



MONTANA
GHOST TOWN
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

VOLUME 44

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016



St. Mary's Mission, built in 1841, that our convention delegates visited on the Saturday morning.
(For other convention photos see center pages spread)

Photo: TERRY HALDEN

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

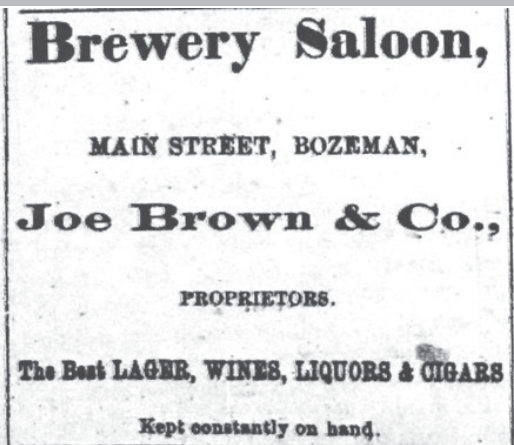
The **Montana Ghost Town Quarterly** is published four times a year by the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society, P.O. Box 1861, Bozeman, Montana 59771.
e-mail: mtghosttown@yahoo.com
www.mtghosttown.org
Copyright © 2016, all rights reserved.

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.

FALL 2016

President: Terry Halden
Vice President: Brad O'Grosky
Secretary / Treasurer: Sally Griffin
Website Administrator: Kathryn Manning
Facebook Administrator: Kathryn Manning and Darian Halden
Projects: Darian Halden and Larry Hoffman
Membership: Sally Griffin
Newsletter Editor: Terry Halden
2017 Convention: Margie Kankriik and Marilyn Murdock
Publicity: Sue Howe
Directors: Tom Lowe and Gordon Kelly
Immediate Past President: John Ellingsen



The Bozeman Avant Courier,
August 29, 1872

The Prez Sez

TERRY HALDEN

The comments we are getting back, indicate the convention in Missoula was a huge success. To put it on requires the help of a lot of people. In the planning arrangements, first and foremost was the assistance provided by Nonda Beardsley, our 'local' who gave info on local attractions and suggested guest speakers who might interest our members. Then came the selection of the base hotel. The choice was excellent, both in value for dollar and the little extras that Annie Puetz and Tom Deeds provided for us, to insure our stay went without a hitch. Tom was also in charge of the catering facilities from the Hors d'ouvers on the Friday night to the main banquet on Saturday evening, all with a lot of 'left overs' that was not eaten. Tucker Transport came through again with the luxury coach and amiable driver, waiting to go before the appointed time. Our visits to Travelers Rest (Loren Flynn), St. Mary's Mission (Colleen Meyer & Carole Gage), Fort Missoula Museum (Kristjana Eyjolfsson) and Garnet Ghost Town (Linda Stroh & the Garnet Preservation Society) were made enjoyable by the right number of knowledgeable guides to show us around and reveal the histories of the locations. Our guest speakers, Bob Brown and Kim Briggeman had interesting topics and captivated their audience. Our special guests on Saturday and Sunday were Greg Lalire, the editor of Wild West magazine and his lady friend. Finally, the ghost town to beat them all was Coloma, with its spectacular view of the Blackfoot River Valley and three mountain ranges. A fitting end for the convention.

Next year is Bozeman and I understand that Margie Kankriik and her crew have the program already lined up. Details will follow in later newsletters.

In this issue of the newsletter you find the latest article by board member Tom Lowe who writes about the interesting Montana pioneer 'Buzz' Caven whilst my article is about Nohly, a town that didn't quite make it to that status, but nevertheless faded into the obscurity of ghost town status fifty years later.

As those of you who were at the convention learned, we have an excess of money available for any worthwhile history related project. If you know about any local history undertaking that is cash strapped, let us know and the board will consider any idea. The next board meeting is scheduled for November 12, weather permitting.

Until the next time....

Terry

New Members

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

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Becky Bandstra, Livingston, MT | Barbara Kelly, Kalispell, MT | Gregory LaLire, Leesburg, VA |
| Marcia Melton, Gallatin Gateway, MT | Mike Oestreich, Missoula, MT | Annie Puetz, Missoula, MT |

M.G.T.P.S. Annual General Meeting

September 10th 2016

The meeting was called to order at 8:00PM by President Terry Halden.

He stated that the minutes of the 2015 General Meeting were published in the 2015 Fall Newsletter. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes as printed there. John Varnum made the motion and Jerry Hanley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Sally then gave the Treasurer's Report. For the fiscal year starting July 1, 2016, through Sept. 5, 2016, we have a net income of \$988.71. The cash on hand is Petty Cash, \$60.20; Checking Account, \$10,549.11; and Savings Account, \$13,405.80, for a total of \$24,015.11. Jerry Hanley moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. John Varnum seconded.

Old Business:

Terry said that in the past year, we have donated money to the Fort Benton Preservation Association to help in the restoration of the old fort, to the Headwaters Historical Society of Three Forks to restore one of the ornate old windows in the railroad depot they are restoring, and we have committed to financially help in the rebuilding of the original mine frame of the Alta Mine at the World Museum of Mining in Butte.

We want to graciously acknowledge the \$1000.00 donation from the Garnet Preservation Association to help offset the costs of the convention. The money coming from the vanity 'support ghost towns' license plate sales.

We would also like to acknowledge a donation of \$5,000 from the Louis Borick Foundation in Texas to help with our projects.

New Business:

Members who are attending their first convention were asked to stand and introduce themselves. There were 8: Mary Iverson, Barbara Kelly, Becky Bandstra, Genevieve Fix, Shaun Pendrak, Carl and Kit Craft, and Larry Deeds.

The 2017 convention will be in Bozeman. One of the Co-Chairpersons for this event, Margie Kankrlik, gave a summary of the plans. Everything is already set unless there are last minute changes. She told us to make our reservations early as this is a busy weekend in Bozeman.

There being no further business, John Varnum made a motion to adjourn and Gloria Hardin seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Griffin

Secretary/Treasurer



Your board of directors, at convention:

Gord Tracy
Brad O'Grosky
Sally Griffin
Terry Halden
Darrian Halden.

Missing:
Kathryn Manning
Larry Hoffman
Sue Howe
Tom Lowe
John Ellingsen

NOHLY – The (ghost) town that almost was.

by TERRY HALDEN



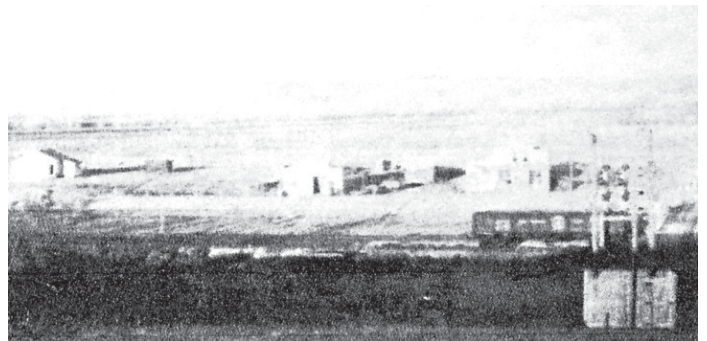
The Nohly general store that C.A. Tucker built. The Snowden bridge can be seen in the background.

Photo: MONDAK HERITAGE CENTER

Most towns, be they came into being as a result of mining ventures or agricultural activities, grew as people living in close proximity, got together to build needed facilities such as churches, schools, and attract businesses to establish in their midst. Nohly, at its best, could not be described as a town, not even a village or even a hamlet

Nohly, in the extreme northeast corner of what is now Richland County, came into existence in about 1910 because of the need of local ranchers and farmers to have a near-by supplier of groceries, and a post office. A store was built and operated by C. A. Tucker, within sight of the massive Snowden (or as it later became known, Nohly) lift bridge over the Missouri River. It was followed by a saloon being moved in from Java and converted to be used as a school for area children. On December 8, 1916, the locals were rewarded with the opening of a post office. By that time a machine shop and an elevator had joined the local list of buildings.

However, Nohly never did develop into what might be called a 'town'. All it had were the buildings listed above, with the post office, more than likely, in the general store. No cabins, houses, cottages or shacks dotted the landscape. Eventually, as transportation became more accessible, pitting the store with completion in Fairview it closed sometime in the 1950's after that, the post office that had moved eventually closed in 1966. The school had longtime been closed as local students were bussed into larger centers of learning. Today you would be hard pressed to find even the foundations marking where the town existed, although, on a hill to the northwest, overlooking the valley, is the well-kept Nohly cemetery.



Nohly, the school, the store and the machine shop. The train tracks and elevator in the foreground. Note the complete lack of residences.

Photo: MONDAK HERITAGE CENTER



Nohly cemetery.

Photo: TERRY HALDEN



The Snowden/Nohly Bridge today, facing east

Photo: TERRY HALDEN



Another view of the bridge, lookin north-west.

Photo: TERRY HALDEN



The southern span of the bridge in the raised position to let a paddle wheeler up-river.

Photo: MONDAK HERITAGE CENTER

Back to the story of the bridge. In 1912, the Great Northern Railroad as part of an unsuccessful attempt to build the Montana Eastern Railway south, started to erect a bridge over the Missouri River, close to a town, on the north side of the bridge, called Mondak (See story in last issue of the Newsletter). The engineering firm of J.A.L. Waddell of Port Hope, Ontario, Canada was engaged to design the bridge and the firm of American Bridge Company of New York built the bridge with a completion date of November 1, 1913. Because at that time there was still river traffic on the Missouri and the Snowden Bridge, as it was first known, had to have a clearance of 80 feet. This resulted in the south span of the bridge being a lift bridge, the only one in Montana. It was only raised sixteen times in its existence, the last time in 1922. In 1935 it may have been raised to allow a series of barges, carrying supplies for the construction of the Fort Peck dam, up river to proceed, but there is also evidence the barges were ballasted down to ride lower in the water and therefor clear the bridge structure.

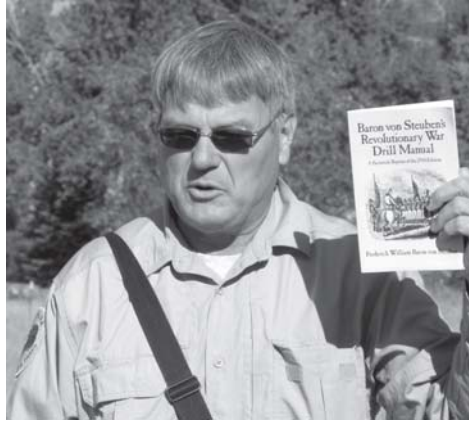
In 1926, planking was installed on the deck of the bridge, to allow foot and vehicular traffic. Gates at each end collected 50 cents per car and 15 cents per person. In the 1940's the toll was changed to 25 cents per car and 75 cents for trucks. Tolls were collected until 1956 when the new MT-58 bridge was built four miles downstream in North Dakota. The bridge remained open to vehicular traffic until 1985, when the new owners, BNSF Railroad moved to exclude traffic other than railroad and tore up the planking. Today crude oil from the eastern half of the Balkan oil reserve and local farming and ranching products are transported by train north to the main east-west BNSF rail lines.



ABOVE: Friday Evening Registration.
BELOW: Friday Guest Speaker, BOB BROWN, appearing as C. P. HIGGINS, giving us a 'personal' view of life in Hellgate, as Missoula was first called.



ABOVE: Being split into two groups, we get a tour on Traveler's Rest, the only certified area that Lewis & Clark camped at in 1805.
LEFT: Our guide, Head Ranger, LOREN FLYNN



BELOW: Learning the history of St. Mary's Mission (See photo on front cover)

BELOW:
The Fr.'s kitchen



LEFT:
Returning to Missoula, enjoying lunch at the local Eagle's Club.

Convention 2016
PHOTOS
 by DARIAN HALDEN

RIGHT & FAR RIGHT:
 Saturday afternoon at
 Fort Missoula



BANQUET SPEAKER
KIM BRIGGEMAN

ABOVE: Banquet guests.

RIGHT:
 HEAD TABLE from the Left:
 SALLY GRIFFIN, Sec/Treas.
 BARBARA HALDEN, Guest
 TERRY HALDEN, President
 KIM BRIGGEMAN, Gst. Speake
 GREGORY LALIRE, Editor,
 Wild West Magazine
 KIM LALIRE, Guest



BELOW LEFT:
 Sunday at GARNET
 BELOW:
 One of our guides,
 LINDA STROH, gives
 extra information on
 the history of Garnet



'BUZZ' CAVEN ~ An early pioneer

Among the pioneers during the gold rush to Montana one name that occurred frequently was Buzz Caven. A well liked man who was welcomed wherever he and his lovely wife Flora turned up. However, Buzz did have his shortcomings as we shall see. Born Jehiel B. Caven near the village of Mt Eaton in Wayne County Ohio in 1830 where his father, John Caven, was an early settler. Named after an obscure priest in a temple when Josiah was king (II Cron. 35:8) it was a rather unusual biblical name even in those revivalist times. One older brother, Shepard, ran the family farm. Jehiel attended a subscription school in Wooster, Ohio and was there taught music and dancing in addition to the regular subjects. A self-assured young man he told the census taker in 1850 that he was a dancing master. Caven was known for his skill with the violin, and his dancing and theatrical talents.

Like many young men of his day he couldn't resist the allure of the California gold rush. In the mid 1850s he was living along the Yuba River in California where he did some placer mining. He also fiddled at dances, joined the Masons and relished the wild life of the gold mining camps.

In 1859 or 1860 while returning home he stopped off in what later became Colorado and tried his hand at mining in the South Clear Creek area. Over the hill at Mountain City he met an Englishman, George Wakely, who made his living performing in shows with the help of his wife and two beautiful teenage daughters. The daughters, Rose and Flora, besides acting sang and danced to the admiration of the audience. It was only natural that Caven would be attracted to this talented family and probably performed and danced with the group. Smitten with the beautiful Flora Wakely the couple were married on February 1, 1861 in Denver. Buzz was 30 years old and Flora was 15.

The first mention of Caven and his wife in Montana was recorded by Granville Stuart in his journal dated July 23, 1862. *"Arrived at our town today, a fine violin player accompanied by his handsome, seventeen year old wife. We purchased a good violin sometime ago, so we have the Cavens over often and enjoy the society of an intellectual white woman and good music. Certainly we are approaching civilization or rather civilization is approaching us. All the men are shaving nowadays and most of them indulge in an occasional haircut. The blue flannel shirt with black necktie has taken the place of the elaborately beaded buckskin one. The white men wear shoes instead of moccasins and most of us have selected some other day than Sunday for wash day."*

by TOM LOWE



The couple must have heard news of the gold strike on Gold Creek as Granville and James had been corresponding to their brother Thomas who was mining in Colorado at that time. The Stuarts had been raising stock, blacksmithing and doing a little mining on Gold Creek and claimed to have set the first sluice boxes in Montana.

Buzz and Flora spent the summer prospecting on the Little Blackfoot River without any success. On September 29, 1862 James Stuart recorded in his journal: *"Buzz' Caven moved here from Little Blackfoot. We are glad to have Caven for we will enjoy some good music and like to have his white wife about. We have had no white women in camp since Mrs. Burchett and family went to Beaverhead mines."*

The placer mines along Grasshopper Creek below Bannack were then called the Beaverhead mines. The Cavens were headed there and the Stuart brothers were not far behind, arriving at Bannack that fall.



JEHIEL B. CAVEN

Photo courtesy AUTHOR

'Buzz' and Flora spent their first winter in Montana in Bannack, the most populated place in the territory at that time. The Stuart brothers drove some cattle to Bannack from the Deerlodge Valley in November of 1862 and opened a butcher shop. They were glad to see the Cavens and Burchetts as well as two young men they met near Gold Creek, Henry Plummer and Charley Reeves.

Granville wrote in his journal. *"There were two good fiddlers in camp, 'Buz' Caven and Lou P. Smith, and something over thirty white women. Seven were unmarried but did not remain so very long. We had a number of fine balls attended by all the respectable people and enjoyed by young and old alike. Best suits packed in the bottom of our "war bags" and long forgotten, were dragged out, aired and pressed, as best we could, and made ready for those festive occasions. The dances were very orderly; no man that was drinking was allowed in the hall. The young people danced the waltz, schottische, varsoviane, and polka, but the older ones stuck to the Virginia-reel and quadrille. There were usually about ten men to every woman at these balls so the women danced every dance. These gatherings were very informal and enjoyable. Tickets were \$5.00 gold and there was no supper served. Buzz Caven possessed considerable dramatic talent and he and his wife gave several entertainments consisting of songs, dancing, and recitations".* So passed the winter of 1862 at Bannack City, Dakota territory.

Bannack was a rough place especially so in the winter when the miners could not work their claims. Although the dances provided a good social outlet for the respectable folks some of the rougher element spent much of their time in the numerous saloons. Nathaniel Langford wrote about an incident in Cyrus Skinner's saloon where a gunfight erupted over a card game. One of the victims of the shootout was Buzz Caven's dog Toodles who was sleeping under a table. Caven and Flora were welcome most everywhere due to their ability to entertain folks. However, it is doubtful that she entered any of the saloons in Bannack.

That June news of the fabulous gold discovery on Alder Gulch reached Bannack. Many of the people moved to Virginia City including the Cavens and Stuart brothers. The Stuarts opened a store and Buzz was elected sheriff on September 3, 1863 by popular acclaim of the Fairweather Mining District. However, a few weeks later Henry Plummer decided he would like to be sheriff of both Bannack and Virginia City. Caven sensibly resigned rather than incur the wrath of Henry Plummer.



'Buzz' and Flora were the toast of Virginia City society that winter. He organized dances and played for them. Together they gave theatricals in which she sang and danced. *"J. B. Caven and his wife gave several theatrical entertainments and the tickets were \$3.00".* wrote Granville Stuart. In the summer of 1864 Flora gave birth to their first child, Katie. She returned to the stage that fall and helped organize the Montana Theatre Company that staged plays and put on variety shows that were so popular at that time. She sang "Faint Heart Ne'er Won Fair Lady" in the opening bill in December 1864, with Buzz in the orchestra and brought down the house with the ever popular "Annie Laurie".

Flora gave birth to a son that spring but sadly he died of whooping cough at age two months. Buzz showed signs of settling down when the City Council hired him as the City Marshall. However, when the City Council met in February 1867 to choose new city officers they passed over 'Buzz'.

About this time James Stuart was superintendent of the St. Louis and Montana Mining Company and was hiring men to build a new road up Flint Creek to a new camp to be called Philipsburg. He offered Buzz the job to run the toll house they were putting up at the Boulder Creek crossing.

'Buzz' the job to run the toll house they were putting up at the Boulder Creek crossing. 'Buzz' was ready for a new opportunity but Flora was reluctant to leave her little house and the Montana Theatre Company behind and move to the remote Flint Creek Valley.

The toll house included a restaurant, saloon and hotel and this is where their marital problems probably began. While 'Buzz' was entertaining the boys at the bar and running up and down Flint Creek playing for dances like he was the only one who had any talent, Flora was cooking, sculling, making beds and keeping house while taking care of little Katie with another baby on the way. Isolated even from the primitive town of Philipsburg, she longed for the glamour of her days as an entertainer and her family in Colorado.

Caven and Bernard provided the music for the Masons Christmas ball in 1867, Philipsburg's first and 'Buzz' attended lodge several times during 1868. That September Flora gave birth to a boy and Caven proudly named him Thomas Francis Meagher Caven after Montana's controversial and ill fated governor. Another girl, Maude, was born in 1869 but the strained relationship was going downhill. 'Buzz' was his own best saloon customer and the hard work and three small children was beginning to tell on Flora.

The St. Louis Company failed and the toll road closed so the Cavens moved to Missoula in the fall of 1870. 'Buzz' organized a dancing school and opened a restaurant, the St. Charles, for Flora to run. Both failed within the year and 'Buzz' decided to try homesteading on the Burnt Fork east of Stevensville, again his ambitions exceeded his ability. In

to try homesteading on the Burnt Fork east of Stevensville, back to Virginia City, the only place he had been successful and Flora happy. But it wasn't the same anymore. 'Buzz' was spending more time away from his family. The December 6, 1873 edition of the New Northwest newspaper in Deer Lodge reported that a Grand Ball was put on to benefit the fire department in Deer Lodge under the direction of Mr. J. B. Caven. In July 1875 'Buzz' abandoned Flora and the children to their fates and disappeared in the hopes of finding his old life again.

Flora sued for divorce in 1876 charging 'Buzz' with desertion, lack of support and drunkenness, Six months later after the divorce was granted she married Jeff Sutton in May of 1877. They moved to Helena where ten months later she died, perhaps in childbirth, a disappointed and worn out woman leaving five small children motherless. She was only 31.

Sutton unwilling to raise another man's children, farmed the children out, Katie as a house servant to a rancher and Frank as a farm hand for a dairyman near Boulder. The three younger girls became wards of the state and were placed in foster homes. Frank was adopted by a man named Edwards whose name he took. He became a respected citizen and a good father. When he died in Wolf Point at 81 in 1949, he was survived by three of his sisters.

The last heard of the once promising 'Buzz' Caven was in Nevada in 1880s where he was living the simple life of a placer miner. He was known to play a pretty good fiddle and tell wonderful stories of the good old days. He passed away in 1888.

~~~~~  
MORE CONVENTION PHOTOS.....



ABOVE: The hardy ones went to Coloma after the tour of Garnet and a packed lunch.

To see all the convention photos, in glorious Technicolor, go to our Facebook page.



ABOVE:: The remains of a cabin, at Coloma, overlooking the Blackfoot River Valley and a view of three mountain Ranges

In its May 5th 1887 edition, the PHILIPSBURG MAIL printed this glossary of mining terms, we believe, tongue in cheek!

**A CAPITALIST**

is a man who arrives in camp dressed in a suit of store clothes, and who is as dumb as a sphinx as to whether he possesses a bank account, or as to the extent of it, should he possess such a luxury.

**A MINING EXPERT**

is a piece of humanity tied up ugly in a corduroy suit and a pair of yellow leggings, who is gifted with a more copious flow of language than a book agent or a lightning-rod man, and who knows about as much about mining as a mountain rat knows about the Methodist religion. It is unnecessary to add that any conclusions he may arrive at are infallible.

**A PROSPECTOR**

is a man who goes out seeking claims. He starts out with some sowbelly and some flour on his back, a pick in his hand, and a brown-stone front in his eye. He eats his grub, wears out his boots and his pick, and in the majority of cases the brown-stone front in his eye is the gay to-morrow of the mine that never comes.

**AN ASSAY**

of mineral is to a reporter what the pedigree of a horse is to a horse dealer, and is almost as reliable. Assays are manufactured quite extensively in the mountains—principally for experts.

**THE MINERAL BELT**

represents in mining what the term  $x$  does in simple equation—something that is unknown. It runs in about the same direction that the feeders run from an octopus. To find what mineral belt your claim is on, draw an imaginary line from it to the nearest pay mine. The imaginary line is the mineral belt.

**TO MAKE A RAISE**

is to sell a 2-cent prospect hole for \$200. To sink a raise is a Hibernian expression used to describe the way in which you get away with the above mentioned \$200 at faro.

**A MINING COMPANY**

is a company got up by an eastern man amongst his friends for the charitable purpose of finding his (the eastern capitalist's) poor relations positrons as superintendents, managere, etc.

**A WILD-CAT COMPANY**

is a company the stockholders of which must be prepared to live off the same bill-of-fare as the wild-cats are supposed to exist on, namely—rabbit-tracks.

In conclusion, remember that prospect holes and mines do not work in the same ratio as dollars and cents. If it were so, and a hundred prospects made a mine, the number of prominent mining men (see local press) would be materially increased. Remember, also, that saw-mills do not manufacture saws, and for that matter stamp-mills do not turn out postage stamps, and that a sampling works is the driest place in town to look for anything in the way of corn juice.

The DILLON TRIBUNE had this hillarious item in its March 15th 1884 edition

Ben Hogan conducted a very successful temperance campaign in Dillon. He went from here to Saintdom, and will commence hammering reform into the Salt Lake stiffs shortly.

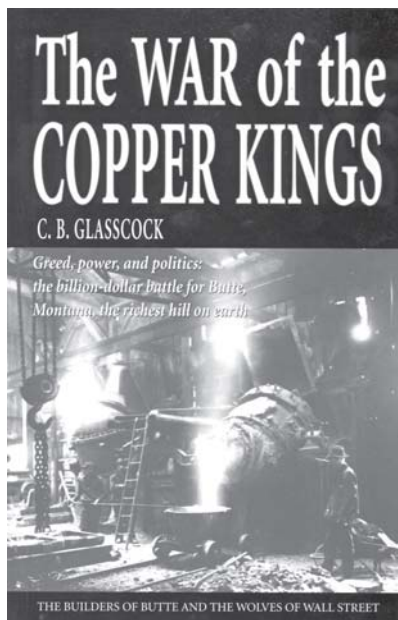


P.O. BOX 1861, BOZEMAN, MT, 59771-1861

## REVIEW:

# The WAR of the COPPER KINGS

by C. B. GLASSCOCK



Although this book was written in 1935, it was recently reprinted, along with an index for the first time, by Riverbend Publishing of Helena. The advantage of this book is that the author was able to personally interview several of the associates of the leading players and inspect, first hand, a lot of the private documentation regarding the greed, power and politics of the billion dollar battle for Butte, the richest hill on earth. Three men, Marcus Daly, William Clark and Augustus Heinz fought for control of the copper wealth, buying newspapers, courts, politicians, banks, police and anything that could help them and hinder their opponents. Their struggles spread to the rest of the country and attracted the attention of the Big Boys in industry and the stock market, H. H. Rogers, William Rockefeller, William G. Rockefeller and J. P. Morgan, and then the battle royal really started. Anyone interested in the history of Butte, with all its warts, crooked politics and shady side deals, should not be without this book.

Terry Halden