

This Day in History – June 15

1922

“Boys Party”

A very nice party given by Stanley Smazal was enjoyed by about thirteen boys on Monday evening. The young folks were entertained from six until eight in various ways, among which was an automobile ride by F.W. Schmitz, after which delicious refreshments were served. The boys had a fine time and claimed Master Stanley to be a “Dandy” host.

“Mass Meeting Proves Sewerage Desired”

A large Mass Meeting of all the prominent citizens of Townsend was held at the Court House on last Friday night at 8:00 o’clock, when an expression of the people was asked as to how they felt in regard to a sewer system for Townsend. Mayor Kelly presided over the meeting and after several had made talks on the feasibility of a sewer system, a vote was taken to determine whether or not such a system was desired, the vote being unanimous to give Townsend a sewer system. The members of the meeting then expressed that they would like to have surveyors complete a survey and submit to the taxpayers a cost in order that the usual election can be made later on to substantiate the positive laying of a sewer system.

Townsend has reached the pass where something has to be done. We have one of the most picturesque little cities in the state of Montana and so far have an amazing good record of freedom from sickness and disease. We are just on the verge where active steps must be taken to improve the town and to waylay any cause for sickness and disease. The building of a sewer system is one of the most important things in the public health welfare and as the citizens have so forcibly expressed themselves, Townsend will no doubt lay said system in the near future and thus make our town a better place to live in and probably prevent a great deal of sickness and death.

1933

“Many Comments Are Made After Completion of ‘Star’s’ ‘Roosevelt – Myers’ Story”

Last week, after the appearance of the last installment of the Theodore Roosevelt – George Myers story, which was written by the members of the “Townsend Star” force, many comments were heard about the town. Although many of the citizens had known of the association of Myers and Roosevelt, they little thought of the intimacy between the two. The story, flavored with local color entirely, was a human interest narrative which everyone enjoyed reading.

Marked copies of the paper have been sent to President and Mrs. F.D. Roosevelt as well to many people who have written to the “Star”, asking for the copies. Anticipating such a request, the “Star” has made preparation to reprint the story in book form as it appeared in the last three issues of the paper. Already, many copies have been reserved, and many more are expected before the first of next week. These books will be printed on a very serviceable paper which will stand hard usage and bound in an imitation leather cover, which, in a way, will lend color to the story of the pioneer west. These books are selling for the small sum of 25¢ and includes a large envelope if it should be mailed. All those wanting a copy or copies should make their reservations at once because only a limited supply will be printed. **Note: These booklets are still available for \$3.00 each at the Broadwater County Museum.**

1939

“Mayor Issues Warning”

Owing to the fact that Townsend’s city water supply will be turned off again Friday morning and again during next week as the pipe laying project on Main Street progresses, I wish to ask special cooperation of the people of Townsend in exercising extreme caution against fires during those periods.

The water is off for periods of two or three hours at a time and after it is turned back into the mains it takes some little time to bring up the pressure. Your careful vigilance is asked as a safety measure.

-L.J. Anders,
Mayor, Town of Townsend

“Local Briefs”

Donald Marks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sewell Marks, made his debut into society on Tuesday when he celebrated his third birthday. Six little neighbor friends and their mothers were invited for the afternoon. They were: Fritzie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Merritt; Charles Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Lewis; Roberta Ruth Blakely, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Blakely; Deloris Merritt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Merritt; Jimmie Bob and Betty Lee, children of Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Marks. Birthday eats and decorations made the afternoon outstanding.

1950

“Townsend Man’s Invention Copied in Popular Science”

When inventions made and put into practice by Townsend people get into magazines and become publicized through the land, it is time for the home town paper to pick it up and comment too. Seems Tom Watkin was one of those many Townsend people who got bit with the tree-demolishing bug. Some very over grown and root-destructive trees abounded in his parking, so he did what everyone else has to do in the same circumstances, cut them down.

Trees gone, there remained the very unsightly stumps on his street parking and green, they would not burn with any reasonable amount of fire building, so he devised a simple home invention by using drips of oil to keep the home fire burning and eventually the old green stumps burned out too.

The invention was a barrel filled with oil from which Tom fashioned a small oil line and spigot so that the oil could be regulated as it was placed to saturate the stump.

Ellis Reyner, a mathematics instructor in our high school, was attracted to the paraphernalia and after taking a snap shot sent it on to “Popular Science”, a magazine given over to inventions of all kinds.

In case you have not seen the famous Watkin stump-burning contraption, you can get first-hand information from Dick Bayles who tried it next door to some degree of success.

“Gypsy Mother Has Baby By Road Near Toston”

It’s a piece of news when a mother can’t reach the hospital in time and her baby is born in a car, on a train or wherever it might be. Broadwater County has one to report this week – the birth of a little Gypsy boy baby by the side of the road Saturday night between Three Forks and Townsend.

The little Gypsy mother and her little nomadic offspring were later brought into the Broadwater hospital and a neater job was finished but not a better one, it's reported. With a new-born babe there is the naval cord that must be severed and tied. This was done by the father who, for lack of an instrument to cut, broke a bottle and with the jagged edge used for cutting and a piece of his shirt for tying, gave a safe first aid in such an emergency.

After a night at the Broadwater Hospital, the gypsy woman rose up from her bed, asked for her little "Bambino" and with the remark that she must go back to her tribe and her other little ones, took up active life again in the great open spaces. Such is the life of the nomad inheritance.

"So-called Comic Books Will be Under Scrutiny"

Comic books and their effects on growing minds in Montana will come under close scrutiny of the mid-Century Conference on Child and Youth at its third meeting set for Billings July 7.

State Public Instruction Supt. Mary M. Condon, chairman of the conference, said action will be taken on comic books and other matters, such as parents education and its extension in Montana, at the Billings meeting. All comic books, she said, are not to be condemned, but some are felt to be harmful.

"Local News"

Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Ragen have begun operations to clear away the debris of their home burned in a fire three weeks ago. All of the salvaging has been completed and now workmen are breaking the stucco from the walls and hauling it away. As soon as the rubble is removed, they plan to rebuild. At present they have the apartment in the Mint Hotel at their disposal.

1961

"Canton Up and Atoms"

The meeting was called to order by Elaine Sandon. We answered roll call with good health practices. Marie Kirscher read the minutes. We talked about starting a 4-H scrap book. Mrs. Marks thanked us for the pen and pencil set. We talked about Rural Life Sunday.

Louise Marks gave a demonstration on how to sew in a zipper.

Elaine closed the meeting and Mrs. Marks served refreshments.

- Jan Kirscher, reporter

"Local News"

The Keith Valentine family returned home first of the week from their vacation in Nebraska and Iowa. Sunday a family reunion was held with about 150 Valentines in attendance.

"Birthday Party"

Penny Kreis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kreis, was honored Thursday, June 8, on her 7th birthday with a party. Invited guests included Carol Lundborg, Lizabeth and Marilyn Hargrove, Susan Geisser, Susan Schneider, Ann Meyer, Valorie Waling, Debbie, Sharon and Judy Kries.