

EARLY DATA OF THE CITY OF TWIN FALLS.

The portion of Southern Idaho locally and generally known as the Twin Falls Tract, conceived by I. B. Perrine, and in the year 1903 Mr. Perrine financed the project by associating with himself Messrs. F. H. Buhl, Stanley B. Milner and Peter Kimberly; and the possibilities and feasibility were investigated and determined by survey under the direction of Paul S. A. Bickel and a corps of competent cruisers of the land proposed to be put under water for agricultural purposes. These financiers upon the reports made by those so employed decided to build the works necessary to reclaim the more than 200,000 acres now yielding so bountifully and supporting the many beautiful homes now on the tract. Work on the diversion, designated as Milner Dam in honor of Mr. Milner, was begun in 1903 and simultaneously upon the system of canals for carrying and distributing water to the lands to be reclaimed. The other promoters of the project received recognition in the names of towns and public buildings on the tract and within the city in which we reside. The city was named from the picturesque falls in the Snake River.

Of the four pioneers who promoted and financed this tract, only Mr. Perrine remains. The others are mourned by a grateful people resident upon the tract rendered so valuable by the enterprise of these far-sighted, public-spirited citizens. What has been accomplished is a real and enduring monument that will last as long as time itself in perpetuation of their achievement.

The reclamation of this once large desert area for home building and agricultural pursuits required that a city be planned and built in harmony with the fertility and beauty of the farm homes to be erected. These same individuals encouraged by the results foreseen in the culmination of the irrigation project, selected and acquired the location upon which the City of Twin Falls stands; and the ground was surveyed and marked out by their engineer, Mr. Bickel, upon the general plan of the promoters. The beautiful parks now so necessary to the comfort of citizen and stranger, the sites of the Lincoln and Bickel Schools, as well as a site for each church organization that might decide to establish itself here, were each and all a part of the original plan of the founders.

The Townsite being thus laid out in blocks, streets, and alleys, the first lot was sold in July, 1940,¹⁹⁰⁴ and a rooming house was immediately erected on this Lot One in Block 105 by S. W. Hazen who offered the first accommodations to travelers. The building now stands upon this lot.

The first building constructed on the tract was the shingle-roofed portion of the premises used as a foundry by Mr. Kanpe at the point where East Main Avenue intersects Kimberly Road. This building was upon the Carey Act entry of William B. Perrine. The foundry and buildings have been removed from this premises during the present year.

The sale of the lands and town lots was conducted by Twin Falls Investment Company under the management of Robert M. McCollum, now deceased. The building now on Lot One in Block 106 was the office used by this company in its operations. The premises are now used as marble works. This building was erected in the summer of 1904.

The first Drug Store was established and operated in a small frame building in Block 103 by E. B. Williams. The building has been removed and the lot is occupied by

the Idaho Department Store building. Mr. Williams continues his residence here.

The first Hardware Store was established by Messrs. Craig and Cager in the frame building in Block 89 Main Avenue East, which building is now occupied as a blacksmith and repair shop. The Salladay Hardware Company purchased the stock of hardware and continues in business at its location on North Main Avenue.

The first School House was erected by popular subscription and the terms opened in the fall of 1904 with Prof. Thornton as teacher. Mr. Thornton is now engaged in business at Burley, Idaho. This building was used for church services and for hall purposes outside school hours and during vacation periods, there being no other building to accommodate a public gathering. The first members of the board were Mr. Nelson, H. C. Milner and S. T. Hamilton. The building has been owned and occupied by several of the churches successively and is now used as a church. Christmas exercises were conducted in this school house in 1904. The committee selected to procure a Christmas Tree brought in a mammoth sage brush that touched the ceiling and placed the same in the building. The tree was carefully decorated by the ladies of the new town and presented a most unique picture in complete harmony with the then condition of the tract.

The Perrine Hotel, named in honor of I.B. Perrine, was erected by Twin Falls Investment Company in 1905; and was ready to be opened to the public at Christmas of that year. All of the material used in this building was freighted from Shoshone, across Blue Lakes grade across the River by ferry operated by our fellow townsman, Jacob Fritz. A line of freighters was at this time handled by C. O. Meigs who is now in the implement business at Twin Falls.

The first store established in Twin Falls was a general store across the alley from where Twin Falls

Bank & Trust Company's building now stands. This store was owned by William B. Perrine, now deceased, and William Burton now living in Burley, Idaho, as Perrine & Burton. Charles Macauley, who is now engaged in business here, was also connected with this first store. The building was erected in the summer of 1904 and has been torn down in the interest of larger improvement.

William Tarr and C. B. Cartright opened the next general store in Block 105 South Main Avenue. Both of these gentlemen continue residents of Twin Falls. This store was sold to H. F. Allen, now deceased, and was later merged into what is now the Idaho Department Store.

The first Post Office was in the Perrine & Burton store under a special form of general delivery. The mail sack was emptied in a corner of the room and the patrons helped themselves. It might be stated, however, the patrons were not many at that time. Later during the year Mrs. H. O. Milner was appointed Post-mistress and moved the office into a room at her husband's lumber yard, where the family then lived. Mrs. Milner obtained regulation box furnishings and equipped the office in keeping with the growth of the town.

The first telephone line was built by I. B. Perrine from a point north of Snake River where connection was had with the Bell Line via of Twin Falls to Milner Dam-site during the winter and spring of 1904. Phones were installed in the offices of Twin Falls Land & Water Company, which company constructed Milner Dam and the system of canals, and in the office of Twin Falls Investment Company. The first private phone in Twin Falls was in the office of S. T. Hamilton. This line was afterward sold by Mr. Perrine to the Bell System.

The first church building was financed by the efforts of Mrs. I. B. Perrine whose requests for donations were cheerfully responded to by the incoming settlers. Thus was the First Baptist Church of Twin Falls comfortably

housed in the brick edifice on Fifth Avenue East. The building has been purchased and is now owned and occupied by the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

The next church building was St. Edward's Catholic church; the building is now used as a Parochial School.

The first Dairy was by John Hopkins, now deceased. Mr. Hopkins was a pioneer in Snake River Valley.

The first Meat Market was established by Frank C. Smith and F. W. Eickhoff on Second Avenue South. Mr. Eickhoff is a resident of the State of Montana, and Mr. Smith resides in the State of California, but spends a part of his time here each year looking after property interests.

The first Industry established was in the manufacturing of cement blocks by C. M. Smith and Herman Schurger in the spring of 1905. Owing to the long freight haul these blocks were in demand. Many of the substantial business and residence buildings are of these blocks. Both Mr. Smith and Mr. Schurger have continued to reside in Twin Falls.

The first Livery Barn was constructed and owned by Messrs. Nelson & Peck in 1904 in Block 105 where the barn still stands.

The first Land Cruising and Real Estate Office was opened by Kennedy Packard. Mr. Packard has continued to reside here and now fills the office of Justice of the Peace.

The first Restaurant was owned and conducted by George Bassett at the corner of Shoshone Street and Second Avenue East. The building has been removed.

Travel to and from Twin Falls until the railroad was built, was by Overland Stage Coaches operated by I. B. Perrine between Shoshone and Twin Falls via Blue Lakes. The early settlers regard this first trip as a gem in their experiences.

The first Sunday School was a union school organized in 1904 by Mrs. Fred E. Ramsay ably assisted by Mrs. J. M. Spackman. This organization was in Rock Creek Canyon near where the upper bridge now is, in a tent shaded by the willows. There were pioneer women as well as pioneer men. Mrs. Ramsay now resides at Hansen, Idaho, and Mrs. Spackman continues residence here.

The first Blacksmith Shop was owned and conducted by T. B. Hendricks who has recently moved to Contact, Nevada.

The first Clearing of Sage Brush was by J. H. Urie who grubbed the first streets in Twin Falls; and who cleared the first tract to be farmed. Elsie Urie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Urie, was the first child born on Twin Falls Townsite.

The first lumber yard was established and operated by H. O. Milner of Third Avenue South in 1904. The supply was freighted from Shoshone thirty-five miles via Blue Lakes.

The first Barber Shop was started in 1904. A barber whose name is not now recalled came in on the stage with razors and shears in his satchel. Hair cuts and shaves were in demand. His first work was with a rocking chair tilted on blocks of wood. He thus earned enough money to rent a room. He then borrowed an operating chair from a doctor's office and this was used as a barber chair until enough money was earned to furnish an office.

The first Cigar Store was by Morgan G. Heap and Arnold Frankel on Main Avenue East, which store was later sold out to Macauley Brothers.

The City of Twin Falls was organized in the spring of 1905. The Board of Trustees were; Robert M. McCollum, F. W. Eickhoff, P. S. A. Bickel, Frank Bradley and S. T. Hamilton. Under this administration the present sewer system was installed.

The first Electric Light Plant consisted of a traction engine installed back of the Perrine Hotel in

charge of George D. Aiken. With this equipment, light was furnished to the hotel, a number of business houses, and a few private residences until the present Light & Power Company established itself.

The first Bakery in Twin Falls was by H. F. Harder in 1904, and was by him conducted for some time thereafter. The deliveries of bakery goods were made in a heavy farm wagon.

The first Harness Shop was established and conducted by A. L. Bradley in 1904.

The first Furniture Store was established on North Main Avenue by David Smith and was conducted under the name of Smith Furniture Company.

The first Jewelry Store was established by J. G. Granger in a small building on Main Avenue South where the Boyd Building now stands.

The first Burial at Twin Falls was Mrs. R. W. Gager whose husband was then engaged in the hardware business, the grave being near the present cemetery.

The first Water Works consisted of a pump in Rock Creek Canyon near the location of the upper bridge, and a small wooden tank near where the present tank now stands. This tank would be filled with water during the day, and several hoses turned on in the evening about the time of the arrival of the Overland Stage. This system of water works at the time showed the town to be quite progressive.

The first Dentist in Twin Falls was Dr. G. F. Baker, now deceased. The first Doctors were H. W. Clouчек and W. F. Pike who came at or about the same time in 1904.

The first Deep Well at Twin Falls was at the ranch of P. B. Johnston adjoining South Park.

The first Ice used in Twin Falls was hauled by wagon from Shoshone during the night a distance of thirty-five miles across the canyon and delivered to customers. This delivery of ice was continued until about the first of August, 1905, after which date the ice was brought

from Pocatello by train. At or about this time A. M. Sande established an ice house north of the City and delivered natural ice.

The first Jail was built in 1904 by Fred E. Ramsay, F. W. Eickhoff and S. T. Hamilton. The structure was of two-by-sixes laid flat and spiked together, with barred windows and heavy concrete floor. The building may now be seen at the alley back of the City Fire Department. This building about 1906, was purchased by the City after organization.

The first Flour Mill was constructed on the present site by the Colorado Milling and Elevator Company in charge of L. L. Breckenridge who has continued to represent this Company.

The first Bridge across Rock Creek was constructed at the end of Shoshone Street by popular subscription and continued to be used until the iron and concrete structure replaced it.

The first Automobile was brought to Twin Falls Tract by M. J. Sweeley in 1905. No record was kept of the number of teams inspired to run away by this car.

The first Garage was established by C. E. Lind on Second Avenue South, and the business has grown to an extent evidenced by the magnificent structure now occupied by Lind Automobile Company.

The first Bank established in Twin Falls was The First National Bank in the spring of 1905 in charge of John M. Maxwell who now continues as its cashier. This Bank was located in Block 106 adjoining the Twin Falls Investment Company's office where the marble works now are. The small wooden building occupied by the Bank was afterwards moved to Block 103 East Main Street where it continued until moving in to its present quarters.

The first Abstract Business was succeeded to by Twin Falls Title & Abstract Company which is now in

business on Shoshone Street East.

The first Commercial Club was organized in Twin Falls in 1905, and has continued to function and is now an active factor in municipal life.

The first Newspaper in Twin Falls was the Twin Falls News, which has developed into a leading daily in the State.

The first Photograph Gallery was by C. E. Bisbee who is in business on Second Street East.

The first Hospital was incorporated and organized by the public-spirited citizens of Twin Falls in 1905. The Building was constructed and operated as a general hospital until taken over by Dr. T. O. Boyd who has since enlarged the building and conducted it as the Boyd Hospital.

The Twin Falls Band was organized in 1905; being particularly active in this organization was C. D. Thomas now in the Real Estate Business.

The railroad was completed to Twin Falls in July, 1905, and August 7th, of that year was celebrated as Railroad Day, and a barbecue was served in the dining room of the Perrine Hotel before the hotel was finished. The beefs and sheep were cooked in a pit across the street from the Hotel where the Smith Building now stands.

The first Car of Live Stock from Twin Falls was by Lee Vader of Hagerman, Idaho.

Twin Falls County was organized in 1907 from Cassia County Territory. The first Court House was in the second story of what is now the Idaho Department Store Building, which building was so used until the completion of the present Court House in 1911.

This is a brief outline of the early history of the Twin Falls County. While not intended to be a complete statement, it shows the beginning of most, if not all,

of the lines of business now so well represented.

It is an esteemed privilege to have shared the joys and felt the sorrows of those who played their parts on the stage of early development and progress. Pioneer life was of short duration but it was none the less real during the first years.

Those who have never known frontier life with its thrills and depressions may wonder why the handclasp is a little stronger when the early settlers meet; but the memories that come are akin to the flooding upon the old soldiers at the sound of fife and drum.

June 9, 1926.

Rotary Club-May 9, 1951

Carey Act Passed 1894. 1000,000 acres to arid States.

1900 - T. H. Low Co. filed proposal to construct irrigation works in Cassia and Lincoln Counties under provisions of the Cary Act. P. S. A. B. Chief Engineer - James D. Schuyler Consult. Eng.

1903 - Contract between State Bd L. Commissioners and T. H. Low Co. Jan. 2, 1903. T. F. Canal Co. provided for (Frank W. Hunt, Governor)

July 1

1901 - Lands segregated and withdrawn - Deeded to State (50¢ for lands.) \$25.00 W. C. \$15.00 for School Lands.

F. H. Buhl, Peter Kimberly and S. B. Milner - financed project. E. B. Critchlow for Low Co. S. H. Hays for Invest. Co. I was local atty. working with both companies.

Shoshone Falls Power Co.---Water Works.

Promotors - I. B. Perrine - Hollister and associates.
Railroad -- 200 ft. right of way - c.

1905 - Organization of Townsite

1905 - Sewer - Perrine Hotel

R. R. Day, August 7, 1905

3 Bridges by donation.

1st Hospital by donation (women 2 Ave. S.)

1st School House by donation.

1st Church - Mrs. I. B. P.

Last visit S. B. Milner, Buhl-

All night meetings - Financiers, Promotors, Attorneys.

Telephone Line to Milner - I. B. P.

Telephone to Burley.

Clearing land \$5.00 per acre.

1st Grubber.

(4-7)

1907 - Northside Low Co.

Contract with State.

Took over 30,000 acres from South Side.

Kuhns in same relation as financiers S. Side.

R. R. - Reservoirs.

Trip to Pittsburgh.