

Produced by the Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and city of Stanley, and supported in part by a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council, a State-based Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Val A. Browning
Foundation * Sawtooth
Mountain Mama's



SAWTOOTH INTERPRETIVE & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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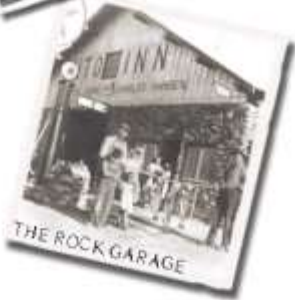
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Stanley Idaho

*The heart of the Idaho Rockies and the
Sawtooth National Recreation Area*

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



Welcome to Stanley!

Through the years, people have come to Stanley for many of the same reasons we come today: the scenery, the opportunity to make a living, and recreation. However, those who have stayed are drawn by the remoteness and harsh environment, and have demonstrated persistence and resourcefulness in thriving here. These qualities have helped build the unique spirit of Stanley.



Pioneers first came to Sawtooth Valley seeking beaver pelts in the 1830's. As the fur trade subsided, gold rushes began. Lower Stanley started as a supply post for the Valley Creek and Seafoam Mines in the late 1800's.

Lower Stanley, and soon Upper Stanley thrived as mining flourished, but the mining claims dried up, and cattle and sheep ranching provided a more stable economy. Bars, dance halls and casino's sprang up as more people settled in.

In the 1930's, ambitious engineers completed a highway, first called the Sawtooth National Parkway, over Galena Summit. Word spread about the beauty and grandeur of the Sawtooth country. Robert Limbert built Redfish Lake Lodge, and salmon fishing and other recreation activities became the economic foundation of the community. After World War II, recreation really caught hold. Salmon fishing was a huge attraction until 1978 when completion of

the Snake River dams doomed salmon fishing in the Upper Salmon River. Now people are drawn to the Sawtooth country to hike, camp, hunt, fish, horseback ride, snowmobile and float whitewater.

Several times in the early 1900's through the 1960's proposals surfaced to create a National Park. Many were concerned that a park would inhibit traditional activities: ranching, mining and hunting. However, when ASARCO proposed an open-pit mine in the Whitecloud's, support for protection prevailed. After much debate, Congress created the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and the Sawtooth Wilderness in 1972. The act mandates protection of natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values, and enhancement of recreational values.

To begin the walking tour park at the Community Center and start at the iconic Rock Garage. Be careful crossing the highway.

DID You Know?

Stanley is often the coldest place in the lower 48 states, with less than 60 frost-free days a year.

Chinook and Sockeye Salmon travel over 900 miles to spawn in the Salmon River and lakes near Stanley, the longest fish migration in the U.S.

The city of Stanley is surrounded by the 756,000 acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area. The Frank Church Wilderness (2,400,000 acres) is just north.

The official population of Stanley is 63 people, about 40 hardy souls stay through the winter. The population explodes in summer as people come to enjoy the wealth of recreation opportunities.

We are home to Chinook and Sockeye Salmon, wolves, wolverines, antelope, mtn. goats, osprey, Sandhill cranes, blue camas, and shooting stars. Natural beauty and wonders of geologic time abound. The dark night sky is unparalleled!

Each stop on the walking tour tells part of Stanley’s story. Catch a glimpse of this rugged mountain town’s past: “One of the country’s liveliest small towns”. (LA Times).

1. Rock Garage (1938)

Preston Shaw built the garage of river rock left along the Salmon River by Chinese miners. Here, travelers could buy gas, and get tow truck and mechanic services. Preston attached a mirror to his house so he could sit at home and drink coffee while watching for customers.

2. Danner’s Cabin’s (circa 1930’s)

The front section of the main building was built in 1908 as the Valley Creek Ranger Station (the location of the Stanley Museum today). Moved to its present location by John Thompson, a Sawtooth Valley Rancher, as an in-town home for his children and schoolteacher wife, Danner’s Cabins provided housing for summer salmon anglers. Norma Danner ran the cabins for several decades.

3. Sawtooth View (40 million BC)

The unobstructed view from Pioneer Park is no accident, the creation of the Sawtooth NRA in 1972 called for purchasing Scenic Easements on private property, to preserve the pristine views. Taxpayers have invested \$65 million to protect the scenic values of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

4. Shaw Cabin (1880 in Vienna, 1902 Fisher Creek, 1992 Pioneer Park)

In 1900, Frank and Kitty Shaw settled near the Fisher Mine at the head of Fisher Creek. In 1902, deciding they would rather ranch, they paid \$20 to have a cabin in the mining town of Vienna moved to their homestead on Fisher Creek. The Shaw Ranch, known as the “friendly place”, hosted many guests, including Senator William Borah.

5. Medical Clinic (1973)

Marie Osborn, Idaho’s first nurse practioner, witnessed a gruesome accident while visiting here in 1972; help did not arrive for 2 hours. Soon Marie moved here to open the first medical clinic. With the help of many donations and volunteer hours the clinic was built, and still provides service to the community, in the spirit of Marie Osborn.

6. Gregory store & Post Office (1943-65)

Postmaster Charles Gregory built the store and post office in 1943. With wife, Evadine he ran the store and photo shop. He was a renowned landscape photographer. Lucille Denney became postmaster in 1965, when Gregory retired, and the store sold to Gerald and Freda Nicholson. Stanleyites wanted a Laundromat, so the Nicholsons obliged. The laundromat was here until 2010.

7. Sawtooth Hotel (1931)

Built in the early 30’s by Lee Frakes, the place changed hands several times. Bob Cole bought it and it became a the gathering place for ranchers and

old-timers. Each morning, about 6:30, they gathered to tell stories over plate-sized pancakes or biscuits and gravy. Famous for its meals and boarding-house rooms with communal bathroom, the Sawtooth Hotel served anglers, river runners, and snowmobilers over the years.

8. Benner Hotel (1912-1950)

Across Meadow Creek, where the blue-roofed cabins are, Henry and Martha Benner ran the Benner Hotel, built by Tom Williams and Arthur Wright. The 2-story hotel offered 13 rooms, 2 sitting rooms, lace curtains, a grand piano a dance floor and home-cooked meals. It was the first place in Stanley with electricity from a dynamo. It was later a home for Bartlett and Eva Falls, and was torn down and salvaged by the Piva family in about 1950.

9. Rod n Gun Club (1936)

Legend has it that the first owner of the club was a fugitive from the law. He lost the bar in a card game. It has had several owners, including Glen Brewer and “Casanova Jack” Kirsch and has burned down once or twice, but the name never changed. It was home to the “Stanley Stomp”: “A wild-ass time”, with dancing, live music, and many brawls. It was frequented by cowboys who rode horses inside, miners with broken bottles at the ready, and long-haired river runners. For years the sign over the door read, “check gun and knife at the door”.

10. Niece Store (1919)

The storied feuds between Lower and Upper Stanley started here. Bartlett Falls offered Leslie ‘Tink’ Niece

5 acres in Upper Stanley to move his post office to upper town to secure it as “Stanley”. The Niece store was home to the first phone booth in town and was a social hub, a place to get messages or just sit around the potbelly stove and visit. It is the oldest building in Stanley. Always a store, owned by Clyde and Claude Gillispie from 1926 to 1943, it is now the home of McCoy’s tackle shop, established by Jane and Larry McCoy.

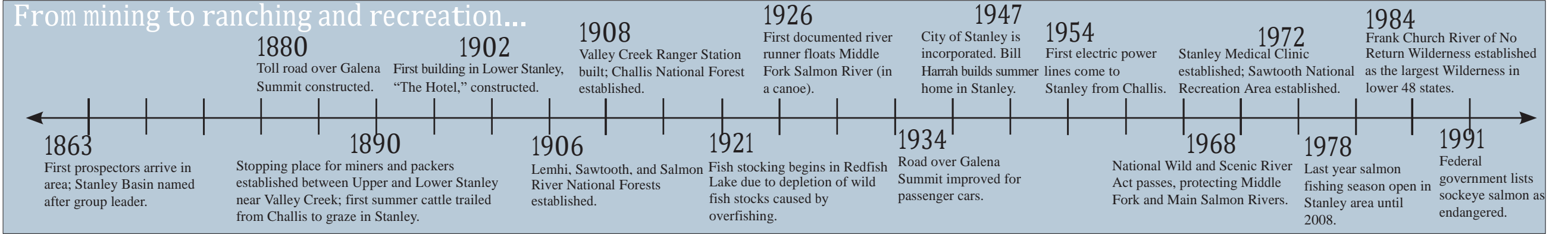
11. Ace of Diamonds Club (1919 – early 70’s)

Located where the Stanley Post Office parking lot is, the club served as a dance hall and café for over 50 years. In 1938, the dance floor was rebuilt. It seems the floor had become a safety hazard from years of hoedowns and fox trotting. Some folks used to say, “All we need to do is get the floor to bouncing, then just stand there and let the floor do the rest.

12. Casino Club (1938)

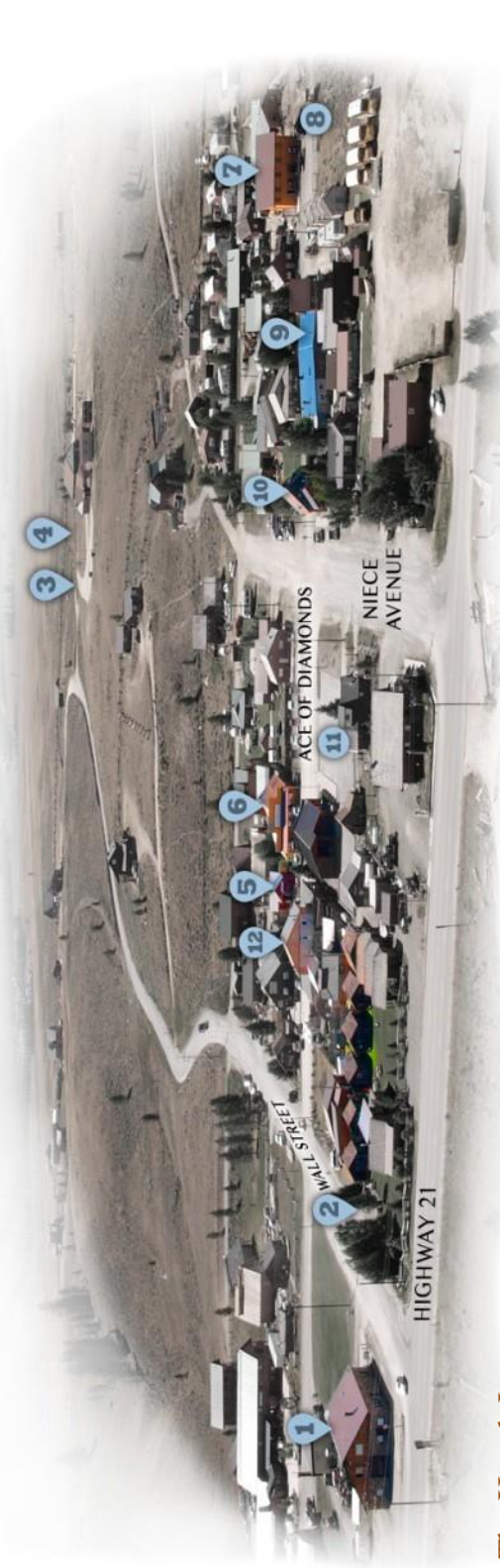
The original owners, John and Mary Rukavina, came to Idaho from Eastern Europe. John worked as a “powder monkey” handling explosives for the construction of highway 93 (now 75) between Clayton and Stanley. The Rukavina’s built what was then the Bohemian Club as a bar and first class restaurant.

Wait, there’s more! Be sure to stop at the Stanley Museum north of Stanley. Learn much more about the history of the Sawtooth Country and then continue the tour in Lower Stanley.



Stanley Map

- 1. Rock Garage**
Presently, this is an unmarked building constructed of river rock.
- 2. Danner's Cabins**
From here, walk up Wall Street .4 miles; turn right at School Road; turn immediately left into parking spur; take gravel trail at edge of parking spur to next site.
- 3.Sawtooth View**
Now follow gravel path to next site.
- 4.Shaw Cabin**
Start walking back down School Road and Wall Street. Now turn left on Ace of Diamonds Street.
- 5. Medical Clinic**
This is now the Redd Restaurant.
- 6. Gregory Grocery Store and U.S. Post Office**
This is now where you can find Papa Brunee's Pizza and Subs.
- 7. Sawtooth Hotel**
- 8. Benner Hotel**
Look across Meadow Creek. The site was approximately where the blue-roofed cabins of Triangle C Ranch are today.
- 9. Rod N Gun Club**
- 10. Niece Store**
McCoy's Tackle and Gift Shop is where the Niece Store used to be located.
- 11. Ace of Diamonds Club**
The site of this building was where the post office parking lot is now.
- 12. Casino Club**
Currently, this is the Kasino Club.



The Harrah Legacy

Bill Harrah, well known for his gambling casinos in Nevada, enjoyed Stanley's remoteness and the anonymity it afforded him and his family. Thirty years after building his vacation home in the area, he purchased over one-third of the property within the City of Stanley. Although capable of creating significant change in the community, he preferred to maintain its small western town atmosphere. He built a dance hall, Mountain Village Motel and Restaurant, Merc, and Gas Station consistent with the community's needs. At least for now, these businesses continue to serve the area on a year round basis, 30 years after Harrah's passing.

Lower Stanley

- Traditionally, there has been rivalry between Upper and Lower Stanley with each claiming to be the "real" Stanley. This rivalry continues to this day. Both the post office and the school moved from one town to the other numerous times between 1890 and 1933. In 1919, during one of the moves of the post office from Lower to Upper Stanley, the existing postmaster did not want to surrender her position to the next postmaster. As a last resort, federal intervention was required. A postal inspector was sent to assist with the relocation of the post office and reassignment of the postmaster duties. This contributed to the reputation of the Stanley post office as the "post office on wheels." Purportedly, locals were never sure about which direction to travel to pick up their mail. On June 9, 1947, Stanley became an incorporated city in the State of Idaho. Lower Stanley remains a separate, unincorporated town.
- 13. Rose Country Store (1920s)**
Currently, this is Lower Stanley Country Store, a classic country store that has been in continuous operation since the early 1920's. It was operated by Bill and Mae Rose until 1933, then by Floyd Markle, then the Savage family – the Peters family – Dan O'Connor – and then back to Floyd Markle. For three decades by Jerry and Arlene Funderberg and their son Jimbo. The store has now been expanded and is owned and operated by Ben and Janet Forsgren and their family. Be sure to stop in and check out the artifacts and the amazing 21st century mercantile store.
 - 14. Cabin Club(1932)**
This was a cafe (in business until the early 1970's) which also offered beer and gaming. Its owner, Roland Ricks, was an early salmon fishing guide who charged clients \$15.00 per person. His services included a very easy-to-deliver guarantee that his client would hook at least one salmon. Those were the days!
 - 15. Bridge Street (1921)**
Lower Stanley was surveyed in 1921. Prior to that, its residents were "squatters" in the eyes of the law. The street was named after the original wooden bridge spanning the Salmon River and accessing the Bill Woolley Ranch on the east side of the river. Although the Woolley family first homesteaded on the shores of



Redfish Lake where Redfish Lake Lodge now sits, they relocated to Lower Stanley in 1921, and built a prosperous ranch. Bill Woolley was known for his wild pets, including a black bear named Roger, and an African lion named Cleo. Cleo was received as a gift from the author, Earl Stanley Gardner, whom Bill Woolley guided for. The Woolley family still resides on this property and operates the restaurant.

16. Marshall Store (1907)

Herbert Marshall, one of the first placer gold miners in the Stanley Basin in the 1890s, built the store with Henry Stuckey in 1907. The building served as a post office, general mercantile, and cafe. Leslie "Tink" Niece and his family operated the store from 1914 until 1919. It was purchased by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and moved to this site in 1938 where it was used as the local game warden or conservation officer's residence. It is the oldest building still standing in Lower Stanley. The cabin is featured on the cover of *Sawtooth Country* by Esther Yarber and Edna McGown.

Lower Stanley Map