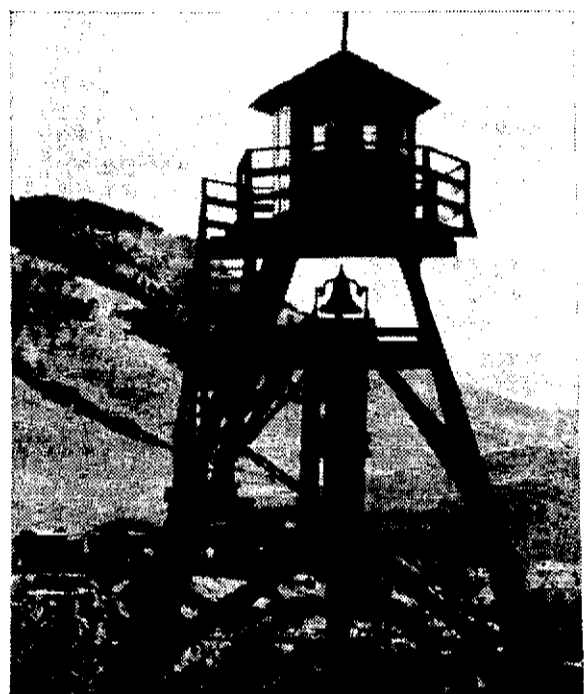


Al Gaskill The Man in the Brown Derby

Did you know that one of Helena's most treasured historic relics is falling to pieces. Perhaps it is because you, like me, have not paid a visit to the place of late. But the Last Chance Gulch Restoration society has and it is through the efforts of that dedicated group that salvation may be achieved. And before it's too late. Although I was not unduly surprised to learn that the Old Fire Tower on Tower Hill was in bad condition, I was shocked to know just how desperately immediate repairs were needed. We are prone as individuals and collective nouns to "let George do it" but sometimes there is no George. In this case the knight in shining armor rode forth in the persons of Mrs. Hugh Galusha, president and Mrs. Gordon L. Doering, secretary, of the restoration group. One cannot adequately praise these devoted ladies for their interests, both as officers of the non-profit group and as individuals for the time and effort they have expended in the mission of restoring priceless reminders of the hard and laborious, but nevertheless glorious past of this Golden City of the Rockies.

What are they going to do about it? Come Friday they are going to conduct a voluntary public subscription campaign in an attempt to raise the \$1,200 needed to replace rotted and broken timbers in the old fire tower and take a huge step in assuring its permanence on the lofty perch atop Tower Hill where it looks down on nearly every quarter of the city, especially the glamorous guich. For it was constructed by the sweat and brawn of a hardy race that realized the need for a guardian of the thriving little metropolis. Fire was the No. 1 enemy of Helena in the formative years, and that threat has carried over to the present day, largely because so many old buildings are still standing and the conglomeration of modern and outmoded structures tightly packed into an overall picture. The Old Fire Tower has seen many, many fires and many old faces disappear, to be replaced by others, or none at all.



Guardian of The Gulch. Perched high atop Tower Hill, this is the way it looked with the bell suspended under the penthouse which later housed the call box mechanism.

gold is where you find it

The history of the Old Fire Tower is a fabulous story. While it cannot be done adequate justice here, portions of that story make for interesting reading. Mrs. Galusha, like the many other women such as Mrs. A. T. Hibbard, Marguerite Greenfield and others, have spent countless hours in research about it and other priceless relics of the past. It seems Helena has sported a bell tower almost since the town was christened. It has seen various stages of glory and was rebuilt in 1876 to serve until 1931 as an alert to good news and bad. As a boy I remember that the pealing of the big gong meant either tragedy or joy. Today the bell is silent. It is no longer in the tower but it can be seen on the approach walk to the Civic Center. However the tower stands as a silent sentinel, brooding over the gay days and glamorous nights when money could be picked up in the streets and gold could be panned in the gutters. Which reminds me of a trick the sterytoper at the old Record Herald used to pull off every time we had a cloudburst, or flash flood, as they are known today. He would get a handfull of brass filings from his workbench and scatter them in the gutter, in front of the printing plant on Broadway and as the water died away, astounded innocents would thrill to the prospects of a gold rush that would rival anything Robert W. Service ever told about. Gathering up the "gold" they would have their dream of sudden wealth shattered by Goodall Brothers Assayers who said it wasn't even "fools gold."

Marguerite Greenfield, in her booklet, "The Old Fire Bell" tells a delightful story of the tower and bell which was the first piece of municipal property in the camp. She relates that in the first days of the "camp" when a fire broke out some volunteer would run to the top of the hill and would yell and point in the direction of the fire to advise everyone that his services were needed. Fire was everybody's business then—and it should be today—although going in a car, running over fire hoses and generally gumming up the efforts of the firemen is not what is meant. The first cabins were clustered about the base of the hill and dotted the landscape on the hillsides and in the gulch. Later a triangle was installed at the corner of Bridge and Water streets. The fire-fighting facilities were public property and located on East State about a block from what is now the Main Drag—and we say "drag" on account of the drag races conducted there. It was not long before the triangle was moved to the hill. Fire was real tragedy—calamity—if you please, because supplies had to be freighted in from Fort Benton or Corinne, Utah. That took months. It was a common thing for Sunday School and other classes to visit the fire tower and get a great view of the city and the beautiful valley to the north. One of the best pictures ever taken of early day Helena was one by E. M. Train, one of the best known of the

Salary Increases At Six Units Differ Widely

The average of 1962-63 salary increases approved Tuesday for instructional and research staff members of the Montana university system range from 2.9 to 30.4 per cent.

The budget adopted by the Board of Regents for the next fiscal year provides this information about the salaries of staff members under 12-month contract at:

Montana State College, salaries in the next school year will range from \$6,000 to \$14,000 and average \$9,294, an average increase over the present year of 4.5 per cent.

Montana State University, salaries will range from \$7,000 to \$16,000 and average \$10,623, an average increase of 2.9 per cent.

Northern Montana College, salaries will range from \$7,200 to \$11,100 and average \$8,679, an average increase of 10.4 per cent.

Quarter Million Fans Watch Baseball Openers

By The Associated Press

Almost a quarter of a million fans turned out Tuesday as major league baseball got its 1962 campaign rolling into high gear with eight second-day "openers" drawing 22,675 through the turnstiles.

The largest crowd was on hand at Los Angeles, where 52,564 saw the Dodgers open in their new ball park. The biggest American League turnout was 22,978 at New York for the Yankees' curtain-raiser. The NL drew 145,825 to 76,850 for the AL.

The season officially began Monday when 44,383 witnessed the presidential opener at Washington and 28,506 were at Cincinnati for the traditional NL opener.

Last year, for nine openers, the attendance was 154,390 in the NL and 130,604 in the AL for a total of 284,994. That included 26,723 for the presidential opener the day before the other teams got under way.

Barthell Granted Leave of Absence

A month's leave of absence was granted by the Board of Regents Tuesday to Russell Barthell, executive secretary of Montana's university system since Sept. 1, 1960. In his absence, the office will be in the charge of Alfred J. Dubbe, institutional studies analyst.

Scholarship Granted

A war orphan scholarship was granted by the State Board of Regents Tuesday to Donna Barkhuff of Forsyth. She plans to attend Montana State College at Bozeman.

U.S. Ambassador To Canada Quits

Washington—(AP)—The White House announced the resignation of Livingston T. Merchant as U.S. ambassador to Canada.

Assistant press secretary Andrew T. Hatcher said Merchant is retiring from the foreign service "for personal reasons."

Merchant, 58, a veteran diplomat, has been ambassador to Canada since February, 1961.

High School Week April 26-28

Bozeman—(AP)—High school students from 140 Montana communities are expected to participate in the 32nd High School Week at Montana State College April 26-28.

Visiting students will have an opportunity to investigate the MSC curricula, visit faculty members and students, inspect the campus and take tests for possible scholarships.

Student chairmen working with general chairman Max Worthington are Karen Johnson and Gerry Neely, both of Helena.

Trio of Helena High School Students Explain Science Exhibits to Lions

A trio of Helena students exhibited and explained their science fair projects at Tuesday's meeting of the Helena Lions club.

The students, Larry Clausen, Susan Eagle and John Larson, were among 27 Helena boys and girls who competed in the state fair in Missoula this past weekend.

Clausen, a sophomore at Helena Senior High, received an excellent rating on his project, "The Effect of Phosphone-D on the Growth of Plants." The project illustrated how Phosphone-D shortens the stocks and affects the blooming of geraniums and mums.

Miss Eagle, a student at Helena Junior High School, was awarded a superior for her exhibit, "What Effects Strength." The project showed how the strength of a material varies according to length, width and thickness when a weight is placed on it.

Larson, an eighth grader at St. Helena, received a superior for, "The Importance of a Well Balanced Diet." Using rats, the proj-



HIGH SCHOOL WEEK CO-CHAIRMEN—Two graduates of Helena High School, Karen Johnson and Gerry Neely, have recently been selected High School Week co-chairmen by the Student Senate at Montana State College. Miss Johnson, daughter of Mr. and D. A. Johnson, 1314 Leslie, Helena, is a senior enrolled in the art curriculum at MSC. A former publicity chairman of the High School Week Committee, Miss Johnson is a member of Phi Beta Phi sorority, Delta Phi Delta art honorary, Alpha Phi Gamma journalism honorary, and art editor of the Montanan yearbook. Neely, a sophomore electrical engineering major at MSC, is the son of Col. and Mrs. J. F. Neely. His campus activities include Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, head resident of the men's residence halls, Montana Engineer staff, and editor of the GOP Review.



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