

“What Happened Today in History”

June 21

1923

“What is Home without a Baby?”

During the past year the home finding societies have placed in good homes over ten thousand children. Is there a family in or near the city of Townsend that would like to adopt one or more babies? If so, the Montana Children’s Home Society has ‘em. Call up A.L. Barton, who is at the Commercial Hotel, or write to the Montana Children’s Home Society, Helena Montana.

1934

“Local News”

The dance held at the Meloy barn on Grayson Creek was a huge success, a large crowd enjoying the coolness of the evening and a dandy time, dancing in the big clean barn to the Merry Makers orchestra.

1945

WWII Headlines

“Overseas Service Men Please Take Notice”

As the first of July, the date set for a change in mailing conditions for all overseas naval, coast guard and marine men, is drawing close. The Star wishes to explain that we will be unable to send “The Star” complimentary to the men in these branches of the service overseas.

We have been twice over repaid for the trouble and expense it has been since we started the gift of a weekly “Star” to those in the service. The fact that we felt we were doing just some little thing to gladden the spirits of those fighting for us and the return letters from so many who received “The Star”, has more than repaid us.

We are sorry we cannot continue to send the paper free gratis to those in the navy, marines or coast guard after July 1st. The only way we can continue to do so is to show a receipted bill that the subscription has been paid to the local postmaster, as will be explained in the following order sent to us by the government postal agencies.

Already we have had several paid requests to continue the weekly mailing to those overseas. Boys in these branches of the service who may still want the paper may have it by making such a request, otherwise, we will have to discontinue the free mailing. This can be handled direct or through parents or friends.

We do not want anyone to think we have started to capitalize or try and sell our subscriptions to servicemen. For the past four and a half years we have sent it as a gift to anyone who submitted the addresses of those in the service. All we can say now is that if they want, they’ll have to pay for it. It wasn’t any rule of our own making. It is a rule laid down by Uncle. Uncle has some funny ideas at times, but most of the time when we can see thru them, they are Okay. So guess we’ll have to take this new rule and abide by it.

Please, fellows, even if you don't get "The Star" write us a letter once in a while. We'll get mighty lonesome if we aren't hearing from you.

I suppose the reason the pay as you go plan has been created is to stop promiscuous sending of second class mail. That takes in "The Star" too, unless, it is required enough to show a paid up subscription. Reasonable enough too, when you stop and think of it.

Now that we have gotten down to the typewriter to tell you about this new ruling we might just as well wrangle away on some other trains of thought too.

The present topic of conversation with servicemen or their relatives is, "Well how many points has John got? – Can he get home for good now?" That's one thing we all have in common now is points. We have red and blue ones and you all have black and white ones. Colors do make a difference sometimes don't they?

Barbara Doggett has had some Discharge Records printed in our shop this week. For -+` all the information you carry on your discharge papers. So far she has had records for honorable discharge from five boys under the point system. Thy are: John Barthule, Geo. Yarrow, Bill Ridgeway, Elmer White and Elmer Gill. All of these fellows are in their civilian clothes again and actually, they look so darned natural that you'd hardly remember they'd ever been away. I imagine that this is the way you all want it, so let's have it that way.

Well, summer has at last given us some warmth. We have turned our furnaces off and the doors and windows are open. Wonderful for a change. Housecleaning and gardening is taking the no. 1 place in home circles. And while we are thinking about housecleaning, we understand Doris Nash thought she'd try her hand at freshening up some of the wood work in her house with a few dashes of paint. You know we've always found it lucky to be warned of such things with a little sign "fresh paint" until it dries. Bet Dr. Frank thought the same thing? He sat on some of it we heard.

The first home realization that civilians' travel is to be almost prohibited came with word from Al Dance stranded in Oklahoma City on a trip to see his daughter, Kate. He's still down there.

Pat Hooks who gets ten days leave between the time he leaves the U. at Boulder City, Colorado until he starts his cadet training at Annapolis, is right now hitchhiking home. Pat's smart enough to know that if he dons a plain gob suit and puts his officer's uniform in his suitcase, he'll make it thru in better time. We expect to see him sooner than if he got plane reservations.

The old home county is just the same. You'll all be back before it changes much. But we do expect a few changes after this war and one of them IS NOT, the big Canyon Ferry dam. No siree. We don't want you sailors to have to see more water when you get home.

Guess I'd better draw this to a close with another warm greeting to all of you from the Land of the Shining Mountains (Montana) and the Rich Heart of the Missouri River Valley (Broadwater County) and the best little town in Montana (Townsend).

1951

"New Elementary School to be Christened 'The Cecilia Hazelton School'"

The new elementary school in Townsend will be known as "The Cecilia Hazelton School" to honor the memory of one who gave her entire life to the educational school system of

Broadwater County. The announcement is made this week which is the first anniversary of the death of Miss Hazelton, who at the time of her sudden death, June 21st, 1950 had finished 35 years as instructor in the elementary schools here and also was just finishing her fourth year as county Superintendent of Schools of Broadwater County.

This action was taken at the meeting of the board of trustees of District No.7 June 12th.

In naming the new building for Miss Hazelton the board reviewed her career and felt that to no other person went the reputation of quite as long a period spent in promoting the development of the county's education both as an instructor and superintendent. Born in Townsend, Miss Hazelton spent her entire life here, attending all of the local schools and later obtained her teaching credentials from training colleges. In 1911 she started her career as instructor in the Townsend elementary school and closed it thirty-five years later, a record seldom equaled by anyone. After she retired as teacher she was elected superintendent of the county school system and was just finishing her term when death claimed her suddenly, June 21st, 1950.

A resolution on Miss Hazelton's faithfulness was spread on the minutes of the school board and it was decided by motion to call the new school "The Cecilia Hazelton School" and that a proper brass plate be ordered and attached to the building near the front entrance, according to J. Garrison Rains, clerk of the District No.7.

1962

"Flag Day Parade Held Saturday"

The Flag Day parade, sponsored by the LDS Primary, was rained out Thursday so it was held Saturday. The parade, led by a group of Cub Scouts, attracted about 74 entries and was an outstanding event with its varied floats, clowns, animals, etc.

After marching down Broadway and then back to Memorial Park, awards were presented to the winners. Nearly every boy and girl in the parade received a prize of some kind. Judges were Frank Holloway, Mrs. D.W. Neifert and Mrs. John Schreiner.

The LDS Primary wishes to extend thanks to everyone who helped to make this second annual Flag Day parade a success, especially merchants who contributed prizes, the judges, the Sheriff's office for controlling traffic and Clarence Fisher for the use of his loud speaker and the music for the parade.

"Rescues Cat"

A New York car stopped at Neifert-White Ford Sales this week with a rather unusual problem – they had a Siamese cat trapped up under the dash of the car and needed assistance in removing it. Art Fortin, head mechanic, rescued the feline by removing the jockey box and with him pushing and Gene Sautter pulling the cat by its tail soon extricated it from its self-made prison.

The New Yorkers were en route to the Fair.

1973

"St. Joseph's, Canton, to be 100 Years Old; Refurbishing Starts"

Hopes of a possible state historical landmark designation for the old St. Joseph's Church in the Canton Valley have spurred several interested parties in Broadwater County to start a refurbishing campaign.

Bill and James Kearns and John Ryan are heading a committee to get the second oldest church in Montana scraped and painted.

Twenty gallons of Columbia Paint has been donated, but the committee needs donations of hours and labor. Scrapers to prepare the building and painters to paint are needed this weekend.

The work party will start Thursday, June 21 at 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. Friday will be the same hours and Saturday the volunteers will work from 9:00 a.m., until 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are to meet at the Canton Church.

St. Joseph's Church was built during 1875 and 1876 by the persons buried in the cemetery above the church. Materials were carried from Helena, a two day trip, to the Canton Valley. The church was finished in 1876 and dedicated in October. When opened, it was the second Catholic Church in the Montana Territory and the first in the Missouri River Valley.

It was not until July of 1900 that the mission became a parish with Fr. Francis O'Farrell as its first pastor with residence in Townsend. During his first six years as pastor, he added the tower to the Canton Church.

When Canyon Ferry Dam was built in 1951-1954, the residents of the Canton Valley were forced to leave their homes. Old St. Joseph's was moved to higher ground in 1954 by the Bureau of Reclamation to the hill just below St. Joseph's Cemetery. The old church is now a silent reminder of the character of the pioneers who built it.

Members of the committee would like to have the church refurbished before it celebrates its 100th birthday. Hopes exist that it might be designated an historical landmark, particularly if there is no immediate cost to the state for its maintenance. Donations are also being accepted for the continuing maintenance of the church and for any additional paint that may be needed.