

# THE RONAN PIONEER

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## Unique Situation Which Requires Speedy Action

A condition in this valley never dreamed of has developed during the past two weeks. It is the status of our public highways, and the relation of federal authority where none was supposed to exist. When President Taft issued his proclamation opening the Flathead reservation to settlement almost everybody took it for granted that federal supervision and authority ceased to exist on May 2, 1910. That supposition has turned out to be a delusion of the greatest magnitude. The federal authority supposed to have been surrendered has been maintained, and the people here are entirely at the mercy of a bureaucratic edict.

It seems there are no public highways which are opened to the public in fact and in reality. We have public highways in part; we have public highways in places and in others we have only half a highway. This condition is caused by the following reasons: Where an allotment abuts on a highway, there we have only half a highway, the allotment part being still unopened and inoperative. Where two allotments join and the highway is supposed to pass between them, there we have no highway at all. Where the highway passes between two pieces of land which have been homesteaded or are subject to homestead, there we have a highway in fact and in reality. That is an analogous situation probably never before seen in any place or country. It is an embarrassing situation, to say the least. The board of county commissioners have established and laid out certain roads, part of which come under the above classification, and have expended considerable money in improving the supposed public road. Now they find themselves powerless to enforce an order to open up the same roads, and the situation is so unique and so extraordinary as to require speedy action on the part of some one.

If the board of county commissioners have not the authority to open up and declare public highways which will remain opened, then such authority should be given them. The country will never develop without some roads leading into and out of it. The Indian department should see this fact and take such action as will relieve the situation.

It has been stated that the Indian department is merely safeguarding the rights of the Indian allottees. But is it? Is the property of the Indian worth anything with only a bridge path leading to and from the premises.

What this country needs most at this time, in the opinion of the writer, is to be segregated from the Indian department so far as local affairs are concerned. That department should not be allowed to exercise such great authority as it has taken upon itself during all the time since the reservation was opened. If it is necessary to secure some rights for the county officials to have authority here as elsewhere in the county of Missoula, then our members of congress are called upon to get busy and see to it that some congressional legislation be enacted to give us relief.

With such a country as the Flathead reservation is (and the word "reservation" here is used advisedly) and is destined to be-

come, it is a calamity that it should be hampered by a dual authority, as seems to be the case here. The state assumed to have jurisdiction and the Indian department steps in and, for the time at least, blocks every attempt at development.

As the situation now stands, there are no public highways legally opened up between Ronan and the railroad. This was determined when the two telephone companies now attempting to build here from Ravalli were notified to cease work until a permit to cross Indian allotments was secured from the secretary of the interior. Then is when it was first discovered that there were no legally opened public roads.

What we need most is that the Indian department cease to exercise jurisdiction as to everything except the property of the Indian and the person of those to whom patents have not been granted. We need some action giving the county commissioners the right to declare a public highway over the lands of an allottee in the identical form as that conferred upon them relative to the lands of the homesteader. That would simplify the situation and bring order out of chaos.

### Suggests a Free Ferry

Editor Pioneer:

Referring to the complaint of C. R. Sawyer in last week's Pioneer, in regard to the difficulty in crossing the Flathead river to get to Ronan, would say that a very good way would be to have Sanders and Missoula counties establish a free ferry at some suitable place, until the counties felt able to build a bridge.

Flathead county is successfully operating two such free ferries in the Flathead river, north of the lake.

A. SUTHERLAND.

Mr. Sutherland's suggestion is timely and would provide an avenue by which Ronan would gain many new friends and the merchants a like number of new customers. It is to be hoped that some such action will be taken and the situation improved thereby.

### Profit From One Sow

Ed. Baldwin a farmer who has been on the Andrew Stinger place the past two years, was in the Pioneer office last Saturday and while here related his experience with hogs. He said that in December, 1910, he purchased one sow pig and from that investment had realized to date as follows. Prior to Nov. 11, he had sold 16 head of hogs and shoats, had butchered for his own use 7 head, and on that date sold to Wagner Bros. 62 head more, making a total of 78 head sold and seven consumed by the family or 85 head all told. From the 78 head sold he had realized \$780 in cash, and the total cost to him did not exceed \$100 or \$680 clear profit and all within two years.

He said that should Wagner Bros. do as well on the investment as he did, that two years from now they would be comfortably fixed from this purchase alone.

Mr. Baldwin's experience is only what is the inevitable result to all who engage in the business of raising hogs. The man who hauls his grain to mar-

ket in the shape of finished pork or beef, is the one who is the most successful in any country. The profit is two fold, and all grain farmers learn this lesson sooner or later. The eastern farmer for years tried the experiment of raising wheat and corn for the market and were kept poor in consequence. Afterwards they commenced to feed the corn to hogs and steers and their bank accounts grew rapidly and the value of their lands also increased until today it is only the rich man who can afford to own an eastern farm. That will come true here when the facts are known and grain raised here is fed to hogs, cattle, chickens, etc., and diversified farming has, taken the place of the large wheat grower of today.

## Sudden Death of Mrs. Denison

The community was startled Sunday morning by the announcement of the death of Mrs. Ethel Long Denison, wife of E. H. Denison, at the family residence in Ronan. It was known to only a few about town that she was sick and to those it was not supposed it was anything serious. The first of last week she was around town, but after Tuesday was confined to the house with a severe headache, Dr. Heidelman of Arlee being in town and in constant attendance, he having been the family physician for years. On Saturday afternoon he left for home and Dr. Putney was called to attend her during Dr. Heidelman's absence. Dr. Putney was at the house about 10 o'clock that evening and when he left it was supposed that she was considerably improved as she was resting better than at any time for two or three days. She was even able to eat a little and retain it for the first time during her illness. She was apparently suffering but little, and Miss Kate Titus who was attending her as nurse, was in and out of the sick room until one o'clock but at that time took a short nap and upon again entering the room at a little past two in the morning, found she had expired.

Her alarm was very great and she called Dr. Putney at once, and Dr. Fuhrer was also called, but nothing could be done. Miss Titus proved herself a heroine that morning, summoning alone several ladies who responded to the call and were soon at the family residence to give such assistance as they could. Miss Titus waded through the snow in the night and alone, an act many would have been too timid to attempt.

Mr. Denison had been away from home for a week past, attending to some important business matters at Arlee, Ravalli, Dixon and Perma, and the severe storm also prevented him from coming home, not knowing how serious her condition was. He kept in touch daily with Dr. Heidelman and had no cause to think she was in danger. Mrs. Denison being subject to severe attacks of headache. He was at Ravalli Saturday and called up on the phone and asked her condition. Being informed that she was quite ill he said that he would come up in the morning (Sunday) believing that the storm would have spent itself by that time. A messenger was sent out from Ravalli Sunday morning to notify Mr. Denison of his wife's death, but he could not believe it true. He called up the

second time for confirmation of the sad truth. He at once made arrangements to return home and was accompanied by Mrs. Long and Leon Long, mother and brother of the deceased, and they arrived here about noon.

The funeral services were held at the family residence Monday at 2 o'clock, Rev. White of Polson conducting the services. A male quartette composed of E. E. Healey, A. M. Thornburgh, D. N. Mason, and M. J. Benedict furnished the music.

Instead of a burial it has been determined to place the remains in a vault at Missoula until spring and final interment will probably be in New York, the old home of Mr. Denison. Tuesday the body was placed in the Dawson's hearse and conveyed to Ravalli, where the train was taken for Missoula. Stanley Scarce, A. M. Thornburgh, I. M. Brandjord, A. Sutherland, Devere Jackson and Coker F. Rathbone acted as pall bearers.

The Ladies Aid of Ronan, of which Mrs. Denison was a prominent member, gave their services freely and ordered a beautiful floral emblem from Missoula, but unfortunately it did not arrive in time for the funeral.

Ethel Portia Long was born Dec. 13, 1881, at Downsville, Dunn county, Wis. She was married to Benjamin H. Denison, Nov. 25, 1902. Two girls, Doris and Anida, were born of this union, who are now left motherless. She died Nov. 12, 1911, and leaves a husband, six sisters and five brothers. Deceased was a woman of generous impulses and a devoted wife and mother, foremost in church and Sunday school and charitable work. Indeed it was a favorite saying of her's that her religion consisted in doing good to others. She was first at the bedside of every sick neighbor, and would run any risk to assist a sick friend. May she rest in peace.

### Mission Messages

George Buckhouse lost one of his best horses this week.

A. B. Beckwith is confined to his home because of illness.

John Merry came up from Missoula to visit his son at his homestead north of the Mission.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pratt left Wednesday for Powell, Wyo., where they will remain for the winter.

Mrs. Geo. H. Beckwith has been entertaining Miss Louise Pickett of Missoula for the past fortnight.

Miss Maud Starr has returned to her work with the Beckwith Mercantile Co. after a two months rest.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Yost left Monday for their former home in Pennsylvania, where they will reside permanently.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Meglassen have returned to St. Ignatius after spending three months at the U. S. R. S. camp.

Edward Cope and Mrs. Annie Book were married in Spokane Thursday, Nov. 9, and are now receiving the congratulations of their many friends at the Mission.

A number of St. Ignatius people planned to attend the dance at Moiese valley last Friday evening but the storm made the roads impassable and the trip had to be abandoned.

Many new buildings are in course of construction on the townsite. The M. A. O'Connell Mercantile Co. has the site walls up and the proprietors hope to be in their new store before the holidays.

## Interior Department Gives Out Warning

In another column of this issue is a special from Washington which gives the substance of a letter written to Congressman Pray by the interior department relative to the unappraised lands on the reservation. Some apprehension has been expressed by those directly interested in this class of lands, and some have taken it that the department has decided that it was not open for settlement and that those who had made application to homestead such tracts, would lose the land. The Pioneer does not so read the article referred to. It simply means that there may be a chance taken by those who have applied for the land and that the better way would be not to improve the land or make any more expenditures on same until the matter was definitely settled. This would be the prudent course to pursue, at least.

It will work a hardship on many an innocent applicant should the department decide that they are not to get the land. Many of them have expended large sums of money in erecting buildings, fencing, and cultivating the land, under the belief and information that they would get the land in due course of time. They were led to believe that all there was to prevent their receiving an approved entry was the appraisal and classification. This was expected long before this, but it takes time to work out the details and appoint men to do the work. Letters have been sent to Ronan lately stating that the appraisers had been decided upon and that the work will be commenced in the early spring. Major Morgan and Joseph Allard of Polson are two, and the third one will be a gentleman from the surveyor general's office at Helena, whose name is not at this writing recalled. An effort has been made to secure the appointment of a civilian on this commission, but this was rejected by the department and none but some one connected with the department will be considered, except Mr. Allard, a representative of the Indians.

Those who are interested should keep in mind the fact that "eternal vigilance is the price of peace" and not go to sleep over the matter of urging their claims on the department.

### Moiese Valley and Dixon

H. E. Dygert who has been in Missoula on business returned to Moiese valley on Thursday.

Chas. W. Rathbun returned to Dixon on Saturday from Missoula where he spent the week on business.

Miss Harriette P. Geiger of Moiese spent the past week in Dixon working for Editor Geo. Beasley of the Independent.

Frank Bowman, Justice of the Peace at Plains, spent the past week in Dixon, assisting in the Dixon Independent office.

The Moiese valley club dance held last Friday evening was a very enjoyable affair in spite of the small crowd due to the cold weather.

Mrs. E. Frettenburg arrived in Dixon Thursday from Missoula and is visiting at the home of her daughter Mrs. Albert McAuley in Moiese valley.

Dr. and Mrs. Close of North Dakota arrived in Dixon on Thursday and expects to make it

their future home. Mr. Close is a newspaper man and the owner of Dixon's newspaper.

Ray Austin and brother were in Dixon on Saturday and the former went to St. Ignatius that evening where he is engaged to play the piano at the moving picture show.

J. M. Downs of Perma came to Dixon Friday evening and spent several days at the Overland Hotel greeting old friends. Mr. Downs is rapidly recovering from injuries recently sustained when a scaffold collapsed with him.

Mrs. Jordan of Moelips, Wash. stopped over in Dixon on her way to Jocko where she will attend the settlement of Mr. Poirrier's estate. Mr. Poirrier died on the Flathead reservation several years ago and was an uncle to Mrs. Jordan.

## Petition for Incorporation

The petition from the people of Ronan asking the county commissioners to take the necessary legal steps to organize them into a municipal corporation under the laws of the state of Montana, has arrived in Missoula, says the Missoulian. The petition reached the city on schedule time and will be given proper consideration by the board of county commissioners at once. There is no question about the sentiment of Ronan's inhabitants on the subject of incorporation. The list of names annexed to the petition was so long that those who remember Ronan as of old and know little of its recent growth, would swear that most of them were fake signatures. However, nothing like this is the truth. The "sigs" are all good; all genuine; and unless there is some legal reason blocking the path there is little doubt that the request of the petitioners will be granted. In fact the belief is so strong at Ronan that prospective candidates for mayor are already being named. The most prominently mentioned are A. M. Sterling and Stanley Scarce.

Attached to the petition received yesterday was the official plat of the townsite of Ronan to be included in the corporation, which has been surveyed and mapped by County Surveyor James Bonner. This map shows the townsite to be of 360 acres. Divisions for three wards are named, the townsite containing the following platted additions: Old Townsite addition, Stanley Scarce addition, Clairmont's addition, Smead addition and Borassa addition. The plat makes provision for a fine town; it is well laid out with streets and the whole arrangement of blocks and additions being artistic and at the same time practical. On the title design of the map the county surveyor has shown a perfect picture of an inter-urban electric car which is lettered on its side, "Ronan Southern Ry."

### Teachers' Examination

Mrs. Pearl T. Marshall, county superintendent of schools, announces that the next examination for teachers will take place at Missoula, on Nov. 24th and 25th, at the court house. All teachers holding temporary certificates will be required to take this examination.

You are invited to subscribe.