



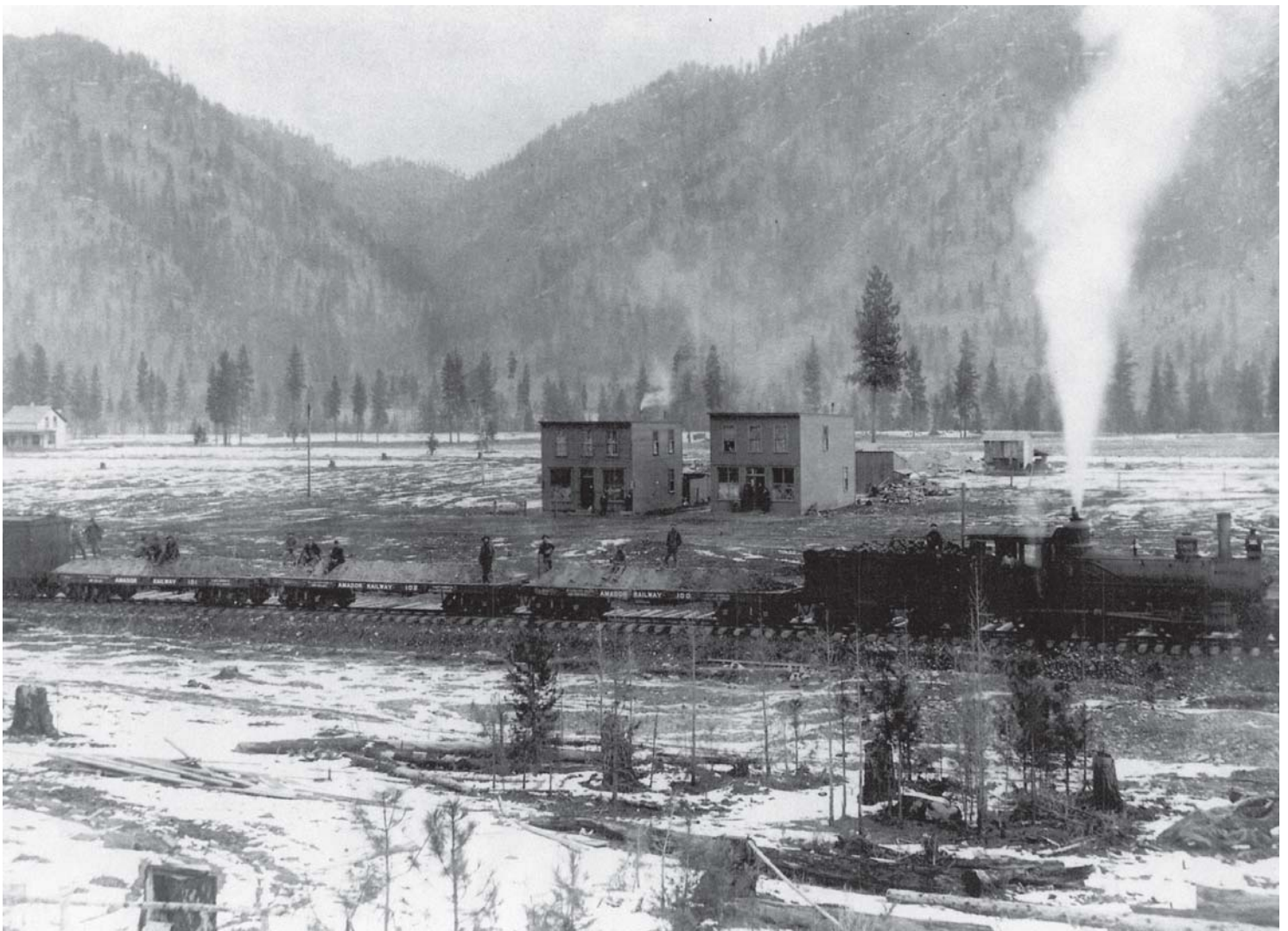
MONTANA **GHOST TOWN** PRESERVATION SOCIETY

preserving history for the next generation

VOLUME 49

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020



The fledgling town of Amador in 1904. When the Amador Railway, joined the tracks of the Northern Pacific just south of present day Superior the N.P. decided to make it a terminus and named the town Amador. Shortly thereafter the parent company of the Amador collapsed, as did the town. In the photo (Courtesy Mineral County Historical Society) is the locomotive and rolling stock of the railway company.

See story on page 8.

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.

SUMMER 2020

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The Prez Sez

BRAD O'GROSKY

Well folks, here we are just a few months from the last newsletter and what changes have occurred. Our travels have nearly stopped, our cities have burned and historic structures have been torn down. Hopefully the ghost towns have survived without damage. And to add to the changes, our 2020 convention is now the 2021 convention due to a virus from China. I don't know all our history, but I assume this is the first convention to be postponed. And we lost John Ellingsen, one of our past presidents. Since we didn't do much traveling, I had a chance to catch up on reading some old books. Two that you might be interested in are the two volumes of "Lost America" by Constance Greiff

There are many wonderful buildings that were demolished for parking lots, gas stations and nondescript buildings. Included in volume two is a photo of the Union Hall at Granite. The book was written in the early 70s, but the entire facade of the hall was intact. If, in your travels you have some present day and old photos of ghost towns showing the changes, please send them to Terry for inclusion in a newsletter.

Also, if you discover a project involving preservation of a structure, please let us know as well. The Morris State Bank in Pony, that you've heard of now has 24 new windows protecting and preserving the structure. Although the convention is postponed until next year, we're still thinking of 2022 in White Sulphur Springs and need some volunteers to begin planning it. In addition, we are always looking for new board members, so let us know if you would be interested. It shouldn't be hard to keep a distance when you're visiting a ghost town, so explore, have fun and stay well,

Brad

AS I SEE IT

from the RAMROD'S CHAIR

As we all sit in self-made quarantine, and wait for this epidemic to pass, it might be a terrific opportunity for you camera buffs to wander out to your nearby ghost town and take some new photos. You shouldn't run into crowds there and can maybe take some 'once in a lifetime' photos. Please send copies of them to me (at terryhalden@hotmail.com) as I would live to put them in the next newsletter, along with any comments you might like to add. Also while I have your attention, could I ask you to look into those old photo albums that your parents kept, and see if there are any old photos of soon to be ghost towns in them. I would love to have a copy for my collection. In particular I have been searching for over a decade of a photo of Montreal, a town that existed for several years at the head of Nine Mile creek in Missoula County. Gold was found there in 1874 by Louis Barrette and a lot of his friends from Frenchtown. Quite possibly a descendent has a photo of the town tucked away in an old photo album. Please put me out of my misery!

Terry

New Members

Membership Chairperson Connie reports the following **New Member** has joined our Association since the last newsletter. **Please make her welcome.**

VICKI DeBOER Bozeman, MT

As a result of a motion put forward by Mark Hufstetler, seconded by Connie Griffin, an e-vote was taken and it was agreed to:

**POSTPONE the 2020 KALISPELL
CONVENTION
until September 10-12, 2021**

If you have made any reservations at the base hotel, they will be honored next year , or you can get a refund. With the current upheaval and the uncertain relaxing of restrictions, your board made this decision for the safety of our members in mind.

THE LIFE OF PROSPECTOR JOSEPH RICHARD "SKOOKUM JOE" ANDERSON

by LINDA DUTCHER

Early prospectors apparently were not motivated to record their daily activities, or their diaries were not preserved. "Skookum Joe" Anderson was an exception. An unusually successful early mineral-finder, he made fortunes for mine owners in the Warm Springs District around Maiden. He kept diaries from September 18, 1886 to 1895. Preserved after his death in 1897, they are available in the archives of the Montana Historical Society and were excerpted in the Billings Gazette in 1927.

Though urged to do so by his friends, he did not talk about his early life except what he wrote in one of his books the night before he died: "I was a bad boy and ran away from home when I was 16. My real name was Richard Dick." Supposedly, he arrived in the Yellowstone Valley from Oregon in 1863, having landed in the Pacific Northwest off a freighter he boarded at age 16. This gives him a possible birth year of 1847. It has been speculated that Oregon is where his nickname originated from, "Chinook jargon for strong and powerful" when he was learning to fish and trap. Other accounts say he earned the Indian designation meaning "Good Joe" as an Oregon miner. The earliest dates Anderson mentions are 1870 while prospecting on the East Boulder River, "where I dried the bear grease", and 1879 camping on the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone and its tributaries.

According to well-documented histories of Montana, Anderson and David Jones were in the Black Hills in 1879, then ventured into the Judith Mountains in the Spring of 1880. In June, they were joined by C. C. Snow and F. T. "Pony" McParlan, making the first discovery of gold June 10th in Alpine Gulch. Other accounts say their discovery was during the Fall of 1879 when they were forced out by winter, only to come back with a party of ten, the following Spring. Further discoveries followed in Warm Springs and Maiden Gulches. Andersonville, named for Joe, consisted of a quarter-mile long street lined with homes and businesses which declined as the settlement of Maiden or Maidenville, as it was first named, thrived.

The first lode claim was staked by Anderson and Jones in 1880 and in 1885, the resulting War Eagle Mine had been developed by them along with Billings businessman Perry McAdow, and a partner named Ben Dexter. Samples ran 80 ounces of silver and some gold per ton. The same men claimed the Black Bull and Alpine lodes. In 1884, Anderson also located the Gold Reef claim, resulting in the Gilt Edge mines with the first U S. cyanide mill of its kind.

But the richest mine in the Warm Springs District was the Spotted Horse discovered by Anderson, Jones and Hank Herron in 1880 or early in 1881. After extracting some high-grade ore from the discovery shaft, they sold the prospect to McAdow and Dexter. According to the *Mineral Argus* of June 12, 1884: "*On the dump of the Spotted Horse, after a rain, gold can be seen in nearly every piece of ore, by the naked eye.*" In 1883, McAdow was the sole owner, engineering a lucrative operation. while he was in a wheelchair, savvy businesswoman Clara McAdow, who he "married" in 1884, adroitly managed the mine. (See Larry Hoffman's article Spring 2014 issue of *The Quarterly*). Under many owners, by 1916 it had produced an estimated \$5,000,000 in ore, over half of the Warm Springs District's total production.



The 'Spotted Horse' mine was still producing in 1900, as per this photo in the FERGUS COUNTY ARGUS

Anderson's diaries detail his annual fall migration from prospecting in the Stillwater country to the Maiden area, where he improved his discovery claims until March or April when he returned to the Beartooth Mountains. Among his subjects for the earliest entries in 1886-1887: he sets up a rocker; buys 8 lbs. of bacon, 2 lbs. of butter, and 13 lbs. of potatoes from Belanger's on October 21st; cuts wood and fixes a saw; votes in Maiden on November 2nd; stakes a silver lead named Grover; has some gold ore assayed giving him enough to "stake on"; sells his Stillwater stock in Minneapolis, receiving \$3,000; visits the War Eagle; details the cold and snowy weather, sometimes 3 times a day in January and February when it was -32 on February 1st; and orders a \$30 watch. In the December 20, 1886 entry, "Went down to see McAdow. He told me he wanted me to compromise with the jumpers. He was willing to take any lead of the three, let me take one and all hands give the other party a quitclaim deed. I seen the boys. They look at it favorable." On April 8 and 9, before he left for the Stillwater, he sold the Globe Mine for \$5,300, getting \$300 in cash and the rest in stock. He paid Belanger in full and "lent Jim Dempsey \$500 on his note for one per cent until September."

His migrations created opportunities to prospect other areas. These included the Crazy Mountains in the fall of 1887 and the Belt Mountains in the spring of 1888. In the fall of '88 he describes the 14-day trip to Maiden in bad weather, staying at more than 5 occupied or abandoned cabins along the way, including a "wood cabin" in the Snowy Mountains. Early on, he thought an empty cabin belonged to G.L. Greenwood and he "left money and my address." The '88-'89 period was spent around Fort Maginnis. In 1890, he spent time in Neihart and the Little Belt Mountains before returning to Maiden.

He faithfully recorded his adventures and misadventures; the accounts that follow are mostly from the Warm Springs District. At Maiden March 3, 1888, "Bathcelor has went up to our Jumbo cabin and killed himself with giant powder and also destroyed the cabin and all that was in it except the drills. [Adding later] The discovery was made the morning of the fifth by Archer and Lackey."

Apparently, in 1891-92, a few unruly ruffians were troubling some of the more law-abiding residents. Anderson refers on February 1 and 18, 1891 to "the anarchists at Maiden and the bushwhackers" saying they were "very mad" at claim owners including Anderson, Lewie Bowman and J.E. "Fat Jack" Wasson who had been Anderson's attorney in unspecified action against businessman Ben Dexter in 1887. A local resident told Joe he was offered "\$20.00 for powder, fuse and cap to blow up Fat Jack. This was since he was blown up before." In 1892, Anderson tried to stop a local resident from participating after he disclosed "the town folk are gowing to run J. E. Wasson out of camp." Anderson's diary entry of May 17, 1892 reported the worst: "the anarchists took J. E. Wason down to Alpine gulch last night & hung him 3 times and stole \$7 ½ or \$8.00 from him, the Sherif & county attorney was in Maiden looking up the case, I think most of the gang come from out Side of the camp, Wason looks hard today the people of the town dont appear to care what was done with Wason or any one else, & dont want to tell who done it."

He described several horse mishaps. He was too sore to travel September 22, 1887 after he was thrown off hurting his ankle, stating, "I feel badly used up." In August 1888, his horse was "very sick. Give him two drenches of fir. Could not prospect much....." Especially troubling problems occurred in 1891 as he was settling in at the Stillwater where travel was prolonged in rugged terrain. "My packhorse fell in the West fork and came very near drowning. Fished out all my truck but ropes, kettles and clothes sack." Then 4 days later, "My black horse put his foot on a rattlesnake and held it there for a time." In July, his bay horse rolled a hundred yards down a slope resulting in a cut over each eye and 10 inches long on the right shoulder. "I put feathers on it to stop the blood. It bled for six hours." One eye swelled shut, but "Don't like to leave hm as he might get well and if I leave him the bears will have a soft thing on him. "

No photograph of Anderson has ever surfaced. Chroniclers give inconsistent accounts of his physical appearance. Was he "over six feet tall, of herculean build and with a deep bass voice" or more likely, "a much smaller man who was friendly, fairly-well educated, and could converse on a variety of subjects?" Was he "a kind-hearted and generous man, straightforward and honest" or "one of the biggest liars west of the

Mississippi?” His friends create a picture of “a healthy, industrious, friendly man who liked being a miner.” In 1936, prominent Billings farmer Ignatius O’Donnell described him as, “.....peculiar in both personal appearance and mental characteristics. He was reserved by nature, attended strictly to his own business and avoided trouble.....[He] always wore a corduroy suit.” He chose to search alone, especially for gold. He is quoted as repeatedly saying, “Gold is my own money” and “he carried plenty of it, paying for his grub with gold.”

Occasional fevers and headaches are mentioned as lasting a few days at a time. He attributed these to wind, heat, bathing in cold weather and once to “burnt soup.” He self-medicated with spruce tea, coal oil mixed with whiskey, quinine, turpentine, and unspecified pills which “are having lots of fun with me”.

There are many references to acquaintances who stayed a day or two at his camps, ranchers who periodically gave him lodging and other prospectors who camped nearby. In July 1890 while prospecting near Neihart, he entered rare comments about a woman, “good-looking girl here” — “one of the best-raised girls in the west here, name Annie.”

Anderson read newspapers and made comments in his diaries about local politics, world events, and mining regulations. He was excited in September 1886 about getting hold of current issues of the *New York Sun* and *Chicago News*. Although he noted in 1886, “More sorehead Democrats in Maiden than hell”, he was an active Democrat. In 1892, he campaigned for the ticket in the neighborhood and noted, “that he had got the stump speakers sore at him.” It was “good news” after the election when I. D. O’Donnell was 13 ahead for representative at Stillwater. In 1894, he repeated news about Coxey’s Army: the “first blood of the Coxey army so far” in Billings. Also, in his 1894 book, he suggests changes to the mining laws asserting that location and claim-working regulations advantaged the claim-jumpers and capitalists. But he also criticized “some young fellows who do nothing but lay around and cuss the government and the capitalists.”

Anderson was a motivated and methodical prospector “who carried instruments that the haphazard prospector did without.” He located and worked at least forty-five claims between 1880 and 1895. These included both placer and vein deposits for gold, platinum, iron and asbestos on the Boulder and Stillwater Rivers; gold and silver in the Judith Mountains; oil and coal in Park County; and placer deposits near Neihart. His diaries also mention manganese, copper, lime, marble and tin. His diaries suggest he was never broke, but he needed capital to develop his properties. After the Spotted Horse outcome, he had the confidence of other Billings investors including Edward Bailey, a sometime partner of Parmley Billings, and George Griggs, officers of the Yellowstone National Bank. His supply of working capital was ample enough that he could hire help to build roads and otherwise develop his claims.

The entries in 1894 and 1895 suggest that his health was not good, and he was not as physically active but still had helpers working at several mines and on roads. He apparently lived in a cabin near Nye where his old friends visited frequently, bringing his mail and patching clothes. He records trips to Billings. He complained about being lonesome only four times between 1886 and 1895. On June 10, 1892 he said about old friend Zed Daniels who happened by, “after 15 years he is like me looks old & gray.” On July 31, 1894 he was, “very tired today to much walking feel very lonesome.” In February 1897, Henry Chappell, M.D. orders Anderson on a diet with no whiskey or beer, only port or sherry with food; no smoking; very little meat or eggs; cereals, fruit, and vegetables, but no pancakes or hot bread of any kind; and milk.

“Skookum Joe” left us with a detailed picture of what the prospector’s life could really have been like, as one of the more successful practitioners of his genre. As summarized by Mueller in 1985: “He was astute enough to acquire grubstakes to finance his prospecting, and he knew enough geology to recognize a potentially good mineral site.” He died of heart disease in his chair at the Billings boarding house of Mrs. Henry Hollings, March 30, 1897. His obituary of April 13, 1897 in the *Gazette* concluded, “Thus it is that men discover millions, but realize little for themselves.” Perhaps all he wanted for himself was to live the life of a prospector.

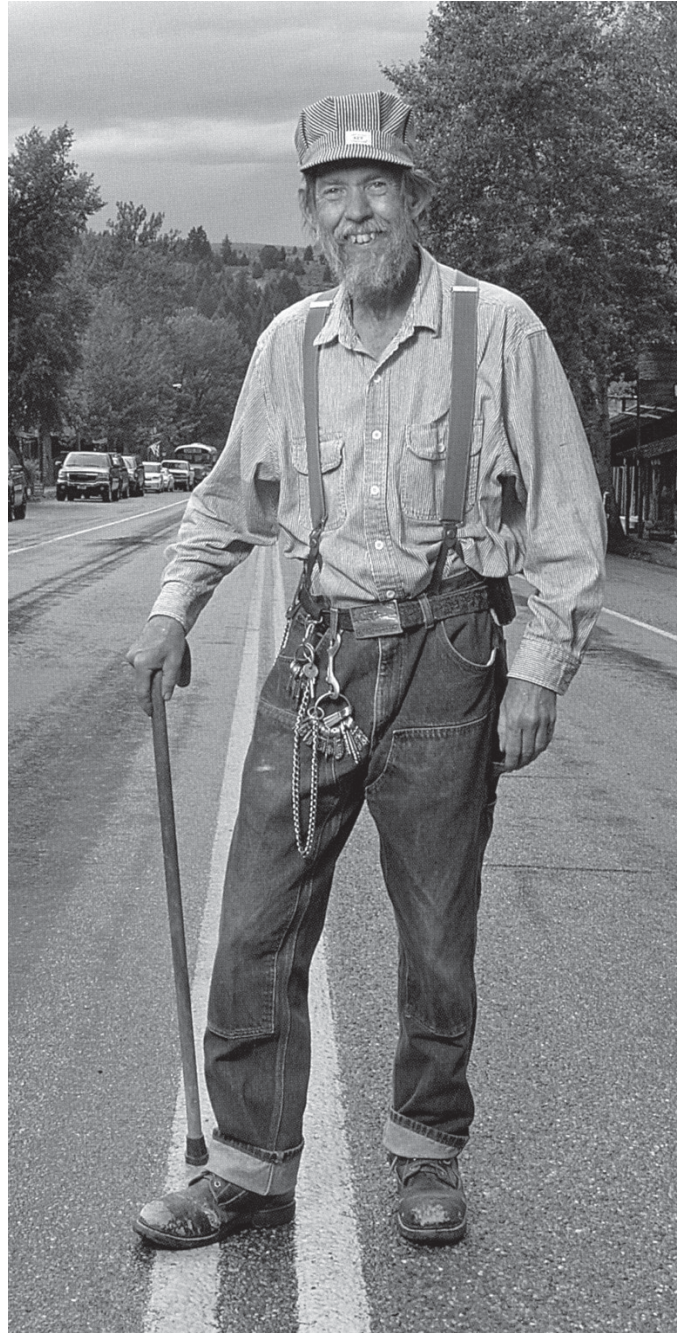
OBITUARY

JOHN D. ELLINGSEN

May 17, 1947 - May 15, 2020

It is with saddened hearts that we have to advise you of the death of our two time President, John Ellingsen.

John was born in Great Falls and at an early age had an interest in the 'Old Town' exhibition of buildings that Charlie Bovey had reassembled in the fairground at Great Falls. He was even more enthralled when at age 9 his mother took him on his second visit to Virginia City, where Bovey was in the process of buying old buildings there and restoring them to their original grandeur. After completing his education in which he earned a Masters of Arts and Applied Arts degree from Montana State University in Bozeman, where he studied under John DeHaas (one of our founders), he was offered the job as curator at Virginia City by Bovey. As John often said, this was the start of a career, where 'Old Town' was moved, lock stock and nails to Nevada City, and added to by further additions located from all over Montana, Virginia City buildings and their contents were inventoried, looked after and made into a living museum for the public to enjoy. After the death of Bovey John, along with others were successful in having the State of Montana purchase the entire Virginia City and Nevada City holdings so that it would not be sold off piecemeal. In his lifetime, John earned awards from the Montana Preservation Alliance, the Governors' Award for Historic Preservation and a special award from the Department of the Interior. His knowledge of the history of Virginia City and every building there, will be greatly missed.



CONS & CROOKS

by TERRY HALDEN

Wherever and whenever there is fast money being made, there are cons and crooks operating. The mining districts of Montana were no different. Looking at just one of the districts, the Barrette Mining District on Cedar Creek in Mineral County, there are, at least three examples.

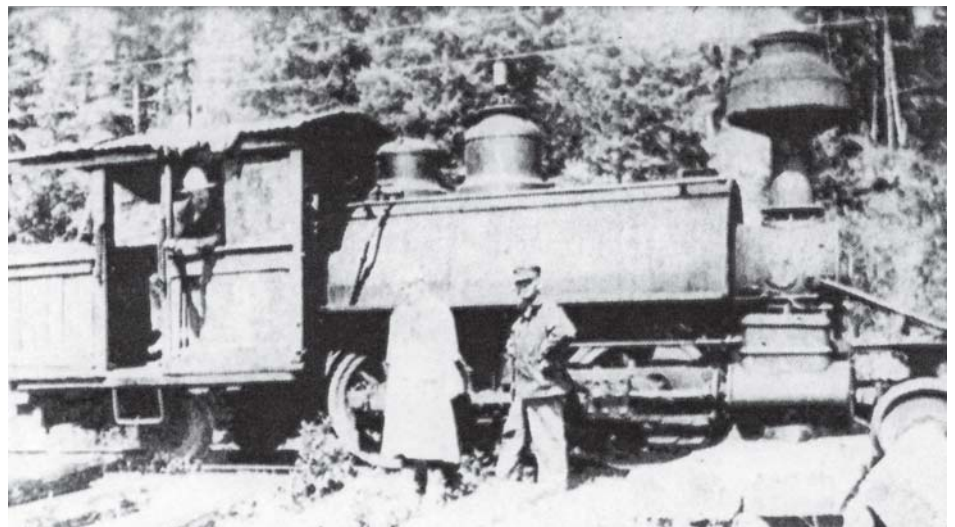
Louis Barrette and his partner, Basil Lanthier located placer gold far up Cedar Creek on October 9th 1869 and when news got out, despite the late season, the neighborhood was immediately clogged with prospectors. Some order prevailed as by December 1st they drafted a set of Miner's Rules that stated the discoverers could have the first two claims and thereafter the claims would be numbered consecutively every 200 feet, 'Below' (downstream) or 'Above' (upstream). Not too far upstream was a six foot wall of snow, and any exploration in that direction would have to wait until the following spring. Along comes a novice prospector, clad in new clothes, with a shiny pick, shovel and pan. Possibly as a prank, an old timer offers to sell him '275 Above Discovery' for a handsome figure. Wisely the newbie looks at the wall of snow and declines the offer, figuring the claim was located over the Bitterroot Mountains, somewhere in Idaho.

The following spring, when work got underway, it didn't take the owners of '62 Below Discovery' to realize they had a portion of the stream that was fast flowing and the land was bare of any gold dust. They offered to sell their claim for \$1,000 to a late arrival. However, the prospective buyer was W. W. Jones, who had been a sheriff and was an experienced prospector. He wanted to look the ground over, and to do that he offered to make a bond on the property of \$10.00 for one week. Since the owners figured he couldn't do much digging in a week, this was agreed to. Jones brought in a crew and they immediately dug three holes down to bedrock. All were void of any pay-dirt and he declined the sale thereby saving himself \$990.00.

Sometime in the 1890's after the initial frenzy had long been forgotten, Charles Glassett was prospecting in the area just beyond where Oregon Gulch entered Cedar and located a little 'color'. He named his find the 'Amador'. The first mention was in the Anaconda Standard, January 4th 1899 when on behalf of Glassett, John Livingston gave affidavit that he had completed \$100 worth of representation on the claim, so that the claim could not be 'jumped'. As the mine increased in depth, copper was discovered and as the mine deepened, so the amount of the copper ore increased. Glassett sold out to a group of Coeur d'Alene business men who formed the Amador Copper Mining Company, with J.V. McCurdy as President and D.E. Mackinnon as secretary. In 1902 it was reported "*The pay streak assays at 30% copper, with enough gold to pay for working*". As the company 'reorganized' Mackinnon wrested complete control and ownership of the company. He then went to Chicago to drum up financial support, quite successfully. The latest mining equipment flowed to the mine, a new company, the Amador Railway Company was established and a rail bed was literally bulldozed ten miles from the mouth of Cedar to the mine, with little or no regard for neighbor

The locomotive leased to the Amador Railway by the Northern Pacific R.R.

Photo: The Missoulian





A huge 'Grizzly', used for cleaning ore, loaded on a flat car of the Amador Railway, for transportation to the 'Amador' mill that was under construction.

Photo: The Missoulian

hood property owners. This is illustrated by the early claims against the Amador: David Graham sued, alleging the Amador mine buildings had been erected partially on his property; John MacMillan alleged the Amador constructed a dam and the waters flooded part of his property; L.M. Coleman brought suite for \$29,000 for goods and equipment furnished the railway company during its construction, that he had financed and had not been paid. This was followed by a suit brought by Frank Gareau who claimed he had invested \$12,000, had received a receipt but had not been given the shares he had purchased. However, the Northern Pacific Railroad were so impressed that where the Amador rail line joined their tracks just south of Superior, they made it a terminus and named the budding town Amador. (See photo on front page) In early 1906, Amador shipped four railcars of ore to smelters in Butte. This was followed by news that a smelter was to be erected at the mine and by November that year there was news "*The smelter at the Amador mine was blown in and found to work successfully. About 24 men are employed there divided into three shifts.*" The company lasted two more years, during which, no further ore was shipped to refineries, when in June 1908 it was announced "*The Amador Mining Company whose headquarters are in Chicago, recently closed up their fine offices and quit business. The enormous sum of \$650,000 has been sunk in a gold-copper proposition which is considered absolutely worthless. Many thousands more have also been sunk in fitting up fine offices, getting out literature and making costly trips out to the property.*" From then on the lawyers took over and profited from whatever they could glean for their clients. Needless to say, the railway tracks were torn up sold for scrap and the rail bed became a road bed. The fate of Mr. Mackinnon is unknown.

A short distance northwest of the confluence of Cedar Creek and the Clark Fork River, two streams, the Keystone and Slowey Creeks, drain the waters off Keystone Peak in the Coeur d'Alene Mountains, in a southwesterly direction to empty into the Clark Fork. In the summer of 1887 prospectors located paying ore on the Keystone, establishing several mines that were successfully operated right up to World War II and beyond. Naturally, the stampede that followed the discovery overflowed to the Slowey a mile to the west, as the ridges where ore had been discovered on the Keystone extended westerly. But despite some minimal success, most were utter failures. One of those prospect holes was the 'St. Mary' located in 1895 by James McBride and eventually abandoned as worthless. It was relocate by Edward Joyce and Dennis Reardon in 1902, renamed the 'Emmet' and again a futile attempt to make it a paying proposition was doomed to failure and the mine abandoned. Finally in the late 1920's John E Hartman built a cabin next to the abandoned mine adit, and registered his claim. Within a short time, Hartman was putting money in his bank account, a substantial amount of money. He announced he had located a seam of ore that the previous owners had overlooked, and he was mining it himself and trucking the ore to smelters in Idaho. This continued for a few years until finally, in 1933, he quit, emptied his bank account, loaded his possessions on his truck, and disappeared. After he mysteriously departed, anxious neighbors inspected his mine and discovered his 'copper mining' equipment consisted of all the copper tubing needed to compose a still. During prohibition that had just come to an end he had been supplying eastern Idaho with high quality alcohol. His mine, appropriately renamed the 'New Idea' was, undoubtedly the most productive mine on Slowey Creek.

FORT MAGINNIS

(Continued from last newsletter)

by JERRY HANLEY



Photo: W.H.CULVER

This grand overview of the fort looks southwest and encompasses nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in a northwest-southeast direction and about 1,000 feet in width of the fort grounds. In the background, Little Black Butte appears on the left and Crystal (aka Florence) Peak is seen on the far right towering 2,000 feet above the fort. Collar Gulch can be seen at the extreme right. It is easy to see the splendid setting of the fort laid out between two streams, surrounded by good hay lands, and nearby timber for fuel and building.

The Fort Maginnis cemetery is maintained and accessible to this day and is located on a bluff about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond the buildings appearing in the far right of the photography.

The mining camp of Maiden, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles due west of the fort, could be reached by traveling either the Maiden Canyon or the Collar Gulch wagon roads. Fort Maginnis and Maiden were prospering in 1886 and interacted in activities of all kinds. However, and much to the dismay of local populations, there was already talk of closing the fort.

The fort closed in 1890 and three years later the mining camp of Gilt Edge was born 5 miles southwest of the abandoned fort (3 miles beyond Little Black Butte in this view). Most of the buildings and salvaged material were sold at auction and used in building Gilt Edge and area ranches. The last auction held in 1898 netted \$2,577 (about \$80,000 in 2019 dollars). Apparently some items remained at the site for some time because in 1915 a group of citizens besieged Congressman Tom Stout to acquire two condemned brass cannons and six pyramids of shell still at the old site to be use for ornaments on the courthouse lawn. Obviously, this never came to pass.



As the above photo of the fort looks today.

Photo AUTHOR



Photo; W.H.CULVER

Renowned central Montana pioneer photographer, W. H. Culver, took this photo from near the top of a ridge south of the fort, or 'post' as it was most often referred to. (Culver moved his primary studio from Maiden to Lewistown in 1886-1887 yet maintained outpost-studios in Maiden and Fort Maginnis for a few years.)

The view looks north-northwest with Maginnis Mountain on the left and Elk Peak on the right. The hillside sloping away into the lower foreground served as a backdrop for the fort's target range.

Nearly everything used in building this modern fort was transported in from the east, including nearly 200 skilled craftsmen (paid \$2.16 per day, about \$55 in 2019 dollars). The majority of the fort was completed by the late fall of 1880 with additions made in 1881 and 1882 as Congress appropriated more funds (total amount funded was \$170,706 [\$4,307,000 in 2019 dollars]). Two primary routes of travel served the fort and nearby Maiden are described below:

1) From the Missouri River lying to the north — During summer months, usually May through July, traffic came from the east by way of steam boats on the Missouri River to Rocky Point. The old Carroll Trail ran from Rocky Point, located a few miles west of old Fort Carroll, and passed on the west side of the Judith's on its way to Lewistown and ultimately Helena. A connection to the fort, located on the east side of the Judith's, was made by way of Cone Butte Pass later named Ross Pass. This route was 54 miles long and a telegraph line ran along it. A cutoff road, passing by Black Butte and known as the Garrett Road, bypassed Ross Pass and cut a few miles and some grades off the route.

2) From the Yellowstone River country at Junction City lying 100 miles to the southeast — By 1882 the Northern Pacific Railway had reached Custer Station (present day Custer, MT) on the Yellowstone River, and beyond. Junction City developed on the opposite side of the river and became a transportation hub serving the central Montana area. This opened up year around access to the fort from Junction City and the railroad. A telegraph line was located along this route.

Roads also existed between the fort, Maiden, Reeds Fort (Lewistown), Fort Benton, Helena and points to the south and west.



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

REVIEW:

FRONTIER OMNIBUS



FRONTIER
OMNIBUS

Edited by JOHN W. HAKOLA

For those of you who are lucky enough to own a copy of Frontier Omnibus you have a veritable gold mine of articles. In the 1920's and 30's, Montana (State, as it was then) University in Missoula, published a magazine that they called "The Frontier" (later "The Frontier and Midland") and the book, published in 1962, with illustrations by C. M. Russell contained 27 articles ranging from Vol. VII, # 2, 1928, "Overland from Indiana to Oregon" to Vol. XIX, #4, 1939, "After the Custer Battle". Other articles are about Early Days in Fort Missoula; the Battle of the Big Hole; Pioneer Ranching in Central Montana; Bannack and Gallatin City 1862; and the Journal of Francois Larocque, from the Assiniboine River to the Yellowstone in 1805. The articles are a mixture of history, focused on Montana, although a few wagon train diaries are included. The book was edited by John W. Hakola with a forward by H.G. Merriam. In the opening statement I said you are lucky if you own a copy, as the book is out of print and to secure a used copy you are looking at almost a hundred dollars – if you can find one.

Terry Halden