



# Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

VOLUME 39

FALL 2009

## CONVENTION, 2009 ~ WEST YELLOWSTONE



SATURDAY MORNING PANEL: KENDRA EAGLE-OWEN, WALLY EAGLE, JOE EAGLE, JEANINE ROBERSON, & ROGER ROBISON.



TALK, ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF THE YELLOWSTONE BY JENNIFER CANTU.



JEANINE ROBERSON & KENDRA EAGLE-OWEN



SATURDAY BANQUET



GATHERING AT OLD FAITHFUL INN, WITH OUR GUIDE RUTH QUINN



SUNDAY VISIT TO THE CRAIL RANCH AND OUR HOST, KATE EVANS



SUNDAY PICNIC LUNCH AT DEER CREEK.

*Our thanks to SUE HOWE and KAY McALLISTER for an excellent convention.*

## Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

The **Montana Ghost Town Quarterly** is published four times a year by the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society, P.O. Box 1861, Bozeman, Montana 59771. Phone; 406-522-3856 <http://ghosttown.montana.com> Copyright © 2009, all rights reserved.

Founded in 1969, the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public to the benefits of preserving the historic buildings, sites, and artifacts that make up the living history of Montana. Opinions expressed in the bylined articles are the authors' and do not necessarily represent the views of the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society.

### Fall 2009

**President:** Terry Halden  
**Vice President:** Gordon Tracy  
**Secretary-Treasurer:** Margie Kankrlik  
**Immediate Past President:** John Ellingsen

**Board of Directors:**  
Loretta Chapman, Bernice DeHaas, Rosemary Lee,  
Tom Lowe, Byron McAllister, Nick Shrauger,  
Nettie Warwood.

**Ghost Town Advisor:** John DeHaas  
**Publicity Chairman:** Maria O'Brien  
**Newsletter Editor:** Terry Halden  
**Newsletter Production:** Richard Lee  
**Website Administrator:** Richard Lee  
**2010 Convention Co-Chairpersons:**  
Jim, Betty, David & Tammy Steindorf

## HELP WANTED

We have a vacancy in our busy editorial room for a junior reporter. Anyone with an urge to write up some local historical news, event, or even article, and can operate spell check will be encouraged to join our team. A knack for taking photographs to accompany the article will be considered a bonus.

We are an equal opportunity employer and you will be paid on the same rate of pay as the editor.

Apply by sending demo article to editor at: [terryhalden@hotmail.com](mailto:terryhalden@hotmail.com)

## The PREZ SEZ

Terry Halden

As I pick up the reins from John Ellingsen, I become more aware of the enormous task in front of me and trust I can live up to the faith you placed in me with the overwhelming vote of confidence at West Yellowstone.

Changes come slow to a society such as ours, but change we must, if we hope to survive and pass on our love of ghost towns to our grand children. We are all responsible for encouraging new comers to join our ranks, and if there is a preservation project out there that you think should receive our attention, by all means let the board know about it. I'm not saying we can do something for every project that is in need of financial help, (there are too many of them) but we can, maybe, assist by pointing them in the right direction.

In the next few months we will be establishing four committees, each with a chairman, to oversee, conventions, membership, projects and grants. It will be the task of each committee chairman to report to the board as a whole on all activities or developments in their committee. As soon as the chairmen are established, their names will be made known to you so that you will know who to contact with new members, local projects, or if you read about any grant monies for historical preservation being offered by any Federal, State or County authorities.

You don't have to be a board member to help us run this society (Although we would surely like you to join us on the board, if you have the free time to do so) but I am counting on each and every one of you to assist the board in continuing to make this society a success.

On a separate note, we have added an e-mail address for you to get a hold of us. It is: [mtghosttown@yahoo.com](mailto:mtghosttown@yahoo.com) Send us an e-mail and let us know your e-mail address.

KESSLER'S  
BREWERY  
*Located on Ten Mile Creek, near*  
HELENA, - - - MONTANA.  
—  
The Most Extensive Brewery in Montana.  
—  
*Can supply the outside camps with that excellent*  
KEG OR BOTTLED BEER.

## PULL UP A CHAIR

Terry Halden

In this issue of the newsletter, I am pleased to include articles by our new secretary-treasurer Margie Kankrlik and board member Loretta Lee Chapman. The latter assisted by Elizabeth Watry. In the next issue of the newsletter there will be an article by John Stoner on the ghost towns of Hog 'Em, Cheat 'Em, Rob 'Em, Beat 'Em and Sinch 'Em, and another contribution by board member Tom Lowe. In future editions we will have further stories about Bannack by Tom and Mike Byrnes has promised me an article about the mines of Butte and the hard working mules that seldom saw the light of day.

However, that doesn't mean that we are not in the market for your contribution. As the ad to the left indicates – we are ALWAYS on the lookout for new talented writers – and where better to try out your budding writing skills than on your newsletter? As editor, I am not an ogre and promise to retain as much as possible of your style of writing. Looking forward to receiving your first effort.

## New Members

Secretary Margie Kankrlik reports the following **New Members** have joined our Association since the last newsletter. Please make them welcome.

Ray Oviatt, Jr. Kent, Ohio

**Bud & Sally Griffin** Belgrade, MT

**Larry Deeds** Seeley Lake, MT

**Steve Opp** Helena (Lifetime membership)

# M. G. T. P. S. GENERAL MEETING

September 12, 2009

John Ellingsen, President, asked Vice President Terry Halden to call the meeting to order at the Povah Center in West Yellowstone, MT. Board members in attendance were: John Ellingsen, Bernice DeHaas, John DeHaas, Susan Howe, Margie Kankrlik, Richard Lee, Rosemary Lee, Tom Lowe, Byron McAllister, Gordon Tracy, and Nettie Warwood. Board members that were unable to attend: Loretta Chapman, Maria O'Brien, and Nick Shrauger.

Minutes of the September 6, 2008 meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Rosemary Lee, Treasurer. She stated the current checking account balance was \$8,012.61 and the Edward Jones money market account was \$12,359.40 as of June 30, 2009.

The board wishes to thank the following outgoing officers for their numerous contributions to the organization during their terms:

John Ellingsen	President
Terry Halden	Vice President
Rosemary Lee	Secretary Treasurer

The following people were nominated for the following offices:

Terry Halden	President
Gordon Tracy	Vice President
Margie Kankrlik	Secretary Treasurer

A vote was taken by a show of hands to approve the new officers.

Terry asked for a presentation on future convention sites for 2011 and 2012. Gordon Tracy discussed the facilities available in Philipsburg, MT as well as ghost towns in the surrounding area. Tom Lowe discussed the facilities available in the Dillon/Bannack area as well as ghost towns in the area.

Dick Lee made a motion to have the 2011 convention in Philipsburg and the 2012 convention in Dillon/Bannack. Nettie Warwood seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Dick Lee gave an update on the signs that are to be installed in Nevada City. The project is still being in process.

The next general meeting will be held in Polson, MT in 2010.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Rosemary Lee

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## M. G. T. P. S. BOARD MEETING

September 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Halden at 7:40 am at the Old Town Café in West Yellowstone, MT.

Board members in attendance were: John Ellingsen, Bernice DeHaas, John DeHaas, Susan Howe, Margie Kankrlik, Richard Lee, Rosemary Lee, Tom Lowe, Byron McAllister, Gordon Tracy, and Nettie Warwood. Board members that were unable to attend: Loretta Chapman, Maria O'Brien, and Nick Shrauger.

Minutes of the June 13, 2009 meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Rosemary Lee, outgoing Treasurer. She stated the current checking account balance was \$8,012.61 and the Edward Jones money market account was \$12,359.40 as of June 30, 2009.

### OLD BUSINESS

In a follow-up to a request at the June 13, 2009 meeting, a presentation was made by Jan and Margie Kankrlik on a preservation project that the Ghost Town might assist. The project presented was on the Lower Bridger School, a one-room school house, listed on the Historic Register that requires some restoration. Pictures were shown of both the inside and outside of the school and close up pictures were presented on the work needed. The estimated cost of completing the work would be approximately \$2,000. A discussion was held on the potential project and it was decided that Jan Kankrlik would contact Dick Lee for the names of two handymen that Dick has used in the past. These handymen have their own worker's compensation and liability insurance which would relieve the society of having to arrange for that coverage. A motion was made and passed to discuss the project further at the upcoming September 26, 2009 board meeting when more information was available.

Liability insurance for the convention was discussed. This year's convention had liability insurance in place and a discussion was held as to the necessity of it. No decision was made on having insurance for future events.

### NEW BUSINESS

A vigorous discussion was held on the amount of honorariums, to be donated, relative to the convention.. The honorariums for the Yellowstone Historic Museum and Ruth Quinn were determined. and additional honorariums are to be discussed at the upcoming September meeting.

A motion was made and seconded that the board form four permanent committees: Convention, Membership, Grants & Projects, each having a chairman. Terry asked that the proposed list of duties be reviewed with board members being prepared to discuss the motion and to think of volunteering for the various chairman's positions by the next board meeting. The motion was carried over.

David Steindorf made a presentation on next year's convention site in Polson.

The next board meeting will be held at the Pioneer Museum, 317 W. Main, Bozeman at 10:00 am on September 26, 2009.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Margie Kankrlik

# THE DALY MANSION in HAMILTON

by Margie Kankrlik

Being relative newcomers to Montana and enjoying learning its fascinating history, we ventured to Hamilton, Montana for a short get away trip in July. We enjoy going through old mansions and, from everything we had heard, The Daly Mansion was a must see.

Marcus Daly and Margaret Price Daly purchased the existing Anthony Chaffin homestead in 1886, including the two-story farmhouse. Since money was no object, they completely remodeled the farmhouse by 1889. The Daly family did extensive entertaining and decided to remodel the house again in 1897 to a Queen Anne style Victorian home. Unfortunately when the work was completed, it reminded Mr. Daly of a church, so once again, remodeling plans were begun. Mr. Daly died before the remodeling was started, but a few years after his death, Mrs. Daly contracted with a Missoula firm to remodel yet again. The Queen Anne home was to be incorporated into a new Georgian-Revival style home and the work was completed in 1910.

The home has over 50 rooms, with 25 bedrooms, 15 bathrooms, as well as 7 fireplaces, 5 of which have imported Italian marble. The home is three stories for a total of 24,000 square feet, formal dining room, sun room, trophy room that was added in 1914, and upstairs sitting room and a third floor billiard hall. Dinners at the mansion were always formal and after the evening meals, coffee was served on the sun porch. I wonder how many servants were needed to maintain this house!

Marcus Daly immigrated from Ireland in 1856 at age 15 with few belongings, very little money and a limited education and job skills. He did odd jobs for the first 5 years until he had saved enough money to buy passage to San Francisco via the Isthmus of Panama and then overland up the coast to California where a sister lived.

His first experience with mining was in California, where he teamed up with another young Irishman named Thomas Murphy. Daly learned quickly and found employment in one of the silver mines of the Comstock Lode in Virginia City, Nevada. It was here that Daly met George Hearst who became one of Daly's financial backers in years to come.

By 1871 Daly was a foreman for the Walker Brothers, a banking and mining syndicate, in Salt Lake City. In 1872, while Daly was inspecting a mine there with a Mr. Evans and his daughter Margaret, the young lady lost her balance on an incline and tumbled into Daly's arms. Later that year they were married in one of the Walker Brothers homes in Salt Lake. Margaret was 18 and Marcus was 30.

In 1874 Marcus became a citizen of the United States. The Walker Brothers sent Daly to the Montana Territory in 1876 to find and invest in a silver mine. Daly bought the Alice mine for the company and retained a one fifth interest for himself. In 1881, Daly sold his interest in the Alice mine and purchased the Anaconda claim, with the backing of George Hearst and his associates. The Anaconda was mainly a silver mine until they hit the copper vein 300 feet deep and 100 feet wide.

Copper was just coming into use for telegraph wire and electricity; Thomas Edison had just completed the world's first electric light power plant in New York City. Copper was selling for between eighteen and twenty-three cents a pound in the early 1880's but smelting costs were high because the ore had to be shipped to smelters in Swansea, Wales. Daly realized that there could be a profit in copper if smelting costs could be reduced. Because of a lack of sufficient water in the Butte area, Daly convinced his backers to help him build a smelter on a site twenty-eight miles west. He named the new supporting town Anaconda, the same as his mine and built a railroad to connect the mine with the smelter. He started custom smelting for other Butte mines and by 1890, the copper mines of Butte were producing over \$17M worth of copper a year. Marcus Daly, although a junior partner in the Anaconda venture, had become a very rich man.

From copper mining Daly branched out into related enterprises – banking, lumbering, and coal mining. He constructed water and power facilities, went into ranching, bred racehorses, and developed fruit orchards.

Daly also established a newspaper, the Anaconda Standard, which he used to further his political objectives. Although he personally sought no public office, he did finance the campaigns of Democrats for seats in the state and national legislatures. He also waged an expensive but unsuccessful fight to make Anaconda the state capital; Helena won the coveted prize by a margin of only a few thousand votes. But above all, Daly's political activities were directed toward frustrating the political ambitions of his archrival in copper mining, William Andrews Clark.

Marcus Daly represents the All American Dream. Rising from poverty, having little education, his accomplishments show what hard work and true determination can accomplish.



THE DALY MANSION

Margie Kankrlik photo

## The LEONARDI RANCH

It is a massive proposed undertaking, but the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust is confident that it can be done. Next to Ravalli County Airport, is 105 acres on which was once the Pendegrast homestead, where Marcus Daly ran a dairy farm and blacksmith's shop. On the property is a magnificent red barn, a two storey white house, a bunk house and out buildings, along with pasture and orchard.

In 1936, the Leonardi's, an Italian immigrant family, bought the property, successfully operated the farm and orchard and when the airport next door was built they granted easement over their property for air traffic. Eventually Robert Leonardi purchased the property from his father and continued its operation until he sold it to the Ravalli County in 2001 with the County using a grant it received from the Federal Aviation Administration who wanted to protect their easement. With the exception of the pasture which has been leased out to local ranchers to grow hay, the property hasn't been used in over a decade and the buildings are slowly deteriorating.

Enter the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust, an organization only formed in 2007, with a bold plan to save the property and restore it to its original grandeur. Unable to match the \$1.9 million that the County paid Leonardi for the property, the group is proposing that the County lease the entire property to them on a long term basis. They in turn would lease out the arable land and with the money raised and with other grant money that would become available they can renovate all the buildings on the property, starting with the big red barn, which would become an agricultural museum that could facilitate educational activities. The idea is to next renovate the house for use as office space for the nonprofit organization, whilst the bunk house, which the Leonardi used to house his seasonal sugar beet workers, would, in time, become a hostel for interns and volunteers. They also plan to maintain the apple orchard as another source of revenue and eventually the entire property would become self sustaining, operating as a living agricultural museum.

Currently discussions with the County Commissioners are proceeding and an assessment of the work to be done has been completed. The Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust is also gaining support for the project from other agricultural groups in the County and the Daley Mansion Preservation Trust that runs the Daly Mansion (see article opposite page).

We wish them every success.



THE LEONARDI BARN

Photo by Margie Kankrlik

W. A. Hall Store Building Loretta Lee Chapman in collaboration with Elizabeth A. Watry

“W. A. Hall Sells Everything” announced the huge, white block letters emblazoned on the north-facing red-brick wall of the W.A. Hall general store in Gardiner, Montana built in 1903. This motto, visible nearly a quarter of a mile away to incoming passengers of the Northern Pacific railroad, spoke volumes to intrepid park-bound travelers in need of dusters, sun spectacles, gent’s underwear, mackintoshes, and most any item that would make their trip into Yellowstone National Park warmer and drier. Indeed, tourists and residents alike could buy *anything* at the W.A. Hall store from groceries to clothing to a pane of glass, and even an ice cream soda. Local residents claimed that “if W.A. Hall did not have an item – you did not need it!”

Already a “Dealer in Everything” with stores in Cinnabar and Aldridge, Montana, W.A. Hall decided in 1902 to move his mercantile interests to Gardiner for the following summer. For twenty years the tiny hamlet of Cinnabar, three miles north of Gardiner, served as the terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad’s Yellowstone Park Branch Line. A land dispute in 1883 had prevented the railroad from finishing its tracks to its intended destination at the North Entrance of Yellowstone National Park: Gardiner. Upon hearing that the railroad’s passenger service into Gardiner for the summer of 1903 was “sure this time,” W.A. Hall purchased ten lots of prime Gardiner real estate and began his plan to “erect a first-class mercantile house.”

Perched atop a prominent position on the northern-most edge of Park Street, just a stones throw away from the Northern Pacific railroad depot in Gardiner, Hall’s store was initially conceived with a grand plan on March 13, 1903.

Originally designed by Robert Reamer, the architect of the world famous Old Faithful Inn, the W.A. Hall Store was intended to exhibit Reamer’s signature rustic architectural style, as well as to compliment his plan for the nearby log railroad depot. The proposal for the one-story frame building included a façade of windows with stone-supported pillars and wrought iron ornamentation. But, in his haste to quickly get the store operational for the 1903 summer season, and the scarcity of stone masons, Hall abandoned much of Reamer’s decorative elements such as the stone pillars, and opted for a simple, unadorned building of wood and brick.

Construction of the 100 x 100 foot W.A Hall Store began in late March 1903. Initially contracting for 75,000 feet of lumber, Hall increased that amount to 360,000 feet in early April when he decided to add a second story to the building. In addition to offices, the upstairs would also encompass a 50 x 100 foot opera house, and thus furnish the town with “one of the finest opera houses in the west.” On June 18 Hall moved into his new store, and by early July 1903, the store that sold “everything” was operational. From 1903 until 1954, the W.A. Hall Store operated as a family-owned and operated business with sons Arthur W., Earl H., Warren E., and J. Raymond Hall taking over the helm after W.A. retired. Following its sale in 1962 and again in 1984, the building housed a variety of establishments, which included a restaurant, a gift and coffee shop, a video store, and a laundromat. In 2007, the Yellowstone Association purchased the building for its administrative headquarters.

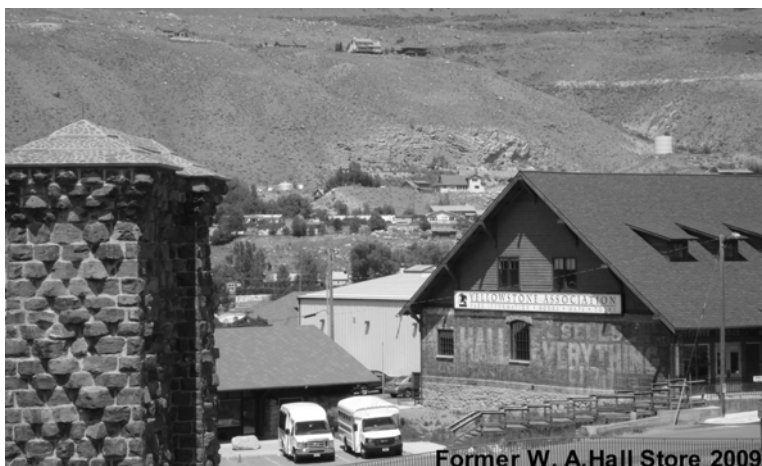
Established in 1933, the non-profit Yellowstone Association and its seminar-based educational arm, the Yellowstone

Association Institute, provides educational products and programs as well as interpretive services that advance the public’s understanding and appreciation of Yellowstone National Park. Commencing in August 2008, the building has undergone a complete refurbishment to encompass offices, a book store, and a classroom for the Institute. In addition to maintaining much of the historical integrity of the structure, the association has conserved the huge, white letters on the north-facing red-brick wall, which still announce: “W.A Hall Sells Everything.” Reincarnated with the original Robert Reamer design and unveiled in May 2009, the restored historic W.A. Hall Store visibly demonstrates the Yellowstone Association’s devotion to its motto: *Inspire. Educate. Preserve.*

(Authors note: I came to Gardiner in 1954 as a young bride and shopped at Hall’s store. I was completely fascinated with *everything* they carried! )

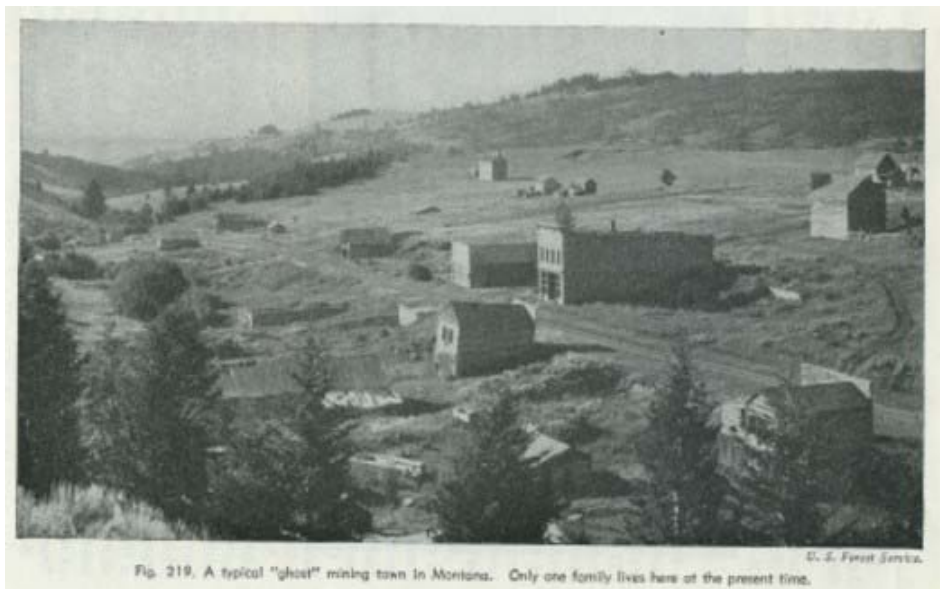


W. A. Hall Store ca.1920



Former W. A. Hall Store 2009

# MYSTERY CAMP



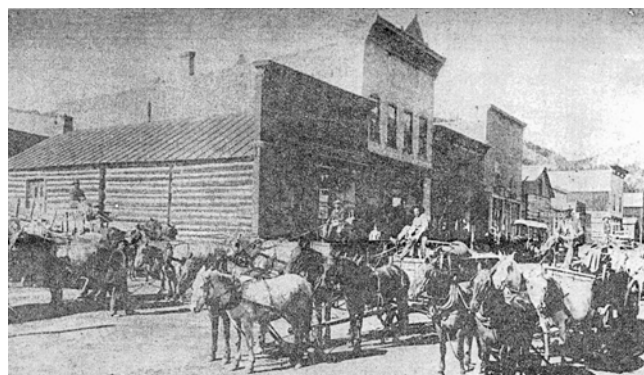
Dick Lee received the photo on the left from a friend of his in England. It was in an English text book, published in the 1940's and the caption reads 'A typical "ghost" mining town in Montana. Only one family lives here at the present time.' Dick and his friend were wondering if the town could be identified.

The only clue was an inscription on the lower right of the photo which says U.S. Forest Service.

It is obviously a large town located in the foothills east of the Rockies. The list of suspects, Comet, Elkhorn, Wicks, Gregory, and Glendale were crossed off one by one until the finger pointed at Castle – if the buildings in the photo can be lined up.

A photo in the Roy Rhoads collection, taken in 1892, of downtown Castle appears to match the two storey building in the right center of the mystery photo. It has four second storey windows and a false front with a peak in the center.

If the town is Castle, it is in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, so a trip to Great Falls to the head office of Lewis and Clark N. F. might shed some light on the photo. Over the last half century, as the National Forests grew and management evolved, so the chain of command switched. Archival photos we were told, *might* be in Great Falls, *might* be in Denver, which used to control forests in Montana, *might* be in Seattle which Lewis and Clark N.F. is now under control of (the other National Forests to the south, east of the Rockies



CASTLE Ca 1892

Roy Rhoads collection



CASTLE Ca 1937

Lewis and Clark National Forest collection

are still controlled by Denver) and *might* be in Maryland where the National Forest Head Office is. Any archival photos still in Great Falls have not been sorted and classified as it is a job that has not been accomplished due to shortage of man power. However, with the help of Kelsey McCartney of the department, we did locate an old scrapbook that contained many photos taken in the era under scrutiny. Most were of construction of ranger stations in the forest, but suddenly there was a large photo of Castle, taken from the opposite direction (the more familiar camera angle) to the mystery photo. Many of the buildings in this photo line-up with the buildings in the mystery photo, which makes us 99% sure that the mystery photo is Castle.



## Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

MONTANA GHOST TOWN PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1861, BOZEMAN, MT, 59771-1861

### *NEWS IN BRIEF:*

**BOZEMAN, GALLATIN COUNTY.....**Eleanor Hamilton Povah, of West Yellowstone, the daughter of Charles A. Hamilton, the founder of the Hamilton Stores that operated in the Yellowstone National Park from 1915 to 2002 recently donated over 1000 items relative to the history of the park to the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman. The items include a 1941 Lincoln Zephyr used as a Yellowstone bus, a horse drawn oil tanker, Indian artifacts, along with many items from the inventories of the stores. Once the items are catalogued it is intended to have a full scale exhibition at the museum.

**CONRAD, PONDERA COUNTY.....**As Conrad gears up to celebrate its centennial, the first weekend of October, Conrad's Transportation and Historical Museum is expanding. Included will be a special feature focusing on the Montana Western Railway which ran between Conrad and Valier (which is also celebrating its centennial this year) and a special tribute to Reverend Van Orsdel (Brother Van) who was instrumental in starting several of the Methodist Churches in the prairie towns around Conrad. Besides photos of Brother Van in the area the museum has on loan several articles of clothing worn by the great man.

**COLOMA, MISSOULA COUNTY.....** Eighteen University of Montana anthropology students conducted an archaeological field school at the ghost town of Coloma this past summer. It entailed a systematic dig where a hotel operated by the Chamberlain family stood at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Unearthed were a matching pair of earrings, corset hardware, teacups and saucers from a child's tea set, and a bone toothbrush with the name 'Jenny Chamberlain' engraved on the handle. Mark Timmons, one of the students is writing his dissertation on the impact of women on Western mining communities.

**BLOSSBURG, POWELL COUNTY.....** In its first major overhaul in 120 years, the Mullan tunnel will have 400 feet shorn off its 3,896 feet. Construction on the Northern Pacific Railroad tunnel through the Great Divide, west of Helena finally got underway in December 1881 and wasn't completed until 1883. Today the longest tunnel in Montana is undergoing reconstruction on its western portal where the mountain is being blasted back to construct a new entrance.