



MONTANA
GHOST TOWN
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

VOLUME 47

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018



KEN OVERCAST, Chinook rancher, western singer and cowboy poet who was the excellent choice of entertainment at our convention in Sidney this year. For a photo collage of the convention, turn to pages 6 to 8

TERRY HALDEN Photo

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.

FALL 2018

President: Brad O'Grosky
Vice President: Sally Griffin
Secretary / Treasurer: Connie Griffin
Website Administrator: Darian Halden
Facebook Administrator: Darian Halden
Granta Chairman: Cibdy Shearer.
Projects: Darian Halden
Membership: Connie Griffin
Newsletter Editor: Terry Halden
2019 Convention: Don Black
Directors: Don Black & Gordon Tracy.
Immediate Past President: Terry Halden

The Prez Sez

BRAD O'GROSKY

For those of you who made it to Sidney...WHAT A GREAT TIME!...Darian and her crew did a wonderful job and everyone enjoyed the convention. And thanks to Sidney for its hospitality. During the banquet I wanted to welcome any first time members that were in attendance, but forgot. Sorry for that oversight, but welcome all new members that made it to Sidney and we look forward to meeting you again, next year in Red Lodge. Touring Forts Union and Buford as well as Mondak were very interesting. Mondak has three buildings remaining where once there were a hundred. This makes me think of all the ghost towns and their survival and preservation. Nearly all of them are slowly falling prey to firewood, remodeling, vandalism, and just natural decay. I'm sure many of you have returned to ghost towns years later, only to find considerable deterioration. So what do we do help stop this? Your board is looking for preservation projects that we can support. We need your help and ideas to this end. Let us know of any possible projects. We have recently supported the preservation of two historic grain elevators in Hobson, west of Lewistown from destruction by the BNSF Railroad. Its like the verse from Ed Bruce's song " This is the last cowboy's song" " Another piece of America lost".

On another note, please remember that membership is now from January 1 to December 31, so please send in your very low membership dues by the end of the year. (SEE PAGE 11). And have a safe and fun filled fall.

BRAD

AS I SEE IT

From the Ramrod's Chair

I've got good news and bad news for you this issue. First the good news: In the February 2019 issue of Wild West magazine, which will be on your newsstands sometime in December there is a six page article about Montana prospector, Nate Vestal who hit it big with the 'Penobscot', mine, up beyond Marysville, which he sold in 1878 for half a million dollars (which in today's dollars would be about eight billion dollars)!. I'm the author of the article and the editor of the magazine, Greg Lalire, who was our guest a few years ago at the convention in Missoula, has given the M.G.T.P.S. a huge boost, at the end of the article. Now for the bad news: For the second issue in a row I've failed to get any articles from our usual contributors, and since I've sure you are tired of reading my authored articles, the next issue I will have to cut to eight or less pages. We've asked for readers to submit news snippets or local info, but the lines are dead. If you hear of any historically, interesting local goings on E-mail me at terryhalden@hotmail.com, PLEASE.

TERRY

New Members

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

Helen Rietz, Helena, MT	Marlene Goff, Salem, OR	Idelle Badt, Bismarck, ND
Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, ND	Joyce Moen, Billings, MT	
Kaonii King, Big Timber, MT	Susan Harrick, Big Timber, MT	Leann Pelvit, Sidney, MT
Dennis & LouAnn Skattum, Livingston, MT	Kari Galassi, Kalispell, MT	

M. G. T. P. S. Board Meeting

August 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 pm by President Brad O’Grosky. Board members attending were Terry Halden, Cindy Shearer, Don Black, and Connie Griffin.

Guests Linda Dutcher and Karen Shores were introduced. Linda presented her research of the Red Lodge area for the 2019 Convention. There are several options for lodging, meeting rooms, and food for the event. She also mentioned interesting sites for visiting and people that know about the area history.

Terry moved the 2019 Convention be held in Red Lodge. Cindy seconded the motion. The motion passed. Don agreed to be the Chairperson for the 2019 Convention in Red Lodge.

Connie moved that the Meeting Minutes from June 8, 2018 be accepted as published, Terry seconded, the motion passed.

Connie read the Treasurer’s Report for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 we had an Income of \$1,645.00 and Expenses of \$578.49, for a Net Income of \$1,066.51. The Cash Balances are Petty Cash \$60.20, Checking Account has \$6,881.83, and Savings Account has \$13,422.20. There was a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Terry seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Terry is looking for MGTPS members and friends that are interested in writing articles for the newsletters.

Projects:

The owner of Morris Bank in Pony is looking at replacing the boarded up windows this fall.

Cindy has a new project idea. People have noticed incorrect information on some old Historic Area boards and requested the signs be corrected.

Old Business:

The town of Manhattan is not sure if they are interested in purchasing the Nixon Bridge. They are looking into public interest. .MGTPS is no longer offering financial help for the Alta mine frame project as Larry Hoffman has indicated it would be impossible to put together due to rotted timbers and all markers hve dissappeared.

New Business:

Terry mentioned the need to increase convention fees to cover the rising costs. He thought that the fees for attending should reflect the cost of where the convention is being held.

Phillipsburg and White Sulphur Springs are possible locations for the 2020 Convention.

Terry feels MGTPS needs a Chairperson for Grants. The Chairperson will have knowledge of grants available from all other sources, Federal, State and local, to aid historic restoration projects. Cindy Shearer said she is interested in being the Grant Chairperson.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18.

Respectfully submitted

Connie Griffin

Secretary/Treasurer

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

September 08, 2018

President Brad O’Grosky opened the meeting at 7:38pm. Board Members attending were Terry Halden, Darian Halden, Don Black, and Connie Griffin.

Connie read the Treasurer’s Report. From the start of the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018 as of September 2, 2018 MGTPS had an Income of \$4,430.00, Expenses of \$2,088.49, for a Net Income of \$2,341.51. The Cash Balances are Petty Cash \$60.20, Checking Account has \$8,156.83, and Savings Account has \$13,422.42.

Connie said that we are not sending out dues renewal postcards any more. There will be a notice in the newsletters.

Darian motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Terry seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Don Black announced that the 2019 Convention will be in Red Lodge, MT.

Don motioned the meeting be adjourned. Terry seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted

Connie Griffin

Secretary/Treasurer

The Mining District of HEDDLESTON and the Distaster that was named MIKE HORSE

By TERRY HALDEN

William Heddleston and his partner George Padbury were prospecting the upper tributaries of the Blackfoot River, just west of the Rogers Pass over the Divide, when they located some gold ore. The area may have been prospected unsuccessfully for placer gold before, but this was a seam of lode gold that they discovered. The Helena Mining Review of September 1890 reported: *"G. W. Padbury visited our office last week, bringing with him a sample of gold which he pounded out from rock, in a common mortar and then panned out. He and his partner thus obtained \$701 in 22 days' work and the means of breaking the rock was very crude. The ore was found on one of the tributaries of the Big Blackfoot.... The district has been named the Heddleston District after Mr. Padbury's partner. They have located three claims, the 'Calliope', 'Eureka' and 'Northern Chief' and some claims covering seams of iron ore."*

The two miners built a crude arrastra to mill the ore and over the next few years are said to have taken out over \$11,000 (1890 dollars) worth of gold before the vein pinched out. Their success sparked interest in the area and in the following two decades other mines, such as the 'Anaconda', the 'Mary P.', the 'Dandy', the 'Midnight', the 'Carbonate', the 'Copper Gate' and the 'Paymaster' were registered in the district as gold, silver, zinc, lead, copper, molybdenum, and other base metals were discovered. Some were producing mines, but most were merely prospect holes, to be sold to gullible investors.

One mine, the 'Mike Horse' discovered by Joseph Hartmiller was the exception. According to Hartmiller, and this must be taken with a grain of salt, he was camped one morning in September 1898 on Beartrap Creek, an upper tributary of the Blackfoot River, and was cooking breakfast over an open fire. The odor of the bacon must have attracted a bear, although Hartmiller admits he never saw a bear. His first indication a bear was in the vicinity was that his horse suddenly bolted down the canyon. He chased it, caught it, and returning to his camp, in the wake of the melee he saw a rock had been upturned and glinting in the

morning sun was the unmistakable vision of silver and lead. Investigating further he discovered the source and named his lode mine after his horse, Old Mike. Actually, Hartmiller located several outcrops, naming some the Hog All mine and on September 15, he registered all of them, his total claim covering some 3000 feet in length. By taking on some partners, Frank Rothermel, Michael Dobler and Henry Gruhle together they formed the Mike Horse Mining Company, incorporating the company in June 1902. But the group were constantly short of money to pursue development of the property. In the following years it went through several lessees who tried to improve it, but always failed and the mine reverted back to Hartmiller. The problem was the mine was so remote, that even with a small concentrator on site the lack of decent roads to smelters in Great Falls or Prickly Pear Junction, as East Helena was then referred to, made the freighting costs of anything but high grade ore prohibitive. As a result, early production was spotty, but when it was finally sold in 1919 to the Sterling Mining Company, production really picked up. Two years later, the company discovered a major deposit of lead, which boosted activity and warranted the construction of a modern concentrating mill on the property. This mill was used by some of the other mines in the district, as rekindled interest in them resulted in their reopening, as brief as it was.



Two of six cabin shells in the sprawling town of Silver Camp, that were still in existence after the turn of the 21st century. TERRY HALDEN photo

Downstream from the 'Mike Horse' mine gold, silver and copper was being mined at several small mines located on the other small tributaries of Blackfoot river, with the result that a small town emerged that the miners called Silver Camp. Although small, consisting of mainly tents, a few cabins and a boarding house, it succeeded in getting a post office that was in operation in 1917 and lasted a year before being closed.

Back at the 'Mike Horse', the September 16, 1920 edition of the Great Falls Tribune reported: *"An 1195 foot tunnel which was begun about a year ago was finished Sunday. A 28 foot vein encountered shows three streaks of high grade galena, one 36 inches wide, one 26 inches in width and a third 10 inches wide. In putting through the tunnel two other leads were cut, one 30 inches in high grade and the other 3 to 4 feet in width of milling ore. The ore runs 75 to 80 percent lead and 23 per cent silver"*. It was also reported that a new diamond drill was being used for the first time. Needless to say, the next few newspaper reports indicated the company had plans to dismantle their mill and replace it with a more modern mill.

But by the mid 1920's the mine output was faltering and the Sterling Mining Company went into receivership, defaulting on the mine which ended up being sold at a sheriff's auction. Sam Stampfly, purchased it, patented the property, having the idea to resell it at a profit, but the 1929 stock market crash and resulting decade of depression killed that idea. The mine remained idle for a dozen years. Finally, in December 1940 the Mike Horse Mining and Milling Company leased the mine for a period of eight years with an option to purchase it for \$160,000.

With the advent of W.W.II and the need for metals such a lead and copper, the Mike Horse was about to enter a period of its most productivity. A boarding house was erected along with miner's cabins and from 1943 to 1952, the hamlet of Mike Horse had a post office. ASARCO, the giant Butte company, purchased the entire enterprise in 1945 and continued operations until November 10, 1952 when it announced the final closure of the mine, having produced nearly seven million dollars of concentrate in just over eight years of ownership.

Meantime, the waste rock dump had mine water mixing with it, creating a chemical reaction that silently and steadily produced an acid strong enough eat iron. All this was behind a dam on the property. After a hard winter, 1974/75 that produced a considerable amount of spring snow run off, this cess-pool was full to the brim, although there was no one there to observe it. A torrential rain storm of June 17 through June 20, 1975 was all that was needed to breach the dam and send a massive amount of highly acidified water down stream, killing fish and contaminating the water supply of towns and villages all the way to Missoula where the Blackfoot River runs into the Clark Fork. This resulted in legislations being enacted to force mining companies to provide a substantial deposit before commencing mining operation, to cover any cost of resultant cleanup afterwards. In the case of the Mike Horse, as of last summer, the cleanup is still in process with the access road blocked by a locked gate.

For further reading we recommend the book 'Wounding the West' by David Siller



LEFT: The village of Mike Horse, Ca 1944

M.H.S. Photo

ABOVE: The dam above the village of Mike Horse late 1940's JOHN THOMPSON Jr. Photo



FRIDAY EVENING ~

ABOVE LEFT: Registration desk, Darian Halden, Barbara Halden and Connie Griffin.

ABOVE RIGHT: Buffet beef supper, supplied by Claude and Tammi Bidegaray (in photo) of CT Farms

BELOW LEFT: Guest speaker, the very entertaining, Arch Ellwein



BELOW LEFT: Major Brotherton's residence, where Sitting Bull finally surrendered on July 21, 1881.

BELOW RIGHT: The fort commander's bedroom.



SATURDAY ~

ABOVE & BELOW: Fort Buford, Enlisted men's barracks.



After visiting Fort Buford's cemetery, a boxed lunch was served in the Missouri -Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center meeting room.

Convention 2018

Featuring the
Photographic
Talents of:
Diann Andre,
Darlan Halden,
Terry Halden



FORT UNION

ABOVE: Main gate.

LEFT: Bourgeois's house

BELOW LEFT: Trade Room

RIGHT: Our knowledgeable
guide



ABOVE: "I've got
'em in range, pass
me a lighted taper"

LEFT: "We are open
for business"

RIGHT: "I can see
Fort Buford from
here".





ABOVE LEFT: After Fort Union, we stopped off at the nearby ghost town of Mondak. Out of three buildings that are still standing one is the jail on the left in the photo. ABOVE RIGHT: the door-prize table of donated goodies. LEFT: After the banquet (Your choice, beef, chicken or shrimp) and the A.G.M. we were entertained by Western Singer, Cowboy Poet and Chinook Rancher, KEN OVERCAST. BELOW: The audience, thoroughly enjoying the show put on by Ken Overcast.



SUNDAY: ~ A visit to Newlon Cemetery where two Civil War vets are buried.



STOP THE PRESS!

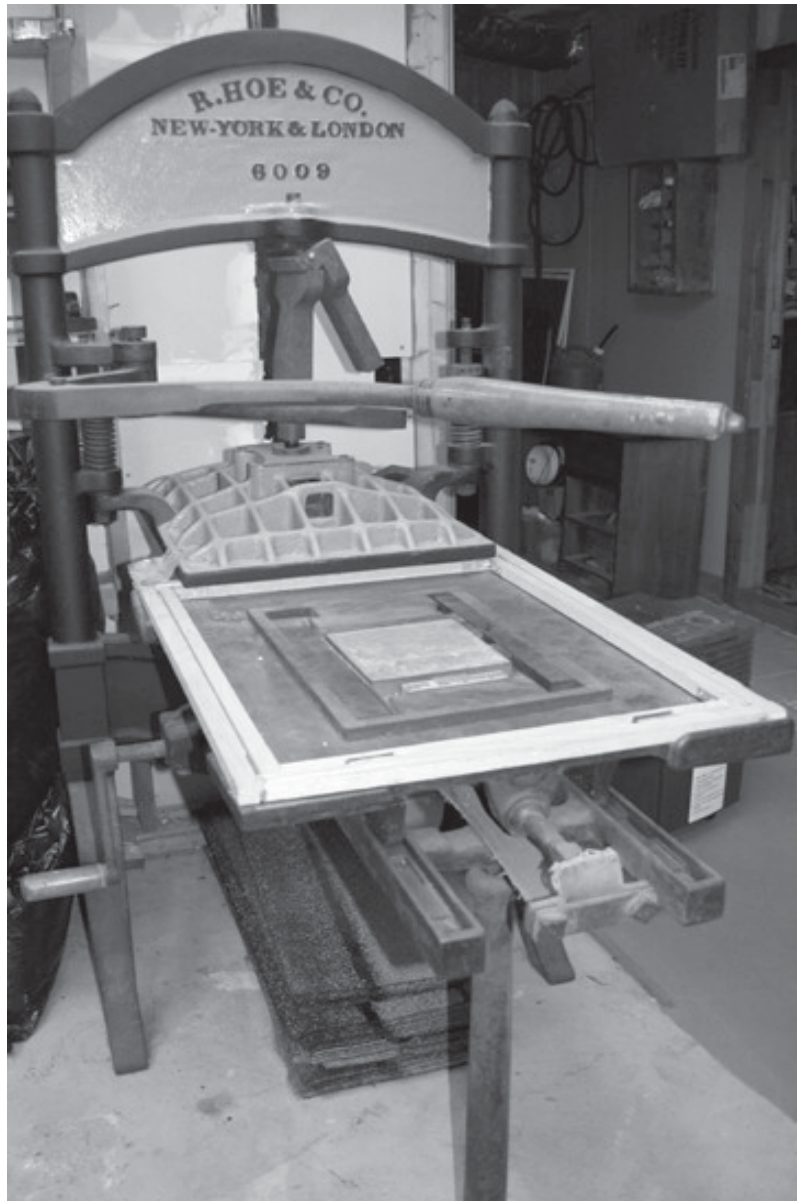
By TERRY HALDEN

Today, as we operate our computers, and are able to read the newspapers of a century and a half ago, do we ever give any thought to how the editors of those newspapers managed to get a weekly edition in front of their customers? In the 1860's with no electricity yet, it was all manual labor. The popular printing press at the time was a hand press, of which the Washington Number seven was the favorite, although other manufacturers also made hand presses.

First the editor had to write down the gist of the news item he wanted to convey to his readers, or copy verbatim the news item that came over the telegraph. After this the story had to be placed on the layout tray, with all the type (in reverse) heads, again in reverse sentences. When the entire two pages of the newspaper were done, the entire face was inked, a sheet of newspaper was placed on the ink surface and the tray wheeled under the press and the press was hand cranked down on to the tray. Voila! Two pages (one and three) of a newspaper. If the editor had eight hundred customers, this was done eight hundred times. Then pages two and four were composed the same way, the paper, page one and three placed printed side up on the inked tray and again wheeled into the hand press to finally produce a four page newspaper.

As you can see, the sale of advertising was essential as not only did it produce revenue, but a block of type could be made up and inserted on a page every issue to save compositor time. And, of course, the insertion of large type face or figureheads also reduced compositing time.

The first printing press, a Liberty Jobber, was brought to Virginia City, by the freight company, Tilton and Dittes in early 1864. It weighed 1,300 pounds and was packed in from Austin Nevada at a cost of 25 cents per pound. After producing the 'Montana Post' for many years, it was sold to the 'New North-West' in Deer Lodge where, in 1884, it had been in constant service for twenty years, never have been overhauled or repaired. Although by that date it had been replaced in the production of the newspaper by newer methods, and had been reduced to producing small job work in the busy newspaper office.



A typical printing press from the 1860's era. The table in front is where the print blocks (each in reverse) that spell out a word, are placed and sentence are constructed, again in reverse order. When completed, the print would be inked, paper placed on top, and with the crank handle on the left the entire table would be wheeled under the press. Then the press would be lowered, by the handle above it and Page one and three of the paper was done.

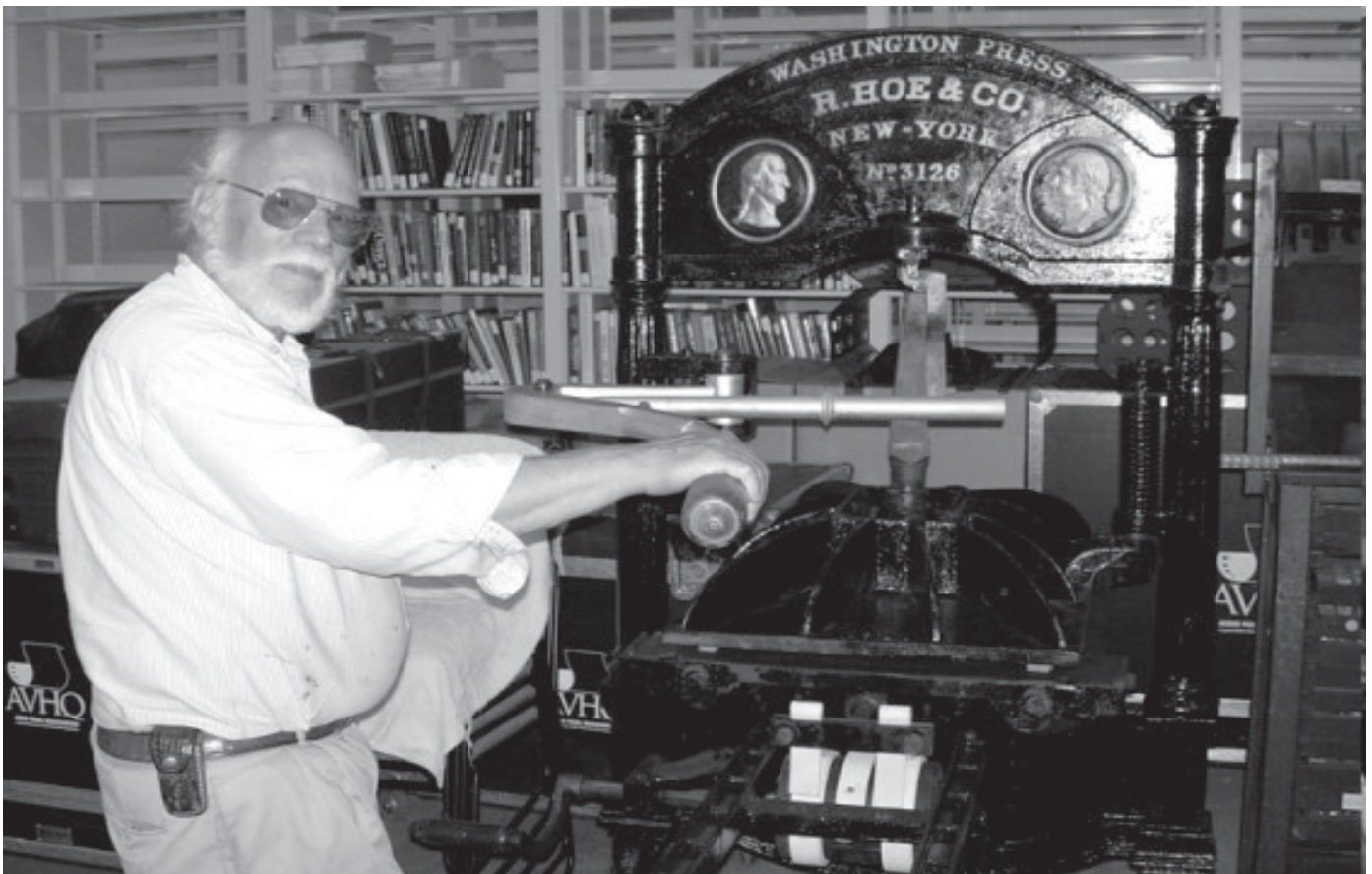
PHOTO from the Internet

The strangest tale of a 'Wandering Hand Press' was a Washington No. 7 that started its life in California, prior to 1860. Sometime between 1860 and 1862 it came to Portland Oregon, and probably did some work there. Its known pedigree starts in 1862 when it was taken to Lewiston, Idaho by Frank Canyon, who started the 'Journal' there. 1865 saw the press on the road again as it came to Helena as Joe Favorite started the 'Radiator', the first newspaper in that city. Sometime in its history the main frame of the press had been cut in two to facilitate the transportation over mountain passes by pack animals.

The next move was in 1870 when Joseph Magee bought the press and moved it to Missoula, where he started 'The Missoula and Cedar Creek Pioneer' newspaper on September 15, 1870. On January 26, 1871, the paper became 'The Missoula Pioneer', again changing to 'The Pioneer' on November 2 1871. On December 2, 1872 another name change, this time to 'The Montana Pioneer', which lasted until February 8 1873 when the current 'Missoulian' stuck.

Getting back to the Washington No 7 Hand Press in its July 4, 1884 edition, the New North-West ran a reprinted story from the Missoulian, June 20 1884, headed "*Wanderings of the Press*" It read: "*An old timer has left Missoula*" and went on to say the press was once again on the move, this time back to Murray, Idaho, to print another 'Pioneer' newspaper.

It is because of these old Hand Presses that people who work as newspaper reporters, editors and compositors today are referred to as 'the press' and newspapers, across the nation, share news stories via an organization called the Associated Press. I compose this newsletter on the computer, using an Adobe Pagemaker system, change it into pdf format, e-mail it to the printers, and you get the copy you are now reading. If I had to crank out 12 pages of type 250 times, you would be looking for a new editor!



Robert Oldham of the American Printing History Association shown operating a Washington No. 7 HandPress. Photo Courtesy of A.P.H.A., Used with their permission.

DUES are DUE; DUES are DUE; DUES are DUE.

Hi Everyone,

As we approach the end of the year, it becomes necessary for us to remind our members that their dues are in need of renewing for the 2019 calendar year. This year you will NOT be getting a friendly notice from our secretary/treasurer, as all too often, it is put aside for 'paying later' and ultimately forgotten, needing a reminder postcard. All costing postage and time consuming for Connie. This year we are trying a new method - this is your notice of renewal.

- Dues are: Individual ~ \$15.00
- Immediate Family ~ \$20.00
- Museums & Organizations ~ \$25.00
- Lifetime ~ \$200.00

You can either pay by cutting this top half of the page off (your address is on the back) and mailing it, with your check payable to: M.G.T.P.S., to the address at the top of the back page.

OR you can go to www.mtghosttown.org - hit membership - bring up the appropriate dues and pay via Paypal.

The following members who joined us this year:

Annunciation Monastery; Idelle Bradt; Ralph & Barbara Branson; Dick & Barbara Davidson; Betty Doornbos; Kari Galassi; Marlene Goff; Susan Harrick; Kaonii King; Joyce Moen; Harvey Nyberg; Leann Pelvit; Helen Rietz; Dennis & LouAnn Skattum; Barry Sulam; and all our Lifemembers
NEED NOT RENEW THANK YOU

OBITUARY: **ARCHER DENNIS ELLWEIN**
Aug. 1 1956 - Oct. 2 2018

Sidney and district were saddened October 2 to learn that 'Arch' Ellwein had suddenly passed away. All of our members who attended our convention this year will remember our guest speaker on Friday evening who mesmerized his audience with his knowledgeable presentation of local history. He ably assisted us at Fort Buford on Saturday with his relating of the surrender of Sitting Bull, in the room that it occurred.

Born in Sidney to Earl and Grace Ellwein, Arch began a career in radio sports broadcasting. He still found time to help school children in dramatic stage acting and he himself perfected the art by portraying historical figures such as Theodore Roosevelt, Sgt. John Ordway, buffalo hunter, Vic Smith and river boat Cpt. Grant March. In these rolls he performed over 2,400 shows across Montana and beyond. Our condolences go out to his mother and brother.





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

REVIEW:

MONTANA, IN MY SOUL

by KEN OVERCAST



Our entertainment at this last convention was the Chinook rancher, Nashville recording star, and Cowboy Poet, Ken Overcast. His latest CD album, 'Montana In My Soul' is an excellent example of the talent and versatility of this third generation Montana singer. Of the thirteen songs on the album, over half were written by Overcast, which showcases his song writing capabilities. Sadly missing from the album is his Cowboy poetry, something that sparkles his personal performance. However, his written opus 'Kid Curry' (Track 3 on the album) is both factual, and entertaining, along the same story telling vein of his poetry. Another 'story/song' is 'Mama Called Her Praise' (Track 8) that puts the spotlight on the conditions experienced by the lonely prairie housewife of yore. The surprise on the album is his rendition of 'Five Foot Two – Eyes of Blue' (Track 12) a 1925 hit for the California Ramblers in the age when the Charleston was a popular dance craze.

A definite 'must' for those that like down-to-earth western music in the vein of Oklahoma cowboy recording artist Red Steagall.

Terry Halden