In the early days the territory west of the Rockies was called the Oregon Territory. The settlers living north of the Columbia River were dissatisfied and wanted territorial status for that area which was called Columbia, but since there was already a Dist. of Columbia, Washington Territory was organized in 1853 named after the father of our country. It became the State of Washington in 1889.

Hudson Bay Fort was constructed in 1825, contemporary with Fort Vancouver, the seaport. In 1826 David Douglas, renowned botanist, for whom the Douglas Fir was named, came to Hudson Bay Fort bringing with him 3 cows and 3 pigs, and from this humble beginning sprang the livestock industry of the Northwest. Fort Colville was established as a military post for the purpose of restraining the Indians.

Close to where a little creek empties into the Spokane River some 25 miles downstream from the falls lies a small crescent-shaped plain known to the Indians as "the place of springs," Tshimakain. To this spot on the 20th day of March, 1839 came a little cavalcade of 2 white men, their wives, a blue-eyed baby 4 months old, a cow to provide him milk, and an escort of Spokane Indians headed by Chief Big Head. (He had the first wheeled vehicle in the NW.) The inscription on the Tshimakain monument (erected by the State Historical Society and the Congregational Churches of WA. 1808) reads, "Commemorating the establishment of a mission among the Spokane Indians on these grounds by Reverends Cushing Eels, and Elkanah Walker from Sept. 1839 to March 1848. On this spot stood the Eels home." The baby was Cyrus Hamblin Walker, the first white child born west of the Rocky Mountains who lived to maturity.

The meeting of the Columbia Maternal Association was the first women's club west of the Rockies and according to a survey made by today’s General Federation of Women's Clubs, the second in the United States. It was organized at Waulatpu on a fall day in 1838 when Mary Walker was first there, it had just enough members to fill the essential offices and 2 left over.

Guy Haines was a scout and served several years in the west under Sheridan and McClellan. He first came to Stevens County in 1853 and acquired land near Ford. He served several terms as county
commissioner before he retired to his farm. He married an Indian lady. Their son, Charles, was sheriff in later years.

Chas. Montgomery and Joe LaPray arrived in Stevens County in 1859. Mr. Montgomery became prominent in the political and civil life of this county, serving as Treasurer, and Auditor, and between 1868 and 1873 representing this vast region comprising 13 counties in the legislative assembly. Mr. LaPray also served as county treasurer but refused nominations for any other offices. He purchased the Monaghan Bridge from James Monaghan which he rebuilt and it was eventually acquired by Spokane and Stevens Counties. He acquired a large farm near Ford and lived there till he died in 1900.

SPRINGDALE was a wilderness until 1886 when John Shriner and Chas. O. Squires arrived. Mr. Squires proved upon his homestead in 1889, he platted the town and named it Squire City. When the railroad was completed the name of the town was changed by the construction crew to Springdale because of the spring of clear cold water near the track on the south side of town. The town incorporated at an election held Jan. 20, 1903, as a town of the fourth class. First officials were: I.S. Clark, Mayor; J.W. Gillingham, Zell Young, J.O. Kenneth, James Key, and O.T. Smith, councilmen; J.O. Cline, Treasurer. The Congregational Church was built in 1897 with Rev. Mobbs as the first resident minister. It is now known as the Community Church (since 1924).

The Statesman newspaper was started in Springdale early in 1896 by Wm. D. Allen, but he was in competition with Dr. T.C. Green who was publishing the Gazette. In Sept. of 1896 Allen moved his newspaper to Colville in partnership with Mr. Metcalfe, a former Springdale attorney who was the owner of the Colville Index newspaper. Later a corporation was formed and Colville Examiner was started and is still printed in Colville. In 1905 the Springdale Reformer came to life and was published for several years. The last newspaper published was the Reporter started in 1924. Other area newspapers were: Marcus Messenger, Kettle River Journal, Ione Record, Loon Lake Times, and Deer Park Union.
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wishon came to Springdale in 1900. Their daughter Zora was 4 years old, and she says, "I can remember well getting off the train with my parents and sister, Mattie. Mr. Cline was the station agent, he went across the tracks to his home and brought back a nice lunch Mrs. Cline fixed for us. Before night we had gotten a house and furniture from Jake Keller's Store. Dr. David Lewis was the first doctor and he was married to Eva Gray. Our first home was next door to the John Grays. The next house to them was the Key family. One of the earliest exciting things I remember was when the wooden railroad bridge collapsed as a freight train started over it. My father heard the crash and called my mother and I out to the yard and we saw each car as it tipped and went down out of our sight. I also remember when our milk was delivered to the door by Mr. Webb, he drove a one-horse cart and poured the milk from a milk can type of container into a tin measuring container and then into a bowl or pan that you held at the door. That sounds pretty unsanitary now, but a lot of us survived! Also the Indian women would come on horseback to the door with huckleberries; they would measure them out into a bowl. How I loved them and still do!"

O.T. Smith was one of the first to come to Springdale with his family. He had a harness shop in the east part of town and carried harness and leather straps, buckles, and other parts for mending harness. Also he had saddles for sale and sold a lot of pack saddles to prospectors who went up to the mountains looking for ore. Inez Smith (Bunn), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O.T. Smith was born in Springdale in 1891 and still lives there.

Mr. Brose Moser, who lived where Wyricks live now, is remembered as a mimicker. He always had a part in plays, etc., that they had in town for entertainment and was very talented in this area. Another talented play actor that lived in Springdale was Webb Gillingham, who was a very rugged individual and always played the villain's part.

Mr. Ketchum was the section boss on the railroad for a while. Ollie Ketchum taught school on Camas and
drove a cart back and forth.

Walkers Prairie School consolidated with Springdale school in 1920. Joe LaPray was the first school bus driver for Springdale, bringing the children in from the Walkers Prairie area. Camas Valley, Lions Hill, and Rose Hill schools consolidated with Springdale in 1925. Arthur Miller was the first bus driver from Camas Valley, and Walter Costich from Lions Hill.

Mr. Wedge and Mr. Bishop built the creamery building on the south side of the railroad, tracks. Mark Jones came to Springdale in 1922 and started out by leasing this creamery. Later he rented the brick building across the street from the post office. He ran his creamery business there from 1939 to 1946. He took the cream in there and did all his own testing and then the cream went on to Deer Park.

In the olden days people didn't go to the hospital much. If they were real bad the doctor came to the house when they could get one, then relatives, friends and neighbors took turns sitting up with the sick people all day and all night. They also took turns sitting up with the dead until time for the funeral.

They used to brand firewood after they cut it. They had a hammer that had an initial or other identifying mark in the head, and they would strike the end of the piece of wood and thus leave their mark. This not only cut down the stealing of wood, but when it was stolen you could identify your mark.

Willard T. Boyles hauled freight between Walla Walla and Ft. Colville and homesteaded on Deer Creek. (He was the Ellis' grandfather.) Harmon Ellis homesteaded near Grays and raised 8 children who live here and nearby areas. Ralph Ellis was the first school bus driver from the Forest Center area.

It was in 1882 that the first store was established in Chewelah, a small log structure built by J.T. Lockhard, the principal stock was whiskey.

Through the states of Texas and Arizona, stories which have turned into legends are told of a gunman
who could draw as fast as "greased lightning". He was Wyatt Earp and was once in the Colville Valley. Earp and several of his pals jumped several mines in this vicinity during 1884-85. E.E. Alexander, old time prospector, tells this story, "I was in charge of the Old Dominion mine about 6 miles east of Colville when the party jumped the mine. W.H. Kearney and A.E. Benoist located the mine in April 1885, and while they were taking some ore into town to be assayed they left me in charge. About a week later Wyatt Earp and 4 other men rode up to the claim and took possession. Although I did not know Earp he struck me as being a quiet man. The party pitched camp a short distance from the mine and held it for quite a time."

Camas Valley Grange was first organized Jan. 9, 1910 by C.E. Flint, deputy, in the Camas Valley School House (on Jacob's place.) It was disbanded Mar. 31, 1913.

Camas Valley Grange #842 was organized July 2, 1926 in the Camas Valley School House by Deputy Ira Shea, and met in the school house until 1930. They moved to Springdale School House and met there until 1931 when they purchased the Bolter's Store building, where the meetings are still held. Ford Grange was organized before Camas Valley and in 1930 joined the Camas Valley Grange. There was a Forest Center Grange in 1908.

Camas Valley Telephone line was built by the farmers in 1906. It was built to Springdale where Whitacre's Drugstore acted as central. The Rose Hill line was built to John Forney's house. Mrs. Forney was called and she would ring and plug into the Camas line, any calls on that line or to Springdale. After a few years another line was built to Springdale for the Rose Hill area.

Along the old Walla Walla to Ft. Colville wagon road at the south end of Long Prairie, near Deer Creek, was located the settlement named Theitis which consisted of a general store, a saloon, a hotel operated by Mr. Gray, a post office and a blacksmith shop operated by Joe LaVigne, who walked from Spokane Falls to Theitis carrying a blanket roll and his pockets filled with donuts for food. All the buildings were of the
roughest construction, the post office was a log cabin with the door and window frames and floor made of boards split with a froe from a tamarack log and planed by hand. With the coming of the railroad, wagon traffic along the old Colville wagon road diminished, the businesses moved to Springdale, and Mr. Gray settled further north along the railroad. Someone should erect a marker at the site of the old town with an inscription something like this: "Here lies Theitis - kicked to death by an Iron Horse."

Grays Siding, as it is called today, was called just Grays in 1914, located 5 miles north of Springdale and was once a thriving town with a post office, general store, dance hall, depot and several houses. Here the first whole milk from the farmers of this area was taken in cans to be picked up by train everyday and taken to Spokane. The siding got its name from a Mr. Gray who had a farm on Deer Creek about 4 miles from Gray. He shipped hay by the carload from the siding. In 1910 he sold the farm to Fred Haverland who added more farms and called it Haverland Meadows.

S. Basil Polaski Morrell came to Forest Center from Illinois in 1895 and bought 120 acres, part of the present Burroughs place. He rented a railroad car to bring their horses, farm machinery, household goods, himself, son, Richard, and daughter, Florence at a cost of $100. In 1912 he sold out for $12,000 and moved to Colorado, but returned to Forest Center in 1915 and bought the present Fitzgerald place for $800 and sold it in 1924 for $4,000. Richard homesteaded the present Jayne's place in 1895. Wesley homesteaded part of the Haverland Meadows. Florence and her husband, John Dawdy bought 80 acres of railroad land, now a part of the Mooney farm. Vett S. Reed bought his farm from the railroad in 1895 (part of the Burroughs place) and ran a sawmill. He planted an orchard of which some of the trees still survive.

Vett with his neighbor Basil Morrell put a ditch around the hill to supply water for both places. In 1910 he put up a tie mill SW of Ford to supply ties for the railroad from Springdale to Long Lake when the Long Lake Dam was being built. His son, Fred Reed, took over the mill, enlarged it and provided jobs for many
homesteaders around Ford. It lasted until 1926. The Phoenix Lumber Co. bought the railroad after the dam was finished and used it for hauling logs. Some of the old ties and road bed still show between Ford and the dam. Jesse Morrell and wife Elizabeth Reed homesteaded on the reservation on the Martha Bordman Rd. in 1911, moved to the Reed place in 1929, then to the Circle F in Camas Valley in 1933 with their 4 sons, Ernest, Lawrence, Ray and Clyde. Ernest and Lawrence bought lots along the reservation line back of the A. Miller place in 1935 and paid for it by cutting wood. Lawrence bought the Lanter place in 1939, the Murbaugh place in 1955 where he still lives. Arthur Reed bought state land in Forest Center which is part of the Dawson place now. He was the first school bus driver at Valley.

Chris Jepson located on Sect. 13, Township 30, Range 40 E.W.M. in 1914 and farmed for about 50 years. The Holland-Horr Mill operated at the Horr spur siding from 1914-18 (3 miles east of Springdale.) In 1920 a schoolhouse was built near the mill site and operated until 1940 when they consolidated with Springdale. Says Chris, “1940 was a red letter year for our locality for we persuaded the county commissioner, F. Alm to help us put a county road through, connecting the Jump-off road with the Springdale road. The R.E.A. power line came through that year also. The combined efforts of the local Granges got the Bell Telephone to come in and through the strength of the State Grange we got a law passed to hook up to the nearest company line.”

Rose Hill was first known as Empey Hill, named after the first settlers there. The school house was east of Links place and had 13 students with Janie Link as teacher. Other early time residents included the Gennetts, Fields, Bowles, Pollis and Louis Anderson families. A large community sprang up above the Louis Anderson place on the road to the Cleveland Mine. Most of these people left during the depression.

There were quite a few prospectors in this area in the early days, and when the brush had grown up on a mountainside where the prospector wanted to look for rock, he would set the brush on fire and let it burn quite an area until it put itself out. After the fire went through the area they could easily see the rock.
Other prospectors saw the smoke and knew what was happening and all the prospectors converged on the burned area.

The first residents in Camas Valley area was the Gus Belmer family, followed by the Denney family and then A.P. Miller family in 1889. He came by train as far as Spokane and walked from there. He homesteaded the place aprox. 9 miles from Springdale and lived there all his life. His son Arthur Miller farmed the home place until a few years ago. Jim Judy came later in 1889 and by that time the train came as far as Clayton and he walked from there. He homesteaded aprox. 3 miles from Springdale and farmed until 1937 when he retired. His daughter, Mrs. Mae Blatt resides in Springdale today.

John Forney had a farm in Camas Valley, located across from the Jacobs farm, but sold his farm land and invested it in a garage in town. Stricklers were old timers who lived very close to Camas Valley. Joe Johnson lived in the area also and sold his place to the Bell family, and they sold to Earnest Oien who lives there today. Mrs. Hazel Waite's brother and father and Mr. Ralph Judy helped clear the farm land for the Millionaire Ranch (Lloyd Stallings' place.)

The mail route out Hunters road was started prior to 1905 to service the camp at the Turk Mine and traveled between it and Springdale by way of Deer Trail road. When the road became bad, they didn't try to keep it open, they just carried the mail on a horse instead. Later the mail route went between Hunters and Springdale and became a stage route and carried passengers, mail and anything else he could get in his car.

Mr. Chas. Freemont Allen came to the Hunters Creek area in 1904. He logged with oxen, and also with his son, Harry, hauled ore from the Turk Mine with oxen. He was well known as the man on the grey horse with the long white beard. His sons Harmon, Harry, Luke and Ralph flipped a coin to see what quarter they got of Section 12 in 1920. They all purchased the state land for $10 an acre, except Ralph, and started clearing and farming. The quarter section of land Ralph drew was sold to Leonard Wagner the
next year - he raised foxes, pelted, finished and sold them. Jess Walter bought this place in 1958. This area was known as Bachelorville and there were still 5 bachelors in 1958. Harmon's sister, Nancy Harris and son Bob still live on his farm, Luke's place was sold to C. Hasse about 10 years ago and Thams own Harry's place. The Allen Bros. and Chas. Couth built the first bridge on Allen road in 1922. They used 95 ft. poles with timbers underneath. Ralph Allen came back to the area in the early 30's and had a place at halfway house on the Hunters Road and lived there until about 10 years ago.

In the early 1900's Lyons Hill was heavily populated with farmers, loggers, railroaders and some miners. The school house was located on the corner of W. Brown's and accommodated 35 children. One of the high-lights in the memory of many were the baseball games held every Sunday in the summer in a large field above the Costich's place. Gardening in the area was good and they could have 5 feet of snow in the winter and by April 15th they could be plowing the fields with horses! A logging camp was where Woodlings live now (the Browns lived here in 1913.) Leliefelds homesteaded 160 acres in 1906.

The Phoenix Lumber Co. had a spur off the railroad through Camas Valley to their Camp 20 past the Miller place. They also had a camp south of Springdale. There were several logging companies that logged the timber in the early days; one of the first was the Craney Logging Co. that logged a large section west of town. Craney Hill was named after Mr. Craney who did the logging (near the Klins place.)

Excerpts from the *Springdale Reformer*:

Fred Whitney has been building several houses lately for settlers on the Spokane Indian Reservation.

Dog Ordinance passed July 1910, $1 per dog - $2 per female.

Oct. 6, 1911, voted out saloons in Springdale - 57 against, 54 for.

Ten mil tax for the school election.

Population 251 on Nov. 24, 1911.

Butter 29¢ a lb.
Miss Hazel Willis teaches at Camas Valley School which opened Sept. 23, 1910.

Miss Lydia Warden teaches at Empey School - 1911.

Stevens County 7th Annual Pioneers Picnic, June 30, 1910.

Stevens County Day at the Interstate Fair - Sept. 10, 1910.

City Barber Shop, Hot and Cold Baths: C. Bunn, prop., 1910.

Light your home with Electricity, Kulzer Electric Light and Power System.

Flannel shirts - $1.50, canvas gloves - 3 pr., 25¢, bacon - 15¢ lb.

Mr. & Mrs. G. Leliefeld are proud parents of a 10 lb. girl born Oct. 13, 1911.

1908 - 87 votes in Springdale precinct.

1910, President Taft is reducing his weight by 25 Ibs. by boxing and performing other arduous athletic stunts.

Our thanks to all the early-time residents who gave us these pages from the past.

Printed July 1976