## When Bonner Was Young



- School Days
-Shakespeare in Bonner

- Log Drives
- Parting shots



## The Song of Bonner

Well, you've got your:
Thibodeau, Cadieux, Cyr and Levesque. ... This is the song of Bonner.
Heikkila, Bergseth, Karkanen, Hamma. ... Here is the song of Bonner.
The Suomi Club and George's Café.
Riverside Park, where the band used to play.
Painting the B, the old Engine Shay.
Join in the chorus to Bonner.

The Margaret Hotel, the Club Chateau -- oh, the Black Bridge and second Red Bridge, Blue Slide and Heaven, Marco Flats pienics.
These are the lyrics of Bonner.
Akin and Beadle and Castonguay, Disbrow and Erkkila.
Fleming and Gendrow, Hill, Inman, Jones,
Kattelus, Labbe and Moe. Niemi, Otto, Petaja, and Ranstrom, Secrist, Toivonen, Unger and V iolette. Wisherd, and ol' Arnold Zaugg: the $A B C s$ of Bonner.

A one-armed ballplayer named Kelly Pine; Ritchie Fontaine Fights Tonight.
Log-rolling contests, workup and cutthroat,
These are the games of Bonner.
Akerson, Anderson, Big Nels Abrahamson, Carlson, Dodson, Erickson, Gunderson, Hanson, Iverson, Jacobson, Johnson, Larson, Magnusson, Madsen and Matson, Mikkelson, Nelson, Olson and Otterson. Pearson, Peterson, Robinson.
Salmonson, Sampson, Swanson and Thompson.
Daughters and sons of Bonner.
Wood smoke wafts on a summer night's breeze.
The trail back home is coated with leaves.
Roars of an ice break on rivers upstream.
Tadpoles stir gladly in the frog pond ... these are the seasons and songs of Bonner.

Old Piltzville homes, Milltown's intrigues,
Pine Grove at night when the moon shines through,
Silk Stocking Row 'cross the street from the White House, these are the heart of Bonner.

Leaving the Donkey House as the sun sets
Caulks crinkling on the Boom.
Pike pole in hand, peavy on shoulder,
the song of the river is disturbed by
the crescendo as another load of logs hits the water.

Soon he is dancing and prancing from log to log
the night upriver wind changes the tempo.
It takes two men to keep the logs in line In the distance the whoosh, woosh of the debarker.
Then splash as clean logs hit the water in the lower pond.

Mr. Fifield keeps logs lined for East and West slips.
Then caulks crinkling on the boom
Pike pole in hand, peavy on shoulder,
Back to the donkey shack and home.
We will leave that jackpot for dayshift.
Timberjacks sawed logs in the
Blackfoot Valley and beyond:
So Lumberjacks at Bonner could make
lumber with pride and precision:
Building a strong America was part of our mission.
God-Family-- Country
Bonner Bonner
Your history, not everyone knows,
The Indians, the Mill \& Harold's Club
Hotel Margaret
Buried under the snow.

Many old houses sitting
empty
Waiting to find their fate.
The one that
I remember is Blue 69.
The gardening \& going fishing, we went many times
The mill yard now is empty everything so still
The smell of lumber still lingers
I guess it always will.
ADD YOUR STANZA(S) HERE. 14 of 86 complete....

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## Some Bonner School highlights (1889-1976)

Jan. 16, 1889: Henry Hammond gives dance to celebrate completion of Masonic Lodge, or Bonner Hall. Served as first school until 1907.
1899 - Bonner School female principal, Mrs. Marion E. Jones.
1901 - Bonner School closed twice, in spring to smallpox and in November when Willie Newport, 10, came down with scarlet fever. 1906 - First school bond election to purchase site and build school. 1907 - September: New two-story school opened..
1911 - September: Bond issue passed to build four more rooms on the back of the school in anticipation of increased attendance from Western Lumber Co. Mill opening.
1911 - October: School trustees vote unanimously to pay streetcar fare for Bonner graduates to attend county high school in Missoula.


Ella Falligan 1912 - September: Bonner School began offering manual training.
1913 - William Akin begins 31 years as principal. Retires in 1945.
1918 - Polio (flu?) epidemic results in several deaths and closes school. Closed for that reason when World War I ended on Nov. 11.
1926 - Dec. 19: Sunday Missoulian includes feature story "Unique Institution Is Bonner Milltown School"
1930 - Guy Trenary begins 26-year career as school clerk.
1948 - School building finished: combination gym, auditorium, kitchen and dining room.
1949 - Sept. 16: First meeting of Bonner School PTA in gym. 70 charter members.
1952 - Band program started.
1957 - January: New brick school building opens for business, replacing two-story wooden school.
1957 - Walter Hook donates mural to school.
1958 - July: First school bus arrives. Driven over the years by Frank Anderson, Dennis Ruana, George Otto and Leo Dufresne.
1962 - Maurice Darrington begins record 42-year career as third-grade teacher.
1969 - September: Middle addition to Bonner School opens. Six classrooms, office, library, band room, typing room and science rooms included. School enrollment nearly 375.
1976 - April: Bicentennial and open house to celebrate publication of "A Grass Roots Tribute: the Story of Bonner, Montana" largely conceived, written and edited by school personnel.


LUMBERJACKS BUILT THIS \$ $30,000^{\circ}$ BRIDGE


By John K. Hutchens.
The big trees are toppling again in the Blachet camps of Anaconda Copper Nining com's, after its 10 years respite from ying activities in this region. For vas in 1916 that the camps picked thelr baggage and moved from nas Prairle, near the town of Poac, to the arborenl harvests along Nine Mlle, 30 milles west of Misla.
ow they are back-not in the sume : $e$, of course, but farther up the ckfoot in the Sunset diatrict, and e agaln the fir, Inrch and pine logs slipping down the chutes to the road and the river. On May 15 the son officially roached its end at e Mlle, but the huge task of movthe equipment of five eamps starton Mry 1. A systematle, heatily nccomplished jol it was, but not eusy one.
hirty-one bunkhousen were loaded , as many cars and shlpped over Northorn Pacific tracks to Pmonand thence to sunset on the Milikee's Blackfoot branch. Twentyother portable houses took the ic route, besidex one can only guess it other Innumerable eruipment. 1 befure thove rolling hbuses peneed the woods to thelr present restphaced ft was necessary that they In bullasted steel road before them somé 12 mifes:

## Overcoming Obsiacles.

blg jol, and a human one You ik of men who work in the woods seing of a sort who find many obles, and who solve them in the *kest, most effic!ent w:ly. Fisty spring the places where the A. C. five camps now rest were itulet peareful. Now there are 1i,000.-


## LOO LOADMG FECORD IS BPOEEEI <br> BG BLACKFOOT CREW PUT8 210,150 FEET ON TRAIN IN EIGHT HOURS.

George Fox, a scaler in the employ of the Big Blackfoot Milling company, was in the clty yesterday and tells of a record breaking feat accomplished by the loaders of a logging train on the Big Blackfoot railroad a day or two ago. Forty-five cars were loaded in elght hours with a steam log loader and a crew of seven men. There were 1.265 logs in the load and they scaled 210.150 feet by accurate measurement. Some of the cars contained as many as 47 logs. Under ordinary circumstances from 130,000 to 180,000 feet represents eight hours. work and the work of the crew makes it the record for the entlire logging country. Throughout the logging district there is keen rivalry among the lumberjacks as to the championship of the loaders and the belt is now rightly the property of the Blg Blackfoot boys, provided such a trophy was offered for log loaders.
Practically everything depends on the engineer in the successful loading of a logging train and Engineer Clem Henry had charge of the operations when the record was made. William Engalls ts the head loader of the crew and every member was expert at the particular place to which he was as. slgned.

Mr. Fox stated last evening that the conditions for fast loading were not the most favorable when this record was made and that the crew intended making another effort in the next lew days and they are confident that they will load at least a puarter of a million feet of logs at the next trial.

The steam loader hats been in use by the Big Blackfoot company for the past two seasons and has greatly simplified the work of log loading. Under the most favorable circumstinces when a team of horses and rrew of men load in the old fashioned way. 50.000 feet of logs is :an exctedingly good day's work.

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## ANNUAL LOG DRIVE IS FINISHED

TWENTY-FIVE MILLION FEET ARE FLOATED 75 MILES TO THE BONNER MILL POND

After 50 days of hard work the crew of half a hundred men under Dominick Ferguson yesterday finished the annual $\log$ drive of the Big Blackfoot Lumber company and in the mill pond above the Bonner plant now repose about $35,000,000$ feet of fine logs awaiting the saw. Of this jam $25,000,000$ feet were in the last drive and represent the total cut of the last season, everything being cleaned up along the river that had been cut clear to the upper Blackfoot camps above Cedar and Salmon lakes, a distance of 75 miles. The logs now in the pond will be plenty perhaps too many - for the full season's run of the big plant.

The annual drive was completed in good season and although it required some days longer than was expected very little trouble was experienced, the water being at a good stage. A large portion of the logs had to be sluiced through both Cedar and Salmon lakes and on account of strong west winds that prevailed progress was slow across those bodies of water. Otherwise the logs came booming along fine and jammed up neatly against the $10,000,000$ feet in the Bonner pond left over from last year's cut.

With the finish of the annual drive the last two logging camps on the upper Blackfoot have been discontinued for the season and 250 lumberjacks came out of the woods to civilization. They were in much evidence about the city yesterday. However, a majority of them will be employed during the summer and fall at the mill at Bonner which is now running regular capacity.

## Drive the River Down

For it's break the rollways* out, my boys, and let the big sticks slide!
And file your calks** and grease your boots and start upon the drive.
A hundred miles of water is the nearest way to town;
So tie into the tail of her and keep her hustling down.

There's some poor lads will never lift a peavey*** hook again.
Nor hear the trees crack with the frost, nor feel a warm spring rain.
'Twas falling timber, rolling logs, that handed them their time;
It was their luck to get it so, it may be yours or mine.

But break the rollways out, my lads, and let the big sticks slide.
For one man killed within the woods, ten drownded on the drive.
So make your peace before you take the nearest way to town,
While lads that are in heaven, watch the drive go down.

Old ballad

* rollway - The landing where logs are piled during winter by the lumberjacks in preparation for the river drive.
** calks - Sharp, pointed metal spikes protruding from the soles and heels of a riverman's boots to allow surer footing on logs
*** peavey - a stout wooden lever for rolling logs, equipped with a curved hook on the side and a spike in the end.


## E DATLY MI ssoulian

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Apparentiy In the Best of Heattl Until Yesterday Afternoon When He Was Seized. With a Severe Attack of Indigestion .-Succumbs Before Physician Arrives.
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RECUISIFIOM 15 GRT N..
Blemerclt, N. D.. Nov, 25.-



## Daniel E. Bandmann (1837-1905)

1840: Born in Bettenhausen, Hessen, Germany
1855: Stage debut in Germany
1858: U.S. stage debut, at German theater in Bowery in New York


1863: Broadway and English theater debut; Niblos in New York as Shylock in "Merchant of Venice

1868: London Saturday Review: "At present the attention of the theatrical world is chiefly centred in Mr. Bandmann..."

1869: Married actress Millicent Palmer from Lancaster, England. Took troupe to Australia.
1879-1884: Toured with Louise Baudet and troupe to Australia, New Zealand, India, China, Singapore and Hawaii

1884: (June) Played in Missoula to help open of Maguire's Opera House, a remodeled livery stable on the south side of W. Main. Buys 80 acres near Florence and forms cattle parnership with Robert Childs of Florence.
1885: "An Actor's Tour, or Seventy Thousand Miles with Shakespeare" published.
1887: Buys first two of five ranches in Hellgate canyon; prepares to retire from professional acting. Raises Holsteins, horses, pigs, chickens and apples.
1892: Divorces Millicent and marries a student, Mary Kelly. Eva Bandmann born, first of four children with Mary. Followed by Susan (1893), Hebe (1895) and Daniel (1904).
1893: Suffers severe monetary losses in Great Panic of ' 93 . Goes back to acting to pay bills.
1899: Declares war on San Jose scale bug that threatens Montana apples.
1900: Produces and stars in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" at the Missoula Empire Theater
1905: Sells option for 20 acres to William A. Clark's interests to build hydroelectric dam.
Nov. 23 Dies unexpectedly at age 68 of heart failure at Bandmann ranch.
Nov. 26 Buried at Missoula Valley cemetery
1911: Feb. 24 fire destroys Bandmann house, including the late actor's writings and wardrobe. Family lived in town.

## Making Certain It Goes On

> At last the Big Blackfoot river has risen high enough to again cover the stones dry too many months. Trout return from summer harbor deep in the waters of the power company dam. High on the bank where he knows the river won't reach the drunk fisherman tries to focus on a possible strike, and tries to ignore the hymn coming from the white frame church. The stone he leans against, bleached out dull gray, underwater looked beautiful and blue. The young minister had hoped for a better parish, say one with bells that sound gold and a congregation that doesn't stop coming when the mill shuts down.

We love to imagine a giant bull trout or a lunker rainbow will grab the drunk fisherman's bait and shock the drunk fisherman out of his recurrent afternoon dream and into the world of real sky and real water. We love to imagine the drought has ended, the high water will stay, the excess irrigate crops, the mill reopen, the workers go back to work, lovers reassume plans to be married. One lover, also the son of the drunk fisherman, by now asleep on the bank for no trout worth imagining has come, will not invite his father to the happy occasion though his father will show up sober and properly dressed, and the son will no longer be sure of the source of the shame he has always rehearsed.

Next summer the river will recede, the stones bleach out to
their dullest possible shade. The fisherman
will slide bleary down the bank
and trade in any chance he has of getting
a strike for some old durable dream,
a dream that will keep out the hymn coming again from the church. The workers will be back full shift. The power company will lower the water in the dam
to make repairs, make repairs and raise rates. The drunk fisherman will wait for the day his son returns, divorced and bitter and swearing revenge on what the old man has come to believe is only water rising and falling on climatic schedule.

That summer came and is gone. And everything we predicted happened, including the death of the fisherman. We didn't mention that before, but we knew and we don't lie to look good. We didn't foresee the son would never return.

This brings us to us, and our set lines set deep on the bottom. We're going all out for the big ones. A new technology keeps the water level steady year round. The company dam is self cleaning. In this dreamy summer air you and I dreamily plan a statue commemorating the unknown fisherman. The stone will bear no inscription and that deliberate anonymity will start enough rumors to keep the mill operating, big trout nosing the surface, the church reforming white frame into handsome blue stone, and this community going strong another hundred years.

Thanks everyone for coming, listening and sharing this month.
Now that we're through, there's just one thing left to do:

## Write it down.

Your memories and thoughts, poems, sketches, verses to "The Song of Bonner" ... the history that you have in your head ... any Bonner-related subject from the $19^{\text {th }}, 20^{\text {th }}$ or $21^{\text {st }}$ centuries will do ... .

Get it on paper or it will be lost. Don't worry about form or style.

## Write it down.

Imagine the collection we could produce together from these "When Bonner Was Young" forums.

Write it down. If you care to share what your writings, I'd be honored to collect them and some day (I'm not promising when) we'll put them together and publish them.

Send to me at klbrig@aol.com or Kim Briggeman, 4250 Lochsa Lane, Missoula, MT 59802. Phone: 549-7180

"The Fireboat" Charles M. Russell, 1918


[^0]:    Tonight-Grand Opening-Tonight.
    "The Belvidere" salown, formerly the

