fleeing the Civil War. Idaho was a part of Washington Territory when the first newspaper, the Golden Age, was established at Lewiston August 2, 1862, the day prospectors discovered gold in southern Idaho's Boise Basin.⁴ Idaho's

³Hailey, History of Idaho, p. 364; Nez Perce News, August 27, 1885, p. 1.

⁴Hailey, History of Idaho, p. 364; W. J. McConnell, Early History of Idaho (Caldwell: Caxton Printers, 1913), p. 82.

second newspaper, the Boise News, appeared at West Bannock, later Idaho City, September 29, 1863.⁵

The Golden Age lasted two years and five months before it gave way to The North Idaho Radiator in January, 1865.⁶ The Radiator was printed on the press of the Age. In October, 1865, the Radiator was moved to Helena, Montana, where the first issue of the Montana Radiator appeared in December, 1865.⁷

The Boise News and its publishers fared better than the Age, though the News lasted only 13 months.⁸ Its successor, the Idaho World, became one of the cornerstones of Idaho journalism. It managed to survive the rises and declines of Idaho's gold-rush era and the territory's entrance into the Union as the 43rd state. The World grew up in a style of vituperative journalism, but mellowed as it moved into the Twentieth Century. When it finally died in November, 1918, it did so expressing the same belief with which it began: another industrial bonanza or rich

⁵Hailey, History of Idaho, p. 364.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Idaho World, January 13, 1866; Kenneth Robison, "Idaho Territorial Newspapers," (master's thesis, University of Oregon, 1966), p. 30. The press was later used to print the Missoula and Cedar Creek Pioneer at Missoula. According to the Missoulian, it was returned to Idaho in 1884 to print a paper at Murray.

⁸Boise News, October 2, 1864, p. 2.

ore vein was there for the taking--it needed only the takers.⁹

The 1860s were boom years in southern Idaho. At least 14 newspapers prospered during the decade, but only four survived when the placer-mining era declined.¹⁰ The population consisted predominantly of young men who were "strong, tireless and fearless. A man of 40 years was old."¹¹ Population totals of the five counties and unorganized districts of the Rocky Mountains in 1863 show Boise County with 16,835 of Idaho Territory's 32,342 persons. Of the other counties Missoula had 365, Shoshone 574, Nez Perce 1,106, Idaho 1,601 and the districts 11,861. Although Nez Perce County contained the Territorial capital of Lewiston, the settlement had only 414 inhabitants, and the county's population was declining as miners followed new strikes south. With 6,267 people, Bannock City in Boise County had the largest population in the Northwest, surpassing Portland in 1863. Another 8,500 in the Boise Basin lived at Placerville, Hogen and Centerville.¹²

⁹Idaho Statesman, November 6, 1918, p. 6, c. 3.

¹⁰Robert F. Karolevitz, Newspapering in the Old West (Seattle: Superior Publishing Co., 1965), p. 21.

¹¹E. B. Smith, address at Idaho City, Idaho Pamphlet File, (Boise: City Library, June 19, 1955), p. 3.

¹²Ibid.; Merle W. Wells, Gold Camps & Silver Cities, Bulletin no. 22 (Moscow: Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology, 1963), pp. 3-13.

One of the Boise Basin's early settlers was W. J. McConnell, who was appointed deputy United States marshal in 1865. Later he became a U.S. senator and Idaho governor. In an article he wrote in 1879, he recalled his first impressions of Idaho City and the Boise Basin:

And it was, as it were, a revival of the early days of California. All the renegades in the old California camps and British Columbia, New Mexico and Montana found refuge among the congenial spirits congregated there. Numerous gaming houses were opened, around the tables of which hundreds of men congregated nightly, mostly assemblages of Spaniards, Italians, cow boys and desperadoes [sic] from all parts of the world. Each man seems to carry his life in his own belt, and in lack of a daily paper or any regular mail facilities with the outside world, the waiters in the restaurants were wont to announce the number of men they had for breakfast that particular morning.¹³

McConnell became a leader in the vigilante movement in southern Idaho Territory, and at one time resigned his marshal's job to engage in a duel with Idaho World editor Henry C. Street.¹⁴ It was one of two duels Street would fight during his two-year tenure as a World editor. He was a poor shot, and so were his opponents.

McConnell recalled that Idaho City's graveyard bustled with activity and "of over 200 men buried less than 10 of them had died of natural death within 18 months."

¹³W. J. McConnell, Idaho Inferno (San Francisco, 1879) microfilm, Idaho Historical Society, Boise.

¹⁴Ibid.

It was understood in early mining days that a camp was not fully equipped until a graveyard was started, and the number of sodless mounds that it contained within a given time was considered an index of the life of the place. It is a strange analogy that life should mean death. Yet it was true. For the life or the liveliness of such places was gaged by the number of saloons, dance halls, etc., and their number determined the amount of liquor sold and that was, almost invariably, what regulated the growth of the cemeteries . . . Idaho City easily led the other camps in the number of interments.¹⁵

The fact that most territorial officers were Union supporters and elective officers were Confederate sympathizers made the latter usually adverse to the government and the laws that they were expected to enforce. This was especially true in Boise County, which embraced the Boise Basin and Idaho City. At Lewiston, A. S. Gould, publisher of the Golden Age, hoisted the American flag over his office. He said the paper would be nonpartisan in politics, but Gould took a stand in the Civil War issue, declaring the South was committing treason. His office became the target for a 21-gun salute from nonUnionists. Gould left Lewiston.¹⁶

The Butler brothers, John S. as publisher and Thomas J. as editor, established the Boise News and declared their paper would be nonpartisan, but the times and location

¹⁵McConnell, Early History of Idaho, p. 86.

¹⁶Daily Evening Bulletin (San Francisco) October 24, 1862, p. 3.

dictated otherwise. Almost immediately the News became involved with law and order and eventually it succumbed to politics; as the World, under new ownership, it became one of the Territory's staunch democratic supporters. A historian wrote:

The Idaho World, printed at Idaho City, was the law and order, democratic and anti-vigilance organ of the day. The Idaho Statesman, printed at Boise City, favored the vigilance party. One saw evil in every popular movement; the other only good. The death of P. M. McManus, reported as the result of the accidental discharge of his own pistol on the night of the 8th of August 1867, is charged directly by the World upon the Vigilance Committee as a murder.¹⁷

J. Marion More, one of the discoverers of the Boise Basin, sided with those who believed in vigilante activities. When he was killed several months after McManus died, there was no reported response from the vigilantes. The anti-vigilance World complimented the people for allowing justice to be handled by appointed and elected officials. The Statesman jabbed at the World's position:

Four men have been shot to death in Idaho during the last two weeks. And something like two hundred have been hurried into eternity during the last eight years at the hands of violence, a large proportion of them downright murders. Many of these murderers have gone to other territories, and in turn got killed or hanged; some have died, some are scattered about, and the remainder are still in Idaho running at large. One or two, we believe, by some mismanagement are in prison, but will no doubt be released at the term of court being held at Idaho

¹⁷Hubert H. Bancroft, "Popular Tribunals of Idaho," The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft (San Francisco: The History Company, 1887), V.36, p. 670.

City. The ratio of bloody crime is increasing and will increase until the law is more rigorously enforced.¹⁸

The vigilante episode was only one question to which Idaho territorial newspapers addressed themselves. Editors of the Boise News also filled local columns with comment on the price of gold dust and establishing a uniform currency. They also tried to entice capital for installation of the telegraph and telephone and construction of a railroad. The editors offered solutions for solving problems with the Chinese immigrants. In December, 1863, the News told of a meeting at which the miners decided to revise their laws, excluding Chinese as well as Negroes from working the mines.¹⁹

When the publishers of the Boise News found local and regional news scarce, they printed excerpts from a book on mythology. Like other territorial editors, they clipped national news from eastern and West Coast papers. Sometimes editors' notes asked other publications to "please copy." One early-day Boise Basin resident wrote:

There was no railroad across the continent in those days, and no telegraph lines in Idaho. Hence news of events transpiring in the outside world was slow in reaching us. Our main dependence was the Sacramento Union, a daily newspaper published in Sacramento,

¹⁸Ibid., p. 671.

¹⁹Boise News, December 26, 1863, p. 3, c. 2.

California, and usually it did not reach us until about two weeks after its publication.²⁰

Correspondents from surrounding mining camps infrequently wrote roundups of what was happening locally and sent them to the nearest newspaper. Few newspapers printed the author's real name, apparently believing that the writer would be more efficient and more likely to write if his identity was not divulged.

When news was scarce, some newspapers used "patent insides," sections printed by eastern syndicates. It was not until the mining activity had generally subsided and Idaho City's population had substantially declined in the 1890s that the World resorted, from time to time, to using syndicated material.

Sometimes columns were filled with "puffs," short paragraphs extolling a local business that had purchased a "card," a one- or two-inch advertisement, in that edition. Idaho City's postmasters, who also operated bookstores, were the beneficiaries of puffs by editors of the Boise News and the Idaho World. The editors needed those Eastern and West Coast newspapers from which to copy national and international news. Many times the editors depended on the speed by which the postmasters could sort the mail so the printers could copy and publish the next edition and send it out by return stage.

²⁰McConnell, Early History of Idaho, pp. 184-185.

Like most of Idaho's early-day editors, some of those who guided the News and the World arrived in the territory with experience in California or Oregon journalism, but the Jones brothers, Egbert and Charles, who gained control of World in the 1870s, began as printer's apprentices in the World office. One editor, James O'Meara, left the World and eventually became an editor of the San Francisco Examiner and the Argonaut, a weekly family journal also published at San Francisco.²¹ Other News and World editors became involved in politics, sometimes holding territorial or state offices.

The editor of a paper usually was the owner and publisher, and most Idaho territorial papers were recognized as the personal product of the editor.²² The Boise News, and for a time the World, did not have page numbers or folio lines that gave the page and date of the publication. Advertising in the News carried various printer's "keys," such as "ltf" or "ltr." These apparently were the means of noting the start of an ad, the issue number and intention to run "to further notice."²³

²¹Hugh Quigley, The Irish Race in California (San Francisco: A. Roman & Co., 1878), p. 456.

²²Ken Robison, "Idaho Territorial Newspapers," (master's thesis, University of Oregon, 1966), p. 7.

²³Warren C. Price, The Eugene Register-Guard (Portland: Binfords & Mort, 1976), V 1, p. 88. Although he was writing about the Guard, Price notes "there is no consistency in these advertising "keys." As many lacked them as had them." The same appears to be true of the Boise News.

The history of the World begins with that of its predecessor, the Boise News. Both newspapers are chronicles, as well as contributors to territorial and early state society. But what follows is more than just a study of the World; it also is a study of its newspapermen and women and how they reacted to the crises of their times.

CHAPTER I

ESTABLISHING A NEWSPAPER

This printing business isn't all it's cracked up to be. We ordered several fonts of very nice type, but the outfit came without any galleys or galleys. This makes it hard, but we will try to get along as best we can.

We don't like the look of this kind of spelling any better than you, but mistakes will happen and if the p's and c's, and the x's and q's hold out, we shall keep (sound the 'c' hard) going after a fashion till new sorts arrive. It's no joke.²⁴

When former newspaper publisher John S. Butler arrived at Walla Walla in the spring of 1863, he organized a pack train to haul supplies to the Boise Basin mining area. His estimate of the basin's population--30,000 people--was too liberal, but his success in disposing of his wares and his zeal for making money rekindled his enthusiasm for publishing a newspaper.²⁵

I sold shovels at \$12 apiece as fast as I could count them out and other things in proportion. I saw at once the field for a newspaper.²⁶

²⁴Karolevitz, Newspapering in the Old West, p. 21

²⁵John S. Butler, "Life and Times in Idaho," 1883, Bancroft Library, University of California, p. 2; also microfilm, Idaho Historical Society archives, Boise; Merrill D. Beal and Merle W. Wells, History of Idaho (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1959), V I, p. 342. An 1863 territorial census reported about 16,000 in the Boise Basin.

²⁶Butler, "Life and Times in Idaho," p. 3.

Butler returned to Walla Walla, where he sold his interest in the pack train and struck a bargain with R. R. Reese, proprietor of the Washington Statesman, to purchase printing equipment. Reese recently had bought out a competitor at Walla Walla and had an extra press. Butler needed more equipment and before he departed for Portland to buy it, he sent for his older brother, Thomas, who was in California.²⁷

The Butlers were natives of Bedford, Indiana, and Thomas had been among the 49ers who sought wealth in the California gold rush. He mined for a few years, became a merchant and helped his brother publish the Beacon, at Red Bluff, California. He also was the county clerk, and was elected to the legislature in 1862.²⁸ John Butler went to California in 1852. After his tenure as publisher, he turned to farming until his father-in-law asked him in September, 1862, to help sell cattle to men on their way to the Idaho mines. Butler joined his father-in-law at Auburn, Oregon,--now Baker--and disposed of the cattle at Walla Walla.²⁹

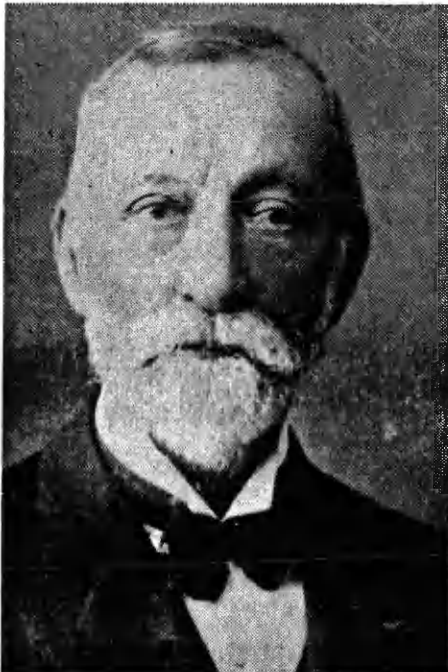
²⁷Butler, "Life and Times in Idaho," p. 3.

²⁸A Historical, Descriptive and Commercial Directory of Owyhee County, Idaho (Silver City, Idaho: Owyhee Avalanche press, 1898), p. 103.

²⁹Hailey, History of Idaho, pp. 367-368.



Figure 1: Idaho City looked like this in about 1875, some 12 years after John S. Butler, below left, and his brother, Thomas J. Butler, founded the Boise News. (Photographs courtesy Idaho State Historical Society, Boise.)



John Butler found little at Portland to augment his fonts, but what he did purchase he sent by steamship via the Oregon Steam Navigation Company to Walla Walla at a "fabulous" price.³⁰ His overland wagon freight from Walla Walla to Bannock, as Idaho City was then called, was 25 cents a pound.³¹ Once at Bannock, the Butlers knew their closest news competitor would be the Golden Age at Lewiston, 280 miles north and separated by a roadless area. They also knew the virgin newspaper field in the Boise Basin would not last long, and rather than go to San Francisco for their remaining materials, they hastened to Bannock. The Washington Statesman of August 15 announced their plans.

THE "BOISE NEWS,"--Messrs. T. J. and J. S. Butler have issued their prospectus for the "Boise News"--to be issued between the 1st and 15th of September. It is to be independent in politics. The proprietors have had experiences in the publishing business, and

³⁰Butler, "Life and Times in Idaho," p. 3.

³¹Boise News (Bannock, Idaho Territory), November 14, 1863, p. 2, editorialized for a name change from Bannock to Chrysopolis or Golden City. It argued that the name was confusing since there also was a Bannack in what would become Montana Territory. The Montana Bannack was often referred to as East Bannack, the Idaho Bannock as West Bannock. Sometimes both were spelled the same way. "The Beaver Head Bannack has the Indian name and began first, while ours is Scotch and unapplicable to the country." The Boise News suggested Montana, Chrysopolis, Idaho City, Idaho Center or Oneota. By the following spring the city was incorporated, and its name was approved by the Idaho Territorial Legislature as Idaho City. Butler, "Life and Times in Idaho," p. 3.

we doubt not have the ability, as they have the means to conduct the News in such a manner as to make it an acceptable visitor of the people of Idaho Territory, and a faithful chronicler of transpiring events, in the Boise mining company. Their printing material leaves here for Bannock City the first of next week.

The Butlers were just barely ahead of their competition. The Washington Statesman of August 29 reported:

"THE BOISE PIONEER,"--This is the title of another paper to be started at Bannock City--the material for which, we learn from the Journal, was shipped from The Dalles [Oregon] last week.

The Butlers had more than a week head start and a shorter distance. They reached Bannock in late August, 1863. The Pioneer never made it, but others were racing to become the first to pan gold. As in all boom towns, prices were as high as possible. At Bannock in September, 1863, chickens sold for \$5 each, cats \$10, and a miner's pick \$16.³² Extras of the Salt Lake City Deseret News sold for \$1 a copy.³³ The Butlers were preparing for their first publication when a Boise Basin resident, writing September 25 to the Sacramento Daily Union, indicated that Bannock had eight bakeries, nine restaurants, 25 to 35 saloons, 40 to 50 variety stores, 15 to 20 doctors, 25 to 35 attorneys, seven blacksmith shops, four sawmills (two of which were steam), two dentists, three express offices, five auctioneers,

³²Dorine Goertzen, Boise Basin Brocade, (Boise: Capitol Lithograph and Printing, 1960), p. 4.

³³Butler, "Life and Times in Idaho," p. 5.

three drugstores, four butcher shops, three billiard tables, two bowling alleys, three painters, tin shops, one photographer, three livery stables, four breweries, one harness shop, one mattress factory, two jewelers and the printing office.

Another writer, in an August 30 letter to the Eugene [Oregon] Review, said bar claims--those out of the creek bed--were regarded as the most valuable:

Creek claims are equally rich, but it requires four to eight feet stripping to get the pay dirt; besides cutting long races, rigging pumps, etc., to keep the water out, as they usually are on a level with the bed of the streams. The mines are much varied in richness, some claims paying \$100 per day, to the hand, while the greater part pay from only \$5 to \$20. . . . No claims within my knowledge, average above \$100 to the man. It is estimated that there are claims enough to furnish profitable employment for 15,000 persons but owing to the scarcity of water at present, not more than one-third of that number can get work. None but creek claims and a few bar claims can be worked with sluices, though many persons are still at work in the gulches, some with rockers, and others preparing dirt for spring freshets.³⁴

³⁴Wells, Gold Camps & Silver Cities, p. 9.

CHAPTER II

THE BOISE NEWS

Appreciating, from our first experience here, the many disadvantages under which the publishers of the News will labor in publishing a paper at Bannock City, we heartily wish them success in their enterprise, and a full remuneration for their labor.

--Washington Statesman, Walla Walla
October 20, 1863

The first issue of the Boise News was published September 29, 1863. It was the first newspaper published in the southern half of Idaho Territory, but its distinction of being the only southern Idaho newspaper lasted less than a month.³⁵ It was a campaign year in 1863, and the Butlers' political independence attracted partisan factions that rented press time from the Butlers to publish the Idaho Democrat and the Idaho Union.³⁶ Readers now had their choice of the nonpartisan Boise News, the staunch Southern and Democrat paper, Idaho Democrat, or the Republican Idaho Union.

Before the first edition of the Boise News could be printed, its owners were struggling with problems associated

³⁵Hailey, History of Idaho, p. 370.

³⁶Idaho Historical Society, The Idaho World Press, Reference Series, no. 229 (Boise: Idaho Historical Society, July 1970).

with beginning a newspaper on the frontier. The Butlers feared they might have difficulty employing printers, "but, before we had located a site, printers applied for a situation, almost in scores, and we had no trouble in securing a crew of some of the most competent men," John Butler recalled.³⁷

One printer, T. L. Poe, who worked for the News and the World for many years, wrote in the first issue:

Wherever there is a being in a human shape the craft is represented. There is no emergency that an old "tramping Jour" cannot overcome. He can tolerate the good things of this life ever to excess and out-cheek the very genius of famine and pestilence--gold mining included. He can turn a hand to anything. In one place may be seen mental merits that have had at one time extensive "circulation" and influence, now done up in miner's garb, throwing tailings from the end of a sluice. . . . The advent of the Boise News into this basin, seems to have resurrected all of the typos who have been buried since old Dr. Faust's league with the devil, and turned them loose, without any money on the southern slope of the Salmon River Mts. These specimens of human clay, done up in old flour sacks and gum boots, are alive, however, to the necessity of their winter's rations of sow-belly and beans, as they've been flocking around the News office for the past week, thick as flies about a meat market--gallinippers along the Snake--aye, or office-seekers in Idaho. The office has been so crowded at times, that the editor has not had room to stick the point of a pen, except in the keyhold; the pressmen had to adjourn to the laundry and complete his impressions with a smoothing iron; the typos hadn't room to crowd in a "hair space," and the "devil" says he'd as leave be in "hell" without spurs. I was amused t'other day by the remark of an old hunk of a miner as he passed by: "what much respected individual's being prepared for burial in that house, that commands

³⁷Hailey, History of Idaho, p. 368.

the serious attention of so many equally interested mourners?" The proprietors are accommodating gentlemen, but it is impossible to employ a printer for every letter of type in the office. I consider my chance anything but flattering, but I shall cling to hopes as long as one is perceptible, with the tenacity of a grayback to an old shirt tail. I've been subsisting on the very isilings--slum gullion--of the mines and have gone to bed to one gunnysack and have a saw pit for the last three weeks, with only this consolation--that, if the siege results in my becoming food for worms, the latter will fare no better than I have. This is not the last sign of the moon; but an 'o'er true tale of the fortunes of

T. I. Poe³⁸

The Butlers also had quick success in finding a place to set up their operation and advertised it on page one as "East Hill, Bannock City," with a business puff announcing book, card and job printing.³⁹

The press and some of the materials had arrived only a few days before the first issue of the News was published, and the first issue told readers that some type, probably that bought at Portland, had been delayed, adding:

If anybody thinks it is a cheap affair to bring a printing press over these mountains and set it to running then "try it on" and they will be shown to the contrary.⁴⁰

The Butlers improvised several items including wooden composing sticks. In his later years, John Butler recalled:

³⁸Boise News, September 29, 1863, p. 3.

³⁹Ibid., p. 1.

⁴⁰Boise News, September 29, 1863, p. 3.

I made two composing sticks from a piece of an oak tobacco box. One of these sticks was taken away by a compositor named McGuire, who declared it was much to be preferred, on account of its lightness and greater capacity, to the ordinary composing stick.⁴¹

Eventually the necessary type arrived from San Francisco, but the printers at the News and its successor, the Idaho World, continued to use one of the handmade composing sticks until the turn of the century.⁴²

The new publishers also needed an imposing stone.

For this purpose we brought into use a large slab, split from a pine log, about 3 by 6 feet. We dressed off one side, mounted it on a frame and covered it with sheet iron.⁴³

The Butlers tried to use sheet zinc for leads, but that failed because the zinc corroded when it was washed with lye, causing the leads "to adhere to the type in such a manner as to prevent their being distributed."⁴⁴ The lye was necessary to clean the ink from the metal. To hold the type in place a blacksmith made a chase from horseshoe iron. It cost \$95.⁴⁵

⁴¹Hailey, History of Idaho, p. 368.

⁴²Boise, Idaho Historical Society, object no. 62 donated by Charles E. Jones, August 10, 1907, described as 5 3/4 inches length of two pieces nailed together approximately 2 1/2 inches wide. [During the summer of 1977 this could not be located among museum collections.]

⁴³Hailey, History of Idaho, p. 369.

⁴⁴Ibid.

⁴⁵Hailey, History of Idaho, p. 369.

It was a very difficult matter to keep the surface of our wooden-sheet-iron stone true and level, and that, when we locked up a form and stood it on its edge, it looked more like the mold-board of a plow than a newspaper.⁴⁶

Other type and materials were replaced during the years, but the News and the World continued to use the Washington hand press until the World ceased operation in 1918.⁴⁷ The press, serial no. 3587, was manufactured by R. Hoe & Co. of New York. Its stiff toggles and heavy cast iron parts were used to print the Portland Oregonian from 1851 until Reese brought the press to Walla Walla in 1861.⁴⁸ The Washington Statesman of October 20, 1863, said:

The press on which the News is printed has a history: It is one of the first that was brought to the Pacific, and made the voyage, from New York, around Cape Horn, to Portland, Oregon, in the "early days." . . . The tales that it has impressed of the early history of Oregon and Washington--which, with Idaho, were one when it commenced its career of usefulness--are, we believe, all among the archives of the Oregonian office. . . . Many an incident it has related of Indian massacres, and of sufferings and privations endured by the westward-bound immigrants, while traveling through the wilds of the Territory where it has now gone as a harbinger of civilization and progress. . . . Many a typo in Oregon, Washington and California could recount pleasant stories of hours spent beside it in

⁴⁶Ibid., p. 368.

⁴⁷Boise, Idaho Historical Society, object no. 1662-1, donated by Mrs. Amelia Jones Garrecht and Mrs. Emma Jones Day, February 9, 1945.

⁴⁸Idaho Historical Society, The Idaho World Press, Reference Series, no. 229 (Boise: Idaho Historical Society, July 1970).

the Oregonian office, paying their devoirs to sparkling bottles of champagne and rich cake sent in by young and old couples who had "put their foot in it," or by some dealer, anxious for a "noatis;" or still better, in eating mother _____'s pies and doughnuts, a bountiful supply of which she never failed to furnish on publication night. . . . Two years ago we . . . brought it to this place (Walla Walla), where it did good service; and now it has taken an another stride of three hundred miles, over the mountains, toward the land from whence it started.

The Boise News was 24 by 36 inches, separated into five columns, and except for an occassional insertion, the size remained the same during the next decade. Issues were usually four pages and were printed at one impression.

The two rival papers, the Union and the Democrat, printed on the Butlers' press, were smaller than the News. Each had only two pages of three columns, and each paid \$200 a week for the printing of their papers.⁴⁹ The News office operated day and night to print the three newspapers and handbills for merchants.

The Union was edited by John Charlton, a friend of the Butlers whom they had known at Red Bluff. Two printers, Bruce Smith and Joseph Wasson, were listed as publishers.⁵⁰

The Idaho Democrat was edited by John L. Allison. Dewitt C. Ireland, one-time compositor for the New York Tribune and one of the founders of the St. Paul, Minnesota,

⁴⁹Idaho World, April 2, 1883, p. 3.

⁵⁰Boise News, October 6, 1863; October 13, 1863.

Pioneer Press, was its publisher.⁵¹ Ireland later went to Oregon where he founded the Oregon City Enterprise in 1866 and published the McMinnville Reporter and the Astoria Pioneer. He also was city editor of the Oregonian.⁵²

The Union published for four weeks, but suspended publication October 29, two days before the election.⁵³

In announcing the Idaho Democrat, the News said "Mr. Ireland is a good printer, and we wish he could make a pile out of the enterprise."⁵⁴ When the Democrat made its debut, the News commented that "the Democrat may be but the harbinger of greater things under his (Ireland's) auspices in the coming history of Idaho."⁵⁵ The newspaper lasted seven weeks until November 14.⁵⁶

With winter approaching the remote Bannock City area, the printing competition subsided until traveling conditions improved.

⁵¹Boise News, September 29, 1863.

⁵²George S. Turnbull, History of Oregon Newspapers (Portland: Binfords & Mort, 1939) pp. 257, 263.

⁵³Melville Spence, Bibliography & Union List of Idaho Newspapers, 1862-1955. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Idaho, 1956.

⁵⁴Boise News, September 29, 1863.

⁵⁵Boise News, October 8, 1863.

⁵⁶Spence, p. 19.

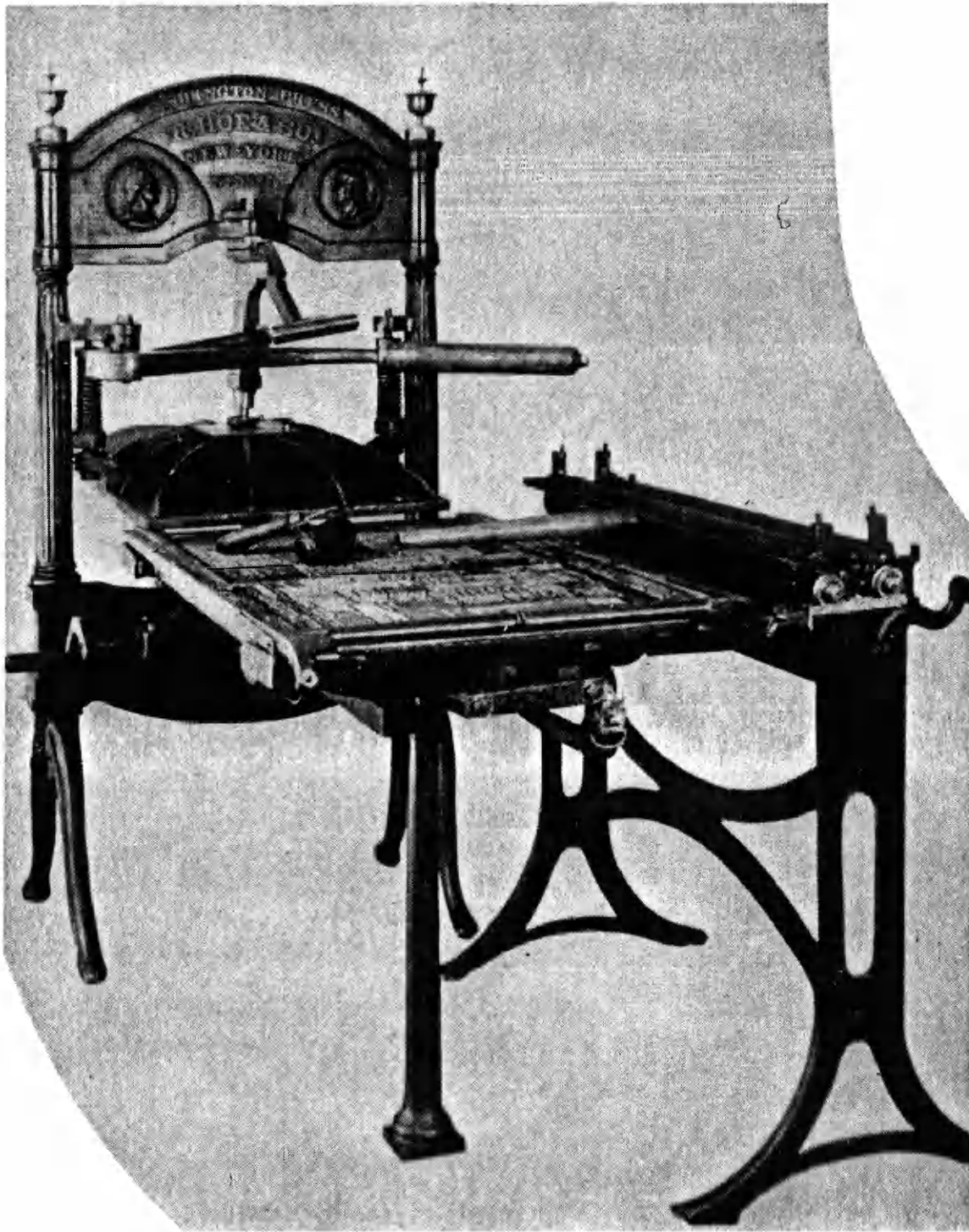


Figure 2: The Butlers' press was still in use when the Idaho World suspended publication in November 1918. Type for the paper's last issue is locked in the chase on the press bed. The press is on display at the Idaho Historical Society museum at Boise. (Photograph courtesy Idaho Historical Society.)

In May, W. W. Bancroft, who had published a Democratic newspaper, the Daily Journal, at The Dalles, was at Idaho City making plans to start a daily.⁵⁷ A month later, on June 25, the News reported the paper would be started as a Union weekly by a journalist from Maine, James S. Reynolds.

Reynolds and two brothers, Thomas B. and Richard J. Reynolds of Missouri [no relation to James], loaded a wagon with materials and a printing press at The Dalles with the intent of beginning business at Idaho City.⁵⁸ Leaving the two brothers to bring the wagon, James Reynolds rode on to Idaho City to make preparations.⁵⁹

On their way to Idaho City, the Reynolds brothers stopped at Boise City where they sought directions to their destination. H. C. Riggs and J. D. Agnew were business partners whose acquaintance the Reynoldses made during their brief stop. Soon after the brothers headed into the hills on the last leg of their journey to Idaho City, Riggs and Agnew called together some of the leading citizens of the town to raise support to induce the would-be journalists to return to Boise City and begin operations there. Riggs was dispatched to intercept the printers. He offered a stipend

⁵⁷Boise News, May 28, 1864; Turnbull, p. 285.

⁵⁸Karolevitz, Newspapering in the Old West, p. 93.

⁵⁹Ibid.

of \$1,500 plus the free use of an office building for a year.⁶⁰

The offer was too good to refuse. Thomas Reynolds galloped off to Idaho City to tell James Reynolds. The trio decided to set up their Washington hand-press at Boise City, and within a month, July 26, 1864, printed the first copy of the Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman.⁶¹ The decision by the Reynoldses to publish at Boise City temporarily left the Idaho City printing bonanza to the Butlers, but it set the stage for an intense rivalry that was to last for 54 years.

During the summer the News continued to prosper, and in August the Butlers added a "Gordon's patent lightning press" to help with the job work. The press could make 2,000 impressions an hour.⁶²

Subscriptions for the News were \$12 a year and \$7 for six months, and a one-time advertising insertion of an inch sold for \$4. It advertised that subscriptions could be bought from its agents at Centerville, Placerville, Pioneer City, Walla Walla, Umatila, Portland and San Francisco.⁶³ It said "all [job] orders will be executed

⁶⁰Karolevitz, Newspapering in the Old West, p. 93.

⁶¹Hailey, History of Idaho, p. 370.

⁶²Boise News, August 13, 1864.

⁶³Boise News, October 6, 1863.

with neatness and dispatch." It published the "official directory" of territorial officials, and it noted that the territorial capital "for the present" was at Lewiston.

In its second issue, October 6, 1863, the News warned its readers about the hazards of fire, and asked for a law on house construction and the placement of stove pipes. The prophecy of fire became true, and in the following years the city was nearly destroyed twice and several other times sections of it burned.

Other editorial comments called for a post office and a mail route "at least once a week."

The first two issues of the Boise News looked much alike, but the second contained more local news, just as the Butlers had promised earlier:

We are not up to time with the first issue of our paper on account of vexatious delays in the nonarrival of press and material. We are under way at last, however, but still have a portion of our type and other material on the road, which we expect daily. When it arrives we will try to present a more respectable appearance, while in the meantime we think we are doing pretty well considering the fact that we have . . . manufactured all the little etceteras not in the office that are always indispensable to the business, and brought out the paper less than a month from the time we entered the territory.⁶⁴

Poetry, mining laws, a report of travelers finding a grave of a murdered man, a brief history of mining discoveries written by E. E. Pierce--the man whose

⁶⁴Boise News, September 29, 1863, p. 2.

prospecting led to the gold rush in Idaho--and an item on Grecian gods plus clips from other papers largely made up the news columns of the first two issues. Later, when the winter would restrict mining activities and news would be scarce, the Butlers wrote other articles about Grecian gods, using a book on Greek mythology to help fill the newspaper.

On the inside pages, where most of the local news appeared, the Butlers wrote in the second issue:

CUDDY'S GULCH--The miners on Cuddy's Gulch which is [a] tributary of Elk Creek appear to be doing well. At any rate they are liberal to the printer. The carrier disposed of more papers on the day of our first issue in proportion to the number of inhabitants, on Cuddy's Gulch, than any other locality.⁶⁵

Nearby, another article claimed the area's first public library.

PUBLIC LIBRARY--Sam Houston & Co are opening a library in this place and Placerville. They have a library of 2,000 volumes. Books and newspapers are cheaper and better companions during the long winter evenings than any likely to be met with in the streets or bar-rooms of the city. Patronize the library.⁶⁶

The Butlers did not have enough newsprint for their fourth issue, so they printed it (October 20) on brown wrapping paper. Their winter supply of newsprint arrived in time for the next week's issue.

⁶⁵Boise News, October 6, 1863, p. 2.

⁶⁶Ibid.

The October 20 issue also featured a page-one story entitled "Here To-Day and Gone To-Morrow" written by Pierce. The World said Pierce's article was a "farewell address of the Silver Fox," before he returned to his home in the midwest.

As the fall became winter, the News featured long columns of editorial ideas consistent with the problems and needs of the territory. One editorial predicted railroad expansion into the Idaho Territory and said it was necessary:

. . . inexhaustible mines in this region, give this route sufficient importance to arrest the attention of capitalists and induce railroad men to come and see us with their iron horses, bring us provisions and take away our gold in exchange.⁶⁷

The News announced the area's first subscription school in its December 19 issue and urged the county authorities to "take hold" and reimburse the man who had started it and provided the school its wood.

Not all of the News' announcements were serious. One, on December 26, reflected the season's spirit.

We make no apology this week for anything either said or done. Mr. Marks, Frank Campbell, Totman & Taylor and numerous others who have been ministering to the spiritual wants of this institution, should be held accountable for all our short comings. Tom & Jerry, Old Suzarac, Heidsick and the like are wonderful muddlers in a printing office about Christmas time.

⁶⁷Boise News, October 27, 1863, p. 2.

The Butlers provided their readers with every bit of news they could muster locally, including the decline in the price of a pound of butter from \$2 in October to \$1.25 in January. Social events also shared the page leads, including an announcement that Placerville citizens were offering a \$100 purse for the winner of a cutter race. The first weather readings, kept by a Placerville citizen, began appearing in the News, and the editorials encouraged county foreman Van Wyck, at Lewiston, to attend the territorial legislative session and to use his influence to remove the capital to southern Idaho.⁶⁸

The News met with the county commissioners and said their proceedings should be published as a public record. The News had a monopoly on southern Idaho public records, and it succeeded, with the Golden Age, to require the territorial government to supply the legislators with newspapers.

The Secretary of the Territory was requested to furnish each member with a Portland daily and five copies of such weekly papers as each may select.⁶⁹

In February, the Boise News announced it was raising its advertising rates to \$5 per "square." Its 50-cent-an-issue price and subscription rate remained the same.⁷⁰

⁶⁸Boise News, January 9, 1864, p. 2.

⁶⁹Ibid.

⁷⁰Boise News, March 26, 1864, p. 4.

On March 26, the News reported the grant jury proceedings, indicating that the Boise Basin was lively, even during the winter months. The findings showed nine indictments for first-degree murder, three for second-degree, one manslaughter, sixteen assaults with intent to commit murder, two robberies, seventeen with intent to rob, one perjury and others totaling 47 bills.⁷¹ Bannock City's name had been changed to Idaho City and merchants were trying to establish a fixed value for gold dust. At Boise City an ounce of dust was worth \$15, at Florence \$12 and at Owyhee \$10.

The Boise News pointed out that dust taken at \$16 at Boise City, because of mixing and transportation costs, would bring less than \$13 at the San Francisco mint. The News said businessmen allowed more on dust to get more trade; if they reduced the price of dust, miners would go elsewhere for their goods.⁷² Although it may have pinpointed one cause for varying dust prices, neither the News nor the miners could solve the problem. Miners and merchants in the Boise Basin were almost entirely dependent on private assayers and gold dealers to buy their dust and quartz. Bannock City had one assay office by the end of 1863 and

⁷¹Boise News, March 26, 1864, p. 4.

⁷²Boise News, December 19, 1863, p. 2; January 9, 1864, p. 2.

another was opened the following spring, but the federal government could not be persuaded to establish a branch mint in Idaho Territory. It opened the first federal assay office in the Boise Basin in 1870.⁷³

The 1864 mining season was well under way when the Boise News of April 30 reported that miners were earning \$6 for daytime work and \$1 more at night.

A night scene in the Boise mines is as brilliant and magnificent as any similar spectacle to be met on the green earth. We counted more than thirty mining fires on Tuesday evening from a single standpoint in front of our office door. The ringing of shovels as the auriferous gravel slides from the blade, is distinctly audible above the murmur of the water in the sluices, conspiring with the haze and smoke through which the mountains beyond are dimly visible to render the scene most interesting and lovely.

By June the Boise News reported that Montgomery Street, near the News' office, was being worked at \$16 a pan.

The tail-race in front of this office, not having sufficient fall, is prone to fill up with sand, causing the bank to overflow occasionally to the annoyance of the denizens of Wall street, who have in more instances than one, of late, found muddy water running about their doors and filling up their cellars. The flume across Gardner's gulch is particularly given to overflowing, and when it does so, the Clerk's and Probate Judge's office becomes almost a floating palace. The Celestial Laundry has also been annoyed from the same cause; on one occasion we observed a brawny son of Bodh endeavoring to stay the flood and turn it back upon its fountain with a clapboard, but the incarnate Guadama in nirvana was either poweless, or the disciple's faith too

⁷³ John A. Hussey, "Building Most Valuable: The Story of the Idaho Assay Office," Idaho Yesterdays (Boise: Idaho Historical Society, spring 1961), pp. 2-13.

weak to prevent the water according to the laws of nature, from finding its level.

The 1864 Idaho political campaign brought the Butlers under continued pressure to make the Boise News a partisan paper, but they declined and, instead, sold press time to the Republican and Democratic campaign papers. The Democrats, beginning September 3, issued the Idaho Semi-Weekly Crisis. The Boise News of the following day announced:

It is just half the size of the Boise News; a portion of the News material is used for its publication. Henry C. Street is editor and publisher. Mr. Street has had considerable experiences in the newspaper business, having in California, conducted the Shasta Herald and Coluna Sun.⁷⁴

The News also commented that extra effort was needed to produce the first issue of the Crisis ". . . when a form holding an entire page came apart."

George Carlton, who later was associated with several Democratic papers, edited the Republican paper, the Idaho Patriot, begun October 9, one day before the election.⁷⁵

On October 21 Street and Isaac H. Bowman met with the Butlers and offered to buy the Boise News, telling the Butlers that if they did not sell an opposition Democratic paper would be started. The decision was made

⁷⁴Boise News, September 24, 1864, p. 2.

⁷⁵Ibid.; Idaho Patriot, October 9, 1864.

within a few hours, for the Boise News of the following day carried the announcement.

SOLD OUT--After thirteen and a quarter months, or 57 weeks, successfully carrying on the printing business in Boise, we come suddenly to announce that the game is up, and that we are ready to engage in something else. Our paper has been and is strictly independent in politics, as well as in everything else, and the time has arrived when in order to further succeed in publishing a newspaper, it is necessary to dive, or be driven, into politics, an employment that the undersigned have no relish for; and especially is it apparent that a paper adverse to the present Administration, one that will labor to advance the interests of the so-called democratic party is bound to start in our midst, and as the undersigned, personally, are eminently unsound altogether unreliable and entirely opposed to the principles and policy of the modern democratic party, we have thought it prudent and proper, in view of the signs of the times, to accept the offer of Messrs. Bowman & Co., and to retire from the business, leaving them in possession of at least a portion of the handle of the lever that moves the world,--knowing full well that, even though they may teach a strange (and even false) doctrine,--our refusal to sell would not deter them from the accomplishment of their design. Having said thus much, we bid farewell and announce that, in all human probability, this is the last issue of the Boise News. Next week the paper will be published under a new name and by Messrs. Bowman & Co., with H. C. Street as editor; and in the meantime, and for thirty days to come, we hope our patrons who have not paid up will come and see us. The suddenness of this transaction--it having been consummated on the eve of going to press--has deprived us of both time and space to make a formal valedictory.

T. J. & J. S. Butler

In a little more than a year, the Butlers had made \$20,000, but the new owners would more than double that figure.⁷⁶ In a letter written September 7, 1907, to John

⁷⁶Butler, "Life and Times in Idaho," p. 6.

Hailey of the Idaho State Historical Society, John Butler recalled that "we were vain enough to think, and still think, that we made quite a success of the enterprise, especially in a financial way."

CHAPTER III
THE STREET ERA

The October 29, 1864, issue carried a new nameplate, the Idaho World, and a motto, "The Noblest Motive Is The Public Good," was added to the flag November 6.⁷⁷ A column titled "City News" also made its appearance. The noticeable change was in the editorial content, and the advertising rate was increased from \$4 a column inch to \$5 for a first-time insertion.⁷⁸

Most of the Eastern news still appeared in a column under that label, but sometimes Street and Bowman included bizarre items such as this page-one story November 5, "Lizards in a Man's Stomach/Remarkable Cure by a Gipsy."

A farmer of Bathurst at Nova Scotia . . . for \$100 a gipsy woman fed him salt pork but not water . . . At the expiration of a day or two, when the man was almost dead with thirst, she made him lie down by a spring and put a pan of water near his mouth. In about ten minutes a large green lizard was seen peeping out between his lips. In a short time after, accompanied by another of the same size and color, jumped from his mouth into the water. Five minutes later three more came out. The man is well now and weighs one hundred and sixty pounds, having fallen away, during his sickness, to seventy-eight

⁷⁷Idaho World, October 29, 1864, p. 1; November 6, 1864, p. 1.

⁷⁸Idaho World, November 6, 1864, p. 1

pounds. . . . Two of them have been preserved in spirits and forwarded to Prof. Asgassuz, of Harvard University.

Below the lizard yarn was an item "Salt for Bed-Bugs" which said "a correspondent of the Olean Advertiser presents the following to the editor as a remedy for the above-named vermin."

They have only to wash with salt and water, filling the cracks where they frequent with salt, and you may look in vain for them. Salt seems inimical to bed bugs and they will not trail through it. I think it preferable to all "ointments," and the buyer requires no certificates as to its genuineness.

Frontier editors freely offered such advice or, sometimes, as Samuel Clemens did while writing for the Territorial Enterprise at Virginia City, Nevada, satirized the social conditions with articles such as "Bed with or without bugs."⁷⁹

During the boom years editors frequently visited Idaho City for the reported purpose of seeking subscribers and providing first-hand reports to their readers. If they were drawn there on a chance to make a quick investment in mineral wealth, it was not mentioned in the World. Such visits, and any event concerning a fellow "type," usually received notice in the World.

A Printer's Court--The printing fraternity in this portion of the country appears to be in favor. The newly elected Probate Judge, J. M. Shepherd, the

⁷⁹Effie M. Mock, Mark Twain in Nevada (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1947), pp. 221-222.

County Clerk, and Clerk of said court, Wm. A. Daly, and the Sheriff, A. O. Bowen, are all typos. Nothing like printers' luck.⁸⁰

A Noltner, Esq.--This gentleman, the proprietor of the Eugene City Review, has recently made a tour through the Boise Basin, and left us on Thursday last for Walla Walla. Mr. Noltner is well known in the Northern country and deservedly enjoys the esteem of many friends here as well as in Oregon. We are glad to hear from Mr. Noltner that he succeeded in increasing the subscription list of the Review very largely in the Basin. The Review is a leading paper on this coast.⁸¹

In the November 11, 1964, World, Street informed readers about the latest plans of the Butler brothers.

Thomas J. Butler, late editor of the Boise News, leaves us this morning, for California. In conjunction with his brother, John S. Butler, he founded the pioneer newspaper in the Boise Basin. The files of the News during the year it was under their management enfold a very important record of a period which is already becoming historical, a record which will be invaluable to the future compiler of the history of Idaho. The numerous friends of the General unite in the hope that he will find compensation for the labors and isolation of the year, in the pleasure of the visit to his old friends and old haunts; and that he will soon find it convenient to turn his face Idahoward again.

It was a wish the Butlers soon would make true.

Street and Bowman had purchased the newspaper with the announced intention of making it a political voice for the democracy, and in the final few months of 1864 they began to shape other editorial positions, which included an adversary relationship with the Idaho Tri-Weekly

⁸⁰Idaho World, October 29, 1864, p. 3.

⁸¹Ibid.

Statesman. The Civil War in 1864 was in its fourth year, and many of the Boise Basin miners were refugees from the South or Democrats from the Pacific Coast. Street and Bowman, both southerners, were strong Confederate sympathizers. Street was from North Carolina by way of California where he had edited the Shasta Herald and the Coluna Sun before moving to Idaho City. Bowman was from Woodstock, Virginia.⁸² Together, with Street doing most of the writing and Bowman as business manager, they turned the World into the territory's chief supporter of Democratic politics.⁸³ In the late 1800s, under different ownership, the World became nonpartisan. Sometimes its editorial columns touted the Progressive Party, but until it ceased publication in 1918, it never quit its rivalry with the Republican Idaho Statesman.

Statesman editor Reynolds had been critical of Street and Bowman when the first issue of the Crisis was published September 23, 1864. Reynolds said the Crisis "sputters out treason."⁸⁴ When the Crisis suspended operation, he wrote, "The Crisis has lied its last lie and has gone where all the copperheads will follow in a couple of days: 'to their

⁸²Wood River Daily Times, June 8, 1903.

⁸³The Idaho Statesman, October 10, 1977, p. 88.

⁸⁴Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, September 24, 1864.

graves.' Not one word of truth appears in its last gasping breath."⁸⁵

Street retaliated:

Tax 'Em--The editor of the Idaho Statesman, from appearance, has been sacked by some hurdy-gurdy, and is calling lustily on the Legislature to "tax 'em," because "They are Swiss, chubby, black, can't talk English, and live in the rear of the dance house on the cheapest kind of pounder." The editor is evidently posted on the hurdies--and as for the taxes, if you want to find anybody of anything to tax, put a Black Republican on the track. "Taxes" are their forte--especially the collection of them. "Taxes, Taxes, Taxes." It ought to be made the national motto in place of "E Pluribus Unum."⁸⁶

For the next nine months Reynolds and Street engaged in printed duels typical of the "Oregon Style."⁸⁷

The World said the re-election of president Lincoln was "the greatest triumph that Jeff Davis and the Confederacy have achieved during the war."

Had McClellan succeeded, the Union, possibly might have been restored. Under Lincoln it is a moral impossibility. Every blow that bloody-handed war strikes shivers the union and makes its dissolution the inevitable. Wars, conscriptions, taxation,

⁸⁵Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, October 8, 1864.

⁸⁶Idaho World, November 26, 1864, p. 4.

⁸⁷Price, The Eugene Register-Guard, p. 39. "The term used to describe West Coast news writing in Civil War days was 'The Oregon Style.' This was a 'species' of storm-and-stress journalism, strong in invective and availing itself of the disturbances of the times--in communities in which everyone's private affairs and personal name were known to every inhabitant--to coin amusing and even offensive titles for opponents."

the destruction of the Republic and permanent disunion are the trophies of Abraham Lincoln.⁸⁸

A few months later, when the World received the news that Lincoln had been assassinated, it called the event "abhorrent to human nature." Street said:

. . . as warmly as he was esteemed in life by the American people, had not that hold upon their personal affections which lifted Henry Clay and Andrew Jackson above all ordinary friendships; but his extraordinary death at this precarious juncture will do more to embalm his memory than any act of his life.⁸⁹

The Statesman said the World's article was a "disgusting exaltation." The Statesman said:

Judas ripped open his own bowels after betraying Christ. The first of American traitors wandered an outcast from his native land praying for death . . . and modern traitors, no matter in how much or how slight disguise, shall meet the reward they merit. We expect to see such as the World writhe under the lashings of public scorn here in Idaho Territory yet.⁹⁰

In the spring of 1865, Reynolds ran for Ada County probate judge on the People's Ticket. He was beaten. Democrat R. L. Gillespie drew 658 votes and Republican Dr. Holton received 341. Reynolds had 302. Street could not resist rubbing journalistic salt into Reynolds' wounds.

The editor of the Idaho Statesman has been reading the World pretty closely since the election, and especially the Boise City correspondence, over which he has worried himself into a horrible passion.

⁸⁸ Idaho World, November 19, 1964, p. 1.

⁸⁹ Idaho World, April 29, 1865, p. 2.

⁹⁰ Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, May 23, 1865.

When last heard from he was tearing his hair all out by the roots. The only recourse to relieve his mind from the superabundant gall is attained by soundly berating the World and the aforesaid correspondent. "Don't let your angry passion rise," Mr. Statesman. The overflow of a little superfluous bile may reasonably be expected soon after an election in which the Statesman editor managed to receive the enormous number of three hundred votes out of thirteen hundred; but even that trifling disaster is scarcely an excuse for vulgarity. If repeated too frequently, the public may imagine those favorite friends of yours were right in seceding immediately after your nomination. Be a Statesman. Bathe your "feverish brow" in cold water occasionally, and let your blood flow agreeable. Meanwhile we will locate an extension for you on a ledge up here known as the "Keep Cool."⁹¹

While the miners waited out the winter and the World's war with the Statesman, other stories in the World informed readers of changing prices, noting that the cost of flour which had been \$40 per hundred pounds now sold for \$60 and eggs had increased \$1.50 a dozen to \$3.50. The World's first woman correspondent, Minnie Myrtle Miller of Canyon City, Oregon, Joaquin Miller's wife, sent "some chit chat from that place, truly womanly. From Owyhee we have an interesting letter relating to affairs in that locality; and Banner and Placerville, too, talk to us from the snow-drifts."⁹² The Boise News had published the names of those who had letters waiting for them at the stage-postal office at Idaho City, and in March of 1865 the World added to that

⁹¹Idaho World, March 25, 1865, p. 2.

⁹²Idaho World, March 11, 1865, p. 3.

sort of chatty journalism by announcing it would "hereafter publish a list of all the arrivals by stage to this place or Placerville, from the Lower country. Through this channel the people will have an opportunity of knowing who are coming to the country."⁹³

Later in the spring, the World ran two important supplements. The first, distributed April 29, was a two-page edition that carried the "complete abstract of the indebtedness of the county of Boise incurred from its organization to Janury 1, 1865." It marked the beginning of the annual publication of county finances.⁹⁴ Before the second one was published the following month, the World reported that a "thousand dollars per day is not bad business" for a mine "clean up" at the Idaho Mill at Rocky Bar. Such good news would certainly lure miners to the Boise Basin.

It also renewed its plea for a telegraph "connecting this Basin with the rest of mankind."

The line might be constructed as to embrace Idaho City, Centerville, Placerville, Boise City, Ruby City, Boonville, Peubia, Honey Lake and Red Bluff. . . . From a casual calculation we are satisfied that the line can be put in working order between the Sacramento river and this place for less than \$50,000.⁹⁵

⁹³Idaho World, March 18, 1865, p. 3.

⁹⁴Idaho World, April 29, 1865, p. 3.

⁹⁵Idaho World, May 6, 1865, p. 2.

On May 20, 1865, the World carried the headlines

The Conflagration
Idaho City In Ashes!

The Boise News had warned the residents about such a disaster. In less than two hours, 140 businesses and homes were destroyed. Not a single hotel was left. One store operated by Ben Woods, a livery stable of McClintock & Stewart, the Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, Jenny Lind Theater and the Idaho World office were the only buildings standing. The fire swept through the city on Thursday and the World published a schedule Friday with its regular Saturday dateline. It reprinted early the next week, adding a supplement, and followed that with its regular Saturday morning edition. The May 20 issue said:

We Still Live--Amid the rush of matter and the crush of worlds the Idaho World still survives, sorrowfully looking from the heights of East Hill upon the wide and dreary drift of ashes we formerly knew as Idaho City. The wall of fire swept away the last plank to the west of us, creeping high upon Wall street. Nothing but the most strenuous exertions saved the office from the common destruction. By keeping the building partially covered with wet blankets, and thoroughly saturated with water, it escaped. To the many friends whose assistance was freely extended us, we return our sincere thanks.

Building losses were estimated at one million dollars with another \$50,000 worth of goods looted from stores and homes. A page-two story declared "the town was probably set on fire to afford an opportunity for plunder, and it

⁹⁵Idaho World, May 6, 1865, p. 2.

was used." The fire, which started in a dance hall, was discovered about 10 p.m. while patrons in the nearby Forrest, the city's newest theater, watched the play "Romeo and Juliet." The World found some humor in the situation.

The orchestra had no particular desire to imitate Nero on this occasion--to fiddle while Bannock burned--but they freely participated in the pleasures of the common stampede: the last seen of the leader, he had on a fireman's shirt and was making over East Hill as if he had just busted a--cat gut of course.⁹⁶

News of the fire continued to dominate local reporting for several weeks. "Attempts to fire the town were made on four occasions during the week previous to the conflagration." There also was a story on the theft of bedding and blankets belonging to inmates of the county hospital.⁹⁷

In June the local coverage of the fire faded into reports about mining activities, nearby Indian troubles and "a large swinging machine . . . [was] erected on East Hill . . . for the amusement of idlers and pleasure lovers. It is capable of carrying a crowd. Last Sunday it was running nearly all day."⁹⁸

Political parties began meeting in June, and a July 1 blurb in the World said editor Street, who had attended a Democratic primary meeting June 24, asked that his name be

⁹⁶Idaho World, May 20, 1865, p. 4.

⁹⁷Idaho World, May 27, 1865, pp. 2, 3.

⁹⁸Idaho World, June 24, 1865, p. 3.

withdrawn as a Democratic delegate. But Street could not resist politics, and a week later he wrote:

Of that portion of the ticket which embraces the name of the editor of this paper, we have nothing to say, except to return our thanks for the unsolicited honor conferred upon us by a warm-hearted and generous Democracy. . . . The leading political issue which is likely to arise in the next session of the Legislature, will probably be on negro suffrage. . . . When negroes are admitted to the ballot-box the time will be short until the Chinamen and Indians are admitted to equal privileges. . . . The Democracy present a white man's ticket . . . let the Democracy put their shoulders to the wheel, and the voice of Boise county, next winter, will forever hush the whisperings of negro equality in Idaho.⁹⁹

George Ainslie, an Idaho City lawyer who would become editor of the World in two years, also was nominated as a Democratic councilman. Results of the primary election were reported in the August 19 issue, and the World commented that "this election demonstrates the fact that Idaho is strongly Democratic." The Democratic party had made a clean sweep.

As a party, the late "Union" party has disappeared. The places which have known it "will know it no more forever" in Idaho. It is doubtful whether it will ever again nominate a regular ticket or make another fight in Boise county.

In October, the World used a clip from the Lewiston Radiator to tell its readers that the capital had been moved to Boise.¹⁰⁰ When the legislature convened at Boise,

⁹⁹Idaho World, July 8, 1865, p. 2.

¹⁰⁰Idaho World, October 28, 1865, p. 1.

Street informed World readers he would be at the capital city to cover the legislature. His first report comprised two columns, and he continued to provide about the same amount for each edition during the next two months.

Street's activity in the Democratic party and his position as editor, had some influence with Idaho's third legislature. Street had editorialized that the county should be reimbursed for its expense in keeping territorial prisoners, and laws enacted by the legislature--because of the length of time to publish in book form--should be published in a newspaper. Both measures were enacted, and the World received the printing contract for \$1,800.¹⁰¹ Reynolds was disappointed that the Statesman did not get the contract, and he seized the opportunity to write "Street swears he will whale his dog as soon as he gets home."

Street replied:

That is more than Reynolds could do. A single growl from an intelligent canine would cause the editor of the Boise Statesman to moan and cry most piteously. He is unwell now, and shouldn't be hurt.¹⁰²

The World expanded its circulation, and in mid-summer it listed 17 subscription agents, including C. R. Street,

¹⁰¹Idaho World, January 6, 1866, p. 1; January 27, 1866, p. 1.

¹⁰²Idaho World, January 13, 1865, p. 1.

California Express Office, Marysville, California.¹⁰³ At the end of the first year in which Street and Bowman took control, Street wrote that the public "has generously sustained us, doubling our subscription list."¹⁰⁴

Without using specific names, Street often wrote blurbs chastising readers for borrowing subscribers' papers rather than buying their own. He also repeatedly said every Democrat should take the paper, and his editorial successors followed the same practice.¹⁰⁵

By 1865, Idaho City had a school and several churches and about 500 school children in the basin, an indication the population was becoming more stable although mining strikes in Montana and the Owyhee area had siphoned some of the early itinerants from the Boise Basin. Logically it was the expanded coverage the World offered that increased its circulation, and the fact that it was the only regular paper in the basin.

The World gave extensive coverage to athletic and social events, and when times were dull it asked, "Who will get up a game?" Patsey Marley was an Idaho City youth, who

¹⁰³Idaho World, July 2, 1865, p. 2; [C. R. Street may have been a relative of editor Street, but the latter made no mention of it.]

¹⁰⁴Idaho World, October 28, 1865, p. 2.

¹⁰⁵Idaho World, March 25, 1865, p. 3.

used his boxing skills to win all the exhibitions he could find in the basin, and wherever he went--to Boise City, to Nevada or to Montana--the World reported.

In a November 25, 1865 clip from the Salt Lake Vedette, the World reported the 2,500 spectators paid \$5 each "at Helena or Last Chance Flat" to see Marley collect \$500 for fighting John C. Orem.

Ninety-six rounds after which night and darkness soon set in (old Sol concluding not to stop his course even for the interests of the P. R.) and the pugilists adjourned "business" until the next morning. It then being found that both of'em were pretty well "banged," Orem the worse, the \$500 was bungled over to Patsey, and no further fighting ensued.

Two months later, the World reprinted a clip from the Montana Democrat that Orem beat Marley in a return match at Virginia City on New Year's Day. "The fight consisted of ninety-nine rounds and lasted two hours. . . ." ¹⁰⁶

During the winter months boxers at Idaho City could train at James Pinney's gymnasium above his store. Street referred to the gymnasium as "one of the institutions of the country." ¹⁰⁷ The gymnasium also was used as a community dance and meeting hall.

In its heyday, Idaho City had several theaters. The Jenny Lind, which survived the fire of 1865, was considered

¹⁰⁶ Idaho World, January 11, 1866, p. 3.

¹⁰⁷ Idaho World, December 2, 1865, p. 2.

one of the Boise Basin's show places, attracting troupes from Portland and San Francisco as well as local thespians.¹⁰⁸ Sometimes it was the scene of farewells for local actors and actresses or for community benefits. It was a major source of social news as well as revenue for the World, which carried advertising and contracted to print flyers announcing theater activities.

On January 6, 1866, the World reported:

Last week and this have certainly been carnival times for Idaho City, and they are not near through yet, for there's the Gymnasium ball next Monday, and the Odd Fellows ball on Tuesday of the following week; there's the Cosmopolitan Assembly every week, and the soirees of Mr. and Mrs. This One and Mr. and Mrs. That One, till hardly a night remains for rest or retirement, and scarcely a day in the week, except Sunday, which can be partially devoted to the usual avocations of life. It's a fact.

In the fall of 1864, the World invited women in the eastern United States to move to Idaho in search of husbands and in subsequent editions asserted there were plenty of available men.¹⁰⁹

Street urged the paper's women readers to become fashion conscious, although his comments seemed to promote the sale of the items advertised elsewhere in the paper. On one occasion an advertisement proclaimed new, small velvet bonnets ". . . now \$78, plumed bonnetts are

¹⁰⁸Idaho World, May 20, 1865, p. 2.

¹⁰⁹Idaho World, November 19, 1864, p. 2.

\$100. . . ." Street wrote "It will be a severe trial of courage for a lady compelled to wear the old style."¹¹⁰

Editor's Duels and Threats

Twice during the summer of 1866 Street faced adversaries in pistol duels. He was not injured, nor did his shots hit their marks. His zeal for politics and his political writings apparently led to both duels.

The territory's Republican and Democratic Parties met in June at Boise only a block apart. One account said:

Both conventions were lively affairs, but the Democrats outclassed the Republicans in the matter of sensational episodes, pistol shots having been exchanged between two of the delegates, W. W. Douthitt and H. C. Street, editor of the Idaho World. No one was injured by the shooting, peace was restored and "all went merry as a marriage bell."¹¹¹

The World did not mention Street's confrontation or the Republicans. It said:

The Democratic Territorial Convention that met at Boise City last Monday was the largest convention every [sic] assembled in this Territory . . . the Northern counties are so far removed from the Capital that no person felt like spending his time and money in making the trip. . . . In reaffirming the doctrines of the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions the Convention placed the party squarely and unequivocally upon the old Democratic platform. . . .¹¹²

¹¹⁰Idaho World, November 12, 1864, p. 4.

¹¹¹McConnell, Early History of Idaho, p. 343.

¹¹²Idaho World, June 23, 1866, p. 2.

Street's second duel was the result of a challenge from Deputy U.S. Marshal William C. McConnell. Street commented in the July 28 World that McConnell would be leaving for a trip east.

He was indeed making an excellent officer when he was organizing a band of horse and cattle thieves, bogus dust operators, abolitionists, Loyal Leagueists & ect into a Vigilante band for the purpose of hanging and shooting Democrats, simply because they were Democrats. Pity he has gone.

Shortly before the duel at 4 a.m., August 2, McConnell resigned as marshal, and he and Street met several miles west of Idaho City, selecting single shot derringers as their weapons. In memoirs written 13 years later, McConnell recalled:

Mr. Street having the choice of position secured an important advantage by placing his back to the sun. This obliged his opponent to face the blazing sun as its rays glistened upon the wet sand with dazzling effect.¹¹³

One of McConnell's seconds continued the narration:

Mr. Street's pistol broke the stillness of the scene. McConnell's immediately followed. The crowds rushed to their principals to see who was injured. . . . McConnell immediately handed his pistol to his second and requested it loaded and charged him not to allow the gunsmith to prime it.¹¹⁴

Street's bullet missed, and McConnell's lodged in the barrel.

¹¹³McConnell, Idaho Inferno (San Francisco, 1879) microfilm, Idaho Historical Society, Boise.

¹¹⁴Ibid.

McConnell's second said:

Street made the necessary concessions and all further proceedings were suspended. It is but fair to state that Mr. Street acted the part of a gentleman during the entire affair though many were inclined to censure him from the obstruction found in Mr. McConnell's pistol.¹¹⁵

Again, the World did not mention the duel, but the Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman did:

To Duelists--In order to save the spilling of so much horrible blood, as is now being shed in our neighboring county, by this fatal practice, we suggest that hereafter, the parties shall set up the image of a man and shoot at it until one of them misses the mark. The missing man shall consider himself dead, and leave the country forever.¹¹⁶

Seventeen months later Street had a confrontation with James O'Meara, who succeeded him as World editor, and the newspaper ignored the story. An account in the Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman said "We are told that Mr. Street gave O'Meara a forcible introduction to his cane. . . ." to which O'Meara responded:

Street came to the office to talk to Bowman and did brandish his cane . . . but on learning that if he wanted a personal encounter he could get it there and then, the foaming raves subsided. This is all there was of the affair, Reynolds, dear.¹¹⁷

O'Meara also faced other physical threats. In the spring of 1867, when O'Meara and Bowman were preparing to

¹¹⁵Ibid.

¹¹⁶Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, August 4, 1866, p. 4.

¹¹⁷Idaho World, April 8, 1868, p. 2.

print a twice-weekly publication in addition to the weekly newspaper, World readers learned the newspaper was losing its building lease.

Change of Tenant--Last Monday evening Mr. P. J. Malone served notice on us--for what particular reason we have no idea--pointing at us a double barreled shotgun, that he has become the possessor of a lease, given by Mr. Poujade to J. M. Shepherd, of the premises lately occupied by Shepherd as the Probate Court room and the office of the Idaho Semi-Weekly Times. The lease expires April 1st, ensuing.¹¹⁸

The World said the Times "did not wish to engage in litigation." The leased material, the World said, "early in December . . . became the property of I. H. Bowman & Co., by bona fide purchase."¹¹⁹

The World moved its place of publication across the street, occupying the main floor of the Masonic Hall. The move was coupled with the announcement that the semi-weekly edition would begin May 1 and be distributed Wednesdays and Saturdays in addition to the regular weekly issued Saturdays. The World assured its subscribers that "the size of the present weekly edition will be maintained and the paper will be printed on new and finer type."¹²⁰

A month later the World displayed its new San Francisco-made nameplate and boasted:

¹¹⁸Idaho World, March 16, 1867, p. 2.

¹¹⁹Idaho World, March 16, 1967, p. 2.

¹²⁰Idaho World, April 6, 1867, p. 2.

We have now the most complete, the finest and best newspaper and job printing office to be found any where north of California. And our new composing, printing, and editorial rooms . . . make up certainly one of the most commodious, handsomest, and best arranged printing establishments on the whole Pacific Coast. In the printing department are two superior and large Washington presses, a large and a small Gordon's machine press, both in excellent trim; above thirty fonts of wood type for jobbing, ranging from the smallest to the largest sizes, and of the most attractive elegant styles.¹²¹

In June, subscribers of the Semi-Weekly World were told the newspaper would be delivered to their local residences or businesses, the same service already being provided for weekly subscribers.¹²²

News that the expanding publishing business of O'Meara and Bowman was having internal difficulty came from the Boise City Statesman July 4 in an article signed by A. P. Turner. Turner claimed he owned one-third of the World and "James O'Meara does not own a dollar in it."

Two days later, Bowman retaliated with a public notice in the World:

A. P. Turner is no longer authorized to act as business agent or collector or carrier for the World establishment, and all persons are cautioned against paying him any money, settling any account with or trusting him on account of the World office.¹²³

¹²¹Idaho World, May 8, 1867, p. 2.

¹²²Idaho World, June 29, 1867, p. 2.

¹²³Idaho World, July 6, 1867, p. 2.

In a separate article, Bowman accused Turner of collecting business debts and pocketing the money. Of \$2,800 due Bowman and O'Meara, Turner paid only \$400 to the World, Bowman claimed. When Street quit as World editor in late September of 1866, Bowman explained that Street sold his interest, five-twelfths, to Thomas Foye. In December of 1866 O'Meara bought the type, presses and material from Foye.¹²⁴

In the November 6, 1867, issue, O'Meara told World readers he had been physically attacked by Foye, who had begun publication at Idaho City of the Semi-Weekly Union, a campaign paper. According to O'Meara's explanation in the World, Foye was supposed to have moved the paper to Boise and published it as a Democratic newspaper. O'Meara wrote that Foye had collected \$200 from him and \$500 from Bowman of a \$1,000 six-month note, but O'Meara refused the remaining payment when Foye did not move the press and materials.

O'Meara and Bowman apparently decided any further business with Foye was private since no mention is made in subsequent issues or it may have been because the publishers were too busy with the addition of the semi-weekly and the weekly. Further comment also may have been set aside for more pressing work of a World extra published

¹²⁴Ibid.

May 18, 1867, announcing "the ink was not dry upon the paper [the previous day's weekly] when the alarm of 'fire' reached our office."¹²⁵ Fire had begun in the roof of the John Cody Saloon at Main and Wall Streets, two blocks from the World's office, and raced through the city. The World and half dozen other buildings were saved by using water pumped through a hydraulic mining hose. The publishers, who rarely used subheads, in the extra proclaimed "Nearly the Whole City Burned!; Total Loss, Over \$1,000,000!"¹²⁶ The extra reminded readers the conflagration occurred on the second anniversary of the fire that destroyed most of the city in 1865.

The newspaper also noted a wage increase for carpenters from \$8 to \$16 a day.¹²⁷

Vigilantes and the World

Before the political campaigns heated during the warm summer of 1866 and Street departed as editor of the World, he and the newspaper conducted editorial tirades against actions of vigilante groups.

The vigilante movements spawned during the California gold rush followed the miners to Idaho Territory where its

¹²⁵Idaho World, May 18, 1867, p. 2.

¹²⁶Idaho World, May 18, 1867, p. 2.

¹²⁷Ibid.

first group, the Lewiston Protective Association, was formed in 1862.¹²⁸ During the winter of 1862-63, an estimated 200 robbers and gamblers were exiled from Lewiston.¹²⁹ Vigilance committees at Walla Walla and the Virginia City area of Montana [then in Idaho Territory] also were purging their communities by exile or execution of undesirable characters.¹³⁰ The "expatriated parties" began drifting into the Boise Basin and in the summer of 1865 the first vigilantes of Idaho City organized.¹³¹ A Methodist minister, the Reverend C. S. Kingsley, who had been an editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate at Portland and who had preached the first sermon at Idaho City, November 22, 1863, presided at the initial vigilance meeting.¹³²

Vigilante activities reached a crisis at Idaho City in August of 1865 which forced cancellation of a theater benefit.¹³³ One of the benefit's sponsors, J. S. Butler,

¹²⁸Ruth and Mike Dakis, "Guilty or Not Guilty? Vigilantes on Trial," Idaho Yesterdays, 12 (winter 1968-69): p. 2.

¹²⁹Ibid.

¹³⁰Ibid.

¹³¹Ibid, p. 3.

¹³²Rafe Gibbs, Beckoning The Bold (Moscow: University of Idaho Press), p. 98.

¹³³Idaho World, August 26, 1865, p. 3.

was a former owner of the World's predecessor, the Boise News. An August 12 brief also announced the arrival of his brother, Thomas, who had become publisher of a Virginia City, Nevada, paper.

The vigilantes, mostly Union men, with the backing of the Republican Statesman of Boise, had gathered to remove Ferdinand Patterson from the Idaho City jail. Patterson, a Democrat, had been charged with the shooting death of Boise County's former sheriff, Sumner Pinkham, a Republican. In its August 25, 1865, edition, the Statesman charged that Patterson was not being treated as a prisoner, but was "the recipient of the finest hospitalities . . . a fine room fitted up in the best style for a gentleman. . . . He walks the street with a single man at his side."¹³⁴

The Butler brothers operated the Boise News as a politically independent paper, and they opposed formation of a vigilance group.¹³⁵ Under the politically Democratic banner of the World, Street and Bowman retained the anti-vigilance policy which helped fuel the fire between the World and Reynolds' Statesman. Reynolds, a leader of the vigilance movement at Boise, was one of the men who decided who would be removed.¹³⁶

¹³⁴Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, August 29, 1865, p. 2.

¹³⁵Boise News, October 6, 1863, p. 3.

¹³⁶Thomas C. Donaldson, Idaho of Yesterday (Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1941), p. 167.

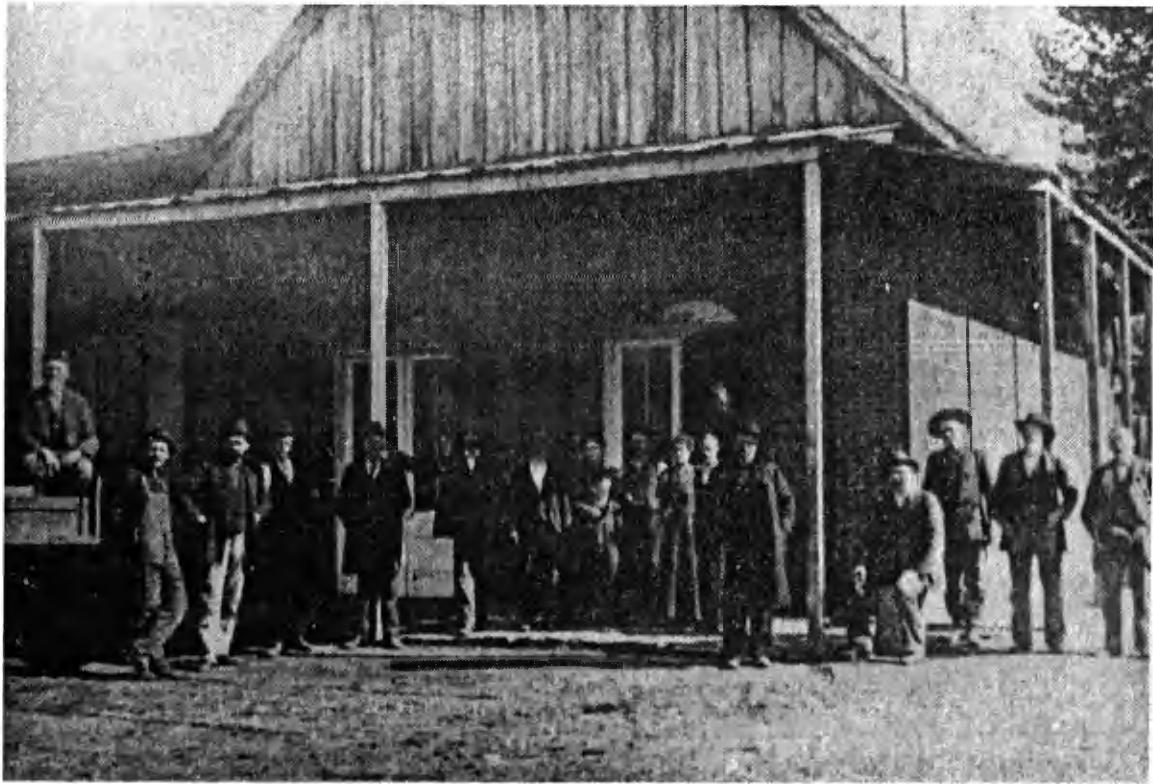


Figure 3: Shortly after the Idaho World moved into this brick building in the 1870s, the Jones family, in the center, lined up with area residents for this photograph. (Photograph courtesy of Alfred B. Day of Boise.) Figure 4: At right is George Ainslie, Idaho City lawyer, who became one of the Idaho World editors. (Photograph courtesy Idaho Historical Society.)



Boise County and the Idaho City area were overwhelmingly Democratic, and the sheriff had little difficulty in rounding up several hundred defenders. After two days, both sides agreed to disperse and Patterson went to trial before a jury, which found him "not guilty."

On September 2, 1865, the World reported the confrontation between the sheriff and the vigilantes in a story headlined "Defeat and Surrender of the Revolutionists" with a subhead, "The Battles of Buena Vista and Moore's Creek." Only words, not bullets, were exchanged and the headlines overplayed the story.

At the same time Patterson was being tried, the sheriff of Ada County, David Updyke, resigned following a formal accusation of financial irregularities in the performance of his duty. In March of 1866, Updyke led a group of volunteers on a scouting expedition against Indians in the southwest part of the territory. When the expedition returned, a lawsuit was filed concerning the contract for transportation of the volunteers. One of the volunteers, Reuben Raymond, appeared as a witness. A few days later, he was shot and killed by another of the volunteers, John C. Clark. The two had argued about Raymond's testimony. Clark was charged with homicide and taken to the guard house at Fort Boise. On April 7, about 1 a.m., the citizens' council took Clark from the guard house and hanged him. The Statesman reported:

There was considerable excitement in town at an early hour last Saturday morning as the news spread that there was a man hanging to a temporary gibbet of three poles just outside of town. . . . In a few hours almost every man in the city had visited the spot, where it was found that John C. Clark . . . was indeed hanging dead.¹³⁷

Within a week the body of Updyke was found near Boise suspended in a shed, while the body of a companion, Jake Dixon, was discovered hanging from a tree a few miles away. Pinned to Updyke's body was a note: "Dave Updyke, The aider of murderers and Horse Thieves XXX."¹³⁸

The Statesman said Dixon had confessed and as a result "the roll is being called." The newspaper endorsed the vigilantes. "There is no alarm in the community and no terror for any one except those who prey upon society and their fellow men."¹³⁹

Street denounced the Statesman.

The "Statesman" assumes a great many colors . . . the last one is black. It is running with the Vigilantes now--a Vigilante organ. They suit its style. Hang everyone who differs from you, and do it before the moon is up. . . . In encouraging . . . prowling about at midnight, murdering people . . . the Statesman is consistent; and we judge the work agreeable to its editor's natural inclinations.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁷Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, April 10, 1866.

¹³⁸Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, April 17, 1866.

¹³⁹Ibid.

¹⁴⁰Idaho World, April 14, 1866, p. 2.

Later, the World accused Reynolds of taking a ring, money, and other valuables from Updyke's body.¹⁴¹

A reign of terror prevails at Boise City. . . . It is an easy matter to strangle the best man in the community and pin a paper on his dead body accusing him of the worst of crimes. Dead men tell no tales. A Vigilance Committee once took the son of God and put him to death, attaching to the body "This is the king of the Jews." It looks now that Updyke was murdered that his money might be obtained, a personal hate gratified, and a powerful political foe gotten out of the way, and that Dixon was strangled because he was found in Updyke's company and witnessed the murder. The organization of this vigilance committee seems to be mainly for the purpose of concentrating the disorganized fragments of the former Republican party into shape to carry the summer election against the Democratic party.¹⁴²

Reynolds replied:

Street has Vigilante on the brain. Says they are going to hang all the Democrats and that the whole thing is a political movement. We don't think he will make much out of that "isshy." But since no one is likely to believe a word he does publish, it is hardly worth while to notice him.¹⁴³

In July, shortly before Street retired as World editor, he wrote an article that gave vigilantes fair warning from Sheriff John Duvall to cease activities in the Idaho City area.¹⁴⁴ Street said Idaho Territory was "The most peaceable territory in the union" because "here the

¹⁴¹Idaho World, May 5, 1866, p. 3.

¹⁴²Idaho World, April 21, 1866, p. 3.

¹⁴³Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, May 1, 1866, p. 3.

¹⁴⁴Idaho World, July 14, 1866, p. 3.

Vigilance Committee was suppressed to a great measure."¹⁴⁵

The vigilante question became one of the major election issues. The World said the Democratic party represented "peace and public order" and the Republican party represented "mob law."¹⁴⁶

Even after the election in which the Democrats soundly defeated the Republican vigilantes, Street's successor, James O'Meara, would not let the vigilantes' summer activities rest. He resumed the battle in October:

The men who hung and robbed Updyke in this Territory some months ago are as guilty murders and highway men as any that ever swung . . . with this distinction . . . the Vigilance transgressor is more culpable, because he not only commits the crime, but would by his example teach others that bodies of men may . . . defy the legally constituted authorities without responsibility to any earthly tribunal.¹⁴⁷

Reynolds and O'Meara continued to discuss vigilante activities, although less frequently. Early in 1868, O'Meara referred to the Updyke hanging, to which Reynolds replied:

Updyke was guilty of almost every crime against statue, and you defended him and are still defending him . . . you, Jim O'Meara . . . are mourning in your depraved heart because the times are changed and we rejoice because they are.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁵Idaho World, August 25, 1866, p. 3.

¹⁴⁶Idaho World, August 4, 1866, p. 3.

¹⁴⁷Idaho World, October 6, 1866, p. 3.

¹⁴⁸Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, February 6, 1863, p. 3.

Reynolds was right. The times were changing as law and order advanced in the Territory. The World must have agreed because from then until its demise in 1919, it made few references to Idaho's vigilantes.

The political campaign of 1866 also produced another running battle between the Statesman and the World as they quarrelled over misuse of public funds by political officials.

The territorial elections of 1864 had produced a Democratic legislature. President Andrew Jackson appointed Caleb Lyon, a Republican, from Lyonsdale, New York, as the territory's second governor. Lyon's conciliatory policy in working with the legislature to win statehood for the territory won the support of the legislature. But Reynolds opposed Lyon and the legislature, writing that the legislature unwisely spent public monies and gave "franchises among its members and personal friends."¹⁴⁹ Reynolds also complained that Lyon was withholding funds given him to support a campaign against the Indians in the Owyhee section of the territory.¹⁵⁰

When Street, an elected member of the legislature, defended Lyon in the World, Reynolds accused the World of being the governor's organ. Lyon left office in April, 1866,

¹⁴⁹Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, January 27, 1866, p. 3.

¹⁵⁰Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, February 22, 1866, p. 3.

and the Statesman expressed satisfaction of his departure.¹⁵¹ The Statesman claimed its attacks had been justified when it learned two years later that Lyon had absconded with more than \$40,000 in territorial funds allocated to him to conduct Indian affairs.¹⁵²

C. DeWitt Smith was appointed territorial secretary August 6, 1864, and the following spring, in the absence of a governor, began touring the territory. He stopped at Idaho City and the World noted:

Among our visitors this week we are pleased to meet C. DeWitt Smith, acting governor of this Territory. . . . Though we differ widely from him in political matters, we believe he will make an efficient officer, and a much more popular one than his predecessor.¹⁵³

Within a few weeks Smith died at Atlanta in Alturas County south of Idaho City. Smith's successor, Horace C. Gilson, territorial supreme court justice Milton Kelly and Reynolds were appointed to appraise Smith's property. Congress had appropriated \$66,000 for Idaho for 1863-65 and \$18,000 of the first payment was given to Smith soon after he took the secretarial position. He had used about half of the \$18,000 to pay off some of the Territory's \$45,000 accumulated debts. Gilson said the estate was intact, but the Democratic legislature created a joint

¹⁵²Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, February 15, 1869, p. 3.

¹⁵³Idaho World, May 6, 1865, p. 2.

select committee to conduct its own investigation. The committee reported \$8,062 was missing.¹⁵⁴

While the committee was preparing its report, Gilson broke his contract with the Statesman to print the laws and journals of the second and third legislative sessions. Gilson and Frank Kenyon, the territorial printer, left for San Francisco to have the printing done there. Later investigation discovered Gilson had taken the money, and he also stopped at Oregon City, Oregon, where he collected on February 28, 1866, the \$35,000 remaining funds available from Congress for Idaho Territory.¹⁵⁵

Gilson resigned and notified his successor, S. R. Howlett, the money had not arrived, but as soon as it did he would transfer it to Howlett. In April, Gilson disappeared and Kenyon returned to Boise City where the legislature absolved him of any part in the scheme. The territorial legislature was becoming impatient, so Kelly went to Washington, D. C., to conduct his own investigation. Settlement of the territory's debts was not made until the legislature sent Street to Washington to investigate further.

Street's report, made July 4, 1868, was thorough, and showed defalcation to amount to more than \$42,000--

¹⁵⁴Hailey, History of Idaho, p. 28.

¹⁵⁵Hailey, History of Idaho, p. 29.

more than 80 percent of the funds to Idaho's credit before December 20, 1866. In addition Street stated that the Treasury department would repudiate between \$50,000 and \$60,000 of the debt as unjust charges against the government.¹⁵⁶

Gilson had fled to France where he lived lavishly. When he was broke, he returned to New York City, but he escaped apprehension and was never prosecuted. In a case against his sureties, Judge David Noggle instructed the jury to bring acquittal on grounds the government was better able to lose the money than were the bondsmen who insured Gilson when he took the secretary's job.¹⁵⁷

Acting on Street's recommendations, Congress passed legislation and eventually the outstanding bills were paid.¹⁵⁸

When Street took the legislative assignment to unravel the Gilson case, he resigned as World editor and was succeeded by James O'Meara. In a brief in the July 21, 1866, issue of the World, Street wrote of O'Meara:

"We are very glad to meet with Oregon's oldest and ablest Democratic editor, James O'Meara, Esq., of the Albany Democrat, who is now making the Boise country a visit for the first time. He is an

¹⁵⁶Ibid.

¹⁵⁷Ron Limbaugh, "Ragged Dick In a Black Hat!" Idaho Yesterdays, 11 (winter 1967-68): 13.

¹⁵⁸Idaho World, August 25, 1868, p. 2.

accomplished writer, a worthy gentleman, and a sound Democrat, as those who have read the Eugene Review well know. Mr. O'Meara was the Democratic candidate, at the June election, for State Printer of Oregon, and was really elected, but swindled out of the office by innumerable frauds.

Throughout August, several World blurbs told of O'Meara's campaign speeches and his success as he sought to aid the Democratic cause. Finally, when the polls closed at Idaho City he was "lifted upon the shoulders of the crowd and borne triumphantly . . . through the streets amid the rousing cheers of the multitude."¹⁵⁹

In a column-long editorial September 29, 1866, Street bid World readers adieu and said of O'Meara:

With this number our connection with the Idaho World will cease. The place we have heretofore occupied will hereafter be supplied by Mr. James O'Meara.

In Street's farewell, he commented:

The editorial profession on the Pacific coast has sensibly declined during the past six or eight years--and more particularly since the beginning of the late war. . . . We have endeavored to fulfill the promises we made in the first number of the World . . . [and] have endeavored to make this paper a newspaper--the faithful reflector of Idaho life--a compilation of passing events--a file which some future historian of Idaho may take up and ring [sic] facts out of like a sponge. Politically, the World was the pioneer Democratic newspaper of Idaho Territory and still is the only one with Democratic sympathies in this Territory. It has been the only paper in any of the Territories included within this vast continental interior, which has ever taken a decided position adverse to those secret, murderous organizations, which extend like network from Oregon

¹⁵⁹ Idaho World, August 18, 1866, p. 2.

to Nebraska. . . . We have endeavored to conform to the spirit of the motto at the head of our columns-- "The Noblest Motive is the Public Good!" In looking over our files we find nothing we would retract. The record is complete--the volume ended, and thus we close it.



Figure 5: Idaho World publisher and editor Charles E. Jones had a reputation of being the fastest hand-typesetter in the Idaho territory. Papered along the wall were posters and hand bills published at the World office during its 54 years of operation. The type case is on display at the Idaho State Historical Society museum at Boise. (Photograph courtesy of Alfred B. Day of Boise.)

Figure 6: One of the World's editors was Thomas J. Sutton. He was 39 when this photograph was taken. He took stands on moral issues: temperance and dishonesty. His lack of ability to handle his financial affairs and his lack of forceful writing led to his dismissal. (Photograph courtesy Idaho State Historical Society, Boise.)



CHAPTER IV

O'MEARA'S STYLE

James O'Meara was the son of emigrants from Cork, Ireland. He was born June 22, 1825, at New York City, and at an early age he was apprenticed in a newspaper office and became a reporter at sixteen. In September of 1849, he moved to California where he worked in daily and weekly newspapers.¹⁶⁰ He moved to Portland in 1857, succeeding Alonzo Leland as editor of the Democratic Standard. Leland eventually moved to Lewiston to begin a newspaper there.¹⁶¹

O'Meara ran for state printer in 1857 and in 1859 and was defeated both times. He bought the secessionist Oregon Sentinel at Jacksonville in southern Oregon, but it suspended publication in May of 1861. It was revived in August as the Southern Oregon Gazette, but it lost its mailing privileges by order of federal authorities because of its anti-Union comments. O'Meara became associated with Patrick J. Malone, editor of the Albany, Oregon, Inquirer. The Inquirer lost its mailing rights in 1862,

¹⁶⁰High Quigley, The Irish Race in California (A. Roman & Co., San Francisco, 1878), pp. 455-456.

¹⁶¹Roy W. Adams, "The Oregon Style" (unpublished master's thesis, School of Journalism, University of Oregon, Eugene, 1958), pp. 29-30.

and O'Meara moved to Eugene to edit the Eugene Review, succeeding Joaquin Miller. Within a few weeks the Review suspended operations. From 1865 until July of 1866, O'Meara edited the States Rights Democrat at Albany.¹⁶² Then he moved to Idaho City where he remained until 1869, when he returned to Portland to edit the Bulletin for Ben Holliday. During the winter of 1873-74 he became the Bulletin's correspondent at Washington, D. C.¹⁶³ He returned to Oregon briefly and in 1876 went to San Francisco as an editorial employee at the San Francisco Examiner and the Argonaut, a weekly family journal.¹⁶⁴ He was back in Oregon from 1887 to 1889 editing the Portland Daily News. He died in California on January 23, 1903.¹⁶⁵

George S. Turnbull, in his History of Oregon Newspapers, labeled O'Meara a "stormy petrel," but his several years of writing sketches and editorials for the Examiner and Argonaut earned him praise from a biographer.

[Because of] Mr. O'Meara's style of writing, and the elegance and facility with which he writes, we are sure that he deserves high rank in the journalistic profession. . . . His sketches and

¹⁶²Robinson, Idaho Territorial Newspapers, p. 77.

¹⁶³Idaho World, May 21, 1874, p. 2.

¹⁶⁴Quigley, The Irish Race in California, pp. 456-457.

¹⁶⁵Adams, "The Oregon Style," p. 32.

editorials . . . are models in their way of graphic description, and easy, elegant composition.¹⁶⁶

The same day O'Meara was announced in the World as its new editor, Reynolds attacked him in the Statesman:

Mr. O'Meara denies that he voted or attempted to vote in the late election in Idaho Territory, and feels great injustice is done him in the false report that he did. If we helped to give it currency we take measure in correcting it. And we confess to a feeling of professional pride and satisfaction that though others did debauch themselves by swearing illegal _____; Mr. O'Meara was not of that number. But wasn't Tray in bad company, though!¹⁶⁷

O'Meara said he would continue the World as a Democratic newspaper. Except for more filler material during the winter of 1866-67, little changed in the World's appearance or policies. He and Reynolds continued to trade printed attacks about each other although they were less vehement than the Street-Reynolds exchanges. Reynolds suggested O'Meara was connected with a bogus gold dust operation.¹⁶⁸ O'Meara denied it, but he waited two months to reply.

Now, Reynolds, we have you. As to that Page matter: firstly, we have never had any bogus dust; we have never seen Page. You have. Secondly, you censured Justice Turner (a Democrat), of this city, for admitting "Captain" Murphy (your own particular friend) to bail in so low a sum as \$1,000; yet you

¹⁶⁶Ibid.

¹⁶⁷Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, September 29, 1866, p. 3.

¹⁶⁸Idaho World, November 24, 1866, p. 2.

found no fault with Judge Cummins (a Radical) for letting Watson loose on a nolle prosequi [a note that the plaintiff will proceed no further in his suit] although Watson was the worst of the bogus dust operators. . . . Reynolds, we have you. This is simply a primer exercise. We shall progress.¹⁶⁹

A week later Reynolds noted "Jimmy O'Piggy is writing at us again in the World."¹⁷⁰

The legislative session of 1867 and Indian campaigns in southwestern Idaho provided the World with an abundance of editorial material. O'Meara and Reynolds did agree about one thing: neither liked Indians. But in a World story February 16, 1867, O'Meara pricked at Reynolds.

The last intelligence from Gen. Crook indicates that he is determined to continue on the war path until the last hostile Indian is killed or completely subjugated and rendered harmless. In his last fight he killed sixty and captured thirty prisoners, and in skirmishes since he has killed five bucks and took seventeen prisoners. It is said "Big Foot" (Indian Chief, not Reynolds of the Statesman) was killed in the battle of Stein Mountain. Gen. Crook was moving on a camp of one hundred and fifty hostile Indians on the Malheur at last accounts. He fights Indians to kill--and that is the only effective way.

The legislature passed a bill granting tax monies to establish parochial schools in the territory. The World gave its approval and called for four or more of the schools to be funded with \$30,000. But Governor David W. Ballard, Lyon's successor, vetoed the measure. The World said the bill should have been allowed to become law and

¹⁶⁹ Idaho World, January 26, 1867, p. 2.

¹⁷⁰ Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, February 2, 1867, p. 2.

suggested the schools should be in charge of "certain named Orders of the Catholic Sisterhood."¹⁷¹

The World argued that half of the people in the territory were Catholic and they should not be required to pay school tax in addition to that already paid for Catholic schools.

Ballard alienated the Democratic legislature and the World when he suggested pay for legislative members should be reduced in line with a bill reducing salaries of the governor and the territorial secretary. The legislature promptly enacted a bill that barred any Idaho official, except those in office by a federal appointment, from taking an oath of allegiance to the federal government. United States Secretary of the Treasury Hugh McCulloch directed Territorial Secretary H. C. Howlett to withhold the pay of the legislators if they refused to sign the oath. When it learned of McCulloch's directive, the legislature's tumultuous reaction caused Reynolds to write, "As we go to press the members are indulging in vituperative speeches against Secretary Howlett."¹⁷² The World called it a "bogus dispatch" and accused the Statesman of the theft of territorial funds.¹⁷³

¹⁷¹Idaho World, January 26, 1867, p. 3.

¹⁷²Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, January 12, 1867, p. 2.

¹⁷³Idaho World, January 26, 1867, p. 3.

The legislators eventually signed the oath, but the Democrats, led by Congressional territorial delegate E. D. Holbrook, began a campaign to remove Ballard as governor. Ballard managed to remain. He credited James S. Reynolds and the Statesman for saving his job. "What a fearless man he is! . . . He published at all times the most vigorous Republican paper right here in the midst of the 'new confederacy.'¹⁷⁴

The campaign to oust Ballard ended when the Democratic party split and the anti-Holbrook element, headed by O'Meara, nominated J. K. Shafer to replace Holbrook as delegate.¹⁷⁵

To oppose Shafer, the Republicans nominated Thomas J. Butler, then living at Owyhee. The World called for Butler's defeat.

Mr. Butler was one of the founders of the Boise News, the first paper published in Southern Idaho, printed in this place. He is at present of the firm of Dye & Co., merchants of Silver City. In private life and socially he is a high-minded, an honorable, and very clever gentleman; but in politics is Radical to the core. If we do not mistake, his doctrines lead him to a recognition of the negro race on an equality, politically if not otherwise, with the white race. It is because he is a genuine representative man of his party that we hope and expect to see him overwhelmingly defeated by his very honorable and soundly Democratic competitor [sic] for the delegateship.¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁴Donaldson, Idaho of Yesterday, p. 194.

¹⁷⁵Beal and Wells, History of Idaho I, 388.

¹⁷⁶Idaho World, July 4, 1868, p. 4.

In the 1868 elections, Holbrook joined the Republicans in an effort to defeat the Democrats. O'Meara's anti-Holbrook group also was opposed by the formation of a splinter ticket of the Democrats still favorable to Holbrook. During the campaign the Holbrook Democrats accused O'Meara of attempting to extract \$1,500 from the Democratic party to retain the support of the World.¹⁷⁷

The union of the transcontinental railroads had not been completed when Holbrook proposed to Congress it should sponsor a bill for construction of a Union Pacific branch to connect with the Oregon Navigation and Steam Co., which piloted riverboats up the Columbia and Snake Rivers as far as Lewiston. In its opposition to Holbrook, the World struck at his proposal, saying the shortest railroad route to bring supplies and people to the territory would be a connection from the Central Pacific Railroad in Nevada.¹⁷⁸ Neither route was completed.

Also in the political summer of 1868 several Statesman stories carried the name of T. J. Sutton. In time, he would become editor of the World, but while O'Meara was directing the newspaper he ridiculed Sutton at every opportunity.

There is an individual who is a candidate for Representative on the so called "Peoples'" tickey [sic]. He has had published in the Boise City

¹⁷⁷Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, July 25, 1868, p. 3.

¹⁷⁸Idaho World, February 26, 1868, p. 2.

Statesman a long barrage of stuff and charges against the Democratic ticket of this county generally, and against ourself particularly. The simple individual, T. J. Sutton, we should never waste ink upon; but as he figures as candidate upon the Spoilsmen ticket, we shall momentarily lift him to the honor of notice--to let him drop, however, into . . . obscurity and worthlessness, the moment we are through with him.

T. J. (whether the initials mean Tooting Jonah, Toe Jam or Tremendous Jackass, we know not) we shall merely say here that each specification charged upon us by Sutton is a lie in itself, that the whole list of charges are so many lies in the full aggregate, and that the man who utters them is a slanderous, unmitigated liar.¹⁷⁹

In the next edition, two days before the election, O'Meara again answered one of Sutton's Statesman articles.

This senseless piece of idiocy repeats his stale charges against Mr. O'Meara and Ed Donaho, Esq. . . . Every old Californian in the Territory knows that Mr. O'Meara never held any office under the State Government of California. He held a Federal appointment under the administration of Franklin Pierce, then Democratic President of the United States. Ed Donaho is too well known and esteemed to this community to be injured by the rapid nonsense of such stupid driviller as T. J. Sutton. Exit Sutton.¹⁸⁰

The Democrats swept the election, and O'Meara wrote in the August 12, 1868, World:

The 10th of August, 1866, is among the days that were, and the Democracy of Boise county have every reason to congratulate themselves on the proud and glorious victory achieved by them upon that day; having to battle against not only their natural enemies, the Radical fanatics, and unprincipled supporters of the fractional Rump mob, but also

¹⁷⁹ Idaho World, July 25, 1868, p. 1.

¹⁸⁰ Idaho World, August 8, 1868, p. 2.

having arrayed against the riff-raff and scum of their own party Sorehead, so called; weakkneed Democrats, who bolted the regular nominations of the Democratic party.

In the same edition O'Meara announced he would be taking a three-week trip through the northern part of the territory. He supplied World readers with a six-part travelog series, "Sketches of Travel in Idaho," which sometimes filled more than three columns.

Soon after the clamor of the campaign had subsided, a squib in the World informed its readers:

The Wasson brothers [Joseph and John] have ceased publication of the Argent at Winnemucca, for want of patronage and the brothers, T. J. and J. S. Butler, formerly of the News in this city, have purchased the type, presses, material, etc., and will remove it to Silver City, Owyhee, where they propose to re-engage in the newspaper business. Good luck to you, gentlemen.¹⁸¹

For a few months in early 1866, Thomas Butler had edited Thomas J. Favorite's Montana Radiator at Helena.¹⁸² Then Butler and his brother, John, entered the merchandising business at Silver City in 1866 with John's father-in-law, Job F. Dye. The Butlers lost some of the money they made with the Boise News in the Owyhee County diamond craze originated by Governor Caleb Lyon, who mistook quartz

¹⁸¹Idaho World, December 3, 1868, p. 2.

¹⁸²Idaho World, February 24, 1866, p. 3.

crystals for diamonds. The Butlers called their new paper the Owyhee Tidal Wave.¹⁸³

Although the World offered its best wishes to the Butler brothers, it was soon trading journalistic barbs. The Butlers said the World used remarks that were "gross, unmanly and . . . outrageous." O'Meara replied in a headline: "The Tidal Wave Swashes At Us." He wrote:

Almost from the first issue of that Owyhee Radical sheet, the Tidal Wave, there has been exhibited in its columns a disposition to overwhelm us with its huge foaming "rollers," as though it were a "beach comber," and, from the World it could wrest articles of value and profit, to be converted to its own advantage. . . . The most prudent "picker of unconsidered trifles" would not stoop to the task of Butlerizing our remains.¹⁸⁴

In mid-January of 1869, the legislature adjourned without appointing a territorial treasurer, which meant E. C. Sterling would remain for two more years. O'Meara disliked Sterling and called him "dishonest and incompetent." O'Meara wrote an advertisement in the World for two "expert book-keepers [sic] to bring high testimonials of integrity, and these two experts shall be allowed to examine all the books of the Territorial Treasurer since E. C. Sterling was appointed to that office."¹⁸⁵ In a

¹⁸³Idaho World, December 17, 1868, p. 3.

¹⁸⁴Idaho World, February 4, 1869, p. 2.

¹⁸⁵Idaho World, January 21, 1869, p. 3.

subsequent issue, the World also said Sterling ". . . gambles desperately, is frequently too drunk to transact business, and . . . is, in general terms, a dishonest person."¹⁸⁶

Reynolds defended Sterling, Gov. Ballard, and himself. He said:

The dyspeptic editor of the World it seems has determined to disregard all sense of humor, manhood or decency, in conducting his paper. . . . It would be undignified to notice unless it were to kick him out of one's way, and even that cannot be done because he is more a sickly, half crazed object of pity than of contempt. There is nothing left of him but the peevishness engendered by a disappointed and misspent life. Poor Jimmy.¹⁸⁷

In the same issue, Reynolds announced a surprise move. He sold the Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman to a group of Democrats which included his former antagonist with the World, H. C. Street. A. J. Boyakin and C. L. Goodrich were Street's partners. Reynolds intended to go to Nevada and in his farewell said:

Although the gentlemen who succeed us differ from us politically, yet [it] gives us pleasure to say that they are abundantly able to serve the public well and make a good paper, and that they have the interest of Boise City and the Territory at heart. The Statesman will become a democratic paper, but it will, we are glad to believe, be conducted in a dignified and respectable manner.

¹⁸⁶Idaho World, February 4, 1869, p. 3.

¹⁸⁷Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, January 30, 1869, p. 2.

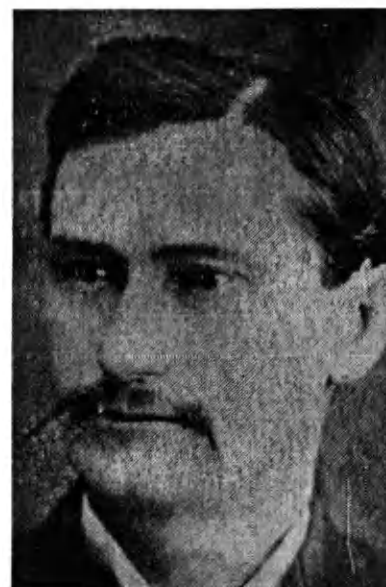


Figure 7: Egbert W. Jones was state auditor, a legislator and pioneer printer. During his life he owned three papers and worked for three others.

Figure 8: At left, Charles E. Jones in front of the Idaho World office about 1940. (Photographs courtesy of Alfred B. Day of Boise.)



Figure 9: At left, Emma Jones Day, who helped her father and brothers set type.

Figure 10: Amelia Jones Garrecht also learned to set type by hand, and she and her sister sometimes contributed articles. (Photographs courtesy Alfred Day of Boise.)



We respectfully ask for them the confidence of the community, also remarking that no citizen can lend his aid, however small, in support of a local newspaper, without benefitting himself. . . . we most reluctantly bid the readers of the Statesman farewell.¹⁸⁸

In the following edition of the tri-weekly, the mast contained Street's name as editor and a publishers' notice was signed by Street, Goodrich and Boyakin:

The new proprietors of the Tri-weekly and Weekly Statesman beg leave to inform the public they intend this journal shall retain the confidence and good will of the community. . . . and our facilities for doing every variety of printing are unequalled in the Territory. Our subscription list if it is not now, shall soon be the largest in the Territory.¹⁸⁹

The new owners also announced a subscription reduction from 75 to 50 cents a week. In a separate article, Street said "the political ideas which have animated the Statesman, have been antagonistic to those held by the present editor. In former days we contended in this Territory for the supremacy of these ideas; time has settled some . . . some remain yet to be determined."¹⁹⁰

The thrust of O'Meara's reaction was to characterize the Statesman's new owners. O'Meara wrote:

Mr. Street is an able, a vigorous, and a prudent editorial conductor, and his devotion to the Democracy cannot be questioned. Mr. Goodrich is a printer, but has made himself more widely known

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, February 2, 1869, p. 2.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

as newspaper agent in this city, and last as Wells, Fargo & Co's messenger on the Owyhee road. Of Jud Boyakin we can say, he is a printer whom we have known for about ten years, and as a typo, sound Democrat, good man, and true friend, and stands high in the estimation of his many friends. . . . The Democrats of Idaho have only to act in unity and harmony, in all essential points, to maintain their ascendancy in the whole Territory. Let all labor to that end.¹⁹¹

Street and the Statesman also reprinted a squib from the Tidal Wave in which the Butler brothers said:

This . . . leaves our little sheet to bear the stigma of black republicanism alone in Idaho. While we would not cry quarter we trust all four of our opponents [the Avalanche, also published at Silver City; the Capital Chronicle and the Statesman, both published at Boise; and the World] will not pile on at once in case we fall in struggle; all we ask is a fair show. We feel strong in the right and ready to march out and do battle against a regiment of these who have not their "quarrel just."¹⁹²

In the same issue, Street replied: "We suspect the faith of the Wave editor is well founded, and that he is fully capable of standing off an entire regiment of us."¹⁹³

A hint of trouble for the new Statesman owners appeared during the first week of publication through an advertisement for a "first class job printer . . . None but a habitually sober man need apply." A separate article said "Mr. H. C. Street and C. L. Goodrich are the only persons authorized

¹⁹¹Idaho World, February 4, 1869, p. 3.

¹⁹²Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, February 4, 1869, p. 3.

¹⁹³Ibid.

at present to contract debts against the firm of H. C. Street & Co."¹⁹⁴

Peace between the Statesman and the World was short. Statesman readers were told in a brief announcement March 2, 1869, that Reynolds had resumed proprietorship.

Good morning again, readers of the Statesman. After one month of democratic career the paper returns to its first love, and sails under the old colors. In regard to the causes which led us back into the Statesman office it is unnecessary to say anything further than . . . the parties to whom we sold failed in performing their part of the contract. Our readers have had a little taste of democracy for a change, just enough to see how it would seem. Probably the mixture was not strong enough to hurt anybody. . . . Instead of running loose this year, as we anticipated, we go to work again; but we prefer the Statesman's office to going to White Pine [Nevada] or any other humbug that presents itself at this time.

Four days later, Reynolds resumed his adversary relationship with O'Meara and the World by commenting, "In his furious madness to kick up a row with somebody the editor of the World strikes all around him. . . ."¹⁹⁵

O'Meara seemed less enthusiastic, temporarily, to resume the diatribes:

March 2nd was a very appropriate day for the transaction. A somewhat similar transaction is told of in the Second Epistle of Peter, chapter II, verse 22. Reynolds fills the bill, all through.¹⁹⁶

¹⁹⁴Ibid.

¹⁹⁵Idaho World, March 11, 1869, p. 2.

¹⁹⁶Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, March 27, 1869, p. 3.

Even Reynolds realized the World seemed to be mellowing in the spring of 1869 when he wrote:

Something Wrong--The World contains very little of scurrilous nature this week. Dennis O'Jimmy must be getting himself up for a big blast.¹⁹⁷

An audit of Sterling's territorial bookkeeping failed to show any major discrepancies as the World had claimed, and Reynolds made the most of it, chiding the World for its stand when O'Meara labeled the reports "unofficial."

O'Meara, and Street before him, were among territorial editors who called for the extension of railroads into Idaho. The excitement that marked the joining of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific in May of 1869 raised expectations that were short-lived. Soon afterward survey parties began leaving Idaho, and the hope of those who had campaigned for railroads into the territory turned to doubt. O'Meara wrote:

So ends, for years we fear, all hope or reasonable expectations of there being a railroad which shall immediately connect Idaho with the roads across the continent and with the Pacific States. Idahoans will have to continue to perform stage riding for years to come to make the connection with either the Central Pacific or the Union Pacific Railroads.¹⁹⁸

The winter of 1869 was a good year for water and miners needed it to work their claims, but some of the important placers of the Boise Basin were beginning to be

¹⁹⁷ Idaho World, May 20, 1869, p. 2.

¹⁹⁸ Idaho World, May 20, 1869, p. 2.

worked out. One such area was Pioneer City, which O'Meara said "it is useless to disguise the fact that Pioneer has seen its best times and that it is rapidly on the decline in trade and mining importance." A new strike late in the summer at Loon Creek in the upper Salmon River country drew miners from the Idaho City area. While the World was announcing the Loon Creek discovery, August 12, 1869, O'Meara disclosed:

William Fagen, late justice of the peace of this place, ran off in roughish style one day in the early part of last week, and left divers debts, big and little, which [he] had not only failed to liquidate but lied awfully about, to deceive his victimized creditors into the belief that he intended to go no farther than Silver City, to accompany his wife and little ones that far on their way to California. But worse than this, the rogue either hid or destroyed his office record book. . . . It is known that he was guilty of most shameful and even criminal acts in his official capacity, and he doubtless ran off as much to escape the investigation of the next grand jury as for any other cause.¹⁹⁹

Two weeks later O'Meara resigned as the World's editor because of ill health: "I cannot safely risk to undergo another severe winter in this high upper region of deep snows."

Reynolds contended that O'Meara was leaving because he had failed to win nomination as a delegate to Congress during the campaign in 1868. Reynolds wrote that the Democrats would never find another editor for the World

¹⁹⁹Idaho World, August 12, 1869, p. 3.

who "will do his enemies so little damage and his own party so much harm as Dennis did."²⁰⁰

O'Meara replied, saying Reynolds' hair reminded him of "quills upon the fretful porcupine."²⁰¹

O'Meara wrote that his partnership with Bowman was "dissolved by mutual consent, and the establishment passed into the possession and ownership of an incorporation with the title of 'The Idaho World Printing Co.'"²⁰² He praised Bowman, and said most of the people who left Idaho City "trying to find some more advantageous trade location to settle in, return here content to remain." O'Meara continued:

It is to me . . . a just and most gratifying duty to pay tribute to his [Bowman's] honorable and upright conduct in every business manner, and to his skill and excellence in the management of the business and mechanical department. . . . Our separation in business is now of my own seeking. . . . The establishment is the most complete and the largest of the kind in Idaho; the business has paid handsomely (and it will, I am sure, pay the new owners equally well).²⁰³

O'Meara went to California, and the following summer he was at Portland, where he edited the Bulletin.

²⁰⁰Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, September 4, 1869, p. 2.

²⁰¹Idaho World, September, 1869, p. 2.

²⁰²Ibid.

²⁰³Ibid.

CHAPTER V
DEMOCRATIC, BUT NOT BILLINGSGATE

The World was without an editor for a week until Idaho City attorney George Ainslie, 31, was announced as O'Meara's successor.²⁰⁴ Ainslie was born at Boonville, Missouri, of Scottish descent. He studied law at St. Louis, and moved to Colorado in 1859, near Pike's Peak where he prospected and practiced law for three years. The lure of the gold rush attracted him to Elk City in northcentral Idaho in 1862, and he moved to Idaho City in 1863.

Ainslie became a leader in Democratic politics and was elected to the territorial legislature's upper house, the Council, in 1865. Although he was its youngest member, he was elected president.²⁰⁵

He took a modest approach to his editorial tasks, but he did not change the intensity of the World's Democratic support. He wrote it was his policy to "confine ourselves to decent language and not resort to the billingsgate vocabulary."²⁰⁶ In his first edition, Ainslie said he

²⁰⁴Idaho World, September 9, 1969, p. 2.

²⁰⁵Hawley, History of Idaho, I, 181.

²⁰⁶Idaho World, March 16, 1871, p. 2.

took the job

. . . with many misgivings as to our own ability to fill it with any degree of satisfaction, either to ourselves or to the patrons of the paper, and will therefore ask beforehand of our friends and readers that kind indulgence under similar circumstances they would desire extended to themselves.²⁰⁷

Ainslie had no newspaper experience, but he became a capable editor. His comments were milder than those of Street and O'Meara. During the four years he was editor, from 1869 to 1873, he instituted a major policy change by refusing to report little more than charges against homicide defendants until the details were presented in court.

We do not believe it right to publish the testimony prior to the trial; we do not propose to depart from that course to gratify a morbid curiosity to learn details when such publication could do no possible good, and might result in much harm by creating a bias or prejudice in the minds and feelings of the people either on one side or the other.²⁰⁸

When Charles H. Douglas shot and killed territorial Congressman E. D. Holbrook in June of 1870, Ainslie declined to provide World readers with details. He said the events would be given in court. Following the trial, Ainslie published the testimony, almost word for word. It took most of the local editorial space of two issues.

The Statesman needled the World because of the World's stand. The Statesman on February 4, 1873, reported

²⁰⁷ Idaho World, September 9, 1869, p. 2.

²⁰⁸ Idaho World, March 30, 1871, p. 3.

a Boise County officer "has become a defaulter for about \$6,000 and the World would be able to communicate the facts."

A week later, the World admitted it "was known to us for several days prior to the departure of Sheriff Bradford and Mr. Gorman to bring back the guilty party."

Ainslie defended his position.

We refrained from publishing anything about the matter in our last issue, knowing that if our paper should reach San Francisco before the officers did, the bird would have flown; and we would have been blamed for prematurely making the affair public. . . . T. L. Ayres, more familiarly known as "Tub" Ayres, has stolen that amount, if not much more, from the county.²⁰⁹

In a subsequent issue, the World said Ayres, a county deputy assessor and tax collector, managed to elude the sheriff and his deputy.²¹⁰

Ainslie's Politics

When the Portland Oregonian reported October 27, 1869, that territorial Governor David W. Ballard had been at Portland and told the newspaper "the Democracy have gained their last decided victory," Ainslie was quick to reply "the governor will find himself greatly mistaken in that

²⁰⁹Idaho World, February 13, 1873, p. 3.

²¹⁰Idaho World, February 20, 1873, p. 3.

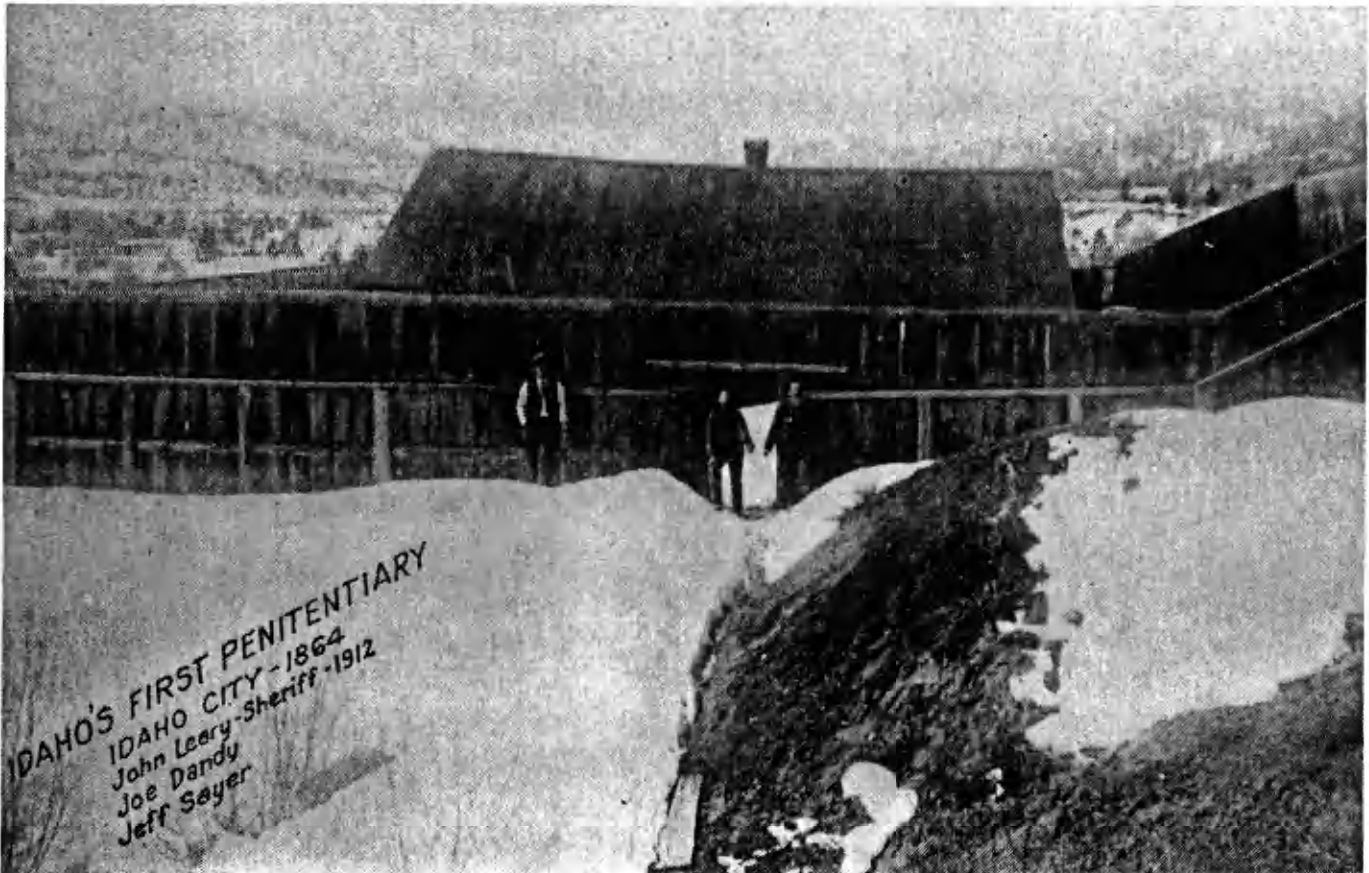
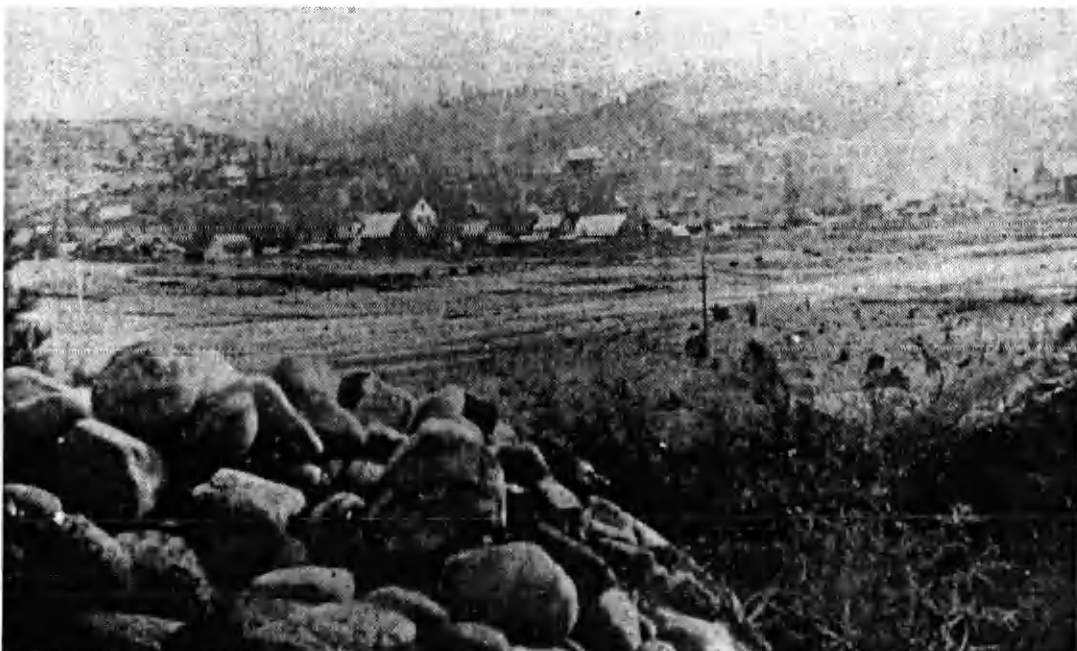


Figure 11: Idaho's first penitentiary was at Idaho City. Remodeled, it was still in use when this photograph was taken in 1912. Two of its occupants, Joe Dandy and Jeff Sayer, posed in handcuffs. At left is Sheriff John Leary. Figure 12: Idaho City in the 1880s. (Photographs courtesy Idaho Historical Society.)



political prediction, in 1870, we reckon."²¹¹

On January 6, 1870, the World carried reprinted letters, which had been published in the Statesman, from James Stout to a South Carolina congressman asking the congressman to nominate Col. H. W. Moulton for Idaho territorial governor. Ainslie objected to Stout's request.

The idea that the good people of Idaho would be gratified by the appointment of such a self-conceited idiot and dirty pup as Moulton for Governor is an insult to their intelligence, and is libel which could have emanated from no other than the dirty source from which it came.

The Statesman also had questioned the request, and Ainslie pursued it, too, complaining of carpetbag government. In a rare instance of agreement:

. . . we join hands with the Statesman in defense of Idahoans as against these imported scoundrels who are conspiring to bring about the removal of honest men in order to fill their places with a set of hungry, unprincipled carpet-baggers.

Although Ainslie said he agreed with the Statesman, he explained "we have no particular sympathy or fellow feeling for Radicals of any kind, but if we are to be damned with Radical officials we certainly prefer Idaho Radicals to any of the imported stock."²¹²

Like his predecessors, Ainslie denounced reconstruction policies. He described President U.S. Grant as a

²¹¹Idaho World, November 4, 1869, p. 2.

²¹²Idaho World, January 6, 1870, p. 3.

"blockhead," and urged the success of the Democratic party. The Democrats nominated Horace Greeley in 1872, but Greeley did not suit Ainslie.

We don't like either one of the men, but if we were compelled to exercise our choice of what disease we should be afflicted with, we would prefer the itch to leprosy; and therefore we would prefer Greeley to Grant.²¹³

The 39 miles from Idaho City to Boise was a ten-hour stage ride, and Ainslie's intertwined legal, political, and journalistic activities often took him to the capital where he met with territorial leaders. In the spring of 1872, he had written that the "carpetbag fraternity" was using a "stone jug" to help plan political campaign tactics. Afterward, Ainslie complained that Governor Curtis and others in the law profession were not friendly. Ainslie said Curtis never "evinced a cordial and, to us, gratifying spirit of professional courtesy," but did so for other attorneys in the territory.²¹⁴

In addition to Ainslie's partisan politics, several of the World's stockholders were active in the Democratic party. Among them in 1870 was Samuel A. Merritt, president of the Idaho World Printing Co., and a territorial delegate to Congress.²¹⁵

²¹³Idaho World, June 13, 1872, p. 2.

²¹⁴Idaho World, April 18, 1872, p. 2.

²¹⁵Idaho World, May 26, 1870, p. 2.

As each political campaign began, the World listed the Democratic candidates and meticulously told its readers why each man should be elected. The newspaper seldom ran a listing of Republican candidates.

In the early 1870s there were few close territorial political races, since most of the elections were dominated by the Democrats. But between elections there were other political issues to keep the newspaper copy flowing. In the spring of 1871, territorial Supreme Court Judge J. Lewis resigned and the Statesman charged one of Lewis' colleagues, Judge David Noggle, had forced Lewis' resignation. Reynolds was at New York City when the announcement was made. He went immediately to Washington, D. C., to persuade U.S. Attorney General E. R. Hoar to remove Noggle. Noggle remained in office, but was reassigned to Lewiston in the northern district of the territory.²¹⁶ Ainslie defended Noggle and accused Reynolds of trying to ruin the Republican party in Idaho, and at the same time was critical of Lewis. "Judge Lewis goes out regretted by none except the 'Statesman ring' at the capital. As he is a 'dead duck,' we shall waste very little ammunition on him in the future."²¹⁷ Lewis was nominated by President Grant as an associate justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court and left

²¹⁶Donaldson, History of Idaho, p. 128.

²¹⁷Idaho World, May 11, 1971, p. 2.

Idaho.²¹⁸

There were few exceptions during Idaho's territorial years that federal appointments were not given to Republicans. Ainslie wrote that he might be able to accept some "Radical control" if the appointments were given to people who lived in Idaho. James Hill, editor and owner of the Avalanche at Silver City, wrote there was not a more competent man for governor of Idaho than Reynolds. Ainslie responded:

We had a little better opinion of "Old Hill" than to think he would recommend Reynolds for governor or for any other office. . . . If we must have a Radical editor for governor, we'll take "Old Hill" in preference to "Old Jim." We don't know Hill personally, and we do know Reynolds, and [since] we couldn't . . . do worse than by having Reynolds, we nominate Hill against his own candidate.²¹⁹

In April of 1871, the U.S. Senate confirmed Thomas M. Bowen of Arkansas as Idaho's territorial governor, temporarily blocking Reynolds' hopes. But when Bowen resigned in September, five months later, Reynolds went east to try to win the nomination. The World carried a terse announcement about the resignation and Reynolds' trip. "Good Lord deliver us," Ainslie wrote.²²⁰

While Reynolds was in the east seeking the nomination, the Noggle case developed and Reynolds spent much of his

²¹⁸Idaho World, May 18, 1871, p. 2.

²¹⁹Idaho World, June 1, 1871, p. 2.

²²⁰Idaho World, April 27, 1871, p. 2.

time trying to get Noggle removed. Meanwhile, the Senate confirmed territorial Secretary Curtis as governor. Reynolds retained ownership of the Statesman, but during his absence the feuding between the Statesman and the World moderated. Reynolds became a clerk in the U.S. assay office at Washington, D. C., and editing of the Statesman was done mostly by Clitus Barbour.²²¹ When Reynolds returned to Boise, his wife had left him. He sold the Statesman to Boise attorney Milton W. Kelly and went to California.²²²

Kelly, a former stage-line operator, had been elected to the territorial legislature in 1863. He was an associate justice from 1865 to 1869. In the early years of the Statesman, he often contributed articles, but he fell into disfavor with Reynolds. World editors made the most of the situation, and Ainslie wrote:

It appears that Judge Kelly has become so thoroughly disgusted with the wholesale corruption and rascally doings of the rule or ruin clique at the Capital, that he has turned his back upon them and publicly denounced the objects and designs of the coterie formed by a coalition of Idaho scallawags and puritanical, plunder-seeking carpet-baggers.²²³

Kelly was not the writer Reynolds had been and Ainslie seemed content to temper the adversary relationship

²²¹Idaho World, March 14, 1876, p. 3.

²²²Donaldson, History of Idaho, p. 129; Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, January 2, 1872, p. 2.

²²³Idaho World, April 27, 1871, p. 2.

between the Statesman and the World. It remained so until after Ainslie left the World, but even when it resumed it was not with the vituperation that had characterized the first decade of existence of each newspaper.

Other World Campaigns

In the May 20, 1869, World, O'Meara correctly predicted Idaho would have to wait "for years to come" for a railroad line that he and other territorial leaders thought would bring settlement and economic prosperity to the territory. In the next four years, during Ainslie's tenure as editor, the World published only scattered reports of railroad activity. After O'Meara's gloomy prediction, the next plea for rail service did not come until June 1, 1871, when Ainslie cheered the news that the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific were considering connecting routes through Idaho, Oregon, and California. Ainslie said land grants would be necessary for the financial success of the railroads.

Civilization is measured these days by the facilities of communication. It really consists in the ability to transport things where they are needed; hence commerce cuts a great figure in the civilization and progress of a country. Give us railroads, and Idaho will leap forward with giant strides; there will be a new order of things, and in a few years she will become a state.

Five months later Ainslie reported a meeting of railroad boosters at Boise to endorse a line through Idaho and to ask Congress to award land grants for the "speedy

construction of the railroad through southern Idaho.²²⁴ It proved to be another futile effort.

Late in the summer of 1872 an article in the Statesman prompted Ainslie to contradict Milton Kelly. Ainslie thought the easiest route through southern Idaho could be constructed from Winnemucca, Nevada, served by the Central Pacific Railroad, rather than by a branch line from the Union Pacific. Ainslie said Kelly's sum for such construction was too much.

If a company cannot take one million dollars and then raise enough by mortgaging the road, to complete its construction, we are very much mistaken. Believing the only salvation for our territory lies in the early construction of a railroad connecting with the Overland [a railroad operated by Ben Holladay under construction across Oregon], we are satisfied the people would support a proposition to grant territorial aid to the amount we have named if they are satisfied the road would be built.²²⁵

Ainslie was at Boise during the legislative session in December 1871. The legislature was asked to consider two bills that encouraged construction of a railroad across southern Idaho, but it rejected both. When he returned to Idaho City, Ainslie wrote he was disappointed with the lawmakers. Because of the growing number of laws being enacted, Ainslie also suggested that the legislature begin codifying its laws.²²⁶

²²⁴Idaho World, November 30, 1871, p. 2.

²²⁵Idaho World, August 29, 1872, p. 2.

²²⁶Idaho World, January 9, 1872, p. 2.

The early 1870s were lean years for investment monies in Idaho territory, especially for railroad construction. News of the Credit Mobilier scandal during hard times made the wait for an east-west railroad through the territory stretch into the next decade. The World reported the scandal on page one in a story written by one of Ainslie's New York acquaintances and signed "Occasional."²²⁷

When Ainslie learned in late May of 1873 that Montana's legislature had adopted a measure to encourage railroad investment, Ainslie again criticized the Idaho legislature for its rejection of the proposed railroad bills.²²⁸ For the next several years railroad news faded from the World and its editors resumed calls for backing other projects such as the bedrock flume, a scheme designed to expose remaining placers and uncover quartz veins by diverting streams and using giant hydraulics to wash away the soil.

Ainslie visualized the bedrock flume as a "subject of vital importance to the prosperity of Boise Basin," and said those who had money could contribute and those who did not could invest labor.

Thus the affair would be a home institution, and the proceeds to be divided among the people at home, instead of being shipped out of the country.²²⁹

²²⁷Idaho World, October 10, 1872, p. 1.

²²⁸Idaho World, May 29, 1873, p. 2.

²²⁹Idaho World, June 15, 1871, p. 3.

In mid-summer of 1871 both Ainslie and James S. Reynolds, the Statesman editor, were among investors who filed incorporation papers to form a bedrock flume company. Corporation stock was divided into 5,000 shares at \$100 a share. The corporation was to exist for fifty years. Ainslie predicted:

We are confident Boise Basin has seen its worst days, and a new era of prosperity is in store for us at no distant day.²³⁰

"Fresh" News and Mail

Territorial newsmen, the World's editors among them, depended upon freighters, travelers, stages, and mail carriers to bring "fresh" news and carry away, in turn, the reprinted news to another settlement. Sometimes World editors bragged about the freshness of their outside news, but more often they complained.

Ben Holladay secured government contracts in 1864 to carry the mails by stage between Salt Lake City and The Dalles, Oregon.²³¹ Boise was the midway point, and exchange papers and mail were carried by subcontractors between Boise and Idaho City. When the editor of the Avalanche at Silver City complained of inadequate mail service in January of

²³⁰Idaho World, July 13, 1871, p. 2.

²³¹Beal and Wells, History of Idaho, I, 408.

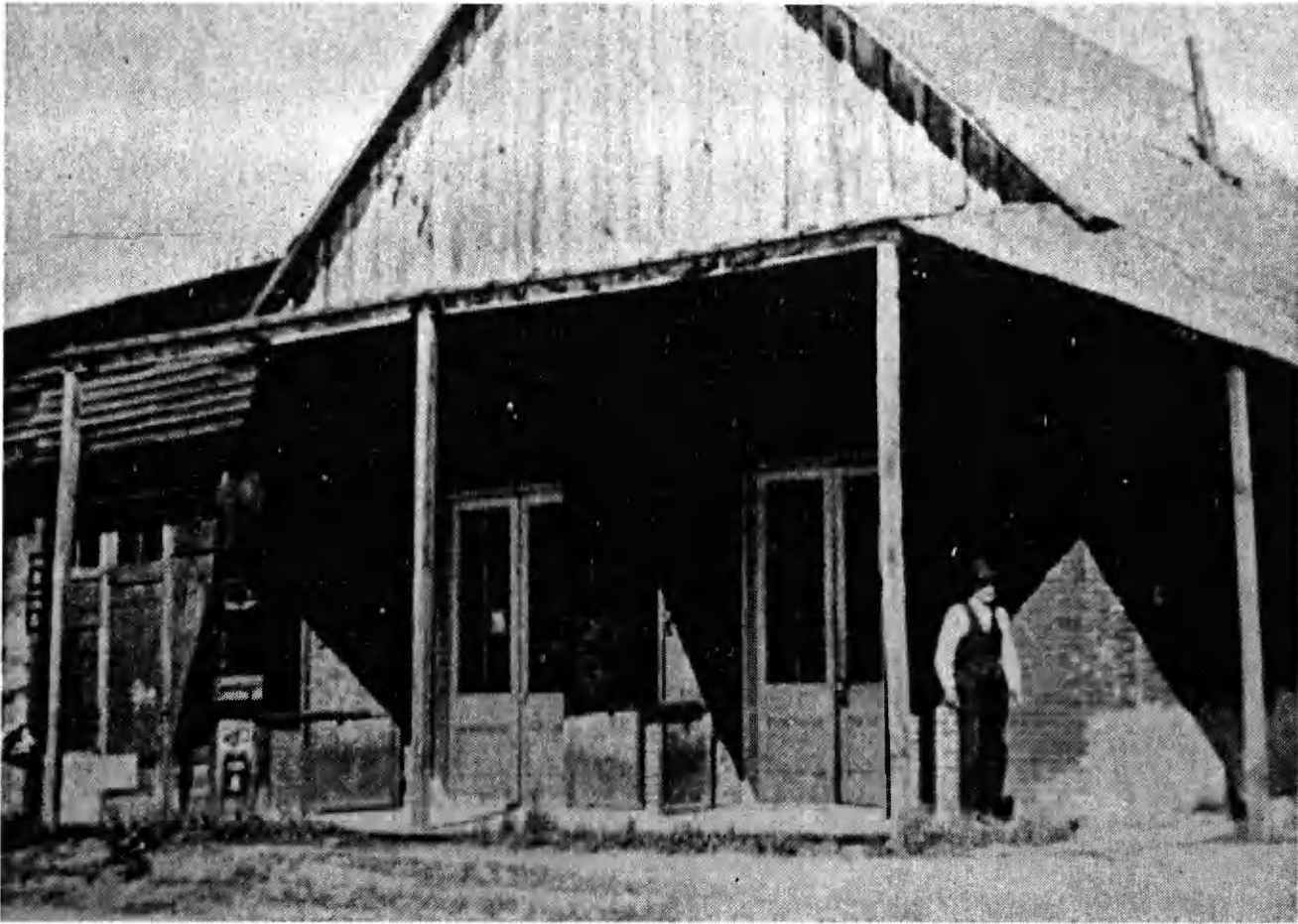


Figure 13: Proprietor of the Idaho World, Charles E. Jones, stood on the boardwalk in front of the World office when this photograph was taken in about 1918. After the World suspended publication, Jones continued to print hand bills and circulars until about 1940. (Photograph courtesy of Alfred B. Day of Boise.)

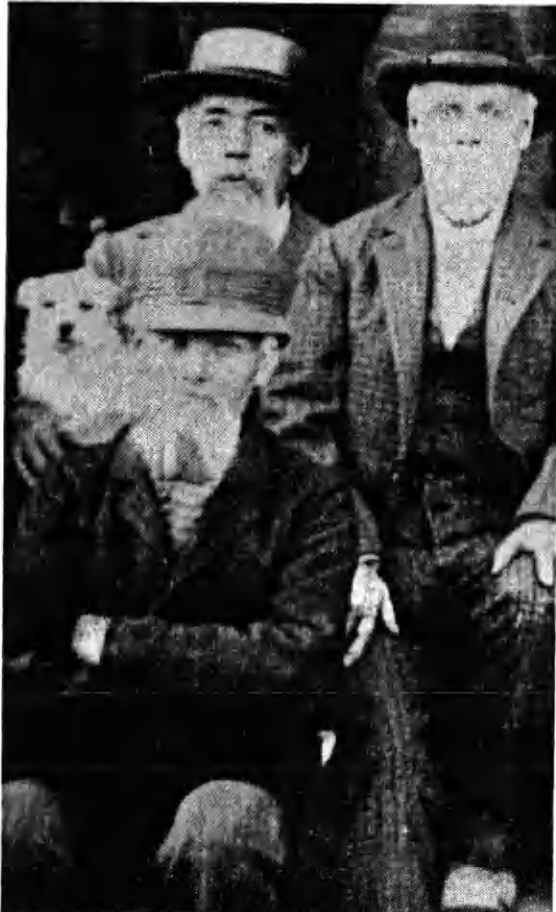


Figure 14: At left, Heman Jones, hands on his legs, posed with early day pioneers in the 1880s. Jones prospected and operated a wagon repair service. He also was the World's business manager for many years. (Photograph courtesy of Alfred B. Day of Boise.)

1866, World editor H. C. Street blamed the postal station at Boise for "whatever irregularity there is."

In February of 1866, Hill Beach's proposal to carry mails between Boise and Humbolt, Nevada, was rejected by postal authorities at Washington, D. C. Street said the postal department "evidently needs a little enlightening about this country."

By early 1868 mail to Idaho City was scheduled as a tri-weekly service. Street campaigned for daily schedules. When he learned special postal agent Quincy A. Brooks of Portland had been given permission from Washington to initiate daily delivery, but mail was still being routed on a tri-weekly basis, Street called for Brooks' dismissal.²³² A daily schedule was established soon, but it did not solve all the problems.

During Ainslie's editorial tenure, he blamed the condition of the roads for irregular service in March of 1871 and noted "no California mail reached us last Tuesday. Without California exchanges, our telegraphic news items are necessarily scant."

Later Ainslie wrote:

If the postal agent who, so far as we Idahoans know, is a mythical being, should ever visit this section

²³²Idaho World, January 8, 1866, p. 2.

of Uncle Sam's farm he would have his hands full in attending to our mail service.²³³

In the next few months, Ainslie pointed his criticism of postal problems at William B. Morris, superintendent of North Western Stage Company, which had the subcontract. In reply to the World, Morris blamed "failure of Central Pacific trains to reach Winnemucca on time . . . and low water on the Columbia River prevents boats from reaching Umatilla on time." Morris suggested it was unprofitable to operate a daily stage.

I note your criticism this date with interest. Since the close of mining operations in the Basin travel on the road has steadily fallen off, and for the last few weeks we have barely averaged one passenger a day.²³⁴

The World's editors continued to struggle with mail schedules, but communications eventually improved when the Idaho City post office went from a fourth-to a third-class station and the first telephone reached the community in 1878.

Indian Wars, Chinese, and Women

Ainslie served as World editor between Indian wars, and during that time the World reported little to its

²³³Idaho World, August 8, 1872, p. 3.

²³⁴Idaho World, December 4, 1873, p. 2.

readers about Indian-white relationships. In February of 1867 O'Meara published a dispatch about General George Crook's campaign against the Snakes in southern Idaho, part of the Snake War of 1866-68, but neglected to report the agreement between the federal government and the Bannocks in 1867 that ended the war. The World also only briefly mentioned the final Treaty of Fort Bridger in 1868. Ainslie and other Democratic leaders addressed the Indian issue as part of forming the 1872 Democratic platform, which the World reported.

The neglect of the General Government to remove the Nez Perce and other Indians tribes within this territory upon the reservations provided for them, merits our most severe condemnation; retarding the settlements of our territory and the development of our resources.²³⁵

Subsequent World editors gave more coverage to the widespread Nez Perce Indian War of 1877 and the Bannock War of 1878. Infrequent references in the World about Indians from 1864 through 1873, often only one or two lines of type, were enough to establish that the editors believed Indians should be killed or put on a reservation.

The stand by early World editors against the Chinese was more vigorous, perhaps because the Chinese worked and lived among the Boise Basin miners and settlers. In 1865, H. C. Street warned the newspaper's readers:

²³⁵Idaho World, May 16, 1872, p. 3.

The Chinamen are coming. Lord, deliver us from the locusts of Egypt, they devour all men before them.²³⁶

The Chinese were attracted first to California in the 1850s. By the time Ainslie had taken the World's editorial reins, one writer estimates more than 4,000 Chinese had come to Idaho via Portland or from Utah after completion of the transcontinental railroad.²³⁷

The Butler brothers recorded in the December 26, 1863, Boise News an assembly of 2,000 miners to revise mining laws. In the revision was the exclusion of Chinese and Negroes from working the mines. The Boise News reflected the miners' sentiments by labeling the Chinese a "social nuisance and enemy of all civilization."²³⁸ As the mining season of 1865 began, Street wrote:

Some of the rebels here talk strong of driving the Johns [Chinese] out of the diggings. The measure is opposed by a few one-horse storekeepers and others who favor the leveling of the white and colored races.²³⁹

On January 12, 1866, the territorial legislature passed a bill providing that every foreign miner be taxed five dollars per month. "All Mongolians, whether male or

²³⁶Idaho World, September 30, 1865, p. 2.

²³⁷Betty Derig, "Celestians in the Diggings," Idaho Yesterdays (Boise: Idaho Historial Society, fall 1972), p. 2.

²³⁸Boise News, March 26, 1864, p. 1.

²³⁹Idaho World, May 6, 1865, p. 1.

female shall be considered foreign miners under the provision of this act."²⁴⁰

The Chinese thought the tax was discriminatory and often unfairly administered. The sheriff could seize property in lieu of the tax if the tax was not paid on the first day of the month, and with one-hour verbal notice he could sell the property at public auction. He could even buy unlimited property himself for ten dollars. The Chinese had no appeal.

In a test case filed in March of 1866, by George Dyson against Sheriff James I. Crutcher, Judge Milton Kelly ruled the law unconstitutional for persons not engaged in mining.²⁴¹ That prompted two Idaho City residents, Ah Kim, owner of a gambling house, and Sin Tuo, owner of a brothel, to test the legality of their tax, each of whom paid fifty dollars a month. Justice John R. McBride ruled the two were not U.S. citizens and, therefore, each, who had sued on grounds the tax violated the Civil Rights Bill of 1866, had to pay.²⁴²

The Burlingame Treaty between the United States and China in 1868 provided alien residents all the rights and

²⁴⁰Idaho World, March 24, 1866, p. 2.

²⁴¹Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, May 17, 1866, p. 2.

²⁴²Idaho World, June 12, 1867, p. 2.

privileges enjoyed by citizens of either country. Using that treaty and Judge Kelly's decision, Boise County miner Ah Bow sued Sheriff Frank Britten in July of 1869 to restrain the sheriff from collecting the miners' tax. It was reported as the first test case of its kind on the Pacific Coast. U.S. Territorial Justice David Noggle upheld the Burlingame Treaty and invoked the Fourteenth Amendment, which reads, in part, "nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Kelly's declaration that the miners' tax was unconstitutional brought an immediate response from the World which said it did not have space for his reasons because

. . . he so causelessly and so offensively hastens to ventilate his admiration for and sympathy with the Chinese . . . this mess of baseless, utterly absurd, almost senile, and wretchedly ridiculous slop.²⁴³

Ainslie's editorship of the World began soon after Kelly's decision. Although he did not side with the decision, he was more reserved in his reporting than his predecessors had been. When the Reverend Cum Lum arrived at Idaho City in May of 1872 to do missionary work among the Chinese, Ainslie investigated.

Never having witnessed anything of the kind, we looked in during the evening service, and found the court room well filled with Cum Lum's countrymen,

²⁴³Idaho World, September 2, 1869, p. 3.

and they conducted themselves in a very proper manner, and listened most attentively to the discourse. We didn't hear the sermon in English, but as a preacher in Chinese he is evidently a success, for he never seemed at a loss for words, and appeared most earnest and emphatic in his explanation of the Bible truths to his heathen brethren. . . . He may do some good among the "heathen Chinees," [sic] but we doubt it, as they are, as a race, about the most stubborn and obstinate believers in their peculiar faith that we have ever encountered. Cum Lum formerly lived here among them and . . . his field of missionary usefulness is evidently in some other quarter of the globe.²⁴⁴

As the Chinese population increased in the Boise Basin, the number of stories relating to Chinese activities increased in the World, especially from the early 1870s through 1885.

Ainslie expressed the fear felt by whites that mine owners and contractors would replace whites with Chinese who would work for less. In the August 1, 1872, World, Ainslie predicted Ben Holladay, who was constructing a railroad across Oregon to Idaho's western boundary, would begin discharging white laborers.

They have got through with the election in Oregon; the Radicals have carried the state, or at least Ben Holladay has, and he has no further use for his white chattels that voted his way at the election.

The Chinese divided themselves into benevolent district companies with headquarters at San Francisco, and where they went the ties were retained, no matter how remote the territory. There were two such companies at Idaho City.

²⁴⁴Idaho World, May 30, 1872, p. 3.

The World estimated about 1,400 laborers belonged to the See Yups, and about 500 businessmen to the Yung Wahs.²⁴⁵

Late in the summer of 1872, friction between the two Chinese companies threatened to break out in open warfare. Ee Ming and Ee Say, two See Yups, were arrested for killing Chaw Woy, a Yung Wah. The World commented:

For the past two weeks our city has been filled with rumors of an impending conflict between the Chinese residents of this section belonging to different companies or clans. If they will select their battleground a mile or two from town, we are opposed to Sheriff McClintock or the officers of the law interfering in the matter, as we can spare all of them that fortunately may be killed.²⁴⁶

A week later, the World reported two more shootings in downtown Idaho City. A Yung Wah shot a See Yup. The wounded man sought shelter at the house of a Yung Wah woman. While Sheriff McClintock searched her house for the victim, she was murdered by a Yung Wah.²⁴⁷ The perpetrator was not apprehended.

The See Yups enacted a "company" law to boycott a Yung Wah store and established an armed patrol of twelve to enforce its law. Penalty for violation of the law was a fifty dollar fine.²⁴⁸ Several disinterested Chinese

²⁴⁵Idaho World, September 5, 1872, p. 3.

²⁴⁶Idaho World, September 26, 1872, p. 3.

²⁴⁷Idaho World, October 10, 1872, p. 3.

²⁴⁸Idaho World, September 26, 1872, p. 3.

acted as mediators and the two sides agreed to stop fighting.²⁴⁹ Within a few weeks the relationship between the two sides was threatened when a Yung Wah, Ah Gowey of nearby Centerville, began courting a See Yup, Miss Cun Cum of Idaho City. She was the property of Wee Chuck, a See Yup, who was forcing her to support him by prostitution.

Late one night Gowey persuaded Miss Cun Cum to go with him to Boise. When Chuck discovered the two had fled, he went to Justice Wickersham and demanded a warrant for Gowey's arrest on a kidnapping charge. Deputy Sheriff Jeff Howell was sent after the lovers and overtook them at Half Way House, about 15 miles southwest of Idaho City, and brought them back to the justice's office. As Chinese representing both sides began to gather, the couple was taken to the district attorney's office where Justice J. R. Pile, also a printer at the World, performed a marriage ceremony. With the ceremony concluded, Gowey could not be charged with kidnapping.²⁵⁰ The World did not clearly explain how Chuck or the See Yups were compensated for the loss of Cun Cum.

Ainslie described in the January 30, 1873, World the Chinese New Year and, in the spring, a purging rite when the See Yup company discovered about \$11,000 missing

²⁴⁹Idaho World, November 14, 1872, p. 3.

²⁵⁰Idaho World, February 6, 1873, p. 3.

from its bank and accused one of its members of taking the money. Sheriff Dryde McClintock was asked to witness the ceremony in the Chinese cemetery. Candles were burning at each grave. By each candle was a note of innocence written in Chinese characters. The accused took one of the notes and spread it on a grave. Then he prostrated himself and went through "all manner of genuflections, signs, and tokens." Then he seized a white rooster brought there for the occasion, cut off its head and presented the note, the knife, and the rooster to McClintock for him to bury. The blood ceremony completed, the Chinese claimed the accused innocent and dispersed. Ainslie wrote that one observer said, "Me think he die belly soon."²⁵¹

There were no other major episodes involving the Chinese published until after Ainslie resigned from the World. He also left to his successors the growing women's rights movement in Idaho. The women's suffrage movement in the East had been going on for several years before it began in the West. The World ignored its approach when the Wyoming territorial legislature gave women the right to vote and hold office in December of 1869, and the territorial legislature of Utah gave women the right to vote in February of 1870. When the subject was introduced in Idaho's lower house, December 29, 1870, by Dr. Joseph W. Morgan of Malad

²⁵¹Idaho World, April 18, 1872, p. 3.

City, Ainslie thought it was a joke. Dr. Morgan's House Bill 64 passed on second reading, January 6, 1871, but was defeated the following day on a third reading that ended in an 11-11 tie.

In the January 12, 1871, World, Ainslie commented:

The matter was considered by nearly all the members as a good joke, and in fact was not considered in any serious manner whatever, so that the fair sex in Idaho cannot "lay the flattering unction to their souls" that they will ever be blessed or cursed with the elective franchise.

Ainslie was more concerned about reporting the 12-9-1 defeat of a legislative proposal to move the Boise County seat to Centerville.

Later, in the spring, Ainslie was invited to attend a convention for women's suffrage, but he declined.

We return our grateful acknowledgments for the invitation, and regret that the crowded state of our columns prevent us from publishing the call. Not being a friend of the movement, and having no sympathy whatever with the objects of the association, we would not, as a delegate from Idaho, meet with a very cordial welcome. We think the women can be in better business.²⁵²

Ainslie and His Contemporaries

When the legislature in January of 1871 awarded the printing contract for the session's laws to the Statesman, two Democratic papers at Boise, the Boise Tri-Weekly News

²⁵²Idaho World, May 4, 1871, p. 2.

and the Idaho Democrat, and the World expressed their displeasure. The Boise Tri-Weekly News of January 14, 1871, edited by James Monigle, said since it defended the Democratic legislature from the Statesman it expected to get the printing contract "at a reasonable profit."

Ainslie complained that the announcement to bid was printed in the Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, but not the weekly, which he contended was the publication of legal record. Ainslie also reported that the Statesman's weekly edition was not sent to other Idaho newspapers and called it a "suppression of legal advertisements."²⁵³

Reynolds rebutted the claim, calling it "an empty and unsupported charge."²⁵⁴ Ainslie had the last word.

The files of the weekly Statesman . . . kept in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury did not contain the publication of the summons. If the editor of that paper challenges the truth of our assertion we will prove it by other parties, and will give him the names if he calls for them. And now, sir, you have to either call for them or admit that you have published a willful falsehood.²⁵⁵

Next to dunners and sheriffs, the chief enemies of pioneer publishers were other men of print.²⁵⁶ Editors of

²⁵³Idaho World, February 23, 1871, p. 2.

²⁵⁴Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, March 4, 1871.

²⁵⁵Idaho World, March 9, 1871, p. 2.

²⁵⁶John M. Myers, Print In A Wild Land (Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Company, Inc.), p. 82.

the World, including Ainslie, innocuously published the arrivals and departures of competitors as well as employees and their families. Often these were single squibs. When Reynolds bought a new press in November of 1870, Ainslie declared it

. . . saves much muscle and time and moves like clockwork, striking off his edition in about one-fourth the time required on a hand press. Although we dam him politically we congratulate him personally on this evidence of his financial prosperity, and we fully reciprocate his appreciation of that entente cordiale which should exist between brother members of the editorial profession.²⁵⁷

Ainslie handled news of H. N. Maguire, a former Idaho City area resident, by writing he had moved to Lewiston to become editor of the Golden Age, then to Bozeman City, Montana, where he was editor of the Pick and Plow.²⁵⁸

Of the departure of the former co-owner of the Boise News, T. J. Butler, who was publishing the Owyhee Tidal Wave at Silver City, Ainslie wrote:

Mr. Butler has disposed of the business and good will of the concern to Messrs. Hill and Millard of the Owyhee Avalanche, who will send that paper to those subscribers of the Wave who have paid in advance, the first number of which will appear on the 19th of this month. We are sorry to see Mr. Butler retire from the sanctum, though the antipodes of each other in politics, for he wielded a trenchant pen, was a courteous opponent, and an adversary worthy of our steel. We wish him good fortune, pecuniarily, in anything he undertakes, but politically hope good

²⁵⁷ Idaho World, November 17, 1870, p. 2.

²⁵⁸ Idaho World, January 13, 1870, p. 2.

fortune may attend neither his party nor himself, unless he leaves the Radical camp.²⁵⁹

If an employee left the World, the announcement carried with it comment on the employee's favor or disfavor with the World management.

By stage of last Tuesday, Mr. Ed F. Lewis, who has been an employe in this office for the last six years, took his departure for a general "collarup" throughout the western slope in search of a new field wherein fortunes are more quickly acquired. Though differing with us in politics, the most implicit confidence has ever been placed in him by the proprietors of the World establishment, and it is sufficient to say that it was not misplaced. A printer of nearly twenty years experience, and one who thoroughly understands the business in all its various branches, we commend as such, and as a man of unbending integrity, to the craft generally and to the people wherever he may locate.²⁶⁰

²⁵⁹Idaho World, February 17, 1870, p. 2.

²⁶⁰Idaho World, July 27, 1871, p. 3.

CHAPTER VI

WORLD CHANGES

Isaac H. Bowman, who had been publisher and general business manager since the Boise News became the World in 1864, announced in the spring of 1870 that he had sold his interest in the paper.²⁶¹ Bowman's departure from the World was short-lived, and the sale was prompted because he refused to support Samuel A. Merritt as a Democratic delegate to Congress. Merritt was president of the Board which bought Bowman's interest. Ed F. Lewis, a printer at the World since 1865, was the board's secretary.²⁶² He remained with the World until July, 1871, when he departed "for a general 'collarup' . . . in search of a new field wherein fortunes are more quickly acquired."²⁶³

Ainslie remained as editor, and he wrote:

In this issue . . . we raise to the head of our columns the regular Democratic ticket, both Territorial and Country.

Circumstance over which we had no control has hitherto prevented us from pursuing that course which our conscience dictated and which our duty demanded, but a change having taken place last

²⁶¹Idaho World, May 19, 1870, p. 3.

²⁶²Idaho World, May 26, 1870, p. 2.

²⁶³Idaho World, July 20, 1871, p. 3.

evening in the proprietorship of this paper, our hands are now loosened, and we unhesitatingly and cheerfully announce ourselves as being enlisted, heart and soul, not only in advocacy of the principles and teachings of Democracy, but also as a warm supporter and advocate of the election of the Democratic party. . . . We regret exceedingly to sever our business relations with the former proprietor of the World, . . . his abilities, energy and business tact is mainly due the present prosperous condition of this paper.²⁶⁴

Merritt's political opponent was Republican nominee Thomas J. Butler, a former co-owner of the Boise News and of the Owyhee Tidal Wave. Merritt won; and Butler left the territory headed for Oakland, California, where his brother, John, had gone some months earlier to establish a printing business. On his way, T. J. Butler stopped at Elko, Nevada, Where he edited the Elko Chronicle until December, 1870.²⁶⁵

Among the political candidates in Boise County in 1870 was Heman Jones, who became the World business manager in 1875. He had been among the first miners to reach Florence and Warren, and later, Idaho City in 1863. He returned to Oregon and brought his family to Idaho City in 1865 where he mined and worked as a wheelwright. Jones' next eldest son, Egbert, joined the World as an apprentice printer the same day Ainslie became editor in 1869. In a brief, May 26, 1870, Heman Jones announced himself as an

²⁶⁴Idaho World, May 19, 1870, p. 3.

²⁶⁵Idaho World, June 5, 1870, p. 2; Idaho World, June 16, 1870, p. 1.

independent candidate for road supervisor of Districts 1 and 2 in Boise County.²⁶⁶ Democrat James Dooley won, 800-232.²⁶⁷

In October, 1870, the Idaho World Printing Co. had a stockholders' meeting and Bowman returned as the World business manager until he again sold his interest in November, 1873. He went to Ketchum where he became editor and publisher of the Keystone News until ill health forced him to retire in the late 1890s.²⁶⁸

As the placer gold, which attracted the population to the Boise Basin in the 1860s, diminished so did the fortunes of the World. It absorbed its local competition, the Idaho Times in 1867, and from May 1, 1867, until November 4, 1868, published the Idaho Semi-Weekly World issued Wednesday and Saturday in addition to the weekly newspaper. As the World completed its seventh year of publication in October, 1870, Ainslie said the "flush times" when the Boise Basin was "the New Eldorado of the Pacific Coast" had declined, but he renewed the newspaper's pledge to stimulate its readers "to new enterprises and undertakings."²⁶⁹

²⁶⁶Idaho World, May 26, 1870, p. 2; Idaho Daily Statesman, December 12, 1905, c. 3, p. 6.

²⁶⁷Idaho World, June 16, 1870, p. 1.

²⁶⁸Idaho World, November 27, 1873, p. 3; Idaho World, June 28, 1895, p. 1.

²⁶⁹Idaho World, October 27, 1870, p. 2.

Times may have been "dull" following the election of 1870, but the advertising volume remained constant and there seemed to be no shortage of local news events. In early times, the territorial prison was located at Idaho City. Escapes were common, but on November 15, 1870, twelve prisoners, including six Chinese fled the compound. The following week the World reported that one of the Chinese had been captured at Granite Creek, a mining settlement west of Idaho City. On the return to Idaho City, the prisoner's captors allowed him to go into a "Chinese house at Centerville for a drink since which time he has not been heard from, and it is presumed that he is still thirsty and looking for water."²⁷⁰

In a rare use of a jump story, the World gave extensive coverage to the murder trial of James A. Abbott, a Payette valley farmer, charged with killing schoolteacher David Hannor. The coverage, however, came a month after the trial. While the case was being heard, Ainslie followed his announced practice of reporting only that the attorneys gave "eloquent appeals."²⁷¹

When county treasurer P. E. Edmondson, a Democrat elected in 1868, absconded with \$16,222 in September, 1870,

²⁷⁰Idaho World, November 24, 1870, p. 3.

²⁷¹Idaho World, October 27, 1870, p. 2; Idaho World, November 17, 1870, pp. 1, 4; Idaho World, November 24, 1870, pp. 1, 3.

Ainslie said:

The defalcation of an officer entrusted with the safe keeping and disbursement of the public funds is never an acceptable item of news to place before the people.²⁷²

With Ainslie at Boise to attend the 1871 legislature, the World devoted more than half of its local space to reporting lists of House and Council bills including a detailed account of the defeat of a bill to move the county seat from Idaho City to Centerville.²⁷³ Such coverage was typical during Ainslie's editorship.

Although the World frequently took a stand on the propriety of politicians, it seldom questioned merchants, at least by name. In March, 1871, R. V. Robie, an early-day miner in the basin and for whom a portion bears his name, announced a going-out-of-business sale. Robie had been in the mercantile business less than a year, but he said his health had begun to fail and he was selling out. In an advertisement headlined "Grand Gift Distribution," Robie offered money and other merchandise to be given at a drawing June 1. Typical of the times, the World carried a puff in its news columns.

The character of the gentlemen who have consented to act as Managers at the drawing is sufficient guarantee that the affair will be conducted fairly

²⁷²Idaho World, September 15, 1870, p. 3.

²⁷³Idaho World, January 12, 1871, p. 2; Idaho World, January 19, 1871, p. 2.

and honorable, and the referees are all persons well known throughout the Territory. . . . We personally examined the stock to be disposed of, and can certify to its answering the value of the different articles, as given, fair and reasonable.²⁷⁴

The drawing did not occur as scheduled, but the advertisement continued throughout June, with an occasional blurb that Robie promised it soon. When it did happen, in mid-July, Robie won his own \$500 cash drawing and a friend, "Mr. Judge," won the \$250 second prize. The story ran without editorial comment.²⁷⁵

New Quarters

The Butler brothers began the newspaper in a wood frame building near Elk Creek on the east side of Idaho City within a few feet of where James Pinney constructed his brick building at the corner of Montgomery and Wall Streets. The Pinney building contained room for his mercantile business, the post office and, upstairs, a gymnasium. The building also had a rental space on its north side. Pinney's building faced east to Montgomery Street, and near it was the World office. After the fire of 1865, the World moved its office into the north side of Pinney's building and shared quarters with probate

²⁷⁴Idaho World, March 16, 1871, p. 3.

²⁷⁵Idaho World, July 27, 1871, p. 3.

Judge J. M. Shepherd.²⁷⁶ The arrangement next door to the post office was ideal since stages and expresses arrived and departed at that location. The arrangement with Shepherd dissolved two weeks before the yearly lease was to expire, April 1, 1867. A former World printer and probate judge, P. J. Malone, claimed O'Meara still owed him money for printing materials he sold O'Meara in 1866. Using a double-barreled shotgun, Malone took possession of the office. Bowman had a warrant sworn for Malone's arrest and while Malone was appearing at the courthouse a block away, Bowman moved the World's materials across the street to the ground floor of the Masonic Building on Wall Street.²⁷⁷

With the move to the new quarters, Bowman and O'Meara also launched the Semi-Weekly World in addition to the regular weekly publication. They announced

. . . we have now the largest, the most complete, the finest and best newspaper and job printing office to be found any where north of California. And our new composing, printing and editorial rooms, occupying the whole of the capacious first floor of the large Masonic Hall, make up certainly one of the most commodious, handsomest, and best arranged printing establishments on the whole Pacific coast. In the printing department are two superior and large Washington presses, a large and a small Gordon's machine press, both in excellent trim; [and] above thirty fonts of wood type.

²⁷⁶Idaho World, March 16, 1867, p. 3.

²⁷⁷Idaho World, April 6, 1867, p. 2; Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, March 16, 1867, p. 3.

The Semi-Weekly World nameplate, they boasted was made at San Francisco.²⁷⁸

Publication of the newspaper continued at the Masonic Hall Building until June, 1871, when the Idaho World Printing Company announced the purchase of the "fire-proof brick building known as the 'Wood Store,' formerly occupied by Messrs. Eckert & Saunders." The Eckert and Saunders building was next door, on the west side of the Masonic Hall.²⁷⁹ Occupation of the Eckhart and Saunders building lasted nearly ten years until the building was inundated by high water in the spring of 1871.

Water to the right of us, water to the left of us, water behind us and water in front of us, rushing and roaring. That's the kind of fix the World is in at present. Elk creek cut a new channel Sunday evening in a direct line for this office, and the levy around the building afforded no protection whatever. Whether the World will be upset, washed down or sluiced out remains to be seen.²⁸⁰

A week later, the World's patrons were asked to pay their accounts "or even a part of their indebtedness." The newspaper expounded on the flood damage.

The flood was two feet above the door. The printers fastened the door as best they could, went to work, and by 9 o'clock p.m. Tuesday's World was run off. The typos then waded to shore. The town was aroused at 12 o'clock that night by a dull, heavy sound. It

²⁷⁸Idaho World, May 8, 1867, p. 2.

²⁷⁹Idaho World, June 22, 1871, p. 3.

²⁸⁰Idaho World, April 5, 1881, p. 3.

was produced by the tumbling in of the south end of the brick building of the World office. Next morning the water was rushing through the building. Gum boots were donned, and the work of packing out was begun. . . Everything was carried out that day, and on Wednesday was moved into [S.C.] Silsby's brick [building], one door above the post office, where the World now revolves.²⁸¹

The space rented to the World was the same office from which the newspaper moved in 1867 during its disagreement with Malone.

Eckert and Saunders relocated in a brick building three blocks southeast, at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. In November, 1883, the Joneses purchased a brick structure at the same intersection and moved to that location where the World was published until it suspended operation in 1918.²⁸²

²⁸¹Idaho World, April 12, 1881, p. 3 [Silsby took over James Pinney's building when the latter moved to Boise. Pinney operated a book store, and he was elected mayor of Boise in the early 1880s. He constructed and operated a theater on Jefferson Street, one block west of the capital building. The theater was razed about 1970.]

²⁸²Idaho Semi-Weekly World, November 27, 1883, p. 3; Idaho World, November 1, 1918, p. 1.

CHAPTER VII

NEW OWNERS, NEW EDITORS, NEW ERA

From 1873 until 1875, the World had five editors and its ownership changed three times. When Street and Bowman purchased the Boise News and changed the name to the Idaho World, they also changed the political philosophy from independent to conservative Democrat. During Merritt's brief control in 1870, it was radical Democratic, and when Bowman returned Ainslie was retained as editor but his columns moderated. Both the editorship and proprietorship changed November 27, 1873, when Bowman sold out to a group of Boise County men who made it politically independent. They were E. A. Stevenson, later the territory's only Democratic governor, the Reverend C. S. Kingsley, former editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate, Thomas Barry, S. M. Sisk, G. B. Baldwin and D. H. Anderson.²⁸⁰

Ainslie said he was tired of editorial pressures and "any change was a relief."

The opportunity to retire is most opportune, and I gladly avail myself of it; as an ardent desire to re-engage in the practice of my profession, and to devote my time and attention to the law.²⁸¹

²⁸⁰Idaho World, November 27, 1873, p. 3.

²⁸¹Ibid.

When he assumed editorship of the World in September, 1869, Ainslie told his readers that he had no newspaper experience. In his farewell, he said:

Entering, as I did, without any experience upon an editorial career, it was naturally to be expected that a novice in the profession would be guilty of errors. . . . That I have not proved infallible in judgment, and have made mistakes, is but a repetition of the experience of every one engaged in the field of journalism.²⁸²

Ainslie also wrote:

During . . . the heat of political contests, I have doubtless given blows, as well as received them, some of which in calmer moments, and upon more mature deliberation, I should probably not have inflicted; but . . . for a greater portion of the time I was editorially engaged single-handed against the Republican press of the Territory. I received, at the hands of my political antagonists in the same arena, every consideration and kindness, and have ever been treated by them with that courtesy which should ever prevail among gentlemen, no matter how widely they might differ upon political questions. . . . The mutual exchange of courtesies and personal intercourse with political antagonists toned down the asperities of editorial debate; and argument and logic were the weapons used, instead of personalities and abuse, thus rendering my editorial experience enduringly pleasant.²⁸³

Bowman assessed his role as having established "an institution of our Territory." He said the paper had succeeded financially because of Democratic support, and he was disposing of his interest in the World ". . . for no other reason than that I simply desired a change after

²⁸²Idaho World, November 27, 1873, p. 3.

²⁸³Ibid.

nine years labor in one field."²⁸⁴

A week later, a World brief said Ainslie had rented the space formerly occupied by the World on Montgomery Street, next to the post office, to practice law.²⁸⁵

Ainslie and Bowman apparently left the World as friends, but in 1876 Ainslie sued Bowman and the World for monies allegedly due on a promisory note. The outcome, finally decided by the territorial Supreme Court in 1877, left the succeeding World management bitter against Ainslie.²⁸⁶

Bowman's successor as business manager was E. W. Jones, 19, whom Bowman said was "a young gentleman fully competent for the discharge of the duties of his new position."²⁸⁷ Jones had worked at the World since he was 15, and his name first appeared in its columns in a November 30, 1871, brief, which reported that Jones was cleaning one of the Gordon job presses when his left hand was caught in the machinery, severing one joint from the middle finger.

²⁸⁴Idaho World, November 27, 1873, p. 3.

²⁸⁵Idaho World, December 4, 1873, p. 4.

²⁸⁶A. L. Bancroft and Sumner Whitney, Supreme Court Idaho Reports, Vol. 1: George Ainslie v. The Idaho World Printing Co., and J. H. Bowman v. George Ainslie and John West (San Francisco: The Filmer Brothers Electrotpe Co., 1904), pp. 641-646.

²⁸⁷Idaho World, November 27, 1873, p. 3.

Ainslie's successor was T. J. Sutton, who had moved from Jacksonville, Oregon, to Boise during the early 1860s. Before he became editor, Sutton's name emerged in the World's news columns early in 1865 when Street criticized him for a letter he had written to the Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman. Sutton moved to Idaho City sometime after the election of 1868 and became a deputy assessor and tax collector for Boise County, an appointive office.²⁸⁸ In July, 1871, a story about a drowning at Payette Lakes was attributed to Sutton.²⁸⁹ When Ainslie covered the legislative session at Boise in December, 1872, Sutton substituted for him at the World.

We return our sincere thanks to Mr. T. J. Sutton, late pro tem editor of this paper, for the able manner in which he discharged the duties incumbent on the position. . . . Tom is a sound Democrat and a spicy writer, and we hope some day to chronicle his adoption of the editorial profession.²⁹⁰

In less than a year, Ainslie's wish happened when Ainslie quit and Sutton issued his "salutatory" in his first issue. Sutton's greeting was in keeping with the custom of a newly appointed editor, but what he said was unusual for a World editor.

²⁸⁸Idaho World, September 2, 1869, p. 2.

²⁸⁹Idaho World, July 27, 1871, p. 3.

²⁹⁰Idaho World, January 16, 1873, p. 3.

It becomes my duty, in deference to an established custom, to salute its [Idaho World] readers; but in doing so I shall so far deviate from the customs to make but few and brief promises, believing few promises kept, better than many broken. Besides, I am fully aware of my incompetency to get up more than a very common place newspaper, but shall always do my best and trust to the leniency of a generous public for the rest. Acquainted as I am with almost the entire population of Boise county, and with nearly every foot of her vast territory, I trust I have a tolerable understanding of the real interests, and material needs of both. These it shall ever be my pride--the former to foster and promote, and the latter to assist in supplying. To this end the columns of the World will always be free to whoever wishes to employ them for the discussion of any subject of interest or benefit to the people of the Territory, or to any portion of them. . . . The principle [*sic*] objects which I shall have in view in the publication of the Idaho World, shall be to do right and to make money. If I succeed in the former I shall in the latter also, and having satisfied the public and received my reward, I, too, shall be satisfied.²⁹¹

J. R. Pile, a printer at the World during Street's editorship, returned to the World.²⁹² Pile had retired to farming in the Boise valley, but shortly before Sutton assumed his job with the World the two had planned to begin a newspaper at Boise and had canvassed the county for subscriptions. A week after the change in World ownership, Sutton wrote that those who bought subscriptions to his proposed paper would be sent copies of the World or "return each his money as they shall decide. In the meantime, a paper will be sent them as subscribers until they order it

²⁹¹Idaho World, December 4, 1873, p. 2.

²⁹²Ibid., p. 3.

discontinued."²⁹³ If there were objections to Sutton's proposal, the World did not publish them.

In September, before Sutton became editor, he advertised in the World that he intended to open a tin shop.²⁹⁴ It did not open until May, 1874, and Sutton told customers they could do business with him at the newspaper or at the shop's location, one block west of the World at Montgomery and Commercial Streets.²⁹⁵

Sutton's personal financial affairs plagued him throughout his tenure as World editor, and he frequently announced his plight through the newspaper. A week after he became editor, he wrote:

I have been in Boise county a good while and am in debt, whether from my own mismanagement or from other causes, it is needless to state. . . . I have not run away to avoid my creditors, nor do I propose to.²⁹⁶

In his editorial prospectus, Sutton announced the World would be "thoroughly independent in all things." He also said the newspaper would "give attention and space to such temperance news and literature as the publishers think will be of interest to temperance people."²⁹⁷

²⁹³Idaho World, December 11, 1873, p. 3.

²⁹⁴Idaho World, September 11, 1873, p. 3.

²⁹⁵Idaho World, May 7, 1874, p. 3, 4.

²⁹⁶Idaho World, December 11, 1873, p. 3.

²⁹⁷Idaho World, December 18, 1875, p. 2.

In his editorial comments Sutton campaigned as often as possible for temperance and morality and attacked Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman editor Milton Kelly. By the spring of 1874, Sutton had irritated enough Boise Basin residents that several of them had the Owyhee Daily Avalanche print a statement complaining of abhorrent language in the World.²⁹⁸

Sutton called Kelly a

. . . superannuated old ninny and moral lazaretto. We are aware that a comtemptible little clique in this county are [is] and have been doing all in their [its] power to break us down; but we are able to assure all of his [Kelly's] infamous co-workers, that, notwithstanding their noble and high minded efforts, the circulation of the World has steadily increased ever since we have had charge of it, as our subscription books will show. . . . We have thirty-eight subscribers in Boise City, who are reputable gentlemen, against about eight subscribers to the Statesman in this city.²⁹⁹

In one three-column, page-one editorial on temperance, Sutton called the New York Tribune a "whisky organ, and the efforts of its editor to find arguments in support of his 'moderate drinking' theories, are painfully amusing. Calling himself a 'moderate drinker,' he writes on the subject like one immoderately drunk."³⁰⁰

In the same issue, a letter from a reader said:

I must say for your paper, the World, that it has improved so much since it changed hands, that after

²⁹⁸Idaho World, March 26, 1874, p. 3.

²⁹⁹Idaho World, March 15, 1874, p. 2.

³⁰⁰Idaho World, April 23, 1874, p. 1.

taking it seven years, I would hardly recognize it as the same.³⁰¹

Two weeks later, under the heading "Too Much Temperance," Sutton defended his temperance and morality editorials.

Our friends have frequently cautioned us against too much temperance in the World, and our enemies boastfully proclaim that we will not last a year in the course we are pursuing, as the people of Idaho will not support a temperance paper. . . . The World is not a temperance paper. It gives all of the local news it can procure; the latest reliable news from abroad; readable selections from the best current publications--scientific, literary, witty, imaginative--whatever it thinks will instruct or please and comprises in its editorial department a greater variety of subjects each week than any paper of its size. While the World is not a temperance paper, however, its editor will not debase himself by becoming the advocate of that he knows to be wrong, and an inestimable curse; but he would like to publish a temperance paper, and would do so if he believed it would be supported.³⁰²

Under the same heading, Sutton included several complimentary comments from readers.³⁰³

E. W. Jones and Sutton made several changes in the newspaper. They moved the publication day from Thursday to Saturday and reduced the subscription rate from \$12 to \$10 by carrier and from \$10 to \$8 by mail. Single copies were 25 cents. They explained that the reduced rates were made to attract more subscriptions, and the change in publication day was to enable the subscribers to have later news.

³⁰¹Ibid., p. 2.

³⁰²Idaho World, May 21, 1874, p. 1.

³⁰³Ibid.

We have deemed it advisable . . . as the mail leaves the Basin once a week, and that on Monday, our paper is generally a week or more old before it reaches subscribers . . . [now] they will get their papers just as soon after they leave the press if issued on Saturdays, as they would if issued on Thursdays. Besides, we expect to derive pecuniary benefit from the change.³⁰⁴

They also advertised "job printing at New York prices. Every description of temperance blanks always on hand and printed to order, plain or in colors. Prices 50 percent below our former rates."³⁰⁵

Wood engravings had been used from time to time in advertisements, but the first to appear among the news columns was published January 15, 1874, on page one. The engraving, an astronomical diagram showing the passage of the planet Venus between the earth and the sun, was carved by D. B. Kimmel of the Pioneer Jewelry Store at Idaho City. Sutton said, "It is as perfect a piece of wood engraving as can be done anywhere."

The change in proprietorship and editorial direction came during the legislative session and for the first time since the newspaper was founded, its editor was not involved in the political proceedings at Boise. The change was reflected with the absence of the amount of legislative material of previous years. Sutton only summarized the

³⁰⁴Idaho World, December 4, 1873, p. 2; Idaho World, June 11, 1874, p. 3.

³⁰⁵Ibid.

session. He approved of proposals seeking a wagon road connecting Fort Boise and Fort Lapwai and a telegraph line from Fort Boise to Fort Walla Walla. He questioned whether the Snake River could be cleared for navigation as proposed in one bill, and he disapproved a proposal that would have placed the territorial prison in care of the territory rather than the federal government.³⁰⁶

In early January, 1874, a page-three brief asked for correspondents from "every farming community and mining camp in Idaho Territory and eastern Oregon."³⁰⁷ Two weeks later Sutton complained:

If our readers should fancy the World to be peculiarly dull this week, we hope they will console themselves [sic] as we do--by the reflection that it is about as bright as our exchanges. . . . Why we haven't seen a sensational article, or fresh joke in a newspaper during the last six weeks. What shall we do?³⁰⁸

Soon, Sutton's editorials included stands against Mormonism, the Bedrock Flume Bill and the Democratic ticket. He argued for retaining the Idaho Territory rather than splitting it, placing the University of Idaho at Boise and reducing taxes.³⁰⁹

³⁰⁶Idaho World, December 25, 1873, p. 2.

³⁰⁷Idaho World, January 8, 1874, p. 3.

³⁰⁸Idaho World, January 29, 1874, p. 2.

³⁰⁹Idaho World, February 19, 1874, p. 2; Idaho World, March 15, 1874, p. 2; Idaho World, July 11, 1874, p. 1; Idaho World, August 1, 1874, p. 1; Idaho World, October 17, 1874, p. 2; Idaho World, November 14, 1874, p. 2.

In the political campaign of 1874, Ainslie was elected district attorney, although Sutton opposed him editorially.

Sutton wrote:

Despite the fact that the ticket supported by the World was beaten . . . it still claims the distinction of being a fair and honest exponent of the interests, resources and requirements of Boise county, and of the wishes, objects and aims of the better class of her citizens, of those whose labors and industry have reclaimed the county from the wild state in which nature left it.³¹⁰

As the election began to heat up late in the summer of 1874, Ainslie sued the World for wages he claimed were due him when he was editor. Ainslie contended he was worth \$200 a month but was paid less.³¹¹ On August 8, 1874, the World said:

We must raise two thousand dollars during the next thirty days, and are therefore obliged to call upon all persons knowing themselves indebted to the Idaho World for subscription or otherwise to remit to us the amount of their bills, or pay the same over to Sheriff Bradford, who is fully authorized to receipt for any money due this office. The amount due from each subscriber to the World is small, but the aggregate sum . . . [is] important to us. We hope that our friends will come forward without delay and pay up, that we may be able also to pay up and stop the payment of heavy interest. We do not like to dun our patrons, but we cannot do business nor pay debts without money. When we get better off we can be more lenient.

The Statesman criticized the World and Sutton "for putting his bills into the hands of the Sheriff." Sutton replied

³¹⁰Idaho World, November 14, 1874, p. 2.

³¹¹Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, January 30, 1877, p. 3.

that the sheriff was "an old friend and traveled over the country. The bills are given him as a matter of convenience. Does the ring organ [Statesman] see the point?"³¹²

In a brief, September 10, 1874, signed by E. W. Jones, the World said:

We have made frequent calls upon those who are indebted to this office, both by notice and in person. This one is our last. All bills not settled by the 15th of October will be placed in the hands of a collector. We mean business.

The suit went to trial in September, 1876, and the World carried a brief that said the "jury came in and rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$900."³¹³ There was no explanation of the trial proceedings. A hearing for a motion for a new trial was scheduled October 4, and the appeal went to the territorial Supreme Court in January, 1877. In its appeal, the World claimed the evidence was "insufficient to justify the verdict."³¹⁴

The Supreme Court upheld the verdict and also charged the Idaho World Printing Co. with court costs. Chief Justice M. E. Hollister wrote the opinion and justices John Clark and H. E. Prickett concurred that there was substantial conflict of testimony with "scarcely any two witnesses agreeing as to the material facts in the case." But the

³¹²Idaho World, August 15, 1874, p. 2.

³¹³Idaho World, September 29, 1876, p. 4.

³¹⁴Idaho World, October 6, 1876, p. 2.

judges held that because much of the testimony was given orally rather than in writing and depositions, the justices would not have the "same means for determining the weight of the evidence as the jury had" and they declined to grant a new trial.³¹⁵

In a related suit, Bowman sued Ainslie and John West. Bowman claimed that a promissory note between himself and Ainslie and West was not valid. When Bowman departed from the World, he disposed of his stock and shares of the World but he retained the outstanding accounts and bills due. The district court declared Bowman collected the accounts "more than sufficient to discharge said note."³¹⁶

In upholding the district court's decision, Supreme Court Judge Prickett, with Hollister and Clark concurring, wrote:

Bowman undertook to collect money upon the bills and accounts of the Idaho World Printing Company, then in his hands, and apply the same, when collected, in satisfaction of the note, at the same time agreeing between themselves that Ainslie was a creditor of said printing company.

It was not lawful for Bowman to agree that there was money due from the printing company to Ainslie, unless he had authority, and none is alleged; and it was not proper for him to pay the money of the company to Ainslie, even though he was a creditor of the company, unless the consent or authority of the company had

³¹⁵ Bancroft and Whitney, Supreme Court Idaho Reports, Vol. 1, pp. 641-644.

³¹⁶ Bancroft and Whitney, Supreme Court Idaho Reports, pp. 644-646.

first been obtained, and no such consent or authority is alleged. If Bowman collected money for that company, . . . he became liable to pay it to the company, and no agreement made by him, without the authority of the company, . . . could relieve him from that liability.³¹⁷

Before Ainslie's suit against the World went to trial there were brief indications in the World's columns that it was struggling financially, a contrast to the days when the printing operations ran day and night.

In November, 1875, the World said "ranchmen who are in arrears can now easily square accounts by bringing along the amount of their indebtedness in grain."³¹⁸ In the spring of 1876, the newspaper threatened to publish the names of those who owed subscription monies.³¹⁹ A squib on August 4, 1876, mentioned there were only two "typos to do it all, including editing and setting up the paper." In December, 1876, a brief item said "we will publish special notices of goods for our regular advertisers at half price."³²⁰ Only one of the brief duns listed the suit as the reason for "settling up."

If you cannot pay all you owe, pay part. We have the expenses of a heavy law suit on our hands, which

³¹⁷Ibid.

³¹⁸Idaho World, November 2, 1875, p. 2.

³¹⁹Idaho World, March 7, 1876, p. 3.

³²⁰Idaho World, December 15, 1876, p. 4.

must be settled. Respond and help us out.³²¹

The Supreme Court's decision came in January, 1877, but it was not until May that the World published a lengthy general appeal.

Since the World has been in the hands of the present proprietors it has struggled against adverse winds and has had rough sailing. Times have been hard throughout the country. . . . We have had an expensive law suit on our hands, entailed upon us by our predecessors, which has cost us about \$3,000. This we have paid without deriving one dollar from it in any way; the debt, if a debt at all, being against our predecessors. We have been compelled to work hard and use the strictest economy, the editor working at the case, as well as editing the paper. . . . We do not propose to annoy our friends with importunities for their patronage and force them to take our soup whether they are fond of it or not, but we do earnestly ask that you consider whether your newspaper is of any importance to you and your county, and if so, whether it is in your interest and duty to contribute your quota towards its support. The better we are supported, the better we can represent your interests. Send us your names and cash, and we'll send you the worth of the latter in reading matter.³²²

Although the economic fortunes of the World seemed to be declining, Jones and Sutton launched a tri-weekly on March 14, 1875, and ran it in addition to the weekly. The tri-weekly was reduced to semi-weekly on July 27, 1875, and was discontinued in May, 1908.³²³ To help with preparation of the tri-weekly, A. J. Boyakin of Boise spent

³²¹Idaho World, February 6, 1877, p. 2.

³²²Idaho World, May 8, 1877, p. 3.

³²³Melville Spence, Bibliography and Union List of Idaho Newspapers, 1862-1955. (Moscow: University of Idaho, 1956) pp. 19-20.

a week at the World's office "sticking type." He returned to Boise, but within a month was back, "this time permanently." Sutton wrote that the newspaper was "rarely fortunate in securing his help."³²⁴

Boyakin had been a printer at the Statesman since 1864. He was its foreman for several years and sometimes edited it in the absence of Reynolds. Boyakin, Street and C. L. Goodrich bought the Statesman from Reynolds in January, 1869, but Reynolds took it back two months later.³²⁵

Although the Statesman was Republican, Boyakin was a staunch Democrat. He remained at the Statesman until he and Pile began the Idaho Democrat at Boise on December 21, 1870.³²⁶ It was a five-column weekly. Within a few weeks Pile left, and the venture folded. It was succeeded by the Idaho Standard. In May, 1872, the Ada County Publishing Co. bought the Standard, changed its name to the Democrat and hired Boyakin as editor. The Democrat folded during the summer of 1873.³²⁷

In April, 1875, the World announced that Boyakin and Charles E. Jones, E. W. Jones' brother who had been working

³²⁴Idaho World, March 17, 1875, p. 3.

³²⁵Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, January 30, 1869, p. 1;
Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, March 2, 1869, p. 2.

³²⁶Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, December 22, 1870.

³²⁷Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, August 1, 1872.

at the World for a year, would begin a newspaper at Boise.³²⁸ The first issue was delayed when Charles Jones became ill in early May. A running advertisement carried in the World about the proposed publication was withdrawn.

In March, Sutton reported that a man named Sims had been hanged by a vigilance committee near Emmett, west of Idaho City. The story proved false. The Statesman said:

Some men had an effigy of a man hung up in a corn field to scare the crows, and they called it Sims . . . but the World picked it up in dead earnest, and got badly sold.

Sutton acknowledged the error and published a retraction.³²⁹

A week later Sutton chronicled a visit he took to Quartzburg. His story included several statements about his financial woes.³³⁰ His trip to Quartzburg seemed to be at an inopportune time, since the World had just added its tri-weekly publication and the volume of local news increased during March and April as evidenced by the reduction of columns used for material from exchanges. One of the major news events was the installation of the city's first telegraph. It connected the bank and the post office, a distance of 400 feet, to "enable the postmaster to inform the clerk at the bank of the arrival

³²⁸Idaho World, April 30, 1875, p. 3.

³²⁹Idaho World, March 31, 1875, p. 2.

³³⁰Idaho World, April 4, 1875, p. 3.

of the mails."³³¹

During its first month of publication, an apparent shortage of eight-point body type resulted in the use of some agate type in the news columns of the tri-weekly, but in April both it and the weekly reflected the use of new type faces and sizes. Most of the patent materials in the tri-weekly and the weekly were set using ten-point type with twelve-point leading and eight-point type for local news.

Twice in April, 1875, the World printed retractions of stories that it had accorded considerable space. Sutton charged Gov. T. W. Bennett with tampering with votes in the 1874 election. Bennett wrote to the World:

I pledge you that I will show even to your satisfaction, that your correspondent is a willful liar, a dirty dog, a cowardly sneak as well as an ignorant ass.³³²

Sutton then charged B. F. White, acting auditor of Oneida County, with tampering with election blanks and burning the ballots in cigar boxes.³³³

Sutton wrote a detailed account of a disagreement at Boise between Statesman editor Milton Kelly, his school teacher daughter, his son, Homer, age 30, and Louis Schroll,

³³¹Idaho Tri-Weekly World, April 23, 1875, p. 2.

³³²Idaho World, April 7, 1875, p. 2.

³³³Idaho World, April 25, 1875, p. 2.

a trustee of the school district. Schroll did not want to hire Kelly's daughter. Sutton's story said the Schroll went to Kelly's office and "gave the old dog a richly deserved chastisement."³³⁴ The account also said that Homer Kelly, "a cowardly brute," later entered Schroll's office through "a rear door, and attacked Mr. Schroll from behind his back, either with a sling-shot, an iron weight or some other heavy weapon, [and] beat him almost to death."³³⁵

Sutton's retraction said that Schroll met Milton Kelly on the street and during an exchange of words Schroll slapped Kelly.³³⁶

Several weeks later, Sutton wrote a scathing two and one-half column editorial attacking the Statesman and Kelly. Sutton gave a detailed account of Kelly's departure from his position of territorial judge to owner and editor of the newspaper. Sutton included an Owyhee Avalanche reprint that charged Kelly with the seduction of an "idiot girl" at Auburn, Oregon.³³⁷ Sutton also said Kelly was guilty of stealing a cooking stove in eastern Oregon. Later, Sutton wrote that it was not a cooking stove, but "was nothing but

³³⁴Idaho World, April 25, 1875, p. 2.

³³⁵Ibid.

³³⁶Idaho World, April 30, 1875, p. 2.

³³⁷Idaho World, May 9, 1875, p. 2.

a parlor stove. We stand corrected."³³⁸

Sutton's errors, his flippant corrections and a trip to Placerville during the work week were too much for E. W. Jones and he fired Sutton. The announcement was made in the May 19, 1875, World.

With this issue we assume editorial control of the World; and in doing so we are expected, according to an established custom, to salute our readers. We will be brief, believing that the reader may better judge its qualities after its course is definitely shaped and understood.

It will hereafter be conducted as a democratic paper, but will pay due respect to the opinions of those disagreeing with it. . . . Running a newspaper is a business we engaged in to make money--not for glory--and failing to do which, we shall discontinue it.

In another article Jones said all debts were due him and he was responsible for the newspaper's liabilities. He announced

. . . Heman Jones, our paternal relative, will commence his collecting tour through the Basin on Monday next when those indebted to this office will be expected to settle up, if they can.³³⁹

In mid-June, a World brief said Sutton had returned to Idaho City from his trip. He stayed several weeks, then left to work the tailings at a nearby mining mill.³⁴⁰ In May, 1882, the World reported that Sutton was managing editor

³³⁸Idaho Tri-Weekly World, May 12, 1875, p. 2.

³³⁹Idaho World, May 30, 1875, p. 3.

³⁴⁰Idaho World, August 3, 1875, p. 2.

of the Emancipator, "an anti-monopoly and greenback journal, recently started in San Francisco."³⁴¹ Within a few months he was back in the Idaho City area, where he prospected until December, 1894, when the World announced that he had departed for Los Angeles to accept a position with the Los Angeles Herald.³⁴² In the late 1890s, Sutton occasionally sent the World letters on a variety of subjects, but most of them dealt with temperance, character and reputation. Charles Jones, who became editor of the World in 1876, referred to Sutton, in later years, as a literary genius and a self-educated man.³⁴³

Sutton's departure as editor preceded the announcement in July that the newspaper's management was discontinuing the tri-weekly in favor of a semi-weekly.

We dislike retrogression and very much regret to make the change, but the present hard times render a curtailment of expenses not only necessary, but imperative. . . . The tri-weekly will be resumed again just as soon as an increase in the business will permit it.³⁴⁴

Under E. W. Jones, editorial comments in the World regarding the Statesman and public officials moderated. Commenting on a clip from the Ogden [Utah] Junction, which

³⁴¹Idaho World, May 16, 1882, p. 3.

³⁴²Idaho World, December 28, 1894, p. 1.

³⁴³Idaho World, January 24, 1913, p. 1.

³⁴⁴Idaho World, July 23, 1875, p. 2.

complimented the World and the Statesman for their editorial truce, Jones wrote

. . . This we appreciate, and we believe the Statesman does. We have always argued that newspaper men should be on the same terms with each other as laborers, merchants and etc., and while we have been publishing the World, conducted it as near as possible on this principle, and have been treated with like regard. Why cannot newspapers discuss points in which they differ without wringing in personal abuse and vulgar slang that is disgusting both to the editors and readers. All admit that no two men think alike, and as the greatest in the nation differ, why cannot we pay due regards to the opinions of others. Each can give his opinion and lay down the facts in decent and respectful language before the people, who shall be the judges.³⁴⁵

On October 1, 1875, E. W. Jones quit as editor and sold his interest to his father and his brother, Heman and Charles.³⁴⁶ A. J. Boyakin left the World in June, 1875, when his wife died, but when Jones quit, Boyakin returned to edit the newspaper. His editorial comments often were spicy and humorous. During one of Reynolds' absences when Boyakin edited the Statesman, someone stole Boyakin's pistol. Boyakin advertised:

STOLEN from this office. A revolver. The person returning it will be given its contents and no questions asked.³⁴⁷

At the helm of the World, Boyakin observed that

³⁴⁵Idaho World, September 7, 1875, p. 2.

³⁴⁶Idaho World, October 1, 1875, p. 2.

³⁴⁷John M. Myers, Print in a Wild Land (Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Company, Inc.) p. 45.

. . . the Chinese gave their dead another good feed last Wednesday, over at the graveyard. Apples, plums and other fruits, as well as meats of all kinds, were scattered around in profusion. . . . A people coming from an empire thousands of years old ought to know by this time that the dead don't get away with much of the grub thus placed at their disposal.³⁴⁸

Boyakin also commented:

The New York Sun prints and sells weekly nearly a million copies. . . . Mr. Dana, the editor, will increase the number to more than a million copies per week before the ending of the present year. We hate to acknowledge it, but the Sun does have a little larger circulation than the Idaho World.³⁴⁹

With the change in editorship and financially difficult times, the Joneses cut the cost of advertisements in half. They had been charging \$100 per column for three months and a one-inch advertisement on the first insertion was reduced from \$5 to \$3.³⁵⁰

In addition to his editorial duties, Boyakin and Charles Jones did all the mechanical work. Boyakin wrote:

. . . consequently we cannot devote the time necessary on the outside to collecting and writing county affairs; nor can we pay that attention to the editorial department which it deserves. . . . Would friends at home and throughout the Basin give us a little assistance, in the way of communications, editorials, or in any other shape suitable to the writer? Assistance of that kind, until things about the printing office assume a different and better shape, would not only be appreciated by us, but also prove very acceptable

³⁴⁸Idaho World, October 12, 1875, p. 3.

³⁴⁹Idaho World, January 25, 1876, p. 1.

³⁵⁰Idaho Semi-Weekly World, October 10, 1875, p. 3.

to the reader.³⁵¹

Readers also were reminded they could trade wheat, oats, barley, eggs, butter and bacon in return for advertising space or subscriptions.³⁵²

Many journalists in the boom towns also indulged in prospecting, and Boyakin was no exception. In July, 1876, nine months after he became editor of the World, the newspaper reported Boyakin would be gone for a month

. . . during which time the typos are going to run the World, and we are going to run it to suit ourselves, too. How we'll make it all right with him on his return we can't tell. We intend to get a fighting cut on our hair and take the chances.³⁵³

Editors also used such trips to collect subscription and advertising fees and to gather news, but Boyakin was gone when the World learned that Gov. David Thompson resigned and that

. . . Crook has had another disastrous engagement in the Black Hills country. Gen. Custer [has been] killed, and the Army defeated with heavy loss. Will give full account in our next [issue].³⁵⁴

The two news events became the focus of World editorials until the political campaigns opened in late August.

After Egbert Jones sold the World to his kin, he went

³⁵¹Idaho World, October 8, 1875, p. 3.

³⁵²Idaho World, January 4, 1876, p. 1.

³⁵³Idaho World, July 11, 1876, p. 2.

³⁵⁴Ibid.

to Silver City and worked as a printer on the Avalanche, but when editor and proprietor W. J. Hill sold the newspaper and moved to California in May, 1878, Jones went to Boise and worked briefly at the Statesman. He was back at the World when he joined a committee that began lobbying for state roads in the spring of 1877. He was elected committee secretary.³⁵⁵

The Territorial Supreme Court decided in January, 1877, to uphold Ainslie's suit against the World. The Joneses were struggling to make the newspaper pay, and they decided to sell some equipment. Advertisements in February, 1877, said

. . . for sale, a good newspaper office; extra material in the World office is for sale cheap; a Washington No. 4 hand press and one medium Gordon press.³⁵⁶

Two more lines of type were added in the next publication.

If you want a live and cheap paper subscribe immediately.³⁵⁷

In April the World reported that

. . . the material for a newspaper and job printing to be started soon in Boise City was loaded up and left here for that place Wednesday evening. Boise City is badly in need of a Democratic paper, and we wish the one to be started abundant success.³⁵⁸

³⁵⁵Idaho World, March 23, 1877, p. 3.

³⁵⁶Idaho World, February 13, 1877, p. 2.

³⁵⁷Idaho Semi-Weekly World, February 16, 1877, p. 3.

³⁵⁸Idaho World, April 27, 1877, p. 3.

The blurb did not reveal the proposed publication's proprietor until May 11 when readers were told that Boyakin had published the first semi-weekly Idahoan. It was Boyakin's third attempt to establish a Democratic newspaper at Boise. With his departure Egbert Jones resumed editorship of the World.³⁵⁹

On January 2, 1877, the World published its first photograph, a muddy reproduction that appeared to be the victim of excessive ink on the press plates. But a map of the Boise County area showing a proposed road to Atlanta, south of Idaho City, a line drawing used June 3, was a sharp reproduction. News of the committee's progress on its campaign to establish a better road system was temporarily forgotten during the outbreak of the Nez Perce Indian War.

Not since the fires in the 1860s was so much space used for headlines.

The Very Latest
By Thursday's Mail

The subhead on the story was

The Indian War
2,000 Indians
on the War Path

The story told of the defeat of the federal troops at White Bird Canyon and listed the "known killed on Camas Prairie

³⁵⁹Idaho Semi-Weekly World, May 15, 1877, p. 1.

and Salmon River."³⁶⁰ The World reported:

. . . The citizens of Placerville dispatched two men to Boise after arms. There is considerable talk of organizing a company to immediately repair to the seat of war. Idaho City expects seventy-five stands of arms this evening.

There was speculation that Chief Winnemucca and 300 warriors in the southern part of the territory might try to join the Nez Perce.

It would probably be a good idea to give them a little game should they move for the seat of hostilities.³⁶¹

The next World listed 56 who had "volunteered" to defend the "city, Weiser and Payette valleys against attacks of the Indians." The defenders elected E. W. Jones as their secretary and dispatched messengers to Boise to ask the governor for arms. A related story said

Now is the time to subscribe to the World, which will be energetic in procuring the latest Indian war news.³⁶²

Within a week "forty needle guns, ten revolvers and 2,000 rounds of ammunition" arrived. The World said

. . . now we will see how many are willing to shoulder them and prepare for action.³⁶³

³⁶⁰Idaho World, June 22, 1877, p. 3.

³⁶¹Ibid.

³⁶²Idaho World, June 26, 1877, p. 3.

³⁶³Ibid.

Company D of the Idaho Volunteers was formed with sixty-one men by late June, but not until late August, after the Battle of Big Hole in Montana Territory, did the volunteers begin to disband. According to the World

. . . no scouts have as yet been sent into the mountains to guard the trails, in compliance with the Governor's orders, but arrangements are being made to start out half a dozen or more in a day or two. Recent information, however, indicates that no danger exists in this section of Idaho.³⁶⁴

Before the alarm subsided, the World's advertisers took advantage of the situation to call attention to "special sales" of their weapons and ammunitions. Puffs in the news columns asked:

Have you seen Silsby's new guns? He has just received a case of Winchester improved rifles warranted to be superior to "fire water" for killing Indians.³⁶⁵

Although the World praised Gov. Mason Brayman for quickly sending arms and ammunition to Idaho City, it pointed out that the Indians were better armed with Henry repeaters, such as those sold by Boise Basin merchants, and that the volunteers were issued single-shot muskets.³⁶⁶

³⁶⁴Idaho Semi-Weekly World, August 28, 1877, p. 3.

³⁶⁵Idaho Semi-Weekly World, August 24, 1877, p. 3.

³⁶⁶Idaho World, July 17, 1877, p. 3; Idaho World, August 3, 1877, p. 4. The muskets were 45-70 caliber single-shot breech loading Springfields issued late in the Civil War. They were capable of being fired more rapidly than the single-shot muzzle loaders and used cartridges rather than separated powder and lead.

During the three months of the Nez Perce Indian War, the World took the editorial position that crooked government was to blame for the uprising, and it called for an investigation.³⁶⁷

With the Indian conflict occupying the center of attention, verbal exchanges between the Statesman and the World subsided until late in the summer when the Statesman criticized the volunteers at Idaho City for not sending scouts out on the mountain trails. That provoked the World to reply

. . . we have miners in Boise county who are endowed by nature with more brains than are required to run any newspaper in Idaho, and whose successful business management is on so extensive [a] scale that the Statesman would become hopelessly insane in an attempt to comprehend it.³⁶⁸

The outbreak of hostilities between the Bannock Indians and white settlers in the spring of 1878 did not receive as much coverage in the World's columns as did the Nez Perce War.

³⁶⁷Idaho World, July 10, 1877, p. 3; Idaho World, August 7, 1877, p. 4; Idaho World, August 31, 1877, p. 3; Idaho World, March 5, 1878, p. 3; Idaho World, March 24, 1878, p. 4.

³⁶⁸Idaho World, September 4, 1877, p. 3.

Campaigns Against Ainslie

Although 1878 was an election year, the World waited until the day before the August 3 primary to briefly mention the election, and it advised patrons not to vote for Ainslie, who was finishing a term as district attorney. Ainslie wanted to be the territorial delegate to Congress.³⁶⁹ In the campaign of 1878, and those of succeeding years, the World vigorously and bitterly opposed Ainslie. The Joneses never forgot the former editor's lawsuit against the newspaper. Although the World was politically an independent Democratic newspaper, its editorial attacks drew criticism in 1878 from former World editor Jud Boyakin, editor and proprietor of the Democratic Idahoan. He accused the World of not promoting the Democratic party and of being bribed by the Republicans.

The World defended its stand ". . . because we cannot swallow the Democratic nominee for delegate to Congress."³⁷⁰

In a lengthy editorial, Egbert Jones explained his relationship with Ainslie when the latter was working at the World. Jones said:

Ainslie spent most of his time in the composing room, and our personal acquaintance with each other naturally became very close. While working in the

³⁶⁹Idaho World, August 2, 1878, p. 4.

³⁷⁰Idaho World, October 1, 1878, p. 4.

same office it was right that each should try to make his company as pleasant as possible to the other, which was done.³⁷¹

C. S. Kingsley, the Republican candidate for district attorney, had been an Idaho City merchant. When he moved to Boise before the political campaign, he contracted for large standing "closing business" advertisements with the World. When Jones editorialized for Kingsley's election, J. B. Foster and former World printer J. R. Pile, who took over the Idahoan from Boyakin, also "accused the World of treason to Democratic principles" because it refused to support the Democrats and Ainslie.³⁷²

The World used two and one-half columns the day before the election to tell readers for whom they should vote. However, Ainslie won as did Democrat James H. Hawley, Kingsley's opponent. Without any editorial comment, the World published the results.³⁷³

During 1879, an off-election year, the World rarely mentioned Ainslie except in connection with a dun for \$80 and his share of assessments and cost in the sale of the Garden Valley Milling Company.³⁷⁴ The editorial focus temporarily shifted to an attempt to have Gen. O. O. Howard

³⁷¹Idaho World, October 1, 1878, p. 4.

³⁷²Idaho Semi-Weekly World, October 22, 1878, p. 4.

³⁷³Idaho World, November 15, 1878, p. 3.

³⁷⁴Idaho Semi-Weekly World, January 14, 1879, p. 4.

removed from military command of the Idaho Territory and the Northwest and to the growing influence of the Latter-day Saints Church in Idaho politics. The World also renewed its quest for a bedrock flume project that its various editors, through the years, had suggested would bring new prosperity to the Boise Basin.

The one-armed Howard, who distinguished himself during the Civil War, was criticized "for failure to move more quickly" during the Nez Perce Indian War. The World also said Howard sympathized with the Indians and

. . . justice to the whites and mercy to the Indians demands a more robust treatment. The mildness of Howard's talks to the Indians in the council gives them encouragement to go on the war path. . . . If Howard remains in command the settlers will be obliged to form themselves into companies, and, without mercy, annihilate the tribes of Eastern Oregon and Idaho.³⁷⁵

As Howard's replacement, the World recommended Gen. George Crook,

. . . the first army officer that ever whipped the Indians of this Territory, and did the work up in such good shape that the red devils were peaceable for a good many years.³⁷⁶

The Republican Statesman and the Democratic Idahoan joined in opposition to the World, but neither side effected any change. When a bill to transfer the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the jurisdiction of the military failed to pass

³⁷⁵Idaho World, January 17, 1879, p. 2.

³⁷⁶Ibid.

Congress, the World warned that ". . . we may expect war as soon as grass grows again."³⁷⁷ A month later the prediction came true when a mixed group of Shoshoni and Bannock Indians refused to go to the Lemhi Reservation. They were blamed for killing five Chinese miners at Loon Creek about 40 miles northeast of Idaho City. The resulting military action against the Indians, known as the Sheepeater War of 1879, was the last Indian disturbance in Idaho.³⁷⁸ During the campaign against the Indians, only an occasional blurb appeared in the World, and news of the end of hostilities appeared in a short article without editorial comment.³⁷⁹

In the off-election year of 1879, the World devoted much of its attention to the growing Mormon influence in Idaho politics. Since its founding, editors of the World opposed the Mormon doctrines. In November, 1878, when the World learned that a petition asking for the enforcement of an 1862 law against polygamy and signed by a group of women at Salt Lake City was en route to Congress, the

³⁷⁷Idaho World, February 14, 1879, p. 1.

³⁷⁸Idaho World, March 21, 1879, p. 1. The World's account was published a month after the murders at Loon Creek, which was dated by G. W. Chase of Bonanza City in Lemhi County, February 20, 1879; Beal and Wells, History of Idaho, Vol. 1, p. 478. The number killed at Loon Creek reported in the World is more than the number used by Beal and Wells. The figure of Beal and Wells is used above.

³⁷⁹Idaho World, October 17, 1879, p. 3.

newspaper predicted the Mormon practices would become a political issue before the next election.³⁸⁰ The World opposed the early Mormon practice of plural marriage and ". . . the power they [Mormons] influence to preserve the obnoxious doctrine by voting in strict accordance with instructions received from the Bishops."³⁸¹

As Ainslie approached the end of his first term in Congress, the World reprinted from the Salt Lake City Tribune a story that attempted to tie Ainslie with the Mormon vote.³⁸² But the voters of the territory were not swayed by the article or the World's opinion and re-elected Ainslie in November, 1880.³⁸³

Earlier in the year, the World suggested Ainslie

. . . would do good work for the Territory by presenting a bill . . . appropriating \$50,000 to \$75,000 for the sinking of artesian wells . . . for the enrichment of the country if the desert lands were cultivated.³⁸⁴

In February, 1880, the Jones brothers and John Garrecht filed action against Ainslie and others for judgment of disincorporation and dissolution of the Garden Valley Mill Company. Before the court ruled in favor of the dissolution, the World dredged up old charges that Ainslie had made

³⁸⁰ Idaho World, November 15, 1878, pp. 3,4.

³⁸¹ Idaho World, February 18, 1879, p. 2.

³⁸² Idaho World, October 26, 1880, p. 3.

³⁸³ Idaho World, November 5, 1880, p. 3.

³⁸⁴ Idaho World, February 17, 1880, p. 3.

against Milton Kelly, when Kelly was a judge. The World also renewed its plea for a bedrock flume that

. . . would be the most important enterprise for Boise county that could be inaugurated. . . . [It] would cause the mining resources of Boise county to attract attention, and bring more capital from the East.³⁸⁵

During March, 1880, when the trial was scheduled for dissolution of the mining mill, the World avoided any comment about Ainslie, who surprised the World in April by introducing into Congress a proposal to grant the right-of-way to the Boise Bedrock Fluming Company. The World reported:

The tailings in More and Grimes creeks contain millions, and capitalists cannot put their money in any enterprise on the Pacific coast that will bring them in as large returns, for the amount invested, as the reworking of the beds of these two creeks.³⁸⁶

While the World expressed optimism, it suspiciously asked if "anyone knows who constitutes this company, and where it was formed?"³⁸⁷ It was months before the World learned that Ainslie was one of several Boise Basin speculators who would gain control of the land if Congress passed Ainslie's proposal. The World regarded the proposal as an intent "to rob the miners of the Basin."³⁸⁸ The World

³⁸⁵Idaho World, February 27, 1880, p. 4; Idaho World, January 9, 1880, p. 3.

³⁸⁶Idaho World, April 27, 1880, p. 3.

³⁸⁷Ibid.

³⁸⁸Idaho World, January 31, 1882, p. 3.

predicted the Bedrock Flume Bill, if passed, ". . . will be [the] deathblow to the placer mining industry of Boise County."³⁸⁹ In late January, 1882, miners in the Boise Basin met at Idaho City to protest the proposed bill. They elected a delegation, including World editor Charles E. Jones as secretary, to intercede. The following week the World reported:

. . . He [Ainslie] avails himself of every opportunity to rake in a dishonorable dollar. He is a slick tongued deceiver, chuck full of flattery, blarney and a knack of feigning friendship, which he successfully used as a means of working himself into positions to fix his wires for underhanded pulls. . . .

Although the mercury runs low, the temperature of the citizens of Boise county is about ninety above in the shade and still going up.³⁹⁰

Ainslie's group represented a political mixture of Republicans and Democrats, including C. S. Kingsley, whom the World endorsed in the previous election when Kingsley was the unsuccessful Republican candidate for district attorney. In a two-column letter to the World published February 7, 1882, Kingsley defended Ainslie's bill.

Ainslie also introduced other bills, including one calling for statehood. The World said "Idaho is not yet strong enough in the knees to stand up under a state

³⁸⁹Idaho World, February 3, 1882, p. 1.

³⁹⁰Idaho World, February 10, 1882, p. 1.

government."³⁹¹

Ainslie bowed to public pressure and offered amendments to pacify the miners. The changes would allow individuals to bid on the land to be preserved for the bedrock project and would compensate miners who owned claims that would be affected by the legislation. The World said ". . . we can find no fault with it and hope it will pass."³⁹²

The opposition to Ainslie's original bill persuaded E. A. Stevenson of Idaho City, who became Idaho's governor in 1886, to speak against the bill. Meantime, Ainslie's substitute bill was distributed to Congress. Stevenson thought he was speaking against the original bill and his testimony was enough to convince Congress to defeat the measure.³⁹³

The issue did not die. Ainslie had retained his Idaho City residence, and he returned late in August, 1882, to seek re-election. At a public meeting Ainslie's backers read a letter, written in the spring of 1881, from Egbert Jones to Kingsley in which Jones said he and the newspaper should be given stock or shares in the Bedrock Flume Company for writing about the project and a \$2,000 fee

³⁹¹Idaho World, February 14, 1882, p. 3.

³⁹²Idaho World, March 17, 1882, p. 3.

³⁹³Idaho Semi-Weekly World, March 21, 1882, p. 2.

should he be able to interest investors. When the letter was written, Jones already had left his post at the World and had gone to Yankee Fork with intentions of starting a newspaper there.³⁹⁴

World editor Charles Jones responded:

Previous in this time we knew nothing of the bedrock flume business any more than that there was talk of urging Ainslie to introduce a bill. When Kingsley received the letter he asked us to call around to his office. He read the letter and we informed him that neither of the proprietors of the World had ever authorized E. W. Jones to write to him or any one else in relation to stock--that we didn't want any of it, but that the World would do its share towards securing the passage of a bill, and without pay.³⁹⁵

Jones continued:

George Ainslie got a dose . . . that made him squirm. After Old Sick-em-over had given his audience silly and oily talk for an hour or two, Jim Feanor, a laborer, and who doesn't pretend to be a speaker, turned loose and hit George [dead] center every lick; proved him a liar, and in plain language showed how gracefully he skipped over what he was there to explain--his connection with the bedrock flume scheme. . . . Interruptions from one or two men of the Ainslie stripe caused the chairman to adjourn the meeting.³⁹⁶

In a succession of accounts during September and October, 1882, the World published charges and counter charges about E. W. Jones' letter, and it vehemently

³⁹⁴Idaho World, August 29, 1882, p. 3; Idaho World, September 12, 1882, p. 3; Idaho World, September 29, 1882, p. 3.

³⁹⁵Ibid.

³⁹⁶Ibid.

editorialized against Ainslie. When he was nominated by acclamation as the Democratic candidate, the World asked: "Gentile democrats, how do you like this idea dancing to Mormon music?"³⁹⁷

The Republicans nominated Territorial Secretary Thomas F. Singiser, a clever and enterprising carpetbagger from Pennsylvania.³⁹⁸ Jones wrote:

Where are you, Mr. Singiser? Sling yourself up this way as soon as you find time. The people of Boise County want to take a glance at a respectable looking candidate for Congress. They are getting sick of looking at Ainslie.

Jones continued:

. . . George Ainslie is around, treating the boys to the oil of his tongue and the best whiskey to be found. He will find out that corn juice and goose grease, grins and handshaking, won't "mimiloose" the opposition.³⁹⁹

When he was with the World, Ainslie had editorialized to promote a bedrock flume project. On one occasion he wrote: "We have not the slightest hesitancy in saying that the money advanced for its construction will be repaid a hundred fold."⁴⁰⁰

³⁹⁷ Idaho World, September 10, 1882, p. 3.

³⁹⁸ Beal and Wells, History of Idaho, Vol. 1, p. 553.

³⁹⁹ Idaho World, September 22, 1882, p. 3.

⁴⁰⁰ Idaho World, July 13, 1871, p. 2.

Ainslie was one of several persons in July, 1871, including Statesman editor James S. Reynolds, who filed incorporation papers for a bedrock flume company and issued 5,000 shares of stock at \$100 a share. The corporation was to continue for Fifty years.⁴⁰¹ There appeared to be no opposition to the 1871 bedrock organization, but the clamor raised with the World just before the election of 1882 did what the World editors had failed to do in the previous campaigns--to act as one of the major forces to oust Ainslie from politics. Election returns in Boise County, Ainslie's home ground, gave Singiser 363 votes and Ainslie 353.⁴⁰²

The Mormon and anti-Mormon vote in southeastern Idaho in 1882 split. The split deprived Ainslie of the Democratic backing he had received in his previous two campaigns. It also weakened his proposal to Congress that would grant public land to the Idaho Land and Irrigation Company in Bear Lake County. The World called the proposal a "giveaway . . . to a monopoly."⁴⁰³

Political and economic interests in the 1860s presented several schemes to divide Idaho Territory. One plan was to annex the north half to eastern Washington. Another plan would have made the southern half of the territory a part of

⁴⁰¹Idaho World, July 13, 1871, p. 2.

⁴⁰²Idaho World, November 21, 1882, p. 3.

⁴⁰³Idaho World, May 22, 1882, p. 3.

Nevada. When Ainslie was editor of the World, he wrote against both plans and as territorial representative in 1882 he blocked inclusion of north Idaho in the Washington admission bill.⁴⁰⁴ While it was in keeping with his character, it cost him votes. The more Ainslie tried to defend his land bill, the Boise Basin Bedrock Flume bill or his reason for keeping the territory intact, the worse his position grew. He sought backing from the Boise ring, but it backed the anti-Mormon candidate Singiser. Including the votes from Boise County, Singiser beat Ainslie 7,063 to 4,035. North Idaho annexationists contributed half of Singiser's majority, though the four northern counties cast only one sixth of the territory vote.⁴⁰⁵

By legislative action, the territory's saloons were closed during Election Day. It was the first time the law had been in effect and the World observed

. . . It was rough on some of the boys, but they managed to stand the drouth till the afternoon, when they began to play hide and go seek, with bottles playing an important part of the game.⁴⁰⁶

News of Ainslie's defeat was the first item in the World's "local news" column of November 14, 1882. It said:

Hurrah for Theodore Frelinghuysen Singiser!

⁴⁰⁴Beal and Wells, History of Idaho, Vol. 1, p. 581.

⁴⁰⁵Ibid., p. 558.

⁴⁰⁶Idaho Semi-Weekly World, November 10, 1882, p. 3.

Jones wrote that the "Democrats of Idaho did their duty, and did it well."⁴⁰⁷ He waited until the following week to expound on the election results:

George Ainslie, that roaring lion from the land of defeat, is upon his auricular appendage. He said the other day that if his name again appeared in the World he would go for the editor and eat him up, or words to that effect. It was our intention to let up on you, now that the campaign is over and you are a dead duck. . . . If you ever come up for office again and we are on the inside of an ink mill we'll be just as severe on you as we have been in the past.

Jones also warned Ainslie against any bedrock flume, Snake River or irrigation bill or ". . . the World will go for you again and in very strong terms."⁴⁰⁸

The election ended almost two decades of Democratic supremacy, and the margin by which Ainslie lost became instrumental in the territory gaining statehood in 1890 since it undoubtedly was admitted because it was Republican.⁴⁰⁹

Ainslie practiced law at Idaho City until 1894 when he moved to Boise and opened an office in the old Perrault Building.⁴¹⁰ At Boise, he helped to organize a hot and cold water company, and he was a founder of an electric company to construct electric lights at Baker, Oregon. He also

⁴⁰⁷Idaho World, November 14, 1882, p. 3.

⁴⁰⁸Idaho World, November 21, 1882, p. 3.

⁴⁰⁹Beal and Wells, History of Idaho, Vol. 1, p. 553.

⁴¹⁰Idaho World, January 2, 1894, p. 1.

served as president of a streetcar firm, the Rapid Transit Company of Boise. He moved to Oakland, California, in 1907 and died there May 8, 1913.⁴¹¹

⁴¹¹Boise Capital News, May 10, 1913 (Idaho); Idaho World, May 16, 1913, p. 1.

CHAPTER VIII

THE JONES EPOCH

Why Egbert Jones left the World as its editor and business manager in October, 1875, is not chronicled in the newspaper. But he returned as editor in 1877 and stayed until February, 1880, when the Joneses reduced the cost of a year's subscription to the Semi-Weekly World from \$8 to \$6.50,

. . . which is very low for a newspaper published in this section of Idaho. The object is to put it within the reach of all in every section of the Territory. The prices of everything else have been decreasing of late, and we think the reduction made will make our prices suit the times.⁴¹²

The announcement that Jones had departed the second time from the World apparently came first from the Idahonan at Boise, since the World carried the Idahonan's clip May 4, 1880. The Idahonan clip said Jones had

. . . a new printing office en route from San Francisco to Challis, Lemhi county, at which place he will in a few days commence the publication of a weekly newspaper devoted exclusively to developing the wonderful resources of that section of our favored Territory. . . . Mr. Jones learned the business in the World office, is a good printer and writer, strictly temperate and industrious, and will do well out in Lemhi.

⁴¹²Idaho World, January 30, 1880, p. 3.

The World added that Jones' publication would be "christened the Messenger," and that Challis' population "will rapidly increase as soon as the snow disappears and the traveling is good."

On June 18 the World briefly announced that Jones' equipment had arrived. His name was carried in the masthead as editor of the weekly and semi-weekly until another blurb announced instead that Jones purchased the Yankee Fork Herald from Mark M. Musgrove. According to the World, Musgrove was to take Jones' San Francisco purchase "with the intention of putting up at Challis."⁴¹³

The Yankee Fork Herald at Bonanza City was a four-column four-page publication and Jones used ten-point body type. His first issue was published July 24, 1879. He boasted the newspaper was the only one in the upper Salmon River's fifteen mining districts.⁴¹⁴ With Jones' move to Bonanza City, the World used clips from there to expand its mining news. In September, 1880, the World reported that Jones had increased the Herald's subscription list to "about 100."⁴¹⁵ In February, 1882, Jones announced the Herald was "soon to be enlarged," but the paper ran

⁴¹³Idaho World, June 29, 1880, p. 3.

⁴¹⁴Yankee Fork Herald, July 26, 1879, p. 1.

⁴¹⁵Idaho World, September 10, 1880, p. 3.

into financial difficulty and he suspended operations in April and went to work for the Wood River News Miner at Hailey.⁴¹⁶ In June, Jones and William Stevens moved Jones' Washington hand press to Vienna [or Sawtooth] and published the first issue of the Vienna Reporter on July 25. The Semi-Weekly World quipped:

The Vienna Reporter claims to be the most elevated paper in the U.S., being published at an altitude of 8,400 [feet]. Pretty hightoned sheet. It's no wonder that prices are high at Vienna. 'Way up country.'⁴¹⁷

Although the World predicted Jones would make the paper pay, he suspended it with the November 7 issue and within two weeks was at work for the Bellevue Daily Sun.⁴¹⁸ Jones had not been the World's editor for two years, but the World reprinted an erroneous squib from an exchange: ". . . Bert Jones has made the quickest time on record--went from the World to the Sun in ninety days."⁴¹⁹

Jones stayed briefly at the Sun, then went to work for the Ketchum Keystone.⁴²⁰ When the World moved from its Montgomery and Wall Streets location to the corner of Main

⁴¹⁶Idaho Semi-Weekly World, April 28, 1882, p. 3.

⁴¹⁷Idaho World, August 25, 1882, p. 3.

⁴¹⁸Idaho World, November 21, 1882, p. 3.

⁴¹⁹Idaho World, December 5, 1882, p. 3.

⁴²⁰Idaho Daily Statesman, March 6, 1926, p. 5.

Streets in 1883 Jones returned, working as a printer and involving himself in politics. He married Margaret Irwin in October, 1899, and the following fall was elected as a representative in the state legislature. His election gave him the opportunity to work for legislation for which he had campaigned editorially for more than 15 years, and he joined a House committee that drafted a bill for a state highway system. His arduous pursuit of the highway measure was instrumental in its passage late in the session, and it earned him the sobriquet of "Wagon Road Jones," a "distinction [that] gave him much pride."⁴²¹

Although the road measure was enacted in 1890, funding for the project was not completed until the State Wagon Road Commission awarded contracts for \$114,480 in January, 1894, which gave contractors less than a year to finish the work. Surveys of some of the lands had not been completed before the contracts were granted, which prompted a reprimand from Gov. William McConnell. The World responded:

The governor's bombastic proclivities are almost invariable an indication of weak mental facilities linked with abnormal egotism. Our Governor and Grover [President Grover Cleveland] are two of a kind and ought to be yoked up together.⁴²²

⁴²¹Idaho Daily Statesman, March 6, 1926, p. 5.

⁴²²Idaho World, January 2, 1894, p. 1.

The rise of Populism in the 1890s attracted Jones to switch from his independent Democrat status, and he gained the Populist Party nomination for state auditor.⁴²³

The World and its editor, Charles Jones, also followed the swing to Populism. He went to Boise as a county delegate to the state convention, and took the editorial stand that

. . . Those who have read the World for 10, these many years, cannot fail to grasp the fact that it has not changed its political principles one iota. We have always contended that with free coinage of silver the prosperity of the country could greatly increase, no matter what other political principles succeeded or failed, and without free coinage the condition of the country would continue to grow worse and worse, no matter what other legislation might be enacted.⁴²⁴

In the election Egbert Jones finished a distant third. Even in his home county he collected only 174 of 911 votes. Democrat William F. Conaughton won, and Republican William Warner was second. The World noted that the Populists took a beating in every state race.⁴²⁵

Egbert Jones served as city clerk at Idaho City in 1895 and was re-elected to the state legislature as a populist in 1898.⁴²⁶ His major contribution to the 1899 legislative session was the adoption of a bill that granted

⁴²³Idaho World, September 18, 1894, p. 1.

⁴²⁴Idaho World, July 3, 1894, p. 1.

⁴²⁵Idaho World, October 22, 1895, p. 1.

⁴²⁶Idaho World, November 15, 1898, p. 1.

counties in the state the ability to issue county bonds.⁴²⁷

The Populists nominated Jones again for state auditor in the campaign of 1900. He was among several of the Populists candidates who won, and the World credited him with effecting a fusion between the Populists, Silver Republicans and Democrats.⁴²⁸

Jones moved his family to Boise, and he opened a small print shop in partnership with Ed F. Smith. They made news in both the Boise Capital News and the World when they became the first printers in the state to install a chalk-plate engraving process for sterotyping engravings.⁴²⁹

As state auditor, Jones angered bankers in the state early in 1902 when he ordered their institutions to comply with a state license law enacted by the previous legislature. When some bankers balked at paying the fee, Jones ordered sheriffs in the respective counties "to collect it or be held responsible," and he threatened suit against the banks. Eventually, the banks yielded to the order.⁴³⁰

⁴²⁷Idaho World, January 17, 1899, p. 1.

⁴²⁸Idaho World, July 24, 1900, p. 1; Idaho World, September 18, 1900, p. 1.

⁴²⁹Idaho World, October 1, 1901, p. 1.

⁴³⁰Idaho World, March 4, 1902, p. 1.

Like other frontier journalists, Jones spent some time prospecting or speculating in mineral and oil stocks. A squib in the World of April 25, 1902, said he bought land for oil speculation in the Wyoming fossil basin.

Jones, 71 when he died, had witnessed the completion of the north-south wagon road to complement the network of east-west roads.⁴³¹

Statehood and Old 'Prints'

By the time the territory achieved statehood in July, 1890, the only pioneer editors still at work were those who had edited the World, and its current proprietors. Kelly retired from the Statesman in 1889, and Alonzo Leland at Lewiston sold the Teller to Lewiston school principal Carl Foresman. Boyakin operated the Idaho Democrat at Boise until he retired in 1892 and Sutton edited it until it ceased publication in 1894. Boyakin died in 1899. Bowman was editor and publisher of the Ketchum Keystone. The World already carried the death notice of

. . . P. J. Malone, who died at Roseburg, Oregon, August 14, 1875. He brought a printing office

⁴³¹Idaho Daily Statesman, March 6, 1926, p. 5. Jones was born in Marion County, Oregon, August 4, 1854. According to family records compiled by a nephew, Alfred Day of Boise, Egbert W. Jones was the second of three sons. The first was Grover of whom there is no mention in the World.

to this place [Idaho City] in 1866, which merged into the old News, now form the World office. He was [a] vigorous and intelligent writer, a first-class short-hand reporter, and at different times was editor of various newspapers on the Pacific coast.⁴³²

By the time the Jones family acquired complete control of the World in 1875, the territory's population had rebounded from the exodus of the early 1870s and was estimated at 21,000, but the number of persons in the Boise Basin continued to decline with the announcement of the opening of each new mining district. The Bureau of Census listed Idaho Territory with 32,610 persons in 1880 and 88,548 when Idaho became a state.⁴³³

Between 1873 and 1879 the Joneses reduced the subscription rate of the weekly from \$10 to \$5. In 1894 it was \$3.25, and in 1899 it was \$2. Prices for the semi-weekly were similarly reduced, and on January 2, 1894, a single copy sold for a penny and a yearly subscription was \$6.

Although the mining economy and the population declined, the World still crusaded, although less frequently and less forcefully than during the boom days. It also

⁴³²Richard Z. Johnson, An Illustrated History of the State of Idaho (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1899), p. 230.

⁴³³Statistical Abstract of the United States (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1919), Vol. 41, p. 30.

continued to rely on correspondents like W. A. Hutchinson of Placerville, who began recording area snowfall in 1864 and sent his measurements to the World.⁴³⁴

The Joneses increased the amount of coverage of local educational news and the detail included student examination grades. On December 30, 1879, two and one-half columns of space were devoted to the annual school Christmas program. The following week some copies of the World's January 2, 1880, weekly were printed on pink and red satin "for parties who wished to preserve an account of the school entertainment."

Editor Charles Jones commented in the Semi-Weekly World of the same date:

Quite a rush was made at the World Printing Office during the day for copies of the issue . . . and we noticed a splendid copy on silk, together with both programmes of satin, elegantly framed and hung on the proscenium.

Although the use of the satin as a substitute for paper was intentional, frontier publishers were sometimes forced to use other materials for newsprint or ink. The World was no exception. Several times during its fifty-five years it was issued on wrapping paper.

The World comes out this morning on brown. We're doing it up brown this time in point of color, and hope you will appreciate our taste for tints in the selection of this handsome

⁴³⁴Idaho World, April 21, 1875, p. 3.

shade--kind of a cross between autumn leaf yellow and ginger bread brown. Our newspaper, common white, ought to have been here sometime ago, but for some inexplicable reason hasn't arrived. The old bull team line got freight in on better time than the Oregon Short Line.⁴³⁵

At Bonanza, Egbert Jones produced one issue of the Yankee Fork Herald using coal oil and lamp black for ink.

The World commented:

The last number of the Yankee Fork Herald was rather pale. The supply of ink gave out, and necessity in this case was the mother of an ink factory. Bert Jones gave home industry a boost by making his own "color." His ingredients were coal oil and lamp black. As a manufacturer of printer's "mud" Bert is not a grand success.⁴³⁶

In January, 1882, the World began a campaign to remodel or replace the school house that had been in use since 1864 "and is a relic of bygone days." It called the present building a "disgrace to the town and teachers and pupils," and said the community either needed to put up a new building or stop the school.⁴³⁷ Apparently convinced, Idaho City residents formed a study committee and following its recommendations, renovations were made, which the World noted converted the old school into "fairly comfortable rooms."⁴³⁸

⁴³⁵Idaho World, September 2, 1883, p. 3.

⁴³⁶Idaho World, April 15, 1881, p. 3.

⁴³⁷Idaho World, January 26, 1883, p. 3; Idaho World, January 30, 1883, p. 3; Idaho World, February 2, 1883, p. 3.

⁴³⁸Idaho World, September 11, 1883, p. 3.

The remodeling project cost about \$1,200, raised mostly through community dances during one year. In addition to advertisements announcing the dances, the World contained frequent editorial squibs urging its readers to attend the events. The first dance resulted in \$103, and one in February, 1884, netted \$84.⁴³⁹ The newspaper complimented the citizens:

The public school building of this place, with the new seats and the repairs and improvements that have been made, looks almost like a new one, especially inside. . . . Old boxes, tables, used for years, have been removed. . . . The teachers and trustees deserve great credit for the interest they have taken in the repairs and improvements of the school house. . . . The citizens of this district have shown their liberality and interest in the school by contributing means to this end.⁴⁴⁰

While it campaigned for the remodeling project, the World also defended Principal Olive M. Capwell, who had been the subject of some town gossip for teaching about the Civil War. Editor Charles Jones wrote:

There has been some "supremely silly" blather-skiting done recently on the corners, all brought about because Miss Capwell is "teaching politics in the public school"--that is she is teaching the history of the United States.⁴⁴¹

⁴³⁹ Idaho World, December 7, 1883, p. 3; Idaho World, February 26, 1884, p. 3.

⁴⁴⁰ Idaho World, January 25, 1884, p. 3.

⁴⁴¹ Idaho World, November 27, 1883, p. 3.

The newspaper also published a letter from James L. Onderdonk of Boise, territorial superintendent of public instruction, supporting Miss Capwell's teaching of American history:

. . . I should most strenuously insist upon its being taught as a whole and not in shreds to suit the whims of individuals.⁴⁴²

Railroad construction was under way in Idaho by the time Charles Jones became the World's editor. His editorials about the railroads were less fervent than were those of his predecessors, but his observations gathered from exchange papers were perceptive. The West Shore magazine was a weekly published at Portland, Oregon, and at Spokane Falls, Washington. Jones gave the magazine and the railroads credit for population growth of the territory. Of the West Shore, Jones said it

. . . is recognized as the most powerful instrument in drawing desirable immigrants and in making known abroad the resources of the Pacific Northwest.⁴⁴³

Several years later, in 1890, when Egbert Jones had returned to the World, he wrote several feature articles published in the West Shore. The articles extolled the virtues of Long Valley, several miles north of Idaho City, and provided

⁴⁴²Idaho World, November 27, 1883, p. 3.

⁴⁴³Idaho World, December 14, 1883, p. 3.

information about some of the Boise Basin mines.⁴⁴⁴

Four months before the completion of the Utah and Northern Railway through eastern Idaho to the Montana border, Charles Jones wrote:

Many a quiet inhabitant of Utah has his eye on the promising country up the Snake River region, and intends to pull up stakes and depart for that section in the spring.⁴⁴⁵

For years the World had opposed the appointment of "carpetbag" governors, and any who received favorable editorial comment when they were appointed usually incurred unfavorable comment on their departure. One of two Idaho appointees who had journalism background was John N. Irwin of Iowa, who was 36 when he accepted the territorial governorship in March, 1883. He served less than a year, but drew praise from the World when he declined to take \$640 salary for the quarter after he left Idaho. The World said:

A public official declining to accept shekels, when offered, whether entitled to them or not, is something hitherto unheard of. . . . No other governor has ever done that.⁴⁴⁶

⁴⁴⁴Egbert W. Jones, "Long Valley, Idaho," West Shore, 12 April 1890; Jones, "Some Idaho Mines," 26 April 1890: 527-530.

⁴⁴⁵Idaho World, February 16, 1880, p. 3.

⁴⁴⁶Idaho World, January 8, 1884, p. 3.

Irwin's successor was William M. Bunn, publisher of a Philadelphia newspaper, about whom the World expressed its reservation:

Most of the Idaho papers are full almost to overflowing with Governor spun taffy. The poorest governors Idaho has ever had were preceded with great wads of taffy and slick sounding slush-- a great hullabaloo, about nothing. Governor Bunn's actions, after he squats down in the gubernational chair will tell what kind of a man he is. Then will be time enough for taffy.⁴⁴⁷

Bunn's trip east within a year aroused editor Charles Jones to speculate that Bunn had gone the way of many of Idaho's previous governors. Jones wrote: "Governor Bunn has gone East and may not return. If he is removed or resigns, it will probably be soon."⁴⁴⁸ Jones predicted

. . . the next Governor of Idaho will be an Idaho man, if President Cleveland carries out the National Democratic platform as to appointments for the Territory, and we think he will. Col. E. A. Stevenson of Ada county, will, in all probability, be our next Governor. If the Colonel should be appointed we would feel like throwing up our hat and hurrahing, not only because of the elevation of an old friend to the Governorship of Idaho would we rejoice, but because we believe there is no man in Idaho that would make a better Governor.⁴⁴⁹

George Ainslie went to Washington, D. C., and there was speculation that he was seeking the governor's position.

⁴⁴⁷Idaho World, March 18, 1884, p. 3; and Beal and Wells, History of Idaho, Vol. 1. p. 567.

⁴⁴⁸Idaho World, March 6, 1885, p. 3.

⁴⁴⁹Ibid.

But Jones' prediction came true when Stevenson received the nomination. Stevenson had grown up in the Boise Basin and was widely known there as well as at Boise where he had served several terms in the legislature. He was the first Idahoan to receive the appointment.

Not a newspaper in Idaho has expressed any dissatisfaction with the appointment of Col. E. A. Stevenson for Governor. . . . The present administration has done well for this Territory, but Delegate [John] Hailey deserves most of the credit.⁴⁵⁰

In 1882, when Ainslie introduced in Congress a bill that would have made Idaho a state, the World editorialized against it, but it did not oppose Stevenson when he recommended to the Idaho legislature in December, 1888, that it should act to speed Idaho's statehood.⁴⁵¹ The state constitution was ratified in November, 1899, but admission as a state was delayed until the U.S. Supreme Court in February, 1890, upheld the anti-Mormon test oath clause in the Idaho constitution. The World reported the court's decision and used a two-line, single-column, bold-face headline to announce:

Idaho Star Rising To A
Place In The National Flag⁴⁵²

⁴⁵⁰Idaho World, October 6, 1885, p. 3.

⁴⁵¹Beal and Wells, History of Idaho, Vol. I, p. 604, Idaho World, January 5, 1889, p. 3.

⁴⁵²Idaho Semi-Weekly World, March 11, 1890, p. 3. Idaho World, March 14, 1890, p. 3.

The U.S. Senate passed the bill July 1 and the Semi-Weekly World of that date carried a brief story about the reaction of Idaho City residents, saying: ". . . an anvil on Main street boomed forty-four times in honor of Idaho the forty-fourth State."⁴⁵³

⁴⁵³Idaho Semi-Weekly World, July 1, 1890, p. 1. Idaho was the forty-third state, but the World did not correct the error in its next four publications, all of which were single broadsheets during July, 1890, nor was there a correction in any of the semi-weekly issues that month. Although the Idaho City residents celebrated the senate's passage of the statehood bill, President Benjamin Harrison did not sign the measure until July 3, and stars are added to the flag only on July 4.

CHAPTER IX

THE WORLD IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

In September, 1890, the World still followed an independent orbit when it carried a squib that said

. . . the Democrats of Boise county, although the World is not with them politically, get all their printing done at this office, as well as the Republicans.⁴⁵⁴

By 1892, however, the Populist movement and the coinage of free silver appealed to Egbert and Charles Jones and in an editorial Charles Jones urged all "political parties to join in backing free silver coinage."⁴⁵⁵ Both Egbert Jones, as a Populist candidate for state auditor, and Charles Jones, as a Boise County delegate to the Populist state convention, were involved in the election of 1894 in which the Idaho Populist candidates suffered big defeats. While free coinage of silver was still a political issue, the World remained an advocate of free silver and Charles Jones wrote he

. . . expected Sen. Fred Dubois of Idaho to introduce a silver bill regardless of what Grover [Cleveland] thinks of it, or what he may do in case the bill passes and is present to sign

⁴⁵⁴Idaho World, September 5, 1890, p. 1.

⁴⁵⁵Idaho World, February 27, 1894, p. 1.

or veto. To say that it will be utterly useless to pass a free coinage bill until we have a silver President is worse than baby talk.⁴⁵⁶

Dubois came to political power as U.S. marshal in Oneida County during the election of 1884 by reviving anti-Mormon Republican Independents who saw to it that county officers and legislative members were anti-Mormon.⁴⁵⁷ In 1886, he directed an arduous campaign throughout eastern Idaho to enforce the Territory's test oath law against Mormon leaders, but of the 140 warrants he received May 20, 1866, his deputies were able to arrest only two persons.⁴⁵⁸ Dubois became a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress and beat incumbent John Hailey, of whom editor Charles Jones had written favorable comments. Except for Dubois' efforts to help save Idaho from schemes of annexation by Washington in 1887 and by Nevada in 1888, Jones berated Dubois' politics. In January, 1896, Jones seized upon a gift of a barrel of oysters as a sign that Dubois tried to bribe the Pocatello Tribune. Jones wrote

⁴⁵⁶ Idaho World, June 14, 1895, p. 1.

⁴⁵⁷ Beal and Wells, History of Idaho, Vol. 1, p. 561.

⁴⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 570; The test oath law, enacted by the territorial legislature in 1884, denied any Mormon from serving in any county office in Idaho. The part used against the Mormons said that any "organization which teaches or encourages the practice of bigamy or polygamy or any other crime defined by law as a duty or privilege resulting from or arising from the faith or practice of such order" would disqualify a voter.

a headline, "Bribery by the Barrel," and editorialized:

There is nothing so corrupting as official life, and this is the more true when the official is filled with, and influenced by, an ambition to continue that kind of life. . . . Sen. Fred T. Dubois, who has been long in public life and always pursued the straight and narrow way, has allowed his ambition to reign and spur him into the crooked path, and our young Congressman Edgar Wilson, just fresh from the ranks of the common people, has gone with Fred. Fred and Edgar forwarded a bribe to an Idaho newspaper. Just think of that! They no doubt thought they would never be found out, but the newspaper, lacking discretion, gave the whole thing away, barrel and all. . . . A barrel of delicious Baltimore oysters, fresh from salt water, arrived Christmas morning with the compliments of Fred Dubois and Edgar Wilson. . . . If Fred and Edgar expect to get back to the Senate and House by the oyster route, the World wants to know it, and when it knows it, it wants a barrel full--level full--of those same kind of oysters.⁴⁵⁹

During the late 1890s the format of the World and the Semi-Weekly World shifted from a tabloid four-column page to a full sized seven-column sheet. More headlines were used at the top of the columns, and most of them bumped together, typical of the time. The first zinc engravings of photographs appeared July 17, 1900--photographs of three of the four chairmen of the political parties in Idaho. The World noted that the chairman of the Populist party, Martin Jacobs, "didn't send one." Though the format of the newspaper changed, the editorial direction did not, as

⁴⁵⁹ Idaho World, January 7, 1896, p. 1.

Jones renewed his fight with the World's old rival, the Statesman, for its criticism of William Jennings Bryan.

The Statesman says Bryan has a faculty of turning phrases, but that they are not always happily framed, and then gives some of his latest. . . . The phrase commented upon by the Statesman is a gem, and no amount of criticism can detract from its beauty nor weaken its force.⁴⁶⁰

Two weeks later Jones praised the Statesman:

The World arises to extend a congratulations and the right hand of fellowship to the Boise Statesman which is slowly but surely coming over to the right side. That paper has now adopted three Populistic principles, which is pretty good for a journal that a year ago could see nothing but wild-eyed heresy in the entire Populist platform.⁴⁶¹

Theodore Roosevelt's failure to promote free silver coinage also drew Jones' editorial ire, and he scoffed at the President's journalistic endeavors. On one occasion, Jones referred to an Associated Press dispatch about Roosevelt's hunting exploits and commented that the President was

. . . a great big fake who is a victim of the poison of his own as well as other yellow-back novels. But Teddy will fool the eastern tenderfoot, and that is all he expects to do. Westerners fully realize the fact that as a wild and woolly cowboy and a heroic hunter of the Rockies, he is a fake of the first water.⁴⁶²

⁴⁶⁰Idaho World, January 3, 1899, p. 4.

⁴⁶¹Idaho World, January 17, 1899, p. 1.

⁴⁶²Idaho World, January 29, 1901, p. 1.

Although Charles Jones became involved personally with the Populist party and his brother won office as a Populist, Jones retained his independent political philosophy and asserted:

We have always had the greatest respect and admiration for the middle-of-the-roaders. Their course has been straight and consistent. They have clung to principles rather than to the love of the spoils of office.⁴⁶³

As a party, the Populists were being absorbed by Republicans, Democrats, and Prohibitionists by 1914 when Jones editorially opposed Populists who had aligned themselves with Mormons and the prohibition issue. Jones advised World readers to elect Democratic congressmen because "their qualifications are unquestioned."⁴⁶⁴

When Egbert Jones moved to Boise following the election of 1900, the World hired J. H. "Hamp" Peacock, a veteran printer who had edited the Boise County Sentinel and a newspaper at Meridian and had worked as a printer at the Statesman. When Jones suspended publication of the Idaho Semi-Weekly World in May, 1908, Peacock retired and moved to southeastern Idaho. He died April 18, 1912 at McCammon.⁴⁶⁵

⁴⁶³ Idaho World, July 6, 1900, p. 1.

⁴⁶⁴ Idaho World, April 10, 1914, p. 1; Idaho World, October 23, 1914, p. 1.

⁴⁶⁵ Idaho Semi-Weekly World, January 4, 1901, p. 1; Idaho World, April 19, 1912, p. 1.

The price of the semi-weekly had declined to a penny in 1894, but by 1900 it was a nickel a copy. The semi-weekly and weekly each contained increased legal advertising, although the population of Idaho City and the county continued to decline. World editors, dating to the first legislative session in 1864, periodically had called for synopses of legislative laws to be published in newspapers of record, at taxpayers' expense. In February, 1901, Jones added foreclosure sales to the list of items he thought should be carried in newspapers.⁴⁶⁶ In 1912, the legislature added to the legal advertisement items by enacting a bill that authorized two newspapers in every county to publish summaries of laws passed in special sessions. Gov. James H. Hawley, who spent his early days in the Boise Basin and whom the World editorially endorsed, opposed the measure. The World reported Hawley said that

. . . ten days would be enough time for the secretary of state to get the laws to the county authorities and interested persons and newspapers could purchase the laws for 25¢ each.⁴⁶⁷

The World made no comment on the governor's view.

Part of the population decline in the county came with the annexation of its western area to Canyon County and the creation of Valley County to the north. The World

⁴⁶⁶Idaho World, February 5, 1901, p. 1.

⁴⁶⁷Idaho World, February 9, 1912, p. 1.

opposed every plan to reduce the county and noted that fewer than 1,000 persons voted in the election of 1894. It chided the Emmett Index for suggesting annexation of portions of Boise County.

The Emmett Index is red-eyed for annexation of Long valley and Squaw Creek to Canyon county, and is worked up to the very highest pitch and talks in a loud tone of voice. It is particularly wrathful against Idaho City and county seats in general, and can't see why the World is so obstinate and so filled with injustice, unfairness and other such unworthy characteristics as to mildly oppose the presentation to Canyon county of a big chunk of Boise county. This county is too small in population to be further reduced. The vote at the last election being less than 1,000. When the country becomes more thickly settled, then Canyon county can come to the front and demand a slice without making itself ridiculous.⁴⁶⁸

The World lost its battle to keep the county intact and also lost another dispute when the state eliminated three townships in 1896. The World complained that

. . . we will not have much mineral land left. They not only take our mineral land, but the timber. Our mining industry has been given a hard blow by this disreputable gang of state officials.⁴⁶⁹

But the World won two skirmishes--with the Statesman and state officials.

The Statesman published in January, 1896, a series of articles that called a proposed mining venture near Idaho City worthless. Jones criticized the Statesman and

⁴⁶⁸ Idaho World, February 26, 1895, p. 1.

⁴⁶⁹ Idaho World, February 25, 1896, p. 1.

defended the owner of the mines, C. O. Norcross, a long-time acquaintance. Jones said

. . . Mr. Norcross deserves great credit for his energy and perseverance, and the World wishes him great success in his undertaking. If we had a few more men like Mr. Norcross, the mining industry of this county would come to the front rapidly.⁴⁷⁰

Meantime, Jones sent a letter to Norcross informing him of the Statesman series. In a letter to the Statesman Norcross denied the mining claims were worthless, and he threatened to sue the Statesman. When the Statesman persisted with the series, Jones published Norcross' letter in the World, and the issue disappeared from both newspapers.⁴⁷¹ Norcross' firm, the Old Glory Company, did invest money to mine the area, but it did not attract other investment to cause an economic boom the World predicted.

State officials wanted to convert seven and three-fourths sections of land from mineral classification to desert land entry between Idaho City and Centerville for possible use as a site for a penitentiary. Placing the land under the desert land category, provided by the federal government for farm homesteads, would allow the state to obtain patent title and remove it as mining potential. Although Jones did not support Sen. Fred Dubois

⁴⁷⁰Idaho World, March 3, 1896, p. 1.

⁴⁷¹Idaho World, March 10, 1896, p. 1.

politically, he wrote to him in March, 1896, and asked him to intercede. Dubois did, and replied,

. . . I shall take steps to stop the issuance of patent to the State until your people can draw up proper petitions and protests.

Jones and others sent petitions to Dubois and he blocked the land plan.⁴⁷²

For a brief time during 1895 Idaho City, Challis, and Moscow shared consideration as a location for a school of mines. Eagle Rock, now Idaho Falls, was considered as a university site during the legislative session of 1887, but Gov. Stevenson vetoed the bill because it was poorly written.⁴⁷³ Legislative factions in 1889 placed the university at Moscow as a concession to keep northern elements from joining an annexation movement to Washington.⁴⁷⁴ The university was established as a land grant school to teach agriculture, but since one of the state's biggest resources was mining, the World said the legislature, meeting in January, 1895, should consider placing the school "somewhere in Boise county."⁴⁷⁵ Politicians and newspapers at Challis and at Moscow had the same idea, but none worked

⁴⁷²Idaho World, March 6, 1896, p. 1.

⁴⁷³Beal and Wells, History of Idaho, Vol. 1, p. 604-605.

⁴⁷⁴Ibid.

⁴⁷⁵Idaho World, January 18, 1895, p. 1.

harder than the Idaho City group, including Jones, to convince the legislature to place the school in the Boise Basin. The World said

. . . no better location could be found than in some town of this county, and the county seat, we think, would be the proper place. But the World would not complain should any other town of the county be selected. A bill has already been introduced locating the school at Challis. If the Legislature will give Boise county the School of Mines the World will quit putting forth unanswerable reasons why the Agricultural College should be located in More creek valley, hard by Idaho City.⁴⁷⁶

A month later the World reported that ". . . ten acres of land was secured for a school of mines and \$805 subscribed."⁴⁷⁷ It said another \$1,000 would be raised that day and that the state would appropriate \$20,000 for the school.⁴⁷⁸

A week later, in a column-long editorial, the World said the legislature should know the advantages of Idaho City as a site for the school. Among them:

. . . roads [from Idaho City] connect to the two state wagon roads; 10 acres of land have been donated by Mr. Duquette and on the land is a spring with pure water; and excellent timber is abundant. . . . This place has material for making the finest brick and unlimited quantities of granite for building stone.

⁴⁷⁶Idaho World, January 18, 1895, p. 1.

⁴⁷⁷Idaho World, February 22, 1895, p. 1.

⁴⁷⁸Ibid.

Boise County has more variety of ores and minerals of any county of the State; can see mining carried on, in placers; can inspect nearby mining camps; it is a fine field for the practical study of geology and placer formations.

The House . . . voted to locate the school at Challis, but in the Senate an amendment will be offered to make the bill read Idaho City in place of Challis. This place [Idaho City] offers ten acres of land and \$1,500. Challis offers only ten acres of land.⁴⁷⁹

Another page-one story of the same date criticized northern Idaho politicians and the university at Moscow.

The State University at Moscow now has the Agricultural College and wants the School of Mines. Why not annex to the University the capitol building, the Soldiers Home, the State Penitentiary and Insane Asylum? As Moscow has turned hog, she had just as well be a big hog as one little hog.

The legislature ignored the pleas from Challis and Idaho City and placed the school at Moscow. In December, 1895, a squib in the World noted "the State University at Moscow has established a department of mining."⁴⁸⁰

The Independent Telephone Company, backed by residents of the Boise Basin and of Boise, completed a line to link Idaho City and Placerville with Boise in November, 1900, ending one of the World's quests for speedy communication,

⁴⁷⁹Idaho World, February 26, 1895, p. 1.

⁴⁸⁰Idaho World, December 3, 1895, p. 1.

a frequent editorial subject since the late 1870s.⁴⁸¹

Exploratory mining in late 1898 along the lower part of More Creek resulted in favorable assay reports, which came during the time of a miners' strike and violence in northern Idaho. The World expressed hope that the news of high-grade samples from the lava cliffs overlooking More Creek would attract new investment. There were plenty of unemployed miners in the north from which to draw labor, if needed. Gold along the lava cliffs was much more difficult to extract than the placer and quartz in the central part of the Boise Basin, and the World noted:

It [the lava] may have been placed there with its gold, for the benefit of people who will inhabit the earth ages and ages hence, when gold will be much scarcer and much more valuable than it is now.⁴⁸²

Commenting on the mining situation in northern Idaho, the World called the Standard Oil Company, which owned the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mines, "the lowest outfit operating mines in the country."⁴⁸³ However, the World also placed some of the blame for the mining problems with

⁴⁸¹Idaho World, October 26, 1900, p. 1; Idaho World, December 6, 1900, p. 1.

⁴⁸²Idaho World, January 13, 1899, p. 1.

⁴⁸³Idaho World, May 5, 1899, p. 1.

the union and said

. . . the 140 which belonged to the brotherhood should be the ones punished by not allowing them to return to mining work.⁴⁸⁴

The prospect of renewed mining activity along lower More Creek and fund raising for a narrow gauge railroad to run through the Boise Basin from Boise to haul ore for smelting received the usual editorial encouragement from the World.⁴⁸⁵ As a sign of better times, the World raised its yearly subscription price from \$2 to \$3 in 1899, but reduced it soon after it suspended publication of the semi-weekly in 1908.⁴⁸⁶

The World and the Emmett Index exchanged editorial barbs in disputes involving annexation of portions of Boise County by adjoining counties, and Jones, in January, 1902, said this about the Index's offer to exchange subscriptions for wood.

The Emmett Index is calling loudly to subscribers to pay their subscriptions in wood. That is evidence enough that a cold wave has struck that usually mild and salubrious climate. If the Index had given notice that sagebrush would be taken on subscription, the fuel of the plains would have rolled in at an alarming rate. But the Index is getting hightoned. It wants good, solid wood.⁴⁸⁷

⁴⁸⁴Idaho World, May 19, 1899, p. 1.

⁴⁸⁵Idaho World, December 15, 1899, p. 1.

⁴⁸⁶Idaho World, June 3, 1908, p. 1.

⁴⁸⁷Idaho World, January 3, 1902, p. 1.

In a squib August 23, 1918, the World reported:

The work of the Boston & Idaho Gold Dredging Co. is at an end at this place. The machinery was stopped at 11 o'clock last Wednesday night. The boat, on Walla Walla Flat, about two miles east of this place, became too delapidated for further work. The company has dredged all its ground except a portion of Walla Walla Flat, and this would have been finished in a few months if the dredge boat had held out.

The fate of the dredge, because it contributed to the area's economy, also affected the World, and within two months the newspaper suspended operation. There were several events that signaled the end of the World. From 1901 until it was discontinued in 1918, the four-page weekly averaged only seven of twenty-eight columns of advertising per issue, including legals. The total was less than the average of 13 columns that had sustained its operations since the Joneses bought the newspaper in 1875.

Heman Jones, who became business manager in 1875, died of a heart attack December 11, 1905. Charles Jones added his father's duties to his position as editor and publisher.⁴⁸⁸ The Statesman said the senior Jones

. . . was one of the best known residents of the Basin and possessed the friendship and respect of all. A man of sanguine temperament, he had the faculty of winning and holding the friendship of all with whom he came in contact.⁴⁸⁹

⁴⁸⁸ Idaho Daily Statesman, December 12, 1905, p. 6; Idaho World, December 15, 1905, p. 1.

⁴⁸⁹ Ibid.

In 1914, soon after Charles Jones reached his sixty-eighth birthday, Jones advertised in the World that the newspaper was for sale. The brief announcement also included

. . . newspaper and job office, brick building
and lot. . . . For particulars call on or write
to C. E. Jones.⁴⁹⁰

The advertisement appeared in each issue until August 14, then missed two weeks. Jones may have had a change of heart or a buyer who changed his mind, however the ad reappeared September 4, 1914, and was continued until the newspaper was suspended.⁴⁹¹

By the early 1890s typesetting machines were available, but Jones, who frequently updated his fonts and bragged they

⁴⁹⁰ Idaho Daily Statesman, December 12, 1905, p. 6; Family records, supplied by Alfred B. Day of Boise, show that Jones was born in Pike County, Illinois, August 11, 1827. He married Nancy M. Walker in Missouri. She died at Idaho City July 26, 1893. In his diary he said he crossed the plains by ox team and horse in 1850 following the emmigrant road to Fort Hall en route to The Dalles, Oregon. From there he traveled by boat to San Francisco where he worked at placer mining. He went to Missouri in 1852 and returned with his wife to farm in the Waldo Hills near Salem, Oregon. He was among the early arrivals at Florence, Idaho Territory, during its boom days in 1862, and came to Idaho City in 1864. He moved his family to Idaho City in 1865. Jones is buried in the family plot on the upper west side of the cemetery at Idaho City.

⁴⁹¹ Although the newspaper was suspended and Jones continued to do job work until his death in 1942, heirs of the Joneses retained ownership of the building and lot. Alfred B. Day, interview at Boise, Idaho, July, 1978. Day is the adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred B. and Emma Jones Day and nephew of Charles Jones.

were the best available, continued to set each letter by hand. In May, 1895, when the Anaconda (Montana) Daily Standard announced it had installed four machines to set type, Jones wrote that the machines would ruin the printer's trade and cause printers to lose their jobs. He said

. . . all such inventions, while they upset the regular order of things for a time, throw men out of employment and render valueless a trade that years of practice and study have been necessary to acquire, finally are looked upon as absolute necessities that could not be disposed with. . . . [It] cheapens labor and laborers [are] directly injured.⁴⁹²

In a news column in 1885, Jones wrote that he had \$13,000 invested in type and equipment and for the thirty-four years after he discontinued the World he used some of the type for job work.⁴⁹³ One veteran publisher wrote that Jones, even at seventy-seven years old, could hand set type almost as fast as the printer could using the type setting machine, "and he sets it without the aid of glasses."⁴⁹⁴

Jones' reputation as a speedy typesetter began soon after he joined the World as an apprentice printer. In the fall of 1873 he was working part time, but in April, 1874, Jones, who just turned eighteen, became a full-time employee. World editor T. J. Sutton bragged about Jones's ability.

⁴⁹² Idaho World, May 31, 1895, p. 1.

⁴⁹³ Idaho Semi-Weekly World, October 14, 1884, p. 3.

⁴⁹⁴ Idaho Mountaineer, September 4, 1941, p. 6.

Our devil, master Charles Jones, is, we think, decidedly the fastest typesetter on record, considering the experience he has had. He is attending the public school here, and has worked in the office but three whole days, and a few evenings after school hours, making, in all, something like six days work and can now set his seven thousand ems in a day, long primer type. On an experiment trial made on Tuesday last, he set 2,223 ems in precisely three hours--time and set the last stick five minutes quicker than the first one. Bring on your fast typesetters, everybody.⁴⁹⁵

A month later the challenge was answered. The World reprinted an Eastern Oregon Tribune clip that said an eleven-year-old boy set seven thousand ems in eight hours. Sutton's only rebuttal was "next!"⁴⁹⁶

Somber and Lighter Reportage

Not all the copy in the World concerned politics, mining or economics; there were other stories, some somber, some lighter. When Street and Bowman bought the Boise News from the Butler brothers in 1863, they inherited Doc, a canine who had adopted the wood-frame print shop as his home. When Doc died, the World reported it.

"Doc," the noted canine of the World office, has gone the way of all flesh, having died on last Monday, after a lingering illness.⁴⁹⁷

⁴⁹⁵Idaho Semi-Weekly World, April 2, 1874, p. 3.

⁴⁹⁶Idaho World, May 7, 1874, p. 1.

⁴⁹⁷Idaho World, November 20, 1873, p. 3.

Doc's successor was Belshazzar, a cat belonging to printer Jim Pile, who trained it to climb a greased pole. In July, 1884, Pile collected a sizable bet when he coaxed the cat up the pole--and then down. The World said the cat put in his time

. . . rummaging around through the exchanges and among the cases. He is larning [sic] the business--can make a "pi"--is a grand success in that line and when it comes to "filling his case" takes the cake, or anything else that is good to eat.⁴⁹⁸

A month later Belshazzar's antics were reported in the World when he swallowed an estimated sixteen feet of thread and a three-inch needle. The World said the cat had "gone into the tail-o ring business." Its predicament was solved when Heman Jones pulled the needle and thread from the cat's stomach.⁴⁹⁹ Later, Belshazzar met an untimely death. The World reported:

Several cats were poisoned the other night, among them Jim Pile's famous Belshazzar. Putting out poison is a sneaking, mean piece of business, and any one who will do it possesses a low-grade formation.⁵⁰⁰

Like most frontier newspapers, there sometimes was trouble. The editor of the Statesman, James Reynolds, carried no firearms, but he

⁴⁹⁸Idaho Semi-Weekly World, July 25, 1884, p. 3.

⁴⁹⁹Idaho World, July 28, 1884, p. 3.

⁵⁰⁰Idaho Semi-Weekly World, March 20, 1885, p. 3.

. . . kept an iron bar, a wagon spoke, an ax handle and a couple of old horse pistols within easy reach for self-protection.⁵⁰¹

When the Joneses took over the World, they kept their "double barrelled buckshot thrower" under the editorial table. They announced that they

. . . keep it handy and use it for killing cantankerous cranks, who sometimes get an idea into their heads that they can exterminate the harmonious, mellow-toned lyre and yarn-spinner of this ink mill.⁵⁰²

On one occasion the World's "buckshot thrower" was out of reach.

T. S. Harris struck J. R. Pile, an employe in this office, over the head with a revolver last Thursday evening. The wound was not a serious one, as the blow was partially warded off. Harris had an examination before Judge Moore on Friday and was held in the sum of \$200 to appear before the grand jury.⁵⁰³

If the newspaper's editors ever used the shotgun to defend their editorial positions, it never was chronicled in the World, but in August, 1883, Heman Jones, the business manager,

. . . came tearing into the office puffing like a steam engine and all we could get out of him was, "gun, gun! Who's got the gun!"

⁵⁰¹Robert F. Karolevitz, Newspapering in the Old West (Seattle: Superior Publishing Company, 1865), p. 93.

⁵⁰²Idaho Semi-Weekly World, August 17, 1883, p. 3.

⁵⁰³Idaho Semi-Weekly World, May 15, 1883, p. 3. Subsequent issues of the semi-weekly and the weekly World did not report the outcome of the Harris-Pile fracas.

The World continued:

The elder Jones grabbed the gun and lit out. We dropped a half finished editorial and followed. John Barry, typo, dropped a handful of type and lit out and Uncle Jim Pile, the veteran type-slinger, came slowly bringing up the rear. Charlie Kingsley came tearing down Wall street with his breech loader and he and elder Jones met on the corner and struck out together in the direction of the foot bridge [west of the Masonic Hall]. They motioned the crowd to stay back.

Editor Charles Jones wrote that the excitement dissolved when

. . . we learned that they were after a flock of two ducks that they saw circling around and thought might have lit in the creek bottom.⁵⁰⁴

One of the duties of a frontier newspaper like the World was to entertain its readers. Statesman editor Milton Kelly complimented Charles Jones when he said:

The editor of the Idaho World complains of dull times and the lack of news, and he deserves credit to the enterprising manner in which he drops on to all local events and the spicy manner in which he presents it to his readers.⁵⁰⁵

On October 17, 1882, Jones observed that frontier justice altered the U.S. Constitution, and that it was legal for proprietors of hash houses at Sawtooth in the Bonanza mining district to shoot those who refused to eat food served them. Jones learned from the Rev. G. W. Grannis of Idaho City that Justice J. McAllister ruled that

⁵⁰⁴ Idaho Semi-Weekly World, August 17, 1883, p. 3.

⁵⁰⁵ Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, March 25, 1883, p. 3.

restaurant owner Harry Giese was justified in trying to kill one of his boarders. Jones quoted Rev. Grannis:

The proprietor . . . placed a plate of codfish balls on the table of a young man, and a regular boarder, who had seated himself for grub. The man ate other food but not the codfish. The restaurant keeper approached him, and said in a commanding tone of voice: "You eat them codfish ball!"

"I don't like codfish balls," replied the boarder.

"You eat them codfish balls, I tell you!"

"I tell you I won't, I don't like 'em."

"I tell you once more to eat them codfish balls. If you don't, I'll shoot you," and the restaurant keeper started for his pistol.

The boarder saw that he had to do one of three things--eat the codfish balls, refuse again and be filled with leaden balls or skip. He skipped. Just as his coat-tail was vanishing out the door the irate restaurant keeper blazed away, but missed him. The boarder had him arrested.

Jones continued:

Mr. Grannis arrived at Sawtooth just as the trial opened, and he was hungry enough to devour a whole restaurant at one sitting. The reverend gentleman took a circle around through town hunting for a hash house, but couldn't find any open. The proprietors were down at the trial. . . . When the Justice, in his dignity, decided that the proprietor of a hash house was perfectly justifiable in shooting at a boarder with intent to kill, for refusing to eat his codfish balls, they all threw up their hats and hurraed.

Jones commented:

According to this decision Sawtooth restaurant keepers are endowed with certain unalienable rights, among, which are life, liberty, and the pursuit with deadly weapons, of anti-codfish boarders.

Sometimes Jones poked fun of his contemporaries. On September, 1882, the Reveille, published at Baker, Oregon, said "The Squaws had buckskin gloves and huckleberries for sale, and they went off like hot cakes." Jones asked: "What went off like hot cakes? The squaws or the huckleberries and gloves?"⁵⁰⁶

Women Typos and School Papers

Few women were associated with Idaho Territory newspapers and most of those who were came as statehood neared. Among early day papers, the World boasted of the first woman correspondent, Minnie Miller of Oregon City, Oregon.⁵⁰⁷ During the winter of 1876-77 Atlanta Kate's dispatches were brought to the World by messengers on horseback over 38 miles of mountainous terrain separating Atlanta and Idaho City. Another contributor signed her material as Madge. As was the practice of the day, most correspondents used pseudonyms. Their real names were known only by the editors.⁵⁰⁸

⁵⁰⁶ Idaho World, September 12, 1882, p. 3.

⁵⁰⁷ Idaho World, March 11, 1865, p. 3; Idaho World, January 18, 1876, p. 4. [She was the wife of Joaquin Miller who later briefly edited a paper at Lewiston before returning to Oregon where he began his rise to journalistic fame.]

⁵⁰⁸ Idaho World, December 22, 1876, p. 2.

Mrs. Laura Conway perhaps was the first full-time woman editor in Idaho. She directed the Keystone at Ketchum from 1892 to 1899, but both the Jones girls were setting type and occasionally Amelia substituted for her editor brother by the time the territory became a state in 1890.⁵⁰⁹

According to family records, Heman and Nancy Jones had three sons when they moved to Idaho City in 1865. They also had two daughters. Amelia was born November 22, 1868, and Emma September 11, 1870, both at Idaho City. Neither the records of the family nor the files of the World indicate what became of Grover, the eldest son. Heman's brother, Paul, also came to Idaho City in 1865, but he returned to the family farm in Marion County, Oregon. A squib in the World in December, 1873, reported his death and said

. . . the deceased was a brother of Mr. Heman Jones of this city, and was well known to many of our citizens, having formerly resided on Buena Vista Bar. [An area separated from the city proper by Elk Creek.] He was a native of Pike county, Illinois.⁵¹⁰

Even before the Joneses gained control of the World, they often were mentioned in the newspaper. One of the few references to Heman's wife appeared in February, 1874.

A brigade of ladies, . . . Mrs. Homer Dray, Mrs. Heman Jones and Miss Hattie Parsons, made a sortie

⁵⁰⁹Kenneth Robison, "Idaho Territorial Newspapers," (master's thesis, University of Oregon, 1966), p. 180.

⁵¹⁰Idaho Semi-Weekly World, December 11, 1873, p. 3.

upon our office . . . and succeeded in capturing it without effectual assistance. They took possession of the press, which they ran to suit themselves, and their style of printing papers was quite original, but we are not quite prepared to recommend it for general adoption. After they had run the press "into the ground," inked the handle of the brayer so they couldn't use it any longer, and wasted a few sheets of paper, they inspected the files of papers, ransacked the cases, discovered that they didn't know how to run the hand press, and compelled all hands to do it for them. They made a general reconnoitre of the premises and departed, like Alexander, weeping because they could find no more mischief to do. We would like to see some of them do the like again, as the devil has been bragging ever since that the next ones to try it wouldn't get away with it so easy.⁵¹¹

Both Jones girls were active in school and community events. Emma "was an excellent singer" and took part in amateur theatricals at Idaho City.⁵¹² The girls had leading parts in the school play in December, 1879. The World noted the audience had a difficult time hearing the singers "because they were timid and because several babies in the front row were crying."⁵¹³

When Emma was ill with diptheria in October, 1883, Charles wrote it was the third time "she has had the dread disease," but she was improving.⁵¹⁴

⁵¹¹Idaho World, February 5, 1874, p. 3.

⁵¹²Alfred B. Day, interview at Boise, Idaho, July 8, 1978.

⁵¹³Idaho Semi-Weekly World, January 6, 1880, p. 3.

⁵¹⁴Idaho World, October 16, 1883, p. 3.

After 1875, the World was meticulous in its coverage of Idaho City's school and its activities, even reporting weekly grades, both good and bad, of each student. The Jones girls consistently earned high marks.

Amelia was 27 when she took her first trip out of the state in May, 1895, and brother Charles noted the event in the World.

Miss Amelia Jones, sister of the World's scribe, and who has for many years been connected with the World, and is a skilled compositor, left yesterday for Oregon, to visit relatives in Portland and other portions of that state.⁵¹⁵

The following year she married Frederick Garrecht, who operated a tin shop next door to the World office. He also served as Boise County auditor and recorder for many years. Garrecht became a successful inventor of light fixtures and toys and served as president of the Garrecht Extensive Electric Light Fixture Company and Amelia was secretary-treasurer. He succeeded in obtaining a patent on pull down lights and chandeliers.⁵¹⁶

Amelia worked at the World until it quit publication. She also was instrumental in helping some Chinese return to the Boise Basin after they had been taken by their parents

⁵¹⁵Idaho World, May 24, 1895, p. 1.

⁵¹⁶Idaho World, June 26, 1914, p. 1; Alfred B. Day, interview at Boise, Idaho, July 8, 1978.

to China during the exodus of the 1880s.⁵¹⁷

Emma became a skilled typesetter, but when she married Alfred B. Day she moved with him to surrounding mining camps, construction sites, and finally to Boise.⁵¹⁸

For a time two schools operated at Idaho City, one supported by the county and the other a night school, taught by W. J. Rothwell, which cost each student \$15 a quarter with "pupils to furnish lights and fuel."⁵¹⁹ There is no record in the World that Egbert Jones attended either school. He was 15 when he began full-time employment at the World in 1869. There are several references in the World about Charles attending school, including one in February, 1874, when editor T. J. Sutton wrote about a school play and musical performance.

The readings and recitations though not faultless, were very good; the tableaux delightful, and the exercises on the violin by masters Thomas Barry and Charles Jones, such as would have elicited applause from any intelligent and discriminating audience.⁵²⁰

It is likely that the World's extended coverage of school activities largely was the result of the close association of having had at least three Jones children

⁵¹⁷Ibid.

⁵¹⁸Ibid.

⁵¹⁹Idaho World, February 23, 1871, p. 2.

⁵²⁰Idaho World, February 5, 1874, p. 3.

enrolled in school.

The first school papers begun in Idaho apparently were started at Idaho City with incentive from two part-time World printers, one a teacher. Egbert Jones wrote in October, 1877, that work on the papers had begun. The first editors were John McGuinness and Permeal French, and the papers were christened the Advocate and the Critic.⁵²¹ For reasons never explained in the World, the papers were not published until December, 1877, when they were read at the yearly Christmas program.⁵²²

The papers were published again in January, 1878, and scrutinized at a public gathering with prizes awarded to those who had produced the best one. The process was repeated in March and following the competition the World reported:

The strife between the two sides, and the desire of each to gain the victory stimulates the pupils to work with all the energy they possess. For the month just closed the Advocate came out victorious.⁵²³

On March 7, 1879, the World said the reading of the rival papers at a public gathering at the school was

⁵²¹Idaho World, October 20, 1877, p. 3.

⁵²²Idaho World, December 21, 1877, p. 3.

⁵²³Idaho World, January 29, 1878, p. 3; Idaho World, March 5, 1878, p. 3.

"interesting from first to last" and was "listened to by a large audience." But the competition between the Advocate and the Critic was halted a month later. The World announced:

The fourteenth issue of the Advocate and Critic was read last evening. This number is the last issue under the present management, as one of the teachers, Mr. P. D. Rothwell, resigned his position two weeks ago.⁵²⁴

⁵²⁴Idaho World, April 11, 1878, p. 3. The two papers apparently were not revived, for they were not mentioned again in the World.

CHAPTER X

SLAP! BANG! HERE WE ARE AGAIN!

Charles E. Jones was only 24 when he became editor and publisher of the World in February, 1880, but he already had been at work at the newspaper for seven and one-half years.⁵²⁵ Assuming his position quietly, he was the first editor of the World who did not issue a prospectus, as frontier editors usually did.

Jones' education was limited to his schooling at Idaho City; and, informally, to his newspaper experience at the World, which brought him in contact with exchange papers and with persons in the Boise Basin Area. When his career was completed he could not claim all the accomplishments that William J. Hill, publisher and editor of the Owyhee Avalanche, could claim: no Idaho Territory editor could. "Old Hill," as he was known, published the first daily paper in the Idaho Territory, using the first steam press, the first telegraphic news service and published the first magazine in the territory.⁵²⁶ Although Jones dabbled in

⁵²⁵Idaho World, January 30, 1880, p. 3.

⁵²⁶Betty Derig, "Old Hill," Idaho Yesterdays, spring, 1971, p. 12-13.

politics in the 1890s, he did not seek public office like his contemporaries at the Statesman, James Reynolds and his successor, Judge Milton Kelly. However, he persevered to keep alive the traditions of his predecessors who edited the World. He promoted the community and the state; and he often provoked thought with his editorial wit. In September, 1882, when flour at Idaho City went from \$2.25 a sack to \$4, Jones remarked "the high-toned price of flour makes bread taste better than it used to."⁵²⁷

Under Jones, the World was the first Idaho publication to carry a legal advertisement for patent mining claims, and the first to set aside a regular section devoted to education when he initiated July 16, 1878, a series of articles on mathematical problems.⁵²⁸

One format change Jones made was a special column for obituaries. An eight-point, usually all caps, side head said simply: "DIED--." The obituary was set in agate type, but there were exceptions. When someone of social note died, the account appeared in regular body type in the local news column, such as the time the World reported the death of Robert M. Valentine, a former Idaho City resident who had

⁵²⁷ Idaho World, September 26, 1882, p. 3.

⁵²⁸ Idaho World, June 16, 1885, p. 2; The advertisement was from John Brown, president and general manager of the Elmore Silver Mining Company at Banner.

gone east to become manager of the forerunner of Macy's Department Store.

. . . Death was caused by bleeding at the lungs. He was well known by all the old residents of this place, having resided here for several years during the early history of this camp. When he left . . . he received a position in the large dry goods house of R. H. Macy & Co., New York. At the time of his death, R. M. Valentine had full control of the business. He was the son-in-law of Mrs. J. B. Emery, of this city. [The Emerys operated a large mercantile store on the west side of Main Street in the middle of the block between Wall and Commercial Streets.]⁵²⁹

Generally, during his 38 years as the World's editor, Jones declined to publish the newspaper on the fourth of July: "We believe in one holiday each year for the printing fraternity, and that on the great and glorious Fourth of July."⁵³⁰ On one occasion he said he was going to dance all night "till broad daylight and run with the brass band and the T. Ts." [Tehilagrim Torohogerums, a name coined to denote a group of friends who gathered on occasion to hurrah the town].⁵³¹

Jones said

. . . the World, lacking motive power, will stop in its orbit, and will not complete its next revolution and greet its readers again before next Friday. . . . To keep the World revolving

⁵²⁹Idaho Semi-Weekly World, February 25, 1879, p. 3.

⁵³⁰Idaho Semi-Weekly World, July 3, 1883, p. 3.

⁵³¹Idaho Semi-Weekly World, July 3, 1885, p. 3.

we could not have time to celebrate. It is all correct enough for one to be a slave to toil all year, but on the glorious Fourth of July we say, shake off the manacles and give us liberty or give us death!⁵³²

John Barry moved to Idaho City from Portland, Oregon, in 1864. He was 21 when he went to work as a devil at the World in the summer of 1882, and he stayed for two and a half years. During his tenure at the newspaper, he and Jones engaged in lighthearted editorial repartee, which offered readers a distinct change from political and general coverage. Since both men were bachelors, courtship usually was the root of their exchanges.

In April, 1883, Barry visited at Garden Valley, and Jones reported that

. . . John says that is the prettiest valley in Idaho and can show more pretty girls to the square mile than any other rural district. . . . John has been singing "she's a darling, she's a daisy, and she drives me almost crazy," or something of the kind ever since he came back. The fact is our "devil" has got it bad--got it all over.⁵³³

Barry retaliated in the next issue of the semi-weekly.

Beside a ten-point bold headline he inserted this brief:

⁵³²Idaho Semi-Weekly World, July 3, 1884, p. 3.
[Various microfilm files of the World list several issues as "missing," but careful reading of prior issues will reveal, in most cases, that Jones forewarned subscribers there would be no paper on those dates.]

⁵³³Idaho World, Mary 4, 1883, p. 3.

We have just received a sample copy of a new song, entitled, "Put your arms around me, dear." Any lady who desires to try it will call on C. E. Jones, the editor. Charlie is a little gone--on the song we mean. . . . He is more than a little gone on a darling dulcina, and if he don't [sic] get a paralyzing flipflop before three weeks this "imp" is no prophet. He's got it bad--up and down and crossways, and clean through his "solar system" and back again.

--The Devil⁵³⁴

In the following issue of the semi-weekly, Jones explained:

"Our Devil" is getting to be a bad one to have around. The spirit of retaliation dwelleth in his anatomical "make-up" to an alarming extent. . . . Last press evening . . . [when] we went to supper, he went to work on the "inside form" and slipped in that libelous squib signed "The Devil." In the language of the street gammon, "he's a good one."⁵³⁵

In June, 1883, Jones sported a black eye, and Barry inserted a squib refuting Jones' contention that he received the bruise from a piece of tree bark that struck him while he was erecting a swing.

. . . It won't work Charley. We know where you got that eye, we know all about that racket.

--Devil⁵³⁶

Two weeks later Jones went to Banner. Barry described his employer and asked Bannerites to "deal gently with him."

⁵³⁴Idaho Semi-Weekly World, May 8, 1883, p. 3.

⁵³⁵Idaho Semi-Weekly World, May 11, 1883, p. 3.

⁵³⁶Idaho Semi-Weekly World, June 26, 1883, p. 3.

Charley Jones left yesterday morning on the stage . . . clad in brand new overalls and boots, carrying two rifles, three revolvers and a Bowie knife. His eyes are wild, and [his] hair stands on end, and [he] looks very ferocious.⁵³⁷

Jones and Barry entertained readers during February, 1884, in a series of exchanges that began when Barry went to a dance at Granite, west of Idaho City. Jones used pieces of type--ampersands, brackets, and advertising hands--to make the form of a girl. Under the configuration Jones wrote it was Barry's girl.⁵³⁸ Barry responded in the next issue. From an advertisement he borrowed a wood carving of an old woman and below it placed another carving of a boy. Barry called the old woman Jones' girl friend and said the other one was the editor. Barry added:

He now wears so wide a smile that the corners of his mouth meet and hold a sociable at the back of his neck.⁵³⁹

Jones admitted Barry had the best of him:

The Devil got in his devilish work on us last Tuesday, and thinks he is now more than even. He thinks about right. Printing office devils will be devils, and the best way is to deal with 'em gently.⁵⁴⁰

⁵³⁷Idaho Semi-Weekly World, July 10, 1883, p. 3.

⁵³⁸Idaho World, February 15, 1884, p. 3.

⁵³⁹Idaho Semi-Weekly World, February 19, 1884, p. 3.

⁵⁴⁰Idaho Semi-Weekly World, February 22, 1884, p. 3.

Jones frequently went hunting and on one foray he killed a bear, and facetiously offered World subscribers who paid in advance

. . . a bottle of hair oil free. There is enough to grease the head of every man, woman and child in Idaho, and a little over.⁵⁴¹

Before a prospecting trip to Summit Flat north of Idaho City, he wrote

. . . if we don't find the "golden fleece" it will be because it is somewhere else.⁵⁴²

After a week, a miner relayed news to the World of Jones' progress:

Charley struck a ledge on the sunny side of a mountain, but lost it looking for a shady place to have a sleep.⁵⁴³

When he returned, Jones wrote he would sell his find "for six bits--not a cent less."⁵⁴⁴ As it was with others about whom he wrote for more than four decades, the "golden fleece" apparently eluded Jones. Even so, he maintained through the World's columns--even in his farewell--that all that was needed was capital to prove there are mines

. . . [and then] more capital will flow in and we will have a great quartz mining country here.⁵⁴⁵

⁵⁴¹Idaho World, October 17, 1884, p. 3.

⁵⁴²Idaho World, July 24, 1885, p. 3.

⁵⁴³Idaho World, August 4, 1885, p. 3.

⁵⁴⁴Idaho Semi-Weekly World, August 11, 1885, p. 3.

⁵⁴⁵Idaho World, November 1, 1918, p. 1.

Jones, a bachelor all his life, lived with his oldest sister, Amelia, who often served as editor when her brother was traveling.⁵⁴⁶ Both of the Jones sisters worked at the "case" from time to time while they attended school and on occasion they contributed articles. Amelia became a competent writer, and she often editorially teased brother Charles about his bachelor status.

James S. Reynolds, editor of the Statesman, openly used the newspaper in 1864 to advertise his matrimonial desires.⁵⁴⁷ Jones was more modest, but he did tell World readers in July, 1883, that he "could be enticed into matrimony."⁵⁴⁸ Jones was at a public speech at the courthouse when "prizes were awarded to the handsomest young lady and the handsomest young gentleman" chosen by a panel of the opposite sex. Jones received one of five votes cast.

. . . It took our breath away, and if the complete returns had been in our favor, the result would have been paralyzing. That vote stimulated the growth of our bump of pride and self-esteem, and a high collar and sky blue necktie will henceforth add to the handsomeness that heretofore has been unadorned. Strange it is that we have lived for twenty-seven years, and never tumbled to the fact that we were somewhat handsome. What a great institution is the ballot.

⁵⁴⁶Idaho World, November 18, 1901, p. 1; Idaho World, March 29, 1912, p. 1; Alfred B. Day, interview at Boise, Idaho, July, 1978.

⁵⁴⁷Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, December 24, 1864, p. 1.

⁵⁴⁸Idaho Semi-Weekly World, July 10, 1883, p. 3.

Jones continued:

Several girls have told us we are not very homely, but talk is cheap and goes at a discount of about ten percent. . . . That ballot the other evening caused us to spruce up, and if the young lady that cast it will make herself known we will tell her that we will always be her true friend, and--we might just as well speak out and say that we can be enticed to enter into a matrimonial contract provided she will "cross her heart" and say that she is able and willing to support a newspaper man, and keep him in cigars and other necessities of life.⁵⁴⁹

Jones' romantic life moved to page one in the mid-1890s when the local news was played first and the inside pages were used for advertising, news of the northwest, and patent materials. For two months, during the winter of 1912, Amelia used the pseudonyms Yum Yum and Babs to report weekly about her brother's adventures. In one story, she commented about his musical practice at the home of a "pretty young widow" and said her brother had problems getting out of the gate.⁵⁵⁰

Jones went to Boise in February, 1912, to cover the legislature and Amelia, who assumed editorship of the World, wrote:

It is rumored the reason the editor has not yet returned from Boise, where he has been for the past five weeks, is that he has a girl there. Who is she Jones? Give us her name. Those who

⁵⁴⁹Idaho World, July 10, 1883, p. 3.

⁵⁵⁰Idaho World, February 2, 1912, p. 1.

have been in Boise lately from this place say they heard her name but don't exactly remember, but are sure the name is the same as some animal, either martin, fox, wolf or bear. Anyway, when we hear from the editor concerning it, we will let our readers know.⁵⁵¹

Events that led the United States into war in 1917 were chronicled in the World. The war and the collapse of the dredging operations at Idaho City in August, 1918, foreshowed the World's fate. On November 1, 1918, Jones activated the toggles on the old Washington press for the last time. One of the largest headlines ever used in its news columns--twenty-four points of English type--said it was the "END OF THE WORLD."

Jones wrote:

. . . Idaho City and the surrounding country, within a radius of two miles, has a population of one hundred and forty-nine, which includes men, women, children and five Chinamen, and before Christmas the number will be much less.

He also said:

The Seventh Day Adventists have at almost regular periods for a very long time predicted the end of the world, and all wars and pestilence have furnished the foundation for firm belief in the nearness of the end as portrayed in old biblical prophecies, the steady and staid old world has stubbornly persisted in holding its even balance and revolving in the same old ways without the slightest perceptible variation. But this war--the greatest of all wars--(and the results of which many able statesmen believe will prove to

⁵⁵¹Idaho World, March 8, 1912, p. 1.

be a permanent benefit to the entire world of a magnitude hitherto undreamed of) and its accompaniment of the frightful influenza epidemic that has a grip on both hemispheres, has convinced the Adventists to that degree of unshakable faith in the immediate fulfillment of world-end prophecies. . . . The Adventists have been right in their confident predictions. The World ends right now. In the classic language of old Missourians "It has ceased to revolve on its axletrees." The old Idaho World, the senior of all the newspapers of Idaho, will be no more, for awhile--for just how long we are not prophet enough to say, but hope conditions will be such that the hum of the mining industry will rouse it from its sleep and start it revolving again "In the Sweet Bye and Bye." . . . This portion of the country has been gradually going down for some time, but it will revive after the war. . . . Boise Basin has mines and prospects enough to make it one of the greatest mining sections in the West. . . . We have faith that this section will revive, and when it does the World will again greet you, and we will feel like singing, even if we can't, that rollicking, jolly old song "Slap! Bang! Here We Are Again!" This pencil has got itself in motion. . . . It needs sharpening and now is a good time to stop, so good bye until we meet again, which we hope will be before long, or sooner.

The Idaho Statesman announced the World was going to "take a vacation." Under the headline, "Idaho World Jumps From Its Orbit But It May Swing Back," the Statesman said:

Pioneer citizens of Idaho who remember the days when Idaho journalism depended upon the individuality of the editor and his ability to see the human interest in local affairs, which he properly balanced with literary selections clipped from highbrow eastern exchanges, will feel a pang of regret, with newspapermen of the state, that the Idaho World of Idaho City, one of the newspapers of the state whose

files are rich with historic tradition, has expired after an unbroken existence since 1863.⁵⁵²

Although the World suspended publication, Jones continued to do job printing until he died, May 23, 1942, at Idaho City, where he was buried. Jones' obituary in the Idaho Mountaineer said:

. . . In the old shop, handset type still remains standing on the stones where it was placed when the last issue came off the old Washington hand press. Cuts for pictures of prominent politicians still remain in the dust-covered forms with some of the type "pied" at their sides.⁵⁵³

The Statesman credited Jones with being

. . . responsible for many of the benefits that came to residents here [Idaho City] and [he] was unafraid to stand up for those things he thought were right.⁵⁵⁴

⁵⁵²Idaho Daily Statesman, November 6, 1918, p. 6.

⁵⁵³Idaho Mountaineer, May 28, 1942, p. 1. Jones was survived by his sisters. Pall bearers were William Garrecht, Fred Day, Louis Mann, Melvin Wiegel, Marion Gorman and Lex Rossi.

⁵⁵⁴Idaho Daily Statesman, May 31, 1942, p. 8.

CHAPTER XI
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE IDAHO WORLD

The Idaho World contributed significantly to the development of the Boise Basin and the territory as it became a state. H. C. Street was right when he wrote in the World on November 12, 1864:

The files of the [Boise] News . . . enfold a very important record of a period which is already becoming historical, a record which will be invaluable to the future compiler of the history of Idaho.

His prediction became true, but it also became true of the World. The newspaper told the rest of the world that the Boise Basin and the Idaho Territory existed, and it also told those in its area and the news of the rest of the country.

It sometimes was judge, jury, and executioner of events.

In fact, a community is judged, to a great extent, by the newspapers it supports and such papers almost invariably reflect the prevailing ideas, the underlying emotions and the real sentiments of the communities in which they are published and by whom they are supported.⁵⁵⁵

⁵⁵⁵James H. Hawley, History of Idaho (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1920), p. 374.

Street also wrote in October, 1864, that the World would ". . . publish as near the truth as we can arrive at from the evidence."⁵⁵⁶

For the most part, the World reported and recorded the direction of opinion rather than shaped it. The task of leading was left to the editors like H. C. Street, George Ainslie and Egbert Jones, who became politicians, and Charles Jones, who developed his expert knowledge in mining.

The World became a member of the Idaho Press Association when the organization was founded in January, 1885, and it led in fund raising among Idaho papers in a drive for contributions to the Horace Greeley monument at New York in 1873.⁵⁵⁷

The World boasted when its articles, sent to eastern papers and publishing companies in larger cities, were reprinted. It disputed the contention of the Boise

⁵⁵⁶Idaho World, October 2, 1864, p. 1.

⁵⁵⁷Idaho Semi-Weekly World, January 20, 1885, p. 3; Idaho Semi-Weekly World, March 6, 1873, p. 3; Idaho World, June 12, 1873, p. 3. The press association was formed at Boise, January 14, 1885. Frank O. Harding, publisher of the Houston Press and founder of the Wood River Miner and the Ketchum Keystone, was president; Milton Kelly of the Statesman, was vice president; Alonzo Leland of the Lewiston Teller, was second vice president; and C. M. Hays of the Owyhee Avalanche, was treasurer. Membership was \$10.

newspaper, which had asked editorially, "What paper has done more to make Idaho known abroad than the Statesman?"

We propose to answer [that] Croffutts Western World in New York and San Francisco, devoted exclusively to information relating to the Pacific States and Territories, was the only paper east of the Rocky mountains which gave reliable information about this coast. For two years the only articles produced in Idaho Territory which were transferred entire to the columns of the Western World were written by us and published in the Idaho World; that the matter quoted by that paper from the Idaho World was fifty times greater than that taken from all the other papers of the Territory combined.⁵⁵⁸

The fact that the World survived early challenges by other enterprising journalists in the Boise Basin is a tribute to the shrewdness of its founders and early editors. The decision of the Butler brothers to publish a politically independent newspaper, the Boise News, which actually favored Republicanism, and their ownership of the basin's only press gave them a clear publication and profit advantage. Because of their stand on politics, it enticed the Democratic opposition into publication. With the sale of the Boise News and subsequent name change, the new owner, Isaac Bowman, brought with him expanded business knowledge and practices. Tribute must be paid to his contributions, which spanned more than a decade. However, to the readers

⁵⁵⁸Idaho World, January 9, 1875, p. 2.

of the World, the more obvious influences were those exerted by its editors.

Street was a better reporter than the Butlers had been, but in fairness to them, Street did not have to face the problems associated with starting the newspaper. Street expanded the World's news columns and used less filler material. His temperment sometimes showed in his columns and it was to his advantage that he vented his feelings in the pages of the World rather than by dueling since he twice proved he was a poor shot with a pistol. Readers today would find his editorial opposition with Reynolds of the Statesman detracting. Reynolds must share any blame for the journalistic feud that existed between the two newspapers, but it was Street's zeal for the Confederacy that won him support of the Boise Basin's Democratic readers. Undoubtedly the editorial feud helped sell newspapers.

Although Street and several World editors who followed him left their journalistic posts for political callings, they generally were not editorial mercenaries. Only James O'Meara could fit that category. He carried on the rivalry with the Statesman with increased invectiveness, and although his style of writing may have amused some World readers, it did nothing to enhance the World. His flare with words was often wasted, and his writing reflected an

arrogance that prompted other writers to editorially scold him. He used his editorial position to promote himself politically, but his arrogance and flamboyancy blocked his political ambitions in Idaho Territory, as it had previously in California and Oregon.

T. J. Sutton, A. J. Boyakin, and Egbert Jones were not at the helm of the World long enough to establish any lasting change. Sutton came willy-nilly to the job and attempted to operate a tinsmith shop at the same time. He failed at both. When Sutton assumed editorship of the World in December, 1873, he admitted

I am fully aware of my incompetency to get up more than a very common place newspaper.⁵⁵⁹

Sutton also apparently battled an alcohol problem as several accounts in the World indicate, including one some years after Sutton left the World. The story said the newspaper's business manager Heman Jones had discovered "an old memorandum book" of Sutton's dated December 29, 1863, in which Sutton and Bob Lorthan made a pact that

. . . we would abstain from the use of all intoxicating beverages for forty days and nights.⁵⁶⁰

Boyakin was well respected by printers in the Territory, but he flitted from newspaper to newspaper and

⁵⁵⁹ Idaho World, December 4, 1873, p. 2.

⁵⁶⁰ Idaho World, May 3, 1881, p. 3.

seemed content to act as an interm editor, much as Egbert Jones did until he opened his own business at Boise while pursuing politics in the state legislature.

George Ainslie and Charles E. Jones were the most stable of the World's editors. Their moderate editorial stands were in sharp contrast to the "Oregon style" practiced by Street and O'Meara. Charles Jones' repartee with his printers and sisters, who edited the newspaper in his occasional absence, added a light touch to the World's news columns. He lived in all the eras of the World, and he was the dean of Idaho's early-day journalists by virtue of his forty-five years with the newspaper, thirty-eight as its editor and publisher. With the twenty-two years of job work following suspension of the World, his journalistic career spanned 70 years.

Each of the World's editors reflected the times about which they wrote; they were typical of the day; they were visionaries. The Butler brothers, Street, O'Meara, Ainslie, Sutton, Boyakin, the Jones brothers, and the business managers, I. H. Bowman and Heman Jones, all pleaded for the ingredients necessary for social, economic, and political development of the basin and the territory. Most of the developments sought eventually came. Law and order, telegraph, telephone, education, roads, railroads, and

statehood. Each was hurrahed accordingly. The works of those who operated the newspaper are chronicles of history as they observed and wrote them--bound into the volumes of the Idaho World.

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