

WESTERN NEWS
AND LIBBY TIMES

Published every Thursday at Libby, Mont., by Western Montana Publishing Company, Inc.

Entered at the postoffice at Libby, Mont., as second-class matter.

W. R. LITTELL
Editor and Manager

OFFICIAL PAPER FOR LINCOLN COUNTY

Subscription Rates:
One year \$2.50
Six months 1.50

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
1947 Active Member

Usual Toll Taken On Our National Holiday

By Charles D. Rowe

As we wrote this column last week, we wondered how many who were then alive would be dead after the Fourth of July weekend.

Well, that query is now answered and we know as this is written (Tuesday morning) that it required the lives of at least 450 people to properly celebrate our great national holiday. When the full count is reported, the final number will probably be somewhat higher than the 450. We prize highly our American liberties, one of which seems to be the right to go out and kill a certain number in the pursuit of pleasure.

Of course, accidents will happen. Death sometimes comes from misjudgment in taking chances. And at other times many are the innocent victims of someone else's criminal carelessness. But the final result seems to be the same.

Fortunately no serious accidents marred the holiday in our own corner of the world and Lincoln county apparently observed the day in a sane and safe way. A different story might have been told. Perhaps a few guardian angels were out on our highways taking care of us. A friend told me of an incident on the highway between Troy and Bonners Ferry. He was flagged down by some motorists who insisted that he stop and have a drink with them. They were stopping everyone who drove by, in their attempt to be friendly and convivial and to celebrate the holiday in a moist way. Of course, they were more or less under the influence of liquor and should not have been loose on the highways. It is such mistaken individuals who are often responsible for our most serious accidents. But again we say we were fortunate that such excesses did not bring death or other serious accidents to our community.

I ran onto an editorial the other day in the Spokane Chronicle that is so good I wish to pass it on to the readers of this column who may not have already seen it. The editorial appeared in the Chronicle on July 3 under the caption, "For These Are Your Last Hours." It follows:

Laugh, man, and be happy while you may. Tomorrow will be another day, and all your merrymaking will be over.

I have marked you for destruction. I am Providence, and you have taunted me once too often. Tomorrow you shall die.

Friends will mourn over you and rail at fate, with whom so often I conspire. They will talk of cruelty and injustice. But I shall know, and if you were still in the land of living you should know, that the blame was yours.

Laugh! Make the most of the next few flying hours, for they will be your last.

The fifth morning of July will be a dark one in your household and those of your friends and loved ones. They will say, "I can not understand. He swam the lake so often by himself, and nothing ever happened."

If he had only asked a boat to follow him! If he had not had such confidence, such courage."

Call it confidence and courage if you will. I am wiser. I know, and you would know, if you had been rescued by some whim of my co-conspirator, fate, that it was foolhardy exhibitionism.

"If he had not gone into the water so soon after the dinner hour," your friends will say. "If he had only heeded warnings. If he had never seen that accursed lake at all!"

Let them curse the lake. Let them cry out at me and at fate. I know better. I am Providence, and I remember long. I have not forgotten all your taunts. I mind me of the day when you crowded the driver's seat of your car beyond safety. I recall when you kindled your cabin fire with gasoline, and when you held a giant firecracker in your hand as you lit its fuse. I remember when you drove past other cars over the brow of a hill. I have not forgotten how you overloaded a rowboat and set forth into the whitecaps.

All of these things you did on a day named for independence not recognizing the difference between independence and folly: You had had your fling. I am tired of smiling indulgently at all your insolence. The July 4 soon to dawn will be your last. Death is through with this holiday. You, too, soon will be through with all of yours.

Ruthless? Ah no, I am long-suffering and kind. I would gladly change my edict if you would make it possible. But you will be obstinate. You will be vain. You will be foolhardy. And so I have no choice. You think I am smiling as I smiled so many times before, but this time you misread the curve of my lips.

You have this one chance left. You will not hear me, and so you will never have another.

Industry, not including agriculture, expects to spend \$3,800,000 in the last quarter of 1947 for new plant and equipment, says a report by an official U. S. board. A part of that will be spent in the Libby district, and it will continue on into succeeding months, according to plans that are being drawn for developments in this northwest corner of Montana. More definite news of these projects will appear as they approach the time for actual construction.

Here's a gem of a thought by

Novelist Pearl Buck, who, by the way, is quite a woman. "If men have made a mess of the world," said she, "what a mess women have made of men. Women do nothing because they know nothing and care nothing. . . . The time has come to enlarge the home and include the world."

I have been a newspaper man most of my life and always rise joyfully to the defense of the press when it is attacked. But sometimes we must admit a faint blush of shame because of some of its less admirable exploits.

Time magazine of July 7 devoted nearly a page in telling how the daily press exploited news of the murder of Benjamin ("Bugsy") Siegel in a Beverly Hills mansion. Siegel was a notorious criminal, gambler and underworld character. Why should he be worth columns of space in any newspaper? What is there about his lousy life that needs to be broadcast to a morbid public?

Of course, I know the usual answer. The newspapers say that is what the people want and they are giving the news that the people demand. Which doesn't say anything very complimentary for the dear people. Why do we read with such avidity accounts of crime, scarlet women and love triangles when they are played up "high, wide and handsome" in the daily press? Do we hear someone ask, "Are we really civilized?"

Helena.—(U.P.)—Some 106 new laws went into effect with the beginning of fiscal 1948 in Montana, but they'll be hardly noticeable immediately unless you (a) decide to get married, or (b) smoke.

New Laws Go Into Effect In Montana

Montana's prospective brides and bridegrooms now are required to take blood tests within 20 days of applying for a marriage license. The new law, in many ways similar to the "gin marriage" law which stood the state on its ear 12 years ago, carries no prohibition of marriage if either party is found to have a venereal disease. It requires simply that the results of the tests are to be made known to both parties to the marriage contract.

Smokes are up two cents a pack. And you're technically a law violator if you've stocked up on those unstamped packages of cigars.

There are a couple of other new statutes which touch Montanans generally, a pair that have been shelved for a while, and a bale that will either be hardly noticeable or will touch only groups of the state's citizens.

Hunting and fishing licenses are costing Treasure State residents a little—and non-residents a lot—more under provisions of a law which went on the books before the beginning of the new fiscal year. Out-of-staters are paying increased fees ranging up to \$100 for a big-game hunting license.

The state also is collecting a three per cent punchboard tax passed by the 30th legislature.

Hanging fire until next January 1 is the new law requiring driver's license examinations. And a bill licensing hospitals and setting up standards of care is awaiting a federal appropriation.

The legislature also lowered to 16 the age at which minors might be prosecuted in criminal court for crimes of violence.

For labor, there were laws increasing unemployment compensation payments to \$18 a week, hiking weekly compensation for injured workmen to \$17.50, and setting up a commission to study occupational diseases.

State and county officers are getting six cents a mile reimbursement for using personal cars in performing official duties.

Looking forward to the end of the biennium, the state will be some \$200,000 in the black, according to Rep. C. J. Williams, r., Billings. The chairman of the house appropriations committee said Montana's income during the next two years will be \$21,489,083, with expenditures totaling \$21,686,130. The deficit of \$197,000 would be more than handled by the \$400,000 in the general fund as of July 1.

One of the strangest animals in the world is the solenodon, the habitat of which is confined to Cuba and Santo Domingo. By many he is considered the "missing link." In structure he differs from all other living mammals, and combines many of the features of the moles, rats, ant-eaters, shrews, bats and true carnivores. Few have ever been captured alive and those few have lived but a short time in captivity.

Alabama, with 115,000 boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 20 enrolled in 4-H clubs, leads the nation. Mississippi is second with 102,000, Texas, third with 101,000, and Georgia, fourth with 90,000. The lead in enrollment by southern states may result from the fact that the movement there is linked with the "consolidated schools, while in the North it is operated on a "farm and home" basis.

Since introduction of the hamburger into the United States from Hamburg, Germany, in 1884, 33 different varieties have been concocted. Popular variations include the cheeseburger, turkeyburger, chickenburger, and onionburger while novel creations range from the rabbitburger, turtleburger and cavalierburger.

Pioneer Inventors
More than 150 years ago the need for mechanizing farming to increase production was keenly felt. Efforts made by inventors of the time are shown in the variety and numbers of patents issued. Between 1790 and 1873, there were granted 575 patents on seed-planting devices and machines.

Golden Gate Bridge
Nearly 50 million automobiles have crossed the Golden Gate bridge, San Francisco, in the 10 years that it has been opened. The bridge has been operated without cost to the taxpayers. Traffic has increased from 9,000 cars daily to nearly 20,000 during this 10-year period.

Milk in Cleaning
Skim milk is particularly useful for cleaning lamp shades made of rough finished paper with a shellac, varnish or waxlike finish. Unlike water, the milk does not readily penetrate the paper because of its casein content, and it leaves a slight finish on the paper.

English Blizzard
The blizzard of 1947 which hit the British Isles caused the loss of 100,000 acres of winter wheat, 100,000 tons of potatoes, 30,700 head of cattle, two million dollars worth of poultry and 1,500,000 sheep, in addition to property and other loss.

Perpetual Mirage
A perpetual mirage, midway between Willcox and Dragon, Ariz., and known as Willcox La Playa, appears to be a shimmering sheet of water the year around.

'Adopt' Nurses
A movement has been launched for Australian nurses to "adopt" nurses in Austria, sending them uniforms, soaps and other useful articles.

Less Cropland
There are at present only 2 1/2 acres of harvested cropland for every man, woman and child in America, compared with 3 1/4 acres 25 years ago.

Extension Program
Cooperative agricultural extension work with the United States department of agriculture was established by an act of congress on May 8, 1914.

Junior Police
Manila has organized a junior police force, the personnel directing traffic for child pedestrians at street crossings near school houses.

Repair & Adjustment of OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS TRANSITS BINOCULARS FIELD GLASSES
of any type. Accurate instruments to check and work with.

CONTACT . . .
VFW Club, Libby, Montana
Cal Kerns

CARD OF THANKS
We take this means of expressing our thanks to the many friends who were so thoughtful during our bereavement.

Helen J. Denny
Wilfred Tetrault
Theora Heater
Alice Cashatt
Mrs. Roy Reash

DEWEY TO BE GUEST OF HONOR AT STATE COLLEGE
Bozeman.—(U.P.)—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York will be the guest of honor at a luncheon and public reception on the Montana State College campus July 19.

Dewey, leading contender for the republican presidential nomination, will spend about 10 hours in the Treasure State during a visit to Yellowstone Park following the governors' conference in Salt Lake City.



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

(That goes for Ford Service, too!)

You'll find it pays to bring your Ford "back home" to us, for Genuine Ford Service. Here are five important reasons why:

1. FORD-TRAINED MECHANICS—Who know your Ford best.
2. FACTORY-APPROVED METHODS—For faster, better work.
3. SPECIAL FORD EQUIPMENT—For a job done right.
4. GENUINE FORD PARTS—Made right... fit right... last longer!
5. CONVENIENT BUDGET TERMS—

And here's a real time saver: You'll get immediate service on all jobs! Try Genuine Ford Service. We're sure you'll agree . . .

There's no place like HOME for Ford Service

Standard Motors
LIBBY, MONTANA

PLAY SUITS

CHILDRENS' PLAY SUITS . . .

A Large Range of Colors and Styles

Women's One-Piece Play Suits

98c and \$1.98

\$2.98

Kootenai Mercantile Company
DRY-GOODS DEPT.