



MONTANA
GHOST TOWN
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

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NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019



What looks like a boarding house that we visited during Convention '19

Photo Courtesy: CONNIE GRIFFIN

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 2019

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The Prez Sez

BRAD O'GROSKY

Greetings, everyone. Just returned from a wonderful fun filled and very informative convention. The food, speakers and tours were great and having the chance to see Mountain View and the chromite mine above it was a real treat....even though the fog kept us from seeing the mountains. But it did help those who hate narrow roads with a large drop off from seeing what awaited if you went off the road. Stillwater Mines keeps the gate locked, so we were very fortunate to be able to get in and see it. THANKS to Linda Dutcher. The Saturday afternoon tour started off with a cold rainy wind blowing, but learning about the Smith Mine disaster was worth it. The presenters in the morning were great as was the food.

As most of you may know, along with Woodstock, 2019 is the 50th anniversary of the start of M.G.T.P.S. We are fortunate that back in 1969 several concerned individuals recognized the importance of saving ghost towns from the danger of decay resulting from nature and humans and trying to do something to avert it. To that end, your board is still working. The owners of the Morris State Bank and the IM store in Pony need to replace windows to help preserve these historic structures. The start of the banks windows is planned in October. We have also been assisting in the documentation of the graves in the Springhill Cemetery, north of Bozeman. A computer template method has been developed to be used and can be re-used for any other cemetery, at no additional cost. Which was why M.G.T.P.S. became involved at the outset, so that any other country cemetery that may use the template, will be aware of our input in the system.

Next year's convention will be in Kalispell and plans, thanks to the Steindorf family, are already in place for a great time. So mark your calendars for it. And it's not too early to be thinking of the convention in 2021. So if you have any ideas as to where you like to see your convention being held, please let your board know.

Also if you learn of any possible preservation projects, please tell us. We need to help preservation where ever we can. At the convention, there were several new younger members, but I saw a lot of gray, so we must encourage the younger people if we hope to survive. Christmas is coming which would make a membership to someone a great gift.

Brad

New Members

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

Matthew Sieg & Jessica Berry, Billings, MT

Mandy Steig, Kalispell, MT

Nancy Krekeler Red Lodge, MT

Curt & Connie Lillehoff Fargo, ND

Charlie Hardeland Conrad, MT

John Gillis Bozeman, MT

M.G.T.P.S. Annual General Meeting
September 7, 2019

President Brad O’Grosky called the meeting to order at 8:22pm.

Don Black motioned to accept the September 8, 2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes as printed in the Fall 2018 Newsletter. Aimee Haran seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Brad announced the new MGTPS board member Mark Hufstetler and the loss of board member Sally Griffin.

The update for the 2020 Convention in Kalispell, MT was given by David Steindorf. He mentioned that there will be visits to a ghost town and an old mansion.

Brad briefly mentioned the current projects MGTPS is supporting. The procedure to document the interred in the Springhill Cemetery has started. M.G.T.P.S. is replacing up to 4 broken windows in the Morris State Bank in Pony, MT and is looking into replacing some windows in the IM General Store.

Don motioned to adjourn the meeting. Aimee seconded the motion, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Griffin

Secretary/Treasurer



Don Black, Convention Chairman, introduces the guest speakers at Convention, 2019 in Red Lodge. From the Left: Don Black, Larry Loendorf, Linda Dutcher, Jon Axline and Jeff McNeish. Photo courtesy DeAnn Andre

The First Women Graduates of Montana School of Mines (and formation of the Alumni Association)

by LARRY HOFFMAN

Montana became a state November 8 1889, almost nine months after President Grover Cleveland signed the Enabling Act on Washington's birthday. Along with Montana, his signature created the states of Washington and both Dakotas. The act also allocated 100,000 acres of Montana land for the purpose of creating a state school of mines.

The Montana School of Mines opened its doors the fall of 1900. The first graduate was in 1903, a young man who had studied elsewhere and had completed part of the necessary studies.

The first full graduating class was June 10, 1904, when eight men and two women graduated with the degree of Engineer of Mines. Yes, not one but two young ladies graduated as mining engineers, Isabel Little and Clara Clark.

Isabel was from Baltimore, the daughter of Mrs. C. McLemley from a previous marriage. She came to Butte after her high school graduation as part of a western trip with her parents. The 17-year old stayed on with an aunt in Butte after her parents returned to Maryland, but became lonely and bored. She decided to take mathematics classes at the School of Mines, and was admitted after her aunt persuaded influential friends to support the application. Once there, she became fascinated with mining engineering and was allowed to enroll in that curriculum. Described as a beautiful slim blonde and "an exceptionally bright young woman", Isabel became a diligent engineering student, at the top of her class every year. She is described as being much more beautiful than her picture. (Opposite)

It was several months before she returned to Baltimore and informed her family of her studies. The McLemleys and her friends had no inkling why she would suddenly take her life on such a sudden and drastic change of course. Her father, an assistant railroad engineer, questioned her closely before finally coming away satisfied that she did, indeed, have the intent and dedication to take on the challenge. It took some convincing to make Mrs. McLemley a believer, but she approved in the end.



ISABEL LITTLE

Photo courtesy AUTHOR

Of course, the School of Mines' enrollment of seventy men and only one other woman, besides an occasional transient lady student, undoubtedly had a certain attraction. In interviews after graduation, she spoke of the hardships endured on long field trips and in underground mines, all the while limited to wearing dresses, the only proper lady's attire at the time. She did class work in the Ophir, Colusa Parrot, and Neversweat mines, which must have involved some intrigue, given the aversion the miners of that time had for allowing a woman underground.

When she graduated, with honors, it was national news, even the New York Times carried the story. Universally, the stories touted her as the only woman mining engineer, which wasn't true, she graduated with Clara Clark. She admitted she did not know what she wanted to do with her degree. The challenge of succeeding, where no woman had before, was her goal. She succeeded at that, very well!

While at the School of Mines, she fell in love with Leon Clark Stevenson, who graduated in 1905 and went to work for a “well known mining firm” in Bourne, Oregon, right after he graduated. He took a leave of absence the next spring and they were married at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Baltimore on April 18, 1906.

Bourne is famous in mining circles for being the site of a long-running Ponzi scheme perpetrated by one F. Wallace White. He started selling stock in the Sampson Company in 1899 and fleeced some five million dollars (about \$300,000,000 today, based on the price of gold) from investors all over the world. Under mounting pressure as the scheme unraveled, he skipped town in 1906, just ahead of the authorities.

Oddly, there are accounts of him in various sources until the 1920’s, apparently still living in Oregon (although not Bourne), and a contributing member to the American Mining Congress. There is no record of him ever being arrested and paying for his crimes.

I have found little information about her or her husband after their wedding. Indications are that they returned to Bourne, but his job would have almost certainly blown up shortly thereafter.

The last reference I found is from 9/8/1933, reporting her last known employment was in the credit department of the Federal Reserve bank of Richmond, VA

Clara Clark was the daughter of H. S. Clark, no relation to the more famous W. A. Clark, but a prominent pioneer in Butte in his own right, having arrived on the Hill in 1878. An early silver miner, he did well and was highly regarded. He was elected Clerk & Recorder of Deer Lodge County (which included Butte at the time) in 1881. The family made the majority of their fortune when he and his partner (Joe Clark, W.A.’s brother) sold their Black Rock claims to the Butte and Superior mining company. The mine became Butte’s premier zinc producer, ending up as a W.A. Clark property, retained until he died.

Clara was attending the agricultural college (predecessor of MSU) in Bozeman before the School of Mines opened, but had mining in her blood and was the first student registered when it did.



CLAIRA CLARK

Photo courtesy AUTHOR

It was at her house, on June 10, 1904, that the Montana School of Mines Alumni Association was formed. Both she and Isabel were founding members, eleven were present. Edith Little (perhaps the “favorite” aunt of Isabel’s) assisted in serving. Copper souvenirs were presented.

Unlike Isabel, she knew what she wanted to do and went to work as a consulting engineer after graduation, an unusual step for a new engineer without experience. Her father undoubtedly had some influence there. The impression is that she was pretty close to him and had a very good practical mining education before she went to Mines. Charles Adami, who’s career at the school spanned over sixty years, said she examined at least one mine for W.A. Clark.

She quickly made a good reputation for herself, becoming known as Montana’s “Queen of the Mountains”. In 1905, only a little more than a year out of school, she was appointed the special representative of the mayor of Butte for the American Mining Congress convention in El Paso, Texas. There, she was chosen to give the Montana status report to the attendees, which she did with “...an eloquent tongue as well as the sound sense of a mining engineer.”. Her address

was well received by a large and appreciative crowd. In an interview, she disclaimed being the only woman mining engineer. She made a point of mentioning Isabel Little and “another young woman who graduated from the school at Golden, Colorado.”

She was a life member of the American Mining Congress, almost unheard of for any young engineer, the only woman so honored at the time.

After the convention, she and her father took a trip into the mining districts of Mexico.

In October, 1906 she was again the Butte delegate to the AMC convention, this year in Denver.

She married Herbert J. Reese of Livingston on September 12, 1907 at her parents home in Butte. They then left for Denver, where the groom worked, on the 4:00 train that afternoon.

In May, 1910, Reese was hired as a chemist in Bartlesville, Oklahoma by the president of the Butte & Superior Copper Company, after a chance meeting on the sands of Long Beach, California. They had one child at that time. The article indicated she was doing little work in her profession.

Her brother Will L. was a manager at the United Verde Mine at Jerome, Arizona, under General Managers Charles W. and Will A. Clark, W. A. Clark's sons. The unrelated but nearly identical names must have led to some confusion! Clara's brother was manager from January, 1904 to October of 1916, employed by W.A. since 1889. He was assistant manager of mines in Butte before going to United Verde.

The same 1933 article referencing Isabel was primarily concerned with Clara's daughter, Esther, being a summer instructor at U.C.L.A summer school. She also was a high academic achiever, graduating with high honors from the school the previous June, one of two commencement speakers.

Charles Adami is quoted as saying Clara only worked as a mining engineer for a short time. However, a public notice 10/2/35 lists Clara as the owner of a condemned building at 9 West Copper St, c/o H.C. Hopkins.

The next woman would not graduate from Montana School of Mines until Dolores “Dolly” LaBranche received a degree in Metallurgical Engineering in 1966.

Charles Adami saw all three women graduate!

SOURCES:

Anaconda Standard 6/11/04 - Second commencement

Alumni Association formed

Anaconda Standard 12/9/05 – Clara in Mexico with father

Anaconda Standard 4/15/06 – Isabel wedding announcement

Anaconda Standard 10/20/06 – Clara in Denver

Anaconda Standard 9/12/07 – Wedding – to Denver

Anaconda Standard 9/15/07 – Shower for Clara

Anaconda Standard 6/20/10 – Clara in Bartlesville, OK with her husband

Anaconda Standard 1/24/13 – H. S. Clark obituary

Anaconda Standard 1/4/14 – Getting education a man's job – Clara a housewife

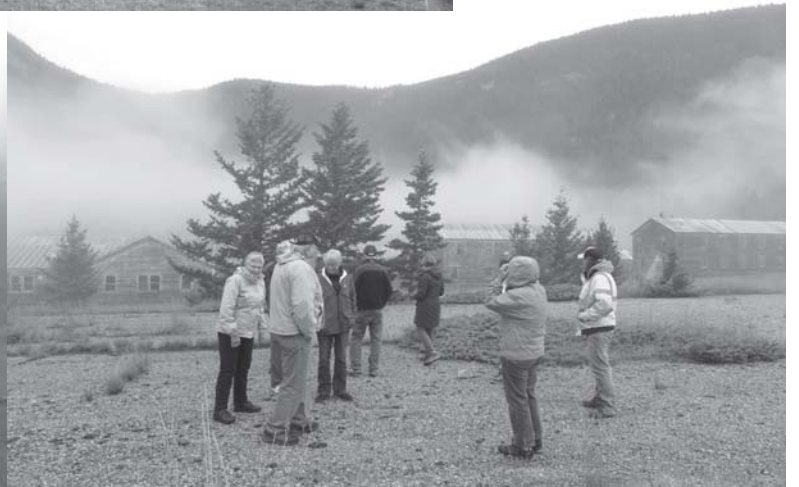
Montana Butte Standard 9/8/1933 - Clara's daughter instructing in CA



Sights & Sites Convention '19

Photos Courtesy:

DEANN ANDRE,
DAN GRATTEN,
CONNIE GRIFFIN



MONTANA'S NEWEST & BIGGEST GHOST TOWN.....

by TERRY HALDEN

....SAINT MARIE

In May 1955 with the Cold War in full swing, and America fearing an attack by the U.S.S.R. from the north, the need to repel such a move, resulted in the U.S. government, with land purchased and donated by the city of Glasgow, in northeast Montana building a massive Airforce base. Originally designed to accommodate a squadron of F101 Voodoo interceptor-fighter jets, the plans were upgraded to house B-52 bombers, along with support KC-135 tankers.

When completed, it had a 13,500 foot long runway, with aprons; 8 hangars, 6 of which could accommodate a B-52; 3 warehouses (total space 190,356 sq. ft); JP-4 (jet) fuel storage for 71,042 barrels; a water treatment plant that could handle 3,000,000 gallons a day, along with storage of 1,100,000 gallons in 3 water tanks. Dining halls could seat 1,675 men, and dormitories could hold 1,780 men, with 64 in officer quarters. There was a 50 bed hospital, a dental clinic, three schools (1,400 students), a church, a library, a gymnasium, a bowling alley, a theater and three grocery stores..



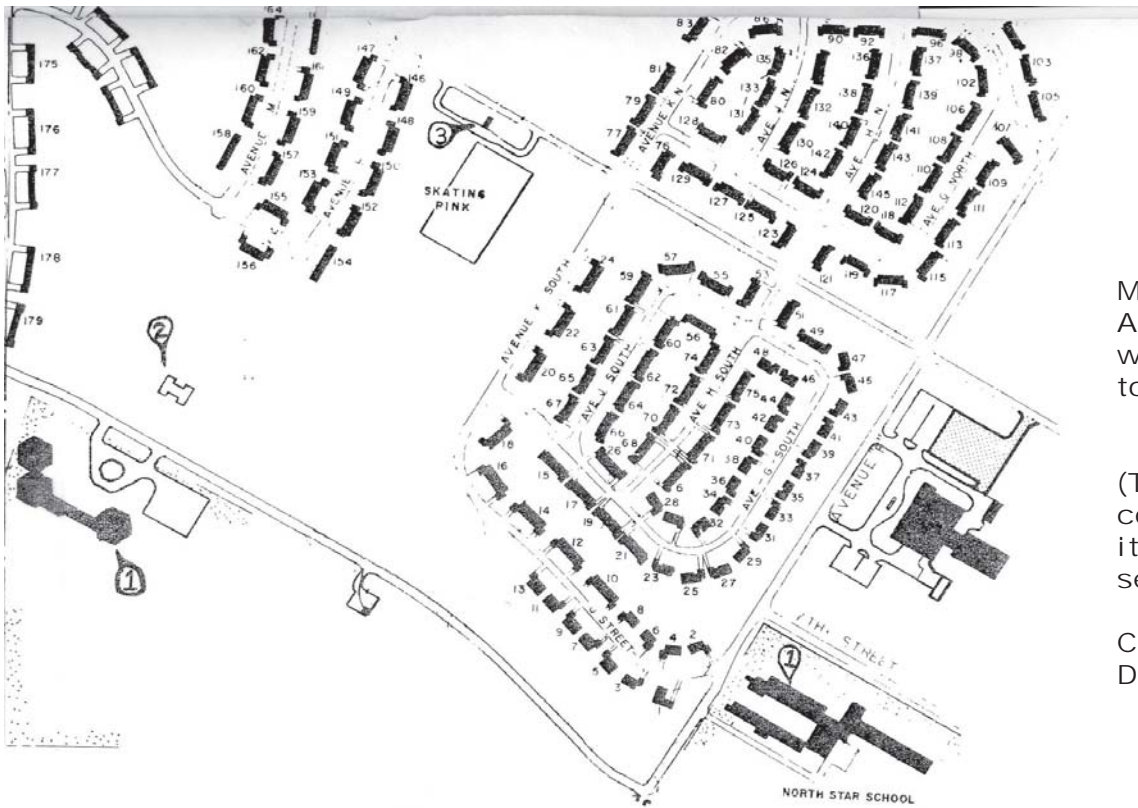
In addition, 1,400 housing units were built, each sat on concrete piers, with plywood flooring covered by vinyl tile overlay. Exterior walls were wood frame, plywood panels and well insulated. All units had storm windows, roofing was shingled and each had 120/240 volt electrical service, whilst heating, hot water and cooking was by natural gas. Each unit also has a garage.

Government reported investment was \$91,192,216.52 (1960 dollars) and by 1960 the population of Glasgow Airforce Base was 8,400.

In September 1965 B-52 from Glasgow AFB flew their first first combat missions in southeast Asia and the following year they temporarily departed for a

base closer to the Vietnam war crisis. By the mid 1960's missiles, capable of carrying lethal payloads, housed in in-ground silos, dotted all over the northern states, lessened the need for a fully operational Airforce base and in June 1968 the Department of Defense made the decision to close Glasgow Air Force Base.

By October 1968, a decade after its birth, the population of the town, now being referred to as Saint Marie, was less than 200. Avco Economics Systems Corp were appointed by the D. of D. to maintain the base and try to locate other industries that might be interested in locating there, but they were only successful in attracting Lockheed Aircraft in maintaining a wiring harness program, and even Lockheed quit shortly thereafter.



Map of the Glasgow Airforce Base housing, in what became Saint Marie townsite.

(The map was so large I could not even photocopy it in two complete sections)

Courtesy Glasgow & District Museum

Glasgow AFB Housing

Legend	
Elementary Schools	1
Youth Center	2
Commissary Annex	3

In 1972, the base was temporarily reactivated as the Vietnam war was over and the squadron of B-52s were coming home, but the local furor didn't last, although, for a short period the population did soar to 1,500 souls.

In March, 1976, the Glasgow Airforce Base was listed for deactivation and in June all the aircraft based there were relocated and again the depopulation of the town occurred, along with the closure of all the post facilities

New tenants were unsuccessfully sought and on March, 1979, the D. of D. transferred the huge facility of over 6,000 acres of land, by 'Quit Claim' to Montana's Valley County. A banquet at the base celebrated the transfer. The county had no more success in leasing the property than the previous owners did as numerous tenants rented some of the hangers or some other portion of the property. A Law Enforcement Academy

was proposed, followed by a 'Native American Juvenile Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center', a Senior Citizens Facility, but all fell by the wayside of great ideas, but no action. Finally, Boeing's subsidiary company Montana Aviation Research Company, leased some of the base buildings (and maintenance of the runway) for the testing of their fueling systems, but today with the exception of some 'Private Property, Montana Aviation Research Co.' rusted signs, there appears to be no activity.

Today, the population of Saint Marie is less than 400, with about 200 of the homes occupied and well maintained. All are in a central area and driving through the 'occupied' area is like driving through any city suburb streets and then comes the huge area of homes with overgrown lawn areas and deteriorating buildings. There are no facilities in the town (except a contract post office) and all conveniences, shopping, schooling etc. requires a drive of sixteen miles to Glasgow, which, by the way, has a commercial airport facility.



LEFT: Enlisted, single men's quarters (Closest to the airfield) All buildings are deserted.



RIGHT: Officer's quarters (Furthest from the airfield) Again, all are deserted.



ABOVE: The remains of North Star School
BELOW: A street of the private residences, long abandoned.



ABOVE: Empty and abandoned shopping stores.
BELOW: A second school, slowly collapsing.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Three views of the streets and once occupied, but now deserted private homes at the ghost town of

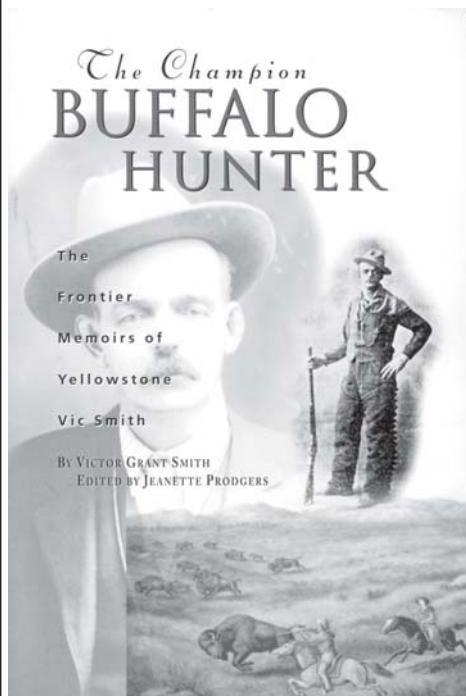
SAINT MARIE





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

REVIEW: 'The CHAMPION BUFFALO HUNTER'



by VICTOR GRANT SMITH
Edited by JEANETTE PRODGERS

The information her research produced for an article in the now defunct 'Old West' magazine in 1986, piqued Jeanette Prodggers' interest in the history of frontiersman/buffalo hunter Victor Grant Smith. Her further research located Smith's written biography cached in the Theodore Roosevelt Collection at Harvard's Houghton Library, which granted her permission for its publication.

Written in the third party idiom with little editing by Prodggers, the book is both informative and entertaining. Smith, born in 1850, grew up in Wisconsin, but spent his life from 1870 on in the wilds of eastern Montana and western Dakotas roaming and working from the Poplar agency to Fort Buford to the head waters of the Yellowstone River. This was before the famous Sioux Wars had ended, and the life of lone white men, such as postal riders or hunters was almost a guarantee of early death. He met such men as the outlaws Younger Brothers, John X Beidler (of Montana Vigilante fame), 'Liver Eating' Johnson, Yellowstone Kelly, Generals Miles and Terry, the Marquis and Marquise de Mores and finally becoming friends with the then future president Theodore Roosevelt, with whom he had correspondence, long after their hunting together.

After the 'Wild West' had lost the 'Wild' for a while he ran a ranch in Idaho, then, at age 42, he married 15 year old Eugenia Dengler, and for twenty years they lived in Anaconda. They had two sons and one day when teaching his 6 year old son how to shoot, Smith shot and killed a gopher, much to the dismay and tears of the boy. Smith vowed then and there to not kill another animal unless it threatened him or he could eat it and became a staunch believer in animal conservation. The book is highly recommended.

Terry Halden