

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

**July 19**

**1923**

### **“Townsend Blind Boy Admitted to Montana Bar”**

Seldom does a person merit more credit than Clyde Troutman, who though blind since a small child, has fought his way until now he has obtained a goal scarce equaled by men who have their sight. He is but twenty-five years old and has passed the Montana State Bar examination having been one of four who successfully passed that examination at the state house in Helena last week out of a class of nine. This is the second try and this time met success.

Clyde Troutman lives with his father and sisters in Townsend and has been untiring in his efforts to do what he could for a livelihood as well as to improve himself in an educational way. He has been totally blind since three years of age and for years received training in Boulder in the school for the blind and, in addition, took a correspondence course in law which had not been completed when he left school. Through the aid of the state and kindness of friends who read to him, he was able to finish his course and reach the pinnacle of success and is now capable of practicing law in the state of Montana.

Since he has lived in Townsend he has made himself known in a musical way, being quite talented as a pianist and has often been employed to play at country dances and for a long time held the position as pianist in the Rex Theatre.

**1934**

### **“Confirmation at Holy Cross Church”**

Most Reverend Ralph Leo Hayes, D.D. Bishop of Helena administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class of thirty Sunday morning after the ten o'clock mass. The High Mass was celebrated by the Reverend Dr. S.J. Sullivan, the pastor. The music was rendered by the regular Holy Cross choir of twenty members, with Mrs. Irene Sperling, organist.

The following were confirmed:

Francis Carroll, John Clark, George Gabisch, John Goebel, John Lynch, Robert L. Merritt, Arnold Meyer, Charles Ragen, Walter Riley, Daniel Seery, Lawrence Simons, Robert Sullivan, Joseph Zimmerman, Richard McAndrews, Catherine Berberet, Patricia R. Berberet, Virginia S. Bradshaw, Catherine Cowles, Mary Alice D'Arcy, Elizabeth A. Doggett, Ann Gabisch, Claudine Lynch, John McCarthy, Helen E. Mannix, Abigail Pennington, Florence Pennington, Alice Riley, Helen S. Wieferich, Mildred May Wieferich.

**1945**

## **WWII Headlines**

**“Sgt. Glenn Kirscher Writes about Manila”**

**“Discharged: Melvin Pennington, Shorty Davies, Alex Barthule, Gerhard Hoppe”**

### **“Townsend Airport to Be Improved by County”**

The Town Council met in a special session on Tuesday to consider the lease of the Townsend Municipal Airport which the Civil Aeronautics Authority has held for the past ten years. When the CAA took it over at that time, they had a well lighted field built with beacon

and course lights installed. The field has been kept cut and graded as any intermediate field is for an emergency landing field.

At this time several public spirited men believe that if they change the status of the field, government money can be obtained to build better runways and make the field more modern and put it in a state whereby it can be used more by commercial planes.

The council voted to turn the field over to the county to improve.

The county can, and is authorized by law, develop air facilities in the county. The plan adopted at the meeting was, the town would deed the land to the county on condition that it be used for air field purposes only, and if it ceased to be used as an airfield, it would revert back to the Town. Thus the way was paved for a co-operation between the county and the government to build a flying field here in place of the present emergency landing field. Post war flying is expected to be on a large scale and Broadwater County plans to be ready to benefit by any government program.

## **1951**

### **“Townsend Boys Get Tough Go in Soap Box Derby”**

Larry Kieckbusch and Jack Pierce, both of Townsend, were first round winners in Class A at the second Montana Soap Box Derby held in Bozeman last Sunday, but were out run in the following rounds loosing to other entrants. Jimmy Powell, 14 year old Missoula youth, won the derby and an all-expense paid trip to the All-American Soap Box Derby at Akron, Ohio on August 12.

The two Townsend boys, each taking the first round, unfortunately drew the inside track for the second rounds and couldn't make the grade owing to the rougher surface, it was said.

Pierce was sponsored by Marshall-Wells of Townsend and Larry Kieckbusch was sponsored by the local American Legion post.

All boys competing in the Soap Box Derby received a free year's pass to all Bozeman theatres, a Browning ratchet screw driver from Coast-to-Coast stores and a free milk shake from Richardson's.

The entrants in Sunday's race, who will be under 16 years of age next summer, will be eligible to compete again in the amateur racing competition.

## **1962**

### **“Post Office is now in New Location”**

Acting Postmaster Fred Geisser and his crew of office helpers aided by Rural Carrier Clyde Alley and several public spirited citizens made the move of postal facilities from the old office in the 300 block of Broadway to the new office Saturday afternoon without a hitch, and with uninterrupted service.

By Monday there were many sore thumbs and index fingers, as patrons had some difficulty working combinations on their new boxes. Postal employees were most helpful in showing patrons their boxes and explaining how to operate the combinations, and in many instances applying lubricants when the knobs were hard to turn.

This week the last piece of new machinery, an electric canceling machine, arrived and now everything is back to normal – normal, that is, as far as work is concerned, but you can still see some of our citizens heading for the old location before remembering the change.

**1973**

**“Seniors Leave for Virginia City”**

Senior Citizens from Townsend and two from Helena chartered a bus and left for Virginia City and Nevada City Tuesday where they will stay for the night and visit the sights. Tuesday evening will find them viewing the opening night showing of “The Stygian Amulet” and Wednesday will find them riding the tour train from Virginia City to Nevada City. The travelers were: Pearl Barraugh, Walter and Verna Clark, Mary D’Arcy, Dorothy Devoe, Mae Duede, Cleo Helner, Joe Treva, Barnett McLaughlin, Clem Meyers, Olive Middleton, Nellie Nelson, Gilbert and Lola Ricketts, Frank and Evalyn Shearer, Rose and Royal Smith and Verna Whitehead. Mrs. Smith was chairman of the tour.