

## Statistic of Interest Given By Byron Defenbach

Every Tax Payer in Latah County Should Read This Article.

The following article appeared in the Lewiston Tribune of Sunday October 17 and gives the views of Byron Defenbach whom everyone in the county knows and should be read with interest by every taxpayer in the county.

"The showing made by Latah county is an excellent one. The per capital cost of the proper care of the poor is at least reasonable and there is every reason to accept Mr. Defenbach's statement that the place is made a home for the unfortunate. It is to be doubted if it would be proper to charge interest on the value of the plant in defining the cost of the maintenance of the poor. Under proper management there should be an increment of value of the plant sufficient to pay this interest charge. Nor do we ever figure the cost of government as including the interest on the investment made in roads, bridges, school houses, court houses, machinery, books and all the other impedimenta attached to government. It is understood the commissioners of Nez Perce county have in mind the purchase of a poor farm and the caring for the county's unfortunate in that way. It is possible the experience of Latah county in this matter may be regarded as valuable.

The statistics of the recent year showed that the cost of the public in caring for its poor and indigent citizens was in Kootenai county, \$9,600, Nez Perce \$8,800, and Latah \$3,600. It is a well established rule that the existence of a large town in any county adds materially to this class of expense.

From the above figures it becomes apparent that the care of our unfortunate is a larger question than most of us like to admit, absorbing, as it does, from ten to twelve per cent of our total expenditures for strictly county purposes.

Latah is one of the few counties in Idaho which seeks to handle this problem, at least in part, by maintaining a county poor farm, although they never call it by that name officially. It is always spoken of as the "Latah County home," and an honest effort is made by all concerned to make it worthy of its name. The home comprises of 134 acres of excellent land with fairly substantial buildings, located on a main highway about a mile from the city limits of Moscow. To the casual passer-by, there is nothing in the appearance of the place to differentiate it from the typical Palouse farms. Most of the buildings were on the place when it was acquired by the county and are not especially adapted to their present use. There are several acres of orchard, bearing rather inferior fruit, and a large garden is planted every year, but the bulk of the land is devoted to the growing of ordinary field grains.

As with most public institutions, there has been a frequent change in the policy of the home, owing to the varying ideas held by successive boards of commissioners. Formerly the plan was to raise as much wheat as possible and dispose of it in open market, but of late there has been a growing tendency to produce more live stock and more material for strictly home consumption. But while the county commissioners have frequently changed their policies, they have wisely continued to employ the same immediate management.

An inventory of the land, buildings, and equipment taken last spring amounted to approximately \$20,000. This is considerably more than the amount actually expended in purchase, as the land has naturally increased in value and is estimated at conservatively at \$100 per acre. The natural accruing of this profit has given rise to discussion as to whether or not "interest on the investment" should be considered in arriving at the cost of maintenance. Latah county has practically no indebtedness of any kind, but any private concern would figure interest on the inventory value at perhaps seven per cent, thus adding material to the per capital cost of running the institution.

During the period of the past seven years the gross expense for

## Social at the Manse

A social event among the young people was held at the Manse last Friday eve, when the eleven boys and ten girls of the Sunday School classes of Mrs. Atchison and Mrs. Patton met for an evening of pleasure and amusement.

The evening was spent in the games imitating a college track meet.

The company was equally divided one side representing the Washington College and the other the University of Idaho. There were nine contests. The "Shot put" the "200 yard dash," the "sock race" and a progressive game of names of cities, towns, rivers, etc., was indulged in. Refreshments were served.

Miss Opal Keeler then favored the company with several piano numbers. It was a happy event in the school days of the boys and girls.

The following were present: Dan Guy, Harold Thomas, Lester Crocker, Donald Douglas, William Clem, Roy Florence, Fred Florence, Ray Douglas, Fred Flaig, Frank Meyers, Dick Fenton, Joe Guy, May Kertley, Edith Compton, Agnes Grice, Phillis Cane, Opal Keeler, Mabel McKeever, Bernadine Plumber, Letha Fowler, Mildred Hobbs.

Kendrick's all stars went to Troy Thursday evening, to put on the play entitled "Among the Breakers."

running the home has grown from \$1,400 to \$1,900, per annum or a yearly average of \$1,758. Cash has been turned back into the county treasury, from sale of products in amounts from \$300 gradually increasing to \$1,000 per annum or an average of \$493. The average net expense has, therefore, been \$1,625 per annum of which \$1,020 is for salary of the management and the balance for supplies, repairs, etc.

The lowest number of inmates at any time during the period was 5, the highest 17 the average over the whole period being ten. The average annual net expense per capital is seen to be \$126.50. The readers attention is again called to the fact that this includes no charge for interest on investment, which at 7 per cent would immediately raise the per capital cost to \$246.50.

Public opinion in Latah county unquestionably favors the plan of a publicly-owned home, but there is the usual diversity of opinion as to the wisdom of its details of policy and management. Many taxpayers argue that the farm is too big. These urge that instead of 134 acres of ordinary cultivated wheat land there should be say 40 acres under intensive cultivation, a small farm stocked to its capacity and devoted entirely to the growing of products for exclusively home consumption.

In the purchase, equipment and maintenance of a home of this kind there are certain principles to which all agree. The buildings should be especially adapted to their use. The home should be practically all on the ground floor, with several auxiliary cottages or small dwellings. Water, light, heat and sanitary arrangements should all be reasonably up-to-date and thoroughly convenient.

Latah county people frequently say that the county should set a good example in the way of making the public farm attractive as well as profitable, and they suggest that much of the necessary work might be performed under a proper system, by those fellows who so persistently break into our county jails and live at public expense. But that is another story.

As might be expected most of the inmates are old people, and the causes of their misfortunes are various. It is interesting to talk with them. Life has been too much for them. Some of them admit that they did not play their cards well, and others insist that the dealer did not give them a hand. There is no good reason why they should be surrounded with luxury but they are not. But they are comfortable. After staying around there a few hours, listening to their stories, you don't begrudge them what their more fortunate fellowmen are giving them.



WILCOX RANCH NEAR KENDRICK

## Slind-Beekley

A very pretty little wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. I. Beekley, last Saturday afternoon, at which time their daughter, Miss Hope was united in marriage to Mr. George Slind. The ceremony, including the impressive ring service, was performed by Rev. G. W. H. Smith, D. D., pastor of the Presbyterian Church.

Miss Mayme Slind, sister of the groom, as maid of honor and Mr. Clarence Sandberg, best man, preceded the bride and groom to the bower of beautiful flowers and autumn leaves, under which the ceremony took place.

The bride, in an exquisite gown of white chiffon and taffata, was charming as she entered on the arm of the groom, while the soft strains of Lohengrin's Wedding March as played by Mrs. Jody Long announced the hour of their betrothal.

Only a few invited guests, beside the immediate relatives were present. Elaborate refreshments were served, after which the happy young couple drove to their home which had been previously provided on Big Bear Ridge.

The bride is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. Beekley and has a host of friends in Kendrick and on the ridges, where she taught school several years. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Slind, and a prosperous young farmer, of Bear Ridge. The high esteem in which the young couple is held both in this community and by friends in other communities was shown by the number of beautiful gifts they received at this time. It is the sincere wish of their many friends that they have a very bright and happy future.

## Big Bear Ridge News

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Rongstad spent the week end at their home in Clarkston.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. McCrea, of Kendrick, A. G. Wilson and family were entertained at Sunday dinner by Mrs. Alfred Nelson.

Miss Myrtle Smith, of Kendrick, was the week end guest of Miss Agnes Jones.

John Reid and family have moved to Kendrick where they will farm the Knepper place.

Miss Grace Waite spent Saturday and Sunday at home.

Mr. R. W. Bigham, wife and son were visiting relatives on Little Bear Ridge.

Will Hecht has rented the W. B. Kennedy farm for the coming year.

A basket social was given at the Steele school house Thursday evening. The proceeds were for the benefit of the school.

Mrs. James Nelson has gone to Moscow, where she will remain during the school term.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davidson and daughter, Miss Evangeline, have returned to their home in Manmaught Ore., after an extended visit with friends here.

Messrs. Arneing, of Little Bear Ridge, attended the Novelty social at Taney, Saturday evening.

It has been planned to organize a Literary in the near future.

Bill May and family will move to the place recently vacated by Chas. Brown.

P. A. Norman and family have moved to the G. Applequist place.

The young men on the ridge have planned to organize a band. We all join in wishing them success.

## Tax Roll of 1915

The County Auditor's office has completed the arduous task of extending the Tax Rolls, and the 1915 Real Property Tax Rolls have been charged and turned over to the Tax Collector's office much in advance of former years, and of the time prescribed by Statutes for the completion of same.

The total valuation included on the 1915 Rolls in the sum of \$19,500,734.00, after all exemptions allowed have been deducted, or a decrease of \$863,579.00 in valuation from the 1914 Roll.

The total taxes entered upon the rolls for this year total the sum of \$330,839.86, which are distributed as follows:

State & County tax	\$187,225.63
Special School tax	71,990.49
Special Road tax	28,146.08
City & Village taxes	43,165.16
State Predatory animal tax	312.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$340,839.86</b>

The item of State and county tax is apportioned to the following funds:

State of Idaho	\$40,533.36
General School Fund	67,555.60
Current expense Fund	48,254.00
Bridge Fund	11,580.96
General Road Fund	19,301.71
<b>Total as above</b>	<b>\$187,225.63</b>

The items of School Taxes, both Special and General Levies, show a marked increase, again, over former years, also the item of City and Village taxes is materially increased while several of the County and State show a small decrease.

Hear the Panama Singers Thursday Nov. 4th at Barnum's Theatre. Program begins promptly at 8 o'clock. Doors will be closed during rendition of numbers.

## Don't Eat, Drink or Breathe

Drink water and get typhoid fever. Drink milk and get tuberculosis. Drink whisky and get jim jams. Eat soup and get Bright's disease. Eat meat and encourage apoplexy. Eat dessert and take paresis. Smoke cigarettes and die early. Smoke cigars and get catarrh. Drink coffee and obtain nervous prostration. Drink wine and get the gout. In order to be perfectly healthy one must eat nothing, drink nothing, smoke nothing, and even before breathing one should make sure that the air has been properly sterilized.

Sunday evening, October 31, the services at the Methodist church will be held in the form of a rally day service, watch for the program next week.

The advance sale of tickets for the Lyceum Course indicates a large audience at each performance. 225 of the best seats have already been reserved for Season ticket holders. Have you got yours?

Mr. O. Sword has again resumed his position at the Steele school.

Wilbur Babcock and George Gordon departed Wednesday for Benewah to be gone for a few days.

The Novelty Social held at Taney Saturday evening was a success both socially and financially. The proceeds were \$17.50. After a most enjoyable evening of games the young people were led by A. W. Jones to the future home of Mr. and Mrs. George Slind, where a charvari was rendered to the happy bride and groom. After congratulations, a delightful treat was served. Upon leaving all wished the young couple health, a long life of happiness and success. Thanks are due Mr. Jones for auctioneering the novelties, and captain of the charvari crowd.

Inquisitive.

## Wholesale Manufacture of Criminals in U. S.

### Panama Singers

The Panama sketch gives proper statistics and facts concerning the Canal and along with the sketch they give musical numbers consisting of male quartets, solos, and songs with flute obligato, together with readings and a flute solo. This part of the program lasts one hour.

Straight concert program lasting about forty-five minutes, consisting of Scottish Specialties by Mr. Baldy Strang in gorgeous costume, in which he sings and plays the bagpipes.

Mr. Charles Cox gives serious and comedy readings.

Mr. Mevi sings a little grand opera and some high class ballads. Mr. Mevi was educated in Switzerland, Germany and Italy; has sung in Grand Opera in the old country, and was with the New York Grand Opera company last winter.

The Panama Singers appeared before a good audience at the opera house Monday evening. The generous applause would indicate that they made a hit with the audience. This is the first high grade male quartet that has visited Sutton in a number of years. The story of Panama on which the entertainment was based, proved a pleasing variety from the usual program. The great variety of music, popular and classic was highly appreciated.

The Panama Singers are certainly an unusual musical company. Each number is a splendid soloist and the harmony is superb.

The program is a live one from start to finish.

### Harvest Festival Services

The following program will be given at the Methodist Church Sunday October 31.

- Hymn—Far and Near the Fields are Beaming.
- Scripture reading and prayer.
- Hymn—Sound the Battle Cry.
- Welcome Address Mr. Best
- Duet Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Evans
- Relation of S. S. to Church Mrs. N. B. Long
- Mixed Quartette
- Recitation Ain't it Fine Today
- Blanche Hemway
- Male Quartette
- Poem Then and Now Mrs. Hobbs
- Anthem We are in the Savior's Army
- Address Rev. Marney
- Doxology

J. N. Armstrong and wife departed for Freewater the first of the week where they will make their future home.

A. More returned from Freewater Oregon, the first of the week.

Mrs. Perkins, of Portland, arrived on Cedar Creek the first of the week to visit her nephew, Otto Stone.

Fred Scheeley, of Fairview, is on the Potlatch this week looking after business interests.

E. Harmes and family motored down from Fairfield the first of the week.

Mrs. Van Buren, of the Kendrick Hotel, went to Spokane Monday to visit relatives.

Red ticket 144 won the monster box of Candy at the Red Cross Pharmacy this week for Kermit Waide. Get a coupon.

G. Wayland is hauling sane from his place to town to be used in the new electric light building.

S. A. Pechtol is building a new barn and wood shed.

Clarence Harris of Little Bear Ridge and Miss Myrtle Ball of Cedar Creek were united in marriage October 20.

Mrs. James Wright, of Spokane, who has been visiting her cousin, Mrs. W. L. Clauson, returned to her home Sunday.

W. L. Bagley and family moved to their new home at Kendrick Wednesday.—Clarkston News.

### Great Number of Useless Laws Passed by Legislature and City Councils

The greatest crime in the United States is the wholesale manufacture of criminals," says Henry B. Hyde in the Chicago Tribune, writing about the great number of useless laws passed by state legislature and city councils each year. And to support his indictment, Mr. Hyde marshals an array of facts which fiction cannot match.

Commenting editorially on Mr. Hyde's charges, the Tribune says: "Obviously, what Mr. Hyde calls the wholesale manufacture of criminals" is one of the unexpected results of our uncritical reliance upon legislation as a cure-all. When the American sees anything he doesn't like, his first impulse is to pass a law against it. If there are no statutes against gravitation enacted at the vociferous behest of Americans who have slipped up on a winter's day, it is an oversight which will be corrected in due time.

"This is an American failing which is often commented on. Less often do we ponder the moral phase of the American habit of passing laws.

"Undoubtedly we have been passing thru a period of acute social self-consciousness. Many things which were ignored by our fathers we understand, or think we understand the evil of, and in attempting to express our new sense of responsibility and correct the newly discovered faults by our favorite method of law-making, we have not only far out-stripped our capacity for the more difficult task of administration, but we have developed a taste for correcting what seems to be our neighbors errors which bids fair in turn to include everything from his choice of neckties to his religious creed.

"This taste for censorship is not discriminative. What seems to the great mass of a given community as at worst harmless or inconsequential seems to some moral specialists heinous and deeply demoralizing. In no country of the world to-day, we believe, are there so many good people who happen to be passionately energized over some particular fact of our fallible human nature. The United States is one huge example of Herbert Spencer's simile on reform. It is a titanic sheet of metal on which the dinges are being furiously beaten down with the inevitable result that with almost every blow of our blundering hammers a new dinge is made as the old one disappears.

"In this period of 'an awakened social conscience. We show collectively a tendency to neurosthenia in reform, and individually a super-sensitiveness as to other people's errors. If a good many of our efforts at bettering the world overnight could be treated with a dose of humor and a sense of proportion, a deal of unnecessary suffering could be avoided and some very serious social reactions escaped.

"But more is needed even than the perfecting of law enforcement and administration—a thing more difficult to attain. We need a check upon our growing tendency to force our neighbors into compliance with our own special standards. If we are to accept a sterner and more detailed social discipline, let us at least see that it is shaped by the common conscience and based on the broad and settled convictions of the community. Let us no longer subject the individual to the heterogeneous tyranny of innumerable minorities. To much of our penal law is made under the cover of public indifference by that species of man or woman who would have us all run into the mold of his or her conviction.

Mrs. A. N. Patton will take a limited number of pupils in china painting. Classes to begin next week. For terms and information call up the Presbyterian Manse.—43-2t.

E. Reison and wife motored to Moscow Wednesday.

Get your Season ticket for the Lyceum Course and have your seats reserved now at the Red Cross Pharmacy. No extra charge. Season tickets for sale by Frank Byrne, N. B. Long and H. W. Best.