

George Edgington

1915-1917

Taken from Tales of Eastern Idaho, David L. Crowder:

This story caught national attention when Hearst-Pathé News picked it up and sent Al Hager to Idaho Falls to film the Mayor, George Edgington, on the steps of the public library in the uniform of an officer of the U.S. Army. It was December, 1917. Edgington had enlisted in the Army and been commissioned a Captain. The film showed him leading about 100 recruits as part of a parade through the city. All were headed out to join the Allied effort against Germany.

That a man would leave a position of responsibility as mayor of a city to enlist in the war effort was a newsworthy act of patriotism.

President of the City Council, Henry W. Keifer, who would become acting Mayor until Ralph A. Louis was elected in January, 1918, to fill Mayor Edgington's term, had proclaimed that all businesses would be closed from one to four in the afternoon on December 12, 1917, for the parade, reception and patriotic program.

All went well, about 8,000 cheering people lined the parade route. Captain George W. Edgington had captured the imagination of a national audience.