

# CROSSING THE RIVER



In the 1800s trappers headed west, following waterways in search of beaver. They found an abundance in the Boise Valley.



# BEFORE THERE WAS A BRIDGE

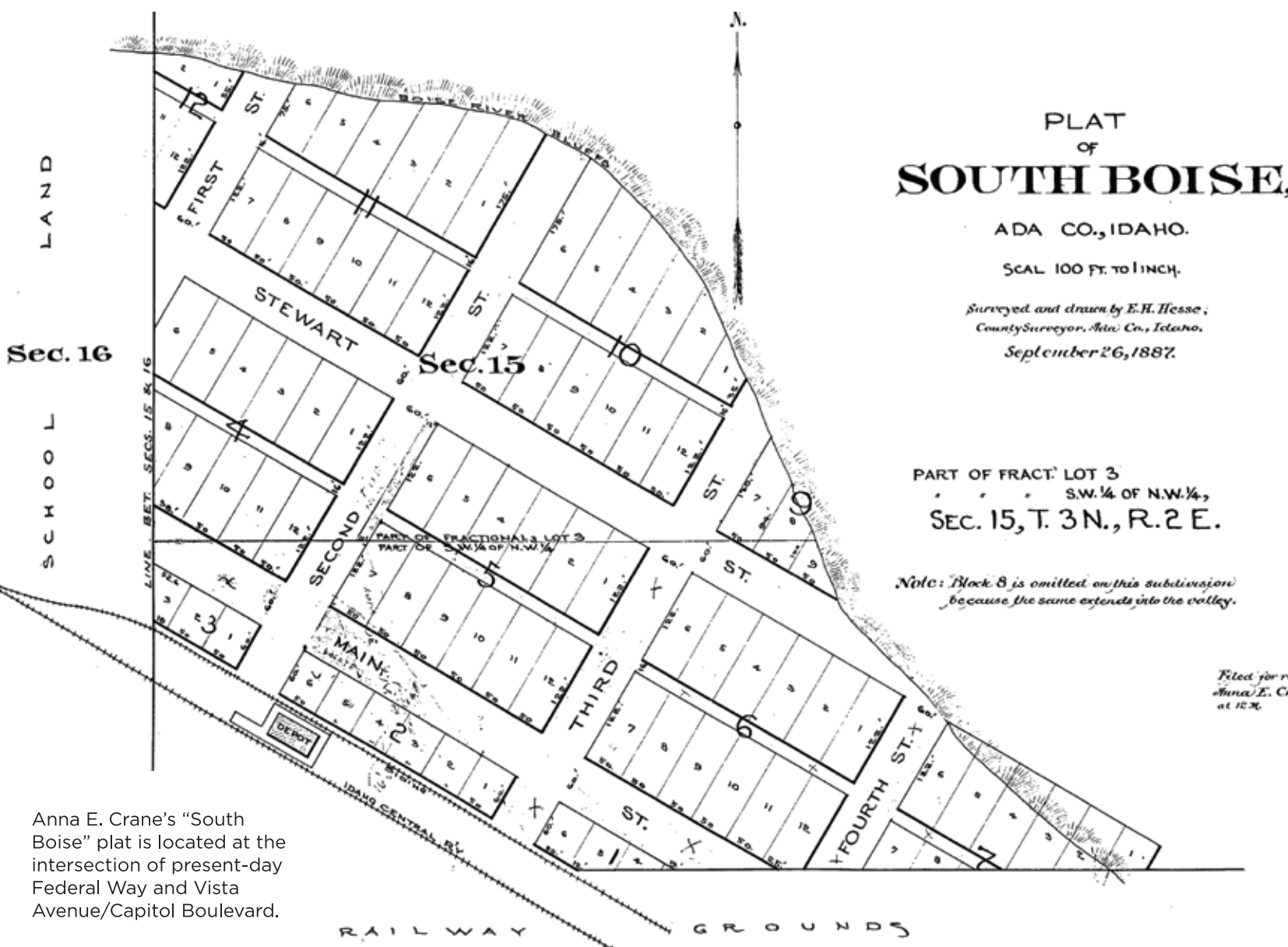
The Boise River flows through the city of Boise and into the Snake River. Long before the city existed, the river attracted people to the valley. For approximately 12,000 years Native Americans, including those from the Shoshone, Paiute, and Bannock tribes, fished for Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Boise River and hunted for game along its banks. In 1869, federal government troops forcibly removed Native Americans to distant regional reservations.



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# A VILLAGE ACROSS THE RIVER

An enterprising young seamstress, Anna E. Crane, filed a plat in March 1890 for land south of the Boise River. She came to Boise only a year earlier to join her brother, a dentist. Land speculators from Colorado followed her lead and planned additional subdivisions in the area. The Broadway Bridge provided convenient access and sparked residential and commercial development. The independent town of South Boise formed in 1902. Residents petitioned for annexation into Boise City in 1913.

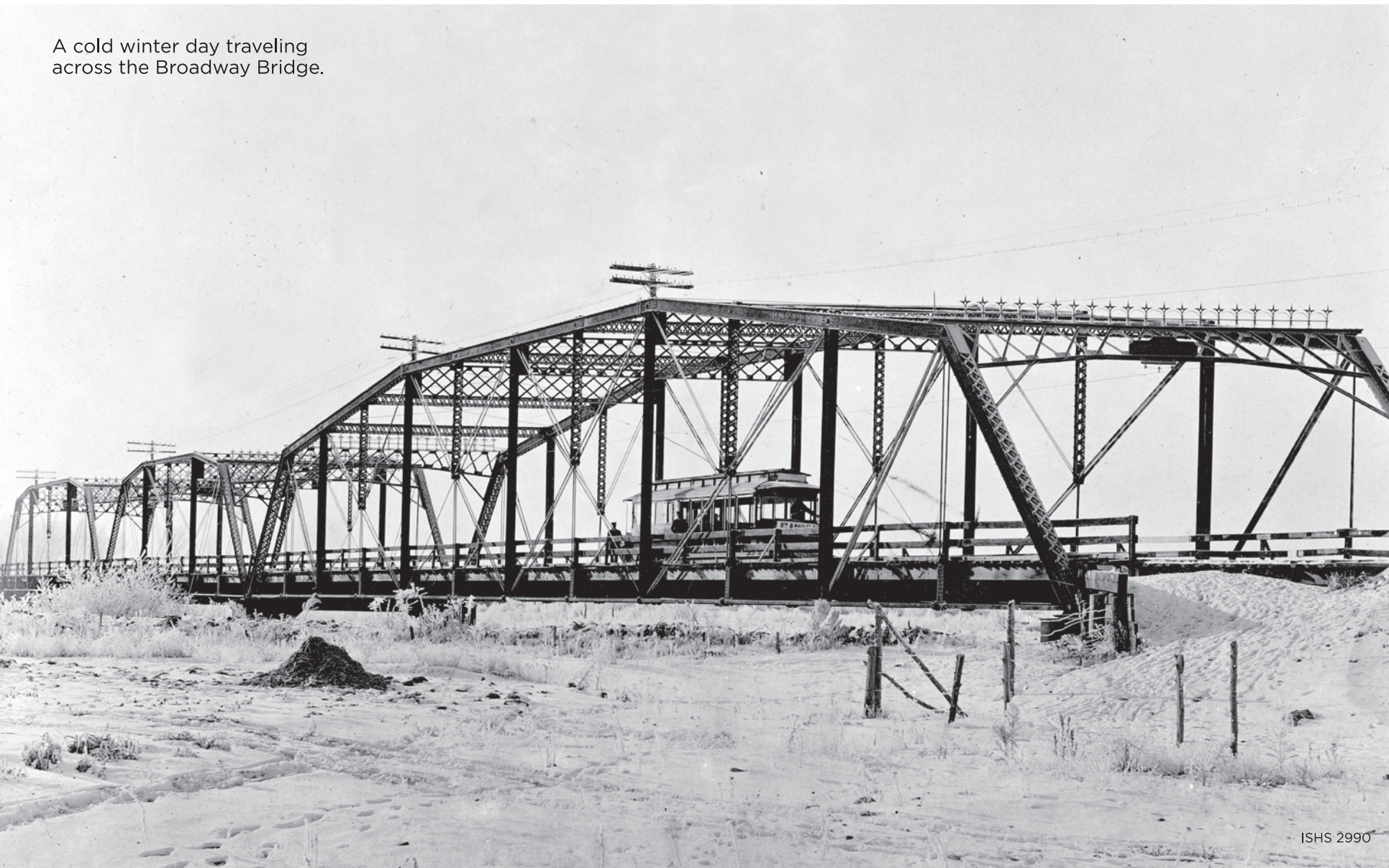


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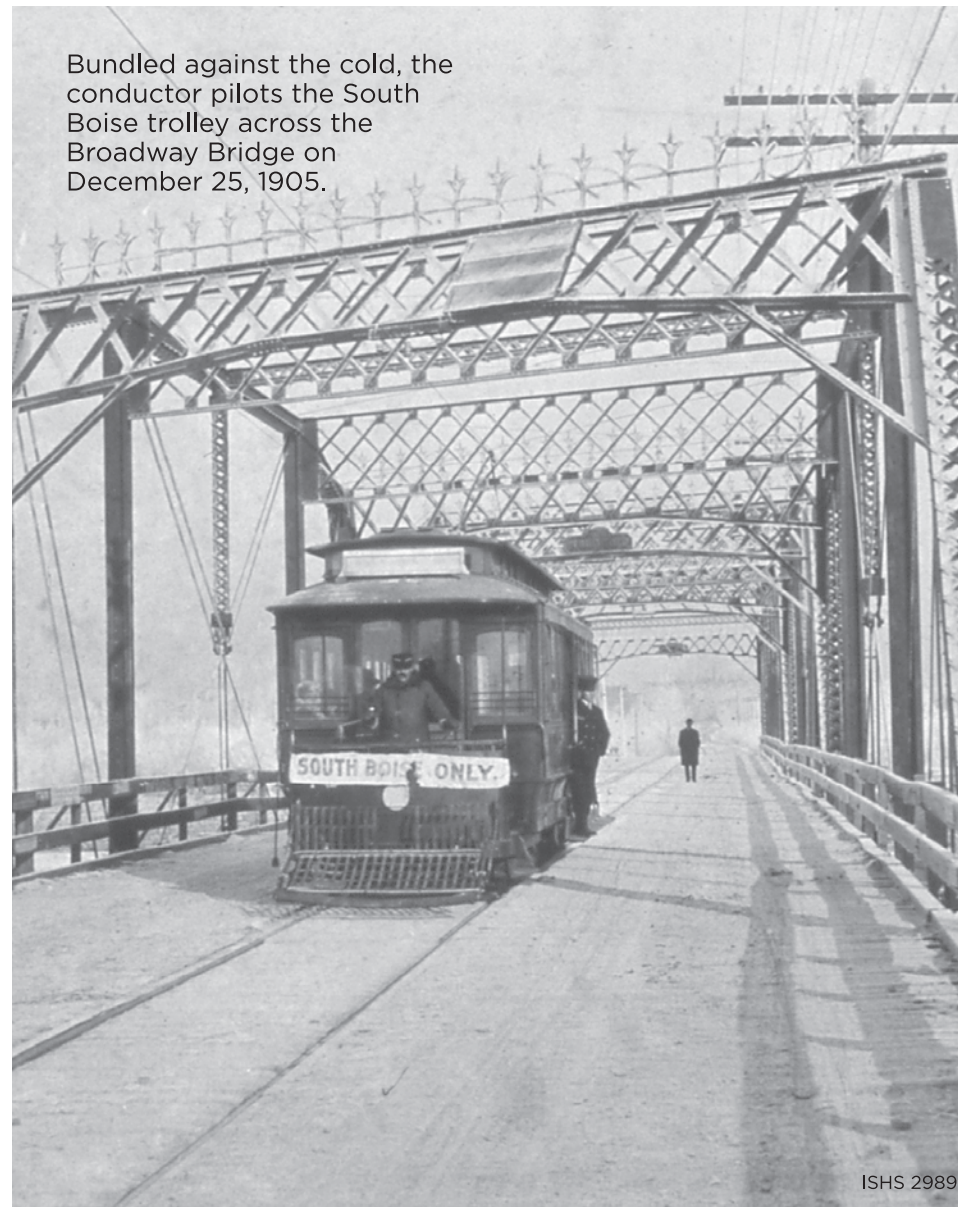


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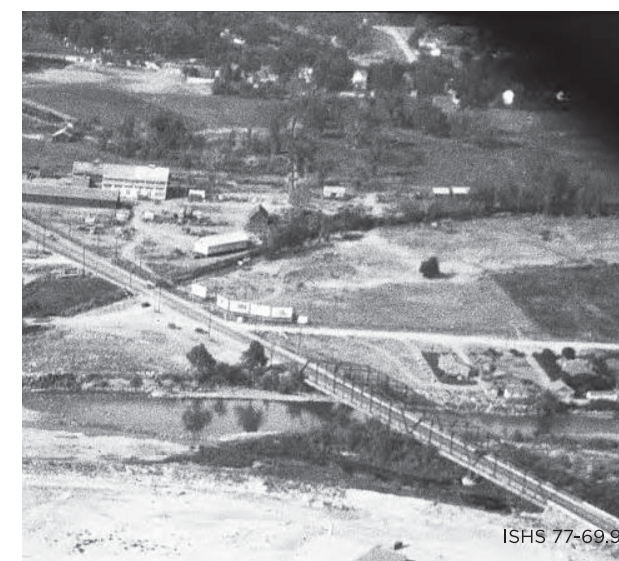
A cold winter day traveling across the Broadway Bridge.



Bundled against the cold, the conductor pilots the South Boise trolley across the Broadway Bridge on December 25, 1905.



ISHS P1984.2.24



# THE FIRST BROADWAY BRIDGE

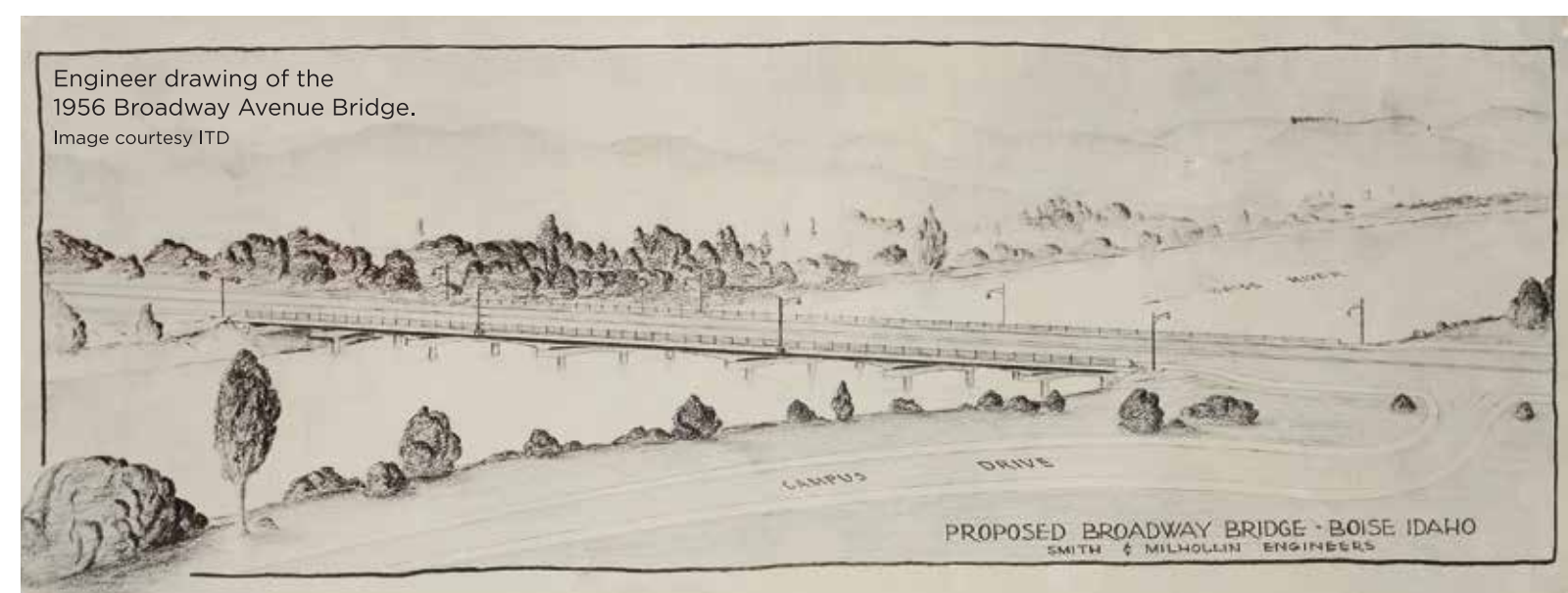
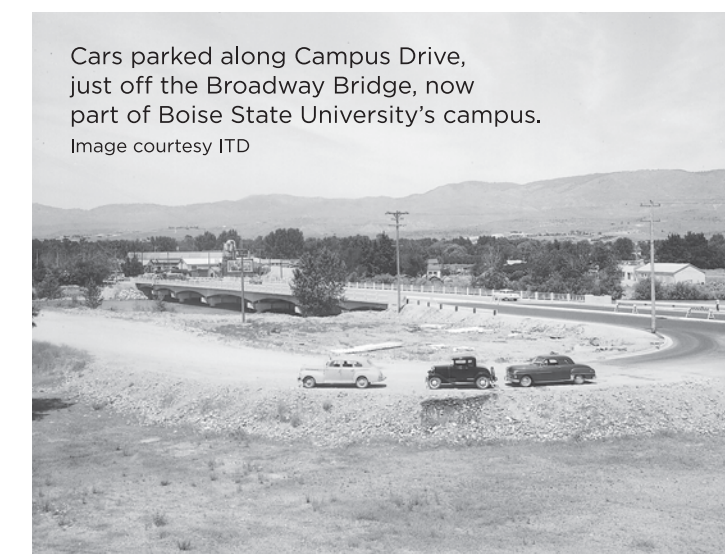
Many residents eagerly anticipated construction of the first Broadway Bridge. The *Idaho Statesman* declared in July 1891 that “It will be a Dandy.” The bridge, touted as one of the finest bridges of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, opened in April 1892. Originally used to accommodate wagons and horses, the bridge was also designed for streetcar use. The bridge provided a vital link to the south side of the river and spurred development in South Boise.



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## A MID-CENTURY BRIDGE FOR MODERN TIMES

By the early 1950s, increased automobile traffic resulted in the need for a new bridge. In 1955, Smith and Milhollin, a local engineering firm, designed a new structure for the river crossing. Crews completed the bridge in record time in 1956, thanks to advances in construction methods. The structure was built as two separate bridges that were so closely aligned they appeared as one. The bridge featured the clean lines representative of mid-twentieth century design.



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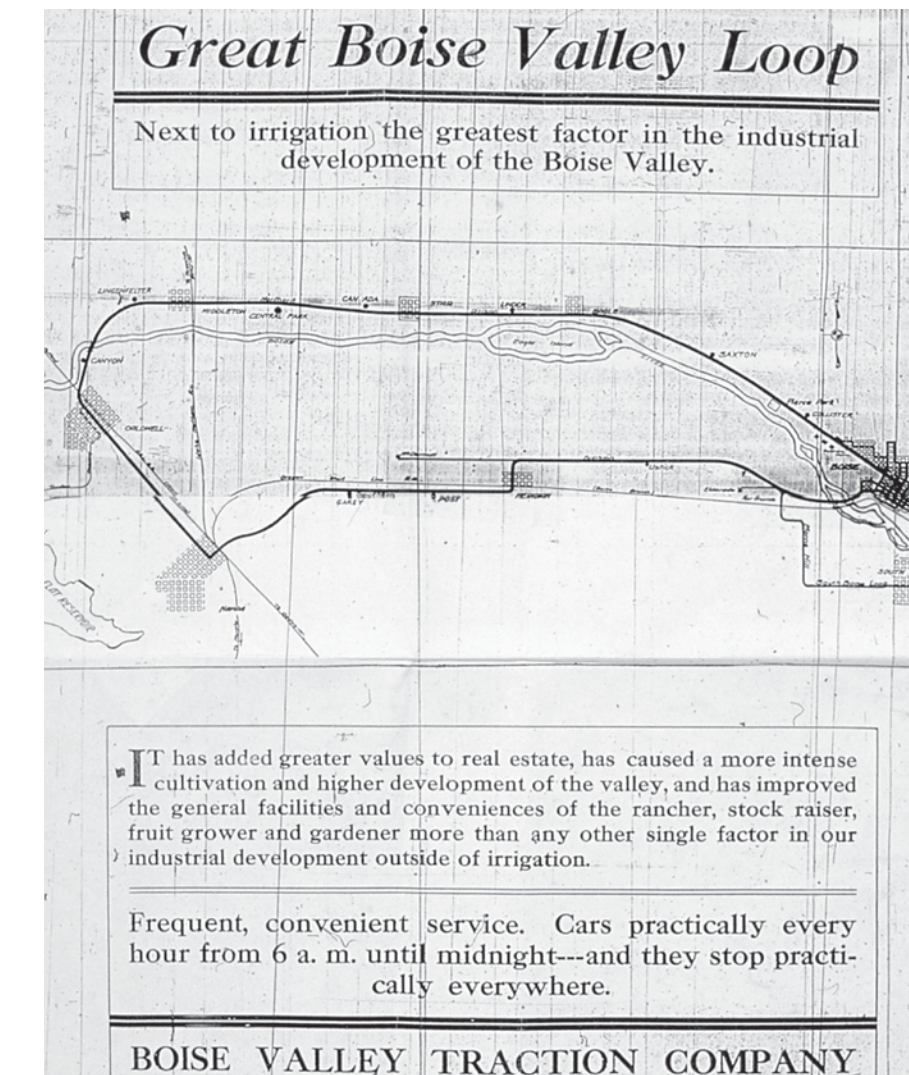
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The South Boise car is stopped at Ivywild at the end of Broadway Avenue.  
ISHS 3120



View of Boise Idaho  
from Spafford Heights



## Great Boise Valley Loop

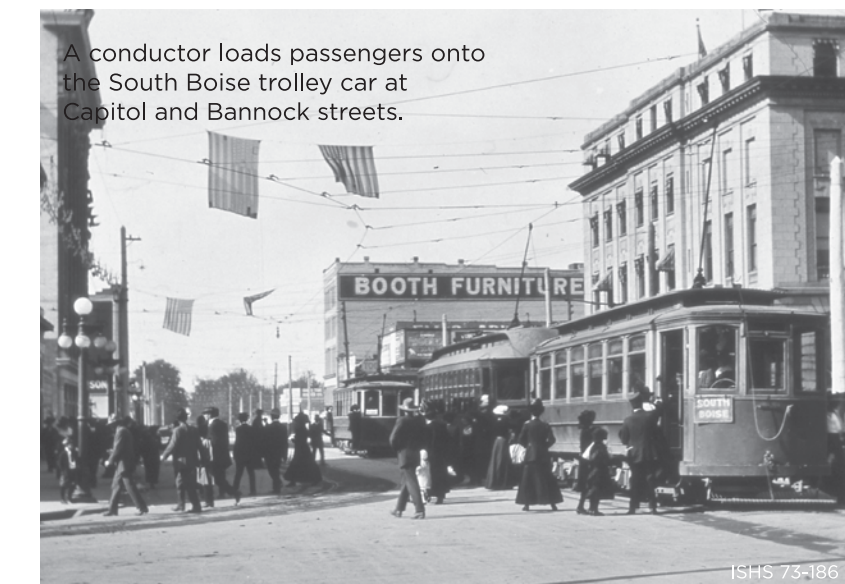
Next to irrigation the greatest factor in the industrial development of the Boise Valley.

It has added greater values to real estate, has caused a more intense cultivation and higher development of the valley, and has improved the general facilities and conveniences of the rancher, stock raiser, fruit grower and gardener more than any other single factor in our industrial development outside of irrigation.

Frequent, convenient service. Cars practically every hour from 6 a. m. until midnight--and they stop practically everywhere.

BOISE VALLEY TRACTION COMPANY

The South Boise trolley line was only one part of a much larger system that linked the Boise Valley.  
Image courtesy The Idaho Statesman



A conductor loads passengers onto the South Boise trolley car at Capitol and Bannock streets.  
ISHS 73-186



Interurban Depot at corner of Seventh and Bannock streets.  
ISHS 76-75-10

# SOUTH BOISE STREETCAR LINE

The design for the original Broadway Bridge included room for streetcar tracks, but several years passed before engineers incorporated them into the structure. The first streetcar traveled across the bridge on December 25, 1905. The “South Boise Line” started downtown at Seventh and Bannock streets and traveled south to Garfield School. The route later expanded to include Ivywild, a small South Boise neighborhood along the base of the Ridenbaugh Canal. The original South Boise Streetcar Station is now located at Ivywild Park on Leadville Avenue.



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