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## THE GLORIOUS FOURTH!

How It Was Celebrated at Fort Benton.

The Largest Gathering Ever Witnessed at the River Metropolis—A Magnificent Parade—An Excursion Down the River on the Steamer Josephine—Splendid Display of Fireworks, Etc.

The Fourth of July, 1887, was a gala day for Fort Benton. Considering the short time for preparation, the great success of the celebration was really a surprise. It was more than was hoped for or expected, and we venture to say no town in Montana carried out in better style and spirit the programme arranged. The committees worked faithfully and every detail was carefully looked after, so that from early morning until the last dance at the grand ball (early the next morning) the programme was faithfully carried out without a breach or disagreeable feature of any kind, barring the slight accident to one of the gunners. It is universally admitted that it was the best celebration of the National holiday ever undertaken at Fort Benton. The attendance from the outside was very large and everybody in the city turned out to witness the ceremonies. At sun rise a salute of 38 guns with an extra one for Montana was fired and from that time forward the city was in holiday attire and the scene of much life and activity.

**THE PARADE.**  
Promptly at 11 a. m. the procession formed on Franklin street, in front of the public school building and the court house, under the leadership of Mr. T. J. Todd, marshal of the day, seconded by Mr. Ed. W. Lewis and other able assistants. It was headed by the 20th Infantry band of twenty pieces, playing national airs appropriate to the occasion. The band presented a handsome appearance in full dress uniform and preceded by the towering form of the drum major, gorgeously arrayed, wearing the usual magnificent bear-skin cap and wielding his silver-mounted baton with graceful ease, keeping perfect time with many intricate and wonderful evolutions to the inspiring music. Following the band came

**THE CAR OF STATE,**  
drawn by four magnificent horses, clad in silver mounted harness, trimmed with bright-colored ribbons and rosettes. On either side was a guard of honor, dressed in appropriate costumes. The car was built in the form of a terraced pyramid, at the apex of which was the stand of the Goddess of Liberty. The whole was covered with national emblems artistically arranged. Miss Alice Dutro, appropriately and beautifully dressed, represented the Goddess of Liberty. Around her, seated on the terraced sides of the pyramid, clad in light and airy white dresses, crowned with golden crowns bearing the name of the state that each represented, were seated forty little girls. This picture, the brightest and most joyous that could be imagined, won the admiration and extravagant applause of the multitudes along the line of march, and was one that will never be forgotten. The following are the names of the little ladies whose presence graced this beautiful tableau: May Tattan, Montana; Nora Sullivan, City of Fort Benton; Genevieve Flanagan, Grace Flanagan, Virginia Flanagan, Mamie Chemidlin, Edith Wackerlin, May Dunne, Flora Dutro, Pricie Coatsworth, India Coatsworth, May Brinkman, Lena Falk, Minnie Falk, Annie Martin, Nellie Martin, Vina Samples, Cecille Trombley, Ada Murphy, Minnie Henderson, Nellie Healy, Alfreda Healy, Helen Culbertson, Leonia Eaton, Grace Merry, Mary McCane, Nora Welsh, Lizzie Tingley, Effie Bell, Cora Allen, Gertrude Allen, Annie Berton, Rosie Robbins, Daisy Robbins, Dollie Robbins, Lizzie Smith, Helen Johnson, Mary Wheeler, Bertha Hammond, Zosephine Hammond.

**THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.**  
Next followed the fire department consisting of Choteau Engine Co., No. 1, Benton Hose Co., No. 1, and Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company. The engine, hose cart and truck were gaily decorated with the national colors and bright ribbons and streamers, and were loaded down with flowers. The fire laddies in their bright uniforms presented a fine appearance and they kept step gaily to the soul stirring music throughout the march.

**THE ARTILLERY ARM.**  
The artillery company, under command of Capt. Jack Lee followed next. The old Fort Benton gun was decorated with flags, emblems and mottoes. Among the latter could be seen the following: "Honor to Broadwater, Board of Trade, Maginnis"; "Honor to Jas. J. Hill, president of the Manitoba Railroad." The presence of Lieutenant Mike Lynch was painfully missed owing to the accident that befell him in firing the early morning salute. This was the only event of the day that tended to mar the general enjoyment.

**OTHER FEATURES.**  
Next came the carriage of the president of

the day, Hon. J. W. Conrad; the orator of the day, Col. Mack J. Leaming, (whose place was filled by Judge Jno. W. Tattan, the Colonel being confined at home by sickness); reader of the day; Hon. Mayor. Jere Sullivan, and the city council; citizens in carriages and on horseback. The procession extended for many squares, and moving along the line of march as indicated in the programme, finally reached the court house about 12 o'clock. The exercises were brief and the crowd that stood under the scorching rays of the sun were not displeased on that account. Mr. J. W. Conrad, president of the day, called the assemblage to order in a few fitting words and announced the reading of the Declaration of Independence by J. W. Tattan. As the orator of the day, Col. M. J. Leaming, was confined to his room by illness, this part of the programme had to be dispensed with and in its stead Judge Tattan read an appropriate extract from one of the great speeches of Daniel Webster. This concluded the exercises and Mr. Conrad dismissed the assemblage to meet again at the gun club pavilion and race course.

**SHOOTING TOURNAMENT.**  
The gun contest which was witnessed by an immense crowd, took place at the foot of Main street, where a large pavilion was erected to afford the contestants and visitors some protection from the sun, and the day was warm enough to prompt almost any one to seek the sequestered nooks. Owing to the lack of time in which to arrange matters there was no regular club in attendance other than the Fort Benton club, but several parties not members of that organization took part in the friendly shoot.

The first match was 10 single glass balls, with eleven contestants. Frank Lepper was chosen umpire. The score was: Jere Sullivan, 8; T. J. Todd, 6; C. M. Lanning, 9; A. J. Broadwater, 8; H. J. Wackerlin, 9; J. Lee, 5; Chas. Rowe, 5; Geo. Shumate, 8; T. P. Aspling, 2; Wm. Rowe, 4; W. J. Minar, 7. There being a tie between Messrs. Lanning and Wackerlin for the first prize, the latter won in shooting off. There were three ties for the second prize which was finally won by Geo. Shumate and W. J. Minar was awarded the third. The first prize was an elegant fly-rod and reel, the second a silver cup and the third 100 cigars.

The second match, 10 clay birds, was participated in by twelve persons, making the following score: Jere Sullivan, 4; T. J. Todd, 7; C. M. Lanning, 6; A. J. Broadwater, 3; H. J. Wackerlin, 7; J. Lee, 3; Chas. Rowe, 4; Geo. Shumate, 1; T. P. Aspling, 0; Wm. Rowe, 5; W. J. Minar, 5; John Johnstone, 2. H. J. Wackerlin again won first prize, Wm. Rowe second, and C. M. Lanning third.

In the third match, 10 double glass balls, the number of shots was reduced from ten to five, owing to the lack of time, and the score resulted as follows: Jere Sullivan, 3; T. J. Todd, 5; C. M. Lanning, 3; A. J. Broadwater, 4; H. J. Wackerlin, 7; J. Lee, 5; Chas. Rowe, 4; W. J. Minar, 4; Geo. Shumate, 5; John F. Patterson, 6. Other contests had been arranged but owing to the lateness of the hour they were dispensed with and the large assemblage in attendance next turned its attention to

**HORSE RACING.**  
The race course being in the same vicinity. Unfortunately, Mr. J. D. Rickards failed to come "to the scratch," with his runner Nowhere and Mr. T. J. Todd had no opportunity to show the fleet-footedness of his fiery steed, Daylight. He had the pleasure, however of pocketing the forfeit money. But a Fourth of July celebration without a horse race would be almost akin to the playing of Hamlet with that erratic individual left out, so a contest was speedily arranged. John Harris entered his horse "Cropy," Hockett & Fletcher, of Miles City, "Roan Ike" and another party "McCracken." The race was for a purse of fifty dollars, one quarter of a mile dash. Considerable money was put up on the side and when it came to a test of speed Mr. Harris' cow horse, "Cropy," came under the wire an easy winner, with "Roan Ike" second and "McCracken" lagging far in the rear. The boys who "lacked judgment" paid their bets and the large crowd now returned to town, it being time for the steamboat excursion.

**THE GRAND STEAM BOAT EXCURSION.**  
The event of the day that was looked forward to with more genuine interest than any other, was the excursion down the broad bosom of the mighty Missouri on the good steamer Josephine. Every-

body was anxious to go, yet many were deterred fearing that the crowd would be too great to make the trip enjoyable. At six o'clock the band on the hurricane roof struck up a lively air as the lines were hauled in and the steamer swung gracefully out into the current. There were at least 400 people on the three decks and all had ample room to move about and enjoy themselves. The officers and crew of the boat vied with each other in trying to make every one feel perfectly at home, and nothing was left undone on their part to add to the pleasure of the occasion. The bird was stationed on the boiler deck and played its liveliest airs, while the belles and beaux took possession of the cabin, which had been cleared for the purpose, and joined in the mazes of the waltz and all the other dances known to the devotees of Terpsichore. The band played without ever seeming to grow tired and flying feet kept time to the ravishing music. Those who were not dancing engaged in social converse and enjoyed to the fullest extent the delightfully cool breezes of the river, and ever and anon grew quiet to listen to the sweet strains of music as it floated out over the waters. Not an incident occurred to mar the genuine pleasure of the trip, and all came home thoroughly delighted after two hours of smooth sailing, and the unanimous verdict was that they had never had a more enjoyable time.

**THE PYROTECHNICAL DISPLAY.**  
Upon the return of the steamer and as soon as the crowd had taken supper, the grand display of fireworks began on the river front, about the ferry tower. It required more than an hour, with numerous volunteer assistants to wind up the gorgeous display. The fireworks had been shipped from St. Paul and arrived on the evening of the 3d. During the time there were two

**BALLOON ASCENSIONS.**  
In front of the store of A. Nathan, who had imported the balloons especially for this occasion. Later in the evening

**THE DANCE.**  
opened in the main court room in the new court house, which was the only room in town large enough to accommodate the crowd. The dance was free, and all indulged in it to their hearts' content. Every leading citizen of Fort Benton was present with his family, and citizens from the surrounding country for a long distance joined in the happy throng. The ladies looked their loveliest in their light summer ball dresses, the music was exquisite and joy reigned supreme. In the early morning hours the ball closed without even an unpleasant feature; with it ended a memorable day in this history of Fort Benton,—one that will ever be remembered by those who participated in it with pride and pleasure.

**Rays From the Rising Sun.**  
Fort Benton is the wealthiest incorporated town of its size in Montana and we are not sure but in the United States.

J. D. McIntyre, engineer for the Sun River canal, says the flume and piping will be finished shortly, and that the water will be delivered on Antelope flat and below in thirty days.

William J. Woods and Miss Rena Pattee, both of Augusta, were married Wednesday evening at the residence of H. D. Blossom by the Rev. Mr. Clowes of Fort Benton.

J. B. Wilson, a Helena capitalist, and J. B. Thompson, a wealthy Pittsburger, who has nearly half a million invested in this territory, have formed a company to be known as the Wilson-Thompson Canal company. The object of this company is the construction of a large irrigating canal from the Dearborn river over into the head of the Muddy, near Bird Tail; thence down that stream to some point below Square Butte, so as to cover all the arable land between the Missouri and Sun rivers. Several large reservoirs will be built to hold water for distribution over this tract of country. John Rogers has commenced work on a large reservoir about three-quarters of a mile below where the Gorcham road crosses the Muddy, southeast of Square Butte. Seventy teams are engaged now and more are wanted to push the work. J. D. McIntyre, engineer of irrigation in this section, is to have charge as soon as he gets the Sun River canal completed.

**Homestead Patents.**  
The following homestead patents, among others, have been received at the U. S. land office at Helena and are now ready for delivery to the parties named:  
Chas. Y. Lacy, Phineas O. Herbage, Wm. Wallace, Phil Gibson, Mary Welsh, Mell. J. Keith, Wm. Jones, Wm. Gulick, Wm. Roberts, John H. Lippard, John A. Hay, George Hay, Henry F. Dent, Andrew G. Campbell, Wm. R. Smith, Wm. E. Fox, Wm. Rowe, Dennis Finnigan, Albert Rowe, Edwin R. Hunt, John A. Hackshaw, Joseph Glenn.

**Mr. Conrad Returning.**  
Joe Conrad and family left last Saturday by private conveyance for Helena, where Mrs. Conrad and the children will make a visit of some length. At Rock creek station they will meet Mr. C. E. Conrad and family and Miss Alice Conrad, who will return by this conveyance to this city. It is expected that they will arrive on Wednesday but may possibly be delayed until Thursday.

Mr. Conrad will receive the general plaudits of this community on his return, and is fully entitled to the greeting, "well done, good and faithful servant!" He undertook a delicate and most important mission, not alone in his own behalf, but in the interest of the people of Fort Benton, and how well he succeeded is shown

by recent events. While he was aided by gentlemen of influence in the right quarter, Mr. Conrad's part was a most important one and he evidently carried it out to perfection. He represented this city directly and had at his tongue's end all the facts and figures in the case—the data that would count for the most in the estimation of a practical railroad man like Mr. Hill. If these had not been presented, and presented in such a way as to carry weight with them, it is doubtful if any influence could have changed the policy as regards the temporary line in this vicinity. That the permanent line of the road would enter the city there was never the slightest reason to doubt. The River Press insists, then, that Mr. Conrad is entitled to the highest praise and heartiest thanks for his part in this good work and that they should be accorded him in a public and appropriate manner.

**Real Estate Transactions.**  
There is an awakening in real estate matters in Fort Benton and several deals are on the tapis, besides two or three important ones that were concluded yesterday. There is a general feeling of confidence on the part of our citizens and increasing inquiry from the outside in regard to real estate matters, these being but mild premonitions of a big boom in realty in the near future.

Among the transactions Friday was the sale of John H. Evans' lot, with a log house thereon, corner of Main and St. John streets. Consideration, \$2,500. This is destined to be the best corner in Fort Benton when Main street becomes, as it certainly will in time, the business street of the city.

Jas. Stanford also concluded the purchase yesterday of two lots from R. L. Luke, of Helena, for a consideration of \$500. These lots are favorably located on Main street in the reservation addition.

A few lots were also sold to a St. Paul party, the particulars of which we have not been able to obtain. It is learned that one of our citizens has an order for a large block of real estate for outside parties which is likely to be closed soon.

**THE WORK OF A FIEND.**  
Another Attempt to Wreck a Passenger Train on the Montana Union.

**Special to the River Press.**  
HELENA, July 2.—A special to the Independent says: News has reached here of an attempt made to wreck the train of the Montana Union last night. One Herman Lason, a former employee, started on the train from Butte and was put off for nonpayment; subsequently he paid his fare and vowed vengeance. When the train reached Garrison he got off, and walking down the switch about one hundred yards placed a large stone across the track; lower down he placed three ties across the track, and at the point where the side track joins the main there he displaced the switch so as to ditch both trains. It seemed hardly possible that this could be discovered, but fortunately an engine was compelled to pass over the track to get to the water tank. The engine struck the stone, and the shock was so great that a brakeman who was standing on the foot board was thrown off and rolled into Blackfoot creek. The engine was not derailed and proceeding slowly soon discovered the ties on the track and the misplaced switch. In a very short time the west bound passenger, with 200 persons on board, would have passed at a high rate of speed and a terrible accident would have been inevitable. The attempt at once became known, and Lason again appearing at the depot was attacked and had his face cut open by one brakeman and another attempted to shoot him. The crowd present got excited and decided to hang him, but were prevented by Sheriff Lew Colman who arrested and turned him over to Warden Tom McTague, who took him in charge, hired a special engine and took him to Deer Lodge where he was jailed.

**The President's Movements.**  
WASHINGTON, June 30.—The president has decided to attend the centennial celebration at Clinton, N. Y., on the 13th prox., but beyond that he has not completed his arrangements for the summer.

**A Big Reduction of the Debt.**  
WASHINGTON, June 30.—It is estimated at the treasury department that the reduction of the public debt for June will be about \$15,000,000.

**A New Timber Agent.**  
WASHINGTON, June 30.—Charles C. Fish, of Huron, Dakota, has been appointed special agent of the land office on timber reductions, at a salary of \$3,200 per annum.

**Severe Sentence.**  
LONDON, June 30.—The captain and three seamen of the British bark Lord Douglas, which arrived here May 21st, have been sentenced to death for murder.

**A SAD AFFAIR.**  
The Head of One of the Leading Firms of Montana Suicides.

**Special to the River Press.**  
HELENA, July 2.—A. Sands, of the firm of Sands Bros., Helena, and Sands & Boyce, Butte, committed suicide to-day. Business troubles are said to be the cause. No particulars can be learned at this hour.

Mr. Sands was the senior member of the firms named and resided at Helena until a few years ago. He went into business at that place in 1866 and ranks among the earliest merchants of the territory and has been regarded as one of the most successful ones. For some years past he has resided at Denver, where he was at the head of an immense brewery establishment as well as other enterprises. He arrived at Helena from Denver but a few days ago. Mr. Sands was the principal owner in the Sands & Taylor Cattle company, of this county, and was at Helena last winter when it was organized into a stock company. He took sick at that time and had been in poor health since. This fact, as well as financial troubles, may have led to the rash deed. His business enterprises in Montana have certainly been prosperous, and if he has sustained losses it has doubtless been at Denver or elsewhere outside of this territory. The deceased was reported to be a very wealthy man and his death by his own hand was certainly most unexpected.

**Troops Change Stations.**  
ST. PAUL, July 1.—The following order has been issued in regard to the exchange of stations of certain regiments: The twelfth Infantry will be concentrated at Buffalo and moved to Bismarck, Dak., to be moved to stations in the department of Dakota. The head quarters, band and four troops of the seventh cavalry at Fort Mead will change stations by marching to Fort Reilly, department of the Missouri.

Lieut. Ellis has been directed to visit several points among them the following, Bismarck, Fort Buford, Poplar River, Glendive, Custer station, Fort Custer, Helena, Maginnis and Assiniboine. He is authorized to inspect such unserviceable signal service property at the points named as may need the action of inspection and condemn such as is found worthless.

**A Lynching Affair.**  
ST. LOUIS, July 1.—A dispatch from Little Rock says word comes from Bradley county that Hamilton, a wealthy planter and stockman of that county, was lynched last night. It appears that Hamilton and a man named Deberry recently murdered two brothers named Harris. Efforts were made to secure the murderers, but they escaped. Later Hamilton was recaptured and admitted to bail. The report is now that a mob took vengeance on him last night.

**Fire at Billings.**  
BILLINGS, June 29.—The Drover's hotel, a prominent landmark of the early days of Billings, was completely consumed by fire this morning. The alarm was sounded at 2:15, and within ten minutes the volunteer hook and ladder and hose companies were on the scene and three streams of water were playing upon the flames. The building was the property of Mrs. Susan Lawler, widow of Joseph Lawler, one of the best known of the early residents of this city. As it was constructed entirely of lumber and lined throughout with cotton sheeting the flames had attained so much headway that all efforts to save the building were unavailing. A small structure adjoining, occupied as a paint shop, was also destroyed. The total loss is \$3,000; insured for \$1,500 in the Home Mutual. The fire is believed to have been caused by the explosion of a lamp in the rear of the building.

**What Commodore Power Says About it.**  
**Special to the River Press.**  
HELENA, June 30.—Commodore Power says to the Independent that for the past ten days or two weeks navigation has been somewhat impeded by the very heavy and swift current. Several of the boats were forced to tie up being unable to stem the current. Every boat of the fleet is out from Bismarck with a cargo. Now, however, the water is beginning to fall a little and the current to slacken so that all boats are on the move. The freight at Bismarck is now mostly cleaned up and in a week or two the boats will begin carrying freight from the Manitoba at Fort Buford. The Manitoba has already made through passenger rates to Montana points and as soon as ready to handle Montana traffic will make a freight schedule via Buford and the river. It will also have a great amount of its construction freight to handle by steamer. As to wool rates Mr. Power said that the Northern Pacific wool rate from Helena had been reduced with his sanction, he having had a traffic arrangement with the road. He did not think the Manitoba road would make any

material reduction from Fort Benton. His boats will be running all the summer and fall and he expects them to do a very large traffic. As to other matters Mr. Power said the wheat panic had injured business not a little, but times were generally good and the temporary depression caused by the wheat squeeze would soon be over. The country was looking generally fine but no where so well as in Montana.

**A Budget of News From the North.**  
**Special to the River Press.**  
FORT WALSH, June 30.—Advices from Ottawa are as follows: Charlebois, M. P. for La Prairie, whose death recently occurred, was born at La Prairie in 1842, and served several terms in the Quebec legislature. His politics were conservative.

**SUBSIDY SEEKERS.**  
Kumper, agent of the government syndicate which wishes to obtain control of the Intercolonial road, and Ferrault, vice consul of France, had an interview with the government. Their proposal differs considerably from that previously announced. What Kumper desires is not that the government shall sell the Intercolonial to the syndicate, but that the road shall be given as a subsidy toward the completion of the railways in the maritime provinces and eastern Quebec, just as sections of the Canadian Pacific were handed over to that company as an aid toward the completion of the through line.

**DON'T WANT PAUPERS.**  
The Canadian government has sent a protest to England against the exportation of pauper immigrants to this country. They propose to enforce the act compelling Atlantic steamers to return them at their own expense.

**DROWNED.**  
Douglas D. Gillets, of Bismarck, Dakota, was drowned at Glencoe, Ontario, on the 27th inst.

**NO NEWS.**  
The news from Europe and the United States this morning is of a very limited character and importance. The associated press is filled up with items of no interest to Montanians.

**THE GRASS CROP.**  
Showers of rain occur in this vicinity nearly every day and the prairies are one mass of fine grass from nine to eleven inches in height.

**WINNIPEG EXCITED.**  
The citizens of Manitoba, more especially of the city of Winnipeg, are quite excited over the letting of the contract by the local government for the construction of a railroad from that city to the boundary in northeastern Dakota to connect with the Northern Pacific and Grand Trunk railroads and the determination on the part of the federal government to prevent it, they being pledged to the Canadian Pacific railway to prevent the construction of railways to the southern boundary line for a period of twenty years from the issuance of their charter.

**Hanged.**  
LOUISVILLE, July 1.—Albert Turner, (colored), one of the murderers of Jennie Bowman, was hanged this morning. Turner said: "I am going to die with an honest heart and bring no one to the gallows tree. The man Patterson he was not with me. I am willing to die now."

**Escaped the Jail.**  
CINCINNATI, July 1.—Baldwin, late cashier of the Fidelity National bank, was surrendered by one of his bondsmen today, but by good fortune another surety was found and Baldwin did not go to jail.

**Wiping Out the Debt.**  
WASHINGTON, July 1.—The decrease in the public debt for June was about \$16,450,000, which makes the total reduction for the fiscal year ending yesterday about \$109,300,000.

**Death of a Bishop.**  
XENIA, Ohio, July 1.—Bishop James A. Shorter, of the African Methodist Episcopal church, having charge of work in South Carolina and Georgia, died suddenly of heart disease this morning at his home at Wilberforce, this county, in the 70th year of his age.

**He Got the Divorce.**  
DENVER, July 1.—The case of ex-Governor Gilpin against his wife for divorce on the ground of cruelty which has been on trial for two weeks was concluded today, the judge rendering a verdict for the plaintiff.

**New Relations with Mexico.**  
CITY OF MEXICO, June 30.—The new customs tariff and reformed internal revenue system will go into effect Friday. The new tariff is likely to stimulate trade with the United States. The new postal treaty with the United States becomes operative Friday and by it American merchants may easily build up a retail trade here as the law permits packages of merchandise weighing two kilograms to be forwarded subject to prompt customs search.