

ROSE REINDEAU

&

HAROLD DOPFER

**FORMER RESIDENTS OF
HAMILTON, MONTANA**

**RESEARCH BY WANDA TUCKER
MAY, 2019**

Mary Rose Reindeau

Born 25 May 1888

Died 15 July 1958

This research is about two people linked to a small town in Montana. I became interested in them, as they are said to haunt a building in downtown. So I set out to find out what I could about their lives.

Mary Rose Reindeau was born 25 May 1888 in Minnesota. Her parents were Mitchell A. Reindeau and Hortense Picotte. Except on legal documents, she generally appears as Rose. Both of Rose's parents were born in Canada, and were of French descent.

There is evidence that the family travelled back and forth between Minnesota and Montana before settling. As late as 1895, the family is in Minnesota. They appear on the state census, listed individually. ¹

Minnesota, Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905

Name:	Rosa Reendeau
Age:	7
Census Date:	1895
County:	Morrison
Locality:	Little Falls Ward 2
Birth Location:	Minnesota
Gender:	Female
Estimated birth year:	abt 1888
Race:	White
Line:	40
Roll:	V290_76

They first appear in the census in Hamilton, Montana in 1900. Rose's father Mitchell was working as a day laborer. ²

1900 United States Federal Census

Name:	Rosie M Riendeau
Age:	12
Birth Date:	May 1888
Birthplace:	Minnesota
Home in 1900:	Hamilton, Ravalli, Montana
Street:	7 St
House Number:	78
Sheet Number:	18
institution:	Incorporated City of Hamilton
Number of Dwelling in Order of Visitation:	357
Family Number:	357
Race:	White
Gender:	Female
Relation to Head of House:	Daughter
Marital status:	Single
Father's name:	Mitchell Riendeau
Father's Birthplace:	Minnesota
Mother's name:	Hortance Riendeau
Mother's Birthplace:	Minnesota

Attended School: 4
Can Read: Yes
Can Write: Yes
Can Speak English: Yes
Neighbors:

Household Members:

Name	Age
Mitchell Riendeau	38
Hortance Riendeau	34
Rosie M Riendeau	12
Laura M Riendeau	10
Willie J Riendeau	9
Eugenia M Riendeau	6
Clara M Riendeau	3

Then, in 1905, the family is back in Minnesota, on a state census. It's possible Rose's father couldn't find sufficient work in Montana to keep the family afloat. In this census, he is still working as a laborer.³

Minnesota, Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905

Name: Mary Rose Riendeau
Age: 17
Census Date: 14 Jun 1905
County: Morrison
Locality: Little Falls Ward 2
Birth Location: Minnesota
Gender: Female
Estimated birth year: abt 1888
Race: White
Father's Birth Location: Minnesota
Mother's Birth Location: Minnesota
Line: 25
Roll: MNSC_136

On the 1910 census, back in Hamilton, Montana, Rose's father is listed as working in a sawmill. Rose herself is employed; she is working as a salesgirl for a dry goods store. It's interesting how much the family travelled back and forth between 1895 and 1910. Since Rose is now working, I would assume the family probably struggled for money. On this census, Rose's parents' state they have been married for 22 years, so Rose would have been their first child. She has younger siblings at home, William, Eugenie, and Clara. Younger sister Laura, who was ten years old in the 1900 census, was married in Hamilton in 1909 to Pearl H. Bullock, so she is no longer with the family.⁴

1910 United States Federal Census

Name: Rose M Riendeau
[Rosa M Reindeau]
Age in 1910: 21

Birth Year: abt 1889
 Birthplace: Minnesota
 Home in 1910: Hamilton Ward 3, Ravalli, Montana
 Race: White
 Gender: Female
 Relation to Head of House: Daughter
 Marital status: Single
 Father's name: Mitchell A Riendeau
 Father's Birthplace: Minnesota
 Mother's name: Hortense Riendeau
 Mother's Birthplace: Minnesota
 Native Tongue: English
 Occupation: Salesgirl
 Industry: Druggist Store
 Employer, Employee or Other: Wage Earner
 Attended School: No
 Able to Read: Yes
 Able to Write: Yes
 Out of Work: N
 Number of weeks out of work: 0
 Neighbors:

Household Members:

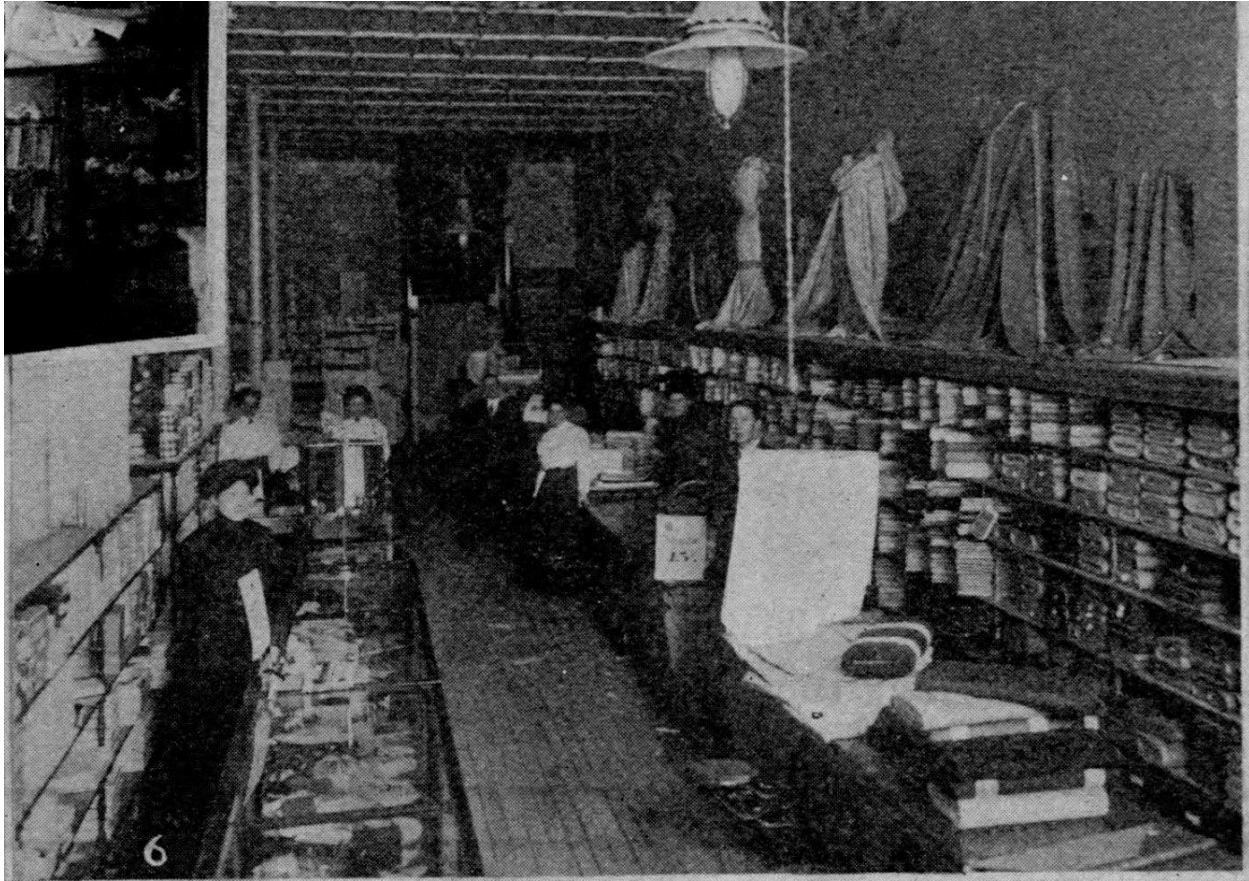
Name	Age
Mitchell A Riendeau	48
Hortense Riendeau	43
Rose M Riendeau	21
William J Riendeau	18
Eugenie M Riendeau	15
Clara Riendeau	13

The building Rose is said to have been used to house The Valley Mercantile. It stood on the site of the present-day building. The Valley Mercantile opened in 1909, but was there much earlier under the Anaconda Mining Company. It was Marcus Daly's "company store," according to information published by the Downtown Hamilton Business Improvement District.

"Constructed in 1936, the Bower Building replaced the Valley Mercantile Company Department Store that burned for the second time in 1936. The Valley Mercantile was a two-story "company store" owned by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company (Marcus Daly). It sold everything from clothing, groceries, and furniture, to hardware, lumber, gardening implements and threshing machines."⁵

The first time The Valley Mercantile Burned was 22 Oct 1910. There is more about this fire in Harold Dopfer's story, which follows this one.

Rose is almost certainly one of the women in this photo, taken from an ad for The Valley Mercantile in early 1910.



It is always intriguing to speculate as to why a spirit would return to a particular place to remain after death. I wondered why Rose's spirit chose to reside in the building today. I believe I found the answer to that question in the census of 1910. I discovered a few other young women who worked as sales girls in Hamilton in that census. One of them is significant to Rose's story.

Mary N. Smithey was born in 1888, the same year as Rose. I looked at her information as I searched for a woman who would be connected to the building that houses BTW. I remembered Mary after finding other information which pointed to her relationship with Rose.

In the 1910 census, Mary is listed with her family. ⁶

1910 United States Federal Census

Name:	Mary N Smithey [Mary N Southey]
Age in 1910:	22
Birth Year:	abt 1888
Birthplace:	Missouri
Home in 1910:	Hamilton Ward 3, Ravalli, Montana
Street:	Eighth Street
Race:	White
Gender:	Female
Relation to Head of House:	Daughter
Marital status:	Single

Father's name: Robert H Smithey
Father's Birthplace: Missouri
Mother's Birthplace: Missouri
Native Tongue: English
Occupation: Salesgirl
Industry: Dry Goods Store
Employer, Employee or Other: Wage Earner
Able to Read: Yes
Able to Write: Yes
Out of Work: N
Number of weeks out of work: 52
Neighbors:

Household Members:

Name	Age
Robert H Smithey	65
Nora I Smithey	37
Thomas Smithey	28
Clarence Smithey	24
Mary N Smithey	22
Tish Nevins	48

Mary had an older brother, Clarence. Clarence's occupation is listed as the proprietor of a pool room. In The Western News of Stevensville, Montana on 9 Feb 1910, it was reported that "Pete" Smithey and Blaine Reimel had purchased the Brunswick pool room.⁷ On an interesting side note, Clarence's sister Mary Nellie married Blaine Reimel.⁸

Clarence Smithey married **Mary Rose Reindeau** on 3 Jun 1912 at St. Patrick's Rectory in Silver Bow County, Montana. We learn in this document that Rose's first name is actually Mary.⁹

The State of Montana, } ss.
County of Silver Bow,

Marriage License

These Presents, Are to authorize any Judge of a Court of Record, any Justice of the Peace within said County, elected, or appointed by the Governor of Montana therefor, any regular ordained Minister who is in good standing in the religious denomination to which he belongs, or any religious society according to the usage of said society, to solemnize within said County of Silver Bow, State of Montana, the marriage of Clarence G. Smithy a white man aged 26 years, born at Paris in the County of Phillips and Bliss of Missouri and now residing at Hamilton in the County of Silver Bow, State of Montana, and who has not been previously married and is now a Son of Robert H. Smithy and Beatrice Smithy, whose maiden name was Beatrice Woods With Mary Ross Kinsden a white woman aged 24 years, born at Little Falls in the County of Blaine and now residing at Butte in the County of Silver Bow, and State of Montana, who has not been previously married and is now a Daughter of Alex. Kinsden and Nelma Kinsden whose maiden name was Nelma Pratt Being duly sworn this 5th day of June, 1912, the applicant states the ages given are true and correct.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the District Court of the Second Judicial District of the State of Montana, this 3rd day of June, 1912
 By John J. Foley Clerk.
D. H. Lewis Deputy Clerk.

The State of Montana, } ss.
County of Silver Bow,

Marriage Certificate

I hereby Certify, That I believe that the facts stated in the foregoing License are true and that upon due inquiry there appears to be no legal impediment to the marriage of said Clarence G. Smithy and Mary Ross Kinsden; that said parties were joined in marriage by me on the 3rd day of June, A. D. 1912, at St. Patrick's Rectory, in the said County and State, in the presence of the undersigned witnesses, and that said Clarence G. Smithy and Mary Ross Kinsden solemnly declared in my presence, and in the presence of the said named witnesses, that they took each other as husband and wife.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of June, A. D. 1912
 In presence of
Mrs. Ed. Dussert
Mrs. Mary Doherty Witnesses.
 Officiating John O'Connor
 Filed for record June 5 A. D. 1912
John J. Foley Clerk.
D. H. Lewis Deputy Clerk.

Rose almost certainly met her future husband through her association with Mary Smithey, working at The Valley Mercantile.

By the time Clarence registered for the draft in 1918, he had apparently sold his interest in the pool room. His employer is listed as Al Hork, although he still works as a clerk in the cigar store section of the pool room.

Clarence and Mary lived at 724 Pinckney Ave. in Hamilton. ¹⁰

REGISTRATION CARD a

SERIAL NUMBER	820	ORDER NUMBER	1175
1	Clarence Alfred Smithey		
2	PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: 724 Pinckney Ave Hamilton Ravalli Co Montana		
Age in Years	Date of Birth		
3 33	4 July	16	1885
RACE			
5 White	6 Negro	7 Oriental	8 Indian Caucas Non-Caucas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
U. S. CITIZEN		ALIEN	
10 Native Born	11 Naturalized	12 Citizen by Father's Naturalization If (and) Registered in this City	13 Declarant Non-declarant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?			
PRESENT OCCUPATION		EMPLOYER'S NAME	
16 Clerk in Cigarette		17 Al Hork	
18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: Bismarck Pool Hall Hamilton Ravalli Montana			
NEAREST RELATIVE	Name	19 Mary Rose Smithey	
	Address	20 724 Pinckney Ave Hamilton Ravalli Montana	
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE			
P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (red)		Clarence Alfred Smithey (Registrant's signature or mark)	

25-1-21-C REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT			BUILD			COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
Tall	Medium	Short	Slender	Medium	Stout		
21	22 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	23	24	25 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	26	27 <i>Brown</i>	28 <i>Brown</i>

29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify.)

30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

J. S. Jones
(Signature of Registrar)

Date of Registration *Sept 12 1918*

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

In the 1920 census, Rose and Clarence appear with Clarence's father, who has been widowed. Clarence is working as a salesman in a fruit store, and Rose is no longer employed. The home they live in is rented, and still stands today. ¹¹

1920 United States Federal Census

Name:	Rose Smithy
Age:	30
Birth Year:	abt 1890
Birthplace:	Minnesota
Home in 1920:	Hamilton, Ravalli, Montana
Street:	Pickney St
Residence Date:	1920
Race:	White
Gender:	Female
Relation to Head of House:	Wife
Marital status:	Married
Spouse's name:	Clarence A Smithy
Father's Birthplace:	Minnesota
Mother's Birthplace:	Minnesota
Able to Speak English:	Yes
Able to Read:	Yes
Able to Write:	Yes
Neighbors:	

Household Members:

Name	Age
Clarence A Smithy	34
Rose Smithy	30
Robert H Smithy	75



724 Pinckney St. Hamilton, Montana, circa 2019

In the 1930 census in Hamilton, Clarence is listed as the proprietor of a cigar store. Remember on his draft registration in 1918, he is stated to be a clerk in the cigar store in the Brunswick pool room. From this census information, it would appear he had purchased the business. From this census, we also learn that neither Rose not Clarence attended school, although both could read and write. ¹²

Name:	Charles A Smithey	
Birth Year:	abt 1886	
Gender:	Male	
Race:	White	
Birthplace:	Missouri	
Marital status:	Married	
Relation to Head of House:	Head	
Home in 1930:	Hamilton, Ravalli, Montana, USA	
Map of Home:	View Map	
Ward of City:	2	
House Number:	301	
Dwelling Number:	175	
Family Number:	206	
Home Owned or Rented:	Rented	
Home Value:	32	
Radio Set:	Yes	
Lives on Farm:	No	
Age at first Marriage:	26	
Attended School:	No	
Able to Read and Write:	Yes	
Father's Birthplace:	Missouri	
Mother's Birthplace:	Missouri	
Able to Speak English:	Yes	
Occupation:	Proprietor	
Industry:	Cigar Store	
Class of Worker:	Working on own account	
Employment:	Yes	
Household Members:		
	Name	Age
	Charles A Smithey	44
	Rose Smithey	40

In the census in 1940, the couple still lives on Pinckney St. in Hamilton Under the designation of whether their home is owned or rented is the notation “unsettled estate.” It appears the house on Pinckney St. belonged to Clarence’s sister, Nora. When she died intestate in 1939, the house reverted to her brothers Thomas, Herbert, and Clarence, her sister Nell Reimel, and her sister’s children, Electa Black, and Mabel Leisburg. ¹³

In 1941, Clarence and Rose sold the house at 724 Pinckney St. to Anna Feist. ¹⁴

Clarence is now the Postmaster of the Hamilton Post Office. ¹⁵ He was appointed as Postmaster 4 Jun 1935, and served until he retired in July 1955. ¹⁶

Name:	Clarence A Smithey
Age:	54
Estimated birth year:	abt 1886
Gender:	Male
Race:	White
Birthplace:	Missouri
Marital status:	Married
Relation to Head of House:	Head
Home in 1940:	Ward, Ravalli, Montana
Map of Home in 1940:	View Map
Street:	North Eighth Rickney
House Number:	724
Farm:	No
Inferred Residence in 1935:	Ward, Ravalli, Montana
Residence in 1935:	Same House
Resident on farm in 1935:	No
Sheet Number:	13B
Number of Household in Order of Visitation:	364
Occupation:	Postmaster
House Owned or Rented:	Sitate [unsettled estate]
Value of Home or Monthly Rental if Rented:	1200
Attended School or College:	No
Highest Grade Completed:	High School, 4th year
Hours Worked Week Prior to Census:	66
Class of Worker:	Wage or salary worker in Government work
Weeks Worked in 1939:	52
Income:	2600
Income Other Sources:	Yes
Neighbors:	

Household Members:

Name	Age
Clarence A Smithey	54
Mary Rose Smithey	52

With this new profession for Clarence, it is easy to imagine the importance of his and Rose's place in the life of Hamilton. The old Hamilton Post Office, now a museum, was built in 1940 at a cost of \$100,000. ¹⁷ The museum houses what is now a rare of a Works Project Administration mural. When these murals were commissioned, Postmasters were often consulted about them. Clarence could have been, as evidenced by this reference found in *Flathead War Party, The Story Behind the Hamilton, Montana Post Office Mural*. It was a letter dated 2 Oct 1941, written from Edward Rowan, the head of the WPA Section of Painting and Sculpture, to the artist, Henry J. Meloy.

“The Postmaster has been informed of your commission so you may feel free to write to him relative to suitable subject matter, to check the mural space and to determine if there is a lighting fixture in the space. It might be possible for you to use your Indian design in Hamilton and I

enclose herewith a photograph for you to send to the Postmaster to see if the subject matter would be appropriate. I should very much like to see the design carried out. I remember lunching with you very well but do not recall which of the two gentlemen you were.”

The source further stated that “postmasters also had a high degree of influence over murals, and Section officials frequently advised artists to consult with them before submitting designs so they could determine what subject matter would be most positively received in the community.”¹⁸



Flathead War Party by Henry J. Meloy, housed in the old Hamilton, Montana Post Office Museum

Rose was very active in the Hamilton Eastern Star. There are many articles about her participation in the Missoulian throughout the 1930s and 40s, at one time named worthy matron. She was also active in the Women’s Benefit Association of Hamilton. She was also chairman of the Ravalli County Birthday Ball in January 1938. Rose appears to have been a very active and important member of Hamilton society.

The sale of the property Clarence inherited from his sister probably allowed the couple to purchase their home at 405 S. 3rd St. in Hamilton, where both Clarence and Rose were reported to live when they died. They purchased the home from Maurice and Cora Wessell on 1 Nov 1941.¹⁹

Rose died 15 Jul 1958, aged 70 years. She is buried in Riverview Cemetery, plot 4W 6 2. This information is found at findagrave.com.²⁰

According to her death certificate, Rose died of a heart attack.²¹

TYPE OR WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK
This Margin Reserved for Binding

V.S. 3A-9-57-102M STATE OF MONTANA		DUPLICATE FOR CLERK AND RECORDER CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		STATE BOARD OF HEALTH Bureau of Vital Statistics	
Birth No.				State File No. 5059	
1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY Reavelli		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: Residence before admission) a. STATE Montana b. COUNTY Reavelli			
b. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Hamilton		c. LENGTH OF STAY (1/10) 1 day		c. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Hamilton	
4. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION Daly Memorial Hospital		4. STREET ADDRESS 405 South 3rd St.			
e. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		e. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		f. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) First Rose Middle M. SMITHEY Last		4. DATE OF DEATH 7-15-58			
5. SEX Female		6. COLOR OR RACE White		7. MARRIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/>	
8. DATE OF BIRTH 5-25-1888		9. AGE (In years last birthday) 70		10. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) Housewife	
11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Little Falls, Minn.		12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.			
13. FATHER'S NAME H. Ricandean		14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME ---Hortense			
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service) No		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. None		17. INFORMANT C. A. Smithey-Hamilton, Montana	
18. CAUSE OF DEATH [Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).] PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Myocardial Infarction		DUE TO (b) _____		DUE TO (c) _____	
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I(a)				19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
20a. ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE <input type="checkbox"/>		20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of item 18.)			
20c. TIME OF INJURY Hour _____ Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ a. m. _____ p. m. _____					
20d. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHILE AT WORK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		20e. PLACE OF INJURY (e. g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)		20f. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION COUNTY _____ STATE _____	
21. I attended the deceased from 7/14/58 to 7/15/58 and last saw her alive on 7/15/58 Death occurred at _____ m on the date stated above; and to the best of my knowledge, from the causes stated.					
22a. SIGNATURE s/Armon M. Meis,		22b. ADDRESS MD Hamilton, Montana		22c. DATE SIGNED 7-16-58	
23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) Burial		23b. DATE 7-17-58		23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Riverview Cemetery	
23d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) Hamilton, Montana		23e. REGISTERER'S SIGNATURE C.C. F... MD			
24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR Dowling Funeral Home-Hamilton, Montana		25. DATE RECD. BY LOCAL REG. 7-17-58			

Clarence outlived Rose by quite a while. He died 16 Jan 1981, at the ripe old age of 95, apparently having never remarried. According to his death certificate, he retired as Postmaster of Hamilton, and still lived at 405 S. 3rd. St.

VS3
CLERK & RECORDER
MONTANA
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
9021

LOCAL FILE NUMBER STATE FILE NUMBER

1. Clarence		MIDDLE	Alfred		LAST	Smithy		SEX	2. Male		DATE OF DEATH (Mo., Day, Yr.)	3. Jan. 16, 1981			
RACE-White, Black, American Indian, etc. (Specify)		4. White	AGE - Last Birthday (Years)	5a. 95		UNDER 1 YEAR	Mos. Days		UNDER 1 DAY	Hours Min.		DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)	6. July 16, 1885		
CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION OF DEATH		7b. Hamilton		HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION - Name (if not in either, give street and number)		7c. Valley View Estate		IF HOSP OR INST. Indicate DOA, OP/Emer. Rm. Inpatient (Specify)		7d. In Patient		COUNTY OF DEATH		7a. Ravalli	
STATE OF BIRTH (If not in U.S.A., name country)		8. Paris, Missouri		CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY		9. U.S.A.		MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Specify)		10. Widowed		SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give maiden name)		11. Rose Reindeau (Deceased)	
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		12. 516-54-0624		USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired)		13a. Post Master--Retired		KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY		13b. U.S. Postal Service		WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES (Specify Yes or No)		13c. N/A	
RESIDENCE - STATE		15a. Montana		COUNTY		15b. Ravalli		CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION		15c. Hamilton		INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify Yes or No)		15d. yes	
STREET AND NUMBER		15e. 405 So. 3rd.		FATHER - NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST		16. Robert H. Smithy		MOTHER - MAIDEN NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST		17. Mattie Woods		INFORMANT - NAME (Type or Print)		18a. Electa Black (Niece)	
MAILING ADDRESS		STREET OR R.F.D. NO.		CITY OR TOWN		STATE		ZIP		18b. 609 N. East Hwy		18c. Corvallis, Montana 59828		18d. Corvallis, Montana 59828	
CEMETERY OR CREMATORY - NAME		19a. Riverview Cemetery		LOCATION		19b. Hamilton, Montana		MORTUARY OR OTHER - NAME AND ADDRESS		19c. Burial		20. Bowling Funeral Home-P.O.Box 666-Hamilton, Mont. 59840		21. January 20, 1981	
DATE OF DISPOSITION (Month, Day, Year)		PERSON IN CHARGE OF DISPOSITION		22. (Signature) Edith G. Leach		22. (Signature) Edith G. Leach		22. (Signature) Edith G. Leach		22. (Signature) Edith G. Leach		22. (Signature) Edith G. Leach		22. (Signature) Edith G. Leach	
23a. To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) stated.		23b. DATE SIGNED (Month, Day, Year)		23c. HOUR OF DEATH		23d. NAME OF ATTESTING PHYSICIAN IF OTHER THAN CERTIFIER (Type or Print)		24a. On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) stated.		24b. DATE SIGNED (Month, Day, Year)		24c. HOUR OF DEATH		24d. PRONOUNCED DEAD (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
(Signature and Title) Walker J. Ashcraft, M.D.		DATE SIGNED (Month, Day, Year)		HOUR OF DEATH		NAME OF ATTESTING PHYSICIAN IF OTHER THAN CERTIFIER (Type or Print)		(Signature and Title) Edith G. Leach		DATE SIGNED (Month, Day, Year)		HOUR OF DEATH		PRONOUNCED DEAD (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
23b. 1/20/81		23c. 11:30 P.M.		23d. Walker J. Ashcraft, M.D. Box 473 Hamilton, Mont. 59840		24a. ON		24b. ON		24c. AT		24d. M		24e. M	
23d. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER (PHYSICIAN OR CORONER) (Type or Print)		25. Walker J. Ashcraft, M.D. Box 473 Hamilton, Mont. 59840		LOCAL REGISTRAR		26a. (Signature) Josephine Iten Tafft		DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL REGISTRAR (Mo., Day, Yr.)		26b. January 20, 1981		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		Interval between onset & death	
PART I (a)		DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		Interval between onset & death	
(b)		DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		Interval between onset & death	
(c)		DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		27. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c))		Interval between onset & death	
PART II OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS - Conditions contributing to death but not related to cause given in Part I (a)		28. No		29. No		28. No		29. No		28. No		29. No		28. No	
ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, HOMICIDE, UNDET. OR PENDING INVESTIGATION (Specify)		DATE OF INJURY (Mo., Day, Yr.)		HOUR OF INJURY		DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED.		28. No		29. No		28. No		29. No	
30a. No		30b. No		30c. M		30d. No		30e. No		30f. No		30g. No		30h. No	
INJURY AT WORK (Specify Yes or No)		PLACE OF INJURY - At home, farm, street, factory, office building, etc. (Specify)		LOCATION: STREET OR R.F.D. NO.		CITY OR TOWN		STATE		30e. No		30f. No		30g. No	
30e. No		30f. No		30g. No		30h. No		30i. No		30j. No		30k. No		30l. No	

STATE OF MONTANA) ss
COUNTY OF RAVALLI)
Filed on the 20th day of January 1981 by **Josephine Iten Tafft** Deputy
A.D. 1981 at 8:00 o'Clock

DECEDENT
Usual Residence Where Decedent Lived, If Death Occurred in

CAUSE OF DEATH



405 S. 3rd St., Hamilton, Montana

Clarence is buried with Rose at Riverview Cemetery, beneath a joint headstone. ²²



REFERENCES

-
- ¹ Ancestry.com. *Minnesota, Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.
- ² Year: 1900; Census Place: *Hamilton, Ravalli, Montana*; Page: 18; Enumeration District: 0081; FHL microfilm: 1240914
- ³ Ancestry.com. *Minnesota, Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905*
- ⁴ Year: 1910; Census Place: *Hamilton Ward 3, Ravalli, Montana*; Roll: T624_833; Page: 19A; Enumeration District: 0086; FHL microfilm: 1374846
- ⁵ The Hamilton Record, A Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Hamilton. Downtown Hamilton Business Improvement District, 2016. Accessed 5/20/19. <https://mhs.mt.gov/Portals/11/shpo/docs/Hamilton.pdf>
- ⁶ Year: 1910; Census Place: *Hamilton Ward 3, Ravalli, Montana*; Roll: T624_833; Page: 21B; Enumeration District: 0086; FHL microfilm: 1374846
- ⁷ The Western news., February 09, 1910, Image 5. Chronicling America. Accessed 5/20/19. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84036207/1910-02-09/ed-1/seq-5/#date1=1910&index=2&date2=1910&searchType=advanced&language=&sequence=0&words=Mercantile+pool+room+valley&proxdistance=5&state=Montana&rows=20&ortext=&proxtext=&phrasertext=Pool+room&andtext=Valley+mercantile&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>
- ⁸ Findagrave.com. Accessed 5/20/19. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/66040510/nellie-reimel>
- ⁹ Montana State Historical Society; Helena, Montana; *Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1950*
- ¹⁰ Registration State: *Montana*; Registration County: *Ravalli*; Roll: 1711440
- ¹¹ Year: 1920; Census Place: *Hamilton, Ravalli, Montana*; Roll: T625_975; Page: 15B; Enumeration District: 182
- ¹² Year: 1930; Census Place: *Hamilton, Ravalli, Montana*; Page: 8A; Enumeration District: 0004; FHL microfilm: 2340995
- ¹³ Ravalli County Montana Deed Book 70, p 457
- ¹⁴ Ravalli County Montana Deed Book 93, p 549
- ¹⁵ Year: 1940; Census Place: *Ward, Ravalli, Montana*; Roll: m-t0627-02227; Page: 13B; Enumeration District: 41-5
- ¹⁶ Newspapers.com. The Missoulian · Fri, Jul 29, 1955 · Page 11. Accessed 5/20/19. <https://missoulian.newspapers.com/image/349710492/?terms=Rose%2BSmithey>
- ¹⁷ The Hamilton Record, A Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Hamilton.
- ¹⁸ Postal Museum. Accessed 5/20/2019. https://postalmuseum.si.edu/indiansatthepostoffice/pdfs/The_Flathead_War_Party.pdf
- ¹⁹ Ravalli County Deed Book 82, p 570

²⁰ Findagrave.com. Accessed 5/20/19. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/66057643/rose-m-smithey>

²¹ Montana State Historical Society; Helena, Montana; FHL Roll: *no. 5000-5999*

²² Findagrave.com. Accessed 5/20/19. https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/66057594/clarence-a_peter-smithey

HAROLD DOPFER

**BORN 10 JUNE 1896, WHITESTOWN, INDIANA
DIED 23 JAN 1973, MISSOULA, MONTANA**

Harold Dopfer was born 10 June 1896, to Henry/Harry Dopfer and Emma Edith Bell, in Whitestown, Indiana. She was born in Indiana about 1870, and Henry was born about 1869 in Canada. Henry emigrated into the U.S. from Canada in 1887. His parents were German. Emma Edith's parents were both from the U.S.

Henry and Emma Edith married about 1895. This is according to census data, as I was unable to locate their marriage record. Where they married is unknown. On his birth certificate, Harold is listed as their first child. Harold had a sister named Sarah, born about 1900 in Montana. She married William G. Thompson in Montana in 1923.

In 1900, Harold and his family were in Anaconda, Montana. Harold's father was working as a dry goods salesman. Edith's mother lived with the family.²³

1900 United States Federal Census

Name:	Harry Dopfer
Age:	32
Birth Date:	May 1868
Birthplace:	Canada
Home in 1900:	Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Montana
Ward of City:	1
Street:	West Park
House Number:	610
Sheet Number:	7
Number of Dwelling in Order of Visitation:	148
Family Number:	150
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Immigration Year:	1888
Relation to Head of House:	Head
Marital status:	Married
Spouse's name:	Edith Dopfer
Marriage Year:	1895
Father's Birthplace:	Pennsylvania
Mother's Birthplace:	Pennsylvania
Years in US:	12
Naturalization:	Yes
Occupation:	Dry Goods Salesman
Months Not Employed:	0
Can Read:	Yes
Can Write:	Yes
Can Speak English:	Yes
House Owned or Rented:	R
Farm or House:	H
Household Members:	
Name	Age
Harry Dopfer	32
Edith Dopfer	30
Harold Dopfer	4
Teresa Dopfer	6/12
Sarah E Bell	53

The earliest reference to Harold outside of a census appears in the Missoulian in 1902. Harold lost two fingers while sledding. His father is named as a salesman for the Missoula Mercantile Company.²⁴

MAIMED FOR LIFE.

Harry Dopfer Loses Two Fingers in a Coasting Accident.

Harold, the 7-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dopfer, was the victim of a serious accident yesterday while coasting, and as a result loses two fingers of the right hand. The little fellow with a companion was descending a hill on a sled in the Rattlesnake district. The descent was steep and their mount became unmanageable and slewed from the open course. A post was encountered and the full force of the blow was delivered upon the hand of Harold, that member being caught between the sled and post. The father is in the employ of the Missoula Mercantile company as salesman.

Harold appears in the Missoulian *again* in 1907. He and another boy were up to some high-jinx and there was an accident. This boy must have been a real hellion growing up!²⁵

TWO SMALL BOYS SCALDED BY BURSTING OF OLD CAN

Harold Dopfer, 12 years old, and Frank Hay, 11 years, were seriously scalded yesterday afternoon while playing with an old can and were making a steam boiler of it on a bonfire when the can exploded. Young Dopfer was scalded on the face and Hay was burned about the arms and legs.

On 20 Oct 1909, The Western News, Stevensville, Montana, announced that H.D. Dopfer had arrived in Hamilton to take over as manager of the Valley Mercantile dry goods department.²⁶

On the 1910 census at Hamilton, Montana, Henry “Dapper” is listed as a manager of a dry goods store. The name Dopfer was challenging to almost all who wrote it and it is misspelled in various ways.²⁷

1910 United States Federal Census

Name:	Henry Dapper <u>[Henry Dapher]</u> [Henry Dopper]
Age in 1910:	41
Birth Year:	abt 1869
Birthplace:	Canada English
Home in 1910:	Hamilton Ward 2, Ravalli, Montana
Street:	Fifth Street
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Immigration Year:	1887
Relation to Head of House:	Head
Marital status:	Married
Spouse's name:	Emma E Dapper
Father's Birthplace:	Germany
Mother's Birthplace:	Germany
Native Tongue:	English
Occupation:	Manager
Industry:	Dry Goods Store
Employer, Employee or Other:	Wage Earner
Home Owned or Rented:	Rent
Farm or House:	House
Naturalization Status:	N A
Able to Read:	Yes
Able to Write:	Yes
Years Married:	15
Out of Work:	N
Number of weeks out of work:	0
Neighbors:	
Household Members:	
Name	Age
Henry Dapper	41
Emma E Dapper	40
Harold U Dapper	13
Sarah T Dapper	10

Dry goods are generally defined as fabrics, ready-to-wear clothing, and personal toiletries.

Research revealed Henry was the manager of the dry goods department of the Valley Mercantile. The Valley Mercantile as such opened in 1909. It was known earlier as the 1st Bitter Root Development Company, later belonged to Anaconda Mining, and Anaconda Copper Mining. It was essentially Marcus Daly's “company store,” supplying workers with hardware, clothing, dry goods, etc. The article below

from the Western News in Stevensville, Montana, published 1 May 1910, names the heads of the departments of the Valley Mercantile. ²⁸

THE VALLEY MERCANTILE COMPANY

By A NEW RESIDENT.

NO special edition of a newspaper, pertaining to the growth and present development of Stevensville, would be complete without a notice of our progress (illustrating the business influence of the Valley Mercantile Company in the upbuilding of the Little Red valley. Never in the past twenty years has the camera of public attention been focused at this, one of the greatest merchandising concerns in Montana, without showing it at the forefront of progress.

Presented in a typical frontier shack, no bigger than the merchant's private office today, it has grown until it occupies more than a block of substantial brick buildings with its retail departments, while its warehouses, situated along the Northern Pacific tracks, are piled high with every description of merchandise. There was little thought at the time of its modest beginning that this enterprise and retail store would grow into a business aggregating nearly \$1,000,000 in a single year, an institution that would dominate its department from one year to another by accumulating its ever increasing trade.



W. G. FISH
Manager of the Valley Mercantile Company.

Local history tells us that in 1858 the Little Red Development company leased a general store of the magnitude of dimensions of 14 by 18 feet, situated where the Little Red Steam Laundry now stands. A single warehouse was constructed the same year. The following year the stock was returned to the corner of Main and Second streets, in the building now maintained for the Citizens State bank. In 1862 another change was made to the present site of the Valley Mercantile company building. The business was transferred to the Associated Mining company in 1876, but later was carried on by the Associated Capital Mining company.

The Change in Management.

The change of the main vital impetus to this growing institution came in 1876, when the K. C. M. company transferred its building to the present Valley Mercantile company. Since that time, under the management of W. G. Fish, departments have been added, where have doubled in size, and new systems have been inaugurated which make this firm, with its varied and extensive interests, one of the most prominent in the Northwest.

The other members of Hamilton's list would have William as the first manager of the store in 1858 and the following year, F. B. Toward had charge during 1861. G. W. Bondin followed from 1865 to 1876. D. J. Donohoe succeeded him, and he in turn gave way to F. D. Dudley, Mr. Fish's predecessor.

Under the present management a new warehouse addition has been constructed for the administrative side of the business that is a model of up-to-date office building and equipment. Since the incorporation of the firm, in charge of W. W. Kuhnke, it

carried on under ideal conditions by the latest approved methods. Each and every part of the firm follows in various departments some practice is here followed by a scientific method, only to be reversed and made a part of the system that makes relations almost out of the question in this, the very heart of a great business structure.

At the rear of the new building are located the waiting and rest rooms for women and children. This is an innovation which illustrates a practice followed by many of the progressive stores which the store has given; namely, consideration for its patrons.

Adding to the ground office is the manager's private office where Mr. Fish, always in close touch with the thousand details of the various departments, is consulting with his able assistants, or perhaps adjusting some temporary difficulty with a purchaser; the busy manager of a busy institution, but never too occupied to devote his personal attention where it is needed.

The Various Departments.

The clothing departments were consolidated early this season in the building occupied by the Valley Clothing company. Here under one roof is found one of the most complete stocks of clothing and gentlemen's furnishings in Stevensville. Nothing has been overlooked from coming dress to the sturdy working man's apparel, and under the efficient management of Leighton Stewart this department will certainly continue its remarkable growth.

The shoe department has acquired much needed space by the change and the stock has been greatly enlarged until it is now most tastefully displayed in its entire own building. Charles Christensen, who has been in charge of this department during the improvement, has done a great deal to build up the reputation of the various complex lines of footwear marketed by the Valley Mercantile company.

The drapery department, in charge of Harry Dopfer, has decided its stock during the past year, necessitating the establishment of a separate ready-made suit department on the second floor, under the management of Miss Helen Lockwood.

The millinery department, managed and remodelled, has recently been put under the management of Miss Hamilton, who comes in Hamilton with an extensive reputation for displaying artistic millinery.

The hardware department has grown remarkably with the building activity in and about Stevensville, and Manager H. A. Stewart is justly proud of the complete line of heavy and steel hardware on display in the store and warehouse. The extensive construction of plumbing and steam fitting is one important feature of this department's work which has been added during the past year.

The implement department, keeping abreast of the great agricultural activity in the valley, has doubled in size. Here J. M. Clarke, the manager, is able to show the enterprising farmer anything from a garden rake to a threshing machine. It is indicative of the general prosperity that the most striking growth in this department is in the sale of the high-class automobiles for which the company is agent.

Manager E. Stone of the grocery department has found that, in spite of all our increasing retail trade, due to the attractive display of a moderate stock of staple and fancy groceries, to establish a line and grocery department which is resulting a market for Little Red products from Cheyenne to Portland, Oregon.

The furniture department, under E. H. Wellies, has also shown a healthy growth. The floor space for the home-furnishing display has been increased over one-third and the inventory of every Little Red business are becoming more and more attractive thanks to this department of the big store.

While the material needs of the Valley Mercantile company's customers have not been overlooked, neither has the question of their entertainment. The lunch room, known, controlled by this company, has recently been placed under the management of C. A. Barnes of Missoula.

The Man Behind the Company.

The plan in the community held by the Valley Mercantile company could be attained only by personal effort. The following list of the officers of the company speaks for itself to any one familiar with the history of Hamilton: W. G. Fish, president and manager; F. J. Shannon, vice president; W. W. Erdinger, secretary-treasurer; Harry Dopfer, F. J. Shannon, W. G. Fish, directors.

HE'S NOT A BOOSTER

John H. Shannon came to the Little Red valley from Montreal, Canada. He and other French Canadian moved families to the development district, then considered the civilian part of the valley. When they had been here and prospered over 30000. Father



JOHN H. SHANNON

Harry mentioned to their spiritual and physical needs. As long as there was plenty of range for their cattle and they could reach in the most all way, they were content. Mr. Shannon has given much of his time a big hand and interest from across the

know-how the rapid development of the valley from the old generation. The valley seems to be getting "too crowded." "I'm no booster," Mr. Shannon declared the other day. "I have these new Indians and make a living in this part of the ground—close and very crowded. But I don't like it. I like the big ranch and the big range. Don't talk to me about new methods and such stuff. I like the old way. I don't make a mistake. I do, and I don't get finished and plenty of money on interest. And they talk about the boys being the best. Haven't I been here forty or more years? And haven't I raised the biggest and best apples, the biggest hay crops, the biggest of wild and 10 bushes of small in the area, and my land all better than?"

"These new people want new roads every day, and school houses and new churches. But then, this is the best valley in the world, such rich soil, such beautiful scenery, and the fine climate. I love it, as I wouldn't ever started here so long. I wouldn't see anywhere else."



H. A. STEWART
President Hamilton Mercantile

This is the section relevant to us. "Harry" Dopfer is named as the head of the dry goods department.

The Various Departments.

The clothing departments were consolidated early this season in the building occupied by the **Valley** Clothing company. Here under one roof is found one of the most complete stocks of clothing and gentlemen's furnishings in Montana. Nothing has been overlooked from evening dress to the sturdy working man's overalls, and under the efficient management of Leighton Stewart this department will certainly continue its remarkable growth.

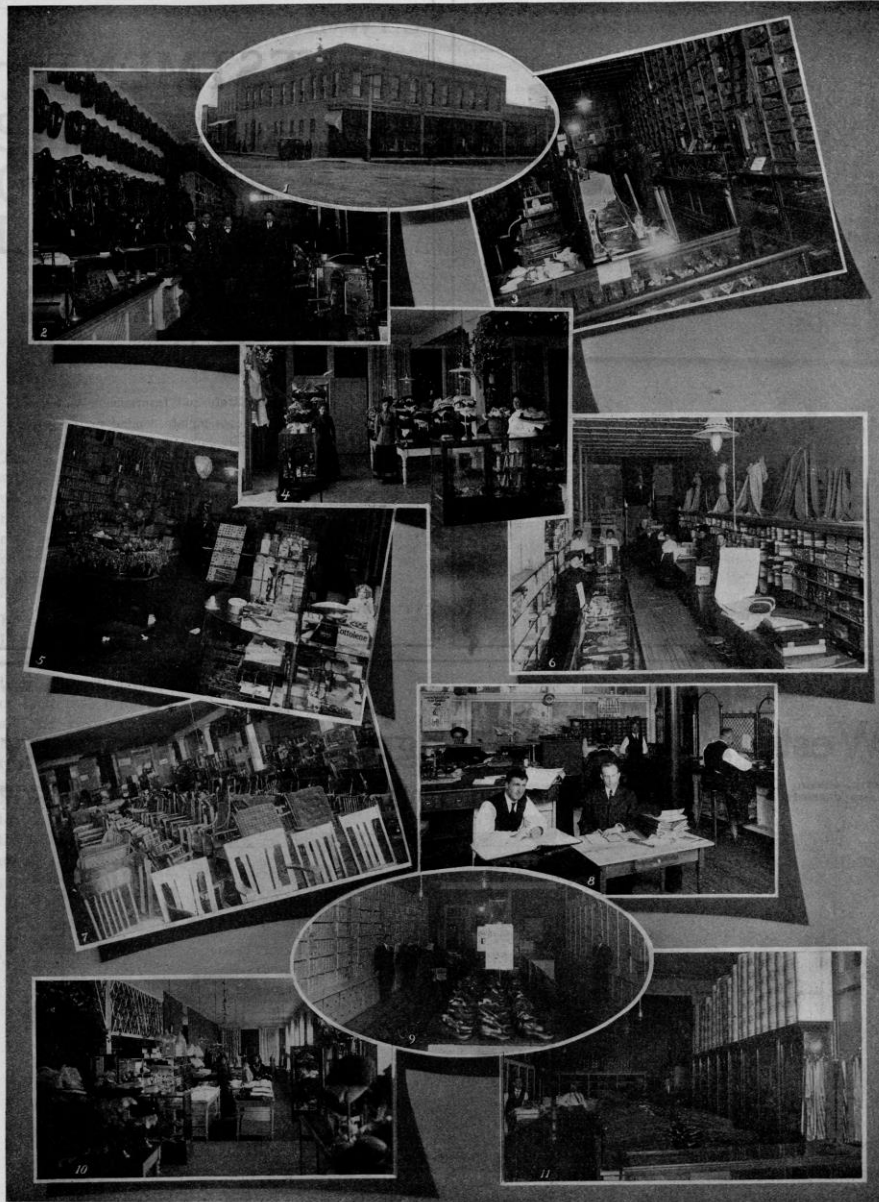
The shoe department has acquired much needed space by the change and the stock has been greatly enlarged until it is now most tastefully displayed in an entire store building. Charles Butterfield, who has been in charge of this department during the improvement, has done a great deal to build up the reputation of the various complete lines of footwear carried by the **Valley Mercantile** company.

The drygoods department, in charge of Harry Dopfer, has doubled its stock during the past year, necessitating the establishment of a separate ready-made suit department on the second floor, under the management of Miss Helen Lockwood.

The millinery department, enlarged and remodeled, has recently been put under the management of Miss Robinson, who comes to Hamilton with an enviable reputation for displaying artistic millinery.

The hardware department has grown remarkably with the building activity in and about Hamilton, and Manager H. A. Stewart is justly proud of the

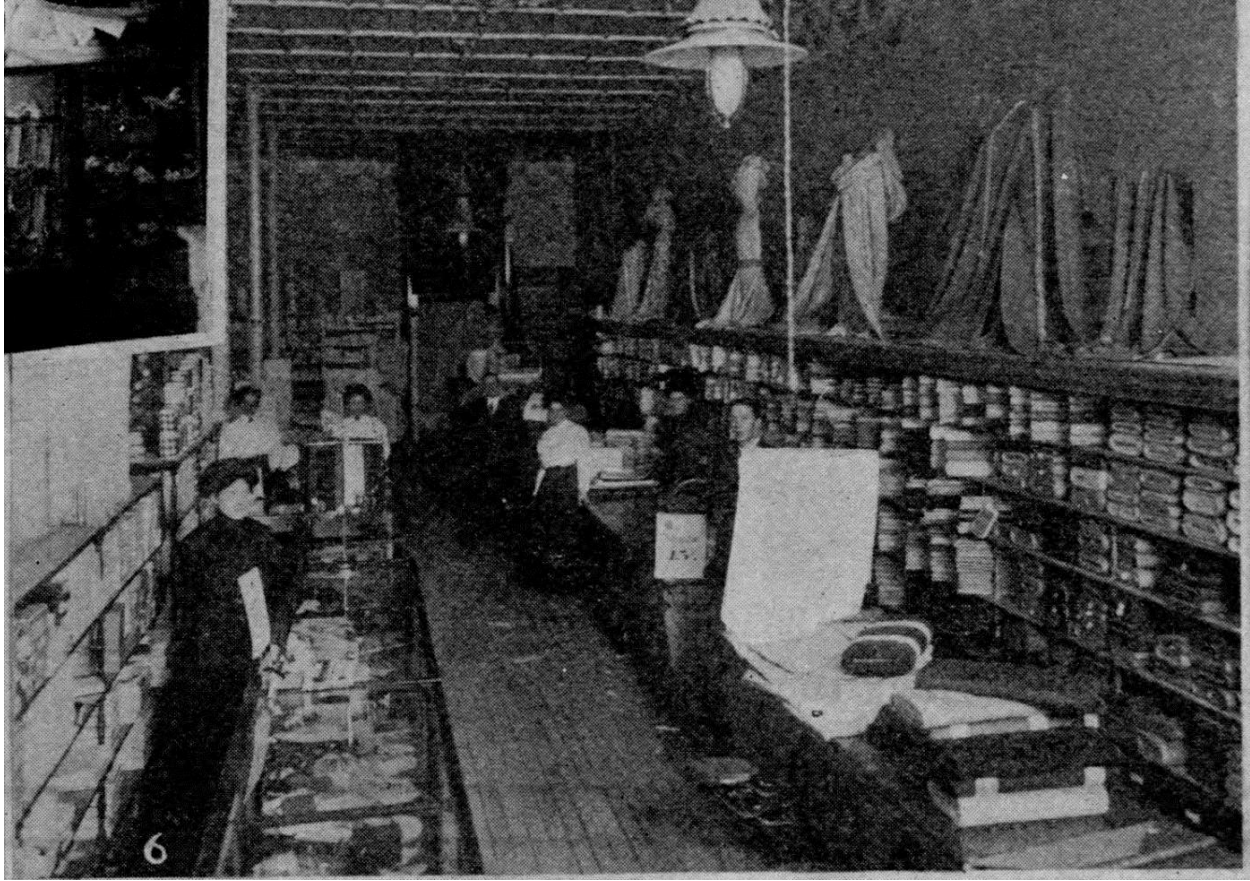
This is a full-page ad for The Valley Mercantile Company Department Store, from 01 May 1910. It contains photos of the stores departments. I believe Henry Dopfer is likely pictured in the Dry Goods photo, marked with an arrow.²⁹



The Valley Mercantile Company Department Store, Hamilton, Mont.

"The Big Store With Little Prices."

1. STORE BUILDING. 2. HARNESS AND MACHINERY DEPARTMENT. 3. HARDWARE DEPARTMENT. 4. SECTION OF MILLINERY DEPARTMENT. 5. GROCERY DEPARTMENT. 6. DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT. 7. FURNITURE DEPARTMENT. 8. GENERAL OFFICE. 9. SHOE DEPARTMENT. 10. CLOAK AND SUIT DEPARTMENT. 11. GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.



An up-close view of the photo in the Valley Mercantile ad.

In 1910, the Valley Mercantile burned. This article from the Daily Missoulian, October 22, 1910, describes the fire and the devastation afterwards. ³⁰

BITTER ROOT'S METROPOLIS SUFFERS GREAT FIRE LOSS

Building, Stock and Fixtures of Valley Mercantile Company Are Ruined.

DAMAGE AMOUNTS TO QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS

Blaze of Unknown Origin Discovered Above Boiler and Soon Bursts Through Roof--Is Soon Got Under Control by City and Company Fire Departments--Missoula Offers Assistance.

Hamilton, Oct. 21.—(Special.)—Fire completely gutted the large store of the Valley Mercantile company this morning, and for a time it was feared that most of the business portion of the city, including several new blocks, would be reduced to a mass of wreckage. By prompt action on the part of the fire department and many willing hands outside of the department, the fire was confined to the company's building, and was finally controlled, but not until the entire second floor had been consumed by the flames.

Origin Unknown.

The origin of the fire is not positively known, although its center seemed to be above the three large boilers that heat the building and other business houses of the city. Some people advance the theory that the fire was caused by combustion of dust above the boilers. When discovered the flames were roaring up the elevator shaft to the rear of the grocery department, and had spread to the rear of the furniture department on the second floor.

The blaze was discovered by Night Watchman Frank Cothrell at about 7 o'clock, and he at once notified J. J. Grush and L. L. Leonard, who rushed to the city hall and gave the alarm. The fire departments of the city and the Anaconda Copper Mining company were promptly on hand and soon one of the fiercest fights ever waged against flames in this city was on.

Soon the streets were crowded with most of the city's population, every one feeling that the entire business section was doomed. The entire absence of wind assisted materially in the efforts of the firemen.

Difficult to Locate.

When the department arrived the entire interior of the dry goods, shoe, hardware, grocery and implement departments were thick with smoke, it being difficult to locate the fire. At that time the flames had not shown themselves above the roof, but soon burst above the building, and heavy clouds of smoke, that were easily seen in all the cities of the valley, rolled to the skies. As the windows were broken to get the hose into the second floor, the flames burst from the openings. When the center of the fire was located, several streams of water were soon plying on the flames. Every available foot of hose was connected

with hydrants, and the pump at the mill provided all the extra pressure possible. By 9 o'clock the fire was well controlled and all anxiety in regard to the spreading of the flames was at an end.

Records Saved.

All of the buggies, implements and automobile fixtures were removed to the company's warehouses as soon as the fire was discovered, the blaze not spreading to that department, as the second story extends only so far as that part of the building. All of the records, books, typewriters and office equipment were removed by the clerks upon their arrival. The rest of the large stock was either consumed by flames or rendered worthless by water. The clothing department of the store is in a separate building under the opera house, so was not damaged in the least.

A trip through the interior of the building this afternoon reveals a waste of destruction and a mass of wreckage strewn over a floor several inches deep with water. On the second floor the furniture, carpet, millinery and cloak and suit departments are total wrecks. A large part of the stock is burnt and blackened by fire and presents a sorry spectacle. Costly furniture is burnt to a crisp; carpets partly burned and soaked with charcoal and water. The sunlight streams into the wreckage and debris, as most of the roof of the large building has disappeared. Shattered timbers and sheets of tin hang over the waste, making a complex mass of what was once one of the finest stocks of goods in western Montana.

Damage Is Great.

On the first floor the flames have done but little damage, but everything is ruined by the water, which soaked in streams through the ceiling. The rear of the grocery department suffered some from the flames, which ate their way from the elevator shaft.

All of the walls of the building are intact, but present a blackened appearance, most of the window frames of the second floor being badly burned.

W. O. Fisk, manager of the store, stated this noon that the damage to the building and the heavy stock would amount to \$250,000. The loss is partly covered by insurance that aggregates

(Continued on Page Three.)

BITTER ROOT CITY SUFFERS BY FIRE

(Continued From Page One.)

\$175,000. Estimates of the damages at this time are unreliable, the total damage possibly being of greater extent.

The residents of Hamilton feel much gratified over the splendid response made by the people of Missoula when an appeal for help was sent them early this morning. The Missoula Chamber of Commerce responded promptly to Secretary Ode's call for assistance, and another call received prompt response from Mayor Logan. It was soon learned that a special train had left Missoula for Hamilton with fire equipment and assistance. As soon as the great danger was passed the train was stopped at Stevensville.

Manager Fisk stated this afternoon that the company would immediately open its offices in the Bitter Root Stock Farm office. As soon as possible a large force of men will be put at work clearing away the wreckage and getting things in shape for the repair work.

The large stock is the property of the Daly estate, having passed, little more than a year ago, into their hands, the Anaconda Copper Mining company then being in charge of the business. W. O. Fisk has been at the head of the store since its management was assumed by the estate.

Missoula Sends Aid.

Missoula did her best in offering to assist Hamilton in the fire situation, and the fire department was speeding on its way to the valley town when word was flashed along the line that the fire was under control and that extra equipment was not needed.

The word was received by Chief Fox at 7:30 o'clock and within 20 minutes the fire engine and 1,200 feet of hose were on the freight depot platform ready to be loaded on a car. Mayor Logan had asked the railway company for a special car and engine, but this was not furnished until more than an hour later, and the special, consisting of one car, an engine and a caboose, did not get away until after the passenger train. When once on the move, however, it made good time and overtook the passenger train at Stevensville. Here, however, the word was received that the fire was under control at Hamilton and that the Missoula fighting apparatus and force would not be needed. The special then returned to Missoula.

Harold Dopfer married Edith Ross of Missoula, Montana on 29 Sept 1916 in Helena, Montana. Note that Harold is now living in Missoula, Montana. I believe it is likely that the fire in 1910 precipitated a move for the entire family.

NO. 7503

MARRIAGE LICENSE

STATE OF MONTANA, COUNTY OF LEWIS AND CLARK

To Any Person Authorized to Solemnize Marriages, Greeting:

You are hereby authorized to join in lawful wedlock and to celebrate within this County the rites and ceremonies of marriage

between Harold Dopfer, of Missoula, Montana

Aged 21 years, 3 months, 2 days, Color white

Born at Vinton, Iowa Not Previously married

Son of Henry Dopfer His mother's maiden name was Edith F. Bell

And Edith Ross of Missoula, Montana

Aged 21 years, 3 months, 2 days, Color white

Born at Harre, Montana Not Previously married

Daughter of Edith M. C. Ross Her mother's maiden name was Emma Rodgers

and this shall be your good and sufficient warrant therefor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal, this 29th

day of September A. D. 1916

(SEAL) ✓

J. L. Reece Clerk.

By Geo. E. Bayha Deputy.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MONTANA, }
COUNTY OF LEWIS AND CLARK. } ss.

This certifies that the undersigned, an ordained minister
did on the 29th day of Sept A. D. 1916 at Helena, Mont.

join in lawful wedlock Harold Dopfer and Edith Ross

with their mutual consent, in the presence of Margaret Hodge and Maybelle Nye

ATTEST: Leafy M. Reece witnesses.

Margaret Hodge }
Maybelle Nye } Witnesses.

Witness my hand this 29th day of September 1916

Robert C. Edgington Officiating.

Filed for record Oct. 7th A. D. 1916

J. L. Reece Clerk.

By Geo. E. Bayha Deputy.

The reason for Harold's marriage was a daughter, born 12 Jul 1916! ³¹

U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

Name: Geraldine M Lawr
[Geraldine M Dopfer]
Gender: Female
Race: White
Birth Date: 12 Jul 1916
Birth Place: Missoula Mis, Montana
Death Date: 9 Aug 2004
Father: Harold Dopfer
Mother: Edith Ross
SSN: 545214816
Notes: 14 Apr 1972: Name listed as GERALDINE M LAWR

According to the Social Security Death Index, Geraldine died in California 9 Aug 2004. ³²

Harold's marriage did not last long. When Harold registered for the WWI Draft 5 June 1918, his nearest relative is his mother, not his wife. We can also see from this document the physical calamity that had struck Harold. He had lost two fingers on his left hand. This disqualified him for military service.

Serial No. 139

Registration No. 96

1	Name in full	<u>Harold Dopfer</u>	Age, in yrs.	<u>21</u>
		(Given name) (Family name)		
2	Home address	<u>413 E. Spruce</u>	<u>Missoula</u>	<u>Mont.</u>
		(No.) (Street) (City or town) (State)		
3	Date of birth	<u>June</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1896.</u>
		(Month) (Day) (Year)		
4	Where were you born?	<u>Vinton</u>	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>U.S.A.</u>
		(City or town) (State) (Nation)		
5	I am	1. A native of the United States. 2. A naturalized citizen. 3. An alien. 4. I have declared my intention. 5. A noncitizen or citizen Indian. (Strike out lines or words not applicable)		
6	If not a citizen, of what Nation are you a citizen or subject?			
7	Father's birthplace	<u>Keopler</u>	<u>Ontario</u>	<u>Canada</u>
		(City or town) (State or province) (Nation)		
8	Name of employer	<u>A. P. R. R.</u>		
	Place of employment	<u>Missoula</u>	<u>Mont.</u>	
		(No.) (Street) (City or town) (State)		
9	Name of nearest relative	<u>Edith Emma Dopfer</u>		
	Address of nearest relative	<u>413 E. Spruce</u>	<u>Missoula</u>	<u>Mont.</u>
		(No.) (Street) (City or town) (State or Nation)		
10	Race—White, Black , Indian , or Oriental (Strike out words not applicable)			

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Harold Dopfer
(Signature or Mark of Registrant.)

P. M. G. O.
Form 1 (blue)

REGISTRATION CARD.

5-5739

If person is of African descent, tear off this corner.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1	Tall Medium Short	(Strike out words not applicable)	Slender Medium Short	
2	Color of eyes	<i>Brown</i>	Color of hair	<i>Dr. Brown</i>
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he palpably physically disqualified (specify)?			
	<i>Lost - 2 fingers on left hand.</i>			

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read his own answers that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge, are true, except as follows:

Laurelia McAllister
(Signature of Registrar.)

June 5 - 1918
(Date of Registration.)

LOCAL BOARD FOR THE
COUNTY OF MISSOULA
STATE OF MONTANA.

(Stamp of Local Board.)

(The stamp of the local board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

CLERK
JUN 11 1918
D. D. M. J.
COUNTY CLERK

5-579

In the 1920 census in Missoula, Montana, Harold is listed as divorced, living with his parents, and working as a railroad mechanic. Mechanics may have been his first employment. Interestingly, on this census his father is now using the name Harry, which is how he was referred to in the Western News article.³³

1920 United States Federal Census

Name:	Herold Dopfer
Age:	23
Birth Year:	abt 1897
Birthplace:	Iowa
Home in 1920:	Missoula, Missoula, Montana
Street:	East Spruce
Residence Date:	1920
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Relation to Head of House:	Son
Marital status:	Divorced
Father's name:	Harry Dopfer
Father's Birthplace:	Canada
Mother's name:	Edith Dopfer
Mother's Birthplace:	India [Indiana]
Able to Speak English:	Yes
Occupation:	Machinst
Industry:	Railroad
Employment Field:	Wage or Salary
Able to Read:	Yes
Able to Write:	Yes
Neighbors:	

Household Members:	
Name	Age
Harry Dopfer	51
Edith Dopfer	49
Herold Dopfer	23
Sarah Dopfer	20

By 1929, Harold had begun to further his education. According to the U.S. City Directory for Missoula, Montana, Harold was a student at the University of Montana. He still lived with his parents.³⁴

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 135 N Higgins av
Donovan's Bakery (Michl A Donovan) 204 S 3d W
Donovan's Bakery (Michl A Donovan, Mrs Jeanette H Ray)
 402 Woody
Dool Chas A (Charlotte E; Buster Brown Shoe Store) h234
 McLeod av
Dooley Ralph E (Honora) sausagemkr J R Daily Co h502 N
 5th W
Doores Helen M opr Mtn States Tel & Teleg Co r1526 S
 5th W
Doores Howard R carp r1526 S 5th av
Doores Levin A bldg contr 1526 S 5th W r do
Dopher Harold student U of M r228 E Spruce
Dopher Henry (Edith) clk M M Co h228 E Spruce
Doracil John lab r224 S 1st E
D'Orazi Albert clk Giovanni D'Orazia r716 W Pine
D'Orazi Giovanni (Rosa) agt Cunard Steamship Co Ltd gro
 546 Woody h716 W Pine
D'Orazi Helen E bkpr Giovanni D'Orazia r716 W Pine
D'Orazi Jos F student U of M r716 W Pine
Dore Lee F aged 33 died Nov 25 1928
Dore M Glaydis (wid Lee F) h1026 Cooper
Dorian Studio (Ace E Woods) photogs 509 Smead-Simons
 bldg
Dorman Chas F sismn M M Co r Elks Temple
Dorothy Apartments 133 Alder
Dorsey S Thos (Jamsie) porter H O Bell Co h817 Wolf av
Dorval Celinda Mrs age 66 died Aug 18 1928
Dorval John lab Missoula White Pine Sash Co r1619 Phil-
 lips
Dotson Everett E driver Bitter Root Trans Line h726 W
 Broadway
Dotson Jos L r726 W Broadway
Dotter Oscar student U of M r107 S 3d W
Doucett Frank (Zoe) furn rms 317 Woody h do
Douds Al r Palace Hotel
Dougherty Thos F (Jennie) ins h715 Beckwith av
Douglass Dorothy F student U of M r908 Vine
Douglass Wm E (Dorothy) eng h908 Vine
Dove Marjorie student U of M r Corbin Hall
Dove Virginia student U of M r643 Beckwith av
Dow Bernice r317 Woody
Dow Chas L (Ethel E) chf airmn h1215 Bulwer
Dowd John J (Emily G) asst cash NPRyCo h1234 Philip
Dowin Max cook r411 W Alder
Downing John E (Bethana L) lab NPRy h521 S 1st W
Downing Ralph W (Hermina) constable W H Jones h624
 Phillips
Downs F Roy (Marie A) mtrmn Missoula Public Service Co h
 1661 S 7th W

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On the census in 1930 in Missoula, Harold is still working as a mechanic, this time on cars, living with his parents. I assume he was working while attending school. His father is listed as a salesman in a dry goods store. From all available data, it appears Harold's mother never worked outside the home.³⁵

1930 United States Federal Census

Name:	Harold Dopher
Birth Year:	abt 1897
Gender:	Male
Race:	White
Birthplace:	Iowa
Marital status:	Single
Relation to Head of House:	Son
Home in 1930:	Missoula, Missoula, Montana, USA
Map of Home:	View Map
Street address:	East Spruce Street
Ward of City:	47
House Number:	228
Dwelling Number:	81
Family Number:	106
Attended School:	No
Able to Read and Write:	Yes
Father's Birthplace:	Canada
Mother's Birthplace:	Indiana
Able to Speak English:	Yes
Occupation:	Mechanic
Industry:	Auto repair
Class of Worker:	Wage or salary worker
Employment:	Yes
Household Members:	
Name	Age
Henry Dopher	61
E Edith Dopher	60
Harold Dopher	33

Harold's father Henry Dopher died 12 Apr 1930 in Missoula, Montana.³⁶ He is buried in the Missoula Cemetery, and his plot is Grave 4, Lot 14, Block 14A, Inter # 04700. This information comes from Findagrave.com.³⁷

On the 1940 census, Harold is still living with his widowed mother. His profession, however, has changed. He is listed as a teacher of drafting with the CCC. This was the Civilian Conservation Corps, a public work relief program that operated from 1933 to 1942 in the United States for unemployed, unmarried men. The program was started as a way to assist young men aged 17-25 find work during the Great Depression. So Harold was using his newly acquired drafting skills as a teacher.³⁸

Name:	Harold Dopher
Age:	43
Estimated birth year:	abt 1897
Gender:	Male
Race:	White

Birthplace:	Iowa
Marital status:	Divorced
Relation to Head of House:	Son
Home in 1940:	Missoula, Missoula, Montana
Map of Home in 1940:	View Map
Street:	S 5th East
Inferred Residence in 1935:	Missoula, Missoula, Montana
Residence in 1935:	Same House
Resident on farm in 1935:	No
Sheet Number:	1A
Occupation:	Teacher Of Drafting
Attended School or College:	No
Highest Grade Completed:	High School, 4th year
Hours Worked Week Prior to Census:	42
Class of Worker:	Wage or salary worker in Government work
Weeks Worked in 1939:	52
Income:	1700
Income Other Sources:	No
Neighbors:	
Household Members:	
Name	Age
Emma E Dopher	69
Harold Dopher_	43

Alberton CCC Camp Features •Drafting Work

Below appears another article of a Missoulian series on CCC facilities. Written by CCC officials, the articles reveal what this government program has to offer young men between the ages of 17 and 23.

A drafting department for CCC enrollees is maintained by the Forest Service at the camp of CCC company 1962 at Alberton. The department is not, as would be expected, a school or course in drafting. Enrollees are not students; they are apprentice draftsmen doing actual jobs which are sent from the regional office in Missoula. Work consists of a variety of subjects, among which are maps of recreational areas, timber surveys, platting government land office surveys, map mounting and other miscellaneous jobs.

Of course the average enrollee can not undertake items of such importance, and involving so much expense. Therefore volunteers are accepted from those youths who have shown interest and talent for such work. This type of work requires good eyesight and a steady hand.

Operations are under the immediate supervision of Harold Dopfer, a competent draftsman, who gives the on-the-job instruction to trainees and keeps everything functioning smoothly.

The present building, 20 by 120 feet, has a supply room, spray room, mounting room, lavatory facilities and the main office. A major part of the wall area is glass, thus providing sufficient light for close drafting work.

The building has a capacity of 20 desks, each of which has an adjust-

able lamp and a large drawer. Of course all the necessary paper, pencils, ink and other essentials are provided.

Special equipment in use includes several mechanical lettering paper cutters, alphabet manuals and other items designed to fill requirements of a draftsman.

A high percentage of trainees is made up of high school graduates, representing the highest type of American youth.

In 1944, I found Harold's mother Emma Edith applied for a delayed birth certificate from Iowa for Harold. I didn't understand why she would be applying for it until more information came to light. Why Harold suddenly needed his birth certificate at the age of 47 was a bit mysterious.

BIRTH OCCURRED

IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH—DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
BIRTH CERTIFICATE

161443

(Explanation)
In past years many birth records were not filed at the time of birth as provided by statute, due to the neglect of those charged with the duty of filing said record. This affidavit is provided to take care of such cases and may be executed by the attending physician, midwife, parent, nearest relative or other person having full knowledge of the facts of this birth. NOT ACCEPTABLE IF SIGNED BY THE PARTY FOR WHOM IT IS MADE.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Emma Edith Dopfer, being duly sworn, depose and say that I am 74 years of age; that I have known the person named herein for 47 years; that I reside at 118 S. 5th St. E., City of Missoula, State of Montana; that the answers given to the following questions are true and correct as I verify believe.

FULL NAME OF CHILD Harold Dopfer

PLACE OF BIRTH: STATE OF IOWA, COUNTY OF Benton CITY OF Vinton
TOWNSHIP OF _____ STREET Jefferson

Sex of Child	Twin, triplet, or other	Number in order of birth	Legitimate	Date of birth
<u>M</u>		<u>first</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>June 10, 1896</u>
	(To be answered only in event of plural births)			Month Day Year

Name of physicians, midwife, or other person attending at this birth Dr. J. P. Whitney

FATHER		MOTHER	
Full Name	<u>Henry Dopfer</u>	Full Maiden Name	<u>Emma Edith Bell</u>
Birthplace State or Country	<u>Neustedt, Ontario, Canada</u>	Birthplace State or Country	<u>Greensburg, Indiana</u>
Color	<u>W</u>	Color	<u>W</u>
Age at time of this birth	<u>28 Years</u>	Age at time of this birth	<u>26 Years</u>
Occupation at time of this birth	<u>Clark</u>	Occupation at time of this birth	<u>Housewife</u>

That the basis of my knowledge for answers given above is as follows Mother of applicant

(Sign Here) Emma Edith Dopfer Name Relationship Mother
STATE OF Montana Missoula COUNTY, SS.

On this 7 day of June, 1944, before me comes Emma Edith Dopfer and makes oath that the information given in this instrument subscribed by him is true and correct as he verily believes.

Robert C. Hilton
Notary Public in and for Montana
Residing at Missoula

My commission expires April 15, 1945
Do not write below these lines

Signature _____ Iowa County Registrar
OR
Signature G. E. Chauvelier (Acting Director Division of Vital Statistics)
Date JUN 8 1944 signed
Date JUN 8 1944 filed
Walter D. Diering M.D. (State Registrar)

By this point in Harold's story I had begun to wonder if he had ever remarried. But then I found a marriage record for him in 1944. He married Myrtle Powell. That explained the need for the birth certificate.

157

No. 4327 ✓

MARRIAGE LICENSE

STATE OF MONTANA, }
COUNTY OF MISSOULA. } ss.

TO ANY PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES—GREETING:

You are hereby authorized to join in lawful wedlock and celebrate within this County the rites and ceremonies of Marriage between

Harold Dopper a man whose color is white
whose residence is Missoula, Montana; whose age is 48 6/10/96 years.
Born at Vintage County of Benton and
State of Iowa, and who has and been previously married or divorced.

His Father's Christian and Surname is was Henry Dopper
His Mother's Christian and Maiden name was Emma Elvitt Bell
and Myrtle Powell a woman, whose color is white, whose residence
is Missoula, Montana; whose age is 47 11/2-196 years.
Born at Hummer, Ark. County of Home, Ark. and
State of Minnesota, and who has now widow been previously married or divorced.

Her Father's Christian and Surname is was Magcus Nelson
Her Mother's Christian and Maiden name was Mary Cook

Both parties being legally competent to enter into such contract of marriage. And this shall be your good and sufficient warrant therefor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal,

this 22nd day of June A. D. 1944
(SEAL) J. P. Donohoe Clerk District Court.
By Arthur S. Craddock Deputy.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MONTANA, }
COUNTY OF MISSOULA. } ss.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the undersigned, a minister
did, on the 22nd day of June A. D. 1944
at Missoula in the said County of Missoula, and State of Montana,
join in lawful wedlock Harold Dopper
and Myrtle Powell with their mutual consent.
In the presence of Mrs. G. J. Johnson and Frank S. Matthews Witnesses.

In the presence of
Mrs. G. J. Johnson }
and Frank S. Matthews } Witnesses.

WITNESS my hand this 22nd day of June, 1944
E. Gray Cameron
Minister

Filed for Record this 26th day of June, 1944, at 11:25 o'clock A. M.
J. P. Donohoe Clerk District Court.
By Arthur S. Craddock Deputy.

I also found their wedding announcement in the Missoulian on 25 Jun 1944.⁴⁰

Powell-Dopfer

At a service read Thursday, Mrs. Myrtle Powell and Harold Dopfer, popular members of the Forest Service personnel, were married by Rev. E. Ray Cameron at the parsonage of the First Presbyterian church.

Present at the wedding were Mr. Dopfer's mother, Mrs. Edith Dopfer, and his sister, Mrs. Sarah Osborne, of Washington, D. C., who recently arrived in the city to stay with her mother during the absence of her husband, who is in service overseas, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Matthews.

Mrs. Dopfer wore for her wedding a dark suit. Her corsage was of gardenias.

After a wedding trip to Seattle, Mr. and Mrs. Dopfer will make their home in Missoula. Mr. Dopfer has been in the engineering division of the Forest Service for a long period and Mrs. Dopfer is in the accounting division. She is transferring from the office that she holds at present to another in the same department.


I also found a record in the Missoula City Directory in 1945 which listed him with wife Myrtle. Harold is listed as a draftsman for the US Forest Service, and Myrtle is an accountant for them. I did not find Harold's mother Emma Edith in this Directory, although records confirm she was still living in 1945. ⁴¹

73

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 —Anna M Mrs clk Bishop Agency r632 S 4th W
 —Eileen G student MSU r New Hall
 —Florence E Mrs h129 Brooks
 —Lawrence H (Anna M) asst chf clk NPRy h632 S 4th W

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 Damaskos Geo A (Treba R) formn Florence Lndry Co h918 S 6th W
 D'Amboise Zephryn (Iola M) blksmith h1802 Missoula av
 Danaher Ruby clk Pacific Fruit & P Co r137 W Broadway
 Dandrea Domenico (Florence) railroad mn h933 S 1st W
 —Philip M pkr Missoula Drug Co r933 S 1st W
 Daniels Eug A (Vera I) oiler h255 Strand av
 —Harold R (Mamie) h408 W South av
 —Satter B (Mae) swtchmn NPRy h819 Rose av
 Danielson Jos C (Rose) carp h120 Strand av
 —Oliver B (Mildred E) parts mn Kraabel Chevrolet Co h423 W Broadway
 —Wallace R USN r120 Strand av
 Danklefs Chas P (Ruth C) whsemn Contl Oil Co h1736 S Higgins av
 Dannenbrock Geo H (Bessie J) carp h446 Edith
 —Lonnie USN r446 Edith
 Danon Danl (Betty) r430 N Higgins av
 Dansenier Rose Mrs waiter Gehring Cafe h131 Alder apt 9
 D'Aoust Cornelia (wid Jas) r628 S 2d W
 Dapher Harold (Myrtle P) drftsmn US Forest Service h317 E Front
 —Myrtle P acct US Forest Service r317 E Front
 Dare Rex W mgr Lee Oil Co h1830 Toole av
 Darling Eliz I r1300 Cooper
 Darlington Fred (Mary) h812 Cherry

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I discovered something really interesting in the Missoulian on 27 July 1946. Harold and Myrtle divorced!
42

Four Divorces Granted by Court Friday

One divorce was asked and four were granted in district court Friday when Judge Albert Besancon signed three orders for decrees and Judge C. E. Comer, one.

Myrtle Dopfer, complainant in an action against her husband, Harold Dopfer, charges that he has been guilty of causing her grievous mental suffering. The couple was married June 22, 1944. There are no children.

Judge Besancon signed decrees in the following cases: Helen B. Edwards against C. N. Edwards on

grounds of wilful neglect. The couple was married in June, 1940. The plaintiff was granted custody of their one child.

Anna Mae Montalvo against George Montalvo on a charge of extreme cruelty. Married at Hamilton, March 31, 1945, the couple has no children.

Ruth Eddington against James A. Eddington on grounds of wilful desertion. The couple was married at Ronan, May 8, 1941. There are no children.

Judge C. E. Comer granted the decree in the case of George Ackerman against Thetus A. Ackerman. The plaintiff's charge was grievous mental suffering. The couple was married April 27, 1945. There are no children.

FROM OVANDO

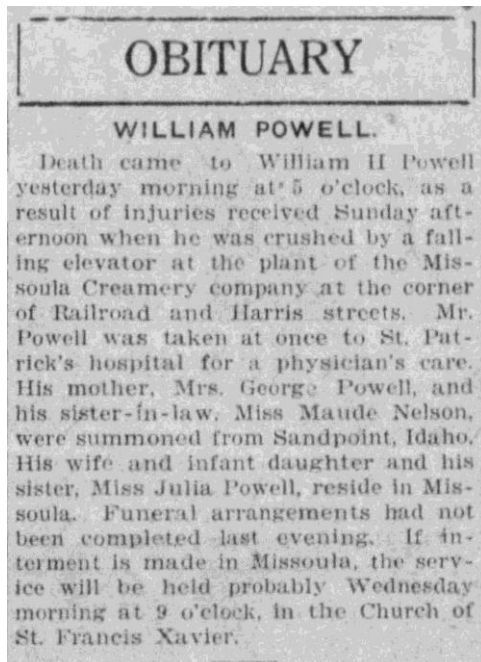
Claud Reinoehl of Ovando was a visitor here Friday.

Before I found the above divorce action, I had found a marriage recorded for Harold and Myrtle on 23 Nov 1949. So they divorced in 1946, but remarried in 1949. ⁴³

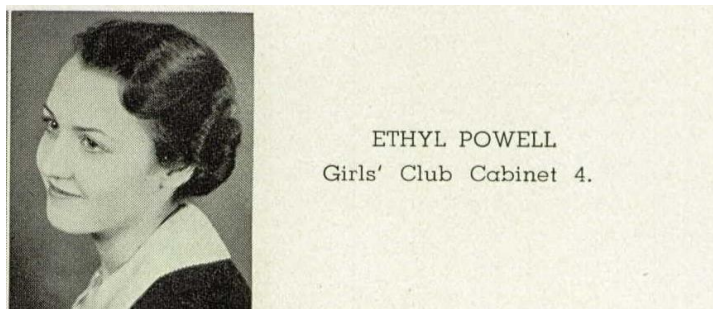
114		Index to Marriage Certificates.—Men.					
MEN MARRIED	TO WHOM MARRIED	When Married			BY WHOM MARRIED	Where Certificates are Recorded	
		Month	Day	Year		Book	Page
7819	Domier, G. J., Jr	Groom, Marjorie M.	Feb	28	1949	Arthur M. Woods	11 159
7823	Downhour, LeRoy	Downhour, Louise	Mar	1	1949	Arthur M. Woods	11 163
7865	Dietrich, Harry	Mole, Mattie L.	Apr	7	"	Arthur M. Woods	11 205
7869	Drake, O. M.	Smith, Winnie A.	"	8	"	Arthur M. Woods	11 209
7871	De Jonancour, Boyd	Shong, Audrey Louise	"	10	"	Lenis P. Meade	11 211
7912	Dunstan, Thomas H.	Minto, Joyce	May	15	"	E. Ray Cameron	11 252
7965	Dietert, Gerald A.	Caras, Ethel P.	June	12	"	Walter B. Spaulding	11 308
7987	Duma, Jack M.	Kentoph, Marjorie K.	"	13	"	E. W. Zeisemer	11 327
7992	Doney, Marvin J.	Houle, Maxine V.	"	15	"	Walter B. Spaulding	11 332
8013	Darrow, George	Barnes, Dorothy J.	"	26	"	Wallace G. Smith	11 353
7986	Daniels, Carlee E.	Moore, Esther Roberta	"	28	"	Robert E. Minna	11 326
8048	Lillon, Thomas Joseph	Fleming, Dorothy Annetta	July	9	1949	J. B. Plummer	11 388
8087	Hearing, Ray	Proebstel, Virginia	Aug	4	"	C. E. Smith	11 427
8106	Hefling, John E.	Stedes, Alva J.	Aug	20	1949	Lucy L. Barnes	11 446
8145	Doty, Jack Homer	Gillespie, Helen P.	Sept.	3	1949	Thomas J. Bennett	11 485
8129	Day, John Dwight	Voe, Rose Seret	"	3	"	M. J. McPike	11 469
8159	Doffine, Jack L.	Chilote, Elsie Marie	"	11	"	M. J. McPike	11 499
8171	Ducich, Alex C.	McCarthy, Dorothy H.	"	12	"	E. W. Zeisemer	12 11
8156	Davidson, Amos M.	Corrigan, Gladys	"	8	"	M. J. Wilcox	11 496
8157	Delano, John L.	Shallenburger, Katherine L.	"	10	"	Thomas W. Bennett	11 497
8188	Disney, Donald J.	Haskard, Joyce M.	"	24	"	Thomas J. Fenlon	12 28
8196	Donah, Lewis W.	Moreland, Helen A.	"	24	"	C. E. Comer	12 36
8219	Dennison, Norman L.	Manje, Shirley C.	Oct	8	"	Thomas Fenlon	12 59
8270	Dechaw, Francis	Day, Emma	Nov	9	"	G. W. Zeisemer	12 110
8285	Doty, Robert E.	Rosa, Ramona	"	19	"	M. J. McPike	12 125
8299	Doffer, Harold	Powell, Myrtle M.	"	23	"	Geo. Hambridge	12 139
8338	Dorval, John	Sheffer, Naisa	Dec	29	"	Raymond L. Hartling	12 176



In the 1920 census, Myrtle, just 23 years old, was listed as widowed with a newborn baby, living with her father, Magnus Nelson, in Kootenai, Idaho.⁴⁴ Her husband was killed in an accident on 6 Jul 1919, having been home from the Army for a couple of months at most.⁴⁵ He left Missoula for his Army service on 26 Apr 1918, and was reported in the Missoulian as home from service in June of 1919.⁴⁶



When Harold married Myrtle, she already had a daughter, Ethyl Mae. Harold got to be a step-dad. I found a photo of Ethyl, age 16, from her Missoula County High School yearbook in 1936.⁴⁷ She is very pretty. If she looks like her mother, Harold was a lucky guy!



Ethyl Mae married Harold Hanson in 1944.⁴⁸

Former Missoula Couple United At Lutheran Rites In Washington, D. C., Sunday

Ensign Ethylmae Powell of the WAVES, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dopfer, 317 East Front street, and Captain Harold Hanson, Army air forces, son of Mrs. Ida Hanson of 242 South Fourth street, west, were united in marriage at a ceremony solemnized by Rev. J. Luther Frantz in the Luther Memorial Place church, Washington, D. C., at 2 o'clock last Sunday afternoon.

The attendants were Ensign Nancy McCroskey of the WAVES and Captain Jack Marsh, and all members of the bridal party were in uniform.

A wedding dinner for the principals and a few intimate friends was served immediately after the church service at De Monets, in Washington. The bride cut a tiered wedding cake which was topped with a miniature officer and WAVE.

The newlyweds went by plane to Philadelphia, Pa., for a brief honeymoon before returning to their respective duties.

The romance of the young couple began while both were students at Montana State University, from

which they were graduated in 1940. After her graduation, the bride, a member of Delta Gamma sorority, had one year at the Prince school, a retail store service school which is a branch of Simmons college in Boston, Mass. Prior to her enlistment in April, 1944, she was with the training division of the personnel department of the J. L. Hudson company, Detroit, Mich. At present she is in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, D. C.

The groom was with the Commercial Credit association in Butte before entering the service. He is a member of Sigma Nu social fraternity. A veteran of three invasions in the European theater, Captain Hanson now is stationed at Fort Belvoir out of Washington, D. C.

One of the guests at the wedding was Corporal B. N. Garnaas, Captain Hanson's brother-in-law, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Garnaas of 731 East Beckwith avenue. He is stationed at Camp George G. Meade, Md. Also present was Ensign Harold Garnaas, who is stationed at Jacksonville, Fla.

Ethylmae, as she is named in the wedding announcement, was a WAVE in WWII.

The United States Naval Reserve (Women's Reserve), better known as the WAVES (for Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), was the women's branch of the United States Naval Reserve during World War II. It was established on July 21, 1942 by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on July 30.⁴⁹

Ethylmae had three children, Harold's step-grandchildren.

Harold's mother, Edith Emma Dopfer, died in Missoula, Montana on 6 Nov 1948. She is buried in the Missoula Cemetery where her husband is also interred. Her plot is with his, Grave 3, Lot 14, Block 14A, Inter # 08907.⁵⁰



On 14 May 1950, one of Harold's grandchildren made the Missoulian. While staying with Harold and Myrtle, Gary Hanson was struck by a car while crossing the street.⁵¹

4-Year-Old Struck By Auto

Gary Hanson, 4-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Hanson, 540 East Central avenue, was seriously injured Saturday afternoon when a car driven by Ross R. Zeller, 22, of Choteau, hit him as he was carrying an ice cream cone across South Higgins avenue.

The boy was rushed to St. Patrick's hospital, where a physician who treated him said he had received compound fractures of the skull and a fracture of the right leg.

Meanwhile relatives got in touch with his parents who were in Sidney attending a meeting of the executive committee of the Montana State University Alumni association. They were reported en route home late Saturday night. The boy's mother was Ethel Powell until her marriage.

Mr. Zeller volunteered to take a blood test for traces of alcohol. He said after the accident that he is in Missoula to visit his mother. He was driving north on South Higgins avenue en route to a flower shop when the boy darted out of traffic on the west side of the street. "I hit the brakes as soon as I saw him but it was too late," Zeller said outside a dressing room where he joined the boy's relatives in awaiting word on the child's condition.

Traffic Sergeant Dan L. Rice, in charge of investigation of the accident, said Gary, carrying an ice cream cone, was on his way across the street to where his grandfather, Harold Dopfer, 410 Strand avenue, was waiting for him in a car. The boy had just gotten the ice cream at a stand at the intersection of Beverly avenue with South Higgins and was about 100 feet north of the intersection when he was hit. Eyewitnesses said he was thrown 12 to 15 feet and the ice cream was splattered on the pavement. The boy had been staying with his grandparents while his parents were away and his grandfather had taken him out to get ice cream.

After the accident Sergeant Rice took the sedan that had hit the child to a garage for a brake check.

Mr. Zeller has two eyewitnesses to corroborate his story that the boy darted ahead of his car. Sergeant

(Continued on Page 7, Column 1)

4-Year-Old Boy Struck by Auto

(Continued From Page One)

Rice quoted James Bell, South hall, as saying he was driving south on the avenue and had to stop for the child as he ran across the street. Bell estimated the boy was thrown about 15 feet, Sergeant Rice said.

The other eyewitness was Dan Hagen, 1434 Gerald avenue, whose car was parked in a waiting line to the ice cream stand. He said he saw the boy come between cars and start to his grandfather's car. The grandfather was taken to his home after the accident, suffering from shock, witnesses said.

Mr. Zeller is employed at Choteau as an aircraft mechanic. He estimated he was traveling 20 miles per hour when he saw the boy. He awaited arrival of officers, police said.

Officers Investigate South Higgins Accident



Missoulian-Sentinel Photo

Sergeant Dan L. Rice and Highway Patrolman Con McClurg, Jr., (center) are shown conducting an investigation at the scene of an accident in which Gary Hanson, 4, was seriously injured Saturday about 3:45 p. m. Ross R. Zeller, 22, Choteau, driver of the car that hit the child, is at right. Beside his car, in the center of the photograph, is a splattering of ice cream, dumped on the pavement when an ice cream cone the boy was carrying jolted from his hand. The officers were occupied with taking measurements with tapes to insure full details of the accident.

Sadly, it seems as though Gary's mother placed some blame for the accident on Harold. ⁵²

Hanson Boy Is Reported Satisfactory

Four-year-old Gary Hanson was in "satisfactory" condition at St. Patrick's hospital Tuesday night following his near-fatal brush with a car on South Higgins avenue Saturday.

Hospital attendant said the youngster was progressing "very well" and that X-ray reports were "favorable." He suffered skull fractures and a broken right leg when he was hit by an auto driven by Ross R. Zeller, 22, of Choteau.

Gary's mother, Mrs. Harold A. Hanson, 540 East Central avenue, pointed out that the accident might never have happened if the child hadn't been so eager to return 5 cents in change to his grandfather.

She said her father, Harold Dopfer, 410 Strand avenue, had taken the boy to visit a cousin, Donna, who lives only a few houses from an ice cream stand. When he left the children to go downtown, Mr. Dopfer gave Gary 25 cents to buy ice cream for himself and Donna.

"If he hadn't given Gary a quarter, it might never have happened," Mrs. Hanson said. She explained that Mr. Dopfer drove along slowly while the children bought their ice cream. After seeing that they were all right, he began to drive downtown along the opposite side of the avenue, not expecting Gary to return to the car. At that time, Gary suddenly ran across the street to give the 5 cents change to his grandfather.

He was struck midway across the avenue. Mr. Zeller, who was driving north, said he "didn't see the boy until it was too late."

Little Gary must have recovered pretty well, as on 1 Dec 1950 he received a Golden Arrow award in Cub Scouts.⁵³

Cub Scouts Have Four-Skit Program

Thompson Falls.—At the monthly Cub Scout pack meeting at the school lunchroom Wednesday evening each of the four dens under the master of ceremonies, Den Dad Roy Hanson, presented a skit which consisted of a boxing match, two quiz programs and a cowboy number.

Paul O'Hare, school superintendent, as Cub master, conducted a ceremony on presentation of Bobcat pins to John Howe, George LaPriniere, Jeff Wollaston, Jon Babcock, Arden Davis, Terry Varner, Richard Weeks, John Muster and Wally Page. Wolf pins were presented to Kim Roberts and Gary Hanson. The Gold Arrow award was presented to Gary Hanson. Following the program, lunch was served to the 60 people present, 26 were parents.

In 1954, Harold and Myrtle were living at 220 Strand Ave. in Missoula. Myrtle is listed in the Missoulian being admitted to the hospital on January 8th, and her address is given.⁵⁴



220 Strand Ave., Hamilton, Montana, circa 2019

Harold retired from the Forest Service on 30 June 1962.⁵⁵

Dopfer Retiring After 36 Years In Forest Service

Harold Dopfer, cartographic draftsman with the Forest Service, will retire June 30, Boyd L. Rasmussen, regional forester, announced Saturday.

A Forest Service employe for more than 36 years, Dopfer has been on the staff of the division of engineering at Missoula since September 1938.

Prior to his work with the Forest Service, he attended Montana State University School of Forestry and worked with the Bureau of Public Roads.

In May of 1960, Dopfer received an honor award from the Forest Service for a map index procedure suggestion.

Dopfer and his wife will continue to make their home at 220 Strand Ave. Mrs. Dopfer retired from the Forest Service in 1958.

The next record I found for Harold was his death on 23 Jan 1973.⁵⁶ I expected to find him buried in the same cemetery where his parent were buried, but did not.

Name: Harold Dopfer
Age: 76
Birth Year: abt 1897
Death Date: 23 Jan 1973
Death Place: Missoula, Missoula, Montana, USA

According to his obituary, Harold was cremated.

Harold Dopfer

Harold Dopfer, 76, 220 Strand Ave., died Tuesday evening at his home. He was born June 10, 1896 in Vinton, Iowa and came to Missoula as a child.

Dopfer graduated from high school and attended the University of Montana. He had worked for the Missoula County Highway Department and in 1935 began working as a draftsman in the engineering department of the Forest Service. Dopfer married Myrtle Powell in 1944. He retired in June 1962.

He was a member of BPOE Hellgate Lodge 383.

In addition to his wife he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Walt (Geraldine) Lawr, San Diego; a sister, Mrs. Sarah Osborne, Santa Rosa, Calif.; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Harold Hanson, Portland, and three step-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Livingston & Malletta Chapel with the Rev. Fred G. Ranlett officiating. The body will be sent to Spokane for cremation.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Yellowstone Boys Ranch Billings, or Missoula Community Hospital.

Harold's wife Myrtle died 30 Oct 1984. She is buried in the Missoula Cemetery. Her plot is BLOCK 15 - Row C - GRAVE #7 - Old Saint Mary.



Strangely, from the information on Findagrave.com, it appears Myrtle is buried next to her first husband, William Harold Powell, who died 7 Jul 1919.

Geraldine Dopfer, Harold's daughter from his first wife, died in California, 2 Aug 2004.⁵⁷

U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014

Name: Geraldine M. Lawr
SSN: 545-21-4816
Last Residence: 92126 San Diego, San Diego, California, USA
Born: 12 Jul 1916
Died: 9 Aug 2004
State (Year) SSN issued: California (1973)

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