

## **“What Happened this Week in History”**

**February 14**

**1929**

### **“Keep the Water Running to Avoid Freezing”**

In order to keep water on in the city system, a constant stream is necessary to flow from the pipes, says Commissioner F.L. Hollaway, who has discovered that frost has penetrated far below the depth of city mains in different parts of the town where he has been making tests.

In cases where the electric thawer has been resorted to, water can be kept on by allowing a steady stream to flow through the system. Cases where the frost has not yet shut the water off, it is advisable to keep a faucet open continuously. About 20 taps are now reported off. Many are using this precaution by keeping a flow through the hose on the exterior of the house where there is ample room to take care of the flow of water.

**1935**

### **“Canton Post Office to be Discontinued”**

Following in the program of the elimination of the smaller post offices by the Federal Postal Department, the Post Office at Canton will have to be discontinued, according to W.J. Gaab, present postmaster, who says that the date of expiration of this place of mailing and receiving U.S. mail under the postal laws, will be closed on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of this month. After that date everyone will be obliged to have rural mail boxes. We understand Watson and other small post offices all over the state are included in the list.

The Canton post office created in the 1870s is older than the Townsend office.

**1946**

### **“Townsend Hotel is Sold to Operators from Twin Bridges”**

A deal that involved almost surprise calculations was made on Tuesday of this week when Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer sold the Townsend Hotel and bars to Mr. and Mrs. T.R. Goddard, former hotel and bar operators of Twin Bridges. The consideration was not made public, but as Henry put it, “Goddard nagged me for a price and finally I gave him one I thought would send him out the door – but instead he sent me out the door”. However, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer and two sons will make the hotel their home until they can get their ranch house in shape for occupancy.

The selling of this, Townsend’s first hotel built with the incoming of the Northern Pacific railway in September 1883, brings to mind colorful history all down through the more than 60 years and now at the end of another great war and return to free spending and good times, the business prospects are at its peak, probably the reason for the quick sale and flattering price, which involved well up to the \$20,000 mark, is the street chatter.

Meyer bought the hotel and bar from Guy Ewing in 1941. Since then he started improvement on a large ranch under the new canal just east of town and later purchase a large residence building which he had moved there, but which has not yet been made livable.

“Tell about the history”, you say. Well, Townsend was a boom town for the first few years after the railroad was built and transportation started connecting the west and the east.

The owners of the Townsend Mercantile spread, the late D.D. McCarthy, J.R. Marks and W.E. Tierney, which took in the large store and hotel, was built simultaneously in 1883 and 1884 by early day contractors and carpenters including the late E.C. Burns, George Robinson, Thos. Howell and T.N. Averill. It is interesting to have recalled that Ed Ragen was one of the teamsters to convey the native lumber from mills on Duck Creek and North Fork of Deep Creek for the buildings and the late Chuck Fuller was one too. The stock was moved from Canton a much earlier settlement, by the owners.

For many years, the hotel was known as the Townsend House, and with its original colonial architectural design with the long windows, usable shutters and balcony on street sides, was the leading hotel of the town. There, it was that the crowds collected to witness the Fourth of July horse races, men's races and games in the street below with the band playing on the thoroughfare. It was a meeting place for good fellows where the bar patronage was encouraged and courtesies exchanged through the medium of "treating". It was a headquarters for the traveling public, drummers, road show companies and the dining service has long been referred to with comparative competitive conversation – when the late Leslie Wilcox, the chef, put out the finest "two-bit" meals to regulars and "four-bit" meals to transients between the Twin Cities and the West Coast. And so the hotel flourished and changed with the changing times.

It remained in the original owners' estates until 1913 when it was sold to the late D.D. McCarthy, who remodeled to eliminate the colonial windows and balconies. G.L. Ewing purchased the hostelry from McCarthy's widow in 1933. The new owner says he intends to make a few improvements as soon as materials are available, but for the present will operate much as Mr. Meyer had before him. Meyer had recently opened the old dining room for a cocktail lounge and set up the second bar.

Like all hotels, at present, it is full to overflowing every night.

## **1957**

### **"Charity Ball Proceeds to Reach \$500 Mark"**

Proceeds from the annual Charity Ball are approximately \$500, Mrs. L. Dan Sullivan, General Chairman says she believes. All of the tickets put out for advance sale have not been turned in, but with all expenses paid, Mrs. Sullivan feels there will be a generous net.

Mrs. Sullivan was the 20<sup>th</sup> general chairman. On request, files of the "Star" have been used to make a list of the past general chairmen who were: 1938, Mrs. John Mannix; 1939, Mrs. Howard Doggett; 1940, Mrs. D.J. McKillican; 1941, Mrs. W.J. Gaab; 1942, Mrs. Shirley Van Voast; 1943, Mrs. F.L. Hollaway; 1944, Mrs. Cassius Merritt; 1945, Mrs. Geo. Gabisch, Sr.; 1946, Mrs. James Hardgrove; 1947, Mrs. Paul Green; 1948, Mrs. Claude Cartwright; 1949, Mrs. H.G. White; 1950, Mrs. Evan Kimpton; 1951, Mrs. Jessie Riley; 1952, Mrs. Glenn Perry; 1953, Mrs. Earl Webb; 1954, Mrs. Ed Neild; 1955, Mrs. Frank Shearer; 1956 Mrs. Cliff Wallace; 1957, Mrs. Dan Sullivan.

**1963**

**“Canyon Ferry Ice is Dangerous”**

Fishermen are advised that ice on Canyon Ferry may soon become dangerous according to officials regulating water flows on the reservoirs. A large amount of water will be released from the reservoir and ice is apt to buckle and develop weak spots and pressure ridges.

Fish and Game officials pointed out that the ice, which only reached a depth of about eight inches, has been weakened by warm weather. Accompanied by a drawdown, fishing on the lake could become extremely hazardous and fisherman should use every precaution to prevent a tragedy.

**“Crew Starts Work on Dial System for Townsend”**

A crew of ten men under the supervision of F.F. Farnam and C.A. Benjamin will arrive in Townsend next week to begin installation of dial switching equipment in the new telephone building, J.W. McDonald, district manager for Mountain States Telephone, announced.

Two of the crew, Irving Swanson and Phil Edwards are already here and started working Monday. They moved here from Three Forks where a dial system was completed two weeks ago.

This is but one step in the many jobs that are involved in bringing dial service and direct distance dialing here, McDonald said. In addition to this equipment installation, all telephones in Townsend must be equipped for dial operation as well as completing rearrangements and changes in the outside wires and cable facilities.

The entire job is scheduled to be completed this summer and will cost \$180,000, McDonald concluded.

**1974**

**“Toston Schools Open Classrooms”**

**by Jeanne Mitchell**

Every morning from Monday thru Friday at 8:30, an old fashioned bell summons the students of Toston to the red and white two-room school.

Not long ago a travelogue on T.V. boasted that the new concept in education is open-classrooms combining groups of grades.

The Toston Public School is the original from the very beginning when reading, riting and rithemtic were taught in a log cabin. In approximately 1898 a deed was purchased for the land that would hold on it a school that would educate generations. In the 1930s the Toston High School consolidated with the Townsend High school, but grades one thru eight still continue today in the two-room school.

The subjects and classes taught by Toston’s teachers, Mrs. Rene Dagnall and Mrs. Laurie Nugent are the same as any other school the exception being grades one thru three are in one room and grades four thru eight are in another room. They have extra planning and lesson preparations for their many grades to teach, but both teachers feel their students get more individual help with no one overlooked and a complete involvement for all.

Their reading classes are at ability levels and each student looks forward to the reading out loud of an interesting book everyday by their teacher. A bookworm display is on the bulletin board and shows at a glance what the students read and give their reports on, and as

a result, books are a large part of their education. Time is allowed in the classroom for daily lessons and homework isn't required. Two days a week are set aside for their physical education program which includes exercises to music, all sports and sleigh-riding. A field day every year has the students competing for ribbons in track.

The upstairs of the school is used as an auditorium and recreation room where the students organize their own games with everybody participating.

Holidays and events of interest are always observed in the two-room school and they carve their own jack-o-lanterns for Halloween; a Thanksgiving feast was enjoyed when they made and baked their own cornbread served with cranberries; a festive Christmas is always on the agenda for the Toston School with a play and program presented for parents and friends. Every student makes their parents Christmas presents. A Valentine's party is looked forward to in February and many projects revolve around Lincoln and Washington. An Easter Egg hunt is an annual event and a Mother's Day celebration wouldn't be complete without the special presents that the students make at school for their mothers.

At the end of every school year, the teachers and students choose a trip on the last day of school and this year they are fund raising for an airplane trip from Helena to Butte. A bake sale, rummage sale, stationary and broom sales and their current project of magazine subscriptions are part of their campaign.

Members of the school board, Bill Berberet, Franklin Slifka and Chris Arden purchased a movie projector for the school, which enables them to show films from the State Library and an overhead projector is shared by the two teachers for their two-room school. Skits and science experiments are performed by grades in another room. The teachers have discipline, but no discipline problems. In fact, teachers and parents closely follow each child's progress together.

Mrs. Jean Johnson keeps their school clean and warm.

There are approximately 350 one and two-room schools in the state of Montana. The Toston community is proud of its two-room school and most of all of their teachers, Mrs. Dagnall and Mrs. Nugent who educate the students.