

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

**September 13**

**1923**

### **“Iron Mask to Put on Big Crew Soon”**

With a four foot vein opened for a distance of 100 feet and an eight inch streak averaging 51 percent in lead, 27 percent in zinc and carrying 17 ounces of silver, James McNeil, one of the leasers of the Iron Mask Mine near Hassel, is in Butte making arrangements for the treatment of ore.

The Iron Mask property is owned by Dr. M.J. Scott of Butte, associated with Mr. McNeil in the lease are three Butte men named McNulty, DeRush and Rodgers. Within the last two weeks an air compressor and other machinery have been installed. When arrangements for treatment of the ore have been completed, a large force of men will be employed.

**1934**

### **“Local News”**

Miss Alta Olsen returned to Helena last Saturday to resume her position after having spent a vacation with her mother, Mrs. Alta Olsen, and brothers and sisters here.

Con Sweeney of Winston was a caller in Townsend Saturday transacting business. He was accompanied by John Thomas who visited former friends.

**1945**

### **WWII Headlines**

**“David Chamberlain with 305<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group in Belgium”**

**“Bill Wall is Going Overseas”**

**“Three Townsend Men Saved from Jap Prison Camp”**

Overjoyed the people of the community have received word this week of three of the five Townsend men taken prisoners when tiny Wake Island was overrun by the Japanese in the dark days following Pearl Harbor. They had been liberated from prison camps and were reported in good health, despite more than three years privation. They were John Polak, nephew of the late Mrs. Frank Smazal, Mr. Smazal having been informed of his safety through relatives in Nebraska Monday. The Saturday before, Mr. and Mrs. R.M. O’Hearn, now of Billings, informed friends here that they had heard from their son, Richard E. O’Hearn. And Tuesday evening a telegram came to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Mongrain that their son, Stanley, had been accounted for.

Word is expected hourly from Chas. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Royal Smith and George Kapinos, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kapinos, who were taken at the same time. Lee Dickey, a former Townsend youth, but now of Helena is also as yet unaccounted for.

News of the three men’s safety and liberation was received from the office of the provost general of the army. Parents or next of kin were allowed to send a short message to the men.

All were imprisoned at Shanghai at first. About a year ago, the Mongrains had word that their son had been taken to Osaka on the mainland, where he was liberated recently. Those remaining at Shanghai had been moved to the Fang Tai Camp at Pekin, China in May of

this year, according to information provided by the Pacific Employees Foundation of Boise, Idaho, which firm the men had been in the employ when captured.

This moving about probably accounts for the delay in not hearing from the other two men, it is thought.

**1951**

**“Local News”**

Friends held a charvari for Mr. and Mrs. Art Ellis in the Duck Creek school house Saturday, September 8. Mrs. Ellis is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Campbell of Duck Creek.

**“Winston News”**

Mr. and Mrs. Jim McMaster, their daughter, Dolly and grandson, Jimmy, celebrated Labor Day visiting Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ostle of Bynum. They were very much impressed with the Ostle’s new ranch.

Last week a caller of Mr. Bert Lanning was Mr. Hagler of the Hagler Mortuary, Inc. It was a social call, Mr. Lanning is in perfect health.

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Moe and son had as their Sunday evening dinner guests, Miss Barbara Spencer, teacher at the Winston School, Mr. Harold Carson of the Mike Horse and little Miss Petty Lewler, daughter of Mrs. Alex Doig.

**1962**

**“New Manager for Co-op Supply”**

Lloyd Girdler, formerly of Livingston, is the new manager for Townsend Co-op Supply.

Girdler replaces Gordon Hagen, who was in the position only a short time. Hagen returned to his home in Britton, South Dakota.

Girdler is a native of Livingston, and was in the trucking business there and in Billings prior to moving to Townsend.

He is a brother of Jim Girdler, highway patrolman stationed in Townsend.

**“Contract Let for Phone Building in Townsend”**

Al Johnson, Contractor, Helena, has been awarded a contract for construction of new telephone buildings to house dial equipment and a garage and storeroom at Townsend, according to J.W. McDonald, Helena district manager for Mountain States Telephone. It is expected that Johnson will start construction immediately.

Their bid of \$17,800 was the lowest of five bids opened last Friday in the Helena office of the telephone company.

The 25’ x 30’ dial building is to be built of concrete block with a prestressed concrete beam roof. The garage and storeroom will be of the metal type.

Construction of the buildings is the initial phase of a \$180,000 project to install a community dial system at Townsend and the Cottonwood rural area.

**“Toston News”**

School got under way Tuesday for the 46 pupils and three teachers.

Mrs. Cain, who teaches the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, has four new pupils, Judy and Sally Berry and Sharon and Richard Wagner.

Mr. Crance, one of our new teachers, has the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Daisy Berry and Darrell Wagner are new students in his classes.

Mrs. Barbara Foster teaches the first and second grades. Tim Wagner, Becky Garrett, Rose Mary Spatzierath, Rollo Ward and Victor Spatzierath are first graders.

**1973**

**“Clerk, Janitor, Bookkeeper; Liquor Lady Does it All”**

Whiskey seems to be the most popular alcoholic drink in Townsend according to liquor store vendor, Gladys Johnson. Her largest volume of sales is whiskey, followed by vodka and wine. And local people seem to be drinking more, if the fact that Townsend used to be a Class D store and is now a Class C is any indication. The “Class” of a store is determined by volume of sales.

Gladys, who is in her fifth year of vendor for the local store, attributes the rising popularity of wine to the fact that younger people can now drink legally and seem to prefer the less potent beverage.

In addition to the job description of “Vendor” which is how she is listed under the State of Montana, Mrs. Johnson can lay claim to the titles of clerk, janitor and bookkeeper, since her job involves ordering the merchandise, usually done twice a month, preparing the daily report of sales, inventorying once a month with an actual bottle count and sweeping out, washing windows and what have you.

She orders from the state liquor warehouse in Helena, choosing what seems to be going best. Several years ago the state tried sending what they felt stores should stock, but this did not prove too successful. Her largest sales are registered around Christmas when a day’s receipts may be \$2,000, but the rodeo, too, is a thirsty business with \$1800 for a day’s work.

Mrs. Johnson is the first woman to hold the position for this length of time since the Townsend store opened. A Broadwater County native, she finds her five day a week job, her family, which includes eight grandchildren, enough to keep her busy.