



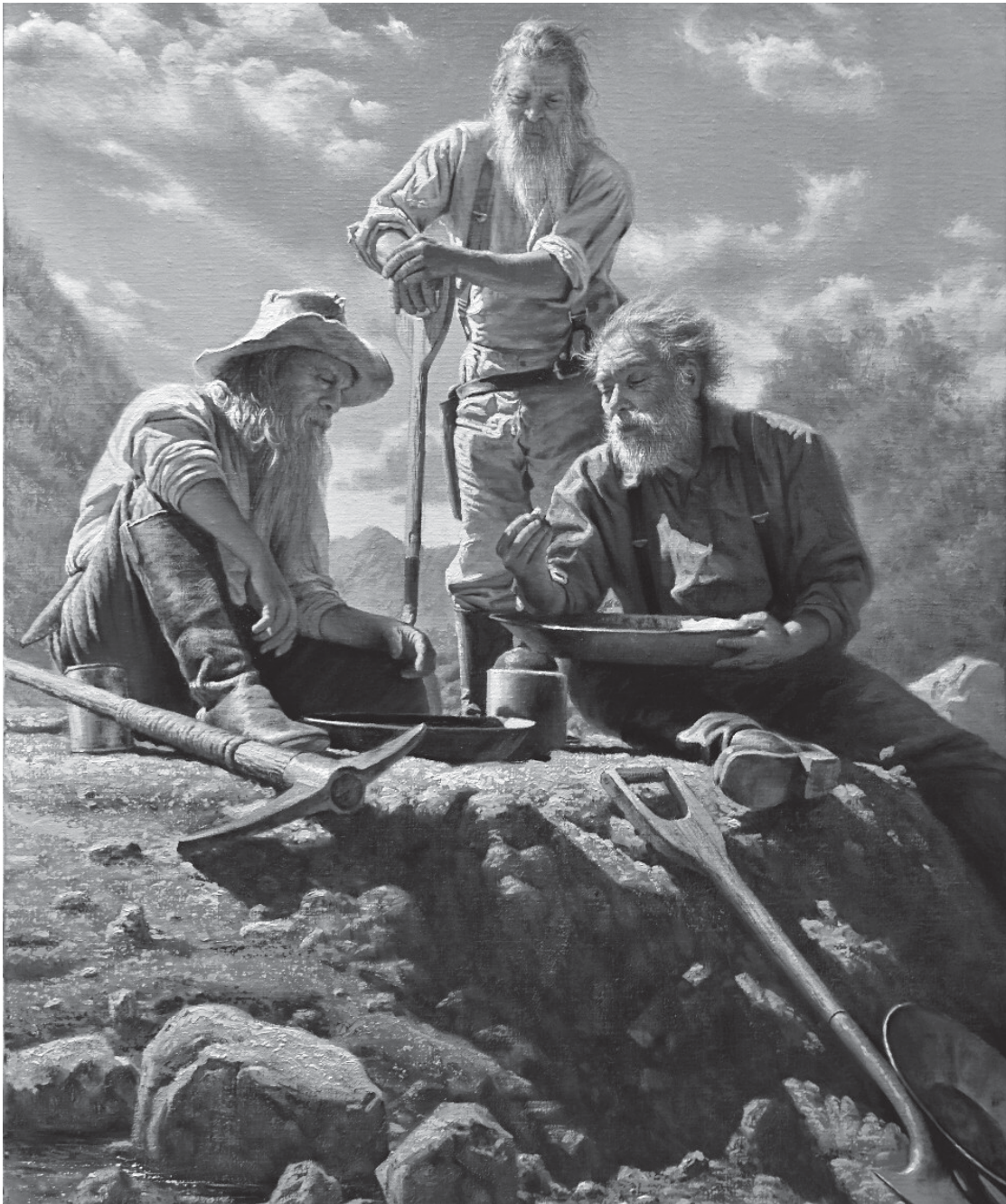
MONTANA
GHOST TOWN
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

VOLUME 46

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017



The Gold Nugget by Alfredo Rodriguez from the INTERNET, with permission of the artist

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.

SPRING 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

For the first time since I became ramrod of this newsletter the format for the front page is changed to a painting. Originally I was intrigued by a painting called the 'Prospector' that I wanted to use, but knowing I would have to get permission from the artist, I located him, Alfredo Rodriguez, and although he gave me permission to use any of his paintings, I could not use 'the Prospector' as he had sold the copyright to a salsa company. I urge you to go to alfredoartist.com if you want to see some stunning paintings of prospectors, trappers and Navajo life, including 'the Nugget' in glorious color. This artist is by far the best western artist, alive today.

At the recent board meeting, it was brought up that anyone intending to go to this year's convention in Bozeman should book their accommodation as soon as possible as not only is there another convention in town that weekend but the Bobcats have a home game as well. Most motels are already booked solid for these events, so be warned.

In this issue of the newsletter, we have the second installment of Forgotten Ghost Towns as author Chuck Flood delves into the lost ghost towns of Yamhill and Pikes Peak that have long faded from any map of the Pioneer region. There is also an article about farming in the Gallatin Valley by Patrick Finnegan to co-inside with our upcoming visit to Bozeman. Finally, my contribution this issue is a short story about the tough fate that befell William Gay following his brother-in-law murdering two police officers in the town of Castle.

Until the next time....

Terry



The 'Prospector' a painting by the artist Alfredo Rodriguez that I wanted to use as a front page, but is now copyrighted by a salsa company.

From the Internet



New Members

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

Leslie Crismond - Bozeman, MT

Lorre Myers - Bothell, WA

Karleen Wescott - Bozeman, MT

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

March 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:05PM by President Terry Halden. Board members also present were Sally Griffin, Connie Griffin, Brad O'Grosky, and Cindy Shearer. Two guests attending were Marilyn Murdock and Margie Kankrlik, co-chairpersons of the 2017 convention.

Brad moved and Cindy seconded that the minutes of the November 12, 2016 Board Meeting be approved as printed in the Winter 2017 Newsletter. Motion passed.

Sally gave the Treasurer's Report. For the fiscal year starting July 1, 2016, to the present time, we have income of \$5,880.00 and expenses of \$10,522.54. Cash balances are: Petty Cash - \$16.76; Checking Account - \$3,966.52; and Savings Account \$13,407.48. Cash balances total \$17,390.76. The Federal and State Corporation Reports have been filed. Brad moved and Cindy seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion passed.

The Secretary's Report included receiving 6 newsletters from other groups, the Gallatin County History Quarterly magazine, a letter to Brad from Leslie Crismond thanking him for his presentation to the Extreme History meeting and including her new membership, and a letter from a Carol Bernhardt regarding not attending the 2017 convention as she did not want to hear about prostitutes.

Membership: Sally reported that we have 219 memberships, of which only 19 have not paid 2017 dues.

Facebook: Darian Halden could not be present, but she wants us to know that she needs items for posting. She also suggested that it would be helpful if more than one person could help posting and keeping it up to date.

Webmaster: Because the previous webmaster has apparently left the area and did not leave any information, Darian has had considerable trouble trying to log on to and work on the website. Dick Lee, the webmaster a few years ago, has been able to help to some extent. Since Cindy has considerable experience with websites and Facebook, she will help Darian in these areas.

Projects: Larry Hoffman could not be present, but he told Terry that he is still having trouble with the Alta Mine headframe project because the numbers on the pieces – which are needed for reassembly – have been removed.

Member Jerry Hanley sent information and a request for project funding in order to place somewhere from 5 - 6 signs at Maiden, MT, giving historical information for people who come to visit the area. Since he lives in Maiden, he would construct, erect, and maintain the signs. He thought that doing this would cost from \$1,500-\$2,500. Brad moved and Connie seconded that we would commit a maximum of \$2,000 for this project. Motion passed.

Newsletter: Terry always needs articles. The next newsletter is due out by the end of April.

OLD BUSINESS

2017 Convention: Margie and Marilyn reported that one of the original speakers could not come, but another speaker with the Montana Humanities Speakers Program will replace him. They want people to register for the convention and their hotel rooms by August 25th.

NEW BUSINESS

Darian had a suggestion that it would be good for the Board Members and maybe other members to have blank MGTPS business cards which we could hand out. We could fill in our own name and contact information. Margie thought we should have individualized cards with our name and contact information already printed on them. We decided to have the individualized cards done. People can give their contact information to Terry for the cards.

2018 Convention: A very attractive proposal was presented by Darian that we hold the convention in Sidney. We have never had a convention in northeast Montana. Besides nearby Fort Union (a trading post that has been renovated, and Fort Buford (where the Buffalo Soldiers were stationed during the Sioux wars), there are several ghost towns in the area. Sidney has a good museum, there are good guest speakers, and bus service is available at reasonable cost. Convention facilities and guest accommodations are available at lower prices than we have been paying recently. Cindy moved and Brad seconded that we have the 2018 convention in Sidney. Darian will be the Chairperson. Motion passed.

Sally said that our memberships in the Virginia City Preservation Alliance and the Gallatin County Historical Society are due. Members agreed that we want to continue these memberships. The Montana Preservation Alliance sent a card requesting that we become a member. Terry said that this organization was not effective with our goal of historic preservation, so we agreed not to join.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Griffin
Secretary/Treasurer

THE FORGOTTEN GHOST TOWNS OF PIKE'S PEAK AND YAMHILL

by CHUCK FLOOD

It's generally believed that the first discovery of gold in Montana occurred in 1852 when Francois Finlay, better known as Benetsee, panned a few flakes from a tributary of the Hellgate (now Clark's Fork) River about 60 miles east of Missoula. Apparently his findings weren't enough to hold his attention and Benetsee soon moved on. Over the next few years others tried their luck in the same spot with the same results. The Stuart party - Granville Stuart, his brothers and several companions - panned gold from the creek in 1858 but, not having proper equipment, moved on only to return in 1860 for serious exploration. Word got out; a minor rush ensued to what was then known as Benetsee Creek, and a short-lived settlement called American Fork arose on the Stuarts' ranch at the mouth of the creek.

By 1862 Gold Creek, as it had been renamed, held a sizeable contingent of prospectors for several miles south from its junction with the Clark's Fork River. In June that year a party of miners from Colorado began working up a branch of the main creek. They named it Pike's Peak Gulch and soon hit rich pay dirt at a place they called Pilgrim Bar. But then came the big strikes at Grasshopper and Alder Gulch, which drew off practically every miner in the northwest. It wasn't until the late 1860s that miners, either shut out of the big strikes or footloose as early-day prospectors often were, drifted back to Gold Creek. They liked what they found, and serious mining work started.

Three towns soon appeared in the area: Pioneer, on Gold Creek about six miles from the river, and Pike's Peak and Yamhill in the Pilgrim Bar area along Pike's Peak Creek. Pioneer's story is well told elsewhere and a few remnants still exist hidden among the huge piles of gravel from later dredge operations. Pike's Peak and Yamhill, however, have practically vanished from history. Even their locations are forgotten today.

The first mention of a camp on Pilgrim Bar was in July 1869, when a Deer Lodge newspaper, the New North-West, described Pike's Peak as a "*very lively little camp of about forty houses and apparently about the same number of mines*" with only one business: Jack Meyer's store. (Meyer was also the New-Northwest agent in town and a frequent contributor to the paper). But there were two major obstacles to growth in the Pike's Peak area. One was water, or lack thereof - the usual complaint of placer mining camps. The other was the difficulty of transportation.

Water, and lots of it, was a necessity for Pilgrim Bar to boom. Pike's Peak Creek carried some water, well enough for placering along the creek, but the main diggings on the Bar were far above the creek - as much as 150 feet higher in elevation. An early ditch was dug from the headwaters of Pike's Peak Creek to carry water to Pilgrim Bar, but it apparently didn't work well. The solution came in the summer of 1869 when the Rock Creek Ditch was constructed. 1 1/2 miles in length, it ran from Rock Creek to Pikes Peak and Pioneer and was fed by Rock Creek Lake, impounded behind a 40-foot-high, 400-foot-long dam.

The transportation situation also held back growth. Only a rough trail directly connected Deer Lodge and the Pike's Peak/Pioneer area. Freight had to be hauled from Deer Lodge north and west along the river and then south to Pioneer and Pike's Peak - a long and circuitous route. It was obvious that a good road was needed to tie the booming mining districts to Deer Lodge. In January, 1870 plans were laid to construct a toll road out of Deer Lodge, and by that August express stages were making trips back and forth between Deer Lodge and Pioneer via Pike's Peak. The old trail between Pike's Peak and Pioneer had followed Pike's Peak Creek down to its junction with Gold Creek and then turned up the creek to Pioneer. The new road climbed the heights just west of Pike's Peak, passing over Pilgrim Bar and south of Gold Hill before heading north to Pioneer.

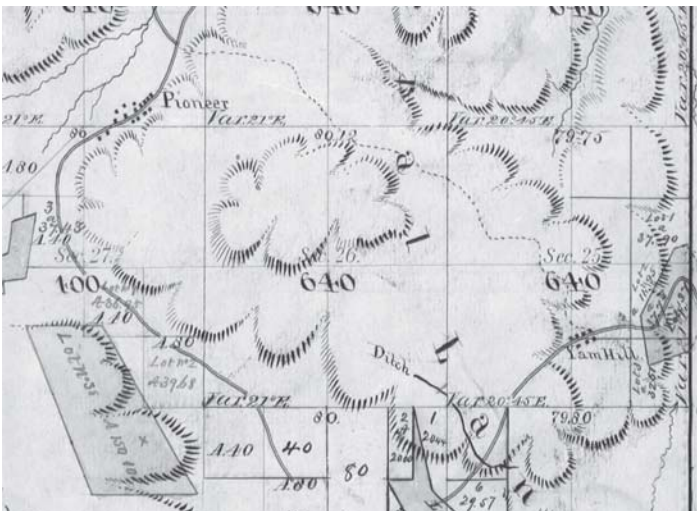
With sufficient water and good transportation, mining on Pilgrim Bar boomed. By early 1870 nearly a dozen mining companies were active including Beery, Halcombe & Co.; Timberlake & Co.; Walker, Kohrs & Fly; Smith, Brady & Co.; Thorston & Blair; Catching, Smith & Co. and a number of smaller companies. Catching, Smith & Co., one of the largest, had a plot of ground 2220 by 1200 feet in size with from, 3 to 8 feet of gravel overlaying bedrock. The previous fall they had worked their claim with hydraulics for 14 weeks and had taken out over \$26,000.

Spring, 1870 found Jack Meyer's store still the only one at Pike's Peak, but not for long. Fisher & French planned to open another. In June 1870 the New-Northwest carried this notice for John Potter's new store: "*Among the recent new enterprises at Pike's Peak, we are pleased to notice a new and elegant wholesale and retail store of general merchandise under the experienced management of Mr. John Potter. The new institution has a*

complete stock of BOOTS, SHOES, GROCERIES, DRY GOODS, MINERS' FURNISHING GOODS, and, in fact, just such a stock as is needed in a mining camp. We can confidentially say to our friends in that vicinity that Mr. Potter is an advocate of "quick sales and small profits," and will not be undersold. Inspect his goods, price them, and you will purchase."

George Hill opened a saloon that same month and the paper asked: *"Do you know George Hill? I suppose you have that felicity, but perhaps you are not aware the genial George presides over the spiritual destinies of the cosiest little saloon on the West Side. George can be seen at the Pony Saloon, Pike's Peak, adjoining Meyers & Co. Geo. never sold a drop of poor liquor in his life. Call."*

A meeting held the previous March had laid out the boundaries of the Pike's Peak Mining District. In August a post office opened at Pike's Peak with J.H. Meyers as postmaster and tri-weekly delivery of mail. P.B. Clark had started a daily four-horse coach express line between Deer Lodge, Pike's Peak and Pioneer. Life in 1870 Pike's Peak was seasonal: when winter approached and the water in the Rock Creek Ditch was turned off, mining shut down, stores closed and most residents departed until the following spring.



Pike's Peak, shown on a General Land Office survey from 1870

Pike's Peak really took off in 1871. Thomas Irvine and George Irvin opened a store. Davidson & Buffington and J.H. Meyer had *"grocery houses and good stocks of goods."* D.H. McFarland was running a fine hotel and setting *"a tip-top table."* There were four saloons, owned by Fisher & Beery, Noble & Hodnett, Capt. D.H. Trufant and S.F. King (George Hill had apparently departed for parts unknown). Johnny Heffner ran a combination bakery/cigar store/beer parlor.

Pike's Peak also had the area's only operating post office. Both Pioneer and Pike's Peak had been granted post offices in 1870, replacing an earlier office called Gold Creek. All the paperwork had been filed back in Washington, but as of June, 1871 the one at Pioneer had apparently never actually functioned, according to a New-Northwest correspondent.

That same year another town - Yamhill - sprang up as a competitor to Pike's Peak. The place took its name from Joseph Catching, a miner on Pilgrim Bar who originally hailed from Yamhill County, Oregon. Located above and half a mile west of Pike's Peak *"on the Pioneer road just where it leads over into Norton Gulch,"* the location was described as *"exposed and high ... on a steep slope"* with a main street as *"torturous as the cow-paths of Boston."* But it had the advantage of being closer to the mines; miners didn't need to trudge up and down the hill to and from Pike's Peak.

A sizeable settlement grew at Yamhill. By May there were seven business houses there, a number soon increased by the fate awaiting Pike's Peak. Early that same year a new mining location known as Knapp's Bar began to be worked. Knapp's was the next bar above Pilgrim, separated from it by a big ravine. The bar was worked hydraulically by the Knapp, Woods & Company, with a tailings dump directly above Pike's Peak. By June, though, it was obvious that the tailings pile was going to bury the townsite. The town of Pike's Peak hitched up its pants and relocated across the creek; buildings were moved across the gulch to the *"old race track ground"* (exact location unknown)

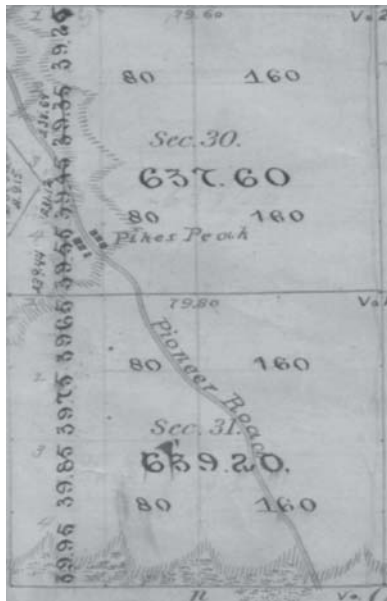
The New-Northwest commented that relocating Pike's Peak *"made a heavy draft on its population and trade."* Many residents and businesses decided to move to the new, growing town of Yamhill. Soon not a building remained at old Pike's Peak, and within a year the townsite was buried under 20 feet of tailings

By mid-summer 1871 Yamhill (also spelled as Yam Hill) could boast of:

- A store operated by former Pike's Peak businessmen Thomas Irvine, Jack Meyer and George Irvin, who joined forces when moving to the new town
- A hotel operated by Frank Brown Sr. and Jr.
- Two boarding houses run by Murray & Barnes and L.L. Whitcomb

- A billiards hall owned by Murray & Barnes
- William Pierce's blacksmith shop
- A livery stable run by J.M. Cummings, with another owned by J.S. Webb nearly completed
- Two butcher shops, one of them owned by B.E. Craig, who "keep a little 'raw-hash-ery' on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Broadway, and supplies the Yamites with fresh meats"
- Saloons operated by J. Carney and Geo. Lawson
- A number of frame dwellings and cabins

The offices of the Rock Creek Ditch Company also moved from Pike's Peak to Yamhill. Clearly, Yamhill was ascending; Pike's Peak was fading.



Yamhill and the Pioneer Road. General Land Office Supplemental Survey, 1871

But Pike's Peak didn't give up ... yet. That year a grand Fourth of July ball, well attended by the surrounding territory, was held at the McFarland House hotel in "new" Pike's Peak. The town struggled along but was on the decline. In August Conrad Kohrs, who had been in partnership with Frederick Loeber in a butcher shop in Pike's Peak and another at Pioneer dissolved the partnership. Loeber took on S. Pearsoll as a new partner, but that ended later in the year. In September Davidson's store at Pike's Peak was broken into and robbed of \$600-700. Pearsoll's butcher shop was also broken into but suffered no loss.

Sorting out the business history of Pike's Peak and Yamhill is a challenge. It appears that around this time the two towns were being confused in contemporary news articles; either that, or "Pike's Peak" was used to describe the whole area, towns and businesses included. Langley's Pacific Coast Business Directory for 1876-78

(probably issued in 1874 or 1875) still listed a dozen businesses at Pike's Peak; on the other hand, in June, 1872 a North-Northwest correspondent described Pike's Peak as being almost deserted. The Pike's Peak post office was ordered discontinued in November, 1873, but somewhere along the line the post office was transferred - officially or otherwise - to Yamhill with James O'Grady (later, D.H. Trufant) as postmaster. It's possible that the post office retained the "Pike's Peak" designation, leading to the confusing reports in local papers.

1873-74 seems to have been Yamhill's peak years. New stores opened; the town had two hotels after D.H. McFarland relocated the McFarland House from Pike's Peak; D.H. Trufant moved his saloon to Yamhill. The newspaper observed that "*the town of Yam Hill presents the usually lively appearance of the mining season. All the public buildings are occupied and one or two new buildings are going up.*" Yamhill even had a suburb - Battertontown, with two boarding houses and one saloon, named for and located on the Batterton claim in nearby Squaw Gulch.

But in October, 1874 a devastating fire practically eliminated the town. The New-Northwest gave the details: "*FIRE AT YAMHILL ON TUESDAY. The West Side Taken out of the Town. Quite a conflagration occurred at Yamhill, this county, on Tuesday afternoon of the present week, taking out the row of buildings on the west side of Main street from McDonald's livery stable to, and including, the Irvin & Irvine store and dwelling, occupied by Aspling & Son. The fire broke out in the livery stable at about 5 o'clock p.m., and is supposed to have been accidental, as a number of men were about the table smoking. Occurring at the time it did, property owners were enabled to save nearly all the movables, though we hear that Mr. McDonald's loss includes a few saddles, bridles, etc., and that Archie McDonel lost a new suit of clothes and a watch and chain. The following are the losses as reported by a note from Capt. D.H. Trufant and by parties arriving from there: McDonald - Livery Stable, books, and clothing; D.H.. Trufant - Stable building; S.F. King - Dwelling; Cohen Bros. - Store room; Dan'l Morgan - Frame dwelling; Unknown - Miners' cabin; Frank Brown - Boarding house and dwelling; Irvin & Irvine - Store and dwelling. The adjoining buildings were saved by wet blankets. As soon as possible the upper ditch was cut and a large volume of water sent rushing down hill into the flames. This rendered a good service and effectually prevented a further spread of the fire. At the first alarm the miners working in the vicinity rushed to the rescue and did good work in saving the property and extinguishing the fire". The total loss is variously estimated - probably about \$2,500.*

Yamhill soon bounced back. In 1876 it had three hotels (the Murray House and two others kept by Wilkison and Mrs. Nesbitt), three saloons, a blacksmith shop, a butcher shop, and three general stores house run by D.H Trufant, James O'Grady, and N.C. Boswell. But the town's glory was fading. Just two years later it was down to one store (Trufant's, which apparently also housed his saloon), one hotel, a blacksmith shop and a meat market. The post office was ordered to be discontinued.

Fire visited Yamhill again in March, 1880, destroying one building and threatening to burn down the entire town: "*On last Saturday morning the building at Yam Hill formerly occupied by Charley Rouleau caught fire, and for a time the destruction of the entire city was threatened. Mr. Nick Beery, who had full advices of the conflagration, states that it was due to the Herculean efforts of Capt. Trufant and his admirable management of the Fire Brigade that the threatened catastrophe was averted and the Fire Fiend checked in its mad career. Capt. T. had a large stock of imported goods in the building and is again about opening a store at the Hill. The Ditch Company's books in the adjoining building were saved. Up to this time we have had no estimate of the losses*".

This time there was no rapid recovery. The gravels of Pilgrim Bar and other locations such as Squaw Gulch and Norton Gulch had been thoroughly worked over; it was estimated that since 1868, when Pilgrim Bar was opened up, \$4,000,000 in gold dust had been taken out of the district. Work still continued on several claims, but on a much smaller scale than in the past. There just wasn't much of a reason to rebuild the town.

Still, a few businesses remained. R.M. Johnson conducted the hotel; the indefatigable Capt. Trufant replenished and reopened his store. By 1882 Trufant was the only business in town; he departed the following year, and the only residents were the Joseph Steele family, though several buildings still stood, including the hotel and Trufant's store. By the end of the decade the Pike's Peak district had lapsed into silence. Today even the locations of the two towns have been lost.

Where were they?

Pike's Peak and Yamhill were located about 12 miles northwest of Deer Lodge. Access to the area is via Old Stage Road.

Two 1870-era General Land Office surveys clearly show Pike's Peak - the original location - as being in the NW portion of SW ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 30, T9N R10W (in surveyors' terms). One survey shows the town on the east side of Pike's Peak Creek;

the other doesn't show the creek, both show the early road down the creek (not the later Pioneer Road) running through town. But the current road down the creek (Old Stage Road) is along the west bank, and there isn't any obvious tailings pile on that side that confirms the claim that the townsite was buried under 20 feet of gravel from Knapp's Bar. Pike's Peak is listed in the USGS place names database as being at 46.50278°N, -112.90833°W. At that spot is a 500 foot long, 100 foot wide, 30 foot high pile of tailings. It is on the east side of the creek (not the west), just north of the present transmission lines. It might mark the original site.

As for the later location of the town: it is stated that Pike's Peak moved across the gulch to the site of the old racetrack, and that the main street of the new location was very steep. This is a good description of the hill - the lower part Pilgrim Bar - that rises abruptly from the west side of Old Stage Road. But it's a little hard to visualize a racetrack on the side of a steep hill, and there doesn't seem to be any visual evidence of any such place.

Locating Yamhill is even more of a challenge. There are plenty of clues: It was on Pilgrim Bar; Half a mile from Pike's Peak (though this distance is suspect); Along the Pioneer Road; High enough above Pike's Peak that miners wanted to avoid the daily trudge up and down the hill; At the head of Norton Gulch, "*where the road drops in*"; On a steep slope - a 20 degree grade, claimed one account; Its main street was apparently oriented north/south - the account of the 1874 fire specifically mentions buildings on the west side of the street (note that the composite below doesn't confirm this); The Rock Creek Ditch flowed through or very near to the town. The USGS place names database lists Yamhill at 46.50056°N, -112.95000°W, a location nearly two miles west of Pike's Peak that doesn't seem to match any of those hints. The best clue is the old Pioneer Road. There appears to be an old road climbing the hill right next to the Pike's Peak site, but it soon gets lost - unfortunately the whole area has many roads running through it, some from recent transmission line and pipeline construction.

Pilgrim Bar was a large area, and it is not currently recognized as a place name by the USGS. Neither are Knapp's Bar (above Pike's Peak townsite), Norton Gulch ("*where the road dropped in*" near Yamhill), or Squaw Gulch (the location of Battertontown). The hillside above Pike's Peak is covered with tailings piles from hydraulic mining, making it even more difficult to locate building sites. Plus some of the area is posted against trespass by the operation currently working gravels over at Pioneer. All things considered, the whereabouts of Pike's Peak and Yamhill are going to go un-rediscovered until better information can be found.

The Heart of the Gallatin Valley

by PATRICK FINNEGAN

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act into law. The act encouraged western migration by offering government owned land to anyone willing to pay a small fee and complete five years of continuous residency on 160 acres of land.

After the Utah Northern railroad reached Montana Territory in 1881, followed quickly followed by Northern Pacific Railroad in 1883, businessmen across the U.S. got wind of the wide-open opportunities available in the west.

Even before the arrival of railroad, the Gallatin Valley was known for its fertile soil and good climate. Men who could not make a living in the gold fields came to the valley, not only to provide food for their families, but provide food for the men who remained in the gold fields.

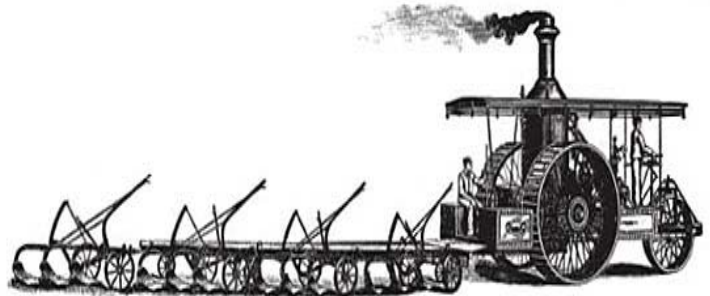
When the Northern Pacific Railroad laid its tracks through the valley, many towns picked up and moved closer to the railhead. This included the town of Hamilton which was located south of Manhattan at the site of the Meadowview Cemetery. Once moved it was renamed Moreland, after a local farmer and land broker.

About 1889, word spread of the fertile soil of the Gallatin Valley. Among those listening was a group of enterprising maltsters from New York and Brooklyn, and they made plans and formed the Manhattan Malting Company. A maltster, a term first used in the 14th century, is a person whose occupation is making malt. Malt is made from cereal grains (like barley) that are soaked in water to germinate and then dried in hot air just as the seed is germinating, releasing enzymes that convert the grain's starch into sugar which are used to brew beer or distill whiskey.

The Manhattan Malting Company President was Henry Altenbrand, Sr., with Jacob Rupert and other "men of means" as stockholders. According to one source, many of the stockholders were members of the Democratic Manhattan Club of New York City. While they set out to make a profit, they ended up transforming the center of the Gallatin Valley.

The Manhattan Malting Company (MMC) had a plan for making a profit. Among the first items on their agenda was to change the name of the town from Moreland to Manhattan. They also purchased about 13,000 acres in the Gallatin Valley near the Northern Pacific Railroad, land perfect

or growing barley. In 1891, after they purchased the land, they purchased a huge steam-powered, the Jacob Price Field Locomotive, the first steam plow in Montana. Once it arrived, it was immediately put to work with an attached twelve-bottom plow. Today's garden tractors can pull a one or two bottom (blade) plow, while the really big tractors can pull a



This is the illustration from page 10 of the 1895 Jacob Price engine catalog, which refers to its steam traction engine as a field locomotive.

Along with growing their own crops, MMC enticed farmers to settle in the area, grow barley and sell it to MMC. Among the first farmers lured to the area were Dutch immigrants, who eventually built the "Holland Settlements" of Churchill and Amsterdam.

While MMC was starting its farming operations, the same men formed the Gallatin Irrigation Company "with the intention of constructing the large High Line Canal from the West Gallatin River to land around the Manhattan / Moreland area.

Once the first crop was planted, MMC built storage silos and a malting plant near the Northern Pacific trackside. The first elevator was completed in 1891, while the malting plant, built from marble quarried in Butte, was completed 1893.

Within a few short years, MMC was making a profit. The barley produced by their farms and other farmers of the Gallatin Valley was a superb quality barley and a high quantity. By 1908, MMC running 12M pounds of barley through its malt plant and 24M pounds of barley was sold to others. The MMC's barley was shipped by rail to east and west coast for export to Germany, Japan and a whole trainload to Australia.

Unfortunately, Prohibition ruined the plan. The facilities were shuttered sometime before 1919. But, in those thirty plus good years, the prosperity of farmers brought more people, both businessmen and farmers to the valley.

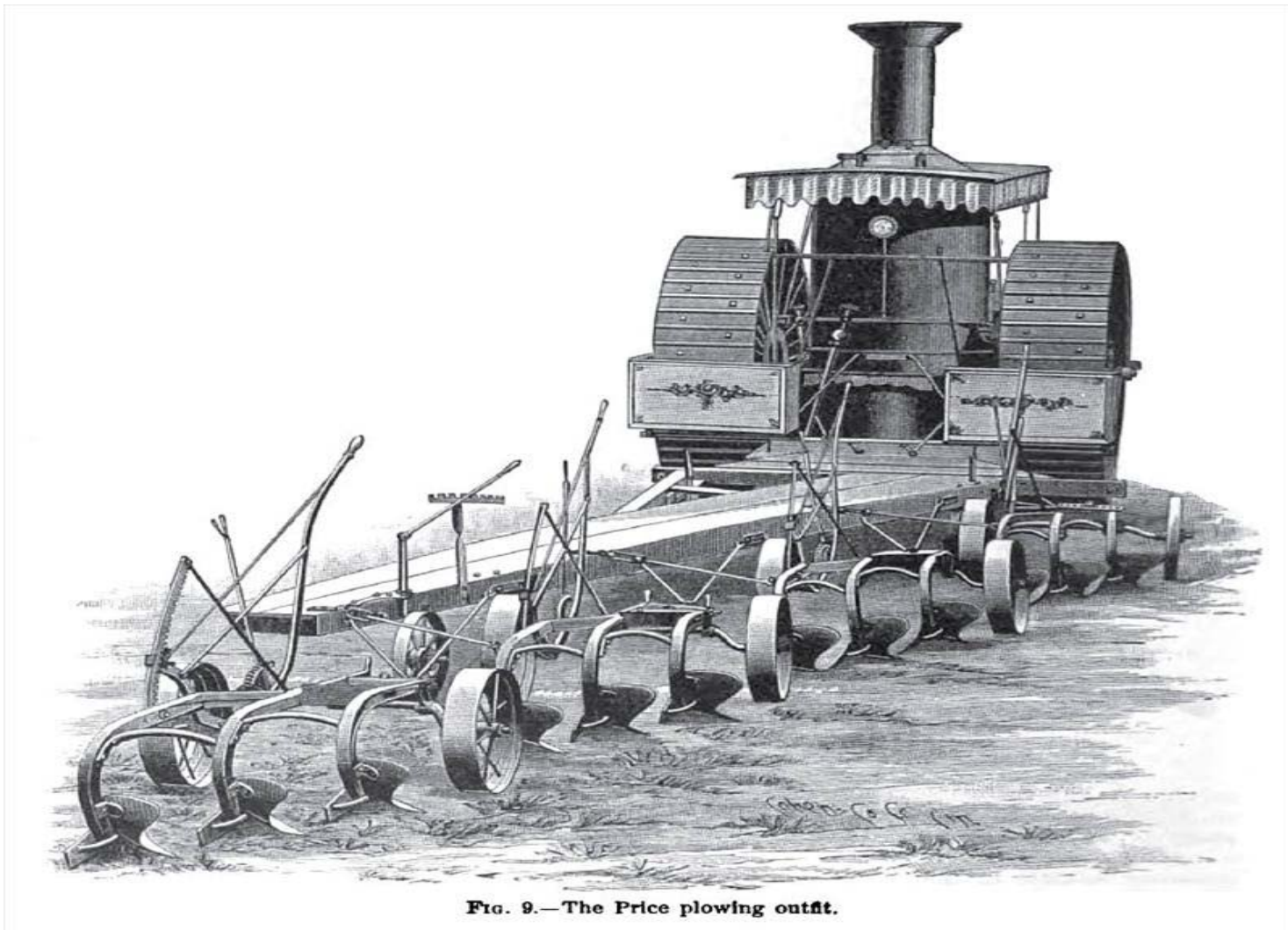
This prosperity of the locals drew even more people after the passing of the 1909 Enlarged Homestead Act. By 1909, most of the fertile land had been taken up and was already under the plow. To entice more immigrants and farmers to move west, the Enlarged Homestead Act allowed a homestead to be 320 acres instead of just 160. It was thought that these "marginal" lands would require twice as much acreage to sustain a farming family. To further encourage the western movement, the Three-Year Homestead Act of 1912 allowed homesteaders to file a final claim after only three years of residency.

The 1909 Enlarged Homestead Act opened up nearly 19,664,640 acres of land in Montana, or about 21% of the state, for homestead entry. Local business and the railroads threw in their own enticements to add to the western migration. Railroads hauled in farming equipment and sponsored "Farmer's Institutes" to teach the basics of dry-land farming. They also gave special pricing for homestead cars, where a farming family could move their home furnishings, animals and equipment west.

The Clark Lumber Company of Three Forks offered deals on Homestead Shacks, while the Three Forks Land Company, operated by M.H. & W.E. Crowley, offered "Farm Lands Sold on Easy Payments."

Between 1910 and 1920, 574 notices of final homestead proofs were published in the Three Forks newspapers, with the peak being 99 notices in 1913. Of those 574 notices, about 109 notices listed women as the claimant. And this only covers about 28 townships or square miles around Three Forks.

Similar to the rise and fall of Manhattan Malting Company, local farmers experience the same boom and bust, and remarkably, in the same time frame. Around 1915, rain fell less frequently and by 1919 the drought was hitting farmers with failing crops and hard times. Some abandoned their farms and moved on. In a double dose of bad luck, Prohibition was the law of the land, so a miserable farmer couldn't even drown his sorrows with a drink.



A catalog photo - "Fig. 9 shows the Jacob Price plowing outfit, his plowing engine drawing four gangs of three plows each at the California State Fair of 1890 made by J. I. Case, of Racine, Wis.; weight of engine, 8½ tons, the twelve plows cutting 11 ft."

The TRAGIC STORY of WILLIAM GAY

by TERRY HALDEN

On June 8th 1896, as the courthouse clock, across the street from the Lewis and Clark county jailhouse in Helena, chimed the last strike of eleven in the morning, the weight dropped, William Gay was yanked upwards, breaking his neck. Seven and a half minutes later, two physicians could detect no pulse and declared him dead. Many were of the opinion that an innocent man had been executed.

William Gay was 5 ft. 9 in. tall, weighed in at 160 pounds and was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, on October 20, 1847. Before coming to Castle, Montana in 1892 (or earlier) he was in Deadwood, South Dakota and when he got to the busy town of Castle, he found employment as a carpenter, saved his money, built his own cabin and sent for his wife and family to join him. His reputation was damaged when his teenage daughter, who had been living with him prior to the rest of the family arriving, gave birth and he was accused of being the father. At the trial his daughter testified that the father of her child was a man who had left Castle, rather than marry her, and despite being acquitted of the charge, the stigma on Gay persisted.

Gay's major problem arose innocently enough, when Henry or as he was known Harry Gross, his brother-in-law joined him in Castle in 1893. The two decided to dig an exploratory hole and at a depth of twenty feet, struck, not silver, but coal. Knowing they had a commodity that they could readily sell to the townsfolk and the mills, they went into town to celebrate. Returning to their mine the next day, they found a Mr. Benson, the owner of the Castle Reporter, a local newspaper, at the bottom of the mine. He informed them that he legally owned the property they were digging on, and thanked them for their effort. Having run off the top man, Gross unwound the rope from the windlass and tossed it down the mine on Benson and left him there. A few nights later the Castle Reporter office mysteriously burned down, and of course Gross and Gay were first in line as suspects. On May 9th William Rader, Meagher county deputy sheriff, was sent to Gross's cabin six miles south of Castle with a warrant for the two. Approaching the cabin, Rader called on the two to surrender, but Gross shot him, through the heart which unnerved his companion who fled rather than face the same fate. By the time help arrived the pair of now fugitives had fled. Four days later, a sheepherder, north of Big Timber recognized the pair and without being seen was able to notify authorities. Within four hours, Sheriff John O'Marr and a posse of nine men were at the sheepherder's ranch and he told them where he had seen the two men camped.

What transpired next is a little hazy in the records, but it is alleged that when the posse approached the camp, Gross and Gay had dug rifle pits and were ready for a stand-off. Gun fire erupted and Deputy Sheriff MacKay went down with a bullet in his abdomen. Again, in the confusion, the two wanted men were able to flee. The deputy died two days later, after stating he was sure it was Gay that had fired the deadly shot.

Surreptitiously returning to Castle, Gay learned that his wife and family had been arrested and were being interrogated as to his whereabouts and in the meantime his cabin and all his possessions had been burned by the irate citizens. His wife was later released only to learn she and her family were destitute. By then Gay had made his way to Butte, and hopped a southbound freight train where he bumped into Gross who had the same escape plan. Together they got to Salt Lake City, where they were arrested as being hobos, but managed to escape yet again. They decided to part company, Gross going east and Gay west.

In October the following year, Gross was arrested in Missouri, but by the time extradition warrants had been secured and Sheriff O'Marr reached St Joe, he was informed that Gross had again escaped custody. Better results transpired in December, when Gay was arrested in the Needles, California. Although he was using an assumed name, unfortunately for him, the arresting officer knew him from his Deadwood days and also that there was an outstanding murder warrant out on him. One wonders, in the 1890's of all the outstanding murder warrants that had been issued nationwide, if the warrant for the murder of a police officer were the ones that stood out and other officers took note more readily. In any event, Sheriff O'Marr quickly scooped up an extradition warrant took a train to California and returned with his prisoner to Helena where Gay was lodged in the county caboose as the jail in White Sulphur Springs was deemed to be 'too porous' and it was suspected that Gay's friends in Castle might try to get him out.

At first Gay wanted, and got, a change of venue from Meagher County to Lewis and Clark County on the grounds that a jury from Castle would be prejudicial. The trial, after several delays, finally got underway in the fall of 1895. From the start Gay was confident that he would be acquitted, as he stated that he had not killed either deputy, but evidence was introduced that MacKay's dying statement was to the effect that he confirmed that he saw Gay as his assassin, the jury returned a verdict of "Guilty of murder in the first degree". How a man who suddenly receives the shock of a bullet in the abdomen can positively identify which of two men laying prone in rifle pits was the one that shot him is a little far-fetched, but the jury accepted it. An appeal was immediately launched, on the grounds that in addressing the jury the judge should have listed lesser charges that could have been considered. The appeal was denied so the defense took the case to the Montana Supreme Court, which refused to hear the case, but commented that Gay had received a fair trial and the jury's verdict was correct and the sentence of death was in order. Fighting for time, they next took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. By this time they were armed with numerous written statements from acquaintances of Gay in California, Castle and Deadwood attesting to his good character, prior to joining up and 'being influenced by his bad brother-in-law'. It was to no avail as the Court refused to become involved in the lower court's decision.

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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.

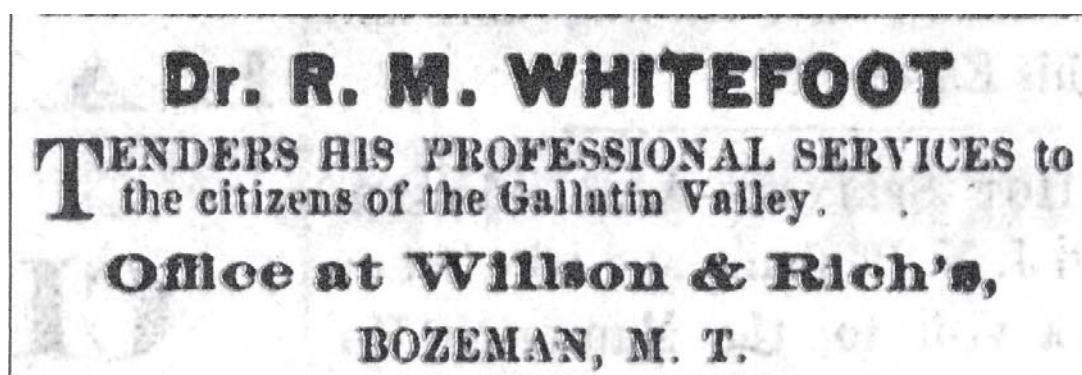
Starting at 9:00 am, a variety of well-informed, entertaining speakers will cover such topics as Fort Ellis, railroads, breweries, and the importance of grain production and processing in the area. An update on the Lower Bridger Canyon Schoolhouse will also be presented.

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.



Conclusion of William Gay:

The day before the execution date, a final appeal to Governor John E. Rickards for mercy was also turned down. Gay was distraught and refused to eat anything in the twenty four hours prior to time of execution and was virtually carried to the gallows by deputies. Having finally accepted the Catholic faith, his body was buried in the local catholic cemetery. Gross was never located and his final years were never recorded.

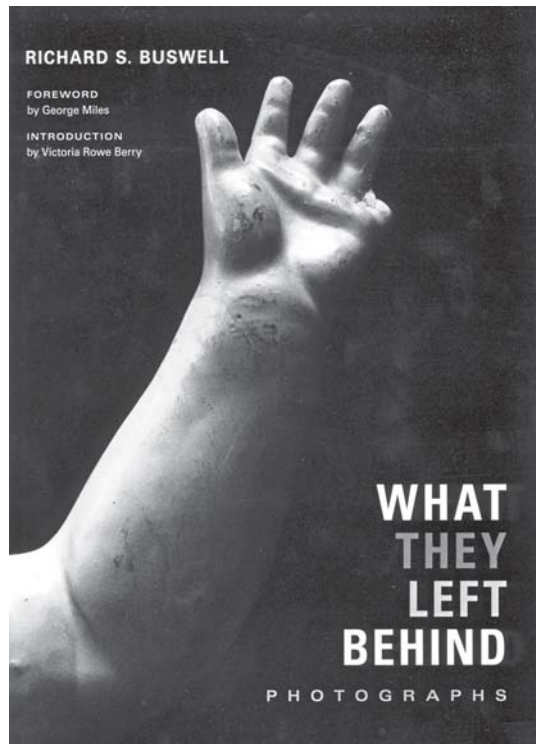
No photo of William Gay has been located. Ed.



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

REVIEW:

WHAT THEY LEFT BEHIND



Photographs by RICHARD S. BUSWELL

Fans of Dr. Richard Burswell's photography will not be disappointed by his latest book featuring photographs of items that early homesteaders, farm families, or ghost town dwellers left behind. He has an acute eye for photographing everyday items that you and I might find in a deserted building and not give a second thought to. Instead he painstakingly uses his camera to show the sometimes poignant artifact in such a light that, in itself, it is an art form. Dr. Buswell will have an exhibition at Montana Museum of Art & Culture in Missoula from June 8 to September 9, this year. The Holter Museum of Art will be hosting his exhibition "Close to Home" (his last book), Jan 19 to May 13, next year. In addition, Yale University will be exhibiting some of his photographs this coming fall whilst the Beinecke library at Yale have purchased over 300 of his photographs.

Terry Halden