

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Historical notes from the Big Butte Historical Society
Recollections of Charleen Brown

Even though the Town configuration as platted by Bert Harris in 1906 has remained basically the same, there have been several changes that should be noted. According to City Council minutes, permission was given to Jackson County to build a county road through town in 1922. This road entered on Broad Street, but, it did not continue through town quite as it does today. Broad Street dead-ended at the corner where it now connects with Laurel Avenue. Because there was no connection between Broad Street and Laurel Avenue, the road made a right turn onto Oak Avenue at the park, then, it turned left at South Street and made another right turn onto Laurel Avenue to continue out of town toward the Fish Hatchery. After the County road was completed, the Council borrowed money to gravel the Town's streets and crosswalks in 1923. These were big improvements from the early days when people were allowed to cut the trees in the streets for fire wood leaving only the stumps and many ruts.

Where one part of Main Street should have been in those early days, was a swampy area caused by a branch of Hukill Creek flowing through town. This part of Main Street was permanently closed and the stream drained to create a football field for the new High School that was built in 1926. Today that area is still part of the High School Sports complex.

Recorded on May 9, 1928, the Council voted to furnish water for the high school swimming pool for \$200.00 a year. This plan failed to materialize, but the school did operate a swimming pool for many years until a crack in the bottom forced closure. There is no mention of where the District got the water. The pool was later removed to be replaced by the current shop building. Also recorded in 1928, the School District decided to get electricity from the mill at the falls so the Town Council voted to put in electric lights. It was not stated where the Town got the electricity.

An interesting change took place in 1939. Butte Falls, being situated in prime open range had problems with cattle running at large. So, under Mayor A. E. "Gus" Edmondson they built the fence and cattle guards to keep the cattle out. For many years Butte Falls was noted for being the only town in the U.S. completely surrounded by a fence with cattle guards at each entrance.

There was a major road change in the early 60's when Laurel Avenue was extended to connect with Broad Street. This was a big street improvement project that reducing the 3 very sharp, 90 degree turns to one. These turns had been the cause of numerous accidents. One rather spectacular accident occurred when a loaded log truck tried to take the sharp turn at Oak Avenue and Broad Street too fast. Both the truck and trailer tipped over on its side, dumping its load of logs right in front of the old bank building. Thankfully, no one was injured and as I recall the only damage was to the truck and perhaps to the driver's ego.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - \$5.00 per household

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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