

“What Happened this Week in History”

May 30

1929

“I.O.O.F. Hall Will Re-open with Big Dance’

The Odd Fellows Hall in Townsend will be opened again to the public on June fifteenth when a big dance will mark the occasion. The hall has been closed since the disastrous fire early in the year, since which time, the building has undergone a complete repair job with added improvements. A hardwood floor in the second story will be advantageous over the old carpeted floor and the dance to be given in celebration of the re-opening of the hall will be held on the second floor. A supper will be served in connection with the dance. The re-opening of the building is under the management of the Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges.

“Junior Prom Pretty Affair, Crowning Queen a Feature’

The Junior Prom of the Broadwater County High School was a very pretty affair, given in the school’s gymnasium revealed the athletic hall trimmed up like a dancing pavilion for fair with paper streamers in profusion entirely hiding bare brick walls, while pretty lattice fences roped off spectators from dancers. The class colors, green and white were used throughout. The Merry Makers orchestra seated in one corner of the hall, while a punch booth occupied another corner.

At the hour for the grand march, the Queen made her appearance and, escorted by her princesses, took her place of honor on an improvised throne and was crowned “Queen of the Junior Prom” by little Blanche Babcock as crown bearer. Little Jimmie Ragen and Joseph Kirscher acted as heralds. Audrey Hardy gave a feature dance. The queen, Miss Effie Burtt, looked beautiful in a gown of orchid satin held at the shoulders with rhinestone ornaments. The Princesses, Miss Thais Zimmerman and Helen Ann Meloy were gowned contrastingly in pink and white evening dresses. All carried corsages of roses. The grand march was led by Miss Ackerly, Junior Class Advisor and Coach C.A. Ellingson.

A large crowd enjoyed the occasion, many coming from White Sulphur Springs and Helena.

1935

“Annual Junior Prom Is Pretty Spring Affair”

Pretty co-eds, new spring formals, attractive hall decorations and other appointments not accompanying the usual dance, made the annual Junior Prom of Broadwater County High School one of unusual pleasure.

This school dance was held last Saturday evening in the high school gymnasium and Ed Harding and his Collegians of Bozeman furnished the music for the occasion. The grand march was led by officers of the Junior and Senior classes, Miss Valeria Clare and Henry Huth leading the march, followed by Harry Anders and Viola Walter, Doris Whaley and William Stiner and Dana Bradford and Erma Saas and a long line of classmen.

The decorations of gold and black crepe paper streamers were arranged in modernistic designs from the rafters to the galleries in such a manner as to unobstruct the gallery view of the dance floor. The decorations were original and attractive.

1946

“World War II Heroes to be Honored May 30th”

Townsend’s public observance of Memorial Day, May 30th, will be high lighted by the placing of a wreath in front of the Honor Roll in Memorial Park as a feature of a program to be given under the auspices of Broadwater Post No. 42, American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary. An appropriate program has been arranged according to Albert Olsen, Commander of the Legion, who announces the ceremonies will commence at 10:00 o’clock in the morning followed by the annual pilgrimages to the various cemeteries adjacent to town.

Should the day be inclement, the program will be given under cover at the Rex Theater.

Melvin Magnuson of Helena will address the assembly in the park as feature speaker of the day. He will be introduced by Legion Commander on an improvised platform where seats will be arranged for the mothers of the gold star veterans.

The program will be opened with the National Anthem. The Rev. Ernest Mills will give the invocation and the Rev. Fred Tracy will pronounce the benediction. A girl’s chorus will sing a patriotic number just before the speaker is introduced.

Following the placing of the wreath, a salute to the dead will be fired by the Legion Firing Squad, members of which are: Buzz Brisbin, commander; Abe Clare, Freddie Geiser, Bob Kenney; George Finnegan, Charles Ragen, Bill Kieckbusch, Bill Huth and Ronald Kelly.

Taps will be sounded by Bugler, William Joll.

Color bearers are Frances Hough and Pat Feldt. Color Guards are Bill Ridgeway and Ralph Simons.

Since the first mound of Broadwater County soil was turned to mark graves of departed soldiers, Memorial Day has been observed here following the tradition set by living buddies of those who defended their country in the Civil War. Decoration Day was changed to Memorial Day about 20 years later and has been observed for at least fifty years in appropriate grave decorations and public programs in memory of the dead of all wars.

This year the names of the young men whose names are marked with the highest star their country can give – a gold one – will be especially remembered. Although the honor Roll does not have all marked nor carry a complete list of local veterans, the following list has been catalogued by this newspaper as it carried the sad news articles of the deaths as they came to us. Not until this week were we able to gain any information on the last lad of the list, although it is generally known Dennis Gray (Denny to his friends here) was a casualty flying a Corsair in the Japan Theater. The message sent to his parents at Darby is carried on this page.

There are 22 young men in the local god star list of World War 2 not counting Eugene Walter, who died in September 1941 in an army hospital in San Francisco. Of the 22, 14 died in action, two died in Jap prison camps after the fall of Bataan, five died in airplane accidents of whom one was in far away India, and one died of tropical disease in far away South Pacific.

Today the names of these young men are recalled with the greatest honor a country and its people can give. Truly after many years, their names and memories will fade into oblivion as with their forbears, but today and tomorrow, they are ours to hold closest and dearest to our hearts.

These are the thoughts and expressions that prelude the First Memorial Service following World War 2 to be held in Townsend, today, May 30th, 1946.

“Our Honored Dead”

Dana Bradford, William D. Lasby, William D. Gruber, Robert Mongrain, James Franklin, Clyde Milton, Jack D’Arcy, Wm. E. Kenney, James Robert Lynch, Geo. Lewis, Robert Moudree, Edwin Colon, Andrew Schaaf, Lowell Braum, Ben Webb, Wm. Cooley, Robert C. Pennington, Evan Jarosh, Homer Belville, Harold Bomar, Jack Fordyce, Denny Gray.

1957

“Pete Sullivan Gets Degree from Carroll”

Peter W. Sullivan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sullivan of Townsend, was one of sixty-two graduating seniors who received degrees at the forty-seventh annual Carroll College commencement, Sunday, May 26, in the Helena Civic Auditorium. Sullivan received the A.B. degree in business administration.

1963

“Merle Turman Will Play in MSC Music Festival”

Merle Turman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Turman of Toston, has been invited to participate in the Montana State College Festival of Chamber Music to be held July 21 – 27.

Turman was invited by Prof. Creech Reynolds, head of the string department at MSC. He is a student of Marion Kitto.

He was chosen from piano entries performing at the district music festival in Livingston and will be a member of a string quartet performing in concert at the close of the festival. Other instruments will include violin, viola and cello.

A scholarship will pay half of Turman’s expenses.

“Scouts Camp Out in Mountains”

Nine Boy Scouts and their Scoutmasters, Scott Grover and Jerry Allen, were on a camp out in the mountains west of town Friday to Sunday. They planned to go across the Tizer Range, but found snow too deep for travel, so spent most of the time in the Upper Longfellow Creek area.

Only the older scouts were taken on this trip – junior assistant scoutmasters, senior patrol leaders and patrol leaders. The trek was partly for survival training and one meal the boys had to rely on fish they could catch. Scouts on the trip were: Rodney Davis, Tim Hysell, Larry Mullany, Mickey Grover, Dale Antonich, Mick O’Dell, Lance Davis and Kenney Toney.

“Charleen Adams is Counselor at Eastern”

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Adams of Townsend have been informed that their daughter, Charleen, has received the appointment as counselor of Rimrock Hall, the girl’s dormitory on the Eastern Montana College of Education campus in Billings. The appointment was made by Miss Carol Saunders, dean of Women.

Charleen, along with seven other girls, will hold the position of counselor during the 1963-64 school year. As stated by Dean Saunders, “To qualify for the position of dormitory counselor at Rimrock Hall, an applicant must have certain scholastic and character standards. Her grade level is a definite prerequisite for appointment to this position and must be above average. In addition, her standards and her abilities shall have proven of contribution to the

dormitory. By her ability to draw the friendship of the girls, she shall have shown a willingness and enjoyment of working with others which in essence is the job of each student counselor.

Also, Charleen, along with nineteen other freshmen women students, has been initiated into Spurs, a Sophomore women's honorary service organization.

1974

"Kelly Flynn Likes the Running Game" by Jack Tanner, Billings Gazette Sportswriter

Distance runners are generally acknowledged as being a breed apart from other athletes.

If that is the case, then Western Montana's Kelly Flynn is a breed apart from other distance runners.

Usually when a distance man wins a pair of races in a meet, he's through and happy with his performance. But not Kelly Flynn.

He started his day winning the mile in 4:34.4. He followed that 30 minutes later with an equally convincing 3,000 meter steeplechase win.

That was for starters.

An hour later he totally dominated the three mile run covering the 12 laps in 15:55 and lapping more than half the field. To cool off from the race, he ran another lap, and had he entered twice, he would have finished third. He finished the extra lap ahead of the No. 3 runner.

Ten minutes later after running three miles plus, he took on the 880 for the first time and won by six seconds.

That was his fourth distance race of the day and his fourth convincing victory.

"I guess it's a lot of training and lots of pride," he said explaining why a runner would put himself through such a grueling schedule.

"I really wanted that team championship; that's why I did it."

He said he wasn't really tired after running four races. The adrenalin that enabled him to win the 880 was still pumping.

"But I'll probably be tired a little later," he admitted.

Despite his efforts, however, Eastern Montana College dethroned Western as Frontier Conference champion.

Even that didn't change his expression much, however. That could be because of his fine individual performance.

Flynn didn't start track until he was a senior at Broadwater County High School and he hadn't run the 880 at all before this meet in Billings. His reason for not competing in the 880 before was that he felt he didn't have the speed to compete with other half milers.

But on the back stretch of the second lap, he exploded from second place into first and kept expanding on the lead the remainder of the way.

"I don't know what I did," he said. "I thought about the championship and I guess the adrenalin started to flow."