

# CITY DIARY

## ORGANIZATIONS

**ACA/Recovering Adult** meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. upstairs at St. Paul's Methodist Church. 449-7778.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** Thursday meeting times. Call 443-0438. (C) Closed meetings, (O) Open meetings and (ns) non-smoking.

6:45 a.m. — (c), Jorgenson's Restaurant.  
 7:45 a.m. — Boulder Hot Springs, Main Lobby (C)(NS).  
 Noon — (ns)(c), St. Peter's Episcopal Church.  
 Noon — 621 N. Main.  
 5:30 p.m. — (c), 621 N. Main.  
 6 p.m. — (o) Dairy Queen, back room in Boulder.  
 6:45 p.m. — 621 N. Main (o).  
 7 p.m. — Serenity House, Lincoln, (o) (ns).  
 7 p.m. — Women's meeting, Plymouth Congregational Church, 400 S. Oakes (c)(ns).  
 7 p.m. — (o)(NS), New Life Lutheran, 5980 N. Montana.  
 7:30 p.m. — FWP Building, Main Floor, 1420 E. 6th Ave. (NS)(C).  
 8 p.m. — (ns)(c), St. Paul's Methodist Church.  
 8 p.m. — (o), 621 N. Main.

**Al-Anon Family Group** meetings for Thursday.  
 9:30 a.m. — Thursday Morning AFG, St. Paul's Methodist Church, 505 Logan (bride's room).  
 8 p.m. — 621 N. Main.

**Narcotics Anonymous** meeting at noon at the Helena Indian Alliance.

**Alcoholics Triumphant** meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Hanna-ford Street Baptist Church, 830 N. Hannaford.

**Overeaters Anonymous** meeting at noon at St. Paul's Methodist Church Half Way Up Room, 505 Logan.

## CRISIS SUPPORT LINES

This paper is read for people who are blind or otherwise can't read a newspaper on the Radio Reading Service. It's free. Call 1-800-942-7323.

If you are suicidal or know someone who is, a staff member from Mental Health Services can help. Call this 24-hour number: 443-5353 if busy call 1-800-221-0106.

- For meetings times and locations call:
- Parents Anonymous — 442-0227
  - Narcotics Anonymous — 1-800-984-6668
  - Gamblers Anonymous — 449-8268
  - Overeaters Anonymous — 449-4943
  - Parents Without Partners — 443-2586
  - Birthright of Helena — 1-800-550-4900
  - Tops — 442-1777
  - Pregnancy Loss Support Group — 444-2368
  - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays — (Hospice) 444-2367
  - Greater Montana S.I.D.S. — 1-800-823-2269
  - Panic Attack Support Group — 449-7679

## VITALS

**Births**  
 Susan and Ronald Reiman of Helena, a boy on Dec. 27.  
 Judy and Hisham Abdelaziz of Clancy, a boy on Dec. 27.

## IRS

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Another reason why people may be trying to cheat on their taxes is because electronic filing enables taxpayers to get their returns processed approximately twice as fast as filing through the mail, he said.

Still, the IRS encourages the use of electronic filing for several reasons. The three most common mistakes on tax returns — mathematical errors, putting information on the wrong line, and failing to sign the return — will be caught by the computer. The computer also will immediately reject any return with an incorrect Social Security number, rather than requiring a person to contact the taxpayer by mail, which can take up to three weeks.

"We want people to take the extra time to make sure names are correct and Social Security numbers are correct" on their returns, Kuntz said.

Beginning around the middle of January, the IRS will have trained volunteers on hand at the library to provide free advice and tax return preparation. Anyone using the service also can have their returns filed electronically for free, he said.

## DEATHS

### Robert Ring

Robert L. (Bob) Ring, 68, died Monday, Dec. 26, 1994, in a Boise, Idaho hospital.

Bob was born May 8, 1926, to John B. and Louise Ring in Helena. On Sept. 15, 1951, he married Irene M. Sullivan, his wife of 43 years. Following service in World War II, Bob was employed in the Title Industry for many years, retiring in 1988. During his working years, he was an active member of the Rotary Club of Boise.

Bob had many joys in his life. They included his family and grandchildren, downhill skiing, bike riding, gardening and painting. Many of his friends enjoyed his hand painted Christmas cards.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father.

Survivors include his wife, Irene; two sons, Terry and Brent Ring; a daughter and son-in-law,

Cindy and Jerry Prouty; two grandchildren, Jamie and Jeff; and his sister and brother-in-law, Helen and Harold Langenbach.

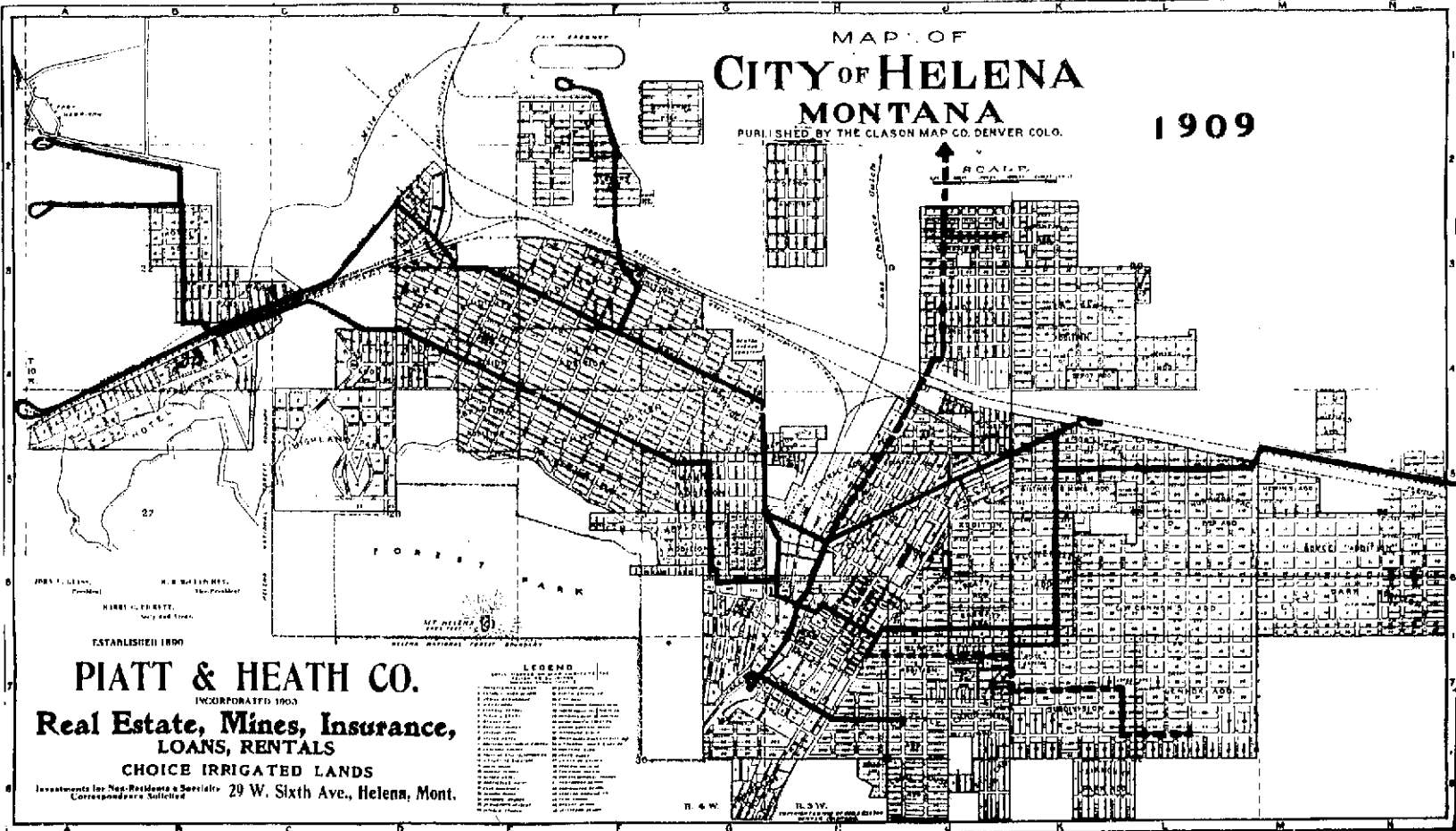
At Bob's request, no services will be held. His ashes will be scattered on Shafer Butte at Bogus Basin, a favorite skiing and hiking area.

Arrangements were under the direction of Summers Funeral Home.

The family suggests memorials be made to Bogus Basin Ski Resort, 2405 Bogus Basin Road, Boise, Idaho, 83702 or the Idaho Nature Conservancy, Box 165, Sun Valley, Idaho, 83353.

### STATE DEATHS

- Anaconda — Anna Matteson, 84.
- Billings — Doris Brew, 73; Monte Fahlander, 66; Mary Boyer, 49; Volney Bahr; Dorothy Wilson; Alvina Zentner, 55.
- Bozeman — William Blankenship, 66; Jo Ann Wilson, 57.



Dark lines on map show trolley lines in 1909.

## Street

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The crash killed four persons on the street car, including the motor-man Rudolph Houle, and injured four other trolley passengers. The impact reduced car No. 1 to a mass of splinters, strewn along both sides of the Great Northern track for 200 yards. At the inquest, a jury ruled the tragedy accidental, resulting from "fast-falling snow, wind-whipped snow clouds, frosty windows, a haze of atmosphere, and extreme cold."

By 1925, the collapse of the streetcar division of the Helena Light and Railway Company appeared imminent. The PSC acknowledged (Report and Order No. 1410):

"In regard to this operation, we have dealt . . . without success. The fortunes of the street railway ebb and ebb. Most tides turn, but this one appears to recede steadily. Motor-vehicle competition, both regulated and unregulated, is primarily responsible for the reduction in revenues. Increased fares have undoubtedly played a part, while sub-normal business conditions have persuaded walking where streetcar riding was formerly a habit."

In November, 1925, a U.S. District Court placed the Helena Light and Railway Company in receivership and separated its electricity and gas operations from its street-railway component. The new energy company ultimately became a part of the Montana Power Company; the trolley company ultimately became a part of Helena's history. With reorganization, J.G. White and Company created the Helena Electric Railway Company. Under its auspices, the familiar trolley cars rumbled through town for several more months.

By 1927, the streetcar line had operated at increasing deficits for nine years. Simultaneously its passenger count had dwindled markedly: from 1,500,688 in 1919 to only 736,691 in 1926. The PSC — addressing its first complete street-railway abandonment case — approved the relinquishment, effective at midnight, December 31, 1927. Motor-coach (bus) service began at 6:00 the next morning, generally adopting the trolley-company's old routes.

Demolition crews salvaged most of the system's rails for resale. As required by the city, a construction company repaved the city streets

and regraded the gravel roads in which tracks had been embedded. The receiver sold the three best closed cars and the last open car to the company in Great Falls. The Butte street-car corporation purchased three other cars for its system.

During its more-than-forty years of operation (1886-1927), Helena's street-railway network evolved from numerous private lines to a consolidated local ownership to a non-resident corporation that combined multiple community utilities. This Victorian vestige of urban development and prosperity ultimately succumbed to ever-increasing operating expenses to ever-decreasing usage and finally to a more flexibility mode of travel — the automobile.

A child of technology and financial speculation Helena's trolley system became the victim of its own parents. Helena was the largest city in Montana in 1886 when the Helena Street Railway Company began operations; it was the smallest Montana city with trolleys when the Helena Electric Railway folded in 1927.

The 1927 abandonment threw the company's 18 employees out-of-work. The men held an average service record of 16 years. Steve Paterson had worked on the streetcars since 1899, when he inaugurated the East Helena run. On January 7, 1928, the company's members of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electrical Employees, Division 495, met at the Eddy Cafe in Helena. The *Helena Daily Independent* (January 8, 1928) reported: "The union members surrendered their charter in a melancholy gathering. They divided the cash on hand in the treasury as well as the proceeds from the Liberty Bonds which the union bought during the World War. And they officially closed the books of an organization which has existed here for many years."

Every man present was called upon by Joe Zoubeck, who presided as toastmaster. He slung the controller over to the last notch and signalled full speed ahead. The boys took him at his word, and they made the last trip without applying the air. If the oratorical track became a bit slippery at times, the sand box was vigorously shaken, the wheels bit into the rails, and all hands arrived safely, despite an occasional brake chain. . . . The members realized that it meant the breaking up of the family."

DAVE WALTER has been employed by the Montana Historical Society for 16 years and currently is the Society's research historian.

## Montana City School selected as grant winner in national program

The Montana City School was selected earlier this year as one of 160 grant recipients in the national "Kids Growing With Dutch Bulbs" program. This first-of-its-kind grant program is sponsored by the Mailorder Association of Nurseries (MAN), Columbia, MD, the International Flower Bulb Center (IFBC) and the Dutch Bulb Exporters Association, both of Holland.

The 160 grant recipients, located in 41 states, were selected from more than 900 eligible applicants nationwide.

Each grant recipient group received 252 assorted Dutch bulbs this fall direct from Holland, with the help of Breck Bulbs, Peoria, IL, a MAN member. The shipment also included planting instructions and tips for classroom activities.

## Helenet

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Subscriber fees and advertising are also potential sources of income, said Murphy.

Before getting the network in working order, Murphy and Mayer want to gauge the community's interest in such a system through a series of questionnaires delivered through the *Independent Record*, the Chamber of Commerce newsletter and inserts in water bills.

"These questionnaires will help us get a better handle on computer literacy in the community and what peoples' interests are," said Murphy. "The only way we can be successful is if we make it a service people would want to use."

Organizers hope Helenet will be in operation early in the new year, after the results of the questionnaires have been tabulated, said Murphy.

## NOTICE TO MY PATIENTS

On Tuesday, January 3, 1995 Dr. Hiesterman's phone number will change to: 443-4003

My address will remain the same:  
 1930 Ninth Ave., Helena

## RICHARD J. (DICK) GRIFFIN IS RETIRING

You are invited to a reception honoring Richard J. (Dick) Griffin for his 30 years of service with Crossman-Whitney-Griffin, P.C., Architects.

Please join us in honoring Dick on December 29, 1994, from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. in our office at 650 Power Street.

Dick has been a valuable member of the Helena community, and to his profession. Please stop by and thank Dick for his efforts to make Helena and the State of Montana a better place to live, and wish him the best in his retirement.

Crossman-Whitney-Griffin, P.C.  
 443-2340

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