

## **“What Happened Today in History”**

**August 10**

### **“Finding of Old Rifle Renews Mystery of Man’s Disappearance”**

Radersburg – The disappearance of Jack Wilson about 33 years ago is somewhat cleared up by the article which appeared in the “Townsend Star” last week, telling of the discovery of the old rifle hanging in a tree on Beaver Creek. The old gun was found by a party of fire fighters under Earl Welton who were called there to extinguish a blaze in the forests in that vicinity. Wilson disappeared in September 1900 and has not been seen or heard of since that time.

Wilson, in company with Henry Doughty, Charley Easterly and Chas. Mounts, went to the middle fork of Beaver Creek where they had camped for some two or three weeks. About 2 o’clock one afternoon Wilson decided to go hunting. He left camp alone and never returned but search for him revealed that two deer had been shot which were hanging in a tree only a short distance from camp. Two empty 45-70 cartridges were found near the carcasses. Some of the searchers fired signal shots, figuring that Wilson had been lost since there was a light snowfall, and upon hearing the reports, would be able to locate camp.

This was of no avail, and the search continued for several weeks. The snowfall presented tracking, and finally the party gave up hopes of finding the missing man. It is said that someone in the searching party had seen the rifle leaning against a small tree, but left it there as a mark to start from in case the search was resumed. Later the tree, against which the rifle was leaning, was never located and the whole affair was finally forgotten.

The rifle was found in much the same position as it was left – stock downward. However, in some way the rifle was fastened to the tree, and the thirty years growth elevated it to a considerable distance above the ground. It is the supposition that this rifle was the same one that was carried on the hunt by Wilson because no one was in that section of the country at the time, according to old timers and members of the party with Wilson.

The rifle found was the same caliber as the one taken by Wilson, and it was in the very same territory where the men had camped in 1900. Where Wilson went is only supposition, but the theory is advanced that he left the country unharmed.

Wilson was a miner by trade and worked in the Hassel and Radersburg districts, and some say that he might have had trouble and left before bodily harm overtook him. This, however, is only a story offered by old time residents. After 30 years with no appearance or word of Wilson, it is supposed that he is now dead, and the mystery surrounding his disappearance will always be unsolved.

### **“Townsend Will Celebrate Fiftieth Anniversary Soon”**

Townsend business men are making plans to observe the fiftieth anniversary of their town the first week in September as it was just fifty years ago on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September that the first Northern Pacific train steamed down through the valley, stopping at the then newly plotted town to be called Townsend. After the work was commenced to put the railroad through Townsend, a few houses and buildings soon sprung into form and by the time the golden spike was driven to open the east and west by rail, the town was well on its way.

To fittingly observe the occasion, it is planned to put on a big celebration with a fine rodeo, barbeque and other entertainment to entertain the large crowd that is sure to assemble for the occasion. Labor Day, September 6<sup>th</sup> has been set tentatively for the celebration.

**1939**

### **“Sheriff Bruce Finds Stolen Booty in City Jungles”**

A number of misdemeanors have been reported during the week by local peace and patrol officers, among which were game laws.

Sheriff Bruce says he has stirred up a lot of business this week by railroading the panhandlers and cleaning out the jungles. The jail office looks more like a second hand store today than a second class country's sheriff's business office. There are tents, buffalo robes, car robes, clothing, tools and a number of other articles retaken from the jungles, part of which were recovered from belongings of John Ellis stolen from his residence here and which theft was reported to the police after Ellis watched a man make a get-away with the things. He got wind of being watched and escaped, but a 15 year old boy who stayed put was later released having been cleared of any part of the theft.

Sheriff Bruce says he wishes people who have missed belongings would come to the jail and reclaim them. There has been too much of clothes line thefts lately too, said the Sheriff, who believes with the jungle clean-up this week and a thorough checkup on every roust-about in the district this sort of foolishness will lessen.

A man was given 10 minutes to get out of town this afternoon after he had shown the police officers here and in Toston he was a nuisance. He was arrested on a vagrancy charge a few days ago, railroaded and got as far as Toston. He continued to eat and beg and today was again given the “boot”. This man when begging earlier in the week from a Townsend woman and who when told to go to work and he could earn food, replied, “Madam, I don't want to work – and I'm self supporting”.

**1950**

### **“Toston – Townsend soft Ball Feud Renewed There Next Friday”**

George Flynn's Toston Tatertix will tick against Ronnie Kelly's Townsend Hot Shots on the Toston Diamond next Tuesday evening at 6:45.

This announcement will bring the blood pounding into many a fan that not too many years ago found Toston-Townsend brand of baseball too tight for comfort. The revival of that rivalry will bring back the punch to the game.

Warming up has been in progress all through the summer, inspired by the recreational program and the hot contests between picked teams. The going got too good for Toston and the newest generation stilled in the lore of their forebears intend to continue the fudin' and a fightin' on the field getting off to the first start next Tuesday evening, with the challenge to Townsend.

### **“Town Talk Takes Second on Ice Cream at Fair”**

The Town Talk won second place on vanilla ice cream at the North Montana State Fair held in Great Falls last week.

According to tests made by the state officials, the Town Talk ice cream made a rating of  $93\frac{3}{4}$ . The highest rating was 94. According to the rules the highest possible rating could have been 95.

Charles Adams, owner and manager of the Town Talk exhibited his product at the fair.