

“What Happened Today in History”

July 27

1933

“Committee Named to Push Demands for Federal Funds: “Irrigation and Highway Projects Will Come Under Committee Work This Summer in Government’s Recovery Program”

A committee, composed of local business men, was appointed last Friday evening to investigate and push all federal projects scheduled for the county, and see about having the Broadwater irrigation projects taken from the so-called major projects and placed in water diversion and flood control projects, where they really belong. The committee will also see about pushing work on the Electric Highway down Deep Creek canyon this year, along with other federal works which come under the public works program, the industrial recovery act and others, to bring about better times.

Communications are on file with the committee which tell of the surveys on the Toston diversion dam which state that these documents are in the Helena public library and in the library at the Butte School of Mines. This project, as it is now listed, comes under one of the major projects of the federal works program, but in reality, it should be placed under a different head, due to the estimated cost of completion. The project, if completed, would store water for some 15,000 acres in Broadwater County, and would make the county one of the most productive in the state.

Other small projects, in the nature of flood control and water diversion, would come in the work of the committee.

The Electric highway, down Deep Creek canyon is another project which will be aided in every way by this committee. Funds have been allotted to the forestry service in Montana for projects. There are several old, and partially completed roads which will get first choice, but under the new projects, Deep Creek will lead the list. The committee has hopes of getting some action this year on the much needed road. At this time nothing definite can be said of it.

The committee is composed of Frank T. Hooks, E.H. Goodman, F.G. McCarthy, Charles P. Tarrant and Ed O. Brown and will meet with the highway commission and other government agencies to further any and all projects which will in any way affect Broadwater County.

1939

“Dredging for Gold in Old Confederate Proves Profitable”

The dredging work going forward in Confederate Gulch by the Fair Play Placers, Inc. is creating a great deal of interest to Broadwater County people who travel the somewhat rough road up the famous old gulch to watch operations which have been going on since last February.

H.H. Reiber, the superintendent of this large mining concern, is in Colorado at present during which time his assistant, Curley Poore, is in charge of the three shifts of men, a total payroll of 18 men being engaged in the dredging operations.

The gold being cleaned up at present, reported Herman Bergstrand who is part owner, is of a flat flakey consistency and shows that it has been washed a long way. The dredge was set up in the bottom of the gulch about two miles from Jimmie’s Gulch and dredging for gold is

going on taking the dirt 20 feet to bedrock and washing it as the floating dredge pushes up the gulch.

Cleanups have proven satisfactory, said Mr. Bergstrand, who refrained from giving out the exact amount of gold cleaned up at any one time, but ventured to say that the eight day cleanup on the Fourth of July was the best since they started. The custom is to make a cleanup every ten days, and the gold taken is getting coarser the farther up the gulch they go. Nuggets as large as the nail of the little finger have been taken, but for the most part, the gold is fine.

It is sent directly to the Denver mint and the company is paid approximately \$29.25 per ounce. From a fairly reliable source it was learned that as high as 202 ounces had been taken in one cleanup and that one of the last ones was 187 ounces.

The company plans to work the ground to Jimmie's Gulch and although they have leases on the land farther up, they do not know to what extent they will go, as in order to commence operations above that point it would be necessary to dismantle their machinery and convey it up the canyon a way which would take two years to do, said Mr. Bergstrand.

Other mining operations of note in the famous old Diamond City district is that of Col. Chas. Sheridan on Boulder Bar and many others on Montana Bar and a large concern working at the old Brant claims. J.B. Robison, who makes just as much money from the dirt, as he wants to exert himself, is stationed right at the site of the old hotel. Mr. Robison mines in a unique way. He has a one man company. He loads the dirt from the old road bed and conveys it by truck to a washer in the bottom of the gulch where he takes out enough gold to pay for his groceries and keep him going. He says if he would work harder and shovel more, he would have just that much more gold at the end of the day. But Mr. Robison seems content to make his own and keep off the WPA rolls.

1950

"Over 100 Enjoying Swimming Beach on Missouri River; Part of Summers Recreational Program for the Community"

Coach Radakovich says, with large crowds attending daily, the swimming program of Townsend rolls merrily on its way. Unofficial counts have shown that up to 125 have attended the beach at one time. Swimming lessons have been given daily and more than 60 young folks have been taking these lessons.

Classes for Adults Saturday

Due to several requests there will be lessons for adults given starting at 2 p.m. Saturday. Everyone is urged to attend these lessons. There is no charge.

The parents of grade school children are again urged to cooperate in seeing that their youngsters use the beach during the supervised hours only. There will be supervised swimming from 1 to 5 daily Monday through Saturday.

"Story Telling Hour Continues"

The Story Telling Hour for children will continue every Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. at the court house, according to County Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. LaVella Morris. This project had been put into practice through the efforts of the late Superintendent, Miss Cecilia

Hazelton, and Mrs. Morris advises it will continue for the rest of the summer as Miss Hazelton had planned.

Mrs. Bernice Cartwright is in charge of the Story Telling Hour.

1961

“Big Medicine Now at State Museum”

Governor Donald G. Nutter officiated at ceremonies recently dedicating the acquisition by the Historical Society of “Big Medicine”, the rare white buffalo who was once king of the National Bison Range herd at Moiese in Montana’s Flathead Valley and who became the most photographed bison in America before his death two years ago.

The ceremonies held in the ground floor of the museum where the great white animal will be on permanent display, were attended by more than 200 guests and tourists.

“This unique white buffalo is indeed one in five million and we are grateful that by God’s grace he has become a part of the Museum collection in this building and available for the enjoyment of all the people of Montana,” the Governor said in his brief dedicatory remarks.

The governor paid tribute to the skill of Robert Seriver of Browning, sculptor and taxidermist, who had worked on the gigantic job of molding a standing mannequin and mounting the specially tanned hide of “Big Medicine” since the animal’s death in August 1959. In spite of the ravages of his advanced age of more than 26 years, comparable to about 80 in humans, “Big Medicine’s” likeness is impressive.

Albinos in bison occur once in about 5,000,000 births. Veteran buffalo hunters who killed thousands of the animals before their virtual extinction in the 1880s have testified that they never saw one.

So rare are white buffalos that the Plains Indians all considered them sacred and the property of the sun.

“Big Medicine” was born on the Moiese Range in the Flathead Valley in the spring of 1933 to a cow of normal coloring, was not a true albino because of the woolly knob of natural brown hair between his horns and his blue eyes and light-colored hoofs.