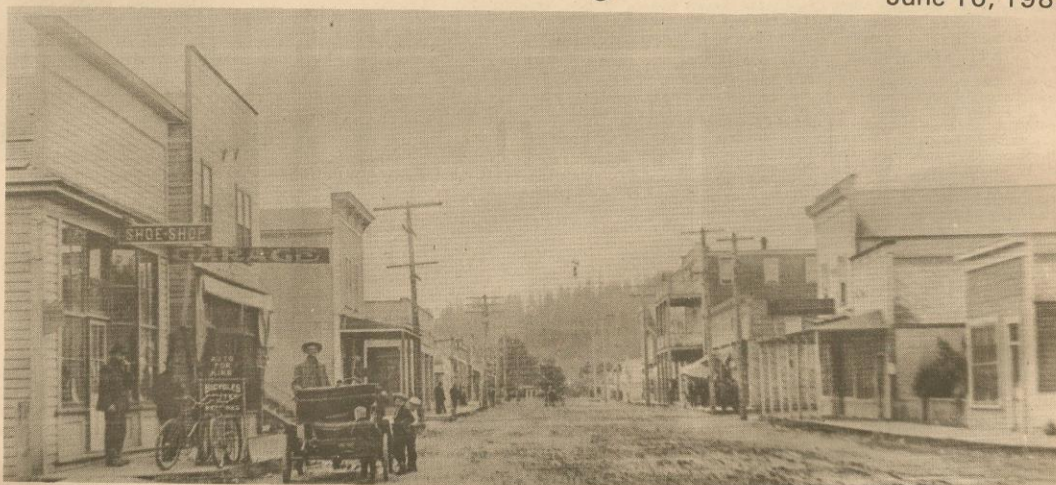


# The Tenino Independent

## 60th Anniversary Edition

June 16, 1982



MAIN STREET OF TENINO ABOUT 1910 WITH CAR STILL A NOVELTY

### Mrs. Newell remembers when Tenino was mostly cow pasture

By Edith Newell

The following article was written by Mrs. Edith Newell and first published in *The Tenino Independent* in 1973. Mrs. Newell's reminiscences provide an interesting view of Tenino's early days.

I was an infant in arms when my parents came to Tenino on April 21, 1890. We came here from Stockton, Kansas on an immigrant train.

There were three or four families to each car, where we cooked and lived during the trip. There also was a special car for livestock and household furniture. My older brother rode with the stock to feed and care for them.

In my family there were seven children and my mother and father. My father and older brother had been west the preceding year, visiting my father's sister, Mrs. Jon Sarver, who owned the Tilly donation claim on Violet Prairie. My father liked Tenino and decided to locate here. He returned to Kansas and brought the family out the following spring.

The next six years I spent growing, climbing trees, and fighting with the other children. When we first arrived we lived in the Eureka district (now Cat-tail). There was a quarry up

there by that name, and I suppose that was how it got the name.

We lived there a year or two until my father built a home in Tenino. The house was built in 1891 or 1892 and still stands next door to my former home.

Tenino was one big cow pasture for years. Everyone owned one or two cows and they roamed on the prairies at will. When we came here there were only two known streets, Sussex Street and Railroad Avenue (now Park Avenue).

School in those days was only for a three-month term. My brothers and sisters attended the Coal Bank School, built in 1868 and located on the Sears donation claim near the cemetery. Some attended the Colvin School on the Colvin donation claim and others the Cattail School on the Hennessy donation claim.

The first Tenino school was near Parkside grade school. It was built under the oak tree in the park just across the street, and was a very small building. Later the larger four-room building was built and the smaller building was moved and used as a woodshed and boys' and girls' room.

I started school in 1896 in the four-room building. They only

used two downstairs rooms. We called them the little room and the big room. The grades were divided, four to each room. Anna Campbell was made first grade teacher. There was no high school in Tenino until 1907.

The first depot in Tenino was located at the South end of Olympia Street. The hotel and business houses were located there also. The businesses gradually moved up Olympia Street to Sussex Avenue when the depot was moved to West Tenino, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile southwest of the Olympia Street location.

Tenino was a junction of the Port Townsend Southern Railroad and the Northern Pacific. Anyone going to Olympia changed trains here. This arrangement continued until the Northern Pacific built the double track or "water level road" to Tacoma in 1912. Before that, all railroad main line travel was on the NP tracks on the south edge of town.

Tenino lived through three very disastrous fires and always came back. The first fire was in 1905 and burned the block where Roger's Furniture is now located. It started in the corner building (Sussex and Olympia

Streets), a grocery store owned by George Sumption. It burned everything but a saloon on the corner where the Tenino Independent now stands. There was a vacant lot that stopped the fire from spreading to the saloon.

The next fire was about 1908 and it burned the block where Anderson's Tavern is located and also across the street in the block where the Jiffy Lunch is today.

The third fire was in October of 1917 and burned the Masonic Hall, a three-story hotel and other store buildings. After these fires the buildings were all replaced of stone and brick.

The Fourth of July was always a big day in Tenino for many years. There was a parade, led by the Tenino band, which was organized about 1905 by C. Frank Smith, a stone cutter. This later became the Eagles Band and was well known and considered one of the best in the state.

Floats would be decorated in red, white and blue bunting and flags. One year Ivy Gilmore, later Mrs. Andrew Wilson, was Goddess of Liberty, and my father, T. J. McClellan was Uncle Sam. Ivy had long blond hair and made a nice goddess and my father was tall and

skinny, dressed in red, white and blue. Also on the float were little girls dressed in white with banners across their fronts representing each state in the union. There were several other floats in the parade, all decorated with similar colors.

The old Drum Corps was another addition and was well-known in the surrounding towns and countryside. It consisted of Wes Fenton, Jim McArthur, Will Howe, Jimmie Stevenson, Rich Betts, Ed Betts and Bill Mullaney.

There was an old cannon which was always fired on the 4th of July at the crack of dawn to awaken everyone in town and welcome in the Fourth. The cannon had a place in the parade and in the "Battle of Pea Soup". This battle always took place during the parade.

The cannon would be fired and someone would fall down injured. Out of the hospital float would come a stretcher and they would pick the victim up and rush him back to the hospital float. They would stick a long two by four with a shoe attached to it out the back and the "doctor" would saw the "leg" off. Someone else would be giving the patient a drink out of a jug or bottle. The parade

(Continued on next page)

Panorama View of Tenino Sandstone Quarry and Tenino, Wash.





## Mrs. Newell remembers

(Continued from previous page)

always finished at the park where there was a free clam bake, plus band music, speeches, ballgames and visiting and dancing on the pavilion.

There were just two churches in the early days. One was the Catholic church which was destroyed by fire several years ago. The other was the Presbyterian which was located where Dora Major's house now stands. In later years the Methodists built a church, which is now used by the Catholics.

The stone quarry was where the swimming pool is now. It was first owned by George Van Tine and was Fenton in the late 1880's. Russell later bought Van Tine out and then Fenton and Russell ran it for years.

The Russell Quarry employed from 12 to 40 stone cutters besides all the other men that worked there. Some of the stone cutters had families and built homes, but many of the single men boarded at the Central Hotel. This hotel was owned by several different people—Van Normans and Yantis were a couple of the early ones. I think it was owned by Gilmore first.

From 1900 to 1912 there were about thirty or thirty-five outlets for labor in and around Tenino. Logging camps, sawmills, coal mines, quarries and a good school made Tenino a lively trading center.

Some of the businesses I remember were: Weston and Yantis, livery stable, later owned by Gibson and Davis; Battista Drug Store; Miller's Barber Shop and Confectionery; Copping and Daugherty, Hardware; M. B. Peterson, Hardware; Campbell & Campbell, General Merchandise; Russell & Fenton, Scheel & McArthur, stone quarries; Mentzer, Harm & Brown, Blumauer, and Clark Bros., sawmills; Jonis Spar and Lumber Co., Hartson's Mill, Newell Bros. Confection; George Jones Grocery; Howard and C. L. Barclay, Dry Goods; N. U. Everts Grocery; C.L.U. Green, Merchandise; George & John Case, Meat Market; Dell Axette, Meat Market; Graham Bros. Coal Mine, and Western Coal Mine.

Some of the professional people I remember:

Doctors—Dr. Ludwig, who had a hospital at the west end of Central Avenue and Ritter Street; Dr. Crane, Dr. Robson, Dr. Millington, Dr. Wichman, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Qualife, Dr. John Wichman, Dr. Coleman, and Dr. Foster.

Dentists were: Drs. Zellers, Dean, Davis, Corfman, Myers, Cliff and Ed Johnson, Parosa, and Bubnick.

Newspaper owners—P. C. Kibbe, Cap Zenner, Wickersham, Sawyer, Parks, Major, Coble, Fultz, Bernard, and Dwelley.

Bankers—Blumauer, W.D. Hays, Lou Hubbard, Kerbaugh, and De Ste. Croix.

Tenino was a great fraternal order town. The Masons and the Eastern Star were two of the earliest orders in town. The O.E.S. was organized in 1893. I have many fond memories of the Chapter since earliest childhood, as my parents were charter members.

There were many more lodges in town during the later years—Odd Fellows, Workman, Woodmen of the World, Eagles—and they all had auxiliaries, which made for a nice social life in the town. The Degree of Honor and the Eagles are about the only ones left besides the Masons and Eastern Star.

Tenino at the turn of the century had seven to ten saloons, but I can't remember that we saw too many drunken people on the streets. I never felt afraid to walk home from lodge or anything late at night.

One thing a lot of people did on Sunday afternoons was walk to the depot to watch the trains arrive. You always found people to visit with, and kept track of who came into town and who left. In those days there was a good wooden sidewalk from the city limits in the east end of town to the depot.

My father was one of the pioneer business men of Tenino. He and another man started a creamery down where the old Creamery now stands. Later he had a shingle and saw mill about where the present mill is located. He logged the hill west of Tenino.

He later started a drug store, and in that store he started the first telephone company in about 1905. The switchboard was not very big and only five people could talk at any one time. I was the telephone operator. This store and telephone office was burned out in the first fire. Father built a small building to get the telephone office going again.

I guess he had great faith in Tenino, because he started the first electric light plant in about 1907 or 1908. After a few years he sold both of these businesses to Fenton and Hays. They were both improved and moved. Mr.



MRS. NEWELL IS THE YOUNG LADY IN THIS PHOTO TAKEN IN FATHER'S STORE



THE TENINO VALLEY SOMETIME AROUND THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

Furness later bought the telephone company which is now owned by E.A. Peterson. Northwest Power from Portland bought the light company which later became a part of Puget Sound Power and Light Company.

My father also established the first moving picture show in Tenino. (You could see a movie for 10 cents then.) He sold that to Wren Scott. By this time I think he was tired out and his enthusiasm ran out. For the remainder of his life he was Justice of the Peace and Police Judge in Tenino.

When I was about 14 years old my father bought me a piano and my brother Grover got a violin. We got the idea to start an orchestra, and Bob

McArthur joined us with a cornet and Art Gilmore with a slide trombone. We played all around the surrounding towns for dances. We played from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. and sometimes until daylight so people on the farms could go home and milk the cows. We played quadrilles, two steps, waltzes, schottisches and three steps. On special occasions there was a cake walk led by the leading citizen of the community. Those were the good old days!

Automobiles came to Tenino in 1905. The first were owned by Dr. Robson, Dave Copping, and my father. L. J. Johnson Bicycle Shop became the main garage in town. The main street from the west city limits to the northeast city limits was paved in 1912.

I must tell about the dark day in Tenino on September 12 and

13, 1902. I was scared to death. My mother came and awakened us early and got us all up. The sky as I remember was all red at first, then it gradually got dark—pitch dark—even the chickens went to roost. They opened the church and rang the bell—people didn't know what to do. The men got out the lanterns and went down town. After a while it got like twilight and gradually the sky cleared. There was a fine ash falling.

Of course there was not much communication in those days, and I don't think they ever did decide fully what had happened. There was a bad forest fire at Yacolt on the Lewis River and they thought perhaps it was the smoke, because it moved up from down south and went on toward Tacoma.

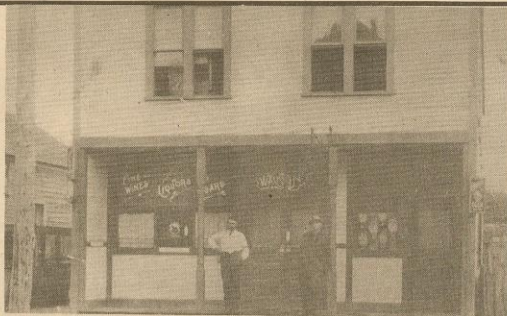


TENINO PARADE WAS HORSE-DRAWN IN DAYS BEFORE HENRY FORD



EZRA MEEKER SETS TENINO'S OREGON TRAIL MARKER





Bob Aspel & Emil Morsbach in front of the Bucoda Tavern, forerunner of Joe's Place. This building burned down about 1918 and the present building went up. Bob was Ruth Wall's great, great uncle.



Melody Snyder and Ruth Wall of Joe's Place

Manager Ruth Wall, her son Gary, Melody Snyder, Judy Barney and Kit Lutman preserve a long history at Bucoda's social center.

The business was named for Ruth's great grandfather, Joe Farrington, who died working behind the bar in 1937.

Ruth started working Sunday's when she was 19. (No beer served on Sunday's then.)

The business is owned by Ruth's dad, Edwin Bowen, and Nellie Forsyth.

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IT  
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After Norm's death, his son-in-law, Bob Keepers took over and then sold to the present owners, Ray and Sandy Rager, in 1977.



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1915 TENINO GATHERING AT MULLANEY'S—This photo from the Tenino Museum collection was chosen for publication because so many of the people were well known in Tenino over the years. In the top row, from left: Ocie Van Tine Swanson, Andrew (Tim) McArthur, Jessie McArthur, Lottie Macdonald Fisher, Sadie Taylor, Joe Taylor, Orrie Webster, Jennie Webster, George Webster, Carrie McArthur, Ada Taylor, Libbie Howe, Carrie Sadow, Helen

Steele, Roy Steele, Grace Rohrer, Jake Sadow, and Bill Mullaney. Middle row: Lonnie Sadow, Frances Scheel, Anna Covert McGonigle, Ira McGonigle, and Will Mullaney. Front row: Marie Mullaney, Clara Mullaney Penny, Dora Mullaney, Harry Penny, Dolly Stewart Miltz, Bob Lowery, Alice Kenworthy Lowery, Lora Glover, Dave Henderson, Hatti Martin, C. Lee Martin, Rev. Miller, Veta Reedy, and Thurston Mentzer.

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Ken and Barbara Hedden purchased the drug store from Otto Temple in April, 1953. It was then located where Ferdinand's Restaurant is now.

In 1956, the Heddens constructed a new building at its present location and, as the business grew, they added the back half of the building in 1977, doubling its size.

A family enterprise from the start, it continues that way today. All five children are or have been involved in the operation. They include:

Shirley—presently a pharmacist and like her dad, a graduate of the UW. Shirley is married to Duane Johnson, a Tenino high school teacher.

Dale—now a CPA in Olympia. He worked during his school years at the store and his wife, Rochelle, is a Tenino girl.

Brian—is graduating from UW's School of Pharmacy in June and will be working in the store.

Janet—works full time in the store and has taken accounting courses from business college. She is married to Gary Giffin, Tenino policeman.

Carol—who worked in the store until high school graduation and is presently working for an insurance company.

The Hedden family is proud of its contributions to the community and pledges to continue for many years to come.



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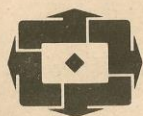
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# “Galloping Goose” wasn’t big, but it was slow!

By ART DWELLEY

A few years back a popular television show was “Petticoat Junction” which was built around the adventures of the people of a small town served by a somewhat erratic railroad line. Most people around Tenino other than oldtimers are probably not aware that a similar operation once played an important part in the history of this area.

The rail line connected Olympia and Tenino and was in operation from 1878 until about 1916. It was a narrow gauge (3 foot) line and was originally the Thurston County Railroad Company, with later name changes to the Olympia and Chehalis Valley Railroad, and finally in 1891 to the Port Townsend and Southern.

Locally, it was referred to as the “Galloping Goose”, and consisted of a locomotive, one or two passenger cars, and maybe a freight car. Just where the “galloping” came in is a little hard to determine as the train took an hour to cover the 15-mile length of the line.

Perhaps the reason for this lack of speed was that stops were made whenever and wherever necessary. Farmers flagged down the train anywhere along the line and freight was dropped off the same way. Cows often held up the entire schedule while the conductor chased them out of the way, and one time a house mover quit for the day with a house left astraddle of the tracks!

One recorded incident was a wintry day when John Yantis tired of the slow progress of the train through a heavy snowfall. John left the train at Plumb Station near Offut Lake on foot and still beat it to Tenino with plenty of time to spare. Then there was the time when an enraged bull decided to challenge the locomotive and that also didn’t do much for the announced schedule of arrivals and departures.

The “Galloping Goose” made one round trip a day during the early 1900’s, leaving Olympia at 10:50 a.m. and arriving (some of the time) in Tenino at 11:40. It returned to the capitol at 1:05, arriving there at 1:50. The schedule was designed to connect with Northern Pacific passenger trains to Portland and Tacoma.

Actually, the line was built by Olympians who were completely frustrated when the Northern Pacific by-passed Olympia after telling the people there that Washington’s capitol city was to be the northern terminus of the line. In reality the railroad quietly bought most of the land in Tacoma and made that its terminus, leaving Olympia cut off from rail transportation.

Tenino, therefore, was the closest rail link to Olympia, and a branch

line between the two was the obvious answer. It took six years to complete the job, with initial work starting in 1872 and proceeding sporadically until the last year or two when a crew of 75 men was employed to finish the job. The track crew, which included about 25 Chinese, completed the line late in July of 1878.

To celebrate the occasion a special excursion was held on August 1, 1878, with two trainloads of Olympians brought down to Tenino for a picnic and dance. More than 700 people attended from Olympia, plus a special train brought others from Centerville (Centralia). Without doubt it was the largest gathering ever held in Tenino up to that time.

Passenger rates between Tenino and Olympia were one dollar and freight rates were \$1 per ton to or from any point on the line. One of the first users of the line for freight was the coal mine at Seatco which shipped coal to Olympia for transport by ship to San Francisco.

The Thurston County Railroad’s first line came into Tenino through the McDuff Road gap and down across the present High School grounds, crossed Sussex Street at about where the Tenino Eagles building stands, and met the Northern Pacific line near Howard and Park Streets. Later both the NP and the Olympia line shifted their depot to “West Tenino” about where the Tenino Hardwood mill is now located.

The first locomotive used on the narrow gauge line was shipped by sailing ship from San Francisco and arrived in Olympia completely disassembled. The first project for the line’s engineer was to put the locomotive together. Some of the first railroad cars were built in Tumwater and were little more than boxes with glassless windows and benches for seats. While the train was no doubt more comfortable than the stage coaches of the time, it was still quite primitive in its early years.

Stations along the line from Olympia were Tumwater, Bush Station, Plumb Station, and Tenino. As was noted earlier, stops were made anywhere for passengers or freight.

The Port Townsend and Southern was purchased by the Northern Pacific in 1914, and the line was abandoned after the completion of the NP’s “Point Line” route from Tacoma via Point Defiance, Steilacoom, and East Olympia. Portions of the narrow gauge right-of-way are still visible along the west side of the Tenino-Olympia Highway between the Offut Lake and Waldrick Roads.



MOM AND THE KIDS WAIT FOR THE GOOSE AT PLUMB STATION



THE GALLOPING GOOSE OF 1900



TENINO’S FIRST DEPOT WAS LOCATED AT PARK AND OLYMPIA STREETS



MAIN LINE DEPOT WAS BUILT IN 1914



TENINO STATION AFTER BEING MOVED TO TENINO JUNCTION



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T-9-O story lingers on —

## Tenino and its name

By ART DWELLEY

How did Tenino get its name? As yet nobody can definitely say. There are many versions of how it might have come to be called Tenino, but the majority of these have been discounted by authoritative sources.

Despite some local legends, according to the Pacific Railroad archives there was never a locomotive on their line bearing the numbers 1090. The railroad's engineering department similarly has discounted the survey stake theory. The method of marking such stakes by survey crews would preclude such a marking anywhere in this general area.

The earliest reference I have found thus far to the site of Tenino was by a settler of the early 1850's who referred to it as "the East Crossing" (or Scatter Creek). Shortly after that Stephen Hodgden took up a donation claim that encompassed most of the area of Tenino east of the present high school. From that time until the railroad arrived it was referred to mainly as "Hodgden's Station" or "Hodgden's" despite the fact that a Post Office was established here in 1860 under the name of "Coal Bank". Actually, Coal Bank was the name of the precinct comprising the Tenino, Frost Prairie, and Skookumchuck areas and did not refer specifically to the site of Tenino.

The first published reference using the present name can be found in the "Puget Sound Courier" of October 18, 1872. In this issue of the Olympia publication it mentions that "the new town at the end of the tracks has been named 'Tencino'". The spelling used apparently was a typographical error. The same story notes that the "town" consisted of a depot, hotel and saloon.

The "Puget Sound Courier" of a week earlier states that the railroad arrived in Tenino on October 8, 1872. It states that the last spike on this section of the railroad was driven at 3 p.m. on that day. Regular service between Kalama and Tenino was instituted on October 14, 1872. On November 17, 1873, the name of the Post Office was changed to Tenino.



**SKOOKUMUCK BELLES** — This vintage photo shows what the well-dressed young lady wore a few years back. In the photo, from right to left are Clara Anderson, Blanch Sandmire and Hester Whalin and Nettie Davis, Edith Pinger and Nancy Wardle Ritter.

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## J. R. James was early merchant

By DAVE JAMES

John Rogers James is a name associated with Oregon Trail history and the early settlement of Grand Mound, where he arrived with his parents and seven brothers and sisters in 1852. Less known about "Uncle J.R." is that he was



JOHN ROGERS JAMES

for a brief time a merchant in Tenino. The years 1890-91 spanned the grand opening and muted closing of the James and Sons grocery, feed store and notions emporium.

Like many fathers today, J.R. James dreamed of business careers for his sons. He also had nephews on the short-lived Tenino payroll. Sons involved were Arthur, 25, and Allen, 20. The nephews were Fred Stocking, 27, who later became a prominent savings and loan executive in Olympia, and Ellis Shephard, 25, who was to head a Seattle financial institution in his prime.

If a year in the whirl of Tenino finance didn't fatten the James

bankroll it at least taught lessons about credit which the U.S. Government still hasn't learned after 206 years. Putting out more than you take in can only last so long.

John Rogers James and his staff were too liberal with credit. People who promised to pay had a habit of poor memories at the end of the month. It didn't take long for the account books to sag like a toddler's diapers.

"Uncle Johnny was too soft-hearted," recalled his granddaughter, Juanita Brown Delaney, 90, now living in Aberdeen. "People would come to him with a hard luck story and he would load their buggies and trust them to come back to pay. Too many didn't."

The crumbling ledgers of the James and Sons and Nephews store show that many customers paid for their flour, sugar, coffee and coal oil with home-grown eggs and home-made butter. Times were hard and barter was the only way some people could buy. Uncle J.R. wound up eating an awful lot of butter and eggs, which could have affected his health because he only lived to be 88.

Another drain on the cash flow was advance of salary to the employees, some of whom made 25 cents an hour. Juanita Delaney recalls Uncle Johnny saying that at month's end, after he sent out bills, he could walk down the street and "not see a soul." His debtors seemed to be exceedingly shy people.

So, within a year or so the James store venture folded. It was probably just as well. The Panic of '93 next hit Tenino and business fell flatter than a waffle iron. Many firms were wiped out.

But James and Sons weren't around to feel the pangs of going

busted. John Rogers James was back on Grand Mound prairie with his sheep; son Arthur had returned to farming near Scatter Creek; son Allen began traveling to the logging camps, selling serge suits made by the Garden City Tailoring Company (two pairs of pants for a \$1 extra), and the nephews Fred Stocking and Ellis Shephard headed for the cities. All this happened 92 years ago when Tenino was so little that even a good dog scuffle would bring people running.

[Dave James was raised in Rochester and is a well-known journalist and historian. One of his first newspaper jobs was with The Tenino Independent.]



CAP ZENNER was publisher of The Tenino News and a well-known local figure in the early 1900's. He is said to have done his type-setting bare-footed.

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TENINO

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**\*DIANNA \*TRENA \*PATTY**

Open Mon. thru Sat. — Thurs. Eve's til 9:00

\*\*\*\*\*

**Special  
Family Plan**  
ONE WEEK ONLY  
**CUTS—SETS—STYLING**

FIRST PERSON	SECOND PERSON
REG. PRICE	½ PRICE

**Make Us Your First Stop &  
Last Stop In Tenino**



**Family Trade Encouraged---**  
Your Children Will Be  
Welcomed

<b>*BREAKFAST</b>	<b>*LUNCH</b>	<b>*DINNER</b>
	✓ Orders To Go	
	✓ Homemade Pies by Verna Bluhm	

**Tiny Tim's Restaurant**

Les & Franki Williams, Owners

**HOURS**

6 to 9 Weekdays  
8 to 9 Saturdays  
8 to 7 Sundays

**TENINO**  
**264-2647**

**WHERE WE WERE — WHERE WE ARE &  
WHERE WE'RE HEADED .**



Basil "Bill" Oram, his wife, Virginia, and their son and daughter-in-law, Roderick and Karen, came here from Westport in August, 1978, purchasing the small store owned by Chester Wilcox. Later, son Greg joined the crew.

Bill brought many years' experience in the lumber business, having managed Bayview Lumber at Westport for 20 years.

Some of you will remember the old store and recall the changes that have been made. The old drive-thru was closed in; new ceiling beams installed; new floors laid and much, much more.

In the past four years, the Orams have worked hard to add new lines of merchandise and to make Tenino Lumber a good place to shop.

There's more to come! Plans are made to expand the store in a major way sometime in the next few months. The house just west of the present building will be moved; the present building enlarged and remodeled and more than \$40,000 invested in Tenino's future.

Tenino Lumber is proud to say it has faith in itself; faith in Tenino and faith in the future!

- |                                |             |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| * Hardware                     | * Lumber    | * Plumbing & Electrical Supplies  |
| * Wood Stoves<br>By Centennial | * Paint     | * Insulation                      |
|                                | * Sheetrock | * Pre-finished Panels & Mouldings |



**Tenino Lumber Co. Inc.**

Your Complete Home Building Center

Store Hours: Monday-Friday 7-5:30  
Saturday 8-4, Sunday 9-3

348 East Sussex Ave., Tenino

**WE DELIVER**

**264-2541**



# Sandstone quarries gave Tenino a boost from village to town

By ART DWELLEY

One of the most-asked questions we hear about Tenino history is: "Where were the Tenino stone quarries and when did they operate?" The quarries were vital to the town's growth and at one time its most important industry.

While the town was born due to the coming of the railroad in 1872, it really didn't amount to much until commercial quality sandstone was found in outcroppings on the hills around the town. Many a pioneer fireplace had been made out of Tenino sandstone, but the first commercial use of it came in 1888 when George VanTine and Wes Fenton started the Tenino Stone Company on the site of the swimming pool in Tenino's city park.

To show the impact of the stone operation here, the population jumped from about 35 to 350 in three years. From a hamlet with one store, a depot, a hotel, and five houses, a real town began to form.

In 1889 the second quarry opened east of Tenino on the hill to the north of the Military Road. The new operation was owned by Allen Robinson and was known as the Eureka Quarry. It did not survive very long, and the same site was utilized later by Hercules Sandstone Company and was known as "Hercules No. 2."

The Hercules company was formed in 1891 by H.P. Scheel and William McArthur, both of whom were prominent citizens for many years and active in Tenino affairs. The Hercules quarry was on Lemon Hill, just west of Tenino on the hillside above Scatter Creek. An old railroad siding just west of the present Burlington Northern main line overpass leads to the site now obscured from view by trees.

A severe depression in 1892 slowed development of the two remaining quarries for about a year, but in 1894 the Tenino Stone Company received a contract for the Colman Building in Seattle to get rolling again. In 1895 the company had more financial troubles that saw George Van Tine sell out and Dr. Donald Russell and Thomas Russell became partners of Wes Fenton in the enterprise. The company was quite successful after the reorganization and operated full blast until concrete came into general use as a building material in 1912. By 1913 the market for building stone had dropped appreciably and the company closed later that year. Some minor stone cutting was done at the Tenino Stone Co. site later, but nothing of economic significance.

Hercules Sandstone Company also produced building stone at the

Lemon Hill site, but branched out in 1911 to provide "rubble stone" at Hercules No. 2 on the Military Road for the Grays Harbor jetty. A big event in the history of Hercules was in 1912 when on February 17 the "Big blow out" was touched off. Two thousand kegs of powder were used in a blast that shattered thousands of tons of rock and rattled the Scatter Creek Valley from end to end.

Hercules shipped seven hundred tons of rubble stone daily from the No. 2 quarry in 1911, and increased that to twelve hundred tons a day in 1912, hauled to Grays Harbor on Northern Pacific trains. In later years the Hercules firm had a quarry on the upper Skookumchuck River which produced stone for the Columbia River jetty.

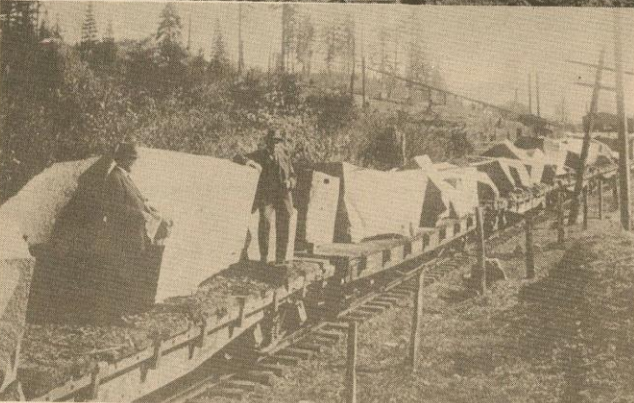
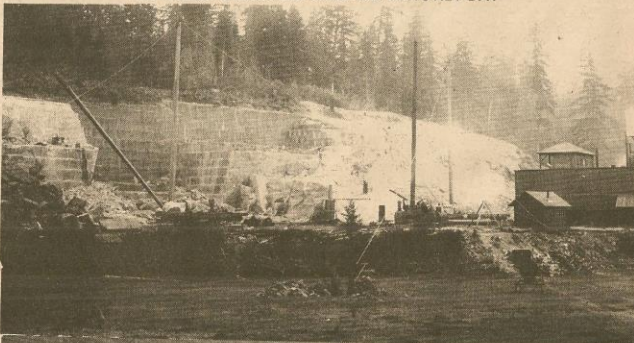
Tenino sandstone was used in many buildings all over the Northwest. Both Hercules and the Tenino Stone Company provided stone for buildings from Vancouver B.C. to California. Some of the more prominent were: the Carnegie Library, Spokane; First Congregational Church, Tacoma; the U.S. National Bank, Eugene, Ore.; the Municipal Buildings, Seattle; the Masonic Temple, Spokane; Science Hall, Washington State College; Hayes & Hayes Bank, Aberdeen; Portland City Library, Portland, Ore.; Washington High School, Portland, Ore.; Calvary Presbyterian Church, San Francisco; the Northern Pacific Depot, Missoula, Montana; the First National Bank, Boise, Idaho; the Grays Harbor County Courthouse, Montesano; the Carnegie Library, Seattle; and the Grand Opera House in Portland.

In 1923 the Hercules quarry on Lemon Hill was purchased by Andrew Wilson of Tenino and re-named the Western Quarry. Wilson operated until the late 1930's when the last piece of Tenino stone was finally cut. From the Western Quarry came the stone for the Thurston County Courthouse (now the center of a battle between those who want to preserve the building and the state, which wants to raze it), the Mason County Courthouse, and a number of other buildings including post offices at sites in Washington and Oregon.

Tenino stone was the real foundation for the town of Tenino and many of its prominent families settled here as quarrymen and stone cutters in the early 1890's. Though the terraced rock has long since lain untouched, they are monuments to the commerce, economy, and social history of our town.



THE TENINO SANDSTONE COMPANY IN ITS HEY-DAY



HERCULES QUARRY NO. 2 PRODUCED RIP-RAP ROCK FOR OCEAN JETTIES



WES FENTON — Founder of first Tenino quarry



## Invest in Real Estate



**Wolf Building Built in 1908**

Sold in 1973 for \$12,950

Sold in 1981 for \$55,000

**Appraised value 1982 \$75,000**

**South County  
Realty**



**264-4058**

332 Sussex Street, Tenino, Washington 98589

## A WARM WELCOME ALWAYS TO EAGLES & GUESTS

Tenino's Eagle Lodge No. 564 is proud to have been a living part of South County history since it was first chartered in 1904. The Lodge and its auxiliary, which was chartered in 1946, pledges to continue being involved in the progress of our community.



### 1982 OFFICERS

President	Robert Truitt
Vice President	Kenneth Anderson
Chaplain	Frank Kiron
Conductor	Kenneth Conrad
Secretary	Walt Reule
Treasurer	Joe Essensa
Inside Guard	Fred Willows
Outside Guard	Frank Simons

**OPEN**  
4 p.m. - Weekdays  
Noon - Sat. & Sun.  
**MEETINGS**  
2nd & 4th  
Mondays - 8 p.m.



**Eagles Lodge  
No. 564**

TENINO

MARTIN'S HANDYMAN HAS NEW OWNERS AND A NEW NAME

# HANDYMAN'S HARDWARE

GET

**10% OFF**

**ALL MERCHANDISE WITH THIS COUPON**

EXCLUDES SALE ITEMS

OFFER VOID AFTER 6-30-82

### HOURS:

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday thru Saturday

Sundays - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



ON THE CORNER  
OF SARGENT ROAD & 196th

**273-6044**



# Keeping Tenino in Touch

- - Since 1905



Pictured on the left are the last of the Tenino Telephone operators. Their service ended when the dial system was installed in late 1955, inspiring the late Don Major to publish a poem saying good-bye to the hello girls. Technological "marriage" of the mechanical dial system and the electronic system allows the local Independent Telephone company to provide the most modern of features.

Ever since T. J. McClellan put the first telephone into the drug store in Tenino in 1905, Tenino Telephone has grown right along with the community.

Five customers could use the first switchboard in the drug store, located where the "Wooden Nickel Cafe" is now.

By 1933, when former publisher Don Major printed the Tenino Telephone Directory on a wooden sheet, there were 158 Tenino customers and 34 in Bucoda.

Today, the company serves more than 2660 customers, offering the same or better service as can be found anywhere in the world, including such modern features as call forwarding, conference calls and call waiting.

Present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Ewart Peterson, have long been associated with the company. Mrs. Peterson's parents, Amos & Agnes Furness, purchased the company in 1912, sold it in 1917, and bought it again in 1924. Mrs. Furness operated the firm until 1946 when Mr. and Mrs. Peterson took over.

Tenino Telephone Company and its employees are proud of its long service to the community and pledge to continue keeping Tenino in Touch.



Ewart & Esther Peterson — Long-time owners and managers

## Offering These Modern Advantages

### Call Forwarding

This feature means your phone can transfer incoming calls to another number of your choice. Call forwarding is great for the businessperson who wants to catch after-hours business calls at home, or for anyone who doesn't want to miss an important call.

### Call Waiting

If you have an incoming call while you're already on the line, the Call Waiting feature will alert you. You may then put the first party on hold while you catch your second call. It will greatly reduce missed calls due to a busy phone!

### Three Way Calling

This feature lets you turn an everyday two-way phone call into a three-way conversation. It's easy!

### Speed Calling 8

Now you can call up to 8 of your most frequently dialed numbers just by dialing a one-digit code. This includes long distance DDD numbers.



# Tenino Telephone Co.

264-2915

225 West Central

P.O. Box E

Tenino, WA. 98589