

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

**November 15**

**1923**

### **“Armistice Ball a Huge Success”**

The Armistice Ball given by the American Legion in the county last Saturday night in Townsend was a very successful affair from every standpoint. A large crowd was present to enjoy the festivity and the Dragon Orchestra from Three Forks was especially good. Pretty decorations appropriate for the occasion and a carnival about 11:30 gave an added attraction not enjoyed at the ordinary dance. And, too, the party seemed to be very well managed and superintended.

Members of the Woman’s Auxiliary served an exceptionally delicious midnight supper.

**1934**

### **“Townsend Man Completes Preliminary Flying Course”**

Another Townsend man is added to the list of aviation students. Ray Ward completed his preliminary training recently affording him the opportunity of making his solo flight. This important occasion in the life of an amateur pilot came to Mr. Ward here last Wednesday. He has made rapid progress under the tutorship of “Red Morrison” of Helena, and took the plane alone for a tour of the heavens.

**1945**

### **“Crowd Packed Theater for Armistice Celebration”**

One of the largest crowds to attend a similar meeting gathered Armistice afternoon at the Rex Theater to pay tribute to United States military men, especially those of the recent World War and also to welcome the local men, members of defense crews who had safely been liberated from Japanese prison camps.

L.J. Anders, commander of the Broadwater Post, American Legion was the master of ceremonies. B.F. Sautter, who generously opened his theater for the occasion, was also responsible for the promotion of the informal celebration and provided a good film for leading the community singing that proved so popular at the gathering.

The school band, directed by Miss Pauline Schneider led the parade and played several marches on the street just before the theater was opened. Following the band were those who were to take part in the program escorted by a number of returned veterans in uniform.

The assemblage was favored by short talks from Chas. Smith and Stanley Mongrain, who talked briefly of their four-year imprisonment by the Japs and told of their liberation, both stressing the wonderful treatment and assistance lent by the Red Cross.

The main talk on the program came from Lt. William Weed, officer of the USS South Dakota which served as the flagship for Admiral Nimitz and Halsey during the signing of the Japanese Surrender in Tokyo Bay and who was one of the first to go ashore after the surrender. “Bill” told of the magnitude of his ship and gave some statistics on its part in the many battles in all parts of the Pacific, its guns, and the expense involved in the operations and paid tribute to the people of the country in providing the means to the end by buying war bonds.

Vocal selections by Mrs. Henry Meyer who sang "The United States" and Mrs. Ray Ward who sang "The Lord's Prayer" to the tune of "Home Sweet Home" with accompaniments by Miss Pauline Schneider and Mrs. E. Williams respectively were well received as was the community singing of songs from the two World Wars and the other wars.

The Rev. Ernest Mills and the Rev. Fred Tracy pronounced the invocation and benediction. Commander Anders put in a good word for the "Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave" for Christmas and called upon everyone to donate.

## **1951**

### **"Benefits Prove Successful for Youth Center"**

The Rummage Sale held last Friday and Saturday for the benefit of the Youth Center was a huge success, the committee in charge reporting net proceeds of \$160. This is the second activity in November and Mrs. John Zipperian, the general chairman of construction, is pleased to report the grounds have been cleared and leveled and that actual building operation will commence very soon. Glenn Parry leveled the grounds.

Boys who cleared the ground were John Zipperian, Ken Schwisow, Tom Perry, David Olsen and Ward Scoffield.

The committee for the Rummage Sale were Mrs. Vern Edwards, Mrs. A.A. Christie, Mrs. Ellen Williams, Mrs. J.G. Braley, Mrs. Tom Watkin, Mrs. Sewell Marks, Mrs. John Sorensen, Mrs. Elmer Kenney, Mrs. Chas. Horne, Mrs. Anna Moudree, Mrs. R.R. Kimpton and Mrs. Ted Garnett.

Two other activities are planned before the month is over, a dance on the 24<sup>th</sup> and the distribution of three prizes, a chest of silver, a fishing rod and reel and a cash prize.

Activities for the month of December include sale of handmade Christmas wreaths and evergreen sprays and after Christmas, in January, a home talent play.

## **1962**

### **"Building Boom"**

Townsend has a small building boom going on at this time. In addition to the Conoco Station being built on Front Street, there are the Mountain States building program on North Spruce just behind Francisco's Pharmacy and three residential houses under construction at this time – Jim Vick has a house going up on the second block on North Maple, Eldon Herbst is building one on North Cherry and Jim Girdler has one going up on North Walnut. Perhaps this will help alleviate the housing shortage we have had in Townsend the past few years.