

“What Happened this Week in History”

May 9

1929

“Townsend Has New Automobile Service Station”

The new automobile service station erected by the H. Earl Clack Co., is now completed and doing business, according to Joe Thompson, who is in Townsend at present getting the station started as a real business enterprise in Broadwater County. The station, the first one for Townsend, is located just south of the Commercial Hotel on the corner of Front Street and Broadway, and is constructed of yellow stucco with slate roof. It consists of a filling station and drive, wholesale department and ladies rest room. The large storage tanks in the rear will be painted and with the addition of lawn and trees and flowers will make a very neat station and an addition to the town.

The station is equipped with grease rack, accessories, free air, battery and crankcase service and is about a \$6,000 investment. The management will be local men, according to Mr. Thompson, although definite arrangements have not yet been made. The Townsend station is one of 83 operated under the Clack name in Montana, Idaho, Washington and North Dakota. They carry the famous Heccolene oils and Hi-power gasoline and are equipped now to serve the public. The station was erected under the direction of Jacob Wier of Havre, who is in the Clack employment. The public is cordially invited to inspect the plant.

“Director of Vermont Marble Co. Visits Deposit at Radersburg”

Following an examination of the entrances of several new buildings on Main Street in Helena, M.R. Proctor of Proctor, Vt. director in the Vermont Marble Company, which handles the product of quarries in this country and abroad announced that tests will continue at the black and gold deposit near Radersburg in Broadwater County and if the marble proves to have depth and is not broken, intensive development will take place. Mr. Proctor, who is a grandson of the late Senator Proctor of Vermont, who was also Secretary of War under President Harrison, was accompanied here by W.R. Dunsmore, manager of the western office of the company in Los Angeles.

The two visited the property with R.J. Dee of the Northern Pacific and after consulting with their local field manager, John Lavine, who commands a force of about a dozen men gave orders to continue the diamond drill tests.

“If, as appears likely to be the case, the deposit is unbroken, at depth, the Vermont Marble Company will put a large force of men to work and begin shipments,” Mr. Proctor said. “The top of the marble is somewhat broken, but the deeper we go, the better it is. It is only a question of whether we can get out large tonnage.”

So far as known, Montana has the only deposit of black and gold marble outside of Egypt. There are about 160 acres already under lease and option.

1935

“New Jail’s First Culprit Given 30 Day Sentence”

A feeble imitation of a modern gangster was staged by a local youth Wednesday night which resulted in his being given the dubious honor of being the first to occupy a cell in the new Broadwater County Jail.

It all began when Raymond Tony, 19, began a series of crazy episodes while under the influence of liquor. Entering his car at the home of his parents, he began driving the vehicle, with a trailer attached, through the various fences surrounding the property, thence he drove uptown like, in the words of Under-Sheriff George Keickbusch, a man who was either crazy or drunk.

But by the time Tony reached the Townsend Hotel, he was overtaken by the law in the forms of Sheriff Norman Bruce, his assistant, George Keickbusch and Night Watchman, Harry Houston. Here, in true desperado fashion, the youth offered resistance to the officers.

Not until they resorted to the use of tear gas was the young man subdued. Repeated attempts to make a peaceable arrest only resulted in Tony’s threatening to kill the officers. Later investigation revealed that he was armed not with a submachine gun, but a piece of two-by-four.

The last chapter of the episode took place in the court this morning under Justice of the Peace Alvah G. McCormick when testimony offered by County Attorney Fred Schmitz revealed that the youth had threatened his parents resulting in their calling for aid from the local law enforcement men. Tony pleaded guilty.

The law was enforced by the police and the court as Justice McCormick handed down a sentence of 30 days in jail. Thus our local desperado learned that the law will take its course in Townsend as elsewhere.

1946

“Mining Boom in Hassel Recalls Wealth of Gulch”

Revival of mining in Broadwater County reaching the near boom stage has brought to light many interesting stories of current clean-ups and those in the days gone by.

A.R. Douglas, engaged in gold dredging at Hassel, resumed operations recently after stripping all through the winter following the lifting of the War Production Board’s order to cease gold operations for the duration of the war. Hundreds of dollars in gold are being taken by the Douglas operators daily the dredging is going forward at a great depth.

Of the Indian Creek mining district, Fred L. Whitehead, who has been active in mining operations in the district since 1910 and interested in the Little Giant Mine, has the following to offer in a recent survey. Mr. Whitehead informs this newspaper that a custom mill is in the offing for the district.

Mr. Whitehead’s Notes

The Indian Creek Mining District is situated midway of the great mineral belt which extends from the Winston Mining District on the north through the Indian Creek region to Radersburg Mining District to the south. 11 miles due west of Townsend on the Northern Pacific Railroad, the nearest supply point. The district is easily accessible to all parts by good well-built automobile roads.

Ore Deposits

The prevailing country formation of the district is a hard dark andesite rock, the ore deposits, with a few exceptions, occurring in well-defined fissures in the hard andesites which have ruptured to great vertical depths, deep enough to tap a molten magma and permit the influx of hot mineral bearing solutions under great pressure and heavily burdened with gold, silver, lead and zin, with some copper. Science advances the theory that as the hot solutions rise in the fissure and lose heat and pressure, their mineral load is precipitated within the confines of the fissure, building up the ore deposits as we find them at present. Usually there is found somewhere in the fissure a vertical shoot or irregular sheet of rich mineral varying in thickness and extent which represents the maximum zone of precipitation in the fissure, and which furnishes the high grade "shipping" ore of the mine. Usually on either side of the high grade sheet, or in the close vicinity, there occurs a body of lower grade ore, forming the one of least precipitation, which furnishes the second class milling ore of the mine, usually left on the walls of the fissure by the miners, or now reposing in the dumps or stope filling.

Production History

Since the discovery of the Indian Creek Mining District, about the year 1866, the district has up to the present, yielded approximately \$335,200,000 in gold, silver, lead, zinc and some copper. The principal contributory producers of the district have been the following mining properties: Indian Creek Placer, government estimate, \$30,000,000. The Park district \$900,000. Diamond Hill, \$1,800,000. Little Giant \$300,000. Iron Mask \$200,000. Silver Wave \$150,000. Gold King (Blacksmith) \$40,000. Gold Hill Fraction \$50,000. W.A. Clark \$30,000. Other smaller producers \$50,000.

1957

"Garden Club Makes Progress at School Grounds"

Arbor Day was observed by the Townsend Garden Club in a work day at the elementary school when they took up their second year project cultivating plants and shrubbery already planted and planting some replacements and some new ones. The bordering was done by boys from the sixth grade.

At the lunch served at The River Inn, President Mrs. Frank Nash asked for committee reports and the business of the club was taken care of with the announcement that the next meeting would be a picnic meeting at the Walter Clark Ranch.

Projects being considered at the present time include encouraging Main Street planting of hanging baskets or window boxes; assisting in re-landscaping Memorial Park and assisting with a planting school for 4-H clubs.

It was also recommended that the earth that had been diked for the skating rink on the vacant lot opposite Grover Motors be leveled off since it is no longer used for a rink and since the sidewalks are partially covered over with dirt.

"Businesses Asked to Place Planters!"

The Townsend Garden Club is asking support of business houses in a campaign to brighten up Main Street this year by planting baskets or boxes. It is entirely up to the individual business man or woman whether or not some growing thing is placed to beautify the Main Street. There will not be assistance offered unless it is solicited. However, a

blooming geranium with some vinery placed at intervals up and down Townsend's Main Street would make a pleasant picture and help to advertise the town for the better.

Window boxes could be home made. Basket planters could also be improvised. Petunias or geraniums are hardy showy and would be good flowers to use. There are many other varieties also recommended for such a purpose.

1963

"Crow Creek News"

A large number of residents from this area drove into Townsend on Sunday to take their second dose of Sabin polio vaccine.

The piano and organ recital, presented Friday night by the students of Mrs. Kenneth Kitto, was greatly enjoyed by all area residents who attended. Merle Turman, junior at BCHS accompanied Pete Kelly in one number.

More friends dropped in to wish William Kitto a happy 90th birthday. They were Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Davies of Winston, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thompson of Townsend and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Horne.

Mr. and Mrs. Abe Fandrich and son of Townsend were guests of their daughter, Mrs. Ray Horne, Mr. Horne and family Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Junior Lewis were Helena visitors Thursday.

1974

"Cars Must Be Moved Thurs. Nite"

All cars and trucks will have to be moved off Broadway every Thursday night henceforth to allow sweeping of the streets by city crews.

This action was taken Tuesday night at the regular meeting of the Townsend City Council. In conference with City Foreman, Terry Plummer, the council agreed to have Broadway cleared of cars so that sweeping can begin at 2:00 a.m. each week.

The cooperation of the public is being requested, according to Mayor Ray Nydegger, so that issuing tickets to cars parked along the main artery will not be necessary in the future.

Side streets are being cleaned as time and equipment are available, Plummer told the council.