



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. 29.

RONAN, MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA, NOVEMBER 16, 1917.

\$2.00 Per Year

ONLY \$600,000 SAYS SEN. WALSH

Senator Thos. J. Walsh spent a couple of hours in Ronan last Friday enroute to Kailspell, renewing old acquaintances and discussing the national questions of the day.

In speaking of the reclamation appropriation for the Flathead, during an interview with one of the prominent business men of the city, Senator Walsh said: "I went over to the Indian department just before leaving Washington for Montana and found that only \$600,000 had been recommended by the department for the Flathead U. S. R. S. project appropriation. This reduction from the \$750,000 is doubtless due to the fact that an Indian delegation recently visited Washington and represented to the members of the committee that irrigation was not required on the reservation and that the expenditure of this amount of money was a waste. It would certainly be advisable for all citizens to get together on this matter and controvert the representations of this delegation and prove that irrigation is absolutely necessary, and illustrate such claims by calling attention to the crop loss this year by drought, otherwise the appropriation will surely be reduced."

This is a matter of vital importance to every resident of the valley and should be investigated. It was reported at one time that such a delegation as Senator Walsh speaks of had visited Washington, but was afterward denied. However, Senator Walsh's statement is authentic, and a suggestion that some action be taken at once to secure the appropriation should be carried out. Under these conditions, there is a possibility that any appropriation might fall through, the seriousness of which is fully realized by all. The attention of the Ronan Commercial club is respectfully directed to this matter.

I. W. W. MEMBERS SEVERELY PUNISHED

The residents of Tulsa, Oklahoma, have organized a secret order and have adopted effective methods to rid the country of the I. W. W. members. Seventeen of its members in charge of the police and held for \$100 fines were taken from the officers at 11 o'clock last Friday night by men wearing black robes and masks. The officers who were on the way to I. W. W. headquarters in three automobiles were forced to drive their automobiles to a secluded spot, where each of the I. W. W.'s were lashed with a cat-o-nine-tails and a coat of hot tar and feathers was applied to the bleeding backs.

With each stroke of the brush the black robed man in charge of the ceremony uttered the words:

"In the name of the outraged women and children of Belgium."

Stripped of their trousers, the I. W. W.'s were then started toward the Osage hills. Hundreds of rifle and revolver shots were fired into the air and they sped into the darkness.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

The St. Ignatius Sunday school has pleased the Ronan Sunday school to a lively contest to continue from last Sunday to December 30th. As our enrollment here is more than double theirs, the terms of the contest require that we double them in all points. There are three points to be made each Sunday.

(a) Number of persons present at top of bell at 10 a. m.

(b) Number present at 10:30, those coming in after 10:30 not to be counted.

(c) Number of bibles brought. We are in this contest to win and must put forth every effort. A lively interest was shown last Sunday, the points being as follows:

A, 42; B, 76; C, 20 bibles.

Report from St. Ignatius shows that Sunday school to have won all three points last Sunday. We can't let that happen again. Are you going to help us uphold the honor of the Ronan Sunday school?—Mrs. E. D. Swisher.

Professor Alfred Atkinson, federal food administrator of Montana, is in Washington for a conference with Herbert Hoover and the national food administration.

ENJOYABLE SOCIAL AFFAIR

Mrs. F. J. White and Mrs. John P. Sweet were charming hostesses to about twenty-five of their friends on Friday evening of last week at the home of Mrs. White. The rooms were decorated with a profusion of lovely American Beauty roses artistically arranged in vases, and the same rich color was carried out in the refreshments and prizes. The ladies enjoyed progressive whist in the forepart of the evening. Mrs. John Bailey won first honors and was presented with a beautiful basket as a reward. Mrs. A. M. Sterling took second prize, a glass baking dish. Mrs. H. E. Stansbury drew the consolation prize which was a box of assorted candies. Following the game, Mrs. White and Mrs. Sweet, assisted by Miss Olive Townsend, served a delicious two course lunch, and after music and pleasant conversation the guests departed, but not until the wee small hours, with many expressions of a pleasurable evening. Those invited were: Mesdames Leunio, Shoen, Bailey, Stansbury, Potvin, McConnell, Penham, Warner, Seacore, Riddle, Bear, Sterling, Wallace, Rathbone, Larson, Farrell, Fahren, Eckley, and Misses Irwin, Townsend and Shall.

CENTRAL AVENUE OPENED TO DEPOT

Following a meeting of the town council at which it was decided that the city would grade and gravel Central Avenue from Sixth street west to the city limits, Stanley Seacore and L. M. Brandford announce that they will open up an eighty foot road across their private property, adjoining the townsite on the west, connecting with Central Avenue at the city limits and continuing to the railroad right of way. The contract for the grading, etc. of the road will be let at once and the work completed this fall, providing two entrances to the city from the depot. A street, or the township road, and Central Avenue, or the "Highway Avenue of Ronan."

There have been many conflicting reports recently regarding freight and passenger service on the branch line from Dixon to Ronan, but authentic advice from O. C. Mowary, chief engineer, is that no regular service will be put on for some time. The line is not yet completed and is still in the hands of the contractors, although Mr. Mowary states that freight, except perishable goods, will be taken care of by the construction train. Wheat is being shipped over the new road and other freight handled also. Freight rates will be furnished upon application to Mr. Mowary or the agent at Dixon.

COLBY MOTION DENIED

Judge Lentz handed down his decision last week, overruling the motion for a new trial for Edith Colby, who shot and killed A. C. Thomas last year. It is announced that the attorneys will appeal to the supreme court.

SAWMILL FOR POLSON

Information comes from a reliable source that the Northern Pacific has purchased 160 acres of the Charles Alford ranch, along the lake shore, for a saw mill site, and it understood that they will start a mill in the near future. It is said that when completed the mill will be one of the largest in Western Montana, all of which is good news to the people of this valley.

It has been reported recently that certain men from Missoula returned to that city and made statements to the effect that Ronan was not patriotic. In this connection, and notwithstanding the crop reverses, we wish to call attention to a generous contribution to the Red Cross last June, weekly meetings of patriotic societies preparing hospital supplies for the wounded, many boxes of which have been shipped to the front, a general conservation of food, as requested by the government, as large a purchase of Liberty bonds as financial conditions would permit at that particular time, and an over-subscription to the Y. M. C. A. fund. Ninety per cent of the young men of the town are now with the colors and Ronan will do her share, as always, to provide for them, and we resent unjust criticism.

MORE INDIAN LAND OPEN FOR LEASE

Sealed bids will be received by the undersigned at Flathead Agency, Dixon, Montana, to be opened at 11 o'clock a. m., November 23, 1917, for the leasing of revocable licenses for farming and grazing purposes, for a period of two years, beginning December 1, 1917, covering lands reserved for allotment purposes north of Horro, Montana, detailed descriptions of which can be secured by applying to the Indian agent at Dixon.

Bids are desired covering at least 80 acres. Bidders will give the description of the lands and the rate per acre bid, or in the event the lessee desires a crop rent will be considered. Bidders are limited to 640 acres, in accordance with the regulations.

The breaking of this land will be considered in connection with the rentals offered. The right to remove fencing and buildings which may be on this land will be given the licensee.

Complaint has been made that these lands are the breeding places for grasshoppers and the only solution is to place the lands under cultivation. The right of license will be awarded to the highest bidder, all things considered.

Bidders are requested to have their bids at this office before the hour of opening, and should have some plainly marked on the envelope "Bid on Allot. Reserve," otherwise the bid will be opened as ordinary mail.

Plans showing these lands can be seen by applying to W. G. Brown, or J. C. Curtis, at Ronan, Montana, or at the agency at Dixon. For further information, address the undersigned at Dixon, Montana.

THEODORE SHARP, Agent.

PLAINS GIRL VICTIM OF AUTO WRECK

Miss Gertrude Myers, 13 years old, was killed in an auto accident Sunday night. She was returning from Missoula by her home in Plains with Morris Norris, her fiancé, when the engine stalled on a steep hill. Norris prepared to back the car into the bank but the girl became frightened and seized his arm and turned the car down the mountain side. Both were pinned beneath it, but Norris managed to extricate himself and tried to lift the car and free his sweetheart but this he was unable to do. He then ran down the road until he met a man who offered aid. By this time the girl was fast sinking under the fearful pain and the two men fought desperately to lift the car. When they found themselves unable to stir the heavy weight they ran for aid, this time to a Northern Pacific section house nearby. By the time the section crew had reached the scene the girl was dead.

Miss Myers was a senior in the Plains high school and a daughter of Mrs. Belle Myers, a widow.

PARENT-TEACHERS' MEETING

An interesting meeting of the Parent-Teachers' association was held in the high school building on Thursday night of last week. Music was the subject of the evening. Miss Olive Townsend gave an instructive talk on "Music in the Public Schools" and Dr. Becker spoke on the "Purpose of Music" and illustrated the points he wished to emphasize by selections on the Victrola. Mrs. Ralph Bartlett also rendered a very pleasing vocal solo.

The new officers elected took their respective chairs at this meeting. Mrs. Wallace Pearson is president; Mrs. W. T. Gleason, vice president, and Mrs. J. I. Carr, secretary and treasurer. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend the next meeting which will be held December 13th. It has been definitely decided that regular meetings will take place on the second Thursday evening of each month.

Isaac Pauline who now lives in Edmonton, Alberta, but who resided on the Flathead until seven years ago, has returned for a visit. Mr. Pauline is a pioneer stock raiser on the reservation.

GOOD SHOWING OF WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat on the Flathead reservation appears to be further advanced than any other section in Montana, according to State Land Agent C. A. Whipple, who toured the country several days recently on business.

This statement is encouraging to our farmers, who notwithstanding severe losses the past season by the drought and grasshopper invasions, turned their attentions this fall to winter wheat. It has been learned by experience that winter wheat came through the dry weather in good shape, while the wheat sown in the spring suffered considerably, and therefore, the level headed and plucky Flathead farmers, undaunted by their losses, have seeded this fall an untold number of acres of winter wheat. A great many acres of sod was broken last spring which has been increased this fall and reports from various localities are that the winter wheat is looking exceptionally fine. Up to date we have not experienced the usual amount of rainfall and early snows but this has been greatly overcome by the prolonged heavy fog and damp weather which supplies sufficient moisture to the ground for the present.

While a repetition of last year's drought is not anticipated, the method pursued by the farmers this fall, coupled with the water supply for irrigation which will be available from the U. S. R. S., practically insures the crop of 1918.

Dr. C. L. Boyard will be in Ronan on Sunday, November 25th. He will preach at Round Baite at 3 p. m. and at Ronan in the evening. A cordial invitation is extended to these services.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN RONAN STREETS

During the past ten days the concrete curbing on the south side of Central Avenue has set and the forms have been removed, grading completed and the first layer of gravel placed on the street, and the change in the appearance of the street is striking. While the work is hardly begun, the most casual observer would note the improvement and foresee the ultimate result. As the gravel does not extend to the curbing, Stanley Seacore has decided to gravel the intervening space in front of his store at his own expense, and it is probable that others will do likewise, provided the city does not decide to make the extension. The weather man has favored the street work, for barring one cold period, the working conditions have been ideal.

TEACHERS DRESSED UP; NO PLACE TO GO

Missoula, Nov. 13. The Montana State Teachers' association is "all dressed up with no place to go," according to Dr. J. P. Rowe, of the state university, a member of the executive committee. The committee, at a meeting in Bozeman Saturday, was unable to find a convention city, Helena, where the teachers were to have met beginning November 29, has been definitely abandoned because of an epidemic of scarlet fever, Dr. Rowe says. Similar conditions prevail in Bozeman. Other cities suggested by the committee have not ample accommodations. The committee feels that the meeting must be held somewhere.

The Pioneer is always glad to receive news items. Courtesy demands that when your guests arrive and depart from your home, mention of same should be made in the local paper. If it is not convenient to call in person, send a written notice in the mail, or telephone. We shall appreciate it.

Ernest Owens, brother of a prominent medical man of Polson, was sentenced to eight months in the county jail by Judge Bourquin, for bootlegging. Evidence was introduced to show that the liquor sale was connected with the murder of Paul Andrie, for which another Indian, Lasso Stasso has been convicted.

GOOD MONTANA BEANS

Montana seed beans are of better quality this year than those of any of the northern states, in the opinion of William McDonald, seed buyer for the State Nursery and Seed Co.

"Improvement in the quality of Montana seed beans has been keeping pace with the demand for the product from this state," said Mr. McDonald. "The soil of Montana is especially adapted to what has been named the "Great Northern" bean, which is taking the place to a great extent of the navy bean and other older varieties."

SENATOR BREAKS ARM

Senator A. J. Brower sustained a fracture of his right arm, between the elbow and wrist, Sunday morning in an attempt to crank his Reo car. "Twas the oft told tale of advanced spark and mighty kick which has resulted in so many broken bones. Dr. Rosner was immediately called and reduced the fracture. Mr. and Mrs. Brower were leaving for Missoula and only caused a delay as they drove in after the broken bone was set. But Mr. Brower's friends are wondering why he didn't use the starter."

FILE PETITION FOR DAILY MAIL SERVICE

Jos. A. Lemire, postmaster, recently forwarded to the postmaster general at Washington, petitions of the patrons of rural route No. 1 and 2, with 61 signers each, asking for a daily mail service. At the present time they receive their mail three times each week and they now feel that the number of residents on the respective routes and the volume of mail involved, entitles them to more frequent service.

Following is a letter Mr. Lemire received from Washington, which is self explanatory:

Washington, D. C., Nov. 6, 1917.

Postmaster,

Ronan, Montana,

In reply to your letter of the 26th ult., transmitting a petition signed by the patrons of rural route No. 1, Ronan, requesting that they be afforded daily except Sunday service, by the rural carrier in lieu of their present tri-weekly supply, you are advised that the question of increasing the number of deliveries on routes 1 and 2 from Ronan is now receiving consideration, and a decision in each case will be reached at the earliest date practicable. (Signed)

Fourth Asst Postmaster Gen'l.

ANNOUNCEMENT

All stores will be closed in Ronan on Thanksgiving, November 29th, in recognition of the national day of Thanksgiving, as set aside by the president. Those who wish to make purchases for their holiday dinners are requested to do so before six o'clock on the Wednesday preceding Thanksgiving day. 29-30

LET'S GET TOGETHER

The people of Ronan sent a large delegation to a meeting of the county commissioners and as a result obtained a bridge across Spring creek and a gravelled road from the station to the city.

We call attention to this for the reason that St. Ignatius is in need of many things which might be secured by united effort. An association of citizens, meeting regularly, where matters of importance to the community may be taken up is sorely needed. Let us follow the lead of progressive towns and "get together." —St. Ignatius Post.

The general activity and many improvements in evidence in Ronan speaks more forcibly than can the printed columns of the benefits reaped from a "get-together" spirit.

County Commissioners Flynn, Peterson and Prescott passed through town yesterday on a trip west of Ronan to view the road and it is hoped it will result in some much needed improvements on the Mud creek bridge and a few of the worst dips. Otherwise that road is in very good shape and with these improvements, would be one of the best in the valley. It is very necessary that this particular road be kept in good condition as it is the commanding approach from all the western country tributary to Ronan, including the two ferries operating over the Flathead river.

ENTHUSIASTIC Y. M. C. A. MEETING

At one of the most spontaneous and patriotic meetings ever held in Ronan the business men of the city Friday night oversubscribed for the Y. M. C. A. fund the amount expected of this particular locality by about \$50.00, the task of soliciting requiring about ten minutes. The county's quota is \$3,000, while a contribution from Ronan of \$300 was asked, and the amount actually collected was close to \$350.

The meeting took place in the Secore Hall and was attended by practically every man in town. J. H. Toole and Rev. Lockwood, pastor of the Baptist church in Missoula, were present with the intention of helping to organize and appoint a chairman and committees to raise the required fund. Each made short speeches regarding the work of the Y. M. C. A. at the training camps in the United States, as well as abroad, where the "Y" hats are an important factor at the front, and laid particular emphasis on the uplifting influence provided through wholesome recreation, opportunity for study and other manifold comforts and necessities, all of which maintain the steady influence of home and bridge the break between the normal life and that of the army, where without this environment, restraint would cease to operate. Some of the horrors of war and the inhuman atrocities committed by the German army were also touched upon, but of which little can be said through these columns. At the conclusion of the speeches a motion was made to appoint a soliciting committee to canvass the hall, and Ross Lemire, C. F. Rathbone and Stanley Seacore were appointed as such and within ten minutes the above mentioned sum was placed in the hands of Mr. Toole as Ronan's contribution to the national Y. M. C. A. fund of \$35,000,000. Thereupon the committee was discharged and the task of further soliciting unnecessary. Rev. Lockwood and Mr. Toole were both profuse in their praise of the spirit displayed and stated that it was the most enthusiastic gathering of the kind they had attended thus far.

Following is a letter Mr. Lemire received from Washington, which is self explanatory:

Washington, D. C., Nov. 6, 1917.

Postmaster,

Ronan, Montana,

In reply to your letter of the 26th ult., transmitting a petition signed by the patrons of rural route No. 1, Ronan, requesting that they be afforded daily except Sunday service, by the rural carrier in lieu of their present tri-weekly supply, you are advised that the question of increasing the number of deliveries on routes 1 and 2 from Ronan is now receiving consideration, and a decision in each case will be reached at the earliest date practicable. (Signed)

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF SUN IN JUNE

According to expert astronomers throughout the country, there will be a total eclipse of the sun on June 8, 1918, which will be visible in its totality along a sixty mile strip extending across the United States from the southwestern corner of the state of Washington on the Pacific coast to Florida on the Atlantic. Astronomers consider themselves unusually fortunate in their opportunity for observing this eclipse, one of the seven visible in the United States during the present century. In that the center line of this sixty mile strip passes within four miles of the observatory at Denver university, where photographs will be taken.

To guard against unfavorable weather conditions, another expedition from the Yerkes observatory will be stationed at Green River, Wyo., which also is near the center line of the path of the eclipse. There will not be another total eclipse visible in the United States until 1945.

Two hours, fifteen minutes and twenty-one and five-tenths seconds will elapse from the time the moon first intervenes between the sun and the earth and the sun will be totally obscured for a period of 88.7 seconds.

JURY DISAGREES

After 42 hours of deliberation, the jury which heard the trial of Mrs. Nan Thompson, formerly of Missoula, on the charge of procuring Ellen Lacteta Pruyn for Frank Hall of Missoula, disagreed and the case was dismissed. The trial took place in Helena. Mrs. Thompson was released on \$5,000 bonds and returned to Deer Lodge with her husband.

The United States Navy recruiting station at Salt Lake City, has issued a call for 325 firemen by December 15, age limits 21 to 35 years. This branch pays good wages and allows \$10,000 insurance in case of death or total disability and at the same time opens a desirable way for the young men to serve their country.