

# Slipper's Soliloquies

By Fred Slipper

5-84

This being the 100th anniversary of the founding of Sedro, I thought it would be fun to check back in the old Courier Times files and see what I could find.

After all, our paper is one of the oldest in the Northwest and has served the area since 1890. Without getting into the darkest corners of our back room, where other treasures might be hiding, I found the book covering the year 1899 in our "modern" file.

The paper was called the Skagit County Times in 1899 and the banner across the top proclaimed it served "Woolley and Sedro."

One of the front-page headlines that caught my eye was "That Beef Was Bad." (Nowadays we hear, "Where's the Beef?") The gist of the article was that some general in the Army felt the supplies they were being furnished weren't the best, especially the beef, which was supposedly treated with chemicals.

Every now and then, the hyphen in our present Sedro-Woolley makes the news. I have heard various versions of its origin, and thought the following in the 1899 paper was interesting: "(from the Seattle Trade Register) The Twin Cities, Sedro and Woolley, have at-

tempted to foist a hyphenated name on the community which the Trade Register believes neither the post office department, the railroads nor the public will be foolish enough to perpetuate simply because neither town would abandon its name. Sedro or Twincity would be better. Sedro will probably be the name used."

Here is another name that has been changed over the years. Back in 1899, our main street, Metcalf, was spelled "Metcalfé." Wonder when the "e" was dropped?

Under the title "News of the United City" are a number of short, interesting comments. Among them is one dealing with the City Council meeting. It seems they were having problems concerning City Hall.

Apparently some wanted a new hall, others didn't. Councilman Horsch was quoted as saying "the jail was no good; the council room was alright but the jail was unventilated and anyone could get out of it." He thought a suitable building could be secured for less money.

Guess things haven't changed too much, as we hear rumors around town that our present City Hall isn't adequate.