

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REFERENCE SERIES

JOHN LYNN DRISCOLL, SR.  
May 3, 1891-March 9, 1977

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John Lynn Driscoll was born May 3, 1891, in Craig, Nebraska, where his father was president of the local bank. His parents were John and Hannah Driscoll. In 1905 the family moved to Boise where the elder Driscoll went to work for the Eagleson real estate and investment firm, and J. Lynn entered Boise High School. In 1910 he entered the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1914.

Driscoll began his banking career in 1915, working as a messenger-boy, then as assistant cashier at the Overland National Bank in which his father was an investor. In 1919 he moved to Chicago, where he worked as assistant to the president of the Live Stock Exchange National Bank of Chicago and as vice-president of the Boise Live Stock Company of Chicago.

He returned to Boise in 1929 as president of the First Security Bank of Boise, part of a system of banks acquired by Marriner Eccles and M. S. Browning of Utah. In 1933 their Idaho banks were consolidated into the First Security Bank of Idaho, of which Driscoll was executive vice-president until 1945, and president until 1956. From 1956 to 1968 he was chairman of the board; in 1968 he became chairman of the executive committee. Driscoll was well-known for keeping his Boise bank open on August 31, 1932, in the face of a threatened run on the bank. He calmly offered cash withdrawals to any depositor, and posted a sign stating: "For the Benefit of Our Patrons This Bank Will Be Open Until Late Tonight--If You Want Your Money Come and Get It!"

Driscoll was involved in numerous government and civic activities. He served on the Boise School Board from 1930 to 1938, was president of the Boise Junior College Board of Trustees from 1943 to 1950, and was appointed director of the Children's Home Society in 1937. He served as president of the Boise Chamber of Commerce in 1926 and as head of the Idaho Sheep Commission in the 1920's. In the 1930's he was a member of the advisory committee of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation's Salt Lake City branch, and he served on the Boise branch of the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation. Driscoll was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1936 when Borah sought the presidential nomination.

Driscoll married Rachel Kellogg of Percival, Iowa, on September 16, 1916. They had two children: John Lynn, Jr. (Died in 1940) and Harriet. Driscoll died March 9, 1977, in Boise.

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