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Giant Arborvitae Receives Heritage Tree Designation

Outzs Family History Takes Many Forms

(Hailey, Idaho) –The City of Hailey and the Hailey Tree Committee continue seeking Heritage Tree nominations. While many things are considered when looking at trees nominated, there is also consideration and interest in trees with a special story. Such is the case of one of this year’s nominated tree.

Volunteer Linda Ries had an opportunity to interview our local heritage resource Ms. D A. Outzs. Now in her late 90s, Ms. Outzs told many stories of growing up in Hailey on 3rd Avenue. Her father, long time resident Les Outzs, has a rich and varied history in the Wood River Valley including serving as Blaine County Sheriff between 1940 and 1960. He also trained sled dogs—a common mode of transportation during past Hailey winters—and landscaped properties in his spare time. He landscaped his family home with many trees, including the Giant Arborvitae, pictured here. Ms. Outzs still lives in the house in which she was born, calling the house iust “a shack” that was scarcely bigger than today’s living room.

Ms. Outzs was crowned by the Heritage Court in 2014 for her role in building the Wood River Valley and has lived here long enough to recall a different way of life.

The Outzs Heritage Tree is an estimated 95 years old, and measures 18.3” in diameter with limbs to the ground often used as cover for deer in the winter. Hailey children have also enjoyed climbing it.

This tree makes its home among several large Engelmann spruce dug up by Mr. Outzs near Galena as well as a large native Serviceberry.

A Heritage tree nomination is in the works for two Engelmann spruce trees also planted by Ms Outz’ father in front of the Blaine County Courthouse. Hailey Heritage Tree Nominations can be made using applications forms at <https://bit.ly/37Y43XB>, and submitting them to Park Division Manager Stephanie Cook at stephanie.cook@haileycityhall.org.

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