

# MULLAN CHRONICLES

Volume Five

Spring 1994

Number Two



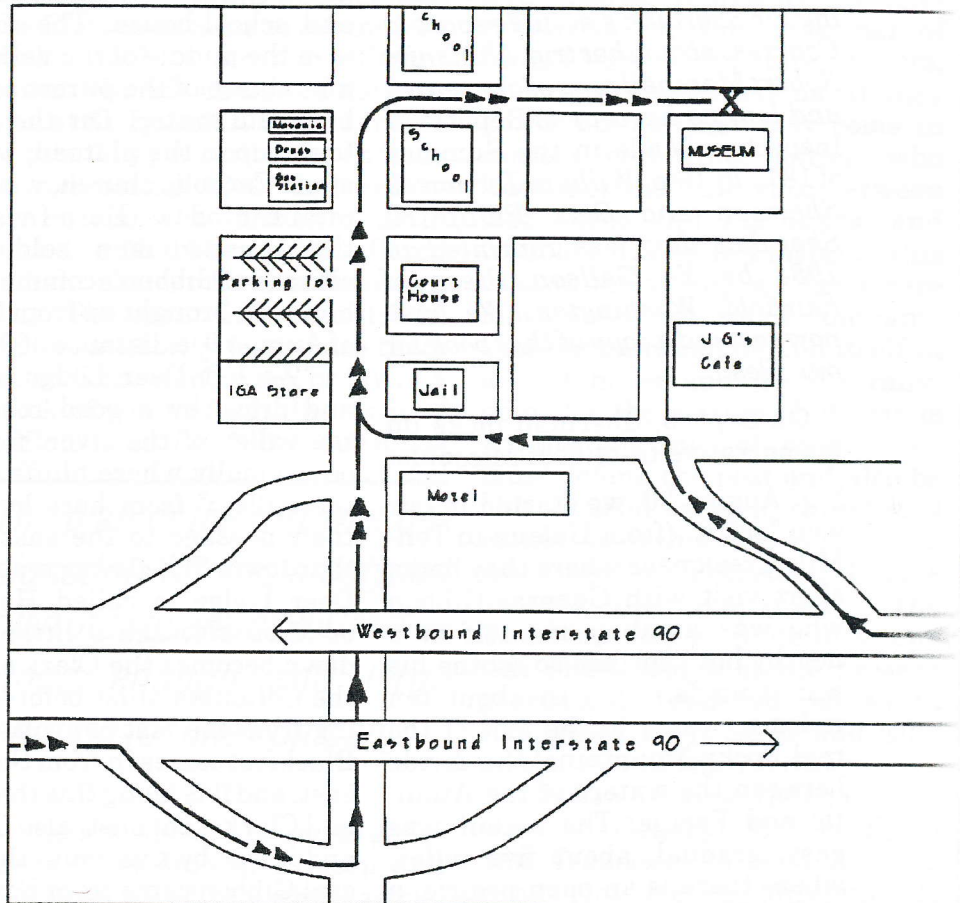
## Fourth Mullan Conference Set

**C**alling all Mullanites! The fourth annual Mullan conference will be held Saturday, May 14, 1994 in Superior, MT, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The conference, established in 1990 as a response to Montana's centennial and the dedication of Capt. John Mullan statue in St. Regis, is sponsored by the Mineral County Museum and Historical Society in Superior.

Details about the Mullan Road and Capt. Mullan, who led the road expedition from Fort Walla Walla to Fort Benton in 1859, will make up the conference agenda. Two U.S. Forest Service archaeologists—one from the Lolo National Forest and the other from the Idaho Panhandle Forest—have been invited to discuss the road's identification on the individual forests and the plans the forests have for its future. Carl Cliff and Bill Trueblood have also been asked to come share their latest adventures in searching out the present remains of the road.

In addition, an organizational meeting for the Mullan Trail Historical Society will be held. The envisioned goal of this society is to bring this valuable, but largely ignored, cultural resource to the attention of the public. Once the society has been formed and its specific goals determined, it will be eligible for grants that can be used to further these efforts.

The conference will be held in the old hospital building that houses the Mineral County Mu-



*All roads lead to the Mineral County Museum—at least all the roads in and around Superior will on Saturday, May 14. Mark the date and note the change in meeting place for the fourth annual Mullan Road Conference.*

seum (we moved it from the 4-H Building where it has been held for the past three years). The museum is located at 301 East 2nd Ave., in Superior. The conference is free (although donations are appreciated). Everyone is welcome to come and share the Mullan experience. Some new pictures and an old sign have been added to our Mullan collection which we are anxious to share with everyone.

### Merry Christmas

Hugh and Mariquita Mullan played Santa to the Mineral County Museum in December.

The Mullans tucked a \$100 check into their Christmas card to the museum. Thanks so much to both of you. And, as always, the money will go toward Mullan-related activities, such as adding to the Mullan resource library.

# Sherman Visits Wounded at Deer Lodge

*[Note: The first part of this article appeared in the Fall 1993 and the second part in the Winter 1993 Mullan Chronicles. At that time we mentioned that we were looking for Sherman's actual report to Congress about that trip. Mullanite Robert Marshall read of our search and lent us his copy of Reports of Inspection Made in the Summer of 1877 by Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman and Gen. Philip H. Sheridan that was reprinted in 1984 by Ye Galleon Press of Fairfield, Washington. We have now secured a copy of that book for our files.]*

On Sept. 3, Sherman picks up his narrative from Fort Missoula:

“. . . August 30, we started in our own “outfit” (from Helena to Ten-Mile Creek near where they had a short visit with General Gibbon who was availing himself of a nearby hot springs so soothe his war wounds.) . . . in about ten miles we came to the foot of the real Rocky Mountains, the divide between the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific. The ascent was easy, gradual, about five miles, where there is an open prairie, a glade, from which a magnificent view is had east and west . . . The road descends rapidly and follows the valley of the Little Blackfoot to its junction with Deer Lodge, thence on to Missoula. But I wanted to visit Gibbon's wounded men at the town of Deer Lodge; therefore we followed the road to that place, crossing the high peninsula that separates these two streams. Our first night out we camped on Dog Creek, where some men were working on a coal vein. The coal was of poor quality — a sort of lignite — but they said they could sell it in Deer Lodge for \$3 a ton. The need of coal in Montana is not great, for wood abounds everywhere except about

Fort Shaw and Benton.

“On the morning of September 1 we arrived at Deer Lodge, quite a pretty little town, with a good hotel, stores, dwellings, churches, and school-house. The town-site is in the middle of the valley, with abundance of the purest and most beautiful water. On the edge of town, upon the plateau, is a good stone Catholic church, with a hospital behind . . . Here I visited all the wounded men, soldiers and citizens of Gibbon's command, who had been brought up from his fight of August 9, a distance of 90 miles.

“We left Deer Lodge at noon, and drove by a good road down the valley of the river, fording it occasionally where bluffs shut off the valley;” from here he recites their passage to the east side of that town. “The lower reach of the Deer Lodge is called Hell-Gate, or Missoula, and a little farther down becomes the Clark's Fork of the Columbia. Just before emerging from the last canyon, the Big Blackfoot comes in from the northeast, and it is along this that Lewis and Clark went east, also Cadotte; and it was by this route that General Gibbon came from Fort Shaw last month. Emerging from the mountain, on the north bank of the stream, stands the new town of Missoula, as new as pine boards fresh from the mill, with its main street of stores and hotels, and side streets with good frame dwellings, churches and schools, already a fair-sized town, destined to become much larger. It had a fine flouring-mill; a good bridge across the river, pointing up the Bitter Root, and many saw-mills up the ravines; the mountains behind which are covered with pine, hemlock and varieties of fir. The valley of the Bitter Root opens up from the south, bounded to the west by another range of wooded mountains.



*William Tecumseh Sherman*

“The town is admirably situated at the outlet of the canyon, just where a beautiful, clear-water stream, the Rattlesnake, comes out of the mountains from the northeast. The site selected for the fort is on the Bitter Root, about four miles from Town, on the gravel plateau before described, level and treeless, so that the town and fort are plainly visible the one from the other; but in the valley of the Bitter

**The *Mullan Chronicles* is published four times a year by the Mineral County museum and Historical Society, Post Office Box 533, Superior, MT 59872, a non-profit organization. Subscriptions are \$5 per year to cover printing and mailing. Computerized typesetting by Van Wolverton**

Cathryn Strombo and  
Deb Davis, Editors.

# Cost To Build Fort Missoula: \$20,000

Root there is abundance of timber—willow, cottonwood, and pine—and on the mountain to the west abundance of pine of every size and variety easily obtained. We reached here shortly after noon yesterday; found Major Rawn, Seventh Infantry, with his own company and a detachment of three others, in all about 100 men, in tents, building the "New Post." The orders are for a one-company post, and the amount of money is limited to \$20,000. The site was chosen by Colonel Merritt when acting as inspector-general on General Sheridan's staff. The site does very well, and was somewhat forced on Merritt by the fact that many settlers got ahead of him and got claims to the sites, and made more eligible by the fine streams that come out of the mountains, with head enough to be led anywhere on the plain below. Still, this site has for use the whole water of Bitter Root, a bold stream of pure water, only it is too low to be raised to the plain except by some artificial lever. The troops use spring-water, which abounds under the gravel bank, and there is no doubt an abundance can be found anywhere by digging. Timber is on all sides. Hay, oats, flour, beef and vegetables can be bought and hauled here as cheap as at any of our frontier posts. Beef is 4 cents a pound; oats about 3 cents.

"The plan of the fort is signed by General Gibbon; was designed for one company, on the old stereotyped plan of a square, of 250 feet—good enough and large enough for one company, but this cannot remain a one-company post. Had there been four companies here last year, the Nez Perces would not have dared to revolt. There remains of the same type and class of Indians the Flatheads, Pend d'Oreilles, Spokanes, and Coeur

d'Alenes; all of whom claims the natural right to go where they please through Montana to the buffalo regions on the headwaters of the Missouri. The agent of the Flatheads came to see me last night, with a most intelligent priest who has charge of the mission at St. Ignatius, 42 miles north of this. They describe the Indians as numbering 1700, disposed to peace, and who refused to go in with the Nez Perces, but offered to fight against them in their own way. The agent has not a dollar, and no authority to promise them meat. They won't work or lay in a stock of winter food; they hear of buffalo *near*, i.e., 300 or 400 miles

---

*The plan of the fort was designed on the old stereotyped plan of a square, of 250 feet—good enough and large enough for one company.*

---

northeast, and are bound to go for meat. They promise to keep well north, to avoid the white settlements, but once out and hungry, they will steal tame cattle, and the first thing will be shooting and war. They complain because the traders are forbidden to sell meat and all kinds of ammunition. They have forgotten the use of the bow and arrow, and all want powder, lead and caps. These they cannot get now, and discontent is natural. The agent said he had tried to dissuade them from *this* hunt at this particular time, but without effect. Some have gone, others were waiting to see if I would visit them and repeal or modify the President's order. I told the agent that I would not meddle with his business. I had no knowledge of the state of their

finances, and would not take on myself the responsibility of buying beef on credit for the Indians, when he could in one day go to Deer Lodge, represent (by telegraph) to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs the state of facts, and receive instructions. If they go for buffalo they may come in contact with white settlers who know not the difference between Nez Perce and Flatheads, and trouble may result. I instance this case to show why we need here more than one small company. One company can defend itself in a block-house and afford a rally-point for the settlers, but this is not the only office of troops. They must defend the post and also be able to send relief to threatened points, as in this case to the Flathead agency. Therefore, I have ordered four companies of the Third Infantry en route to occupy this place, and that the present garrison be relieved, so as to strengthen Forts Shaw and Ellis on the east of the Territory. . .

"Before leaving Helena, I instructed General McDowell, in San Francisco, to send a small escort for me to Missoula. It reached here the same day I did, by the LoLo Trail, and to-morrow will resume the journey by the old military road known as the Mullan road, via the Coeur d'Alene mission and Spokane bridge. The escort is composed of 58 men of the First Cavalry, Captain Winters commanding. We will take our wagons along with the knowledge that the road in places is very much obstructed with fallen trees, all the bridges gone, and many difficulties to encounter. These only add zest to the undertaking; we will therefore take along axes, spades and everything necessary, and expect to reach Walla Walla in 15 days."

(To be continued)

# from the mail pouch



Dec. 15, 1993

Dear Deb and Kay,  
Enclosed is a check for 1993 and 1994 dues plus a little something for the reserve fund. Hope to see you in May.

-Justice Bill and Mary Hunt  
(Montana Supreme Court)  
Helena, MT

*Thanks, Bill, for the \$25 check. We always appreciate the extra because it helps us go the extra mile for our Mullanites. Please do join us in May. As you*

*can see from the article appearing elsewhere in this publication, it will be a special meeting and, I hope, the beginning of putting the Mullan Trail and Capt. John Mullan in front of the public eye.*

-Deb

Deb and Kay,  
Thanks again for another great issue of the *Mullan Chronicles*. If you have an extra issue of the Fall 1993 edition, would you please send me a copy-

thanks.

You both have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to see ya in May. Mullanite.

-Hank Ramsey

*Hank,  
We hope to see you in May, too, as we hope to see everyone else. Until then, I hope all you Mullanites have a Happy New Year!*

-Deb

## MULLAN CHRONICLES

Mineral County Museum  
Post Office Box 533  
Superior, MT 59872

