

“What Happened Today in History”

January 11

1923

“Local News”

The wind that blew here on Sunday night was reported to be a fifty mile gale. As a result, the next morning, when town residents exchanged morning greetings and there were sighs and manifestations of a restless, sleepless night and that the wind was a destroyer was evidenced all over town. The big plate glass window in the Montana Power Company's Office was blown out and broken, the cook house in the city park was capsized, Walter Crane's chicken house was turned over, the big smoke stack in the high school was bent and other various little disturbances were reported. The only redeeming feature of the wind was that it was a westerner and while it was taking roofs off it was also making the snow and ice disappear mighty fast.

1934

“Montana's Oldest Cowboy and Friend of Charles M. Russell Visits Townsend”

Townsend had the distinction of having a visit a few days ago from “Montana's oldest cowboy”, Tommy Tucker, who stopped here to look up one of his old ridin' mates, Ed Ragen. Ed and Tommy hadn't seen each other in fifty years, not since they parted company over around Ubet in the Musselshell Country after one of their biggest roundups. Ed claimed he'd a known Tuck anywhere - that he hadn't changed a day, but it was different with Tucker. The mustache fooled him, he said, as Ed didn't look just natural with the mustache.

Mr. Tucker who will reach his 80th birthday this year, is still a cowboy in spirit and in actual practice. He rode the range in the 1880s with Charles M. Russell. He was a few years Russell's senior and took him under his wing when Russell came to Montana, a tenderfoot, from St. Louis. They were lifelong friends and it was Russell who urged Tucker to write the story of his cowboy days which book has been published and is being put on the market today.

The book, “Riding the High Country”, is a true story of Tucker's association with Charles M. Russell during the artist's years on the range. Tucker, the oldest cowboy, and Russell, the supreme cowboy artist of all time. In the foreword of the book appears the interesting facts of how Mr. Tucker finally arrived at putting down in his own words the tale of his adventures in Montana early days.

I knew Ed Ragen, said Tucker, “first at Ubet when he had peach fuzz on his face and Ed rode them straight up too”.

Mr. Ragen has been a resident of Broadwater County for almost 50 years and has always been interested in horses, the ponies of the range and, in later years, in thoroughbred racing stock. Tucker won many races with his race horse “Mustang”, in his earlier days, so the two old cow-punchers had many things in common and renewed old days while visiting together.

Mr. Tucker is in the best of health. He says that he never was a hearty eater and now makes his main meal the noon day one at which time he prefers a small ration of raw hamburger which he eats with rye bread well salted and with a little pepper for seasoning. He finds this diet is wholesome and agreeable. He says, however, he doesn't turn down a piece of

cake or pie for dessert. He served his country in Indian Wars, Nez Perze War and Bannock for which he is pensioned.

1945

“Local News”

Cpl. Thomas J. Gabisch arrived here last Thursday evening on furlough from the Southwest Pacific Theatre of operations where he served for 34 months with the cavalry. Needless to say he is enjoying every second of his time at home after his trying experiences in the tropics, sleeping on the ground, in swamps, fighting bugs, snakes and disease to say nothing of a species of humanity called the Japs. He will have about three weeks during which time he will visit his father, Senator Gabisch, and sister, Ann, and his grandmother, Mrs. Katherine Guthrie in Helena.

Pvt. Kenneth Toney, who has been on furlough visiting relatives, left Tuesday for Camp Fort Meade, Maryland.

William Mackey, who has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Mackey, left today for Palo Alto, Calif.

Corp. Lawrence Riley arrived home Friday on furlough from Panama City, Fla., to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Riley and family on Deep Creek.

1951

“Local News”

Mrs. Charles Adams and daughters, Charlene and Sharon, and Mrs. Fred Kapinos motored to Bozeman Wednesday for a brief visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Huth of Helena spent the week end and holiday in Townsend with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Huth Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dixon.

Miss Beverly Bayles, who had a trip to New York and Florida, in company of her aunt, over the holidays has returned to her home in Townsend and now has some travel stories to relate to her school mates.

Miss Mary Whaley who had been spending some time in Helena with her mother, Mrs. Lucy Whaley, from Sacramento has returned to her work there. She visited in Townsend while here. Her sister, Ann, who is now working at St. Peter’s hospital as special technician, also visited in Townsend part of the holidays.

Dr. R.G. Bayles and son, Dick, of Bozeman were Townsend visitors last Friday, Dick leaving the same evening by plane to resume his college work in the University of Miami, Florida.

1962

“First Baptist Church Building”

Work is progressing on the First Baptist Church building on North Cedar Street in Townsend. Before the cold weather stopped work the first part of the week, workmen had the roof about completed.

“Seat Belts Save Two Girls”

Highway Patrolman Ober Spear stated today that use of seat belts saved two girls from serious injury in a car wreck last Friday. Bonnie Louise, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Laird Plymale, and Edwina Neild, 15, daughter of Mrs. Mildred Neild, were enroute home last Friday

when the Plymale car overturned. They were meeting a car coming south on Route 284 when a cow walked out on the highway. In order to miss both the cow and the oncoming car, Miss Plymale drove into the barrow pit. The car skidded some distance then flipped over on the top.

Both girls escaped with only minor cuts and bruises. Spear estimated the car was traveling between 65 and 70 miles per hour, and said there is no doubt that the use of seat belts saved the girls. The car was damaged to the point where repair may not be worthwhile.