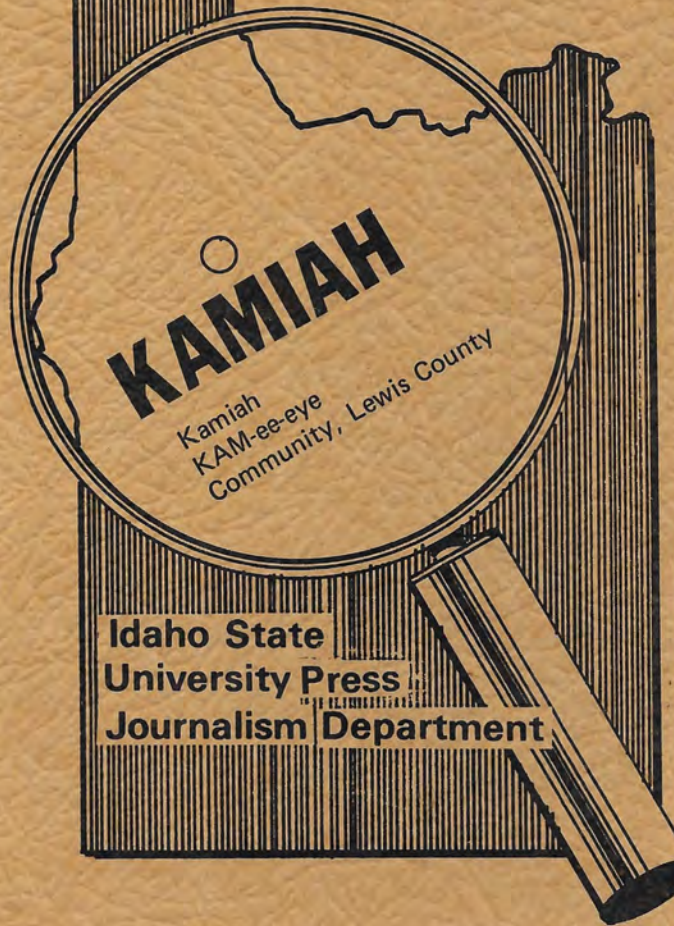


# Pronunciation Guide for the State of Idaho

by  
WILLIAM J. RYAN



Idaho State  
University Press  
Journalism Department

## FOREWORD

We've all heard the admonition, "Anything worth doing is worth doing well."

To be practical, with respect to broadcasting, this advisory might be reworded to read, "Anything worth saying is worth saying correctly."

The printed item you are holding is an attempt to clarify the pronunciation of Idaho place names.

Idaho is a state of extraordinary geographical distances, occupational varieties and "people interests." It is more than 650 miles by highway from Bonners Ferry to Montpelier. The logger who lives in Ahsahka has little in common with the cattle raiser in Banida. The woman whose husband is a contract sugar beet farmer near Iona isn't much interested in the current silver quotations, but the wife of a miner in Kellogg is.

Only a small percentage of Idahoans living north of the Salmon river have seen the Stanley Basin or the Arco Desert or the Bruneau River Canyon. By the same token, how many residents of Rigby or Weiser have visited the spectacular Moyie River Canyon or Dworshak Dam or Harpster Hill?

Inter-Idaho travel is on the increase in the 1970's, with more Idahoans visiting the far corners of their own state.

But the pronunciation problem remains.

Within their own state, Idaho residents are currently supporting eleven television stations and more than 40 radio stations, plus aiding the statistical causes of stations in Utah, Oregon and Washington.

It seems only proper that the news readers employed by these stations in Idaho and its neighboring states should possess the ability to correctly pronounce Idaho place names.

In 1947, I was a very young man employed as an announcer in a small southern Idaho radio station. One day our news wire copy contained a story from Kamiah. I'd never heard of the place and I pronounced it on the air the way it looks. A kind lady who was familiar with North Idaho places telephoned me after my newscast to tell me how to pronounce Kamiah. That may have been the start of my interest in correct place name pronunciation, with what you are holding as a much later effort.

I must thank several individuals and organizations for their assistance: Vic Richardson and the Idaho Department of Highways; Pat Monaghan and Vic



Barfuss of the Idaho State Police; Chilton Phoenix of the Union Pacific Railroad; Phil Luckey and other staff and faculty members at Idaho State University and the many ISU students who supplied information. Thanks also to Bill Harwood and his staff at ISU Publicity and Publications Services.

Readers' suggestions, comments and challenges will be welcomed.

William J. Ryan  
Journalism Department  
Idaho State University  
Pocatello

July, 1975

## A

Acequia  
uh-SEEK-we-uh or uh-SEEK-wuh  
Community, Minidoka County

Ahsahka  
uh-SOCK-uh  
Community, Clearwater County

Albeni  
al-BAY-nee or AL-bun-ee  
Falls, Dam, Bonner County

Algoma  
al-GOME-uh  
Community, Bonner County

Alturas  
al-TOOR-us  
Lake, Blaine County

Annis  
ANN-niss  
Community, Jefferson County

Antimony  
an-tim-MOAN-ee or an-TIM-uh-nee  
Ranger Station, Valley County

Arbon  
ARE-bun  
Valley and Community, Power County

Argora  
are-GORE-uh  
Community, Clark County

Arimo  
AIR-uh-moe  
Community, Bannock County

Artesian  
are-TEEZ-yun  
Community, Cassia County

Athol (as in bath)  
ATH-ul  
Community, Kootenai County

Avon (as in save)  
AA-von  
Community, Latah County

## B

Banida  
ban-IDA  
Community, Franklin County

Bannock  
BAN-uk  
County, Southeastern Idaho

Basalt  
BAY-salt  
Community, Bingham County

Beatty  
BAY-tee  
Railroad Siding, Ada County

Benewah  
BEN-uh-wah  
County, North Idaho

Berneice  
bur-NEESS  
Community, Butte County

Boise  
BOY-see  
Capital of Idaho, County Seat, Ada County

Bovill (as in bone)  
BO-vill  
Community, Latah County

Bruneau  
BROO-no  
Community, Owyhee County

Buist  
BYOO-ist  
Community, Oneida County

## C

Calder  
CALL-dur  
Community, Shoshone County

Camas (as in ham)  
KAM-us  
County, Southern Idaho; Community,  
Jefferson County

Carbarton  
CAR-bar-ton  
Railroad Siding, Valley County

Cassia  
CASH-uh  
County, South Central Idaho

Castleford  
castle-FORD  
Community, Twin Falls County

Cataldo  
kuh-TAHL-doe or kuh-TAL-doe  
Community, Kootenai County

Cayuse  
KI-yooss  
Creek, Clearwater County

Challis (as in pal)  
TCHAL-iss  
County Seat, Custer County

Chatcolet  
CHAT - koe-let  
Community, Kootenai County

Chilco  
CHILL-koe  
Community, Kootenai County

Clarkia  
CLARK-ee-uh or CLARK-ee  
Community, Shoshone County

Cocolalla  
koe-koe-LAW-luh  
Community, Bonner County

Coeur d'Alene  
kore-duh-LANE  
County Seat, Kootenai County

Corral (as in pal)  
kor-RAL  
Community, Camas County

Culdesac  
KULL-duh-sack  
Community, Nez Perce County

Cuprum  
KUP-rum  
Community, Adams County

## D

DeLamar (as in far)  
DELL-uh-mar  
Community, Owyhee County

DeSmet (as in yet-)  
dee-SMET  
Community, Benewah County

Dietrich  
DEE-trick  
Community, Lincoln County

Dingle  
DING-gull  
Community, Bear Lake County

Dubois  
DOO-boyss  
County Seat, Clark County

Duthie  
DOOTH-ee  
Community, Shoshone County

Dworshak  
D-WORE-shack  
Dam, Clearwater County

## E

Egin  
EE-jin  
Community, Fremont County

Elmira  
el-MIRE-uh  
Community, Bonner County

Emida  
uh - MIDE-uh  
Community, Benewah County

Enaville  
EE-nuh-vill  
Community, Shoshone County

## F

Farragut  
FAIR-uh-gut  
State Park, Kootenai County

Feltham  
FELL-tum  
Community, Washington County

Ferdinand  
FUR-duh-nan  
Community, Idaho County

Fernan  
fur-NAN  
Lake, Kootenai County

Filer (as in file)  
FI-lur  
Community, Twin Falls County

## G

Gannett  
GAN-net  
Community, Blaine County

Gardena  
gar-DEEN-uh  
Community, Boise County

Genesee  
JEN-uh-see  
Community, Latah County

Geneva  
juh-NEE-vuh  
Community, Bear Lake County

Gerrard  
juh-RARD  
Community, Bonneville County

Gimlet  
GIM-let  
Community, Blaine County

Goshen  
GO-shun  
Community, Bingham County

Grasmere  
GRASS-mere  
Community, Owyhee County

## H

Hagerman  
HAY-gur-mun  
Community, Gooding County

Hamer  
HAY-mur  
Community, Jefferson County

Hammett  
HAM-mut  
Community, Elmore County

Hauser  
HOW-zur  
Community, Kootenai County

Heise  
HIGH-see  
Community, Jefferson County

Huetter  
HUT-ur  
Community, Kootenai County

Hyndman (as in high)  
HIND-mun  
Peak, Blaine County

**I**  
Idavada  
eye-duh-VAY-duh  
Community, Twin Falls County

Indianola  
indian-NO-luh  
Forest Field Station, Lemhi County

Inkom  
INK-um  
Community, Bannock County

Iona  
eye-OWN-uh  
Community, Bonneville County

**J**  
Jacques  
JACKS  
Community, Nez Perce County

Juliaetta  
joo-lee-ETT-uh  
Community, Latah County

**K**  
Kalispell (as in pal)  
KAL-iss-pell  
Bay, Bonner County

Kamiah ( as in ham)  
KAM-ee-eye  
Community, Lewis County

Kaniksu  
kuh-NICK-sue  
National Forest, North Idaho

Keogh  
KEE-oh  
Community, Cassia County

Ketchum (as in fetch)  
KETCH-um  
Community, Blaine County

Keuterville  
KYOO-tur-vill  
Community, Idaho County

Kimama  
kuh-MY-muh  
Community, Lincoln County

Kooskia  
KOOSS-kee  
Community, Idaho County

Kootenai  
KOO-tun-ee or KOO-tun-ay (as in hay)  
County, North Idaho

Kuna  
KYOO-nuh  
Community, Ada County

**L**  
Laclede  
luh-KLEED  
Community, Bonner County  
Lago  
LAY-go  
Community, Caribou County

Lanark (as in man)  
LAN-ark  
Community, Bear Lake County

Lapwai  
LAP-way  
Community, Nez Perce County



Latah  
LAY-taw  
County, North Idaho

Lava (as in have)  
LAV-uh Hot Springs  
Community, Bannock County

Leadore  
LED-or  
Community, Lemhi County

Leonia  
lee-OWN-ee-uh  
Community, Boundary County

Letha  
LEETH-uh  
Community, Gem County

Lochsa  
LOCK-suh or LOCK-saw  
River, Idaho County

## M

Mackay  
MACK-ee  
Community, Custer County

Malad  
muh-LAD  
County Seat, Oneida County

Magee  
muh-GEE  
Landing Strip, Shoshone County

McCammon  
muh-KAM-un  
Community, Bannock County

Medimont (as in red)  
MED-ih-mont  
Community, Kootenai County

Menan  
muh-NAN  
Community, Jefferson County

Mica (as in mine)  
MI-kuh  
Community, Kootenai County

Michaud (as in wish)  
mish-ODD  
Farming Area, Power County

Milo (as in mile)  
MI-low  
Community, Bonneville County

Minidoka (as in pin)  
min-ih-DOKE-uh  
Community, Minidoka County

Minnetonka (as in pin)  
min-ee-TONK-uh  
Cavern, Bear Lake County

Mohler  
MOE-lur  
Community, Latah County

Montour  
MAWN-toor  
Community, Gem County

Montpelier  
mawnt-PEEL-yur  
Community, Bear Lake County

Moravia  
moe-RAVE-ee-uh  
Community, Bonner County

Moscow (as in coal)  
MOSS-koe  
County Seat, Latah County

Moyie  
MOY-ee  
River, Boundary County

Muldoon  
mull-DOON  
Community, Blaine County

Murtaugh  
MUR-taw  
Community, Twin Falls County

## N

Nampa (as in lamp)  
NAM-puh  
City, Canyon County

Nezperce  
nezz-PURSE  
County Seat, Lewis County

Nez Perce  
nezz-PURSE  
County, North Idaho

Nicholia  
nik-COAL-ee-uh  
Ghost Town, Lemhi County

Notus (as in snow)  
NO-tuss  
Community, Canyon County

Nounan  
NOW-nun  
Community, Bear Lake County

## O

Ola  
OH-luh  
Community, Gem County

Onaway  
ON-uh-way  
Community, Latah County

Oneida  
oh-NYE-duh  
County, Southeastern Idaho

Oreana  
oh-ree-ANNA  
Community, Owyhee County

Orofino  
or-uh-FEEN-oh  
County Seat, Clearwater County

Orogrande  
or-uh-GRAND  
Community, Idaho County

Ovid (as in kid)  
OH-vid

Owinza  
oh-WIN-zuh  
Railroad Siding, Lincoln County

Owyhee  
oh-WYE-hee  
County, Southwestern Idaho

Ozone  
OH-zone  
Community, Bonneville County

## P

Paris  
PAIR-iss  
County Seat, Bear Lake County

Pahsimeroi  
puh-SIMMER-oi or puh-SIMMER-eye  
River, Custer & Lemhi Counties

Palouse  
puh-LOOSE  
River, Latah County

Pegram  
PEA-gram  
Community, Bear Lake County

Pend Orielle  
pond oh-RAY  
Lake, Bonner & Kootenai Counties

Picabo  
PEEK-uh-boo  
Community, Blaine County



Pingree  
PING-gree  
Community, Bingham County

Placerville  
PLASS-ur-vill  
Community, Boise County

Plummer  
PLUM-mur  
Community, Benewah County

Pocatello  
poe-kuh-TELL-oh  
County Seat, Bannock County

Porphry  
PORE-fuh-ree  
Peak, Custer County

Portneuf  
PORT-nuff  
River, Bannock & Caribou Counties

Potlatch  
POT-latch  
Community, Latah County

## R

Rathdrum  
RATH-drum  
Community, Kootenai County

Raynolds  
RAY-nulds  
Highway Pass, Fremont County into  
Montana

Reubens  
ROO-buns  
Community, Lewis County

## S

Sagle  
SAY-gull  
Community, Bonner County

St. Maries  
saint MARYS  
County Seat, Benewah County

Samaria  
suh-MARY-uh  
Community, Oneida County

Schiller  
SHILL-ur  
Community, Power County

Schodde  
SHOD-ee  
Community, Jerome County

Secesh  
SEE-sesh  
River, Valley County

Shattuck  
SHAT-uk  
Butte, Bonneville County

Shoshone  
show-SHOWN  
County, North Idaho  
County Seat, Lincoln County

Siwash  
SIGH-wash  
Peak, Shoshone County

Skitwish  
SKIT-wish  
Peak, Kootenai County

Snoden  
SNOW-den  
Creek, Ranger Station, Clearwater County

Soelberg  
SOLE-burg  
Landing Strip, Ranch, Butte County

Somers  
SUMMERS  
Butte, Madison County

Sonna (as in soap)  
SO-nuh  
Community, Ada County

Spalding  
SPAUL-ding  
Community, Nez Perce County

Starrh's Ferry  
STARS Ferry  
Community, Cassia County

Strevell  
struh-VELL  
Community, Cassia County

Stibnite (as in stick)  
STIB-night  
Community, Valley County

Sublet  
SUB-let  
Community, Cassia County

## T

Takabe  
TACK-uh-bee  
Mountain, Elmore County

Talmage (as in pal)  
TAL-madj  
Railroad Siding, Caribou County

Tamarack  
TAM-uh-rack  
Community, Adams County

Targhee  
TAR-gee  
National Forest, Eastern Idaho

Tensed  
TEN-sed  
Community, Benewah County

Teton  
TEE-tawn  
County, River, Eastern Idaho

Tetonia  
tee-TOE-nee-uh  
Community, Teton County

Ticeska  
tie-SESS-kuh  
Railroad Siding, Lincoln County

Tikura  
tie-KURR-uh  
Railroad Siding, Blaine County

Tunupa  
TUN-uh-paw  
Railroad Siding, Lincoln County

Tyhee  
TIE-hee  
Community, Bannock County

## U

Ucon  
YOU-con  
Community, Bonneville County

## V

Vanderford  
VANN-dur-ford  
Airport, Ranch, Bingham County

Viola (as in pie)  
VI-oh-luh  
Community, Latah County

# W

Waha  
WAAH-haw  
Community, Lake, Nez Perce County

Wapello  
wah-PELL-oh  
Community, Bingham County

Wapi  
WAH-pie  
Railroad Siding, Blaine County

Wasatch  
WAH-satch  
Mountain Range, Southeastern Idaho

Washoe  
WASH-oh  
Community, Payette County

Wayan  
way-ANN  
Community, Caribou County

Weippe  
WEE-ipe  
Community, Clearwater County

Weiser  
WEE-zur  
County Seat, Washington County

Wickahoney  
wick-uh-HOE-nee  
Creek, Owyhee County

Wilder (as in wise)  
WILD-ur  
Community, Canyon County

Winona  
win-NO-nuh  
Community, Idaho County

Winsper  
WIN-spur  
Community, Clark County