

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

**September 27**

**1923**

### **“Federal Dry Squad Make Arrests”**

The Federal Dry Squad from Helena made several arrests here on Monday, charging the various men with alleged selling of liquor unlawfully. Raids were made on the pool halls of Walter Chestnut and D.F. Shull in Toston and Clarence Lockwood’s place in Townsend. Geo. Ballentine of Winston was arrested on the same charge.

The parties charged with the violation of the liquor laws and arrested by Federal Prohibition officers were brought before Fred Busber, U.S. Commissioner, on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Bonds amounting to \$200 were furnished and the defendants released to appear in the Federal Court.

**1934**

### **“Mining Activities Hold Interest as Rich Strikes Loom”**

With sufficient proven ore to run a mill for at least six years, The Vosburg Mining Company and Associated Mines Company operating jointly near Winston on rich holdings will have one of the most modern mills available in operation soon. The mill is expected to be completed within 60 days.

Early in the summer a strike of a rich vein of ore was discovered at the Vosburg, running better than four feet, assaying about \$100.00 creating a new record in mining in that vicinity. The Stray Hors, Iron Age and Champion, well known claims in the same district, are also being developed by these companies.

Since the strike, exhaustive research work has been completed and tests made sufficient to warrant the complete development of the properties, according to information given “The Star” this week.

M.J. Elder, formerly president of the Day-Elder Truck Co., and associates completed an important mining transaction recently, acquiring the Silver King properties situated between Winston and the Park mining district. Extensive operations are planned. The mining property was discovered by the late Cannon Bros. and lies adjacent to the Stray Horse Mine, operated successfully by Cannon Bros.

The executive vice-president of Hudson Motors and the vice-president of the Fisher Body Co. were here recently inspecting mining property near Hassel and are especially interested in the development of the Diamond Hill and other claims. Work on these holdings is going forward by a crew of men, but the installation of the pilot mill will probably be delayed until springs when available water at that time will make the milling successful.

**1945**

### **WWII Headlines**

**“Now it Can be Told Wrote Jack Ballard from Okinawa”**

**“Aboard the USS San Diego, Tokyo Bay”**

### **“Last of Wake Island Prisoners from Townsend Found”**

It was a day of rejoicing when on Friday it was learned that all of the five local men taken prisoners off Wake Island by the Japanese had been found and were liberated from Jap prison camps. Hearing from George Kapinos, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kapinos of Townsend; Chas. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Royal Smith of Canton valley and Lee Dickey, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Dickey of Helena completed the list. The others formerly accounted for were Stanley Mongrain, son of Mr. and Mrs. Char. Mongrain; John Polak, nephew of Frank Smazal of Townsend and Richard O’Hearn, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.M. O’Hearn of Billings.

All had been taken prisoners when they were engaged on construction work at Wake in December 1941.

Just when the men will get back to the states is not known. Word of their liberation came at the end of the most anxious weeks during their almost four years of confinement. The story of their life during that time will soon be heard from their own lips. No longer will relatives have to conjecture about short notes at 12 month intervals and then not sure they were genuine.

Up to now parents have had only brief messages from the war department. Yesterday, however, Mr. and Mrs. Kapinos received a cable from their son direct. It read, “Feeling fine – will be home soon – having excellent care – love to all – George.

### **“Many More Broadwater Service men File Certificates for Discharge with County Clerk and Recorder”**

Seventeen ex-servicemen, fifteen of them army men and two with navy service, have filed certificates of honorable discharge with the Clerk and Recorder, during the months of August and September.

PFC Gerhart Hoppe, 34, served from December 1942, awarded a Good Conduct Medal and Asiatic Pacific Service medal. Served for two years and seven days, part of which was in the Aleutians. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hoppe.

Tec-5 William D. Valentine, 43, entered service in June 1942. He served in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe theaters for two years, 11 months and 2 days. Discharged July 31, 1945.

Sgt. George Rollings, 30, son of Mrs. Hattie Rollings of Townsend, entered service on March 19, 1942. Rollings left the states on July 11, 1943 and served in the Aleutian Islands, Central Pacific, Ryukyus, Southern Philippines and Luzon. Awards: Philippine Liberation medal, with two Bronze Service strips, Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, Purple Heart Medal. He was attached to the 185<sup>th</sup> Inf. Discharged July 28, 1945.

Sgt. James S. Dundas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dundas of Radersburg, served in Asiatic-Pacific Theater for about three years. Dundas was qualified as Foreman Auto Repair Shop and was awarded Pacific Service medal. Discharged on Aug. 11, 1945.

PFC Edward L. Burns, 30, served with the 185<sup>th</sup> Inf. From March 1942 until August 1945, most of which time was in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. Certificate of Disability for Discharge was issued at Ft. Lewis, Wn.

Sgt. Henry J. Filson, 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. D.B. Filson of Winston, attached to the 450<sup>th</sup> AAF Base unit served from June 10, 1941 until September 1, 1945 in Air Offensive Europe,

Normandy, Southern France. Awarded: American Defense, Good Conduct, European African, Middle Eastern, Distinguished Unit Citation medals.

Pfc Arthur J. Walter, 40, was with the 4<sup>th</sup> tank battalion, serving in Tunisian, Naples Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, P. Valley battles from June 18, 1942 until August 15, 1945. Awarded Distinguished Unit citation and Good Conduct medal. Walter is the son of the late John H. and Mrs. Walter.

Sgt. Vernon J. Johnson, 23, served with Hq. Base Squad, 515<sup>th</sup> Air Group as Truck Driver. He served in the African European theaters from April 1942 until May 1942 and was awarded three Bronze Battle Stars for participation in Tunisian, Naples-Foggis and Rome Arno Campaigns.

T. Sgt. Kenneth K. Kapinos, 25, attached to 4135<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force base unit with the Administrative Special 1<sup>st</sup>, serving in Sicilian, Naples, Foggis, Rome Arno. Awarded American Defense Service, Good Conduct, European, African, Middle Eastern Service medals, having been overseas more than two years. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kapinos of Townsend.

Sgt. Warren G. Myles, 30, son of Mrs. A.N. Diehl of Winston, Airplane Mechanic attached to 335<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, served from May 1942 until September 15, 1945 in Air Offensive Europe, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe. Awarded 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct, European-African-Middle Eastern Services and Unit Citation.

Sgt. Andy C. Johnson, 26, with the 268<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force Base Unit, as Lineman Telegrapher & Telephone was given Distinguished Unit Citation, Good Conduct, Asiatic-Pacific, American defense Service medals. Served from September 1940 until September 1945.

S-Sgt. Ralph R. Simons, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Simons of Townsend, served with 374<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron as Radio Operator Mechanic in Paupau and New Guinea from September 1942 until February 1945. Was awarded Good Conduct, Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters and Distinguished Flying medals.

Pvt. Okla Biggs, 38, attached to the Infantry Training Bn. Took training at Camp Walters, Texas and was discharged under age ruling on November 19<sup>th</sup> 1945.

Cpl. Willis A. Smith, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Smith of Townsend, attached to 555<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Sq. as Classification Specialist, from February 1943 until September 24, 1945 In Normandy, Northern France, Air Offensive Europe, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe. Medals for Distinguished Unit Citation, European African, Middle Eastern services.

M Sgt. Robert G. Kieckbusch, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kieckbusch of Townsend, attached to 446<sup>th</sup> Bom Sqn. as Airplane Maintenance Tech served in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe. Was awarded medals for Good Conduct, European African, Middle Eastern, American Defense Service. Bronze Star. Served from November 1940 until September 1945.

Russel Glison, Chief Motor Mechanist's Mate was discharged on September 8, 1945 having served in the navy from August 1942 in San Diego, San Francisco, Bremerton and Farragut. Mr. Glisan is a son in law of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weiferich of Canton.

Frank Calvin Neil a Coxswain was honorable discharged from the Navy on September 18, 1945 after completing three years of service in Seattle, San Diego, Bremerton, Klamath Falls and other places. He is the son in law of Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Berndt of Townsend.

Discharge Certificates are filed without fees at the office of the County Clerk, Mrs. Barbara Doggett said.

### **1951**

#### **“Al Olsen Buys Grocery Spread at Harrison”**

Albert E. Olsen, who has been employed in Don’s Super Mart in Townsend and who is a native of Townsend, has purchased his own grocery spread in Harrison, and intends to move there with his family the end of the month. He bought the Save-More Grocery from Darrell Miller.

Mr. Olsen, a public minded young man, is secretary of the Broadwater Chamber of Commerce, officer in the young Democrats Club, and chairman, at present, of the Broadwater County Crusade for Freedom. He will be greatly missed, but with him goes the wishes of his many friends for success in his new undertaking.

### **1962**

#### **“Open House for Nite Own Bar at Radersbur”**

Mr. and Mrs. Art Roberts are holding a grand opening of the Nite Owl Bar at Radersburg next Saturday, September 29.

Art and Ann recently purchased the bar from Bob Seaman, but the bar was closed a short time until the license could be transferred. See their announcement on another page of the “Star” this week.

### **1973**

#### **“They Call Him ‘Chuck’ in Townsend”**

On the New York Stock Exchange, the Montana Power Company is listed as a multimillion dollar corporation, a ‘strong growth stock’, and a stable investment. In Townsend, Montana, this same concern is one smiling, friendly man with a ready helping hand to offer to his neighbors. Charles Holling, variously known as ‘Charlie’ and ‘Chuck’ is described by the Montana Power Company as a small town representative; a title which could be read as lineman, blacksmith, meter reader, cook (yes cook), post hole digger, carpenter and architect’s assistant, fuse replacer and bomb defuser...etc.

All of this and more are a day’s work for this 43 year old native of Broadwater County. Born in Radersburg, Chuck was a member of the BCHS class of 1949. Officially, he has 23 years with the company, but he drew his first paycheck at the age of nine when the late A.V. ‘Shorty’ Safley had him sitting in the power company office to monitor phone calls and to help as a water boy.

A day’s work can be ANY day. There have been only two Christmas and Thanksgiving days that Chuck hasn’t been called out to repair a range or hot water heater. He is on call day and night, weekends and holidays. Some of the job descriptions which may be puzzling to the average person include blacksmith, he sharpens his own tools; cook, part of the company’s range service is to show the housewife how to use her range to best advantage by the proper use of utensels and recipe heat; house planning with the homemaker or builder to plan the

proper wiring, and also with the farmer when he installs a sprinkler system; and 'bomb defuser' for a hot wire is potentially as dangerous as a bomb and must be handled with almost equal care.

The recipient of the Montana Power Company's Citizen of the Year Award several years ago, he has an impressive record of service to the community. A past president of the Townsend Rotary Club, he is presently in his 11<sup>th</sup> year as secretary; a 19 year member of the Townsend Volunteer Fire Department, he has been chief since 1965; he is secretary of the City County Planning Board, on the Mosquito Control Board, a Hunter Safety Instructor, and a member of the Broadwater Sheriff's Posse and Broadwater Post 42, The American Legion, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union.

Past activities include being a charter member of the local DeMolay, a founder of Little League here and a Red Cross first aid instructor.

He is married to the former Eleanor Townsley and they have three sons, Spencer, about to follow his dad's footsteps into the Air Force, Sidney and Tim, both high school students.