

“What Happened Today in History”

1929

“Fire Damages I.O.O.F. Hall and Grocery Stock”

At a few minutes after 4:00 o'clock on Sunday morning, with the thermometer registering 30 degrees below zero, Townsend firemen were called by the furious sounding of the siren, to fight a fire in the Odd Fellows Hall here. The fire in the rear of the building had gained a good headway when the firemen with speedy work first turned the water on, soon reducing the flames and extinguishing the fire except in the attic, darkness, exposure from intense cold and water made odds difficult to combat.

Daylight was welcomed by the firemen who worked until 10:00 o'clock before the last smoke was cleared. A group of women gathered and, with the assistance of George Bryant at his pool hall, served coffee and doughnuts and assisted in drying mittens and clothing. The stores turned over their entire supply of mittens at the service of the men who were forced to keep hand gear dry to ward off frost bite.

The fire was discovered by Joe Thelan who saw the smoke and blaze from his home in the north end of town and hurriedly put in an alarm. The fire is ascertained to have started in the kitchen of the lodge hall up-stairs, presumably from the range as the floor around the range burned, the stove dropping thru soon after the firemen arrived. Huge cupboards of dishes belonging to the Masons, Eastern Star, Rebekah, Odd Fellows and Neighbors of Woodcraft lodges were also sunk on a mass of debris in the store room of the Carson-Johnson Grocery Store below when the floor gave way. The Carson-Johnson stock was badly damaged from smoke and water.

Damages have been estimated, but it is said to range near \$20,000. Everything was covered by insurance, except the Catholic card tables and the Masonic-Eastern Star dishes. Their silver will be recovered it is thought as soon as the debris and ice can be removed in a few days. Little harm was done to lodge records or paraphernalia, interior furniture and finishing suffered from water.

The Masons and Eastern Star moved back to their old hall, the Odd Fellows also took temporary quarters there and held lodge on Monday night.

Great credit is due the Townsend Fire Department and other men of the town who worked with the firemen so effectively on Sunday morning.

1935

“Toston News”

Mrs. Audrey Van Meter and sons returned to their home here Saturday after spending a few days in Townsend visiting friends.

Joe Greaves of Six Mile was a caller here Saturday.

Mrs. Henry Mockel is reported to be quite ill at her home in the valley with pneumonia.

Dan Shull who has been ill for the past week, is reported to be able to attend to his barber shop here.

Peter Van Meter of Townsend was transacting business in Toston Saturday.

1946

“WWII Headlines”

“Discharged”

Sgt. Arthur W. Sitton of Radersburg, served in Camp Roberts and as Rifleman with Co. A 80th Bn., awarded the European, American Theater and Victory ribbons; Tech-5 Bill Huth, awarded the ETO for Normandy, North France, Rhineland and Central Europe, Good Conduct and Victory, and American Theatre awards; John Austin, shipfitter 2-c, awarded the Philippine Liberation, the Asiatic-Pacific and American Theater, Victory medals and battle star.

“Social”

Dicky Neifert was six years old January 14th and to celebrate the happy occasion he invited several little friends to spend the afternoon at his home. The hours from 4 to 6 were filled with games and other entertainment and a birthday cake added interest to the refreshments that were served to Larry Heberle, Bruce McIntyre, Barry and Bradley White, David Olsen and Dickey Neifert.

Miss Janet Fryhling was a charming young hostess of the week entertaining a number of her friends on the occasion of her 10th birthday anniversary last Friday after school. At the appointed hour the little neighborhood friends sat down to a daintily set table centered with the glowing birthday cake and after supper were guests of Miss Janet at the show, “Don’t Fence Me In”. In the party were Marjorie Ward, Charlene Mahony, Karen Sprout, Patsy Kieckbusch, Patty Nash, Madaline Doggett, Eleanor Olsen and the hostess.

1957

“Floyd Kirley Was Elected New Fire Chief”

Floyd Kirley was elected Fire Chief of the Townsend Fire Department at the annual meeting held last Thursday evening at the fire hall. He succeeds Lloyd Heberle. Harvey M. McCormick was appointed assistant chief and Frank Holloway elected secretary.

Mr. Kirley said the same appointments would stand this year as last.

At a meeting of the Relief Association held immediately after the firemen’s meeting the following officers were elected: Leo Damuth, president; Frank Holloway, secretary-treasurer. The board of directors are Lloyd Heberle, Fred Schneider, Geo. Gabisch, Jr., Abe Fandrich, Ralph Thompson and Chas. Mahony.

Plans were made for the annual dance which will take place close to the 17th of March.

1963

“Two Conservation Winners Will Attend State Meet”

Dave Shearer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Shearer and a member of the Old Baldy 4-H Club, and Donna Doig, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Doig and a member of the Canton Up & Atoms 4-H Club, were the winners of the conservation demonstration contest. They will be delegates to State Conservation Camp from Broadwater County.

These young people presented their demonstrations Saturday, January 19, 1963 at the courthouse. Judges for the event were Jim Kolar, S.C.S., Jerry Allen, Forest Service and Vic Hoxsey, County Extension Agent.

Dave gave his demonstration on the “Importance of Saving Top Soil” and Donna presented one on “Story of Erosion”.

The Broadwater Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors one boy and one girl each year to Conservation Camp. This year these two 4-H members will enroll in classes of their choice, such as range management, soils, fish and wildlife or other classes offered. Upon their return, their experience and knowledge will be passed to other 4-H members through presentations to 4-H clubs in the county. They will also speak before other groups and organizations in the county upon request.

“On Honor Roll”

Dennis Miller and Merrilee Miller of Radersburg both made the honor roll at Western Montana College at Dillon. Merrilee had a grade point average of 3.43 and Dennis 3.30. They are children of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Miller.