



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hailey Receives First Heritage Tree Nomination Grange Hall Douglas Fir Reviewed by Hailey Tree Committee

(Hailey, Idaho) – The Hailey Tree Committee approved its first Heritage Tree nomination for the City of Hailey during their public meeting last month. Manon Gaudreau nominated a historic Rocky Mountain Douglas fir located at the Grange Hall at 609 South Third Avenue. The tree, estimated to be 65 years old, is 55 feet tall, with a 60 inch circumference and a crown spread of 32 feet.

Gaudreau, who serves as the treasurer of the Upper Big Wood River Grange, believes this tree was planted by Rupert House who was a member of the Grange for many years. House is believed to have dug a small tree from his property in East Fork and transplanted it to the Grange. House was one of the community's beloved old-timers, a miner who moved to the Wood River Valley in 1936 to work the Triumph Mine in East Fork. He and his wife Bonnie raised their family on a simple farm in East Fork. House served as a Blaine County Commissioner for 16 years from 1980 to 1996, and continued to be active in community organizations until his death in 2008 at the venerable age of 92.

The Rocky Mountain Douglas fir is a common and valuable tree in the Wood River Valley. The hardy evergreen conifer is native to the interior mountain regions of the Northwest. It's frost and drought tolerance makes it a good symbol for the Grange Hall, as this

particular tree receives rain and snow as its primary source of moisture. The grounds of the Grange are largely unirrigated.

The Hailey Tree Committee extends its hearty thanks to Gaudreau and all the members and supporters of the UBWR Grange for this nomination! Hailey's Heritage Tree nomination form can be found at <https://www.haileycityhall.org/TreeCommittee/TreeCommittee.asp#top>

