

The Independent's Own Story

**Fifty Years of Service
To Montana Completed
With the Issue Today**

THE INDEPENDENT EXTENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO ITS MANY FRIENDS ON PROGRESS MADE IN CITY AND STATE DURING PAST HALF CENTURY—AND EXTENDS WISHES FOR FURTHER ADVANCEMENT OF DURING COMING HALF CENTURY—THE INDEPENDENT RENEWS ITS LOYALTY TO HELENA, MONTANA AND THE NATION WITH THIS EDITION AND EXPECTS TO CONTINUE TO DO ITS SHARE IN THE UPBUILDING OF OUR COUNTRY.

As goes Helena, so goes its newspapers. No industrial, commercial or financial institution is so closely intertwined with the destiny of a community as is the press. Where newspapers grow and thrive, there it may be taken for granted there are contented people, prosperous business men, bustling industry, and happy homes. A newspaper is a mirror of life. It reflects only what is occurring daily. Its columns are a daily chronicle of events that happen. The active city invariably is represented by an up-to-date and prosperous newspaper. As the city grows the newspaper increases in size and interest.

The newspaper is the principal means of expressing public opinion. It brings the residents of different sections of the city together. It gives the opinion of various minded people on the affairs of the city. It takes the place of the forum of old Rome, of the public meeting of the Pilgrims and of the town meetings that used to be common in the United States before the country's population increased to a point where it was impossible for all citizens to meet and talk over the greatest good for the greatest number.

Sifts Public Opinion.

About the only medium through which public opinion can be sifted to arrive at the will of the majority is the reports published in the daily press. And so long as a newspaper of any size correctly represents its city, shows a patriotic and civic pride in its community and country, joins public spirited citizens in advancing the public welfare, contributes to the social and political life, and generally plays the part of historian of the people, and most newspapers in the United States earnestly try to do all this, it succeeds and prospers as a matter of course.

The Independent celebrates its fiftieth birthday today. It looks back upon a long career that parallels the state's progress. Newspapers have an individuality. The Independent has. It is proud of its success. Proud that it has contributed to the upbuilding of the Treasure state. Proud of its fifty years of service, and its age only adds to the virility with which it intends to continue to pursue a course that will carry forward year by year the advancement of Helena and Montana and the people of both.

Prosperity Gained.

Prosperity has not been denied The Independent. Its vicissitudes have been many and varied, but its changes of management have at no times changed the direct trend of the paper itself, and the present management looks back with pride upon predecessors who have guided The Independent over shoals and rapids to the present placid stream of success enjoyed. The Independent will continue during the next fifty years to pursue the same policy of serving its people. It hopes the bonds that tie it to Helena and Helena's people may be even tighter in the future and that it may continue to win by merit the approval of its readers and supporters.

Various men have directed the progress of The Independent in the past fifty years. Many have gone to other countries, some rest in the city's cemeteries, others still are here and to them it extends congratulations for what they have produced in the form of the present Independent.

The Helena Independent began life fifty years ago this month. The exact date has been forgotten, but it was the latter part of August, 1867. It began publishing as a democratic paper and has proved true to the tenets of its faith through half a century.

Two Beginnings.

The Independent really had two beginnings. It was published first in Deer Lodge by a stock company formed among members of the legislative assembly of 1867-68, and leading democrats of the state. When the Rocky Mountain Gazette, published at Helena, was wiped out by fire in 1874, The Independent was moved to Helena to take the place of the Gazette, which suspended publication. Since then The Independent has been a part of the growth of Helena, Montana and the northwest.

Sometime in the fall of 1867 Frank Kenyon brought from Salmon City, Idaho, the defunct remains of a paper that had been issued there, to Deer Lodge, and shortly after the adjournment of the legislative assembly that year, a joint stock company was formed at Deer Lodge for the publication of a democratic news-

paper. The company consisted of the following: Dr. A. H. Mitchell, Phil McGovern, J. C. Thornton, Thomas L. Napton, Lee J. Sharpe and a number of others who held small amounts of stock.

Rogers First Editor.

With \$4000 capital stock paid up, the company purchased one-half the paper and placed John H. Rogers, long since deceased, in charge as editor and manager. Within a year Mr. Rogers purchased Kenyon's half interest in the paper, and within the same space of time he sold The Independent to J. C. Kerley and C. D. Hathaway, both practical printers and rough and tumble democratic scribblers.

Messrs. Kerley and Hathaway conducted The Independent until May, 1870. The debts of the paper accumulated, and on May 22, 1870, Addison Smith bought a one-third interest in the establishment to help it out of its financial embarrassments.

To enable the new firm to run The Independent the stockholders discounted their stock 25 cents on the dollar. Without doubt the accession of Mr. Smith saved The Independent. Within twelve months its debts were paid off and its subscription list increased from about 450 to 1,200 subscribers.

In March, 1871, Hugh McQuaid obtained a one-fourth interest in the paper. For more than two years The Independent, published in a democratic county, went hungry for county patronage, while the aggressive New North-West raked in the profits accruing from the county printing.

Moved to Helena.

In March, 1874, the office of the Rocky Mountain Gazette at Helena was destroyed by fire. An offer was made to remove The Independent from Deer Lodge to Helena, which was accepted, and March 7, 1874, the last number of The Independent printed at Deer Lodge was issued, after its removal to Helena Mr. Smith, sold his interest to Mr. Lacroix, but was connected with the paper as collector and canvasser until the spring of 1880, when he resigned to enter mercantile pursuits in Deer Lodge.

Mr. Kerley, who was editor of the publication, next disposed of his interest to Col. A. M. Woolfolk, who took editorial charge and infused new life into the paper, which was greatly enlarged in size and improved in matter and general make-up. The paper was later placed in the hands of a stock company and Col. Woolfolk retired from editorial charge to make room for Prof. G. C. Swallow.

Of this change in the paper's life the Montana Press association's report for 1886 states: "The most noticeable change in Montana newspapers in the past year is that occurring in The Helena Independent. Early in April, 1886, J. S. Dickerson, Alex Devine and J. E. Hendry, as a firm under the name of Dickerson, Devine & Hendry, purchased a controlling interest in the stock of The Independent Publishing company, and on April 10 took charge of the business and editorial rooms of the paper, with Alex Devine as business manager, J. S. Dickerson as editor and J. E. Hendry as associate editor. The change in the character of the paper has been as radical as in the management.

Gets New Presses.

"A new outfit of printing materials has greatly improved the typographical appearance of the paper, the local and editorial departments have been greatly improved, largely increased telegraph service is manifest in its columns, and special correspondence by mail and wire from the entire new northwest place the paper in the front rank, not only of territorial papers, but of northwest journalism. In addition to the proprietors mentioned above there are on the corps of solicitors and correspondents, Lambert Molinelli, formerly of the Butte Miner; Fred M. Wilson, formerly of the Helena Herald; David Marks and others."

Marking the passing of the old-time manager of The Independent, the same report to the Montana Press association states: "Of the old force connected with The Independent Dr. G. C. Swallow, the former editor, remains in Helena, and is interested in mines and other property in that city and vicinity. John S. M. Neill, former business manager, belongs to the clerical force of the surveyor general's office and is also a member of a real estate firm, and until lately a large holder of Independent stock, resides at Chicago. Hugh McQuaid is still interested in the paper, but has been fortunate enough to win by hard work and prudent rustling, a competency that permits him to retire from active newspaper work. Homer M. Hill, who was connected with the paper a year or so ago, is now in Seattle, Washington Territory, and is connected with a leading and successful paper there. Sam H. Jackson, of the

MONTANA—THE TREASURE STATE.

Estimated population.....	754,200
Produced in 1916—New Wealth Created:	
Mineral wealth.....	\$145,000,000
Farm products.....	121,000,000
Live stock.....	54,000,000
Wool.....	8,000,000
Lumber.....	8,000,000
Coal.....	6,000,000
Total.....	\$342,000,000

Or about \$425.50 for each person in the state.

Capitalizing Civilization Proves Profitable Venture in Montana For the Lewis Penwell Company

ORGANIZED FOR DEVELOPING SHEEP INDUSTRY HELENA PARTNERSHIP SPREADS INTO ALL FIELDS OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE STATE. FORMS NEWSPAPER, BUILDING, WATER POWER, TELEPHONE AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS, ALL OF WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO WEALTH OF MONTANA.

Capitalizing civilization has proved a profitable business venture in Montana for the Lewis Penwell company of Helena. Harnessing la-

bor and capital to industry's character the company has marked a broad highway of progress along which many residents of the state are traveling to a successful business career.

Pioneering isn't always a ready producer of financial returns. Opening new lines of commerce or industry, or changing direction of established channels requires business courage, deep foresight and general knowledge of conditions.

The Lewis Penwell company has taken virgin soil and made crops grow; taken sparse herds and created ranges with live stock; taken small droves of sheep and produced droves whose output was sufficient to influence the Boston wool market. At one time in the history of the company it was the largest sheep owner in the state. At the same time the firm found time to organize and operate ranch companies, newspaper companies, build apartment houses and business blocks, organize and develop water companies, telephone lines and highways; and, in one instance purchased an island in the Pacific ocean and operated it as a bustling center of the wool and mutton industry.

Record of Firm.

The record of the firm shows a steady march of civilization apparent in Montana. Here it found opportunity. Here was land, water and stock, but in small parcels too far from central markets and having too little influence in the country's affairs to realize the fullest measure of success. There was plenty of labor going to waste on the ranges of the state; there was plenty of capital in the state, much of it invested in bonds, stocks and other securities of eastern companies. It was in bringing together these two that the Lewis Penwell company scored its biggest success.

Someone had a vision, could see the possibilities of the state lands under the partnership of Montana labor and Montana capital. Both would be interested in the permanent upbuilding of the state. Combined the state became a power in the commercial life of the nation. Instead of hanging around the outer edges of the business world and taking what was offered, the producers of Montana by forming organizations equal to those of the east, stepped immediately into a position that gave them a voice in the handling of their own product from its creation to the consumer.

Connecting Link.

The Lewis Penwell company has been the connecting link in this work. As the idea spread and increased the prosperity of the company increased. And, as the company prospered Montana people prospered, for it is a boast of the men who handled the affairs, that the stockholders in the various companies formed are Montana men.

The Penwell company is itself a partnership, showing the kind of men who are working together. All are interested in the work for more than the financial gain to be obtained. The financial return has made the partners wealthy; it has also produced wealth for all who have joined the organizations that have been launched. The company promotes new concerns, but it never has found it necessary to run a stock selling campaign. The minor corporations are all closed; no stock for sale and all investments are paying dividends well above the average run of stocks listed on the Wall street stock exchange.

Members of Firm.

The members of the firm are Lewis Penwell, H. H. Pigott, C. B. Witter and Mathias Staff. The partnership was formed for the purpose of raising sheep. It was believed that the sheep industry was in its youth in Montana and that the expansion of sheep raising was certain. The judgment proved correct and there has been no time since the first when the Penwell company was not heavily interested in sheep. Soon after the firm started business it found it advisable to own land on which to run its stock. This led to the purchase of home ranches and gradually spread into the vast ownership of real estate that marks the firm's present holdings. In the last two years the firm has acquired 105,000 acres in eastern Montana, all of which is to be developed for agricultural or stock growing purposes,

depending upon its adaptability. The firm is interested in other sections of the state. It would be hard to find a county in Montana where the Penwell company did not have some holding of land or livestock.

Among the companies organized by the company in the past decade are the following:

The Gallatin Ranch company, Ross Fork Sheep company, Riverside Land & Livestock Co., Winnecook Land & Livestock Co., Beaverhead Ranch company, Penwell Ranch company, Penwell Livestock company, Giffman-Penwell Ranch company, Clear Range Livestock company, Sixth Avenue Building company, Johnson-Penwell Livestock company, Blair-Penwell Ranch company, Foster Ranch company, Shonkin Ranch company, Bitter Root Building company, Meadows Ranch company, Spokane Ranch & Water Co., Montana-Holland Colonization Co., Big Spring Ranch company, Lakeview Farm company, Fergus County Sheep company, Mountain View Farm company, Blackfoot Cattle company, Bear Tooth Ranch company, Stevens-Penwell Land company, Canyon Creek Livestock company, Independent Publishing company, Lawrence company, owner of Blackstone apartments; Catron-Pigott Cattle company, Walker Land & Livestock Co., San Clemente Sheep Co., the Parrot Ranch company, Beaverhead Water company, the Parrot Water company, and the Penwell Land Sales company.

Investments Offered.

The interests of the partnership have gradually drifted away from the actual ownership of the land, although it is at present rated as one of the heaviest land holders in the state. More attention is now made to the investment part of the business. The firm has had great success in interesting the smaller investors. It has served to bring together the men a few thousand dollars and form a company of from \$100,000 to \$250,000 which returns the dividends expected from the usual commercial transaction without the chance of loss ever before the small investor. The firm's success in this line is attributed by its members to the fact that dividends have been paid in every company so organized, no losses have been recorded.

In the company's advertising it states: "Two classes of investment can be readily found; one which is too conservative to pay reasonable interest and the other which offers profits too large to be compatible with safety. Avoid either extreme. Choose an investment that will be safe and negotiable, one that will yield an income commensurate with the earning value of money in the west and will, when returned to you, bring with it a final profit. Stock in the 12 sheep and land companies which we have organized in the past six years has possessed all four requirements. These companies have paid average annual dividends of 13 1/2 per cent. The land holdings of four have been sold during the past year at profits from 40 to 60 per cent. The others will bring as great or greater profits. There is no stock for sale in any of the existing companies. This assures its negotiability. From time to time we secure options upon desirable properties and organize new companies to take them over. These are the only occasions when stock can be secured at par."

Crops Also Pay.

This advertisement speaks only of one phase of the business. The dividends accruing from raising crops should be increased by present prices and a continuation of the war for the expected two or three years probably will more than double the agricultural value of the lands. The sale of the crop from one parcel of land, the Beaverhead ranch, near Dillon, brings forth the following from the Wall Street Journal, recognized as the best informed commercial, industrial and financial publication in the country:

"Lewis Penwell, a Northern Pacific farmer, is bringing his oats to market and consequently the Oregon Short Line is getting some business from Dillon, in Beaverhead county, up to Butte, and the Northern Pacific is getting 4,000,000 pounds of tonnage for a 1,128 mile haul from Butte to Minneapolis. Mr. Penwell is one of the farmers that cut some figure with a railroad. Mr. Penwell operates 16,000 acres but it is mostly sheep land. For seven



LEWIS PENWELL
President Independent Publishing Company and the Lewis Penwell Company of Helena

graphical appearance of the paper, the local and editorial departments have been greatly improved, largely increased telegraph service is manifest in its columns, and special correspondence by mail and wire from the entire new northwest place the paper in the front rank, not only of territorial papers, but of northwest journalism. In addition to the proprietors mentioned above there are on the corps of solicitors and correspondents, Lambert Molinelli, formerly of the Butte Miner; Fred M. Wilson, formerly of the Helena Herald; David Marks and others."

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reportorial staff, has recently retired from the paper and also from the profession, going to Portland to enter the service of a wholesale grocery firm as traveling salesman."

Another Change.

The following year, 1887, the association's report had the following regarding the Independent: "Mr. J. S. Dickerson has retired from the editorial management, and Mr. J. E. Hendry was elected to the position by the trustees of the company. Lambert Molinelli, who had charge of the local pages for a year or so, was recently placed in charge of the circulation, and Henry Nicols, a St. Paul newspaperman, assumed the city editorship. George W. Graham assumed the duties of traveling agent and correspondent.

The following year, 1887, the death of Mr. Hendry brought about a complete change in the editorial force of The Independent. George D. Eastin became managing editor, H. O. Collins city editor, and D. B. Bennett joined the city staff. The business management of the paper remained unchanged at that time.

George Martin was the next editor of The Independent and during his regime the First National bank acquired a big interest in the paper through financing its progress. A. W. Lyman, who followed Martin, purchased the interest of the bank and brought The Independent back into the full control of newspaper men again. The failure of the bank about that time also involved Mr. Lyman in its troubles and he was forced to let go of the paper, it be-

ing counted among the assets of the bank and added to the list liquidated.

Neill Takes Charge.

John S. M. Neill was the next man to try his hand at making The Independent a big publication. He purchased the plant and with Jerry Collins as editor, held the reins until 1903, when former Senator W. A. Clark of Butte purchased the paper to further his ambition to represent the state in the United States senate. Mr. Clark installed J. L. Dobell, present editor of the Butte Miner, as editor of The Independent, and that arrangements continued two years, when Mr. Neill regained possession of the property. Mr. Neill continued as editor and publisher of The Independent until it was purchased March 3, 1913, by a company organized by Lewis Penwell and Will A. Campbell, with Mr. Campbell in active charge of the paper.

John S. M. Neill was a strong character and his personality dominated The Independent. He rendered the community many services and was always one of the foremost men in public enterprises. He put his paper behind such enterprises the same as he did behind political campaigns and usually with success. Mr. Neill was a good fighter and had strong likes and dislikes. His political enemies know how forceful and how bitter he was when he determined that certain men should not lead politically.

One of the death of Mr. Neill the capital stock belonged to his estate, with the exception of a few scattering shares. W. R. Church, who had

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