



IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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**TABLE ROCK**

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At a time when most of North America and Europe formed part of a single continent, a land that became Boise Valley formed part of its west coast. Then Oregon and Washington gradually arrived as part of a Pacific geological plate that helped block river drainage farther west. So a series of lakes developed to cover Boise Valley. That action left lake shore beaches along Boise ridge that now rises a mile or so above its base. An old zone of hot springs converted sandy lake beaches into a sandstone feature that in a period of 25,000,000 years or so emerged as Table Rock. Some of those hot springs still provide water that has heated homes and buildings in Boise ever since 1892. Hot springs have been exploited for recreational purposes since ancient times. But no other commercial application of geothermal power precedes this pioneer development that has been followed in Iceland, New Zealand, Italy, and California. Hot springs on both sides of Table Rock had great cultural and religious significance for Boise Shoshoni peoples, but they were far enough away from Oregon Trail routes that they did not become an emigrant road attraction.

**(This information has not been edited.)**