



Brundage Mountain

Beaumont School

Heigho Residence

Heigho Hotel

Bank

Goose Creek Canyon

Meadows School

P&IN Train

P&IN Railway Depot

Watertower

View of New Meadows from the West

## A Town is Born

After a 12-year construction journey from Weiser, Idaho the Pacific & Idaho Northern (P&IN) Railway arrived on the west side of Meadows Valley in 1911. A newly constructed depot was ready to greet the first train.

Not only did the railway create a new mode of transportation conveying passengers back and forth from the Weiser depot, but it also moved produce, cattle and logs as each continue its journey within and beyond Idaho borders. Colonel Edgar Heigho, president of the P&IN Railway, also became the head of the Coeur d'Or Development Company that platted the new town site near the depot. Dedicated on August 31, 1910 New Meadows came into existence and the building of a town began.

At the Colonel's direction 4 major brick buildings were built. They included the train depot and the Beaumont School that faced the third brick building across town, the bank. The fourth building, finished in 1912, was the 53-room Hotel Heigho that faced the P&IN Railway Depot on the west side of town. The railway also owned the hotel. Unfortunately the hotel burned to the ground in May 1929. It was never rebuilt.

Three of the original brick buildings still stand.

The bank building and Beaumont School are now privately owned and can be seen by driving down Katherine and Taylor streets. The Adams County Historical Society owns the depot located on Commercial Avenue. Another of the very first buildings built was St. George Episcopal Church that had its first service in September 1912.

Many streets are named after the Colonel's family members. Katherine Avenue, on the south side of the depot, was named after the Colonel's wife. Virginia Avenue on the north side of the depot is the town's main street (also U.S. Highway 95) and named after his daughter. Colonel Heigho's 3-story brick family residence was built not far from the Heigho Hotel. Presently it is The Hartland Inn, a B&B on the east side of Highway 95 going north.

The town became a thriving community. In 1946 J.I. Morgan Logging Company moved to town. It created an employee housing

development called the Winston Addition located on the southwest side of town, nearly doubling it's size. The Addition had it's own well and septic system, separate from the New Meadows system that the city still uses in emergency situations.

Between 1914 and 1946 there were up to 16 different service clubs and organizations serving the citizens of Meadows Valley. Since 1946, besides the railroad, businesses have included: butcher shop, ice house, jail, beauty salon, barber shop, building supply store, bakery, rooming house, bank, post office, newspaper, mechanic shop, gas stations, pharmacy/drug store, doctor's office, fuel service stations, roller skating, movie theatre, restaurants, hotels, saloons, grocery stores, plumbers, electricians, building contractors, real estate office, discount store, graphic design, thrift store, community center.

City population now fluctuates between 400-800 though the valley in it's entirety has a higher population as housing developments are established. Decreases in population have predominately been due to loss of employment in the logging industry although logging is still important to the Valley. The U.S. Forest Service is currently the largest single employer.



Depot Circa 1930's



First passenger train January 29, 1911



Hotel Heigho



Bank



Beaumont School



St. George Episcopal Church



Heigho Residence



New Meadows Main Street