

Written by Adelia Park

MIDVALE

In the summer of 1922, I received a contract from the School Board of Midvale, Idaho to teach intermediate fifth and sixth at Salem School.

Midvale, as has been pointed out, held much of sentiment for me, since it was there that my maternal grandparents had settled in 1876, and too, my mother was born and reared on Keithly Creek. Through her, I knew many of the Midvale citizens. In fact, a host of our "family tree" reside there.

A proper history of this little town would be a book of heroes and heroic deeds — a Saga of Pioneering. However, I shall record here only a bit of its history as fits my story.

Midvale's hey-day could be marked in the years prior to 1922. The town had grown into a lively, rural community which boasted of a newspaper (The Reporter) edited by George Rochester; a drug store and two doctors (Dr. Schmitz and Marshall); a lumber yard, hardware, several grocery stores, garages, restaurant, barber shops, and even a bank.

Its decline seemed to date from a series of bad fires that took several business houses; then the bank failure, heralding perhaps, the depression of the 30's.

Many lost money — at that time unguaranteed and I was one of the losers. Certainly a personal tragedy!

Gradually began the exodus of citizens and continued until only a semblance of this former bustling, little town remained.

Midvale today has made a bit of a comeback thru a live Women's Civic Club, which has sponsored a municipal park, swimming pool and other improvements.

It is still a good school town. Re-organization did not affect its status quo to any great extent other than in the assimilation of the out-lying country schools. The citizens are proud of the two fairly new, up-to-date school plants. Midvale children continue to win their share of honors in scholarship and in athletics.

Always a good church town, we find them still active here. Like hundreds of rural villages in America, the car and fine