

Thursday, December 17, 2020
Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda

4:00 PM

Meeting may be viewed at: Live Stream on City of College Place, Washington YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbx3qrqzLDL_05NusReSI-g/featured

Or you may call this number to listen: 1-669-900-9128 ID#946 0123 7204

1. Opening Items

Subject :	1.01 Discussion Protocol for Virtual Meetings
Meeting :	Dec 17, 2020 - Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda
Category :	1. Opening Items
Access :	Public
Type :	Information

Public Content

Virtual Meeting Discussion Protocol:

- After staff presentation of an item, the Chair will request comments from each Member
- After each member has had an opportunity, the Chair will then speak if so desired and Members will use the raise hand feature to notify the Chair of their desire to speak again. However, they will not enter the conversation without first being recognized by the Chair. This should allow for a thorough discussion with everyone having opportunity to express their views while maintaining order.

Subject :	1.02 Call to Order
Meeting :	Dec 17, 2020 - Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda
Category :	1. Opening Items
Access :	Public

Type :	
Subject :	1.03 Roll Call
Meeting :	Dec 17, 2020 - Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda
Category :	1. Opening Items
Access :	Public
Type :	Information

Public Content

Stanley Green, Chairperson

Gary Petersen, Vice Chair

Terrell Gottschall

Edward Kontz

Mike Denny

Jon Rickard, Community Development Director

Kristi Scherger, Community Development Administrative Assistant

2. Consent Agenda

Subject :	2.01 Approve Agenda for Dec 17, 2020
Meeting :	Dec 17, 2020 - Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda
Category :	2. Consent Agenda
Access :	Public
Type :	
Subject :	2.02 Approve Minutes from Nov 19, 2020
Meeting :	Dec 17, 2020 - Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda
Category :	2. Consent Agenda
Access :	Public
Type :	Minutes
Minutes :	View Minutes for Nov 19, 2020 - Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meetin

File Attachments

[11-19-2020-HPC-minutes-draft.pdf \(104 KB\)](#)

Subject :	2.03 Approve Consent Agenda - Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Commission by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through previous review either, at a workshop, or by subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Commission members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any Commission member.
Meeting :	Dec 17, 2020 - Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda
Category :	2. Consent Agenda
Access :	Public

Type :	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action :	Motion to approve consent agenda items 2.01 through xxxx

3. Public Comment

Subject :	3.01 Public Comment Procedure for Virtual Meetings - Commission meetings are primarily structured to permit Members to arrive at the decisions necessary to advise the City Council.
Meeting :	Dec 17, 2020 - Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda
Category :	3. Public Comment
Access :	Public
Type :	Information

Public Content

Commission meetings are primarily structured to permit Members to arrive at the decisions necessary to advise the City Council.

COVID-19 Virtual Meeting Protocol for Public Comment:

When submitting public comments, include the following regardless of the manner you are using: - Note that there are deadlines for each method of commenting.

- Your Name
- Your Address

Public comments may be provided in one of three ways:

- Comments in writing of no more than 1 page (If typewritten, no less than 11 pt font.) may be submitted no later than 4:30PM on the meeting date to be included in the record.
- Comments may be made by telephone during the meeting by calling a number that will be provided to you upon notification to the City Clerk no later than 2:30 PM the day of the meeting.*
- Comments may be made by virtual meeting attendance with a link that will be provided to your email upon notification to the City Clerk no later than 2:30 the day of the meeting.*

*If you would like to make a public comment by either phone or virtual meeting, you can contact the clerk at Ineissl@cpwa.usor by phone at 509-394-8511 no later than 2:30 on the meeting date.

4. Regular Agenda

Subject :	4.01 College Place 75th Anniversary Book
Meeting :	Dec 17, 2020 - Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda
Category :	4. Regular Agenda
Access :	Public
Type :	Discussion

Public Content

Attached are the draft chapters of the College Place 75th anniversary book. Please read and provide comments back to Mr. Denny.

Chapter 7 is not available at this time.

File Attachments

[!Prologue, CP-75TH.pdf \(91 KB\)](#)

[Chp 1 CP 75th.pdf \(75 KB\)](#)

[Chp 2.pdf \(79 KB\)](#)

[Chp 2b.pdf \(57 KB\)](#)

[Chp 2c.pdf \(68 KB\)](#)

[Chp 3.pdf \(33 KB\)](#)

[Chp 3b.pdf \(49 KB\)](#)

[Chp 4.pdf \(45 KB\)](#)

[Chp 5.pdf \(52 KB\)](#)

[Chp 6.pdf \(42 KB\)](#)

[Chp 8.pdf \(64 KB\)](#)

[Chp 9.pdf \(69 KB\)](#)

[xBibleo-CP-75TH.pdf \(54 KB\)](#)

5. Reports

6. Meeting Information

Subject :	6.01 Next meeting is scheduled January 21, 2021
Meeting :	Dec 17, 2020 - Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda
Category :	6. Meeting Information
Access :	Public
Type :	

7. Closing Items

Subject :	7.01 Adjourn
Meeting :	Dec 17, 2020 - Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda
Category :	7. Closing Items
Access :	Public
Type :	Procedural

Historic Preservation Commission Electronic Meeting Agenda (Thursday, November 19, 2020)

Generated by Kristi Scherger on Friday, November 19, 2020

1. Opening Items

Information: 1.01 Discussion Protocol for Virtual Meetings

Procedural: 1.02 Call to Order

Chair, Stanley Green called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Information: 1.03 Roll Call

Present

Commissioners

Stanley Green – Chair
Gary Petersen – Vice Chair
Mike Denny
Terrell Gottschall
Edward Kontz

Staff

Jon Rickard, Community Development Director;
Kristi Scherger, Community Development
Administrative Assistant
Carolyn Holm, Deputy City Clerk

**Absent-
Excused
Absent**

2. Consent Agenda

Action (Consent): 2.01 Approve Agenda for November 19, 2020

Action (Consent): 2.02 Approve Consent Agenda - Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Commission by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through previous review either, at a workshop, or by subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Commission members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any Commission member.

Commissioner Mike Denny made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Second by Commissioner Terrell Gottschall and the motion passed 4-0.

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2.03 Approve Minutes from October 15, 2020

Commissioner Mike Denny made a motion to approve the minutes.

Second by Commissioner Terrell Gottschall and the motion passed 4-0.

3. Public Comment

Information: 3.01 Public Comment Procedure for Virtual Meetings - Commission meetings are primarily structured to permit Members to arrive at the decisions necessary to advise the City Council.

The Clerk notes that there was no public comment.

4. Regular Agenda

Discussion: 4.01 College Place 75th Anniversary Book

Jon Rickard noted that staff had difficulty receiving electronic chapters of the book from Commissioner Mike Denny therefore Commissioner Denny reviewed the chapters orally. Book editing and publishing details to meet the College Place 75th Anniversary celebration event in the summer of

2021 possibly to include a book signing with Commissioner Denny was discussed. Consensus was reached to ask Boards, Commissions and Council to be included in planning the anniversary event.

5. Reports

Jon Rickard updated the status of awaiting a quote for the survey with the Ground Penetrating Radar DAP Grant.

6. Meeting Information

Information: 6.01 Next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2020

7. Closing Items

Procedural: 7.01 Adjourn

Commissioner Terrell Gottschall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 PM.

Second by Commissioner Mike Denny and the motion passed 5-0.

The foregoing minutes are the official record of the Historic Preservation Commission meeting that occurred on November 19, 2020. Audio and/or Video recordings are available upon request.

Approved:

Chairman / Vice Chairman

Date

Attest:

Jon Rickard – CD Director

Date

Prologue

College Place, Washington: A Place to Call Home

Today as I write this manuscript this small city in southeast Washington is blanketed by dense gray smoke from numerous wildfires burning many folks out of house and land across the Pacific Northwest. Days of smoke laden air are affecting citizens and all other living animals we share this wonderful valley with. This period of our history here is stressful for many in this town that is normally relatively calm, sunny and warm this season of the year. Combined with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the effects of increasing climate change exacerbated by air pollution from smoke and hydro-carbon release, raging deep political divisions mixed with chaos and the demand for equal justice and equality for all people of color is taking its toll.

There have been marches supporting political views, human rights, economic conditions and great concern over the rule of law across this Nation, State and in Walla Walla County. With many folks scared and insecure about the future due to economic, environmental and social situations they have no individual control of. This is where we find ourselves today in the middle of September 2020.

College Place is a microcosm of the state of our State, Nation and World right now. This is a book about missions, religion and the strong desire to share this truth with the “Godless” indigenous peoples of the 19th century as well as the secular people of the period. As the reader goes through this book I almost would urge that you play Verdi’s Requiem in the background as it was and is this judgment day that is the motivating influence that pushed the establishment of the missions among the tribes and the

building of Walla Walla College here in this valley. For the Adventists, the establishment of medical and educational institutions was paramount in the mission of the church after the Great Disappointment earlier in the 19th century.

This book is about the history of a town that built up around a Seventh-day Adventist college starting in 1892. Walla Walla College was established thanks to a gift of forty acres donated by Dr. Nelson Blalock the then mayor of the City of Walla Walla. This land came with one stipulation and that was this new college had to operate for at least twenty-five years and if the college failed then the church would have to purchase the donated land at fair market value. Walla Walla College did not fail though it came remarkably close to running out of operating funds early on. This college acted as an anchor for a brand-new community as Adventist believers moved into the area to work at and attend the school. Prior to the arrival of other immigrants to this area, long before the first European explorers arrived the native tribes settled and lived here for many thousands of years. These peoples crossed from Asia. They selected this area due to the abundance of water, berries, fish and game along with other important native plant resources known as “first foods” that were here in abundance. These native peoples are members of the Walla Walla, Cayuse and Umatilla tribes. The Umatilla and Walla Walla spoke a Sahaptin language which is critically endangered as less than 125 people still speak it worldwide, the Cayuse spoke a now extinct language with only a little over 300 words written down and no speakers. The history of these tribes is ongoing and important to this region and valley. In the 1730s the first horses arrived in

the valley brought in by the native tribes through trade from outside of the region after Spanish horses were lost or stolen. In 1805 the first major expedition brought Lewis and Clark and the Corp of Discovery into the area along with the first black man known as York. In 1813 the Hudson's Bay company established a trading post southwest of the future site of College Place near the Oregon Stateline as well as a fort at the mouth of the Walla Walla River. Arriving earlier to take advantage of the abundant water, fertile soils and long growing season were the *metis* of French and native tribal origins. These people settled around the future college site and west along Mill Creek and the Walla Walla River. The center of their lives was the Saint Rose of Lima Mission a Catholic mission west of the future college site. In 1836 Dr. and Mrs. Whitman arrived in the valley and settled three miles west of the future College Place site. They came to establish a Presbyterian mission among the native tribes.

Between 1843 and 1847 murder, disease, loss and suspicion along with distrust lead to conflict and more death at Whitman's mission where in November 1847 the Whitman's and eleven others were killed by Cayuse tribal members in retaliation for a lethal epidemic of measles that killed many of the tribes elders and children. This resulted in a mounted expedition of the Oregon Volunteers to "teach the Indians a lesson not to kill missionaries". This later caused the four-day Battle of Walla Walla between the Cayuse and the Oregon Volunteers out of Oregon City. An unarmed Cayuse Chief Peopeomoxmox was murdered along with several other tribesmen out at what was Fort Walla Walla on the shores of the Columbia River. Forcing a

six-month martial law order which was instituted by the then Colonel George McClellan and the US Army. All people were driven out of the Walla Walla Valley in order to calm the situation and quell the hostilities. Then in 1855 a treaty with five regional tribes was called along Mill Creek east of what would be College Place on the current site of Whitman College. These ceded lands were set aside for the tribes and the creation of the tribal reservation system by then Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens which opened 6.2 million acres to Euro-American settlement and emigration into the Pacific Northwest. These were lands that the native tribes lost. Many immigrants were also attracted to this river valley such as the Chinese who were not allowed to own land by Federal law, the Italian farmers, German farmers and Irish workmen. By the late 1860s through the 1890s the Chinese population had reached around 5000 hardworking, entrepreneurs in the area. By 1875 the Italians began to arrive and develop vegetable farms and orchards though the first Italian farm/orchard was created in 1857. These Italian immigrants settled all around what is now College Place and enhanced the Walla Walla Sweet Onion brought here and first planted by a French soldier who planted vineyards and orchards along with large vegetable gardens. The nearby State of Oregon entered the Union in 1859. While the American Civil War raged in the east and southern states in 1863 this area was becoming settled and had after a great debate voted to outlaw and reject slavery. With the dawn of the 1880s the first Adventist educational institution was built in Milton, Oregon just six miles south of College Place. The Washington Territory voted in 1881 to give women of all colors the right to vote. This was light years ahead of the

rest of the nation. Then four years later the same body recanted on their vote and denied all women the right to vote. Women did not recover the right to vote in Washington State until 1910. The State of Washington was formed in 1889 and joined the Union as the 42nd state. In 1881 the Territorial legislature voted to establish Blue Laws against breaking the Sabbath by playing sports or opening shops on Sundays. They ended up in court. In 1909 the State legislature enacted even more severe Blue Laws which stood until 1966 when a referendum by the people voted these laws out. Walla Walla College was first opened on December 7, 1892 with 101 students and 9 faculty and 25 homes built up around it. This college grew rapidly and expanded surviving both economic challenges and three epidemics and a major pandemic in 1918 & 1919. Its student body increased throughout the twentieth century as it established its mission to educate, promote health and preach the Gospel. The City of College Place was named in 1891 by its first postmaster Mr. Carnahan. College Place grew as more staff, students and faculty came to the college. Businesses and support infrastructure that every town wishes for also developed slowly though there was no official city yet. Throughout the early 20th century the hamlet of College Place was beset by frequent fires to buildings in the community and college. There was a major push for College Place to incorporate from the college and the folks that lived in the area. College Place remained unincorporated and held the record in the state of Washington for having the largest population in an unincorporated village. In 1947 the City of College Place came into existence as an incorporated city. College Place soon created a up dated volunteer Fire Department, a small

Police Department with one “marshal” and tied into an irrigation district, water and sewer line construction, property taxes to pay for all of it. Along with an official first Mayor by the name of Walter Bunch. For all intents and purposes this was a Christian city with a mix of residents all working to grow and succeed in establishing this tiny town.

This community has survived the Great Economic Depression of the 1930s and several major floods, two world wars, Korea, Vietnam and the seemingly constant wars in the Middle East. At least four epidemics and now two huge pandemics. It has transitioned successfully from horse/mule farming and travel to that of the arrival of the internal combustion engine, from oil lamps to electricity, from the telegraph to digital wireless communications, From very basic medical care to very specialized treatments, From crank up phones, planes and cars to push button digital machines all in a short seventy-five years.

What will the future of this city be as weather changes continue and more people move here to enjoy the calmer convenient lifestyles most have in this town. Will environmental and social refugees move here from larger cities? Will water issues be more pressing as time passes?

College Place has changed remarkably over its 75 years from a lone college administrative and classroom building out on an open low slope known as “sunflower hill” with 25 small homes built around it to a modern city of more than 8000 inhabitants. The old Walla Walla College was renamed in 2007 to Walla Walla University as more

international students were attending the Schools of Engineering, Social Work, Education, Theology and Nursing Science. The City of College Place now has a mall with many chain stores. There are several business districts and a revitalized Main Street, a modern City Hall along with a City Administrative form of Government, Fire Department, Police Department and an active Public Works Department along with a Community Development Office.

For most of its citizens this small town along the western border of Walla Walla and just north of the Oregon state line is a comfortable place to live. It is a community working to improve the lives of all and educate its young in well-equipped and staffed with highly educated caring teachers in both public and private schools.

It is truly a great city to call home.

Chapter One

Before College Place Was

Prior to the Eighteenth century here in the Walla Walla River basin there was a landscape that had literally been a backwater created by repeated Missoula floods over thousands of years. The Walla Walla River basin was inundated repeatedly as the Missoula floods became blocked by a hydrologic dam at Wallula Gap on the Columbia River as huge volumes of rushing flood waters attempted to push through the narrow confines of this gap cut through the Horse Heaven Hills thus forcing water up the Walla Walla River channel to the east and overflowing into the Walla Walla River basin. Along with these flood waters came great chunks of ice that moved south with the flood waters after the break-up of the ice dam that backed up Lake Missoula near present day Missoula, Montana. Embedded in these ice blocks were thousands of granitic boulders that became erratic's as they were melted out and littered across the hills and river valley. These granite rocks originate from the slopes of the Rocky Mountains in what is now Idaho and western Montana along with tons of loses soils, which were scoured out of the landscape as these great floods ripped to the south creating the Channeled Scablands to the north of the Walla Walla River Basin. As this basin filled with hundreds of feet of water, millions of yards of silt, sand and gravels settled out and over time formed the rich farmlands we see today in some areas of this basin around College Place along with some fossil deposits. Sites where this depositional material can be seen are exposed bluffs south of Touchet, Washington, The Little

Grand Canyon west of College Place and different large road cuts north of College Place.

The First People

After the final floods over time native peoples began to settle in this valley as it was verdant with many springs, creeks and several rivers originating high in the nearby Blue Mountains. This basin was rich in wildlife and fish.

The Walla Walla River basin became the home of the *Waluula* or Walla Walla, Cayuse and Umatilla peoples. These tribes hunted, fished, picked berries and dug tubers and bulbs to sustain themselves. They also traded for horses and other foods and needed materials from other tribes such as the Colville, Palouse, Nez Peirce, Yakima and Shoshone. Horses first arrived through trade in the Walla Walla River basin in the early-1730s. All three tribes lived, traveled and traded on horseback across a vast area stretching east into the Great Plains, south into Mexico and west to the Pacific coast. These peoples spoke *Sahaptin* as well as *Chinook jargon* along with other trade languages. Their greatest rivals were the Bannock/Northern Piute and the Snake Indians from the northern Great Basin to the south. These tribes would raid the three tribes' villages from time to time grabbing women, children and horses. The arrival of the first western Europeans in the late 1740s by ship and overland through what is now Canada nudged open the door to exploration and slow colonization through the establishment of trade routes and missions that would forever alter and devastate the way of life for these tribes.

The three tribes were very aware of the arrival of the Spanish to the south and their colonization where missions and towns were established as well as huge land grants

given to wealthy families from Spain. All this was known by these tribes. They had also come across the French, British and Russians prior to the arrival of Lewis and Clark in 1805 in this region. Living in the area that College Place now covers were the descendants of French men and tribal women known as the *metis*. These people lived along the Walla Walla River from College Place west through the location of Touchet. They were associated with a Catholic Mission known as the Saint Rose of Lima Mission just northwest of present-day College Place between the Walla Walla River and the southern rise of the Palouse Hills. In 1836 a second mission was developed by Dr. and Mrs. Whitman much closer to present day College Place. This was a mission funded and prayed for by the Presbyterians as a mission to the three tribes of this area. It was known as *Wailatpu* or “place of the rye grass” mission.

After the return of Lewis and Clark in 1806 the fledgling US Government had decided that what the Oregon country needed most was Americans and so it was decided that the west should be colonized and settled in Americas interest and that the British Hudson’s Bay company along with its trappers, business folks and supporters needed to go. So, The Hudson’s Bay Fort Nez Peirce at the confluence of the Walla Walla and Columbia Rivers was taken over and became Fort Walla Walla. By the 1830s-40s many well-known explorers/naturalists came through this valley of the Walla Walla River such as Nathaniel Wyeth, John Kirk Townsend, David Douglas, John C. Fremont, and Thomas Nuttall to name a few. By 1840 many thousands of Americans and recent immigrants from Europe were headed west into the “Oregon Country” through the Walla

Walla River valley. Whitman's mission had now become a rest and resupply stop on the long road into the Willamette River Valley of Oregon. New visitors arrived daily in their wagons with their families and remaining livestock. Dr.

Whitman would care for those that arrived sick and injured. The three tribes were becoming extremely concerned by the numbers of settlers, traders, trappers, stockmen, farmers and dreamers attracted to the mission on their way to somewhere over the horizon. Some of the tribal members had converted to the Protestant faith that the Whitman's presented to them, though conversions were low in numbers and slow in happening the Whitman's were there for the long haul.

As the years passed at Whitman's Mission it became noticeable that the direction and focus of the mission had changed to that of a support stop for traveling settlers headed west and not so worried about working with and for the tribes. Then diseases began to spread among the tribes all along the Columbia River as well as at the mission at *Waiilatpu*. Measles, TB, the common cold and smallpox along with venereal diseases all arrived with the influx of white settlers from the eastern states sickening and killing many tribal members across the Lower Columbia Basin. Facing continued high mortality from a measles outbreak in 1847 the Cayuse tribal leaders began to believe that all this sickness and death was a plan to kill them off so that settlers could take their lands. It seemed that only tribal members were dying and mostly their children while the white settlers seem to recover under Dr. Whitman's care. Some suspected that the Whitman's were responsible for this endless diseases and constant death among their people.

It was a tribal norm that if a shaman or healer failed in their efforts to heal and their patient died it was a right of the family with the loss to kill that healer. Just after lunch on November 29, 1847 on a gray foggy day, a group of Cayuse men (14-18 in number by some accounts) pushed their way into the Whitman's home and demanded medicine for their sick loved ones, it was a ruse and in minutes ten emigrants along with the Whitman's lay dead, the only woman killed was Narcissus Whitman who was shot, all the others were killed with clubs and tomahawks.

The next day two ill young men were also killed. Several emigrants escaped this massacre and headed west to the Hudson's Bay Fort Nez Peirce at the mouth of the Walla Walla River to report the killings. Soon word spread about the killings at the Whitman's mission and a few days later a Catholic priest from along the Umatilla River outpost to the south arrived unsure of his own security to find the victims of these killings laying on the ground. He and a young man dug a shallow trench and gave these travelers and the Whitman's a Christian burial in the loose gravels of the Walla Walla River basin. The Cayuse men also took fifty or so hostages at the mission and held them for a month demanding a ransom. At which time Peter Skene Ogden a Hudson's Bay employee ransomed this group of surviving women and children. One of those young ransomed children was Gertrude Hall who later married my direct ancestor Judge Owen Nickerson Denny who introduced Chinese Ring-necked Pheasants to North America in 1882.

Soon word of the massacre at Whitman's Mission reached Oregon and within weeks the Oregon Militia organized, and several hundred men rode east to confront and catch the

perpetrators of these killings. Upon arriving in the Walla Walla Valley these angered armed volunteers demanded that the Cayuse tribal elders' hand over to them the men that had done the killing to receive their justice. The tribe refused and soon hostilities broke out not far from the site of the Saint Rose of Lima mission north of the Walla Walla River and west of College Place. This shooting war was called the *Battle of Walla Walla* which lasted four days. There were deaths among the Oregon Militia and soon a stalemate broke out and both sides held their ground sniping at each other. A Cayuse war chief named Peu Peu Mox Mox and several others decided to seek shelter and ask for a parlay to stop the fighting at the fort on the banks of the Walla Walla River as they had no wish to be accused of whipping up the tribes to fight. As he approached the fort unarmed, he was shot dead from the fort. This was a big loss to the peace efforts for some time. Six weeks later units of the US Army arrived in the valley to put down this war. Their commanding officer was Major George McClellan. He placed the entire valley under Martial law and forcibly removed all people from the valley along the shores of the Walla Walla River, tribal members, emigrants, metis, missionaries, Oregon Militia and traders for six months. The mission fell into disrepair and all human activity ceased as the Walla Walla River valley fell silent save for the horse troopers on patrol the winter of 1847-48.

Chap.2

Before College Place Was

After the Whitman Mission massacre and the Battle of Walla Walla and the end of Martial Law so much had changed in this area where College Place waited in the wings. The British and the Hudson's Bay Company were gone and a second fort had been constructed out on the old site of the original Fort Nez Peirce at the mouth of the Walla Walla River, this was the new trading center of Fort Walla Walla which was both a center of commerce and a military fort on the shores of the Columbia River. With the arrival of the 1850s a whole new group of emigrants arrived in this river basin to join the metis, the three tribes and the earlier settlers and that was business builders that determined the true value of the well-watered lands where College Place would eventually arise. Prospectors, small farm developers, cattlemen, traders and soldiers all lived in this area. The great Treaty of 1855 was convened on lands that are now the home of Whitman College and the City of Walla Walla. Several thousand native peoples of the sovereign nations of the Cayuse, Walla Walla, Umatilla, Nez Peirce and Yakima nations gathered to discuss and consider Governor Stevens proposals and hoped for agreements. Isaac Stevens was the Washington territorial Governor. Washington territory covered all of Washington, Idaho and western Montana. Along with Governor Stevens was Joel Palmer head of Indian Affairs for the Oregon Territory and his entourage. Governor Stevens asked that all the tribal leaders and clan representatives gather at his camp along Mill Creek in the Walla Walla Valley on the treaty grounds to come up with some agreements and to

arrive at some understandings to secure lands for the all the tribes present. This large group (3000+) of native peoples along with Governor Stevens and his entourage met on 29 May 1855 and after many discussions, intrigues and heated debates this group of men came to some understandings on a hot day in early June. On June 9, 1855, the Treaty of Walla Walla was agreed to and signed by all present. This treaty secured in perpetuity the rights of the tribes to hunt and fish on all ceded lands as well as reservations that only the tribes could live on. For the Cayuse, Walla Walla and Umatilla they would be allotted 510,000 acres in what became Northeastern Oregon just east of Pendleton, Oregon on what would be known as the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation or the CTUIR. In return the tribes gave up 6.2 million acres and opened vast areas to what would become Oregon and Washington States. Walla Walla Country now covered 110,000 sq. miles which stretched from what is now Skamania County Washington to the crest of the Rocky Mountains in western Montana. Washington did not become a State until 1882 when it was admitted to the Union as the 42nd state. The State of Oregon was created and admitted in 1859 as the 33rd state in the Union.

After the gathering of the tribes along Mill Creek in the Walla Walla Valley for the Great treaty Council of 1855 several skirmishes between the tribes and the US Army occurred outside of the Walla Walla River basin. From 1858 through to the 1880s large numbers of people emigrated to Oregon and into the Walla Walla Valley. New immigrants like the Italians, Irish, Germans and Chinese all arrived with great dreams of what they could make of their

fortunes in this rich valley. During the 1860s the US Civil War was raging across the eastern and southern states and into the southwest desert states. Slavery and the ownership of humans was a raging issue that many abolitionists pushed to outlaw and eliminate from this country. The southern pro-slavery states disagreed. The western territories had few slaves and were deeply concerned with this issue as they were working on developing the centers of commerce and infrastructure to sustain these new territories. Prior to 1857 in the Washington Territory there was one known slave in the territory. Buying and selling of slaves in the territory was outlawed, but a single slave was brought in and yet no one demanded that person's release from slavery to freedom in order to remain in the territory. In 1857 the soon to be State of Oregon was legally closed to all Blacks. By 1859 and Oregon's admission to the Union the slavery issue in this state was hotly debated and then outlawed. Also, in 1859 the fledgling city of Walla Walla was platted and a growing town that developed around the third Fort Walla Walla had been moved to the valley. It was not until 1862 that Walla Walla was officially named and incorporated. It grew rapidly and attracted several highly motivated, far thinking, opportunistic businessmen that built Walla Walla into the largest city in the Washington Territory. By the end of the Civil War in 1865 some refugees from the south moved into the Walla Walla Valley to begin new lives on homesteads and farms around Walla Walla. Fort Walla Walla in its third reincarnation in 1856 was moved to within six miles of the destroyed Whitman Mission and the new city of Walla Walla developed around it. The soldiers were of economic importance to the new community. In

1855 the old abandoned fort on the Columbia was now made into a busy port site as the discovery of gold in Idaho and Montana caused a high demand for goods from down river in Portland. A speculator named Mr. Vansyckle tore down most of the old fort and platted a new town he named Wallula which became the only inland port in the Washington Territory where all kinds of goods could be purchased and hotel beds slept in as miners poured into the gold country to the east.

In 1860 prospectors had made a sizable gold strike on the Nez Peirce reservation which resulted in the creation of the Idaho Territory in 1863.

In 1862 the Mullen Road was completed from the new Fort Walla Walla six hundred miles east to Fort Benton, Montana by Captain John Mullen. This road can still be traveled north out of Walla Walla on 13th Avenue towards the Washington State Penitentiary.

The advent of the 1870s saw the arrival of many new settlers arriving in and around Walla Walla. The last of the wars and battles between the US Army and native peoples were fought with loss of life on both sides and loss of land by the tribes as they were ushered onto local reservations by the US Army and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. 1871 saw the beginning of the construction of Dr. Dorsey Bakers narrow gauge railroad line from Wallula on the Columbia to Walla Walla 29 miles to the east for the purpose of hauling grain, lumber and other products out to the Columbia River for shipment down to Portland and out to the Pacific Coast. The name of this first rail line in southeast Washington Territory was the *Walla Walla and the*

Columbia River Railway. More emigrants arrived from the mid-west and east coast looking for better opportunities for themselves and their families. Some arrived with missionary zeal to spread the Gospel and others strictly to find good farmland and make a living. Still others came to make a fast buck as miners, salesmen and speculators. The nearby Fort Walla Walla attracted all kinds of folks on the move and those looking to settle down which more and more families and groups were doing. Some recent immigrants from Europe and Asia also selected the Walla Walla Valley to set up shop and invest in this new land. College Place was yet to be a glimmer in anyone's mind, yet Walla Walla was growing and expanding around the Fort. There were those that were convinced that Walla Walla had a chance to be the Capitol of the Washington Territory and the state it would become as it was now the largest town in the territory. Many were pushing for statehood and wanted to join the Union. After all Oregon to the south had joined the Union in 1859 and was already a functioning independent State.

Water, Soils and Early Ag

With the rich, deep soils in southern and eastern Walla Walla County along the flood plains of the rivers and many streams that both emerged from the western and northern face of the Blue Mountains as well as numerous springs that originate from a series of fault lines running north to south through the valley agriculture was a natural pursuit with so much water available for irrigation. Many settlers soon learned that they did not even need to irrigate as the deep rich soils already had a natural sub-irrigation system.

As sodbuster plows went to work it was discovered that

there was in excess of three feet of sod overlaying the rich dark, moist soils deposited over thousands of years. In some areas to the north and south of College Place were native grasses that grew more than six feet high on north and east facing slopes where the topsoil was moist and deep. On south and west facing slopes was a mix of bunch grasses interspersed with the shrub-steppe native plant community which is the dryer “Touchet Beds” depositional loses sandy soils that are very well drained and hold little moisture. These are the soils that College Placed was built on many years later that had several creeks flowing across it that were tributaries of the Walla Walla River.

What is Behind a Name

The name Walla Walla is a native peoples *Sahaptin* word translated to English meaning “place of many waters”. All four *Sahaptin* languages are now considered critically endangered with less than 125 speakers worldwide. The Cayuse language is now extinct with only a little over 300 known words in existence. The word Walla or Wala is a Hindi word from the Indian Sub-continent many thousands of years old meaning “a worker” or “employee”.

Floods Build Great Soils

What was discovered by early pioneers and no doubt already understood by the native peoples was that the larger streams and rivers coming out of the Blue Mountains are “very flashy” systems. This entire valley is subject to flooding when conditions were exactly right. The Walla Walla River and its tributaries will burst over their banks and great volumes of raging water will rip across the landscape bringing channel change, recharging the shallow

aquifer as well as bringing valuable organic material to the flood plain soils. Combined with the many Missoula Flood deposits laid down over thousands of years some of the richest, most valuable soils on earth exist just south of Walla Walla-College Place and along the foothills of the Blue Mountains and are soils that are now known as snow silt loams. These soils currently produce 147+ bushels an acre wheat, un-irrigated. So it was that these soils and waters were to be a magnet that attracted many thousands of folks to this valley.

Hints of a College

In 1869 the first discussions began among the early Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) members in the valley about building a college. That same year Dr. N. G. Blalock offered/donated to the Adventist leadership in the valley 40 acres of land to build their college on with a stipulation that they operate the school for a minimum of 25 years. This launched a concerted effort in planning, fund raising and design of the first building that would establish Walla Walla College. Three early pioneers stepped forward to guarantee the funding to pay for the land if the denomination did not follow through with the agreement to operate the college for at least 25 years. They were T.L. Ragsdale, H.W. Decker and Greenville Holbrook.

By 1870 the first Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) church was built in Walla Walla which was the seed that would lead to the development of an Adventist School system in this valley. By 1873 a second Adventist church had been constructed also in Walla Walla. On July 11, 1887, the Milton Academy in Milton, Oregon six miles to the south of

Walla Walla was completed and opened. This was the first educational institution run by the SDA denomination in the valley. Because the SDA denomination strongly supports education as part of its mission the creation of schools was inevitable given the desire to have a Christian based system. By the mid-1880s the Walla Walla Valley was changing as many immigrants arrived and started businesses and farms. Many emigrants also arrived on their way west into the “Oregon Country” on this branch of the Oregon Trail.

End of Chapter

Continuation of chapter 2b

College Place on Stage in a New State

On November 11, 1889, the Washington Territory ceased to exist, and the new State of Washington was admitted to the Union. This new state's capitol had been speculated on for years with Walla Walla in the running, however it was Olympia that was selected and thus the building of a new state began.

A New College on Sunflower Hill

In College Place the construction of Walla Walla College was underway with two local community banks donating funding to assist in the school's creation. A \$1000.00 was given by Baker-Boyer Bank and 500.00 by Farmer's Savings Bank which the church leaders viewed as gifts of aid and friendly community spirited gestures. During this period, many Adventist families and college age students were moving into College Place and the surrounding area to work at this new college or go to school there when it opened. Folks came from all over the United States and a few from Canada. The local denominational leaders were clear that all students were welcome, both Adventist and non-Adventist alike. All students attending Walla Walla College had to agree to in no way breach the Adventist ideals or break the Seventh-day Sabbath. One of the individuals instrumental in the selection of the college building site was W.W. Prescott, Education Secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist. He was made honorary President for the first two years. E.A. Sutherland then became the college's first president. Walla Walla College officially opened on December 7, 1892 though they

could not yet issue diplomas as the college was not incorporated as a college. Incorporation did not occur until 1901. At the time of the opening there were 101 students and 25 homes built around the college property.

Early in 1891 Henry Carnahan suggested the name College Place because the SDA denomination was in the process of building their first college building which was to be the administrative center and classrooms of the new Walla Walla College. On 19 July 1891 Veda Carnahan was born to Mr. and Mrs. Carnahan making their baby the first white child born in College Place, Washington. Her father Henry was the first Postmaster in College Place and the first Post Office was in the front room of the Carnahan's home.

The period between 1875-1910 brought great changes to the Walla Walla River valley as more folks moved here to capitalize on the fertile land, abundant water and educational opportunities along with the creation of a new state. College Place grew as did the focus and center of this community, the ever-expanding college which by 1900 had three college buildings plus the buildings on the college farm.

The Chinese

The first Chinese to arrive in the Walla Walla Valley came in 1872. They came to work on the building of Dorsey Bakers railroad line. By the early 1880s there were as many as 5000 Chinese living in the valley. Most worked building the narrow-gauge railroad that would run from Wallula on the Columbia River east to Walla Walla. Some worked in business. These industrious entrepreneurial people soon established many businesses like restaurants,

laundries, pharmacies and vegetable gardens along with some working for families in the valley. Life in this region was hard for these emigrant workers. Laws in both the Washington Territory and the new State of Washington forbid the Chinese from owning any land or property, they could only rent. Despite this major restriction they proceeded to grow and with hard work develop a "Chinatown" in Walla Walla where most lived and ran their businesses. There was dislike, distrust and great jealousy of the Chinese among some in the white population in this region as the Chinese were subjected to murder, swindles, theft and physical attack because these people were diligent, careful, and very frugal, much of the money they earned was sent back to their families in China. The first lynching in the Walla Walla Valley was of a Chinese man. After Dorsey Baker's railroad was completed many of the young Chinese laborers moved on either returning to China or working in other locations. A second wave of Chinese arrived to work in and around the Idaho Gold rush and the Walla Walla Valley was the door to the supplies and access to the goldfields. These Chinese set up many businesses with at one time 11 Chinese run businesses in central Walla Walla. By 1900 many were farming in the flat lands along Dallas Military Rd. in what is now College Place. Because these Asians could not own property, but only rent they began to have the property and gardens they worked sold as the Italian farmers moved in and began to purchase these farms and own them. Some Chinese were accused of stealing water and using water that was not theirs to use. By the early 1950s there were no more than 50 Chinese left in the valley.

The Italians

By the mid-1870s through to the mid-1910s many farmers of Italian descent arrived in the College Place area to buy and set up vegetable farms. These hard-working immigrant Ag specialists brought with them a will to succeed and a wonderful can-do spirit which allowed them to grow and prosper. The first Italian here in the Walla Walla Valley was Frank Orselli who started farming in 1857 after doing a stint in the 4th Infantry, US Army at Fort Walla Walla. By 1865 Frank had purchased 180 acres and was well known for his large orchards.

Most Italians were men that arrived to stake a claim in the American dream were alone, it was only later after they had earned enough money that they sent for their wives and children back in Italy. Two distinct groups of Italians immigrated to the Walla Walla Valley. There was the “Milanese” who were from northern Italy and primarily settled in and around Walla Walla. The second group that arrived were the “Calabrese” from southern Italy. These folks settled around College Place beginning in the 1880s.

These two groups appear to have had little contact with each other by choice over time as they worked in this valley farming vegetables, and fruit. Each group built and staffed their own Catholic churches in Walla Walla.

A typical experience for Italian immigrant men here in the Walla Walla Valley is that of Pasquale Saturno who arrived here in 1875 alone. All he had was his expertise in gardening and a desire to start a business. He soon met up

with fellow Italian and relative Joe Taschi and they formed a gardening business partnership. The Saturno land stretched from Larch Street east to Myra and north and covered about 100 acres of College Place. As their funds increased through farming, they started to sponsor more Italians from Italy to come work for them with the promise that if they worked hard and helped grow the Saturno farm business, they would get land of their own. Over time entire Italian families immigrated to the College Place area to settle and work in the gardening business. After some years Pasquale's partner Joe Taschi was killed in a wagon accident which was a major loss to the community.

The Rise of a Sweet Onion

In 1902 a French soldier arrived to live near College Place where he started growing an unbelievable type of large extremely sweet onion. It became known as the "French Onion". Local folks had never seen an onion like it. Soon the old soldier let it be known that he had picked up the starts for his onions on the Italian Island of Corsica on his way to America. Most of the local Italian farmers perked up and took a real interest in this new onion once they saw how popular it had become in the Walla Walla Valley and beyond. By 1915 hundreds of Italian farmers were growing and perfecting this amazing onion that today is known the world around as the "Walla Walla Sweet Onion". It is this product that put the Walla Walla Valley on the map.

Early Grapes

Between 1866 -1868 several Italian immigrants brought with them grape root stock to plant in their new home in the Walla Walla valley. This they did and so a small

amount of land was cultivated to grow grapes. By 1912 scattered around the Walla Walla valley were several small vineyards operated to produce vino for local consumption.

Then the sever winter of 1916-17 struck and air temps plummeted to -40 degrees F. This lasted for several weeks, killing all the fruit trees and grapes by freezing their roots deep into the ground. During this winter, the Columbia River at Wallula froze 12' deep and folks were driving across the ice to and from Benton, and Walla Walla Counties in their Ford Model As.

A Gift from the Heart

On October 12, 1911, a large celebration and parade was held where all the residents of the valley were invited by the Italian community to accept a gift that these hard-working settlers had sponsored and paid for. It was the seven-foot statue of Christopher Columbus currently standing out in front of the Walla Walla County Courthouse. 92 Italian families, many of them from College Place, donated this privately funded sculpture to the citizens of Walla Walla County as a gesture of friendship to the county that had allowed them to so greatly improve their lives while growing and prospering.

The Story of College Place

This is a story of a small town that developed due to the placement of a Seventh-day Adventist College named Walla Walla College in 1892. The community that has evolved around this small college is a story nothing short of amazing. The College Place account written here is derived from historic accounts, personal interviews and interest of many involved with the growing city or college over the last

75 years. The hamlet of College Place was named in 1891 long before this city was incorporated in 1947. College Place was the largest unincorporated community in Washington State for many years until its incorporation in 1947. The new college was started in 1891 with the first building open for instruction in 1892. It was not recognized as a college in good standing by the state at that time but was incorporated in 1901 after which the college could issue diploma's to its graduates. This story begins with an act of benevolence and hospitality by a non-Adventist land owner and medical doctor Nelson Blalock who understood the great value of an educational institution as an anchor in any developing community, so much so that he provided 40 acres to the Adventist church with only one stipulation and that was that they must operate this new college for at least 25 years. The mix of people that lived on and worked the lands around the college were diverse and remarkably interesting. There were Chinese, Italians, French mateis and some well-known missionaries along with three native tribes that had lived in this valley for many thousands of years. These people of this river valley were the Walla Walla, Cayuse and Umatilla. We will look at the great gathering of the tribes with the territorial governor Isaac Stevens and the signing of the 1855 treaty that still is in affect today. All these groups and the events that occurred in their lives will be explored in this book celebrating 75 years in the history of a small town that grew to be an important part of the history of Washington State.

Chapter 2c

The Historic Religions of College Place

This small town sits on the ancestral home of the Cayuse native peoples that once lived and traded here for thousands of years and through many generations. The tribe's religious beliefs were Animist in nature connecting the spirit world with the natural world. This tribe spoke their own Cayuse language as well as the Chinook trade jargon. This tribal language is now extinct as no one alive today can speak it. The Cayuse were strongly associated with two other nearby tribes, the Umatilla and the Walla Walla from whom the local river, valley, city and county get their name. These native people's lives were forever altered or lost when the first Europeans' arrived in search of land, wealth and the quest to better their lives. Tribal mortality was exceptionally high as a result of one epidemic after another from diseases introduced as successive waves of Europeans moved across this landscape and settled here. By the close of the 1850s most of the native peoples had either succumbed to disease or moved onto the newly established reservation along the western face of the northern Blue Mountains east of Pendleton. This reservation is beside the Umatilla River watershed. Once the tribes vacated their ancestral lands as a result of the 1855 treaty, emigrants flooded onto this vast region. Never would the land, the rivers or the tribes be the same.

College Place is a town with a unique past centered around Catholic and Protestant institutions based on Christian principals. Its location was established near two missions, the Whitman's Mission and the Saint Rose of Lima Mission.

These missions were established to bring Christianity to the native peoples out of hopes of improving and educating their lives in the Euro-American traditions of faith. The idea among many of these missionaries was that the native peoples were living in ignorance and savagery and not within the ideals of God's word the Bible. In the early 1840s across eastern North America was a religious movement known as the "Great Awakening". Many hundreds of thousands of Americans were attending churches, many "new" denominations were arising, and all were full of Christian zeal for mission and spreading the Gospel so that the Second Coming of Christ could occur. Many believed that Christ's emanate return would happen in 1844. So, thousands prepared for this end of times event. Some pastors had predicted the day and time this would happen. The next event was called the "Great Disappointment" as there had been a misinterpretation of the Bible and many had their faith shattered, others stood in disbelief and out of this was born the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Many of its members came to believe that spreading the Gospel and inviting all to accept the gift of Salvation was the new mission of this protestant church. So it was that many Adventists started to evangelize and go as missionaries across the globe. With an education message, a health message and church planting on a growing scale world-wide, the SDA faith began to spread. Many Adventists moved west after the Great Disappointment to areas where there were no Adventist congregations. Spreading the salt so to speak. The Walla Walla Valley became one such area where members moved to establish schools, health facilities and missions. It was this new Adventist college that College Place built-up

around starting in 1890 and by its opening in 1892 a small unincorporated village was springing up around this new college. College Place was named in 1890 by its first postmaster long before the city was incorporated in 1945. The early history of College Place is intricately tied to Walla Walla College and its growth. This Adventist educational institution grew rapidly and by 2007 changed its name from Walla Walla College to Walla Walla University.

The much older Presbyterian denomination arrived from Europe and the Reformation to the eastern seaboard of the New World in 1630, the French Reformer John Calvin formed this denomination during the Reformation and the Protestant split from the Roman Catholic church. The first

Presbyterian Synod was in 1706 along the eastern seaboard. Many Presbyterians were involved with writing the Constitution and in the American Revolutionary War. They urged the separation of powers in government. This denomination sent its members out as missionaries to the native peoples of North America. They also established many charitable organizations in larger cities of the east coast. Their missions often were founded as educational or medical facilities. Dr. and Mrs. Whitman were

Presbyterians that arrived in this valley in 1836 to establish a mission among the Cayuse tribe. After a number of mis-understandings, several fatal epidemics that killed many tribal children and Doctor Whitman's seeming inability to cure sick tribal members stricken with measles some braves of the tribe decided that he was a failed medicine man and decided he had to die as they believed Dr. Whitman was killing the tribe off to acquire their lands. The results of this misunderstanding are a very

tragic event in the history of this valley. The Whitman's and eleven others were killed in retribution for all the tribal children that had perished under his care. This in turn set off the Battle of Walla Walla instigated by the Oregon Volunteers from Oregon City, demanding all the braves that had participated in the killings of the Whitman's and the other eleven emigrants be turned over so they could be tried and hung.

The tribal leaders refused to give them up and soon fighting erupted between the two sides. This led to the arrival of the US Army and all humans being chased out of the Walla Walla Valley for six months of strict marshal law. This all occurred in November-December 1847. The Presbyterians returned to the valley once again after the 1855 treaty that ceded most of southeast Washington to the five tribes signing the treaty. It also created a reservation for the Cayuse, Walla Walla and Umatilla tribes of 510,000 acres. This agreement between the tribes and the Washington Territorial Governor set the stage for the creation of the CTUIR (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) in northeast Oregon and the opening of 6.2 million acres to settlement in Oregon and Washington.

The Presbyterian denomination purchased the treaty lands where the 1855 treaty was agreed to and built Whitman College. In late December 1859, the Washington Territorial Legislature granted a charter to the Whitman Seminary in Walla Walla. This Presbyterian school would remain a seminary until the new Washington State Legislative charter was issued on November 28, 1883 granting Whitman College full rights as a diploma issuing four-year college.

In College Place the first Presbyterian Church was organized February 5, 1905 with some fifty members. The first Presbyterian church building was built and still stands today though it is used for storage. A new Presbyterian church was completed on November 13, 1960 with seating for 250 members. Today this congregation remains an important component of life in College Place.

The first two Catholic priests/friers to come into the Walla Walla region arrived in 1838 where they stopped at Fort Nez Peirce at the mouth of the Walla Walla river and baptized several native tribal members. These priests were Frenchmen by the name of Modesta Demers and Francois Blanchet. The first mission buildings were constructed on the McBean land holdings near Yellow Hawk Creek southwest of the future site of College Place. This first Catholic mission was known as the Saint Rose of Cayuse and was established in 1853. It was burned to the ground during the December 1855 tribal uprising. This Roman Catholic mission was French amid British Hudson's Bay territory. After the loss of this mission a second French Catholic mission was constructed along the Walla Walla River in the form of a simple log cabin/chapel built by William McBean in 1863 on his donation land and dedicated to Saint Rose. This structure was there a short time and was moved to Frenchtown west of College Place. It was after this move that about 200 French Canadian *metis* lived in the area. This site was near the LaRoque cabin which was the site where chief Peopeomoxmox was killed in 1855.

The third and final mission site of the now named Saint Rose of Lima mission was placed on lands by the Narcisse

Raymond land donation tract. This tiny plot of ground lasted as a mission until 1911 when it faded away and was abandoned. There were large numbers of Italian Catholics all around and in College Place starting in 1875 through to the present. These folks were and are largely onion, vegetable, grape and orchard farmers. They were from different regions of Italy and had little interest in the French Catholic mission. They established two different Catholic Churches in Walla Walla, Saint Patrick's for the Milanese from northern Italy and Saint Francis for the cabreci's from southern Italy and Sicily. The City of Walla Walla has Saint Mary's Medical Center that just celebrated its 140th year in the region and DeSales High school. To date there are no Catholic institutions within the current city limits of College Place. Members of this world church have been a part of College Place since before its start as a small village around a single college building standing out in the flats between Mill Creek and the Walla Walla River in 1892.

Chapter 3

College Place and the Whitman Mission National Historic Monument Site

When I first arrived in College Place in 1978 all the city vehicles had an interesting logo on their doors. It was a drawing of Dr. Marcus Whitman, and the large obelisk on the hill overlooking the Whitman Mission mass grave site.

The National Monument Headquarters and the walking trails around the surrounding grounds were also an important part of early 1936 when College Place celebrated the National Monument and its opening as well as the mission. The Whitman's had arrived in the valley in 1836 to set up and constructed their mission of mud bricks and local timbers. Their missionary zeal was greatly admired by many folks that lived in and around unincorporated College Place. Their sacrifice to their mission to the Cayuse tribe was awe inspiring to many in the 20th century here in College Place. So, in mid-1946 this logo was adopted by the new city council to represent their city built around a Christian College. In 1936 a large celebration in honor of the Whitman's arrival in the valley was organized to celebrate their willingness to leave their home and come way out west to a tribe that needed to hear the Gospel. Many hundreds of people gathered to eat together and recite the history of this valley because the Whitman's had come here as missionaries. There were speeches, music and recitation of the history of the Whitman's ten-year life in this area. That is until their lives were terminated by members of the Cayuse tribe in November 1847.

This logo was recently replaced with a simple CP in 2018.

Chapter 3b

The Rise of College Place

By 1890 what was once native tribal homelands had become home to a vastly different mix of people. Folks from many other countries and continents had arrived to take advantage of this “newly opened” land that was lost to the tribes as a result of the 1855 agreements on the treaty grounds beside Mill Creek on what is now the Whitman College campus in the City of Walla Walla. After the treaty of 1855 and the creation of the Indian reservation system within the Washington Territory emigrants poured west spurred by the US Government to “settle”, “civilize” and “improve” the western territories. By 1859 the Oregon Territory was gone replaced by the new State of Oregon. So, the tribes had their reservation lands and everyone else had access to the government owned lands after the 1855 treaty which was 6.2 million acres. All this would be open for settlement and nation building. By 1880 the Washington Territory was also gone replaced by the State of Washington. The arrival of 1890 saw an eager push to develop, clear and build, more and larger farms, transportation routes and greater use of natural resources like water, timber, land as populations of Americans grew in the Walla Walla River valley. With the first few buildings of the new Walla Walla College and ongoing platting and construction of homes, sheds, barns, businesses and vegetable gardens College Place had taken off from a dream to reality. With the arrival of the 20th century and a new college as an anchor the town would grow as would the college and the area’s population. Huge changes had arrived with the telegraph, electricity, trolly cars,

automobiles and the redundancy of the horse and carriage.

A second new Christian college had also opened in Walla Walla in 1898 and that was Whitman College-a Presbyterian institution named in honor of the late Dr. and Mrs. Whitman.

Walla Walla College graduated its first class in 1896 with three young men. After eight years 1600 students had attended and five graduating classes consisting of 39 graduates. Dr. Blalock's stipulation to the SDA leadership to maintain college operations for a minimum of 25 years looked like it might be kept. Dr. Nelson Blalock the mayor of the City of Walla Walla had donated the initial forty acres on which to build WWC.

With \$60,000.00 in hand the college printed a catalog with a pre-selected date of December 7th, 1892 for the opening of the first day of school. As the sun rose on that selected date the college building was not completed there were no locks on the doors, the kitchen remained unfinished and there was no heat in the building on this cold winter's day. After a breakfast of white crackers and milk the school's bell rang at 8:30 am to invite all to the first day events.

Everyone from the community, college and regional leadership collected in the college's basement gym and after prayer, a Bible reading and remarks from college leadership and local dignitaries the day was followed with class registration from primary, secondary to college classes. The grand beginning of Walla Walla College was launched on a bitterly cold day. During the first year more students enrolled, but despite these additional tuitions and gifts from church members and the community costs were

barely covered for the college. By the end of 1893, the college was out of money and unable to pay its employees' salaries. That same winter a severe economic depression struck plunging the college into debt for decades to come.

It was after the opening of Walla Walla College that it became apparent that the fortunes of College Place were very closely tied to the college. Despite this situation both the college and College Place

continued to grow and expand as more classes and programs were offered at the college including the beginnings of a sanitarium. Which Dr. and Mrs. I.A.

Dunlap started in the basement of the college Administration building. Mrs. Dunlap was a trained nurse and he was fresh out of medical school having been trained at Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan. Dr. Dunlap also became Walla Walla College's first business manager in 1899. The Dunlap sanitarium had to move due to the high need and lack of room. So, two floors of the boy's dorm on campus were rented in 1905-06. Conditions in the dorm became too crowded and so an old public-school building was purchased and after considerable re-modeling the new sanitarium was opened and dedicated on June 3, 1907. The WWC nursing program was also placed in this new sanitarium. This building was expanded three times over the next 12 years due to constant demand for more room for services and nursing classrooms. In 1931 WWC purchased the sanitarium building and named it Preston House which was then used as a girl's dormitory by the college. In 1933 this building burned up and the sanitarium was relocated to a site in Walla Walla. Other

structures that were also built were farm buildings west of the new Ad/classrooms building.

Public Transportation

In mid-1906 the first public transportation in the form of an electric interurban trolley that had a rail track that ran from the Snyder-Crecelius paper company building in west Walla Walla along 6th Avenue and Main Street north to Electric Avenue and past the now defunct Phinney Chicken Hatchery. These rails then made a circle and followed Davis street to 12th street in College Place and south seven miles to Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

A Second Christian Denomination

On February 5, 1905, a second Christian denomination organized in College Place. This was the Presbyterian church of College Place under the leadership of F.O.Forbes. This congregation had about 50 members to start with. This group soon purchased two lots on the corner of Ash and 4th street for about \$400.00 and they built a church building in 1911 and an additional parsonage with a basement that was used for Sunday School classes and social gatherings. One of the strong Presbyterian leaders of the time was Reverend Mrs. Elvira Cobleigh who was a lady itinerate preacher in the Walla Walla Valley. Also involved in growing this church was a divinity student from Whitman College named Luther N. Williams who walked from Walla Walla each Sunday to help lead out in services. The Presbyterian denomination grew in College Place and by 1955 there were plans to build a much larger church.

So, land was purchased at 325 NE Damson in north College Place and on 13 November 1960 this church was completed and opened. It sat 250 worshipers. The old 1911 church building was used as a Dorcas Center by ladies from the Walla Walla College SDA church after being purchased for that purpose. The Dorcas center was a site for the distribution of all kinds of washed and repaired clothes, kitchen ware and at times financial assistance to folks in need of help regardless of race, religion, gender or circumstance. This organization was primarily managed and operated by ladies from the college church, though some men also assisted with this endeavor. The Dorcas Center closed its operations in the mid-1980s. This old church was then bought by Bruce Cole who had designs on restoring the structure. Today this building still stands unused and dilapidated, but it represents an era in College Place's history when there was excitement about this new town and its growth. There was also an other church in College Place with a limited congregation and that was the "German Church" where the services were in German each Sabbath.

Chapter 4

The College on Sunflower Hill

On New Year's Day 1900 only three buildings stood on the college campus, on the land donated by Dr. Nelson Blalock. These were the Administration Building, the bakery, and a broom shop. In 1900 a blacksmith shop was built and blacksmithing was taught until 1905 at the school. In the spring of 1903 Dr. and Mrs. Dunlap's Sanitarium was constructed at the intersection of College Ave. and Fourth St. This sanitarium operated until it was rented by the college as a dormitory annex for girls. The second building was placed on the low hill where the university library now stands. This sanitarium was operated until 1931 when it was sold to the college and the sanitarium moved into Walla Walla. The college used the old sanitarium as a girl's dorm known as Preston House until 1933 when it burned down.

College Place and Walla Walla College experienced several epidemics this decade. The first to present was a smallpox outbreak starting in 1902 and lasting into the winter of 1903. Many dozens of students and residents of the area came down ill. This outbreak interfered seriously with the operation of day to day classes at local schools. Then in the spring of 1904 the College Place area was hit with a large epidemic of Typhoid fever. This persisted into the winter of 1905. Large numbers of students became ill with several dying. The college issued orders to boil all water before drinking or using it to cook with.

In 1912 the Roosevelt Highway was run through the middle of what was a busy college hamlet. This highway was named to honor Theodor “Teddy” Roosevelt a huge hero of the Spanish American War and the 26th and youngest President of the United States at 42 years old. He was greatly admired in the western states and the people in and around College Place were no different. Walla Walla College was expanding as more students, staff and faculty arrived to attend and teach classes at this college. In 1913 a large Adventist church was built to accommodate the many new members as many Adventists moved to College Place from other areas of the nation. By 1914 WWI had erupted in Europe and some residents joined the army even though the US was not in the fight, yet. The US entered WWI in 1916 and many young men from the Walla Walla Valley joined the army. In 1918 they returned home having defeated the Germany and the Turks. Along with these returning troops came the Great Influenza that spread across the world and even into the Walla Walla Valley. Many hundreds of folks came down with this devastating flu that killed numerous people locally-especially young kids and young adults together with the elderly. This was the first major pandemic to strike the citizens of this country hard. The last great pandemic was the “Black Death” which hit Europe and Asia into North Africa during the 1340s into early 1350s. Many millions perished from this plague, as many as 100 million people succumbed.

The early 1920s in College Place was a time of rapid change and big improvements to roads and infrastructure as more businesses opened along the Roosevelt Highway which was later named College Avenue.

This decade proved to be one of hardship, growth and courage for the folks that lived around the Walla Walla College Campus. The Great Economic Depression rolled into the region on the heels of the stock market crash of 1929. On March 31, 1931, a massive rainstorm struck the western face of the Blue Mountains causing Mill Creek to leave its banks in a raging torrent. Snow melt also added to these flood waters and soon the dam on Mill Creek was overwhelmed and collapsed. Water rushed into Walla Walla and on down hill into College Place. By noon of the next day, the flood waters stood waist deep in College Place.

There were more than forty businesses along College Avenue and water pouring down the streets of the village. Mill Creek to the north of College Place is a flashy stream and a major tributary of the Walla Walla river to the south of College Place. All the tributaries of the Walla Walla river are subject to flooding when conditions are exactly right.

Six major buildings were constructed on the college campus in this decade. One was the college garage on the corner of College and fourth. This building still stands today at the northeast corner of the intersection. It is used by WWU as a storage warehouse. On Dec. 20, 1933 there was the groundbreaking for the footings of Conard Hall on land donated by the Williams Lumber Company. It took ten months to construct Conard Hall after a building that stood on this property was moved and set up on a site on

the college campus that by 1935 became the new Home Economics Department building. Two other large construction projects were built the first in 1937 was a new sewage disposal plant for the college and then the building of Columbia Auditorium in 1938

College Place and Walla Walla College expanded during this

Decade despite WWII and the loss of young men to this war. This was the decade that brought incorporation to College Place in December 1945. The vote was made official January 1946. College Place selected its first mayor Walter Bunch. Its first city council, sewage piping and a plant as well as emergency services ready to serve the citizens. These were the volunteers that this city depended on to lay the foundation for our future. The college farm was established and functioning in great order on the site now occupied by the Walla Walla University Seventh-day Adventist Church. This farm hired students to farm the fields, take care of the chickens and milk the dairy cattle. The cow herd was slowly being enhanced and developed into a first class herd through careful selection of purchases and breeding.

Chapter 5

College Place: Between Two World Wars

College Place in 1919 was growing steadily as post war veterans, businessmen and more SDA families moved into this sizable collection of homes. This hamlet was still unincorporated, and most roads were dirt and dust as more automobiles appeared in the area. Several gasoline stations sprung up as the need for fuel increased. One of these gas stations was built and owned by Walter Bunch who years later would become the first mayor of College Place. The main road directed through the village of College Place and past the growing Walla Walla College was named in honor of Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt the past president of the United States and hero of the Spanish American War. The Roosevelt Highway ran north to south and presented a grand opportunity for retail stores, garages and markets for all the summer vegetables grown by the Italian farm families. At the close of WWI and the return of the troops came the Great Influenza and in the Spring and autumn of 1918 into early 1919 many citizens and recent immigrants from Europe contracted this very infectious disease which also went by the moniker of "Spanish Flu" though there is no evidence that it originated in Spain. Many hundreds of local folks contracted this illness, and some paid with their lives because of this worldwide pandemic's arrival here in College Place. Many became ill and hundreds died. There were public health orders given during this very first pandemic in America. These orders were not suggestions, but the law and they were to wear a mask, stay away from groups and crowds and to quarantine if you knew you had been in contact with

someone that was infected. Saint Mary's Hospital was full of extremely sick folks for months. The need for beds and medical staff became acute as staff also fell ill with the "Great Influenza" and ended up in the hospital as patients. Mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing became mandatory. Those that refused were fined and some arrested for refusing to wear a mask or take precautions in stopping the transmission of this deadly disease. By mid-summer of 1918 infection rates began to ease and many local citizens decided that the pandemic locally was pretty much over. By August here in the Walla Walla Valley infection rates had plummeted and life was returning to more or less normal for 1918. By early September rates of infection and illness were greatly increasing with children and the elderly being greatly impacted. By November, the flu had returned with a vengeance infecting many hundreds to thousands of folks here in this basin. Strict isolation and preventative measures were enacted-required mask wearing, hand washing, and no group gatherings. People were scared and fearful as businesses closed as did churches, schools and pubs/saloons, along with sports events and clubs. By mid-winter hundreds had died from the flu in this valley of the Walla Walla river. Little travel was allowed, and commerce was crippled with fear jamming up the gears that pushed the local economy.

As late February 1919 came on once again infection rates seemed to be dropping and by March the hospitals and sanitariums were receiving many fewer patients. Planning picked up and in April 1919 a massive power farming tractor show lasting four days opened on the Yenny farm south of Walla Walla. This event was hosted by 15,000

folks that lived here in this valley. This four-day event attracted 45,000 guests that ended up sleeping in every available space in Walla Walla and College Place. 5,000 automobiles arrived in the valley as did train load after train load of guests. All that came were fed, entertained and hospitably treated throughout their visit here. All to see the world changing powered crawlers and tractors that would ease the burdens of farming the steep hills of the south Palouse slopes. All the tractor manufacturers were here with their newest models to prove how these big heavy machines would do in farming the soils of this valley and region. Many farmers liked what they saw, and good numbers of orders were placed. Not only were farm tractors and implements for sale, but also wash machines, sewing machines and all kinds of other kitchen help tools and labor-saving devices. So many a farm family went home with all the ultra-modern tools of a new century to make their jobs easier in operating a farm. Now thousands of horses, mules and oxen were sold off as they were no longer needed on the farms to pull thrashers or plows. At the same time, the post WWI US Army was also shedding many of its horses and mules so there was no market for these animals and thousands were destroyed or sold for glue, leather and some for meat in other countries.

College Place now started to really grow as more and more businesses were built along the Roosevelt Highway.

Throughout the 1920s both Walla Walla College and the hamlet of College Place grew. Still unincorporated this assembly of homes and businesses expanded along all the roads in the area, especially along those roads coming out of Walla Walla 2.5 miles to the east.

By 1930 there were 40 active businesses lining what was by then College Avenue. There were garages, seamstresses, shoe shops, clothing shops, and dry goods stores, vegetable stands and several general repair shops and ice cream/dairy shops. There was not a single dance hall, pub or theater in the area. This was a Seventh Day Adventist village and the survival of those types of businesses was doubtful. Several fires occurred during these years with only a water wagon and a few hundred feet of hose along with volunteer fire crew's incorporation was becoming a real discussion point among the villages residents after each fire. Yet over half the folks refused to agree to incorporation as they did not want to pay any taxes, nor did they want to be told to get rid of their farm animals nor did they want building codes or zoned planning. Many complained that they did not want anybody like a city council telling them what to do on their property. So nothing was decided, yet. The spring of 1931 almost changed this discussion in just a few hours in March a huge flush of water came rushing off the western slope of the Blue Mountains and the entire Walla Walla River watershed was way over its banks. Rushing water filled Walla Walla first and then inundated College Place down stream by noon on a blustery March day after unusually heavy rains and rapid snow melt three feet of water stood in College Place all the stores and homes on the flats were flooded. College Avenue was a river, and it was a muddy mess. Over the next week these waters subsided leaving all kinds of mud, trash and belongings scattered everywhere. Folks had no insurance and had to clean up and repair the best they could. Many areas in College Place did not dry out until late April 1931. Because College Place is sited

between Mill Creek to the north and the Walla Walla River to the south it was decided that something had to be done about this serious situation to insure no more floods in the future. So the US Army Corp of Engineers were contacted by the local congressional delegation and a vote taken for by Congress for a channel and levy system on Mill Creek to be built through the City of Walla Walla and on north of College Place to hold any flood waters that might come off the Blue Mountains in the future. So, this massive construction project was funded and designed. By mid-1933 the construction had started. Once again the push to incorporate after this flood was much louder, yet it did not happen. At this same time, the country was in the grips of what is called the "Great Depression" where most jobs vanished, save for rural farm communities where the nations food supply came from. Most average Americans were broke due to a crash of the banking system and a prolonged drought in the mid-west along with very poor farming practices which led to the creation of the "Dust Bowl" where huge dust storms would last for days in the southern great plains where hundreds of folks suffocated to death. Even here in the Walla Walla valley throughout the 1930s huge dust storms would hit during the summer and fall months turning the sky a deep yellow gray as dust from the Horse Heaven hills in the west filled the Walla Walla valley. Once again poor farming practices and seasonal arid conditions contributed to these suffocating storms. The Walla Walla Valley was about to change again as the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp) was formed to beat the dust issues the nation faced by building roads, planting millions of trees and shelter belts, building bridges and roads in National Parks. A large CCC camp was built east of Walla

Walla along what is now Mill Creek Rd. where to this day the two large cobble stone entrance pillars still stand. Hundreds of young men worked on projects all over Walla Walla County and around College Place to improve infrastructure and to get farming back on its feet. President Franklin Roosevelt created the NRCS (National Resource Conservation Service) a federal agency that is part of the USDA (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture). Then a decision was made by each of the states including Washington to create a go between special agency/District that would be known as the County Conservation District. These would be seen over by a committee of local farmers as a board of directors. Because College Place was in unincorporated Walla Walla County, it then fell within the jurisdiction of the Walla Walla County Conservation Districts which were staffed with educated Ag specialists. In late 1939 it was decided to create two different Conservation Districts one in the southern Walla Walla County to the Oregon Stateline and one north into the vast wheat country. These two districts opened in 1941. Their purpose was to educate and to provide expertise in sustainable Agriculture hand in glove with NRCS. Every county in Washington State has a Conservation District to this day. So, many farmers in and around College Place had access to the assistance of these agents. This strategy of reclaiming destroyed/poorly treated farms and planting millions of trees redeemed Ag in this country and in Walla Walla County.

On 7 December 1941 the Empire of Japan bombed Perl Harbor, Hawaii and WWII started for the United States.

Chapter 6

The Parks of College Place

The first park in College Place was planned for and created east of Davis Public School by the brand-new College Place Kiwanis Club. This club was formally organized on

September 21, 1947. Its first community project was to purchase four and a half acres just east of the Davis School playgrounds. This park had a baseball field, Tennis courts and a playground. Frank Petersen, Ray Saxby and Dorsey Nichols all put in many hours in this park's creation.

Kiwanis Park was later expanded to a full nine acres. On May 1, 1956, this park was dedicated for use by all in the community by Mayor Bunch. This Kiwanis club later disbanded in the late 1960s.

A second park was created after land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Davin on December 31, 1965 and accepted by Mayor Herbert Thornton. This park was a larger tract of land which has Garrison Creek flowing through it. With financial aid from Washington State Outdoor Recreation agency the city set out to develop this park. Winton DeFord was the then president of the local Lions Club and took the leadership role in developing this park. The first sports field was a baseball field named in honor of the Davin's. The first baseball game and dedication of Davin Field was on May 19, 1969. A sizable pond was dug out to the south of Garrison Creek in the parks back southeast corner which allowed the creek to flow along the north end of the pond. There was an island created and planted with trees. A ten-foot-high dam was constructed at the outflow of the pond to maintain the depth of the pool. Garrison Creek is a

distributary of Mill Creek and flows year around. This pool was then planted with trout for kids to fish for and many ducks to swim in and nest around. Garrison Creek eventually silted in this pool after its completion. Lions Park as it came to be known was dedicated on October 4, 1970. The primary dedication speaker was Senator Henry M. Jackson who was introduced by Dr. Robert Reynolds the president of Walla Walla College. Others that took part in this dedication were Dennis Davin the son of the donors, Whitney Miller the Lions Club President, Beryl Nichols the chairman of the dedication committee, Harlan Seachris the Mayor of College Place, Austin Morgan head of the College Place City Parks Department. To polish this dedication the Walla Walla Valley Academy Band provided music lead by Gordon Finch.

Lion's Park is about to get a face lift in 2021 with rerouting of the Garrison Creek and dredging of the pond to deepen it as it is mostly silted in.

To the south of Lion's Park atop the bluff above the park was a private airfield in the early 1970s that on summer Sunday afternoons a plane would take off and climb up to 4500' feet and three guys would jump out of this perfectly good aircraft and parachute into Lion's Park. I was a kid at the time and a bunch of us would go stand under these guys and their chutes and watch them as they were pulled back to earth frantically waving us off and out from under them. One of these guys jumping was Jeff Klundt who was later my office mate.

These two parks are well established and well used by the citizens of College Place.

This is where the farmer's market is held during the summer months into mid-fall months on Thursday.

afternoons. This started in 2019 and has been well received by the citizens of the area. The Covid-19 pandemic has put a crimp in how many folks show up this year in 2020.

Lions Park is where the College Place Lions Club Meets for their monthly club meetings.

There are several small "private" parks or green spaces in College Place wedged in private housing developments.

College Place Water Tower

The large standing water tower with College Place emblazoned across it was constructed in 1951.

It stands 160 feet in the air and holds 500,000 gallons.

College Place, WA. Logo and flag

For many years starting in early 1967 College Place had as its logo a Whitman Mission theme-with the likeness of Dr.

Whitman, The obelisk at Whitman Mission and wheat shelves. In June 2019, the city had a contest to change the city flag and logo from the historic Whitman Mission theme to that of a more contemporized logo and change of themes.

Chapter 8

College Place an Overview

On New Year's Day 1900 only three buildings stood on the college campus, on the land donated by Dr. Nelson Blalock. These were the Administration Building, the bakery, and a broom shop. In 1900 a blacksmith shop was built and blacksmithing was taught until 1905 at the school. In the spring of 1903 Dr. and Mrs. Dunlap's Sanitarium was constructed at the intersection of College Ave. and Fourth St. This sanitarium operated until it was rented by the college as a dormitory annex for girls. The second building was placed on the low hill where the university library now stands. This sanitarium was operated until 1931 when it was sold to the college and the sanitarium moved into Walla Walla. The college used the old sanitarium as a girl's dorm known as Preston House until 1933 when it burned down.

College Place and Walla Walla College experienced several epidemics this decade. The first to present was a smallpox outbreak starting in 1902 and lasting into the winter of 1903. Many dozens of students and residents of the area came down ill. This outbreak interfered seriously with the operation of day to day classes at local schools. Then in the spring of 1904 the College Place area was hit with a large epidemic of Typhoid fever. This persisted into the winter of 1905. Large numbers of students became ill with several dying. The college issued orders to boil all water before drinking or using it to cook with.

1910s

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1920s

The early 1920s in College Place was a time of rapid change and big improvements to roads and infrastructure as more businesses opened along the Roosevelt Highway which was later named College Avenue. Davis Public School built along with the College Church.

1930s

This decade proved to be one of hardship, growth and courage for the folks that lived around the Walla Walla College Campus. The Great Economic Depression rolled into the region on the heels of the stock market crash of 1929. On March 31, 1931, a massive rainstorm struck the western face of the Blue Mountains causing Mill Creek to leave its banks in a raging torrent. Snow melt also added to these flood waters and soon the dam on Mill Creek was overwhelmed and collapsed. Water rushed into Walla Walla and on down hill into College Place. By noon of the next day, the flood waters stood waist deep in College Place.

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was the groundbreaking for the footings of Conard Hall on land donated by the Williams Lumber Company. It took ten months to construct Conard Hall after a building that stood on this property was moved and set up on a site on the college campus that by 1935 became the new Home Economics Department building. Two other large construction projects were built the first in 1937 was a new sewage disposal plant for the college and then the building of Columbia Auditorium in 1938, Davis School gets a gym. The plans are made for a new women's dorm named Conard Hall is built along the east side of College Ave.

College Place sits at 1800 residents.

1940s

College Place and Walla Walla College expanded during this Decade despite WWII and the loss of young men to this war. This was the decade that brought incorporation to College Place in December 1945. The vote was made official January 1946. College Place selected its first mayor Walter Bunch. Its first city council, sewage piping and a plant as well as emergency services ready to serve the citizens. These were the volunteers that this city depended on to lay the foundation for our future.

Several more fires take buildings in town only this time a trained fire department responded with real fire trucks and fought these fires.

Sittner Hall is built in 1946 north of the college farm site. It is named in honor of Herman Sittner a former men's Dean

at the college. The College Dairy Farm is moved to 300 acres west of town.

1950s

Many large construction projects on the WWC campus. The college expands as more students take advantage of the GI-Bill and come to college after the end of WWII. The Korean War starts. The city of College Place develops its first public park known as Kiwanis Park near Davis School. Plans are made to move the last of the College Dairy farm out of town and west of the city on 300 acres to make room for the new Walla Walla College church. Rogers School is built due south of the new church site. The new Cafeteria named Kellogg Hall is built on campus north of the women's dorm.

Totem-out Market is bought by the Blair family and sold one year later to another couple who just a few months later have an armed robbery and shoot-out in the store when the police arrive killing one of the thieves. They sell the Totem-out Market back to the Blairs who run it as the only College Place market from 1959 until 1970 when they retire.

1960s

The Walla Walla College Church is built on the site of the old college farm. The new school of Engineering, Physics and Math is constructed along with a small astronomy

observatory. The Biology/Science building is built on campus along with the education building known as Smith Hall. The Fine Arts building is constructed and finished.

WWC buys up a block of downtown College Place and install college owned businesses such as the college bookstore, College Dairy market, Ice Cream/milk plant and vegetarian café. The College Dairy operates a major home/business milk/dairy delivery service throughout the Walla Walla Valley and south into Oregon to Pendleton, Athena, Weston, Adams and Milton-Freewater and west to Touchet.

College Place has grown to 3190 residents. The Vietnam War starts in 1964. The Apollo Space program takes off.

The school of Engineering is growing with many students going to top engineering firms upon graduation. College Place ships all their high school students to WA-HI in Walla Walla. The first of the Baby boomers arrive to go to college.

1970s

The College builds a new women's dorm on the south end of Conard Hall as more women come to school and the baby boom generation start college in earnest. College Place grows to 5200 residents. Andy's Market is built, and Totem-out market sells out and becomes a café by the name of the Mustard Seed. The Vietnam War ends for America.

1980s

The last of the baby boomers still pouring into College Place to go to college. College Place is now at 6700 residents and growing. Noticeably more Latinos are arriving to live in the area and are enriching the city and the Walla Walla Valley with their culture. Mrs. Helen Cross writes a book on College Place entitled "A Brief History of College Place"

1990s

Walla Walla College celebrates its 100th anniversary with a big parade down College Ave. and a book on the history of the college by Terrie Dopp Aamodt entitled "Bold Venture: A History of Walla Walla College".

College Place grows to 8100 residents. Wal-Mart Comes to town and builds a super center at the south end of town. Saagar School is upgraded. A new City Hall is built, and a mayor changes the established city form of government to City Manager/ City Council from Mayor/ City Council.

The First Iraq war begins.

2000s

Many in College Place believed that the turn of the 21st century would bring catastrophe and collapse to this nation. Folks were purchasing vast quantities of dried foods, guns and ammunition along with barrels of sealed fresh water to survive the time of breakdown and civil

unrest they were sure was coming. Some even thought it could be the beginning of the end. Many in College Place were holding Y2K meetings in their homes to get their neighbors to prepare for this eventuality. We were invited to join several different group planning sessions but declined.

These folks were sure that all the computers would go down and that would cause societal breakdown. The morning of the arrival of this New Year came and went as all other New Years have down through history with the only people coming out ahead being the dried food, gun/ammunition and barreled water salesmen. I termed it the second "Great Disappointment".

Walla Walla College changes its name in 2007 to Walla Walla University on behalf of the foreign students in attendance. On their transcripts a college in Asia is considered a junior college so it did not look good that these students were not attending a university as the prestige just was not there. Thus, the name change.

College Place grows to 8700 residents.

9-11 terrorists attack using commercial passenger jets full of travelers to hit the Pentagon, New York Trade Towers and one goes down in an old strip mine in Pennsylvania.

Stuns many in College Place and the nation.

2010s

College Place grows to 9500 residents and now hosts two big box stores at two different business centers. A Home Depoe home improvement store and the Wal-Mart Super Center with the beautiful riparian stream buffer along its parking lot. College Place is greatly improved with a new and improved College Avenue that any city would be proud

of. It has a booming business district at the south end hosting a drop-in medical clinic and many other stores.

2016 brought huge changes to this community and that was the surprise election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States. Along with him came a whole new philosophy that of “America First” in all things.

He removed America from all world organizations, disrupted trade agreements, eviscerated all environmental laws, attacked longtime allies, divided the country and worked only to keep his base that elected him happy. Then he buddies up to the worst dictators left on earth. He refused to mention or work on human rights. Believed Climate Change to be a hoax and called most media “fake news” and “enemies of the people”. Never have we the people seen anything like this man in this office. At first many thought well give him a chance after all he is not a seasoned politician. Things only got worse with each passing day until he was voted out of office in 2020. Now he refuses to concede that he lost and tries to overturn the election through the courts. All the judges have booted him out of court 40 different times. Even the Supreme Court sent his people packing.

The second Iraqi war at last winds down. Afgan War still simmers.

The greatest Pandemic since 1918 strikes America and the President who calls it a hoax to cost him the economy and the upcoming election. As the Covid-19 virus spreads people start dying at unbelievable rates. Before long America was number one leader in Covid-19 deaths worldwide. We now have 200,000 infections a day in this

country. College Place has suffered hundreds of infected citizens. This pandemic is far from over and its only early December. The good news is there may be a light at the end of this long and deadly tunnel and that is the rapid creation of several vaccines that are said to be 95% effective in stopping this COVID-19 virus by building antibodies. We can only hope. The first folks were vaccinated today in England.

Chapter 9

Fear and Loathing in College Place,

October- December 2020

Late February 2020 word began to seep out across the airwaves that there was a potential catastrophic disease emerging in Wuhan, China. I read that this was a virus like the one that caused the SARS (Sever Acute Raspatory Syndrome) epidemic in late 2002 through 2004. This disease was caused by a virus labeled SARS-CoV-1 by the World Health Organization (UN-WHO) and confirmed by the USA-CDC (Center for Disease Control). This highly contagious virus was first detected on 16 November 2002 in Foshan, Guangdong, China. It infected roughly 8000 people in 29 countries and killed 774 people worldwide. Gloves, face masks and other precautions were strongly suggested in localized areas where infections were known to have occurred.

As early as December 2019 it appears that Covid-19 had already arrived in the San Francisco Bay area undetected with a small number of infections.

By early March 2020, the newly named SARS-CoV-2 had been confirmed in several travelers from China in Seattle, Washington. Extraordinarily little was known about this virus other than it was a SARS-CoV-2 virus and seemed very contagious. Washington State Governor Jay Inslee opted to shut down schools, bars, sports events, churches, malls, museums and businesses along with sports fishing and strongly urged all Washington State citizens to stay

home until this virus's spread was under control and more was known about this virus. No one could gather in groups and travel was frowned on save for essential activities such as supply transport, hospitals, medical clinics, grocery stores, gas stations, slaughter facilities, food packing plants, rail companies, the media and all first emergency responders. Panic ensued and through the first weeks of the lockdown grocery store shelves were stripped bare here in College Place and Walla Walla. People were hoarding items such as hand sanitizer, toilet paper, most paper goods, bottled water and masks such as the M-95 made by the 3M-company. Then it became clear that hospitals and first responders did not have enough personal protection equipment to go around as patient numbers overwhelmed hospitals. The average citizen was urged to not buy M-95 masks but to donate all that they had to first responders. Then as more and more folks became infected and ended up in ICUs at hospitals it became clear that there were not enough respirators to go around and that hospitals were having to create their own and search for any that might still be on the open market. Patients numbers spiked all through April and May as did mortality rates here in Washington. Washington State led the nation in infections and deaths through to mid-June as other states like New York, New Jersey and Florida took off and left Washington in the dust with much higher infection rates and deaths. Yet the president refused to provide the stressed hospitals with desperately needed equipment until he started looking bad and patience was evaporating for lack of respirators in hospitals that were overwhelmed. Walla Walla County was also experiencing spreading Covid-19 infections by early June 2020 places that had large labor forces like the Tyson

Slaughter facility in western Walla Walla County had many infected employees. The cities of College Place and Walla Walla were also experiencing increased infection rates. As of this writing on December 7, 2020 there have been 2497 infected individuals and 30 deaths attributed to Covid-19 in Walla Walla County. Most folks dying of this virus died alone and are buried without funerals for friends and loved ones to say goodbye. There is another component to this epic story of ignorance, isolation, fear, high anxiety, sickness, separation, loneliness and death in this country as a result of these high Covid-19 infection rates and that is the very slow realization and disbelief in this viruses contagion on the part of President Donald Trump and his administration. The early response was one of total ignorance and labeling the whole pandemic as a Democratic Party concoction and fake news. The president proclaimed the whole virus thing a hoax created by the Democrats. Then we were informed that this virus would just vanish and fade away by April with the warmer weather. Then as numbers of sick and dying increased across the nation states were told that they would not be getting much help from the Federal Government as they would not deplete their stockpiles of equipment and hospitals should compete for medical supplies on the open market. States were now begging for assistance from a president that now opted to demand that America open back up and save what was once a booming economy just a few short months before. The number of sick was at 4 million, now 15,521,000 and the dead are now over 292,000 as of December 7. So, the Governors were told they might get some assistance if they treated the president nice. This pandemic had been politicized and requests for

help ignored based on party affiliation. The president now told America that mask wearing was not necessary and that he saw no reason for any mask use. He seldom wore a mask. Earlier in March the CDC urged all Americans to social distance at least 6 feet, do not gather in groups of more than ten, wash your hands frequently, wear a mask when around others to protect them and do not touch your eyes or face. Dr. Anthony Fouci head of The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984 kept urging Americans to mask up and social distance despite what the president was pushing that day. The president made mask wearing a political symbol in a punitive push to control the news and promote his response to this pandemic. The president even suggested that bleach and other extremely harmful treatments might work in stopping the virus like chloroquine developed to fight malaria. By mid-August many in the College Place-Walla Walla area were tired of all the restrictions brought on by the Covid-19 virus and refused to follow CDC and state restrictions such as masks, do not gather in large groups. So, groups playing sports, and many of those that thought the whole pandemic to be a hoax all started meeting under the idea that all the health restrictions were a limitation to their personal freedoms and rights as American citizens. They were tired of the virus as was the president while campaigning. The virus however was not through with them so continued spreading and infecting people regardless of what they felt about this pandemic. What had started out causing great fear here in College Place in early March has now hit the fatigue factor-many cannot stay focused on the possibility of getting the disease and have abandoned any preventative measures believing they are in

some way exempt from becoming infected as they are tired of being told what to do and at the same time supporting the president and his re-election. Some take wearing a mask and distancing as an indication of opposing the president, his politics and his party. Then in early October the president was confirmed to be infected with Covid-19 as were 36 other folks who had attended an event at the **White House** which was the appointment of a replacement Supreme Court Justice. He apparently recovered in a little less than ten days or, so we are told. Prevarication, dishonesty, deep division and distrust permeate and cloud our outlook as a result of this administration and its behavior. We now sit with over 15.5 million having been infected and 292,614+ dead so far in these United States. This is the highest mortality rate in the world with only India anywhere close to these numbers. Now this administration has decided that “Herd” immunity is going to be their policy. So, those that die, die and those that live, live. Numbers making up the mortality rates do not seem to be a factor in their figuring. This is before any potential vaccines are available to the general population. With today’s (7 Dec.) infection count right at 200,000 across this country fear and worry are escalating.

The other looming factor at this point in our history beside the pandemic and social unrest and chaos is the continual undermining of the electoral vote by the president which has cast doubt on the election outcomes and the accuracy of the ballots cast. The president has for months seeded the idea that mail in ballots are rife with fraud and cannot be trusted. Trump has said that there may not be a peaceful transfer of power should he lose the election. His

push to encourage his base to somehow ensure that he remains in office despite the national electoral outcome is disturbing. Now here in mid-November post national election and a change of Presidents and Donald Trump refusing to accept the outcome or concede after Joe Biden won both the popular vote as well as the electoral college numbers. This has many ardent supporters of President Trump in a stir and convinced that Trump had the election stolen from him. This is the very affect that Trump hoped for as he planted the seeds of doubt many months before the election. So, the combination of a pandemic which now has had three distinct spikes in cases of high infection rates both here in College Place and across this state and country. The other impact has been Trumps refusal to concede the election and the sharp dividing lines among the citizens of College Place. Fear, distrust, and confusion mar the mind set of some in this small community.

The third and very troubling event across this country right now and running as a concurrent issue with everything else is the frequent killing of unarmed minorities by police.

These killings/murders have caused hundreds of thousands of Americans to take to the streets in protest over these unjustified killings. Some of these protests have taken place in Walla Walla, but to date none in College Place. These killings have caused massive social unrest and property destruction in many large cities across this country.

While these peace shattering events are taking place there have been ongoing massive wildfires, floods and unprecedented storms. College Place was on the edge of a huge floods in the Walla Walla River watershed in February

2020 that inundated most of the lands within its flood plain, drowning all the farms, homes and equipment left in the fields. This flood was higher and had more water than the epic floods of 1996. These storms and the resulting rain and rapid snow melt are a direct response to weather shift and warmer ambient air temperatures as College Place and the planet heats up.

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