

# BELT VALLEY TIMES

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## Belt Wins North Central Basketball Tourney

### FIRST NATIONAL CHANGES HOME

The reorganized First National Bank has leased the State Bank building and on Tuesday moved their fixtures and equipment to the new location.

The lobby of the State Bank had been renovated for its new occupants. Ernest Seigling and Lester Brodie having been employed for several days in painting, calomining and varnishing the interior.

The old fixtures were stored away and the fixtures of the First National were installed by Matt Lesell and Gus Johnson on Tuesday afternoon.

The lobby will hereafter be located in the front of the building and the cashier's and teller's windows facing the lobby and the door.

The consultation room will be in the rear and it and the safety deposit will be reached through a passage on the north side of the room.

The greater portion of the name of the former bank has been removed and for the present the word bank alone remains.

The new institution will have attractive and commodious quarters. That this building again houses a going and progressive business concern will be a source of gratification to the community and especially to those who through long association have a sentimental interest in it.

### Belt Girl Wins Honors at College

Dillon, Feb. 28.—Miss Margaret Pimperton of Belt, recently chosen beauty queen of the Montana State Normal college, will take the leading part in "Pepita," a Mexican operetta, to be presented at the Normal college March 19 and 20. Others in the cast are Leslie McNeil, Nellie Cecil, Dorothy Lisecht, Charles Murray, Glenn Kimball, Marion Lund and Harry Thompson, while the chorus will be composed of Josephine Funk, Frances Thompson, Lola McCoy, Lois Swift, Katherine Walsh, Henrietta Keesee, Lois Casper, Genieve Wheaton, Margaret Whalen, Frances Myrick, Gale Peterson, Dorothy Weber, Lorne Lauder, Clyde Babcock, Clyde Cook, Keith Haynes, Earl Wiggins, Jerome Wahl, Edward McCurdy, Edward Ensign, Arnold Benson, Raymond Walker, Sig Moe and John Brown.

#### KING KATCHES KID

Tuesday evening Tony Skites brought in a small boy who gave his name as Conway and whom Skites had picked up near Raynesford as the boy was looking for work.

The young fellow was about 12 years of age and was poorly dressed. He had the furtive restless gaze of a street gamine but talked very little.

Mr. Skites turned the boy over to Deputy Sheriff King who had planned to convey him at once to Great Falls.

Together they went into King's room in the Roman building where Mr. King procured some necessary articles, then the boy preceded King out the door and as the Deputy turned to lock it the boy drifted down the stairs and was not seen again.

Mr. King enjoyed the laugh upon himself and said only that if it had been a man he would have watched him more closely but that he never dreamed that the boy had it in him to break away.

### NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



In Climb Defeat Big Sandy, Choteau, Havre and Great Falls. Will Go to State Tournament Held in the State College Gymnasium at Bozeman March 10 - 13. First Belt Team to Attend Big Tournament Since 1918

When the Belt team entered the tournament last Wednesday it was not without misgivings because Simonis, a regular guard, was ill at home with a relapse from mumps. Leland was fighting an attack of tonsillitis and Tucker had been sick for several days.

This accounted for the extreme care taken of the boys during those strenuous days of the tournament and necessitated the missing the majority of the tournament games.

The boys were confidently expected to win easily from Big Sandy and Choteau but Havre was an unknown quantity and the Belt quintet were certain that if the Havre beat them the boys from the high-line would have to travel.

The locals confidently expected to meet Harlem in the finals and looked forward to a fast clean game with the hope that they might guard those Terrible Swedes so closely that the score would end in Belt's favor.

The dope was upset when Great Falls displaced Harlem for the finals but the team was not disheartened because they considered Great Falls easier than Harlem. During the tournament Belt's progress was phoned after each game to the Times and given out to the city. On Saturday evening only a scattering of people were left in Belt, in fact not enough to stage a celebration after the news had flashed over the wires that the Belt five had the won over Great Falls by a score of 24 to 22 and had thereby gained first place in the district.

Great Falls was second, Harlem third, Geysler fourth, Chinook fifth, Havre sixth, Conrad seventh, Augusta eighth. The other eight teams did not place.

After the last game a trophy in the form of a silver basketball on a stand was presented to the Belt team as well as individual fobs. The gymnasium was so packed that few saw the presentation as the crowd surged upon the floor.

The winners of first and second place will go to Bozeman to compete with Billings, Hardin, Loyola of Missoula, Helena, Butte, Missoula, Anaconda, Livingston, Bozeman, Klein, Miles City, Glasgow and Polson.

These teams have all won their way to the tourney and consequently the pace is much faster at Bozeman than in the district meets.

The fastest teams in the state are usually found in the cities along the Northern Pacific railroad with Billings and Helena the centers of speed.

For many years Lewistown had one of the fastest teams in the state and usually won a place in the state meet. In 1916 Lewistown beat Belt by one point in the district tournament in Great Falls in the final game. Both teams went to Bozeman. In 1918 Belt was beaten again in the finals at Lewistown by the team from that place but the state tournament was cancelled because of the epidemic of influenza and so this team failed to reach Bozeman.

The Belt team of 1916 is the only Belt team having the honor of defeat-

ing Great Falls three times in the same season. This team was composed of Spogen, Spiller, Bemis, Gonsel, Kelly and Loy.

On Jan. 31, 1913 another team took Great Falls into camp on the Belt floor. This was then considered some achievement and Sam Wilson, Mike Dorchak, Wallace Morris, Benny Gosack and Harold Werre were the active perpetrators of the deed. This team was invited to Bozeman and met the champions in the first game which ended their hopes.

Other Belt teams entered the state tournament but none with more promise than Coach Lowry's proteges. This team, probably the lightest in point of weight in the district nevertheless demonstrated that they had the skill and stamina to block the best efforts of the heavy teams whom they met.

Yet strange to say not one of the Belt boys was mentioned on the all-star first team while Nohl, Tucker and Probst were given places on the second team. The first all-star district team was composed of two Ekegrens, forwards, Lux, Great Falls, center and Semingsen, Great Falls, and Wilson of Harlem, guards.

The Belt team won with a strong swift-passing offensive which changed instantly into a strong defensive team. Leland Probst and Tucker were the back-bone of the offensive and never struck a defense that they could not penetrate. Probst was high-point man in the tournament and although he missed many shots still was the mainstay of the Belt team. Leland

played a remarkable game considering the fact that his presence in the tournament was undecided until the last minute and only after the Big Sandy game did he begin to win over Oil Man Tonsillitis.

Tucker got the tip-off usually, having more trouble with Lux than any other center. As the tournament progressed he speeded up and was a tower of strength in the Belt passing game which suffered through the absence of Simonis.

Nohl and Jewell seldom got into the offensive but were quick and accurate in passing the ball to the forwards, seldom allowing anyone to break through to get behind them.

It certainly is a paradox when a team can defeat three of the strong teams of the district and yet fail to land a man on the all-star team.

Plans are on foot after the state tournament to hold a celebration in Belt in honor of the boys' victory.

Coach Lowry has reason to be elated because of the success of his team yet some of the credit of the victory is due to the grade teachers who sold pencils to get the basket-ball equipment with which Leland, Jewell, Simonis, Johnson and Nohl learned the passing game on the dirt court of the grade school.

On the night of March 10th Belt's team will open the state tournament and will have as their opponents the Loyola high school team of Missoula.

Second game—Billings vs. Polson. Third game—Great Falls vs. Livingston.

### MRS. J. HUNTER DIES IN BOZEMAN

Mrs. John Hunter of Belt died at the Deaconess hospital in Bozeman on Wednesday February 24th at 2:40 o'clock.

Her husband John Hunter and his daughter Mrs. Mabel Hargrove were with her at the end. She had been ill for some months and had been under the care of physicians. Her family had held hopes of her recovery but she had often told them that her time was short.

Mrs. Hunter was 64 years of age while her husband still lives at the ripe old age of 88.

The Hunters came to Belt some 15 years ago from the Birch creek country and after an unsuccessful venture in business have lived for most of the time on a part of the Castner property. An only son died some years ago and the only surviving child is Mabel, wife of Frank Hargrove, a rancher on the West Gallatin.

Mrs. Hunter acted as companion and nurse for the late Mrs. Castner and was remembered in her will.

Mr. Hunter will stay hereafter with the Hargroves.

Mr. Hargrove came to Belt Tuesday and disposed of the Hunter furniture on Wednesday then returned to Bozeman.

### Legion Will Give St. Patrick's Ball

The American Legion is sponsoring a St. Patrick's day dance at the K. P. hall on March 17th. This day the only break in the period of Lenten observance has for many years been celebrated by a dance which has drawn a crowd from far and near. The Legion may be trusted to uphold the traditions and to stage an affair that will be a dignified, pleasurable and clean.

An invitation has been forwarded to the Harlem team by business men inviting them to come to Belt and to play an exhibition game with the locals on the evening of March 17. This will give home fans an opportunity to see one of the cleanest and fastest basketball teams of the state work out on the Belt floor.

The fine sportsmanship of the Harlemites was appreciated at the tournament and if they accept it is planned to give the Belt team and the Harlem team a banquet after the game which will be in the nature of an acknowledgement of the success of Coach Lowry and his players as well as an appreciation of the support of the highline team in the crucial battle at the tournament.

At this writing no response has been received from Harlem.

Fourth—Forsyth vs. Helena.

Fifth game—Missoula vs. Klein.

Sixth game—Miles City vs. Anaconda.

Seventh game—Glasgow vs. Bozeman.

Eighth game—Butte vs. Hardin.

Loyola is the Catholic high school at Missoula in the western district which is composed of second class districts while the mines district in which Missoula high plays is made up from the largest places in the state. Loyola must be quite strong to beat Hamilton, Stevensville and Alberton.

(Con. on last page)

Highschool Auditorium  
Cast 15 Chorus 18  
DONT MISS IT!

Fri. Night, March 5th  
"The Lass of Limerick Town"

33 - Characters - 33  
All Local Talent  
DONT MISS IT!