

OUR TOWN IN 1900

January 1900. The 1800s have slipped into the past and a new century is dawning, but politics and other noteworthy news did not change much when 18 turned over to 19. On the national scene, there was a rift in the Republican party on who would be McKinley's running mate. The Japanese appeared to be preparing for war with Russia. India was facing a major drought and widespread plague. Civil marriages were now allowed in the Philippines which finally gave protestants and non-Christians the right to get married. The cold winter weather caused the Mississippi river at St. Louis to freeze over. In Chicago, the Illinois Humane society successfully stopped the planned "hunt" of imported jack rabbits stating, "It is a lawless, demoralizing sort of entertainment and ought not to be countenanced." The war of the Copper Kings was making front page news. Marcus Daly was given a deadline of February 5th to prove the charges he and his lawyers made against Mr. Clark. The mining camp of Rochester was facing a smallpox outbreak after many were exposed to a man who came from Butte to work at the Watseka mine. Butte was still reporting numerous cases of the various forms of smallpox along with multiple deaths.

SILVERBOW COUNTY DEATHS IN 1899 – Coroner Julieu reported to the commissioners that 116 inquests were held. Of the total 108 were males and 8 females. The causes of death were as follows: Mine accidents, 38; heart failure, 22; suicide, 16; railroad accidents, 9; alcoholism and exposure, 6; accidental falls, 5; smelter accidents, 3; electric wire shock, 2; unknown causes, 3; burned, street railway, infanticide, embolism, blood poisoning and cerebro spinal meningitis, one each.

BURNING OF THE NADEAU HOUSE – Saturday night the people of Whitehall witnessed from a distance a blaze at Mayflower, which seemed of such proportions as to spread the belief that the little camp had suffered a conflagration. News arrived in Whitehall next day that the fire was the burning of the Nadeau hotel building, which was the most pretentious building in the town. The men of Mayflower worked heroically to prevent the spread of the flames, and succeeded. There was little wind, which perhaps was a saving feature.

A DISTRESSING WRECK. The Valley Train Goes Into the Ditch and Robt. E. Hickman Killed. The train in charge of Conductor Elliot left Whitehall about as usual for its trip to Twin Bridges. When the train reached the junction of the valley line with the one that runs to Parrot the engine left the track, and after running for six car lengths plunged into the ditch. Engineer Brown was thrown out, and he saw Fireman Hickman groping his way in a bewildered manner in the escaping steam. It developed that Mr. Hickman had inhaled the steam and scalded his lungs, and at about 5 o'clock Saturday evening he passed quietly away at his home just south of the depot.

SUMMIT VALLEY – Your correspondent is informed by a young person in society here that Summit Valley is soon to have a wedding. The names of the contracting parties I am not

(yet) at liberty to send you, but when the happy event takes place the Zephyr press gang will receive a box of fine cigars. Homer White has sold his oat crop to the Isdell Mer. Co. of Pony and is taking advantage of the good roads and fine weather to deliver same.

THE HOME NEWS – The school vacation was extended another week by the trustees to the great delight of many pupils who considered Christmas week all too short in which to celebrate.

Several citizens of Whitehall, who are sober and of good habits, assert that on Saturday evening, just prior to the time that the fire at Mayflower attracted attention, they distinctly saw a meteor or aerolite fall in the hills near Mayflower. Some of the prominent scientists have for several weeks past predicted a shower of meteors and probably that was one of them, though one does not make a shower.

The oldest inhabitant has to cudgel his brain to recall a winter in which the weather has been so balmy as during the past month. The temperature during the middle of the day has been 40 to 50 degrees.

Engineer Lathrip, in charge of the party running a line for the Northern Pacific from Whitehall to Boulder, was in town on Sunday. The camp was then ten miles from Jefferson Island, up the Boulder valley. While entering the round house Wednesday morning engine 381, in charge of the fireman, slipped on the wet rail and continued her course through the house taking nearly all of the east end of the building and landing the tender in the dirt. The trucks were broken, but otherwise little damage was done.

There was quite an influx of traveling men in Whitehall this week, among them the hustling McGittigan, with a fine assortment of cheese, and C. C. Grannis, with late fall samples of axe handles.

EDITOR'S NOTES: The man with a dope for "restoring memory" could sell a few barrels of it in Wash., D. C. at a handsome profit.

The Daly Clark battle is still on, though interest in the affair is waning even in Montana. Both sides are accused of violating peace-congress rules by firing dum dum affidavits.

Montana people are up to date. Of the huge delegation now in Washington, not one has blown out the gas lights or drank soup from the finger bowl. Great is Montana!