

Central Montana

DOWN THROUGH

THE YEARS



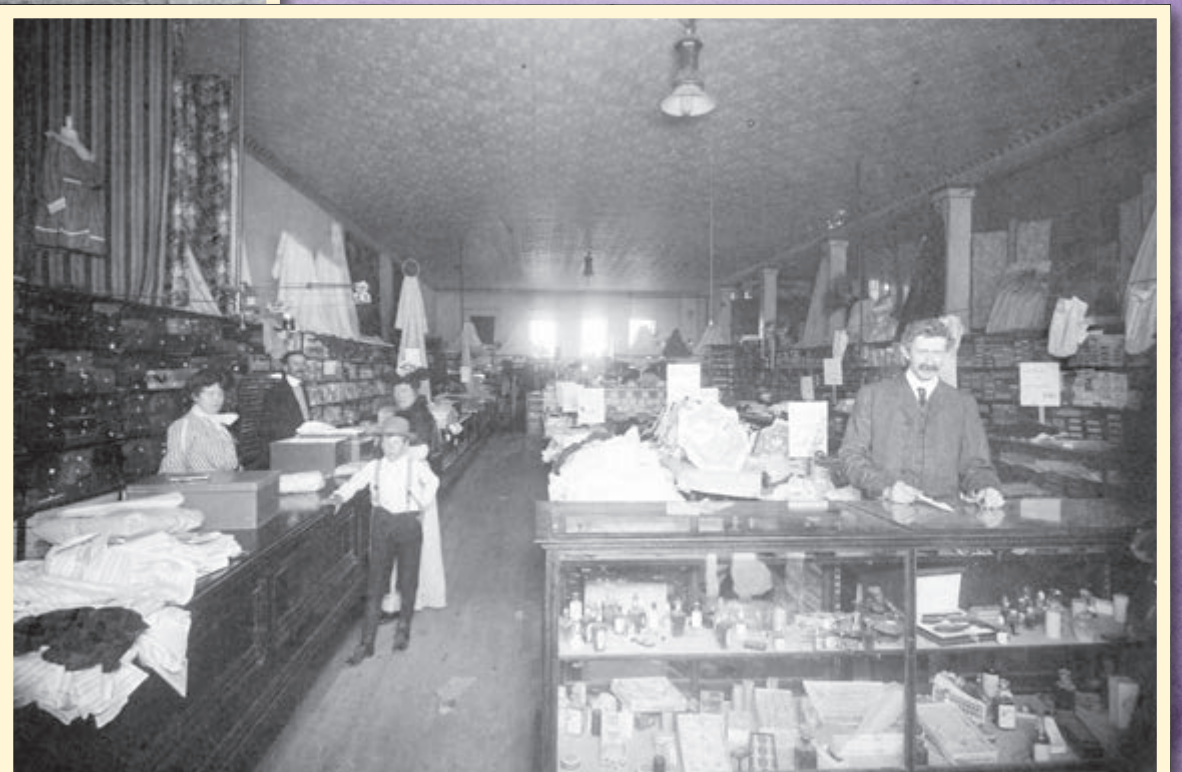
A view of Main Street in Lewistown, Montana, taken from the corner of High Street. On the left is Sawyer's Store (313 E. Main), which was built in 1928. Behind it is the Flour Mill which was started in 1886 by the Jackson Brothers. The original building called the Judith Basin Rollin Mill was replaced by these buildings in later years. The first electric lights came from the flour mill in 1895. On the right are the Central Feed buildings (built 1916), which earlier housed the Lewistown Mercantile in 1918, and later in 1930 the Nash-Finch Wholesale Co. The Montana Building is the tallest building on the right in the background.

Photos courtesy of Montana Memory Project



On the corner of Broadway and 4th Avenue North, the Masonic Temple in Lewistown is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is associated with events that reflect significant settlement patterns in the growth of Montana and in the development of Lewistown. The Masonic Temple was designed by Otto F. Wasmansdorff and George D. Eastman.

The second Power Mercantile Store building was built in 1884 and was located at 301 W. Main. Powers, as the store was commonly called, was managed by N.M. Erickson, until his death in 1894 after which W.D. Symmes took over as the manager.



Down through the Years in Central Montana

140 Years



United Methodist Church
Founded in 1880 by Brother Van Orsdel
The Stone Methodist Church was built in 1905, and was destroyed by fire in 1976.
First Pastor/Deaconess: Belle C. Harmon, 1880-1919
Current Pastor: Pastor Brent Wepprecht
Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.

137 Years



LEWISTOWN NEWS-ARGUS
Established in 1883
“Covering Central Montana like the stars”

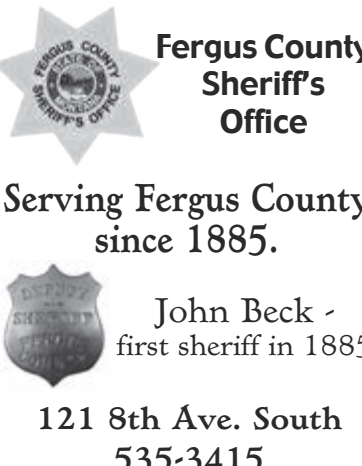
521 West Main
406-535-3401

137 Years



Bank of the Rockies
The Oldest Bank in Montana
401 W. Main Street
406-538-7448
www.bankoftherockies.com
Member FDIC

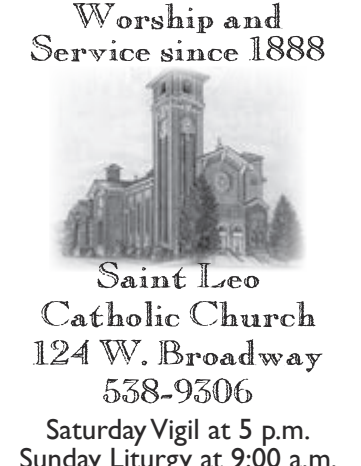
135 Years



Fergus County Sheriff's Office
Serving Fergus County since 1885.

John Beck - first sheriff in 1885
121 8th Ave. South
535-3415

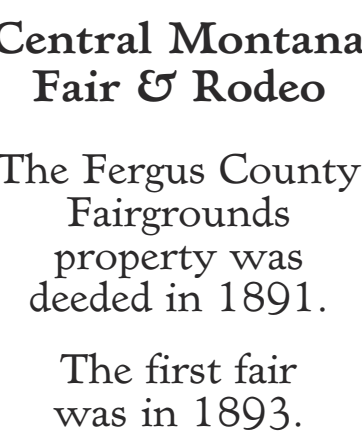
132 Years



Worship and Service since 1888

Saint Leo Catholic Church
124 W. Broadway
538-9306
Saturday Vigil at 5 p.m.
Sunday Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.

127 Years



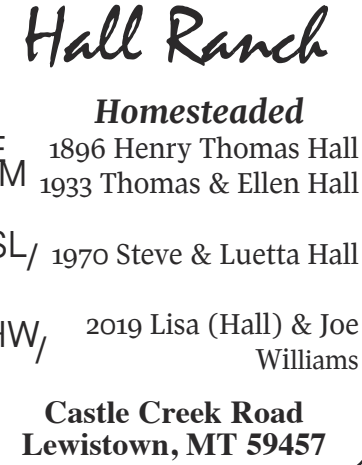
Central Montana Fair & Rodeo
The Fergus County Fairgrounds property was deeded in 1891.
The first fair was in 1893.

124 Years



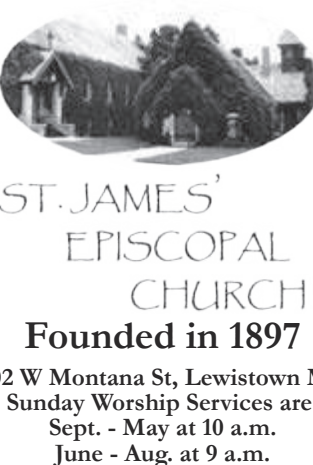
Realty Title COMPANY
Since 1896
201 6th Avenue South
Lewistown, MT
(406) 535-2326

124 Years



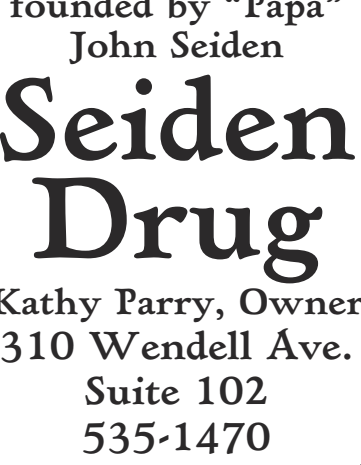
Hall Ranch
Homesteaded
EM 1896 Henry Thomas Hall
1933 Thomas & Ellen Hall
SL/ 1970 Steve & Luetta Hall
HW/ 2019 Lisa (Hall) & Joe Williams
**Castle Creek Road
Lewistown, MT 59457**

123 Years



ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Founded in 1897
502 W Montana St, Lewistown MT
Sunday Worship Services are:
Sept. - May at 10 a.m.
June - Aug. at 9 a.m.

122 Years



founded by “Papa” John Seiden
Seiden Drug
Kathy Parry, Owner
310 Wendell Ave.
Suite 102
535-1470

118 Years



CREEL FUNERAL HOME
Serving Central Montana since 1902
Providing Caring Service for our Community Since 1902.
Ralph G. and Kendra Mihlfeld
Licensed Mortician & Owners
Take the time to say goodbye.
538-8755 • (888) 538-8755
601 W. Main • Lewistown

117 Years



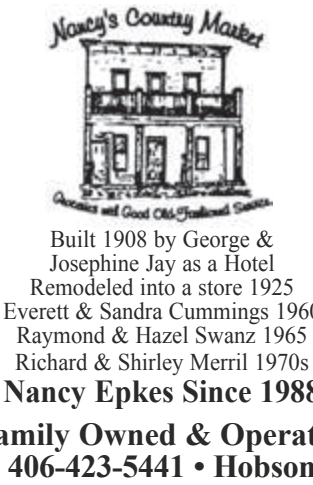
EAGLES CLUB
Current building since 1952
Full Bar with Live Music
Banquet Hall
Funeral & Wedding Receptions
Parties of all sorts
On & Off-site Catering
535-5145
124 W. Main

116 Years



Founded by Luther Warden
1904 - 1946
Earl & Mary Boward, 1946 - 1969
Hans & Sigrid Stokken
1969 - 2004
Glenn & Teresa Stokken in
2006-2018
Purchased by Kim Hawkins
in November 2018
Alpine Floral, Inc.
Greenhouse & Nursery
538-8758 • 800-344-8575
302 East Lake

112 Years



Nancy's Country Market
Built 1908 by George & Josephine Jay as a Hotel
Remodeled into a store 1925
Everett & Sandra Cummings 1960
Raymond & Hazel Swanz 1965
Richard & Shirley Merrill 1970s
Nancy Epkes Since 1988
Family Owned & Operated
406-423-5441 • Hobson

112 Years



Fergus Farm Mutual
Founded in 1908
Thank you for allowing us to be your Montana insurance company for over 100 years.
(406) 538-9251

Broadway Apartments built to meet increasing housing demands in 1913

By NANCY WATTS

The Broadway Apartments at 206 6th Ave. North was built in 1913 for the Lewistown Improvement Company, “one of many such corporations formed for the purpose of meeting the rapidly increasing housing demands in the ‘New City’. Articles of Incorporation were filed June 7, 1912 by George M. Stone, Bernard E. Stack, Arthur A. Stapleton, Fred H. Robinson and Thomas Pittman.” (Montana Historical and Architectural Survey-Sievert).

“Big apartment house planned by local men. A \$30,000 structure to be erected in present year. A stock company has just been formed in this city for the purpose of erecting, during the present year, one of the finest apartment houses in Montana. Those holding stock in the corporation are G. M. Stone, W.J. Johnson, B.E. Stack, A.A. Stapleton, Fred Robinson, Tom L. Pittman and G. R. Marsh.

“The company has acquired the George Anderson property, on the corner of Broadway and Sixth Avenue and the structure which they plan will cover one entire lot 50 x 90 feet in size, be three stories high and cost not less than \$30,000. It will be modern in every particular and contain from 12 to 15 three-room apartments. Considerable stress will be laid not only upon making the building entirely fire-proof, but also as slightly from an architectural viewpoint as possible.

“The plans for the new building will be out within the next two or three weeks and a contract let as early as it will be possible to begin work. It is proposed to have the building ready for occupancy this fall.

“It would appear that a modern apartment house should be an excellently paying investment in Lewistown. It is rather remarkable that there is not already something of the sort in a city of nearly 5,000 people. The city is fortunate, however, that its first building of that character shall be of the substantial and slightly nature planned. It will certainly be a decided acquisition to the list of fine buildings in Lewistown.” (“Fergus County Democrat,” March 19, 1912).

“Ground was broken yesterday for the foundation for the new apartment house to be erected on the corner of Sixth Avenue and Broadway by local capitalists. It is the intention of the men behind the project to push it to completion with all possible rapidity, the contracts calling for the building to be turned over and ready for occupancy by Oct. 15. It will



The Broadway Apartment building at 206 Sixth Ave. North was built in 1913 for the Lewistown Improvement Company to address the high demand for housing.

Photo courtesy of Lewistown Public Library

be a modern structure in every particular and the ground, building and furnishings will call for an expenditure of about \$50,000. (“Fergus County Democrat,” June 4, 1912).

“The Lewistown Brick and Tile company is now making common and face brick which for quality are not excelled by the product of any other factory in the United States. As a matter

of fact, there are but two or three brick plants in the entire country which are making a building material which can, in any way, compare with the output of the local plant. The new Broadway Apartment house, one of the handsomest structures in Montana, is built of this material, which certainly speaks for itself. (“Fergus County Democrat,” Dec. 17, 1912).

A listing in the newspaper shows the cost of the apartment building: “Much building during the year, Broadway Apartment house, Broadway and 6th, \$40,000.” (“Fergus County Democrat,” Dec. 17, 1912).

Reprinted by permission of the Lewistown Public Library.

Down through the Years in Central Montana

111 Years



First publication -
Feb. 19, 1909
Became the Judith Basin
County Press in 1920,
then the
Judith Basin Press
on Feb. 1, 1957

566-2471
Stanford, Montana

111 Years



Built in 1909
on the Historic Register
SYMMES WICKS HOUSE

538-9068

108 Years



Zion Lutheran Church
Since 1912

604 W. Evelyn
538-5082
zionlewistownelca.com

96 Years

Taking care of our Customers like a
HOMETOWN Bank should since 1924!



FIRST
BANK
of Montana
Member FDIC
DIVISION OF KLEINER BANK

224 W Main St., Lewistown – 406-538-7471

91 Years



538-2454
www.kgreenhouse.com

90 Years



Founded in 1930.
We offer Bulk Fuel,
Bulk Fertilizer, Tire Shop,
Pesticides, Farm Supplies,
Custom Application.
For more information, call

406-374-2555

82 Years

Reinvesting in our
local community.
That's the
cooperative difference.



538-3465

75 Years

Family Owned Business
since 1945
Formerly Brown's, Now

R & D, Inc.



Heating, Cooling
& Sheet Metal
Serving the Central Montana Area

Ray Marker &
Dan Metcalf
306 5th Ave. South
538-5974

74 Years

Nate's Sport Shop
1946 ~ 1957
Van's Sport Center
1957 ~ 1962



1963 ~ 2020

120 2nd Ave S
535-9308
John Tognetti &
Colby Tognetti

73 Years



The East end of Custom Cuts
was two barracks moved down
from the airport in 1947.
Became Snowy Mountain
Meats in 1960, owned
and operated by the
Johnson family for 32 years.
Currently owned and operated
by Paul Erickson and
Scott Damby ~ since 2010.

612 1st Ave. S.
538-5932

72 Years

Coast to Coast
1948 ~ 1997
True Value since 1998



302 W. Main St.
Lewistown
538-5902

72 Years



Utica, Montana

BIGGEST,
best hamburgers!
Thanks for a
Great 72 years!

Utica, MT
406-423-5560

70 Years



**HILPERT'S
OK TIRE**
ROLL WITH THE BEST



• Tires • Alignment
• Brakes • Shocks
Locally owned and operated by
Bruce and Patti Hilpert for over
20 years.

538-5347
116 E. Main Street

68 Years

Family owned &
operated since 1953.



**Wier Furniture
Company**
Jim Wier
Steve Trafton
116 West Main
535-3443

68 Years

**LEWISTOWN
PROPANE**



Central Montana's 1st
Provider of Propane & Fertilizer



1-800-423-8791

68 Years



Established in 1952
First Christian Church
103 12th Ave. S.
535-9001
Sunday School 10am
Services 8:30am & 11:15am

68 Years



The Dash Inn
SINCE 1952

207 NE Main St.
535-3892

67 Years



Montana's Brand of Banking

Serving Montana since 1953
Serving Central Montana
since 2014
Stanford, Lewistown, Geraldine

103 Central Avenue
Stanford, MT 566-2238
1716 W Main
Lewistown, MT 535-8370
311 Main Street
Geraldine, MT 737-4288

67 Years

Originally 1953
Fred Schell
Schell, Stephens
Schell, Stephens, Riley
today...



Certified Public Accountants
224 W. Main, Ste. 600
Lewistown • 535-2352

67 Years



since 1953

106 E. Janeaux
Lewistown, MT
535-7478

www.fergusfcu.com

67 Years

The owners have
changed since 1953, but
our tradition of quality
and service has always
remained superior.



**Courtesy
MOTORS INC.**
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA
Sales • Service • Parts
Collision Repair
ACDelco
Parts & Service
538-7417 • 1-800-823-7420
www.courtesymotorsmt.com

66 Years



520 East Main Street
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-535-5496

65 Years



Lewistown Veterinary Service
Established in 1955

Dr. Paul & Whitney Brady,
owned since 2014

66 Stockyard Lane
Lewistown, MT • 406-538-3663

64 Years

**Lewistown
church of Christ**



"Let all things be done properly and
in an orderly manner." 1 Cor 14:40

Sunday: Bible Study - 10am
Worship - 11am
Wednesday: Bible Study - 6pm
223 W Janeaux • 406-535-4039

62 Years

Family Owned
Business Since 1957



Tom & Candy McKenna,
Owners
(406) 538-8736
110 S. Dawes
www.mckennaagency.com

62 Years



Trailer Sales
Since 1958
Serving all of Montana
2456 Truck By Pass
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-8709
bassauctionco.com
Colie, Dorinda
& Mariah Bass

61 Years



Ranch, Farm,
and Home

538-5114
520 E. Main, Lewistown

60 Years

**GLASS
TRUCKING**
Denton, MT
Since 1960
Owner: Kenny Glass
Neil Glass
406-567-2232
800-325-8859



59 Years



Service, personal
and distinctive
Since 1961

Dick Brown
406-538-8711 ~ 209 3rd Ave. N.
www.cloydfuneralhome.com

58 Years

**Central
Baptist Church**
Established 1962

Moved to new location
2007
Added major addition
2014

www.cbcllewistown.com
195 Mile Dr. • Lewistown, MT
(406) 535-8765

Down through the Years in Central Montana

57 Years

**FERGUS
AUTO
PARTS**

Jim Woodburn
opened 1963, ran until
1986 - *Jim Karhi,*
current owner purchased.

403 1st Avenue S.
Lewistown
800-662-8771
406-538-8771

57 Years

JUDITH GAP OIL

302 High St.
Judith Gap, Montana 59453
(406) 473-2321

**Dave, Jeff, Kim,
Cliff and Angel**

53 Years


Kenex Propane was established
in 1967 and changed to Central
Montana Propane in 1997.

406-538-3953
Highway 191 N.
Lewistown
(Just past the Fairgrounds.)

51 Years
**Storfas
Service**


Ike Waltari, owner for 10 years

535-3406
408 1st Avenue North
Lewistown

51 Years


**The leader in assuring
community-based
quality healthcare.**

408 Wendell Ave.
Lewistown, MT • 535-7711
www.cmmc.health

50 Years


215 3rd Ave North
(406)538-3525

50 Years
**Keystone
Bookstore**

*Golden Anniverary
Building is
111 years old!*

**417 W. Main
535-8133
Lewistown, MT**

49 Years

completed for occupancy
in 1971

**EAGLES
MANOR**

*It's not a place to live...
It's your home.*

538-3230
211 West Janeaux

47 Years

Fergus County



**307 W. Watson St.
Lewistown, MT
535-7486**

46 Years
**Central Montana
Family Planning**

300 1st Ave. N.
Suite 202
Lewistown, MT



535-8811
or
877-421-8646

46 Years


We Love to Make You look Good!

45 Years


**Proud of our
Central Montana
Roots**

Lewistown
406-535-1200
www.centuryci.com

44 Years
**Matt Helm
Construction**

Began as Helm
Construction in 1976
Doyle Helm retired in 2000
and Matt Helm
Construction began.



406-366-9627

44 Years
Torger S. Oaas

ATTORNEY AT LAW



**618 W. Main, Suite 201
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-2338**

42 Years
Hubble Law Firm

James A. Hubble
Oliver J. Urick
Joni Oja

98 Central Ave.
Stanford, MT
566-2500

Lewistown Location:
Montana Building
224 W. Main, Suite 206
538-3181

42 Years

1978 -
DeBuff Drilling
1996 -
Central Drilling

Mark, Anita & Lane Smith
and Curt Fogle

**Central Drilling
538-7355**

41 Years
**LEWISTOWN
LUMBER**

**"Oldest Lumber Yard
in Town"**

Established in 1979
Acquired by
Steve & Susan Adams
in 2000.

(406) 538-3431
80711 U.S. Hwy 87
Lewistown, MT 59457

41 Years


**MARVIN MATHISON
ANDY MATHISON
Owners**

538-7160 • 800-538-7160
201 Meadowbrook Dr.
Lewistown, MT

41 Years
**Buehler Law
Office**

Craig R. Buehler

**224 W. Main
Suite 414
Lewistown, MT
406-538-2466**

40 Years


Started in 1980

Monte Solberg,
Ron Miller &
Scot Solberg,
Owners

**520 W. Main
538-5458**

40 Years


Family Owned
and Operated

John, Crystal and
Ian Matteson
and Crew

40 Years

Central Montana
Insurance Center, LLP

**For your insurance
needs in
Central Montana**

204 4th Ave. S.
Lewistown, MT 59457
Phone: 538-2331
800-597-7135
Fax: 538-2333

40 Years


**Serving you with
honesty and integrity.**

Jayson Shobe
408 West Main
Lewistown
538-5125

39 Years

HI-HEAT INDUSTRIES, INC.



Our company began 1981 in Kansas City.
We moved to Lewistown f
rom Kansas City in 1990.
We currently employ 60 people.

MEETING TOMORROW'S
UNIQUE HEATING NEEDS TODAY!

538-7411
256 Hanover Road • Lewistown

38 Years


**Lewistown's Finest Body Shop
with the Latest Technology**

• Body Repair • Framework
• Painting
• The Area's Only
Factory-Matched Baked Finish

538-3236
206 2nd Ave. South

37 Years


406-350-5162



Proud to have sold
Real Estate in
Central Montana
since 1983!

Rick Dyck - Broker/Owner
www.gardenre.com

36 Years

Central Montana Pregnancy
Care Center- 1984 to 2016



2016 to
Present

108 6th Ave North
Right behind Country Style
406-535-3511

**Free Pregnancy Tests ~ Life Skills Classes
Post-abortion Classes ~ Baby Boutique
Free. Confidential. Loving. Support.**

For more information,
visit our website at:
inspireoutreachcenter.org
Like us on Facebook

36 Years
**MAGIC CITY
CLEANING, LLC**

**We don't cut corners...
We CLEAN them!!!"**

**535-2927 • 366-0241
1-800-290-4690**

Since 1984

**Jim Zarn,
Owner**


35 Years
**M/S Residential
Electrical Service**

Mark Kucera

Reliable & Reasonable
• Free Estimates
and Bids
35 years in business
and gaining!!

366-1577 **fast SERVICE**
Lewistown, MT

33 Years


**Drilling in the ground
for water since 1987**

Officially named the
business in 2008.

Dave Ward 406- 707-0833
Ben Ward 350-1715

WWW.HOLEWORLDDRILLING.COM
Lewistown, MT 59457

Down through the Years in Central Montana

33 Years



Art Gallery & Frame Shop
WESTERN ART • YOGO SAPPHIRES

Western Art	Montana Pottery
•	•
Yogo Sapphires	Kids Books
•	•
Gifts	Toys

538-5125

406 West Main • Lewistown

32 Years

COMPUTERS PLUS

Family Owned and Operated
Bill Larson & Jon Larson, Owners

www.computersplusmt.com
513 W. Janeaux
Lewistown
535-8943

31 Years



JOE BRIDGEFORD, OWNER
(406) 538-3572 or (406) 350-3572
366 Marcella Avenue
Lewistown, MT 59457

29 Years



i'm lovin' it®
907 W. Main
Owned & operated by Pete & Linda Peterson

26 Years



MONTANA-SIZED INTERNET
itstriangle.com
1.800.332.1201

26 Years

DO-ALL CONSTRUCTION
Excavating & Backhoe Service
Since September 1994

406-538-2509

www.do-allconstruction.com
doall@midrivers.com
Duane Otto, cell: 350-1261
440 Bach St., Lewistown, MT

25 Years



eat fresh.

THANKS!
from Megan & the Crew

1506 W. Main St.
Lewistown, MT
(406) 538-4737

25 Years



Smart's Abbey Carpet
202 W. Broadway
538-4336
Hardwood, stone, tile, vinyl, carpet and window treatments
lewistown.abbeycarpet.com
Bill & Debbie Smart, owners

23 Years



We specialize in Security Systems Alarms - Cameras
Central Montana's ONLY Licensed Security Installer
Commercial - Residential
FREE ESTIMATES
538-3700
1-877-845-3700

22 Years

We Help You Reach More Customers

WESTWIND
WEB MARKETING & DESIGN

Websites : Branding
Content : Search : Social

WestwindWeb.com
406-538-2200

22 Years

Garrett & Kayce Workman
Honored to live and serve in Central Montana.
Quality Service, Sales & Installation



535-9271

21 Years

Tammi's Travel
Tammi Crawford
Owner/Travel Agent

Full service travel agency offering friendly, efficient service.

538-4994
travel@tammistravel.com

20 Years



Committed to bringing you the toughest fiberglass tanks on the market!
Ken Bridgeford, Owner
800-889-3281
2063 Casino Creek Dr
Lewistown, MT 59457

20 Years

Kitchen Designs by Lori
SHOWPLACE CABINETRY

Kitchens, Baths, Offices, Countertops

3108 Truck By-pass
Lewistown, MT
(406) 535-5000

20 Years



Founded in 2000
Acquired by Tyler Spraggins in 2009
On the Truck Bypass
Lewistown, MT
535-5919

The Calvert Hotel started as a dormitory

By NANCY WATTS

The Calvert Hotel at 216 7th Ave. South was built in 1917 as a dormitory for the Fergus County High School students who lived outside of Lewistown. "Many could easily commute by train as several of the outlying towns were on the Milwaukee and Great Northern railroad lines." (History of the Lewistown School District #1-Zellick).

Bruce Stanton was the builder and Wasmansdorff and Eastman were the architects. "The structure was built in two halves, each being a mirror reflection of the other. The southern half was erected in 1917." (National Register). The northern half was built in 1919.

"Rudolph von Tobel, chairman of the high school board, outlined the high school dormitory plan...for several years the board of the trustees of the High School have considered the advisability of erecting a dormitory for pupils from Fergus County who are not residents of Lewistown. The board has always been unanimous regarding the necessity of such an institution and two years ago they asked for authority to issue bonds in the sum of \$40,000 for this purpose, which the voters of the county declined to grant.

.... it has been suggested to the board that such a building might be constructed by private funds. At a recent meeting of the board it was estimated that a building to accommodate from 40 to 50 pupils was immediately necessary and that such a building could be constructed for about \$18,000, and a suitable site ...of a tract 90 by 100 feet at the corner of 7th Ave and Watson St. known as the W.R. Woods property can be had for \$2,500." ("Fergus County Democrat," Aug. 17, 1916).

"The Fergus County Improvement Company filed their articles of incorporation with the County Clerk and Recorder Friday. This is the company which proposes building the high school dormitory. The company is to be organized for a period of 40 years. ("Fergus County Democrat," Sept. 14, 1916).

"Ground was broken Friday for the foundation of the new high school dormitory." ("Fergus County Democrat, Sept. 21, 1916).

"The high school dormitory building costing \$25,000 is now rapidly approaching completion and will very soon be in use. This building came into existence as a result of a crying need for rooms for students from the outside desiring to attend high school. Three stories in height, it is arranged to accommodate 60 students. It is steam heated, equipped with laundry, baths, hot and cold water in every room and ample fire escapes. The building will be under the supervision of a provost and matron, the upper floor being for girls and the middle floor for boys. The pupils in the manual training department are now competing for prizes for the best design and executed study tables etc., for the dormitory building. ("Democrat News," Dec. 17, 1916).

"Students moved into the dormitory on Monday but not all of the

furniture has yet arrived but the students are being made comfortable and living conditions promised to be very wholesome. ("Fergus County Democrat," Feb. 8, 1917).

"The high school dormitory is now completed and Saturday evening supper was served there for the first time. While some of the equipment has not yet arrived, local establishments have helped out by loaning furniture and by the end of this week at least 20 boys and 14 girls will be comfortably located in the new building. Mrs. W.W. White is in charge of the dormitory as matron." ("Fergus County Democrat," Feb. 15, 1917).

But by late 1917..."The girls' dormitory is overcrowded and some girls have been taken care of in homes. A new dormitory for boys at 1017 W. Main Street is accommodating 30 additional boys and 18 have been placed in homes. ("Fergus County

Democrat," Sept. 13, 1917).

"Just at present the prospects look rather bright....for securing additional dormitory accommodations 1." ("Fergus County Democrat," June 19, 1919).

The second half of the dormitory was built in 1919: "... high school dormitory nearing completion." ("Fergus County Argus," Jan. 23, 1920).

"By 1925, the breakdown of central Montana agriculture resulted in bank failures and the loss of funds and tax money. Fergus County High school was among those who lost funds and the dormitory had to be closed. The dormitory was sold to Mrs. Emma Marsh in 1928, who adapted the facility for use as a hotel and named it the Calvert. In addition to the hotel and dining services, the Calvert continued to serve many rural students, as it had done in the dormitory days, allowing them to work for their keep while

20 Years

Big Spring Spa
Hot Tub Sales, Service & Supplies
Unique Clothing Boutique
Hydration Station, Infrared Sauna
Sales & Sessions
UV Tanning & Airbrush Spray Tans
CBD Available

**117 West Main
Lewistown
535-9868**



attending high school." ("Montana Historical and Architectural Survey" Sievert).

Reprinted by permission of the Lewistown Public Library.



The Fergus County High School dormitory was built in 1917 by the Fergus County Improvement Company after the citizens of Lewistown voted down the bond issue.

Photo courtesy of the Lewistown Public Library

From the Library Archives: The Judith Hardware was built in 1900 and its warehouse in 1902



The Judith Hardware Co. (center) 307 W. Main was built in 1900. The building to the left of the Judith Hardware was the old Power Mercantile building built in 1892 (now True Value Hardware). The buildings to the right are the Warr-Lane Building and the Crowley Building.

Photos courtesy of Lewistown Public Library

By NANCY WATTS

The Judith Hardware Co. was built in 1900 at 307 W. Main. (It is now part of the True Value Hardware Store). It was built of native sandstone.

“The articles of incorporation of the Judith Hardware Co. were filed with the county clerk last week...The company will do a general hardware business for a term of 20 years, with their principal office at Lewistown. The directors are: I.M. Hobensack, A.W. Stoddard, David Hilger, John Laux, E. H. Sherwood. The firm will succeed Hobensack and Stoddard.” (“Fergus County Argus,” June 13, 1900).

“With the large increase of capital provided by the reorganization, the company will be better prepared than ever to handle the enormous business which they have built up by persistent solicitation and fair dealing... During the summer the company will build a handsome stone store, warehouses, etc...” (“Fergus County Argus,” June 13, 1900).

“Work on the new warehouse began yesterday on the new site for the Judith Hardware Co. Building of stone, 50’x 90’, two stories. Second floor to be used for repairs, shops, undertaking rooms...it will be a handsome building, contract not yet let out.” (Unknown, June 20, 1900).

“[Judith Hardware] Store will be enclosed tomorrow. Second floor will be used for offices. One will be occupied by County Attorney F. E. Smith who will retire from office January 1st and the other has been spoken by A. Barbour...Rear of the second floor to be used for a tin shop and a store-room.” (Unknown, Nov. 21, 1900).

“The Judith Hardware Co. has recently built with a firm confidence in the future of Lewistown and the development of the Judith Basin. The first of the year the company moved into its new building on Main Street, between Third and Fourth Avenues –a building constructed entirely of stone and iron, with a plate glass front of 50 feet on the ground floor. Part of the second floor is arranged for offices, and the remainder is occupied by the company with an elevator running to it...The shelving is admirably arranged, and the stock, from the elegant line of crockery and stoves to the finest lines of brass hardware, is displayed to advantage. Harness and undertaker’s goods are also carried. Private offices, behind a partition of glass, have been fitted up in the rear. The real estate and buildings represent an investment of \$20,000. ...Mr. Hobensack was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania in 1858. He came to Lewistown in 1887 and in 1889 put in a small hardware stock with Oliver Jutras. In 1892, Theodore Sloan bought Mr. Jutras’ interest, and in 1898 A.W. Stoddard bought in, taking Mr. Sloan’s interest.” (Fergus County Argus 1901 Pictorial Edition).

“The Judith Hardware Co. has built two new warehouses costing \$700.” (“Fergus County Argus,” Dec. 10, 1902).

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Lewistown Auto garage constructed in 1910

By NANCY WATTS

The Lewistown Auto garage (it was the “Grease Spot” garage in 1926, and is now Montana Paint and Glass) was built in 1910 on the corner of Janeaux and Third Ave South (121 Third Ave. South). The original owner was the Bank of Fergus County.

“As Lewistown and Fergus County showed phenomenal growth during the early years of the 20th Century so grew the automobile business. H.C. Brown J. E. Lane, A. W. Warr and H. Yaeger filed articles of incorporation for Lewistown Auto company in September of 1908. In 1910 the company moved to its new building on the corner of Third Avenue on Janeaux Street. Manager Frank E. Doran, who kept a close record of the automobile industry, stated there were 275 cars in Fergus County in 1911, and of that number, 143 were owned in Lewistown. Lewistown Auto company was the agency for Franklin cars, and at that time 55 Franklins were in active use in Fergus County.” (Montana Historical and Architectural Survey-Sievert)

“The new garage of the Lewistown Auto Company, in the rear of the Bank of Fergus County, is now nearing completion, and is attracting a lot of attention. It is perhaps the largest garage in the state erected solely for that purpose. It is 56 by 100 feet, built of pressed stone and brick, with cement floors, and is equipped with a washroom 16 x 16. The nature of the construction reduces the fire hazard to a minimum. This company was started originally merely to provide those interested in it with storage room for their own autos, but it soon outgrew this plan, and the new garage will have room for storing 50 cars.” (“Fergus County Argus,” Aug. 26, 1910).

Not very many people knew how to drive at this time, so some people depended on chauffeurs to drive them around. “Lewistown can claim some of the most expert chauffeurs in the state...Among the local men who have become regular chauffeurs are Don Anderson, who is considered one of the best. The “Monk” is a favorite with the men who have to take long trips into the country...There are five women drivers in Lewistown, and they are all good ones. Mrs. Harry Yaeger is considered by the auto men to be the most expert of any of them. She can handle a big car with the best of them, and has the reputation of being level-headed and resourceful in any kind of pinch.... Among the owners who drive, Harry Yaeger is conceded to be the big chief.” (“Fergus County Argus,” Aug. 26, 1910)

“1926, following years of depression, drought and grasshoppers, found the property, which was owned by the Bank of Fergus County, taken over by the City of Lewistown, in lieu of the deposits the City had in the failing bank. Charles Young and Elmer Olson, proprietors of the “Grease Spot,” rented the building from the City in 1932 and when it came up for sale, purchased the



The Lewistown Auto company built this building (121 Third Ave. South) in 1910 to sell and to store cars for people. In 1936 Charles Young and Elmer Olson, proprietors of the “Grease Spot,” bought the building and cut out the corner for gas pumps. It is now Montana Paint and Glass.

Photo courtesy of Lewistown Public Library

property in 1936. They cut out the corner of the structure creating a diagonal drive in, with gas pumps underneath the newly formed canopy. The corner was enclosed again for the next occupant for use as a showroom.” (Montana Historical and Architectural Survey-Sievert)

“...the Lewistown Auto company office building and garage on Third Avenue, [cost] \$15,000” (“Fergus County Argus,” Dec. 16, 1910)

Historical note: In 1908 the Lewistown Auto Co. constructed a garage at 116 Fifth Ave. North. That building was replaced in 1949 and is now Courtesy Motors. Before the “Grease Spot” moved to Third Ave. South it was located on Fifth Ave. South where the Dark Horse Livery Stable was (now the parking lot for Courtesy Motors).

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The Warr and Laux buildings, built side by side in 1904-1905

By NANCY WATTS

The Warr Building at 212 W. Main (formerly the Victory Barber Shop) was built in 1904 by John Laux for Austin W. Warr. John H. Kent was the architect. The Laux building at 214-216 W. Main (formerly the Empire Café, now Lewistown’s Sew Pieceful) was built in 1905 by Phillip Laux.

“Phillip Laux came to Montana in 1885 from Germany and worked in a Helena stone quarry until he relocated to Lewistown in 1890. Two of the earliest stone builders in Lewistown, brothers John and Phillip Laux, constructed many local buildings.” (Lewistown Preservation Office interpretation sign).

“John Laux has the contract for the stone work on a new business building which Austin W. Warr is having built on Main Street next to the telephone building [210 W Main]. The building will be two stories high, 25 by 75 feet in size, and finished after the manner of the telephone building. The first floor will be used for storeroom purposes while the second floor will be divided into good offices. The building will cost about \$8,000 and will be rushed to completion with all possible haste. As soon as the Warr building is completed and the butcher shop is able to move into the storeroom the present frame building which is occupied by the Abel Bros Meat Market will be moved out, and Phillip Laux, who owns the lot will have a two story, 25 by 90 foot, stone building erected. He will also put a second story on the stone building now occupied by the Kearny saloon. When all the new buildings are completed, the block between Third and Second avenues will be

one of the handsomest in the city.” (“Fergus County Democrat,” Aug. 23, 1904)

“A. W. Warr put up a building next to the telephone building and adjoining the Laux building in which the Shamrock Saloon is located... At the same time Phillip Laux put in a new building in place of the old frame structure occupied by the Central Meat Market, and also added a story to his other building next to it. The meat market will occupy the new Laux building. The cost of it was \$3,000. John Laux had the contract for [both] buildings.” (“Fergus County Argus,” Dec. 28, 1904).

“Johnny Abel returned Friday night from Saint Paul, to which city he went about two weeks ago for the purpose of purchasing a complete set of furniture for the butcher shop of Abel brothers. He says he bought some most up-to-date goods which will be along with in a couple of weeks and will be installed in the new Laux building, which will by that time be completed.” (“Fergus County Democrat,” Jan. 31, 1905).

“The Laux building occupied by the Abel brothers with an up-to-date set of office rooms on the second floor is a very handsome edifice, while the Warr building is another first class structure. The local land office has just been established on the lower floor of this building, which has been fitted up especially for that purpose in a manner that will equal any office building in the state. The outside office is fitted with hard-finished birch counters in oak partitions. A large vault has been built in the rear end of the room, while an extra room in which the [land] contest cases will be heard has been



The Warr Building (212 W. Main) and the Laux Building (214-216 W. Main) were built in 1904-1905. The Montana Building (built 1916) was not yet built next to them on the left in the photo. To the right side of the Warr Building is part of the telephone office that was built earlier.

Photo courtesy of the Lewistown Library

partitioned off in the rear end of the building.” (“Fergus County Democrat,” April 4, 1905).

“The [Laux] building functioned primarily as a saloon in its early years. Henry Osmers operated the Blue Goose Saloon at 216 West Main from 1910 until 1918 when Montana officially went dry. In 1916 Edward Bisbee open the Big Bear Saloon at 214 1/2 West Main. When prohibition forced the closure of all saloons, the Laux building served as a bil-

liards parlor, a clothing store, and a rooming house until the end of prohibition in 1933. The Acme rooming house boasting, “Baths, Steam Heat, thoroughly modern and convenient” operated upstairs from 1916 until 1975. The Empire Cafe opened in the mid-1940s.” (Lewistown Preservation Office interpretation sign).

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The depot and elevators at Hobson, Montana. The town of Hobson was named for S.S. Hobson who was an early day rancher and cowboy. The post office of Philbrook was moved to Hobson when the Great Northern Railroad came through in 1907-08.

Photos courtesy of Montana Memory Project

The Central Feed building was built in 1916 by Wasmansdorff and Eastman at 220 East Main. It was originally called the Lewistown Mercantile Co. It was built of brick which was produced locally by the Lewistown Brick and Tile Co. It was a wholesale grocery store.



Wagons and people on horseback lined up for a 4th of July parade in Winnett, Montana. Open plains can be seen in the left of the photograph. Buildings can be seen in right of photograph along road. Signs read Enterprise Meat Market and Restaurant. Imprinted on photograph/negative is text: Winnett, Mont., July 4th, 1916.

The Roeselers Bakery and lunch room was in Moore, Montana. Moore was named after Mr. Moore of Philadelphia, who rendered financial help to Richard A. Harlow when he was building the Jaw Bone Railroad from Harlowton to Lewistown.

