

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

VOLUME 42

SUMMER 2014



CASTLE - 2012
Photo:
TERRY HALDEN

CASTLE - 1970
Photo:
BERT & JOANNE
McCROSKY

(For more 1970
photos, see page 6)



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.

SUMMER 2014

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The Prez Sez

TERRY HALDEN

The upcoming convention is ready to roll, Don Black having done a huge preparation job in ensuring its success. I'm sure you all received a personal invitation in the mail from Don and that you took advantage of the \$10 reduction for early registration, before August 1st. I'd also like to thank Jack and Georgie Thurber, the editors of The Christenot Chronicle for giving the convention a plug in their newsletter that goes out to all the extended family of two early settlers in Montana.

In this issue I have to thank Ben Goody and Vern Pomeroy (remember them for their presentation at our convention at Dillon, a few years ago) for their article about the various kilns supplying the furnaces at Glendale; and John Stoner the man to go to if you want any info about Broadwater County for his article about Gallatin City (that is Gallatin City No. One).

It is the unwritten law that this newsletter prints factual stories and NEVER features any fiction. That law has just been broken. On page 10 is a reprint of an article that I found in an old Mining Truth magazine telling of the hazards experienced by a prospector that strikes it rich but doesn't know how to go about financing the development of his mine. The story is told from the perspective of the prospector, and although fiction, is quite hilarious, outlining the potential pitfalls. The story first appeared in a paper distributed by the Yavapai County Chamber of Commerce, in Prescott, Arizona in the 1920's (bear this in mind when reading any dollar prices that are quoted) and initially contained three problems faced by prospectors, of which the Mining Truth only reprinted the third problem – getting the mine financed.

After we went to print on the last issue of the newsletter I learned of the passing of Cherie Lowe, the wonderful wife, whom I'm sure many of you have fond memories, of our board member, Tom Lowe. Our sincere condolences go out to Tom and his family. We too will miss the smiling face of Cherie at our conventions.

Until the next time.....

Terry

P.S. See you in Lewistown.

BILLIARDS! BILLIARDS!!

The Pacific Billiard Room

HAS been recently refitted, the tables newly clothed, new balls and cues.

THE Bar is supplied with the best of Wines, Liquors, and Cigars.

PRICES have been reduced to suit the times.

BUZZ CAVEN, Proprietor.

1-18tf

New Members

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

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mary Iverson, Kalispell, MT | Ray Carini, Maple Valley, WA | John R. Foster, Lewistown, MT |
| Shirley Barrick, Lewistown, MT | Marie Ridgeway, Lewistown, MT | Dick & Linda Rogers, Bozeman, MT |
| Marcie Algren, Grass Range, MT | Gregory "Gregg" Holt, Great Falls, MT | |
| Susannah McVay Ries and Violet Ries, Missoula, MT | Scott & Sonya Rosenthal, Butte, MT | |

MONTANA GHOST TOWN PRESERVATION SOCIETY CONVENTION 2014

September 5, 6,7 Friday, Saturday, Sunday

YOGO INN CONVENTION – HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Don Black – 2014 Convention Chairman 1-406-788-0346

FRIDAY

REGISTRATION Begins – Yogo Inn 4:30 P.M.

Sandwich Buffet

CONVENTION OPENS and Registration continues

Welcome – Fred Lark – KXLO Radio Lewistown

FEATURED SPEAKER

Barbara Fifer - Author - Montana Ghost Towns - Helena

Mini Clinics and Presentations

Yogo Sapphires - Water Witching

Civil War and Frontier Quilts - Bear Canyon Pictographs

Kendall and Maiden Information and Pictures

SATURDAY

Morning Field Trip

FEATURED HOST and GUIDES

Jerry Hanley of Maiden

Shirley Barrick - Central Montana Museum and John R. Foster - Lewistown

Reed and Bowles Trading Post on Carroll Trail

Kendall Town and Kendall Mine Today

Hamburger outdoor BBQ at Yogo Inn

Afternoon Field Trip

Tour Guide – Jerry Hanley

Maiden Town and Maginnis Mill - Mine

Evening Events

No Host Social Hour at the Yogo Inn

Convention Banquet in Sapphire Rooms, Yogo Inn

FEATURED SPEAKER

Author – Historian John R. Foster – History of Fort Maginnis

MGTPS Annual Meeting – Pres. Terry Halden

SUNDAY

Visit the Central Montana Museum in Lewistown

Morning Field Trip

Tour Guides: John Foster and Jerry Hanley

Fort Maginnis Site

Gilt Edge Ghost Town

Lunch – Cheadle Hall Tony Tuss Chairman and Host

Optional Sunday afternoon events on your own.

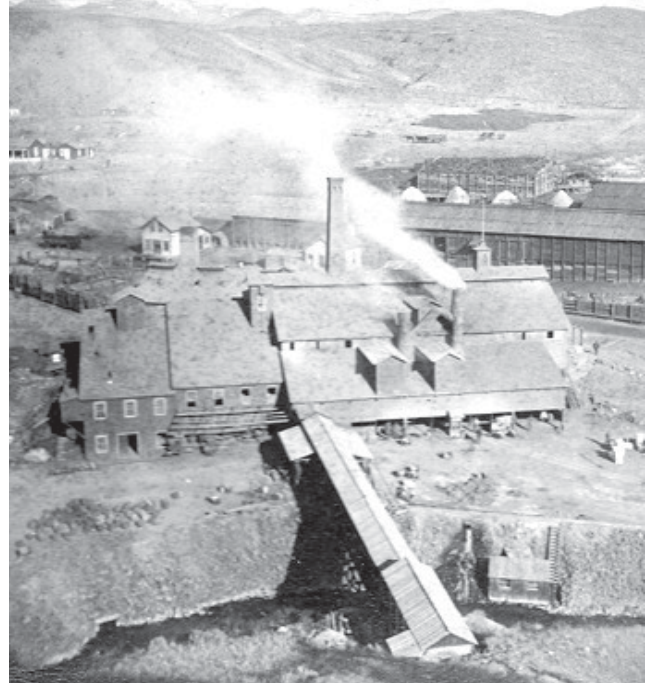
“What The Hay Festival” at Hobson to Utica and “Bear Gulch Pictographs Tour”

THE KILNS SUPPLYING GLENDALE

by Ben Goody and Vern Pomeroy

Like most of the early day Montana reduction works, the smelter at Glendale was the consumer of thousands of bushels of charcoal produced in nearby pits or charcoal kilns. A year after the first ores were processed in the new facility on the banks of Trapper Creek, the Dahler, Armstrong and Co., decided that their process would become more efficient if charcoal was used as a fuel source rather than the cordwood harvested from the nearby forest. Consequently, tens of thousands of bushels of charcoal was produced in nearby pits or charcoal kilns. In 1876, the process of erecting four charcoal kilns was commenced at a location just yards from the existing furnace. In order to attain this goal, native stone was gathered and the dome shape structures were assembled by master masons brought to the area. However, even at the height of their production, additional charcoal still had to be imported from Pennsylvania.

In 1884, a decision was made to dismantle the kilns at Glendale. They had operated for eight years and one can speculate for the reason for their demise. At that time, Glendale was enjoying a robust time with a growing population. With the smelter spewing its pollutants and the four charcoal kilns producing their exhaust, one can only imagine the poor quality of air in the burg. Another reason may have been the material of which they were constructed; stone is not as resilient as brick and cannot withstand the constant expansion and contraction. Another factor which may have played a role in deciding their fate was their location; wood had to be cut and transported several miles to the Glendale kilns. As early as 1881, plans were underway to construct several kilns nearer to the source of timber thereby reducing the freight costs, boosting production and cutting the amount of fuel needed from Pennsylvania. A flume was initially planned to convey the timber to the new kilns from an upstream source in Canyon Creek, but it never became a reality.



ABOVE LEFT: The Kilns across the street from the Glendale smelter. Note the charcoal wagon hitched to an oxen team in the foreground.

ABOVE RIGHT: The location of the kilns (upper right center) in relationship to the smelter can be seen in this photo.

All photos, courtesy AUTHORS, except where noted.

LEFT: An unusual view of the kilns in Canyon Creek, near the vast timber supplies of the Vipond Park. (HENRY BROWN photo)

In the summer of 1884, McLean and Johnson were making 10,000 bricks daily, according to the Dillon Tribune, to construct 18 kilns on the banks of Canyon Creek. Six additional were planned to be built the following year and to be in operation before the end of 1885. After the kilns at Glendale were dismantled, the stone was recycled to build a new office for the Helcla Consolidated Mining Company.

Meanwhile, Thomas Henson Sappington was busy planning a charcoal producing company to supply much needed fuel for the Glendale smelter and its three furnaces. He, and his partner, Henry Kappes began to construct six kilns along Trapper Creek, near the Greenwood concentrator in 1885. In early November of the same year, the ovens were completed and operating. The following summer, six more kilns were constructed at the mouth of Sucker Gulch. On September 17, 1886, the Dillon Tribune reported that 5 were complete and operating and the sixth was about half way through the construction phase.

The manufacture of charcoal was a very labor intensive process. After trees were harvested, they were cut into four foot lengths and hauled to the kilns. There, the pieces were stacked with precision inside the kilns, first through the main door until the level of wood blocked that access; and then scaffolding was needed to finish loading the kiln through the top access doors. When completed, the average kiln held nearly thirtyfive cord of wood, which would yield 1500 bushels of product. The bottom vents of kilns were plugged with bricks and the doors were closed and sealed with mortar. The mass of wood was ignited and the kiln master began careful observation to ensure a quality product. For 4 days, the smoke was white, indicating that moisture was being driven from the fuel. After the smoke turned from yellow to blue in color, the top vents were plugged and the center row was opened and after 12 hours, those vents were plugged and the bottom plugs were removed to draw the heat to the bottom of the kiln. When it was assumed that the burn was complete, all of the vents were sealed. Two or three days later, the top door was opened and approximately 500 gallons of water was dumped onto the fuel and the door was again closed. When the metal doors became cool enough to touch, the final product was removed and shipped to the fuel bins at Glendale in wagons.

Today, remains at all three locations still stand as a reminder of the 7.5 million bushels of fuel produced for consumption at the Glendale smelter. Recent restoration projects at the largest operation on Canyon Creek, has rekindled life for some of the aging structures. The late Otto Sassman, of Dillon, and current Melrose resident, Jim Eighorn were instrumental in convincing the US Forest Service to promote the preservation of these historic treasures of Beaverhead County's mining past. The remains of the kilns in Sucker Gulch and those on Trapper Creek near Greenwood have fallen into disrepair, and by virtue of their location, their existence is practically unknown.



ABOVE: The kilns near Greenwood, on Trapper Creek after construction.

THE TWO PHOTOS BELOW: As they look today



LEFT & RIGHT: Present day status of the Sucker Gulch Kilns.



CASTLE ~ 1970's



**Photos courtesy
BERT and JOANNE
McCROSKY**

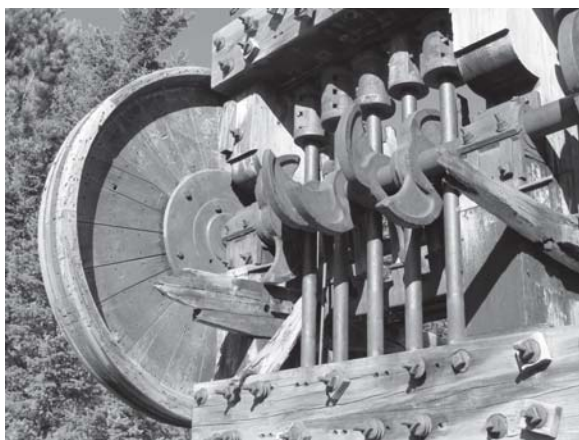
Montana's Mining Frontier

Then and Now

By Lee Silliman

For the past twenty-three years I have been photographing Montana's ghost town heritage with my view camera. Because of our state's history, most of the subjects have been abandoned mining camps. (Homesteader's shacks of the early twentieth century are a new subject.) Concurrent with this passion has been my habit of collecting vintage nineteenth century engravings depicting the American West. These artworks serve as an interesting counterpoint to my modern photographs. Blending them, I have created traveling exhibits with a "then & now" theme. (My Yellowstone version has had twenty venues.) Recently I signed a contract with the Montana Historical Society in Helena to display "Montana's Mining frontier: Then & Now," which opens September 18, 2014, and will run through early May, 2015.

This dual medium exhibit explores Montana's frontier mining culture. Half of the images are original engravings published over a century ago in the popular press, while the other half are my contemporary black and white photos which focus upon Montana's remote mining remains still extant from that mythic period. These handsome engravings, from publications such as *Harper's Weekly*, *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, and *The Illustrated London News*, illustrate the methods and social conditions under which the fledgling mining industry operated. These artists used their skills and imaginations to vividly portray life in the mining regions, for an Eastern audience eager to learn about the western territories. Juxtaposed against them are my contact prints of remnants such as grand old mills, charcoal kilns, smelter smokestacks, stamp mill frames, a miner's abode, a loading chute, an ore car, and a livery barn that survived to contemporary times.



Then and Now

Montana Historical Society

Sept. 18, 2014 to May 2015



LOOKING FOR GALATIN CITY

(That's Galatin City #One)

by JOHN STONER

INTRODUCTION

Gallatin City #1, sprang to life whilst Montana was still a part of Idaho Territory, becoming the earliest surveyed and chartered town site in what eventually would become Broadwater County.

Much has been written about Gallatin City #1 and its sister, Gallatin City #2, which was built across the Missouri river in what is now Gallatin County and considerable confusion, has arisen between these two "cities" for history buffs because of their similar names, however the focus here will be on the original one ... Gallatin City #1. The identity, purpose and location of old Gallatin City #1 is important to the history of Broadwater County, and for that matter, to the state of Montana.

A PLACE OF MANY NAMES

In discussing Gallatin City #1 and Gallatin City #2, which were two separate communities, other names associated with these places can (and have) caused much confusion. Gallatin City #1, for example, is often referred to as simply "Gallatin" on early maps and writings, and occasionally called "West Gallatin" because it was located on the west bank of the combined Jefferson and Madison Rivers.

Gallatin City #2, by the same token, was often referred to as "Gallatin," and at times "East Gallatin"...presumably because it was located east of Gallatin City #1. Either location was called just "Gallatin City" at times. Also adding to the confusion was the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1883 which had a station located just east of Gallatin City #2 and was named ... what else... "Gallatin."

When the two "Gallatins" were chartered by the first Montana legislature at Bannack in 1865, Gallatin City #1 was known as the "Gallatin Town Company" and Gallatin City #2 was called the "East Gallatin Town Company."

GALLATIN CITY 1 - THE CHOOSING OF A SITE

The original Gallatin City site was selected by a group of far sighted visionaries on November 20, 1862. Situated on the west bank of the combined Madison and Jefferson Rivers and just upstream from the confluence of the Gallatin River where the Missouri River actually begins, the site seemed ideal to become the true Missouri River "head of navigation." Ft. Benton, 266 river miles downstream, was the current holder of this title.

These visionaries, twenty-five in number, officially organized the Gallatin Town Company on December 30, 1862, intending to plot and survey the site they had selected the month before. Their names were N. W. Burris, Alfred

Ray, James Bouton, Edmund Ash, George Lemley, M. R. Burris, Felix Burton, Albert Green, William Townsley, Benjamin Townsley, B. B. Burchit, E. House, S. Smith, Monroe Atkinson, J. B. Cowen, A. F. Watkins, E. P. Lewis, John Auit, C. M. Davis, G. M. Stapleton and Samuel McCann. Contrary to current popular belief and most written history, these twenty-five individuals knew exactly what they were doing. They foresaw the three forks area as becoming a future trade area and terminus for Missouri River freight traffic. They were well aware of the barrier of five waterfalls above Ft. Benton and the diminishing depth of river water for river boats. Aply led by Mr. N. W. Burris, this group solicited the first Territory of Montana Legislative Assembly in 1865 for acts to incorporate the Gallatin Town Company (Gallatin City #1), a twenty year charter for the Missouri River Portage and Railroad Company, and a fifty year charter for the Upper Missouri River Steamboat Navigation Company. All three were granted. These three acts gave Mr. N. W. Burris and his partners a "port" at the three forks (Gallatin City #1), the right to build a railroad around the five falls to move freight between that bottleneck, and a fifty year exclusive right to navigate the upper Missouri River between the upper falls (Black Eagle Falls) and the headwaters of the Missouri River (Gallatin City #1).

Unfortunately, Gallatin City #1 never saw a paddle wheeled steam boat tied up to her levee (unlike the one fanciful pictured in a drawing in J. L. Cambell's book "Idaho: Six Months in the Gold Fields," published in Chicago in 1864). Although Gallatin City #1 was built adjacent to the river for this very purpose, it was the site of the ferry crossing on the road between Bozeman and Helena. The untimely death of Gallatin City #1's leading promoter. Mr. N. W. Burris in May of 1865, and the chartering of the East Gallatin Town Company ... or Gallatin City #2 ... just a mile or so away in a perhaps more desirable location, was the beginning of the end for the original Gallatin City. Most, if not all, of Gallatin City #1's buildings were moved, piece by piece, to the new location across the river. The ferry boat crossing remained where it was because of its ideal location and handy large rocky anchor points for the cable.

During Gallatin City #1's heydays (1863-1865) it has been estimated that sixty cabins were constructed. To entice prospective settlers, the founders came up with a generous game plan offering free of charge 75 lots to the first steamboat to arrive, 50 to the second, 50 to the first printing press, 25 to the proprietor of the first stock of goods to arrive, 50 to the first church built, 7 to the first lady who should become a resident, 6 to the next one, and so on down the line. It is highly doubtful that there were any takers for these "free" lots. Certainly, no riverboats appeared, nor was a church built, a printing press brought in, nor a mercantile store established. And as for the first "lady" ... well, that's doubtful too. The ferry, known as the "Gallaher Ferry," continued to operate at the old Gallatin City #1 location until at least 1875, if not a few years longer.

GALLATIN CITY #1—TODAY

Can the exact location of old Gallatin City be found today? This is a question that this writer has often asked himself. The best place to start is by obtaining a copy of the 1869 Montana Territory Surveyor General's map of the Principal Meridian, Township 2 North, Range 2 East. This map, surveyed by B. F. Marsh during the winter of 1868-1869, is scaled at 40 chains (2,640 feet) per inch. Old Gallatin City is clearly shown in the SE4 of Section 8. Mr. Marsh's field notes pin-points the location even closer by indicating it is adjacent to the west ferry landing. This ferry crossing can be readily identified today by its two anchor points, Ling Rock (once called Fire Place Rock) on the east side of the combined Jefferson and Madison Rivers, and a limestone out-crop on the west shore.

For some unknown reason, Surveyor Marsh chose to boldly show the location of "old" Gallatin City (#1) which by this time had ceased to exist, and yet ignored the new Gallatin City #2 other than to indicate the location of the Madison Flour Mill and a handful of scattered cabins. Transferring the location of old Gallatin City from the 1869 map to a current 7.5 Min. topographic map (Logan Quadrangle, Montana) is easily done. The next step is to obtain a copy of the latest aerial photo ... in this case obtained from the Broadwater County Conservation District Office ... which in conjunction with the topo map will show you just where to center the search.

A word of caution here, the site of old Gallatin City and the lands surrounding it are on private property and well posted with "No Trespassing" signs. Obviously, permission to enter this area is needed from the landowner. The target area, once determined by maps, aerial photographs and the 1868-1869 surveyor's notes, can be easily accessed. Upon my initial arrival in the late spring of 2004 it became immediately evident that few changes had occurred to the site over the past 140 or so years, based on early lithograph sketches made around 1867 or 1868.

Old Gallatin City was built on a flat bench devoid of any trees or vegetation other than grass. A power transmission line crosses the northern edge of the site which has caused some disturbance where the poles were set. Fortunately the old Milwaukee Railroad bed missed Gallatin City ... but not by much.

A visual survey of the site resulted in locating a small frame cabin tucked away in a dense brushy flood plain area just south of where old Gallatin City would have been, however it was of much later vintage... probably 1900 or later. Half a dozen shallow depressions... were found on the bench, more or less in a straight line and adjacent to the ferry landing anchor point, which seemed to indicate where a row of log cabins could have once stood.

Whatever proof that old Gallatin City had once stood here would have to be found buried in the ground with a metal detector. I had come prepared, and soon I was uncovering square (cut) nails of various sizes, an occasional horseshoe nail, pieces of tin, a couple of metal wagon parts, pottery shards and a unidentified hand forged item with a sharpened end that might have been driven into a log wall for some purposeful use.

The general outline of old Gallatin City began to emerge as the metal detector separated the metallic debris field of the town-site itself from the surrounding metal free area. According to the 1869 Township Map, surveyor Marsh had placed the south end of old Gallatin City within the flood plain area immediately up-river from the ferry landing which had then... as evidenced from the early sketches ... and which has now, a dense stand of cottonwoods and underbrush. Those early sketches clearly show old Gallatin City situated on the dry bench next to the ferry landing, and just where my metal detector indicated it was.

A large surface debris field of barrel hoops, broken glass, pottery shards, pieces of tin, metal wagon parts, bits of wire and other items one would expect to find from a early ranching operation lies approximately one quarter mile due north of old Gallatin City. This is the site of Fannie Campbell's sheep ranch which was in operation at least to 1900. Unfortunately, this ranch site, probably due to its easily seen surface debris, has often been mistaken for old Gallatin City. Even Dr. Kingston W. Heath and Mikel N. Kallestad were misled in their otherwise outstanding 1986 paper "Gallatin City: Its Significance In Montana's History."

To my satisfaction anyway, the site of old Gallatin City has been found.

BELOW: A view of Gallatin City # 1.
Photo courtesy GALLATIN PIONEER MUSEUM



The Mining Truth Magazine March 6, 1930

article by A. C. GILMORE

The following article is a portion of a paper distributed by the Yavapai County Chamber of Commerce, Prescott, Arizona. For this publication only one of the prospector's problems is discussed—the problem which is at present much in the public eye. The author relates how his prospector obtains a grubstake after difficulty, and finally locates a deposit of mill grade ore—but he has no mill. Then comes—

Problem 3: WHICH IS TO GET FINANCIAL HELP.

Now, as a class, the prospector is neither a schemer nor a bilk. At the beginning, he is ignorant of the methods of the so-called financier, and of the financial agencies, and of middlemen. Perhaps he loses his property before he realizes that he has associated himself with human spiders who had spread their webs and that he was the fly they were after. To escape these spiders is a difficult thing, even for the experienced. The spider is forever inventing and building new webs, or patching weak places in the old.

PROSPECTOR, MEET MR. FATWAD

Our prospector goes to town, having first duly monumented and done the work upon the Good Faith and other claims. In the lobby of the best hotel he gets into conversation with Mr. Fatwad, reputed financier.

"Yes, I can finance the property by forming a corporation, but I want 51% of the stock," says Fatwad. At first Prospector thinks that, as he is owner and has thus far borne the entire burden, he should get at least one-half interest in the company's stock. But it is explained that in consideration of the extra one per cent of the stock, Mr. Fatwad will pay the expense of organizing the company.

Prospector is anxious to make a deal, says to himself, "Well, one per cent isn't much anyway." So he consents. Prospector suggests, Good Faith Mining Corporation as the name of the company. Fatwad says, "Fine! That sounds fine!" His smile indicates derision and humor, as well as pleasure, but Prospector does not notice that; is himself in excellent humor, indulges in prophecies as to the big money they will make.

DEEDS OVER HIS PROPERTY

A deed conveys the property from Prospector to the company. Prospector finds that the board of directors consists of Fatwad, Fatwad's wife, Fatwad's stenographer, Fatwad's book-keeper and Mr. Prospector. Fatwad is in control. Work is started under Fatwad's direction. Later it is found that money is not forthcoming to pay miners and merchants. Prospector has beautiful stock certificates, but no money. Some fine day he reads in the local paper that the company's holdings will be sold by the sheriff at 10 a.m. at the north door of the courthouse.

Prospector witnesses these obsequies—broke. Fatwad also is there, as planned from inception of this and other companies, and bids in the whole property for a debt not at all commensurate with its value.

The months pass, as does title to the ground. Prospector finds that his Good Faith Mining Corporation is succeeded by Merger Mines Company, Inc., a company in which he has no ownership, although still interested—as an onlooker. Prospector remarks:

"That Financier Fatwad is sure a merger, all right! He merged my 100 per cent ownership into 0 per cent, did the same thing with Chuckawalla Bill's 'Rattler group and with Burro Sam's R. A. M. Group, then chucked 'em all into this Merger thing. Merger ain't a strong enough word—I'm plumb submerged! Next time I'll do the financing myself; organize a company at my own expense, and keep control."

BACK TO THE HILLS

So back to the hills he goes. Locates another group of claims, works for wages, and saves about \$1000. Tries to start a company, finds he does not know how, so he hires a lawyer. "You must have articles of incorporation," says the lawyer. "All right," says Prospector. Lawyer steps into next room and speaks with Miss Stenog, who trots down stairs. Prospector is told to come back next day. Miss Stenog goes to recorder's office, is handed one of sixteen volumes of recorded articles of incorporation, and copies one of them which fits the case except as to names and dates. Elapsed time of Miss Stenog - two hours.

Next day Prospector pays \$50 for the job. He is paying for about \$2 worth of actual work, the \$48 being for brain fag sustained by the lawyer. Then follow by-laws, and application to corporation commission for permit to sell stock. Sounds profound, mysterious, and difficult to Prospector. But as there are tons of carbon copies of such documents available, Miss Stenog simply has another job of copying. Lawyer's brain fag again assuaged. This time it cost Prospector the savings from a month's wages when working on a bean diet.

Prospector then goes to Phoenix to square his company with the Corporation commission. His company, like other mining companies, is by Arizona and California laws, presumed to be guilty of fraudulent intent until proven innocent of such malicious purpose by the payment of fees to the Corporation Commission.

Well, he pays, and gets his permit. Cost him about \$100; lawyer cost him \$200; he is out about \$300, and not a share of stock sold. He tries to sell stock. He is not a good salesman; does not look prosperous, for he had to pay for red tape instead of for good clothes.

Concludes, finally, that he will have stock sold on commission. Sees in a reputable paper printed in Los Diablos, California, the advertisement of an outfit stating that they are prepared to conduct the details of financing new corporations. Prospector writes them. They answer, outlining their methods, but promise nothing definite. States that they cannot do so, until they have threshed the matter out with him in person. Will he please come to their office and confer?

GOES TO AGENCY

His company has no money to defray such expense, but he goes. Is impressed by the handsome furnishings, the bevy of handsomer stenogs, the suavity of the manager, and the general aspect of prosperity. Is told about the New York branch, with big clientele; and the great volume of money available in California from movie stars and retired capitalists, the manager verbally insinuating that their bank accounts are on tap for him and that he is their trusted advisor in matters financial.

Yes, they have employees who are gifted writers of prospectuses and follow-up letters; in fact, have all modern facilities for conducting a stock selling campaign. For \$1000 they will prepare and mail such literature, and will charge 20% upon stock sales made directly by their salesmen. The \$1000 is too big for Prospector's pile, but he has \$600 left. Compromise affected by cutting down amount of mail matter. Prospector hands, over his \$600. Receipts from stock sales are to be placed to credit of his company. Sounds fine to Prospector, so he goes back to his claims and does a little work on roads and trails, awaiting the arrival of funds.

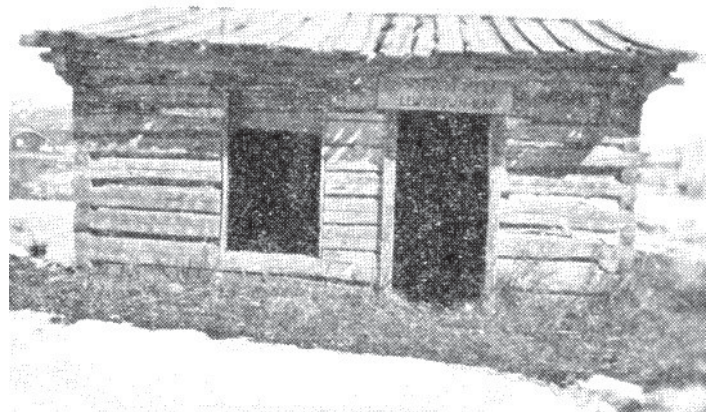
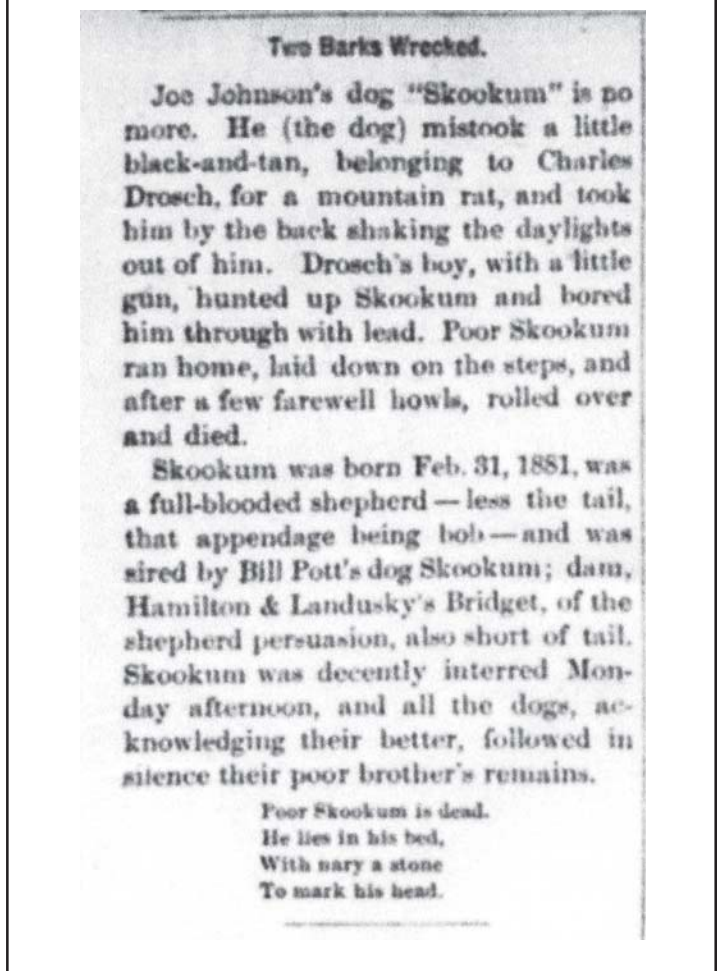
Weeks pass; No funds arrive. Excuses and explanations from the financing agency as specious as their offices were spacious. Prospector reads his contract critically, carefully. Finds that nothing is guaranteed except that they will write and print a prospectus, mail certain form letters, send out stock salesmen to try to sell the company's stock.

Prospector runs across a printer friend. Is told that prices charged were very high, even if he were sure the full number were printed and mailed as agreed upon. Prospector, under an assumed name, sends for literature of other mining companies which had, like him, contributed toward the prosperity of the financing agency. Found a remarkable similarity in them. Printer looks them over.

"A lot of pick-up in these," says he. "Guess their printing office keeps the forms standing for the next sucker who comes along."

Prospector soliloquizes: "For Financier Fatwad, in the Good Faith Mining Company deal, I was the fly. He swallowed me whole. In this financial agency alleged attempt at financing, I am surely the goat—and now my printer friend insinuates that I am also a sucker'."

The Mineral Argus, in its issue of Nov. 8 1883, reports the death of a famous local dog, by the name of 'Skookum'. Obviously named after the discoverer of gold in the Maiden area, but more interesting is the dog, was whelped by a bitch owned by 'Pike' Landusky, proving Landusky was in the Maiden area in the 1880's.



And finally, since we will be in Lewistown this year for our convention, here is a photo of Lewistown post office, just so you will know where to go to mail your postcards.

Photo courtesy MARGARET COWAN



Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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

REVIEW:

GHOSTS of the WEST

a DVD by E. S. Knightchilde



The 2012, award winning documentary, that played to special sell-out crowds all over the west, but not in Montana, is now available in DVD format. Although the movie's focus is on ghost towns and their stories, thereby creating interest in the subject, by covering an area from the Canadian border to the Mexican border, its scope is enormous and it thereby defeats its own purpose. 57 minutes is just not enough time to give adequate coverage to the myriad ghost town stories from the west. There are a few minutes devoted to Plummer and the vigilantes in Bannack and Virginia City, along with some quick shots of Elkhorn, Comet and Garnet (that remain unidentified), but the rest of the movie is devoted to other western ghost towns, mainly Colorado (Creede gets mentioned three times). The main thrust of the movie is to tell a story from the discovery of gold in California, through to the demise of ghost towns and the reasons thereof, illustrated by different ghost towns. A huge undertaking to encompass in the short duration of the film. Luckily, I have learned that because of the success of this film, the producers are at present filming a sequel – hopefully they will include more stories from Montana. The DVD is available at Rank's Mercantile in Virginia City.

Terry Halden