

FALLON COUNTY TIMES

VOLUME I

Successor To THE FALLONITE

BAKER, MONTANA, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1916

Successor To THE FALLONITE

NUMBER 51

Midland's Baker Yards Swept By Fire

General Manager Says Will Rebuild At Once. New Lumber Stock Ordered By Wire Open For Business by End of This Week

BARBERSHOP HAS TOO CLOSE SHAVE

Shortly before seven o'clock Tuesday morning when the porter at Blanchard's barber shop touched a match to a small gasoline stove, there was a burst of flame that filled the room. The porter escaped without injury.

Jay Henton, with a portable fire extinguisher, was one of the first on the scene and did some effective work before the arrival of the fire brigade.

Two streams of water were played upon the flames which were confined within the four walls, but the contents of the shop were so badly damaged as to be practically worthless. The interior of the building, also owned by Mr. Blanchard, was slightly damaged.

The contents of T. F. Burns' tailor shop were removed to a place of safety, as it looked for a while as if the entire block would be wiped out.

An insurance policy on Mr. Blanchard's property expired June 1st so it makes the loss, estimated at nearly a thousand dollars, fall rather heavily on him. There may be some salvage, however, which would reduce the estimated loss.

Mr. Blanchard left on the afternoon train for Minneapolis to procure a new outfit. In the meantime he will continue business with two chairs in Jackson's buffet.

YEOMEN PLAN A WILLARD PICNIC

The Yeomen are planning for a big time at Willard Saturday, June 24th, when their first picnic and dance will take place.

Willard homestead of Yeomen is one of the progressive organizations of Fallon county, composed of a splendid class of people, which insures a most enjoyable outing for everyone accepting their hospitality.

The committee in charge, Messrs. Albert Fost, Roland Ervine, L. D. Stanhope, Mrs. Albert Fost and others, announce among the special features a big ball game and a moving picture show, which will precede the dance at Willard hall.

\$200 Reward.

Will be offered for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of party or parties guilty of shooting cattle belonging to the undersigned.

A. K. CLARK,
H. W. SPARKS.

Local Brevities.

Commissioner Fits Simmons was here from Calumet yesterday.

James Hunter, Miles City pioneer, is a Baker visitor.

If you want a home cooked meal eat at Mrs. Garcia's, 113 First street S. W.

Miss Margaret E. Williams of Webster was a Baker visitor yesterday.

See Mier & Wintemute, for Lathom Heights Lots. 111 South First Street West.

If you want a home cooked meal eat at Mrs. Garcia's, 113 First street S. W.

Sheriff Jones spent the greater part of the week on official business in the south end of the county.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Peck, M. C. Moolick, Miss Gertrude King, of Ekalaka, visited Mr. and Mrs. George Grant Sunday.

C. C. Conser a prominent citizen of Plevna, and chairman of the Republican county committee, was a Baker visitor last week.

Geo. Thomas, J. Hallam, H. C. Penhale and C. H. Merry, all of Mott, N. D., visited the Montana Petroleum Co's oil and gas well yesterday.

Miss Ollie Simpkins and Mr. Charles H. Weilert, both of Marmarth, N. D., were married Saturday by Rev. W. Pollard. Mr. Weilert is a railroad man on the division east of Marmarth.

A trainload of twelve cars of cattle, destined for Fergus county, went through Baker the other night. They were shipped from South St. Paul by a brother of Chas. D. King, the well-known cattle dealer of this city.

Charles Smith is able to be out again after a week's confinement following injuries received when his "jitney" collided with an electric light pole. He was thrown to the ground and badly bruised on his right side.

Mrs. C. J. Millard and daughter, Miss Bessie, were Baker visitors one day this week. Mrs. Millard will leave with her daughter Sunday for Rochester where a digital operation will be performed upon the latter.

Fred and Dave Seif were visiting their oldtime friend, Frank D. Marth this week. Frank and the Seif boys "grew up" together in the same town, Neillville, Wis. The Seif boys are farmers near Webster.

They are doubtless having a fine time at the Farmers Picnic at Willard today. The Times correspondent at Willard is requested to send us a complete report for publication next week.

MANY RELATIVES AT HER WEDDING

Miss Elsie McDonell, a popular young lady of Camp Crook, and Ered Dahl, of Savage, were married yesterday, by Rev. S. W. Pollard. A notable and pleasant feature of the wedding was the presence of four relatives of the bride and groom, these being E. H. McDonell, the bride's father, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Padden, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Kerr, Miss Sarah Kerr, Miss Esther McDonell, Willard McDonell, and John Dahl, all of Camp Crook; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Dahl, Wibaux, Miss Katherine Dahl, Hans Dahl, of Savage, and Emil Dahl, of Rhame.

Immediately after the ceremony the happy bride and groom departed by automobile for a tour of the Yellowstone park.

It is expected there will be a big attendance of Baker people at the Marmarth bridge dedication Tuesday, the 20th. Automobiles will start from Terry and all along the line between here and Marmarth. The people of that section have fought long and hard for the bridge across the Little Missouri and naturally there is a great rejoicing over its completion.

Mrs. Louis Hoke, who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. George Daugherty, returned to her home in Minneapolis last week. Mr. Daugherty is expecting his sister here for a visit.

At daylight this morning the Midland Coal & Lumber Company's Baker yards and hardware store lie a smoldering mass of ruins, nothing left to mark the site of this magnificent establishment save a tall brick chimney, concrete foundation piers, and piles of lumber blackened and charred by the fierce flames which all night long swept through them.

A baby in Charles Russell's home sounded the first alarm. Mr. Russell saw a great burst of flame coming from the back end of the lumber sheds.

"Where's the fire?" was the message he sent in to the night operator at the telephone office. "This was at 1:25 a. m. Mrs. Josephine Colvin, on duty there, looked out of the window.

"I saw there was a great fire over in the lumber yards," said Mrs. Colvin, "and telephoned to the electric light plant. They kept the whistle going for a long time; and then I heard the fire bell ringing. It was Mr. Russell who telephoned the alarm in to me."

Socks and shirtless nearly every man in town was on hand. Fire Chief Jaspersen was one of the first on the ground and soon had a large volunteer crew working like trojans. The fire gained rapid headway as it swept through piles of finishing lumber, ate its way into the back end of the store room, where was contained one of the largest stocks of hardware in Eastern Montana. Great clouds of smoke and fire shot high in the air from piles of pitch pine lumber.

"I soon saw it was useless to try to save the yards, so centered all effort on keeping the fire from crossing the alley," said the fire chief.

When asked as to the probable origin of the fire the Chief said: "I have had my hands too full fighting it is fire to think about how it started. We certainly have been up against something."

A twenty-foot alley separated the lumber yards from the Lake building. This was the Verdun where the fire-fighters made their stand. A slight breeze was blowing to the southwest, and had the fire leaped the alley, and it looked for all the world as if it would, Lake's brick block on the corner, occupied by Sult. & Co., the Baker Mercantile Company's building, Tom Flynn's barber shop, the "Sugar Bowl," Judge Williams law office right next the alley, numerous offices on the upper floor of the Lake block, would have been doomed. In fact, that entire end of Main street to the lake would have been wiped out.

At five o'clock this morning Manager Raymond, soot-begrimed, standing high up on a pile of lumber, was assisting a bucket brigade trying to check the fire at the sidewalk bridge. Both Manager Raymond and Mr. Bodily worked with the fire-fighters all night.

John Barnikoff was at the new city pumping station when the fire started. The pump was going then and the reservoir about half full of water. Two lines were kept going from the city plant and one line from the lake, where the old faithful 85-horse power fire engine kept chugging away. There was something heroic about the way that old engine worked. Assistant Chief Paul Collette was in charge. One felt there would be no dearth of water so long as Lake Baker held a drop. A 300 foot line of hose was run from this.

The water supply from the city well and all sources was excellent. Two water wagons in charge of Drayman Harris and Carl Crosby were kept in action.

At dawn this morning a soda fountain, a dentist's chair, a complete stock of confectionery, a lawyer's library, the contents of Lew Jim's restaurant occupied prominent places in the center of the street. Bankers, merchants, clerks, doctors, everybody, shirtless and sockless, as aforesaid, were lined-up in the bucket brigade.

The question being asked by everyone now is: "How did it start?" That's the mystery. One thing is certain, the management has always used great care to prevent such a catastrophe, as has befallen them. Messrs. Raymond and Bodily went home at about 12 o'clock. They are both accustomed to late hours in finishing up the day's work. They were out in the yard at 11:30 and everything was all right.

They were sleeping there, but that is mere conjecture.

When asked as to the probable cause Manager Raymond said: "I haven't the least idea. You make a guess and it will be about as near right as mine. We were receiving large shipments every day, and large quantities going out."

The Midland Company has about 85 yards throughout the west. Its main office is at Miles City, where General Manager Chas. E. Brown was wired soon after the fire started and will be here some time today. A small safe containing the records lies buried in the ruins, but the company has a duplicate set of records at its Miles City office. The Baker yard was one of the most important along the line.

The Midland Company has always been "on the square" with Baker. Widespread regret was expressed on every hand for their severe loss; at the same time luck seemed to be with the town that the fire was kept confined as it was.

General Mgr. Brown got word of the fire at Miles City at 2 o'clock. In 30 minutes he was on his way by automobile with Auditor, McShane, arriving here before 8 o'clock. Mr. Brown informs the Times he ordered a new stock of lumber by wire before leaving Miles and his company will begin to rebuild immediately. They expect to have the lumber yard open by the end of the week. Mr. Brown says he is unable to make an estimate of the loss at this time. The company had heavily stocked up in lumber and hardware in anticipation of the enormous business this spring and summer.

NOTES OF THE FIRE

It was Baker's most disastrous fire. Tommy Burns and Lew Jim dispensed hot coffee to the workers.

Ed Lake started in at once to clean out the "Sugar Bowl." It took heroic work to save it. Mr. Lake worked like a beaver long after his own property was safe.

Books from Booth & Dousman's law office were tossed out of the window.

On Judge William's law office is a sign placed there when he left: "If anything important, write or wire me care Auditorium, Chicago." The contents of his office were removed to Russell's furniture store.

A small shower early last night was fortuitous. Many burning fire brands lit upon roofs of buildings near the fire.

The Spark's livery barn was kept water-soaked. It was so hot on that side of the street the water steamed.

The work of the fire-fighters was splendid. They worked with little friction considering the great excitement under which they labored. No local fire insurance agents are interested in the losses. Fire adjusters will be here today.

Tom Flynn moved the contents of his shop when its destruction seemed imminent.

Mayor Barstow and Deputy Sheriff Kelling were active in directing the workers.

A few of those we noted who worked till about ready to drop from exhaustion were: Joe Hodgson, Red Metheny, Ben Hamilton, George Hough, L. P. Chuning and Ernest Harper.

R. S. Johnson thoughtfully furnished everyone with socks. Thousands of rounds of ammunition kept up a lively fusillade in the burning hardware store. A few dynamite caps also exploded.

A city fire department could have done no better than the Baker boys.

Those piles of lumber, many think, were the bulwarks that saved the Lake building.

A veering of the wind to the south is what helped save the Sparks barn. Pine and axle grease made a spectacular fire in that section of the yard.

The company's safe was dug out, smoke issued from the cracks about the door. It was buried in a pile of wet sand to cool off.

The Midland company has a big reserve stock of hardware in their warehouse across the tracks.

An immense pile of shingles were moved only yesterday, and escaped the flames.

The Yeomen's dance at Masonic hall was largely attended and greatly enjoyed by all. Mrs. E. Lathom won the Yeomen pillow for being the best waitress. Mr. Walter Davis won the gentleman's prize, a pair of kid gloves. Ice cream and cake was served at midnight.

WANTON OUTRAGE SHOOTING STOCK

The finding of a yearling steer dead by the graveyard, one mile from town, led to an investigation which revealed the fact that several head of stock belonging to H. W. Sparks and A. K. Clark had been wounded with a rifle of small caliber.

The cattle were running on the open range two or three miles from town. Stock inspectors are investigating the outrage and, as will be noted in those columns, a reward of \$200 is offered for the apprehension of the guilty party.

No matter what the provocation, there can be no possibly justification for such an outrage. It is an offense punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary and that is what is likely to be meted out to the offenders.

Both Mr. Sparks and Mr. Clark are determined to put a stop to such outrages in this community.

If stock is found trespassing on private property, the proper and lawful procedure would be to impound the animals and notify the owner.

A Few More Locals.

The all-night vigil at the fire will doubtless limit the attendance of people at the Willard picnic today.

The Lutheran Ladies Aid will meet at the home of Mrs. L. Granum Tuesday, June 20. Mrs. Jacobs will entertain.

Mrs. J. Owens and daughter, Gladys, of Portage, Wis., are visiting Owen J. Owens and family.

Miss Olga Frick of St. Paul, filed this week on a homestead near Webster.

W. A. Patterson, state representative of the Western Loan & Building Association of Salt Lake, called on the company's local representative, R. S. Hamilton, this week. Mr. Patterson's headquarters are Great Falls.

Frank Worthington of Aberdeen was here this week looking for a business location; also farm land.

Mrs. R. S. Hamilton and family have gone to Aberdeen for a visit with her father and mother.

Judge O'Hern and Court Stenographer Coward are expected here Monday, provided they finish the term of court at Miles City.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR COUNTY TREASURER

To the Voters of Fallon County:

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of County Treasurer on the Democratic ticket at the August primaries. I have served the county as deputy treasurer under Mr. Emil Lentz during his term of office, and go before the voters on my record.

E. H. TRANDUM.

DOUSMAN FOR ATTORNEY.

To the Voters of Fallon County:

Having served this County in the capacity of County Attorney for the past two years, I hereby announce myself a candidate for re-election on the Democratic ticket.

I believe the experience I have gained in this office the past two years will enable me to render more capable service than I could without such experience. I also believe it will enable me to render better service than a new man in the office.

Very truly yours,
CHARLES DOUSMAN.

FOR SUPERINTENDENT

To the Voters of Fallon County:

I submit my name as a candidate for the nomination of County Superintendent of Schools on the Democratic ticket at the August primaries.

I have had charge of the Baker Public Schools for four years during which time the Baker School has advanced from a three room school to a Four Year Accredited High School employing a corps of eight teachers.

Before coming to Baker I had experience in the public schools of Minnesota, Dakota and Washington.

Through my Normal training in the State Normal, Mankato, Minn. by teaching in the rural schools of my native state, as well as by active interest in all educational matters, I feel especially qualified to handle the rural school problem.

Begging a careful consideration of my claims to the support of the voters of the Democratic Party.

Yours for Better Schools,
(MISS) CARRIE A. BACHTLE.

FLAX FIBER MILL HAS SMALL FIRE

A fire at the flax fiber mill Friday afternoon was started when someone carelessly threw a lighted cigar stub in a bunch of straw outside the mill.

No damage was done, but it caused a lot of excitement.

A few moments after a still alarm was sent in the local fire brigade went clanging down the street in tow of automobiles. Following in its wake were dozens of automobiles, loaded to the running boards with volunteer fire-fighters and trailed by others who, failing to get aboard, hot-footed it to the mill.

The volunteer fire boys got there in remarkably quick time and connected up with a near-by creek at the moment the fire was in imminent danger of working its way through the floor-joists to a quantity of straw stored inside. This was water-soaked.

This is the second fire that has occurred at the mill; on a former occasion a large quantity of straw being destroyed. "No smoking" signs are posted in numerous places, but apparently are disregarded.

Dr. W. R. Morgan has sold his veterinary hospital to Dr. Thomas of Billings. The institution established by Dr. Morgan has accommodations for sick and injured horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, dogs and cats.

Local Brevities.

U. S. Marshal Asbridge was in Fallon county last week issuing subpoenas for a grand jury term which commences at Helena tomorrow. It was Mr. Asbridge's first visit to Baker, Alzada, Webster and Ekalaka. He spoke in high praises of the sections visited.

Deputy Organizer William Hackett is doing effective work in this community towards securing a strong membership for the Yeomen lodge. There are now about 75 members and new additions are being made right long.

In a letter received by the Times from Dietlien & Ware, Aberdeen, they say: "We have recently closed a deal for 100 acres of the Price homestead near Kingmont, and expect to begin operations in the way of drilling for oil, just as soon as arrangements can be made."

One of our numerous callers last week was J. J. Long. Mr. Long has in over a hundred acres of wheat, oats, barley and millet and says it is looking fine. He is also trying out alfalfa in a ten-acre patch. Mr. Long was on his way to Evansville, Ind., after Mrs. Long's father, who will make his home with them.

A Correction.

C. L. Proctor informs us that the item published in the Ekalaka Eagle, and republished in this issue of the Times, is incorrect. Mr. Proctor will continue to make his home in Baker. He is permanently located here and has no intention of making a change. Appointments made by phone or letter. All examinations made by the most modern and scientific methods. Telephone Lawyer's Drug Store, Baker, Mont. 8-15-16.