By Hannah Combs  
Reader Contributor

Peter LaFond had been playing the real estate market, carefully buying properties and trading up for more valuable investments. With a house in town and a 20-acre lot on Bottle Bay in his back pocket, in 1906, he saw the opportunity he had been waiting for.

The brick business had boomed in Sandpoint only four years earlier, when the Sandpoint Brick Company discovered a shelf of clay on the fringes of town that averaged 40 feet in depth. Two years later, W.G. Hunt set up the Hunt Brickyard near the intersection of Great Northern and Gooby roads. The huge brick farmhouse (later the County Poor Farm) and hotel he’d built nearby were a testament to the prosperity of his venture. If LaFond didn’t break into the market this summer, he was going to miss his chance.

He bought property just to the east of Hunt’s brickyard and hired men and a team of horses to start clearing the land. But the following spring, he couldn’t resist buying a 40-acre lot closer to Sand Creek. The prospect of rich clay soil beckoned.

LaFond’s first big break came that summer when a Spokane contractor ordered 300,000 bricks incredibly competitive bid. to build schoolhouses in Rath-The LaFond Brick Company drum and Athol. In another savvy was one of the first to submit real estate transaction, LaFond a bid, but it ultimately faced traded the Catholic Church 42 other brick companies from $1,200 and 100,000 bricks for Duluth, Minn., to the West Coast three prime business lots on — including the Hunt Brickyard. 

Cedar Street and Fourth Avenue. A huge opportunity arrived point’s reputation as a prominent view related an incident in which a “mud mixer” was caught in an Right auger in the factory, losing an arm and his life. Despite this tragedy and other
day-to-day challenges, LaFond’s the sheriff posted a notice that the business flourished during the W.G. Hunt Brick Yards were face next few years. He traveled to in foring foreclosure. With outstanding other brickyards in the regions, debts to Citizens State Bank picking up a few new ideas here amounting to $7,686.50 (equival and there, but mostly assuring alent to more than $200,000), himself that he was already Hunt was forced to sell his
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