

“What Happened this Week in History”

May 16

1929

“New Store Building to go up in Townsend Soon”

When the old livery barn was razed a few weeks ago, which stood as a land mark opposite our establishment here, many conjectured on the erection of a new building to take its place. The conjecture seemed to good to be true, but information given us first hand this morning verifies the fact that a new structure will be erected at once, to house for one thing, the J. C. Penney stock. It is anticipated that early fall will see the building entirely completed.

As far as is known the structure will be a two story building. Geo. F. Johnson, of the Penney construction department is in Townsend today promoting the building operations.

Cecil Wainscott of Roundup arrived in Townsend recently and commenced his work as assistant manager of the J.C. Penney store here under the management of A.V. Johnson. Mr. Wainscott is an experienced salesman having had previously worked in the Penney store in Roundup.

“First Car Drives into Lombard”

The first automobile to grace the streets of Lombard, the town of world distinction for lacking a wagon road to connect with outside world, was heard in that little railroad center last Monday.

The sound of motor brought people out of their homes to gaze suspectingly into the heavens to view the supposed approaching aeroplane. A plane, while yet a curiosity, was the only possible clue to such thing as the roar of motor in Lombard. After a thorough survey of the firmament, the citizens retreated into their abodes wonderingly, but one suspicious resident kept the watch when all of a sudden, a cloud of dust on yon steep mountain side gave warning of some approaching vehicle. What could it mean, who could it be? Thicker and thicker grew the dust – louder and louder came the sound of motor driving contraption when with an exclamation of glee, “Henry” strutted proud as a peacock to the depot of Lombard. Lombard, which claims two depots and several residences and one store, has never known anything but the electric driven Milwaukee locomotives and the steam driven N. P. engines. It is located in one of the most picturesque spots in the world, with great majestic Missouri on one side and the beautiful Sixteen Canyon, in which it is built.

The next question. Who had the nerve to try it? Why a Ford agent from Manhattan, we are informed. He knew it could be done and the only thing in his way was to use a little elbow grease along with the kind that propelled his faithful carrier. So he exercised his skill at hammering off the tops of some boulders and was successful in gaining his goal without injury to his elbows or his Ford.

A sequel to this true story will be found in another column of this paper which is also true and if we can gather up a few more stories like these, we will join up with another publication who does nothing but print “True Stories”.

“Looks Like Lombard Will Have its First Road”

Considering the erection of the first road into the little roadless town of Lombard, the Board of County Commissioners from Broadwater journeyed up the line on Tuesday to consider a petition presented to them at their last meeting which proposed a road into Lombard. We couldn't say they went to “view roads”, cause there weren't any roads to view, just a steep hill with plenty of pumbs and reminded the Commissioners of what the Gold Dust Twins said “Lux against us”. Anyway, they bumped along as far toward their destination as possible over sage brush and prickly pear, abandoning their gas driven conveyance for “Shanks Ponies” which were to be used up and over the steep incline into the town. One of the “Dads” started to sniffing and following a mark in the dust of the hill with a very suspicious air. It was car tracks – just as sure. Being convinced there was only one solution to the problem. Some over enthusiastic Lombard road promoter, in attempting to hoodwink the commissioners, had towed a car out in these hills to convince the county fathers that if a car could make it, so ought a road be constructed.

Say, when you try to “hoodwink” J. H. Shindoll, Willis Smith and Chas. P. Tarrant, one of the best tricks you could play was to say a car had gone into Lombard over the hills driven on its own power. They admit they were miss led, but not for long for, it so happened that when they too talked into Lombard on Tuesday, they knew that a car had actually made the trip and their suspicions were ungrounded.

It's a foregone conclusion that Lombard will have a road after all that experience. But when that time comes, Lombard will no longer be able to claim a worldwide distinction of being a little town in the heart of the Rockies with two railroad depots and no motor car road.

1935

“Gypsies Raid Cash Till of Palace Café Here”

Deeming it inadvisable to tarry after they had tapped the cash register till at the Palace Café, Gypsies hurriedly left town Tuesday afternoon after making a short visit about town.

Mrs. Franklin, proprietor of the palace was out when two gypsy women entered. As there were no grownups about, they proceeded to open and ransack the cash register. The older daughter, Anna, entering as they finished their escape. Mrs. Franklin was hurriedly summoned, who in turn called the officers, but by that time, the gypsy band was on its way headed toward Helena. Four dollars and fifty cents was taken, said Mrs. Franklin.

As the sheriff and undersheriff were out on business, night watchman Harry Houston took the call and with day marshal, Chas. Williams, started by car toward Helena, Helena officers were informed that the band had robbed a restaurant here and that they were headed for that city.

It was learned by good authority that the gypsies had gone through east Helena, but the Townsend officers receiving no assistance form the Helena authorities, the band was not overtaken. The Townsend men returned feeling that if the Helena officers could have cooperated, they would have at least, regained the stolen money.

1946

“Mrs. Geo. Kieckbusch Again Heads Legion Auxiliary”

Mrs. George Kieckbusch was re-elected president of the American Legion Auxiliary at the regular meeting Thursday evening at the Legion Hall.

Other officers chosen were: Mrs. Morris Alex, vice president; Mrs. Pat Feldt, Secretary; Miss Helma Erickson, treasurer; Mrs. Charles Mongrain, sergeant at arms; Mrs. F.L. Hough, Chaplain and Mrs. Lester Ballard, Historian.

Winners of the Americanism essay contest, sponsored by the Legion Auxiliary with students of the eight grade and high school discussing “American Citizens: Our Responsibilities; Our Privileges” were announced, with Lee Ann Stewart placing first and Evalyn Ross second in the eighth grade and Jim Nydeggar first and Bill Doggett second in the high school. Contest judges were Mrs. George Gabisch, Mrs. H. G. White and Mrs. Paul Carson.

In the Legion Auxiliary poppy poster contest, Trena Lee Hollaway and Gordon Hinch students of the fifth grade, were awarded first and second places respectively and in the seventh and eighth grade group, Ernest Young and Max Luna won first and second places. Judges were: Mrs. Vera Lewis, Mrs. Earl Fryhling, Mrs. Pat Feldt.

Miss Hollaway’s poster held the greatest appeal and received a special mention by the judges. She had featured “The Purple Heart” with the slogan “He won this for you”. Her poster and Ernest Young’s were entered in the state contest.

“2300 Nugget Taken From Miller Holdings”

Pay dirt was reached in the Superior lode of the late H.O. Miller holdings near old Diamond City last week and a 60 oz. nugget brought to the surface to prove the find, according to Mrs. Miller who has her holdings leased at the present time. The approximate value of the quartz loaded nugget is \$2300.

The nugget about as large as a pound of butter, said Mrs. Miller, weighs 60 ounces and is believed to be about two thirds pure gold. It was taken last week at the end of a sinking of a 700-foot shaft representing several weeks hard work, the rich strata showing up where the granite and slate formation formed the bed rock.

The men making the find and having the claims leased are Howard Perkins, nephew of Mrs. Miller, Jack Crum, Orville Zindell and Cliff Rose.

The Miller property is located about two miles from old Diamond City the once richest gold hill in all the world and is between the Greenhorn property and old Montana Bar. The lease took up the work where Mr. Miller had left off when gold miners were stopped working during the war. Mr. Miller passed away here a few months ago. His other claims were the Superior West and Champion.

1957

“Glenn Black and Helen Carson are Highest Students”

Glenn Black, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Black and Helen Carson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Carson of Townsend are the valedictorian and the salutatorian of the class of students who will graduate from Broadwater County High School next week. Both are transfer

students. Mr. Black came here as a junior from Wallace, Idaho and Miss Carson entered the school as a junior from the Three Forks high school.

There were several who ranked very close, Superintendent Ray G. Baker said in announcing the two top places.

Four other seniors ranking high were Elaine Bieber, 3.906; Judy Sitton, 3.4; Beverly Dawson, 3.24; Dennis Quinn, 3.11.

The valedictorian's average was 4.315. The salutatorian's average was 4.194. The valedictorian besides ranking high scholastically, won a letter in football, was manager of the basketball team; winner of the Bausch-Lomb science award for '56-57; attended high school week at Bozeman; member of the Civil Air Patrol. He plans to take up engineering for his career.

The salutatorian is a member of the band; took a role in the senior play; attended high school week in Bozeman; played piano in the district and state music festivals; a member of the annual staff. She is planning a teaching career, for elementary school work.

1963

"Telephone History Spans 61 Years"

In 1894, eight years after the town of Townsend was founded, the first telephone exchange was installed by the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company. Established in October, 1902 the facilities served 31 telephones. The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company was formed in 1911 to serve an eight state area embracing Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and El Paso County, Texas. That year Townsend had 66 telephones and the population was 759 according to early records of the telephone firm.

A 1919 telephone directory entitled "Helena District" indicates several local firms listed in the present directory, including Townsend Star 1, State Bank of Townsend 30, Commercial Hotel 20, Sheriff's Office, County Jail 45, Broadwater Creamery 21, NPRR 13 and Montana Power 57. This forty-four year old directory shows that Ruby Ridgeway was exchange manager and R.C. Swain Helena Manager.

A local resident, Miss Salome Smith, recalled using a "crank type" telephone some years ago at the Commercial Hotel which she operated with her mother for several years. Miss Smith stated that the telephone office was originally located on the ground floor of the Kiveland and Meloy Story building.

A magneto "crank type" system served the community until 1935 when a common battery switch board was installed. In the past twenty years the number of telephones has nearly quadrupled from 231 in 1943 to over 832 in service at the present time. A \$180,000 project for a dial system is now under way. The new facilities will include direct distance dialing enabling local residents to dial some 40,000 cities and towns throughout this country and Canada.

Inauguration of the new dial exchange service is scheduled for Sunday, May 19.

"Seven Operators End Telephone Service as Dial System Goes into Operation"

The "Star" presents in this issue a farewell to local telephone operators who have served the community faithfully and well. Over 65 years of service with Mountain States

Telephone are represented by the seven operators whose services as “the voice with a smile” will be long remembered. All are married and have a total of 20 children. None of the group is transferring to other offices and will remain in Townsend following changeover to the new dial system here Saturday at midnight, May 18.

Helen Karhoff has been chief operator since 1958. A native of Helena, she later moved to Townsend and attended local schools. She is married to Virgil Karhoff and they have three children.

A Townsend native, Marlene McElravy, has 8 years of service as operator with the telephone company. She and her husband, Ross McElravy, have two children.

Sue Duehr has worked 14 years as an operator at Townsend. She is married to William Duehr and they have two children. Her activities include gardening and traveling.

Myrna Clark has worked as a telephone operator for over 3 years. She is Mrs. Albert “Corky” Clark and they have three children. Born in Cascade, she is a sister of Darlene Doig. Her hobbies include skiing and bowling.

Helen Graham has two years of service as a telephone operator. She started in Dillon, later transferring to Townsend. Helen is a native of Butte. She and her husband, Don Graham, have four children.

Darleen Doig has over 8 years service as an operator. A native of Cascade, she started there as a telephone operator. She is married to Ray Doig and they have three children. Darleen is a graduate of Townsend High school. Her activities include bowling, fishing and skiing.

Patsy Evans has nine years service as an operator. Patsy is a graduate of Dillon schools. She started working at Dillon and transferred to Townsend. She and her husband, Dick, Evans have three children.

1974

“Clean-up Week off to Boom”

Clean-up Week (May 12-19th) was started off with a boom Tuesday night when the Rotary Club began their campaign to sweep clean those alleys on the south side of town.

Mel Pottruff, head of the clean-up crew said there was a good turnout of about 20 people to participate in the clean sweep. Mel said that the crew cleaned out brush, weeds and other miscellaneous debris.

The Jaycees will be cleaning up the north side of town Thursday night. Joe Jepson anticipates a good turnout. He said that thus far he has received only one special request for hauling unwanted items away. He said if anyone needs any item such as junked cars to be disposed of to contact any of the Jaycee members.

Mary Wallace, honorary chairman of Clean-up Week, said that other organizations involved in the clean-up are: the Chamber of Commerce who is promoting the sales of paint, paint brushes, garden hose, rakes etc.; the Senior Citizens who are going to clean around the Senior Citizens Hall; the churches who will clean around their own churchyards; the scouts; the Old Baldy 4-H will clean roadsides; the CowBelles; and the Canton Women’s Club will clean the cemetery.

The Toston 4-H Blue Ribbon have already started roadside cleaning on the highway from Toston towards Townsend.