

Boise, Idaho

Feb. 2, 1963

Andersons  
Julia  
Isabelle

This is the Centennial of Idaho ~~stated~~ <sup>very long</sup>—Indeed many changes have taken place during the last 100 years. I was born in Boise Dec. 24, 1885 and have seen many of the changes take place. Speaking of a Centennial, thirteen years more will mark the 100th year since the arrival of my parents in Idaho.

Early in the spring of 1876 a group of friends and neighbors gathered together and made plans to move west. This took place in Missouri and their destination was to be to the State of Oregon. Loading their families and a few possessions in their covered wagons they were on their way.

My parents, James and Hulda Anderson, two small children, my grandparents and two aunts were in that caravan. It was a long hard trip and many stops were made to rest their oxen and pick up a few dollars which the men were obliged to do. Several times they were frightened by the word there were Indians, but it was just hear say and nothing happened in that respect. Night after night they circled their wagons and some of the men kept watch thru the night while their families slept. However, one old Indian Buck appeared one morning and peered into the wagons, which frightened the women and children but he proved to be a friendly Indian and was soon on his way, probably to join his fellow men.

My father owned four oxen that were used to pull the wagon, two at a time. My mother a very young woman in her twenties did a lot of the driving with "Gee and Haw" method. About half way on this trip one pair of oxen became tired and unable to go any farther and had to be sold. After six weary months crossing the plains they finally reached Idaho and

they saw the beautiful fertile Boise Valley they decided they had reached the end of the rain-bow and their pot of gold, and settled here to raise their family of which six more children were added making a total of eight. However, one baby boy passed away at eighteen months of age, but the other seven grew up to be adults.

Father being a carpenter found work in and around Boise, and some of the lovely homes on Warm Springs Ave. that he helped to build are still standing. He was elected Treasurer of Ada County about 1892. When his term of office expired he bought 30 acres of sage brush land a mile and half North East of Meridian and with the help of his family the land was cleared and our home was built. After a few years of farming he traded the farm to a family in Meridian and was elected the first mayor of that town and was active in attaining a dependable water supply, with the present well and water tower as a result. The first furniture store in Meridian was owned and operated by him and he handled the first funeral supplies and performed the customary chores of the modern mortuary. His furniture store building is now the American Legion hall, having been moved several feet west of the original site.

After selling his holdings in Meridian he and mother moved back to Boise to be near their children. They lived together sixty-two years and father passed away in January of 1931 and Mother in April of 1932. Of the eight children born to this couple only two remain, Mrs. Emmett Pfost and myself, Mrs. Marshall Lewis.