

Through correspondence with his friends out in Idaho, the Nuxolls and Schmidts, Joseph learned of the possibilities in that new land and also of the urgent need for teachers there. Also, recently a Greencreek family of amateur educators, jealous of Mr. Kaufmann's success as a teacher and wanting his job, had been trying unsuccessfully to discredit him with the school authorities, all of which bothered him terribly.

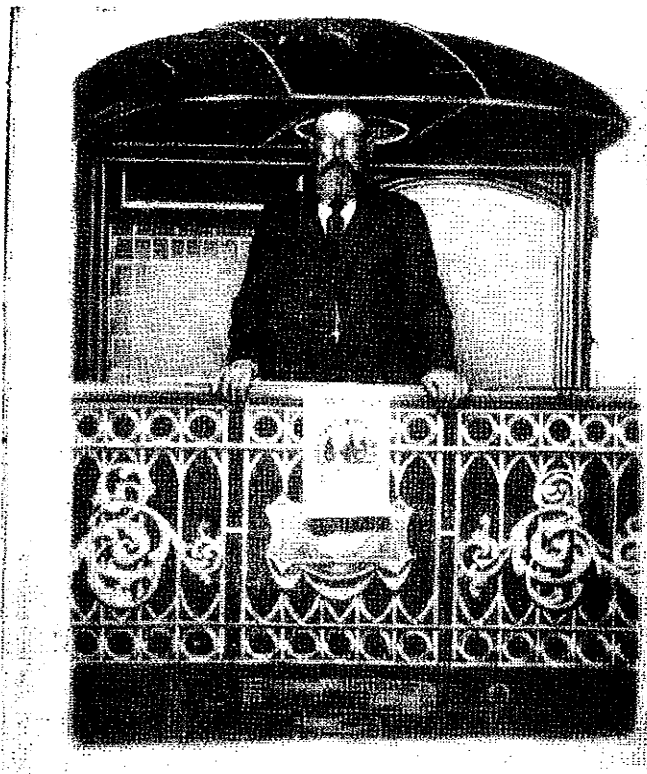
In late August of 1899, taking temporary leave of his family, Joseph Kaufmann along with some of the Nuxolls, John Hoene and some twenty other Illinois people made up a tourist car heading for Lewiston, Idaho. Relatives had written them advising the wearing of warm clothing as the nights were cold in Idaho, so when after four days on the train they arrived in Lewiston at four o'clock in the afternoon on a hot August day bedecked in heavy clothing and woolen underwear, you can imagine their discomfort in the near 100 degree heat. They left immediately for the Camas Prairie high country in wagons provided them by relatives from the new settlement of Greencreek, Idaho and were soon more comfortable as the night air cooled.

Joseph, after a few days rest at the Schmidt farm, began teaching in the parochial school at Cottonwood. This was the only Catholic school around then so there were pupils from both Cottonwood and Greencreek in attendance. Recently I spoke to August and Elizabeth Seubert, both past eighty-five years of age, who were pupils there at that time. Mrs. Seubert, a daughter of the former H. H. Nuxoll, said, "I can still see Mr. Kaufmann standing up before us, with his hands folded, teaching us the prayers that we still say together every day."

Joseph was well received in Idaho as an educator. His pupils both liked and respected him, admiring too his ability as an organist at Mass and the Vesper service, a worship held in those days every Sunday afternoon. One of his former pupils told me that the teacher they had before Joseph Kaufmann was hot headed and mean and spanked them a lot; but when Joseph came they liked him because he was so kind, though strict when need be. One day one of the kids shot a BB with a rubber band and hit teacher Kaufmann back of the ear; and my informant said, "Boy, that was the only time I ever seen him mad, and you could hear a pin drop the rest of that day."

While employed as teacher in Cottonwood, Joseph boarded at the Georg Seubert farm (later called the Jenny farm) where he taught Mrs. Seubert and her children music and singing during his spare time. One of these Seuberts told me they all learned some kind of music from Joe Kaufmann and were sorry when he left them.

After a number of terms of school, some of which in early times varied in length between three and eight months, Joseph returned to his home and family in Illinois. He was impressed with the new life Idaho offered, so he sold his Illinois holdings and in November, 1901 moved his family and household



Pictured above is Joseph Kaufmann the teacher aboard the train bound for his home in Illinois.



Above are shown Joseph and his wife Elizabeth seated in the parlor of their fine new home in Cottonwood, Idaho.

furnishings from Greencreek, Illinois to Greencreek, Idaho. After a five-day trip, they arrived in Stites (the end of the railroad line - there not being a railroad to the Prairie then) where they were met by the Nuxolls with wagons and taken to Greencreek.

The first year they stayed with the Ferdinand Nuxolls who then lived on a farm a mile South of the present community of Greencreek and who were the parents of Joseph's wife, Elizabeth. Joseph again taught school; this time there at Greencreek. On November 13, 1902, he bought the Daniel Rhoades farm, midway between Cottonwood and Greencreek. He moved his growing family there, and once again the piano, organ and big carpet adorned the family's parlor. During the years 1902 to 1906, Mr. Kaufmann taught in both public and Catholic schools at Greencreek for various terms. Also, with help from his sons, he farmed the land recently purchased.

On January 8, 1906, Joseph purchased a fine farm a mile Southwest of Cottonwood from Sam Goldstone, and there he built an imposing and beautiful new home. This house for many years was a familiar landmark for the people of the area. In June, 1907, he sold the Greencreek farm to Joseph Riener and the Kaufmanns moved to Cottonwood. As the Benedictine Sisters had moved to Cottonwood and began teaching the area schools, Joseph no longer taught but devoted his entire time to farming. He still played the organ in church for many years, and some members of his family were faithful choir singers.

As there were so many young Kaufmanns, all musically inclined, and also because Elizabeth, the mother, was young and gay with her family and an excellent cook, their home was a most popular gathering place for the area's younger set. Many of Cottonwood's older folks told me of the good times they shared at Kaufmann's during their younger days, recalling that they loved to go there knowing that the best of everything was to be found at that place.

Frank, their oldest child, was the first to marry (1907), followed by Josepha (1908) and Joseph, Jr. (1910). Some investments made with a former schoolteacher friend in Illinois turned out badly for Joseph; this and the need for some finances to help the children prompted him to sell part of his land to the Sisters in 1913. World War One erupting in Europe in 1914 began to cast a shadow across this land, and along with it came a wave of pseudo patriotism that here in Central Idaho caused the cessation of the use of the German language in church and school. The automobile age came along, and Joseph's family was among the first to own one. Another daughter, Catherine, married in 1914 and moved to Wisconsin; followed by another daughter, Elizabeth, in 1920.