

“What Happened Today in History”

July 5

1923

“Dempsey Gets Decision After 15 Rounds in Shelby Bout”

The whole sporting world was wrong – with the exception of that courteous, smiling, individual, Tommy Gibbons, of St. Paul.

The challenger, to the astonishment of the 25,000 spectators in the sunbaked arena on the edge of the oil boom town of Shelby, was on his feet still fighting at the end of his scheduled 15 round heavyweight championship fight with Jack Dempsey, when almost everybody expected him to be knocked out in the sixth or seventh rounds. Referee Jimmie Doherty of Philadelphia awarded Dempsey the decision when the gong clanged ending the fifteenth round, but Gibbons, who did not get a cent for fighting the champion, left the ring with a moral victory. It was the first time that any fighter managed to face Dempsey and still be on his feet at the finish since he became champion...Gibbons has a reputation made in 86 fights of never having been knocked off his feet. That reputation is still good.

The fight had an entirely different ending than any of the spectators expected. Even the enthusiastic Gibbons protagonists shouting encouragement to their fighter had not the slightest idea he would last more than seven or eight rounds. In fact, it was the consensus that four or five rounds would find Tommy on the floor, knocked out.

Tommy, a master boxer, and constantly on the lookout for the knockout blow, danced and hopped around the ring, occasionally slipping a right or left to Dempsey's face and then eluding danger by clinching or stepping backwards.

Toward the last Gibbons seemed to be fading fast and repeatedly went into clinches with the champion. In the last round, it appeared that his defenses were falling and many expected Dempsey to administer the long expected knockout. The champion, seeing the condition of the challenger, furiously flashed at his head and body. But Tommy hung on and clinched and sidestepped until the saving grace of the final bell.

“Townsend's Radio Picks up First News of Fight”

The first news of the Dempsey-Gibbons fight was picked up over the radio of J.E. Ward in Townsend, when Broadwater people were given the news as each round was fought. As soon as the rounds were over in Shelby, results were broadcast and after Mr. Ward received it by radio, the telephones, both rural and city, were used in giving local people the news. About 300 people gathered at the Ranger Station on Deep Creek, where the news was received by telephone, connected direct to Ward's house.

1934

“Local Marine Makes Good”

John A. Plymale, whose mother, Mrs. Mary Prosser, resides at Townsend, Montana and who was enlisted in the United States Navy through the Helena recruiting Station by Chief Petty Officer F.R. Sharp in the January 1934 quota has been selected as a candidate for the United States Coast Guard Academy.

Mr. Plymale will stand his examinations in June and, if successful, will enter the Coast Guard Academy at New London, Conn., for a period of three years and when graduated, will receive a commission as an Ensign in that branch of the service.

He was selected as a candidate because of his initiative, outstanding as a leader of men, a hard willing worker, and is considered officer material by his superior officers. Mr. Plymale is 22 years of age, and has completed 1 year of college and before his enlistment in the United States Navy, was a member of the Montana National Guard. He is now serving on board of the U.S.S. Pennsylvania now operating with the Battle Force.

“Local News”

Gene Connors arrived in Townsend Wednesday morning after having graduated from the Hohenshuh-Carpenter School of Embalming in St. Louis, Mo.

1945

WWII Headlines

“T-5 Thomas J. Gabisch is Discharged from Army”

“Hear from Son thru Jap Broadcast”

“Fourth of July Celebrated in Quiet Manner”

Fishing and picnicking held first place for the most part by those who left their business stations to celebrate the day. Farmers, however, stayed pretty much on the job to take advantage of the fine weather after a retarded rainy June.

Everett DeMars, new manage of the Townsend auditorium, provided a public dance which was well attended and many attended the local movies in the evening to wind up a safe and sane Fourth of July, celebrated for the first time in the history of the world in almost every nation of the world.

Mr. DeMars states he will have roller skating by next Tuesday at the auditorium.

“Winston News”

A party was given at the Ned George Ranch on June 23rd in honor of Donna Ray George; the occasion being her third birthday. Guests were Mrs. Erwin Hagbom and two children, Doris and Kennet; Mrs. Leslie Davies and children, Dorene and Alvin; Mrs. Lloyd Baum and David; Mrs. Bob Myles and son, Alfred, of Clasoil and Mrs. Hugh Whitehead and daughter, Carol. Games were played by children and a lunch of ice cream and cake was served at 4:30.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lanning and children of Townsend and Mrs. Tony Moe and son of Helena were Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Lanning.

Saturday evening visitors to Townsend were: Mr. and Mrs. Herb Apple, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bisby, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Diehl, Mr. Bob Myles, Mr. Horace Carmichael, Miss Alverda Nash, Mrs. Violet Wisniewski and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Miles and Joe.

1951

“Local News”

Little Gary Olsen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Olsen arrived at the important age of four years last Saturday and the day didn't go by unobserved for Mother Lois provided the fun and food for the following little friends: Jimmie and Mike Ragen, Marcia and Jimmie Lots, Micky, Lenna and Carol Smith, Pat Ragen, Vicki Huth, Joanne Williams, Stevey Olsen, Judy and Susie Simons and Denny Brannman.

“Mr. and Mrs. Ragen Complimented by Friends at Party”

A large number of Townsend friends of Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Ragen gave the couple a “housewarming” last Saturday evening, as a compliment for the beautiful new modern home, recently completed to replace the one destroyed by fire about a year ago.

The guests arrived at dinner time well laden with surprises on their lips and in their baskets and the buffet repast was spread on the new modern enclosed patio. There were about 45 guests and shortly before midnight, the party broke up wishing Mr. and Mrs. Ragen the best in their new surroundings.

1962

“Cow Moose Swims Lake”

Wednesday evening of last week two local fishermen saw a rather unusual sight, for this area any way, when a cow moose swam to the west shore of Lake Townsend and came out of the water close to them.

Harry Hanson and Austin Hooper were fishing in the lake about 7:30 p.m. when they were startled to see the animal emerge from the water. She headed west Harry said, “in a bee line” and it is their opinion that she was migrating from the Big Belt Mountains to the Tizers.

“Local News”

Carla Fisher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fisher was six years old last Thursday, June 28, and to celebrate the occasion her mother invited some of her friends in for an afternoon of games and birthday refreshments. Guests were: Cathy, Bobby and Deloris Burtch, Cathy, Dannie and Tuck Holling, Leslie Sherwood, Rosie Lavender and Eddie Fisher.

“Winston News”

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Arden drove up from Toston Saturday and spent the day with the Wayne Herrington family.

Mrs. Wilma Masolo’s mother, Mrs. Blanche Fouts of Whitehall came Sunday and will spend the Fourth with the Masolos.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cox, Clifford and Chrissie and Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Schmidt joined Mr. and Mrs. Earl Webb and Mr. and Mrs. Vic Hoxsey for a picnic near Townsend Sunday.

1973

“Four Horsemen of Toston Win Again”

Four Horsemen of Toston, Robin Williams, Cindy Rauser, George Rauser (captain) and Tim Wogamon were the winning team in the horse races held Wednesday night at the Townsend Rodeo Grounds during the big Fourth of July celebration. The team racing was the fourth annual and this team from Toston has won the past two years. Officials reported one of the largest crowds ever to attend a Fourth celebration, which featured kids’ games, free refreshments, the horse racing and fireworks. Larry O. Foss was the general chairman for the civic groups which sponsored the event.

“U.M. Names Honor Roll”

A record number of students at the University of Montana have been named to the honor roll. Among them are residents of Townsend. Those students from the area named to the honor roll are: Mark Joseph Conrad, of Toston; Dee Ann Koehnke, Robert Brian Ragen, Timothy John Ragen, Karen K. Sautter, and Candice Marie Whitehead, all of Townsend.

