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The Community Page

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Top Left: Wood Funeral Home ca. 1980s. Bottom Left: Idaho Falls Wood Funeral Home today. Right: Wood Funeral Home purchased in 1928.

100 Years of Compassion

In 1911, Charles E. Dinwoody opened a business on the corner of Broadway and Yellowstone.

The business Charles Dinwoody started is still serving the most precious needs of local citizens.

Jack A. Wood Sr. bought the Dinwoody Funeral Home in 1925, and moved the business to a large home on Elm St. and North Ridge. The year was 1928—just before the Great Depression.

It was a wise move, one that would provide room for expansion in years to come. During those lean times, families often paid their final expenses by bartering eggs, milk or beef. Then, as now, the Wood Funeral Home did everything it could to accommodate the needs of the people it served.

Jack A. Wood Sr. was known for placing his love for people ahead of his desire to make a profit. Sometimes that's not the best business decision in the short-run. But it has paid off in the long-term, with a long tradition of compassion being passed down through the generations.

Following service with the U.S. Navy during WWII, Jack's sons, Ralph and Jack Wood Jr., received mortuary training in California, then returned to Idaho to join their father in the business. In 1961, following the nuclear tragedy at the National Reactor Testing Station, it fell to Ralph and Jack Jr. to conduct funerals for men who had to be buried in lead coffins.

Jon Wood, son of Jack Jr., went to San Francisco to attend the same mortuary college that had given his father a start, then came home to Idaho Falls and joined the business in the 1970s.

It was Jon who saw the Wood Funeral Home through a major remodel at the North Ridge location and the building of a second facility in Ammon.

It was a "bit of a stretch," says Jon. The construction noise at North Ridge often had to stop in order to hold services there, and there was no guarantee that the considerable expense of launching a new facility in Ammon would be justified. But through it all, the community continued to entrust the Wood family and staff with the final earthly care of their loved ones.

From adjusting to technological developments, to keeping up with increased governmental regulation, to turning down buyout offers from corporations, the Woods have stayed loyal to the original vision of compassionately providing a sensitive and necessary service to the Idaho Falls vicinity.

Jon Wood's son, Brian, completed his professional training and entered the family business in 2006...and Jon's son, Stefan, recently earned his degree in mortuary services.

In 2011, the backbone of our economy—in Idaho Falls and throughout our nation—is the hard work and dedication of small businesses to the communities they serve.

Thank you, owners and staff of the Wood Funeral Home, for helping us make it through the toughest of times and for moving forward, with a tradition of loving service, into the future.

In 1911, the year Bonneville County was established:

- There were about 11,000 souls within its borders.
- Three new public schools were dedicated.
- Tautphaus Park—a dazzling oasis in the desert, with its groves of trees, six-acre lake, and community functions—was *the* place to visit.

In 2011, one hundred years later:

- Bonneville County is approaching a population of 100,000.
- The three schools—Riverside, Payne Siding, and Eastside, which had served generations of children—have given way to newer halls of learning.
- The lake at Tautphaus Park is now a sunken ball field (but it is still *the* place to visit).



Brian and Jon Wood