

Bunchgrass Historian

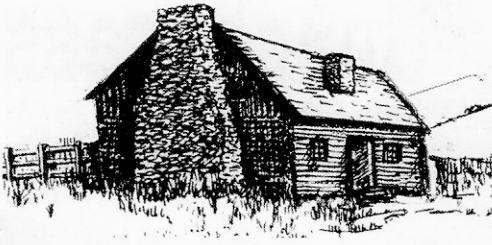


**Whitman County Historical Society
Colfax, Washington**

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- **Palouse's Pottery Industry**
By Robert E. King and Don Myott
 - **By the Gods You're Fired: A Story of Oscar Gladish**
By Donald E. Guinouard
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Whitman County Historical Society Colfax, Washington

The *Bunchgrass Historian* is published by the Whitman County Historical Society. Its purpose is to further interest in the rich past of Whitman County.

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FRONT COVER: *Pots from the Palouse Pottery Company and Palouse Pottery Manufacturing Company, Palouse Washington.*

BACK COVER: *Advertisement for drain tile produced by the Palouse Pottery Manufacturing Company, from the collection of Bob West.*

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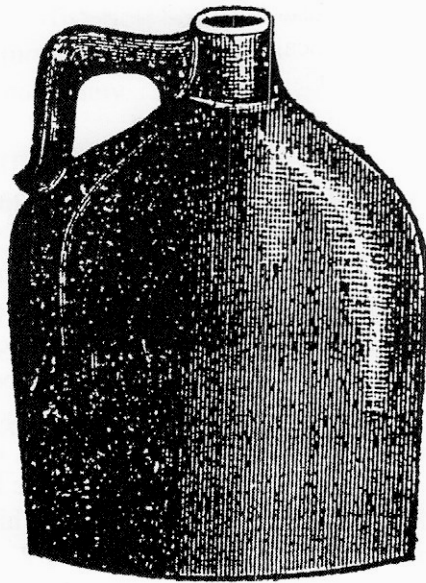
AUTHORS

Robert King, a Palouse country native who grew up in Pullman, now lives in Anchorage, Alaska, where he works as an archaeologist. He is a frequent contributor of articles to this publication and began his interest in Palouse pottery after seeing examples while in high school and later being given a piece by a great-uncle. His co-author, **Don Myott**, an employee and resident of the city of Palouse, is an avid Palouse pottery collector who is a recognized local expert on the subject. His interest was sparked over a decade ago when he was contacted by Northwest Pottery Research Center members Richard Pugh, Blaine Schmeer, and Harvey Steel with whom he has exchanged much information concerning the local pottery business. King and Myott's detailed article reveals the story of a Whitman County industry that existed for nearly two decades around the turn of the 20th century but now has faded from memory.

Donald E. Guinouard is Emeritus Professor of Counseling from Arizona State University and a retired Air Force Colonel. He was with the Pullman School system from 1955 through 1960. While in Pullman, Guinouard completed his doctoral studies in counseling and was awarded his doctorate degree from WSU College of Education in 1961. Don started writing this remembrance several years ago, but only finished it in early 2005, when Neal Brown reviewed it and asked to include it in the PHS class of '56 "memory" book for their 50th reunion. This article has also circulated at subsequent 50th reunions of PHS classes. Oscar Gladish was an inspiring man and thus it is fitting to share the story with a larger audience.

Palouse Pottery Co.

MANUFACTURERS AND
WHOLESALEERS OF



ALL KINDS OF
STONEWARE

Cash Paid for Four Foot Wood

Palouse Republic, February 12, 1904

PALOUSE'S POTTERY INDUSTRY

By Robert E. King & Don Myott

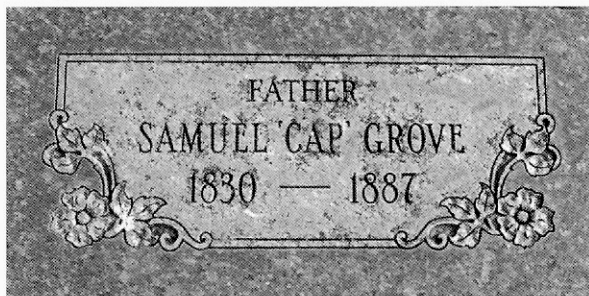
Introduction

During the 1890s and early 1900s, the small town of Palouse in Whitman County, Washington, had a thriving pottery industry that was the pride of the region. It annually produced tens of thousands of pieces of stoneware pottery made from area clay. For several years, its locally made pottery was marketed throughout the Pacific Northwest and even into California. This is the story of that industry as told principally through Palouse's newspapers.

Earliest pottery in the Palouse region

The start of the pottery industry at Palouse in the 1890s may have had some connection to an earlier, small-scale operation that Samuel Grove (1830-1887) began a few miles west of the town in the late 1870s. Grove, an Ohio native, traveled by covered wagon to Oregon in 1856, where he was farming in Clackamas County in 1870.¹ Grove established a pottery there but a fire in late 1876 destroyed his business valued at \$200.² Following the 1876 fire, Grove and his family moved to the Eden Valley region of Whitman County, a few miles west of Palouse and where his wife's parents, Edward and Lettice Pedigo, had previously settled. Within about a year, Grove was back in the pottery business as well as farming. The U.S. Census of Manufactures for 1880 for Washington Territory listed Grove as the only potter in the region. It also noted that his "factory," with capital of \$1000, had three employees, of whom two were over 16 years old (Grove and perhaps a son). The operation also included one horse, apparently used to haul and mix the clay.³

Little more is known about Grove's operation, but likely he and those who



Samuel Grove gravestone Garfield cemetery

worked with him shaped all of the pottery by hand, turning it on a potter's wheel powered by foot. This would have been typical for that time. Unfortunately, no examples of pottery have been found specifically identifying Grove as the maker, so he probably did not mark his products. Grove manufactured pottery at least into 1885⁴ and

perhaps until his death on August 6, 1887. However, probate records of his Whitman County estate, valued at \$2182.92 (of which \$800 was real estate), did not list any items identifiable as used solely for pottery making.⁵ Thus, it is not clear when his pottery ceased production.

Furthermore, after Grove's death, there is no evidence that his family continued his small-scale pottery business. Nonetheless, the example of Grove successfully making and selling pottery using local clay probably inspired others to consider creating similar businesses. One of those may well have been Robert T. Cox (1853-1926), who became a key figure in the establishment of what became Palouse's thriving pottery industry some years later. In early 1882, Cox married Hattie LaDow,⁶ whose family lived in the Cedar Creek drainage. With Cox certainly visiting the LaDows starting by at least the early 1880s, some familiarity with Grove's nearby Eden Valley pottery seems inevitable.

The Pioneer Pottery Company (1894-late 1890s)

According to a brief history of the local pottery industry printed on page 2 of the Feb. 9, 1894, *Palouse Republic* newspaper, "around 1882" rich clay deposits were found a mile south of the town of Palouse on the 160-acre homestead farm of Robert T. Cox. By 1894, this discovery along with other clay found in the vicinity sparked the start of a successful pottery-making industry near Palouse. About five years later, the apparent success of this first pottery and the abundance of good clay in the vicinity further led to an even larger pottery industry within the town of Palouse. One man involved with both was Cox.

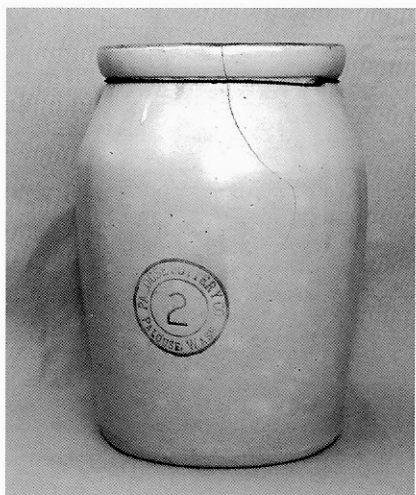
Robert T. Cox, a native of the Eugene, Oregon, area,⁷ settled on his homestead a mile south of the new community of Palouse in 1876 and farmed it for several decades. The 1894 *Palouse Republic* account of the start of the pottery industry in Palouse reported that "from time to time" after 1882, a "few experiments" had been done on the Cox property to utilize the clay, though none had been successful in creating an industry. However, word of the rich clay resources had gotten out. By 1892, William A. Stevens, a former wagon maker from Hayesville in Ashland County, Ohio,⁸ approached Cox with the proposition to manufacture, as the newspaper put it, "a lot of fire brick from the clay," with the resulting quality said to be



Robert Cox gravestone Palouse cemetery

"of a grade unsurpassed on the Coast" (meaning at Seattle or Portland potteries).

This was indeed encouraging, and it led Stevens and Cox in 1893 to contact Andrew J. King, described as "an experienced potter of Portland," to visit the area.⁹ Reportedly, King



2-gallon Palouse Pottery Company
butter churn

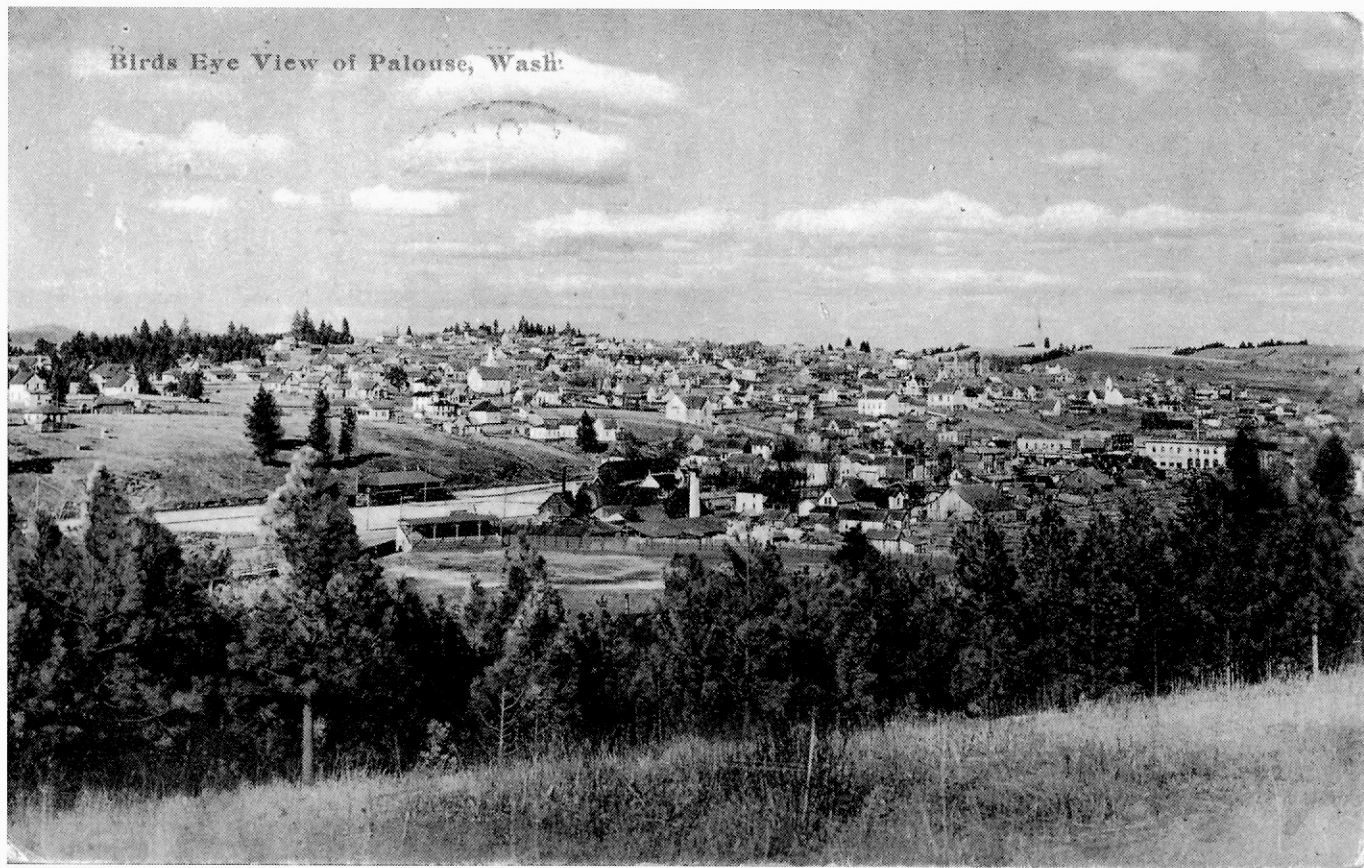
first investigated clay deposits in the Colfax vicinity, which were found unsatisfactory. He then came to Palouse where “at once he appreciated the fine fire clay.” Yet King also discovered a basic problem with it. Alone, it would not properly vitrify, meaning that it did not have the necessary silica content to consistently change into a glasslike substance when heated at high temperature. Fortunately, the problem was soon solved: “A further search revealed a fine vitreous clay on the adjoining farm [to Cox’s] of Mr. Tweedmier [Twietmeyer], and when combined the two clays made an excellent pottery clay.”¹⁰

This led to the construction of a small pottery plant near Palouse on Robert Cox’s farm, with some or all of its facilities apparently surviving for at least two decades.¹¹ Those involved in the venture included Stevens, King, and Cox. By January of 1894, the pottery was in business, with potters, maybe including King personally, hand-turning pottery vessels that were saved for a first firing in mid-February 1894. A February 16, 1894, article in the *Palouse Republic* reported that the initial firing was of “2,000 gallons” of pottery, meaning that the various vessels collectively would have held 2,000 gallons of liquids. This represents probably several hundred clay items, including crocks of different sizes (1 gallon up to 20 or more gallons), jugs, and other vessels commonly made at potteries in the late 1800s.

Because the pottery-making industry was new to Palouse, the *Palouse Republic* of February, 1894, provided an interesting overview of how it was done at what was called by 1895 the “Pioneer Pottery Company.”¹² According to the February 9, 1894, newspaper account:

The clay is reduced to a certain consistency, so as to be worked by the hands, then the air is worked out of it to prevent flaws in the ware. This being done it is cut into pieces, each being weighed, the weight varying with the size of the proposed jug or crock. Each of the lumps of clay is taken separately and placed on a horizontally revolving wheel, where by skillful hands it is converted into a pitcher, jug, milk crock, jar, etc., as the workman may desire.

Following the start of production, on page 2 the *Palouse Republic* of February 16, 1894, commented on the fine quality of the pottery, including its finish. Samples had been placed on exhibit for townspeople at the Wheeler Brothers’ hardware store in Palouse. In all, the newly fired, locally made pottery was said to compare very



View of Palouse showing kiln stack at pottery (center) Spring 1906



*Back side of Palouse Pottery Manufacturing Company operation, 1906.
Note the stacks of sewer pipe.*



Mark on small kitchen bowl

favorably with pottery being produced in Spokane, and the paper recommended that as a "home industry" it "should be patronized."

By mid-June of 1894, improvements were already being made at the new pottery with the construction of "a good ware-house."¹³ By May 4, 1895, the pottery's success was being heralded in the *Palouse Republic* with a report: "Palouse pottery seems to be in great demand as it is impossible to fill the large orders that are fast coming in." The following week, it was reported that W. A. Stevens was "working for the interest of the Palouse pottery" by

taking business trips to Lewiston and other places in Idaho to secure orders. One result was that "the Palouse pottery delivered a large amount of crockery ware to merchants" in Moscow, Idaho, according to Moscow's newspaper. The same paper also indicated that "the concern appears to be doing a big business as the sales are large in every town in the country."¹⁴

Success for the pottery continued into 1896. On February 29, the *Palouse* paper reported that Stevens had recently been in Spokane and Walla Walla, finding a "strong demand" for Palouse pottery. "He secured orders for two cars [railroad car loads] at Spokane and two in the Walla Walla country." On May 9, 1896, the *Palouse Republic* reported, "the Palouse Pottery is loading a car of pottery for Walla Walla."¹⁵ Following that record, information on the later history of the Pioneer Pottery Company is mostly unknown in large part because the *Palouse* newspaper was not preserved for the years 1897-1899. Nonetheless, from the few records that do survive, it appears that the Pioneer Pottery Company was still in business a few more years, into the late 1890s;¹⁶ although by the early 1900s it had ceased production at its original location.

By August 1902, Cox's farm instead became the focus of a successful brick-manufacturing venture. The new enterprise partnered Cox with Joseph Terteling, described as "an experienced brick man of Lewiston ... attracted by the large body of fire clay which has long been known to exist on the Cox place, and with Mr. Cox, decided to put in a machine to make bricks." The August 29, 1902, *Palouse Republic* further reported that the firm "will make brick on a large scale on the Cox farm, south of town." It was called the "Pioneer Fire Brick & Tile Company," thus incorporating the "Pioneer" part of the name of Cox's original pottery. The new business also reused the older pottery's buildings and equipment as much as pos-

sible. Subsequently, the new brick and tile firm was in business for around two years, shutting down sometime prior to May 13, 1904. On that day, the Palouse paper reported that the partnership existing between Terteling and Cox had been “dissolved by mutual consent,” with Cox described as “the pioneer pottery man of this section.”

Its demise was apparently precipitated when Terteling found an opportunity to become the manager of what was envisioned as a much larger brickworks, the largest in the region. The Palouse newspaper optimistically reported that the new company hoped



Palouse Pottery mark on a 3-gallon crock

to produce up to six million bricks per year. This was an enormous amount, fully six times more than the existing output of the then-largest brickworks at Kendrick, Idaho.¹⁷ And its location? It was to be established on a 12-acre parcel south of Palouse adjoining Cox’s land, with a contract reportedly already signed to utilize some of the abundant clay on Cox’s nearby property.

However, the hoped-for success of the new business, called the “Palouse Brick & Tile Company,” was fleeting. It closed after only a few years, following Terteling’s departure from the firm to join what became a rival brickworks at Potlatch, Idaho. Fierce competition resulted.¹⁸ Later the equipment of the Palouse Brick & Tile Company was sold to the Potlatch business. Meanwhile, this left Cox’s nearby original pottery facility, which had operated as a brickworks from 1902-04, still in place. It would not reopen again for brick-making or for pottery production until 1910. One reason for its prolonged closure, besides the departure of Terteling, was the increased competition in that industry. Another reason was that Cox refocused his interests back on a new and even more promising pottery venture that had come to the region—one in the town of Palouse. In the new location, it was called simply “The Palouse Pottery Company.”

The Palouse Pottery Company (1899-1907)

The first buildings that became part of the Palouse Pottery Company’s complex in the town of Palouse were constructed sometime after March 8, 1899. On that day, three men paid \$400 for Lots 1, 2, and 3 in Block 20 in Power’s Addition to Palouse with the intention of starting a pottery business.¹⁹ One was Andrew J. King, then 49 years old, who had previously been a key figure with Cox in the Pioneer Pottery Company on Cox’s farm. The other two were Carroll J. Wiley, age 29, and Howard

E. Wiley, age 21. Their business, under the name “Palouse Pottery Company,” was located on Main Street, about three blocks west of the town center. In early 1900s photographs, it can be seen below the elevated railroad tracks of the Spokane and Inland Railway Company that crossed Main Street on the western side of Palouse, with the tracks built after the pottery was established. The pottery site now forms part of the town’s city park and the area occupied by the swimming pool. Broken pieces of stoneware vessels are sometimes encountered when excavation work is done in this vicinity.

Although details are lacking, with King’s involvement and the timing of its establishment following the demise of Cox’s earlier pottery operation, the Palouse Pottery Company appears to have been an outgrowth of, or a direct descendant of, the earlier Pioneer Pottery Company that started on Cox’s land. The move to Palouse produced two major benefits. Shipping costs decreased because the new plant was located literally beside the railroad, and an in-town location made it easier to obtain more workers in what was anticipated to be (and indeed became) an expanded operation.²⁰ Because of the move, however, Cox’s own participation became less direct as he stayed on his farm. William A. Stevens, Cox and King’s partner in the original Pioneer Pottery Company, did not continue with the new firm. Instead, in 1900, he was living with his family in Palouse and working as a brick mason.²¹

By late 1899 or the first half of 1900 at the latest, the new pottery was in full production. In June of 1900, when the federal census was taken of Palouse, Andrew



One-gallon and three-gallon crocks from the Palouse Pottery Company



A kitchen bowl from the Palouse Pottery Company early 1900s

company signed an agreement with Twietmeyer to purchase clay at 40 cents per cubic yard. It was noted in the agreement that the clay was to be removed "adjacent to the place where the Pioneer Pottery Company procured clay under contract dated October 21, 1898."²³ Subsequently, deeds from Whitman County, Washington, also show that in 1900, the Palouse Pottery Company additionally contracted with Twietmeyer for 1000 cubic yards of clay off his farm.²⁴

In early 1902, the "Wiley boys," as the *Palouse Republic* described them in a January 17, page-one story, sold their interest in the company for \$600 to Mrs. E. H. Leard and John O. Hankins of the Standard Stoneware Company of Clayton, Washington. By this time the plant consisted of an office for management needs, including record-keeping, a kiln with a central chimney, a molding room, storage areas for fuel for the wood-burning kiln, and places to stack the various pottery products prior to their shipment on railroad cars to waiting markets.

Growth and Expansion of the Palouse Pottery Company

From its start, the Palouse Pottery Company prospered. In the spring of 1902, King and Hankins told the Palouse newspaper that "orders were coming in faster than it is possible to fill them."²⁵ This included orders from outside the region, with talk already starting about the need to expand the new plant's capacity. From 1902-03, clay was brought in from even more sources, including being hauled by wagon from near Onaway, Idaho, just north of Potlatch, Idaho.²⁶

By the fall of 1903, the demand for the company's stoneware products had become so great that the owners began a four-fold expansion of the plant's original capacity, including installing new steam-powered equipment.²⁷ Also at this time the company was restructured. On September 8, 1903, Leard, Hankins, and King all sold their individual property interests for \$2,000 to the Palouse Pottery Company, described as a new corporation established at Palouse. This was followed

King and Carroll Wiley were listed as "moulders" working in the new pottery, with Howard E. Wiley employed there as a laborer.²² The operation, like Robert Cox's earlier pottery, continued using the rich clay deposits south of Palouse on Cox's farm. Additionally, the new operation also utilized clay off the adjacent Twietmeyer farm. On March 13, 1899, representatives of the new

on November 20, 1903, with the company's purchase for \$150 of three adjacent town lots to accommodate the new expansion.²⁸ During this time, various products of the Palouse Pottery Company were advertised in the local newspaper, with ads also inserted to purchase "seasoned four foot wood" that was needed for firing the kiln. With expansion of the plant, an estimated 1000 to 1200 cords of wood would be used annually.²⁹

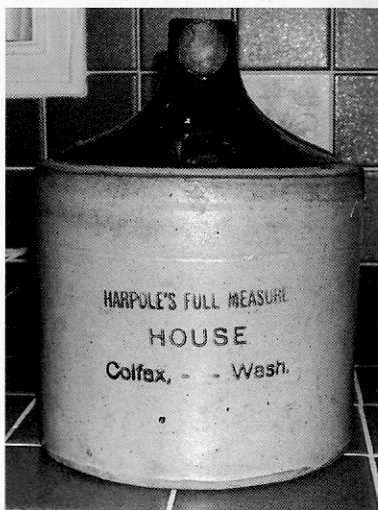
Soon after the expansion was completed, the *Palouse Republic*, February 19, 1904, devoted a lengthy article touting the company's success and promising outlook for the future. By that time, the Palouse Pottery was reported as the second most important industry for the town, eclipsed only by the Potlatch Lumber Company. The paper predicted that by the summer of 1904 upwards of 15 to 20 skilled and unskilled employees would be needed for the soon-to-be-expanded operation. The names of eight of the workers, called "potters" were reported in the 1904 Whitman County Directory: Frank W. Aikman, John W. Clark, J. Manley Cox, W. A. Ellithorp, F. W. Griggs, J. O. Hill, Fred L. Russell, and F. J. Warnoc.³⁰ In addition, on March 4, 1904, the Palouse newspaper stated that Jack Demonner, a machinist previously employed by the smelter in Northport, Washington, would become an engineer and machinist at the Palouse Pottery, while Howard Mulber of Macomb, Illinois, was to take the position of mold maker.

Among the improvements by early 1904—at a cost of around \$5,000—were an enlargement of the main building in which molding was done, an improved kiln, and the addition of "a modern 40-horse power engine, with 60-horse power boiler." This ended hand molding and increased efficiency by further mechanizing the process. One claim was that the capacity of the new improved kiln "was the largest of any stoneware kiln west of the Rocky mountains."³¹

Palouse Pottery Company Reorganization in 1904

Another significant change by early 1904 was another reorganization of the company related to the influx of further capital. It brought the company's value up to \$10,000.³² While Andrew King remained President and John O. Hankins also stayed on as the company's manager, George M. Swartwood, a 28-year-old cashier at the local Palouse State Bank, was brought on as the secretary-treasurer.³³ Swartwood would prove to be an asset for advertising the company's products.

By mid-February 1904, both Swartwood and the company's president, King, were traveling by train to communities as far as Baker City, Oregon,



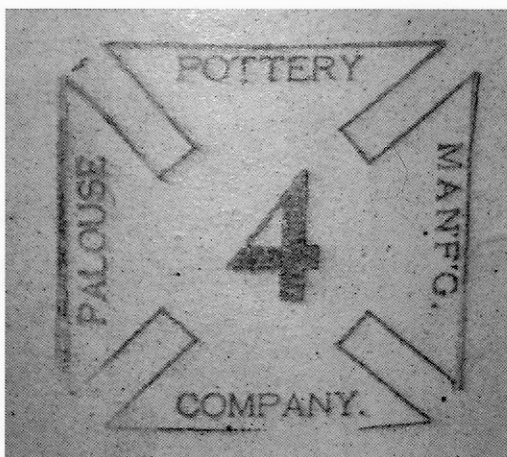
successfully soliciting advance orders for the company's pottery. The *Palouse Republic*, February 19, 1904, reported that in only four days Swartwood had secured orders for "four full [railroad] carloads of ware, with several other carloads in embryo." At this time, slightly damaged pieces were being sold locally at discounted prices,³⁴ with the firm's products including:

... jars from one-half gallon to thirty gallons; churns from 2 to 6 gallons with covers and dashers; milk crocks from one-quarter to 2 gallons; water jars from 2 to 10 gallons; preserve jars from one-half to 5 gallons, with lids; bean pots from one-quarter to 2 gallons; butter jars, capacity 3 to 10 pounds; jugs from one-half to 10 gallons; syrup jugs from one-half to 2 gallons; flower pots from 2 to 15 inches; flower pot saucers from 4 to 12 inches; hanging baskets from 8 to 10 inches; chambers [chamber pots] and cuspidors. Lids and covers for everything needed are also made.³⁵

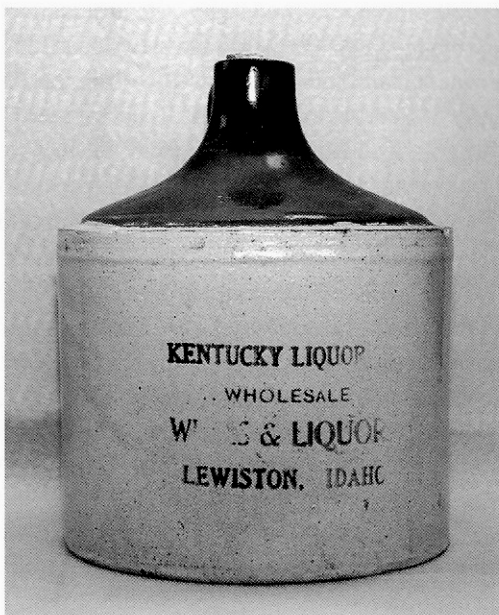
One-gallon liquor jugs were also made about this time, with two examples surviving today. One is owned by Don Myott, one of the authors of this article. It is a two-color, one-gallon stoneware jug marked as "Kentucky Liquor – Wholesale Wines & Liquor, Lewiston, Idaho." Another, owned by Mike Markley of Colfax, Washington, is labeled: "Harpole's Full Measure House. Colfax, Wash."

Conversion to Coal and the introduction of White Glazed Ware in 1904

By late May of 1904, the Palouse Pottery added its first successful firing of white glazed ware from the local kaolin clay deposits. It was made possible by the use of coal for firing the kiln, as wood reportedly did not produce "the



Palouse Pottery Manufacturing Company mark on 4-gallon crock





A variety of pots produced by the Palouse Pottery Company and the Palouse Pottery Manufacturing Company of Palouse, Washington

right kind of heat.” As the local newspaper noted, the complete contents of one kiln, with a capacity for 9000 gallons of pottery, had been fired with the “beautiful [white] glaze finish, secured by so few potteries anywhere in the United States and so much sought by the trade.”³⁶ This was again attributed to the superior clay deposits in the Palouse area, claimed to be “the largest in capacity west of the Rocky mountains,”³⁷ with Secretary-Treasurer Swartwood already forecasting the need to expand further to meet rising demand. By this time, the Palouse Pottery was shipping its ware not only to Seattle and Chehalis in the western part of Washington, but also to Portland, Oregon. And as the May 24, 1904, *Palouse Republic* smugly noted, sending Palouse’s pottery to the latter was a particular triumph, since it was “right under the nose of the Pacific Pottery Company, the largest pottery on the coast.”

In following months, demand for the Palouse Pottery’s ware increased further. The July 19, 1904, *Palouse Republic* reported that by mid-July 1904, “orders for their white glazed ware [were] coming in faster than they can fill them, making it almost certain that the capacity [of the pottery] must be doubled this fall.” Orders included a second rail car load of white glazed ware each for Seattle, Portland, Walla Walla, Pendleton, and Chehalis. The Palouse paper quoted Swartwood as planning a \$6000 further expansion of the plant, including “the erection of a brick building 40x70 feet, west of our present building, and also the erection of a second kiln, thus making a twin kiln pottery.”

Further Expansion

By early August of 1904, J. W. Cox (apparently not related to Robert T. Cox), a representative for the Eastern Manufacturing Company of Portland, Oregon, described as largely handling the output of the Palouse Pottery, traveled to Palouse to add his voice supporting the company's proposed expansion.³⁸ The results? Before the month ended, John O. Hankins, Manager of the Palouse Pottery, traveled to Spokane and purchased four railroad carloads of special firebrick able to withstand the highest temperatures generated inside the new kiln. This was soon followed by the purchase of another 250,000 common red bricks bought locally from the Palouse Brick & Tile Company, located on a 12-acre tract adjoining Robert Cox's farm.³⁹ The paper further noted that the clay used in making the 250,000 bricks for the Palouse Pottery's new kiln would be dug from the same "clay bank" on Cox's farm that also supplied clay to the pottery.

When completed that fall, the impressive new kiln could fire 10,000 gallons of pottery at one time, becoming the largest kiln on the Pacific Coast.⁴⁰ It more than doubled the prior kiln's capacity, with the success of the new line of white glazed ware again credited for the expansion. The December 2, 1904, *Palouse Republic* reported the Palouse Pottery was turning out 20,000 gallons of ware per week and was slated to operate at full capacity the entire winter.

In early March of 1905, John O. Hankins, manager of the Palouse Pottery, sold out his stock in the thriving company. By mid-May, he had moved to Spokane, where he became the manager of the Spokane Pottery Company.⁴¹ Secretary-Treasurer George M. Swartwood bought Hankins' interest, making Swartwood the "heaviest stockholder" in the company. Also in March 1905, the Palouse Pottery Company, in search of more clay, purchased fifty acres of thick clay deposits along the Palouse River about 10 miles east of the town of Palouse for \$16,000. One of the factors driving the transaction was the proximity of the Potlatch Lumber Company's railroad, slated to "run near the property thus making it possible to haul clay to the pottery at a much less expense than at the present time."⁴² George Swartwood revealed in this same newspaper account that the company would soon build a large warehouse on its grounds and that the capacity of the plant would be further increased to 25,000 gallons per week, in part to be accomplished with the addition of a new flower pot-making machine.

New Distribution System and Further Expansion

As the year 1905 passed and the output of the Palouse Pottery remained at peak capacity, Swartwood decided to establish a better distribution system for the firm's products. With three partners, Swartwood established the Northwestern Stoneware Company in Spokane, designed not only to handle the output of the Palouse Pottery but also that of "several different potteries of the northwest."⁴³ At first, this seemed like it might hurt the Palouse Pottery, which was temporarily shut down



Remains of the fire damaged pottery, 1907

for additions and improvements that totaled \$2,500.⁴⁴ But on February 2, 1906, the newspaper reported just the opposite: the company was back in production and a new expenditure of between \$25,000 and \$30,000 to enlarge the Palouse Pottery extensively was being planned. It hinged, however, on the ability to secure additional land adjoining the present plant, on which a large three-story building, 150 x 300 feet in dimension, would be constructed. The proposed new facility would contain a sewer pipe molding plant, with all sales handled through the previously established Spokane distributing house. The newspaper also reported that during January of 1906 production from the Palouse Pottery resumed, with an impressive ten railroad carloads of pottery sold during that single month. Of that, one carload went directly “to Redding, California and the other nine to different coast points.”

By the summer of 1906, however, the proposed new building had not yet been built because the adjacent land had not been purchased. The company, now called the “Palouse Pottery Manufacturing Company,” remodeled its existing plant and in mid-July installed on its first floor “machinery for the manufacture of fire bricks,⁴⁵ sewer pipe, drain tile and roofing tile.” The new production capacity was reported as “6000 feet of 4-inch tile per day and 20,000 to 30,000 pressed brick.” This story in the July 20, 1906, *Palouse Republic* proudly added:

... any one of which articles can be made from the available [local] clay and sold at prices which will put the eastern manufacturer to shame and do away with the freight charges from Minnesota and other eastern states, where such wares have been purchased in the past for use in the inland empire.

During early September 1906, the Palouse Pottery began its planned expanded production of bricks,⁴⁶ but initially at a reduced level due to an apparent worker shortage.⁴⁷ The September 14, 1906, Palouse newspaper reported that the company



Mark on bottom of Lewiston liquor jug

already had an order for “five carloads [of sewer pipe or tile] for the sewer system at Potlatch.” Earlier that same month, George Swartwood, secretary and also manager of the firm, moved to Spokane to take charge of the Northwestern Stoneware Company, distributing Palouse’s pottery. Andrew King, president of the Palouse Pottery, as-

sumed charge of the business at Palouse.⁴⁸

By the fall of 1906, Charles H. Patten, a 54-year-old native of Maine,⁴⁹ who by that time was a major company stockholder from Moscow, Idaho, reportedly had assumed the role of manager of the Palouse Pottery. In about 1902, Charles, and his son Arthur R. Patten, along with George M. Swartwood and his sister Hattie M. Swartwood,⁵⁰ had established the State Banks in both Palouse and Moscow.⁵¹ A November 2, 1906, *Palouse Republic* article mentioned him and reported that materials produced by the Palouse firm were found to be very satisfactory for lining the fire boxes in the new assay building at the University of Idaho in Moscow. The article remarked that the Palouse-made products had additionally saved the University considerable money, as it no longer had to rely on higher priced products from Denver.

The Palouse Pottery continued production through the winter of 1906-1907 and into the spring. It remained a most successful and well-respected company. By early May of 1907, the principal owners, George Swartwood and Charles Patten, were considering establishing another pottery in the region to help meet demand.⁵² But within days, those plans would be scuttled when disaster struck the Palouse Pottery.

The Destruction of the Palouse Pottery in 1907

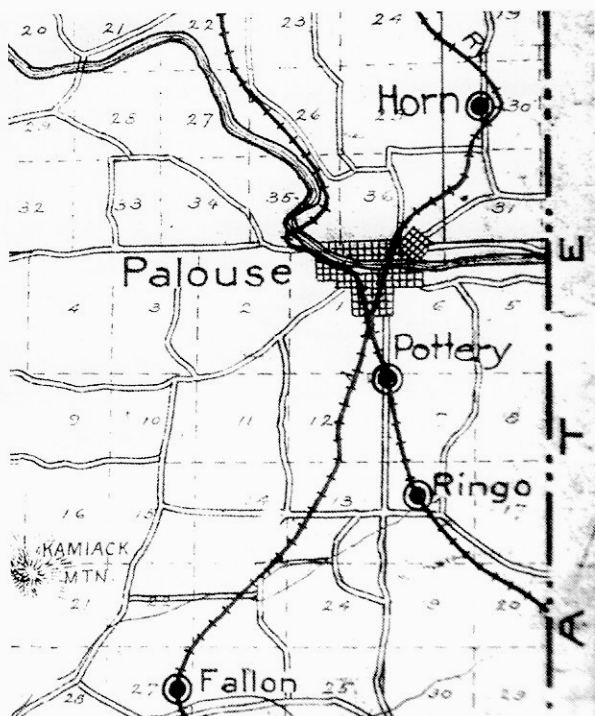
On Sunday morning, May 12, 1907, the Palouse Pottery was almost completely destroyed by fire. Its loss came as a great shock to the owners, residents of Palouse, and indeed many people throughout the region who had come to rely on its acclaimed and reasonably priced products. The newspaper reported that the fire had started in a recently vacated house east of the pottery and was discovered about 2:00 a.m. by persons returning home from a Saturday night dance in Palouse.⁵³ Before it could be controlled by the local fire department using a fire wagon and hoses, the fire spread to the pottery and destroyed much of the company’s plant, with only the engine,

boilers, and the brick-making plant saved. Gone were the main molding room, workshop, and part of the office area. Even the beehive-shaped kiln partially collapsed in the disaster. At first, \$5,000 in insurance, principally on the machinery, was thought to be in force, with the majority of the loss uncovered. However, it was later discovered that even that low-value policy had elapsed. Thus the severe damage was a "dead loss" for the company's stockholders.⁵⁴

It was for this reason, including the likelihood that the recent expansion had been financed on credit, that recovery of the plant became impossible. This was despite initial attempts within a month to resume at

least a limited production of sewer pipe and bricks using surviving equipment in a temporary shed constructed on the property.⁵⁵ While the first reports of the disaster in neighboring newspapers stated that the building would be replaced, and that the "machinery [was] practically intact,"⁵⁶ they were too optimistic. Perhaps forced by the financial disaster of the enterprise, Charles H. Patten, a principal shareholder in the Palouse Pottery, sold his interest in the Moscow State Bank within weeks.⁵⁷ More reversals were to come in subsequent attempts to resurrect the pottery.

In mid-June of 1907, in what initially appeared to be a hopeful development, the head the Pacific Pottery Company of Portland and a representative of the Diamond Brick Company "visited Palouse to investigate the possibilities along the line of the manufacture of clay products of any and all kinds." The *Palouse Republic*, June 21, 1907, continued: "Rumor has it that the plan of the two men is to either buy the present pottery plant, if it should be for sale, or to put in another plant." But time passed and nothing happened. However, a year later, the Pacific Pottery Company purchased 600 tons of local Palouse clay from a railroad cut being made on the property of the Washington, Idaho, and Montana railroad, with the clay to be shipped to Portland.⁵⁸ The deposit was said to contain three distinct grades of clay useful for pottery production: potters', terra cotta, and firebrick clay. Adding the Palouse area



Map showing the location of Pottery siding established 1911 south of Palouse

Palouse Pottery Co.

MANUFACTURERS AND
WHOLESALEERS OF



ALL KINDS OF STONEWARE

**Slightly Damaged
Stoneware for Sale
We also carry a
full line of Fire Brick**

Palouse Republic, Jan. 6, 1905

factory of sewer pipe and brick. Reportedly, King had traveled to the East after the 1907 fire and was confident that he could raise \$25,000 needed to start a new concern that presumably would compete at least in part with the former Palouse Pottery, which was still in ruins and already being described as “an eye sore.”

As if the 1907 fire had not done enough damage, in March of 1908, just before the sale by King of his interest in the burned business, 48 hours of steady rainfall caused the Palouse River to rise to its highest level in 10 or more years. The resulting flood raged though the site of the burned pottery, causing much of the stored pottery to topple over and break.⁶⁰

More Unsuccessful Recovery Attempts

In another attempt to restart the Palouse Pottery, Arthur R. Patten reincorporated the remains of the burned-out business as the “Inland Clay Products Company,” and on April 17, 1908, the local newspaper was trumpeting a swift revival of the pottery industry at Palouse. Yet the article also revealed that the superior local clay of the Palouse country was already being shipped to rival potteries, including one

potter's grade of clay to the local Portland clay was predicted to improve the product of the Portland Pottery Company.

On March 4, 1908, Andrew J. King, serving as official president of the now destroyed Palouse Pottery Company, and George W. Swartwood, as its secretary, conveyed ownership of the “Palouse Pottery Company” for one dollar by a quit claim deed to the “Palouse Pottery Manufacturing Company.” For that firm, Arthur R. Patten served as president and Swartwood as secretary. Three weeks later, on March 25, 1908, a second quit claim deed transferred complete ownership of the property to Arthur R. Patten, although the local paper reported the purchaser was actually his father, Charles H. Patten.⁵⁹ What really happened was that, “after many weeks of sparring back and forth,” Andrew J. King had sold out his interest in the company to the Patten family for \$1925. According to the *Palouse Republic*, March 27, 1908, story on this transaction, King was planning to establish another plant at a different location in Palouse for the manu-

in Seattle, to mix with its normal clay sources for the improvement of its pottery. Despite a report in the following week's newspaper that Patten had employed a crew of men to clean up debris left by the fire and flood, nothing apparently came of the effort. By late July of 1908, Patten had dropped out of the spotlight and Andrew King's name was back in the Palouse paper in reports that he planned to start a new pottery at Palouse.⁶¹ There was speculation that King might re-acquire the remains of the burned-out Palouse Pottery. Again, however, nothing happened.

The March 19, 1909, Palouse newspaper announced a reestablished Businessmen's Association, with one of its key objectives being to bring new businesses to the town. Andrew King and other members of the Association, still hoping to revive the local pottery industry, refocused their attention on this goal. By early May, a representative of the large Redwing Pottery Company of Redwing, Minnesota, had traveled to Palouse to meet with King and look over the local clay sources.⁶² Yet nothing resulted. Meanwhile, as reported April 23, 1909, the Palouse City Attorney had been instructed by the City Council to meet with the owner and force the old pottery's repair or demolition, as it was "certainly of no use to the owners in its present condition and mars the appearance of west Main street."

Despite lingering hopes of reviving the old pottery, the matter was left unresolved for several more years. Finally, in early April of 1913, the Palouse City Council voted to condemn and remove the further decayed Palouse Pottery Company's buildings, authorizing the city "to spend what money might be necessary in getting results."⁶³ By that time, the Inland Clay Products Company had not paid taxes on their property for five years. Within a week of the Council's vote the Company quit-claimed its ownership on April 12, 1913,⁶⁴ to Andrew Laidlaw, a 47-year-old Canadian.⁶⁵ This allowed demolition to proceed. With these final actions, the last hope ended for reviving the old pottery, and soon the site was cleared. Yet, ironically, before that occurred, the pottery industry had returned to the region for a few more years.

1910s Revival of Pottery Manufacturing in the Palouse Country

In the spring of 1910, pottery production resumed in the Palouse countryside at the very place it had begun, on the Robert T. Cox farm south of Palouse. His revived business reopened under the same name he gave it in the 1890s, the "Pioneer Pottery Company." By March 25, 1910, the *Palouse Republic* reported that the company was producing "about 3000 gallons of wares monthly, a greater part of this being disposed of in the local market." The owners were Cox, then in his mid-50s, and Henry H. Clark, described as a former employee of the prior-burned Palouse Pottery. When the 1910 federal census was taken, Clark was recorded as a 47-year-old native of Illinois living with his family on Harrison Street in Palouse. He was listed as employed "turning ware" at the new pottery.

By early 1911, with expanding markets, an arrangement was struck with the local Spokane and Inland Railroad to create a special railroad stop about a mile south of Palouse called "Pottery." It enabled the plant's products to be loaded directly on the train for shipment without having to be hauled first by horse and wagon into the town of Palouse and reloaded there into train cars.⁶⁶

How long Cox's revived pottery on his farm lasted is uncertain, but it appears to have closed by the mid-1910s. The Whitman County directories for 1910-11 and 1912-13 report Cox as running the pottery, but by the 1915-16 issue, he was listed with only \$260 in real estate and no mention of a pottery.⁶⁷ Could changing economics or competition have contributed to its closing? Indeed, by late 1910, the existing pottery at Deary, Idaho, was reported in the Palouse paper as scheduled for improvement.⁶⁸ With Cox's original plant dating back to 1894, its increasing age also may have played a role in its eventual closure around two decades later.

When Robert Cox died in Walla Walla in January 1926, his obituaries in the Palouse and Walla Walla newspapers provided no details of the final episode of pottery manufacturing in the Palouse country. Also omitted was his important role as both a pottery maker and supplier of valuable clay used for pottery and brick-making in the region for around 20 years. Instead, the Palouse paper only referred to his having settled on a homestead at the "site of the old pottery factory south of town."⁶⁹ Already the once-thriving pottery industry at Palouse that began and ended on Cox's farm was fading from memory.

1 1870 *Federal Census*, Clackamas County, Ore., Rock Creek Precinct, p. 161a. Information also from personal communication to Don Myott by other pottery industry researchers.

2 *Polk County Advertiser*, Polk County, Ore., Dec. 2, 1876, p. 2.

3 1880 *Federal Census*, Whitman County, Wash. Territory, Farmington District, pp. 362b-363a, reported him manufacturing stoneware.

4 Grove was listed as "potter" in both the 1883 (pp. 110-111) and 1885 Whitman County, Wash. Territorial census returns.

5 Whitman County, Washington Probate Case #174.

6 Whitman County, Washington Marriage Book B, record #53, married Feb. 1, 1882, at home of John LaDow.

7 From Robert T. Cox's obituary in the *Walla Walla Union*, Walla Walla, Wash., Jan. 24, 1926, p. 5.

8 1880 *Federal Census*, Ashland County, Ohio, town of Hayesville, p. 256a.

9 The 1900 federal census of Palouse reported that Andrew J. King had been born in November 1849 in Pennsylvania, was then married, and had a 19-year-old daughter who had been born in Iowa, where King apparently lived in the early 1880s. (He is not related to Robert King, co-author of this article.)

10 *The Palouse Republic*, Palouse, Wash., Feb. 9, 1894, p. 2.

11 Until recently, there has been uncertainty concerning its location. It clearly was not within the town of Palouse; the Feb. 16, 1894 *Palouse Republic* (p. 2) reported "samples were brought to town and placed on exhibition" from the first firing of the pottery. Strong evidence this first pottery was built on Cox's land is based on later Palouse newspapers identifying a brick works clearly as being on Cox's property.

12 *The Palouse Republic*, Palouse, Wash., June 22, 1895, p. 4.

13 *The Palouse Republic*, Palouse, Wash., June 22, 1894, p. 3.

14 *The Palouse Republic*, Palouse, Wash., June 1, 1895, p. 3.

15 *The Palouse Republic*, Palouse, Wash., May 9, 1896, p. 3.

16 The name of this company is found in a title abstract for the east half of Section 7, Township 16 North, Range 46 East of the Willamette Meridian owned by Don and Teresa Myott. It is unclear if Cox, himself, operated the pottery on his farm prior to 1900, or just rented it out.

17 *Palouse Republic*, May 13, 1904, p. 1; April 22, 1904; July 22, 1904. The new brickworks was heralded by the Palouse paper as a welcomed "new institution" that would employ around 35 more men, with the company's

- president being George W. Peddycord. The April 22, 1904, paper proclaimed that a new steam plant would be added as well as a short spur connecting the operation to the nearby North Pacific Railroad line. This happened, enabling the increased quantity of bricks to be more easily marketed by train.
- 18 Some of this story is included in Keith C. Peterson's 1987 book, *Company Town: Potlatch Idaho and the Potlatch Lumber Company*, WSU Press, Pullman, pp. 68-69.
- 19 Information on the initial ownership of the Palouse Pottery comes from a title abstract of this property located in Palouse, Sec 1, T16N, R45E, abstract owned by Don and Teresa Myott.
- 20 This interpretation largely agrees with a short, less detailed history of the Palouse Pottery Company that appears in "Farmers with kilns: ante-bellum potters in Oregon, 1848-1860 – Oregonians in the Palouse: early potters in the Inland Empire," assembled by the Northwest Pottery Research Center of Wilsonville, Oregon for the Northwest Anthropological Conference, Spokane, Wash., for the year 2000.
- 21 1900 Federal Census, Whitman County, City of Palouse, p. 147a. Palouse, like other towns of Whitman County, had its own brickworks even before Cox and Terteling's 1902 partnership.
- 22 According to the 1900 census of Palouse, Carroll J. Wiley had been born Dec. 1869 in Minnesota, was married, and had a young son. Howard E. Wiley was listed as born in June 1877 in Oregon. It appears that the two were not brothers as the census reported their parents (names not given) as born in different states.
- 23 From the prior-cited Whitman County Title abstract, Sec.7, T16N, R46E.
- 24 Whitman County, Wash. Deed Book 94, p. 45. The clay was to be removed from the east half of Sec.7, T16N, R46E, with the contract recorded on June 19, 1900.
- 25 *Palouse Republic*, May 23, 1902.
- 26 *Clay Deposits of North Idaho* by Charles R. Hubbard, Pamphlet No. 109, Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology, University of Idaho, July 1956, p. 22.
- 27 *Palouse Republic*, Jan. 15, 1904.
- 28 These sales are noted in the title abstract for this property, Sec 1, T16N, R45E, cited earlier.
- 29 *Palouse Republic*, April 11, 1902, p.1; Feb. 12, 1904, p. 2; Feb. 19, 1904.
- 30 *Polk's Whitman County*, Washington, Directory for 1904, pp. 163-181. The 1910 federal census of Palouse reported Clark and Cox still living at Palouse, though no longer working as potters.
- 31 *Palouse Republic*, Feb. 19, 1904.
- 32 *Polk's Whitman County*, Washington, Directory for 1904, p. 159.
- 33 The 1910 federal census reported him as having been born in Minnesota.
- 34 *Palouse Republic*, April 22, 1904. Such pieces, referred to as "second class ware," were offered at a local discount of "5 cents per gallon."
- 35 *Palouse Republic*, Feb. 19, 1904. Don Myott owns a stoneware chamber pot marked "Palouse, Washington" probably made by the Palouse Pottery.
- 36 *Palouse Republic*, May 27, 1904.
- 37 *Polk's Whitman County*, Washington, Directory for 1904, p. 159.
- 38 *Palouse Republic*, Aug. 5, 1904.
- 39 *Palouse Republic*, April 22, 1904; Aug. 26, 1904: The new brickyard's location was described in the Palouse newspaper as "close to the railroad" and on land "recently purchased from W. H. Fawcett."
- 40 *Palouse Republic*, Oct. 14, 1904.
- 41 *Palouse Republic*, March 17, 1905; May 12, 1905.
- 42 *Palouse Republic*, March 17, 1905.
- 43 *Palouse Republic*, Dec. 5, 1905.
- 44 *Palouse Republic*, Jan. 12, 1906.
- 45 The *Palouse Republic* on Jan. 5, 1905 had previously reported the Palouse Pottery as offering a "full line of fire brick," suggesting that some manufacturing of this type of product had started earlier.
- 46 As noted, Palouse had a local brick yard by the 1880s. By the early 1900s and into the 1920s, it was being operated by Charles A. Brown, according to various regional directories.
- 47 Interestingly, the *Palouse Republic*, Oct. 12, 1906, reported "The Potlatch Brick Company" had been formed at Potlatch, Idaho, with capital stock of \$10,000, designed to take advantage of the rich clay deposits in the vicinity.
- 48 *Palouse Republic*, Sept. 7, 1906.
- 49 The 1920 federal census listed him as a real estate agent living with his family in Moscow, Id.
- 50 The 1910 federal census reported Hattie as 42 years old, single, and employed in a general store in the Calispell District of Stevens County, Wash.
- 51 *Palouse Republic*, July 19, 1907. By this time Charles has also served as president of the Palouse State Bank.
- 52 *Palouse Republic*, May 10, 1907. The paper reported that Swartwood and Patten had recently acquired further clay deposits along the Palouse River east of the town of Palouse, and had told the local paper "that the [new] pottery will be put in operation shortly to take care of some heavy orders."
- 53 *Palouse Republic*, May 17, 1907.

- 54 *Palouse Republic*, June 7, 1907.
 55 *Palouse Republic*, June 7, 1907.
 56 *Colfax Gazette*, Colfax, Wash. May 24, 1907, p. 7.
 57 *Palouse Republic*, July 19, 1907.
 58 *Palouse Republic*, July 24, 1908.
 59 Prior cited title abstract to the Palouse pottery, Sec.1, T16N, R45E. The *Palouse Republic*, March 27, 1908.
 60 *Palouse Republic*, March 20, 1908.
 61 *Palouse Republic*, July 31, 1908. Later in April of 1910, Arthur Patten was reported by the federal census of Moscow, Idaho as a real estate dealer. His father also lived there at that time as also was listed in the real estate business.
 62 *Palouse Republic*, May 7, 1909.
 63 *Palouse Republic*, April 4, 1913.
 64 From the title abstract to the Palouse Pottery, Sec. 1, T16N, R45E, cited earlier.
 65 In the 1910 federal census, Laidlaw was listed a wealthy broker living with his family in Spokane, Wash. At that time they employed a servant.
 66 *Palouse Republic*, Jan. 13, 1911, p. 5. The railroad siding called "Pottery" was shown on some Whitman County maps for a few years beginning about 1911.
 67 *Polk's Whitman County*, Directory for 1915-16, p. 172.
 68 *Palouse Republic*, Dec. 16, 1910.
 69 *Palouse Republic*, Jan. 29, 1926.



Site of the Palouse Pottery Company (1899 -1907) on the south side of Main Street. Palouse's swimming pool and part of its City park occupy the site today. Note the abandoned pillars of the elevated trestle of the Spokane and Inland Railway Company built in 1906.

“BY THE GODS, YOU’RE FIRED!”

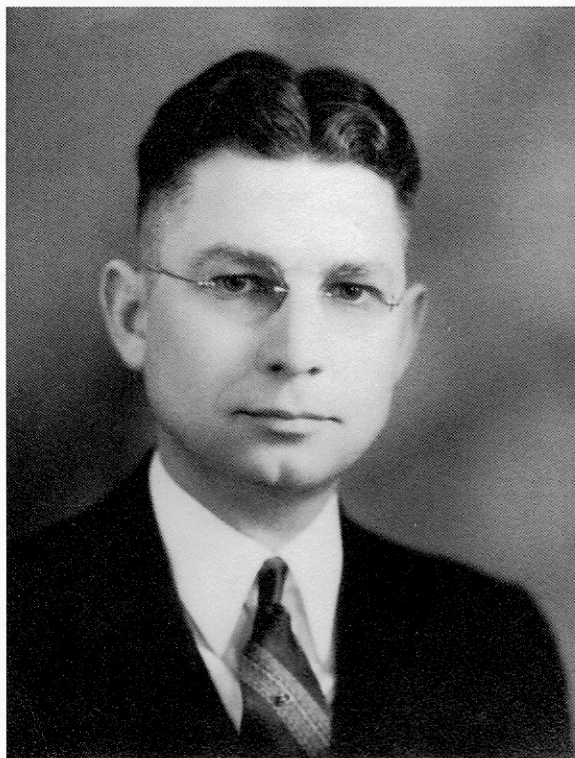
A Story of Oscar Gladish

by Donald E. Guinouard

The most unforgettable character I ever met was a high school principal who never expelled students for their misdeeds or lack of application

Instead he pounded his desk with his fist and shouted, “By the Gods, you’re fired!” And fired they were – at least temporarily. He believed in the old fashioned idea that students had a job in society – that of becoming an educated, productive, successful, and useful member of society. Anyone who did not perform on the job was “fired.”

He was the principal of Pullman High School in Pullman, Washington, when I was hired to be the guidance consultant and counselor for the school system in 1955.



Oscar Gladish in 1934

An imposing man, he wore his hair parted in the middle and invariably wore a bow tie and a suit or a sport jacket. As a young man, he attended a religiously endowed private college to become a minister and became an agnostic instead. He had a bachelor’s degree in political science, a master’s degree in history, and a law degree earned by correspondence studies. In keeping with his philosophy that graduation should be seen as a beginning rather than an end, he hung his diplomas in a barn where the mice chewed up all but one, which his wife was able to secretly save. Each year at commencement, he solemnly told the new graduates that there should be one further step in the commencement process - that of filing by the incinerator to

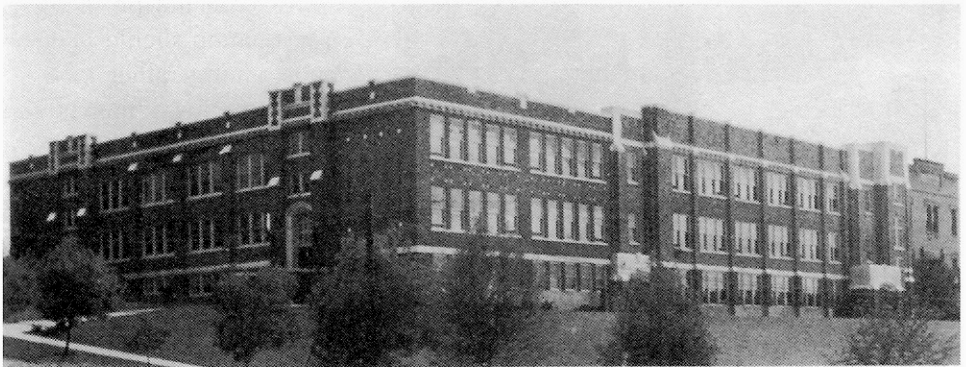
deposit their diplomas therein so they would not look upon the educational process as having been completed.

He had been there so long that some people joked that he had always been the principal. Many students stated that he had taught their parents and had been their principal as well. The community and student body threw a surprise party for him on the anniversary of his thirtieth year as principal and raised enough money to send him and his wife on an all-expense-paid trip to England, which he had always expressed an interest in visiting. When he retired a few years later, he was the “dean” of school administrators in the state, having been principal in the same school for more than thirty-five years.

His name was Oscar Elijah Gladish, but he was universally referred to as Mr. Gladish, not only by students, but by faculty, school board members, and school patrons alike. Nearly everyone in the community referred to him as Mr. Gladish, and few ever called him by his first name. This formality was invariably reciprocated and he in turn referred to students, faculty, and others as Mr., Mrs., or Miss, as the case might be.

Although his title was principal, he should have had the title of headmaster as he was a remnant of a by-gone era. Fully versed in educational philosophy and techniques, his unflinching test of procedures or methods was based upon whether or not students were likely to learn what they should learn. Such learning goals were not only in the context of the course content, but in terms of whether or not the student would become a better and more useful citizen as well. Students were considered to be junior colleagues in the educational experience and were to be given as much work and responsibility as they were capable of handling. He expected high quality work from the students and communicated not only that expectation but his confidence that they were capable of it. Consequently, the vast majority of them demonstrated high performance.

Although he had long been the principal, his real love was teaching American history and government. Until he retired, he taught one section of American history



Pullman School as it appeared in the 1940s

each semester. His knowledge of the subject was prodigious and he could hold a class enthralled. I often observed students of his who were ill but attended school anyway because they didn't want to miss what came next in his class. Not infrequently, as the school counselor, I had tearful students begging my intervention to help them get enrolled in his American history section rather than the other teacher's section. Their supplication was "my folks took American history from Mr. Gladish and I just have to as well!" His reputation as a master teacher is well illustrated by a Lincoln Day speech he was invited to present to one of the local grade schools. The entire student body was assembled in the gym (there was no auditorium), and he was given 45 minutes for his presentation. The normally squirming, whispering, punching-each-other students sat on the floor in rapt silence listening to him. After better than an hour, when the principal suggested it was time to return to classes, clamors of "No! No! We want to hear more!" rang throughout the gym.

The great American experiment in democracy particularly intrigued him, and he established a high school student government system that was truly "of the students, by the students, and for the students." It was widely known and studied by educators from far and wide. Less serious infractions of school rules were dealt with by the student government, whose punishment, when handed out, was usually a specified number of hours of janitorial services in the school or hand sanding and refinishing the marred student desks.

His scholarliness was outstanding. Once, when he was enrolled in a night graduate class at the local university, the professor haughtily informed the class that



COUNCIL, Second Semester (left to right): Bill Anderson, Bruce Chambers, Wendell Klossner, Mr. Gladish, Jim Dayton, Bettie Carstens, Patsy Livingston, Don Carver.

1945 Student Council

he demanded scholarliness and that just because they may have had some experience in teaching at the public school level, that did not necessarily mean that they were graduate school material. A term paper was assigned to be turned in two weeks before the end of the semester. Faithful to the demand for scholarliness, Mr. Gladish turned in a lengthy term paper written in Latin, which the professor was unable to read.

Likewise, he was a master grammarian and, indeed, served as the official grammarian of the local Toastmaster Club for many years. I received a subtle lesson in grammar on one of the many, many Saturdays when he and I went pheasant hunting together. We had stopped to eat our lunch, but my pointer kept trying to wander away. I said "Shane! Lay down!" Mr. Gladish quietly told his Brittany, "Duke, you should lie down, too."



Oscar Gladish

Everyone who knew Mr. Gladish regarded him as a true gentleman. On another pheasant hunting occasion, we were again eating the lunches our wives had prepared for us when he offered me a piece of ginger bread. As I had brownies my wife had prepared for me, I declined. He said "I don't blame you. Don't blame you a bit. Janet has been making me ginger bread for over thirty years and I've never had the heart to tell her I don't like it."

When he "fired" a student, it was usually for ditching school, bringing embarrassment to the school, destructiveness, or some similar misdeed. In order to be re-instated, the student, as well as the parents of the student, were required to sign a contract that specified the required behaviors for re-instatement. These infractions brought about a handwritten 5,000 word paper assigned in the subject in which the student was currently receiving his or her lowest grade, and the student was given until the end of the semester to complete it. Successful completion raised the student's letter grade one full grade. Failure to complete the paper meant flunking the course. Mr. Gladish required the assignment to be handwritten, both as a punishment and as a means of improving and practicing penmanship. It also had to

be fully documented. If the indiscretion was early in the semester, the student had ample time for the task at hand. If it occurred late in the semester, however, as was the case of his youngest son three weeks before graduation, considerable leisure time and sleep were sacrificed to complete the paper.

Frequently when Mr. Gladish “fired” a student for lesser transgressions, he would approach me, stating that he had just fired so-and-so and that this student needed a friend in court, but that couldn’t be him as he had to be the disciplinarian. He would then ask me to approach the student with the behaviors that needed to be changed. If the student agreed to work on his needs, I would intervene on his behalf to have him re-instated, which Mr. Gladish would of course support. I was often embarrassed by grateful students, when I knew that their first champion was standing in the wings silently cheering them on.

The reputation of the high school mattered greatly to him. On one occasion at a Friday evening football game played against their traditional sports rivals from Moscow, Idaho, some Pullman High School students demonstrated poor sportsmanship and manners. Greatly angered, Mr. Gladish assembled the student body in the school auditorium the following Monday morning. Only the stage lights were on as he berated them about their poor manners and sportsmanship. Suddenly an old tennis shoe was thrown onto the stage. Pulling his pocket watch out, he solemnly stated, “You have exactly 30 seconds to pick that shoe up to save your soul from everlasting perdition!” A pale and greatly embarrassed senior football player came onto the stage to retrieve the shoe and was loudly informed that he had one minute after the assembly to report to the office. I later asked Mr. Gladish how he knew who threw the shoe since it was dark in the audience. He answered, “I had no idea who did it, but **he** didn’t know that I didn’t know!” Only someone with his mystique could have pulled that off.

A man with a very dry sense of humor, he never seemed to realize when he was being humorous. I once observed an extremely upset and anxious student nervously grin and giggle while being soundly berated by Mr. Gladish. The principal banged his fist on his desk and shouted, “By the Gods! Don’t stand there grinning at me like a jackass eating thistles in June!” On another occasion, while discussing the banking industry in my high school economics class, I used the illustration of Christ and the temple money changers as an example of the antiquity of the industry. A student voiced an objection to using a biblical example. When I reported the incident to Mr. Gladish in case there were further repercussions from an irate parent (this was in the mid 1950s), he asked what church she belonged to. When I told him, he dryly remarked, “Why, I never thought they were particularly devout. I just thought they were well dressed.”

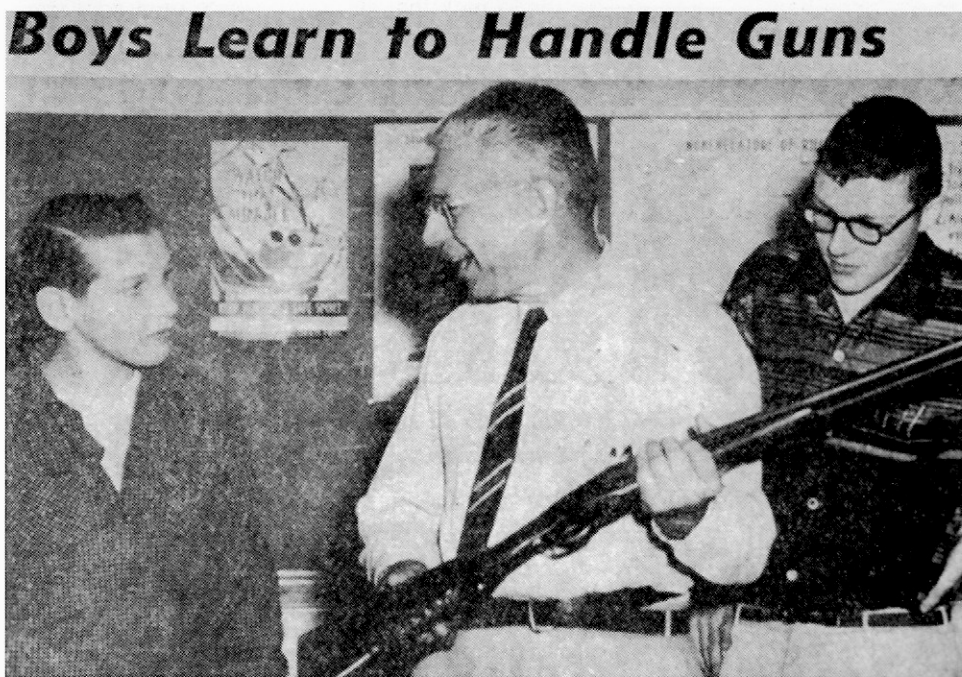
Although awed and sometimes fearful of his wrath, the students held him in great respect and affection. He was usually the first teacher returning students looked up upon returning to the community, and it was a red badge of courage to

have been “fired” by him. The school sports teams were called the “Greyhounds” and their mascot was a life size stuffed Greyhound affectionately named “Oegee” (the initials of Oscar Elijah Gladish).

During his 34 year tenure as principal, the student enrollment went from a little more than 100 students to about 550 students by the time I moved on. There were very few dropouts and approximately 90 percent of the graduates went on to college. A very large number of those pursued graduate degrees, and the school alumni include dozens of teachers, doctors, lawyers, professors, businessmen, farmers, and even an astronaut. Much of their success was due to the foundation provided by his leadership of the faculty and student body.

After retiring in the mid 1960s, he ran for and was elected mayor of Pullman and continued to serve the community in that capacity for a few years. His stature in the community and his tremendous knowledge of American government served him well.

Upon returning to Pullman after a 35-year absence, I found that a new high school had replaced the old one. Appropriately, the old building on West Main Street has been named the Gladish Community Center. It appears that he is unforgettable to others as well as to me.



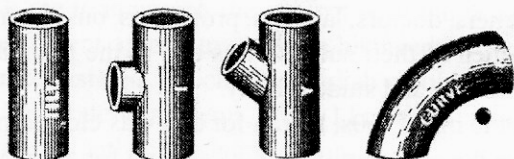
Pullman Herald, March 13, 1958, p 4

Oscar Gladish was born September 20, 1897 and died August 16, 1980.
He was Principal from 1929-1963.

PALOUSE POTTERY DRAIN TILE

DRAIN TILE

MAKE YOUR WET, SOUR LAND THE BEST YOU HAVE by the use of tiling. We have recently installed the latest improved machinery for manufacturing drain tile and are prepared to make prompt shipments in any quantities.



As we are making our tile from our regular stoneware clay, it is far superior to the ordinary tile made from common red brick clay, and once properly placed in the ground will last for ages.

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Fire Brick and Buff and White Building Brick

PALOUSE POTTERY MANUFACTURING CO., PALOUSE, WASH.

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