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Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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'THE HISTORY OF STEVENSVILLE'

'The Rev. George Grantham Smith' 'DEER CREEK, GALLATIN'

'The 'Ems ~ Hog 'Em, Cheat 'Em, Rob 'Em, Beat 'Em & Sinch 'Em Mining Camps'

'The Ghost Town of Gallup City'

THEY ARE ALL INSIDE



WE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET AWAY FROM OUR FAVORITE MONTANA GHOST TOWN - CASTLE. SEEN HERE IS THE BREEZE-WAY TOWARD THE BACK OF ONE OF THE HENSLEY BROTHERS' MANSIONS. THE PHOTO WAS TAKEN THIS YEAR BY YOUR EDITOR. WILD WEST MAGAZINE IS RUNNING AN ARTICLE ON CASTLE IN ITS FEB. 2010 ISSUE, ON SALE AT YOUR LOCAL MAGAZINE STAND, NOW. IT FEATURES SIX FULL COLOR PHOTOS OF THE GHOST TOWN, ALSO TAKEN BY YOURS TRULY.

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

September 26, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Halden at 10:15 am at the Pioneer Museum in Bozeman, MT. Board members in attendance were: John Ellingsen, Bernice DeHaas, John DeHaas, Margie Kankrlik, Kay McAllister, Gordon Tracy, and Nick Shrauger. Board members that were unable to attend: Loretta Chapman, Richard Lee, Rosemary Lee, Jan O'Brien, Maria O'Brien, and Nettie Warwood.

Minutes of the September 13, 2009 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. John Ellingsen made a motion that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes as distributed earlier. Gordon Tracy seconded the motion, a vote was called and the minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Margie Kankrlik. She explained the presentation of the activities from July 1, 2009 through September 26, 2009 simple income statement, showing cash balances in the various accounts. It was brought to the board's attention that the Edward Jones money market account only earned \$.13 interest for a three month period. It was suggested the MGTPS close the Edward Jones account and move the money into CD's paying interest from 2.15% to .9 % depending on length of investment at Stockman Bank. John Ellingsen made the motion to close the Edward Jones account and move the money to Stockman Bank as stated. Jan Kankrlik seconded the motion, a vote was called and motion passed. The next item discussed was the large balance in the checking account that earns no interest. MGTPS is not eligible to have an interest bearing checking account, according to Montana law. The type of checking account was changed to a non-interest account. It was suggested that MGTPS open a savings account at First Security, keep most of the money in the savings account and transfer what is needed from savings to checking. John Ellingsen made the motion to set up the savings account at First Security, Gordon Tracy seconded the motion, a vote was called and the motion passed.

Old Business

The next order of business was an update on MGTPS's project on the Lower Bridger Canyon one room schoolhouse. Jan Kankrlik stated he met with Richard Lee and Bob Rasmus, a retired contractor who originally gave estimates on the preservation project, to discuss the project further. Mr. Rasmus said he was not interested in doing the work himself, he was willing to guide and supervise whoever did the work. Pauline Sager, a board member of the schoolhouse, suggested a small contractor with whom she has experience and excels at finished carpentry. A new quote was obtained, copy attached, and discussed. After discussion, a motion was made by John Ellingsen to proceed with the preservation project as outlined, using Dan Boone as the contractor, except for painting the exterior. The maximum outlay from MGTPS is \$1500. Nick Shrauger seconded the motion, a vote was called and the motion passed. Jan will continue to monitor our involvement and make sure we get adequate coverage in the local press.

The next order of business was liability insurance for the convention. This year's convention had liability

insurance in place and a discussion was held as to the necessity of it. It was decided to review the necessity of having insurance for the 2010 convention at the board meeting held in the Spring of 2010.

Kay McAllister gave a brief final report of the 2009 convention in West Yellowstone. In conjunction with this, Margie Kankrlik presented a summary of honorariums in the past and suggested the board decide a maximum amount of honorariums to be paid for each convention. It was also suggested that the organizers of the convention have heavy input into how the money be distributed as only they know how easily the speakers, museums, etc. were to work with, the board would have input on how well prepared they were and how interesting and informative. The idea was well received and it was agreed to use this information as a guideline.

Honorariums for the West Yellowstone convention were discussed and John Ellingsen made the motion that the honorariums be made as agreed upon, Gordon Tracy seconded the motion, a vote was called and the motion passed.

The next order of business was an update on the 2010 convention. Terry Halden presented the details and everyone was pleased with both the progress of the convention and the plans.

Terry Halden tabled the discussion on committees until the next board meeting.

New Business

In changing banks, it was brought out the MGTPS is a corporation that needs a Corporate Secretary. The Secretary/Treasurer is not necessarily the Corporate Secretary. John Ellingsen made a motion that the person holding the Secretary/Treasurer position for the club automatically becomes the Corporate Secretary. Gordon Tracy seconded the motion, a vote was called, the motion passed.

It was with reluctance that the board accepted the resignations of Sue Howe and Byron McAllister. The board wishes to thank both of them for their years of service and outstanding contributions. Two names were put forward as potential new members of the board and it was left for Terry Halden to contact them.

John Ellingsen discussed attendance at the upcoming Montana Historical Society meeting to be held in Great Falls. MGTPS has, in the past, authorized \$300 to help offset the expenses for the President of the group to attend. It was agreed that Terry Halden, President, would receive \$300 for his attendance.

The next board meeting will be held in the spring, at a time to be determined later, but board members will receive e-mails from time to time, updating them on any developments.

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

Margie Kankrlik.

Montana, during the first years of the gold rush, was known as a wild and Godless land. Drunkenness, gambling, gunfights, prostitution, robberies and murders were common in the mining camps. The few respectable women that were present in the early years especially missed the positive influence of religion. Circuit riders, preachers that traveled by horseback from camp to camp, were the first to bring the Gospel to those in the camps thirsty for the word of God. Services were impromptu and were often held in saloons. The saloon would close for an hour while services were conducted and the miners were usually generous with their gold dust. Missionaries would also come to the west to spread the word of God. This is the story of the young, inexperienced Rev. George Grantham Smith, in his own humorous words, a Presbyterian missionary who arrived in Bannack in June of 1864. This story was gleaned from the pages of *The Presbyterian Church in Montana* by Rev. George Edwards.

"On my arrival at Montana I soon learned that my \$1200 legal tender would secure me but twelve week's board instead of twelve months. I was a young man, an entire stranger, no letters of introduction to a living soul. I created a storm of applause (or something else) by unloading an umbrella. It never rained in that country and 'tenderfoot' and 'pilgrim' were shouted in all directions. I was assigned to private apartments at the leading hotel in Bannack City, in the office, with bar, gambling table, gamblers, and highwaymen, every man clothed in buckskins and adorned with a pair of navy revolvers and bowie knife in the bootleg and Mexican spurs that dangles on their heel. My bed was the boardless floor of this public office, and bed clothing my blankets. This was my introduction to a life of strange vicissitudes and marvelous experiences. In some respects I was the most unfit man in the world for such a life. I had seen little of the world, was simple hearted and true and believed everybody the same; had a very poor opinion of myself and unbounded confidence in everybody else.



THE METHODISTS, THE DREADED RIVALS TO THE REV. SMITH, BUILT THE FIRST CHURCH IN BANNAK. IT IS STILL THERE TODAY.

Terry Halden photo

I began my work in Bannack, then the seat of government, the home of the governor and territorial officers, especially the 'road agents.' Virginia City had even then come to the front, and was rapidly depleting Bannack, and before the year had run, Bannack was well nigh deserted. I was obliged to retire from the high places and sumptuous fare of 'swine belly' and 'hot doe' and seek more lowly quarters and humbler fare. I rented a log cabin 12 x 18 feet with one 12 x 18 inch window. A store box was my table, cupboard and sturdy desk and smaller boxes were chairs. My mattress and pillow were stuffed with dried grass for a bed for myself and the mice that would steal a march on me and insisted on bunking with me. I did my own cooking, washing, ironing and mending. I was host, hostess, servant, guest and I got along magnificently until the fall when speculators laid hands on all the flour in the country and set the price at \$1.00 a pound in gold or \$2.50 in my money. Then I had to become "Big Injun" and survive on meat straight. I had a tremendous longing for the leeks and onions of America. Just then I sat down to the banquet of my life. A neighbor miner had somewhere secured a few pounds of corn meal and invited me to share some corn cakes with him. I began preaching in an empty storeroom, organized a Sunday School and commenced regular Sabbath services with good audiences."

As Virginia City had by this time surpassed Bannack as the center of mining activity and in population Rev. Smith decided to look over the new town. "I secured a room for the Sabbath services and posted notices in public places. At the post office I got into an obscure corner to see what impression the announcement would make on the crowd. One fellow read it and shouted. The crowd gathered and he read it again and they all shouted. They wanted to know what a preacher was, what was his business and what was a Presbyterian preacher. Some fellow, evidently an oracle among them, explained, and said they were a religious sect and very high-toned. Another fellow said they were blue Presbyterians and he would bet the preacher had a blue stripe down his back.

They proposed to catch him and see. Some one exclaimed, if he had been a Methodist exhauster he would not have been surprised, but a regular starched Presbyterian in that country was an anomaly, and Barnum ought to have him, and one concluded by saying: 'Lets all go around and hear the animal.' At that day Sunday was the big day. Everybody was in town. Bedlam was let loose. Business and sin were at their very worst..->>>

The Story of the 'ems.....Hog'em, Cheat'em, Rob'em, Beat'em & Sinch'em, Mining Camps

by JOHN STONER

When gold was discovered in Confederate Gulch during the winter of 1864/1865, it didn't take long for another gold strike of comparable value to surface some twenty miles to the southwest on the lower reaches of Indian Creek below the Elkhorn Mountains. Those miners arriving first at the Indian Creek diggings had their pick of the choicest claims, while those arriving somewhat later and having to pick and choose from lesser claims figured they had been "cheated and robbed" of the good ground, had been "beaten" by the early arrivals, that the good ground had been "hogged" up, and it was a "sinch" (cinch) things were not going to get any better. These late comers took out their despair by naming their placer mining tent camps "Hog'em, Cheat'em, Rob'em, Beat'em, and Sinch'em," giving rise to the collective term "Em's" as coined by a Helena Weekly Herald newspaper correspondent in 1872.

The exact locations of Beat'em, Sinch'em, and Rob'em, are not known other than to say they were close to Indian Creek, and probably short lived. The 1869 Government Township map (surveyed in 1868) clearly shows the settlements of Cheat'em and Hog'em .

Cheat'em outlasted them all until it was destroyed by hydraulic mining...not unlike the fate of Diamond City...in the late 1880s or early 1890s. The best description of Cheat'em comes from the writings of Mary Murray Schreiner who lived there for the first eighteen years of her life, in which she wrote describing the most prominent building as "a row of several cabins joined together forming a fair sized building with a long porch or veranda running the entire length from the bar room on one end to the kitchen on the other. Over the log building in large black letters was painted one word on a white background...HOTEL."

The settlement of Hog'em, which became a stage stop on the "Helena to Gallatin City stage road," was best described by A.K. McClure in 1867 as "rude cabin saloons which comprise nearly one-half of the buildings in camp." A post office was desired and petitioned by the residents, however the Post Office Department refused to name any post office "Hog'em," so a new name was chosen...Springville...for the adjacent warm springs. The Springville P.O. lasted from March of 1868 until February of 1879 when it was moved one mile east to the budding new community of Bedford.

Other than a few glass fragments, bits of tin, and a square nail or two, nothing remains of Hog'em (Springville) itself, however its cemetery has survived. The eleven or so unmarked graves, laid out in two rows, was fenced in by Boy Scout Jim Woodring of Townsend Troop 235 in 2006 as a project for his Eagle rank.

Editor's note: Both Mr. Stoner and the editor have checked numerous sources and photo archives, but no photos of any of the 'ems or Springville have materialized. If any of our readers have such a photo or know where one can be located please e-mail the editor at terryhalden@hotmail.com

The REV. GEORGE GRANTHAM SMITH, Continued from previous page.

Next door to my preaching apartment was a large gambling hall with full band of brass and tinkling cymbals. In the midst of my sermon the band struck up a lively dance tune and the hob-nailed miners began to beat time with their feet upon the bare floor. I was completely thrown off and stopped and folded my arms. Just then the ringleader, a long, lank, lean fellow in buckskins, called out, 'Boys never mind the music. The elder has the floor. You listen to him. Elder go on. You shall not be disturbed again.' And I was not. I was patiently listened to until I said Amen. My text was I Timothy 4:8, 'Godliness is profitable unto all things.' I made it eminently practical and tried to show them whatever good and profitable was in anything, was in godliness. Still my subject was scarcely grave enough to keep me from laughing when I dismissed the congregation, for the seats of the pants of those men, who had not laid aside their American trousers and had come in the full fledged native buckskin, were patched with all the varied brands of flour sacks, such as 'Superfine', 'I. X. L.', 'Superior', 'Excelsior' or 'Gilt Edge.'

One day I said to one of the Vigilantes, as I supposed, 'Are you not afraid of hanging some one unjustly by hanging men so unceremoniously, without judge or jury?' His answer was: 'Do you suppose it is possible to hang any man unjustly in this country?' They even suspected me of being a highwayman – a wolf in sheep's clothing. I was told that a detective was at my heels day and night and had I done anything derogatory to the character of a Presbyterian clergyman I would have been strung up."

During Rev. Smith's stay in Virginia City he organized public schools, took the first census, opened Sunday schools and prayer meetings, and married and buried people. Rev. Smith only stayed in Montana for two years. He returned to Philadelphia by way of Fort Benton and down the Missouri by steamboat. His time in Montana certainly made an impression on this young preacher. Although lacking in self-confidence upon his arrival, he gained experience as a man of the cloth in the rough mining towns. During his two-year mission he was well received and appreciated by the citizens of Bannack and Virginia City.

The HISTORY of DEER CREEK, GALLATIN CANYON

By SHIRLEY LUHRSON

Editors Note: At the wind-up of our convention this year, we visited Deer Creek Resort where we were able to inspect three of the four cabins. The owner, Shirley Luhrson, who is 87 and blind, gave us an interesting oral history of Deer Creek. Here is her story.

Deer Creek may have begun its history when a few Indian hunters came for game. They built campfires and made arrowheads; many of which have been found along the Deer Creek.

By the late 1800's tie-hackers came to get wood for the railroads. They built a small cabin, of which a few rotten logs remain today with signs of an iron stove in the corner.

Charles High, an engineer who worked on ship floors when Teddy Roosevelt was Assistant Secretary of the Navy, visited Karst's coal camps in the summers. He fell in love with the area and went through the homestead process to build what became cabin 2 and a two-storey barn at the north end of an island formed by the Deer Creek thousands of years earlier. He carefully selected the site to withstand earthquakes and possible flood and when the Deer Creek changed its course, it left his land safe from both.

Charles High supervised and assisted in the construction of the cabin and barn but hired a man with the help of his children to do most of the work. A lady was also hired to cook food for the group. High eventually constructed two smaller cabins to be used by guests, while the barn had eight stalls for horses that he planned to use to take his guests riding.

The large cabin was built last in 1928 with the help of Vic and Benny Benson. It had three bedrooms, a fireplace and a large cast iron wood burning stove in the kitchen. The stove, an antique, is now in a basement near Golden Gate Bridge in California. High was a bachelor and was employed in the First Security Bank in Bozeman, where he had a desk with a spittoon and an apartment above the bank. Chuck Ankeny, a young lad at the time said that Charles High was the most elegantly dressed man in Bozeman. High traveled throughout Europe after the First World War buying art works and Dresden china. The art works were eventually donated to the Montana State College, but never recorded by Olga Ross Hannon, the head of the Art Department, but the china, unfortunately, got broken. High died, a childless bachelor in 1938 but his estate remained in escrow until December 1940

My father, Joseph H. Markley who was being urged by a friend to buy a place in Gallatin Canyon, was brought into the bank on the last day of December 1940 and purchased the Deer Creek property in partnership with Earl Keller, an optometrist. Triumphantly, Joe Markley brought the news back to his fiancée, Donna R. Rosebrock, a librarian in Owatonna Minnesota. They were married on June 6 1941 in Donna's home by the president of Carlton College, from which they had both graduated.

In July, Joe, Donna, and four children, Shirley, Donna's daughter from a previous marriage, two daughters of Joe from a previous marriage and a friend of one of the children came to Deer Creek through the Gallatin Gateway in the back of a green truck, singing to the stars all the way. There was no electricity in the Canyon, except at Karst's Camp and when they crossed the wooden bridge and came up past the icehouse, all was in darkness. We went into the Big Cabin and Dad lit a kerosene lamp and then a gas lantern. His oldest daughter and her friend slept in the front bedroom, Joan and I slept in the middle bedroom and Mother and Dad slept in the back bedroom.

During that month, Dad took us on a tour of Yellowstone Park and arranged for a trip on Latta's horses to Deer Lake. Deer Lake is not the source of Deer Creek as the creek comes from broken curves in the earth's crust formed in an earlier millennium. I still have a picture of the horseback ride in a photo album. The month went by too fast before Dad had to return to his job as athletic director at Central High School in Minneapolis.

Although I, and my grandmother spent two weeks at the cabins in 1942, because of W.W.II gas rationing, the family did not return until the end of June 1945.

That year Dad invited eighteen boys on Central High's junior and senior football to hitchhike out for two weeks in August. There was still no electricity or running water for the cabins. The boys worked mornings clearing the dead wood of aspens in the small meadow and afternoons clearing the large south meadow, followed by practice. One day they got a pair of workhorses from a rancher a few miles south to help them and in returning the animals they unbuckled every bit of harness. The owner had a good deal of work putting the harnesses back together, but he and Joe had a good laugh about it. The boys cut wood with a two handed saw and they also hauled water from the creek for the Big Cabin kitchen and were responsible for taking slop buckets out after washing dishes. I supervised the table arrangements for the eighteen boys and Joan served them the food. One day, the last week of August, a truck drove in and a man told me the Japanese had surrendered, and then continued to tell all the ranchers to the south. Joan and I raced to the meadow to tell Dad and the boys. We all went, the eight miles to Karst's store, the only place with power and communication, to hear the news. Other families were gathering there as well. Afterwards the boys arranged to hitchhike home as in those days it was safe to do so. The next Sunday morning, Dad, Mother, Joan and I drove back to Owatonna, Minnesota.

Earl Keller and his wife brought their friends out to ski that winter and put a large stove in front of the fireplace, which burned the mantle. The following year, Mother bought out Earl's interest in the cabins.



AN EARLY VIEW OF DEER CREEK CABINS.

Pioneer Museum, Bozeman, collection.

When Dad retired from Central High School, he and Mother repaired any damage to the cabins. By this time, Earl had started to put in a water system so that we did not have to haul water from the creek any more. The system has been reworked several times since. In the late 1960's Dad added bathrooms to every cabin and in the Big cabin he took part of the front bedroom for the bathroom. He also built cupboards and bookcases. Mother began inviting guests in the summers. After Dad bought Mother a mangle she was able to supply clean bedding for the guests and themselves. She always had a bowl of flowers in all the cabins and Deer Creek was declared non-alcoholic.

During the sixties and seventies Mother and Dad had many parties. The 'rugs were rolled up, the furniture pushed back' and everyone danced and sang. One guest built a fireplace in front of the fourth cabin; a large table that easily seats twelve was set up. Over the years we have had many regular yearly guests, like the John Colwell family that came for August every year. They entertained many friends from Bozeman and brought me pictures by Jean Perkins for Christmas gifts. The Gallatin Canyon Women's Club held summer meetings for several years in the Big cabin and my AAUW book club held many potluck meetings every second Tuesday in July.

Mother brought in help to clean the cabins and eventually my husband Bob and I put in electricity, replacing the existing gas service. After Mother passed away in 1983, Bob and I tried to keep up her standards with the aid of Les Girls cleaning crew. Carla my daughter and her husband Dick McLaughlin have kept up the water. Tom Dolan became caretaker in September 1997 and lives year round in cabin four. The two and a half acres left to Shirley were put into a family trust by Carla.

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The HISTORY of STEVENSVILLE

by MARGIE KANKRLIK

Mission into the Wilderness 1841-1866

On September 24, 1841, Flathead (Salish) Indians escorted a little band of Jesuits from several different nations into the Flathead homeland, the Bitterroot Valley. Led by Father Pierre Jean DeSmet, the Jesuits built a log church and house, the beginnings of the first permanent non-Indian settlement in what is today Montana. At the time, the Bitterroot Valley was part of Oregon country, an area jointly claimed by the United States and England. Named "St. Mary's" by the missionaries, the little settlement symbolized the world mission of the Catholic Church.

For five years the wilderness mission thrived. The missionaries introduced agriculture: built a grist mill, saw mill, and a larger church: taught religion, manual skills, and farming. In 1848-49, however, the Flathead became critical of the missionaries and refused to attend mission activities. The conflict became so severe by 1850 that the Jesuits closed the mission and sold their property to Major John Owen, a trader with Lieutenant Colonel Loring, whose troops were camped near Ft. Hall (Idaho) during the winter of 1849-50.



FORT OWEN, Cr. 1890's WHEN IT WAS IN DECLINE.
Photo taken by Mrs. Myrta Stevens, Mrs. Marguerite Malone nee Stevens coll.

Soon after Owen acquired the mission property, he renamed it Fort Owen and began construction of new adobe buildings surrounded by a high wall of palisade timbers north of the mission. The wall was later rebuilt with adobe. During the decade 1850-1860 Fort Owen served as the social and trading center for the region extending east to Fort Benton on the Missouri River, west to Fort Walla Walla, on the Columbia River, and South to Fort Hall on the Snake River.

Claessens. Next to the chapel, about a mile southeast of the old mission, they built a house and pharmacy for Father Anthony Ravalli, who served as priest and doctor in the Bitterroot Valley until 1884.

In 1866 the Jesuits reopened St. Mary's Mission in a new log chapel, built under the direction of Brother

Frontier Village 1864 - 1893

The new St. Mary's Chapel was located near a group of buildings that formed the nucleus of a frontier village named "Stevensville", after Governor Isaac I. Stevens.

The Bitterroot Valley was the breadbasket for the Montana mining camps between 1864 and 1893, and Stevensville grew as the valley's commercial center. Produce from the Bass Brother's Pine Grove Farm was sold in the markets at Virginia City, Butte, and Helena. After 1876 Bitterroot farmers could purchase implements and goods through the Buck Brothers' store. In 1889 the rail line was completed along the west side of the Bitterroot River as far as Grantsdale (near Hamilton), greatly improving transportation to and from the valley. The townspeople built a large public elementary school and four Protestant churches. Although there were sawmills and mines in the area, Stevensville retained a pastoral image. Few buildings from the frontier village remain, and those that do have been drastically altered.

Transition 1893 - 1905

The 1890's were years of transition for Stevensville. In 1891 the Flatheads under chief Charlo left their Bitterroot homes and moved to the Flathead Indian Reservation. Between 1893 and 1896 the United States experienced a severe economic depression. In Montana, silver mining and agriculture were especially hard hit, and there was little construction in Stevensville.

During those years the May Brothers moved to the area, operated a livestock business, purchased property, and began investing in the town. In 1893 the State Legislature created Ravalli County and designated Stevensville the county seat. In the election of 1898, however, the county seat was moved to Hamilton.

National economic recovery began in 1896, and Stevensville soon showed signs of new life. The Stevensville Mercantile Company formed by George May, W.H. May, and John Dowling purchased and renovated the Missoula Mercantile property. Many houses were built and on the far eastern side of town the community supported the construction of the Training School, one of the few college preparatory schools in the state.



ST.MARY'S MISSION, AFTER IT WAS REBUILT.

Antrei collection

Era of Optimism and Expansion 1906 – 1919

Just as economic recovery was well under way, the need for improved community services and planning was emphatically demonstrated when fire destroyed the heart of the Stevensville business district in 1905. The Town Council immediately passed an ordinance requiring all future buildings in the business district to be constructed of fireproof materials.

It was an era of optimism and the town responded by expanding its commercial district with concrete blocks and brick. Encouraged by a vision of country living, good farm prices, and railroad promotion that portrayed Montana as a land of opportunity, thousands of families came to Montana. Many of them settled in the Bitterroot Valley.

The optimism and prosperity of the era were displayed in the construction of new homes throughout the town between 1905 and 1912. The typical homes of the era were hipped-roof, four square cottages, transitional Queen Anne – Classical Revival homesteads and craftsman bungalows located throughout the town.

The optimism was also expressed in the commercial growth of the town. By 1917 a nearly solid row of wood frame, concrete block, and brick buildings stretched along both sides of Main Street between First and Fourth streets. Though connected by highway, rail, and telephone to the urban centers of the country, the town retained its pastoral image and reflected the valley's diverse interest.

Continued next page.



CHIEF CHARLO OF THE FLATHEADS. 1883. Haves Studio Collection

The immigration to the Bitterroot is often associated with the apple boom, but the residents were not interested exclusively in orchards. In 1907 over fifty local dairymen formed a cooperative creamery and manager John Howe established the creamery's "Gold Bar" butter, one of the state's outstanding dairy products. When in June, 1911, fire gutted the creamery; Howe immediately organized the community to build a new one twice the size of the former one. Within six weeks the concrete block building was completed. So important was the creamery to the community that a giant community celebration was held when it opened in August 1911, and since that time the Creamery Picnic held the first weekend in August, has been an annual high point in Stevensville community life.

Today Stevensville continues to celebrate its country life heritage. The townspeople maintain close ties with the surrounding rural families. National forests and wilderness areas, with opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking, are daily reminders of the natural beauty and vitality of the valley. Store fronts have been remodeled for new uses to meet changing commercial needs. The renewing spirit of home and optimism persists.

Stevensville is a delightful, friendly town with approximately 2000 residents, 15 churches, a weekly newspaper, one hotel, one motel and three B&B's. A must stop for anyone traveling in that part of the state.

Editor's note: All photographs illustrating this article were located at the Montana Historical Society photo archives department, Used with permission.

In the next few issues we will continue the story of the Flatheads under Chief Charlo as they moved to the beautiful Mission Valley, where a second Jesuit Mission, known today as St. Ignatius administered to their needs. This is where we will be holding our 2010 convention next September 10th - 12th., thanks to the Steindoff families.

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AN EARLY PHOTO OF ST. IGNATIUS MISSION. COMPARE IT TO TODAY'S STRUCTURE, SEEN IN OUR MASTHEAD, FRONT AND BACK PAGES.

Unknown Photo.

THE GHOST TOWN OF GALLUP CITY

by Terry Halden

The prairie expanses southwest of present day Conrad were originally settled by homesteaders in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, after the land was ceded back to the government by the Blackfoot Confederacy. One of the earliest settlers was the Gjullin family of Ole and Nellie Gjullin. As the rural population in the area increased it was apparent that a cemetery might be needed. The Gjullins donated a plot of land on their property on December 20 1915, with the proviso that if no one was buried there within the year, the plot would revert back to the family. The Pondera Valley Lutheran Cemetery almost didn't come into existence, as it wasn't until October 8 1916 that the cemetery saw its first burial. Nellie became the first of many to be interred there.

The oil and gas industry which had located gushers in the Oilmont and Cut Bank areas of northern Montana looked at the Pondera Valley as a potential expansion of the oil field. In 1927, the first oil well in the basin was located by E.B. Emrick and W.M. Fulton. Others quickly followed. With all the activity, what were a few shacks quickly grew to a community with service stations, stores, hotels, rooming houses and in 1928 a post office. One of the leaders of the oil rush was J. Hugo Aronson (who was later to become Governor of the State of Montana) known as "the Galloping Swede". Instead of continually erecting drilling derricks and then dismantling them to move to another site, Aronson developed an idea he had to put them on wheels and haul them over the countryside by tractor, from one potential site to another. He had gotten the nickname from his habit of doing everything on the run and from yelling at his employees "If you can't find something do, don't just stand there, yump up and down". It was decided to name the city Gallop City, but when a request was made to the U.S. Postal Authorities, it was discovered there was already a Gallop in Gallatin County (post office 1885 – 1908) so the name was changed to Gallup City.

As the town grew, it encompassed an entire one mile square, according to Merrill Howley, who was born there in the 1930's and still resides on his family farm in the area. At its height the population was estimated at over 1000. But like the gold rush towns before it, the interest was temporary and as the wild cat activity died down and drill crews moved on, the town, literally evaporated.

Today, all that remains, besides the gas well derricks dotting the countryside, is a rotting wooden sign that marks the location of Gallup City, which, according to Mr. Howley, is on the wrong side of Oilfield Road to where the city was located. Although the Museum in Conrad have a few photos, donated by descendants of people that were involved in Gallup City, none of them depict the downtown area, and none could be located at the Montana Historical Museum photo archives department in Helena. *Compiled with the assistance of Ruth Cook, Curator at the Pondera County Museum.*



SET ON WOODEN WHEELS THAT ONCE CARRIED AN OIL DRILLING DERRICK FROM ONE LOCATION TO ANOTHER, IS THE LONELY SIGN THAT DEPICTS WHERE GALLUP CITY IS LOCATED - UNFORTUNATELY IT IS ON THE WRONG SIDE OF OILFIELD ROAD, SEEN AT THE LEFT OF THE PHOTO. Terry Halden Photo



Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

MONTANA GHOST TOWN PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1861, BOZEMAN, MT, 59711-1861

Season's Greetings

NEWS IN BRIEF:

FORT HARRISON, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY....UPDATE...In our Spring 2009 Newsletter, 'News In Brief' reported that the Montana Military Museum was looking to raise money to add a new building to house artifacts about the post World War II era that it had in storage. Thanks to a State Stimulus Grant of \$250,000, donations from Helena businesses, Burlington Northern and a lower construction estimate, ground was broken on October 23 on a building that will double in size the existing facility.

KALISPELL, FLATHEAD COUNTY.....The 13,000 square-foot mansion, built in 1895 for Charles and Alice Conrad, one of the founding families of Kalispell, will be open to the public from November 27 for Christmas tours. Guests will be greeted by a 19 foot tree in the entrance way of the home, decorated with lights and reproduction period ornaments, while under the tree will be antique toys from the house. A children's Christmas will be held on December 17 from 3 to 7, when Santa is scheduled to make a visit.

HAMILTON, RAVALLI COUNTY.....Not to be outdone, the 24,000 square foot Daley mansion (featured in our last newsletter) will have 20 Christmas trees throughout its three floors, each decorated by volunteers in the community. This year's theme is 'Winter Wonderland'. A bus tour of the stately homes of Hamilton is scheduled for Friday December 11 and will include food and entertainment at the Daley mansion. The cost is \$25.00 per person.

BILLINGS, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY.....The Holiday Family Festival will be held at the Moss mansion on December 12th and 13th. It will feature 16 theme based Christmas trees, one in every formal room, choir groups, an accordion player, and opportunities for children to make Christmas ornaments. Of course, Santa will be making an appearance.

DEER LODGE, POWELL COUNTY.....The Grant-Kohrs ranch, which is still a working ranch, despite being a National Historic Site will hold an Open House on December 6. It will feature horse-drawn wagon rides, a blacksmith pounding out iron candy canes, a wreath making demonstration, refreshments, and children's activities. Woody, the red-nosed roping calf is also scheduled to make an appearance.