



Choteau Lodge, No. 11, I. O. O. F.

A regular meeting of the above Lodge will be held on Wednesday evening of each week at their lodge room in this city.

Benton Lodge, No. 25, A. F. & A. M.

Regular Communications of the above named Lodge are held at 7 p. m. on the first and third Saturday of each month.

H. P. ROLFE, Secretary.

J. E. STEVENS, LOCAL EDITOR

IN TOWN AND OUT.

A chinook is making our hearts glad. Our table of contents is crowded out this week.

Drop in on Murphy & Allen and try their fine liquors and cigars.

Go to Conway & McCabe's for a nice hot drink this cold weather.

Helena has 1,242 persons included in the school census under 21 years of age.

Twenty thousand dollars in warrants were paid this afternoon by the county treasurer.

Smith & Castner started their mule teams to the Coal Banks yesterday morning, after coal.

Talbert & Farmer report business good at the Jungle, which is a favorite resort for the thirsty.

Ed Brisbin changed off with Abel Farwell on the Fort Macleod mail line and came into Benton this trip.

We have been given to understand, on good authority, that Benton is to have a new drug store in the spring.

Beckman, the harness maker, has a fine stock of harness, saddles, etc., and a full line of Mills, Leak & Co.'s gloves.

Evans's Club House was emsailed by the cold weather, but he continues to serve up the delicacies of season just the same.

John Madden will bring in a lot of Christmas trees in a few days, and those wishing to make glad the hearts of their little ones will find him at Wetzel's store, where orders can be left.

John H. Gamble has opened up in the store formerly occupied by Tingley Bros. as a butcher shop and has a nice lot of fresh bread, pastry etc., on his shelves. Give him a call.

Wood and coal stoves—cooking and heating—are on hand at Wackerlin's. If you have a coal stove and fuel gives out, buy a wood stove—if your neighbors' fences are handy to get at.

Bill Preston desires to return thanks to the parties who forced open the coal bin belonging to Mr. Breyer one night last week. Mr. Preston says the pole they left made the very best kind of firewood.

We call attention to the new advertisement of W. G. Jones, carpenter and joiner. Mr. Jones has recently completed some work for the RIVER PRESS, and we can recommend his work to the people of Benton.

We desire to state to the parties who visited our coal bin Sunday night that a key of the same can always be found in the composing room of this paper, and there is no real necessity for their tearing the door down to get at the coal.

Some of the "boys" made things lively for a time on Front street last Monday evening. There was a sort of free fight for a while, and several eyes are in mourning for the deeds done that night. We understand that honors are easy.

W. E. Turner is keeping a very large stock of toilet articles, perfumery, notions, etc., suitable for holiday presents. He has also everything in the line of drugs, medicines, paints, oils, varnishes, and everything kept in a first-class drug store.

During the absence of L. H. Rosencrans in the East, his business will be in the hands of his brother, M. M. Rosencrans, who will wait on his many customers with the same good-natured smile which they are used to seeing on Lu's attractive face.

The warehouse of Murphy, Neel & Co. on the levee, will be thoroughly refitted, floored and plastered, and will be ready for public entertainments, balls, etc. The hall will be finished and ready before the holidays and will be found both convenient and comfortable.

Eugene Abbott, who arrived in town Tuesday from Carroll, reports that the military party who left here for Fort Maginnis Monday morning lost their way and got up on the Highwood road. It is expected that they have managed to strike the right road by this time, and are now all right.

Owing to a press of job work, and disappointment in getting help, we have been unable to get our paper out on time in the past two weeks, but we are happy to state to our subscribers who have borne with us in that time that we have succeeded at last in getting first-class help, and in future hope to be more prompt.

We understand that a certain gentleman connected with a large business house in town is desirous of finding a wholesale purchaser for the kind of toys that make a noise. In fact, if the stock is not soon cleaned out the indications are that he will buy it up himself and get rid of the noise or get the proprietors to go in with him on the purchase in order to allow business to go on.

Parties who are desirous of twisting their ankles out of joint, or breaking their heads, should go to Wackerlin's and buy a pair of those late style New York Club Skates. Ladies and gentlemen will be supplied with all styles and prices. Try them and give the surgeons a lift.

As will be seen by a notice in another column a special meeting of the Board of Trade called for Saturday evening next. It is expected and desired that all members of the Board will be present, as the meeting will be a very important one, and business of much moment to the interests of the town of Benton will be considered.

Any of our Benton subscribers who prefer calling at this office for their paper rather than at the post office can now do so and get them without any trouble. We have fitted up a lot of pigeon holes for this especial purpose alphabetically arranged, and convenient for the public, and parties who desire it can get them themselves or we will be glad to wait on them.

A fire broke out in the store occupied by Rosencrans & Klane and Franklin & Humbert, in the old St. Louis Hotel building, Helena, Monday night, and burned several buildings before its progress could be checked. Considerable loss was sustained, and Mr. H. A. Shultz, whose store was destroyed, was burned to death while trying to save his property.

Evans, Hale & Co. sent out this week a large supply of provisions, etc., to their men on Shonkin creek. This company are pushing vigorously the work of cleaning that creek and getting out the cord wood to float down in the spring. The creek is nearly cleaned out now, and they have between 800 and 900 cords of wood already out. They are working a force of 34 choppers. The enterprise of this company is a very commendable one, and all Benton unites in wishing it had been started a year sooner.

The Lynch & Conway lode, in the Barker district, is being rapidly developed, and the indications are of the most favorable character. They have a shaft down 25 feet, and are working on a vein 16 inches wide, of galena and carbonate, and the vein is widening at the rate of an inch to each foot of descent. There is two feet and one-half of ledge matter on this lode which is of certain richness, the degree of which cannot be determined from the want of a practical assayer. The Barker is looking splendid, showing a vein over 6 feet wide.

We had a very pleasant interview Tuesday evening with Louis Heitman, manager of the extensive business house of Kleinschmidt & Bros., in this place, who has just returned from a trip East, where, as will be seen by a short item in our personal column, he seems to have been successful in the object of his visit. Mr. Heitman visited St. Louis, various places in Illinois, Davenport, Kansas City, Leavenworth, and other Western cities, and says the business men whom he met report an increase of business last year and good prospects for the coming season. Mr. Heitman criticises rather unfavorably the treatment received at the terminus of the Utah and Northern railroad and on the overland stage road. Unaccommodating agents and surly drivers are among the unpleasant reminiscences of the return trip.

A quite amusing outcome to the late election has been told us by our young friend, S. Kelly, who was elected to the office of county coroner. Both the Benton papers said something about the workers at the polls, and in one paragraph appeared the name of "Kelly the Rake." Coroner Kelly's relatives in the East got hold of the papers, and, not knowing better, of course got the idea that Kelly the Rake meant Sam (who, we wish to state for their information, is a very estimable gentleman and well thought of in this community), and wrote him a sort of "Dutch uncle" letter, expressing their surprise and sorrow that he had already secured such a name for himself in his short residence among us. Of course this was too good to keep, and has caused considerable joking among Sam's intimate friends.

An Unpleasant Experience.

The parties to the wedding noticed in this issue had a rather unpleasant experience on their way to Benton. They started from Highwood Sunday morning, accompanied by Mr. Jared Smith, but everything being covered with snow and the road not discernable, they were unable to recognize any landmarks and lost their bearings. While trying to find their way they came across a young man named Wm. Myers, who was coming in from the Barker district, and was also lost. Night overtook them on the "trackless waste," and they were obliged to camp. They scraped away the snow from around the sleigh, and, after arranging things to make the lady comfortable, took up a sort of "walk around," an illustration of

Three hearts with but a single thought, Three soles that beat as one.

Mr. Myers was nearly overcome with long exposure to the cold, and it was with much difficulty that Mr. Woods and Mr. Smith kept him from giving up and yielding to that insidious sleep which, in such cases, is but the forerunner of death. But they managed to wear out the long, cold night, and in the morning, finding the road, took a fresh start for this place, which they reached about ten o'clock. Messrs Smith and Myers had their feet and hands partially frozen, while Mr. Woods' face was slightly nipped. The lady, we are happy to state, did not suffer.

PURELY PERSONAL.

—Eugene Abbott is in town from Carroll. He was fourteen days on the road.

—Sheriff Healy started for Helena on the morning of the 6th, on official business.

—N. S. True, a prominent stock grower of the Judith, is in town on his way East.

—Patrick Woods, who was pretty badly frozen a week or so ago, is coming out all right.

—Robt. Vaughn, a prominent and successful stock grower of Sun River, is in Benton this week.

—Isaac Mee is lying dangerously ill at his residence with erysipelas. His recovery is doubtful.

—Clark Tingley came in from Wolf Point last Saturday. He reports everything quiet in that vicinity.

—Mr. Myer, the affable bookkeeper of Kleinschmidt Bros, leaves for the East next week. Bon voyage.

—Frank Bargh and John Madden who have been in town for several days, returned to the Shonkin on Tuesday.

—R. S. Price and bride left Helena for Benton on the morning of the 8th and are expected home Thursday evening.

—Will those young gentlemen, J. W. Power, J. D. Weatherwax and J. J. Donnelly, please look after that amusement business?

—Capt. Moale has returned from his trip to Fort Belknap, where he went as one of the officers of inspection of the delivery of supplies.

—We are informed that Mr. Thos. Todd, and Mrs. Mattie Hawkins are to be married Thursday evening at the residence of Mr. James Conrad.

—Now that another wedding is so near at hand, we would suggest a certain young gentleman friend of ours that he be careful to keep his feet and not assume such a devotional attitude.

—L. H. Rosencrans left on Monday's coach bound for Helena and the States. He will remain in America, swinging around the circle, until spring, and will return on one of the first boats up the river.

—Louis Heitman and bride, nee Miss Carrie Lepley, returned home from the States last Saturday evening, and were warmly welcomed by their many friends in Benton; who wish them a long and happy partnership, a wish in which the RIVER PRESS most heartily joins.

—Whenever we announce the departure of any of our friends, we would like them to understand that it is necessary for our peace that they stay not on the order of their going, but go at the time advertised; even if the attractions of Benton society are exceedingly strong.

—Major Bartlett and Mr. Atchison left again on the morning of the 7th, for their home at Fort Maginnis. They appear to have enjoyed their stay in Benton immensely, and we expect many months will not elapse before new goods will be needed by the post trader at that point.

—On Wednesday evening Judge Tattan was very suddenly prostrated by a partial paralysis of some of the nerve centers, and at this hour (1 p. m. Thursday) shows but little evidence of recovery. He has been ailing for several weeks past, with the symptoms of extreme nervous prostration which have increased until it has brought him down completely. We, together with his many friends, extend to him our best hopes for his recovery, which must inevitably be slow.

The item in our last week's issue regarding the reported marriage of Mr. Edwards and Miss VanBlaricum, and which was generally reported around town, proves to be without foundation. The lady is a comparative stranger in this section, and has the highest reputation,—and so for that matter does the gentleman whose name has been coupled with her's. It is decidedly unpleasant to any lady to be the object of town gossip, even in such a matter, when there is no foundation for such rumors, and the parties who were so thoughtless as to spread such a report, in connection with any lady deserve the severest reprehension. The item appeared as local items are so apt to do, on the repeated representation of parties who professed to know, and we hope the present will disabuse the minds of all in regard to the unfortunate mistake.

Board of Trade.

There will be a special meeting of the Board of Trade on Saturday evening, December 11, at the Court House, at 7:30 p. m., sharp. T. E. COLLINS, President. W. H. HUNT, Secretary.

Masonic Ball.

At a meeting of Benton Lodge A. F. & A. M., it was decided to give a Ball on the 27th inst., the eve of St. John's Day, and the following committees were appointed: Committee on Invitation—Wm. Rowe, L. H. Rosencrans, Rufus Payne, N. McIntyre. Committee on Arrangements—H. P. Rolfe, John Hezekiah, W. O. Dexter. Committee on Reception—J. S. Hill, F. C. Roosevelt, M. Wright. Floor Managers—Lieut. Krause, W. S. Wetzel, J. B. Smith. Arrangements have been made with the Choteau House for the supper, handsome invitations have been printed at the RIVER PRESS office, and everything indicates a first-class and enjoyable affair.

Go to see the "White Elephant" at I. G. Baker & Co's.

BOARD OF TRADE

Meeting at the Court House—Consideration of Important Business.

The following is a report of the regular meeting of the Benton Board of Trade, held at the Court House, on Monday evening, December the 6th:

The meeting was called to order, Mr. Collins in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The board then proceeded to the consideration of the reports of committees, which were in a state of unreadiness.

Moved, that H. C. Williams and G. D. Patterson be admitted as members of the Board. Carried.

The following standing committees were appointed:

Ways and Means—W. H. Todd, W. H. Buck, Jere Sullivan, H. J. Wackerlin. Public Buildings—W. G. Conrad, Louis Heitman, T. A. Cummings, W. S. Wetzel, J. Hirschberg.

Postoffices and Post Roads—W. H. Hunt, M. A. Flannagan, T. C. Rosevelt, H. B. Hill, A. B. Hamilton.

Roads and Bridges—J. J. Donnelly, Paris Gibson, J. D. Weatherwax, J. D. Hill, Geo. Clendennin.

Mr. Todd moved that the Board take some action toward negotiating a loan of a portion of the wood belonging to the government as a measure of temporary relief.

Mr. Collins would agree with the previous speaker, but only as a temporary measure; the Board should go further and not only assist in the present emergency, but take such energetic measures as would effectually prevent a recurrence of the present fuel famine. He believed that a successful solution of this question was imperative if the future of Benton is to be assured. He also believed that a company should be organized by the business men of Benton, which would look to the cheapening of our fuel.

After some discursive remarks of similar tenor, it was moved that the chair appoint a committee, with power to act as they should see fit. Messrs. Power, Todd and Wetzel were appointed as such committee.

Moved, by Mr. Hunt, that a new director be appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the departure of Mr. Gibson for the East. So ordered.

The sense of the meeting was asked by Mr. Todd relative to measures which would effectively present the advantages of Benton as a railroad center, and the value of the country tributary to it as a means of support of population and of railroad enterprises, to the management of the Northern Pacific, the St. Paul Minneapolis & Manitoba, the Chicago and Northwestern and the Union Pacific railroads, with a view of influencing them toward us. He believed the time had come when the citizens of Benton must take hold of this matter if they would not be left out, and the advantages it would derive therefrom be diverted elsewhere.

Mr. Collins believed that the board should, without delay, authorize the publication of a pamphlet, which should be carefully edited and compiled, with a view to their gratuitous distribution.

Mr. Hunt enlarged upon the remarks of the previous speaker and favored his views.

Mr. Sullivan moved that a committee of five be appointed to draft memorials to the Northern Pacific, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba, Chicago and Northwestern, and Union Pacific railroads, setting forth the natural availability of our surrounding territory for railroads, and also to devise means for the publication of a pamphlet showing its great advantages and the inducements it possesses for immigrants in directing their attention to this particular section of Montana.

Messrs. Hill, Dewy, Hunt, Williams and Keeler were appointed such committee, and on motion, Mr. Collins was added.

It was believed by the President that the Board should, for the purpose of creating funds, give a social dance.

Mr. Todd volunteered the use of his building for such purpose, which, on motion, was accepted.

Mr. Collins believed the Board should agitate the passage of a law placing power in the hands of the county commissioners to assess property for the general benefit, improvement and good government of the town. We could hardly afford a city government, and that afforded by the county is insufficient.

Mr. Todd said that in this connection the condition of the levee needed the attention of authorities, who should have power to act, and believed the Legislature should be memorialized.

Mr. Donnelly said that the commissioners had the necessary power already, and also to impose tonnage dues, which latter power, at least, should be exercised.

Mr. Todd moved that the commissioners be urged, through a committee, to make needed improvements.

Mr. Collins believed the Legislature the proper body to delegate authority, as it would relieve the commissioners of the animus of showing favoritism, and moved to amend so that committee should be instructed to draw up memorial.

The officers of the Board were appointed as such committee.

Messrs. Power, Weatherwax and Donnelly were appointed committee on amusements. Desultory discussion on roads and bridges ensued, and the Board adjourned.

A full line of table and pocket cutlery for Christmas presents on hand at Wackerlin's.

THE BENTON "P" LINE.

The following is a statement of the up and down freight and passengers carried by the steamers of this Line during the boating season of 1880:

Table with columns: Steamers, Captains, Arrived at, Freight, Passengers. Lists various steamers like Butte-Johnson, Helena-Pecto, etc., with their respective freight and passenger counts.

Twenty-eight trips. In addition to the freight enumerated above, the boats brought up 2,906,340 lbs of Government freight, 1,280 Thoroubred Hams, 209 Thoroubred Horses, 74 Thoroubred Bulls, and 32 Thoroubred Heifers.

DOWN FREIGHT.

Table with columns: Steamers, Departed from, Freight, Passengers. Lists various steamers like Butte, Helena, etc., with their respective freight and passenger counts.

Totals. The boats took down 53,500 pounds of freight for the Government, 483 sacks of Ore—49,996 pounds—and general merchandise.

Shooting Affair at Claggett.

A few days since a shooting affray occurred in the Piegan camp, in the Judith Basin, between James Hiff and a man named Toney. The affair occurred in the night, and the cause which led to it is not known. Mr. J. J. Bowles, from whom the information is received, states that Toney placed his Winchester rifle close to the person of Hiff and fired. The ball entered the right side of the neck, narrowly missed the main arteries and spinal column, and came out on the opposite side. The gun was held so close to Hiff that his face was powder-burned. Hiff seized the rifle and succeeded in wresting it away, after which he used it as a club, inflicting severe injuries on Toney. Hiff then wandered off in the brush for a distance of about three miles, finally falling exhausted. He was found the following morning and taken to the cabin of a half breed. Much to the surprise of all, he is in a fair way to recover.

Mr. Bowles further informs us that a person called Old Schott, a character well known along the Missouri valley, was stabbed ten days ago at Claggett, a trading post on the Missouri river about 100 miles below Benton. The stabbing was done by Sam Dunstan, and was the result of a drunken quarrel. A serious though not fatal wound was inflicted.

Business Locals.

Sevres tea sets at Wackerlin's. Children's leggings at Wetzel's. Examine those wax dolls which Wetzel has for sale. If Foster can't get you up a dish of oysters in style no one can. Singer Sewing Machines of all sizes and prices at Murphy, Neel & Co's. Fine lunch, square meals, and all things in season are to be had at the Etaphone. Wanted—one thousand buffalo robes, at Rosencrans' Harness Store, corner Front and Bond streets. Scarcity of fuel or something struck Marshall's unapproachable Tom and Jerry, but he is fixing them up again in his best style, and has eggs enough to keep it up all winter.

If any of our readers, while in Helena, wish anything in the way of notions, or a good cigar, we will tell them where they can get what they want—at Fred. H. Anderson's post office book store.

MARRIED.

At the residence of W. S. Wetzel, in Benton, Dec. 7th, by the Rev. S. C. Blackton, Mr. Alen Woods and Miss Alzony Woodwies, both of Highwood.

W. C. JONES, Carpenter and Joiner GENERAL JOBBER.

Saws Filed and Furniture Repaired.

Shop on Main Street, back of T. C. Power & Bro.'s store. FT. BENTON, MONTANA.