



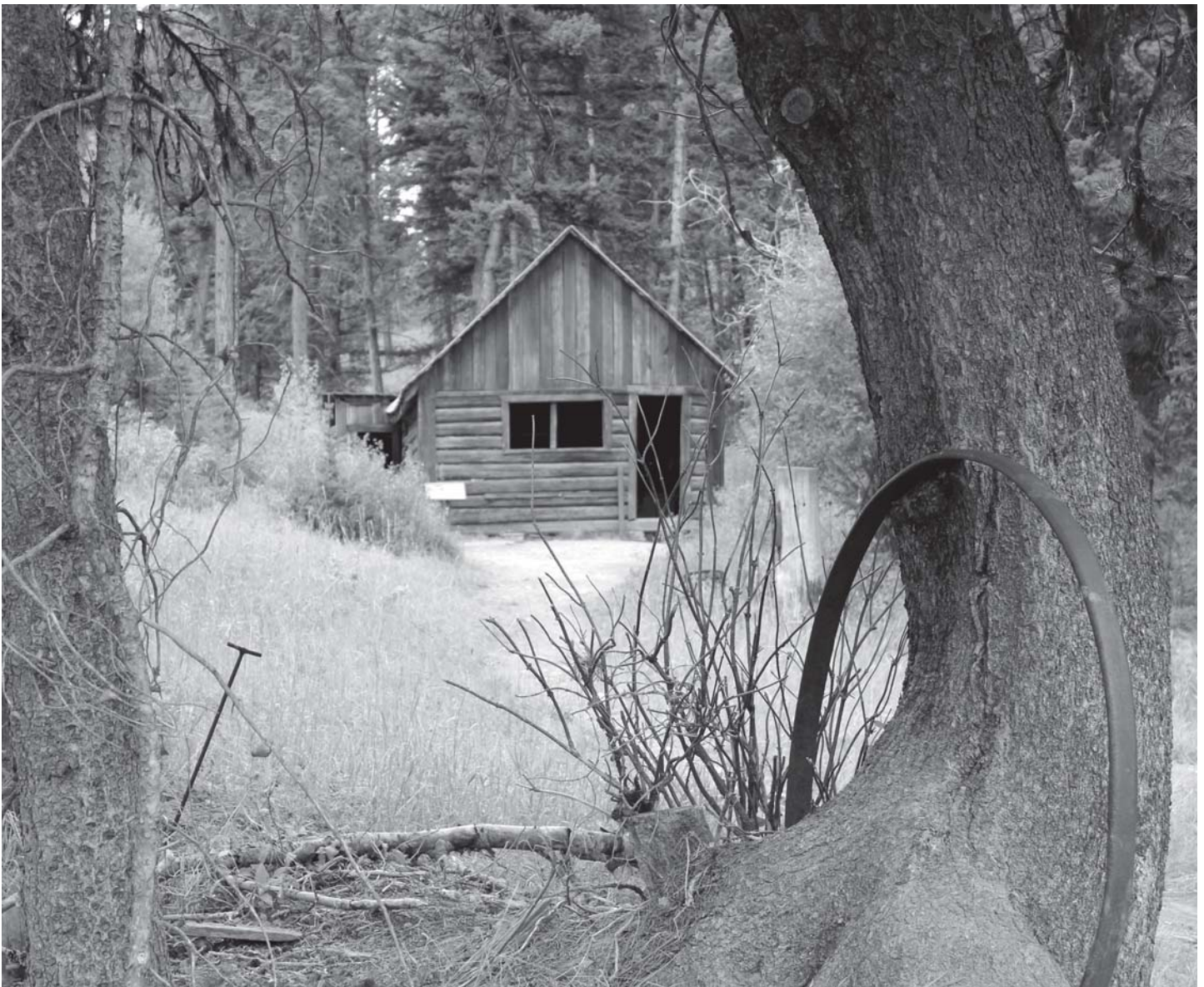
MONTANA
GHOST TOWN
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

VOLUME 45

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017



The last look at Garnet, taken during our visit at Convention 2016.

Photo: DARIAN HALDEN

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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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.

WINTER 2017

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Newsletter Editor: Terry Halden
2017 Convention: Margie Kankrlik and Marilyn Murdock
Directors: Connie Griffin, Tom Low, Cindy Shearer and Gordon Tracy
Immediate Past President: John Ellingsen

The Prez Sez

TERRY HALDEN

First I'd like to introduce you to two new members of your board. Connie Griffin, who works for a printing firm and is Sally and Bud's daughter, will help us with membership and computer problems as Kathryn Manning has disappeared to we know not where. Cindy Shearer, who is the President of the Gallatin Historical Society, has joined us and will assist us in programing replacing long time board member Sue Howe. I would like to thank Sue for her many years on the board including a stint in the President's chair.

In these pages you will find an interesting article on the history of Bear Canyon, which runs south-east just east of Bozeman by a new contributor to us, Rachel Phillips. Those of you who have visited the Gallatin History Museum are familiar with Rachel who is the Research Coordinator and is the author of the book "Legendary Locals of Bozeman". I hope to receive more articles of this caliber from Rachel. Chuck Flood has another article in this issue about the ghost town of Fredrickson, which was 'somewhere south of Deer Lodge.' Chuck has promised me that he will continue to write articles about ghost towns that have disappeared off the map and are often impossible to pin down exactly where they were located, but nevertheless they left a tangible written record, in newspapers and other documents. We've named the series "Forgotten Ghost Towns" and he has agreed I could borrow the title if I came across a ghost town that qualified for the title. As a result my effort this newsletter is the history of the mining town of Altyn, that is currently located at the bottom of Lake Sherburne in the Glacier National Park, and the lake can only be accessed by a five mile hiking trail.

Finally, on page 11 you will find the convention 2017 program that Margie Kankrlik and Marilyn Murdock, Convention Chairmen have put together. As they mention, if you intent attending the convention we urge you to book your hotel accommodation as soon as possible and there are several other competing attractions going on in Bozeman that weekend.

Until the next time....

Terry

J. SCHREINER & CO.,
Wholesale LIQUOR Dealers,
—AND—
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
MAIN ST., BOZEMAN,
AND LIVINGSTON.
We are the largest dealers in Eastern Montana and carry the heaviest and best selected stock of
Liquors,
Wines and Cigars.

New Members

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

Patti Prato - Florence, MT

Ed Sayer - Great Falls, MT

Carl & Kit Craft - Bozeman

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

November 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Vice President Brad O'Grosky. Board members also present were President Terry Halden, Gordon Tracy, Larry Hoffman, Darian Halden, and Sec/Treas Sally Griffin. Four guests were present and introduced themselves: Margie Kankrik and Marilyn Murdock – Co-Chairpersons of the 2017 Convention, Cindy Shearer and Connie Griffin.

Terry moved and Gordon seconded that we approve the minutes of the previous meeting as published. Motion passed.

Treasurer Sally gave the Treasurer's Report. For the current fiscal year starting July 1, 2016, we have \$4,205.00 income and \$5,987.26 expenses for a net loss of \$1,782.26. There was a transfer of \$1,000.00 from the checking account to the savings account. We presently have \$20,261.04 available cash. The IRS Form 990-N for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, has been timely filed. Larry moved and Darian seconded that the Reports be approved. Motion passed.

There was a discussion on how to get new members. Cindy Shearer presented some ideas which have been used by the Gallatin County Historical Society. Terry moved and Larry seconded that we drop the memberships of those people who have not paid their 2015 and 2016 dues. It is time to get the renewal reminders in the mail for 2017.

Darian reported that updating the membership forms is almost completed. It was decided to order 500.

Since Webmaster Kathryn Manning has not communicated with us for months and has not provided passwords for our website which is badly outdated, we decided it would be easiest to set up a new website. Darian will look into this.

Projects Manager Larry Hoffman reported that the pieces of the Alta Mine head frame, which are stored at the Stewart Mine in Butte, may be beyond restoring due to their condition. He will be making that decision. Cindy said that there are sources for grants if the \$500-\$1000 MGTPS has committed are not sufficient.

Terry reported that he turned down an additional grant of \$5,000 for this year from the Louis Borrick Foundation because we had not used last year's grant. They will contact us for next year. Additional ideas for projects were then suggested. The St. Augusta Church needs help with restoring the frescoes. We could purchase plaques for the old mining town of Maiden and we could do a cleanup there. Larry knows of a stamp mill near Hassel (which is near Townsend) which needs work. Brad suggested the Madison Buffalo Jump Park near Logan. Sally presented an application from the Headwaters Historical Society for additional help in restoring the Northern Pacific Depot in Three Forks. Sally moved and Brad seconded a motion that we sponsor a large freight door in the building for \$4,000. A plaque with our name will be put on the door. Motion passed.

Newsletter Editor Terry says he is always in need of articles. The next one is due out the end of January.

Sally gave the Secretary's Report. She read emails from Sue Howe notifying us of her resignation from the Board, and also one in which Terry sent condolences to Ken Robison, a speaker at the Fort Benton Convention, for the passing of his wife.

There was also a note from member Marcia Melton thanking Terry and Brad for their presentation to a ladies' club in Big Sky. She also sent a children's book she had written.

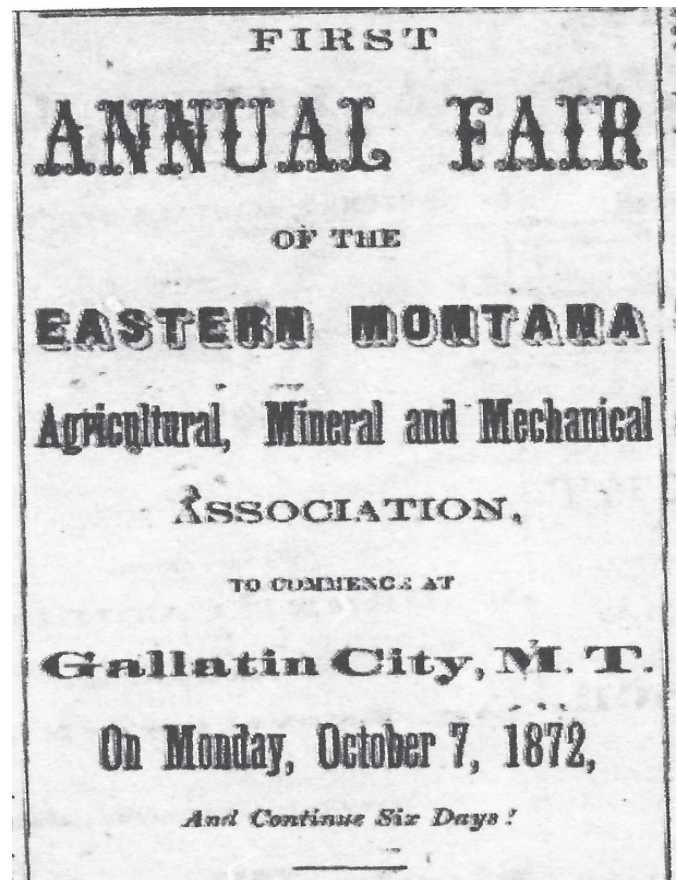
Margie and Marilyn updated us on the 2017 convention. One change is that there will be an actual meal on Friday evening – not just hors d'oeuvres as in previous years. The cost will remain at \$75 per person.

We then discussed several ideas on where to have the 2018 convention. Ideas from members will be requested in the newsletter.

It was decided to drop Kathryn Manning from the Board due to unexcused absences and non-communication for many months. Sally moved and Darian seconded that we add Cindy Shearer and Connie Griffin to the Board. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Respectively Submitted

Sally Griffin, Sec/Treas



Editor's Note: Even non-members know about some of Montana's historic mining towns, such as Virginia City, Bannack and Garnet. Avid ghost-towners make the trek up from Philipsburg to visit Granite, or brave the rocky, twisted road up Trapper Creek to Trapper City, Lion City and Hecla. The more diehard explorers seek out "foundation towns" like Burlington, Sand Creek or Bowdoin, where the only reminders a town even existed are the foundation pits where buildings once stood.

Beyond that, there's another whole group of towns about which very little is known, practically nothing remains and in some cases, even their location has been forgotten. In this series we would like to shine some light on them by presenting what is known. Transient though they may have been, they are part of Montana's history, and what knowledge we have of them - fragmentary though it might be - should be preserved before all memory of them is lost. Our hope is that by reporting on them we might wake up some hidden history that would help round out the picture.

THE FORGOTTEN GHOST TOWN OF FREDRICKSON

by CHUCK FLOOD

Somewhere a dozen miles southwest of Deer Lodge is the site of Fredrickson, a town so forgotten that this is possibly the first mention of it in nearly 150 years. A supply town for placer mines in the Flint Creek Range foothills, Fredrickson came and went in the short space of about a year; but while it lasted it was apparently a sizeable town.

Mining in the area was well underway by the time the first documentary source - the New North-West - began publishing in Deer Lodge in 1869. That year an article in the September 10 issue discussed mining activity in what the paper called the "Forty-Two" country, which broadly included Race Track Creek and Prairie, Dry, Spring, and Antelope Gulches. Newell & Co. had just completed a ditch from the left fork of Race Track Creek into Prairie Gulch. In Dry Gulch, half a dozen mining companies were taking out as much as \$700 per week in gold. A month later construction of a second ditch, called the Lower Race Track Ditch, was underway. It was to be a 12½ mile long ditch to carry water from the upper portion of Race Track Creek to the gulches, which usually had an insufficient supply of water for placer mining.

One of the main figures in this mining activity was Henry C. Fredrickson. A native of Laporte, Indiana, he had been in the mercantile business at Council Bluffs, Iowa as part of the firm of Fredrickson & Jackson. They established a branch store in Denver but lost it to fire in 1863 - an event that nearly put the company out of business.

By 1866 they had recovered and were freighting goods to Fort Benton. Fredrickson apparently liked what he saw in Montana; that year he took up a ranch on Modesty Creek, at the west edge of the broad valley south of Deer Lodge. Fredrickson was elected Treasurer of Deer Lodge County in 1869 - he drew a unanimous 42 ballots, leading his precinct to be labeled the "Forty-Two" country. He was a partner in the company mining Prairie Gulch and also the one that was building the Lower Race Track Ditch, though it isn't clear whether he was involved in actual mining. On January 19, 1871, after attending a party outside of Deer Lodge given by Conrad Kohrs, Fredrickson was fatally injured when the horse-drawn vehicle he was driving overturned. He was just 34 years old.

A few weeks after Fredrickson's death, 26 houses built by workers employed on the Lower Race Track Ditch were moved from Modesty Creek to Prairie Gulch. They became the nucleus of a new settlement - Fredrickson - named in his honor. By March the region was being called the Race Track Country, and Fredrickson was on its way to becoming a full-fledged town.

Several New North-West articles documented Fredrickson's growth. By May the town contained:

- Two stores - Henry Moss (later renamed Moss Bros.) and Prouse & McNamara

Two meat markets - R.B. Campbell (later Campbell & Moss) and Haas & Reddick

- One hotel - the Bogk House, owned by G. Bogk (also spelled Baske; whether either is correct is a matter of conjecture) and another one being built by H.C. Young
- A restaurant, also owned by Bogk
- A shoe and boot store, originally owned by Smith & Fink and later by Peter Wetzle (also spelled Wetzler)
- A billiards hall, owned by Charpentier & Hirbourn (again, there were alternate spellings for Charpentier, including Carpenter and Charpenter)
- Two blacksmith shops - Bacher's, and another run by the same R.B. Campbell who was a partner in one of the meat markets
- Several other buildings occupied as shops and saloons
- A livery stable run by Al. Peacock and Robert Harris
- A stage line - P.B. Clark's, between Fredrickson and Deer Lodge (\$5 for a round trip)
- Somewhere between 30 and 40 houses either finished or under construction

Fredrickson's residents planned on it becoming a substantial town. A town meeting was held in April to lay out the place. Lots were set at 40 by 150 feet with four lots to a block. Five streets were defined: Main Street (100 feet wide), Norwood Avenue (80 feet wide, intended for residences) and Pacific, Montgomery and Jackson Streets (60 feet wide, possibly cross streets). The New North-West's correspondent took pride in noting the size of some of the business buildings: the Prouse & McNamara store was 20 by 30 feet, Charpentier & Hirbourn's billiards hall was 25 by 44 feet, and the largest - Young's new hotel - clocked in at 26 by 35 feet. These were large structures for a raw mining town and must have given an air of permanence, though they were probably constructed of logs (the only store specifically stated to be a frame building was Peter Wetzle's boot shop).

HAAS & REDDICK
MEAT MARKET,
FREDRICKSON.....MONTANA.

HAVING established a Meat Market at Fredrickson, we will, on and after May 23th, 1871, be prepared to furnish

CHOICE FRESH MEATS,
AT OUR SHOP, OR ANYWHERE
IN THE MINING DISTRICTS,
AT REASONABLE PRICES.

☞ A Share of Patronage is respectfully solicited.
W-3m

When this ad appeared in the May 12, 1871 issue of the New North-West, the paper touted them as "the first business in Fredrickson to advertise with us." Unfortunately, they were also the last.

A petition was circulated to establish a post office at Fredrickson, but nothing apparently ever became of it. As the newspaper put it, the Moss Bros. "transact(ed) the postal business of Race Track Department" from their store. Clark's stage line, which ran through Fredrickson between Deer Lodge and Cable City, carried express mail at a charge of 50¢ per month per person. In May Charpentier & Hirbourn threw a grand ball to celebrate the opening of their billiards hall. The newspaper noted that 18 or 20 ladies were in attendance, an impressive number for a new mining town.

Meanwhile, mining was moving forward. By midsummer 500 claims had been recorded by John A. Nelson, the mining district recorder (the six-mile-square area apparently never had a formal mining district, the term Race Track Country continuing to be used).

The number of miners working the district increased with the season, with 200 men on the ground by June and 500 expected by late summer. Water was flowing in the two main ditches, with the Miner's Ditch carrying about 1,500 inches of water. In Dry Gulch (also called "Uncle Ben's"), three miles from Fredrickson, four companies were working; Gillis & Leveridge's cleanup from six days' work yielded \$850 in gold. Three companies were working on Prairie Gulch. New strikes had been made at Ruby Bar, above Fredrickson, and at a place called Treasure Hill, just 200 yards from town

Noted mining engineer Rossiter W. Raymond visited Fredrickson about this time. He had this to say:

Fredrickson is pleasantly situated on a high flat, commanding splendid views of the Deer Lodge Valley, and the south side of Powell's Peak. Good paying mines are known to exist in Antelope, Spring, Prairie, and Dry Gulches, and some sixty men are employed in them all. A deep gravel-channel, containing some gold, runs through the bar on which the town stands, and parties were engaged in the early summer with hydraulics in opening it up, with the most favorable indications of good pay. Should this bar prove to be good, the reputation of the Race-Track Diggings will be established. Prospecting was going on at several other points in this vicinity. The receipts of the Miners' Ditch Company for water were at that time over \$100 a day. (Raymond, Rossiter W., Silver and Gold: An Account of the Mining and Metallurgical Industry of the United States, with Reference Chiefly to the Precious Metals.; New York (NY): J.B. Ford and Company, 1873)

But by summer's end there were warning signs. In July the New North-West had bluntly stated: "It is fair to say that the Fredrickson camp has not developed yet as well as anticipated." In August Peter Wetzle closed his shoe store and departed for Salt Lake City. The newspaper's correspondent noted that things were quiet in Fredrickson with few people coming or going. Clearly Fredrickson's success depended on water: no matter how many good prospects were located, they weren't workable without sufficient water. A reduction in the price of water from the Miners' Ditch helped spur development, but by August the water supply was failing. Many mines were being laid over until the supply increased - possibly the following year.

There was virtually no news of Fredrickson from August until the following May, when it was clear the bottom had fallen out. On May 5, 1872 the New North-West noted: "There has been quite a demand for the deserted buildings at Fredrickson." They were being hauled away, salvaged for use by local ranchers; though there was at least one building still standing in town in 1875. That April Charpentier & Hilbourn, who had relocated to Butte, published a notice in the New North-West warning the public against removing the floor and other portions of their building at Fredrickson. After that, Fredrickson sank into obscurity. It was claimed that there was good mining ground in the area, and Fredrickson continued to be used as a place name for a few years, but the town disappeared.

Where was it?

There are quite a few hints as to Fredrickson's location:

- Somewhere on or near Prairie Gulch
- 20 miles by roads from Deer Lodge
- Situated on the second bench of foothills
- On a high plateau of about 50 acres
- With a view of the Deer Lodge Valley and the south side of Powell's Peak
- Having an eastern exposure and a range of bald hills 1500 feet high "coming down on the west"
- Its main street was parallel to Deer Lodge Valley
- A ditch 1000 feet above Fredrickson on the hill back of the town
- Treasure Hill, 200 yards from town

Many of the place names cited in the original sources survive - Modesty Creek, Prairie and Spring Gulches and others. Two, however, do not; and they're probably the most vital for locating the site. Dry Gulch, aka Uncle Ben's was frequently mentioned. No such place names - in the correct area - are listed in the USGS place names database today. The best clue is Treasure Hill, only 200 yards from town. It isn't listed either.

A good guess is that Fredrickson was somewhere along, possibly west, of Spring Gulch Road about 7 miles west of Galen. Google Earth shows what appear to be old mining ditches running through this area. There are several large piles of placer tailings, a few of them visible from the road about 2¾ miles from where it leaves the highway running between Galen and Anaconda. This is a large area to search, though, and much of it is fenced. Until better information comes forward, it seems that the exact location of Fredrickson will remain a mystery.

Author Chuck Flood has promised me that future Forgotten Ghost Towns would cover places such as Pikes Peak, Yamhill and Mount Pleasant. - Editor.

THE FORGOTTEN GHOST TOWN OF ALTYN

by TERRY HALDEN

Altyn was the only mining settlement located within the present-day boundaries of Glacier National Park. In 1855 the Blackfoot Indian Reservation was established and included those lands that are currently within the park boundaries east of the Continental Divide. However, with the discovery of copper deposits in the area in 1892-93, pressure was put on Congress to purchase the land from the Reservation. In 1895 Congress authorized the purchase and paid the Blackfeet Tribe \$1,500,000, but the lands weren't opened to whites until 1898.

Prospectors rushed in, and one of the first was James H. Harris who had discovered copper ore in what he named the Cracker mine. Within two years, the town site of Altyn was established at the mouth of Canyon Creek, near Swift Current Lake. The first mention of the town was in the June 7th 1900 edition of the Dupuyer Acantha newspaper which stated "*Altyn formerly known as Harrisville, is still in boom, and several buildings are being erected.*"

Two months later the Daily Intermountain of Butte reported that Harris had formed the Michigan and Montana Copper Mining and Smelting Company to develop his mine. The article continued by telling its readers that the population of the town was now up to about 300. It went on to say "*Altyn has a sawmill with a capacity of 10,000 feet a day, a blacksmith shop, two barber shops, a general store, two boarding houses, a saloon and a billiard hall.*" The town already had a post office, established in April that year, with surprise, surprise, James H. Harris named as post master.



ALTYN, Ca. 1901

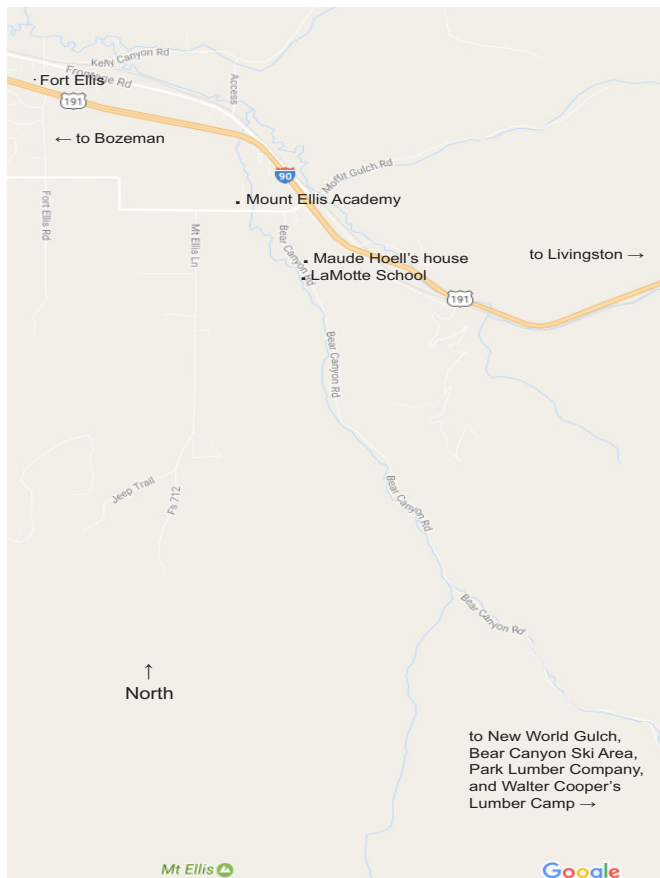
PETER DESROSIER Photo

Harris had an unfortunate accident the following year, as reported by the River Press in its issue of October 1, 1902 as he got into a bucket and just as it started down the Cracker mine, the cable broke "*and he was precipitated to the bottom of the seventy-five foot shaft. He was badly hurt, however no bones were broken and there is hope of his recovery.*" But the copper ores were not as rich as the initial discoveries had indicated and following the smaller mines closing down, the mighty Cracker soon followed suit. But Harris and Altyn were not beaten and by 1905 oil had been discovered in the region and using Altyn as a base, Harris was listed as the President of the Altyn City Oil Company. But like the copper mine, the success of the oil business was short lived and in 1906 the post office was closed and Altyn was on its way to become a ghost town.

George Bird Grinnell, professor and naturalist from New York had visited the area in 1885 during a hunting trip. He was so impressed with the scenery that he was determined to have the region set aside as a national park. Through his diligence and hard work, Glacier National Park was established in 1910. With the establishment of the park, all mining and drilling properties were closed down and the town site of Altyn was totally abandoned. Later, a dam was constructed across Swift Current Creek to form Lake Sherburne. The rising waters slowly covered what buildings were remaining in the deserted town.

Logs, Skis, and Steam Engines: Life in Gallatin County's Bear Canyon

by Rachel Phillips

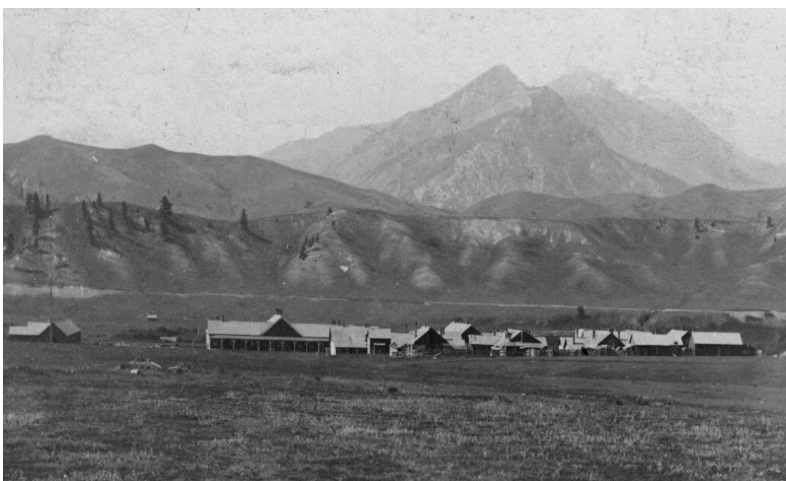


Life in the Bear Canyon/Mount Ellis area began early with the establishment of Fort Ellis. In April of 1867, John Bozeman and Thomas Cover left the Gallatin Valley and travelled east toward Fort C.F. Smith, hoping to secure flour contracts with the U.S. Army. According to the official story at the time, the two men were in camp one night along the Yellowstone River when a small party of Blackfeet approached. As the story went, John Bozeman was killed in the ensuing skirmish, but Tom Cover survived, sparking a debate about what actually happened that night. Regardless of who killed John Bozeman, citizens of Bozeman City requested (and were granted) a nearby military fort. Construction of Fort Ellis began in the fall of 1867 on military reservation land a couple of miles east of town. Fort Ellis was located just west of today's I-90 Bear Canyon Exit (the Frontage Road now bisects the area).

The Fort's first commanding officer was Captain R. S. LaMotte, who supervised the construction of the first buildings and surrounding stockade. LaMotte's command drew to a close just two years later, when his infantry force was replaced with four cavalry companies. Though Captain LaMotte's residence in the Gallatin Valley was short-lived, his name was given to LaMotte School, which opened in 1894 and is still operating today at a location near the entrance to Bear Canyon.

Today, Bear Canyon is generally quiet and peaceful. A dirt road gently winds up the canyon, passing homes, outbuildings, and barns. New World Gulch Trail begins where the road ends, leading adventurous hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers on a six-mile trek to Mystic Lake. Today's Bear Canyon and the surrounding area hides a fascinating past. An incredible variety of industries, institutions, and activities have contributed to the unique history of this eastern edge of Gallatin County.

Industry reached Bear Canyon during the railroad's arrival in Montana in the 1880s. Early Bozeman businessman Walter Cooper began logging in the canyon to supply the Northern Pacific with railroad ties. Cooper established several logging camps in the Gallatin Valley, including the one in Bear Canyon. While his logging operation in the Gallatin Canyon was much larger, Cooper did build an impressive flume in Bear Canyon that stretched from Bear Lake to Moffet Canyon.



Fort Ellis, Cr. 1896

Photo courtesy GALLATIN HISTORY MUSEUM



The old Cooper log flume in Bear Canyon that ran from the lumber camp near Bear Lake to Moffit Canyon.
Photo courtesy GALLATIN HISTORY MUSEUM

Isaac (Ike), and Phill Alldritt were lumbermen who also operated out of Bear Canyon in the early 20th Century. Isaac was born in 1855 in Illinois. According to Bozeman's City Directory of 1892-93, Alldritt arrived in Montana in 1880. He married Mary Copple in Gallatin County and their son Phill was born in the early 1890s. As a young adult, Phill helped operate the Park Lumber Company in Bear Canyon with his father.

In 1920, the Alldritts purchased an Avery steam engine for use at the sawmill site at Park Lumber Company, but it took another year for the engine to be transported to the camp. According to a 1970 *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* article titled "Monument to Bygone Age," local resident John Carolus agreed to move the engine four miles up New World Gulch to Park Camp's sawmill. Carolus was paid \$100 for his trouble, but the four-mile trip up the mountain took 10 days.

Unfortunately, the engine's use at the lumber camp proved to be short-lived. After only a few years, the lumber operation at Park Camp ceased due to the prevalence of damaged timber. About ten years earlier, in the summer of 1910, forest fires raged across the Northern Rockies, including parts of western Montana and the Gallatin Valley. The well-documented forest fires of 1910 culminated in a massive conflagration as the winds picked up on August 20. By the 23rd, rain and snow in the higher elevations slowed the burning in Montana, Idaho, and Washington. As the Alldritts discovered, even years later the timber in Bear Canyon proved to be too badly damaged for logging, ending Ike and Phill's hopes of establishing a lumber empire in the canyon.

The Alldritts' engine sat idle for the next 50 years, trapped in Bear Canyon's New World Gulch at the foot of Mount Ellis. In March of 1972, Forsyth, Montana resident Don Bradley and a hearty crew of volunteers forged a path up the gulch to the engine, and as the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* reported, returned "the engine to civilization again." Thanks to modern machinery, the Avery's trip down the mountain took four hours instead of ten days. The steam engine finally made it all the way to Forsyth, and was restored.

Besides logging operations, Bear Canyon was also home to an optimistic gold prospector or two in the late 19th Century. Miner Henry Guilford occupied a small cabin in the canyon while he searched for gold in his nearby mine shaft. As the *Chronicle* reported in the 1970 article, "Monument to Bygone Age," the one-legged Guilford was known to locals by his nickname, "Step and a half." Guilford's life remains somewhat of a mystery. According to his obituary that appeared in the *Bozeman Courier* on March 26, 1943, Guilford was born in 1854 in Iowa. He came to the Bozeman area from the Black Hills of South Dakota in 1891.

Several other families called the Bear Canyon/Mount Ellis area home, including the Greens, Murphys, Martinz, and Hoells. One local resident, Maude Sharp Hoell, treasured her memories of growing up in Bear Canyon. Maude was born in 1902 in Iowa, but her family moved to the Gallatin Valley in 1910. She attended LaMotte School and made friends with other local children, including the Hoells, Jenkins, Woods, and McCallisters. In her memoir, *Recollections of 94 Years* (prepared by Susan Metcalf in 1996), Maude remembered the time when her friend Elsie Phipps fell into the logging flume:

There was a flume made out of wood to float logs down Bear Canyon. Logs were loaded on a freight train at the overpass. The water in the flume moved very fast to carry large logs, and Elsie was almost out of grabbing distance when someone snagged the hem of her dress.

The Bear Canyon/Mount Ellis area was a close-knit community, and its residents knew how to have a good time. "When Maude [Hoell] was young, their entertainment was dancing. People would have dances and everybody brought food. They always had a big Christmas dance when they danced until three or four in the morning. LaMotte School always had a big Christmas program and a huge Christmas tree." Maude Sharp married Bill Hoell in March of 1930, and the couple made their home in Bear Canyon, where Maude spent the majority of her life.

In 1902, another school, Mount Ellis Academy, joined LaMotte to provide education in the area. Run by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Mount Ellis is still operating today as a private boarding school. In the 1970s, students at the school enjoyed a ski program at the local Bear Canyon ski hill. Mount Ellis pupils went to work improving the nearby recreation area by repairing the chair lift.

The Bear Canyon Ski area actually began several decades before Mount Ellis acquired the property. In the 1930s, skiing became Bear Canyon's major claim to fame. Members of the fledgling Bozeman Ski Club believed the site provided perfect downhill skiing slopes, and it did. A home-made rope tow was installed along with ski jumps. Two jumps were built—a 45-meter and a 60-meter—up nearby New World Gulch, and were used for high school and college competitions. Races were popular, and Montana State College Fraternities held a ski race at Bear Canyon in 1938.

A number of individuals contributed to the growth of skiing and ski jumping in Bear Canyon, including Adolph Peterson, Dean Hauseman, August "Gus" Gnehm, the Livers family, Dave and Chris Kundert, and Gib and Kay Widmer. Kay Widmer was well-known for her column in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, titled "Dope on the Slope," which highlighted local ski news—everything from ski hill courtesy to wipeouts. Kay reported weekly on ski topics, like the one below:

November 21, 1944

Hill Statistics For your information, a recent survey of the Bear Canyon hill revealed that in a distance of 1600 feet, the tow lifts you to an elevation of 550 feet. The downhill racing trail extends back 1000 feet further, to a point 300 feet higher, making a total of 850 feet in a half mile. Pretty steep, but it still doesn't rate as a Class A hill. Just give us time and axes.

During World War II, local residents had their first taste of night skiing at Bear Canyon. Flares were positioned along the slopes, which provided an exhilarating experience of skiing through patches of light and complete darkness. Of course, accidents happened, and according to Kay Widmer in her paper, *Skiing—As I Remember It*, "one night Jimmy Livers and Sandy McCracken collided on the dark side of a flare and knocked each other out. They lay unconscious in the snow for some time before someone else skied into them."

In addition to skiing, several clubs were established in the area and fostered a sense of community. The Rocky Creek 4-H Club taught local children valuable skills outside of the classroom and provided them with a social outlet. For fun, Rocky Creek 4-Hers went on picnics around Gallatin County and even constructed elaborate floats for Bozeman parades. The Fort Ellis Woman's Club started in 1925 as a way to bring together the ladies of Bear Canyon, Fort Ellis, and Kelly Canyon. The women met once a month to swap stories, discuss local events, support charities, and enjoy refreshments. Dues money purchased greeting and sympathy cards for members, and each year the remaining money went to a local charity. The Fort Ellis Woman's Club disbanded in 2005, after 80 years of fun.



Bear Canyon ski slope, Cr. 1942

Photo courtesy GALLATIN HISTORY MUSEUM

Bear Canyon is a quieter place now. Fort Ellis closed in 1886, its buildings dismantled or moved to other locations. Downhill skiing at Bear Canyon gradually declined as the larger Bridger Bowl ski area increased in popularity in the 1960s and 70s. However, signs of the past still remain—place names, abandoned buildings and equipment high in the mountains, and an enduring sense of community pride.

Sources:

Berg, Edna and Cicale, Annie, Editors. *Cold Smoke: Skiers Remember Montana's Bear Canyon and Bridger Bowl*, Mountain Press Publishing, Missoula, MT, 1997.

Caughey, Peter, "Mount Ellis Academy." *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, December 9, 1984.

Cohen, Stan, *Downhill in Montana: Early Day Skiing in the Treasure State and Yellowstone National Park, A Pictorial History*, Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, Inc., Missoula, MT, 2007.

Crowe, Roxa, "Pioneer, Businessman, Politician – Cooper is City Park's Namesake." *The Gallatin County Tribune and Belgrade Journal*, May 20, 1971.

Koch, Elers, *History of the 1910 Forest Fires in Idaho and Western Montana*. Typed paper.

Lovely, Margaret, "Monument to Bygone Age." *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, October 11, 1970.

Below is the agenda for our 2017 convention, to be held in Bozeman this Autumn. Margie Kankrlik and her sidekick Marilyn Murdock have spent many hours putting it together. It's looking to be another 'Good One'. We urge you to book your accommodation early if you are planning to attend.

2017 CONVENTION – BOZEMAN

Friday, September 8, 2017 – Sunday, September 10, 2017

Hotel: Super 8, 800 Wheat Drive, Bozeman, MT 59715 406-586-1521
Reservations must be made by August 25, 2017 in order to receive special rate of \$69/night. Mention MTGTPS when booking. We encourage you to book early as there are many events in Bozeman this weekend.

Program:
Friday, September 9

Registration will begin at 4:00 pm at the former Gallatin County Jail from 1911 to 1982 and now the very interesting Gallatin History Museum, 317 W Main, St., Bozeman. A light dinner will be available at 5:00 pm. At 6:45 pm we will proceed to the courthouse where Hal Stearns will tell us all about Homesteading in Montana.

Saturday, September 10

All events on Saturday will be held under one roof at the GranTree Best Western Hotel, 1325 North 7th Ave., Bozeman, MT 406-587-5261.

Starting at 9:00 am, a variety of well-informed, entertaining speakers will cover such topics as Fort Ellis, railroads, breweries, and the importance of grain production and processing in the area. An update on the Lower Bridger Canyon Schoolhouse will also be presented.

Cocktails will begin at 5:00 pm with dinner at 6:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Dia Johnson who will give a very interesting presentation on the Ladies of the Night.

Sunday, September 11

Meet once again at the Gallatin History Museum at 9:00 am. Women's issues will be discussed followed by a guided tour of Bozeman's Red Light District, led by Dia Johnson.

Bear Canyon: Sources, Continued

Lovely, Margaret, "Some Dream, Others Make Them Come True." *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, March 12, 1972.

R.I.P. notice – Henry Guilford. *The Bozeman Courier*, March 26, 1943.

Metcalf, Susan. *Recollections of 94 Years: Maude Hoell*. November 27, 1996.

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Phillips, Rachel, *Legendary Locals of Bozeman*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 2016.

Seibel, Dennis, *Fort Ellis, Montana Territory, 1867-1886, "The Fort that Guarded Bozeman": A History of the Fort and Events Surrounding Its Creation and Existence*. Copyright by Dennis Seibel, 1996.

Slovic, Beth, "End of an Era: Fort Ellis Woman's Club dissolves after 80 years." *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, June 21, 2005.

Widmer, Kay, *Skiing—As I Remember It*. Typed paper.

"Coed Boarding School Wants Christian Youth." *The Gallatin County Tribune and Belgrade Journal*, November 4, 1971.

Gallatin Valley Gazetteer and Bozeman City Directory, 1892-1893.





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

REVIEW:

MINING CITY MEMORIES

The EARLY YEARS

The MONTANA STANDARD

The Montana Standard, the Butte daily newspaper, has put together this excellent coffee table book of 150 pages containing hundreds of photographs taken during the early years of the city. The photos are grouped together under the headings: Views and Street Scenes; Mining; Commerce and Industry; Transportation; Community; Education; Public Service; Recreation and Celebration; Index; and Business profiles. The photos used are from Butte Public Library, Butte-Silver Bow Archives, World Museum of Mining, Tracy Thornton and about half of them are from the private collection of our own previous Vice president, Mike Byrnes.

Dave McCumber, the editor of the newspaper is to be commended for bringing together all these photos in one book and anyone interested in seeing what life was like in Butte a century and more ago would be delighted with this book.

Terry Halden

