

COLONEL EDGAR M. HEIGHO - WHO WAS HE?

1867-1926



Colonel Edgar M. Heigho

At age 15 he began working for the Erie and Northern Shore Railroad, starting his life in the railroad business. Over the next several years he worked for different railroads, always moving up and gaining different experiences in the traffic and freight divisions. Periodically he held managerial positions at foundries in the states of Michigan and Ohio.

1892 brought economic crashes. He became interested in real estate and purchased ranch property in Jackson Hole, Wyoming where he was a successful rancher. However the rail business called him back 3 years later when he became employed as a voucher clerk for the Salt Lake office of the Oregon Short Line. This is also the year the

first P&IN Railway railroad spike is driven in Weiser heading the rail line northward.



Heigho Residence and family

At age 33 Heigho married Nora Gwin of Salt Lake City where she had been a teacher for 12 years. When he became president of the line, they moved to New Meadows and resided in their new 2-1/2 story brick home. They had three children beginning with son Cedric followed by twin girls Katherine and Virginia.

Heigho quit the P&IN in 1909 to serve on Idaho Governor Brady's staff. During this time he also became a Colonel in the Idaho National Guard and thereafter was referred to as Colonel Heigho. A year later Heigho rejoined the P&IN as its president. He extended the P&IN rails from Evergreen to New Meadows, then made the depot the P&IN Railway headquarters with hopes of continuing on north to serve the mining businesses.

By 1911, the railway reached the newly platted town where the brick P&IN Depot had been built along with 3 other significant brick buildings: the 53 room Hotel Heigho, Beaumont School, and a bank giving the town a look of permanence, prosperity and substance.

Without Colonel Edgar Maurice Heigho it is likely the 1911 Pacific & Idaho Northern (P&IN) Railway Depot and 1912 Village of New Meadows would not exist. As president of the P&IN Railway he was responsible for completing the rails to New Meadows and was instrumental in arranging the platting of New Meadows. His impact on Meadows Valley was large yet his time in New Meadows was a mere 8 years.

He was born October 23, 1867 in Essex England. He and his family immigrated to the U.S., settling in Detroit, Michigan when he was 7 years old. Edgar's education ended at age 11 when he began supporting himself as an office boy at the Detroit Free Press.



Heigho with his staff in front of the P&IN headquarters depot in New Meadows

As time marched on the railway experienced financial difficulties due to continued increases in transportation competition. For instance, Union Pacific Railway completed its line from the lower valley up to McCall in 1914, then the State began building the "North/South Highway (Hwy 95) in 1918. New Meadows remained the terminus of the P&IN Railway.

The stress became insurmountable for Heigho. In 1917 he suffered strokes that affected his eyesight, mobility and vocal cords. He resigned as president and general manager from P&IN Railway. He and Nora retired to Boise in 1918.

Colonel Edgar M. Heigho passed away September, 1926 at the age of 59, 7 years after he resigned from the P&IN. He is buried in an unmarked grave at Morris Hill Cemetery, Boise, Idaho. During his life he served on the staff of 2 Idaho Governors, was president of Central Idaho Telegraph and Telephone Company, vice-president and director of Weiser National Bank, director of Meadows Valley Bank and involved with Washington County Land and Development Company as well as President of Coeur d'Or Development Company. He was also a member of many fraternal organizations.



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