



THE RONAN PIONEER



The Oldest Newspaper on the Flathead Indian Reservation

Entered as second-class matter May 12, 1910, at the post-office at Ronan, Montana, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. VIII. NO. 2.

RONAN, MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA, MAY 11, 1917.

\$2.00 Per Year

PIONEER'S EDITOR CALLED BY DEATH

Business was totally suspended in Ronan for an hour yesterday morning while the funeral services over the remains of E. H. Rathbone were in progress. All places of business locked their doors in token of respect to the dead and the citizenry as a unit joined in the last earthly rites to a respected friend and neighbor.

The obsequies were held at the family home and were conducted in the open air with the body lying in state on the veranda, the casket banked by wreaths of flowers and surrounded by the sorrowing relatives and friends of the departed. The ceremonies, in deference to the habits and tastes of E. H. Rathbone in life, were simple and dignified but impressive in the extreme.

A quartette, consisting of Mrs. J. I. Carr, Miss Olive Townsend, Messrs. Harold Resner and Martin Pippenburg, accompanied by Mrs. F. J. White, pianist, opened the service by singing "Some Time We'll Understand" after which Rev. E. D. Swisher read the words of Paul on the Resurrection and the Life from 1st Cor. 15, 31-38, also the prayer of Moses and a part of the 90th Psalm. Miss Townsend and Mrs. Carr next rendered the duet, "I Know He Knows".

The funeral address was spoken by Mr. A. M. Thornburgh of Stevensville, Montana, a warm and close friend, responsive to one of the last requests of the deceased. It was a fitting memorial on the life and works of Harvey Rathbone as only Mr. Thornburgh could speak it. Simple, direct and straightforward and talking, as asked by his departed friend, "man to man" but performing the task reverently and with deep emotion as a labor of love.

As voiced by the memorialist the dominant note of Harvey Rathbone's life and character was sincerity. He was frugal, honest and industrious and ever careful of his neighbor's reputation. In these he had the qualities which make for the highest character. His obligations to society and to his fellowmen were discharged in full as he viewed them, and he lived bravely, cheerfully and faithfully in accordance with the strength which was given him. In the final analysis this is all that can be asked of the best man.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Thornburgh's memorial those in attendance viewed the remains while the quartette sang "Nearer My God To Thee" after which the bereaved relatives and a long train of sorrowing friends in automobiles accompanied the body to Ravalli, from which point it was taken to Spokane for cremation by Mrs. Rathbone and son Justus. Final interment will be made of the ashes in the Buckner cemetery five miles east of Eldora, Iowa, where three generations of the family have been buried.

Acting as pall bearers were members of Ronan's first city council, of which the deceased was president. They were Messrs. I. M. Brandford, A. J. Brower, Harry N. Carper, J. E. Curtis, Ross Lemire, C. Coulter and A. M. Thornburgh. Floral offerings were dedicated by the City Council of Ronan, the Ronan Commercial Club, the Ronan High School and a host of friends and neighbors. The High School students and teachers and the present city council attended in a body.

E. H. Rathbone, editor and publisher of the Ronan Pioneer, died at his home in this city Tuesday morning of acute Bright's Disease. He is survived by a wife, Margaret Elizabeth, one son, Justus, at present business manager of the Pioneer; a daughter, Mrs. Hazel M. Putney; a brother, Coker F. Rathbone, of Ronan and a sister, Mrs. Clarissa Bigelow, of Marshalltown, Iowa. With the exception of the sister all were present at the deathbed, as was likewise a cousin, Dr. R. R. Rathbone, of Dillon, Montana.

The deceased was born at Steamboat Rock, Iowa, on April 11th, 1865, and was married April 30th, 1888, to Margaret Elizabeth Bebb, of Herndon, Kansas. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Masonic order. He served this city efficiently as mayor and has always been identified with the progress and up-building of this community. His public spirit and forceful personality

will long be mourned in the Flathead valley and his many friends throughout the state of Montana. Mr. Rathbone has been in ill health for the past year since prostration with an attack of la grippe which brought on Bright's disease. He visited various sanitariums and medical institutions throughout the United States but his affliction did not seem to yield to treatment. For the past three weeks he has been in an extremely critical condition which resulted in death Tuesday morning.

E. H. Rathbone has been connected with the newspaper business all his life nearly always in association with his surviving brother, Coker F. Rathbone. Their first venture was at Herndon, Kansas, where they edited and published "The Courier". This paper was disposed of in 1890 and seeking a new location they finally decided upon Lewiston, Montana. Mr. Rathbone accompanied by his wife and son, Justus, made the journey overland from Herndon, Kansas, to Lewiston, Montana, in the year 1890, where he located and established The Fergus County Republican, which is still in existence and considered one of the largest and best newspapers in eastern Montana, under the name of The Fergus County Democrat. After disposing of this property they moved to Provo, Utah, and founded "The Provo Press" a publication since suspended.

They next established at Eureka, Utah, "The Tintic Miner" and continued its publication until March, 1893, when owing to the general suspension of mining operations at that time they moved their plant to Lander, Wyoming, and began the publication of the Fremont County Gazette. They continued this newspaper until September, 1896, at which time they disposed of its good-will and took up homesteads near Metcete, Wyoming, founding a paper at Cody, known as "The Big Horn County News". This publication was later moved to Metcete where it was published by the Rathbone Brothers for a number of years. Probably no other newspaper ever enjoyed a stranger experience than fell to the lot of this organ in its removal from Cody to Metcete overland by freight. In order to maintain its legality it was necessary and important that an edition be issued each week and being delayed by rain and the extremely bad condition of the trail the Rathbone Bros. stopped their teams midway between the two towns and after setting up a hand press in one of the wagons, while Coker went forward to make some arrangements Harvey locked the forms and the paper went to press on the open range under the light of the stars and the edition of the Big Horn County News, vital to its legality, was issued.

This publication they afterwards disposed of to Hon. A. C. Thomas, whose tragic death last fall at the hands of Miss Edith Colby, a news-reporter, during the heat of a political campaign at Thompson Falls is fresh in the minds of Montanans.

The next publication to be founded by the deceased was "The Shoshoni News" at Shoshoni, Wyo. which he operated and published independent for about two years. Finally disposing of this publication he removed to Hardin, Montana, where he established the Hardin Tribune and continued its publication until 1910, at which time he sold it and leased the Sanders County Ledger at Thompson Falls, Montana, and published that organ until the spring of 1911, when he joined his brother Coker F. at Ronan, who had established this paper and were associated in business until the first of January, 1915, when the deceased took over the property individually, continuing its issue and publication up to the time of his death.

IMPORTANCE OF FAIRS

The state and county fairs of the United States are among the most important factors in the development of general agriculture.

There are over 1400 of these institutions, and the value of the grounds and buildings is about \$20,000,000.

The annual attendance at these annual events is right at 35,000,000 people. One third of the people in America attend the fairs of the country.

These are educational institutions which teach by object lesson. There is no more practical or impressive method.

That the fair serves a useful purpose is unanimously admitted.

But the fair serves a useful purpose

in many other ways aside from agriculture education. It is a valuable factor socially.

No event occurs in any community that gets so many people out and mixes them up so much.

To him who finds no enjoyment or no profit in meeting his neighbors or in mingling with the people, the social value of the fair is lost.

A fair makes no distinction of person; it receives all alike and its enjoyments and benefactions are for all alike.

It takes time and skill to produce prize-winning exhibits at the good fairs.

It takes patience, judgement and cleverness to produce the best.

The fair is an exhibition of samples which others may try to equal or excel.

Try to beat a prize winner and see what it takes to do it.

If it were not for the fairs how would people see these samples which set the pace for all and makes and creates standards.

How can a standard of anything become a standard except by comparison.

WILL REBUILD OPERA HOUSE

Excavation has been commenced for the foundations of a new opera house on the site of the one opposite the Searce store which was destroyed by fire last January. H. M. Gehlert is to rebuild the structure and according to plans Ronan will soon have a theatre building which will be a credit to the town and community and well worthy of a CITY of three thousand people. It will be a monument to Mr. Gehlert's confidence in the future of our municipality in as much as it will meet the demand for a house of public amusement for some time to come.

The edifice is to be 40x115 and is to be built of tiling and pressed brick. As far as possible, the building will be fire-proof, modern in architectural design and up to the minute in appliances and equipment. Provision is made for independent light and heating systems. It will have a seating capacity of five hundred persons and in addition to the seating arrangement on the ground floor there will be a balcony or parquet circle.

Particular attention has been given by the architects to the ornate character of the theatre's front and the installation of ample lights for brilliant illumination. Entrance to the building will be had through a foyer with tiled floor, mural frescoes and luxuriously appointed generally.

Material has been already shipped from Spokane and building operations will be forced as rapidly as may be consistent with first class work, said Mr. Gehlert. We intend to have the opera house open to the public, he stated, as soon as human labor can accomplish the work, and the best film service in the market will be maintained at all times.

"This town has always looked good to me", asserted Mr. Gehlert, "and the best expression of confidence any one can show in a community is to erect permanent buildings in it and a type of building which is a credit to the builder and the town as well. This we are trying to do in the case of the new Ronan Opera House".

RONAN BUSINESS MEN WILL BACK FARMERS

In view of the agitation in this county and elsewhere for business men and Bankers to co-operate with farmers in supplying seed and grain and other assistance to produce a maximum of crop, a reported for the Pioneer interviewed several of the business men on the subject.

Mr. Stanley Searce states that he now has on hand and has had large quantities of Number One Marquis seed wheat, seed oats, feed oats and hay, a complete stock of all kinds of farm implements and other accessories and that to his knowledge no applicant for help in this line, whether they had any money to pay on same at all have been refused. He states his policy has been to give particular attention to the needs of all worthy farmers, no matter how small their requirements. Mr. Searce

states farther, however, that owing to the very late season and the small amount of plowing done last fall that it has been exceedingly difficult for farmers to get all their ground plowed and seeded at a seasonable time. He states that a large number of tractors have been sold and put to use which have materially assisted in the getting in of the crop. On the whole Mr. Searce believes there will be quite an increased acreage and with favorable weather from now on the Reservation should produce a large crop, which with the prevailing high prices and prospects for same to be maintained in this year's crop, should mean the greatest prosperity ever enjoyed in this valley.

FIREWATER STAGED TRAGEDY

As a result of a drunken brawl at the Indian camp west of the bridge at Polson Monday evening, Paul Andrew, better known as "Little Paul" was instantly killed when he was hit over the head with a club, the blow having been struck by Antoine Lasso, Government officials from the agency took Lasso in charge.

LEON IS FIRST RONAN SECOND

The annual Field Meet of District 28 was held in Leon last Saturday, May 5. The meet was witnessed by a large crowd from Ronan and vicinity, and other parts of the district. All events came reasonably close to State records considering that the late spring prevented much practice. The field events took place after dinner on the grounds of the Post Creek school building. The results of the field meet are as follows:

50 yard dash, 5 4-5 sec.—Archie McDonald, Irving Allard, Walter Fisher.

100 yard dash, 11 2-5 sec.—Archie McDonald, Irving Allard, Walter Fisher.

220 yard dash, 27 2-5 sec.—Archie McDonald, Sheldon McFadden, Irving Allard.

440 yard dash, 1 min. 4 2-5 sec.—Irving Allard, Sheldon McFadden, Archie McDonald.

880 yard dash, 2 min. 31 4-5 sec.—Irving Allard, John L. Conner, Bert Lish.

1 mile run, 5 min. 37 sec.—Melvin Dix, Harvey Cole, Leo Norberly.

Shot put, 39 feet 5 1-4 in.—Archie McDonald, Irving Allard, Paul Kerns.

Discus throw, 100 feet 6 in.—Archie McDonald, Irving Allard, Harry McFadden.

Javelin throw, 163 feet 1 in.—Archie McDonald, Melvin Dix, Irving Allard.

Pole vault, 8 feet 6 in.—Melvin Dix, Harold Resner, Philip White, Ornar White.

Broad Jump, 19 feet 10 1-4 inch.—Irving Allard, Archie McDonald, Melvin Dix.

High jump, 5 feet 5 1-2 inches.—Archie McDonald, Melvin Dix, Walter Fisher.

Final results—Post Creek 71 points Ronan 27 points, St. Ignatius 19 points.

Three highest contestants—Archie McDonald 39 points, Irving Allard 29 points, Melvin Dix 17 points.

During the State Interscholastic Meet of 1915, Hawk of Missoula threw the Javelin 152 6-10 feet, thereby establishing a new record in this event. McDonald's throw exceeds that of Hawk by 10 1-2 feet.

In the final Declamatory contest held last Saturday at Leon the winners from the senior division were: John L. Conners of St. Ignatius, first; Alice Sheen of Ronan, second; Jessie Kerns of Leon, third. In the junior division: Dorothy Dall of Round Butte, first; Nellie Marcy of Leon, second; Mairé Bouchard of Ronan, third. Mr. Logan acted as chairman and introduced the speakers in turn. Miss June White of Polson officiated as sole judge.

The dance held by the Parent-Teachers Association of Leon, Saturday evening, May 5th, was well attended, all schools of the district being represented. A good supper was served at 12 o'clock. Music was furnished by the St. Ignatius orchestra.

After six home bakings, one every week, the final contest of the class A Bread Club was held in the Domestic Science laboratory on Wednesday, May 2. Before the final contest each

loaf was brought to school and judged and at the end of the six bakings the average grades of the three members resulted in a tie. The loaves of the final contest were judged for the following points:

Neatness	20
Speed and Accuracy	15
Good Judgement	25
Finished Product	40
Total	100

Kathleen Grant was awarded first prize (a set of silver coffee spoon Evelyn Grant second (a cut glass perfume bottle) and Helda Thirkell third (a lavender jar). The prize are on exhibition in the dry goods show window of the big store. Kathleen will be sent to the County contest at Missoula sometime in June.

The winning contestant from each county will go to the State Fair where the final State contest will be held.

Mrs. Swisher gave a talk to the Northern Idaho Power Company class on "Home Architecture" at the laboratory last Monday. The talk was very interesting as well as instructive and was much enjoyed by the girls. Mrs. Swisher will return Wednesday afternoon to complete her talk which she did not have time to finish Monday.

Dominick Seleskie had the third finger of his left hand severely crushed last week. Although he has been under the constant care of Dr. Resner, and much of the inflammation has gone, there is still danger that amputation of the first joint will be necessary.

We are glad to hear that Edgar McConnell, who recently received a broken arm at school while jumping, is improving nicely.

The Commencement exercises of the class of 1917 will be held on Friday, May 25, at 8:30 o'clock, in the Ronan Opera House. This date will mark the second High School Commencement of Ronan. Last year Alma Myers was the sole graduate of District 28. Miss Myers had the honor of being the first High School graduate in the largest school district in the United States. The colors chosen by the class of 1917 were old rose and golden brown, the flower, carnation. Mayor John Swec will deliver the Commencement address. The graduating class which will be the largest in the district consists of five members: Melvin Dix, Helen Carstens, Walter Fisher, Marie Myers and Harold Resner.

George Beckwith, a trustee of District 28, who is in Portland, Oregon, in search of better health is reported to be improving appreciably. Mr. Beckwith underwent an operation last winter and through his condition improved he suffered a relapse such that a change of climate was necessary. We are glad that he is feeling better and hope to see him return soon.

"The Ronan High School Students' Association," as their recent organization has been named has begun practical work. There were six committees appointed by the president to take charge of various interests. The committees are as follows: Social Athletic, Flag Pole and School ground a committee to look after the school interests in the Flathead Bee Association and a committee to draw up a constitution for the club. The committees have become active and progress is reported. The constitution has been drawn up and the articles of same were read to the members at the last meeting. A flag pole has been donated by John Rogers and was placed in the hands of the committee. It is hoped that a large flag can be obtained. The other committees are doing their duties and it is probable that the club will be a great success and that it will be of much aid in carrying out the interests of the school under a co-operative method.

A party of Missoula people motored up to Ronan Friday and took Mrs. F. N. Aldrich and son and Miss Hilda Marsh to the garden city for the week-end. They returned home Saturday.

Prof. Frank Harmon Graver, of the State Normal College at Dillon, visited the Ronan school this week. Prof. Graver is a representative of the Chancellor of the University sent out for the purpose of inspecting and accrediting all high schools in the state and to present the advantages of the educational institutions of Montana to those who graduate.

The school authorities are ready to help along the preparedness movement by offering the free use of five acres of the high school campus to the pupils for the purpose of growing.

(Continued on page two)

COUNCIL HASTENS WATER SYSTEM

Quick action and definite steps regarding the Ronan Water and lighting system characterize the attitude taken by the recently elected Mayor, John P. Swec and the council composed of A. M. Sterling and E. Durst of the first ward, Ross Lemire and A. Sutherland of the second ward and Jud Warner and Caska Allen of the third ward, who met Monday evening in Sutherland's office for the first time, taking their oath of office and entering upon their duties. A committee consisting of A. M. Sterling, Ross Lemire and Jud Warner was appointed by the mayor to leave next week for Columbia Falls to investigate and collect data regarding the privately owned water and lighting system there and also to go to White Fish and collect data regarding the municipally owned system which may be of use to the council in determining the Ronan water and lighting system.

W. B. McDonald, representing the Northern Idaho Power Company was present at the meeting and offered to take a franchise to furnish light to the town of Ronan. His offer was however, laid aside for consideration until the committee has returned from their trip investigating the systems of Columbia Falls and White Fish.

The council paid considerable attention to Engineer A. L. Jaqueth, of Kalispell, when giving his talk, advising them as to the manner in which a municipally owned plant may be installed in Ronan.

The city council will take definite action regarding the water and lighting system at the next meeting which Mayor Swec has set for May 21, when the investigation committee will have returned from their tour. It is expected at that time the council will call an election for Ronan citizens to decide on certain alternatives to be proposed by them.

SAVE THE BIRDS THAT PROTECT OUR FOOD

All summer long when in the fields and garden crops are growing, the birds, strongest allies of the farmer, are on guard. Keen eyed and quick of action, they discover and destroy countless insects that prey on the growing grains and vegetables. Without them there would be sorry and meager crops in the fall.

Already the grain and vegetable supply is inadequate, with a threatened famine as the result. Had it not been for the relentless picket duty of the birds last summer there would now be actual starvation.

Go into any garden and you will see them busy on their jobs, never resting, never tiring. As long as there is daylight they are at work and they return to it with the first dawn in the morning, catching and devouring the soggy overfed slugs and worms which have been stuffing themselves all night on the plants the farmer is so eager to bring to fruition.

It is public duty to protect the birds from everything that can destroy them. It is a very important, a very serious duty, and one whose value to the public cannot be overestimated.

It is probable that, were all the birds destroyed, not a single fruit or vegetable could be grown out of doors. Insects would multiply a millionfold in a very short time. Soon they overrun every field and garden.

Any one who has seen the ravages of the army worm or the seventeen-year locust can understand what this would mean.

These pests, increasing faster than they can be destroyed, even by the birds, literally eat the entire crops from the surface of the ground, digging right down to the earth till not a stalk is left of anything.

All efforts to destroy them or turn them back prove futile. Life a devastating army they move on their way, slowly but steadily, leaving ruin in their paths. Millions of dollars of damage are done by them. Once they have started, they cannot be stopped.

Those fearful raids come only rarely. But they would come every year.

(Continued on page seven)

State Historical Society