

“What Happened this Week in History”

March 21

1929

“Local News”

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Tarrant arrived in Townsend Monday and after visiting the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Clark, for a few hours continued to their home near Toston where they will reside on the home ranch of Commissioner and Mrs. Chas. P. Tarrant.

Mrs. H.L. Sperling departed for Helena on Sunday where she intends to reside for the present with her son, Herman. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Peters have moved into the home of Mrs. Sperling to remain during her absence.

“Large Crowd Charivari Newly Weds”

The pleasant home of County Commissioner and Mrs. C.P. Tarrant was the scene of a merry gathering when about sixty of the friends of Bert Tarrant and his bride surprised them and welcomed them home with an old fashioned charivari. Stunts and music entertained the crowd until about midnight when a most delicious lunch was served. Even at that time the crowd was loathe to go, so dancing finished a mighty pleasant evening. About 2:30 the crowd departed after wishing the bride and groom many happy days together.

1935

“First County Attorney Tells of Struggle to Gain Countyhood”

Editor's Note: - The foregoing is a historical resume of the formation of Broadwater County and the events leading up to the creation of its new court house as a part of the PWA program and was presented by Hon. E.H. Goodman at the ceremonies of the laying of the corner stone.

“In territorial days and for 8 or 10 years after Montana became a state all of what is now Broadwater County, lying east of the Missouri River was a part of Meagher County and all west of that river was a part of Jefferson County so that anyone having business in the courts would have to go to White Sulphur Springs in the one case and to Boulder in the other. This was both inconveint and expensive to the people of this valley. The trip over the range in a coach or sled was no pleasure trip. So a few years after Montana became a state, the people on both sides of the river petitioned the legislative assembly asking the formation of a new county with the boundaries nearly what the boundaries of this county are at present. We failed twice in our efforts owing to the strenuous opposition of both Meagher and Jefferson Counties, that is the opposition emanating mostly from the county seats of these two counties. In 1896, however, we started to work before election, were well organized and all pulled together. At this election we succeeded in electing G.G. Watt, senator from Meagher County, and C.A. Whipple as representative from the same county and Robert Whyte of Winston as representative from Jefferson County and also Archie Spriggs of Townsend as Lieutenant Governor. At this session of the legislature, the new county was formed and named Broadwater County; in honor of Co. C.A. Broadwater, of Helena, a pioneer banker and stockman. The bill creating the county was signed March 6th, 1897 by Governor Robert B.

Smith. The first board of County Commissioners named in the bill creating the county was composed of H.S. Hyatt, A.W. Schreiber and William Risk.

“It was quite a problem to find a suitable building for a court house in which to hold court and house the county officers. The commissioners finally leased the O.T.H. Allen building, now the Graveley Building across the street from the present court house site. The upstairs was used as a court room and the down stairs for officers’ quarters. The County Treasurer occupied the front room and to hold the books and money the Commissioners built the brick vault that is still attached to the building. As deputy County Treasurer, our friend Watt here, handled all the money the county had. We held court up stairs most of the time, but in a particularly large or interesting case, where a jury was required, the Auditorium was rented by the commissioners and we held court there.

“This rented court house building was so unstable and unsatisfactory that various efforts were made to get a more suitable building. Finally Messrs. Marks and Kanouse a firm consisting of J.R. Marks, now deceased, and J.E. Kanouse, who is with us today, offered to build a suitable building if the commissioners would agree to rent the same for a given period at \$50.00 per month. This offer was accepted and the present court house on our left was built and the county officers moved in early in the year 1901. The records show that sometime in September 1901 the county bought the building for \$5200.00 and the same has been used as a court house ever since and to me, at least, it is a source of thanksgiving and gratitude that we will soon be out of it and in the magnificent building now in the course of construction.

“The people of Broadwater County can well be proud of the building now in course of construction. They have done their bit to relieve unemployment and in aid of business recovery, the purpose of the PWA act of congress and will have a building that we will all be proud to point to as our County Court House.

“To me it is a source of satisfaction and pride to realize the final accomplishment of a long sought for project.”

1946

“Fire Alarm Sounded for Townsend Hotel”

A fire threatened serious damage to the Townsend House, Townsend’ largest and oldest hotel building at about 10:30 Monday evening when the furnace room was discovered in flames. The fire was extinguished by means of water from buckets and chemicals, it not being necessary to connect the fire department’s hoses. The fire, starting in the furnace room, charred the plank ceiling. The furnace room is a separate small building.

Had the fire started later in the evening or in the early morning hours, it would have been a different story as the building, frame in structure, would have been difficult to have saved if a fire of any extent got started is the consensus of opinion. It was built in the early 1880s and as far as can be learned there has never been a serious fire in any part of it.

“Townsend Man Wins Car Given Away by Legion”

Fred N. Weed, was the lucky winner of the new 1946 Chevrolet given away by the Broadwater Post No. 42 of the American Legion last Saturday night after a three-month drive for funds with which they plan to swell their building fund.

Mr. Weed intends to be driving his new luck charm about the first day of May, he thinks. Until then his old car will have to suffice.

In announcing the winner, L.J. Anders, who was commander of the post at the time of the drawing, wishes to thank the entire public for their generous response and to all who assisted in the selling program. He reports the Legion will clear well over \$1,000 and if everything goes as now planned, the new Legion hall will take form this summer.

1963

“50 Are Confirmed in Catholic Rites”

The largest class in the history of Holy Cross parish was confirmed Saturday when 58 participated in the holy rites.

Bishop Bernard Topel of the Spokane diocese confirmed the class. He is a former pastor of Holy Cross parish.

Other clergy participating in the rites were Fr. Joseph Mackin, Fr. Charles McCarthy, Fr. James Ryan, Fr. Emmett O’Neil and Fr. Joseph Mavsar, present pastor of the parish.

Confirmed were: Dale J. Antonich; Michael R. Broderick; Allen A. and Peggy Delger; James, Michael, and Timothy DeMers; David P. and Timothy R. Evans; George A. and Dianna Gabisch; Richard Grady; Robert Hensley; James and Joan Huth; Russell A. Karhoff; David R. Kimpton; John and Patrick McNulty; Kenneth Richard, Margaret and Kathleen Mullany; Thomas J. and Patricia Perry; Roger Price; Timothy J., Christine, Constance and Kathleen Ragen; Bruce Sullivan; Robert Ulmer; David and Cheryl Waling; David Whaley; Barbara Berberet; Patricia Buckingham; Deborah Graham; Lisa Lanning; Lee Lau; Connie Montgomery; Anita M. Olsen; Beverly Ouren; Clara Price; Janet Richardson; Judy Smith; Leann Todd; Karen and Linda Walker; Mr. Paul Campeau; Mrs. Sharon Dwyer; Paula J. Hayes; Mrs. Judith Logu,, Mrs. Joy I. Nash; Dennis A. Roberts; Mrs. Albert Snyder; Mrs. Louise Sullivan; and Mrs. Beatrice Tomcheck.

1974

“Style Show Models Prepare for March 29”

Models for the Holy Cross annual style show to be held Friday evening, March 29, have been selected. The Fashion follies will be centered around a Las Vegas Casino theme of Circus-Circus. The “Queen of Diamonds” to model are Robert Johnson, Marilyn Buckley, Mary Ellen Schnur, Donna Koehnke, Beatrice Tomcheck, Gladys Johnson, Gay Ann Masolo, Trena Scoffield, Barbara Randolph, Thelyn Jenkins, Pat Schenk, Katie Hunsaker, Adella Hassa, Linda Fisher, Aulie Samsel, Mary Huth, Patty Field, Peggy Ryan, Cathy Olsen and Susan Vick.

The “King of Spade” models are Riley Johnson, Joe Jepson, Lindsey Scoffield and Mark Chamberlain.

The “Ace of Hearts” to model are J.R. Johnson, Molly Johnson, Francie Plymale, Charlie Plymale, Joely Jepson, David Masolo, Mary Kearns, Angela Carmody and Michelle Samsel.

Participating stores in this year’s events will be Green’s Dry Goods and Berglinds’ of Townsend; McDonald’s, Hennessey’s, Miss K-G and Sheila’s all of Helena.

During the review, background music will be provided by Paulie Ragen at the piano. A dance presentation is being planned by the entertainment committee.

Door prizes to be called during the evening have been donated by Francisco Pharmacy, The Hairdressers and Linda's Beauty Corral all of Townsend. Advance tickets of \$2.00 are being sold for this desert-coffee affair by St. Veronica Build members. However, no reservations are needed and tickets will be sold at the door. This promises to be an outstanding event of the spring at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29th.