

This Day in History – June 22

1922

“Townsend Commercial Club Re-organize

“Meet to Cooperate with National Parks Highway”

At a meeting held in Townsend on Monday evening the Townsend Commercial Club met Representative Hawkins of the National Parks Highway Association and discussed local connections to this association.

Recently the National Park Highway has been routed thru our town and many items of interest were discussed and satisfactorily disposed of.

The members of the Club took advantage of the splendid attendance and re-elected officers and otherwise renewed the business of the club. Will E. Crowley was chosen president; E.H. Goodman, Vice President; Jos. J. Davey, Secretary; F.W. Schmitz, Treasurer. The meeting was held in the Legion Hall.

Routing the highway thru Townsend will turn a great deal of tourist travel thru the county and thereby benefit us in many ways. Our roads are considered by the authorities to be better than other routes, in that we not only have very good roads, but they are free from grades. The Highway Commission are repainting the red and white insignia along the way at present and in the fall on the return trip the three letters, N.P.H. will be painted in the sign. Large signs will be stationed at Three Forks at the fork of the road and at Garrison turning the travelers this way. This is a well-marked route from Chicago to Portland including four of our largest and most popular National Parks, and was used in 1921 by about 60,000 automobile loads of tourists.

1933

“Broadwater Creamery is Under New Manager”

The Broadwater County Creamery is running along in a smooth manner these days under the management of M.D. Ness, expert butter maker and creamery man, who arrived here recently from Livingston. Mrs. Ness and three children will arrive here on Sunday to join Mr. Ness, the family expecting to make their home in the P.J. Meloy residence on Pine Street.

Mr. Ness has in his employ Lorraine Olsen in the butter making department and Miss Grace Lynch in the office.

“Two-Cent Postage for Local Mail Effective Next July 1”

WASHINGTON, June 19 – An order restoring the two-cent local rate on first class postage July 1 was signed today by Postmaster General Farley.

The reduction from the present 3-cent rate is being made under a recent enacted law and Farley hopes the volume of business will be increased to a point where work will be provided for thousands of postal employees who otherwise might be furloughed without pay.

1939

“Good News About the Broadwater-Missouri Dam”

Now then we come to the question of the Broadwater-Missouri Dam again! To relieve any anxiety over why the dam is still not a sure thing, and there is a goodly amount of that quality of fear apparent these days, we wish to give our readers a straight out and out statement on facts.

There is more good news about the signal “to go forward” on the construction of the dam, than there is discouraging news. This statement is made after a thorough check up of the facts on the case from the Broadwater Users Association and the State Water Board. The bad news, as we all know, came just after word from Washington about six weeks ago that The Montana Power Company was filing suit to stop proceeding of building the dam on the theory that the Montana Power Company owned all of the water of the Missouri River.

The good news is that a hearing was made before United States District Judge Baldwin last Friday at which time he asked the council of the Montana Power Company and the Water Users Association of Broadwater County to file briefs by Wednesday morning, June 28th. This will be done.

But before those briefs are even filed, it is expected hourly that word will come from the Secretary of the Interior at Washington, D.C., to “go ahead”. In other words the first installment of some \$120,000 of the needed \$900,000 will be released and the Utah Construction Company will start their big machines (already at the dam site) to digging the excavations, fills and other work to build this very much wanted and needed diversion dam in Broadwater County.

“History of Townsend Schools”

The history of the Townsend schools is an interesting one. The first school was taught in 1882 in a log structure in the south end of town by Miss Viella Wilkins. The next four years when the Northern Pacific Railway Company completed their tracks through the town, a move was made to build a community church. This was accomplished in 1883 and the Methodist Church housed the next school when a young Episcopal clergyman by the name of Clews taught for one term. Then a man by the name of Gurwell took over the helm for the year 1884 and 1885 and the next instructor was the late Attorney E.H. Goodman, who taught one term 85-86 in the Methodist Church and moved to the new school building to teach the 5th, 6th, and 7th grades in 1886 when the late Miss Mary Tague taught the primary grades.

This building, a two-story frame affair was used for the elementary grades until 1889 when one wing of the brick building that houses the grade school now was finished, and the grade pupils commenced their training there leaving the old building for other uses. It was moved to the site of the high school and used for a full accredited high school in 1902, the first class graduating two years after having received junior high school work in the grade school.

In 1906 a large south wing was erected to take care of the ever increasing enrollment of the high school and in 1917 the modern brick structure was built with the addition of the gymnasium in 1930. Another wing of brick was added to the growing grade school in 1912 and today both schools are filled to capacity, the school boards being faced with additional building problems should the town grow.

1939

“Archaeologists to Give Canyon Ferry Last Exploration Before Lake Fills Basin”

A party of archaeologists from Montana State University, Missoula, will be in the vicinity of Townsend and the Canyon Ferry Dam until July 31st.

The purpose is to explore for archaeological remains which will be destroyed by the Canyon Ferry Reservoir. They will be working primarily in the area which will be inundated by

these waters. The University is working under a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service and the Reclamation Bureau. These agencies are charged with the responsibility of retrieving and examining all scientific remains and indications that are within the reservoir sites. Once the waters rise these remains are forever destroyed, hence, the importance of investigation now.

The Canyon Ferry region is not extremely rich in the remains of old Indian camps, but it is extremely important that they be investigated now.

1950

“Contracts Will Be Let for New Grade School”

Specifications for the construction of the new grade school building in Townsend are now ready and according to an official announcement made by the school trustees, bids will be received on and up to July 11th for the construction. Full details can be seen in the legal notice on page seven of this issue.

According to the notice there will be three divisional bids. One for general construction and the other two for plumbing and electrical wiring.

The voters of district No. 7 passed favorably to construct a new building at an election held in January of this year. The proposed building is to be a 12 room class room with other details for a modern school building and a multipurpose room.

“Local News”

Mrs. Palmer Engh has returned to her home from Fort Peck after completing a year teaching in the Fort Peck schools.

1961

“Guards Pulled Off Microwave Towers”

Sunday, June 18, the telephone company notified Sheriff Jack Foster that they would not need guards at the two microwave towers in this county any longer. Guards have been stationed at the two towers every night since May 28 when three towers were dynamited in Nevada.

This past weekend two men were arrested in Mexico who admitted they had blown up the towers. They belong to some organization which believes in overthrowing our present form of government, but deny they are affiliated with the Reds.

“Local News”

Four of our grade school teachers – Mrs. Paul Plymale, Mrs. Tom Watkin, Mrs. Bert Tarrant and Mrs. Margaret Smith are attending the summer term of school at Western Montana College of Education at Dillon.

Miss Diane Ulmer arrived Saturday to spend a two-week vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ulmer. Diane works for Western Life Insurance Company at St. Paul.