

LCCU 17th St Branch Has Deep Roots

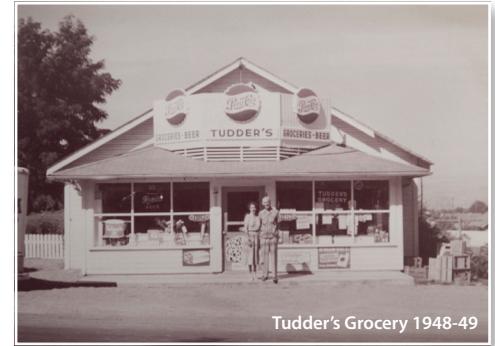
A very old adage reminds us that “the greatest oaks have been little acorns.” Even a simple plant needs to be repotted, and so it has been with Lewis Clark Credit Union. A future installment of this 80th anniversary column will feature the various “pots” where LCCU was rooted, but the stories behind the 1626 17th Street address are the focus for this month.

The earliest reference to the site appears on a November 1928 Sanborn Map Company survey, which shows a greenhouse on the corner of 17th Avenue and 17th Street. In May 1941, the local Church of God congregation was granted a building permit to construct a 30-by-60-foot church for \$2,000 (about \$65,000 today). The congregation remained until 1947, when Raymond and Carrie Lee Tudder purchased the property and converted the church into Tudder’s Grocery. The old store was moved to 1125 15th Avenue in 1958 to create a parking area for the newly-constructed Crary’s Market, the building we still see today.

In March 1967, Vincent and Daniel Frei bought out Robert Crary to create Frei’s Market. In late 1973, Frei’s gave way to Circle K, who purchased the property from the Tudders. In June 1978 the building finally became, at least for a few years, the site of a financial institution when Valley Health Care Credit Union moved in. Originally the credit union at St. Joseph’s Hospital, it later became United Services Credit Union.

The conversion from a grocery and then convenience store to the operations of a financial institution required extensive remodeling. Professional suites were added to the floor plan, making for small offices for other organizations, such as the Idaho Coalition for the Advocacy of the Disabled, The Diet Center, Seaport Cities Retail Employees Credit Union and Allstate Insurance. Clearwater Credit Union affixed its sign to the building in 1987.

The building assumed an entirely new role in June 1988 when Larry Ohman opened his Institute of Physical Therapy and Fitness at the address.



In November 1996, Lewis Clark Credit Union announced its plans to take over the building and move from its small offices at 17th and Idaho Streets. By July 1997, the move was complete after the installation of a new security system, and on August 20th, LCCU held an open house.

LCCU’s growth in membership and services finally outgrew the interior design of the building. The rented suites were closed, and the building underwent a thorough makeover, the results of which member enjoy today. LCCU finally has 1626 17th Street all to itself.



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