

'Mrs. Swift and daughter Carrie Swift in front of Lewis & Lemon grocery.



GREENHOW & RUMSEY STORE

BUILDING CONSTRUCTED 1884

Constructed in 1884 from locally fired brick, this building is one of the oldest in Ketchum. Originally a grocery operated by Emeric Leonard and Joseph Pinkham, it later became Lewis and Lemon when Isaac Lewis partnered with his son-in-law. In 1890, Greenhow and Rumsey took over, selling general merchandise. By 1914, the building housed Ketchum's post office, serving under five postmasters until 1927. It then became Griffith Brothers Grocery, the main dry goods supplier in town and a stop for Count Felix Schaffgotsch during his 1936 scouting trip for Sun Valley. In 1937, Olie Glenn opened the Golden Rule Store, a fixture for decades. Restored to its 1880s appearance in 1981, the building stands today as a symbol of Ketchum's evolution from mining town to ski destination.

The building's inclusion on the National Register highlights its importance as a local landmark and a reminder of Ketchum's historic commercial district.



To dig deeper into the history of Ketchum, scan the QR code to the left.



McCoy Family in front of Post Office, ca 1910s



Golden Rule grocery, ca 1950s





Lane Mercantile, ca. 1950s.



Comstock and Clark general store, 1890.



Main Street with Sun Valley guests in sleighs. 1938.



Main Street with Sun Valley guests in sleighs. 1938.

LANE MERCANTILE

BUILDING CONSTRUCTED 1887

Built in 1887 by merchant A.W. Comstock, this brick structure replaced his first tent store and was among the earliest fireproof buildings built of local brick in Ketchum. Comstock partnered with Walter Clark, supplying miners with clothing, tools, and essentials. Around 1900, this location served as the Ketchum post office with Postmaster Valerie Dollarhide, as the previous wooden post office burned down. From 1914 until 1924, Puritan Stores operated here.

In 1924, Jack and Adeline Lane purchased the building and moved their Lane Mercantile business to this location. The store provided supplies for sheep ranchers and became a lively hub where ranchers, buyers, and herders gathered. For decades, its porch and foyer buzzed with business and conversation, anchoring the sheep industry in town.

In the last 50 years, the site has housed a bank, Starbucks, a clothing store, and a restaurant. Still largely unchanged since the 1880s, its brick walls and wooden sidewalk recall Ketchum's early history, with "Eat More Lamb" painted on its back wall.



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Building prior to being torn down, ca. 2020.



POSTAL CHANGES IN KETCHUM July 5, 1973

Take a good look at the U.S. Post Office at Ketchum, Idaho. It really has a new look! It has a new coat of paint, a new postmaster and a new classification.

The Ketchum Post Office became a post office of the first class last week, and John McDonald was appointed its Postmaster.

Earlier this year Paul Bragg, who had served as Ketchum's postmaster for almost twenty years, took his retirement. At that time T. R. Orr, Jr. was appointed acting postmaster. Orr had been assistant postmaster at Jerome and was brought to Ketchum to develop procedures for the new first class status. Speculation grew that someone from another post office might become Ketchum's postmaster.

McDonald had served as clerk at the Ketchum Post Office since February 1969. A native of the Twin Falls-Kimberly area, he joined the postal service in 1967 at the Twin Falls office. Assisting McDonald in serving the 1,010 box holders and approximately 60 General Delivery customers



KETCHUM'S NEW POSTMASTER

will be Larry LePris, Tom Diggins, Susie Bruker and Katherine Harding.

For one day John McDonald, 31, was the youngest Postmaster of a first class post office in the western states. The next day Orr, who is six months younger than McDonald, was appointed Postmaster at Rupert, Idaho, another first class post office.

McDonald said he appreciated the cooperation of the public during the recent remodeling and painting. Repair of the parking lot surface is scheduled in the near future.

New Restaurant Opens

The "Cross-Buck", contrary to what railroad buffs that passengers riding the

OLGATE TOOTH PASTE
5 oz.
63¢

BODY ALL
deodorant, 5 oz.
79¢

KETCHUM'S A-FRAME POST OFFICE

BUILDING CONSTRUCTED 1962

In 1962, Ketchum's post office moved to this site, its 6th location on Main Street since the town's founding in May 1880. Designed by a West Virginia firm who won the bid from the Kennedy Administration, the floor-to-ceiling windows framed Bald Mountain and reflected alpine architecture of the 1960s and connected the town to the outside world. Until 1982, residents gathered here to collect mail from their post office boxes, chat with neighbors, and be greeted by postmasters who knew customers by name. As the town grew, the post office moved in 1982 to Sun Valley Road and 1st Ave, and in 2001 to the corner of 4th Street and 2nd Ave.

In the 1980s, the A-frame housed Gemini Art and in the 1990s became Formula Sports, until the building was sold and torn down in 2020. Though gone, the building remains part of Ketchum's collective memory. What hasn't changed? Ketchum still has no home mail delivery, everyone still goes to the post office to pick up their mail.



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Formula Sports, ca. 2015.

Main Street parade in Ketchum, 1922.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK

BUILDING CONSTRUCTED 1884

In 1884, Isaac Ives Lewis founded Ketchum's First National Bank here after traveling to New York for capital and staff. His earlier ventures included a drug store, mercantile, and the Guyer Hot Springs resort. Though ambitious, the bank quickly faced troubles. Cashier George Griffin allowed overdrafts and absconded with funds, while bookkeeper George Snow embezzled money for years. Despite setbacks, the bank honored deposits before closing in 1897.

The sturdy brick building remained central to town life, later serving as Ketchum's post office from 1937 to 1962, where residents—including Ernest Hemingway—collected their mail. After the post office relocated, Bert Godfrey purchased the building and opened an annex for Ketchum Drug, which was a downtown fixture. This site reflects the shifting story of Ketchum's commerce, from banking to postal office to pharmacy.



Sidewalk in front of First National Bank. 1880s.



Ketchum Drug annex, 1987.



Ketchum Drug annex, 1987.



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Pioneer Saloon, date unknown, with Lane Merc.



Pioneer, 70s guys on Saloon roof.



Pioneer, interior bar antiques.

PIONEER SALOON

BUILDING CONSTRUCTED 1940S

The Commercial Club casino opened here in the early 1940s, as one of many lively gambling halls that boomed after Sun Valley opened in 1936. After the Commercial Club closed, the American Legion used the building as a meeting hall. Around 1950, Whitey Hirschman reopened it as the Pioneer Saloon, operating as a casino until gambling laws were enforced in 1953. Hirschman then ran it as a bar and antique store until 1965.

In 1970, restaurateurs Larry Stone and Ed Redman bought the property, transforming it into a steakhouse renowned for prime rib and Western character. They expanded the kitchen, extended the bar, and brought order to the rowdy establishment, making it a destination for locals and visitors alike. In 1986, longtime employees Duffy and Sheila Witmer took over, and still maintain the Pioneer Saloon as a lively, rustic Ketchum bar and restaurant.



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Ketchum Kamp Hotel 1930.



Interior Ketchum Kamp, ca. 1930s.



Ketchum Kamp with cabins visible, ca 1930s.

KETCHUM KAMP HOTEL

BUILDING CONSTRUCTED 1925

Built in 1925 by Elmer Ebbe, the Ketchum Kamp Hotel offered travelers modern comfort right on Main Street in Ketchum, eleven years before Sun Valley was created. Its granite and quartz fireplace divided a spacious lobby and dining room, and eighteen upstairs rooms provided lodging, supplemented by rustic log cabins added soon after. The hotel welcomed visitors through the Depression and WWII, when Ketchum bustled with bars and boarding houses.

In 1936, with the opening of Sun Valley, Slavey and Dora Werry purchased the property, renamed it the Casino Club, and turned it into a casino and bar. It quickly became a favorite spot for Ernest Hemingway, Averell Harriman, and visitors seeking entertainment after skiing. Gambling was outlawed in 1947, but the Casino has remained at the heart of Ketchum's nightlife up until today, embodying the town's shift from a mining hub to a resort community.



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Diver, Bald Mountain Hot Springs pool, 1930s.



BALD MOUNTAIN HOT SPRINGS

BUILDING CONSTRUCTED 1929

Opened in 1929 by Charles Brandt, Bald Mountain Hot Springs brought mineral water three miles from Guyer Hot Springs via wooden pipes to this Main Street hotel and pool. Designed by Boise architects Tourtellotte and Hummel, the lodge featured 31 log cabins and a 200,000-gallon pool that became a regional draw. Guests included Count Felix Schaffgotsch, who scouted the area for Union Pacific's Sun Valley Resort, and officials overseeing its construction. Locals flocked here for swim lessons, races, and recreation, making it a centerpiece of town life for decades.

Over time, aging cabins and failing pipes led to decline, echoing the fate of the original Guyer Hot Springs. In 2003, the lodge and cabins were moved to Hagerman, leaving behind memories of a place where Ketchum's community gathered for both leisure and history in the making.

Though the original structures no longer exist, the Limelight Hotel now occupies this historic location, continuing the tradition of hospitality and community gatherings in the heart of Ketchum.

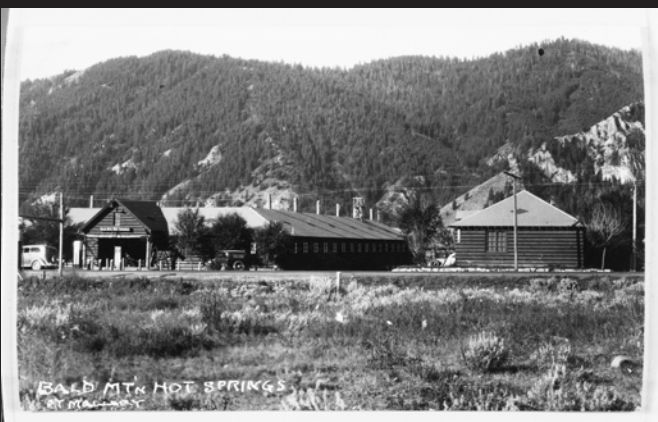


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FIFTEEN OF THE LOVELIES IN THE CAST make an eye-appealing picture and in the front row the camera lens has caught (from left to right): Karle Burke, Donna Taylor, Lois Anderson, Theo Bird, Claudia Fife and Cathy Fife. The next three girls are Laura Anderson, Doris Bennett and Linda Johnson; then pictured are Alice Burr, Heather Baker and Polly McCoy. The three lovelies at the top are Jackie Helming, Marilyn Curtis and Clair Flais.

Aquacade performers, 1958.



Main Street view of Bald Mountain. 1936.

