

Business in Mt. View

Mt. View Mercantile Company

One of the earliest businesses in Mt. View was the store belonging to the Harvey family. It was sold to William Summers who, after a short time, sold the store to the Megeath brothers- William, Ernest, and James, because of declining health.

The Mt. View Mercantile Company, as it was called, was the hub of activity in Mt View and surrounding areas. You could get anything that you needed there: mail, groceries, hardware, and even haircuts. The United States Land Board was located in Mt. View at the store building at one time and was managed by William Megeath.

Local ranchers were given credit during



the year there at the store and then paid off their debts as their livestock was sold in the fall. At one time, one man became so indebted to the store that his very ranch was taken as payment.

The store burned in 1926 and all was lost. This building was located on Birch Street where the building that housed the movie theater and more recently liquor store, owned by Earl and Nellie Byrne stands.

Unfortunately, after the store burned down, W. C.

(William)

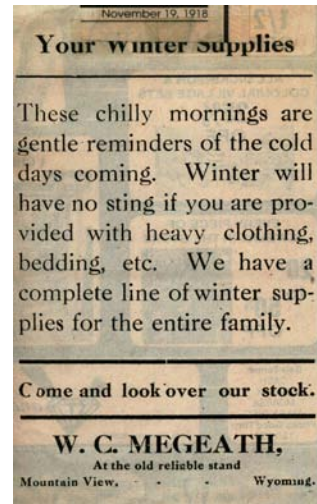
Megeath couldn't pay his

obligations to Scowcroft's and lost his own ranch.

Many locals never paid their bills

after the fire and Megeath

never recovered financially.



On the right is an example of one of the advertisements that ran in the newspaper in 1918. And, from an early booklet we read:

“The Mt. View Mercantile Co. has kept pace with the times. Their stock of merchandise is clean and free from accumulations and, besides rendering a most splendid mercantile service, they will always be found among the leaders in fostering any movement that will benefit the community and bring prosperity to its citizens.”¹

¹ Uinta County periodical, Nov. 1925

The Oven Door Pool Hall



This building was owned by Earl Slagowski and was located on Birch Street. Originally, it was a service station. Later Earl moved in an old church building from Millburne and remodeled it for a service station in a different location.

The name “Oven Door” was the name of a livestock brand. The little building was used as a pool hall. One owner of the establishment was Bob Graham. There may have been other owners. Graham was a rancher at one time. He sold the ranch and moved to town to start his business. Art Anson worked at the pool hall.

The pool hall had tables in the front and bleachers on one side for people to sit on. In the back room there was a table and chairs for the regular poker games that went on. Sometimes these games would go on for several days.

This is a poem written by Louise that tells about a woman who was fed up with her poker playin’ husband being gone from home too long. It stems from a true incident at the Oven Door Pool Hall.

The Poker Game

By Louise Davis

A long time ago in our little town
Men came in from all around
We had a pool hall they enjoyed
It seemed that it just filled void

There was a room in the back
Where poker was played, that’s a fact
The men would play day and night
When wives appeared, it was a fight.

One night where there was a game on
An irate wife was there at dawn
She had a gun in her hand
Intent on doing damageand...

She shot the windows out, it’s true
The men did scatter into the blue
Her husband beat her home, it seems
I think he had to change his jeans

The men who played now watch their backs
If they hear a noise, they will pack.
They pick up their money and away they will go
They stay home at nights now and lay very low!

This original Oven Door Pool Hall is now located on the Gene Taylor ranch. Notice the “oven door” brand that has been enhanced to show where a faint outline still remains.



Union Telephone Company

“On January 28, 2001, Union Telephone



Company celebrated their 87th anniversary. Union Telephone Company was incorporated under Wyoming law on January 14, 1914.”(*History of Union Telephone*)

A contract was let in 1913 to George Stoll Sr. who built the line from Mt. View, Lonetree, Burnt Fork, Manila and Linwood. Upon completion, George Stoll’s brother Earl ran the switchboard and took care of the new telephone line until he went into the Army in World War I.

“Union Telephone Company’s name came from the merging of the Smith’s Fork Mutual Line, the Black’s Fork Telephone Line and the Lonetree-Linwood Telephone Company. The company began operations serving grounded rural lines on a homemade switch that used 30/40 and 30/30 Winchester rifle cartridges as plugs and jacks.”(*History of Union Telephone*)

In 1914 John Woody acquired the telephone company. It consisted of 300 miles of line and 160 stockholders.

John was the manager and some of the first operators were Hulda Erickson, Mary Shurtleff and Lotty Woody. Jeff and Millie Davis ran it for



many years starting around 1925.

After John retired, his son Howard resumed managing the company. It has grown over the years and is one of the largest employers in Wyoming.

“In 1979, Union installed one of the first two digital switches in the state of Wyoming. This switch presently resides in the Central Office in Mt. View.”

“In June of 1990, Union telephone began its cellular division under the name of Union Cellular with eight cell sites. Today Union Cellular covers over 58,000 square miles with 60 or more cell sites throughout Wyoming, Colorado, and parts of Utah. Union has expanded their services, offering Internet, DSL, and cable TV in some markets.”(*History of Union Telephone*)

Their tireless contributions through the generations to this community have been important to the growth and prosperity of the town of Mt. View.

*** From Nikki: I remember that mom worked for Union Telephone**

for many years. Zelda Green and others were always there with a smile when we would stop in after school.

That office seemed to really be the “hub” of town, with people hustling and bustling around. The Woody family was always cheerful and gracious to the many community members that they served.



Angwin Mercantile

John Angwin began business in 1921 with a small stock of groceries, but with hard work and dedication, he made a successful

grocery business. Angwin added general merchandise, gas, oil, tire and various auto accessories. He even made bread and sold it.

He built his business from the ground up. He built a house for himself that is still standing at the present time. It has been reported in early journals that the house was used for community meetings and even for church meetings in early days.

Angwin also built other buildings that housed other businesses in town including a grocery store, lumber yard, café and service station as well as a post office. He had accumulated a stock of general merchandise that would be a credit to towns many times the size of Mt. View.

In 1940, a disastrous fire was started when an attempt was made to start a Delco lighting plant owned by Mr. Angwin. A backfire from the gasoline engine caused the explosion. The Salt



Lake Tribune reported that "the town of Mt. View

looked upon the destruction of practically half of its business section." Businesses lost included the Angwin Merc., Bridger Valley Lumber and Hardware, Brown's Service Station, the Meeks Café, a coal building and other small businesses.

A two story building, formerly a hotel, but at that time, housing the Davis Bar (owned by Kenneth Davis,) was saved. But, when it was evacuated, supplies and liquor disappeared, no thanks to the would-be efforts of others.



Badly damaged was the Polson Lumber Store and it was a miracle that it was saved. The Mt. View Confectionary and the Mt.

States Telephone Co. were both in the fires' path. The telephone operators stayed at their post to handle long distance calls. (*Salt Lake Tribune* article)

Fire departments from Lyman and Evanston came to the aid of the town and with the aid of local volunteers pumping water from Smith Fork River to fight the fire, the blaze was brought under control app. two hours later.



A 1925 article about Uinta County stated that, "Mr. Angwin is one of Uinta County's progressive and public spirited citizens and will always be found with his shoulder to the wheel of any movement for the advancement and progress of the community in which he lives."

Bridger Valley Electric Association

In 1935 Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the formation of the Rural Electrification Administration, making electricity available to rural America.

One June 30, 1937, a meeting of the residents of the Bridger Valley and George J. Long, an engineer from the R.E.A., met to discuss what steps would be needed to bring electricity to the valley.

On September 13, 1937, residents joined together to create the first electric utility to serve the Bridger Valley. Membership was \$5.00. There were 275 members originally with enough foresight to bring lights to the valley.

“Early newspaper accounts tell how the original system was planned to have seventy one miles of line to serve Lyman, Mt. View and Ft. Bridger. Under REA requirements, organizers had to guarantee an average of three residents per mile of constructed line. By August 26, 1937 the Uinta County Herald reported, “It will be noted that the members who signified their intention to take advantage of the



proposed project far exceeds the required number.” (*BVEA History*)

By Sept. 17, 1940, the board of directors was formed. Thomas Brough, Walter Caldwell, Carl Dahlquist, E.G. Eyre, Albino Fillin, E.M. Polson, and Van A. Rupe served on the board. A decision was made at that time to purchase two more power units to supplement those in use.

The first office was a narrow building between the early Benedicts store and the Confectionary. That office became too small for the upcoming utility, and so a Quonset hut from Church Buttes was moved in and remodeled for an office and a shop.

Bill Riding was the manager at the time. Ervin Larsen was the Bookkeeper, Louise Davis and Nellie Byrne were collection and billing clerks/secretaries.



Bill Riding is shown here standing in front of quonset hut office building in Mt. View.

The linemen at that time were Jack Byrne, Howard Woody, Ray Tanner and Dean Wall.

Eventually, a new, centrally located building was built at Urie to serve the patrons of the Bridger Valley. This building has grown with the times and has recently been added on to. It is modern and warm and welcoming to anyone who stops by.

Bridger Valley Electric has seen it's share of capable leadership over the years. Bill Riding was the first manager from 1947 to 1956. Kyle Peterson-1956-1964. Jack Byrne-1964-1967, Sam Houston-1967-1968, Haldane Bradshaw-1968-1983, Bill Lewis-1983-1997. At the present time, 2004, the manager is Danny Eyre.

“Hat’s off” and a big “thank you” for the hard work of all those in this community minded co-op, who keep our lights on, our homes warm, and our modern conveniences running. Let us not forget all those who have worked tirelessly over the years to provide these services to us.

People’s Market

The People’s Market building was built by John Angwin. Many can remember the quaint, well kept market on Birch Street. As a child, who could forget the



rows and rows of penny candy in the glass

and wooden cabinet.... or the comic books? Or maybe, it was your first time to buy a Twinkie or soft white Wonder bread?

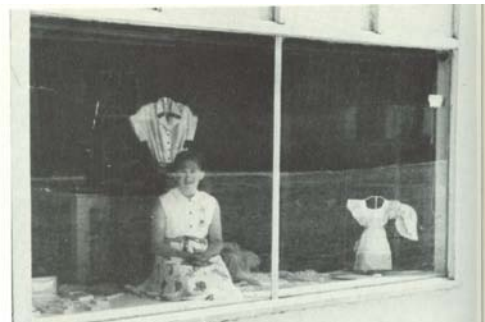
Alton and Maureen Barrus ran the store, having moved here from Idaho. Alton, along with his brother, bought the store. Eventually, the store was sold to Jack and Iva Byrne and then to Mark and Carlene Walker. The business

eventually closed but the building continues to be used. At one time, it housed a scrap booking business and an art studio. While the building looks as if it has seen “better days” to a casual onlooker, it’s important to note that it was an integral part of the history of the town. It was a general store that provided goods and services, but also a place for neighbors to meet and renew acquaintances.



Avis’s Dress Shop

Avis’ Dress Shop was next door to the People’s Market on Birch Street. In a



time when it was not as easy to purchase women’s items, Avis supplied a needed service for women locally. Avis was a Home Ec. Teacher in the high school. She established a dress shop which thrived in the community.

Mt. View Confectionary

Imagine if you will, the "best darn malts" in town and that would describe the Mt. View Confectionary. The store was located near the early Benedicts store and was run by Floyd Jones and his wife. They were lovingly called, "Ma and Pa" Jones. They had two sons, Warren and George. The Jones' eventually sold the store and moved to Medicine Bow, Wyo. where they both passed away. Mrs. Bartlett (the mother of Jess Bartlett) bought the store and ran it for many years.



This photo shows the businesses on Second Street with the "big hill" in the background. Look closely and you will see the Uinta Co. State Bank on Birch Street.

Beach Hotel

In the early 1900's, a building was erected by the Harvey's as a hotel in Mt. View. It was operated by Agnes Harvey Hewitt. It was sold to William Henry Beach and was called the Beach Hotel.



William and his sons ran the hotel for many years. They also ran a livery stable.

This hotel was also used as a dance hall, school house, lodge hall for the Woodmen of the World (before their own building) and a courtroom for the Justice of the Peace. It was the "hub" of the town with many activities taking place there.

The Martins (Polly Martin Woody's family) ran the hotel for a number of years. Henry Rhodes Meeks brought the first piano into the valley for Judge Carter. Later, the piano was located in the hotel. Eventually, it was placed in the Ft. Bridger museum in a display of Judge Carter's possessions.

Mr. Ackerman acquired the hotel and it was run as a grocery store with living quarters in the back (and as a hotel.)



Other Notable Businesses:

Sweet Shops:



There were two sweet shops in Mt. View at various times. One was run by Jeanette Hopkinson and later, by the Murray sisters-Adeline and

Violet.

The other “sweet shop” was run by Floyd Jones and Mrs. Bartlett.

Barber Shops:



The barber shop was located in the two story building next to the telephone building: the upstairs was a hotel and in the bottom was the Davis Bar on one side and the barber shop on the other. One of the barbers

was E.T. Shelton, the other was Toby Blackner. Blackner was from Lyman where his dad ran a barber shop. An adult haircut in 1934 was fifty cents, a children’s haircut was twenty five cents and a shave was twenty five cents. After the business was abandoned, that is where the Sweet Shop was located.

Where To Eat in Mt. View

There have been many eating establishments in Mt. View over the years. Ackerman Trading served “The Best Dutch Lunches” and was managed by Bob McAculey. You could eat and get a room at the Mt. View Hotel. The “Corner Café” was run by the Taylors

(Lloyd and Alice) and also by the Polletts (Buck and Naomi). Mary Brisko ran a little café in Bob’s Bar building, Matt’s Café, Ida’s Café and John’s Café. The Sweet Shop offered lunches and also soup for school children for a nickel.

Butcher Shops/Meat Markets

Mt. View housed two meat markets. James Widdop owned the “Purity Meat Market”. Louise recalls when she was a little girl that her parents, Clinton and Verna Bradshaw and the Charlie Walker family helped put up the hay on the H.J.B. Taylor ranch in the summer. There was a slaughter house there and she would go down and watch Mr. Widdop do the slaughtering and meat cutting. He would then take the meat to town to his shop. Frank Hull operated a meat market in Angwin’s Mercantile.

The “Cheese Factory”

The County Agent promoted a cheese factory for the town of Mt. View. It would create added revenue for the local people and was a co-operative effort. The ranchers were excited about it and they shipped in many dairy cows from Omaha. There were also other similar operations in the Bridger Valley.

D.C. Muckey operated the cheese factory. Others who helped in the operation of the cheese factory were Mr. Reynolds, a Mr. Dunkins and Port Rollins.

Teams and wagons would bring in the milk from all around. One man wrote that Walt Rasmussen milked the cows, and then he would leave early in the morning, pick up ten gallon cans from Shurtleffs and deliver them to Robertson. Bob Kidman picked up a

four horse load and delivered the cans to the cheese factory. There were other routes, but this was the largest.

Wes (Davis) recalled working there at the age of 14. He would get up and go to work there from six until eight a.m., before school. He would do odd jobs and wash cans at the cheese factory. **(Another family memory would include the fact that my brother Robin would milk cows and take the cream to Wilford Stoddard. We called it the “creamery” then. That was back in the ‘60’s.)**



These cabins were built in 1940 by John Angwin. They were later owned by the Kidman family. Early residents remember spending the night or even living here temporarily. In 1984, the cabins were torn down to build the large log home that stands there now.



This building on Birch Street has stood the test of time. John and Ernest Dahlquist ran an appliance and hardware store here. Earl and Nellie Byrne and family took over ownership of the building and made it into a wonderful café and coffee shop. It was here that the “Mountain Burger” was born along with many other delectable treats. It was also a liquor store at one time. It is now a part of Nellie Byrnes residence.

