

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

VOLUME 43

SPRING 2014

Maiden ~ About 100 years ago



Looking west, down Warm Spring Canyon, from Maginnis hill, the Maginnis mill and dump appear in the foreground, right, with the town of Maiden in the center of the photograph. Maiden has but few businesses and residents at this time and within ten years a fire would reduce the count even more.

Photo courtesy: GREGG HOLT and the E.B. (HARDROCK) COLLIDGE collection.

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. e-mail: mtghosttown@yahoo.com www.mtghosttown.org Copyright © 2014, all rights reserved.

Founded in 1970, 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 M. G. T. P. S.

SPRING 2014

President: Terry Halden
Vice President: Mike Byrnes
Secretary / Treasurer: Sally Griffin
Website Administrator: Richard Lee
Facebook Administrator: Darian Halden
Recruitment: Don Black
Projects: Sue Howe
Membership: Darian Halden
Newsletter Editor: Terry Halden
2014 Convention: Don Black
2015 Convention: Darian Halden
Immediate Past President: John Ellingsen
Directors: Loretta Chapman, Rosemary Lee, Tom Lowe, and Gordon Tracy.

The Prez Sez

TERRY HALDEN

In this edition of the Newsletter I'm pleased to get into print an article by one of our new members, Larry Hoffman who relates a story about the little known lady mine owner, Clara McAdow, who owned and ran successfully the Spotted Horse mine and mill near Maiden. To complete the history of Maiden, and in particular the story of the Maginnis mine (which we will be visiting this upcoming convention) is the current owner of the property, Jerry Hanley, who, coincidentally, will be our guide for the visit.

Don Black tells me that the plans for the convention are well underway and in most cases have been finalized. In the last edition of the newsletter there was a breakdown of the timetable, and on page 11 we again list the events. As the Choke Cherry Festival is the same weekend as our convention in Lewistown, we strongly urge you, if you are thinking of attending, you book your motel room in the near future. You can still get the guaranteed rate of \$85 a night at our base motel, the Yogo Inn, or if you want to stay at one of the other motels in Lewistown, a list is provided on page 10.

Next year the convention is going to be in Great Falls, with a one day, all day, trip to Fort Benton to visit the sites and museums, including the new government built 'Breaks of the Missouri' attraction. By convention this year, Darian and I will have some details to announce.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank some of our members (Jack and Georgie Thurber, Nick Shrauger et al) that are descendants of the Charles and Martha Christenot family, who came to Alder Gulch in 1866. They publish an eight page family newsletter, the Christenot Chronicle and in it they not only urge their family members to join M.G.T.P.S. but also gave us a plug for our upcoming convention.

Finally, the next time you are renewing your Montana automobile licence plate, think about getting a plate that reads:

Garnet ghost town will benefit from it, as they will receive part of the fee.

Until the next time.....

Terry



New Members

Membership Chairperson Darian reports the following **New Members** have joined our Association since the last newsletter. **Please make them welcome.**

Brad O'Grosky & Dee Dunn, Bozeman, MT Cordell & Judith Wackerbarth, Bozeman, MT

Bud & Rachel Jarvis, Bozeman, MT Peter McFadden, Billings, MT Chuck & Roxie Curtis, Bozeman, MT

Thomas & Sarah Foster, Bozeman, MT Gerry & Sharon Randolph, Columbia Falls, MT

June Ann Mullette & Bernie Bissell, Belgrade, MT Dwight & Lois Adams, Bozeman, MT

Aaryn & Daniel Bell, Lewistown, MT Ron Biglen Lewistown, MT Dave McLendon, Lewistown, MT

M.G.T.P.S. BOARD MEETING
April 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by President Terry Halden. Other Board Members present were Mike Byrnes, Sally Griffin, Darian Halden, Gordon Tracy, Sue Howe, and Don Black.

Sally gave the Treasurer's Report. For the fiscal year which started July 1, 2013, until the present date, we have had income of \$6,144.70 and expenses of \$5,128.81, giving us a net income of \$1,015.89. Darian moved and Mike seconded that we accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Sally then reported on correspondence. We received a letter from the Gallatin Historical Society thanking us for renewing our membership. They also sent us a card letting us know about their annual meeting on April 26. Mr. R. J. Reid from Bozeman sent us a letter asking us for any information on ghost town or mine names inscribed on 3 old silver spoons he had collected. Both Terry and Mike had already replied that they did not have a record of those place or mine names.

Darian reported that we now have 249 members, with 21 new members joining us in the last quarter.

Don Black said that he was going to make a major effort on recruitment in conjunction with our convention in Lewistown this year.

Darian said there was nothing new on Facebook. She plans on putting information about our convention on it.

Dick Lee was not able to attend to report on our website. Terry said that he had been in touch with an MSU professor, Clem Izuretta, about the possibility of having some of his students build us a new, more interactive version of our website. Since it would be a student project, hopefully the cost would be reasonable. We agreed that a new website, which would appeal to more and varying kinds of people, would be well worth spending some money on. Terry asked that anyone with ideas should let him know. Mike suggested a cost limit of \$1,000. Don moved that we go ahead with having the students work on our website with a \$1,000 spending limit. Mike seconded. The motion passed. Sue then asked about maintenance costs. Terry thought it would only be about \$100/year. He will be in charge of this project.

For projects, Sue said that the cemetery cleanup and restoration at Fort Maginnis is again "on the list". Mike said that Rita Boettcher from the Garnet Society reported they are trying to get ownership of one building that is already on their property and maybe one more building. He suggested that we could possibly help with a grant with a written agreement that MGTPS would get a plaque in the building. Phil Boettcher also wants us to know that the State is now issuing ghost town license plates.

The newsletter is almost ready to go. Mike would like to see a page on the upcoming convention included in it.

Don then updated us on the upcoming Lewistown convention plans. He will send a letter to members for pre-registration and their choice of meal for the banquet. People may pre-register and not pay, but their registration will not be complete until payment is received. Sally and Don will coordinate with this.

Terry suggested that we need a Grants Chairman. It was discussed that perhaps we would not want to make the grant process too formal or lengthy. This was tabled. Also, getting t-shirts made was tabled until after the website is re-done.

There was a discussion about D & O insurance. Sally said that she had been told by a person from an insurance company that if the Directors and Officers were sued, the individuals' homeowners insurance could be used. Don moved and Darian seconded that we do not purchase D & O insurance, but we want to purchase the Special Event insurance for our convention. Motion passed.

It was then moved and seconded that we discontinue the Contributing, Sustaining, and Sponsoring memberships, keeping the Individual, Family, Agency and Life memberships. If people send in more money than the membership fee, they are to receive a letter from the Treasurer thanking them for their tax-deductible donation, and stating that MGTPS is a 501(c)(3) corporation.

The 2015 convention was proposed to be in Great Falls, with a 1-day bus trip on Saturday to Fort Benton. Darian moved and Don seconded that this be the location. Motion passed. Darian and Terry will be co-chairpersons.

It was noted that a number of organizations with goals similar to ours are members of MGTPS. Our organization is not usually a member of theirs. We decided to join if they ask, with the decision being made on a case-by-case basis by the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Griffin

Sec/Treas

H. S. GILBERT. CHRISTIAN RICHTER.
Virginia Brewery.
WE HAVE constantly on hand a large supply of
LAGER BEER,
MALT,
HOPS.
BREWERY
FIXTURES.
BEER KEGS, ETC.
All orders in our line of business will be promptly
attended to.
Virginia City, M. T. 51-63*

The following story of the discovery and development of the mines and town of Maiden, Montana is based on the recollections and writings of George H. Wiegler. Wiegler arrived in Maiden in 1895 and spent his life mining there. Jerry Hanley is Wiegler's grandson and also a miner and resident of Maiden. He has taken the liberty to edit and add to his Grandfather's writings; Hanley's additions are presented in *(parentheses and italic text)*.

There are varying stories as to where gold was first discovered in the Judith Mountains – Warm Spring Creek Gulch, Alpine Gulch, Virgin Gulch, or Maiden Gulch. Regardless, all ultimately led to the rich history of Maiden. With respect to each of those accounts, Jerry simply presents this accounting based on his families involvement and the historical information left in his care. He neither disputes nor belittles others accounts and opinions but rather presents this story based on a man, George Wiegler, who personally knew some of those involved.

THREE ADVENTURES TO MAIDEN

By George Wiegler, circa 1950, Edited by Jerry Hanley, March, 2014

In the summer of 1879 three adventurous spirits, frontiersmen all, 'Skookum Joe' Anderson, Dave Jones and another who's name I do not recall made their way up to the headwaters of Warm Spring Creek in the heart of the Judith Mountains. Indians were bad, even bad white men were abroad, particularly horse thieves. Undaunted they set to work to exploit and explore their find, which is located on what is now known as the 'Holter Placer' claim just off the eastern outskirts of what later was to become the town of Maiden— Metropolis of the Maginnis country, so called from the nearby fort of that name erected in 1880-81. By strenuous effort and ever wary vigilance — two standing guard while the third with pick, shovel and pan garnered the tiny specks of yellow metal — until the early blasts of winter warned them to depart for some haven where food and shelter were obtainable. Their cleanup consisted of a 'medium sized' mustard bottle two thirds full of 'dust and small nuggets' (several ounces at least). *(Skookum Joe and party made their way into the Judith's from the east by way of Virgin Gulch, over the divide down Butcher Knife into Alpine Gulch and then proceeded about a mile back eastward up Warm Spring Creek Gulch. They set up camp near where the Wiegler home now stands and went to work prospecting and ended up sinking a shallow shaft about 500 feet farther up the gulch. It is a very little known fact that there was a placer prospect being worked before 'Skookum' and party came into the Judiths. Earlier in 1879, a rancher / prospector named Johnny Wirts, (real name was John Wirtenberg) was working a placer dig 2 1/2 miles west, down Warm Spring Gulch from 'Skookum' et al's later discovery. This was actually the first know prospect in the Judiths. Wirts' diggings, complete with a ditch for water about 1,000 feet long, can still be seen a short distance off the Maiden Road. However, it was not a profitable venture.)*

Junction City on the Yellowstone was then a favorite rendezvous for buffalo hunters, wolfers, trappers, prospectors, cowmen, traders, etc., and last but not least, "Tin Horn" gamblers and their lady consorts.

Arriving at Junction City, they told of their strike only to such friends as could be depended on to keep 'mum' for fear of starting a stampede, which they did not want, it being their intentions to get back with their picked party and locate

the most favorable ground before the news of the strike got out. Ten men finally comprised the party, among whom were the original three discoverers, J. Frank Sage, Charlie Bessie, C. C. Snow, "Pony" McParland, Eugene Irvine and two others whose names I do not recall. As time wasted heavy and being impatient to explore the New Eldorado (also fears that the news of the strike might leak out), it was decided not to wait until spring as was first planned but rather make the trip as soon as some pretense could be invented for so large a party to leave camp. This was accomplished through the ruse of a buffalo hunting and wolfing expedition supposedly headed for the Flatwillow country. The ruse worked, the party leaving Junction City late in January or early February, 1880 and arriving at what is now known as Gold Hill (midway between Maiden and the Spotted Horse Mine) late in February where camp was made on its very crest. Immediately below and to the west of them, a scant half mile away, lay the new promised land. Owing to the deep snows it was impossible, however, to travel farther. Upon reconnoitering a few days on foot, and there being no feed for the horses, camp was moved down into the valley and foothills around the mouth of Collar Gulch, a name acquired later, where feed and water was abundant. *(This location was a few miles west of the future DHS ranch headquarters which Granville Stuart located in the summer of 1880 and nearer the future site of Fort Maginnis – laid out later that summer).* Several attempts were made to get through into the Warm Spring and Alpine Creek country. None were successful, however, until late March or early April.

Thereafter, prospecting began in dead earnest. Claims were staked and work began on both open pit and shaft sinking— the ground upon which Maiden was later founded being among the most highly prized of all, it being Number one claim below Discovery (Discovery being the 1879 discovery already described). Good pannings were gotten out of loose gravels in the creek banks, but "rich diggings" were expected on bedrock. Shaft sinking was attempted but water in great abundance made this impossible owing to lack of pumping machinery, and it was not until the spring of 1882 that a shaft to bedrock was completed and that only by the combined efforts of almost the entire community. A "home-made" wooden pump, manned by volunteers, was kept going continuously. Bedrock proved disappointing—"pay" being about three cents to the pan and not as good as some of the near surface



Maiden Ca 1887, from the west with the Maginnis Mine and mill (just above center - right) and Gold Hill behind it. 'Skookum' Joe Anderson and his two partners made their 1879 discovery alongside what would become the road leading from the east edge of Maiden to the Maginnis Mine, and continue over the divide as the mail and stage line connecting Maiden to the east. The Spotted Horse Mine is on the other side of Gold Hill. Photo by WILLIAM CULVER

showings had been. *(The last attempts to exploit this placer ground was made by Wiegler in the 1922 when he reopened the shaft just mentioned and then in the 1940's and early 50's when he sank two additional shafts in the Maiden townsite. Results were encouraging but Wiegler was getting up in years and realized it would require a significant operation having a large impact on what remained of Maiden and the gulch that he cherished.)*

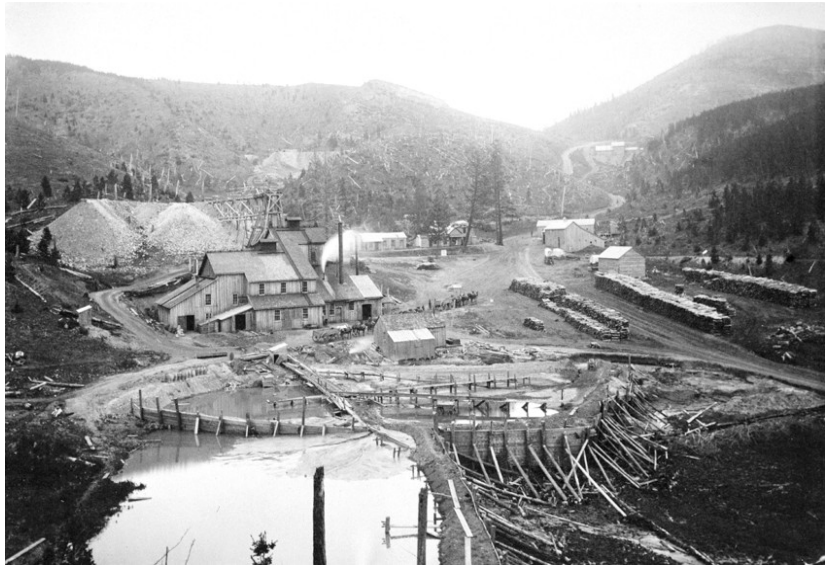
In the meantime various nearby towns had sprung up. Andersonville, three miles below, being the first. It was a sawmill town. The mill was owned by McAdow and Dexter and supplied lumber to points as far away as Fort Benton—more than a hundred miles by wagon road. Later, Alpine, at the mouth of the creek by that name, one mile below, was started—one Pike Landusky being the first to build a wooden structure out of hewn logs out of which he opened a restaurant. *(Near ninety years later the site of Andersonville would become the western edge of an Air Force base and then a bible college. Rustle, a small camp located one mile northeast of Maiden, on the road to the Collar mine, and Fort Maginnis; and, Canyon (also referred to as Spotted Horse), located at the junction of Spotted Horse Gulch and Maiden Canyon, also served the local population and traveler. Evidence of both camps can still be found – Rustle being the more prominent with two standing structures.)*

The first attempts to start a town at Maiden late in '80 or early '81 were frustrated by the commanding officer of nearby Fort Maginnis. There having as yet been no survey made of the Military Reservation (six miles square), he claimed the district would come within that area. In spite of warnings, however, miners and "squatters" moved in and established residence, only to be removed by the commanding officer of the "Post", as Fort Maginnis was popularly known.

On at least one occasion a detail of soldiers removed all of the so-called trespassers, including the miners, and prohibited them from working their claims. Appeals were made to Washington, D. C., the War Department finally ordering a survey of the Military Reservation. This was done and the line was established about one mile east of Maiden. Thereafter "Pike" Landusky moved up from Alpine and was credited with building the first log cabin of the town. Others soon followed and despite the warnings and protests of the owners (Frank Sage, Charlie Bessy, et al) of No. 1 Placer claim below Discovery, a town was established and the entire claim expropriated. Suit was started to dispossess all trespassers as their presence was held to be an infringement on the priority rights of the owners to the ground as a mineral claim. The defendants countered by claiming the land was more valuable for townsites than for mining purposes. The case was never fully decided, although it was carried to the Secretary of Interior at Washington, D. C. Even the President of the United States, Chester A. Arthur, was appealed to in person by those interested in the case. The delegation consisted of Maiden residents meeting President Arthur at Livingston, Montana, while he was on a western tour in 1884. No concrete results being obtained, the case was continued.

In the meantime, quartz mines had been discovered—the Maggie on Gold Hill being the first—soon followed by the Montana, Oro Cache, later known as Maginnis Mine; Collar, Spotted Horse, Kentucky Favorite, Florence, Keystone, Comet, Black Bull, War Eagle, Alpine, Northern Pacific, Pilgrim, Junction, Snow Storm, and many others. The town continued to grow. In 1881 Hauser & Holter acquired the Montana and Oro Cache mine and formed the Maginnis Mining Company. A small mill was built in 1882 or '83 but proved unsatisfactory and in 1884 and '85 was

replaced by a larger 10 stamp mill (*the ruins and stamps of which stand to this day, as does part of the office building built in 82 and 83*); Granville Stewart being at one time in charge of operations at this property. The Collar mill was built in 1883 as was also a smaller plant at the Spotted Horse. (*The prominent stone foundation of the Collar Mill, first known as the Skookum can be found in Collar Gulch.*) Maiden became the largest town in central Montana by the latter part of the '80's, claiming a population of about 1,500—the principal trading point in its section of the territory for miners, stockmen and ranchers alike. Supplies were freighted in by long teams of both horses and oxen from such points as Big Timber, Billings, and Junction City on the N. P. R. R., and Rocky Point, Claggett and Fort Benton on the Missouri River. Stagecoach lines were established, there being at one time three different lines operating in as many directions. Thirst and other recreational places, as well as merchandising stores, were in abundance. It is said at one time there were 38 places in the town where hard liquors could be obtained. Grocery stores, saloons, hurdy-gurdy dance halls, and others specialized in this form of refreshments.



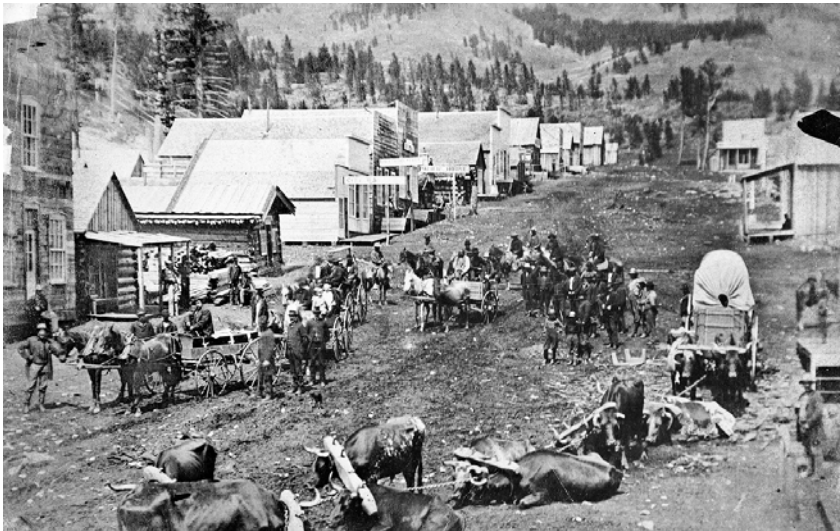
The Maginnis Mine property, Ca 1886, when its production was at its peak. The 10-stamp amalgamation and concentrating mill, built in 1882 had a capacity of 25 tons per day and last ran in 1922. The underground mine workings consisted of over a mile of drifts, raises and winzes. A cyanide circuit was added to the mill around the turn of the century which increased the recovery rate from 70% to 90%.

Photo courtesy WILLIAM CULVER collection

One of the first breweries (of beer) in the Northwest was built here by Louie Landt, and but for transportation problems might have made Maiden equally famous with Milwaukee—from whence came Mr. Landt—as the product was claimed to be of a very superior quality owing to the pureness of water from which it was made. (*A small portion of the stone foundation is still evident and the malting pan is located on the Wiegler property.*)

A smelter for ores was also erected but failed owing to lack of proper fuels and fluxing materials, along with problems of transportation. (*Ruins and slag pile can be seen a short distance below Maiden.*)

After Fergus County was cut off from Meagher County, Maiden was the only serious competitor with Lewistown for county seat, and should have won the election but for a factional dispute among its own residents. This seems to be the real beginning of the end of Maiden. Lewistown became more and more the trading center of the county—a bank was established, more and larger stores built, while at Maiden business lagged more and more, revived only by spurts when the mines took on new life at intervals sometimes years apart. The last mining of consequence was in 1917 and the final climax came a few years later when in 1921 even the post office was abandoned. (*A 1905 fire destroyed most of the business area and only a few businesses either survived or were rebuilt. The school closed in the mid 1920's and relocated to the former site of Andersonville.*)



ABOVE: A funeral procession and a bull team in Maiden, Ca 1885.

Photo WILLIAM CULVER collection

RIGHT: George Wiegler holds one of several gold bricks produced from his Tail Holt mine, north of Maiden, Ca 1930. He smelted the 18 pound bar, in his blacksmith/refinery shop that he had converted from a residence. The bar was worth \$5,280 in 1930, but today would be worth \$340,000.

Photo courtesy AUTHOR

Author's note:

George Wiegler continued mining in the Maiden area until his death in 1957. Although he never 'struck it rich', he was able to provide for his family and intermittently kept small crews of men employed.





Two photos of the Maginnis mine, taken in the 1910's.
 On the LEFT, courtesy the AUTHOR,
 On the RIGHT, courtesy Catherine CLARKE

In the 1970's mining was revitalized with the reopening of the Spotted Horse. Eventually a modern hoisting facility, cyanide mill and other infrastructure were built and the mine deepened. Production of over 8,000 ounces of gold was achieved by the late 1980's. A new decline tunnel was driven into the Maginnis in the late 1980's and early 90's. While this effort was primarily aimed at exploration, a small quantity of high-grade was produced. Jerry Hanley continues ongoing efforts to explore the Gold Hill mines at depth. Approximately 350,000 ounces of gold were produced from the Maginnis, Spotted Horse, Kentucky Favorite, and Cumberland mines (Gold Hill). A bonanza strike was made as late as 1912 in the Maginnis. This area of the mine had been worked for near 30 years yet on a miners hunch a spectacular body of about 300 tons of ore produced more than 13,000 ounces of gold over a ten day period. Considering today's price of gold, \$1,335 per ounce, that little ore body, about the size of a garden shed, would be worth over \$17 million dollars! And so the lure of Gold Hill and its yellow metal continues on.

J.H.

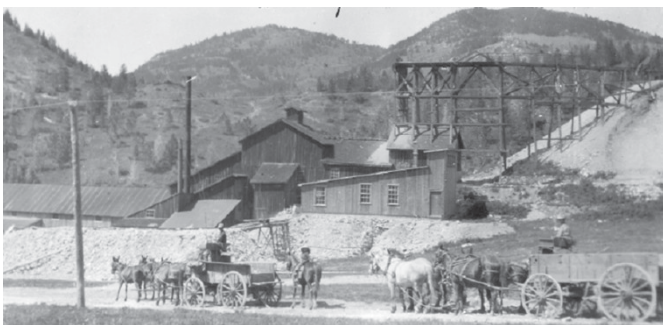


ABOVE: The Maginnis mine property, today.

Photo, courtesy, AUTHOR

BELOW: Canyon, Montana, Ca 1890 was also known as Spotted Horse, located at the junction of Sotted Horse Gulch, to the right and the Maiden Canyon to the left. A store, saloon, boarding house, post office and cabins were located here.

Photo: Unknown



ABOVE: Ca. 1915, two wagon loads with near 4 tons of 6 oz per ton of gold, mined at the Spotted Horse mine arrives at the Maginnis mill for processing.
 Photo by E.B. (HARDROCK) COOLIDGE, from the GREGG HOLT & COOLIDGE collection.



CLARA McADOW - THE AMAZING LADY MINE OWNER

by Larry Hoffman



CLARA, TOMLINSON-McADOW
Photo from INTERNET

The Judith Mountains of central Montana are east of the major mining districts and not as well-known or documented. However, they were once part of making Fergus County the largest gold producer in the state. The Spotted Horse mine near Maiden was famous in the late 19th century, producing some 200,000 ounces of gold from spectacular high-grade ore, but was only successful under the management of a woman.

Clara Tomlinson came to Montana from Detroit as the wife of Dr. C. E. Tomlinson, who set up a practice in Coulson as it developed into Billings with the arrival of the railroad. Clara was an extremely bright lady, with a natural inclination toward the practical side of things. Soon after arriving, she talked the Northern Pacific railroad into hiring her as a menial clerk. In a very short time she was able to demonstrate an aptitude for engineering that moved her into more responsible work, extremely rare for a woman of the time.

Her husband was an invalid who became seriously ill within a few months and was forced to return to Detroit, where he died. The widow remained in Billings, taking the money she had earned with the NP to start successfully speculating in real estate as Billings became a reality. She met Perry W. "Bud" McAdow, one of the earliest Montana pioneers and a founder of Coulson, with business interests across the state. They were apparently involved in several business dealings and got married in 1884. Interestingly, like her first husband, he was also an invalid and confined to a wheelchair.

One of Perry's ventures was a store in Andersonville, in the Judith Mountains, where he not only sold his wares but provided grubstakes to the area prospectors. "Skookum" Joe Anderson (the town's namesake) was one of those and found a limestone outcrop with good showings of gold on the east side of Gold Hill about 3-1/2 miles east of the camp. He and his partner set up a stone arrastre, grinding and amalgamating the ore for a decent return in spite of the crude operation. However, the work and humdrum of mining wasn't to Joe's liking. He was a true prospector, so he approached Perry about buying him out, since the storekeep already owned a grubstake interest.

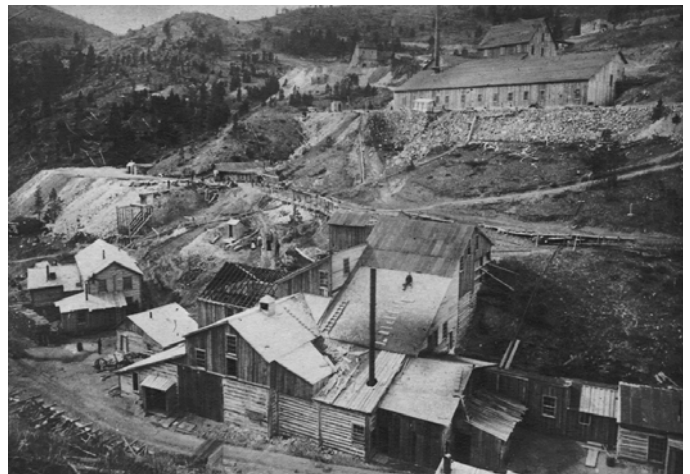
Bud already had a lot of irons in the fire and running a mine from his wheelchair wasn't appealing. He turned it down. However, when he told Clara about the proposition she was intrigued and looked the mine over carefully. She liked what she saw and bought the property from the prospectors for \$11,000, a lot of money at the time.

Well, that's one version of the story from contemporary newspaper accounts.

Alternatively (and more romantically), she was still a single widow doing very well in Billings when she heard about the mine. In this version Bud had already taken over the property for what was owed him, but was doing nothing with it. Clara had broken her leg and was doing her real-estate business from her bed. She "sent for McAdow and offered him \$11,000 for it. He was touched by her lack of business sagacity and chivalrously told her it wasn't worth it. She persisted in buying it and within six months took out \$90,000 in gold. Mr. McAdow subsequently married her." The article, written in 1892, continues, "She is now the treasurer of the Billings Board of Trade and is worth several millions. She does all business in her own name and her husband is only her connubial partner."

Whichever way it went, the 1883 \$11,000 would be nearly half a million dollars today if converted by inflation, or a whopping \$935,000 based on the relative gold prices. \$90,000 would really have been a lot of money!

Once she had the mine, she took charge of all aspects of its development, going underground every day to direct the work. She bought a stamp mill located a mile and half away in a steep canyon and relocated it to the Spotted Horse, with a pump station for water near the original location and buried a pipeline all the way to the new site.



Clara's mill, (Ca. 1890) in foreground, with Hauser & Holter's mill above.

Photo, courtesy AUTHOR

Within two years the mine was a steady producer of direct-shipping high-grade ore running as high as 750 ounces per ton, plus the mill production of around 75 ounces a day. The mine and its owner-operator became famous and attracted the attention of Helena merchants and mine developers, Hauser and Holter. Clara sold them the property for \$500,000 (\$20,000,000+!), with half down, around 1890. She took her money and returned to her home town of Detroit to erect a fine mansion (still standing as the parish house for the First Universalist church) and live life easily.



Clara McADOW's home in Detroit, still stands today.

However, without her nose for ore, the mine did not fare well under "professional" management. The new owners could not meet their payment schedule. You can almost see her shaking her head in disgust and resignation as she left her comfortable city mansion and returned to remote Maiden, Montana to salvage her mine in 1891 or so. Less than six months later she displayed a \$48,000 (\$2,880,000 at \$1200/oz.) gold bar in the Hotel Helena, just to rub Hauser & Holter's nose in it.

By this time, along with her mine, Mrs. McAdow was famous for her business savvy and hard work ethic. Her independence and intelligence made her a rare standout in the man's world of the day. She had a reputation as a no-nonsense, abrupt, and often impatient person with a deep soft spot for the less fortunate.



Perry McAdow
Photo, from INTERNET

In 1892 the talk of the country was the Columbian Exposition being planned in Chicago to celebrate the voyage of Columbus. Montana decided to participate in a big way and Clara McAdow was involved in the planning from the start. When the governor's wife withdrew as chair of the women's committee, Clara was appointed in her place, a good measure of her standing in that society.

W. A. Clark was another huge fan of the Exposition, later making it the namesake of the playground he built for Butte, Columbia Gardens. He and one of Clara's old partners, Samuel Hauser, decided they would have a solid silver life-size statue of Justice highlight the Montana pavilion. They loaned 24,000 ounces for the project. Once again, Clara one-upped the magnates and proposed it stand on a gold platform (plinth). Ramping it up again, she said the Spotted Horse would provide the gold. It did, nearly 7500 ounces, worth 5 times the value of the silver.



Statue of Justice,
Montana exhibit,
1893 Columbian Exposition.
Photo, courtesy AUTHOR

It's almost beyond belief that the mine could sideline that much income and still maintain normal production. When the fair was over, she leased the plinth out for 4% of its value and it travelled the country for some time after the statue itself was melted down to recover the silver. Obviously she didn't need the money.

Around 1894 she finally gave in to one of the numerous requests to sell the mine and bonded the property to the Double Eagle Gold Mining Company for \$500,000. Once again, the mine was being run by men with a great deal of mining experience. They took out a large amount of ore, produced thousands of ounces of gold, but spent so much money doing it they gave up the bond little more than a year later after paying Clara \$200,000.

She was making plans to return to the mine from Detroit once again when she died January 19, 1896 leaving a \$2,000,000 estate to her husband Perry. This was very odd, considering their history and that he had wheeled off with and married another woman.

The relationship between Clara and her husband is confusing, with conflicting reports in both contemporary and early-day accounts. The evidence is pretty clear that Bud had an eye for the ladies and they found him and his money attractive. While still married to Clara in the 1880's, he was sued for breach of promise by one Imogene DuPont who claimed to be his mistress and intended wife. The suit was public and scandalous, with 140 letters between them being published. He lost the original case but appealed and won. A reliable account states this was the cause of Clara and Bud's separation before 1890, but provides no details.



Marian and Perry McAdow, 1917.
Photo courtesy AUTHOR

At the time of her death he was living, apparently since 1892, in a large mansion he built in Punta Gorda, Florida with the much younger wife, Marian. He was famous for his racehorses and she was known as the Flower Lady of Punta Gorda. There is no mention of him in any of the articles about Clara between their marriage in Billings and the will. In December, 1900 he wrote a letter to the Fergus County Argus newspaper claiming the success of the mine as his own, with no credit at all to Clara. He died in 1918. Marian was still alive in the 1930's.

My best guess is that Clara's marriage to Perry was only a convenience that allowed her freedom from the otherwise difficult problems of trying to do business as a woman. The quoted article (from 1892 – after all of the above!) makes a point of mentioning she did business in her own name. Leaving her estate to him indicates she respected him and held no rancor regarding his philandering. He sobbed, visible to all, at her funeral and was given the ashes after cremation, at her request. Apparently he also used part of her bequest to start a bank in Punta Gorda.

The Spotted Horse was sold at a sheriff's sale in 1901 so, already very wealthy from his own endeavors in Montana (and Clara's bequest!), Bud never pursued any further interest.

The mine produced sporadically until 1918 under several different lessees, but never again spilled out gold like it did for Clara McAdow.

Larry Hoffman is a mining engineer who grew up in Lewistown and got hooked on mining early in life. He became friends with Frank Bryant, who operated the Spotted Horse before and during WWI. Bryant had many stories, as well as spectacular samples, of the rich ore, some of which he donated to the Montana School of Mines Mineral Museum.

The mine became a lifelong obsession for Hoffman that took many years for reality to temper.

He prowled the mine for ten years, looking for ways to get into the caved workings, but got no more than tantalizing glimpses until he was able to lease the property in 1968. That summer he re-opened the tunnel Clara McAdow drove to haul her ore from the main shaft to the mill.

Unable to get the mine to support a wife and new baby, Hoffman leased the mine to Viking exploration of Denver in 1972 and worked it for them for two years before leaving for other ventures.

Viking, a small oil company with no mining experience, unsuccessfully tried operating the mine before leasing it to a succession of operators. The last one bought the mine but went bankrupt.

A lot of money was spent by Hoffman and the successive operators, but they never had the blessing of the Tommy Knockers like Clara McAdow did.

Motels in Lewistown					
YOGO INN	535-8721	B&B motel	535-5496	Super 8 motel	538-2581
Sunset Motel	535-8741	Trails End	535-5468	Mountain View	535-3177
	Pheasant B&B	538-2124	Montana Bunkhouse	538-5543	

M.G.T.P.S. CONVENTION 2014

September 5, 6, 7

YOGO INN – LEWISTOWN, MT

Take advantage of these Activities!

Kendall Ghost Town Yogo Sapphires Fort Maginnis Authors
Banquet Central Montana Museum Historians Maiden Ghost Town
Civil War Quilts Bear Gulch Pictographs Water Witching Field Trip Tours
Social Hours Knowledgeable Guides Cheadle Hall Maginnis Mine-Mill
Gilt Edge Ghost Town Chokecherry Festival Reed and Bowles Trading Post
Carroll Trail Historical Photos Featured Speakers Breakout Sessions
Carved Roast Beef &/or Vegetarian Dinner



ABOVE ARE ONLY SOME OF THE FEATURES AT THE UPCOMING CONVENTION

We strongly recommend that if you intent attending, you make your hotel reservation soon, as our convention conflicts with the Choke Cherry Festival in Lewiston and rooms will soon be at a premium. Right now you can still book a room at the Yogo Inn at our reserved price of \$85 a night.

(Other motels in Lewistown are listed on opposite page).

Remember, Early
Registration (Before
August 1st) is \$65.00
After August 1st,
\$75.00





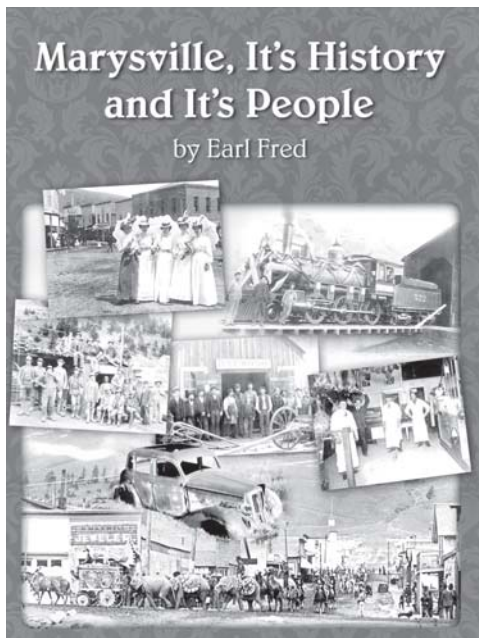
Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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

REVIEW:

Marysville, Its History and Its People

by EARL FRED



Those of you who attended our last convention in Helena, will remember our trip to Marysville and the very informative talk on the history of the burg, we received from Earl Fred. As mentioned in last issue's Prez Sez, Earl has now gotten his book in print. And what a book it is. It has the history of Marysville, from its beginnings to fully fledged city status and its eventual decline to what it is today. But more importantly, Earl leans heavily on the human aspect of the town's history, relating numerous stories about the inhabitants, good, bad and ordinary, but always interesting. There are numerous photos in the book, most of which cannot be found anywhere else, as they are from Earl's personal collection. To obtain your copy of the book, contact Earl Fred at 1641 Grant Street, Helena, MT, 59601

Terry Halden