

# SAILING NOT DRIFTING

By Paul Sutton

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It falls to my lot tonight as the representative of the Senior Class of Midvale High School to bring to you a summary of the events in the development of our community. The class of 1934 is assembled here not only to mark the graduation of its members, but also to commemorate the beginning of a new period of life. Thousands of talks have been delivered at exercises of this kind, but the task of adequately describing the composite expense, work, and achievements that this class represents remains beyond the realm of mere words. All that I can hope to do is to impress in a small way on the school administration and taxpayers that we do appreciate fully the educational opportunities that have been extended to us.

There is an old proverb that says: "A rolling stone gathers no moss." A ship drifting with the tide is bound to be battered about by the waves and the storm, but it will never reach port for it has no destination in view. We have set the sails of our ship. It is headed in a definite direction, sailing ever onward. Railroad tracks were built by the pioneers of transportation with the idea in mind that they would go somewhere. Surveyors plotted the right-of-way for the roadbed, the tracks were placed, and the first train started out. This train did not start down the track without some destination in view; if it had no destination it would have finished its maiden journey in a pile of wrecked timbers and steel.

People who have won places in the pages of history are people who started somewhere and arrived at their scheduled destination. Ella Whesler Wilcox has given us a poem that expresses the determining factor in reaching a life's destination.

"One ship drives east and  
another drives west,  
With the self same winds that  
blow,  
'Tis the set of the sail  
And not the gales  
That toll them the way to go.

Like the winds of the sea are  
the winds of fate,  
As we voyage along through  
life,  
'Tis the set of the soul  
That decides its goal  
And not the calm or strife."

Circumstances may be power-ful, but a resolute heart can change that which seems unchangeable. In 1917 a whirlpool came into the stream of peaceable events in this valley when the World War called several of the young men of the valley, most of them returning the next year with only one or two casualties. But the community's ship of state kept sailing on. The herds of cattle and the bands of sheep were replaced by green farms. In the same year the community traveled another step along that road forward when the North and South

Highway was constructed through our valley, coming over the Middle Valley hill a little different from the way it now runs and continuing down by John Evan's, past the

At the same time the people had really started somewhere in the farming industry. More land under the ditch was put in shape for irrigation; more settlers came and the valley was almost entirely taken up. The high school was sailing under flying colors during the year 1920-1921 with the teachers Mr. Lindsay, Miss Williams, and Miss Engersall. The school held to a high standard and the school finances were in good shape. The next year, 1921-1922, in which Mr. Lindsay, Miss Kirk Patrick and Mrs. Hill taught, the school funds still remained a sufficient amount and the Carl Fletcher property just north of the high school was purchased by the school board to give additional room for sports and recreation of the restless students. During the years from 1922 to 1926 the high school met the challenge of advancing civilization by large improvements in student body, athletics, debate, and journalistic affairs. The student body was run very efficiently with an annual carnival, senior plays, high school plays, and class entertainments. They had a very good baseball team, a super track team, and good debate teams. It was also about this time that the sports and domestic affairs of the town came to the fore.

Added to the striving community's efforts to benefit the school in 1926 were those of our principal, Thurlow Bryant and John Brandt, one of the other teachers who was to become principal in two years. They worked for two years using their influence with the State Board of Education endeavoring to put the school on an accredited basis. At last, in the latter part of 1927-1928 term, they were assured of gaining this great goal of success. In the following year, 1928-1929, under Mr. Brandt, Mr. Secoy and Miss Hamilton's supervision, was our first term as an

Sage Creek school house, Mr. Timpke's, Mrs. Morris', by the stock yards into Midvale and from there on through the valley in its present site.

accredited high school. Our school's administration, faculty, parent, and taxpayers incurred us in their debt when they extended these additional educational opportunities to us; they had their sails set in the right direction and they reached their goal. It was reached by perseverance and hard work and the results from this important step in the following years did not prove disappointing. The following year a small mishap occurred in the burning of the high school barn and coal shed but this was remedied with new buildings the following summer. Then in 1930 an entirely new faculty entered the high school; Mr. Brinton, Mr. Kanarr and Miss Davis with the result that one of the best terms in the history of the high school was completed. The school also being very successful in extracurricular activities.

At the same time the community was not without its economic improvements one of the most important of them was the oiling of the North and South Highway. In 1931 the community traveled a step farther along that road towards a definite goal by completing the new addition to the high school building, and the thing which gave the patrons and students a feeling of pride was that this was one of the only schools built in Idaho with cash on hand. The new building added three classrooms, a library, an auditorium for basketball, school plays and other entertainments, the typing room remodeled; and the addition of water works, showers and the furnace. This was a vast improvement and increased the standard of the school a great deal. That fall we had a new faculty with the exception of our principal Mr. Brinton; the other teachers were Mr. Langlois, Mr. Hawkins, and Miss Bashaw. Also to prove that the high school was gaining in popularity in the following spring, 1932, the graduation class of twenty-

three members was the largest in the history

Meanwhile, the valley experienced one of its heaviest hay crops in years and cattlemen from the upper and lower country brought their cattle here to feed through the winter. By this time, the valley was producing per acre yields equal to almost any valley in Idaho. The year 1932 owing to reduced funds and need to keep the school on a high standard led to the necessity of having but three teachers; the same staff as the year before outside of Mr. Hawkins, but again the valley was treated to a fine school with words of praise coming from state inspector of schools. Consequently, in that year the school reached a new record enrollment with seventy-three students. Outside of their triumphs in scholarship that year the boys basketball team won the P.I.N. league trophy for having won the most games in the league while the girls annexed the cup for their victory in the tournament. The present year, 1933-1934, the boys basketball squad won both the cup and the trophy while the girls again took the cup. The games for both years aroused public interest and were attended by large crowds of supporters having established a record for attendance in one game this year. With the teachers being Mr. Langlois, Mr. Judd, and Miss Bashaw, little need be said of the success of the school this year as the many achievements speak for themselves; the school having excelled in scholarship and sports-manship.

One of the most difficult tasks that now confronts us is to pay our debt to the people of the community who are responsible for us being in our present place. To every member of this class there is issued a challenge to give the best that you have in mind, spirit, and body to attain the goal of genuine success. This challenge is extended to the boys to maintain the high standards of manhood and to the girls to

of the school.

carry on the tradition of sex equality in social affairs, in business matters, and in politics. Therefore, the challenge goes to both to prove ourselves worthy of the trust placed in us.

The members of the class of 1934 of the Midvale High School, from the training that has been given them in their high school days, have gained knowledge that they pledge to use as a rudder to guide their ship into the still waters of the harbor where their future lies. With their trained minds ever at the wheel may we go forward "Sailing, not Drifting."

The End

### **JUNIOR CLASS PICNIC**

On May 6, the Junior class went on a picnic to Starkey. They left Midvale about 8:30 o'clock in the morning. On reaching Starkey they all went in the pool for a swim. Afterwards, they went up above Starkey a few miles and enjoyed a weinie roast. They went to the fish hatchery after dinner. When their curiosity had been satisfied, they returned home, arriving at about five o'clock.

### **FRENCH PICNIC**

As the result of a contest, the French I class went on a picnic one evening after school. They cooked bacon and eggs on hot rocks and had a marshmallow roast. After supper, they played games in the firelight. Then they sat around the fire and told stories. After an hour of entertainment, the class returned home.

