

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

**June 14**

**1923**

### **“A Lilac Party”**

Lilac time nearly always brings pretty social affairs such as teas, parties, etc. Tis June one of the prettiest social afternoons of the season was given by Mrs. J.S. Connors when she entertained a number of her friends at a bridge afternoon last Friday at her home on Oak Street. It could appropriately be termed a lilac party as the house was decorated with beautiful bouquets of lavender and white lilacs and other features of the occasion were tastefully carried out with the colors of this popular spring flower.

Seven tables were placed for the guests to play bridge and after a very pleasant game, the hostess served delicious cooling refreshments with the decorations harmonized and each guest received a lavender favor basket. Mrs. J.A. Matthews was given a beautiful cut glass mayonnaise bowl, as successful scorer of the highest number of points in the bridge.

Those present were: Mesdames W.G. Ragen, J.P. Kearns, Will Neild, G.W. Gillham, G.A. Clarke, H.L. Sherlock, A.C. Carson, A.C. Kelly, W.H. Mitchell, J.A. Matthews, H.H. Holloway, F. Smazal, J.W. Seibold, Geo. Gabisch, W.J. Gaab, Chas. Shaw, N.S. Poole, A.E. Davidson, H.L. Sperling, P.H. Murphy, J.D. Doggett, W.E. Crowley, C.N. Burgess, Geo. Scott, C.F. Henry, W.C. Whaley, J.W. Hayes, C.B. Fairchild and Miss Josephine Sullivan.

**1934**

### **“J.E. Kanouse Honored Golden Jubilee G.A.R.”**

Hon. J.E. Kanouse, Townsend’s honored Civil War Veteran has been again tendered an honor, not only because he has the distinction of service in the Civil War, but also as an eminent and interesting speaker. He has been invited to deliver the responsive address in Helena today on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, which is also the forty-first department convention of the Women’s Relief Corps Auxiliary of the G.A.R. and the twenty-sixth department convention of the Ladies of the G.A.R. Mr. Kanouse will respond to the address given in behalf of the state by Governor Frank H. Cooney and in behalf of the city of Helena by Mayor J.C. Bausch.

The convention is convening for three days in the capital city.

### **“Toston Dam Project Presented for Approval”**

The building of a dam in the Missouri River above Toston to furnish water for irrigation has been under consideration for over fifty years. Such a possibility was again revived with the Public Works program. Citizens here expressed themselves as very desirous of putting before the Water Conservation Board of Montana the application to build such a dam and likewise an organization known as the Public Works Committee with major intent of promoting the building of a dam to be known as the Toston Dam, commenced work to make the proposed dam a reality.

This week the Broadwater Public Works Committee with Chas. P. Cotter, as spokesman, completed gathering the necessary data which will assist in making final approval of the project. This data together with a completion of a preliminary survey which was also

completed this week has been placed in the hands of the proper authorities and Broadwater county people anxiously await the outcome.

## **1945**

### **WWII Headlines**

**“Nicholas L. Schmitz’ Ship Combats Suicide Planes”**

**“Ens Bill Watkins Describes Okinawa”**

**“Announces Marriage Following Graduation from College”**

Marie Sterrett, who graduated from the State University at Missoula last week, has announced her marriage to T.F. Duffy which event took place in Missoula on February 21<sup>st</sup> of this year. She is at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sterrett at present, but expects to leave to join her husband at Amarillo, Texas next Thursday.

Mr. Duffy is an aviation cadet receiving his training at present at Amarillo.

## **1951**

**“Five Boys Start Cars for Soap Box Derby”**

Up to the present time five Townsend boys have entered the Soap Box Derby and are busily engaged in making their cars to enter the sub-divisional derby in Bozeman July 15<sup>th</sup>. According to Chas. Tomcheck, Chevrolet Motors who, with the local newspaper, is sponsoring the local features of the Derby, two of the boys have sponsors. If anyone else wants to sponsor one of the boys, it will be acceptable to the lads, Mr. Tomcheck is sure.

To sponsor a boy means provide the materials needed to build the small car. The limit is \$7.50 for materials outside of the wheels and axles which cost \$10.95. So far the American Legion is sponsoring Duane Marcotte; Marshall-Wells, John R. Pierce. The three boys who have no sponsor up to now are Gerald Olsen, Marvin Doig and Larry Kieckbusch.

There are many prizes for winners in the Bozeman try-outs besides the scholarships offered. To the Townsend boy who is accepted in the Bozeman Derby, Mr. Tomcheck is offering \$10 as a special prize and should the lad become a winner, there is a Tomcheck \$25 War Bond.

## **1962**

**“Matthis Confesses Killing Horses”**

Roy Vernon Matthis, 32, appeared in District Court Tuesday morning and pleaded guilty before Judge Lester H. Loble to four counts – killing two horses, maiming another and to infamous crime against nature. Judge Loble deferred sentencing until Tuesday of next week.

Sometime last Friday night Matthis shot and killed two registered race horses belonging to F.L. Olsen and his son, Ronald, and shot another one 5 times but it is still living. The horses were in the Olsen corral near the fair grounds and the depredation was not discovered until Saturday morning about 5:30 when Ronald went there to feed the stock. One of the horses, a mare, was valued at \$2500 by the Olsens and the other two at \$1,000 each. Just last week Mr. Olsen had refused an offer of \$1800 for the mare. They bought her in Kentucky last year and in five races, she won four and placed second in the fifth one. The mare is out of Sub Fleet, which is out of Count Fleet, a Kentucky Derby winner several years ago.

Soon after being notified of the destruction, Sheriff Malcolm Henry started his investigation, assisted by Undersheriff, Frank Beyers; Night Marshal, Damon Lavender and Deputy Marshal Chris Huth. Mode of operation pointed to Matthis so Sheriff Henry went to Helena and with the assistance of Sheriff Dave Middlemas soon located Matthis, who lives at East Helena, and put him under arrest.

Sunday morning Henry got a complete confession to the crimes and also to another crime May 29 when Matthis killed a registered quarter horse belonging to Wesley Diehl. This took place at a corral near Lake Helena where the horse was being broken by John Smith. Matthis had broken into Smith's room near the corral and took a .410 shotgun and a .22 rifle. The Diehl horse was killed with the shotgun and the Olsen horses by the .22.

The defendant told Judge Loble there was no reason for the crime other than he "just gets the urge to kill". November 17, 1957 Matthis was sentenced to 5 years in the state pen for killing a cow – at that time he confessed to killing other cows – and 5 years for entering buildings at the Marietta Mine and attempting to burn them, both sentences to run concurrently.

**1973**

### **"No More Dirty Hands Grade School Finally Gets Water Heater"**

Cecelia Hazelton School classrooms and lavatories will have hot water for the first time since fall, thanks to the District 7 school board members who have just purchased a \$2200 hot water heater for the school. Their original estimate was \$6000. By the addition of the new tank, more space will also be available in the kitchen pantry for storage.

Also out of the \$24,522.48 remaining to close out the school year bills, the elementary school board members, Sherry Scoffield, Jean Welch, Vern Swenson, Jack Sautter and Don Marks doled out over \$8600 to local suppliers, student kitchen help and the school cook.

Broadwater County school nurse, Margaret Clark, will receive a new eye testing machine at a cost of \$300 and most of the remainder will be taken up by the replacement of windows which have been broken throughout the year. One estimate received for the windows was from a Helena firm for \$300 per window frame without glass. The board felt a less expensive window could be found and is still searching for a more reasonable estimate.

Other requests were given an affirmative nod to get bids; sun screens for the south side of the school for classrooms housing grades one, two and three and some wool sacks for the use of the grade school track team.

Other discussion centered around starting a flag football team for the fifth and sixth grades and the reiteration of keeping one night after school free so that various religious organizations might plan after school study classes without delay from school activities.