

Northern Montana Interested in Fight Between Wolf Point and Poplar for Permanent Capital of Roosevelt County

"Let Well Enough Alone" Says Poplar

By C. W. JEROME, Editor, Poplar Standard. THE ROOSEVELT COUNTY seat fight which is now under way bids fair to go down into history as one of the most interesting battles that has been waged in northeastern Montana for the last decade.

Poplar Claims Central Location. Poplar contends that a county seat that is centrally located is most equitably served the interests of all the people of a county.

Being favorably located as it is, Poplar submits that it naturally follows therefrom that it is most accessible to the people of the county as a whole.

County Buildings at Poplar. At the present time, the county officials are located at Poplar, in a large and commodious brick building which affords all modern conveniences.

Upon acquiring the temporary county two years ago, the school district of the building was occupied by the county, permitted the county to use the same free of all charge and rental.

Poplar, after which time it has been used exclusively for county offices, Poplar having another school building erected a few years having recently been one of the most modern and ample school buildings in the state.

Fort Peck Reservation Headquarters. Poplar is a city of approximately 1,200 population, has all the modern improvements of any large city, with the best of schools and educational facilities, is a progressive and thriving town and is the headquarters for the Fort Peck Indian reservation.

A large bulk of the farmers residing in Roosevelt county are located on the Fort Peck Indian reservation and by reason of adverse crop conditions for the last few years have been unable to make final proof upon their lands, which necessitates the adjusting and taking up of their homestead matters with the Indian agent at Poplar.

The election November 7 is without doubt the final chapter in the location of a permanent county seat for Roosevelt county. Poplar is far from being without the support of the press of the county and outside of the county.

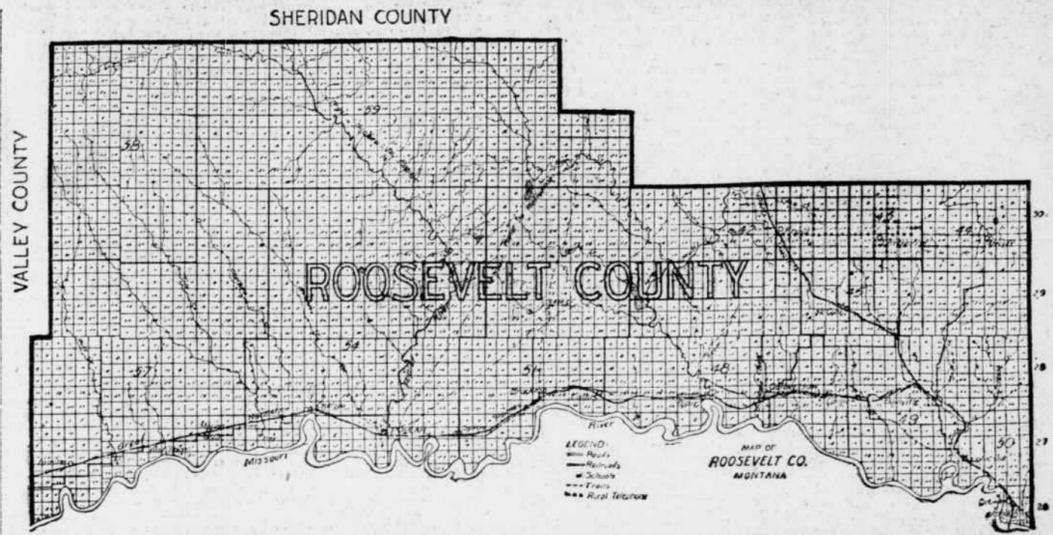
The Roosevelt County Independent and the Poplar Standard advocate the same principles. The Producers News, published at Plentywood, an outside newspaper having an extensive circulation over all of northeastern Montana, and recognized as one of the strongest champions of the farmers' rights and opposed to anything and everything that increases taxation or sponsors waste of the taxpayers' funds, takes up the bludgeon for Poplar in no uncertain terms and recommends that the only common sense thing that the people of Roosevelt county can do is to locate the county seat at Poplar.

Wolf Point, on the other hand, is waging a campaign as unique as Poplar's is clear cut in that some of the issues or contentions raised by Poplar are met either directly or indirectly, Wolf Point basing her bid for county seat upon other matters irrelevant to any or all of Poplar's basic reasons.

A so-called "Clean House" ticket was put into the field, backed by Wolf Point, containing candidates supposedly pledged to the idea of strict economy. The result of the election during the primaries was the complete defeat of practically every present officer holder and the nomination of candidates appearing on the "Clean House" ticket.

Poplar's campaign throughout is based solely and entirely on the economical feature of the issue and their appeal is directed on the basic thought that a county seat that is centrally located is most economically conducted and results in an annual saving to the taxpayers of thousands of dollars.

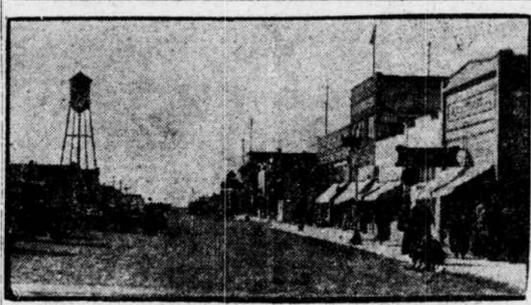
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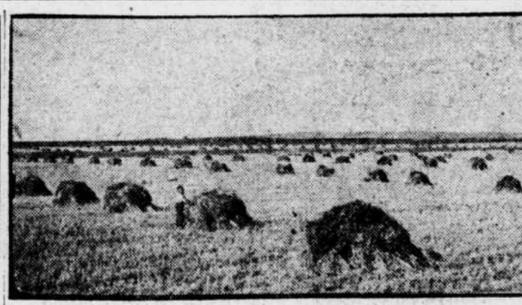
WOLF POINT IS IN THE SOUTHWESTERN PART OF THE COUNTY, WHILE POPLAR IS JUST WEST OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL PART.



AIRPLANE VIEW OF WOLF POINT, ROOSEVELT COUNTY'S LARGEST TOWN, SHOWING SHERMAN HOTEL IN FOREGROUND.



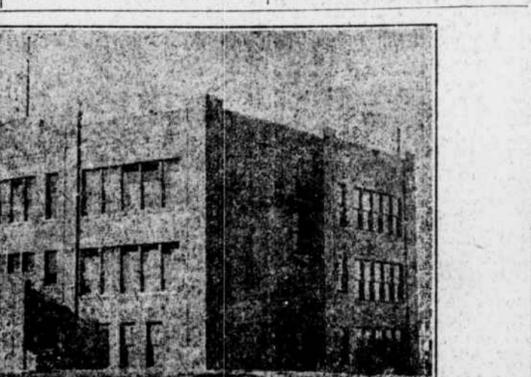
WEST MAIN STREET, WOLF POINT.



ROOSEVELT COUNTY HAS RICH FARMING POTENTIALITIES.

having economically used the county's money during their term of office, thereby appealing to the voters and taxpayers that taxes be saved in the future by electing a new set of officers pledged to carry out such wishes.

Wolf Point's Camouflage. The "Clean House" ticket having prevailed at the primaries, aided as it was by Wolf Point, Wolf Point now asks the voters and taxpayers in effect, that it be rewarded with the county seat as a gift from the people for its benevolent and worthy stand for economy's sake.



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING AT POPLAR.

that the acts committed by such officers were committed by them and not by the city of Poplar and that Poplar, as a community, is in no wise to blame nor should it be held responsible for any wrongs, either of omission or commission, that such officers have committed.

The situation is best summed up, and tersely so, in the following, taken from the Producers News, an outside and disinterested newspaper, published at Plentywood in Sheridan county: "In the fight to 'clean house' as it was called, Wolf Point took a prominent part and staged a great theatrical for political decency and public economy. Of course every voter in Roosevelt county knew at all times that the interest Wolf Point took in the clean up of Roosevelt county was an interest inspired by that city's desire to become the county seat of Roosevelt county, nothing more nor nothing less.

ROOSEVELT COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND JAIL AT POPLAR.

"Let's Finish the Job," Says Wolf Point

C. L. MARSHALL, Former Editor, Wolf Point Herald. AT THE NOVEMBER ELECTION the voters of Roosevelt county will be handed a very small, separate ballot on which hangs a big issue—and a tale. There is a county seat fight on the kind that has put a kick in the early history of many of the counties of many of the western states.

Poplar Takes Initiative. Poplar proposed to split a strip off the southern side of Sheridan county reaching from Valley county to the North Dakota line.

What happened at Helena that winter, in connection with these bills, is too deep to be stated here. Suffice it to say that Poplar had the right system and the Roosevelt bill passed both houses and was signed by Governor S. V. Stewart.

County Seat at Mondak. The bill that created Roosevelt county placed in office the first board of county commissioners, two of the three being, of course, of Poplar's choosing.

Some buildings were rented, some were purchased, and remodeled to take care of the various offices. Fixtures and supplies were purchased through a Poplar firm.

Wolf Point made a slogan of economy in the primaries in its war on the old gang. Poplar has now come back with the same slogan in regard to the location of the county seat.

Wolf Point Gets Most Votes. Bainville and Culbertson took a straw vote to determine which town should withdraw. Culbertson was loser in the straw vote which was finished just before the date of the election.

Geography of Roosevelt County. A brief mention of some of the geographical features of the county will give a clearer understanding of the matters herein discussed.

Wolf Point with 2,500 has about 45 per cent of the town population of the county and maintains that within a few years half the population of the county will be in her sector.

Putting Them Through Their Paces. According to the claims of her opponents Poplar, located at the grip of the dumbbell, has so far kept a firm hold on it while doing stunts and developing her political strength.

Million Dollars Indebtedness. For the purpose of getting at least a portion of the truth of the existing condition of county affairs before the whole people, Wolf Point had a copy (Continued on Page Two)