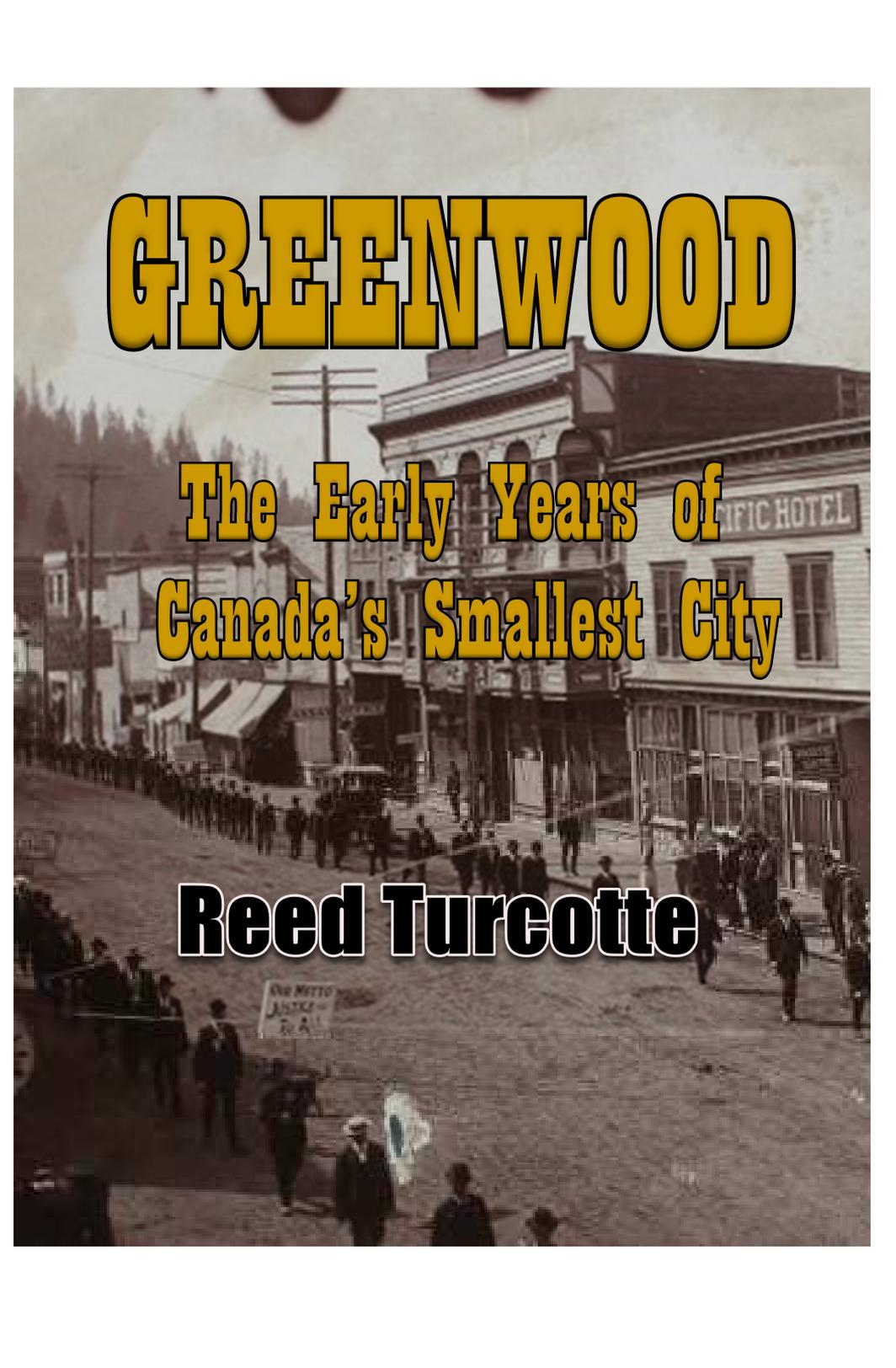


# GREENWOOD

A historical black and white photograph of a street in Greenwood, Canada. The street is wide and unpaved, with a large crowd of people walking along it. On the right side, there is a large, multi-story building with a sign that reads "PACIFIC HOTEL". The street is lined with other buildings, and there are utility poles with wires. The overall scene depicts a busy, early 20th-century town.

The Early Years of  
Canada's Smallest City

**Reed Turcotte**

GREENWOOD

The Early Years of Canada's Smallest  
City

By **Reed Turcotte**

Newspaper & Magazine Publisher

Author & Emphatic Storyteller

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appreciated.

***“The words that affect us most are the ones that inspire  
mankind to think for themselves”***

*Reed Turcotte (1991)*

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## Acknowledgment

My time spent in Greenwood as publisher (owner) of the Boundary Creek Times newspaper was some of the happiest days of my life. To all the citizens, politicians and celebrities I met in Greenwood, Midway and Rock Creek over a seventeen year period I wish to say, 'thank you'.

Lorraine, my wife, assisted me with this book and it could not have been published without her assistance and patience with me. I am a very lucky man to have her in my life.

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*From the pages of the Boundary Creek Printing & Publishing Company, history was born, witnessed, put to print and now, brought to life and preserved.*

## Prologue

The mining camp called Greenwood and the town's voice of reasoning the Boundary Creek Times both came to life around the same time in 1896. Although both divorced between the years 1911 and 1983, (as the Times did not publish during that period), the story of Greenwood and that of its newspaper(s) are dramatically entwined.

What you are about to read is the history of Greenwood and area, as mostly told by the Boundary Creek Printing & Publishing Company through the pages of its newspaper, the Boundary Creek Times. As with any print media, the words put to paper and then published, generally reflect the thoughts of the town's people but also that of its editor whose views come with their own biases and whatever ghosts rests within said editor.

The first true editor/publisher of the Times newspaper was Duncan Ross. Although he was not the founder of the paper, he did hold the publishers post from 1896 to 1907 (but was in- fact the de- facto editor until 1911) when the Times merged with another newspaper in Greenwood called the *Ledge*. The Boundary Creek Printing and Publishing Company was the publisher of the *Times* during these years, and is in fact the publisher of this book. Author Reed Turcotte bought the company and the Times newspaper in December 1997 and although Turcotte sold the paper later on, he kept the Printing and Publishing House (est. 1896), and together they

have continued publishing newspapers, magazines and books including this one) throughout Western Canada.

This is the story of Greenwood and its neighbouring towns in the West Boundary at the turn of the last century with an added chapter on recent Greenwood goings-on. This book tells tales as were written in the local newspapers of that era, especially in the pages of Greenwood's newspaper. Enjoy!

## Introduction

### Robert Woods Vision

*Greenwood-Canada's Smallest City uses real names of people who were in the area at the time and most of this story is historically accurate however a very small touch of artistic licence has been added to the odd page to bring the characters, incidents, events and ultimately the story to life.*

**S**tanding outside of George Taylor's General Store in Rock Creek (ran by Lum Kee), on a warm, dusty summer day in 1895, merchant Robert Wood has the same thought pounding over and over in his head, 'should I do it?'

Wood has spent the last thirty years visiting and working the mining camps that have sprouted up throughout the interior of British Columbia including catching the end of the Cariboo gold rush. What he saw at these camps has given him a kind of insight into what makes some of these overnight towns successful and what turns others into ruins.

His mind focused on a short four hour horseback ride out of the desert of Rock Creek past the new town of Midway to a lush green narrow canyon where a waterway, locals called Boundary Creek, flowed through. Trails from several small mining camps located on the adjacent hills met in this canyon and already a buildup of miners and their claims was taking place.

To Wood this area showed promise of prosperity, so much so that he had an epiphany. In a vision Wood saw an opportunity to finally set himself up financially and leave a legacy that he wanted almost as much as the money itself. Quickly making up his mind, Robert Wood, merchant extraordinaire, decided to take the plunge and 'do it'.

Wood concluded that he would complete the purchase of a tract of land, five thousand dollars for 81 hectares on the canyon bottom that he had visited just nine days ago. This property also included a log cabin that would make an ideal store to sell general goods to the men in the area.

Wood's mind was racing as he contemplated the rest of his vision. What he saw was a new town that offered the miners everything and anything that they desired, including a mining camp newspaper. This new little town would be situated on the pristine green floral banks of Boundary Creek. This town would serve the needs of the big mining interests who would surely come for the rich copper ore, silver and gold deposits that he was convinced was to be found in abundance throughout this area.

In his vision Robert Wood called this town Greenwood.

## Chapter One

### Searching For Copper

So it began. Robert Wood started a General Store in a log cabin where trails from several important copper mining camps met. The discovery of copper located mainly up in the hills from the narrow canyon that the Boundary Creek ran through, was now bringing life and a touch of prosperity to the Mining Camps in the area.

Wood cut the trees down around his store and established the camp site of Greenwood which quickly became (in about seven months) a little settlement. Using his own money from the sale of lots in Greenwood, Wood cleared and built crude roads from various camps including the Eholt and Anaconda and the new settlement of Midway (to the West) into his new town.

By late 1896, Greenwood was now a small mining camp onto itself and boasted hotels, a general store, livery stable, two assay offices, an opera house plus a dozen other buildings including a newspaper which first published on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1896. It was called the *Boundary Creek Times*, and for the next fifteen years it would be the voice of Greenwood.

A quote in this first issue described a claim, “While it is the aim of the Times to refrain from anything resembling exaggerated reports, it is impossible not to be enthusiastic when describing the copper. The average value of the ore make the copper a prospect with few equals. The monetary value of the claim must be considerable but if the claim continues to go down, the copper will make the Anaconda take a back seat.”

The twelve page paper was published by a group called Times Publishing Company that at year end would switch to the name, Boundary Creek Times Printing & Publishing Co., which is still owned to this day by the author of this book. In the Boundary Creek Times second issue of September 19, 1896, the front page told a story called The Camp – its early history. The next five paragraphs are directly from this issue.

“About seven years have passed since the first prospector found his way into the pathless country which, now known as the Boundary Creek district, is rapidly changing into a mining camp. Great changes have taken place. It is gratifying to know that all the old-time prospectors in Boundary who are now living, have excellent prospects of reaping a deservedly rich reward for all the hardships and privations they have gone through. Men like Bob Denzler, James Atwood, Joe Taylor, George Rumberger, Henry White and others belong to a class of sturdy pioneers who, by their indomitable pluck and perseverance, faced obstacles and difficulties which few would dare to confront and cleared the way for others to follow.

The Kimberley Camp was only discovered this year and is called after the Kimberly Claim, staked last May by Bob Murray and George Henderson up Boundary Creek, seven or eight miles above Greenwood. The characteristic ore of this camp is magnetic iron, carrying copper and gold in small quantities. The iron which is found in immense bodies, is supposed to cap more valuable deposits beneath. This supposition has in part been verified by work lately done on the Kimberly. After a cross-cut had been made across the face of the ledge, about eight feet deep, the character of the rock changed to rose-tinted quartz, carrying iron and copper pyrites.

Three weeks ago another large iron capping was discovered on the claim. The east and west extensions of the Kimberly are the Adirondack, the Great Eastern and the Old Kentucky. The surface showing on these claims is similar to that seen on the Kimberly. On another large ledge running north-east and south-west are located the Copper Chief and the Black Bear, on the latter of which the

assessment work has been done. A shaft was sunk, to a depth of eight feet, the rock proving very hard and difficult to drill. At the foot of the shaft, the ore is solid iron with indications of copper. On a parallel vein are the Eizard and Home stake. The assessment has been done on both claims, shafts being sunk in quartz. Again, between Boundary and Bear Creeks, are the Iron Chief upon which work is now going on, and the Golden Eagle. The latest discoveries in this locality, made within the past few weeks, are the Ballard, owned by M.T. Robinson, with its extension on the West, the Bendigo, located by Mr. McCarthy on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. and the eastern extension, the Carlyle, owned by M.E. Miller and J.P. Kelly. All these claims have big iron cappings. The Ballarat is now being stripped to find the width of the ledge, which has already been traced 40 feet.

Another parallel ledge was found last week, with quartz outcroppings and claims named the Marguerite and McMurray, located thereon. About the best looking rock, however, from the Kimberly camp, comes from the Hanover on which the ledge, carrying rich-looking quartz, is four feet wide and lies between a foot wall of lime and a "slaty" hanging wall. Mr. Miller went up on Wednesday to open up this claim and Marguerite. On the same day a number of prospectors also struck out for this new and promising neighborhood. Subscribe for *The Times* and send it to your friends."

Other news in this issue included these two tidbits of gossip. The firm of Campbell & Wilson, Barristers and Solicitors of Vancouver, arrived in Greenwood on Tuesday evening. The visit is in connection with a dispute of ownership of a valuable and well-known prospect in a near-by camp. A petition to the Provincial Government for the local appointment of a stipendiary magistrate for Boundary Creek and Kettle River districts has been signed by about 70 residents of Greenwood, naming Mr. T.S. Milligan as a reliable and fit recipient of the honor. Another petition which will be presented to the licensing board, is being circulated and freely signed, asking that a license be granted to H. Nash, to sell spirituous liquors at a hotel he is about to build at the Stemwinder camp.

Advertisers in this issue were numerous including Miller & Bros – jewellers and news dealers; Armstrong & Lawder - miners supplies; Pioneer Hotel; Olson & Phelan – Greenwood Grocerer; Taylor & Co. – prescription & pharmacy; along with assayer, lumber mills and bricklayer ads.

The Boundary Hotel on the Kettle River in Midway had an ad, as did the Penticton Hotel promoting stage connections from Rock Creek to Penticton. One advertisement headline said, “Greenwood, Deadwood, Copper, Summit, Long Lake, Skylark, White & Atwood, Wellington and Smith Camps.” The rest of the ad copy stated, “Lots are selling freely and are a good investment. For price of lots, contact ROBERT Wood, Greenwood City, Boundary Creek, BC.”

A small notice in the corner of the paper said, newspaper building (24 x 55 feet) and lot on the Main Street for sale. As the year turned into 1897 Greenwood’s little paper would soon move to a new location with its new boss, editor Duncan Ross who would for the next fourteen years be a tireless supporter of this now burgeoning town. Ross was born May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1870 in Bruce County, Ontario and was a champion of a free press and had a huge appetite for politics.

## Chapter Two

### The Dream Becomes Reality

The year 1896 ended with a new school and hospital that was now a permanent part of the landscape of Greenwood. The hospital was the brainchild of Robert Wood and the recently arrived Doctor Jakes. Wood's dream was rapidly becoming a reality and he realized a hospital that could treat the miners when they got injured (which happened a lot) would be a crowning jewel of his new little town.

Although Dr. Jakes had not been in this area very long, Wood, the good Doctor and Editor Duncan Ross were having a say in almost everything that went on. Dr. Jakes was on top of his game, he had just taken control of the Greenwood Drug store due to the untimely death of its owner, a Mr. Taylor and now was also the sole proprietor of the hospital. The hospital had been built with private funds and occupied thirteen lots on Summit Street.

In 1896 Greenwood went from almost nothing to a small mining camp in a matter of months. In 1897 it went from a mining camp to a real live town. Throughout the year the sound of hammers and saws were heard throughout the Boundary Creek Valley with houses and business buildings being constructed at a fever pace. Nearly every carpenter in town was engaged and lumber was hard to come by and when available sold at premium prices. The famous (then and now) Windsor Hotel was now open, but even it had been held up due to a lack of available building products.

Partners in this new hotel were George Seymour and Sam Webb. Seymour arrived in Greenwood by accident, as originally he was on

his way to Revelstoke, British Columbia. Seymour got off his steamer (boat) to walk to Robson, British Columbia, the closest town to his intended destination. As he started his walk, George saw two cougars hot on his tail and they were definitely sniffing him out. Firing a shot to scare the big cats, Seymour decided he would be safer on a train that he heard coming his way. On board a fellow passenger told Seymour about a ranch (Lind's) that was now a small town called Anaconda, which was located on the edge of a booming place called Greenwood.

In January, the local press were talking about a large blacksmith shop in Anaconda that was just completed and about Victoria hotelier Mr. W Jensen who purchased property in Greenwood for another hotel. A contract was let by Messrs. Rendell and Company to construct a pump-house to hold fire equipment. Houses, buildings and development work on the many mine claims were going on even though over five feet of snow was on the ground at the beginning of February. It may have been cold outside but the area was on fire development-wise.

At the beginning of May the roads in and around the West Boundary were in terrible shape due to the late melting snow and heavy rains. The almost impassible roads were more of a sea of mud than negotiable trails, even Government Street in Greenwood was in poor shape and a group of politicians, businessmen and citizens were trying to raise funds to cut the rise of the street down by two feet beginning at the south side of Rendell and Company's store. Wooden sidewalks on both sides of the street were also proposed as was a large sixty foot wide bridge over Twin Creek.

Two hotels took on new owners that spring; Tommy Wake, an old time prospector purchases the Boundary Falls Hotel and W. J. Timan takes over the Pioneer Hotel. In late May, Russell and Company open a new store on Government Street that sells hardware, miners supplies, stoves, doors and windows and more. Greenwood was now a busy going concern with new people arriving daily.

Robert Wood was never far away from the headlines and his latest story in the Times newspaper told of finally closing a deal on six hundred and forty acre property at Rock Creek. On this acreage, according to Wood, lay a large seam of coal, nine feet deep. Wood was spending a thousand dollars on tunnels and the purchase of a diamond drill to thoroughly test the ground to see if a coal mine was feasible.

At the same time a building boom in Midway was taking place. According to the local press, residential houses were going up at a record pace and older properties were putting in lawns and gardens, making the town of Midway look very clean and neat indeed. In Anaconda, coffee was selling for forty-five cents a pound at the Anaconda Mercantile Company store.

Midway's most famous family was in the news in late May of 1897. The long awaited trial of Provincial Constable W.G. McMynn finally took place over a shooting incident that took place the February before. This is the story that appeared in the Boundary Creek Times on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

"W. G. McMynn, provincial constable and mining recorder at Midway, has been acquitted of the charge of wounding Reginald J. Hood. The case was tried before Judge Spinks at Midway on Wednesday. Mr. J. A. Aikman appeared for the Crown and Mr. J. P. McLeod for the defence. Owing to other cases having occupied the time of the Judge, it was 8.30 p.m. before the McMynn case began. The first witness called for the prosecution was R. J. Hood, and his evidence was similar to that given at the preliminary hearing and at the investigation conducted by Mr. Lambly, S.M. In answer to Mr. McLeod, Mr. Hood stated that he had no reason to think that Mr. McMynn had any hard feelings against himself. Wm. Lewis and James Fisher also gave evidence similar to that on the two former occasions.

Dr. Jakes testified that he had been treating McMynn for nearly a week previous to the shooting; he had been suffering from a severe attack of "la grippe". Mr. McLeod elicited the important

information that Dr. Jakes, knowing McMynn and having treated him, was professionally of the opinion that he was temporarily mentally deranged at the time of the shooting. Constable Deans also gave evidence for the prosecution. For the defence, Miss McKenzie, Mr. Elkins and Mr. James Brown in their evidence stated that they all had noticed Mr. McMynn previous to the shooting and that he looked very ill.

Mr. McLeod made a strong plea for acquittal. He quoted authorities to show that malice must be proven and there was no evidence to that effect. He dwelt particularly on Dr. Jakes' evidence. He hoped the counsel for the Crown would attempt to throw no stigma on McMynn who bore such an excellent reputation.

After Mr. Aikman had summed up the evidence for the prosecution, Judge Spinks reviewed the evidence and acquitted McMynn. The learned Judge also referred to the medical evidence and stated that had it been different his decision would also have probably been different. But this evidence was so conclusive that he could do nothing but acquit Mr. McMynn. The *Boundary Creek Times* newspaper and many others in the West Boundary supported the acquittal of Mr. McMynn.

An advertisement in this issue was a notice of dissolution of partnership between Seymour and Webb in their new Windsor Hotel venture. Downtown lots were changing hands rapidly and were now selling for as high as \$400 to \$500 each. Businesses were opening up everywhere, including construction of a 24 by 30 foot building on Copper Street that when finished would be a quality restaurant owned and run by a Mr. L.K. Jacobson. In March, seventeen mining camps were in play, in and around Greenwood.

The town kept growing during the summer of 1897 and finally at the end of August, Greenwood was incorporated as a City and elections were held. In the September 4<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Boundary Creek Times* a front page story said that only one voter's meeting at the Rendell & Company's Hall took place. Duncan Ross was voted to chair the meeting and Mayor elect Robert Wood thanked the audience for

electing him without opposition. The candidates then gave their views to those in attendance in a relaxed and friendly manner. The next day (Saturday) eighty-seven votes were cast to see who the alderman would be.

The new council consisted of Mayor Robert Wood and Alderman John Hamill, George A. Rendell, Archie McKenzie, L.M. Barrett, M.J. Phelan and C.S. Galloway. The vision Mr. Robert Wood had while standing in Rock Creek not so long ago, was now a reality. His dream was coming true. Next up, he thought out loud, is to secure a railway line to my town, the "City of Greenwood".

The year 1897 never had a slow down when it came to construction and growth in "Canada's Littlest City" especially when it came to road building. A new road between Greenwood and the Summit mining camp at Eholt was almost complete and for the princely sum of eighteen hundred dollars. Another road from Grand Forks to Eholt was just finished. A road from Midway to Curlew, Washington was being drastically improved with crossings of the Kettle River now eliminated. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Greenwood's Government and Copper Street were finally free of the stumps, rocks and holes that had been so prevalent for the past year.

All of a sudden people were talking about this Eholt area and saying it might become the next Greenwood. The Boundary Creek Mining-Milling Co. Ltd., through their president G.A. Rendell, acquired 320 acres at the junction of Boundary and Eholt Creeks. Forty acres were being subdivided for a new town site that Rendell for now was calling Boundary Creek City.

In Greenwood, an upgraded waterworks system was being discussed. Mayor Wood told council that the city would have to pay a thirty per-cent premium a year in order to get the capital to complete the project. Premiums and high interest rates were now becoming a large part of Wood's business acumen causing him to make a lot of money. The Mayor, who possessed a large handlebar mustache, was financing many Greenwood projects himself and at

the same time donating a few of his properties to various charities that he thought would be good for his town.

The newspaper industry was also going strong in the area. In the fall of 1897, Midway had the *Advance*, Anaconda had the *Standard* and Greenwood had the *Boundary Creek Times*. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Times, for the first time on their editorial masthead, featured Duncan Ross as the new editor with W.J. Harder continuing on as manager. In a story printed four months earlier, on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Times newspaper welcomed Ross from the Victoria Times paper and announced he had purchased an interest in the Greenwood paper.

For the next ten years, Editor Ross would control the *Times* newspaper with his pro council, pro mining and pro Greenwood views. Ross was also the Chief Ranger of the Boundary International Order of Foresters (I.O.F.) and a Boundary delegate of the local Liberal Association; two projects he also promoted strongly in his newspaper.

In November, Greenwood and area population was close to three thousand and the town's first outdoor ice rink was now operational. The hotel and booze business was going gang busters with the International, Pioneer, Windsor, Imperial and Commercial hotels all applying for licences to the City to sell (or continue to sell) liquor out of their establishments.

Growth in Greenwood continued right through the winter. In the December 25<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Boundary Creek Times*, Editor Ross pointed out that recently there had been a phenomenal influx of people into the Boundary District. Ross printed that men with money were welcome to Greenwood but miners and down and outs should wait until spring to come to town as there was just not enough work at the mining camps right now.

## Chapter Three

### Mining Camps Pump-Up Everywhere

In the winter of 1898, the growth in Greenwood did not let up at all. People and business continued to arrive at a fever pitch. On January 29<sup>th</sup> Canada's Littlest City welcomed a Mr. Keith as a new teacher and a visit from the Midway Advance publisher W.H. Norris, who had thoughts of putting a second newspaper into Greenwood.

The Greenwood sawmill was busy turning logs into lumber, using a full force of men in anticipation of a huge rush of business, as soon as the snow leaves. The hotels in town were full most nights due to all the people arriving in Greenwood. They wanted to see what all the fuss was about and get in on the mining boom.

Russell & Company moved into their new store in the Barrett block. J. McMichael sold his business in Anaconda to Smith and Aldridge. Miller Brothers called for tenders to start excavating a fifty by sixty foot lot on the corner of Copper and Government streets where they will construct an 18x50 foot building to house a retail store. Clearing was being done in the Anaconda town site in anticipation of the growth to the area with the commencement of railway construction that most believed was less than a year away.

Products to be sold in the stores were plentiful but had a long and difficult time getting to their destination. A load of hardware shipped by J.H. Ashdown out of Winnipeg on February 8<sup>th</sup> to Russell Hardware in Greenwood took seventeen days to arrive. The hardware left Winnipeg by Northern Pacific to Marcus located on the

other side of the border and then continued onto Greenwood by cart and horse.

In March of that year, the assessed value of Greenwood, according to the City's assessment roll was \$251,695, up \$47,000 from the previous year.

During the March 12<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Boundary Creek Times* newspaper a story ran referring to "the Jap-Jetsaua Miyakami." The Times called this person a female in an earlier story when in fact it was a "he". The newspaper then chastised the federal government for not properly labeling foreigners coming into this country with masculine or feminine names that locals (whites) could pronounce.

In the Times newspaper April 9<sup>th</sup> issue, a quote from a front page story was, "Boundary Creek is the best advertised district in Canada today. Never was a battle more hotly waged than that whose scene is in the railway committee of the House of Commons (Ottawa) where the Canadian Pacific Railway is using all its powerful influence to defeat the granting of a charter to the Kettle River Valley Railway Company. Every newspaper in the country gives lengthy reports of the meetings of the committee."

Work at the dozens of mining claims around Greenwood was rapidly taking place with copper deposits showing up in large amounts almost everywhere. In the spring of 1898 everyone in Greenwood was talking about these mining camps. In the newspapers, these claims were the darlings of the Press....Bruce claim on Ingram Mountain, Great Laxey on Eholt Creek, Pass Creek, Golden Crown, Great Hesper Smith's camp, Canyon Creek, Summit, Non Such, Pheasant, Snowshoe, Broncho, Torodo Creek, Norfolk, Blue Jay, Little Ruth, Wellington, Duplicate and Triplicate. One other claim was just starting to catch on in people's vernacular, this one called itself the Greenwood Camp, which in another six months would change its name and go on to become not just the areas' biggest mine but a city onto itself. The town's new name would be Phoenix and it too would soon have its own newspaper, the Phoenix Pioneer. The mine would become one of the largest in the world and be called the Granby.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> this report appeared in print, “since the winter has made way for delightful spring weather, prospectors have brought in their horses from the ranges, secured their outfits, and have gone to the hills. Mine owners are making active preparations to develop their properties. Expensive machinery has been purchased by several companies. Plants for the Mother Lode, the Stemwinder and the Brooklyn are now under way from the east. Railway or no railway, a large amount of work will be carried out this summer”.

Greenwood itself was still growing vigorously and at a healthy rate. Carpenters were kept busy erecting new hotels, business houses and residences. Greenwood’s size and population was twice what it was just one year ago. Improved streets and water-works made the outlook for the coming summer and the future of Canada’s Smallest City very bright indeed.

Miller Bros. had finally cleared the ground for their two-storey building on the corner of Copper and Greenwood streets. The building will be used by the firm for both a jewelry and drug store.

Greenwood council decided that sidewalks would be installed in town and they would be eight feet wide and constructed out of 2x8 foot wood planks laid on 3x4 sills. Not only was the City of Greenwood prospering but so was the local booze business. Ben Benson of nearby Eureka was sentenced to seven months in prison and fined one-hundred dollars for smuggling liquor. Benson, along with many others, ran a blind pig (still) out of his home and once a month brought his home-made whiskey into Greenwood to sell to the locals, saloons ( through their back door) and nearby Indians. When caught by the constabulary entering Greenwood, Mr. Benson had over fifty gallons of rotgut hooch in the back of his wagon.

The fishing season was well under way with many securing good baskets of fish out of the Kettle River and Boundary Creek. According to one report, “a Greenwood fisherman never has to exaggerate about his catch.” Recreation besides fishing included baseball and cricket in both Greenwood and Midway.

Telephone lines were been installed across the border in the town of Republic that was now three-thousand strong. The town's people of Greenwood were expecting the Nelson & Vernon Telephone Company to do the same in their little hamlet shortly, by fall at the latest.

Three hundred acres for a town-site at Boundary Falls were sold in mid-May to a Milburn syndicate who expected that area to shortly explode with a Smelter and Power company leading the charge. Everywhere one looked you could see mining executives with cigars firmly entrenched in their jaws scouring the area looking for property for future projects. The cigar of choice in Greenwood in the summer of 1898 was made and stored in a factory in Kamloops and these cigars were sold all over Greenwood, with the best selection available at the Gem Cigar shop and M.E. Fazee Tobaccos and Candy.

The Gem Cigar Shop was in the news when Ford the barber tried to lay a charge against them for keeping a gambling house. It seems the good barber got drunk on a Saturday night, and with three hundred dollars burning a hole in his pant pockets, challenged all at the Windsor Hotel, where his barber shop was located, to a drilling contest. The next day after sobering up Ford realized that he was no driller and would surely lose his poke, so he paid another town drunk (and there were many) ten dollars to complain that since the contest was to take place on a Sunday, gambling on that day of the Lord could not take place. He changed the contest to Monday but did not tell the others. On Monday morning, Greenwood's barber went out onto the Main Street and drilled a hole sixteen and a half inches deep and declared himself the winner. The other contestants smelled a rat and would not pay up, so Ford laid the charge against the Gem Cigar Shop, as that was where the bets went down.

In June, the voter's list in Greenwood was 430 strong. Not all was coming up roses though as an A. E.M. Munns, president of the Anaconda Mine, told council that the Greenwood hospital would have to close at the end of July due to a shortage of funds. Council formed a committee to work with Doctor Jakes to try and keep the complex open. The committee however was like many of the day

and accomplished nothing and the hospital was forced to close in September.

Duncan Ross, through his newspaper, ran an editorial employing the provincial government to take the hospital over and run it as a public institute rather than a private enterprise, as had been the case up until now. Mismanagement and incompetency by council was also brought up in print by Ross over the mess made of Copper and Government streets by a large force of men trying to fix the streets up, but, obviously not to the likes of Ross.

In August, Greenwood's baseball team got blown out of the water by Grand Forks by a score of 27 to 11. Fishing was still going strong, with Duncan Ross and a party of eight others, taking a six day trip to Rock Creek to try their luck where the Kettle River and Rock Creek come together. They took fifty pounds of oatmeal and ten pounds of bacon as part of their provisions. Other forms of down time included renting a horse and cart from the Palace Livery Stable in Greenwood for a leisurely drive into Midway on Sundays.

In September the Boundary Creek newspaper turned two years old by publishing its 104<sup>th</sup> issue and bragging about going daily come December.

Veterinary Doctor J. Christie returned to Greenwood after an extended leave to Scotland with a bride in tow and purchased a cottage on Long Lake Road. A Mr. Harrison of the B.C. Mine Company astounded all by proclaiming that his mine had more than twenty thousand tons of ore waiting to be brought out of the ground once a railway arrived in Greenwood. C.P.R. engineers were in the area looking at the possibility of a spur rail line from Greenwood to the Greenwood Camp once the inevitable main line came to town.

The war of words between the newspapers in Grand Forks and Greenwood hit its height when in an October 15<sup>th</sup> editorial, the Times Duncan Ross printed, "Grand Forks is not in the Boundary Country, does not, nor can it ever do the business of the Boundary Creek Country. It is a poor miserable rural hamlet, situated on a frog

pond near the Kettle River, miles away from the mining centres and the business of the mining camps. Its people quarrel among themselves and are a wholesale centre for gossip and scandal.”

The cheapest lot in Greenwood in November was located on Long Street and was listed for sale for two-hundred and fifty dollars. The formation of a Board of Trade was being discussed due to all the new businesses opening up, the latest, Sperry & Co. moving their goods into a new building just completed on Copper Street.

During this time flu was hitting Canada’s smallest City hard. A wagon road between Greenwood and Grand Forks was enlarged and rebuilt and connected to the Greenwood Summit camp road at Rendell’s ranch.

Representatives from the Toronto Dominion bank were in town looking at the possibility of opening a branch in Greenwood. The Bank of Montreal had already beat Toronto Dominion to the punch by purchasing Bealey and Company’s huge safe but did not yet have a store front. D. C. Cameron was expected in the City at any moment to become the Manager of the soon to open Canadian Bank of Commerce. A two storey 75x50 foot Rendell & Co. building was planned for the corner of Copper and Greenwood streets with excavation about to start.

Duncan Ross had a lengthy letter to the editor published in the Victoria Times newspaper regarding a railway coming to Greenwood. The powers to be at City hall were discussing where to put a cemetery that was in the planning stages.

Three weddings were held at the Windsor hotel during the last week of November where Mr. Wild of Rock Creek and Mr. John Ross and Mr. H. King all took on new brides.

In December even the cold weather could not stop the warm feeling that Greenwoodians were feeling. J. P Graves was in town organizing a company to build a 44 ton Smelter at Boundary Falls. The Greenwood Mining and Commercial Association asked the Province

for a road to be built to White's camp. They also requested a better school building and that the fire department and hospital be treated like government institutions found in other towns. A request for daily mail to Greenwood was also submitted.

The year 1898 ended with a small fire that was quickly put out at Rendell & Company's dry goods store. Fifteen miles of ground rail line from Midway to Rock Creek secured by the C.P.R. and telegraph poles that were expected to be planted shortly were the talk of Greenwood City. Court complete with a Judge was to be held for the first time in Greenwood come January 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Chapter Four

### Boom Times Come To Town

Construction camps in the Boundary Valley were being established at an incredible rate, one of these at Tillman's Mill about five miles from Greenwood. It was turning from a village of tents into a town of wood buildings.

The roads in January 1899 were covered with deep snow and had mining and railroad supply teams trying their best to trek through it. Construction of a contractor's railway reserve on the other side of Boundary Creek was being framed and ready to board up, this building would be the supply headquarters for the railway line which everyone expected shortly. Near this warehouse, a 75x28 foot railway hospital was also under construction.

In late January, the Rossland Hotel on Copper Street applied for a liquor licence; the skating rink in Greenwood had good ice and was lit in the evening. Recent Civic elections in Canada's smallest city had delivered a new Mayor, Thomas Jackson Hardy. Mail was still a problem though. A letter sent out of Greenwood on December 19<sup>th</sup> reached Cascade City on January 14<sup>th</sup>, a total of 26 days to travel just 37 miles. John McLaren was the new police Chief and just outside of Greenwood, near Eholt the thermometer hits 48 below, than quits altogether.

In an editorial in the Times newspaper, the powers to be state that effective next week, the paper will publish twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday. In the same editorial, it said " as soon as the Robson-Boundary Creek Railway is completed and telegraphic communications secured, we expect Greenwood will be a City of

several thousand. No businessman will make a grave mistake by banking on the future of Greenwood.”

Mr. John Scrafford arrives in Greenwood in mid-winter to take over as Superintendent of the Summit Camp property that most expect (and hope) will become a major player of ore in the area.

The big news in town in early February was the decision by the Town-site Company and the C.P.R. to straighten Boundary Creek where it runs through Greenwood to eliminate the spring runoff from spilling over the Creek's bank and flooding the town. Silver Street will be widened to one hundred feet with a channel for the creek to be cut down the middle which will be twelve feet wide at the bottom, six feet deep and thirty feet wide at the top. Grass will be sown on the banks with shade trees planted.

This winter, lots were changing hands at very high prices indeed. A fifty foot lot on the corner of Copper and Deadwood streets sells for \$2,500.00 cash; another piece of property next door to D. Cameron's hotel fetches \$1,700.00. Two W.B. Paton's lots are optioned to purchase for \$4,000.00 with the Barrett block turning down a whopping ten thousand dollars for their property.

Finally the Corporation of the City of Greenwood and the Boundary Creek Telegraph and Telephone Company sign a right-of-way to allow poles and overhead wires to be put up through Greenwood.

As February comes to an end, on a cold Saturday night, five women of sin (as some called them) were rounded up, brought before the local magistrate and fined. They immediately went back to work applying the only trade they knew, which to the miners' relief continued to bring them happiness on this weekend night.

Ore was being found everywhere and in one example, a tunnel that was being dug and drilled under a nearby wagon road ended up possessing a very large body of rich minerals.

Four sentences printed in the local press in February foretold of what was about to happen and happen quickly in the Boundary Country. "Word comes from Montreal that a company organized by a Mr. J. P. Graves (mining promoter) for smelting Boundary Creek ore is making active preparations to begin work on a smelter in spring. The new name will be the Granby Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company. It will probably take twelve months to have everything ready."

The company was consolidated after an agreement was reached by the directors of Knob Hill, Ironsides, Grey Eagle and Granby Smelter Company. The company was formed with \$15,000,000, of which \$2,900,000 was held in Treasury stock. This mine would become one of British Columbia's largest in just three years and although miners had been calling this area Camp Greenwood, most had recently renamed this tent town - Phoenix.

Greenwood's hotels were filled to capacity most nights as businessmen, mining and railway executives plus people of means were coming to town by the hundreds to get in on this copper action. With all this wealth in town, more hotel and drinking establishments were needed. The Arlington Hotel in Greenwood therefore applies for its liquor licence and tenders are called for John Keogh to build a large three story hotel that will be erected on two Government street lots.

The Russell Hardware store purchases two lots on the corner of Short and Copper streets to erect a large building for their own use as business was so good they needed more space. Greenwood founder Robert Wood, J.W. Powell, F. Elkins and W.S. Fletcher have entered into an agreement to each build substantial blocks on their Government street lots near the corner of Deadwood Street. It is expected this area will become the business centre of Greenwood City with Powell committed to yet another hotel on his block.

Central and the Queens Hotel on Copper Street also apply for a liquor licence and yet two more hotels that are under construction are expected to be open April 1<sup>st</sup>. These new complexes are owned by a Mr. Walsh and Mr. Madden.

In March, the Sailor group of claims in Camp McKinney (north-west of Rock Creek) sold shares in Toronto for fifteen cents each. Camp McKinney has many large mining claims including one claim by Robert Wood. It now also has a hotel that has a big boss of a man running it called Hugh Cameron. An old time Rock Creeker, Chas Ditz who washed for gold in the '60s, received his final payment of \$15,000.00 for his interest in the Camp McKinney Sailor Mine. A large celebration followed at the nearby Rock Creek Hotel where according to legend, the booze flowed like water with Ditz taking care of the bill.

The City of Greenwood could now be officially called a boom town, with buildings going up in every direction but still not enough room for all the men and women pouring into town every day. In all directions, mining camps are opening up and consolidating under single larger company which causes the locals to feel good about their new community. To a man, most see a bright wealthy future for themselves and the town called Greenwood City.

Due to the very warm spring, the area and city roads were in an almost impassible condition with mud to be found everywhere. Residential lots on the upper benches in Greenwood were now fetching \$2,000.00 each. The assessed property value totals of Greenwood were at a staggering half a million dollars and that figure was expected to rise substantially when the many building projects underway are soon to be completed.

Council in the spring of 1899 makes arrangements to purchase two lots on Greenwood Street to build a two-storey building. This building will house the fire department on the ground floor, council chambers up-stairs and two jail cells. Robert Wood, who was now back on council as an alderman was doing as many were, merging many of his companies into one and would shortly float his shares out east. Wood's interest included a Camp McKinney mine, mining claims throughout the Boundary Country and lots of property in Greenwood and other town-sites. He also has interests in the

mercantile trade in the town of Armstrong. Wood was becoming a rich man and his stature throughout Greenwood was God-like.

In April, telephone poles were appearing everywhere in Greenwood which excited the locals who waited with bated breath to be the first to try out this new talking machine. In the nearby mining camp called Elkhorn, a twenty acre mineral claim sold for \$8,000.00 with the new owner planning to turn the property into lots for yet another new town. The Arlington Hotel in Greenwood was planning its grand opening under the management of Mr. Cooper and Seymour with Seymour having a lot of experience as an hotelier in Canada's Smallest City. Rendell & Company are telling all that their almost finished new building in town will add a third floor with the Greenwood club taking that top spot.

Doctor R. Mathison announces that he will open dentistry in town on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mathison is now the second dentist located in Greenwood. Down the road in Midway, a five room cottage is for sale on a 100x142 foot lot complete with a well and pump. The price is just \$1200.00, a fraction of what one would pay for such a large property in Greenwood.

Mail, which had been carried into Phoenix by horseback during the winter due to deep snow, was now being delivered by stage coach. At the Phoenix Stemwinder and Brooklyn properties, one hundred men were working on the claims. Phoenix now has a few dwellings, a hotel and another under construction. Grading from Grand Forks through to Eholt then onto the Brooklynn Mine is now complete and just waiting for rails to be put down.

With all these mines opening up, many injuries at the work place were also taking place. A John Spargo was thrown into 45 feet of water at the 250 foot level of a mine he was a worker at and had his head crushed. Working conditions at the claims were poor and this caused the two doctors of Greenwood to be busy twenty-four seven.

In May, working phones have been installed in two Greenwood sawmills and in Rendell's store. Lots were being developed, to be put

for sale at Deadwood, which was alongside Anaconda and Greenwood. At Carmi, which was located on the West fork of the Kettle River near Beaver Creek north of Rock Creek, the Golden Crown claim now has seventeen miners working full time at the mine. It is also developing lots that are located nearby and will be for sale shortly.

The Elkhorn brewery in Greenwood had a new owner, Captain E. Von Hartmann who paid \$15,000 for the plant and building. The good Captain announced that he is changing the name to Greenwood City Brewing Company and was offering up 1,200 shares of this business to locals. Hartmann also told all who would listen that he would like to add a picnic ground, a dancing pavilion and a bowling alley to the brewery grounds, most of which, never happened.

Eighty head of cattle are on their way to Greenwood by P. Burns & Co. to help feed the multitude of miners who were now working all over the place and their food of choice at local restaurants was a good burnt steak. The Burns Company started out a decade ago supplying the Blackfoot Indian tribe near Calgary with meat paid for by the Federal Government. They have now branched out with eighteen shops located in mining camps throughout southern British Columbia including stores in Midway and Greenwood.

May 24<sup>th</sup> was a particularly prominent day in Greenwood when the front page story of the Boundary Creek Times announced that the railway to Greenwood was almost complete. Mr. Tye, chief engineer and contractor for the construction of the Columbia and Western Railway tells the Times that his men are laying rails at the rate of a mile a day and will be in Cascade City on June 12<sup>th</sup>. According to Tye, Greenwood should hear the shrill whistle of their very first train engine on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

An advertisement by the White Front Store (Olson & Phelan) chastised Greenwood council for passing an ordinance banning retail stores from now opening on Sundays. Up to now Greenwood was more or less a wide open town but with major city amenities now available, Greenwood council, in their wisdom, thought it was time

for Greenwood to get civilized. This went over well inside the town with the religious faction but was not so welcome by the miners who worked and lived just outside the City borders and wanted to purchase and party seven days a week. The local newspaper was flush with ads, many promoting real estate and mining equipment for sale including a Greenwood merchant who promoted suits for two dollars, overalls at one dollar and shoes for two dollars and seventy five cents.

In early June, Greenwood hears news that the railway coming to town has been delayed until October 1<sup>st</sup> due to a massive mudslide in the MacRae Pass. A committee is formed to take active steps towards the organization of a Greenwood Board of Trade. Well known Rock Creek businessman W.T Thompson dies on a trail near Beaverton and bereaved in the local newspapers.

Hotels in the Boundary Country were popping up like dandelions. Walter Waterford's Miners Hotel opens on Copper street and features thirty rooms to rent, a huge bar, office area and swanky dining room. Other hotels that are applying for liquor licences in Greenwood include the B.C. hotel, Gambrinus, Leland house, Queens, Alberta, Log Cabin and the Round House. Other hotels in the area comprises of McQuaig and Larson's Riverside hotel in Rock Creek, the Rock Creek hotel; McAuley and Keightly's Midway hotel; Harry Nash's Phoenix hotel; Snodgrass and Kelly's Palace hotel in Anaconda and Thomas Wakes Boundary Falls hotel.

At the turn of the century, fire was a word that wooden built towns did not want to hear, but hear it they did. On a Sunday morning in June, about two hours past midnight, an alarm was turned in due to a fire that had just started underneath the Clarendon hotel and was threatening to destroy the business community (including most of the other hotels) of Greenwood. Greenwood's volunteer fire brigade including other citizens were soon on the scene with a line of hoses shooting out streams of water on the Clarendon Hotel but they were too late, as minutes later the building became engulfed in a mass of flames.

The fire was only slowed (and then put out) due to a vacant lot that existed between the International and Clarendon hotels, although the International eventually caught fire and was also lost. The Clarendon building was insured for four thousand dollars with personal effects of those staying at the hotels covered by the hotel's insurance companies.

On Dominion Day and July 4<sup>th</sup>, celebrations in Greenwood included a baseball game, drilling contests, lacrosse and a horse race through the Main Street. Prices of groceries at the time were advertised as bacon – 17.5 cents a pound, salt at 15 cents, flour at \$2.25 a sack, rice went for \$1.00 a pound, with sugar selling for \$8.35 a case. Hammocks went for 75 cents; toothbrushes fetched 50 cents a unit.

Bringing commodities into Greenwood were costly; freight from Cascade to Greenwood cost \$25 a ton with Penticton to Greenwood costing a staggering \$36.60 per ton of goods. The good news though, was that the price of copper in New York was fetching 18 cents a pound and in a copper town like Greenwood, copper was king.

Bringing freight and people to town was onerous at best, due to the condition of wagon roads and the late spring washouts. One such stage coach accident happened to Joe Snodgrass with seven passengers aboard his coach. The mishap occurred on a hill heading down to Rock Creek from Camp McKinney when the horses bolted. In order to stop the stage from turning over, Joe had to turn it into the side of the hill. By this time though, two gentlemen, D. McDuff of Greenwood and C.B. Bash of Victoria decided to jump out and were badly injured with broken legs and various bruises.

Another newspaper hits the streets of Greenwood; R.E. Gosnell takes over the *Greenwood Miner* and printing outfit and moves his business right next door to the *Boundary Creek Times*. Gosnell (1860 – 1931) is an excellent newspaper man but is not without controversy. A few years later in a yearbook that he would publish, Gosnell refers to Indians of the day in very unflattering terms.

Accidents continued to happen at alarming rates in the local mines. A fatal accident takes place at the Mother Lode Mine in August when a mucker, Dom Matello falls to the bottom of a shaft, a distance of two-hundred and fifteen feet.

Boom times were alive and well with several lots changing hands at large figures. Greenwood was frantically searching for carpenters due to heavy construction. Madden & Company was in the process of putting up his new two storey hotel on their old property with excavation on Graham and Perry's new hotel having started. The W.S. Fletcher block was also well under way. The road between Greenwood and White's camp was finally getting improved thanks to a \$1,500 grant from the Provincial government and a further \$1,500 from local businessmen.

Mid-summer of 1899, that word fire, again raised its ugly head with both the Windsor and Pacific hotels located downtown, destroyed by the beast. Businessmen and residents in Greenwood were plenty worried that an arsonist was living amongst them and they shouted loud and often that authorities must catch the guilty party.

At three o'clock in the morning of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, an on duty officer discovered a fire under Henton's Barber Shop in the Pacific block and the fire alarm was sounded. Although the volunteer fire department was immediately on the scene it was found impossible to save the Pacific hotel. In a short time the Windsor Hotel and a law office were also in flames. The shell of the Windsor was saved but the inside of the hotel was completely lost. The Pacific Hotel was insured for just \$4,900 although it cost \$14,000 to build and furnish the complex. The Windsor was insured for \$3,500, the contents for \$15,000.

Robert Cameron and Chas Mullen were eventually arrested when some Pinkertons found a ball of oil soaked twine on a stick at the back of the Pacific hotel among the ruins and tracked it back to these two men. According to reports of the time, Mullen and Cameron were paid \$130 up front and another \$120 when the job (fire) was completed. The Pinkertons upon questioning locals in Greenwood were told that two men had been hanging around the hotels for the

past few days begging for beer money. These same two men unexplainably had lots of cash in the afternoon. Cameron finally confessed and said a Greenwood resident by the name of Stubbs actually did the dirty deed.

After the fire and rebuilding process, the local business community were concerned about the rapid growth of Phoenix and the fact that their hotels and business were dumping their waste into Twin Creek and the pollution was finding its way downstream to Greenwood. Talk of pumping water out of Boundary Creek up to Phoenix was also part of the business Greenwood discussions. Cascade Water & Power Company was busy clearing a right of way for a pole line to Phoenix from Cascade, a distance of twenty-five miles.

The Corbin telegraph line is scheduled to reach Greenwood on September 19<sup>th</sup>. In September the shooting (hunting) season opened with a large amount of bucks shot and the weather was unseasonably warm.

Greenwood City council was under scrutiny by Times editor Duncan Ross for having borrowed money at a high interest rate to put in a water system that just six months later was not functioning as well as expected. The sidewalks that council had passed at that time were still not in, although council recently did accept A.R. Tillman's tender to supply the lumber for such.

The Mother Lode Smelter that was under construction between Anaconda and Greenwood was coming along nicely and was expected to be fully operational by next summer. A quote in one of the local newspapers (yes, it was Duncan Ross) said, "The reason the smelter did not go to Midway was that the Midway people are altogether too slow to trot and not in the same class with the Greenwood people". The publisher of the Boundary newspaper was overly bullish on his town and very sarcastic about neighbouring hamlets.

## Chapter Five

### Hear the Train A-Comin’

In the fall of 1899, Greenwood’s future looked unstoppable with even the banks believing Greenwood was on its way to greatness. Three chartered banks, Bank of Commerce, Bank of B.N.A., and Bank of Montreal were now located in the town. Only three years ago Greenwood was a wilderness covered in trees. Robert Wood, farmer, trader and now town starter, as he referred to himself, had transformed Greenwood to over eighteen hundred people. Already five hundred thousand dollars had been spent on mining claims locally in the past ten months alone.

It was not just Greenwood growing, Phoenix was also now booming and in November had its very own newspaper, the *Phoenix Pioneer*, published by W.B. Willcox. New in Phoenix was a post office, grocery store and the start of a second hotel. Camp McKinney was also doing okay and now had three active mines and the beginning of a new town. Lots near the Sailor mine at McKinney were subdivided and offered for sale but it was Greenwood that the many other small towns revolved around and it was Greenwood that was making many locals and venture capitalists wealthy, very wealthy.

Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> was a red letter day in Greenwood as at 4 o’clock in the afternoon an engine (train) decorated with a big Union Jack pulled into town as track layers were still laying rails just in front of it. A few minutes later another engine with a passenger coach attached came into view to the loud applause of Greenwood citizens. This coach was filled with dignitaries mostly made up of politicians and mining executives who all went for a buggy tour of Greenwood followed by a dinner at the Clarendon Hotel.

A new stage line was added between Greenwood and Cascade City and a Greenwood Board of Trade was again discussed and then formed. The Greenwood Water and Power Company acquired the rights to obtain power at Boundary Falls and spend \$4,000 on a dam above the falls. The stringing of poles and supply of electric lights to Greenwood was about to take place.

In December, two hundred businessmen visited Greenwood from the Coast and the Kootenay area. A few weeks later, numerous merchants from Victoria and Vancouver came to town to see what all the fuss was about and to get in on the action. Big money men from Spokane and Winnipeg arrived to look at, among other things, a newly constructed opera house.

Just before Christmas, the Greenwood Electric Light Company announces they will have forty men installing three thousand lights in Greenwood and Phoenix after the holidays. A two hundred foot right of way from Greenwood to Phoenix has been cleared with the poles already erected with Mr. Duncan McIntyre and G.H. Collins raising the \$45,000 capital mostly from local businessmen to bring electricity to these two towns.

As the decade comes to a close it is almost impossible to keep up with all the comings and goings on in the Boundary Country. A spur line into the one thousand people that now call Phoenix home was scheduled to be completed on January the first, with that town's first bank to open nine days later.

Mining was now going gangbusters in the Boundary with Greenwood mines installing huge machinery and turning their claims into big working plants. Business was excellent with one Trading Company, Wynkoop & Stevens doing an average of \$14,000 a month in business.

Building was continuing in Greenwood at a rapid pace even through a brutal winter was taking place. Copper Street was the hot spot with three major complexes well under construction. The new Windsor

Hotel was going up with owners Madden and Dallas spending \$12,000 on this rebuild. The new Windsor Hotel will be 50x84 feet in size with a basement and three stories along with forty rooms to stay in. Both the Windsor and Pacific will share a restaurant that will be located in the new Pacific Hotel and will be called the Pacific Café.

Through all this growth in Greenwood, little real estate is now changing hands at the end of 1899 due to the very high prices and the lack of listings for sale. The future looked more than fantastic, a few citizens were even musing out loud that Greenwood could be bigger than Winnipeg in ten years as over \$320,000 was spent on new buildings during the past year alone. Things were so rosy at the end of the century that the Gem restaurant in town was bringing in fresh oysters from the West Coast and they were been slurped up at high prices as fast as the Gem could serve them.

## Chapter Six

### Greenwood Meets Deadwood

Three miles outside of Greenwood a new town is forming, that will go by the name of Deadwood. This town-site will be located on the northern portion of Scott McRae's ranch, will be eighty acres in size and has already been surveyed with streets already laid out.

Deadwood City was surrounded by developed mines which include the Ah There, Greyhound and Sunset mines that are all next door to the famous Mother Lode mine in Anaconda. The Mother Lode announces that they will increase their work force from thirty-five men to one hundred and fifty next month. The Yale-Columbia Lumber Company has a dozen men at the town-site cutting timber getting ready to supply a hotel, assay office and homes that will commence shortly. James McNichol, the resident agent for the Deadwood town-site is telling everyone that lots are selling quickly and a daily stage service between Greenwood and Deadwood will now take place.

In January 1900 Greenwood had many buildings under construction including the Thomas Walsh block, Louis Bosshart complex and the rebuild of the Windsor Hotel, all of which is happening on Copper Street alone. Although everything seemed rosy in Greenwood and surrounding areas, over at a Camp McKinney mine near Rock Creek things were quite the opposite. Sheriffs had seized the property and equipment as the company was indebted to five major lenders including a local Chinese who was owed a considerable sum after the cheques he was paid with all bounced.

In February the temperature hit twenty-one degrees below zero but these cold days did not stop the world from visiting Greenwood

including the famous giant wrestler who went by the name of the Sultan's Lion, who put on a well-attended exhibition bout. Due to the extreme cold, the profitable gold bearing Waterloo Mine had to close down as the water used to help crush the ore froze up.

On March 12, 1900, at exactly noon, the Sunset Mine located in the Deadwood camp was formerly started. Cross-cutting at the two hundred foot level of the Buckhorn Mine located in Deadwood, was also taking place. Many more men will be added to the eighteen already working at the Buckhorn when two more drills on order arrive. The Early History Mine just south of the Buckhorn is producing a lot of ore as are mines on the West fork of the Kettle River at Beaverton.

In early spring MacPherson Brothers' sawmill increased its work force by thirty men to handle the demand for lumber in the Boundary district. The council of Greenwood at this time was giving consideration to bringing Anaconda into its corporate limits and some merchants were pressing them into also acquiring Deadwood at the same time, as these two growing areas were located so close to Greenwood's borders.

In April, Sing Luie, a twenty-three year old Chinese man accidentally drowned in Boundary Creek. Apparently Mr. Luie went behind the Home and Hop Lee's laundry to get a pail of water out of the creek. He slipped off the bank into the swift current, which due to the snow run-off was extremely strong, and Luie was carried downstream as far as the South End Grocery. After his body was pulled out of Boundary Creek, a motley collection of his countrymen (as said by the Times newspaper) collected around the dead man, which included most of Greenwood's China town.

Work had begun on construction of the Greenwood – Phoenix Tramway road that will compete with the C.P.R. to tap into the mines of the district. The cost of the first seven miles of road between Greenwood and Phoenix is pegged at \$150,000 with sub-spurs eventually added that will run into the mining camps of Wellington, Deadwood, Summit and will also tie into the Great Northern road

and proceed to the town of Midway. Total cost of the finished project is projected to be about half a million dollars. Times newspaper editor Duncan Ross was one of the five charter applicants.

Ross seemed to be everywhere in those days. At a political meeting in Greenwood, that had eight hundred people in attendance, the verbose editor took out his frustrations against B.C. Premier Joseph Martin in a lengthy, rambling speech. He told the premier that although he (Ross) was a good Liberal, he could not support Mr. Martin's provincial legislation that appeared to make B.C. Chinese and Japanese full citizens of the province.

On Easter Sunday, the weather was bright and sunny with many Greenwoodians heading over to Boundary Falls to enjoy the great outdoors. Things are much different in May when Rock Creek is rampaging due to the continued warm weather and heavy rains that are rapidly melting the high country snow.

Mining was still the life blood of the local business with Greenwood's first citizen Robert Wood branching out to Beaverton to turn his Sally claim into a full working mine. Back in Phoenix the Gold Drop Mine now has three tunnels in the ground totaling two thousand feet deep. The *Phoenix* newspaper was reporting that the laying of tracks on the Phoenix spur is in full swing.

News in early June 1900 included the City of Greenwood being sued by the Miners Hotel for canal waters of Boundary Creek seeping into their basement. The running times of the Columbia and Western railway trains were changing and the train would now arrive in Greenwood at 11 o'clock at night and leave the next morning at eleven o'clock.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, a large party took place in Greenwood to celebrate the surrender of Pretoria in the war in Europe. The celebrations included Mayor Hardy announcing that all businesses must close at two in the afternoon the next day, followed by a parade that included a fife-and-drum band, bicyclists in costumes, volunteer firemen and locals

carrying flags. All these citizens marched down Greenwood's main street to Anaconda's outskirts and finished the festivities with a fireworks display.

In July, Rendell & Co. we're selling felt hats for 50 cents with Stetsons going for \$8.00; furnished rooms at the Clarendon Hotel rented for fifteen dollars a month. Man about town, Editor Duncan Ross added yet another resume to his portfolio; he was now also director of the Morris Mining Company operating out of Greenwood.

Although all looked like the boom times would never end, a few clouds were already appearing on the horizon. A slight downturn in Greenwood's economy was occurring this summer as new merchants were looking at other nearby mining towns that were in the making, especially Phoenix up the mountain from Greenwood. Phoenix was now casting a big shadow over its much larger town down the hill.

As Phoenix was experiencing the start of its own boom times many other new towns were forming in the Boundary Country. Canyon City located twenty-four miles from Greenwood was advertising town lots for seventy-five dollars to two-hundred dollars which was much cheaper than properties in Greenwood.

Up the West Kettle River at Beaver Creek, a bridge and wagon road was under construction by two-hundred and fifty men making three dollars a day. The clearing of streets and a large 24 by 30 foot store was taking place in what shortly would become a town of its own at Beaver Creek/ Beaverdell. Even Robert Wood was looking outside of Greenwood as he was spending \$8,000 to complete the road up the West Fork to his mining claim, the Sally.

In Greenwood, in the summer of 1900, racism was raising its ugly head as politicians and merchants were doing their best to run the Chinese and Japanese out of town. Stories started to appear in the local press that took shots at the Chinese. Greenwood Trades and Labor Council president stated, "The members of the Trades and

Labor Council are anxious to encourage white labor in every possible way.”

The politicians (council) of Greenwood discussed and then posted a racist (although to be fair, they were just echoing the sentiments of the day) by-law that stated, “for prohibiting or regulating the construction and use of buildings for laundries and for the removal of said laundries from any particular locality, when in the opinion of the council, such as laundries is a nuisance or eyesore to such locality.” The Weekly Times newspaper (as they were now calling themselves) through their editor Duncan Ross (using the story in the form of another person) said, “Such a by-law should be passed and no (Chinese) laundry should be allowed to pollute.....”

Duncan Ross further showed his venom and mistrust of the Chinese when he stated in his July 25<sup>th</sup> editorial “...man claims that Chinamen are detrimental to the best interest of the country... Chinese are objectionable and detrimental...strongly advised boycotting any businessman who would sell goods to a Chinaman.” In the same issue yet another shot across the bow of the hard working Orientals took place when a further story said, “after August 1<sup>st</sup> there will be no excuse for patronizing Chinese laundries in the city as Snodgrass and Son’s big steam laundry will be in operation.” In the August 15<sup>th</sup> Times paper, Snodgrass and Son’s advertisement for their new laundry took racism to an all new level when they stated in bold letters, “The Chinese Must Go.”

The Phoenix bird was now rising up over the mountain above Greenwood in the heavily treed area that was now a small town. The Granby Smelter was blown in late August and everything ran smoothly during the test runs. Although ore was paying just \$8.00 a ton, the two hundred and fifty ton furnace at Granby was already treating 250 tons every twenty-four hours and shortly this mine would become a giant among mines through-out the world.

As the leaves turned color, three hundred prominent Boundary Country citizens were attending a ‘ball room dance’ hosted by the B.C. Copper Co. at the Mother Lode Mine, complete with a four piece

band. The C.P.R. even put on a special passenger train to take the merry-makers up to the mine at 8:15 in the evening and bring them back to Anaconda at three the next morning. The mines in and around Deadwood were going strong with the Mother Lode leading the parade. Shares of the big mine located just outside of Anaconda moved up from ten to twenty dollars a share and the mine was now expected to produce six hundred tons of ore every twenty-four hours.

Marriages were taking place all over the Boundary Country in October including Greenwood's Mr. C.L. Werner of the Gem restaurant marrying Miss Minnie Netz of Kansas and Thos Walsh of the local Kootenay hotel hooking up with Miss Lizzie Gaffney. Besides marriages, a football (soccer) meeting was held to put together a team in Greenwood. The team colors were green and white and they would play teams from Phoenix, Grand Forks and Nelson.

In the fall of 1900, a box of apples in Greenwood sold for \$1.75 with plums going for a \$1.00 box. Some of the stories making the rounds in November included the Smith Hotel now open in Greenwood and the temporarily closure of the Golden Crown Mine. A coal bunker, train repair shop and engine house was now up and running in the suddenly vibrant town of Eholt. In Phoenix, Mr. Law and McQuaid just opened a general store in a new retail complex that was built and owned by Graves and Williams. At Boundary Falls, a good ole boy by the name of W. M. Roy passes away suddenly.

The Chinese situation was still a bone of contention among some Greenwoodians, especially with Duncan Ross who was using his newspaper as a pulpit to preach his anti-oriental views on his readers. In one story he said, "the residents of Greenwood are not sufficiently hoggish....the injury done to the town (Greenwood) by a Timothy Eaton Chinaman is greater than those who bank their money in Shanghai rather than Greenwood."

On December 6<sup>th</sup> in an open letter to his readers, Ross announces his attention to run for Mayor in the up-coming civic election. He said, "I am opposed to the employment of Chinese and the encouragement

of Chinese immigration....their employment in the city (Greenwood) should be restricted.....I (Ross) will expect a sufficient sum (money) to properly represent the city (if elected) without loss to myself.”

As the year 1900 came to a close, a war between Editor Duncan Ross and Greenwood's beloved Doctor Jakes was taking place. Both coveted the position of Mayor and both men, who had been in Greenwood since day one, had about half the town each on their side. Greenwood's founder Robert Wood was spending more time away from his namesake as he looked for other business opportunities further afield.

The Mother Lode Mine just put in the second hoist over their main shaft and installed three big boilers, blast furnace and furnace house along with hooking up the water lines. Five thousand tons of ore was at hand just waiting for 1,500 tons of coke to arrive so they could blow out the furnace and start production.

Most citizens thought that 1901 would bring Greenwood much riches and prosperity and to a certain degree this did happen but another town was waiting in the wings to siphon off some of the cream. The upcoming year belonged to Greenwood but it also belonged to the new upstart, Phoenix.

## Chapter Seven

### Look out – Here Comes Phoenix

As a new year started, one could not talk about Greenwood without mentioning its sister city, Phoenix. Located just south-east of Canada's smallest city, Phoenix was called the highest town in Canada. It was 4,633 feet above sea level and winter always arrived early and left late.

At the beginning of 1901, three trains made up of eleven cars were already shipping nine hundred tons of ore daily to the smelter in Grand Forks from three of Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company's (a long name for sure) local mines. Phoenix was mostly a Granby company town that had both C.P.R and G.N.R. rail lines running into it.

In Phoenix, the Knob Hill Mine had just completed double tracking their tunnel to a distance of 450 feet and tunneling would continue until it eventually hooked up with the Old Ironside-Victoria group of mines. The Dominion Copper mine at Phoenix was now employing sixty-five men with hundreds more employed by other near-by mines.

January 10<sup>th</sup> 1901 was pay day for many of the men who worked the mines in Phoenix and as was the case every pay day, the saloons became a wild, loud and busy place when shifts ended. The men worked long and hard and their jobs at the mines were dirty and

dangerous ones, but Phoenix miners also could party with the best of them.

The Phoenix mine operated by Granby, started as both an underground and open pit mine but changed to mostly a full open pit mine in the middle of 1901. The town now had 866 citizens and over the next ten years would top out at one thousand people but by 1918 the population would drop to 662.

Already Phoenix had or shortly would have an opera house, twenty hotels/saloons, brewery, city hall (the mayor was G. Rumberger), four churches, a gambling casino, covered skating rink, hospital, power company, stage line and telephone exchange. Phoenix's magistrate, Judge Willie Williams was famous for his booming declaration, "I am the highest judge, in the highest court, in the highest city in Canada".

Down the hill in Greenwood City, the talk of the town was about last week's civic election. Doctor R. W. Jakes was elected mayor by a vote of 145 where as his competitor Duncan Ross received 125 votes. Councillors elected included Naden, Miller, Kirkwood and Bannerman who all supported Ross for Mayor but were elected anyways. The other subject discussed that winter was who would be bigger and control the Boundary District. Would it be Greenwood, Phoenix or Grand Forks? The papers in these three places all were promoting their town as the center of local government.

Prices of goods in Greenwood in early February went as follows; Can of Peas-15 cents, salmon-15 cents a fish with butter selling for 35 cents a pound. Twenty-five Leda cigars cost \$1.75, a cup of coffee and a doughnut would set you back 15 cents at the Horseshoe Café. Over at the Merchant's Café, tea was served every day from 4 to 5 o'clock and a 160 acre ranch near Greenwood was advertised for eight hundred dollars.

At the end of February, in Rock Creek, a new group was forming calling themselves the Consolidated Placer Mining Company. This organization just acquired ten miles of Rock Creek digging leases that

went from Jolly Jack's bridge to the Rock Creek Post Office. Two of the seven directors were from Greenwood, with Mayor R.W. Jakes and Greenwood founder Robert Wood.

About six months ago a Mr. Jack Thornton, also known as "Jolly Jack", who the Rock Creek bridge was named after, discovered a source of placer gold that featured large nuggets somewhere not far from Boundary Creek where Jack had his cabin. Thornton never revealed the location of his find and as the years turned into decades Jolly Jack's Lost Mine became a legend. The British Columbia media however mostly abused the facts by printing the legend rather than the story.

After quite a long delay, lots are finally being sold in the West Boundary's newest town called Rendell. The new town has a hotel already up and running and is located at the mouth of Beaver Creek near a lot of mines north of Rock Creek. Prices for corner lots are selling between \$100 and \$175 each. In spring of 1901, Greenwood had its own tennis club with dues costing the male player five dollars for the year and the ladies getting a deal for only one buck.

Big news was taking place at the Windsor Hotel where a new fancy billiard and pool table had been added, much to the delight of the pool players in town. Over on Gold Street, Fred Roy opens up the area's first cigar factory. Two new buildings on Copper Street and four residences were now under construction. At the Clarendon Hotel and Café, they were advertising rooms for rent that included steam heat and electric lights for ten dollars a month.

Some interesting notes of importance included Columbia and Western Railway putting in a spur line to the Snowshoe Mine located in Phoenix. Greenwood Council accepted a bid of seventeen dollars each to bury the bodies of dead paupers.

Furthermore, Mr. A Landers of Midway loses his wife at home due to premature childbirth. Mr. L.A. Smith of Anaconda marries Miss Maud Moffet who is the youngest step daughter of Superintendent of the B.C. Copper Company's Mother Lode Mine.'

Race bias was still all around Greenwood and was in fact growing at an alarming rate. In early April, a Dominion Copper Company Superintendent, J.L. Parker left Greenwood City to visit Phoenix accompanied by a Chinaman (as was the term of the day) who was engaged as Parker's domestic (servant). When the pair arrived at the edges of Phoenix they were met by an angry mob of three to five hundred men that promptly sent the Chinaman back to Greenwood.

According to press reports, they were quoted as saying that "the citizens being determined to keep their town (Phoenix) free from Chinese or Japanese". This group of excited men unhitched the horses from the sleigh carrying Parker and the unnamed Chinaman, brandished pistols and told Parker he was violating the sentiment of the community (Phoenix) by bringing in an unwanted Chinaman. A few months later a jury of white men in Vernon would acquit a Mr. H. Roy and Mr. G. Durrel (gang leaders) of forming an unlawful assembly to keep the Chinaman out.

Phoenix was becoming a hotbed of militant unionists that went under the banner of Phoenix Trades and Labor Council. The organization disliked Asians and banned their members from eating at the Knob Hill Café because the eatery employed a Chinese in the back room to wash the dishes. Demands were made to the Phoenix Mayor and Council that the Trades and Labor Council expected workers to be paid three dollars a day for nine hours of work.

Not to be undone, Editor Duncan Ross was at it again, chastising through his newspaper that one should not stay at the Hotel Vancouver when visiting the Coast because they employ Japs and Chinese, as the paper called them. Ross, who was now an alderman in Greenwood, was still hammering at the local Chinese Laundries in his new role as a politician. Greenwood's Fire Chief, Mr. Kirkwood was elected as an alderman but resigned before attending even one meeting with Ross filling in for him.

All this negativity was having an effect on the Oriental population in town whose closed net society lived under a constant threat that they could lose their business. One prominent Chinese Greenwood

merchant, Hop Chong ended his partnership and closed his shop to get out of town fearing for his and his family's life. At this point in time, Greenwood and Phoenix was a nest of prejudice snakes where no Oriental was safe from some of the local citizen's venomous hatred towards them.

## Chapter Eight

### Ross Seems To Be Everywhere

A special C.P.R. train had been commissioned to leave Greenwood at 9:35 in the morning to head to Midway for that town's big May 24<sup>th</sup>, Victoria Day celebrations. Greenwood's Choral Society had been practising for two months for a June 5<sup>th</sup> public concert. Humer and Felles Vienna Bakery and Coffee House on Copper Street have opened and reporting business has been brisk. The miners favourite, a can of beans are selling for 15 cents a tin at Bannerman Bros. in Greenwood. Coal went for seven dollars a ton delivered. Potatoes sold at \$1.75 a box with men's shirts starting at fifty five cents each from Rendell and Company's downtown store.

On Dominion Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Greenwood and Phoenix were practically deserted as most of these town folks took a train to Grand Forks for yet another big party that counted the largest crowd ever seen in the Boundary. Of the fifteen hundred partiers, about seven hundred came from the West Boundary. So many attended that the train could not hold everyone, so many were put into the box-cars, where a sing-song was the order of the day.

Yet another newspaper war of words was in the offing led by Duncan Ross of course, who now had another newspaper in his gun sights. The paper in question was his competition, the *Greenwood Miner*. The Miner had brought in former Miner editor, Thos Hardy from Phoenix to tell council, and in particular Mr. Ross, how to run Greenwood's affairs. This upset Ross who at this time was experiencing financial problems and in his July 4ths issue asked the

two hundred subscribers to renew their newspaper subscriptions because, “we need the money”.

The rebuilt Windsor Hotel had new people running it in July. Harry Dale and Earnest Cartier took over the lease as the actual owners of the Windsor were having some sort of financial difficulties. At the same time a grocery store located on Copper Street and owned by Joseph Smith was taken over by creditors who promptly auctioned it off. Business in Greenwood was good but cracks were starting to show. Dissolution of the just made partnership, between Dale and Cartier, was just one of those cracks.

In Mid-August, the Boundary district is ablaze. Fires are burning in the hills everywhere. Eholt has a large one close by, as do both the B.C. Mine and Wellington Camp. Yet another fire is going strong between Westbridge and Beaver Creek. On a more positive note a large consignment of Okanagan fruit arrives in Greenwood much to the delight of the locals.

A mining story in the *Times* newspaper said that over 400,000 tons of ore at the one hundred foot level was found at the Sunset Mine in Deadwood. Things were so good at the Sunset that expansion and improvements were well under way. A two storey 50x30 foot boarding house was under construction at the Sunset and would feature a large kitchen and dining room along with a steward's sleeping room. The second floor would have bedrooms and bathrooms for the office staff complete with first class electric lights.

Phoenix Police Chief McMillan came down to Greenwood in the evening to enquire about a sporting woman who “rolled” a big Swede in the house of ill repute in Phoenix known as the Canadian Club. The woman was to have taken a lot of money from the man and then hired a team of horses to get out of town as fast as possible. Mr. McMillan learned that the faithless one had passed through Greenwood two or three hours before he arrived in the City, so concluded that by that time she had reached the land of the free (USA).

Later, the keeper of the Sporting House in question stood before the magistrate, but there was no chance of proving that she was a party to the alleged theft of the money. The Swede, who was a miner, claims that he had \$1,200 secreted inside his shirt and about \$80 in his pant pocket. He went to the club at 11 o'clock in the morning and towards evening he was "doped", or so he said. When he woke (sobered) up, the harlot and his money were gone.

Crime was running rampant during the fall of 1901. About ten o'clock in early September, Chief Provincial Constable G. McMynn received a phone call from Fred Kaiser that a few minutes earlier his Commercial Hotel in Eholt had been robbed by three masked and armed men. They not only robbed Fred but three other guests of all money and valuables they had on them. Guests located in the dining room and offices were brought into the bar to line up with the others, where they were stripped of their money, watches and jewelry.

Kaiser was then ordered to open up the safe which was visible and standing in a corner of the bar. With several loaded revolvers aimed at his head, Kaiser quickly opened the safe and the robbers took out cash, Kaiser's gold watch and a diamond pin. The three men then grabbed four bottles of champagne and a bottle of whiskey "to drink on the road", as one said. After warning their victims not to show their faces outside or they would be shot, the perpetrators slowly backed out the front door where a fourth man was waiting for them. The robbers proceeded to run up the hill at the back of the hotel (according to an eye witness) and made their escape.

Due to all the crime in the area, his Lordship Mr. Justice Irving, with wig and gown, held court in Greenwood at the Masonic building for the first time. Many cases were to be heard over the next few days with the always present Duncan Ross serving as foreman of the jury.

Major celebrations took place in Phoenix on Labor Day with many from Greenwood, Deadwood and Midway in attendance via a special railcar. The Spokesmen Review (newspaper) was now available in

Greenwood on the same day as it is published in Spokane Washington. The cost for monthly delivery was one dollar.

In late November, the City of Greenwood was making noise about increasing taxes, as revenue was about \$30,000 a year and the cost of regular government expenditures was past \$13,000. Many residents voiced their displeasure. At the same time council was involved in a war of words with the volunteer fire department over money.

Business people in Greenwood were shocked when just after Christmas Mr. C.W. Vedder, of the firm Vedder and Cunningham, shot himself in his head with a 38 Smith & Weston in the firms back offices on Copper Street. He succumbed to the gun shot early the next morning as there was nothing the doctor could do to save him. According to friends and family, Vedder was in good spirits a few days earlier at Christmas and attended church with his wife and four daughters. Vedder was forty-two years old and had hailed from Spokane, arriving in Greenwood about eighteen months before. In his early days he fought alongside General Armstrong Custer in the Indian Wars but had left the army just before Custer's last battle at Little Big Horn in Montana.

A Coroner's jury was called and after much discussion a verdict of wilful murder by an unknown person was given. It was thought that this result was so that Vedder's family could collect an insurance policy that he had recently written out and was found near his body, Vedder worried about the future of Greenwood some said.

A clerk out front in the office said he heard moaning in the back where Vedder was located so he went to see what was going on. He found Vedder slumped in his office chair with a gun on the floor and blood seeping from an open head wound. What was interesting however was that although the clerk said he heard moans, he did not hear a gun shot. No one had come into the building through the front door where the clerk was said to have been. The only other door out back was locked when checked by the Constabulary after Vedder's death.

In the last issue of 1901, an editorial in the Times newspaper told of 385,000 tons of ore shipped by the local mines for the year. Things in general were not booming due mostly to lower copper prices. The future of Greenwood was still looking positive even though the newspapers in the area at the end of the year were full of bankruptcy, partnerships dissolving, notices of dissolutions and forfeitures along with notices to creditor ads.

Was this just a correction in the marketplace or the beginning of a downturn?

## Chapter Nine

### A Warm Winter

The winter of 1902 was quiet and warm through-out the West Boundary, the local economy was solid even though banks were charging their customers twelve percent interest for loans. Geo R. Naden (who was in England with Robert Wood) was acclaimed Mayor of Greenwood with the Council made up of Ralph Bailes, B.A. Bannerman, W.J. Kirkwood, J.J. Caulfield, Duncan Ross, D.J Sullivan and a Mr. Smailes.

In late February, locally fresh caught Whitefish were selling for ten cents a pound. The ice was already off the Kettle River and fishing for the tiny but delicious fish was good. It was so warm at the end of February that Greenwood's outdoor curling rink was closed as the ice had melted. By mid-March Ferguson and Patterson's hot house had started growing lettuce, tomatoes, radishes, potatoes, mushrooms and spinach and due to the great weather, some of their produce was already available for the table.

According to the *Times* Newspaper, who now had gone back to their original name the *Boundary Creek Times*, six thousand people now called West Boundary home. The Beaver Creek area had a permanent change of name, calling itself Beaverdell with merchant W.B. Keith leading this new name change.

Near the end of March, the talk of the town was about Minnesota capitalists taking over the Arlington-Burns group of mines at Deadwood, along with the Riverside property located four miles above Rock Creek. The Sunset Mine people who had recently taken over the Boundary Falls Smelter said they expected to produce five hundred tons of ore a day.

Also in the news was a report that the C.P.R. was applying for a charter to build a railway line from Midway to the West Fork of the Kettle River, over to Penticton, then onto Spences Bridge where the new line would join their main tracks.

In the spring of 1902, a lot of deaths and accidents were taking place at local mine's, although to be fair, in the early 1900s deaths in mines were common place throughout the world. At the Mother Lode Mine, George Johnson lost his life while loading a "hole", while two other men, a Mr. Pasco and Redpath were seriously injured. Over at the Waterloo Mine a Captain Howe was killed. While descending a shaft in a bucket, an overhead beam broke away striking Howe in the head and knocking him out of the bucket down to the bottom of the shaft. A short time later E.W. Savage and Richard Babb lost their lives in yet another Mother Lode accident. R.D. McKenzie lost one of his eyes at a Knob Hill Mine accident.

The news in spring included; if you wished to phone the Riverside Nursery, you dialed 25. Duncan Ross, describing a dance at the Greenwood Auditorium, stated "high class Japs, low class Chinamen" in an article about the party. Little did he know that those Japanese Ross was putting down would end up as the saviours of Greenwood in about forty years.

Next door to Greenwood, in Anaconda, J.W. O'Brien opens up his three-story Vendome Hotel. At the end of May, the West Fork of the Kettle River was flooding and the banks of Boundary Creek at Louisa Road were eroding.

Things were getting out of hand at the jail in Greenwood where prisoners were escaping at a high rate from the two small 8x8 foot cells. People were calling for a brand new escape proof jail to be built. In one escape, Joseph Taylor was charged with helping a prostitute nick-named the "Blue Goose" escape the poorly built cell, but was found not guilty by a jury of his peers. This same jury also admonished Wm. G. McMynn for having so many titles and various

offices. They thought he wore too many hats and should at least give one of them up, that being the office of the Mining Recorder.

In early summer, a Mr. E. Frazee was fined for keeping his grocery store open past seven o'clock in the evening, a no-no at that time. Greenwood's famous Robert Wood was in Victoria once again, trying to promote his pet project, a railway from Midway to Vernon. For the first time, the *Boundary Creek Times* published a business directory that had twenty-seven merchants advertising in it.

Growth was taking place at an acceptable rate with construction of a new court house and jail at the corner of Deadwood and Government Street finally taking place. Three lots were purchased for a new school building that would soon go up. On Long Lake Street, two large residences were in construction stage and soon would be the new homes for the McMynn and Winnett families. William Graham McMynn at the time was still wearing his many hats including Gold Commissioner, Mining Recorder, Chief Constable and Registrar of the Supreme and County Courts. Pioneer merchants, the Miller Brothers sold their jewelry store for a nice profit, to retire to warm California.

A huge trout weighing well over six pounds (or so said a local newspaper) was caught above Boundary Falls and the Creek was said to be alive with fish. In late summer one could catch a stage in the morning in Greenwood, change horses at the Stanhope stable in Midway, cross the border to Curlew, then board a train and be in Spokane by 5:45 the same day. In September, W.H. Covert is selling a huge crop of prunes from his Grand Forks orchard to local Greenwood stores to supply hungry Boundary residents.

In December, forty-five curlers were getting ready to use the frozen outdoor rink. At the end of the year Robert Wood and Mrs. C. Wood spend Christmas in Armstrong and the *Times* newspaper finishes the year by printing a story that the local mines total of ore shipped in 1902 would be over half a million tons, a new mine record for the Greenwood area.

Greenwood sported a new Mayor in January 1903 as Ralph Smailes defeated the former Mayor R. Naden by just four votes. A stage run between Midway and Chesaw in Washington State was now available. Spring once again comes early as on February 28<sup>th</sup> Greenwood's outdoor skating rink is forced to close as there is no ice, just warm heat.

In March 1903 Boundary Falls gets its own school and a newly constructed house on Kimberly Avenue in Greenwood sells for twelve hundred dollars. Due to the warm weather, baseball is already being played at the end of March. This winter past, Greenwood had a lot of homes vacant but that all changed in spring when most of these houses were tenanted (rented or sold) as more miners were moving to town.

Due to a coal strike at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Mine near Fernie, many Boundary Smelters were hurting and had to close for short periods thanks to a lack of Coke (a derivative of coal) that they needed in order to keep the furnaces running.

In the April 10<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Times* newspaper, a story was reprinted from the Portland Oregonian that quoted well known mining expert and newspaper writer P.A. O'Farrell. He said, "Greenwood will someday take the place of Butte Montana as the banner copper region of the world. The ore deposits here are simply immense. The smelter here is owned by the British Columbia Copper company. The mines of the company are four miles away and of these mines the Mother Lode is the chief. The Mother Lode is an immense deposit like the Rio Tinto. The ore is not mined but quarried and there are 5,000,000 tons of this copper ore above the level of the railroad track. That means that 5,000,000 tons can be mined and run into the smelters at a cost of 50 cents a ton. With the right treatment the British Columbia Copper company can make copper for less than 10 cents a pound."

"The Granby Company, which owns a group of mines at Phoenix, is managed by thorough business men. Its mine superintendent has no superior in his line and the manager of the smelter is thoroughly

competent. The result is highly satisfactory. The Granby smelter is completely up to date, and it will soon be in a position to treat 4000 tons of ore a day. Its chief mines are Knob Hill and Ironsides. In order to make it clearer, I should say that the Granby Company owns a copper ore quarry a mile long and 400 feet wide. The quarry runs north and south and on the east it has a dyke of porphyry and on the west a footwall of lime and conglomerate. This vast copper ore deposit has been tunnelled and cross-cut to a depth of 1000 feet and a length of 3000 feet, and it is known to be one vast body of low grade copper ore, containing enough gold and silver to make every foot of it of commercial value."

O'Farrell continued his story with, "At Phoenix, a few miles above Greenwood is the most extensive deposit of copper ore known to exist in the world. Just think of it six miles long, 400 feet wide and 1000 feet deep and perhaps 5000 feet for all we know. And I saw hundreds of men quarrying this ore along 600 feet of the surface and the trains carrying over 1000 tons of the rock daily to the smelters. I asked Superintendent Williams, how much ore could be furnished to the smelters daily? "Ten thousand tons a day", was his laconic reply. It is not a question of ore but, smelting capacity that faces those people, and the smelter capacity is always at the mercy of the Crow's Nest Coal Company. But the right men are handling the Granby Company, and within two years it will be producing 50,000,000 pounds yearly."

On a hot spring Saturday night, Superintendent of the Providence Mine noticed that a piece of ore was exceptionally heavy and he decided to have it assayed by Walter McIntosh to find out what was in it. The result was that this single piece of ore alone could have made all the people of Greenwood rich as it was loaded with gold and silver.

Finally the coke (coal) strike in Fernie came to an end and new superintendent of the B.C. Copper Company, J.E. McAllister gets the Smelter's first furnace blown in (up and running) at the end of April, with the second furnace operating just two weeks later. Assessment of total land value of Greenwood for the year is released by council

and it shows a total value of \$755,905 which includes \$440,000 of improvements which although this is down \$ 140,000 over the previous year, it still is positive growth. A Robert G. Wood (not Greenwood's founder) is one of many new merchants with the opening of his Piccadilly restaurant in the Arlington Hotel on Copper Street.

Two advertisements that appeared in the *Boundary Creek Times* newspaper in its May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1903 issue were; "the new Clarendon (hotel) remodeled, renovated and refurnished and featuring only the best liquors and cigars. Prompt service, courteous treatment. Good rooms, modern convenience. Fred B. Munn, manager." The second ad stated "For Good Rigs & Saddle Horses go to the Riverside Livery. A.G. Davies, manager"

May was a busy month in the West Boundary. Three major stories during this month included, the forming of the seventy-two strong Greenwood Civilian Rifle Association by Captain Wm. G. McMynn (yet wearing another hat). Mr. C.A. DeBrisay, the right of way agent for the Great Northern Railway, meets with council in Phoenix to obtain certain rights over (and under) the streets of that growing town. The third story was a headline in the local paper that screamed, "MANY MEN ARE EMPLOYED". The story that followed said that five hundred men are now working at the local mines and Smelter with the Mother Lode and Smelter leading the parade with 100 workers.

And what was the negative news during this time? Mrs. J.C. Goupil jumps from the second floor window of the Occidental Hotel to her death. She was only thirty-six, had three children and recently suffered from typhoid fever. Besides the fever, Smallpox and Cholera were to be found throughout the Boundary area including four people who died from the 'pox on Anarchist Mountain near Chesaw. At Twin Creek between Phoenix and Greenwood, an epidemic of cholera broke out among hogs at two ranches. Ninety-one hogs (pigs) were shot dead and their bodies thrown on huge bonfires.

Two other problems included coke increasing by fifty cents a ton which will cost the three Boundary smelters about \$5,500 a month more and the destruction of the Columbia Hotel in Deadwood by fire. The hotel blaze was first noticed on the second floor of the Hotel above where the kitchen and stove were located. As the flames spread quickly, it was only a short time before the hotel tables and out-houses were totally on fire and eventually destroyed. The complex was owned by J. Thompson who recently leased it out to Bert Lay who had no insurance on the contents. Thompson himself had just \$800 of insurance on the building.

Weddings were many in June; the most talked about was Miss Elsie McLaren who was the daughter of John McLaren. She wed William Hull or "Rube" as he was best known as. Rube was a pioneer newspaper man in the Boundary District. Miss McLaren resided in the area most of her life and was the sister of Mrs. James McNichol of Midway and D.D. McLaren of Deadwood.

The Greenwood Board of Trade publishes 5,000 copies of an illustrated pamphlet on the area at a cost to them of \$450 and discusses building fish ladders at Boundary Creek. A third (and final) furnace arrives at the Boundary Creek Smelter. The big sport this summer was lawn tennis with both Phoenix and Greenwood having good quality grass courts. Charles Pittocks Gem restaurant was now open for meals twenty-four seven. Still going strong in the summer of 1903 and running his hotel in Rock Creek was eighty-four year old Mr. Gillespie.

The weather in the summer was turbulent with periods of sustained heat punctuated by storms and wind. In early July, five horses owned by Thos Graves of Midway were killed when hit by lightning. The rain did however help the Kettle Valley farmers' crops including R. Sidley's four hundred acre ranch on the Anarchist Mountain and D. McLennan's Rock Creek grain farm. A few days after the electrical storm on Wednesday July 21<sup>st</sup> an extremely violent wind storm was experienced and did considerable damage to Boundary properties. At around 3 o'clock in the afternoon the overhead sky became overcast with dark heavy clouds. Sweeping in from Midway, winds

grew in stature to become almost hurricane like, and these winds were accompanied by blinding dust followed shortly after by heavy rains.

The greatest damage done by the storm was at the Deadwood Smelter and the Russell, Law and Cauldfield building in Greenwood who had most of their windows blown out. At the Smelter the ninety foot high steel plated smoke stack that weighed twelve tons was toppled over onto the rail tracks of the Deadwood branch of C&W Railway. Near Boundary Falls, the wind spooked the horses of the West Fork Stage and caused the driver to fall out onto the dirt and watch his stage disappear down the road. The rig and horses finally came to a halt when they crashed into a telephone pole in downtown Greenwood.

After the storm, the powers to be at the Smelter decided to build a new stack but this time it would be built of 400,000 bricks (made in Grand Forks) and would be a staggering one-hundred and twenty feet tall, and would never fall down again due to high winds. To this day the brick stack still stands.

Death continued to haunt the miners in the area, Lafayette Wilbir was killed instantly at the Mother Lode Mine when a one-hundred and fifty pound rock crashed through the machine shop roof and struck him on the head. Two men were also killed at the Knob Hill Granby Mine in Phoenix. These two were part of the night shift working at the four hundred foot level of the mine when without warning a portion of the ceiling gave away and buried T. Malloy and James Crabb under tons of rock. Another Granby Miner had his legs smashed in yet one more accident.

Prices of goods in August were heading up much to the pain of the locals. A bath at Frawley's barber shop cost a quarter. A Sorrell Mare was for sale by W.M. Jenks of Greenwood for \$30. Berries from Stooke Brothers near Midway sold for two dollars a crate. The price of a stage ride from Greenwood at 6 a.m. to Phoenix at 7 a.m. and onto Grand Forks arriving at 10:30 a.m., now costs three dollars. Many residents went out hunting due to the high cost of grocery

store meat. One such hunter, Charles McArthur reported an abundance of fowl and bears within easy walk of the Westbridge Hotel.

Intrepid editor Mr. Ross was at it again when in an August 28<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Times* newspaper he reported that a nineteen inch cucumber was grown in a Greenwood garden. Duncan Ross then decided to chastise his readers by saying “the public should remember that all fruits and vegetables picked by Chinamen are picked in the evening and do not compare to the Ferguson garden (home of the giant cucumber) that are cool, clean and fresh.” In yet another story Ross’s headline read, “A Chink with a jag”. The story referred to a knife fight between two groups of Chinese, one of the groups was led by the notorious Ah Me.

In the fall, pure milk and cream was delivered daily to Greenwood citizens by the likeable O. S. Floyd of Riverside Dairy. Walking skirts for women were the clothes of choice and ladies walking shoes sold for four dollars a pair. A new meat shop, the Union Meat Company opens stores in Greenwood and Phoenix and the competition finally brings down the price of meat a bit. Not to be undone, and most likely using his excess meat profits, Frank Parker of Burns and Company (meats) buys the old National Hotel on Copper Street. Bannerman and Lewis got into the purchasing mode, buying the Palace Livery Stables.

Law and Macey who own the Granby Boarding House purchase the Spencer Ranch located between Phoenix and Grand Forks. Greenwood raised Galloway brothers open a new grocery store adjoining the Imperial Hotel and Scott (one of the brothers) would shortly purchase the St. Charles Hotel. With the help of life long liberal Duncan Ross, J.R. Brown wins the federal election locally.

The new electric power line between Greenwood and Phoenix were using thirty-five work men and the project would be completed by the end of October. At the same time a phonograph with the latest records has been installed at the Pioneer Hotel. The newspaper industry is still strong and continues to be bitter between the papers

in Midway, Anaconda (Editor Robert Keffer), Greenwood and Phoenix, with all of them using their pulpits to hammer at the opposing town. As the cold winter weather takes hold, two hundred and fifty people show up at the Greenwood Auditorium to witness a wrestling match between John Olson of Anaconda and George McLaughlin for a purse of two hundred dollars. After bets were placed all around, referee Danny Dean raises McLaughlin's hand, after he quickly wins both falls.

As 1903 comes to a close, the population of Greenwood increases to 1,899, the population had dropped slightly in the preceding two years. Monthly payroll of the local mines and smelters were now at an all-time high of \$40,000. The year ends with Duncan Ross editorializing (and no doubt dreaming) about a tunnel scheme being proposed by the Granby Company to take ore from its mines to Boundary Creek. He writes, "When the tunnel becomes an established fact, Greenwood will easily be the largest City in the Interior." In the same issue Ross smugly pontificates, that after January 1<sup>st</sup> every Chinaman entering Canada must pay a head tax of five hundred dollars.

In the very last days of December the Snowshoe Mine in Phoenix temporarily closes as does the Boundary Falls Smelter, due to a lack of coke to keep their furnaces running. Things turn for the better for the Snowshoe Mine, when ten days later B.C. Copper Company President F.L Underwood announces that his company and the Snowshoe will merge. At Midway, the Powers Sawmill is completely destroyed by fire. Over at Phoenix the owners of the Winnipeg Mine were sued by employees (and some Phoenix merchants) for back wages totaling \$4,115.

Greenwood's founder Robert Wood is also busy at year end, partially funding the West Fork Road, complete with three bridges over the Kettle River. He expects this new road will open up the Beaverdell area mines and will make hauling ore from the Sally Mine, which Wood has a large interest in, to the Greenwood Smelter much easier. Wood was also still pushing hard for a Midway to Vernon rail line at the end of December.



Above, Greenwood council on December 25<sup>th</sup> 1897. Mayor Wood is standing above the dog. Below, Greenwood in her early days.





### Greenwood Odd fellows 1897

Left to right starting at back; Hardy, Hallett, Munro, Law, Gulley, Smailes, Gulley, Coats, Lover, Anderson, Evans, Flood, McRae, McCreage, Johnstrop, Taylor, Harlen, Harber, Phalen, McDonnel, Hanson, Huff, Serthlund, Paton, Russell, Naden, Lamont, McRae, **Duncan Ross** (Editor of the Boundary Creek Times), Cropley, McFarlane, Dr. Jakes, Kerr.

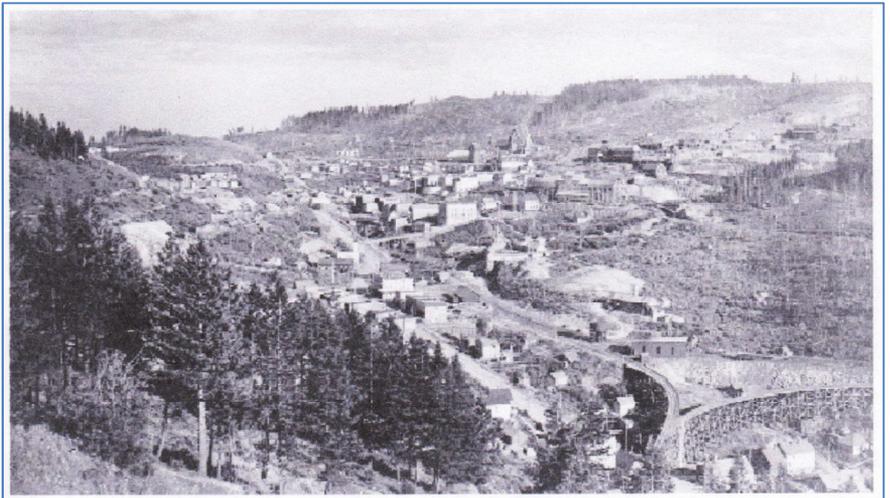


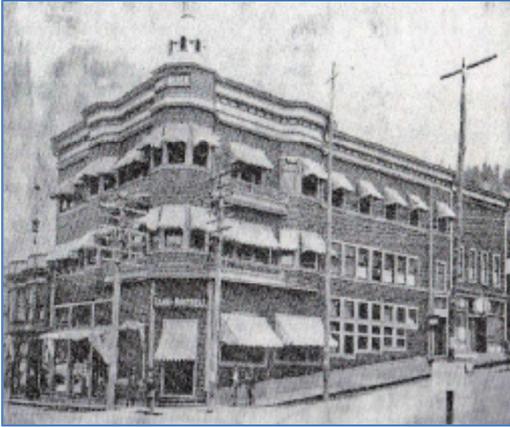
Photo courtesy of Greenwood Museum

Having a cool one in front of the Elkhorn Brewery in 1899.



Phoenix at the turn of the century (circa 1900)





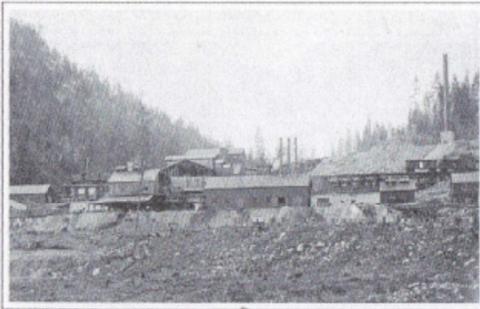
George Arthur  
Rendell building on  
Copper Street 1899



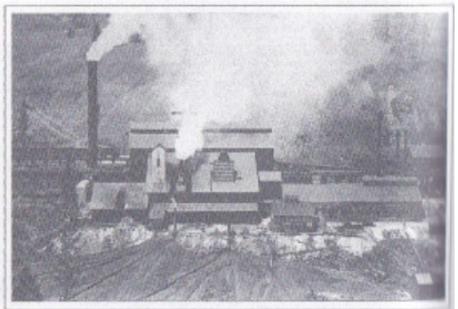
William Graham  
McMynn and his wife  
Mary's renovated  
home on Long Lake  
Avenue, built in 1903



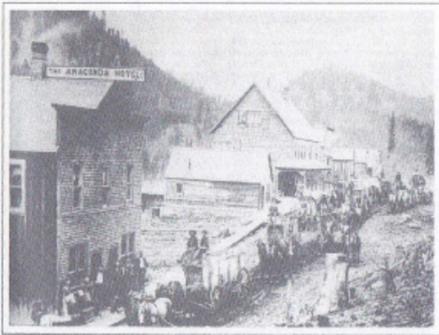
Robert Wood's family  
residence, built in  
1897.  
This is a picture of the  
renovated Long Lake  
Avenue home



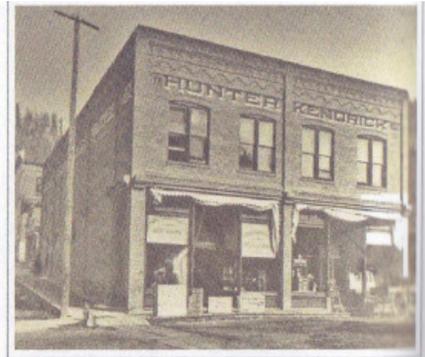
Anaconda/Deadwood Copper Smelter



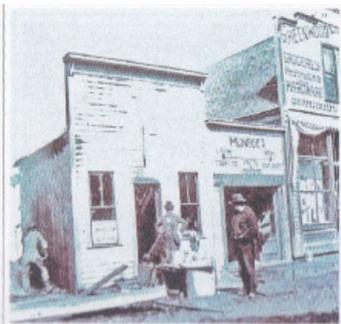
Boundary Falls Copper Smelter



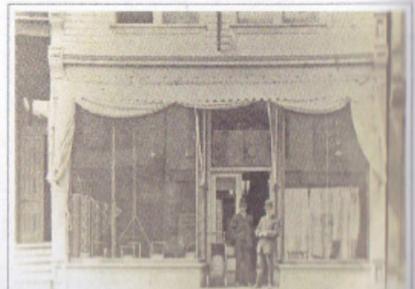
Anaconda Hotel



Hunter-Kendrick's Block



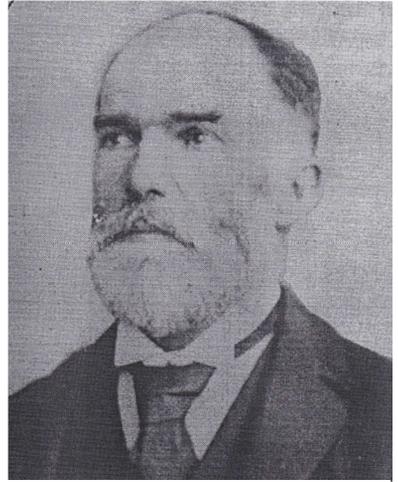
Isaac Hallett's Law Office



Gulley's Furniture Store



**DUNCAN ROSS**  
Boundary Creek Times  
early editor and owner



**ROBERT WOOD**  
Greenwood Founder  
and First Mayor



**The Kettle Valley Railroad (KVR) at its Midway base in the early 1900s.**

# First editorial of the first issue of the Boundary Creek Times

## THE BOUNDARY CREEK TIMES.

### PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

ADVERTISING RATES are as follows: One inch \$2.00 per month; two inches, \$2.25; three inches, \$3.00; six inches, \$5.00 per month. Larger space at a proportionate rate. Legal notices, 5c. and 5c. per line. Notices, land and mineral notices, \$5.00. No advertising inserted for less than \$2.00, and no "quick" or patent remedies ads. accepted at any price.

JOB PRINTING at reasonable rates. Accounts for job printing and advertising payable on the 1st of every month.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR will only be printed over the name of the writer.

Address all communications to  
THE BOUNDARY CREEK TIMES,  
Greenwood City, B.C.

### Boundary Creek Times

HAROLD M. LAMB ..... EDITOR  
W. J. HARNER ..... MANAGER

SUBSCRIPTION, \$20 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 1896.

### THE "TIMES" AND ITS POLICY.

No more favorable opportunity will, we think, occur in which to define, once and for all the aim and policy of THE BOUNDARY CREEK TIMES, than simultaneously with the publication of the first issue. We do not, therefore, hesitate to approach the subject, knowing that it is the first and last occasion upon which allusion will be necessary.

The future of Boundary creek is dependent entirely on the outcome of the mining development which at the present time has barely passed the first stages. Meanwhile, it is frankly admitted that the future of the district is yet to be permanently assured by the incontrovertible evidence which the presence of shipping and dividend-paying mines alone can supply. The prospects, however, are so eminently promising, and the indications of a rapid transition from the embryo to the more advanced condition so certainly marked, that a general feeling of confidence and security is common to all classes. It is, therefore, for the influence it may bring to bear through the publication of reliable reports and news of the camp, in inducing moneyed men to visit with the consequent probability of their investing here; in hastening the progress of that development which is ultimately to make the name of Boundary creek notable as being, possibly the greatest, at any rate among the greatest of the gold-copper producing centres on the continent; by endeavoring to expose, should occasion arise, to the best of our ability—and here we ask the co-operation of all who have the true interest of the country at heart—any scheme where the "wild-cat" element can be proved; that this paper hopes to win a place in the public estimation. We do not, of course, expect to conscientiously follow the line here briefly sketched without making enemies, this is inevitable; on the other hand, we hope, more we expect, to gain friends in every quarter where a love of right-dealing, or even where the true spirit of business, exists; and with the support and approval of this latter class, we have no fear of the issue.

Politically, THE TIMES will maintain an independent attitude, while confess-

ing to, however, a strong predilection for free-trade doctrines, or at least, a freer trade, particularly in our business relationship with the United States. There can be no doubt that had trade with our southern neighbors been less restricted in the past, the mining industry of British Columbia, and it is to the mining industry almost entirely that the province must depend for its future prosperity, had, we repeat, mining men from the other side, received the encouragement commensurate with the energy and enterprise they have exhibited while operating in British Columbia, the mining industry would have been advanced by many stages beyond its present condition.

### R. W. JAKES, M.D., C.M.,

BY APPOINTMENT  
Resident Physician to Kettle River District.  
OFFICE : : GREENWOOD, B.C.

### J. C. HAAS, Mining Engineer, GREENWOOD CITY, - - B.C.

Mining and Estate Brokerage.  
**BOUNDARY CREEK  
ENGINEERING & ASSAYING CO.**  
GREENWOOD CITY, B.C.

Assaying and Analysis of Ores.  
Mines Examined and Reported on.  
A thorough acquaintance with the Boundary Creek and Kettle River mining districts.

**F. H. LATIMER,** VERNON, B.C.  
DOMINION AND PROVINCIAL  
LAND SURVEYOR.  
Mem. Amer. Soc. Irrig. Engs.  
ASSAYING AND ANALYSIS OF ORES.  
G. A. GUESS, M.A. H. A. GUESS, M.A.

**GUESS BROS.**  
Assayers & Chemists.  
Thoroughly familiar with Boundary Creek and Okanagan mining districts. Properties examined, assays and analysis of ores, fuels, furnace products, etc.  
Greenwood, B.C. Midway, B.C.

**A. D. WORGAN,**  
Photographer,  
GREENWOOD CITY.  
Views of Greenwood and the Mines for Sale.

J. KERR. H. D. KERR.

**KERR BROS.**  
BUTCHERS,  
Greenwood, Grand Forks and Midway.

Meat delivered at Rock Creek and all Mining Camps.

### NOTICE.

FOR STAPLE AND FANCY

# GROCERIES

CALL AT

**The Greenwood Grocery**  
The Cheapest Place in Town  
**OLSON & PHELAN**

### When we hear

OR READ OF

**THE BOUNDARY CREEK MINES**  
We naturally think of  
**TAYLOR & CO.'S**  
PRESCRIPTION PHARMACY,  
GREENWOOD CITY.



Write Dispense Physician's Prescriptions and Family Recipes accurately and with pure drugs. Give us a call for anything you want in the Drug line, or write us, as we guarantee satisfaction.

**Robert Buckley,**  
**HARNESSES AND SADDLERY.**  
Harness, Saddles, Boots and Shoes Repaired with neatness and dispatch.  
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**COLUMBIA FLOURING MILLS CO.**  
ENDERBY AND VERNON.

TRADE MARK  RED STAR.  
Makers of Flour pronounced by experts to be the best made on the Pacific Coast.

**HUNGARIAN  
XXX STAR  
STRONG BAKERS  
GRAHAM**  
Bran Shorts Chop Etc

## Chapter Ten

### The Best and Worst of Times

It was yet another Mayor for Greenwood in early 1904. George R. Naden beat Bannerman by fifteen votes. Intrepid Editor Duncan Ross did not run for re-election as alderman because he had just secured the Liberal federal nomination for the riding of Yale-Cariboo, in which Greenwood lay. The headline of the January 15<sup>th</sup> *Boundary Creek Times* said, 'DUNCAN ROSS IS THE MAN'. This was just the beginning of the paper's many positive Liberal stories over the next six months. The Times newspaper was now an unabashed Liberal propaganda sheet, no longer a quality independent purveyor of news and as such, was on the opposite side of the other local papers who sided with the Conservatives.

In this same issue Ross took three more shots at the Orientals, one of which said, "Chinese New Year occurs February 15<sup>th</sup> – the Times wishes these monkey-faced scabs the season agonies." Politics were so biased in the local newspapers that a Mr. P.K. Eholt in a letter to the *Times* editor wrote, "What is the politics of the Phoenix Pioneer? It hasn't any it is open to all parties influenced by none – except for considerations". This of course was a shot at the Times political affiliations.

In January the big news was the wedding of well-known businessman George Arthur Rendell to Miss Marion Manahan at the Greenwood Presbyterian Church at high noon on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The happy couple caught the late afternoon train which was decorated by George's friends, or boys as he called them, to Spokane for their honeymoon.

A Greenwood men's curling team brought home the 'hardware', the coveted Oliver Cup from Revelstoke at a February bonspiel. The winning team was composed of McMynn, Frith, Cookson and Falconer. The bad news this winter was the permanent closure of the Cariboo Mine at Camp McKinney due to lack of ore. During the winter of 1904 many mines were merging or were being taken over by the "bigger boys" as was the case with the Morrison Mine situated at Deadwood about a mile west of the Mother Lode. The buyer was the Montreal and Boston Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company who needed the Morrison's ore for its smelter.

The Greenwood Public school had about one hundred students enrolled but only seventy-one students were showing up for class on average. In early March, snow was still on the ground and this was causing J.J. Hill of the Great Northern Railway to wait until the cold stuff left before a branch of his V.V. & E. Railway could continue to be built and reach Phoenix. The Greenwood to Grand Forks Stage Coach was delayed many days due to this drifting snow. A dog killing Panther (probably a cougar), who was starving due to the long winter was shot to death by a Mr. Castteman at his Boundary Creek ranch.

In what would be a fore runner to Greenwood receiving an award for 'best tasting water' one hundred plus years later, an editorial in the Times newspaper started off by saying that "citizens will welcome the proposed extension of the Greenwood waterworks system. It is of the utmost importance that the City should have an adequate supply of pure water."

Water at this point was taken from Twin Creek to a 225,000 gallon tank which served as a distributing reservoir. Because the town of Phoenix drainage ran into Twin Creek, concerns of pollution entering the creek were the order of the day. The Greenwood town fathers were looking at Lind and Eholt Creeks as a possible backup for additional water for the City's residents and the local Smelter which was a heavy user of water.

Mayor Rumberger of Phoenix and his council called for the resignation of their Chief of Police, C.H. Flood and Police Magistrate W.R. Williams, the politicians accused both policemen of immoral and lawless conduct. A few days later both men did in fact resign. On March 25<sup>th</sup> the *Times* newspaper ran a big house ad announcing a reduction in yearly subscription prices from two dollars a year to \$1.50.

Greenwood City council meets in early April to discuss the issuing of liquor licences for the seventeen hotels and two saloons in town. Much to the chagrin of five places, council decided to issue licences to just twelve of the hotels and the two saloons. The price of admission into the booze business for these saloons was a staggering \$500 each. Because of all the drinking establishments, competition was fierce for the customer's dollars. One such proprietor, Ernst Cartier of the Windsor Hotel was advertising his bar as excelling over all others while the Commercial Hotel was promoting the re-opening of their dining room with meals at just 35 cents.

After a two and half year period, the Carmi Mine located on the West Fork of the Kettle River re-opens again and is shipping ore to the Greenwood Smelter in late April of 1904. Around the same time death took hold at the B.C. Copper Company. On a warm, breezy Sunday morning, Nels Christensen lost his life when a slag hauling engine left its track and hit Christensen while the labourer was laying new tracks just ahead of the oncoming engine. Just a few days later, Oscar Hammer was crushed to death at same place when a trestle gave out with Hammer and his ore car dropping sixteen feet to the ground floor.

Big news in May was the merger of the B.C. Mining and Smelting Company with numerous mines, which included, Sunset, Morrison, Emma, Athelstan, Jack Pot, and up at Phoenix, the Dominion Copper Mines properties.

What was troubling the people of Greenwood in the early summer? Why it was the stray horse problem. Apparently there were so many horses roaming the streets of Canada's Littlest City that Council had

to use the town dog catcher to round them up and herd them over to two big ranches located at Boundary Falls. On the fashion front, the Greenwood Brass Band had new uniforms that featured a rich, deep maroon color complete with black military trimming.

J.J. Hill announces that his Great Northern Railway will start immediately with construction of a line from Grand Forks to Phoenix, to Greenwood then onto Midway near Mrs. Dowding's Lancashire House. The tracks will end up at Curlew.

Up the hill, in Phoenix, five out of six aldermen resign as a protest with the Provincial Government and their interference in local Phoenix affairs. The Police Commissioner earlier dismissed breach of peace charges laid against the Police Chief. Phoenix's Mayor Rumberger would not fire the Chief and Commissioner as the five aldermen had demanded, so now Phoenix was five politicians short.

In the July 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the *Boundary Creek Times* newspaper the following article was published. As this report sums up the growth of Greenwood over the past six years, here is the article as it appeared in print in 1904.

## Six years of progress

In August, 1898, a little less than 6 years ago, the writer first saw the Boundary area. He travelled from Marcus over the stage road, along the beautiful Kettle River, through Grand Forks, where Phoenix now stands, through Greenwood and Anaconda and thence to Midway.

The country was bursting with expectations, but there was little else to mark the way unless dust be counted. At present the visitor from outside points has the choice of two railway routes into the Boundary. He

can go from Marcus to Rossland by the Great Northern and thus by the Canadian Pacific Railway to many points in the Boundary. Or if he chooses he can take the short route and in less than three hours ride by the Great Northern into the Boundary.

Six years ago Grand Forks was a beautiful but tired looking spot. Now it has one of the finest smelting plants on the continent, while hundreds of acres of rich valley lands have become garden spots. Six years ago one log hotel stood beside the stage road in Phoenix and some preliminary work was going on at the Ironsides and Knob Hill mines.

Today Phoenix is the premier mining camp of British Columbia. Its output of ore totalling many hundreds of thousands of tons yearly.

Six years ago Greenwood was a village with three hotels, one private bank, no churches, no school house, an embryo mine and no smelters.

The Mother Lode mine grew slowly, steadily into a big thing. On the ground, a rocky hill side that a few hundred dollars would have bought, now stands a fine smelter.

A number of neglected claims have developed into valuable gold and silver mines.

Five good churches have been erected.

A fine substantial school house has been built. A beautiful court house stands on Government Street. Many fine private residences have risen when the streets were graded. The three greatest banking institutions of Canada have branches here, employing a dozen men. Stage routes radiate from Greenwood east, south and west.

Stores and stocks of goods equal to  
those of the largest cities of the land  
grace Copper Street.

The Boundary Country, 6 years ago did not ship a  
ton of ore. Today its output is a million tons per  
year and fast increasing. Good men are at the  
head of the milling concerns of the  
Boundary, they are not stockbrokers  
but mine makers.

New capital is coming in, to supplement the  
old. New energy is being introduced.  
New methods have forged to the front.  
The riches of the hills are beginning  
to minister to the country's welfare.  
Six years hence the transformation  
will be even greater, and then the  
patient working ones will see that  
their labor has not been lost.

So here's to the wealth of the Boundary  
and here's to the prosperity of Greenwood.  
Greenwood with its inner circle of the high  
grade gold and silver mines and its  
outer circle of the greatest copper deposits  
on the known earth.

Back in Greenwood, August was hot and dry, so dry in fact that  
sweat would not form on either men or beast, even after strenuous  
work. The first three weeks of the month saw the temperature hit at  
least 83 degrees each and every day and this caused forest fires to  
light up the bush. Choking smoke filled the streets of the West  
Boundary and coughing was the norm of the day. The fires in the hills  
caused a herd of twenty Cariboo to be driven down to drink at  
Boundary Creek near Boundary Falls with deer lounging all over the  
local wagon roads. The animals were impervious to move, even  
when prompted to do so by shooting off a pistol near where they  
were watering. It seems even fish were affected. A twenty-one inch,  
four and half pound trout was caught in the Kettle River near  
Midway, obviously desperate to get out of the hot River water.

Things were cooking on the railways as well. There were 1400 rail workers in the area and they were making \$60 a month with operators getting a larger sum of one hundred dollars. On the V.V. & E. Line, Oscar Turnquist was disembowelled and his body blown 400 feet away. Gun powder in a hole ignited while he was tamping the powder down. Not to be undone in the bad luck department, a train of twenty-four ore laden cars wrecked near Phoenix although all the crew leapt off, seconds before the train left its tracks and crashed.

Twenty-five year old native Herbert Redpath lost his life when an ore train ran over both of his legs while heading from the Mother Lode Mine to the Greenwood Smelter causing him to bleed to death. This was not the only tragedy in September, as on the ninth, Midway was hit with a disastrous fire.

J. McNicol's General Store, Ed Mellville's Barber Shop, the Midway Advance newspaper building and two vacant buildings were all lost. McNicol's loss totaled twelve thousand dollars and he just had \$5,000 worth of insurance. The Advance newspaper was established in 1894 by Norris & Stuart. The plant, paper and building were purchased three years ago by C.M. Crouse and he lost everything. Crouse was hit hard and never fully recovered as he had only \$600 insurance on his complex and contents.

In the fall of that year, women's high Oxford shoes/boots were in style and sold for \$3.25 at Rendell & Company. The Times newspaper was full of legal ads but not a lot of local merchant advertisements. A full bath of hot water was advertised as ready to go in only ninety seconds, and the C.P.R. was promoting Greenwood to St. Louis for the World's Fair for \$62.25 one way. On Silver Street, Louis Forschner Brewing starts producing local lager beer for the many thirsty miners in Greenwood and area.

The big news in the fall was the proposed purchase of Granby Mining Co. by S.H.C. Miner and his Great Northern Railway. The Phoenix Pioneer newspaper headline told of a W.S. Macy's hog, who dressed out at a record 422 pounds. On the same page was a story about

how gambling was no longer legal in Phoenix and gamblers could expect a twenty dollar fine for their discretion.

“You will be executed on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January when you will be hanged by the neck until dead”, were the words of a Phoenix Judge, after Joshua Bell (colored, as the paper called him) of Greenwood, was found guilty of murdering his former girlfriend, Annie Allen in Phoenix.

In October and November, the *Boundary Creek Times* newspaper was full of stories about editor Duncan Ross and his battle for a seat in the House of Commons. Not surprisingly, Ross won his riding and was now part of Wilfred Laurier Liberal government. He (Ross) was now the most prominent person in Greenwood, more powerful than Robert Wood himself. In December Ross said of Greenwood, “it is in a better position financially than any other town in British Columbia. There is no current indebtedness and there is a good surplus available”.

As 1904 came to a close, copper prices were tumbling down on Wall Street and everyone seemed to spend the holidays at the Greenwood Curling Club. A record amount of ore left the Boundary Country in 1904; 818,000 tons of it to be exact.

At the New Year’s Eve celebrations that were taking place at the Windsor and other hotels, the talk between the men was the formation of semi-professional hockey with teams to play out of Phoenix, Grand Forks and Greenwood.

## Chapter Eleven

### Ross and his paper showing cracks

A lack of water was a monster issue for the Boundary area in January 1905 owing to the dry summer and fall. The Kettle River was so low that the Cascade Power Company had to reduce their capacity to produce electricity. Up the mountain, Phoenix was also in bad shape. Water was being hauled out of Lind Creek (after chipping away the ice) to households for one dollar a barrel. The mines and the C.P.R. in Phoenix were likewise experiencing a lack of water for their industrial use.

Duncan Ross headed to Ottawa for the opening of Parliament on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January. His sister, Margaret Ross, spent the winter in Greenwood and house-sat for him while he was away.

On the local political front, Geo. Rumberger was once again re-elected as Mayor of Phoenix as was George Naden in Greenwood. Naden's good luck continued when it was announced that he had struck it rich at his mine, the Paymaster, near Midway.

According to the Chief of Police of Greenwood A.D. Hallett, seventy-four cases of keeping a house of ill fame, (which was what they called hookers at the turn of the century) and sixty-eight of their customers were charged in the previous year. Prostitution was still going strong though the City and Greenwoods fore-fathers were trying hard to stop the practice, much to the chagrin of the miners.

At the same time, those same local politicians instructed their clerk to put a bid in on behalf of the City of Greenwood for 125 lots that

taxes were owed on. In most cases this would cause the delinquent owners of the land to pay up.

In January, a promenade with seats down one side of the complex was added to Greenwood's skating rink. The rink was open to the public from 2:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and again from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., six days a week. The principal of the Greenwood school, Mr. H. Scriven had a salary of one hundred dollars per month, and believe it or not, some residents thought this was too much.

Phoenix problems were front page news in the local newspapers in February. William Reeves a brakeman on the Great Northern slipped and fell to the tracks near Phoenix and had both his legs sliced off by the train. Three hours later he was dead. John Byrnes died and John Rogers, Arthur Marshall and Charles Bolt were injured when a miner's pick accidentally struck a stick of dynamite. This set the explosive off at the Senator Mine, which was very bad luck indeed, for a mere three weeks later this mine would close due to a lack of ore.

Things went from bad to worse when on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 o'clock at night both the Brooklyn and Phoenix Hotels located on Dominion Avenue caught fire and were totally destroyed. At one point it appeared the full town of Phoenix might catch on fire but the volunteer hose (fire) companies kept the loss to just the two hotels although considerable damage was also sustained by the nearby Mint Hotel. The three storey Brooklyn Hotel was owned by James Marshall and E.P. Shea and cost \$7,000 to build but was insured for just \$2,000. The Phoenix Hotel was owned by Mayor Rumberger and was partially insured; the Mint Hotel had insurance of just \$1,000.

The *Phoenix Pioneer* newspaper through its editor B. Willcox published a huge 34 page colored winter edition of his paper which was huge for that time period. This bold venture helped take away some of the gloom hanging over Canada's highest city, although it could do nothing about the low lying clouds and heavy periods of winter snow along with the devastating hotel fires.

Pneumonia was a factor in the West Boundary in the late winter of 1905. In just a few weeks many people passed on including the fourteen year old son of a Mr. Lee along with George Lewis and Gus Schilling. Well known Greenwood businessman John Catenach also died during this same time. He was only fifty-five and he dropped dead at the Clarendon Hotel.

Greenwood in March was in the process of taking over the water rights to Lind Creek from Anaconda. In exchange Anaconda would get underground water lines and fire protection. The *Anaconda News* in their March 22<sup>nd</sup> issue said that Boundary Creek rose two feet in the last thirty-six hours.

Advertised in the Times newspaper was 100 Indian ponies that went for ten dollars each unbroken or seventeen dollars apiece for saddle broke. Winchester rifles sold for five to twenty-five dollars each. The *Anaconda News* changed to a larger format (page size), as was becoming the norm of newspapers everywhere.

Government Agent (and a lot more) McMynn, his wife and daughter announced they were taking a four month vacation to visit Scotland and Ireland. McMynn arrived in Rock Creek in 1887 and by 1892 he was appointed Provincial Constable and Mining Recorder for the Kettle River Mining division. In 1895 the office moved to Midway and moved yet again in 1900 to its present location in Greenwood. George Cunningham was set to assume McMynn's duties while McMynn was away and would receive an extra twenty-five dollars a month for his troubles.

In May, shot guns were selling in Greenwood for five to thirty-five dollars each, ladies white skirts cost seventy-five cents and people were bowling in mass at Captain Swain's Bowling Alley. On Saturday nights one could head to a new phenomenon called Moving Pictures, where for twenty-five cents for adults one could experience this new form of entertainment. Getting the jump on summer, refrigerators that could freeze cream in three minutes were advertised for fifteen dollars and up. Liquor was still a strong suit of the locals, so much so that two Greenwood barbers were fined fifty dollars each for selling

“booze” (sixty-five cents a shot for gut-rock whiskey) to their customers while cutting their hair.

Phoenix was much busier than Greenwood in the spring of 1905. Numerous private residences were going up, including the new Brooklyn Hotel, which was recently destroyed by fire. This new hotel would be three stories and would cost about \$20,000 to construct. The Mint Hotel, who had a touch of fire damage, was adding a new addition. Two new blocks of business stores and offices were also under construction. The C.N.R. announced that they will spend \$10,000 on upgrading three streets in downtown Phoenix. Lots were put up for sale near the Stemwinder Mine and fifteen of them sold in the first seventeen days. A short distance away, the Granby Company announces they will spend \$100,000 into sinking three more shafts deep into the ground at their Phoenix Mine properties.

Not all was coming up roses in the mining sector though; the Dominion Copper Company which owned many mines in the area including the Boundary Falls Smelter, temporarily closes down. A claim of mismanagement of company funds by disgruntled shareholders was the reason for this action. This closure resulted in the layoff of two hundred and fifty men until reorganization could take place.

The May 26<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Times* newspaper comes out in its enlarged format. In the editorial of said issue, Duncan Ross laments about the extra costs of such a move and chastises half of the Greenwood merchants for not advertising in his paper. Things were a touch rocky at the Boundary Creek Printing and Publishing Company. Arthur Wheeler, who was filling in for Ross while he was out east in Ottawa taking care of constituents business, resigned to work at a Victoria daily newspaper. The *Times* was having trouble keeping employees and Ross himself said how hard it was to be a Member of Parliament, located three thousand miles away and run a newspaper, “it is a double boomerang”, he stated. Ross continued that he did not have enough money to hire a full time editor and called his newspaper, “a rudderless ship”.

During this period, Ross was still hammering away in print at the Chinese and many of his rants were taking on a decidedly negative tone to others in and around the community of Greenwood as well. A clue into how he was probably overworked and experiencing financial difficulties comes in a June 9<sup>th</sup> quote, "Greenwood will celebrate Dominion Day in 1967, the intermediate period will allow sufficient time for the resident corpses to be directly buried." At the same time the first mention of the infamous newspaper publisher R.T. Lowery appears in the *Times* newspaper. It appears Lowery sniffed out that Ross was over extended and floated a story that he might bring a publication into Greenwood, to which Ross answered in print, "Don't! No reasonable excuse can be offered for the publication of such a journalistic freak".

On a positive note for Ross, a large banquet was held at the Imperial Hotel in Greenwood upon his return as Member of Parliament in Ottawa. Politicians from Midway, Phoenix and Greenwood were in attendance as were most of the prominent mine managers and business people of the Boundary who came to salute the beleaguered newspaperman come Liberal politician.

During the summer of 1905, the *Phoenix Pioneer* was the prominent newspaper in the Boundary area, not the Times. The Pioneer had lots of Greenwood ads (more than the home-town Times) and reported on bulls roaming the city and scaring the town's folk.

The *Pioneer* also reported two terrible events that summer. An account of an incident in the Pioneer paper on the death of James McGregor at the Granby Mine who was killed by falling rock headlined, 'His Life Was Crushed Out'. Also, a C.P.R. train loaded with ore left the tracks near Phoenix and turned the cars into kindling wood with over \$50,000 damage.

In September, Werner Miller, the new president of the revamped Dominion Copper Company arrives in Phoenix aboard his private rail car attached to the rear of a Great Northern train. He plans to get his recently closed properties up and running as soon as possible. The Times newspaper celebrated another anniversary and Ross gave credit to J. Harper. Harper was the person who brought a Gordon

Press and a few pounds of type into Greenwood in 1896 to start a newspaper that was now entering its tenth year of publishing.

In another area of the West Boundary, Four Core of Engineers were now at work between Rock Creek and Midway clearing a path for the laying of track for the Midway to Vernon Railway. Robert Wood and Ralph Smailes of Greenwood had been involved in this project from the start. The 'suits' at the C.P.R. are not amused by this proposed upstart railway and send a gang of workers at night to install a fence across land where the line is scheduled to go through. They also throw the V.V. & E. steel tracks nearby into the Kettle River. The C.P.R. says this land is their land.

Over at Midway, growth is definitely taking place. Sam Flack will shortly start building a public town hall. Crowell's Hotel is being expanded and a Chinese store and another small hotel are under construction. Just outside Midway, three boot-leg whiskey joints are going up. The purpose of these speakeasies was to supply the railway men with cheap, bad and definitely illegal liquor. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday night Midway bank robbery was attempted. Eastern Township Bank manager Mr. Moe, when going past his bank saw two men trying to remove a window. With a pistol in hand Moe shot at the thieves who shot back at him. No one was hit and in the darkness, the potential bandits escaped empty handed.

Snow hits Greenwood on October 21<sup>st</sup> and in response Rendell & Company advertise men's fleece night shirts complete with underwear for just fifty cents. Scott Galloway, a Greenwood fixture, decides he has had enough and sells his Victoria Hotel on Copper Street to J.N. Bishop from Calgary for only \$5,000.

For the second time in the past forty-five years, the Rock Creek War descends upon the West Boundary. In the cold winds of November, the C.P.R. sends one hundred and fifty men to eject V.V. & E. workers and tear up their recently laid track just north of Rock Creek. When the C.P.R. men arrived they were met by seven hundred men, who immediately countered the threat. Several men were eventually arrested and just as quickly released. A few days later a

confrontation occurred once again but this time the two combatants would end the battle in court, not on the battlefield. Rumors running rampant in and around Greenwood were that this delay was causing director Robert Wood and the V.V. & E. to miss some wages for the workers.

As Christmas approaches, the B.C. Copper Company announces that they will add three new blast furnaces to their Greenwood Smelter. That was good news; unfortunately there was bad news at that same Smelter. A Mr. Verrisich was killed when a slag car went over a cliff while it was trying to unload molten lead. The slag car fell seventy feet to the ground covering poor Verrisich with the scolding hot matter. Screaming in pain, it took the worker eighteen hours to die.

Local Greenwood Doctor S.S. Oppenheimer takes a bride, Miss Dorothea Fisher and honey-mooned in Spokane Washington. While the Doctor was away, several deaths take place in and around Phoenix that officials thought was caused by bad water or milk that was distributed from a local dairy. This caused panic among the populace in both Phoenix and Greenwood during the Holiday period.

As the year came to a close the *Boundary Creek Times* newspaper said that 1905 was the most prosperous in the history of the Boundary Country, although the paper conveniently forgot to mention most of this growth came from Phoenix, not Greenwood. With regards to the Times newspaper, Ross stated, "It (1905) had its ups and downs but the Times begin 1906 full of confidence". On December 14<sup>th</sup>, the smallish Anaconda News (newspaper) closes their doors as a weekly newspaper, switching to a monthly paper.

Earlier in the year, in the June 7<sup>th</sup> 1905 issue of the *Boundary Creek Times*, a huge story that began on the front page stated with a large headline, "1895-Greenwood-1905". Here in extreme capsule form is the gist of the article as written by Percy F. Godenrath.

# 1895-GREENWOOD-1905

Tenacity! Enterprise!  
Embodied in these words is the history of the founding and subsequent growth of the City of Greenwood, the financial, commercial and mining centre of the "Boundless Boundary". Ten years ago this coming fall, the site that now marks Greenwood was thickly covered by forest growth of tamarack, bull pine and popular, with dank marshes caused by the overflow of Boundary Creek as it made its tortuous way through the heart of the mountain enclosed valley southward to the Kettle River. It was here in 1898 that destiny lead Robert Wood, a pioneer merchant of the Okanagan, to found a city. He purchased several hundred acres and laid out a town site two miles in length by half a mile wide. A log store was erected and the timbered acres christened Greenwood. The year following George Arthur Rendell and Ralph Smailes, who conducted a trading post at Boundary Falls, amalgamated their business with Mr. Wood. With the uplifting of the bond on the

Mother Lode Mine in Deadwood camp, by New York capitalists, a momentous event for this new camp, a real impetuous was given the outside world.

That same year C. Scott Galloway also became interested in the town site. From that time on, the town grew apace; roads to the numerous nearby camps were built mainly by local enterprise, and the trade, thereof swelled the business of the merchants.

In August 1897 the place had assumed such proportions that it was incorporated and its people took over the responsibility of self-government. Gradually the forest was cleared off; Boundary Creek straightened and confined at a cost of \$25,000; streets graded and miles of walks laid and systems of waterworks, telephone and electric lights installed. Greenwood became modernized. The completion of the Columbia & Western branch of the C.P.R. followed. With the advent of the steam horse, Duncan Ross, who just

recently became an M.P., changed the Boundary Creek Times from a weekly to a daily paper (for a very short period). Well does the writer remember those next six months, as he held down a strenuous job combining the functions of telegraph editor, reporter and proof reader?

If Greenwood ever experienced the sensation of a boom, it was during 1899-1900. Certainly good times reached a high-water level. People flocked in; real estate and mineral claims changed hands daily, a smelter was nearing completion and scores of business blocks and hotels were going up. Then followed the inevitable depression caused through overdoing things. Many predicted that the bottom had dropped out altogether and so departed for new fields in an effort to again flirt with fame and fortune.

The rest, who perchance had sunk their all, either could not, or, realizing that time only was needed to bring Greenwood out the temporary chaos, stuck around, and some won out.

The past two years have wrought wonderful things in the fortunes of several of the tenacious businessmen. The opening up by local money of the high grade prospects

overlooked for years in the scramble to obtain big low grade ore bodies, resulted in capital again coming to the front and owners were enabled to sell for cash or bond at good figures. Today, Greenwood is not the city of the years of plenty with streets alive with happy go lucky, prospectors, speculators and the crowd that follows in the wake of every mining boom. Instead, it strikes the casual visitor as infernally dull, relieved perhaps by the continual toot-toot of a passing ore train and the rumble of powder blasts that come up from the earth and echo and re-echo throughout the valley. Look deeper and one learns another story. Wild speculation has ceased, so too has the merry tinkle of the roulette wheel, more sober methods are in vogue. All down the line, banker, miner, clerk and even padre are investing their dollars in high grade prospects and mines.

Immediately surrounding the city, go where you will, every point of the compass has its scene of mining activity within an hour's walk of the post office. Again, on a larger scale, if a circle were described with Greenwood for its centre and a radius of about

eight miles, the circumference  
would pass through or include  
at least a dozen separate  
mining camps. Within the first  
mile, are a score of properties  
and it is this new ever  
expanding payroll of the high  
grade mines that is vitalizing  
and bodes so much for the  
future prosperity of the city. .

## Chapter Twelve

### Another Newspaper & the 'James Gang'

The year 1906 began with a shut-down of both the Greenwood and Boundary Falls Smelter because of a new wage scale that the workers were not happy with. Both the union and management agreed to start the year with an eight hour work day but management did not want to pay their workers the same rate of \$3.50 to \$4.00 per day as the hours of daily work had now been reduced by three. After a prolonged consultation, both parties came to an agreement and the matter was settled. The smelters were soon in full operation.

Effective January 19<sup>th</sup> a change takes place at the Boundary Creek Times Printing and Publishing Company when a Mr. H.O. Lamb, previously of Winnipeg, takes over the helm as the newspaper's Managing Editor. Duncan Ross and his parliamentary duties have kept Ross from doing his daily newspaper job properly. Greenwood's finest citizen is forced to bring in help, although Ross now has the handle of President added to the paper's editorial masthead. Lamb learnt his trade in southern Ontario and shortly after moving to Greenwood became the secretary of the reorganized Board of Trade.

News in and around Greenwood in the winter of 1906 was that rain was turning the snow and ice into slush in late February due to the unseasonably warm weather. In March the talk in town was about new railways. The Kettle Valley Railway (K.V.R. as it was now called) was securing options on Greenwood City properties. Discussions

included the building of a joint bridge on Third Street that would allow both wagons and trains to cross. The V.V. & E. Railway was progressing nicely and the K.V.R. was securing a charter to build a line up the North Fork. Heading West at Myers Creek (near Rock Creek) a semi-circle trestle bridge and tunnel was under construction for train purposes.

In early spring, the *Times* newspaper was adding pictures to its pages on a regular basis but the big story during this period was yet another shooting in Midway. The good citizens of that town were startled at half past ten in the evening to hear two shots fired and then the moans and cries of a man. Midway drugstore, owner Mr. Elridge was found minutes later in agony, propped up against the door of his house. What happened was when returning to his home, which was next door to the Midway bank, Elridge was approached by a man wearing a mask and was told to put his hands up and stay quiet. When the druggist did not immediately obey, he was shot by the masked man who was standing just a few feet away. The bullet went through Elridge's shoulder and through the bank's window. Wounded but not dead, Elridge ran towards his house and upon reaching the door was shot again, this time in the hip. The assailant then fled in the darkness leaving the victim writhing in pain at his own threshold. Police thought that the shooter most likely misplaced the drugstore owner for the bank manager and would have used him to open up the bank and then rob the safe. Elridge recovered despite the two holes in his body.

The main topic of conversation was Greenwood electrical power with West Kootenay Power and Light building a sub-station in Anaconda. The brick building, when completed, would be 52 x 56 feet and will have a spur line in order to haul twenty thousand dollars of equipment needed to finish the inside of the building. At the same time the Greenwood Electric Company is proposing a \$40,000 power plant at Boundary Falls if the City of Greenwood would agree to purchase power from them for the next ten years.

With their head office located in Vancouver, the newly formed Kettle Valley Irrigated Fruit & Lands Company is organized for the purpose

of growing fruit in the Kettle Valley on twenty thousand acres that the company just purchased. The company has \$1,000,000 of capital behind it and they wanted to beat to the punch another large apple orchard that was been talked about on the upper banks of the Thompson River in a town that would sprout up in fifteen months and would be called Walhachin.

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE, the City of Greenwood puts a bounty of twenty-five cents on their heads. Who or what were these dangerous culprits? Why chickens of course. Apparently these tasty birds were running wild all over Greenwood in late April of 1906 and council thought the chickens were an eyesore.

At the same time, about one-hundred Italian workers at the B.C. Smelter laid down their tools and went on a short strike as they said the Italians were making fifty cents an hour less than other workers. Advertised at that time were iron beds for four dollars and fifteen cents, iron/steel wood burning stoves for fifty dollars, wood kitchen chairs for seventy cents each and quarts of paint for one dollar.

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the infamous John M. Jarrett passed away in Greenwood at Sisters hospital at the old age of seventy-two. A front page story in the Times newspaper referred to Jarrett as connected to the Jessie and Frank James Gang of decades before. Apparently Jarrett spent the last years of his life on his Rock Creek ranch telling stories about his exploits with the James Gang including their train, bank and stage robberies. The newspaper article went on to say that Jarrett had two daughters who had recently visited Greenwood and stayed at the Imperial Hotel. These villainous women tried to get their dad to sign over his property or put the ranch in his will to leave to them when Jarrett eventually passed on.

One of his daughters, Mrs. Keefer, while in Greenwood sported a lot of expensive jewellery and was quite the partyer according to press reports of the time. Keefer was still in town when her father did die, but rather than make arrangements for his funeral or even taking charge of the body, she promptly grabbed a stage to Midway and then took a train to the Coast. The *Times* paper went on to say, that

Mrs. Keefer was involved in many of her dad's and the James Gang's exploits when she was young. Greenwood citizens who had dealings with Keefer said that she was mean, fearless and very dangerous. They said Keefer was upset with her father because he refused to turn over his property to her and her sister.

In the May 11<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Boundary Creek Times*, this story appeared. "We bid welcome to the new Greenwood paper, the Ledge, the first issue which appeared Thursday (yesterday). James W. Grier, formerly of the Times, is the manager and editor. The starting of a second paper in Greenwood may be taken as evidence of the growing prosperity and importance of the City. The Times believes it better to be located in another town that is large enough for two papers than in one that has barely enough business to keep one going."

The first issue of the Ledge looked similar to the Times. There was lots of mining news with both papers not having the quality of the *Phoenix Pioneer* up the hill. The Ledge said, of the *Pioneer* newspaper owner, that he was the only wealthy publisher in Southern British Columbia. The *Greenwood Ledge* did however say in their first issue, "in the rush to get everything set up and out one day ahead of the Times, the quality and reporting had indeed suffered". The second issue however was not much better and was low in ads.

James W. Grier, the Ledge owner, likely saw an opportunity to add another newspaper in Greenwood as Duncan Ross was not able to give full time attention to his *Boundary Creek Times*. Less than a year later, a flamboyant interior newspaper publisher named R.T. Lowery (who was already slightly connected to the Ledge) would scoop in and like the little weasel some of his competitors said he was, take over the Ledge, lock, stock and barrel. In 1911, Lowery would acquire the *Boundary Creek Times* and roll both of his publications into one. Many decades would pass before the *Times* newspaper would re-invent itself and once again be the official (and only) paper of Greenwood.

According to the Ledge, a cord of wood was selling in Phoenix for eight dollars and many Greenwoodians were heading up the hill to take in games of chance (gambling), especially Faro and Roulette, which while sort of legal in Phoenix was not allowed in Greenwood.

On the May long weekend the temperature hit the mid-eighties although shortly after that, the rains came and lasted until June 10<sup>th</sup>. At five hundred dollars a year A.D. Hallett was reappointed as the Greenwood Fire Chief. Railroads were still the lead stories in the local papers. Almost 1,700 men were at work laying track for the V.V. & E. Railway with work also just about to start on the competing Kettle Valley Railway line. According to the *Grand Forks Sun* newspaper, the C.P.R. will soon move its Eholt operations to Grand Forks.

Men were still dying at an unacceptable rate at the mines in the Boundary country. The latest death was on Charles Peterson who had a rock fall on his head at the Strathmore Mine. A Mr. Narbiato also passed away when slag crushed his skull at the B.C. Smelter.

Another death had Midway in an up-roar but it happened in a Saloon at Ferry Washington, a few hundred yards across the border from Midway. A 'blackjack' gambler, "Kid" Rogers killed and beat a woman to death. A mob of mostly Midway men, tried to get the "Kid" out of jail and hang him but were held back by the Ferry town sheriff who had a loaded shot-gun in his hands and would not turn over his prisoner to the unruly mob.

Well known, old time editor Mr. Turner, who had briefly worked at the *Times* newspaper, was back and this time putting his pen to paper at the *Phoenix Pioneer*. A few group of newspaper men got together to spend the very hot Dominion Day weekend battling mosquitos and fishing at Rock Creek. One group caught eighty fish, the other landed forty-five with a Mr. Dill landing one three footer according to the Times. Is it possible that this was a 'fish story'?

Speaking of the Times, Duncan Ross and his puppet H.O. Lamb, continue to use many of the pages of their paper to promote Ross

and his Liberal party. So much so, that the daily Nelson paper stated, "that Mr. Ross, M.P. has achieved a reputation for political trickery, unreliability, shifting evasiveness and other things that are not accounted for by his early training. The only possible explanation of Mr. Ross' vagaries is that so far, as politics is concerned, he was born a crook". Even the *Greenwood Ledge* was taking pot shots at the *Times*. In the August 23<sup>rd</sup> issue they printed a letter referring to the *Times* as the Greenwood Gasbag.

In Greenwood, St. Jude's was spending \$1,400 on improvements to the Church Hall by the way of a basement and an eighteen by twenty-four foot addition. In August, the Greenwood newspapers said that Greenwood now boasts seven stage lines and all seven call Greenwood their home. Three stages ply the dirt between Midway and Greenwood each and every day. Phoenix, Boundary Falls and Beaverdell have daily service with most of the men aboard smoking fifty cent Kootenay Belle cigars that are hand made in Nelson, B.C.

A major famine occurred in Phoenix in the middle of August. It was not a shortage of grain or the like but rather beer. August was hot as usual and the local Phoenix brew master had his whole batch of thirst quenching beer go bad as the quality of the water used was poor. At the best of times, water in Phoenix tasted terrible but during this hot, dry August, it was undrinkable and making some people sick. The desperate brewer was forced to place a rush order to the Elkhorn Brewery in Greenwood, where they promptly loaded up Jimmy Macaque's stage with twenty-five kegs of beer. This refreshing substitute, that would take the place of water, arrived on Saturday night and saved the week-end for the saloon's thirsty patrons.

Not much later the Elkhorn Brewery was taken over by J. Dockstader who said he would add another cellar to the brewery. This new twenty by forty foot basement would hold an additional five hundred barrels of beer. Dockstader was also adding a bottling plant to produce bottled beer for the Boundary. Beer in a bottle would be available at the local saloons for the first time in late September and was eagerly being awaited by thirsty miners.

Once again, tragedy hit Midway via Ferry, Washington. At about two in the morning, a blacksmith living in the back of Haines and Company's general store and Post Office woke to the sound of what he thought was dynamite going off. Rushing to the Post Office area of the building, he saw the Post Office safe had been blown wide open and the building was on fire. Less than an hour later, the complex and the town-site office located next door were burnt to the ground. Some of the safe contents were found near the Kettle River and strewn in such a fashion as the people (or person) who did this appeared to have crossed the border into Ferry, located just on the other side. Haines and Company was Midway's oldest firm and just had partial insurance.

The *Times* newspaper celebrated their tenth year in business with the publication of their September 7<sup>th</sup> issue. In the September 27<sup>th</sup> issue, the *Ledge* paper ran a front page story that lambasted Duncan Ross and his *Times* publication. The article said that Ross was not protecting the farmers up Sidley Mountain as Ross and his Liberal government were allowing the V.V. & E. railway to enter American territory. The rail line, the *Ledge* pontificated, should be located totally in Canada. The *Ledge* paper leaned Conservative and the *Times* newspaper was used as a Liberal propaganda machine. Each of Greenwood's two newspapers hated each other and constantly used their pages to put the other down. In that same issue, the *Ledge* gloated about the formation of a new Midway Conservative organization that had fifty people attend the very first meeting.

Typhoid fever had its death grip on citizens of the West Boundary in the fall of 1906, even taking the life of an otherwise healthy Greenwood resident, twenty-eight year old Audy Olson. At that time 17,000 feet of timber in Westbridge was in the process of being cut by a one hundred man crew. The logs were dumped into the Kettle River for a float down to a lumber mill in Cascade.

The big business companies of Hunter-Kendrick, Rendell & Company, Russell-Law-Caulfield, T.M. Gulley and A.L. White, all located in Greenwood, were said to have over \$300,000 worth of stock

(merchandise) between them for sale. This showed a real belief in the future of Canada's Littlest City.

As winter approached, Greenwood was experiencing a robbery epidemic. Russell-Law-Caulfield was broken into and the thieves got away with a large haul of winter clothes and groceries. Clothes were reported stolen from three different outdoor clothes lines and one of the hotels had booze, money and some restaurant food taken. Not really all that far away (by today's standards), the town of Carmi was rocked with the shooting death of two of their finer citizens when a local man who had been drinking all night decided to gun them down in cold blood. When captured the next day the fugitive tried to take his own life by slashing his throat.

A surveyor for the C.P.R., a Mr. Johnson was back in Greenwood after spending two months at the head waters of the Kettle River. His report to the rail company that was subsequently printed in the local paper said, the higher ground (above 4,000 feet) was full of ugly streams and beavers with little sign of any mineral deposits and he (Johnson) was not impressed. The area he had surveyed and was talking about, would decades later become the mountain called Big White and include the village and ski hill that today is considered one of the finest mountain resorts in the world.

Topics of conversation in November included the Greenwood founder Robert Wood selling a few of his lots to the City of Greenwood for just two hundred dollars. Greenwood needed the gravel located on these properties for their City streets. The first snowfall of winter hits the streets of Greenwood on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Council in Phoenix offers up a five hundred reward for the capture of the person guilty of setting the town hall on fire. Boundary ore shipments pass the one million ton mark by the middle of the month.

Huge Kettle Valley apple crops this past fall was the main newspaper story in late November, especially from the orchards of W.H. Norris near Midway and the Bubar Brothers who were located above the Ingram Bridge near Rock Creek. Norris and a Mr. Wright had three thousand acres under ditch (irrigation) and the Kettle Valley Fruit,

Land and Irrigation Company were predicting two hundred families would be fruit farming this acreage in the next two years. Apples seemed to overtake copper as the future source of income in the West Boundary Country, at least in the minds of the land speculators.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, C. Scott Galloway of Greenwood also seemed to catch the apple fever. He decided to jump into this new craze by acquiring two hundred and seventy-six acres of land. His new land purchase was to be found almost two miles south of Greenwood, on the south side of the Kettle River. The plan was to put one hundred of those acres into an orchard come spring. The price Galloway paid for this raw land was \$15,000 which was considered outrageous for that time period.

A shut-down at the Greenwood Smelter causes the B.C. Copper Company to also close the doors to its Mother Lode Mine. The problem was as usual, over wages. A large story in the *Boundary Creek Times* newspaper caused many in Greenwood to call for a censure of Duncan Ross. Ross, the paper's boss and the local Member of Parliament took the company's side and the paper had large advertisements in it from the B.C. Copper Company. The other paper, the *Ledge*, in their December 6<sup>th</sup> issue stated that they were the only newspaper in town to print both side of the story.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the *Phoenix Pioneer* paper was reporting a foot of snow on the ground in their town and the upcoming election would see a fight between Mayor Rumberger and D.J. Matheson. In another article the paper reported that during the previous Monday, 10,000 drinks were sold at the hotels in Phoenix. Maybe the good editor himself was hammered when he wrote that story. Speaking of booze, Canadian Club whiskey in one and two gallon jugs were being sold in Phoenix, Greenwood and Midway. That size of containers could give all in the West Boundary a good drunken time on New Year's Eve.

On the December 27<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Ledge*, R.T. Lowery was now listed as the editor in the paper's masthead. Over at the *Anaconda News*,

the sixth annual issue was coming out and it was a whopping fifty-two pages. At this point in time the *News* was publishing very, very sporadically.

Advertisements in the local papers at year end included a warm furnished cabin for rent for five dollars and fifty cents; the ad did not say if this was weekly or monthly. A two room cabin on a twenty-five by one hundred foot lot was selling for just \$500, far less than just two years ago. Girl's dolls were going for twenty-five cents and up and quality fountain pens were fetching three dollars each. C.P.R. ran an advertisement for a train ride from Greenwood to Toronto at eighty-three dollars and fifty-five cents.

Dave McBride of Bridesville had the official opening of his new Anarchist Hotel during the holidays even though the complex had been in operation mode for over a month.

The December 28<sup>th</sup> issue of the Times newspaper summed up the paper's thoughts in an editorial that said, "let us begin the New Year right by working to make our community the brightest, happiest and most prosperous in the land, for, by that kind of effort well-sustained, it can only thus become such. Will you kind reader, join the Greenwood Booster Club for 1907?"

## Chapter Thirteen

### The Greenwood Newspaper War Begins

The year 1907 starts off with a new war of words between the two newspapers in Greenwood, with both papers supporting different political parties in the upcoming provincial election. The hatred between these two enemy camps would continue to grow over the next twelve months, much to the amusement of the papers' readers.

Naden, Mayor of Greenwood successfully obtains the Liberal provincial nomination with E.G. Warren, also of Greenwood, collecting the Conservative nod. The *Times* paper naturally predicted a large win for Naden and said the McBride Conservative government was destined to defeat. The *Ledge* was not going to be pushed aside, especially with the verbose R.T. Lowery now in charge and running the *Ledge*. They printed, "Duncan Ross just came back from Ottawa and the south-end saloons in Greenwood reported a phenomenal increase in business ..... Ross was not a prophet (he said the Conservatives would lose) but a legislator." Ross it seems was a big drinker of alcohol, which was the norm of most newspaper people at the time, including Lowery himself. This love of booze by the print media would continue well into the next century.

In a separate front page story, the *Ledge* said that Alex Robinson has purchased a half interest in the *Boundary Creek Times* and has assumed editorial control and that the *Times* will still be pro Liberal. Robinson's influence on the *Times* was immediate, with the paper looking more professional and with tombstoning (two headlines

appearing horizontally adjacent to each other on the same line, throwing off the visual balance) mostly a thing of the past.

R. T. Lowery, the *Greenwood Ledge* owner and editor (and shortly also the publisher of the *Boundary Creek Times*) was a giant among small time newspaper publishers. His story in capsule form, courtesy of R. J. Welwood, is as follows “Robert Thornton Lowery, newspaper publisher, editor, and printer; born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1859 in Halton County, Upper Canada, son of William L. Lowery and Mary Ann Mills; died unmarried on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1921 in Grand Forks, B.C.

Following an education in private and public school, Bob Lowery began working for a Toronto printing office in 1876. His first newspaper venture in Petrolia, Ont. began on 20 March 1879 when with his brothers William M. and Samuel M., he published the *Petrolea Topic*. The brothers also dealt in books and stationery. Although they sold the paper around 1886, they continued the stationery business for another year. Bob then drifted westward, first to Sault Ste. Marie where he stayed for several years and in 1891 to British Columbia.

On 12 May 1893, Lowery launched his first British Columbia newspaper, the *Kaslo Claim*. The untimely collapse of silver prices in the United States placed a severe strain on the Kootenay mining industry and this in turn forced him to cease publication in just over three months. The front page of the last issue, bordered in black, featured a tombstone to the memory of the *Claim*. Lowery also identified merchants with overdue accounts by displaying their advertisements upside down (unpaid) or sideways (partially paid).

The lifespan of a weekly newspaper in a mining community was often short so in the years that followed Lowery moved frequently. Often owning more than one paper at a time, he hired editors and managers for those that he did not personally supervise. He also printed newspapers owned by others. In Kaslo, Nakusp, New Denver, Sandon, Rossland, Slocan, Vancouver, Nelson, Poplar Creek, Fernie, Greenwood, and Princeton, his controversial newspapers

championed various causes such as improved working conditions and better wages for miners with wry wit and acid humour. He was often critical of commercial, political, or religious bureaucrats and their organizations.

Of the Canadian Pacific Railway, he once wrote that it was “a wonderfully safe road to travel on and seldom kills a passenger, although occasionally someone dies of heart failure after looking at their freight charges.”

Constantly reminding readers to honour their subscriptions, Lowery claimed that “one of the noblest works of God is the man who always pays the Printer.” A cartoon that appeared almost weekly in the *Ledge*, published in New Denver, Nelson, and Fernie between 1900 and 1905, shows an unconcerned Lowery sitting at his desk with money scattered on the floor, but the weapons on the wall and his bulldog ripping the arm off a delinquent subscriber suggest another attitude. As a last resort, Lowery would play a game of poker to raise enough capital to pay his expenses. His enjoyment of whiskey and poker, combined with his smart dress and military bearing, may have been responsible for his being given the title Colonel.

After the collapse of *Lowery's Claim* he focused on the *Ledge*, then being printed in Greenwood. He remained there until admitted to the Grand Forks hospital, where he stayed for over a year. His dying wish was to be buried in Nelson by members of the Kootenay Pioneers' Association. He succumbed to chronic nephritis and was buried in an unmarked grave in the Anglican section of Nelson Memorial Park Cemetery. Only a fraction over five feet tall, Bob Lowery had loomed large among the newspaper publishers of British Columbia for more than a quarter of a century.”

Back in the West Boundary, no election took place in Greenwood as the previous council all got in again by acclamation with Herbert Bunting, also the only candidate for Mayor, sworn in as the new boss of Greenwood. That was not the case in Phoenix where the previously unbeatable George Rumberger was defeated by D. J.

Mathison. On the weather front, it was so bitterly cold in the Boundary area that in mid-January of 1907 pipes froze throughout Greenwood. The temperature hit a winter low on January 13<sup>th</sup> of a mind numbing 48 degrees below zero.

The news in early February in Greenwood was all about the Provincial election coming up shortly. The *Times* predicted a Liberal landslide and the Ledge called for a tight victory by the Conservatives. Duncan Ross was attending Liberal electors meetings in Greenwood, Midway and Rock Creek promoting his party's views on behalf of candidate Naden. His paper was full of Liberal positives, as would be expected. When the votes were finally counted, Greenwood's former Mayor, Liberal candidate Naden did indeed win over his counterpart Edward G. Warren. Just twenty-six votes separated them. Little Greenwood now completely controlled the area, politically speaking, as both the M.L.A. and the M.P. lived in Canada's Littlest City and both men were one hundred per-cent pro Greenwood.

In the February 22<sup>nd</sup> issue of the *Boundary Creek Times*, the Thomas Drug store in Greenwood advertised that they had over one thousand record titles for sale, including the big hit, "I'm just crazy about you." That same issue told of a house and two adjoining lots that just sold for \$4,250 on Second Street and that the temperature finally went above freezing for the first time in months, just two days ago. Also in that issue Duncan Ross was conspicuously missing from the masthead of his own newspaper.

On March 7<sup>th</sup> at two o'clock in the morning, fire once again raised its ugly head in Greenwood. At the Pacific Hotel, the night cook Howard Moore was burning up two big steaks (no such thing as a medium rare steak in those days) in a cast iron frying pan for two hungry miners who had just come over from the bar located next door at the Windsor Hotel. Without warning, according to Moore, the stove was on fire and the flames were spreading throughout the entire kitchen.

Moore's story was probably a cover up and the reason the kitchen caught fire was most likely to the fact that he had way too much grease in the pan. Moore was busy behind the kitchen freezer doing what he did best (besides cooking) and that was nursing a bottle of whiskey during the slow night shift. As the kitchen walls were made of wood, the area was soon totally ablaze.

Within five minutes, the Greenwood fire department was on the scene and managed to put the fire out before it destroyed not only the Pacific Hotel but its neighbour, the Windsor Hotel. All the guests in the rooms got out alive but the majority left without any of their possessions. One of the guests, a Charles Buxton had to jump from his second floor window to the ground below and broke his leg and injured his hip. The kitchen and the upper floor of the Pacific were ruined but the lower floor was in good shape with just a little water damage. The owners of the hotel, Mr. Greig and Mr. Morrison had \$5,000 insurance but the damage was in the neighbourhood of \$12,000.

Miners at the Granby property in Phoenix were on strike for better wages and another strike in the Kootenay coal yards was going on yet again. After Granby offered a ten per-cent wage increase the miners went back to work. At the same time, the coal strike ended and things again looked rosy for the Boundary country but strikes were taking a toll on the Greenwood and Phoenix business community.

Greenwood's high society, la crème da la crème were in full show off mode during a big dance at Miller's Hall hosted by Mr. and Mrs. McAllister. According to a front page story, the dance had a large orchestra and refreshments. Many of those present lasted until two in the morning. The ladies present included Mrs. McMyynn, Johnston, Keffer, Oppenheimer, Whiteside, Campbell, McLean, Warren, Wilson, Spankue, Flair, Simmons, Rendell, Myer, English, Jakes, Kendall, Call, Elkins, Shaw, Frith, McCaughey, McIntosh, and Malcom. Miss Pickard, Flair, Moffat, Martin, Carter-Cotton, Whiteside, Stork and Campbell were also present.

At the end of May and during the first few days of June, the weather was hot, so much so that residents of Greenwood and surrounding towns were worried about forest fires erupting and destroying them all. In the shade, the mercury went over the ninety degree mark for three straight days. One old timer, who in his early twenties was part of the Rock Creek gold rush in 1860, said that he had never seen it this hot this soon.

The *Times* newspaper was the very first to lay the ground work for what today are very pleasant parks in modern Greenwood when in a front page story the paper asked council to secure a park and a recreation area between Government and Copper street on vacant land. In a June editorial on this issue the *Times* said, "it is time we outgrew our village ideas if we are to be what we aspire to be, the metropolis of the Boundary."

Duncan Ross, his wife and daughter Christine were back in Greenwood for the summer as parliament was not in session. The *Winnipeg Free Press* ran a large article on Greenwood in their paper that gave a glowing account of the Boundary region complete with quality pictures. Two daughters were born in Greenwood on June 18<sup>th</sup> 1907. The proud parents were Mr. and Mrs. Dill and Mr. & Mrs. Sutherland. The Canadian Imperial Bank of Canada purchased land at the corner of Copper Street and Short Street to build a new bank building.

The big news of the early summer was the setting up of fruit trees between Midway and Rock Creek. W. H. Norris planted seventy acres to fruit (mostly apple) and sold it to an out of town buyer. The property was part of the old McCallum Ranch. Four miles of irrigation were completed by the Kettle Valley Irrigated Fruit & Lands Company so that they could sell parcels of land with fruit trees already planted on these properties. Norris had one parcel of fifty acres planted for a Mr. Goodman and twenty more for a Colonel Glossop. These first orchards had potatoes planted between the rows of trees so that some cash could be obtained by the new owners while they waited for their apple trees to mature.

The Ingram Bridge was under repair after spring floods did damage and this was causing the planting of more orchards difficult as getting the fruit trees across the Kettle River was not easy due to high water.

In the *Times* newspaper, this article was printed; “the Greenwood Board of Trade has just issued a large edition of a circular, setting forth concisely the Boundary districts and its resources. The Board has departed from the usual course of advertising, and in telling modestly and conservatively about itself, has dealt liberally with the entire district of which it is the centre. We think the Board has done wisely in this and we feel sure the District will commend its public spirit and the measure of fairness displayed. A map of the District covers the last page of the circular and was loaned for the purpose by the *Phoenix Pioneer*”.

The *Times* newspaper quoted from this circular courtesy of E.W.Bishop is as follows: “The Boundary district derives its name from Boundary Creek, which flows into the Kettle River at Midway, near the International line. It is largely a mining region. The district has been fairly well prospected. A strip of country, ten miles north and south and fifteen miles east and west, comprises the present producing area. Within this small area are the towns of Greenwood, Grand Forks and Phoenix; Greenwood is the valley of Boundary Creek, Grand Forks is the valley of the Kettle River, and Phoenix is the divide between these valleys.

The altitude of Grand Forks is about 1,900 feet, Greenwood 2,400, and Phoenix 4,500. The climate of the entire district is remarkably good the year round. The winters of Greenwood and Grand Forks are about four months long, while those of Phoenix are somewhat longer, though not severe. There is little excessive heat in summer, little excessive cold in winter, very little wind, no cyclones, and few electrical storms. The country generally is well-watered, and the scenery beautiful.

Around Grand Forks a magnificent farm and fruit district has been developed in a few years. There are thousands of acres of these

lands available and within a few years past, hundreds of acres have been planted to fruit, for which soil and climate are ideal. As yet, irrigation has not been generally introduced here but with development, will. West of Greenwood, beginning at Midway about eight miles distant, the Kettle Valley again widens and for many miles presents a most charming landscape. Thousands of acres of this valley and adjacent bench lands are admirably adapted for fruit as proven by the few orchards now in cultivation. Irrigation is now being applied in this district by individuals and corporations. One fruit company now has acreages on the market having planted seven thousand trees this spring in the vicinity of Midway.

The District has been fairly well provided for, in the matter of transportation facilities. The Canadian Pacific and Great Northern railways have now both extended into Grand Forks, Phoenix and Midway. The Great Northern has been surveyed up the valley of Boundary Creek passing through Greenwood.

From Midway, Greenwood interests are promoting a railway up the West Fork, a wonderfully rich mineral section and one possessing fine agricultural and timber lands. The road has been heavily subsidized by both Federal and Dominion parliaments. At least two other large concerns are planning to enter the field. The Consolidated Mining and Smelter Company of Canada (Ltd.) has already acquired large holdings near Phoenix, while a syndicate with ample means has bonded a group of claims aggregating several hundred acres, west of Greenwood.

Several smaller companies, syndicates and individuals are developing many other promising properties. Opportunity yet remains for those capable of promoting large enterprises.

In the 150 square miles of territory previously referred to, three large mining companies, the Granby, B. C. Copper and Dominion are operating mines and smelters. The Granby employs about 900 men, the B.C. Copper Company about 500 and the Dominion about 500. Around Greenwood there are several small high grade mines that employ about 200 men while the Snowshoe, at Phoenix, employs 75.

The average monthly wage of these men is around \$100. At present there is a scarcity of miners and laborers in all the camps. The chief mines of the Granby and Dominion are at Phoenix, those of the B.C. Copper Company at Anaconda located *a half a* mile west of Greenwood.

This District is about equal to area of four townships. They first began shipping ore about seven years ago. It has marketed 325,000,000 worth of the metals and with present prices maintained, this year's output will crowd the 310,000,000 tons. The productive area is gradually widening and new camps are opening up in localities not far remote. The plants of all the companies are modern and well equipped, and everywhere electricity is the power of choice, with some being brought over mountain ranges, from Boundary Falls, five miles away. The towns are well provided with overhead power except where crossing any road or trail, in which case it will be buried six to twelve inches.

Nearly every line of business is represented in the area, although there are openings for more small industries. Branches of the Banks of Montreal, Canadian Bank of Commerce and British North America are at Greenwood, Phoenix and Midway. The Royal Bank and British America Trust Company are in Grand Forks. Phoenix has no bonded debt, Greenwood a light one, with Grand Forks somewhat heavier with their debt load. In area newspapers, they had the Boundary Creek Times and the Ledge in Greenwood, the Gazette and Sun in Grand Forks and up the hill the Pioneer in Phoenix plus the Star at Midway and all were weeklies.

In July, R. Meyerhoff sold his Midway acreage for thirty dollars an acre. At the end of that month on a Tuesday, the mercury in Greenwood hit a scorching 92 degrees. The Times newspaper was still heckling the oriental race. In an August 2<sup>nd</sup> editorial, this is what was printed; "The little brown man are invading Canada by the thousands...to white labor everywhere, the brown is unwelcome...the Jap (sic) cannot be expected to concede that the white man is so much his superior."

In the following issue the paper also put down Sikhs, who were coming to British Columbia to live, much to the chagrin of the Times. The good Father, Rev. Ferroux announces to the Press, that come next spring he plans to colonize the Carmi area and will plant one thousand families there. At the same time representatives were looking over the Midway to Rock Creek area for a French colony.

Mr. S. T. Larsen owner of a hotel in Rock Creek planted two hundred and fifty fruit trees on a nearby bench overlooking the Kettle River. Next door, his neighbor Pittendrigh also planted many hundreds of fruit trees. It seems that the whole Kettle Valley was going apple tree mad.

In Midway, Oliver Bourdeaux met his death, either by suicide or an accident. When going to sleep in a hotel attic, he stepped out of an open window and fell to the ground breaking his neck. The night before, Bourdeaux was complaining about bad investments he had put his money into. Just one week later, E. A. Hain, Postmaster in Midway died. In the early evening, seeing the post office ablaze Hain went inside to put out the fire. When others arrived, they found Hain outside on the ground in the throes of death. The fire had been put out, though no one knew how one man could do so. Later, H. Eldridge takes over from the late Hain as the new Postmaster.

In early October, what would be a harbinger of things to come in just ten years, the price of copper fell to below fifteen cents a pound in New York, bringing shares in Granby, B.C. Copper and Dominion Copper down as well. Greenwood council, in November, were trying to have all house chimneys swept to prevent chimney fires. Cost for a one story house to be cleaned was one dollar and fifty cents. Council were also mad at citizens who took their horses up onto the wooden sidewalks as the horses were breaking the sidewalk's lumber planks.

Arthur Miller of Boundary Falls marries Lillian Clarke of Midway and the very popular Edith Henderson ties the knot with George Allen. In fact marriages were taking place all over the West Boundary.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, all the mines owned by the Granby Company, the Snowshoe Mine and all B.C. Copper Mines close due to the market price for their low grade ore. Granby's Smelter was also expected to shut-down as no ore would be coming its way.

A month later on December 14<sup>th</sup>, the Granby Mine was sort of open, with just a hand full of workers taking part. Many miners just packed up and left the Boundary Country, never to return. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, Granby now had seventy-five miners working their mines and their Smelter was scheduled to re-open early in the New Year. The Mother Lode Mine and its Smelter as well as the B.C. Copper Mines were still closed.

Although things looked bleak indeed at year's end, Howard Moore's Pacific Café dining room was full of customers for Christmas dinner. Two hundred pounds of turkey were consumed by hungry patrons. The Times newspaper in their annual year-end editorial summed it up with, "there are no hard times in Greenwood, everybody has a meal and a good bed."

## Chapter Fourteen

### Apples, Tunnel and Defeat

January 1908 was the end of an era for Greenwood's founder Robert Wood. Wood, who was the City's first mayor, decided that he would take on current Mayor Bunting in the upcoming civic election. The vision that Wood saw almost thirteen years ago was a little blurred now. It may have been due to the fact that Wood spent most of the previous year at his mine the Sally, up on the West Fork of the Kettle River and very little time in Greenwood.

Maybe this was the reason some said Robert Wood was out of touch with the "new Greenwood" and this and this alone, probably cost him the election, as he lost by ninety seven to sixty two votes. The Times newspaper, in what would be the final words written regarding Wood's political career, printed that "the defeat of Wood is to be regretted, as the people of this city are deeply sensible of the personal sacrifice he has endured so that Greenwood might go ahead...there is no man in Greenwood to who the citizens would more willingly do honor." Up in Phoenix, Mathison once again defeated Rumberger for Mayor. Over in Midway, Thomas Hardy was firmly in control of council.

Discussions taking place throughout the Boundary in February and March was that of a proposed tunnel through the mountains from Greenwood to Phoenix. Although this sounded like a pipe dream to many, others were very serious including 'big money' men. Both of

the papers in Greenwood and Grand Forks were firmly behind this project.

The tunnel would cut through many ore veins and tap a lot of underground ore deposits that were untouchable at that time. The tunnel would be 2,000 feet under the ground and would be up to 20,000 feet long with a cost of over one million dollars to build. Greenwood council wanted to give \$50,000 to the project but the Provincial government was saying no. Other sound minds were reminding everyone that the price of copper was still around twelve and a half cents a pound and the project made no sense financially.

As spring arrived, twenty-four year old lads were sentenced to three years each at the Penitentiary in New Westminster for stealing a pile of clothes and a pair of shoes from William and Hunter's store in Phoenix. Tough Judge Brown handed down the verdict which today would seem over the top but for that era was the norm. Apparently they had just arrived from Montreal but could not find work in Phoenix or Greenwood and were broke.

In mid-March, Scott Galloway arranged for the details of the sale of Victoria House to Jim Cameron who would re-open the now closed hotel in a few weeks. In April it was reported that the original manager of the Boundary Creek Times newspaper, W. J. Harper passed away in England at the age of fifty four. At about the same time the Phoenix Pioneer newspaper was sold to a T. Alfred Love. At the young age of forty-five, an early Greenwood pioneer and Greenwood merchant C.E. Miller passes away.

Duncan Ross had the front page of his April paper full of stories promoting his accomplishments as Member of Parliament. The nomination for the next federal election was up-coming.

In the middle of April, two prominent fires occurred in Greenwood. The Elkhorn Brewery owned by J.B. Dockstader caught fire and all the buildings burnt to the ground. The fire was noticed just before lunch and even though the fire brigade from Greenwood was there in minutes, their hoses were not long enough to reach the blaze as

the Brewery was located just outside of town boundaries and the nearest fire hydrant was a few hundred feet away. Loss was estimated at over \$30,000 with only \$5,000 of insurance coverage.

The second fire occurred at the P. Burns & Company's slaughter house. This building was also completely destroyed with a loss of \$5,000 to the owners. The previous day, thirteen cattle had been killed and it was thought the kettles used in rendering the fat caused the blaze. Rebuilding started immediately.

The Province newspaper in Vancouver was now using Duncan Ross as their whipping boy, accusing him of not serving his riding's interest. The Vancouver newspaper was Conservative-leaning at that time and thought Liberal M.P. Ross was primed for defeat, so they were printing any and all negative things they could find on him.

As April came to a close, two men Christopher Martin and Kingsley Smith fell twenty-five feet to their death. A ledge they were standing on at the Granby Mine collapsed throwing them down to the ground below and covering them with rocks. The B.C. Copper Company is back running and announces that they are hiring again. Once their bins are full of ore they will also re-open their Smelter.

The Kettle Valley Fruit Company's Great Britain investors were in Greenwood to announce a 1, 4000 foot flume and trestle, that when built, would connect this new water way to their main irrigation line. The previous January, an English company with the name British Columbia Development Association, purchased a ranch along with an additional nine hundred and thirty acres just west of Kamloops. The reason for the purchase was to start a major apple orchard where they would soon build a town and name it Walhachin.

Walhachin would be located on a high bank, 1,100 feet above the Thompson River. Although the apple and land development in the Kettle Valley was not associated with the apple and land development in Walhachin, it would have been impossible for the two companies not to know what the other was doing. Both projects

were more about making money for the shareholders than about farming and both would ultimately and spectacularly fail.

Officials from the Dominion Copper Company were in town to tell people that they would resume mine operations on June 15<sup>th</sup>. At the Mother Lode Mine, a record tonnage of ore was being shipped to their Smelter, according to reports. At the end of June, the West Boundary area was hit with a massive electrical storm. A powerful bolt of lightning shot from the dark skies striking the mine directly, putting two big 700-horse compressors out of service for three days.

The Kettle Valley Irrigated Fruit and Lands' new flume was operational in early July. The flume, set upon a trestle top, was three feet wide by two feet deep and held the designated volume of water perfectly. This new flume would allow another two hundred acres of fruit trees to be planted and cultivated. One of the first purchasers of land and apple trees from the company was a Vincent Herzog of Humboldt, Saskatchewan.

In the summer of 1908, on a hot and dusty Tuesday night, two masked men brandishing pistols walked through the saloon doors of the Thomet Hotel in Midway. Standing at his bar, about eighteen feet away from the door and seeing the men come in, owner Charles Thomet immediately reached for his loaded revolver sitting just a few inches away from his hand. Before he could pull off a shot, the two gun men opened fire hitting Thomet twice in the chest. One bullet tore through the hotelier's lung and severed a major artery killing him dead on the spot. The two killers then slowly backed up through the door and disappeared into the darkness, most likely crossing the border into the United States. Thomet was well respected in the area having arrived in Midway sixteen years before. Immediately a \$1,000 reward was posted by Provincial authorities for the capture of the two men. Two months later an A.W. Jennings was arrested at Kettle Falls, Washington on suspicion of murder.

Forest fires were raging in and around the West Boundary in late August but two days of heavy, heavy rains finally put a stop to the problem and allowed people to get back to leading normal lives.

Typhoid was still killing the town's people in fall, the latest being Miss MacKenzie. At the mines, things were no different. The latest to die again at the Granby Mine was Hugh Stevens who got run over by an ore train. On the business front, Rendell & Company were in the process of transferring their business to a John Barclay. M.P. Duncan Ross was busy campaigning everywhere for the upcoming federal election. The phone exchange in Greenwood now had one hundred and thirty-five customers.

Things went from bad to worse in October for the Dominion Copper Company when rather than re-opening, the firm including all of its mines and smelter was placed into liquidation. Little more than forty-five days later, the receiver of the now bankrupt company was in Greenwood and Phoenix to let everyone know that he had pegged the book value of the company at \$50,000 and that their debts totaled \$895,000. The rumor around Phoenix and Greenwood was that the Granby Company had offered the receiver \$300,000 for title to the entire mine's equipment as well as the Smelter at Boundary Falls.

Things were not looking rosy for Copper Mines in general at the end of 1908 and business in Greenwood was suffering, which may explain why the Commercial Hotel in town was offering rooms for just twenty-five and fifty cents a night. Fire in the West Boundary seems like it never slept. A blaze burnt the MacFarlane residence to the ground on Gold Street in Greenwood in early November and another fire at the Midway Stage Stables was quickly put out before it could do much damage.

The front page of the November 13<sup>th</sup> *Boundary Creek Times* in ninety-six point capital letters said it all, "YALE-CARIBOO GONE WRONG: Perversion Of Local Issues Results In Disaster For The Upper Country". The great Duncan Ross (in his mind) had the unthinkable happen when he lost his riding in the just completed federal election. Ross finished second to the Conservative candidate Martin Burrell in every major town in the riding except Phoenix. Especially hard to swallow for Ross, was finishing behind Burrell, in Ross's own home town of Greenwood.

Ross was very bitter. He had even predicted he would win by a landslide in his paper the week before. One group of people Ross blamed was the Orientals who had voted against him in block. What Ross could not understand was that if you slander certain people, they will not be your friends, but rather, will oppose you at every turn. Just a few weeks before, in an editorial in the *Times* paper, Ross said (and remember, it was Ross pulling the strings of J.M. Miller and writing these things, even if Ross's name was not on the editorial page as editor) very racist things about the Chinese, Japanese and Hindus. Today, one could go to jail for such comments. The final words that Duncan Ross published about his defeat, said, "I would rather go down to defeat than win by any methods that would lose me the respect and confidence of those who have so loyally stood by me...I am as poor a man today, as the day I entered public life".

On December 18<sup>th</sup> the 'Wild West' was still showing its ugly teeth in the West Boundary when two bandits wearing expensive chaps, rode into Bridesville on horses and held up the grocery store, post office and the local agent of the Great Northern Railway. As usual, the culprits escaped south across the border into the U.S.A.

Just two days before Christmas, the year ended on a sour note when two men working the Granby Mines were killed. Apparently the length of the fuse on the dynamite they were using was not long enough and after lightening it, Charles Johnson and John Anderson could not get far enough away and were consequently blasted into the heavens, far above the mine.

## Chapter Fifteen

### Things Limp Along

A telegram on New Year's Day notified interested parties that the tunnel scheme (Greenwood to Phoenix) had been successfully financed and options were completed on properties that the company would need to go through. Richard Armstrong, the boss man of the project was expected in Greenwood in a few days to help get the tunnel project started.

Just because the year was now 1909, death and broken bones still haunted the local mining community. Back in those days, it was very, very dangerous working in the ore mines and smelters. Patrick Killen, age thirty-two, was the latest to have his life snuffed out when he fell off a bench and landed thirty feet below. A large chunk of ore broke away and came towards him causing poor Mr. Killen to jump out of the way but misjudging, he literally jumped into the air and ended up busted on the ground below where he subsequently passed on.

The Bridesville hold-up that happened a few months ago finally had a suspect in jail but not before an interesting plot. Clive Newman was arrested in Oroville, Washington and put in the local jail where somehow he suddenly escaped. Boundary Police Chief Bunbury crossed the border to meet up with a U.S. Deputy Marshall where they both headed to an area north of Portland Oregon where the

escaped man's sister had a farm. They located Newman there and brought him back to the Canadian border with Bunbury taking him the rest of the way to the Greenwood jail to stand trial. The suspect pleaded 'not guilty' but when the trial was complete, both Clive and his brother Bill (captured later) were sentenced to twenty years of penal servitude.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Thomas Hardy and Company general store somehow caught fire and was destroyed. A strong suspicion was that the building was deliberately set on fire, especially since ten days before a fire was put out that started in the floor boards. The loss was estimated at \$11,000 with insurance covering about half of that.

The *Boundary Creek Times* was reporting in their March 26<sup>th</sup> issue that the B.C. Copper Company would put their individual properties (mines) in Phoenix and Deadwood on the market shortly, a kind of fire sale. In that same issue the names Miller & Davidson suddenly appeared in the editorial masthead as lessees.

The *Greenwood Ledge* newspaper did an about face at the end of March when they first announced that they were moving the paper to Nelson ( due to a lack of local advertising) and then the very next week they reversed their stance and said they were now staying. The City of Greenwood had just approved a \$50,000 grant to the Greenwood-Phoenix Tramway Bore Tunnel syndicate out of Chicago and New York. These funds would get the tunnel started and this caused a great deal of optimism in Greenwood which probably caused the Ledge to stay put.

In the summer of 1909 things were on the quiet side but of course there was always news including that on Sundays, Phoenix was now a dry town, no booze. At a salary of \$110 a month Greenwood gets a new Chief of Police, a Mr. M.J. Merrihew formerly of Eholt. In Rock Creek local farmers got together to form the Rock Creek Threshing Company with directors McMynn, Pearson and Lindsay. Mr. Larson acted as secretary-treasurer of this new company. An auction sale of Dominion Copper Company's assets (mine properties) sold to a group of New York capitalists for \$261,000. The B.C. Copper

Company would close its doors for almost seven weeks in the summer due mostly to a miners strike in the coal fields.

Surveyors for the C.P.R. were busy working the mountains between Carmi and Penticton for the new railway line. The *Times* newspaper said a tearful goodbye to long time (eleven years) Greenwood citizens, Dr. & Mrs. Oppenheimer. These two prominent people and their child were off to Spokane to live. In 1899, Dr. Jakes and Oppenheimer formed a partnership in the new hospital in Greenwood. Dr. Jakes eventually left Greenwood in 1902 for San Francisco leaving Oppenheimer as the only physician in Greenwood. Doctor MacLean from Phoenix would move to Greenwood to take Oppenheimer's place, much to the citizen's delight.

The long touted Midway Vernon railroad had been pronounced dead earlier, but the wages of workers who toiled on the right away between Midway and Rock Creek had not been paid. Greenwood founder Robert Wood who along with associates was incremental in hyping this rail line was coming under considerable negative publicity. The bloom had definitely come off the rose in Woods case mostly because local suppliers to the M.V.R. were also not getting money owed. The Greenwood bore tunnel was now two hundred and fifty feet into the hill and the Argo tunnel at the south-end of town was two hundred feet in but seemed stuck in limbo. The Argo tunnel was to help develop the Selkirk Mine camp.

The *Boundary Creek Times* celebrated another anniversary and stated, "In the September 10<sup>th</sup> issue the *Boundary Creek Times* turned thirteen years old and has almost come to years of discretion, if it is not quite independent and earning its own living. In case no one else wishes us happy returns of the day, we will go out, right now, and drink to our own health and yours, and our own again. Prosit!"

In the next four issues the *Times* ran a large story (article) on the history of Canada's smallest city. The article below is part three of that story as it was printed.

“Greenwood has never lacked for business men of ability and acumen. Today, after the past years of financial and commercial depression, which have been felt in most of the towns of Western Canada and the States, it is to the credit of the present business men in Greenwood that they have upheld the prestige of the town in spite of adverse conditions. We have stickers here, and they are the right material to make a good town. Since the resumption of mining and smelting operations, conditions have improved a hundred fold and the reward of patience and perseverance is in sight for the business men in this center of the western Boundary.

The Hunter-Kendrick Co. General Merchants, located at the corner of Deadwood and Copper streets, started business in Greenwood in 1898. R. Kendrick retiring from the firm and his place being taken by W. T. Hunter in 1901. They are located in one of the finest two-story blocks in Greenwood and have for the past 11 years carried a first-class stock of dry goods, groceries and hardware, with a full complement of assistants, chief amongst whom is Jake Saunders, who has been with the firm continuously since its establishment, and is now manager. Mr. Saunders is noted for his efficient handling of the steel and hardware department and is one of the best buyers in the west. Mr. Hunter is well known for his genial presence and business keenness. The name of Hunter is most favorably known in the Boundary, where the brothers have large stores in the leading towns.

The P. W. George Co., on the corner of Copper and Center streets, in the Wallace-Miller block, was founded in the fall of 1901, as successor to the Wallace-Miller company, who came here in 1899, and handle men's clothing exclusively. Everything in this store is of the very best and prices are in keeping with the needs of the community. They have a similar establishment in Phoenix under the able management of P. W. himself. The Greenwood store is managed by Charlie Fair, who is a partner in the firm, with the assistance of A. E. Braithwaite. Both Mr. Fair and Mr. Braithwaite are old timers in the Boundary and are always ready to outfit even the most fastidious at a moment's notice. Everything the mere man can want can be procured here.

Next door to the P. W. George Co. is the drug store of J. L. White. This was originally White Bros. and was established in December, 1899 by Jack White, who was later joined by his brother. Curry White went to the northwest this spring to swell the ranks of Greenwoodians in Calgary and is running a drug store there.

White Brothers were for 10 years, located at the corner of Copper and Greenwood streets, only moving to their present location this spring. Mr. White carries every known kind of drug and medicine and is an obliging and popular pioneer business man. F. Jaynes & Co., are grocers and bakers in the Wallace-Miller block, and have been in business since June, 1904. Mr. Jaynes has built up a fine grocery and bakery business, sharing the former business with the Russell-Law-Caulfield Co. in Greenwood. Arthur Jaynes, who was recently married, assists his father and is a most obliging and an able store man. The bakery is superintended by A. Sakris and is clean and well conducted.

The Thomas Drug Co. was first located in the Guess brick block, adjoining the Windsor hotel, and now occupied by Logan Bros., jewelers, and now occupies a part of the Mellor brick block. Mr. Arthur Thomas is the manager and proprietor and has an up-to-date drug store, musical instrument and optical business that few large cities can improve on. Established in February, 1904, the Thomas Drug Co. have maintained a first class store since its inception, and by reasonable prices have made themselves most popular and are a credit to the town.

Wherever a town is thriving a Welshman can be found doing a good business, and Thomas the tailor, is no exception. Mr. Thomas came here in 1905, and is ever ready to take orders for anything wearable, making a specialty of ladies' tailor made suits. John L. Coles, stationer, bookseller and fancy goods dealer, has been doing business in Greenwood for ten years. He was first located near the Imperial hotel, and later joined issues with Walter Frith, who left Greenwood some two years ago to accept the position of customs' officer at Keremeos. Mr. Coles handles everything readable,

including the *Boundary Creek Times*, and has a first-class stock of smokers' delights, as well as all the necessities of the angler and sportsman.

In the Rendell block, and adjoining the Bank of Montreal, is the firm of Barclay & Co., successors to Rendell & Co., the oldest firm in Greenwood, who commenced business when the town was laid out 14 years ago. John Barclay bought out the business in October, 1908, after being manager for the company for some years, and carries ladies' dry goods of every description and only the best grades. With Miss Goddard as accountant, Miss Dines and Mr. Barclay in the Store as well as Miss Brown as milliner, the firm has every requisite for the ladies of the Western Boundary, and if obliging politeness and accommodation count for anything, Barclay & Co. richly deserve the patronage of the district.

T. Gulley & Co., furniture dealers, came to Greenwood in 1897, and opened up in their present quarters on Copper Street, in the fall of that year. The store originally was a two-story board building, on one lot, and the upper part was used as the first meeting place of the Greenwood Masons. Since those days the store has been greatly enlarged, and on the lot immediately behind the store undertaking parlors have been erected. T. Gully & Co., under the able management of E. Foyle Smith, is the leading furniture dealer in Greenwood.

Jack Clark has charge of the undertaking department. Holmes & Kennedy, stationers, candy, tobacco and notion dealers, have been in the business since May, 1904, and cater to the wants of all who smoke, read and enjoy the sweets of life. They have a comfortable ice cream parlor, which is largely patronized. Fred Holmes is the senior member of the firm, and has been in Greenwood since January, 1896. Fred has turned his hand since then to anything and everything, and has made a success in all he has undertaken. Both Mr. Holmes and Mr. Kennedy are well known and liked, and the store is the meeting place for all who enjoy a smoke and a good yarn.

Ed. W. Bishop, plumber, etc., has a store on Copper Street, and enjoys the entire patronage of Greenwood. Mr. Bishop has been here about 9 years and is one of the most popular merchants here. He is the owner of a well-appointed residence overlooking the town. In his absence the business is ably managed by George Clerf.

L. L. Matthews, who runs the A-I cigar store, next door to the Pacific Hotel is a man of many duties. Besides his large tobacco business, Mr. Matthews attends to the receipt and shipment of goods by the Midway, Phoenix and West Fork stages, also taking orders for the B. C. Transfer Co., which is owned by Wm. Fleming. Mr. Matthews bought out the previous owner last June and has already built up a substantial business.

Logan & Co., jewelers, are located in the Guess brick block, Copper Street, and came here in October, 1902. They bought out the business of George Miller, and have since enjoyed the patronage of the district. For the size of the town, they have a very large stock of cut glass and jewelry to suit every taste and are a most obliging and accommodating firm. Every kind of repairing in watches and jewelry is attended to promptly.

The harness and saddlery store on Copper Street is conducted by A. A. Frechette, a Boundary old timer, who came to the district eleven years ago and originally located in Grand Forks. Mr. Frechette moved to this town in 1907 and attends to the equine suiting of the whole Boundary. Anything for horses made of leather can be procured or manufactured by Mr. Frechette. He also runs a bicycle repair shop and has many good machines for hire.

The Greenwood Liquor Co., proprietor James McCreath, is one of the oldest firms in town. The wholesale liquor business was originally run by R. Wood & Company located on Government street. Afterwards became the Rendell Co., and sold their wholesale liquor department to R. Grieger, who formed the British Columbia Liquor Co. in 1899.

James McCreath came to Greenwood in 1899, to open up a hardware store, but he joined W. W. Howe in establishing a bottling

works for all kinds of soft drinks. Mr. Howe left Greenwood in 1902, and Mr. McCreath two years later bought out Mr. Griegor and incorporated the Greenwood Liquor Co. in 1904. The business is conducted in the Sperry brick block on Copper Street, and the bottling works are in the same capacious building. Mr. McCreath carries a \$20,000 stock and handles cigars, wines, ale beer and all the requisite soft drinks, and does a large business throughout the Boundary and the Similkameen. He is assisted by his son, Jim McCreath, who is the proud possessor of Greenwood's only car wash.

The P. Burns and Company, meat dealers, have been in business in Greenwood for the past ten years, and are located on the corner of Greenwood and Copper streets, in the building erected by I. Ostroski, when the town was first laid out. The meat business was originally carried on by Kerr Brothers, who sold out to P. Burns & Co. in 1899. There have been several managers of the P. Burns Co. since they started business. The last manager, C. J. Wilson, was extremely popular, and was moved to Vernon quite recently. King Reece is the local manager now and is an old timer, having come to Greenwood some time before the railroad. P. Burns & Co. has an abattoir just below Anaconda, Greenwood's suburb, in charge of Charlie Tucker, where the meat is dressed. It is a clean, well run establishment, and a credit to our local meat market.

The large store of A. L. White on Copper Street contains everything from potato pans to pianos. Mr. White came to Greenwood in 1899, before there was any railroad, and built a store which he called the "O. I.C." next to the Pioneer hotel, on Greenwood street, with a small stock of everything conceivable in the house furnishing line, both new and second-hand. Two years later he moved to Copper Street, next to the Arlington hotel, and for eight years Mr. White has slowly but surely increased his business, and his stock. Today he has a stock worth close to \$20,000, covering everything for home outfitters. Anyone starting housekeeping will find what is necessary at the store of A. L. White, the furniture and stove man.

The Greenwood City Waterworks company have a store on Copper Street, and in spite of their title do not deal in water supply, but are the company operating the electric light plant at Boundary Falls, which supplies the town with light, under the capable management of Charlie Summers. Boundary Falls was originally owned by Robert Wood. He formed a small local company, whose first meeting was held May 17, 1897. They failed to do any work under their charter, however, and a new company, the Greenwood Electric Light Co., was formed two years later, which installed a steam plant of 300 horse power, in town. This plant was operated successfully for some years under the able management of E. G. Warren.

Then the company sold out to Wm. Price, of Quebec, the steam plant was abandoned, and with an uptown office the Greenwood Electric Light company supplied the town, buying their current from the Cascade Power Co. until 1907, when, having bought out the old Wood charter (under which they are now operating and which accounts for the strange title), they installed a fine plant below the falls at a cost close to \$60,000. The present directors are A. M. Whiteside, F. W. McLaine and E. G. Warren. The service is good, all necessary house wiring repairs being promptly attended to by Charlie Summers.

The Russell-Law-Caulfield Co. has a \$30,000 brick block, on Copper Street, and a \$45,000 stock. They have the principal grocery business in Greenwood, and handle hardware and clothing as well. In the early part of 1897 Mr. Russell came to Greenwood from Brandon. He was interested in the Golden Crown mine, near here, and with J. Caulfield started a hardware business on Government Street, close to where the present court house stands, which store was afterwards destroyed by fire. In November of that year Thomas Hardy bought out Mr. Caulfield. In the spring of 1898 the new firm moved to Copper Street and carried on business in the Barrett block, afterwards erecting a new building of lumber where the present brick block now stands. Mr. Law started in the grocery business at Anaconda in 1896 but later moved to the Barrett block, next door to the Russell Hardware store. Caulfield & Lamont started their

hardware store on Copper Street in 1899, in the building adjoining T. M. Gulley & Company.

In 1901 these several firms amalgamated, and Duncan McIntosh became the president of the new Russell-Law-Caulfield Co. Mr. McIntosh has since retired from the company. The present manager is Mr. James Russell. His three sons act as his assistants, Ernest looks after the grocery department, Charlie attends to the clothing department, Clifford occupies the office, and Mr. Russell looks after them all. W. Elson, Merchant tailor, has been in business in Greenwood for the past nine years, and while there have been periods of financial depression in this town, Mr. Elson has always been busy. He is a first-class tailor, and visitors to his store on Copper Street will always find a first-class up-to-date stock of suiting's to choose from, and Mr. Elson himself, a most obliging gentleman, who is a first class judge of human nature, will take your measure perfectly."

Miss M. C. Henderson, milliner, has a store on Copper street opposite the Logan Bros, jewelry store, where every manner of beautiful creations are available at all prices. Miss Henderson has been here for five years, and enjoys a large patronage.

The Pioneer hotel is well named. It was built in 1895, and was the forerunner of the many hospitable hostelries to be erected in Greenwood. Wm. Nelson is the proprietor, and a most excellent host. Mrs. Nelson attends to the dining room, which has the distinction of being Greenwood's first ballroom, for the initial evening was held in this room 14 years ago, and was a memorable event, one couple taking the stove, pipe and fittings with them in their mazy whirl. The first Xmas dinner served in Greenwood was at the Pioneer, and many a good time since has occurred in Greenwood's oldest hotel. Mr. Nelson has accommodation for a large number of guests and deserves a fuller measure of business than he has received.

The Norden hotel, on Copper Street, was built in October, 1899, and in 1907 took over the Queen's hotel, next door, and is now one of

the largest and best appointed hotels in town. The proprietors are Messrs. Sater and Johns, both good fellows, who attend to the wants of the inner man in a well conducted dining room and an excellent bar. The Norden is the town headquarters for the Mother Lode stage.

The Rossland hotel, on Copper Street, with George Wellwood, proprietor, is one of the old time hotels of Greenwood. Mr. Wellwood started in business February 12, 1900. The Rossland is the home of many of the old timers, and George has a welcome for one and all. He has accommodation for a number of guests. Mrs. Wellwood attends to the dining room.

The Imperial Hotel is the leading hotel in Greenwood, and is admirably conducted by the proprietors, Messrs. Graham & Parry. They started business in the old Imperial, now known as the Clarendon hotel, in the winter of 1897, where they did an enormous business. Those were the days of Greenwood's beginnings. There were few families here, few homes, and everyone boarded at the Imperial. In January, 1900, almost 10 years ago, Messrs. Graham & Parry moved to their new quarters, the present three-storey building on the corner of Copper and Deadwood streets, and have maintained their business prestige throughout the dull times of the past few years. In June, 1906, they bought the spacious Armstrong Hotel as an adjunct to their sleeping accommodation. The Imperial bar is a favorite resort, where Pat presides, and where first-class potions can be obtained in any quantity. The Imperial dining room is large and comfortable, the meals and attendance are first-class. For the convenience of travelers the Imperial has several large sample rooms in connection with the establishment. A bus meets every train, and Pat meets every bus.

The Clarendon Hotel has changed hands possibly more often than any other in Greenwood. It is situated on the best corner in town, on Copper and Greenwood streets, opposite the Bank of Montreal. The present proprietor is J. H. Goodeve, more popularly known as 'Doc', a most efficient host, who took over the business of D. Anchester last August. The Clarendon is a three-storey building and has a large

number of comfortable bedrooms to accommodate the traveling public. Doc is an able raconteur and his patrons can be sure of the "very latest" with every wet they buy. Messrs. Greig & Morrison are the proprietors of the Pacific hotel, -a three-storey building on Copper Street, where they have been in business since May, 1906.

The Pacific has a commodious dining room and lunch counter, with an excellent cuisine and staff. This is a most popular establishment and meals are served at popular prices. The bedrooms are large and most comfortable. The hotel is heated throughout by hot water radiators and lighted by electricity. Both Alex Greig and Norman Morrison attend to the liquid refreshments and are deservedly popular.

The Windsor hotel, next door to the Pacific, was originally a log building, and the first to be built on Copper Street. The present building is a three-storey structure with a fine, large dining room, lunch counter, bar room and billiard room on the ground floor. A serviceable parlor and many large and well lighted bedrooms in the upper stories complete the establishment. Charles McClung, the proprietor, came to Greenwood in June, 1908, and has built up a most excellent business. The hotel is steam heated and has every accommodation for the traveling public.

The Arlington hotel, on Copper Street, is conducted by Chas. A. Dempsey, who took it over from the previous management May 26, 1906. Mr. Dempsey is quite an old timer here, and the Arlington is a favorite resort of Boundary pioneers. M. H. Roy is the proprietor of the National Hotel, on Copper Street. The National has a fair number of well-furnished bedrooms and comfortable accommodations for travelers.

The Kootenay Hotel has just changed hands. It has been run for many years by Thos. Walsh, the famous British Columbian, who came from Phoenix Park. The Kootenay is situated just opposite the Greenwood Liquor Company's store, on the Main Street, and is noted for the true Irish welcome given to all comers. Mr. Walsh has sold out to Angus McDonald, the former proprietor of the

Greenwood hotel, and will move to Bridesville, where he has a hotel already doing a good business.

The Greenwood hotel is operated by Luige Penna, who recently bought out Angus McDonald, and is the headquarters for those of Caesar's nationality.

The Ladysmith Hotel is located on Gold Street, and is one of the oldest hotels in town. The proprietor is Ola Lofstad, who is also manager of the Argo Mining company, operating the South end tunnel. The real, name of the hotel is the Royal, but it has been known as the Ladysmith so long that the name has stuck. This is the principal headquarters of those working at the smelter, being the nearest hotel and boarding house to that big employer of labor.

The new Greenwood firm of W. W. Craig, who has been in the grocery and general mercantile business at Boundary Falls for the past seven years, are ready to do business in their temporary quarters in the Miller block, and expect to move to the Hyde brick block, now in the course of erection, by December 1st. Mr. Craig is well known in Greenwood, and with his assistant, D. S. Hardy, may be expected to do a big share of the grocery and general merchandise business of this town. The business will be a strictly cash one, and in consequence prices will be in accordance. Look out for the new firm's advertisement which will shortly appear in the columns of this paper.

The Palace Livery stable, on Copper Street, and adjoining the Arlington hotel, is the one and only establishment of its kind in town. F. C. Buckless, the proprietor, has bought out all competitors, one by one, and now is the livery king of Greenwood. He has an excellent stock of turnouts of all kinds, single and double drivers, four-horse teams, saddle horses that even a poor rider can handle, everything that an up-to-date livery business can be expected to own.

The Palace Livery stable can move anything moveable. William Fleming, express man, has been in Greenwood for the past ten years, and attends to express, draying and transfer business of all kinds.

His team and him-self can be located at all times on the Main Street, and an immediate call may be left for him at L. L. Matthew's cigar store which will be promptly attended to.

Sydney Oliver is the ice man. When you want to make ice cream, or cool a few small bottles call up phone Number, B-51. Mr. Oliver also has a draying and transfer business and will attend to express and parcel delivery. Leave word for him at the Windsor hotel, when you need ice, or your trunk moved.

E. T. Wickwire, real estate and land agent, broker, life and fire insurance agent, has an office, the smallest business block in Greenwood, on Copper Street, which is wedged between the Miller block and Elson, the Tailor's store, and which is known as the Mart. Mr. Wickwire has been in Greenwood for eleven years and has built up a splendid business. He has business blocks, houses and cabins for rent, mines and stocks for sale, and will insure your life, your house, your furniture, and everything that you have.

F. W. McLaine is the local Canadian Pacific Railway land agent, and the busiest man in town. In 1901, Mr. McLaine moved to Greenwood from Midway, and opened an office in his present location on Copper Street, with his brother-in-law, Arthur English. Since then he has assumed control of the C. P. R. business in this section of the Boundary. Mr. McLaine also does a big business in real estate, mines and insurance. He is manager of the local Auditorium, president of the Greenwood Dramatic club, secretary of the Board of Trade, and officially connected with all that is energetic and for the good of Greenwood."

In October of 1909 things were not so good in Greenwood real-estate wise. A four room house and lot on the corner of Church and Kimberly Street was listed for sale for just two hundred dollars cash. Three years ago, this same property would go for four times that amount. The Windsor Hotel changed hands during this month with J. McCreath now running it. The Banbury Milk business sells out to the Jenks brothers. E. Hallett's bowling alley is for sale. Even the mining claims were taking a hit with many selling for a fraction of

what owners paid for them just a few short years ago, or, worse yet they were reposed by the local sheriff. The Times newspaper, in a sign of the times, said, "very few mining men are now showing up in Greenwood these days". At the end of the month, yet another Greenwood veteran says goodbye. W.T. Hunter of the firm Hunter-Hendricks leaves the city and relocates to Vancouver. The Hunters huge home on Kimberly Avenue sits eerily vacant.

In December the Boundary Mining and Exploration Company sells a tract of land (ten acres) to the owners of Ingram Creek Timber Limits for one hundred dollars an acre. They plan to put a large on-site lumber mill on the property.

## Chapter Sixteen

### Final Fifteen Months for the Paper

It was bitterly cold during the first ten days of January in 1910. So cold that the under-ground water pipes on Gold and Long Streets froze solid. Even the *Times* newspaper's water lines inside their building froze. The temperature was routinely at 20 degrees below zero on the Fahrenheit scale. One place which was not cold however, was at the Greenwood Auditorium when on January the 13<sup>th</sup>, to a sold out house and for the very first time, Greenwoodians were treated to a talking picture show.

Reports in the press at the time said that the town-site of Midway, which was owned by a Montreal company, sold its interest to the Kettle Valley Railway Company for \$45,000. A syndicate of businessmen from up the hill in Phoenix bought the Riverside Claim located near Phoenix from the Perkins estate for only \$2,100. The Greenwood-Phoenix Tunnel was back in the news as they now had twenty-two men and a large drill working the project. The first two-hundred and twenty-six feet were dug by hand but with a drill now on hand, close to fifteen feet a day is expected.

An editorial comment in the February 4<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Boundary Creek Times* could have been a harbinger of what would take place in just thirteen months due to a lack of advertising and money in the bank. They printed, "Those who owe small sums of money to this newspaper, either for subscription or job work are hereby requested to remit by post-office order or add exchange to their checks in the future".

In early March the Greenwood hockey team beat both Phoenix and Grand Forks team to acquire the Boundary hockey championship. In March the talk of Greenwood is the building of a new Post office on Government Street where the Pioneer Hotel sits. The Corners office, located next to the hotel is removed first so that construction of this new brick building can begin. Another story that was buried in the back pages of the local newspapers said, C.P.R. formerly announces that within two years they (C.P.R.) will have a rail-line from Midway to the Coast.

In the April 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the *Times* newspaper, a front page story announces that the Farmers Association of Rock Creek held a meeting at the Riverside Hall in Rock Creek to discuss the possibility of a Fall, Fruit and Stock Fair this year. Over one hundred people from all over the West Boundary showed up to the meeting. The *Times* newspaper said, in the story, that Greenwood should be the place chosen as Greenwood has the population, hotels and merchants to make the Fair a success. A permanent home was to be announced in the near future by the Farmers Association.

Two more fires took place in April in Greenwood. The first one was at Fook, Lee & Company's store on Gold Street in what was then Greenwoods China town. The fire was contained to the outside of the store. The other blaze occurred at the unoccupied Miners Hotel on Copper Street. The building caught fire on Good Friday and quickly was a mess of flames and shortly after, a wreck of charred timber. The hotel was the property of the Bank of Montreal who had taken it over from the previous bankrupt owners and the hotel was in a state of disrepair and closed at the time.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> the Greenwood Miners Union took a strike vote against the B.C. Copper Company and as the majority voted to strike, once again, the Mother Lode Mine and its Smelter were closed. The militant Union was unhappy that a few workers had not joined the Union. This closure saw an exodus of men to cross the border to look for other work in Republic, Washington. About two weeks later twenty-five men were back working at the Mother Lode Mine with

another thirty-five at the Smelter, although no incoming or outgoing shipments of ore were taking place.

The C.P.R. offered the City of Greenwood four hundred and fifty dollars a year for the use of 20,000 gallons a day of Greenwood's water. Liquor licences in Greenwood were now down to five from a high of seventeen, just six years ago.

A large advertisement in the Phoenix Pioneer newspaper told of the Hunter-Kendrick & Company Phoenix business take over. Fifty pounds of flour was advertised at \$1.90 a bag and bacon for twenty seven cents a package. More Pioneer news included that the mercury hit 80 degrees on April 24<sup>th</sup> plus a small note that could not be found in the Boundary Creek Times. It simply said, "Duncan Ross has purchased a residence in Victoria".

In late May lightening hit Sisters hospital in Greenwood causing extensive roof damage but little else. Around the same time the Kettle River Game and Fish Club were crowing about the rainbow trout fish they placed in Long (Jewel) lake recently. According to the Club the minnows as they once were, are now breeding and multiplying. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month yet another person died at the Mother Lode Mine. This time a Mr. McKittrick was hit by a bolder that fell from two hundred feet above.

The stories of the late fall and summer in 1910 were all about fires and derelict buildings in Greenwood. Some of the other news though were people talking about the K.V.R. acquiring the right away of the former Midway and Vernon road way. An engineer named McCullough, who would be front and center in West Boundary news in the very near future, was measuring M & V's unfinished rail line between Midway and Rock Creek. A contract for the C.P.R. line between Rock Creek and Bull Creek (lake), a distance of thirty-five miles, was let with construction to start within three weeks. C.P.R. will spend a million dollars on this project in the West Boundary in the next year according to press reports.

Derelict and unsafe properties were located all over Greenwood, so council declares thirteen of these buildings to be dangerous to public

safety and demands that they be torn down. Greenwood was losing buildings, not erecting them as had been the case for the past thirteen years. Mike Bauer and Bernard Hannanin lost their lives when a massive load of loose rock pushed the men down a mining chute in Phoenix. Their bodies were apparently ground to pieces. Nels Haug also fell one hundred feet down a chute at the Mother Lode Mine to his death.

The fire news was beyond terrible because of the dry, hot August. Water in Greenwood was at a premium causing council to put pumps into Boundary Creek in case of emergency. The first major forest fire of the summer occurred between Grand Forks and Greenwood causing a loss of millions of feet of valuable timber. A camp fire started by fishermen was said to have caused it. The big blaze and we mean big, happened on August 12<sup>th</sup> in the Number 3 hole of the Granby Mine and for a while it looked like the fire would destroy all of Phoenix. The Phoenix Pioneer newspaper building was destroyed which caused the paper not to publish for five weeks. When it returned, in its September 10<sup>th</sup> issue it said this about the fire

“The fire which wiped out part of the city on the afternoon of Friday, August 12, is now a matter of history; but as this is the first issue of the Pioneer since that date, a brief account of the conflagration will not be uninteresting to readers at a distance, many of whom may not have been aware of the occurrence.

It was the most disastrous fire that has ever visited Phoenix, and was notable for its speed in the destruction of property consumed, only an hour having elapsed from the time the blaze originated till it had spent itself and left only a trail of ruins where substantial buildings had formerly stood.

The fire started at 5 p.m. in the oil house at the mouth of No. 3 tunnel of the Granby mine. Fanned by the draft from the tunnel the blaze shot down the long tram shed to the No. 3 crusher and ore bins with lightning rapidity, spreading at the same time to the Granby's new machine shops, the power generator station, the company officials' cottage and Superintendent Smith's residence.

These buildings were all a mass of flames in a very few minutes. The occupants of the houses, having barely time to escape, while a brisk breeze carried the flames and sparks to buildings on the lower streets. The school, Methodist church, Palace livery stable, Presbyterian Church and Pioneer printing office apparently taking fire simultaneously. All the buildings being frame were eaten up like matchwood by the fire and the heat was terrific. Men were just going to work with another shift coming off at the time, so a force of a couple of hundred men were on the scene within a few seconds from the time the fire was first discovered.

The fire occasioned a property loss of \$115,000 with the Granby losing about \$90,000 on which they carried \$70,000 insurance. Other losses amounted to \$25,000, upon which there is \$12,000 insurance”.

For some reason, most probably lack of money, the *Times newspaper* did not publish between August 26<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup>. When the paper came back, it was devoid of ads and local news. They even asked citizens who were leaving Greenwood to subscribe for two dollars and the paper would be sent to their new town. The publication looked to be on its deathbed, which would indeed be the case in just a few months. The main news at the end of 1910 and heading into 1911 was that the Kettle Valley Railway would link up with Penticton, go onto Merritt and proceed to the Coast following the Cold Water and the Coquihalla Rivers. K.V.R. track was being laid simultaneously from both the Midway and Merritt side at a rate of twenty miles a day.

Duncan McIntosh wins another term as Mayor in January and the temperature hit twenty-eight below zero on January the 4<sup>th</sup>. The Greenwood-Phoenix Bore Tunnel has failed to strike any rich ore bodies so far and its future is in doubt.

The stench of Duncan Ross and his anti-oriental views hit the Times newspaper in its February 3<sup>rd</sup> issue when a front page story said, “Greenwood has her quota of Chinks (sic)...in fact, Greenwood has a

super abundance of the yellow man". Was Ross back? He was not, nor was anyone else mentioned in the paper as editor, but Ross was once again firmly at the controls, trying desperately to save his little paper, that first published in Greenwood in 1896.

Stories making the rounds in February 1911 included the Argo Tunnel Company running low on funds and there were no women in the Beavertell mining camps for the men to have fun with.

The Elkhorn was sold at a Sherriff's sale to a Charles Kinney for just six hundred and fifty dollars. The Greenwood-Phoenix tunnel was at a distance of 1,460 feet but still no major ore deposits were found. Rock Creek's original citizen Jim Copeland was wandering around Greenwood looking as fresh and youthful as ever according to a report. Copeland arrived in Rock Creek at the beginning of the gold strike some fifty plus years ago, followed shortly by his new friend Archie Aberdeen. From the Rock Creek War in 1860 until now in 1911, both men were still living in the area and still going strong.

Archie Gillis, the new owner of the Midway & Stage Line purchases six new horses and a new Concorde Coach for his passengers. A small but significant few words were printed in the Ledge paper on March 2<sup>nd</sup> that simply said, "the Phoenix hockey team will make a try for the Stanley Cup".

The end finally came (for the next seventy two years at least) to the *Boundary Creek Times newspaper* and its publisher/owner, the Boundary Creek Printing and Publishing Company when the last issue of the newspaper was published on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1911. The final curtain waxed poetically about Westbridge and its log hotel. The last ad on the last page was from the Greenwood Liquor Company. The next issue of the Ledge on March 9<sup>th</sup> stated on the front page; "The *Boundary Creek Times* suspended publication last week and in the future will only live in memory. Duncan Ross has sold the plant, good-will etc. to the undersigned. All accounts due to the Times are to be paid. R. T. Lowery (owner of the Ledge newspaper)".

A large chapter in the history of the West Boundary ended but Duncan Ross would try to get his old Federal Government seat back a few months later, he would lose it this time also. Ross would leave the area and head to Hazelton to contract building a tunnel for a railroad with two hundred men under him. He would go to his grave much too early, for on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1915 at age forty-five, Ross was pronounced dead.

## Chapter Seventeen

### Mining Takes A Backseat To The K.V.R.

In the April 6<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Ledge* a note from Duncan Ross also told of the sale of the *Boundary Creek Times* and shortly the *Ledge* would add another line of its front page masthead that said, "With Which Is Incorporated the *Boundary Creek Times*".

The Greenwood-Phoenix Bore Tunnel finally struck ore when at eight hundred and eighteen feet below surface and 1,800 feet in, about \$100,000 of minerals were hit. At the same time gold and silver was found in a large quartz find at the Elkhorn Mine. The K.V.R. was laying track just fifteen miles out of Penticton. Later that summer and fall, track would be laid between Midway and the Coldwater River near Merritt. A new hotel was getting built in Carmi for the expected rush of rail men to this now booming place.

Spring in 1911 was cool and wet in the Western Boundary with snow recorded at Phoenix on May 24th. Property (three hundred and fifty acres) known as the Nicholson Ranch was sold by the Kettle Valley Irrigated Fruit and Land Company in ten and twelve acre blocks. In June, Bill Richter (who would soon have a Rocky Mountain pass named after him) would bring one hundred and twenty-five cattle and four hundred sheep to Burns & Company in Greenwood for slaughter.

July 1<sup>st</sup> Dominion Day had a crowd of five hundred plus come out in Rock Creek for a big party. In late July the thermometer hits 100 many times with rain finally coming on August 1<sup>st</sup> after a four week absence. An interesting tad-bit was that in the summer of 1911 Greenwood had a total of one hundred and nineteen phones.

At Pittendrigh's Rock Creek hotel, Joe Carter died on August the 10<sup>th</sup>. After drinking most of the day Carter got into a mix-up with a Joe Brady and received a blow over his head. Carter was put on a verandah chair where later he was found dead by the bartender. Brady was tried and discharged. Robert Wood, who had been quiet lately, sold 640 acres of coal and ranch land near Rock Creek for \$6,000.

On December 9<sup>th</sup> a fire in Phoenix's lower town destroys the Rogers building, Alexander Hotel and the Delahay block. Loss was estimated at \$15,000 with no insurance. At Christmas time, Carmi was booming and the Cecil hotel was booked with K.V.R. employees and railway crews. Rock Creek's Mr. Crawford purchased a big blacksmith building to turn it into a General Store to feed the masses that were laying track in and around Carmi. Lots in town were selling briskly and for fifty to two hundred and fifty dollars each. A road from Carmi to Hydraulic Summit had a rail gang working it so the K.V.R. could transport track to the top of the mountain. A post-office and laundry were under construction at year end in Carmi.

There was no lack of quality restaurants at Christmas, the Brooklyn Hotel in Phoenix holiday menu included, Russian caviar, turtle soup and English plum pudding with brandy sauce. Cut and split fireplace pine wood was selling at the end of the year for four dollars and fifty cents a cord in Phoenix.

At the beginning of 1912 Greenwood had 116 phones, Phoenix – 86 and Grand Forks – 186. All communities were down from the year before. Carmi, thanks to construction of the K.V.R., was humming along and now had five stage lines as well as three mail runs a week going to it from Greenwood. Down the West Fork of the Kettle River in Rock Creek, Tom Hanson purchases Pittendrighs famous hotel.

Hanson says he will add a thirty foot by sixty foot building near the hotel. Just north-east of downtown Rock Creek, large tracts of land are selling to a rush of settlers who knowing the railway is coming, are buying everything and anything that is for sale in the Nicholson Creek area.

April saw F. Jaynes sell his Greenwood grocery store to a W.M. Brown and Rock Creek was about to get a cemetery. On April 20<sup>th</sup> the Mother Lode Mine loads 2,200 holes with dynamite and discharges them all at once using an electric wire. People said the explosion could be heard all the way up in Phoenix. One hundred acres of potatoes are planted by the Dominion Trust and Loan Company in Midway.

The C.P.R. machine shop in Eholt burns to the ground and the Queens Hotel in Phoenix re-opens. 1,500 men are needed to work the line by the K.V.R. at Carmi but only 500 apply. In August the B.C. Copper Company puts in a new worker pay scale that will correspond to the price of copper, with the lowest daily amount, two dollars and seventy-five cents. The end more or less comes to Eholt on August 29<sup>th</sup> when the old Summit Hotel catches fire. The Summit building, Baileys old store, the Northern Hotel and a few other buildings were wiped off the map leaving very little of the town of Eholt that was going so strong just three years ago.

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> Billy Vaux burned to death in his cabin on Government Street in Greenwood. He was last seen leaving a saloon at two in the morning with a candle and a bottle in his hand. Hanson adds a barber shop and pool hall to a building located next door to his hotel in Rock Creek. This same building would be owned by the author of this book, Reed Turcotte some eighty-four years later.

Twenty-two men are putting in a new world-class skating rink in Phoenix that will open in early January. The big news at the end of 1912 was the load of automobiles heading to the Boundary, with most of the cars spoken for already. Archie Aberdeen's friends bought the old-timer a bed and mattress as a Christmas gift and took it to his cabin on his long established farm.

The editor of the *Greenwood Ledge*, R. T. Lowery in his year- end newspaper message said, "During the year that is just closing, we lost many of our subscribers by death. Nearly all of them were in debt for their paper. Their poor souls have our sympathy".

On January 2<sup>nd</sup> the mercury hit 24 below zero in Anaconda and at the same time Leo Dignault's store in Anaconda burns down. In Greenwood at the beginning of 1912, the Argo tunnel advertises that it's down six-hundred feet and they expect to hit ore at 1,000 feet. Dick Peterson, a well- known resident of Phoenix, was blown up while loading a hole in the number 3 tunnel. The dynamite went off prematurely. Train service (for supplies) was now going all the way to Carmi from Midway. In January the ice on the Kettle River in the West Boundary is as thick as fourteen inches.

In the *Greenwood Ledge*, courtesy of the Penticton Herald, this piece was printed. "At the close of 1912 there were about 3,500 men engaged in connection with construction on the Kettle Valley Railway. Beginning at Midway, and coming westward, the track is laid to Carmi at mile 46 and grading is being proceeded with so that track laying will begin at Carmi as soon as spring opens, and should reach the summit between the Kettle and the Okanagan Valleys about midsummer.

This summit is mile 76 west of Midway. By the time the track reaches the Summit, the contractors have promised that the grading on the section from the Summit to Penticton, 59 miles in length, will be sufficiently advanced to enable track-laying to be continued south-westerly towards Penticton. The grading from Penticton north-easterly will also be well advanced by the summer and by the time the 1,600 foot tunnel is driven at mile 20 east of Penticton, it should be possible to connect up the steel on the entire 59 mile section.

There are over 1,200 men now engaged on the 59 miles from Penticton, which is mile 135 west of Carmi to the Kettle-Okanagan Summit. The contractors say that this force will be doubled within the next month or six weeks so that excellent progress is assured.

From Penticton (mile 135 west of Midway) to the Osprey Lake Summit (mile 175 west of Midway), the grading is so far advanced that track-laying can be started west of the Trout Creek Bridge. Steel is now laid almost to the Trout Creek crossing and ballasting and surfacing on this section, some nine miles in length will be proceeded with at once.

From the Osprey Lake Summit to the Otter Summit, a distance of some 65 miles, the location has not been definitely decided on as yet. It will be, however, definitely settled, so that work will be begun on both ends of this stretch on the opening of spring, and, there being no heavy bridges to put in, this section should be completed sometime during the fall of 1913. From the Otter Summit, which will be approximately mile 240 west of Midway, into Merritt, the track is completed, and being operated under an order of the railway board. The section between Midway and Carmi is also being operated under an order of the railway board”.

In February 1913, McMynn ran an advertisement in the *Ledge* newspaper promoting general merchandise for sale. A new Kettle Valley Post Office was about to be established in the Rock Creek home of H. Whitting. Lettuce was selling for thirty-five cents a head. The weather at the end of March was the coldest on record in the West Boundary with snow falling on Easter Sunday in Greenwood. The cold weather may have been the cause of an epidemic of pneumonia that was all over Phoenix. Eholt only had thirty-one Post Office boxes been used and things looked bleak for this once thriving railway and mining town, with the end only a matter of time.

On April 10<sup>th</sup> 1913 a tragedy occurred on Gold Street in Greenwood. In a house of ill-repute, run by Madam Mary Young, a hooker, Elanor Palmer while letting a customer leave the building was suddenly stabbed with a knife. After looking all over town, Police Chief Grey Pond arrested Steve Buttrick at his cabin and charged him with attempted murder.

The weather in April was still cool but that did not stop a Mr. Keith from driving his brand new automobile from Greenwood to Carmi.

On the long week-end in May, the Crowell's Hotel in Midway was adverting full chicken dinners for just fifty cents. Mr. Ron Connors drove his new automobile from Princeton to his home in Greenwood, a distance of one hundred and forty five miles in just eight hours. The age of the horseless carriage was now becoming the norm in the West Boundary. The thermometer hit eighty degrees at the end of May causing high water on the Kettle River to drop dramatically..

Drinking water in Greenwood was poor, too high in animal contamination and not fit to drink. Council blamed the town of Phoenix and told them to immediately desist or Greenwood would sue. It was a very sad day in Greenwood on June 8<sup>th</sup> when seven year old Jack Rendell drowned. Jackie, as he was called and his parents had just come back on the train from Eholt when he went missing. The lad was found lying under a log in a pond near the C.P.R. depot. Apparently he jumped in to cool off.

At the Granby boarding house in Phoenix six hundred men were staying there and cooking for that many took, one butcher, two potato peelers, three bakers, four dishwashers, four cooks and ten waiters.

More tragedy took place in early summer when C.P.R. agent John Davison, his wife and baby daughter (heading to Greenwood from Phoenix on a Speeder) ran head on with a locomotive engine coming their way. Mrs. Davison died within two hours. The baby and Mr. Davison survived. Hard to believe but Greenwood had a frost on July 12<sup>th</sup> according to press reports. During the summer, the Rock Creek Trading Company's stock was trading below par. The Russell-Law-Caulfield store was suffering and was purchased by L.A. Smith & Company from Anaconda. Tenders were invited by council to tear down and remove the vacant derelict Central Hotel in Greenwood. Many hotels in Greenwood were now empty and falling apart, a far cry from 1903, only ten years earlier when building hotels, not tearing them down was the thing to do.

On August 22<sup>nd</sup> a fire hit Gold Street in Canada's smallest city destroying four houses. The fire started in Vera McDonald's house by a lit cigarette butt. A few weeks later, two homes adjoining the Lewis Hotel in Boundary Falls also caught fire and were destroyed. The hotel was saved by the hard work of locals.

Nine inches of snow was recorded on October 10<sup>th</sup> in Bridesville. Two names that have been very prominent in this book take their leave from print for the very last time. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wood head to Fort Francis for the winter and Duncan Ross moves his railway outfit to Fraser Lake to build five miles of railroad. This was the last time either Wood or Ross would have their names published in a West Boundary newspaper.

Winter sees major renovations and upgrades taking place at the Windsor Hotel. The Phoenix Ski Club is undergoing reorganization. Prominent citizens of Midway and area show up for the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Lundy.

Gilbert Key, publisher of the still publishing (and within two years the last paper in the area to be doing so) the *Phoenix Pioneer* newspaper marries Miss Emily Larson on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The couple soon move into new digs on Sunnyside Avenue in Phoenix.

Weather until the end of November has been very mild and this helped get K.V.R. steel (tracks) within six miles of the Summit above Carmi. The Silver Spring Brewery burns in Anaconda at the beginning of December making 1913 a year to forget, fire wise.

The last issue of the *Ledge* was published on December 25<sup>th</sup> in Greenwood, and no mention of its closure was printed in that final newspaper.

## Chapter Eighteen

### And Now, the Final Curtain

So ends the Greenwood newspaper's version of the history of Greenwood and the other towns of the West Boundary. As mentioned earlier, the *Phoenix Pioneer* continued publishing for two more years to come. In 1914 the B.C. Copper Company reorganized itself under the new name, Canada Copper Corporation, though this just stayed off death of this Greenwood Copper producer for a short time more. The near death of Greenwood was also well under way by the beginning of 1915.

The first train to run on the new Kettle Valley Railway tracks took off from Midway on May 31st, 1915. The destination was Merrit, B.C. and for a short period the excitement was also felt in Greenwood and Phoenix along with all the West Boundary communities located on this new line.

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1916, the final edition of the *Phoenix Pioneer* rolled off its press. In the Pioneers editorial, this was printed, "With this issue, the *Phoenix Pioneer* goes to join other mining camp journals that are not dead but only sleeping".

When World War 1 ended in 1918, the price of copper dropped, and soon the Granby Company was no more. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1919, copper ceased to be produced in Phoenix and Greenwood. Later in the

summer of 1919 most of Phoenix inhabitants exited Canada's highest city leaving their homes and belongings behind. In 1920 the churches, halls, hospital and skating rink was hauled away to other more vibrant communities.

Greenwoods population continued to drop year after year until it was only 363 in 1941. By 1951 the population was up to 815, mostly owing to the Coastal Japanese Canadians who were forced to call Greenwood home and when the war ended they stayed anyways. In 2011 the number of people who lived permanently in Greenwood was 708. And the number of people who lived in Phoenix? Why zero of course.

Production of mines from the Greenwood Mining camps resulted in 29,153,494 tonnes of ore yielding 40,030 kilograms of gold; 310,869 kilograms of silver; 735 tonnes of lead; 297 tonnes of zinc and 298,996 tonnes of copper.

So, we now know what it was like in the early days of Greenwood and the other West Boundary towns. Places, like Eholt and Phoenix ceased to exist. Beaverdell, Bridesville, Westbridge, Boundary Falls and Carmi were hurt hard but survived in one form or another. Midway and Rock Creek, because of agriculture, ranching, timber and the K.V.R. line meandering through the Kettle Valley, would weather the storm better than the rest.

What of Greenwood now? Today it is a stop on the road between Osoyoos and the Kootenay, small to be sure, but filled with some of the best people who have ever graced this planet. Greenwood has had many saviours over the past one hundred years; the last is a lover of the 'Old West'. It was a tough project to get started but in the end Bryan Bell and his wife Marilyn developed an incredible piece of property on the banks of Boundary Creek. They would call it Fort Greenwood R.V. Park. This resort and Bell's refurbishing of the Pacific Hotel (complete with a world-class restaurant) would help give Greenwood some of the economic boost it again so badly needed.

## EPILOGUE

*To all those who helped make this book possible, especially the long dead editors of the newspapers in the West Boundary, who without their written ramblings, this book would not be possible, I thank you.*

*The rest of what you are about to read are excerpts from my book  
Reed All About It - Memoirs of a Controversial Publisher.*

*Although the epilogue is not about Greenwood's early years, it sums up and puts an ending to the Boundary Creek Printing & Publishing Company, publisher of this book.*

“When I went down the mountain into the Kettle Valley and saw the Kettle River, I instantly fell in love with the area. As soon as Andrew Blair (my good friend) and I got to Greenwood, approximately twenty minutes from Rock Creek, we met with the owner of the *Boundary Creek Times*. I almost made a deal immediately to purchase the paper along with the building, for around \$65,000 with a \$500 deposit however I saw a pile of bills on a desk nearby and when the owner (McTier) was not looking I put them in my pocket.

Andrew and I went across the street to the local pub to discuss the price and look over the bills. The invoices showed the newspaper was behind in their hydro, phone, press and more. The asking price was \$65,000 but with these bills I figured that they might take \$23,000 less and I was right. The paper at the time was doing about \$88,000 in sales. I made the deal to buy the business but due to personal problems I never completed the sale. I was however now bitten by the area and soon I would come back and purchase an old building on the Kettle River in Rock Creek to turn it into my summer residence.

On Grey Cup day of 1997, fate would knock on my door at my Rock Creek house (which now was my full time residence), when the newest owners (Furness's) of the Greenwood *Times* newspaper, wanted out. We shook on \$75,000 for the building, the paper and all office equipment as well as all of their accounts receivables which amounted to about \$12,000 at the time. On December 1st, 1997, Ms. Ayotte (my wife) and I took possession of the company, The Boundary Creek Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd. I was once again back with a newspaper and I also owned the building that housed the paper. The newspaper was doing about \$103,000 per year.

When we took the newspaper over, a movie called Snow Falling on Cedars had just started filming in and around Greenwood. The movie starred Ethan Hawke and a large part of the action took place next door to us. That building was actually made into the film's newspaper office (ironic) and much of the filming took place there and at the Greenwood Inn which was right across the street from my office. The Town was abuzz with excitement and money was flowing from the movie company. What a great time to have taken over the paper. When finished, the movie was a minor hit.

Approximately a year later, a man came to town and he would also spend almost as much money as the movie did. His name was Thomas (Tom) Manning. He and his male companion, Donny were from Seattle and for the next thirteen months, he and his company would be front and center in the pages of the *Boundary Creek Times*. Greenwood was a mining town at the end of the 1800's and after extracting some silver, gold and a lot of copper, what was left was a black glassy hard substance called slag. Greenwood had a large mountain of it. The product sat on property owned by a local Rock Creek Pioneer family and was worthless, or so everyone thought, everyone that is except for Manning.

He arrived in town, took up residence in a condo and at the local bar, the Greenwood Saloon, and started showering the town with money and an incredible outlandish story. He, through his new formed company, was going to load up the slag into large trucks, transport

the product down to the Coast of Vancouver, take it to an offshore Georgia Strait Island and then load it on barges where it would end up in Poland to be turned into Polish crystal or something similar. He held meetings and had the town mayor and council on his side. He told everyone that jobs and dollars would be the benefits. The money for the project was coming from Russian investors who would put up millions, he contended.

As the weeks turned into months, his promises were actually taking place. He obtained semi-rights to the slag, hired the trucks, the bulldozers and dollars were now being thrown everywhere around town, especially at my newspaper and the Greenwood inn across the street. He had large promotional ads in almost every issue. He promoted the slag, himself and his dog, literally!

I printed it all, put it on his charge card and was in effect paid immediately. I had a major story, personality and an advertiser, all rolled into one, so I milked it for all it was worth. Tom loved his booze, so in the afternoons his office moved to the bar where he paid for not only his own liquor but that of his friends. Manning would have Kevin Thorlakson, the proprietor of the Greenwood Inn (the original Windsor Hotel) bring in expensive bottles of Scotch, Vodka and more, which was shared with us all. Kevin was also a good advertiser and friend to the newspaper.

A couple of times Manning invited the town for fresh lobster from the Atlantic Coast. He flew in hundreds of pounds of lobster and had a town party at the Inn with Mayor and Council invited as well. It was partly surreal and a gong show at the same time but product was getting to the Coast and people were being paid, so for now the Town and its Publisher turned a blind eye, so to speak. Manning even brought his family up from Seattle for a month as well as his lawyer. He also hired some local down and outs to be his lieutenants.

By now, major media outlets were dropping into my office to get my interpretation of what was happening in little Greenwood, a town just under a thousand people. Life at the newspaper was good, very

good. Manning himself said he was off to Russia to meet with his investors and then onto Poland to oversee the slag being turned into crystal. When he left, independent tests, paid for by the locals, confirmed that the slag was mostly worthless and could not be turned into crystal.

The project came to a sudden halt and some people never did get all their money owed to them. To this day, we do not know what the deal was really about. We know that the slag did indeed make it to a Poland port where it sat and sat. Manning did come back from Russia alive and well and now lives in Texas. Although it may have been some sort of con, hundreds of thousands of dollars flowed through Greenwood and area for about a year or so and it was one heck of a party as well as an unbelievable story.

At about the same time as the movie was wrapping up I decided to expand and I launched the *Mountaineer* newspaper, serving the Big White ski resort. I also brought in a large state-of-the-art, full color copier type press to print everything in-house. To me the *Mountaineer* was a natural as Big White was in the Kootenay Boundary Regional District, the same area as my Greenwood paper, and the Regional District Director was Bill Baird, a buddy of mine and a good guy in general. The Big White paper was a tough sell as the owners of the ski hills and their spokesman tended at that time to control everything and everyone. Despite this negativity, we opened an office on the hill anyways and decided to have some fun with this publication plus we made money from the legal ads through the Regional District and National advertisements. We hired someone on the hill to cover stories and sell local merchants and also launched the *Snowbirds and RV Travelers* magazine. We were producing all of these publications, along with the *Boundary Creek Times*, in the office building in Greenwood located on Main Street.

Greenwood has had its share of ups and downs over the last twenty years. On a positive note was having the distinction of being the smallest city in the country with a population just over 700 win an award for best-tasting municipal water at the 2012 Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting in West Virginia. As 2016 came to a close

Greenwood was once again in the news but this time the story was not good.

A once wheeler-dealer in Dubai and a “vexatious litigant” according a Vancouver judge, Sunanda Kikla and her husband Goswami landed in Greenwood and purchased the Greenwood Saloon/Inn (formerly the Windsor Grill) and the Pacific Grill among others. Things then started to go sour as the couple’s legal problems in the Lower Mainland followed them to Greenwood. As of the beginning of 2017, the doors to the well over hundred year old Windsor and Pacific hotel (bars and restaurants) were closed and there future was up in the air. Fire and bad times could not shut them down forever so it is hopeful that recent bad management will be just a blimp in history.

Turcotte’s recent newspapers and magazines (including the infamous *Morris Mirror* paper in Manitoba) and four books, *Reed-All-About-It: Memoirs of a Controversial Publisher; Gold, Indians and War - the story of Rock Creek and Fort Colville 1859-1861*; this book *Greenwood-The Early Years of Canada’s Smallest City* and *When Canadian Newspaper Publishers were King* were all published by the BOUNDARY CREEK PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO. LTD., the same company that was established in little Greenwood one hundred and twenty years ago.

## **About The Author**

*Due to his passion for the print media, newspaper ink flows through his veins and this has lead author Reed Turcotte to spend the last forty years publishing newspapers, magazines and more recently books. Leaving North Vancouver at the age of twenty-four, Turcotte started his print career beginning with a little start-up newspaper called the Quesnel Tuesday News and he has not looked back since.*

*Turcotte has owned and published nine newspapers, seven magazines and four books throughout Western Canada, the Pacific North West and Manitoba. He currently resides in Peachland, B.C. with his wife over-looking beautiful Lake Okanagan.*

## **About This Book**

**Greenwood – The Early Years of Canada’s Smallest City & Other West Boundary Towns is a historically accurate review of what actually went down in the Mining and Railroad Camps of the West Boundary from 1896 to 1919. The events depicted in this book really happened, were reported in the local newspapers as stories, and as such, are to be read in context of that era, warts and all.**

**Camp men were a tough breed of humans who due to adverse conditions suffered incredibly, many putting up with multiple injuries and death. Even the ‘Wild West’ comes alive inside these pages including shoot-outs and hold-ups.**

**A major worry to early West Boundary settlements was fire. Many hotels, buildings and homes were destroyed by this scourge of the time especially in Eholt, Phoenix, Greenwood, Midway and Boundary Falls. You will find out what burnt, how and why it burnt and what the final out-come was regarding the blazes that took place.**

**Author Reed Turcotte spent eight months reading every page of every issue of every newspaper printed in the West Boundary from 1896 to 1916 and gleaned articles (lots that were buried inside the newspaper), pulling out the best and worst stories from that era for this book. When it comes to the local politics of the time, this book has it covered.**

**The reader receives not just the truth but also gets to know what the media and the locals of the time were thinking and saying. In the pages of this book, Turcotte takes you back in time and lets you experience what the turn of the century was like. You will truly believe that you are there. Information that has been buried for one hundred plus years has been pulled from old tombs and newspaper morgues and brought to life in these pages.**