

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

**June 7**

**1923**

### **“U.S. Mail Stolen From Toston Station”**

The parties who broke into the Northern Pacific depot at Toston between 1:00 a.m. and opening time Wednesday morning have not as yet been found. The intruders took three sacks of U.S. mail, two of them being first class mail. After unlocking the depot and then opening the locked express office where the mail had been put after the evening trains were in.

As No. 4 was quite late, the operator had locked the depot and gone home at about 1:30, the theft occurring after that hour by presumably someone who knew the whereabouts of the mail, etc. The Toston Bank intended to send a large amount of money in the mail, but had delayed.

Post Office inspectors are expected in Toston today, who with other authorities, will make an attempt to regain the stolen goods.

**1934**

### **“Methodist Church Built in 1884, Celebrates Birthday”**

The Methodist Church, the first church in Townsend, has seen fifty years of service. Erected in 1884, it has served the community over the intervening years as a devotional shrine, and was one of Townsend’s first school houses. Has had twenty-nine ministers in its charge since its inception and on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary was visited by one of the oldest pioneer ministers of the State, Rev. J. A. Martin of Great Falls.

The observance of the fifty years the Townsend Methodist Church has been of service in this community was celebrated last Sunday when Rev. T.T. Fike, local pastor of the church today, had arranged for a special service Sunday morning, a get-together lunch and meeting when many pioneers of Townsend were invited to come and participate in the occasion and relate to the assemblage early history of Townsend and the church.

The Methodist church as it now stands, with the exception of the social room on the north, was erected in the spring and summer of 1884 by Burns and Robinson, early day Townsend contractors and builders, who were assisted by many who volunteered their help to see the first Townsend Community building erected for devotional purposes. A traveling minister, M.L. Hall, of the Methodist Church promoted the building. He was in reality a resident of White Sulphur Springs and was interested in horse trading which brought him to Townsend. He commenced the church and received generous response from early day citizens of Townsend and the valley. He was assisted in the solicitation by Mrs. W.S. Thompson, then Etta Sharp.

It will be recalled that the Northern Pacific Railway completed its line through Townsend in 1883, the Golden Spike being driven in September. During that time citizens of old Centerville, a small town located on land now known as the Jordan Dairy, moved to make their home in Townsend when the railroad created a station, and others moved to the newly created town to build residences and start businesses. It was a thriving little village in those days when enthusiasm over the railroad’s coming created much building impetus. The town

had a hotel, several rooming houses, several stores going up and residences, some of the finest in the town today being built then, a church was needed. The first church was built three years before the first school.

Rev. Hector E. Clews, a young Episcopal minister taught a term of school in the newly constructed church in the year 1884–1885. Attorney E.H. Goodman taught a term in the same church in 1885-1886 and was the first school teacher to reside in Townsend's first school house built in 1886.

The early Methodist Church was the scene of many a rousing meeting including revival meetings, Christmas programs, children's day gatherings and many other occasions of the church. The church served the community well for fifty years to the credit of those men and women who generously subscribed to found it. May the next fifty be as prosperous.

**1945**

### **WWII Headlines**

**"Wallace Schreiner Shocked at Horrors of Buchenwald Concentration Camp in Germany"**

**"Don Smith Writes from Battered Okinawa Now in American Hands"**

**"Rob the Nest and Cut off the Head Contest Coming Along Fine"**

The "Rob the Nest and Cut Off the Head" contest of the Toston Rod and Gun Club is progressing fine, reported Mrs. Helen Johnson, secretary of the club, and Bob Hossfeld, Treasurer, today when in town getting ready for another membership drive.

They reported that even though rains and stormy weather had slowed up the take, 4000 eggs and heads of birds had been turned in to headquarters by the young contestants who are longingly watching the coveted prizes, on display in the Coffee Shop window, as the contest draws to a close.

So important do the county commissioners feel about the work of the pest control program that they have offered to help the Toston Club provide funds to help finish up the contest. The price paid per egg being 1¢ and the price per head 4¢ for crows, magpies, hawks, etc.

**"Rural Electrification about Complete"**

The Rural Electrification of Broadwater County is just about to be fully realized. The last farm has been connected in Canton Valley, which brings electricity through the Crow Creek, Toston, Townsend and Canton districts and provides many farms with electric current to be used in many modern conveniences.

**"Training Mexican Sugar Beet Thinners"**

To improve the efficiency of Mexican sugar beet thinners, efforts are being made to provide more than the usual amount of training at the time that the men start their thinning operations. This program will largely be carried out by George Snell, Field Man for the Crystal Sugar Company, and a representative of the War Food Administration.

These plans were drawn up at a meeting held some time ago in which representatives of the War Food Administration, the Sugar Company and the Extension Service took part. Based on past experience, it is believed that this type of worker training will prove of value. It is

believed it will speed up the thinning work and increase the quality of the work done which means an increase in tonnage and in dollars and cents in the grower's pocket.

Such training should also make Mexican Nationals happier because it means more money in their pockets for the time they devote to the thinning job since they work under contract.

**1951**

### **"Goats for the Gates"**

Two mountain goats were released in the Gates of the Mountains Canyon Friday by the Montana Fish and Game Department. They are the first ones to be put in that area this year.

James McLucas, Helena, trapped the goats in the Deep Creek area near Choteau this week and took them to the Gates by boat. He plans to transplant additional ones later into that territory which the game department considers good habitat for the mountain animals and where they may be seen by tourists.

### **"Mrs. Mike Massa Named President of the Episcopal Guild"**

At the regular meeting of St. John's Episcopal Guild held Monday afternoon, Mrs. Mike Massa was elected president for next year. Other officers elected were: Mrs. Chas. Watkins, vice-president; Mrs. H.J. Doggett, secretary; Mrs. Shirley Van Voast, assistant secretary and Mrs. Chas. Mongrain, treasurer.

Mrs. Wm. Davidson gave the report of the Diocesan Convention held in Billings the fore part of May and the Summer Camp for young people was discussed. Two young women from the church will be sent to the camp at Elliston between July 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

The out-door service to be held on Deep Creek Sunday was also discussed and arrangements made to play hostess to the other two missions of the field.

**1962**

### **"Kimpton Brothers Complete New Irrigation Well"**

William and Albert Kimpton have a new irrigation well on their ranch in the Crow Creek Valley. The well, 225 feet deep and 16 inches in diameter, was drilled by the VanDyken Drilling Company of Bozeman. The pump is powered by a 60 hp electric motor. The pump extends 185 feet into the well and has a capacity of 160 inches of water per hour. The well is located on the ranch recently purchased from Mrs. Della Williams.

Being a more or less experimental project, the Kimpton Brothers did considerable testing before the decision was made to drill. This is the first electric powered well in the county, and the Montana Power Company and their local manager, Fred Black, were most cooperative in putting the line to the site, helping set up the machinery and making connections.

It was first turned on Tuesday of last week and is now pumping about 1000 gallons per hour. Having this flow of water at their command by the flip of a switch will make a good supplemental supply of irrigation water for the Kimptons. Total investment in the project is approximately \$13,000, and the Kimptons hasten to say that it is private capital invested – it is not a gimme from the government.

Another well in the valley was put down in 1956 by Tom Hensley which has a capacity of 1100 to 1200 gallons per hour. It is powered by a diesel engine, but Hensley is planning to convert to electricity in the near future.

### **1973**

#### **“Local Legion Post Still Active in White Cross Road Marker Project”**

A traffic safety program, born during the Labor Day weekend of 1952, is dying in Montana, but not in Broadwater County. This is the American Legion white cross project, with only two posts in the state still actively carrying out the theme.

Broadwater Post No. 52 is one of these posts, with Bob Myles its project chairman.

Chester K. Shore, acting state adjunct of the Legion, states that many Montanans decorate the roadside crosses on Memorial Day which mark the site where relatives or loved ones died.

The project lost momentum in 1960 when the Federal Highway Administration refused to allow the installation of the memorials along interstate roadways.

There are no interstate highways in Broadwater County, therefore the practice of placing the markers is legal and the project is an active one for the local post, according to Myles.

#### **“Lack of Interest Drives Street Paving into Limbo”**

Members of Townsend’s City Council briefly discussed the possibilities of paving the streets on the city’s North side at their regular monthly meeting held Tuesday night, however, no action was taken on the project.

Mayor Ray Nydegger stated that the project “is in limbo” and pointed out that residents in the North section of town “apparently have little interest in the matter”. The council has received no comments on the matter recently, pro or con.

Paving of the streets on the South side of town has been completed for two years. Immediately following that project, considerable interest was demonstrated to pave the North side. However, the City experienced several problems generated by the piece-meal construction while doing the South side. If and when the North side is done, Nydegger said the City would like to avoid some of these same problems.

The City does not have the equipment or the manpower to do the North side project at this time. When the South side was paved by the City, it had to do one street at a time. Some streets turned out well. Others now show signs of deterioration.

Another problem, Nydegger said, concerns the financing of the South side project. Nydegger estimated that 10 percent of the residents living on paved streets on the South side still have not paid their assessment, although it was only \$2 per running foot at that time.

The Council had hoped earlier that a Special Improvement District (SID) could be set up for the paving on the North side. To date, however, no action has been taken to form one. Should this route be taken for the project, a contractor would be hired to do the job. The Council feels a contractor would do a much better job than the city could do with its limited equipment and manpower.

Costs have also gone up, the mayor reported. Work is now estimated at about \$6 per running foot. If the work would be done under an SID, no collection problems would exist as residents within the SID would be assessed their share through taxation.