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When Idaho celebrated fifty years of statehood in 1940, historical literature dealing with that era was limited almost entirely to a biography of Senator William E. Borah. With passage of most of another half century, a biography of Senator Glen H. Taylor covers part of that more recent period of industrial and cultural development. An advance in other historical publications, though, provides important additional context for recent Idaho history of a kind that was unavailable in 1940. More information concerning Idaho's experience with settlement after 1860 assists in an analysis of historic trends after 1940. A small selection of published volumes and articles can be reviewed to advantage in evaluating possibilities for additional investigation of subjects important in recent Idaho history.

An awareness of a variety of elements in early Idaho historical literature may be obtained from Francis Fuller Victor's survey of Idaho's territorial period--an initial professional historical investigation was published as part of Hubert Howe Bancroft's History of . . . Washington, Idaho, and Montana, 1845-1889 (San Francisco, 1890), pp. 393-588. Pioneer accounts of interest include Thomas Donaldson's 1897 Idaho of Yesterday (Caldwell, 1941), 406 pp.; William A. Goulder's Reminiscences: Incidents in the Life of a Pioneer in Oregon and Idaho (Boise, 1909), pp. 178-376; and John Hailey's History of Idaho (Boise, 1910), 400 pp. Donaldson, Goulder, and Hailey all were prominent Idaho pioneers who incorporated different perspectives in their accounts of frontier life in Idaho.

More recent academic volumes resulting from research in Idaho history relevant to twentieth-century trends include (for Populist antecedents) William J. Gaboury, Dissension in the Rockies: a History of Idaho Populism (New York, 1986), 464 pp.; and additional political studies relating to William E. Borah and to New Deal changes: Claudius O. Johnson, Borah of Idaho (New York, 1936), 511 pp.; Marian McKenna, Borah (Ann Arbor, 1961), 450 pp.; and Michael P. Malone, C. Ben Ross and the New Deal in Idaho (Seattle, 1970), 191 pp. Ross Peterson's Prophet Without Honor: Glen Taylor and the Fight for American Liberalism (Lexington, Kentucky, 1974), 216 pp., extends for more than a decade after 1940.

Twentieth-century economic history also is represented in several useful volumes. John Fahey's Ballyhoo Bonanza: Charles Sweeney and the Idaho Mines (Seattle, 1966), 234 pp.; and G. W. Barrett's J. Lynn Driscoll: Western Banker (Boise, 1974), 297 pp., covers recent agricultural and commercial specialties.

Articles dealing with a variety of issues cover a lot more than twentieth-century political and economic topics. They need to be considered in a social and economic context indicated in Leonard J. Arrington's "From Panning Gold to Nuclear Fission," Idaho Yesterdays (Summer 1962), 6/2:2-10. Extensive portions of more general volumes also are appropriate. These include Idaho chapters from a forest products study: Ralph W. Hidy, Timber and Men: The Weyerhaeuser Story (New York, 1963), pp. 248-272, 512-550; and a summary of a notable Idaho labor case in Walter Lord's The Good Years: From 1900 to the First World War (New York, 1960), pp. 150-179.

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