

Montana conference,  
"Search for a Workable Future"

## Mercur

- Anacosta: toxic o / side, pristine o. other
- Nicklaus golf course o 300 a. of S' fund cleanup
- "Bag of S' bag"
- Daly: waters of Wm Spgs Crk / smelter
- union scale made a code of solidarity
- scab label "worse than hell itself."
- Smeltermen's Day official (paid) holiday - 15,000 att'd
- MT last st to declare silicosis an industri'l disease
- st issued rept'd variance - EPA fight  
( '76 Anco p'chase; closed smelter in '80)
- myth that union got too powerful
- 13 times higher than nat'l ave, lung cancer
- 1950's, Anac Co. went from world's largest copper exporter to world's largest importer.

The Montanians

Butte: industrial island in Montana (Reflections in Montana cassette abt Butte  
have this line?)

- Teresa Jordan book

possible Butte mine name:

the Oroplata (from MT state seal)

the Cleargrit (Butte street)

\*the Bottom Dollar

the Money Musk

the Stemwinder

the Rosie Palme

*head frame*

(the night) laced with the lights of the dome

Butte America video notes:

concertinas (Morrie could use in song contest)

miner talked about the importance of the partner, down in the shaft  
the danger in the shaft when it is "dribbling," dropping small rocks  
the honeycomb of tunnels under Butte; "wide open" under there

the term "beyond recognition"

shot of Columbia Gardens, huge lyre pattern of flowers; mention of calliope; kids would  
come just to roll in the grass (which the city lacked)

historian mentioned that strikes were a cycle, an expected part of Butte life (every 3 yrs)

sounds from The Hill: the swish of winding wheels; whistles

from our Butte research trip:

neighborhoods wind through the mines (headframes)

Helena country? or homesteading?

"God didn't put anything on top of this land, so it must be underneath."

(Irene Olsen letter #1)

Butte Was Like That

p. 52+--mining description

11-13--nicknames

171--mine scene

Butte: beaut

--the place wasn't exactly a beaut.

- *Butte was no beaut.*

"The great dark mineral pocket" of Butte--in Karshner article in Mont details file,  
use in with quotemarks.

Butte had the reputation, for knuckles,  
cudgels  
fists  
gravy

fortune's palmlines. They ran deep; gulches  
but Helena had the  
~ spoon  
grudges

See "At the Hall, In the Stope" Wn Folklore article in lingo file; p. 166,  
Butte mining was "violation paid in fire and flood, instant death and lingering  
disease."

A mountain of copper to be fought over, and rough factions ready to do the fighting.

Butte: the best poor man's town in the world.

mini, c d'a, 1

- low beam (like n' ties) entrance
- line of cage lights (like auto safety lights); col / pal away pany in elbow?
- cave like; rough texture like small stalactites
- twisty tunnel ahead, like inside of snake; goes up & dn
- tour: stunts on
- druggy to dump
- tour: drill 6' c diamond bit, pull out ore core sample; 2500' reach  
1/2 oz / ton silver
- musty
- drilled ad blast holes, like woodpecker holes in rock; interior holes left empty  
so blast will break "in" - 8' hole

2" / day a original hammer & bit

C d'a  
mini/2

1st power drill, jackhams: called "widburns"; dry rock dust = silica  
- 1940s, jacking hydraulic drill

- stops: much chute, wet slag
- alt 40°; some 100°+
- if hoist brake slid. stop, "This goes a man."

bell system: 9 bells emergency - "a hurt man"

1 bell: stop

2 " lower slowly

3 " hoist "

- gray wetness of walls

manway: ladder

hoop pulling: de vein up

c d'a  
mine / 3

Track machine: power shovel extremely dangerous

Mike Fox & Dewey Sammons, tour guides

Cpic

"driving drift": drilling

credit: tunnel

much, drill, load, blast (cycle)

mine creates its own env. mt: damp, cold or hot

not for big men: tour above hd

MHS: tk up Bulletin / per article on going dn in mine

mine

pick in mine shaft when lights go out:

wash basin

\* "I am going to die, right here & now, & a chamber pot (safety helmet) on my head."

My heart will stop at any time, immobilized by . wt of . darkness.

R to mine guide: "You mean you don't carry a spare light?"

Guide: "It slipped my mind until right now. I guess I did you too?"

Butte, 4/26/88

mine tower & tanks 10 stories high

- push & thrust of mine tower: strain & tension, even above ground.

(C's pic of slag butte follows blackish slag heap)

Clearcut St. (use as mine name)

Truck seat as porch couch

MM Special spelled as Sepcial

Aussies reopened Missula & Lexington shafts, 500-700'; problems & cave-ins;  
mine cars w/ in gd working order; " closed since '57

## Butte/2

- headframe at museum (C's pic of it begins c me in middle drifts) (Cyril's pic?)

- shoring uprights in shaft are 0.1' thick; on overhead beams 0. same

- tiny rail tracks, like large ~~top~~ toy train set  
(C's pic of me at shaft with shows height)

- odd angles: shaft shoring slopes to wider at base than top; drifts angle off.

- ore car long & whitish in pic

- dark in mine

pics in museum basement: in mine are #ed 848, 849, 837  
850: main'g pics, # 1897 (diagrams of shafts etc.)

hoist bell signals

1 bell hoist, or stop (if in motion)

2 " lower men ~~men~~

3 " hoist men

4 " blasting

9 " danger; then ring # of station where danger exists

Station bells: 2 pause 1 = SYN #1

" " 2 = " 2

" " 3 = " 3

" " 4 = " 4

" " 5 = " 5

Thus, in some ways Butte was a runaway example of the Athenian ideal of a city built upon a hill, and in others it had no more (pedigree) than than...

its only pattern seemed to be mushrooms.  
St. Vitus' Dance.

Buster Midnight's Cafe, p. 39-- the Cornish celebrated St. George's Day

Butte slept as much as it ever does.

Butte's cast of characters was challenging...

" record of bloodshed...

You couldn't be a street vendor in Butte without an adjective. (Fat Jack, Blind Frank)

Eamon De Valera visited Butte, July 1919 (ONLY IN BUTTE ph'copy, Butte-general file)

MHS - Fri.

Butte City Directory

Mine Inspectors

depts

~~"arsenic" article (copy)~~

~~Christie Leskovar~~

No on-line or catalog info - Butte Band clip only  
Annette Marklund (ambulance driver)

No/ <sup>pp 141-67</sup> Murphy, Gettaring Hill (novel)

~~Butte Irish, Emmons (work note)~~

~~Rich; Waddies?~~

" Brian; ethnic parts of Butte?

The Settling Hill - Clyde F Murphy

6, 1899

- copy @ Hearst Free Library, Anamanda

- " @ Masons Public Library

- also on Google

## Movie in Butte ('08 trip)

- arr. Milwaukee depot (pic)
- goes to rooming house (pic, little turret) across from Welsh church (pic)
- funeral parlor
- Dublin Gulch (Centerville) (historic pic)
- library (pic of bldg across) (Hibernian bldg high on E horizon 7 st)
- mines @ night: galleons frames ghostly?

- advent of elevators etc. that M had known in Chi -

- Butte is as if Chi's smaller skyscrapers had been crated west

- here of there a dramatic skyscraper, waiting for Metropolis to fill in

Butte trip:

1st & last frost: Garden Club? somebody w/ garden?

--Hooper grows vegs while Griff does house odd jobs?

night of June 9, '08, when we were there: 32 ~~°~~ degrees.

Butte was the most American city in the West, which was to say it was wildly European.

Butte, 11 Sept '87

Mag unfavorably  
compares new  
cook w/ rembrd  
style of parala?  
(see over)

The redoubtable M&M at breakfast:

--the bar was closed, with big panels the size of plywood sheets leaning against it as a barricade--clubs--diamonds--hearts--spades cutouts in the panels.

--gambling machines, a couple of rows of them in middle of the room and a random one here and there, were all alit, a few people ~~making~~ playing them.

--main action was the meal counter, about half full when we got there a little past 6. The fry cook was even more deft than the night before's supper cook:

--flipping cheese slices as if dealing cards into rectangle of omelet eggs on the grill; after a bit, carefully folded ~~xxxx~~ the long sides over the cheese, lightly crimped ~~xxxx~~ each end of the mass with edge of his long spatula to make a seam and then folded the end "tabs" in to make completely enclosed omelette, then flipped the whole thing over.

--breaks eggs with one hand, tapping them on bowl edge and seeming almost to squeeze them to the site he wants them.

--constant mound of hashbrowns at left side of grill; he puts fresh pile on front center of grill and occasionally scoops them over to the ready mound.

--the huge soup tureen we saw y'day under the counter today was atop, soup in the making.

--opened a gallon can of mixed vegetables and poured it into a steam bin ready for the day, added a little cooking oil.

\*

over

--dollops butter onto a pancake, cradling the plate in palm of his hand and swirls the butter in a slow circle "skating" the inner perimeter of the pancake.  
--the cook, like last night's ~~xxx~~ cook and bartender, was 30ish.

--At the street end of the counter, above passageway the waitresses and dishwasher have to go through, sign reading PLEASE DO NOT STAND HERE has had final E of HERE broken off but firmly rewritten in in red.

--the small area, really, the cook works in, to keep a large and varied flow of orders going. Jick could remark about this fry cook knowing his business, the way he rolls the spatula in his hand, swirls butter on plate etc.; unhurried but his hands ~~whwaxpx~~ always going.

--3 people behind counter again--besides cook and another capable sturdy waitress, a woman setting up for the dayx, slicing onions on the meat slicer, for example.

--half a dozen flats of eggs under counter near dishwasher. And cook opens drawer to left of his grill, drops steak into pan of flour in it before grilling.

10 Sept. Butte

- Mc M: whistling waitress, stout (Shirley); handles enter of 0/2 stools <sup>16?</sup>
- fry cook, flipping burger buns onto plates
  - grandmotherly dishwasher @ st end behind counter
  - waitress dips soup out of big cauldron under counter to smaller tureen  
o stove by using a big plate to catch overflow in dippier sauce pan.
  - party: <sup>ben</sup> gravy-covered mound as long as plate (8" dia) she dips with  
- size of small bread loaf. Also dumb buns & canned veg (beet discs)
  - Please Pay When Served sign
  - permit cart of Eddy's bread in corner
  - mumps of greys hang'g off stools; 90% male clientele
  - Keno players get up in middle of supper when rattle of cage is heard
  - young fry cook & young drink ~~help~~ hep ty bartender (both 30 ish)
  - old tin ~~roof~~ ceiling
  - junker cars - big old ones - predom'te
  - business part of tin has drained away dm onto plates

Marcus Daly enters into heaven:

in "anecdotes & storytelling" file folder; Morrie cd recognize ancient basis cited in article about it.

chronology:

Granville Stuart 1834-1918

Aug. 1, 1917, vigilantes hanged Frank Little

June 8, Speculator fire, 164 miners died

Malone et al: "...between September 1914 and April 1920, national guardsmen and ~~the army~~ federal troops occupied Butte six different times..."

mid-April of 1917, national guard sent to Eureka in lumber company strike; IWW called a general strike; federal raids, union defeat on Sept. 7.

from Jyl Hoyt tape, Butte family album:

Butte as an urban island in ranching and farming Montana

N  
978.6  
M245

I, Mary Maclean

(Butte novel mentioned by Lang at anthology com'tee mtg; says it has stuff about sex with the devil.)

p. 93+

p. 289+

p. 32 - I am too young ... awaiting Devil

- 34

50 - we suffer still

p. 50 - "We have not yet ceased to weep.... We suffer still in 1902, even as they suffered in 1802, and in 802."

MHS

73

M 2225

The Story of Mary MacLane

In Montana it only takes two minutes' talk to find you know someone in common.

--best line of the morning came after the gabber brought up the topic of a couple who'd passed thru here horseback, with pack horses, making a ride from Mexico to Canada. A particularly battered-looking local, with a big cut or scab on his temple and vociferously unshaven because the water dept. has turned off the water on his st. for road work, said, "Hell, one guy went through here on a skateboard."

Sept. 21, '87, Ennis

geezer talk in Bettie's Cafe, circa 6:30 a.m.--

--when one local asked another how hunting has been, the answer was "The hunting's been fine. The killing ain't~~th~~ been worth a damn."

--another guy said there's been more elk, deer, bear, whatever, killed right here on Main Street (i.e., in talk) "than anywhere on the mountains." "Guys get to talking in the Longhorn, it gets so bloody you've got to have your overshoes on."

--we were sitting in booth behind a tall 70-ish guy in camouflage jumpsuit who proved to be a conversat~~ion~~ killer, like poison in a well, to the booth of locals across from him. A couple of times, after he held forth on some topic out of nowhere, a local got up and said he had to go feed a horse, or some such. When the gabber began on a murder in Idaho and theories of why young people do such things these days, the boothful heard out his first spate, then one guy turned to another and asked if he was done haying yet.

over

I was enjoying myself more than I had anywhere yet on this sputtery migration with Mariah and Riley. Since Butte's glorytime of mining ended,



Lang suggest Mont Mag of History article of early '70s, '72 or so, by Theodore Wiprud  
on use of Nat'l Guard in Butte strike of 1914.

-, ~~Old~~ Copper Collier (@ Mont 7 Don Cushman's LA)