



Anent State Highways

The Montana Highway News for December, under the caption: "A Rational Highway for Montana" says "We must not fool ourselves into the belief that completing the improvement of the 17 per cent or trunk state highway system will solve the road problem of the state."

Mr. Highway Commission, you said a mouthful that time! If I knock along at about 20 miles an hour I can reach Divide on one of the supposed state highways in about four hours and from there may put in one hour over a very good road into Butte. Over the entire state the farmer is up against the same thing, four hours arriving at the state road which is of one hour's benefit.

The highway development proposes to "match federal funds with the counties on a 27-20 per cent basis, the counties supplying only 20 per cent. The federal government will supply 53 per cent. Does the highway commission donate to the state that 27 per cent, or do the taxpayers provide that fund? Does the federal government become possessed of its 53 per cent through the generosity of Wall street, or, is that just a little proposition on the side for the taxpayers of the county to take care of? Figure it out for yourself.

The Highway News goes on to tell that "the necessary funds will be secured by an increase in motor vehicle fees, a two-cent gasoline tax and royalties from federal oil lands as at present." Who pays the increase in motor vehicle fees—which increase is proposed by the highway commission to be about 100 per cent—if it isn't the same taxpayer herein before mentioned? If the gasoline burned by the highway commission was paid by themselves instead of by the taxpayer who is responsible for the state funds, they would not be so anxious to double the gasoline tax.

The Highway News further says "The policy will enable the matching of all federal aid apportioned to the state and not now matched, amounting to \$6,500,000 and will prevent the loss of approximately one million dollars of this amount of federal money next July 1."

Well we should worry! Let's lose it. Bankers and financiers who would recommend the bonding of the counties for this purpose are few indeed, unless it might be in Southern California, where good roads are demanded and paid for indirectly by the tourists.

Were Beaverhead county bonded to build a sufficient mileage of federal aid roads at \$7,500 a mile to be of any practical benefit to us, even though our initial payment was but 25 per cent of the total cost, would put us so far in the hole that Bald mountain would be a hole in the ground before we had the bonds retired.

Instead of raising our taxes under existing financial conditions, let's keep down the motor vehicle tax, the gasoline tax, the state tax and the federal tax, and maintain in a proper manner the roads we now have until we have recovered, from the bump we got in 1920 and 1921.

Highway News in the same issue says: "Strange as it may seem, there is apparently no demand on the part of the farmers of the state for a continuance of state road activities. On the contrary, there is a very insistent demand on the part of motor vehicle owners for more miles of the kind of roads the department is now constructing."

If traced to the foundation, this means that the owners of pleasure cars in the cities want high class roads but the farmer thinks he can't afford them. The resident of the incorporated cities PAY NO ROAD TAX—the farmer pays five mills.

Three million cars are owned by the farmers of the United States. We want good roads, but only as fast as we can afford them.

Good luck to Scharnikow of Powell county!

—SAM JONES

It would seem from press reports that Lemhi county, Idaho, was pretty well clear of hawthorn thicket. Everyone has co-operated to the utmost with the state and federal forces in this hawthorn campaign and having been relieved of the nuisance of "the mountain thicket," are now looking for the same in nearby counties.

EAST FOX SCHOOL NOTES

Percent of attendance for December, 99.25.

Henry Olsen delivered a splendid Christmas tree for the program. Charlie Olsen and Mike McGinnis repaired our heating system.

Otto Gasser surprised the school children by a fine treat of Christmas candy.

A fine Christmas program was rendered. Wilma Christensen and Virginia Husted each spoke a piece.

Dorothy Husted received the highest average, 92, and Hester Olsen second, 91.

Alma and Hester Olsen carry the honors of receiving the most spelling stars for December. Dorothy Husted made the 100 mark in her mid-year spelling.

Helen, Hester and Alma Olsen, Dorothy, Grace and Charlie Husted were neither tardy nor absent.

Grace Husted, Alma and Helen Olsen received the medium size certificate for perfect attendance of three months.

East Fox school joined Jackson school in the Christmas program.

December visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Wm Christensen and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Olsen, Mrs. Alex Peterson, Mrs. Roy Ford, Misses Josephine Quigley, Rosie and Ruby Neidt, Mrs. Jack Husted and family.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

New Year! New Year is drawing near.

With happiness for all the year.

The people count the minutes one by one

Until the striking of the clock is done.

Happy New Year is what they yell

When the old man goes out, pell mell,

And the young new year comes tripping lightly in

—Idella Husted, Class B

OUR NEW YEAR

New Year comes but once a year,

With storms that tell of his good cheer,

To gladden us upon the ways

With thoughts that tell of happy days.

We make new resolutions

To live throughout the year

To help us in our daily actions

That will bless us here on earth.

—Alma Olsen, Class B

WAS GOOD MEETING

The joint meeting of the Big Hole Basin Stockmen's association and the directors of the Big Hole Creamery company Saturday afternoon was an encouraging sign.

Correspondence between Wm. Huntley of the local bank and E F Benson, manager of the Northern Pacific railway department of immigration and industry showed that the outside world has an eye on the Basin and it is simply up to us to do our part in order to reap the harvest which is ours for the effort.

President Parsons of the Stockmen's association was authorized by motion of Secretary Charles Quist to appoint a committee to ascertain just what lands can be leased or sold.

George Parsons created a sensation by exhibiting his cream check for \$75.80, the product of 22 cows for eight days. Cashier McKevitt has computed Mr. Parsons' profits or "feed bill" at 36.4 per day per animal. "And half of 'em are strippers," George announced.

Secretary McKevitt of the Creamery association read a comprehensive report of the company's business together with the names of patrons and the amounts they have received since the beginning of creamery operations late in July of last year. We had hoped to publish it this week but will not be able to do so until the next issue. Total amount of butterfat purchased is 19,752.4 lbs. for which the company has paid \$3,053.61, an average price of 40.8 per pound.

CATTLE ON THE MOVE

C E Miller shipped 340 steers and 160 cows this week, the former going to the Los Angeles packing company represented here by A P Buck and Mr. Miller himself taking the other shipment to Ogden.

There was an error in our list of best stuff in the Big Hole for Miller has already shipped 940 head and will have more than the entire number destined to him in the trade.

Larry Arnold is making arrangements to ship, probably to Ogden.

If you can get it in Wisdom, don't send out of the hole for the pasture!

RUDE RURAL RHYMES

(Written for THE NEWS by Bob Adams)

BALD BARD AND MODERN MAIDEN

Where are the shy and gentle dears we used to love in yesteryears, with modest ways and sober views, whose skirts hung down to hide their stoes? Yea, if in action or repose, by accident the skirt arose to show half an inch of hose, some sister warred them on the sly lest it might please a roving eye. When school boards wished in days of yore to oil the village school house floor the teacher kicked because her skirt was dragging in the greasy dirt; but you can bet your bottom dollar the modern school-marm does not holler. The bard was wont in other years to praise his lady's ears; the best girl of the modern poet may still have ears but he don't know it. The modern maid is oft a peach, 'e'en though her ears are out of reach. She may be gentle and refined, 'e'en though her cheeks are calcimined. She has reasons too no doubt, for pulling half her eyebrows out. I'm glad I am not married to her, yet gladly give the praises due her. In every look and act, forsooth, she seems to please the modern youth; and I, though old, balder, fatter, still get a lame neck looking at her.

—BOB ADAMS

Tree-Covered Desert in Southwestern Arizona

United States Geological Survey has Mapped This Interesting Home of the Papago Indians for Benefit of Automobile Tourists

According to the common notion, the Mexican boundary, forming a triangle that lies west of Tucson and east of Yuma, is the subject of a the Papago country of southwestern Arizona is a desert that is green and tree-covered and contains ponds and cultivated fields. However, the verdure is deceptive, the trees cast almost no shade, the ponds are dry most of the time, and such fields as may be cultivated yield crops only at intervals. Great areas are without permanent water, and the low inhabitants of the region, human and animal, are engaged in a continual struggle for a precarious livelihood.

In this inhospitable environment the Papago Indians have lived since the days of the early Spanish explorers, and doubtless long before. In summer they cultivate corn, beans and squash in the broad valleys wherever floods wet the ground; in winter they congregate at wells or other watering places in the mountains. A few white stockmen, miners, storekeepers and government officers are scattered through the area. At the great copper camp of Ajo, however, the traveler will find a modern city of 2,000 people, an outpost of civilization in the desert.

In 1917 the road leading from Tucson, the county seat of Pima county, to Ajo was 135 miles of rough and difficult traveling. This journey, a whole day's trip by automobile, was attempted only by the experienced desert traveler. By 1920 there had been constructed over the worst parts of the road 82 miles of modern highway and the journey can now be made in four hours. Indeed the road from Tucson to Yuma, which includes this road to Ajo, bids fair to become part of one of the popular transcontinental roads.

The Papago country, which is south of the Gila river and north of

OUR NATIONAL HYMN

On top of federal income taxes and all other taxes, tax-boosters are proposing state income taxes, more gasoline taxes, etc. The average citizen while absorbed in the joyful occupation of making out tax checks, including one to Uncle Sam, catches the strains of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." With apologies to our national song, the Boston News Bureau offers the following new version:

MONTANA BUTTER PRODUCTION

Montana produced 7,429,000 pounds of butter in 1921, an increase of 2,840,000 pounds over the 1919 total of 4,589,000, according to figures compiled by Swift & Co. This indicates that Montana is making rapid strides in approaching independence of the outside butter supply. It is estimated that the increase in the amount of butter made in the state is keeping about a million dollars annually in Montana that has formerly gone to other states.

NEW LAWS NEEDED

Among the new laws which should be enacted by the legislature a subscriber submits a list of the few he thinks pertinent:

A law regulating the length of tacks and providing for the quality, texture, composition, sharpness and size of the same, and repealing all other laws in conflict therewith; a law to create a hospital for aged, insane, blind, sick and dependent cats, and creating a levy by taxation for the support of the same; a law regulating the manufacture, importation and sale of matches, establishing a standard match of which not more than 45 to 1 will break off in the scratching, making it a felony to manufacture a match that will not burn when properly stricken and which if thrown on the floor will not set fire to the house; a law governing the cost, strength and size of lanterns, regulating the number to the package and providing penalties for any person or persons who leave lanterns in undesirable places, a law governing the quality of salted peanuts, regulating the price, the kind of peanuts and the amount of salt describing the package, box, carton, sack, in which contained and providing penalties for disregard of the same. In addition to this we need a good popcorn law—the popcorn condition in this state is deplorable. A new law should regulate the size of the popped corn and the quantity and quality of butter used.

These thoughts are submitted to the legislators who wish to see a bigger, better, brighter Treasure state. Peanut politics should have its legislative equivalent.—Montana American, Butte

USE COMMON SENSE

The average man can earn of save from \$500 to \$1,000 every five years. How many men can make this money earn money? Not one in ten.

The average individual knows a good make of shoes, a good grade of flour, a good watch, a good wagon, a good piece of cloth, a good automobile, and so on. He buys these articles by comparing their merits with other articles of the same character.

Not so with investments. He spends his money blindly, with no knowledge of comparative merits of various classes of securities.

You would not go to a blacksmith if you wanted your watch fixed, then why go to a speculator when you want to invest your money? Go to your banker or a legitimate bond house who is responsible to the community for sound advice on financial matters. Much loss and misery could be eliminated if this simple advice were heeded.

CHURCH NOTES

Preaching services in the Wisdom church next Sunday, January 21st, at 7:30 p. m. Services the following Sunday in the Tope school house at 3:00 p. m.

The Interchurch World Survey in forms us that during the year 1920 the Protestant churches of the United States expended for local benevolent work 250 million dollars; or the title of 27 cents per member per day. The title of \$1.37 per member would have paid all expenses and given a surplus of one billion dollars.

God claims the ownership of all whatever a man has he owes and not owns. We are stewards of God's possessions. Are we aiming to be faithful and ever ready to give an account of our stewardship?

Wm. G. JOHNSON, Pastor.

ADDITIONAL RADIO FUNDS

Mrs. Ted Woodward very kindly remembers The News with the names of additional contributors to the Galen radio fund as follows:

Mrs. Tom Pendergast, Dave Hirschy and Fritz Walchly, \$2.00 each; Madamame Montgomery and Wampler, \$1.00 each.

While the Galen radio fund is in the air, we are reminded that the Big Hole has a boy down there. He used to be "wan as the bottom" in the valley. No matter where you put him, in the middle or on the end ground, he was "there with both feet." You don't know how soon you may be at Galen, or some other neighborhood. Why not have a bank loan fund? Let one of your members at Galen loan him some from the rest of you and let's hurry this radio fund through.

State Industrial Review

Receipts by the secretary of state for two-year period, \$1,389,302.

Ronan: Flathead project gets \$555,000.

Missoula: Missoula Gas company is sold to the Garden City company for \$51,000.

Havre: 112 miles of graveled highway from Rudyard to Dodson along the Great Northern expected to be completed by next fall.

Butte may get a new federal building, to cost \$350,000.

A railroad is to be built between Miles City and Sheridan, Wyoming.

Missoula: A stand of six million feet of timber has been sold by the forest service.

Shelby: Berg well flows about 40 million feet per day.

Lewistown: Absaroka mine is to start up again on its work near Ingomar.

Great Falls: A deep test well of the Kevin Sunburst field, to go 600 feet is now being drilled next spring by the Dixie Oil & Gas Co.

Billings: State oil operators are to form a permanent organization.

Shelby to build community church.

Butte: The Mountain States Telephone company to install at a cost of more than \$35,000 a new fully equipped repeater and toll test room.

Great Falls: Production starts on February 1 at Silver Dyke Neihart mines. Will mean a payroll of about \$18,000 a month. To mine 500 tons of ore daily.

Glasgow: New oil company has been formed here, capitalization \$20,000.

Great Falls: Berg and Spokane wells both prove big gassers. The Spokane is estimated at over 1,500,000 cubic feet.

Belt: Construction of \$6,000 addition to the Methodist church is planned.

Baker oil field is to be opened for development.

Value of gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc mined in Montana in 1922, according to an estimate of the U. S. Geological Survey, department of the Interior, was \$44,483,000, a large increase from the value of \$16,324,521 in 1921.

The Sunburst discovery well was drilled into the Kootenai sands just six months ago. Six months of activity has witnessed the erection of 72 rigs, the bringing in of 25 producing wells, and bringing towards completion of over 20 wells. The field is building a pipe line and has 20 miles of line in operation, including storage facilities totaling 53,500 barrels and modern marketing facilities. Development work is progressing over 169,320 acres, this amount of territory being under lease on approved structure or adjacent to the major structure. The real development of the major structure has not been undertaken.

NEW LIBRARY OFFICERS

At a meeting of the Wisdom Library association last Saturday afternoon the mere men relinquished all rights, title and interest in and to the organization to the women folks and elected the following officers:

Mrs. C E Miller president, Mrs. Chas. Quist vice-president, Mrs. McKevitt secretary, Mrs. Jesse Reed treasurer.

A board of directors, all women, was chosen, one from each of ten different parts of the Basin, and the next meeting will be at the home of the vice-president Saturday, January 27th.

The officers elected and the directors chosen have a reputation in this community for "doing things" and The News expects to see something come of the association. Our columns are at the disposal of the members for announcements or news concerning the activities of the association and we want to assure the ladies that we wish them well.

PEACE AT ANY PRICE

Brown's young wife, who is not especially sweet-tempered, asked her lord and master for a hundred dollars.

"I'd like to let you have it, my dear," he began, "but the fact is I have to take up a note for two hundred dollars this afternoon."

"Oh, very well, Richard," said his wife, with cautious calm; "if you think the man who holds the note can write it any better for you than I can, why, do as you say."

She got the money.—The Boston Transcript.