

Blacksmith Shop

Jess Clark had a blacksmith shop in Mt. View. Ruby Mitchell and Jess are pictured in front of the shop. With twenty years of experience and their



mechanical ability, the shop was a successful venture. They could do blacksmithing, shoeing, and could build wagons from scratch. Jess was an expert in

spring welding. Automobile owners would always seek his advice. Clark had a booming business and was a hard worker.

Polson's Lumber and Hardware



Polson's Lumber and Hardware was a thriving business in Mt. View. You could buy building materials, farm machinery, wire, gifts and dry goods. A bicycle could be purchased for less than thirty dollars; a 22 rifle sold for as little as three dollars up to fifteen dollars. Ed Polson was born in Sweden and married Lila Louise Perry. He was the owner of

the hardware store and he traveled monthly to Salt Lake City, Utah for supplies for the store. His first wife died, leaving Ed to raise a family. He eventually remarried .

The disastrous fire in 1940 badly damaged the business. The estimates of the fire's damage ranged from \$25,000-\$50,000. The fire damaged at least one half of the town's business district.

L.J. Iverson Garage

Lew Iverson came to Mt. View from the Ogden, Utah area and was a good mechanic. In its early beginnings, he



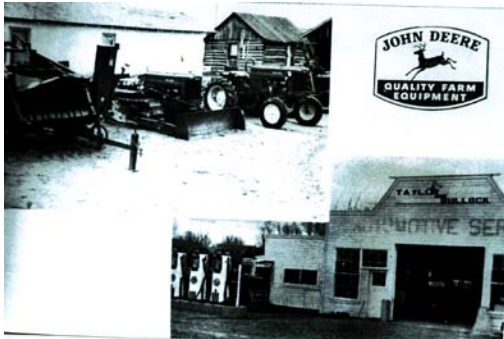
had a home in the back of the station. Lew borrowed \$200 from Ed Polson to build the little frame building where he had his shop. He worked hard and was respected in the community. As a young man, Bud Taylor worked for Lew after school and weekends. Lew's wife Gladys worked as a bookkeeper for the business.

Eventually Iverson's sold the business to Jay Bullock and Bud Taylor. Lew and his wife Gladys retired and pursued their hobby of rock hunting and looking for arrow heads. They moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico where their daughters Lucille and Violet live. Both Gladys and Lew have since passed away.

Taylor and Bullock Auto and Farm Service

On April 2, 1951, Harold W. “Bud” Taylor and Jay Bullock bought out the L.J. Iverson Automotive Service in Mt. View.

Both men were natives to this area and after serving in the war, Jay and Bud eventually came back to the Bridger Valley



Their business grew because of their dedication and hard work. In 1951 you could get a tire change for one dollar. A major repair job was never over five or six dollars an hour for labor.

They made many improvements and additions to their business and provided important services to the rancher and to the community. Bud will always be remembered for his uncanny skill as an expert mechanic and Jay was a “jack of all trades” as he learned how to operate the business, as well as doing repairs and whatever had to be done, usually around the clock. They were both devoted to having a successful business.



*Early photos of Benedict Trading. In photo above, you can see part of the Ackerman Trading Co. sign.



Benedict Trading Company

Benedict Trading Company has been part of the foundation of Mt. View’s early history. Very few businesses have survived over the decades. Its early beginnings started as “Ackerman’s” and was a store belonging to the uncle of Hal (Harlen) Benedict. Hal worked for his uncle for many years. **(An early remembrance of Louise is of the Scowcroft neon sign that hung in the window-it was blue and red and burned day and night.)**

In 1937 Benedicts purchased the store and the Ackerman’s moved to Kanab, Utah.

purchased. It was quite an undertaking for them.

Over the years, the store was expanded and enlarged and in 1955 had expanded into the former Mt. View Hotel (Beach Hotel), which gave them over 3000 square feet of shopping space.

G.E. appliances and products were introduced.

During the 60's when the Meeks Cabin



Dam was being built, Benedict's

built an addition to the east of the original store and rented it to the Bureau of Reclamation until completion of the dam.

The store continued to prosper and that additional space was used for office space as well as room for the appliance business with the addition of televisions, radios and hardware.

Hal and Beulah run the store for many years at this location with the help of family. Their son Lowell and his wife Sharon and their family were instrumental in the continued success of the business and could often be found behind the scenes unloading freight, stocking shelves, helping customers, etc.

With the boom of the trona mines in the valley, the decision was made to build a new store near Highway 414 coming into Mt. View on ground that they had

Shortly after the store was built in the 80's, Hal and Beulah retired and Lowell took over. Jim and Bruce were grown and learning all aspects of the business. The store continued to expand and grow into a beautiful facility and the family



continued to be active in the community. Unfortunately, tragedy struck, with the untimely death of Lowell. Now, the next generation would have to take over and build on the solid foundation that had begun many years before. In 1999 the store again enlarged. A hardware addition was added along with new freezers, video section, a beautiful deli and bakery, and room for case lot sales. A new warehouse has also been added recently.



The Benedict Family has done a great job of making this a store that plays a vital role in the community. Not only do



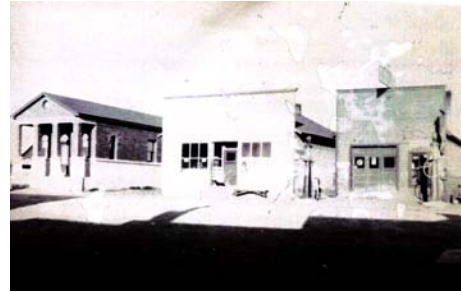
people come here to shop, but to socialize and to gather supplies as they pass through on their way to the Gorge. The store is modern and complete and serves the entire Bridger Valley and beyond. It sports an outdoorsman theme on the inside with the use of old wood and wildlife décor. It also sports a heritage that has seen several generations of hard work and sacrifice to make it the successful business that it is.

(An early memory from Nikki: I remember buying penny candy at Benedicts and having Hal “tweek” my ear and ask how I was doing. Beulah was always so nice to everyone. I also learned how to write my name on a “charge” slip and often felt my mother’s wrath when she found that I had charged something that we didn’t need. It was a fun store-they sold everything from food, record albums, appliances, toys, and household items.)

Uinta County State Bank

The Uinta County State Bank was founded by the people of Uinta County in 1919. It weathered the great depression and then emerged into better times. It was a branch of the Stockgrowers Bank of Evanston.

Bank employees in the infancy of the bank included: Leslie Pile & Emerson Pugh-cashiers, Wm. Pugh-President (document dated Oct, 4, 1920). Lincoln Anderson also worked there, as did



William Newton. There was also a young man by the name of Walter Caldwell. His family lived where the Raymond Tanner ranch is on Highway 414. Walter would walk to town early in the morning to clean the bank, go to school, and then to sports practices before walking the mile and one half home again. He was a gifted musician and even wrote music that was published along with playing musical instruments and singing.

Walter worked his way up through the system and became a cashier and also becoming one of the largest stock holders.

After his death, Walter left his stock to his nephew C.J. Dykes. Caldwell ran the bank for many years. Robert (Bob) Lewis was cashier for many years for both Walter Caldwell and Caldwell Dykes.

In 2003 C.J. Dykes passed away. The bank may see new owners in its future. It is said that at one time the bank was the most solvent around. It has survived the test of time. As Birch Street suffered fire and loss, the bank continued to stand.

The following are stories that have been told over the years about the bank:

The bank has seen its share of struggles over the years....it has even been robbed. These accounts are one perspective of the events as told by Louise:

One time when the bank was being robbed, the employees were herded into the bank vault. The authorities thought that the bank robber had gone towards the Lonetree area. Volunteers were out searching everywhere, even going by horseback into the mountains. The thief was never caught. Some speculation said that he fled to the Vernal area and some said that it was someone local. I guess that we will never know.

Another time a fellow came into the bank and demanded the money. The robber took off in a car, which someone saw and reported. The “not too sharp” thief went back to his motel room in Lyman. He was found by authorities wrapping the money up with his home mailing address. He was going to mail the money home to himself. The “would be” robber went to jail and the money was returned to the bank.

A story with family connections is told: **(There was a rumor going around that the bank was going to be robbed and so county authorities notified the bank. Sheriff Frank Narramore contacted Wes and asked him to stand guard with Frank Fackrell, Lyman’s sheriff, in the bank that night. Wes related that everything was going fine until both men heard a noise, making them jump and grab their guns. Fortunately, it was just a noise from**

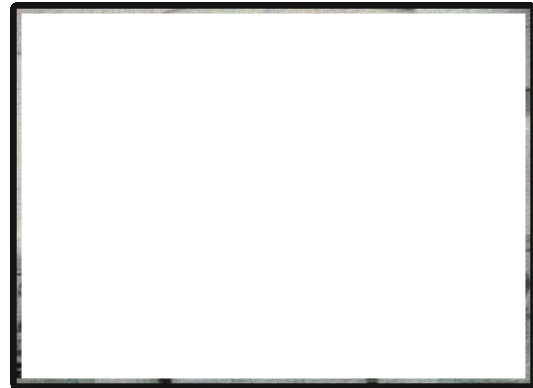
the furnace and no robbers showed up that night.)

The Movie Theatre

The old theatre on Birch Street is a great example of early Mt. View history. Many early residents will remember going to the movies there.

The movie theatre building is owned by Nellie Byrne and was built by John Angwin in 1941. The building is still intact and is eligible for the national Historic Register and is of the Art Deco style of architecture popular of the 1930’s-40’s. John Angwin’s funeral was held there.

Angwin ran the theatre for a time as did Claire Harvey. A copy of some original paperwork listed the name of the movie theatre as the “View Theatre” with the names “Bundy and Anderson” below that. Another name was “Central Theatre”.



You could have seen “Wuthering Heights”, watched the latest news or short subject for a small price. The latest technology included R.C.A. “Photophone” sound and you could even see a color cartoon.

Starting in World War II, the movie theatre served as a major focus of social activity in this small community. In later years it has housed a liquor store, a residence, and a church.

It’s interesting and unique appearance conjures up visions of earlier days when you could have watched John Wayne, Elvis, or even “Gone With the Wind” on the big screen.

*An example of other community events held there: baby contests....yes, baby contests. **Congratulations to my brother Casey Davis, who was the winner of one of those fine competitions over 50 years ago.**

Mt. View Service Station



Earl Slagowski’s service station sat on Birch Street as early as 1934. It was a good, solid business that sold Shell gas

and oil, batteries, and could even remedy “fly-wheel” trouble by installing the new type charter drive for your car. The business was moved to its present site at the south end of Birch Street. The building was formerly an old church house from Milburne. The Slagowski family helped run the service station for many years, assisting local community

Mountain View Service Station and Garage



members in need of their services. The building still stands and is used for the family’s storage needs.

The Hotel D’Pfister

An early newspaper reporter wrote of the Hotel D’Pfister in Mt. View in the early 1920’s perhaps. I quote from the unknown author and you will have to decide where this hotel was. You decide.....

“One block to the south from the store (speaking of the Harvey Store), stands the Hotel D’Pfister, a magnificent, new and modern structure recently constructed at a cost of several thousand dollars. It is two stories, neatly furnished and comfortable throughout, the accommodations being exceptionally good for a country town. The rooms are clean and the meals are such as to tempt the appetite to overwork-the tables at all times being supplied with wholesome and substantial foods.”

Bars

Charlie Davis Saloon



Charlie Davis was born in 1881 in Vernal, Utah. This was Charlie's first saloon. Stories say that he also sold a little "moonshine".....Kemmerer "moon", Ross Reed "moon" and many more. It is also said that Charlie hid his moonshine in his garden among the vegetables so the revenuers wouldn't find it.

Charlie moved into another building where the Cowboy Bar is located. It was a pool hall and a bar together.

The old saloon was used for the first high school. Mrs. Pauline McCulloch taught there. Some said that it never lost the smell of the saloon even in later years.

Bob's Bar

This building that sat on Birch Street at one time, has been used for



many services. At one time Naomi and Johnnie Felix had a café there. Jack Meeks reported that he remembered packing wood and coal in with Naomi's son Wilson. There was also a café in there at one time.

Other owners included Frank Murray and Bob and Gladys Whittaker. Sometime after Bobby's death, Gladys had the building moved and made into a nice home for her and her husband John Slagowski. It was moved in the 1970's and it was quite interesting to watch it move down Birch Street.

Cowboy Bar

This bar was originally owned by Charlie Davis, which as mentioned previously, housed a pool hall and possibly a café. Charlie sold it to Blackie Davis and he ran it for a time. Blackie went on to other business interests and sold out to Bill Kennah. He eventually tore the old one down and built a cinder block building on the corner of Birch Street. After the death of Kennah, Keith Fraughton owned it and then sold to Felix and Halane Roitz. The Roitz



family ran it for many years while also trying to run a ranching business. When Roitz's retired, they sold the business to the family of Eldon and Betty Tripp, who currently own and run it. It boasts of being the oldest bar in town.

On the east side of Birch Street, Ken Davis had a bar. The infamous fire of 1940 was the end of the business. It brought out the worst in people as they looted the liquor and all that was left was the debt.



The Logging/Timber Industry

Logging has always been an important industry for the town. Early settlers logged to get lumber to build their homes, businesses, barns, bridges, etc..

There were saw mills in the forest and lumber was brought down to build the buildings in town.

The tie hacks cut and floated logs down the river for the Standard Timber Company.

Later, around the 1930's, props were being cut and hauled to Carter to be shipped to mines around the country.

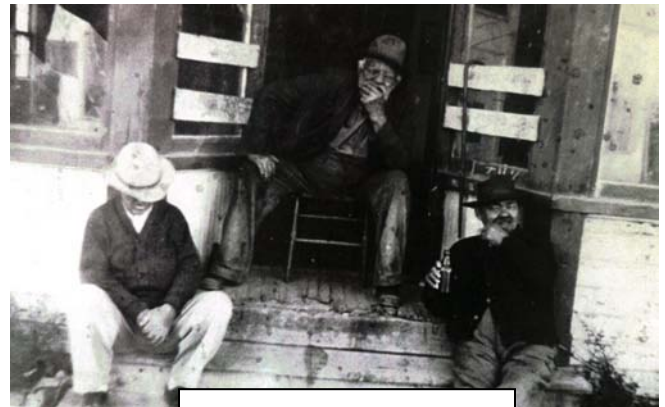
*Wes started hauling props around 1954 for Herb Wright. He had a sawmill across from our present day home (behind Stucki's on First Street). Wes eventually got his own truck and hauled the lumber to Carter.

As you come into town, you can see sawmills still play an important part in the towns' industry. In the Robertson area there is also a thriving mill. Timber and logging are an important part of Mt. View's early history.

Did you know about other early businesses that were here.....including: a shoe shop, a furniture making business, mattresses made by government projects here, etc.. (WPA or CCC)

"Thackerville":

Wallace Shurtleff wrote of a group of people who wanted to form a new town here. It was named "Thackerville" after Mr. Thacker. The main industry here was their dance hall and liquor. They would try to entice people to come and spend their money on "entertainment". Needless to say, their business fell short and the town did not last long.



It's been a hard day....

