

## SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF CHENEY

It has occurred to me that it may be well to call attention to the fact that the City of Cheney reaches the half-century of age in this year, 1930. It was in November, 1880, that the newly founded town won from Spokane Falls the celebrated Spokane County-seat contest. Cheney remained the seat of Spokane County until after the election of November, 1886, after which the honor remained with Spokane Falls, now Spokane. That city's earliest newspaper omitted the final "e" and called itself *The Spokan Times*. A file is now available in the State Normal School at Cheney. From it, I have gleaned the following earliest newspaper mentions of the town of Cheney:

*"A Rural Trip*—A party consisting of Messrs. Davis and Cornelius, with four other gentlemen of our town started out last week to look for claims and get an intelligent view of the character, resources and extent of the large region between the Spokan and Snake rivers along the line of the N. P. R. R. They found several embryo cities already staked out, to which the names of Marshalltown, Depot Lake, Augusta, Sprague and Ritzville are attached. All are advantageously located, with elements of future growth, but Depot Lake and Sprague are thought to have the brightest prospects. . . ."—*The Spokan Times*, April 1, 1880.

*"Depot Springs*—Here we have the name of a newly located town of no small pretensions. It also has many natural advantages which entitle it to claims as a probable shipping point of importance at no distant day. Depot Springs is located on the line of the N. P. Railroad, about equidistant between Marshall and Augusta; and is fourteen miles from Spokane Falls. This new station is in the midst of a fine section of agricultural lands."—*The Spokan Times*, May 15, 1880.

*"Name Changed*—The town recently laid out at Depot Springs has had its name changed from Billings to Cheney. Hon. Benj. P. Cheney is one of the Directors of the Northern Pacific railroad and Frederick Billings is President. Cheney is one of the five towns recently located on the line of the N. P. R. R., between Ainsworth and Spokane Falls."—*The Spokan Times*, September 11, 1880.

*"Notice*—The new town recently located on the N. P. R. R., at Depot Springs, and called Billings, has had its name changed to that of Cheney, by which name it will hereafter be known. All persons wishing Cheney to obtain the county seat will please vote accordingly. J.B."—*The Spokan Times*, September 25, 1880."

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