



Yellowstone County Courthouse

EGD Artwork Approval Set – 12/23/2025



Sign Type:

in front of elevator, 2nd floor

S-L2-3

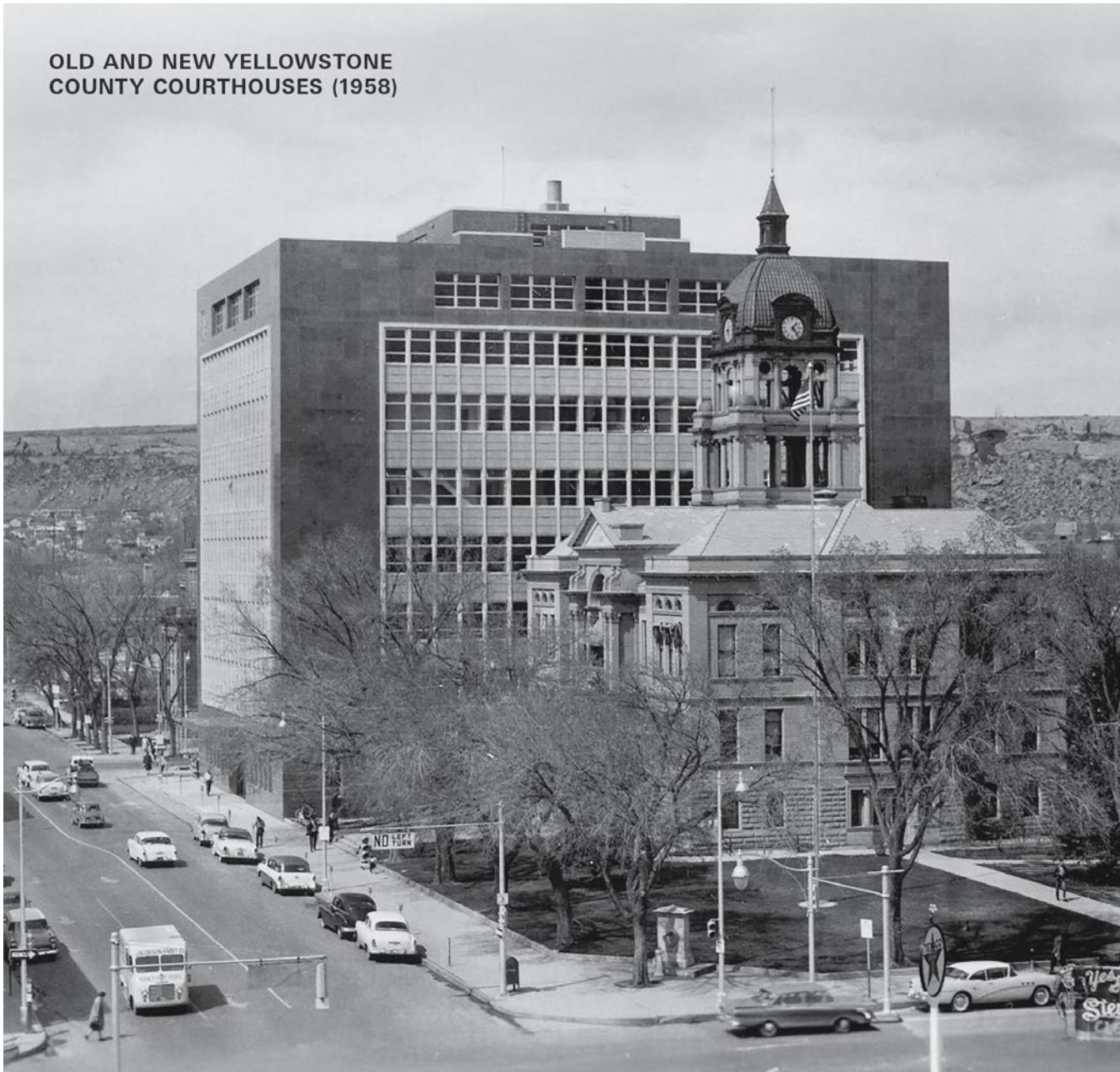


on left wall across from elevator 3rd floor

Sign Type:

S-L3-1

OLD AND NEW YELLOWSTONE
COUNTY COURTHOUSES (1958)



Sign Type:

S-L3-2

in hallway left of elevators 3rd floor, by courtrooms

NORTH BROADWAY (1914)



Sign Type:

in hall to right of elevators 3rd floor

S-L3-3

MONTANA AVENUE AND NORTH BROADWAY (1950s)



Sign Type:

X-L1-1



to right of main entrance 1st floor



A NEW COURTHOUSE FOR A NEW ERA

Completed in 1958, the Yellowstone County Courthouse marked a turning point in civic architecture for Billings. It replaced the 1905 Romanesque Revival courthouse that once stood at the southwest corner of the block, only 14% inches from the footprint of the new structure. Planning for a replacement had begun as early as the mid-1940s, but the project faced early challenges. When bids opened in 1956, costs exceeded the budget by roughly \$500,000, prompting a redesign from a steel-frame to a reinforced-concrete structure before the project could move forward. Even so, the courthouse became the largest single construction project in Billings in 1957, ultimately completed at a cost of \$2 million—a fitting milestone for Yellowstone County's 75th anniversary.

Standing 109 feet tall and 140 feet long, the courthouse was constructed of Minnesota agate granite and combined modern construction methods with symbolic continuity. The half-ton bell and clock from the 1905 courthouse were carefully relocated to the new building, preserving a tangible link to the community's past. Construction was not without difficulties: fires, delays, and worker injuries complicated the demolition of the old courthouse and preparation of the site, underscoring the scale and complexity of the undertaking.

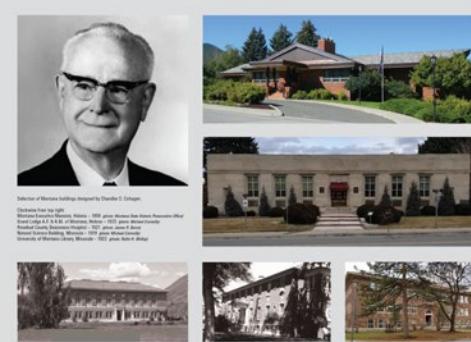
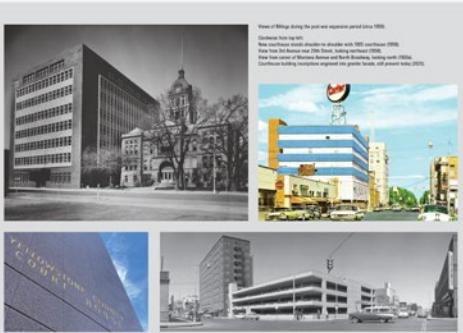
Upon opening, the courthouse was celebrated not only for its striking modern design but also for its forward-looking amenities. It housed the most accurate clock in Billings—an electric timepiece synchronized by radio signals from the U.S. Naval Observatory—as well as conveniences aimed at improving public comfort, including a ladies' lounge, a baby-bottle-warming room, and a public coffee shop. These features reflected both the technological optimism and the community-oriented values that shaped Yellowstone County during the post-war period.

POST-WAR EXPANSION

In the decades following World War II, Billings experienced some of the most dramatic growth in its history. The city's population surged by 73 percent between 1940 and 1950, and by 1960 it had more than doubled from its prewar size. This boom mirrored national trends as returning veterans, expanding families, and new economic opportunities fueled rapid development. Subdivisions, shopping districts, schools, churches, medical clinics, and office buildings emerged to serve a community that was growing in both size and complexity.

Montana's largest cities felt this demand with particular intensity. After nearly twenty-five years of economic stagnation, the state faced a significant shortage of modern facilities and infrastructure. The post-war era brought a wave of investment that reshaped communities across Montana—visible in the expansion of the university system, major additions to state government facilities in Helena, and prominent civic buildings such as the Yellowstone County Courthouse and the United States Courthouse in Billings. These projects signaled the arrival of a new economic era and addressed long-standing needs for updated public services and community amenities.

This period also marked a turning point in Montana's architectural character as architects began to embrace modern materials, construction technologies, and design philosophies that emphasized openness, connection to the outdoors, and more efficient internal organization. Buildings of the post-war era—whether schools, civic centers, or commercial structures—expressed contemporary values of progress, functionality, and community. Their forms and details reflected not just growth, but a belief that architecture could support new ways of living, working, and interacting in a rapidly changing world.



THE ARCHITECT

Chandler Carroll Cohagen (1889–1986) helped shape the architectural character of Billings and communities across Montana. Born in Pierson, Iowa, he studied at the University of Michigan College of Architecture, where he earned the prestigious AIA school medal and co-founded the national architectural fraternity Alpha Rho Chi. After early partnerships, Cohagen established his own practice in Billings in 1935, later working under several firm names as his reputation grew. His portfolio ranged from New Deal-era Public Works Administration projects to complex civic, medical, educational, and cultural commissions. Over the course of his long career, he produced more than 350 documented sets of drawings—now preserved in the Montana State University archives—spanning projects from 1907 through 1971.

Cohagen's architectural legacy includes some of Montana's most recognizable buildings: Masonic Grand Lodge in Helena (1936, below), Billings City Hall (1940), the Deaconess Hospital (1950), the Yellowstone County Courthouse (1958), the Montana Governor's Mansion in Helena (1958), and Central Christian College (1961). He also guided major renovations of the Billings YMCA in the 1930s and went on to serve as the organization's president for three decades, reflecting his lifelong commitment to civic life. Known for blending utility with beauty, Cohagen favored warm interior tones, thoughtful detailing, and distinctive features that made his buildings both functional and welcoming.

Beyond his built work, Cohagen influenced generations of architects and students. He taught at the University of Michigan, lectured at the College of Montana, and was deeply engaged in professional and community organizations. Through his design leadership, public service, and enduring body of work, Chandler C. Cohagen left a lasting imprint on Montana's architectural heritage and on the people and institutions he served.

THE RISE OF MODERNISM

Architectural modernism emerged in the mid-twentieth century as designers around the world embraced new ideas about function, technology, and aesthetics. Rather than drawing on historical styles, modernist architects embraced forms that reflected contemporary life—simple volumes, clean lines, and an emphasis on rational organization. In institutional and commercial buildings especially, ornament was minimized or eliminated. Instead, the materials themselves—glass, concrete, stone, and metal—provided the building's character through their natural colors, textures, and precise detailing.

The post-war era accelerated these shifts as new technologies and construction methods became widely available. Aluminum, once reserved for wartime manufacturing, became an inexpensive and abundant material for window frames, curtain walls, and exterior detailing. Its light weight, durability, and metallic sheen made it synonymous with mid-century building design and a hallmark of the modern aesthetic. Other common features included broad horizontal ribbon windows, strong bilateral symmetry, and a close relationship to the ground plane, with many buildings sited directly at grade rather than following traditional stepped or elevated approaches.

Modernist buildings also expressed changing social values. Their open, flexible interiors, generous daylighting, and streamlined forms conveyed a sense of progress and optimism appropriate to a rapidly growing and evolving society. Whether applied to civic structures, schools, offices, or cultural institutions, architectural modernism represented a break from the past and a confident embrace of the future.



EXISTING
LOBBY
PHOTO

RENDERING
FROM SAME
VIEWPOINT

ADAPTING FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Since its opening in 1958, the Yellowstone County Courthouse has undergone a steady progression of updates to address changing technologies, administrative needs, and public expectations. In the mid-century decades, work focused primarily on behind-the-scenes improvements—mechanical upgrades, electrical modernization, and HVAC enhancements that supported the growing scope of county operations. Interior office spaces were reconfigured multiple times to adapt to new departmental layouts, while the exterior remained largely unchanged, thanks to Chandler Cohagen's durable materials and restrained modernist design.

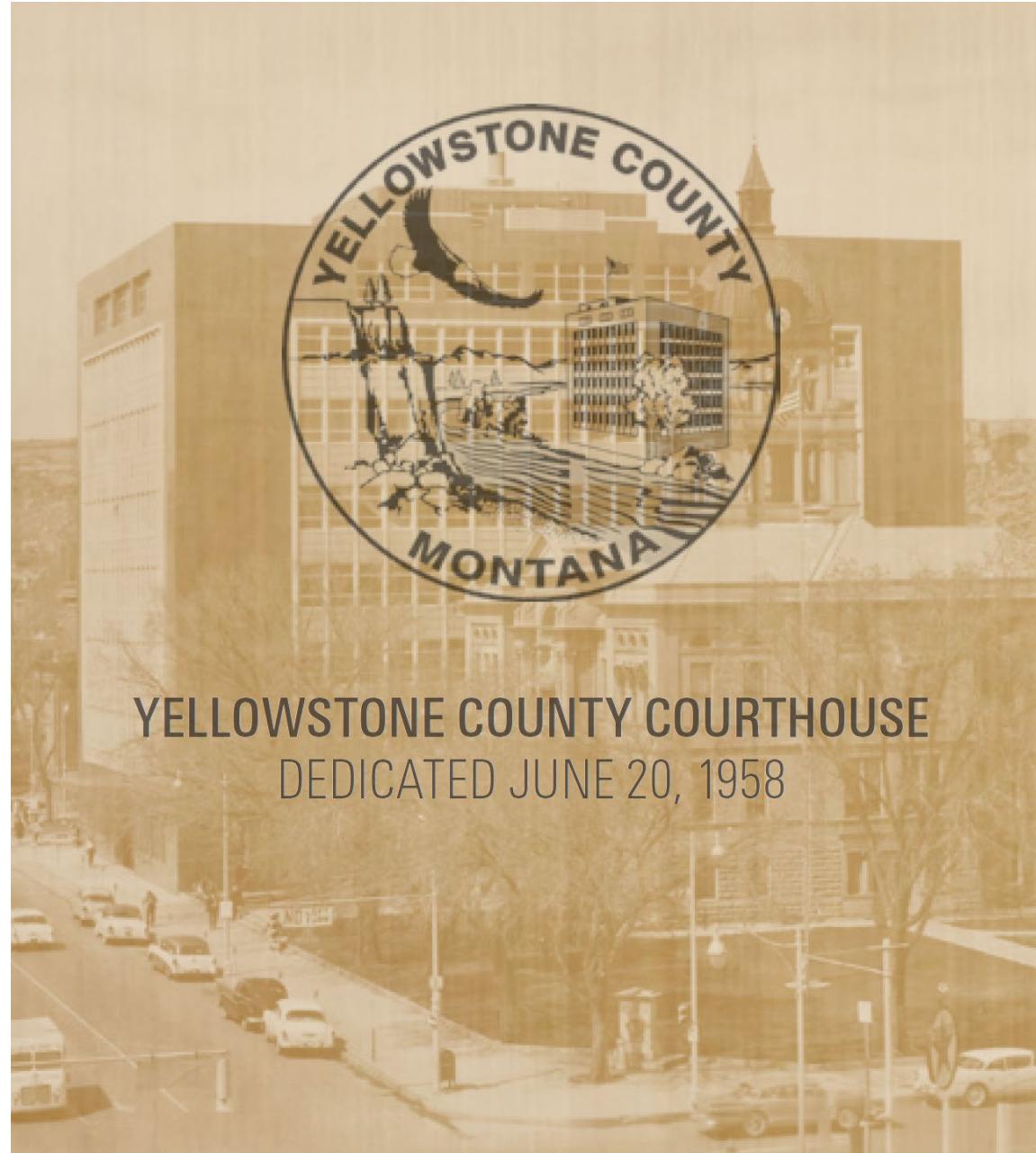
By the late twentieth century, the courthouse faced many of the challenges common to aging civic buildings: outdated systems, accessibility limitations, and increasingly crowded offices. A major renovation campaign in the 1990s and early 2000s addressed these issues comprehensively. Historic public areas were restored, including original woodwork and mid-century details; building-wide electrical, mechanical, data, and fire-suppression systems were upgraded; and significant ADA improvements were made, including enhanced elevator service and ramp access. Preservation work stabilized and cleaned the sandstone facade and window assemblies. To relieve ongoing space pressures, a new courthouse annex—completed in the early 2000s—allowed the historic structure to retain more of its architectural character while accommodating modern administrative needs.

In 2026, the first three floors were renovated to create a more holistic plan for the entire courthouse building to meet county needs now and into the future. The building needed flexibility for judges, as they are appointed by the state and the number fluctuates. The new design maximized the judges' quarters while enlarging the courtrooms for better safety and circulation. The first floor lobby spaces were renovated to ease wayfinding and celebrate the original finish materials.

Sign Type:

X-L1-1

to right of main entrance 1st floor



Sign Type:

X-L1-3 X-L1-2



THE JAMES WEBB MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

On March 24, 1908, Yellowstone County's Sheriff James Webb was shot and killed on a ranch near Roundup while attempting to apprehend a man wanted for stealing horses in Wyoming.

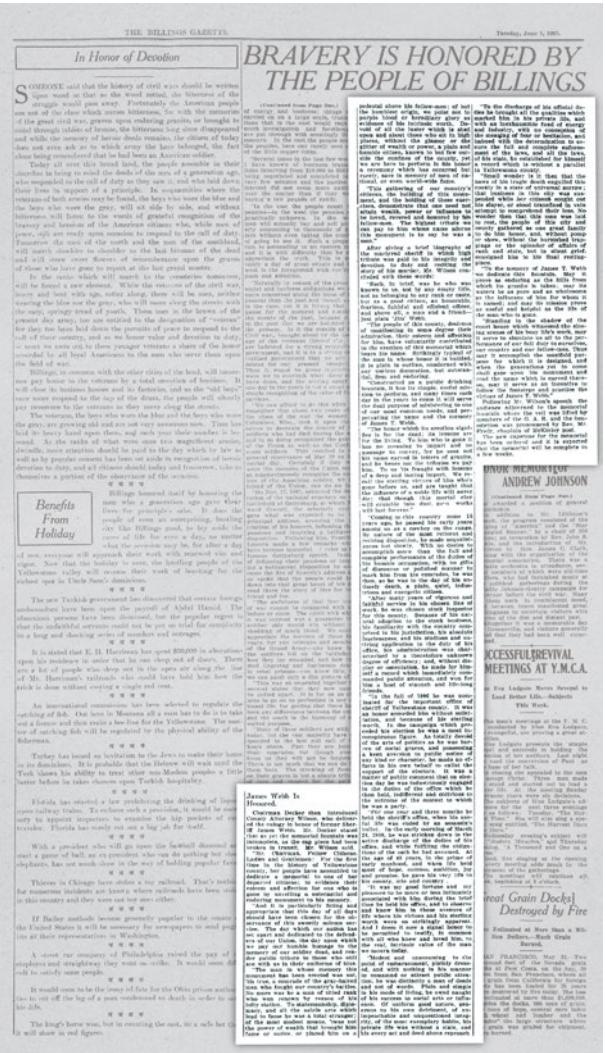
Sheriff Webb's funeral was attended by more than 2,500 people, and every business in Billings closed for the service. In 1909, his life and sacrifice was honored with the first memorial for a fallen citizen of Yellowstone County—a public drinking fountain on the corner of 2nd Avenue and 27th Street that remains today.

Excerpt from dedication remarks by County Attorney Wilson:

"To the memory of James T. Webb, we dedicate this fountain. May it prove as enduring as the hills from which its granite is taken; may its waters be as pure and as wholesome as the influence of him for whom it is named; and may its mission prove as useful and helpful as the life of the man who is gone.

Standing in the shadow of the courthouse which witnessed the closing scenes of this boy's life work, may it serve to simulate us all to the performance of our full duty to ourselves, our country, and our fellow men. Thus may it accomplish the manifold purpose for which it is designed, and when the generations yet to come shall gaze upon his monument and read the name which is carved thereon, may it serve as an incentive to follow the footsteps and practice the virtues of James T. Webb."

on right wall of west lobby entrance



Sign Type:

transaction lobby 1st floor for Justice Court

Y-L1-1

5203 Court House and Commercial Club Building, Billings, Mont.



1930s

8A-H1495

Sign Type:

transaction lobby 1st floor for Justice Court

Y-L1-2



POSTCARD OF 3RD AVENUE (1958)

Sign Type:

to left of west lobby entrance 1st floor

Y-L1-3



**NORTH REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT COMPANY
AND OLD COURTHOUSE (1920s)**

Sign Type:

Y-L1-4

to left of west lobby entrance 1st floor



NEW AND OLD YELLOWSTONE COUNTY COURTHOUSES (1958)

Sign Type:

in 2nd floor waiting room 200A right of elevator

Y-L2-1

27TH STREET AND MONTANA AVENUE (EARLY 1900s)



Sign Type:

Y-L2-2

in 2nd floor waiting room 200A to the right of elevator



NORTH BROADWAY AND 2ND AVENUE (EARLY 1900s)

Sign Type:

district court civil office 2nd floor room 208

Y-L2-3

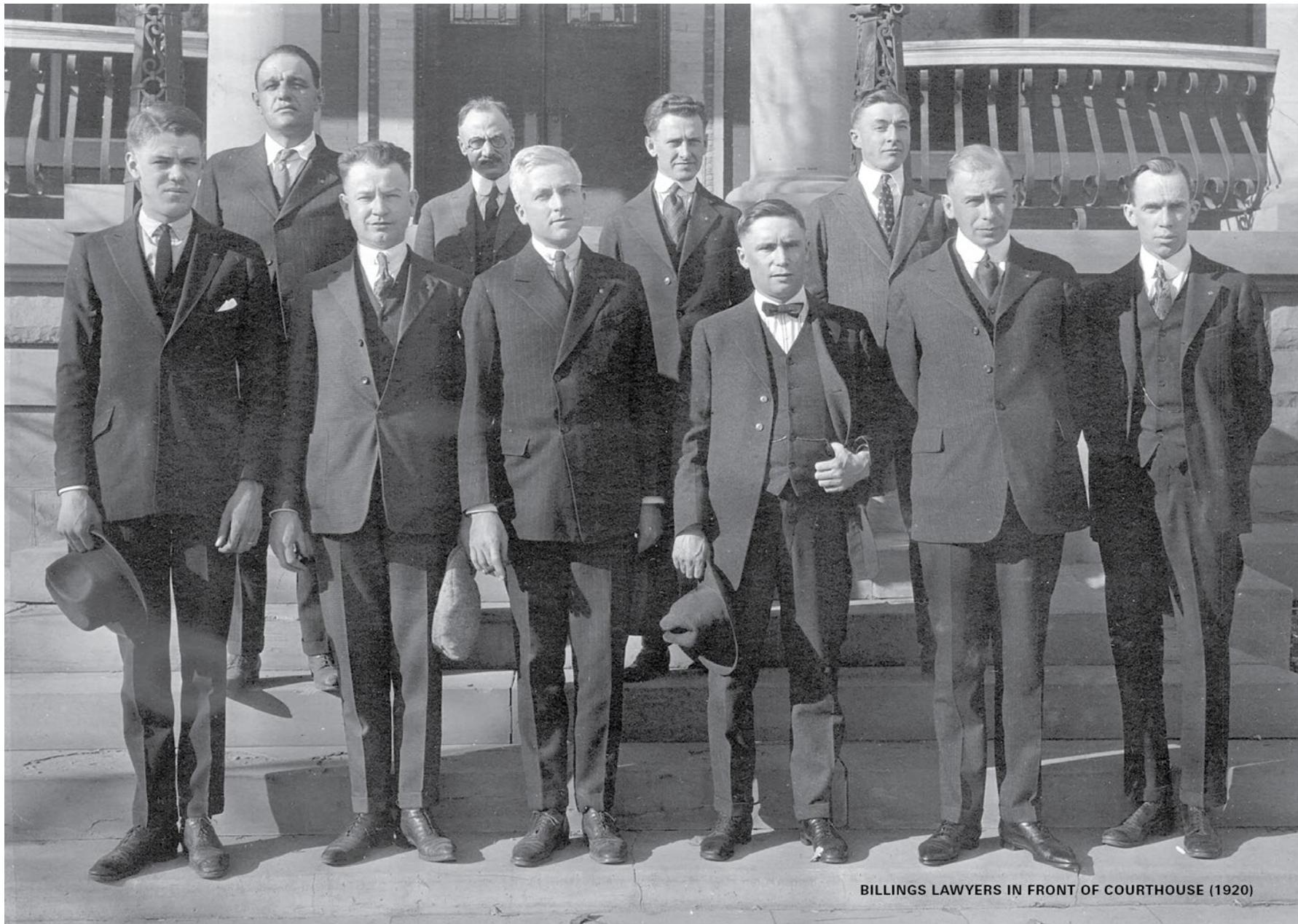


27TH STREET LOOKING NORTH (1905)

Sign Type:

Y-L2-4

district court civil office 2nd floor room 208



BILLINGS LAWYERS IN FRONT OF COURTHOUSE (1920)

Sign Type:

Y-L2-5

hallway 2nd floor left of elevator by District Attorney

A FITTING CELEBRATION FOR LAW DAY U.S.A.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day as a day of national reflection on the principles of government under law. While the first Law Day was observed nationally on May 1, the city of Billings postponed its celebrations to coincide with the dedication of the new Yellowstone County Courthouse.

Local businesses, law offices, and members of the community sponsored the publication of souvenir booklet to commemorate the building's dedication, enlarged and reproduced here. The cover image below shows the original size of the booklet.



LAW

Freedom's First Fundamental

In a free society, where individual liberty is paramount, justice is the cornerstone. Laws are the building blocks of its firm foundation.

Law Day, U.S.A., is a day proclaimed by President Eisenhower as a time for all Americans to focus attention on the fact that the rule of law provides an unshakable safeguard of both individual and property rights. Protection of these rights is what has contributed to the growth and greatness of America. Such an observance also affords citizens an opportunity to freshen their awareness of those rights and privileges they enjoy by reason of this country's system of laws and courts.

Law Day was observed across the nation on May 1. In Billings, however, the pending dedication of this building gave reason to postpone the observance. Mayor Earle Knight officially set the date as June 20 and appointed a committee representing groups throughout the city to arrange appropriate ceremonies.

Among those taking special interest in the observance are members of the Yellowstone County Bar Association. They have closed law offices today and serve as guides for tours of the building. Billings Lodge No. 394 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks also has coupled its Flag Day observance with Law Day by the donation on June 14 of American flags for each of the courtrooms and the outside pole.

Chief Justice James T. Harrison of the Montana Supreme Court will deliver the building dedication speech and discuss the significance of Law Day. Associate Supreme Court Justices also have been invited and are expected to be present. The working processes of your courts will be explained by District Judges and other county officers will be on hand to outline the duties of their departments.

As citizens in a country founded on law, it is wise to develop an awareness of the decisions of the courts. Even if a person never engages in litigation, these decisions influence his life. Knowledge of these decisions helps one to remember that while justice is not vindictive, it must be exacting for the purpose of preserving harmony that is necessary in the framework of a free society.

The importance of Law Day and its meaning to all Americans has been stressed by a great many outstanding men and women across the nation. Billings is fortunate to have among its residents a man who has been president of the American Bar Association and now serves as a United States District Judge, William J. Jameson. He commented on the observance:

"It is most appropriate to observe Law Day, U.S.A., in the dedication of Yellowstone County's new courthouse. Law Day emphasizes the basic individual rights guaranteed by our Constitution, and the role of law in our nation's growth and progress. It reminds us of our obligation to teach respect for law and authority and to promote the efficient administration of justice. Our fine new courthouse, with its modern court facilities, is evidence of our faith in the rule of law."

THIS DEDICATION DAY DIRECTORY AND SOUVENIR BOOKLET -- A CIVIC GESTURE TO THE PEOPLE OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTY -- WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH SPONSORSHIP BY INDIVIDUALS, FIRMS AND GROUPS LISTED AT THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE. NO PUBLIC FUNDS WERE USED

Yellowstone County Bar Association
First Federal Savings & Loan Association
Security Savings & Loan Association
Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, No. 394

"When we build let us think that we build forever.

Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them, 'see this our fathers did for us.' " — John Ruskin



Commissioners
Ben Hagerman, C. H. Barney and Fred C. Plath
The Yellowstone Banks, Laurel and Columbus
Farmers State Bank, Worden

That We May Continue to Grow...

If any one day can be singled out as the most important in the course of attempts to provide a new county courthouse adequate to house all offices and still provide space for future expansion, that day may well be April 5, 1956.

Until then, when county commissioners announced plans to go ahead and construct an eight-story building, there was a possibility a smaller structure might be raised.

A perplexing situation had developed. Money available totaled \$1,500,000 -- a bond issue approved by voters raised \$1,125,000 and the rest was on hand from the sale of tax deed lands. Still, the amount was inadequate to build eight floors and complete them for occupancy. And prospects for another bond issue were gloomy.

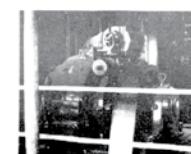
With the facts at hand, and an optimistic look at future financing possibilities, the county commissioners decided to go ahead and plan for eight floors but finish only as many of the levels as available funds would permit.

At the time of the decision, it was thought only two or three floors could be finished. By dedication day, however, all county offices except the jail were able to be moved into the building. The investment of bond issue money was immediate, before use of the transferred funds was assured from several funds, it was possible to finish the first, second, third and sixth floors. The basement is virtually complete and the third floor is partially occupied. Only the fourth, seventh and eighth levels are still in rough stage. It was planned from the start to leave the fourth open for future growth and the two top levels will eventually house all county jail facilities.

On dedication day, the cost of the building was about \$2,000,000.



A new eight-story look at the city.



C. B. Lauch Construction Company
Midland Plumbing & Heating Company
Curley-Naylor Electric Company
Lohof Brothers Company W. P. Fuller & Company
Industrial Equipment Company

Sign Type:

Y-L2-5 CONT.

hallway 2nd floor left of elevator by District Attorney

Timetable:

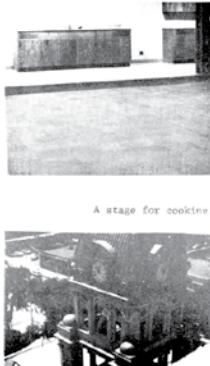
March 1954.....Petitions placed in circulation calling for construction
 July 20, 1954.....Voters approve \$1,000,000 bond issue.
 March 14, 1955.....First block of bonds, \$300,000, sold.
 Feb. 21, 1956.....First construction bids opened, rejected as being in excess of available funds.
 Aug. 27, 1956.....Second set of bids opened, accepted and contracts let.
 Sept. 12, 1956.....Construction started with groundbreaking ceremony.
 July 17, 1957.....Remaining \$625,000 of bond issue sold.
 June 20, 1958.....Building occupied except for jail and dedicated to public.

Chandler C. Cohagan
Architect
C.B. Laugh Construction Co.
Curley-Naylor Electric Co.

Loners, Stroeb & Johnson
Supervising Architects
Midland Plumbing & Heating Co.
Otis Elevator Co.

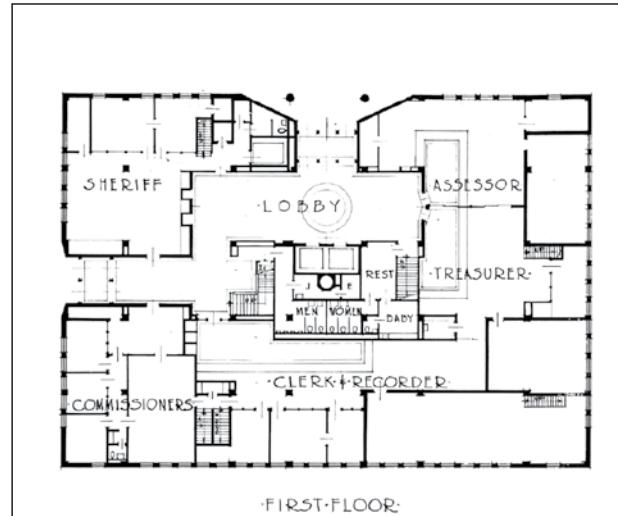


Inside the clock.



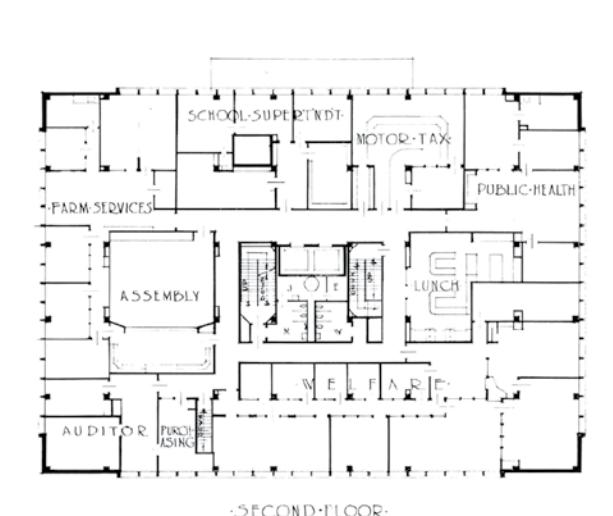
A fated pigeon roost.

King Warehouse & Storage Company
 Baker Transfer & Storage Company
 Montana Steel & Supply Co., Inc.
 Selby Re-Print Co. Stanley H. Arkwright, Inc.
 Reichert Tile Company Concrete Products Co., Inc.



Indians in the marble?

Clerk & Recorder Chris Rubich and Staff
 Assessor T. A. Cothron and Staff
 Treasurer Allan Parson and Staff
 Sheriff Roy R. Stewart and Staff
 Abstract Guaranty Company
 Automatic Voting Machine Corp., Jamestown, N.Y.



For the coffee break.

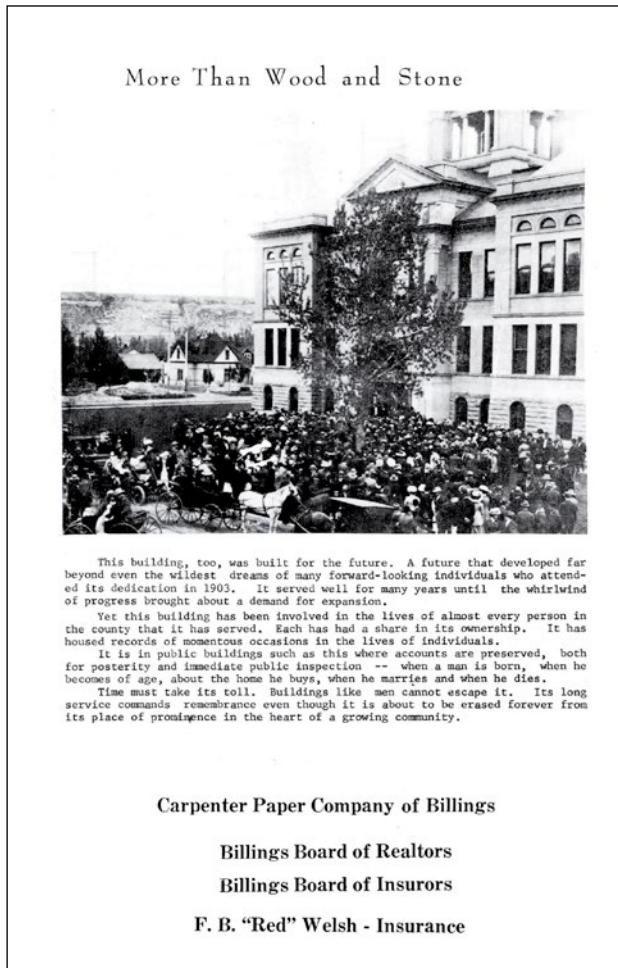
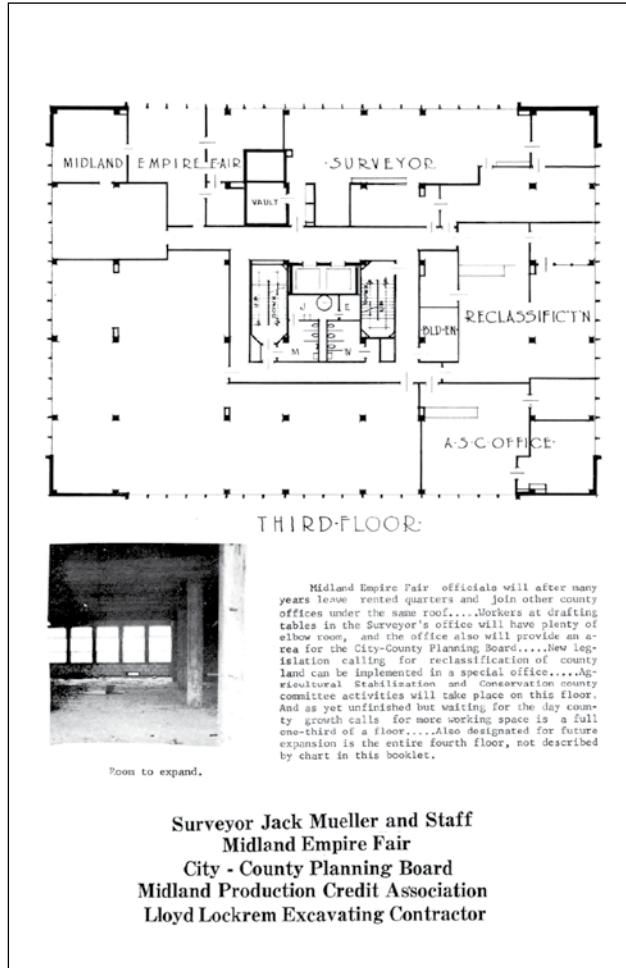
Up one easy flight of stairs if elevators are busy is another heavy-use floor, complete with the public Courthouse Coffee Shop (serving free coffee and sandwiches on one house), and a special room for full meal service. At tea-time, during meeting time, the silver curved railing in the Motor Vehicle department will maintain orderly lines.... The stage in the assembly room at the west end of the floor is not for ham actors, but for cooking the public's meat, fish, and vegetable extemporaneous demonstration activities.... Public Health Nurses and the County Physician also are within easy reach and Welfare Department case workers and patrons can consult uninterrupted in a row of private cubicles.

Superintendent of Schools T. E. Pemberton and Staff
 Auditor Helen Delano and Staff
 Coroner Mel Boice Midland Title Company
 Courthouse Coffee Shop
 County Health Department
 Yellowstone County Extension Staff

Sign Type:

Y-L2-5 CONT.

hallway 2nd floor left of elevator by District Attorney



Sign Type:

Y-L2-6

hallway 2nd floor right of elevator by District Court

READ ALL ABOUT IT IN THE GAZETTE

The *Billings Gazette* was established in 1885 when *The Billings-Coulson Post* and *The Billings Herald* were consolidated into a single newspaper. The *Herald* had been founded by Edward Bromley and Alexander Devine in 1882, and the *Post* was created when JD Matheson purchased and moved *The Coulson Post* to Billings the same year.

In June 1959, the Anaconda Copper Mining Company sold the *Gazette* to its current owner—Lee Enterprises.

During more than a century of publication, the *Gazette* has established itself as the largest paper in the state. With circulation spanning southeast Montana and northern Wyoming, the *Gazette* is also geographically one of the most widely distributed newspapers in the United States.

As some of the most important public buildings and largest construction projects of their respective eras, both Yellowstone County Courthouses naturally garnered plenty of news coverage. A selection of stories from 1902 to 1959 are reproduced here, along with their full page spreads for added historical context.

WIDE AWAKE IS BILLINGS

MAJOR GEORGE GIVES BILLINGSERS SOME GOOD POINTS.

STATE HAS NONE BETTER

EVERYBODY PROGRESS AND HOPES

FOR BILLINGS

WITH GENE SPOT IT

DRY'S BILLINGERS.

FOUR MONTHS BILLINGERS

WILL BECOME

THE STATE'S

NEW CAPITAL

BY BILLINGERS

WILL BECOME

THE STATE'S

NEW CAPITAL

Sign Type:

Y-L2-6 CONT.

hallway 2nd floor right of elevator by District Court

Sign Type:

Y-L2-6 CONT.

hallway 2nd floor right of elevator by District Court

Sign Type:

Y-L2-6 CONT.

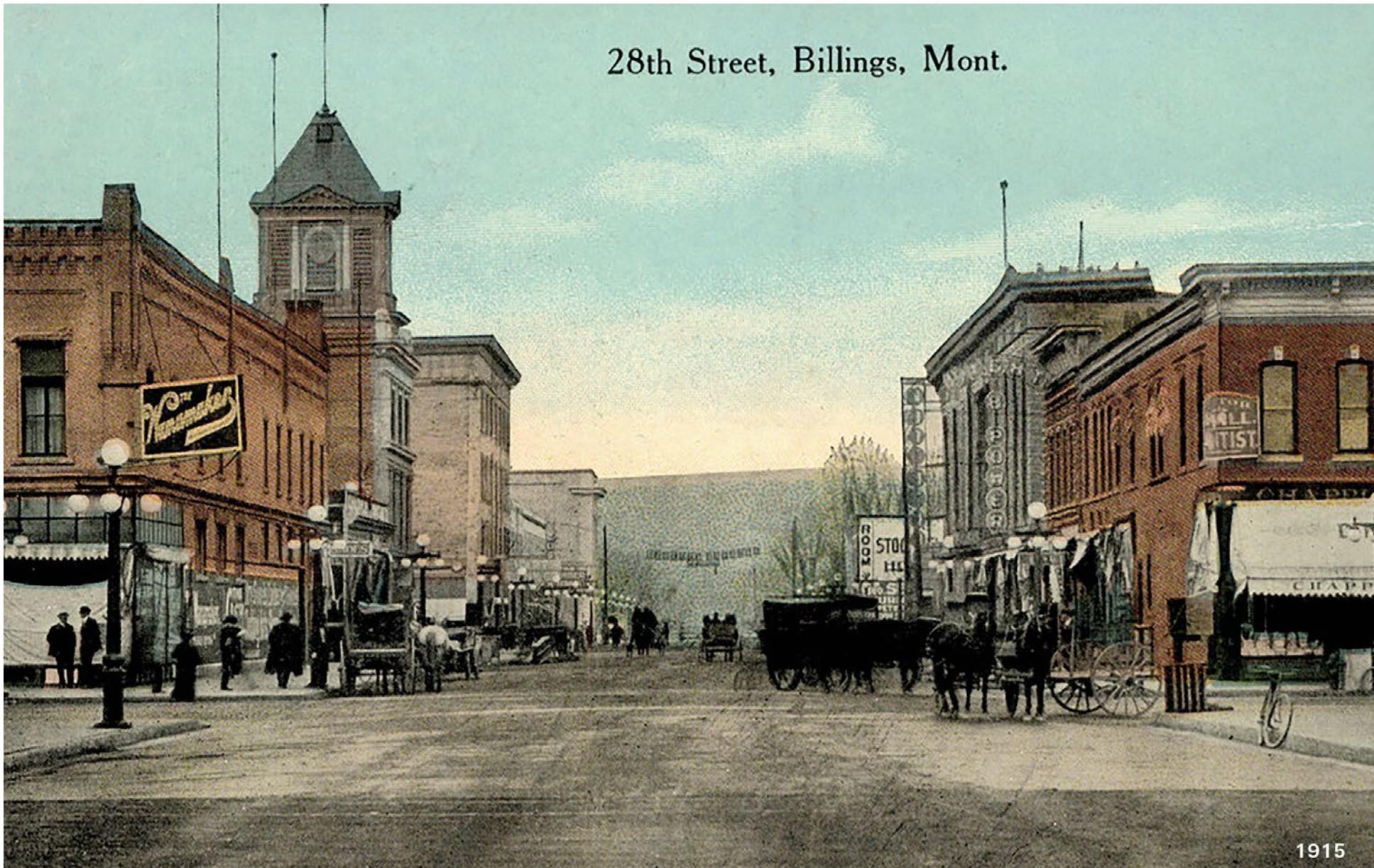
hallway 2nd floor right of elevator by District Court

Sign Type:

lobby in front of 3rd floor elevators

Y-L3-1

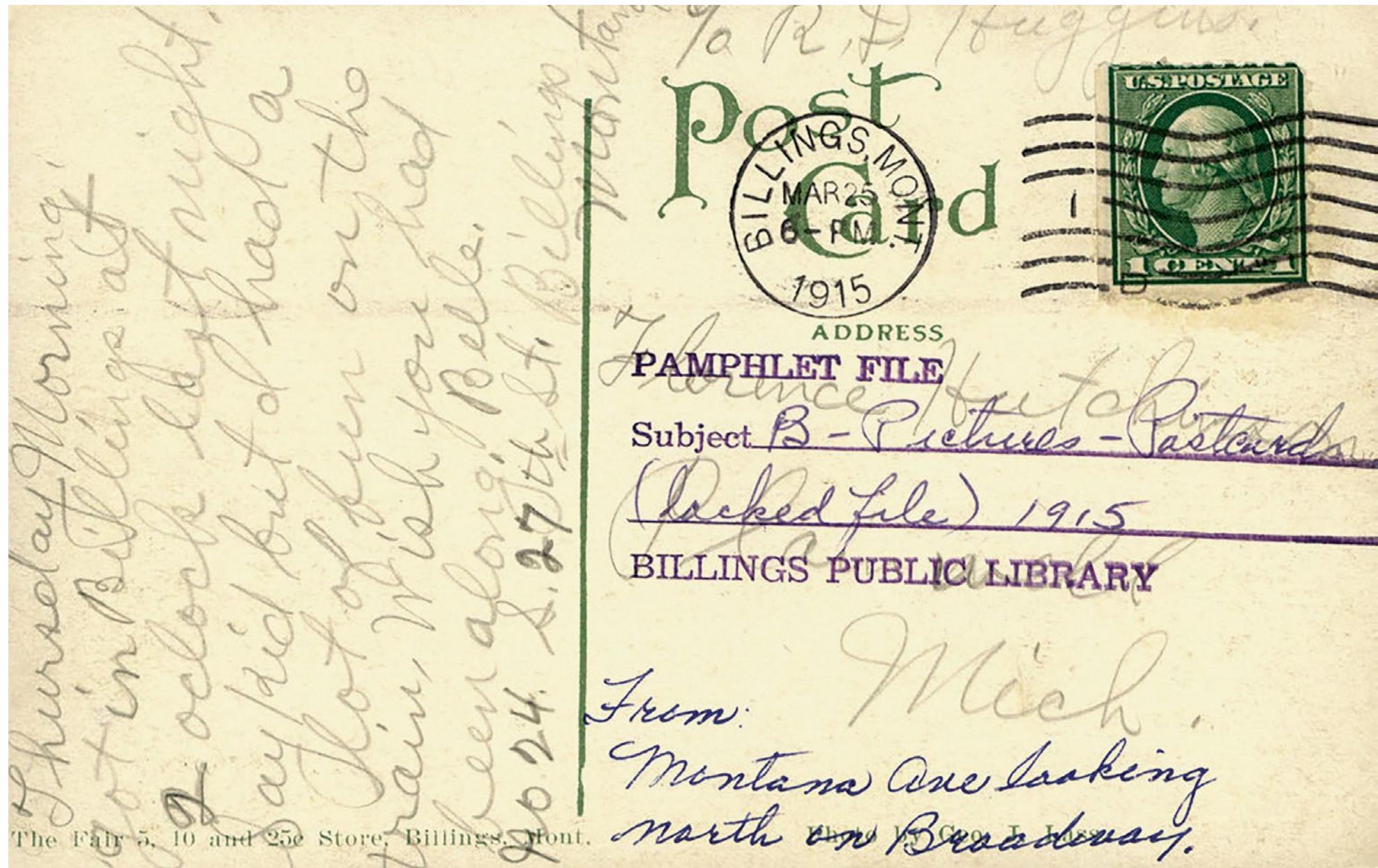
28th Street, Billings, Mont.



Sign Type:

lobby in front of 3rd floor elevators

Y-L3-2



Sign Type:

Y-L3-3, Y-L3-4,
& Y-L3-5

lobby in front of 3rd floor elevators, right wall

THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE BILLINGS GAZETTE FOR 1905

**Billings
A Commercial City.**

Billings, the commercial metropolis of eastern Montana, is situated on the north bank of the Yellowstone river, at the junction of the Northern Pacific and Burlington railroads, 915 miles west of St. Paul and a little over 1,000 miles east of Puget sound. It is the county seat of Yellowstone county, and a passenger and freight division of both systems. It is located in a valley about sixty-five miles long and of a varying width of from four to ten miles, surrounded on all sides by a system of precipitous bluffs of yellowish sandstone, from which the river takes its name. Westward the view is bounded by the snow-capped peaks of the Rocky mountain chain, apparently, in the clear, pure air, less than twenty miles away, but in reality more than four times that distance.

Billings sprang into existence in 1882, in consequence of the location of the line of the Northern Pacific through Montana. Without railway, however, a good town must of necessity have grown up somewhere near this point, great as were the natural advantages, owing to the direction of the water courses and the contour of the country. Indeed, Captain William Clark, the great explorer, on his return journey from exploring the Louisiana Purchase, in 1805, selected a point near the present site of Billings, and justified by the development of the tributary country.

The causes which have contributed to the growth and prosperity of Billings are manifold; they are constantly being reinforced by new and fresh considerations, which call for wider vision, for greater effort and for larger enterprise. Our citizens have an abiding and unshaken faith in the permanent growth and future of Billings, and in this they are confirmed by the consensus of outside opinion.

COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

The new Yellowstone county court house is a fine structure. It is a fire-proof building, built of native sandstone, with trimmings of Columbus stone. The structure was started late in the fall of 1900 and will be completed in a few weeks. The great tower is surmounted by a copper dome, in which will be installed a town clock striking the hours and the halves.

The interior of the building is furnished in marble and quartered oak. The floors are of the and the walls and ceiling are all handsomely frescoed.

Everything that good judgment could devise has been utilized in the construction of this building. The court room, vaults for the official records, all are modern and convenient. The furnishings will be in keeping with the rest of the building, both in the matter of quality and utility. Altogether the new court house is a building in which every citizen takes a just pride.



Y-L3-3

Will Reach 50,000.

As local transportation facilities reach these various undeveloped fields, as the immense tracts of land are irrigated through government aid, it is too much to predict for Billings, the natural commercial center of this vast region, a future population of 50,000 souls? Many cities have grown larger with much fewer possibilities.

Already we have fourteen daily passenger trains. The Billings freight yards of the Northern Pacific

and Burlington railroads have the largest trackage of any city between St. Paul and Portland. There are branch lines to Red Lodge, to Bridger and to Cody, Wyoming.

The Billings-Great Falls branch of the Burlington route has made final survey, and the prospects for an extension of the Bridger branch of the Northern Pacific railway to the Bear Creek coal fields and to the Cooke City mining district are good.

General Business

The wholesale business that has grown up in Billings was an inevitable result of these conditions. Already one jobbing house pays about \$50,000 in annual freights, while the others are handling goods in almost equal amounts. The same great area of consumers that has developed the wholesale trade of Billings makes the retail trade conditions equally effective, so that all classes of products, in increasing quantities, are constantly passing from producer to merchant to consumer.

Correspondingly the Billings markets are open to the products of these neighboring enterprises.

Post Office Statistics.

The following will indicate the amount of business transacted in the postoffice at Billings during the year ending December 31, 1904:

Postal receipts	\$ 15,183.65
Domestic money orders issued	88,696.03
Foreign money orders issued	8,070.52
Fees on money orders	703.52
Domestic money orders paid	\$6,966.58
Foreign money orders paid	477.60
Total volume of money order business. \$154,914.22	
Articles received at window for registration	4,449
Registered articles received for local distribution	4,860
Special delivery letters dispatched	325
Special delivery letters received for local delivery	536

Y-L3-4

For Investors.

There is a favorable opportunity here for other manufacturers along various lines. The Yellowstone river has a fall of ten feet to the mile, with an unlimited volume of water. Steaming coal of the finest quality can be laid down for \$1.50 to \$2.50 per ton. Coke is a nearby product. Every advantage is offered to manufacturers along the following lines:

Population.

A census of the city was taken last summer, when by actual count the population was ascertained to be 5,447. Owing to the prospective opening of over a million acres of the Crow Indian reservation to settlement, the reclamation by irrigation of the Huntly flats lying contiguous to the city, the establishment of a beet sugar factory, with the consequent opening of a new and extremely lucrative industry for farmers, and with a number of other enterprises in prospect, it is confidently expected that a rapid increase of population will occur this year. Hundreds of letters from all parts of the United States and Canada, requesting information concerning Billings and the surrounding country, are being received by business men of the city, and with the opening of spring there will be a mighty influx of settlers, looking for a new location with a view of bettering their condition.

Citizenship.

The citizenship of Billings embraces a large proportion of cultured and intelligent people, being chiefly composed of native American, and the most desirable people of foreign birth. There are no "foreign colonies."

Welcome.

You are welcome here. If you come to build a home you will receive every assistance. If you desire to take advantage of some of Billings' commercial possibilities you will be kindly received and courteously informed concerning every material interest in and around the city. Mr. Henry White, Billings, Montana, secretary of the Commercial Committee of the Billings club will gladly answer any inquiries whether made in person or by letter. The various business interests represented in our advertising columns will also answer any inquiries not alone concerning their particular business, but in lines pertaining to the general interests of this city.

Y-L3-5