

Chapter Three

1900-1909

The “Hello” Town



Barnum in 1900

The dawning of a new century captivated the nation. Predictions for a glorious future, such as the following all printed during the course of 1900, abounded.

If the passenger wished for seclusion, he might go to Europe via the submarine line, made to operate 100 feet beneath the surface and famed for its freedom from seasickness and the wonderful views it provided of sea monsters.

Theodore Waters New York Herald

On a hypothetical radio contact with Martians in 1920: “When the first photographs of the Martians were obtained a corps of mathematicians was employed upon making measurements. The results show that the average Martian man is 18 feet 2 inches in height, while the distance from tip to tip of his wings is 72 feet.

New York World

Locomotion in the air [will be] as common as bicycle riding is now

Alfred E. Hensche New York Herald

Aerial cars will fly between great centers of population, arriving and departing on fixed schedules and carrying their human cargoes.

Henry Litchfield West, Washington Post

I look for a nobler man living in a nobler environment ~ a man two inches taller, living longer, gentler in mind and manners, in every way an improvement over the past.

Henry Davies, Yale professor, San Francisco Examiner

That there will be drunkards is probably out of the question. Cancer, which is rapidly passing tuberculosis in the race for the human race, would be stamped out, because its first appearance could be guarded against. The same would apply to other maladies.

Theodore Waters, New York Herald

Slang, American or Anglican, is doomed to ultimate extinction.

Edward Paxon Jackson, Philadelphia Inquirer

In the December 30, 1900 edition of the *New York Herald* a comparison of what the 18th century had given mankind and what would be brought forward into the 20th century was listed:

Received From the 18th century: The springless stage coach, Tallow Dips, the flint and steel to strike fire, the needle, the quill pen, crude heliographs, the fire bucket.

Passed On to the 20th century: The locomotive, the dining car, the automobile, the bicycle and the pneumatic tired sulky, Roentgen rays, the sulphur match, the sewing machine and the knitting machine, the typewriter and the fountain pen, the snapshot camera and moving pictures, the steam fire engine and water tower.

Naturally, the beginning of the new century offered a plethora of lists of "the best" and "the greatest". The *San Francisco Chronicle*, Sunday, January 6, 1901 edition, carried a few of those

lists. Some of the 'Greatest [Deceased] Men of This [Nineteenth] Century' included Walt Whitman, Sir Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, Lord Byron, Alfred Tennyson, Robert Browning, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Charles Darwin, Louis Pasteur, Thomas Jefferson, Daniel Webster and Abraham Lincoln. The Greatest Ideas included evolution/natural selection, electricity, photography, anesthesia, abolition of slavery, telephone, steam power, telegraph, religious evangelism, Red Cross movement, the advancement of women and labor reform. The Strongest Books included Darwin's *Origin of Species*, Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Hugo's *Les Miserables*, Goethe's *Faust*, Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*, Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*, Mark Twain's *Yankee at the Court of King Arthur*, Keith's *Ben-Hur* and Jane Eyre Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, plus the very popular *The Encyclopedia Britannica*. The 'Three Greatest Events' of the 19th Century were cited as the starting of the first passenger train propelled by steam, the laying of the Atlantic cable, and the opening of the Suez canal.

Filled with glorious expectations, Barnum entered into that shadowy world of a small town in the new century best described by Margaret Mead:

What happens on the growing edges of life is seldom written down at the time. It is lived from day to day in talk, in scraps of comment on the margin of someone else's manuscript, in words spoken on a street corner, or in cadences which lie well below the words that are spoken. Later it lives on, reshaped and reinterpreted, in the memories of those who were part of it and finally slips, like a child's leaf boat after a long journey down a stream, into the unrecognizing hands of one's spiritual descendants who do not know the source of the water-soaked treasures which have landed on the shores of their lives.

In 1900 there were only 76 million citizens in the entire United States. Rural communities remained the heart of the nation, with close to 60% of Americans residing in farming communities. Technology generally consisted of kerosene lamps, horse drawn plows and carriages, wood-burning cook stoves and outhouses.

Found on the heading of a 1909 Carlton County map:

Barnum, the agricultural center of Carlton County, has opportunities, which enable the poor man to be a landowner and

become independent. Our consolidated school gives the country children an equal chance with the city children to acquire an education. We are located on the Northern Pacific Railroad, only a short distance from Duluth and Superior, at the head of the Great Lakes; which produce as a natural result an unsurpassed market for our agricultural and dairy products. We have a well-established egg system, which places on the market a selected fresh egg; thereby obtaining a higher price and the result is Scientific Poultry raising and a higher production, which means more money in your pocket. We have both Wild Lands and Improved Farms for sale, which can be bought at a bargain and on easy terms.

The State Bank of Barnum.

At the turn of the century farming in the immediate Barnum area was not comparable to the above description. The logging industries had moved on, leaving a wasteland of stumpage and scrub brush. Sawmills stood silent; inhabited only by the ghosts of the lumber boom. Their owners had abandoned the area for more fertile pine stands in the West. The land that Sauntry and Cain had cleared would prove suitable for pasture and fields, once the stumps were dynamited out. Aside from those potential fields the



Dynamiting the stumps to clear pasture land.

Will, Elkenberry and Goodell farms were the only locations clear enough to encourage profitable farming. Generally a settler owned two or three cows; C.L. Goodell and J.S. Goodell were exceptions each owning a small heard of Jerseys. In order to get by, a farmer usually worked two

weeks making chord wood and one week tending his farm.

Carl Anderson's grandparents moved to the Barnum area in 1904. The land they purchased was basically wild, as was much of the outlaying acreage around the village. There was a two-story log home on the property, which could only be reached after a long trek down a narrow, rutted path.

A majority of homesteaders resided in rough-hewn log cabins. In order to construct a residence, large logs were skidded out of the woods by horse. The process would consume the best part of a day. Once at the building site, the log was then shaved down to fit the structure perfectly for the dovetailed corners. Because the process was so involved, oftentimes bachelors would opt to live together. In one case three single gentlemen shared the cabin that originally had been constructed by Peter Nelson in 1892. This particular group of farmers was noted for their card playing, or rather the games' stakes. It was said that whoever lost the card game was obligated to wash whatever dishes had accumulated during the week. Two of the three were notorious cheats and so the third, Swan Naslund, became the official dishwasher.

With fields peppered with monolithic white pine stumps and glacier-abandoned rocks, haying was not an easy task. Farmers took to haying any available square foot of land clear enough to work and oftentimes could be found in the swampy regions cutting hay. During that period in farming history, farming was basically a means to keep the family supplied with staples. The economy was so poor in the area that frequently three families would invest in one sack of flour and divide it among themselves. While the farming community was struggling to carve out a living, the village of Barnum was striving to improve the conditions within the town. The loss of the logging industry had dire consequences on the village's economy.

Village elections always provided a diversion from the bad times and generally created a stir among the villagers. In March of 1904 the *Gazette* reported:

***IT IS MAYOR STONE AND CHAIRMAN SPENCER
THE VILLAGE COWS CAN RUN AT LARGE UNTIL 8 P.M.
WHILE THE POOR COUNTRY COW HAS TO STAY ON THE FARM***

The village and township elections held on Tuesday passed off fairly quietly. The following are the township officers for the ensuing year, all of which we predict will prove themselves efficient officials.

For Supervisors: Thomas Spencer, Chairman Nick Miller, J.H.

Kohrin

For Clerk: J.D. Barstow

For Treasurer: B.M. Stone

For Assessor: A. Anderson

For Justices of the Peace: Thomas Spencer, Ed Woodbury

Constables: Charles Schwoch, Marten Thompson

In selecting officials for our enterprising and growing village, a fight was made for the presidency and the councilmen. The following ticket was elected:

For President: B.M. Stone

For Trustees: John Skelton, C.L. Goodell, V. Kronfuss

For Recorder: Herman Gerlach

For Treasurer: R. Addington

For Justices Of The Peace: J.B. Barstow, C.L. Goodell

For Constable: Mike Felgen

All the gentlemen who were defeated are good, honorable men and would, had they been elected, proven themselves worthy.

The restraining of cattle running about was voted upon and was carried, but the Village Council has since voted to allow cows to run at large until 8 p.m. so we are going to have cowbells and __ __ galore as usual. We think it an injustice to compel the farmers to pasture their cattle now, as it will work a hardship, and it will force every owner of village cows to keep their cows within the village limits.

One of the other major decisions the Council was to make early in the century was the regulation of shows and other public exhibitors in the village. Any caravan, circus, traveling troupe or other public show for which admission must be charged was required to be licensed prior to performing. A caravan or circus was to be charged \$25 a day while any traveling troupe or other public show was charged \$5 a day.

Those traveling troupes and public shows frequented the village, providing the main source of entertainment. Many of the troupes' shows were known as "Uncle Toms". There were; however, many talented actors residing in the village. The Royal Neighbors, a strong organization during the 1900s, frequently presented programs and plays. On one occasion the group hosted an "old fashioned social" at the Trading Company Hall. A literary musical program was accompanied by a short play, which gave "a lady's view of men". Later the hometown actors performed "the popular play--Men Not Wanted".

Weddings always gave occasion for the villagers to gather and were frequently honored with lengthy notations in the local papers. The *Gazette* paid honor to the nuptial vows of Mr. Hugo Anderson and Miss Katie Felgen:

On Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 in the German Lutheran Church in this village occurred the wedding of Mr. Hugo Anderson and Miss Katie Felgen. The Rev. Schmidt of West Superior officiating. There were present only the immediate relatives and immediate friends of the contracting parties. After the ceremony had been performed, all repaired to the home of the bride's parents where a most sumptuous meal was served. It is not necessary for us to say anything regarding these young people, for everyone knows them to be among the best and truest young people in the county and their legion of admiring young friends will wish them all the happiness and prosperity to be had.

As Barnum was gaining a foothold in society, the nation was evolving as well. In 1900 the Wright Brothers constructed their first scale glider and flew it at Kitty Hawk. Kodak revolutionized the photography business with the introduction of the Brownie Box Camera that same year. Selling for \$1.00, the Brownie Camera brought the art of photography into the home. On September 6, 1901, President William McKinley, while visiting the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, was assassinated by Leon Czolgosz. Czolgosz had concealed a pistol under a handkerchief, worked his way close to the President and became the first assassin in the Twentieth Century. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt stepped into the Presidency. At the age of 42, Roosevelt was the youngest man to have ever held the office and soon became an icon for the nation's youth of that time.

Woman's Suffrage was beginning to make an impact on the nation in the 1900s. Former President Grover Cleveland wrote his view on this outrageous behavior of the "weaker sex" in the *Ladies' Home Journal*. A portion of his outraged commentary was reprinted in *The Gazette*:

Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote. The relative positions to be assumed by men and women in the working of our civilization were assigned long ago by a higher intelligence than ours were.

Women's liberation was given a stern warning in the *Barnum Advocate*:

The girls who want to kiss W.J. Bryon should remember that he is a married man and they should have better judgment than to attempt any disruption of domestic affairs. Girls, you're at liberty to "suck the jaws off" any young fellow like Hobson, but don't tackle us old married men.

Early in the 1900s ladies were sporting narrow skirts with petticoats, enormous Merry Widow Hats, huge dotted veils and net stockings. The Gibson Girl look was especially popular with the village ladies.

Businesses in Barnum had remained fairly stable despite the loss of the lumber industry. When the sawmills moved, some businesses followed suit, however many of the established enterprises remained. Sauntry and Cain had moved the logging business; but continued to run their general merchandising store in the village. The store was famous for selling everything from horse collars to hairpins.

The Barnum Advocate and *Barnum Gazette* continued to display a friendly rivalry. J.D. Connor was the manager of the Barnum Land Company. The Clifton House was doing a brisk business. One receipt from the Hotel dated September 19, 1901 read:

Hotel Clifton. Frank T. Scott, Proprietor. Bill--Charles Performer and Frank J. Scott for Board and two Meals--fifty cents.

On November 2, 1901, Oscar W. Ostlund, Blacksmith and Wagonmaker, billed J.D. Connor fifty cents for one 'shoe'. Dr. J.T. Speck made routine visits to the village and charged \$6.25 for a routine exam. P.J. Dunphy served as the local Barber and Hairdresser.

M. Christenson was doing a brisk business in his hardware store by 1903. He advertised:

Our aim is to keep everything you want in hardware.

Fencing, Farm Implements and Buggies.

An endless variety of Tools and Appliances.

Stoves and Ranges.

Sure--all kinds of prices.

We are here, with the goods and prices.

Won't You Give Us A Try?



Inside Sauntry and Cain store

The power of advertising in the local papers was great. Sauntry and Cain advertised Kodal Dyspepsia, "The cure of all forms of Dyspepsia and Indigestion" and "Before the discovery of One-Minute Cough Cure, Ministers were greatly disturbed by a coughing congregation. There is no excuse for it now!" The grocery also carried Sopollo, "Well Bred, Soon Wed. Girls who use Sopollo are quickly married." J.D. Connor utilized the village papers' ad space, "New Homes, Cheap Loans. \$5.00 per acre, 1/6 cash balance at 6% interest." Goodell and Co. sold a 16-ounce loaf of white bread for a nickel. In 1904 Mike Felgen gave up the farming life and moved to town, assuming ownership of a livery stable.

Law and order prevailed in the town. Marshal Felgen announced publicly that he would arrest "any and all persons riding their wheels on the sidewalks". Felgen obviously took his duties seriously and, on one occasion, pursued a man who had neglected to pay his bill at the Ziebler Hotel. The culprit was apprehended in Moose Lake.

In 1904 the new train Depot was consumed in a horrific blaze. The following day a passenger train pulled into town and, as the Depot was missing, the engineer failed to realize that he was in the very heart of Barnum. The train pulled through the village, failing to deposit freight, mail or passengers.

An enterprising young man arrived in Barnum with his family and all their worldly possessions in 1903. When H.C. Hanson first viewed the village it gave the appearance of a typical lumber settlement. There were a few tumbled down shacks, a creamery that had long since declined into a dreadful state of disrepair and a handful of stores.

Long it had been mourned by the community as a whole that there was no bank in the town. Villagers were forced to travel to Moose Lake to attend to banking business, and, on the rutty, narrow roads; the trip was less than pleasurable. The journey also cut severely into their daily routines. H.C. Hanson immediately set about to remedy the situation. With the financial assistance of F.A. Gatze and Hanson's father-in-law H.P. Thorkeldson, Hanson constructed the State Bank of Barnum. It was an impressive building standing majestically on the site of the old Peterson Grocery. Hanson dug out the structure's basement with a horse and scoop and proceeded to hire Sherman Lord to pick rocks for \$1.00 a day—a goodly sum at that time. Mrs. Livingstone, hired in 1903, was the first Bank employee.

The village was struggling for survival, and the farming community was in the same position. Hanson realized that, with no major industry in the town and unless the community soon formed some type of bond, the village would die. He called the local farmers together in the Trading Company Hall in 1907 and offered the group a proposition. Hanson would purchase the old creamery and create a market for the farmers' milk and eggs. The farming community would need to agree to specialize in one breed of cow and one breed of chicken. Hanson's philosophy at that time was, "If I make dairying and poultry-keeping profitable, my bank will make money." Money, during those hard-pressed times was a rare commodity.

Jessie Doan and F.M. (Frank) Duesler led a strong campaign for the Guernsey breed of dairy cattle. Doan had already imported two registered Guernsey and both men had worked with the breed when residing in Wisconsin. The vote went the Guernsey cattle, which would be imported from the Island of Guernsey located off the coast of England, and the White Leghorn Chicken.

Hanson held to his promise and purchased the abandoned creamery for \$400 and proceeded to rebuild the sagging structure.

He took his promise one step further and advanced monies to the farmers for the clearing of their land, to update their out-buildings and to secure the cattle and chickens. It made good sense. Without funding the struggling agriculturists could not update their operations nor invest in the livestock. Without the improved farms, the Barnum Creamery would once again fail. If the Creamery failed again, the village would be in jeopardy.

The first year of the Barnum Creamery's existence the total shipment of eggs was 15 cases. By 1909 Hanson was paying \$4,000 a year to poultry farmers alone. Farmers began seeing "cream checks" of \$15.00 every two weeks, more than they ever imagined they'd make. Cream Days in town were Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the hot, humid summer months when the produce would be endangered by the elements. During the winter, when milk and eggs could be stored for longer periods, the Cream days were held on Monday and Thursday. Hanson was aware of the need for high quality and made a practice of paying more for a higher quality and quantity of butterfat in the milk.

Chickens rapidly became a profit-turning enterprise and a majority of farms were expanded to include "coops" in the farmyards. Generally, the care of the hens and egg gathering was considered a "woman's work". The Creamery paid well for the eggs, approximately seventeen cents per dozen compared to the thirteen cents per dozen farmers had been receiving in 1903. By the end of the decade White Leghorn raising was no longer strictly a woman's job. Gumond Larson owned one of the largest henneries of that time, caring for 2,000 laying hens. Charlie Valley and Matt Zelupski also had large flocks. A majority of farms raised a flock of 50-150 White Leghorns to compliment their milk business.

Each farmer was assigned an identification number, which was stamped on his flock's eggs. The numbering system served not only to ensure that the farmer would receive payment; but also acted as a quality control measure. The eggs were buffed with sandpaper, washed with a vinegar and water solution and then stored in the homestead cellar until Cream Day.

Keeping the milk and cream fresh until Cream Day was a more involved process than preparing the eggs for market. On each farm was found an open well which was lined with a long, or shotgun, can made like a shotgun shell--long and narrow--which enabled the cream to cool rapidly. The more rapidly the cream cooled the

sweeter it would be. After each milking, a farmer would separate the milk from the cream and, after emptying the cooled cream from the shotgun can, fill the open well with warm cream.

Without the aide of modern machinery working the land was a tedious task. Planting was done with a hand planter in wide rows, the farmers believed that plants, such as corn, would ripen at a faster rate in wider rows. Harvesting was done entirely by hand. Slowly, more modern means of farming were obtained. While the farmer's life was still arduous, the new equipment would ease some of the burdens. The advent of new equipment had made such strides that farming authority Eugene V. Smalley noted in his article "Has Farm Machinery Destroyed Farm Life?" in the April 1894 agriculture magazine *The Forum*:

I believe that we are now in a transition period in agriculture. The influence of machinery has been fully exerted. It is doubtful whether the next century will see any important new inventions that will further eliminate the man from the land and do his work with cogwheels, lever and knives.

The farming enterprise was making great strides in early 1907 until October of that year. The nation again plummeted into a depression, which thankfully was short-lived. Over speculation and an unregulated banking structure were cited as the reasons for economic instability. Another, less discussed factor, that played a role in the depression was what had been termed "conspicuous consumption" by the wealthy. At the turn of the century there were 4,000 millionaires who invested exponent monies overseas purchasing luxury items, purchased mansions for year round living and lavish summer homes in socially acceptable waterfront areas. Many of these "New Money Men" were termed "Robber Barons" for their wealth had come at the expense of underpaid middle class workers. This overwhelming gap in financial security undermined the nation's economic stability. The noticeable difficulties began with a major drop in the Stock Market that March. On October 21st a run on the Knickerbocker Trust Company in New York City caused a wave of widespread panic which washed across the United States. J.P. Morgan was approached by the government to lend his assistance in bringing the depression under control. Through his, and his fellow bankers, efforts the economy was on level ground within a matter of months.



State Bank of Barnum, newly constructed in 1903

During that time the farming community was forced to decrease its investments in new cattle and hens in order to focus its attention on paying the outstanding bills and feeding their families. Holding the belief that the depression would not be a long drawn out affair, Hanson extended credit to the farmers, trusting that the monies would soon be returned. His faith was repaid and the agricultural economy stabilized.

Barnum was investing not only in livestock and farms, but in its school system as well. In the early 1900's teaching was no simple job. Usually teachers would board with a village family or live in one of the Barnum hotels. Early on frigid winter mornings townspeople would view the instructors plowing on foot through snowdrifts in order to arrive at the school prior to the students. Once there, it was his or her job to become a janitor and fire up the woodstove and then clean and sweep the classroom for the day. Between instructing the students in the Three 'R's, the teacher prepared lunch for the class and organized games for the recess period. Barnum instructors felt blessed that they were required to teach only three grade levels, rather than the eight found in the more remote country schools.

One of the important reference books educators in the 1900s

used was The Century Book of Facts. Originally printed by the King-Richardson Company in 1900 the text was updated until 1906 and covered all the essential topics a teacher would need expertise on including government and law; language and literature; history



A group of students by the Red School in 1904. Among those pictured are Billy Cain, Roy addington, the Brants, Ruth Barstow, Sadie Goodell, Ero and Lucella Cain, Bud Cain, the Voungs, Florence Gerlack, the Lords, Emit Kruger and Clarence Felgen

an biography; science, invention and discovery; hygiene and dietetics; domestic economy and finance and industry and transportation. Under the category of Science, Invention and Discovery could be found Beer, the Origin of; Billiards, Corsets, Embalming, Flies Walking on the Ceiling and Umbrellas. On the Theory

of Evolution it was noted "...and though, today, by no means all the ideas upheld by these early advocates of the theory are still accepted, still evolution as a principle is now acknowledged by nearly all scientists."

The burden of supplying the schools with appropriate tools of learning was laid upon the shoulders of the School Board. At that time the price of an 18-inch world globe averaged \$47. Reading charts, used in place of individual textbooks, ranged in price from \$10 to \$12 each. A 4x6 foot wall blackboard could be purchased for \$11, 100 pieces of round, white chalk were sold for \$9 and "dustless" erasers cost \$1.20 each.



Paul Dathe demonstrating his artistic talents on George Wahington's birthday.

During the early 1900s J.D. Barstow served as director of the

Barnum Schools and Mrs. Gertrude Fuller as principal. A teacher's annual salary was \$1,075.

In 1908 a meeting was held at the Trading Company Hall for the express purpose of discussing the feasibility of consolidating several of the smaller schools into one district. In order to comply with the new ruling from the State Board of Education, which governed school funding, each school must install a heating system ranging in cost from \$50 to \$100. The Barnum School system already met this requirement, while small country schools did not. Barnum also had ample classroom space that could absorb more students. One of the outlying schools had only 5 pupils while another had 10.

That year Barnum became the second consolidated school system in the state. With the addition of students from the Anderson, Skelton and Lind Hall schools the pupil enrollment was raised by 30.

Villagers were appreciative of the teachers' long hours of investment in their children. In 1909 it was noted in the *Barnum Herald*:

Under the efficient management of the present corps of teachers the Barnum schools are doing excellent work. The amount of knowledge that Miss Connors' pupils possess is proof of their teacher's careful work. Miss Hanson's tiny tots are cute and interesting. The methods used in Miss Fuller's room produce earnest, thoughtful minds.



The 1903 graduates: (seated left to right) Clara Kecker, Mr. Brohpy (principal), Louise Kreiger, Loraine Balton, Standing: Pearl Skelton, Maynee Lee, Luella Goodell, Roy Addington, Minnie Siemer, Hannah Johnson

Barnum's business sector began growing at the end of the 1907 panic. By 1909 it was thriving.

Ed Woodbury had constructed a Lumberyard immediately outside of the village in 1905. Shortly after, Woodbury sold the business to the Hart Brothers.

Rural carrier J.S. Cheesman carefully handled the United



Hans Solheim standing in his hardware store.

States mail. In order to keep the letters and packages safe from the inclement weather Cheesman invested in a covered sleigh for use during the winter months. Frank Cameron, another rural deliverer appeared to experience difficulty on his route. *The Gazette* reported:

Frank Cameron had two run-away horses last week. The horses doubtless thought that was the way to deliver the mail.

The Post Office Directory posted in the papers stated, "Open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Mails going south close at 10:30 a.m. and going north at 11:30 a.m. C.P. Peterson, Postmaster."

P.J. Dunphy turned his barbershop over to B.F. Giberson, who did, "Shaving, Shampooing, Hair Cutting and Facial Massage". In July of 1909 Giberson "just packed up and left" leaving the village sans a hair trimmer. In August of that year C. Lumpy reopened the shop.

Also in 1909 the Trading Company decided to improve upon the appearance, and safety, of its corner of the town and replaced the rough wooden sidewalks with modern concrete walkways.

On March 5, 1909 Thomas A. Bell published the first issue of the *Barnum Herald*. Its predecessor, *The Advocate*, had gone out of

business a few years earlier.

In an open letter to the public the *Herald's* editor wrote:

It is customary to make a statement, apology or confession of faith upon the starting of a newspaper and here is mine....

I came here for just the same reason every other resident of the village came for, to make an honest living. I am going to run it in the interest of every legitimate enterprise that will further the prosperity of Barnum and Carlton County in general.

I am going to comment without fear or favor upon such subjects as I deem of public interest. I will advertise your business, but not your private grievances.

Trusting these principals will interest your approval; I am yours for business.

Thomas R. Bell

Shortly after the *Herald's* first publication, fire destroyed the *Gazette* offices. Rather than rebuilding and reinvesting in new printing equipment, Editor Noyes purchased the paper in Moose Lake and established the *Moose Lake Star Gazette*.



The *Gazette* was housed in the Post Office Building. Pictured are the Brandt children: Mr. Walter Bailou, rural mail carrier, Ruth Barstow, Post Office clerk; Pearl Curtiss, a 'helper' in the Post Office and *Gazette* editor; Vern Barstow. Photo taken in 1904.

In the *Herald's* first issue the Trading Company advertised their

Spring line of dress goods, including ladies' corsets and girdles. The State Bank of Barnum proclaimed, "...with fire and burglar proof vaults your money is safe". The Clifton House and Hotel termed itself, "The local means of accommodation."

Charles Almquist had improved his line of goods and invited the public, "Come in and hear the Edison Phonograph and play the new Edison Amberol Records; they play twice as long as the old ones and are better". Almquist also served as the village jeweler and clock repair center.

For a short time in 1909 a new hotel, the Lansdale Hotel, was owned and operated by E. Pickett. Another new enterprise, the Barnum Brick and Tile Company, had more longevity and offered "brick, tile and other earthen products". W.F. Mackey served as the business' president, Sarah Sauntry as the vice president and J.M. Sauntry as both the secretary and treasurer. The owners discarded all the old machinery found in the abandoned brick plant and installed an 80 HP steam engine to replace the 25 HP gasoline engine. Three carloads of new machinery were delivered, including a new brick press with the yard capacity of 50,000 bricks a day.

The Barnum Trading Company Store, which had weathered the financially slim years in the village, promoted the purchase of the Educator Shoe:

Have you ever noticed a child hopping along on the side of its foot with a very earnest loop of suffering on its face?

It means BLISTERS.

Educator shoes do NOT blister feet---\$3.50 a pair.

The store also offered boys' overalls for a quarter, boys' suits for \$1.75 and men's suits ranging in price from \$5 to \$20.

At R.W. Barstow's grocery one could, with a cash order of \$5, purchase 20 pounds of sugar for \$1.

V. Kronfus was the village harness maker who cautioned local residents:

*Do not neglect your harness and strapwork,
they ought to be oiled twice a year.*

Oil is the life of leather; leather is dead without oil.

We have got good oil for sale.

We also oil harness reasonable.

Yours for harness trade.

Barnum received routine visits by dentist Dr. Leffingwell who held appointments at the Clifton House. He announced:

Dentistry in its true sense.

In Barnum for two days with the new methods and patented appliances for filling teeth.

Diseased teeth cured without pain.

There is nothing like it or approach it in the history of Dentistry. Examinations free.

Another traveling specialist who made routine stops at the Clifton House was Dr. A.J. Klimek, "eye specialist", who promised to:

Relieve all eye strains that cause cataracts, blindness, red, sore and inflamed eyes, headaches, dizziness, black or floating spots, etc.

I give special attention to relief of nervous troubles which come from irritation of the vital nerve and brain centers caused from uncorrected eye strains and can be corrected by wearing a pair of properly fitted glasses.

Dr. Shannon and his family moved into Barnum during 1909, resolving the problem of no in-residence physician for the villagers.

Three months after Bell began operating the *Herald* he turned its manager ship over to W.E. Forbes on May 14th. Mr. Forbes informed readers that, "It will be our aim to conduct the *Herald* as to make it worthy of the liberal support accorded to our predecessor." Getting news appeared to be a problem. Editor Forbes ran an editorial on the matter:

What the editor wants is news and we are going to have it. If your wife knocks you down with a poker, let us know and we'll make it right with the public. If you have company, tell us, if you are not ashamed of your visitors. If a youngster calls at your home begging for a raiment, buy a box of cigars and come around and we'll find a suitable name for him or her as the case may be. If you have a social gathering with your friends, bring around a big cake, seven or eight pies and a ham, not necessarily to eat, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Mail order houses were the bane of small town merchants. The

village's' consumers' habit of purchasing items through the "wish book" created a poor economic environment within the town. The Barnum merchants posted notice of their dislike for the mail order practice in the *Herald*:

Those who are in the habit of sending to mail order houses in distant cities for goods which could be bought at home should at least give the local merchant a chance to figure on the bill. In many cases this would result in great savings to the buyer, besides helping to build up the hometown.

The temptation of mail order houses was oftentimes irresistible. Through the magic of catalogues one would step into a fantastic world of consumer ship. Fine linen men's collars in various heights or shapes could be purchased for seven cents and rubber collars that were guaranteed not to break or turn yellow were only fourteen cents. In the wish books the latest in women's fashions would be found. In the late 1900's the shirtwaist became popular, it was similar to a man's collar and cuffs but came in bright colors. Hatpins that came with a promise to keep the lady's hat secured at any angle came decorated with rhinestones and pearls. Bustles, all sizes, shapes and prices, could be sent for to complete



The Barnum Saloon, located by Peterson's House, before the rumblings of Prohibition set in.

the perfect Gibson Girl Look. Gentlemen invested \$2.00 and ordered the Wilbert Royal Razor, "the neatest razor ever made".

Ladies with hourglass figures, large hairdos topped by even larger feathered and fancy hats would grace the village's streets on Cream Days. The gentlemen sported peg-top pants, Norfolk jackets, knickerbockers and heavy woolen hose.

Families gathered in homes for sing-a-longs accompanied by the piano. Barnumites were harmonizing to *Bill Bailey Won't You Please Come Home*, *Everybody Works But Father*, *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling* and *In The Good Old Summertime*. When the *Barnum Gazette* was still in business a 1903 notice was posted in the publication:

There will be a meeting at the old post office building on March 15th at 7 p.m. to organize a Brass Band. All who are interested are invited. Thus Barnum was blessed with their own, somewhat off-key, brass band.



The Barnum Band

Spending one's precious leisure time reading by kerosene lighting remained popular. Villagers enjoyed *Mrs. Wiggs and The Cabbage Patch* by Alice Began Rice, *Call of the Wild* by Jack London and *The Four Million* by O. Henry. During the mid to late 1910s citizens of all ages had their appetites for western fiction satisfied when Zane Grey began his notable writing career with *The Spirit of the Border*.

The village also was taking note of Teddy Roosevelt's encouragement for men to become more sports minded. A baseball team, known as the Barnum Blowers, was organized. On one occasion the hometown team tied with Sturgeon Lake, nine innings and no runs. The game was, however, considered a success as "the boys from both towns got in a lot of practice".

In 1909 the Blowers were challenged by the Gravel Diggers. The public challenge was printed in the *Herald*:

TIME: Any Sunday between sunrise and sunset

PLACE: Barnum Fairgrounds

OBJECT: Money

AMOUNT: No Limit

CONDITION: Winner Takes All

PITCHER: Beiser from the St. Louis Nationals

It was noted in the next edition of the *Herald* that, if the Gravel Diggers could come up with enough money to engage Mr. Beiser, they would have none left for the contest itself.

Touring troupes frequented the village. Medicine Shows entertained as well as offered "incredible cures for any problem". The shows were hosted by the Medicine Man and entertainment was provided by a small troupe of singers, actors or dancers. At the end of each show, the Medicine Man would promote his product that would cure everything from rheumatism and gout to numbness and, at time, "hopeless insanity".

W. J. McGee was a famous anthropologist of the time who turned American's attention and fascination to the more "savage" aspects of primal tribes. His Philippine Exposition in the 1904 World Fair received rave reviews. In 1909 Sas-Po-Ko-Poo-Tom, "one lone savage and dog, a cannibal from the Fiji Islands, Chief of local killers and all around fun maker and his company of local talent" played to a packed house in Barnum's own Trading Co. Hall. It was noted that, "The nature and merits of the entertainment are in doubt".

Later another troupe of entertainers performed A Wyoming Girl, receiving more approving reviews.

Churches and church activities had become increasingly more important in the lives of the Barnum area residents. In 1901 the Barnum Church of the Brethren was built. The First Presbyterian Church, whose pastor was E.L. Goubray, announced "Preaching every Sabbath evening at 8 o'clock. Sabbath School at 11 a.m. Prayer Meeting every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock All are invited to attend these services." The German Lutheran Church held services once a month; Rev. F. Randt of Superior performed the service. The Christian Endeavor Society of the Presbyterian Church met every Sabbath at 7 p.m., while the Ladies' Aid Society of that church met on Thursday afternoons, "all who are interested are invited to attend and assist us with our work". The United Methodist Church met irregularly, whenever a minister was available, until the end of 1901. At that time Rev. J.J. Parish was serving the congregations of Barnum, Rutledge, Finlayson and Moose

Lake. In 1904 the Methodist Church members purchased a parsonage and received an in-residence pastor.

In the early 1910s most pastors served more than one church and traveled by train several times a day to accommodate each parish. Frequently a pastor would not be able to afford the train fare and walked great distances between towns to reach the pulpit.

Civic lodges, or organizations, also played a large role in the villagers' life. The Barnum Lodge of the Independent Order of the ODD Fellows No. 204 met every Monday night, "Visiting brethren are cordially invited to meet with us", and the Eureka Lodge of the Rebekahs met the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The Leroy Tent No. 9 KOTM met each week on a Thursday evening. In 1908 the Commercial Club was organized in order to promote Barnum and the surrounding area. Membership for one year was \$10 for businessmen and \$6 for "others". There were 50 members the first year of the club's existence. The Modern Woodsman Lodge was granted a charter and the Royal Neighbors organized in 1901.

Although the first gasoline engine was patented in the United States in 1878 and the first "horseless carriages" made an appearance in the 1890s, the exotic means of transportation were generally viewed as playthings for the East Coast Wealthy. In 1900 Henry Ford was building race cars in Michigan to sell to those spoiled Rich as a means of raising capital needed to build a different type of car. By 1909 he had unveiled his famous Model T, a homely but reliable automobile which held an affordable price tag for most Americans.

In Barnum, villagers had heard of Ford's creation. The more reserved citizens viewed the Model T's as "devil machines" while those leaning toward a life of high adventure looked upon the autos as "four wheeled wonders". The open-topped cars were loud, frequently backfiring or coughing and choking. The few that passed through Barnum during the early 1900s frightened both pedestrians and livestock. Extremely poor road conditions, the narrow dirt paths were generally dotted with ominous chuckholes, discouraged most car owners from "autoing" from town to town. A few of the more courageous residents invested in a new car, but only a few. A majority of villagers clamored for rigid rules of the road to be imposed upon the drivers of the new vehicles.

One evening in July villagers were alerted by the Moose Lake

Marshal to be on the watch for an automobile speeding toward Barnum. The car was spotted traveling at approximately 45 miles per hour through downtown Barnum manned by "what appeared to be three lunatics". The driver headed down Front Street, aiming at the Creamery and, by sheer luck, stopped barely in time to avoid plunging into the Moose Horn River. The madman then turned the car and headed onto Carlton Road at Barstow's Corner. The opinion expressed by most citizens in regard to the incident was, "Such speed maniacs should not be allowed the control of a machine that carries the possibilities of death contained in a big, racing automobile."



Auto crossing the Moose Horn River in 1909, it's not the Thomas Flyer.

It is not to say, however, that the machines could not impress the townspeople. In 1909 the *Herald* made note of a visit by one of the new automobiles:

A Thomas Flyer, said to be the largest car in Minnesota, and it is doubtful if it is exceeded in size anywhere in the United States, stopped in Barnum. Owner E.J. Helmand and his family of Duluth were out touring.

The car had an engine registered at 70 HP, but was capable of developing 93 HP. The wheelbase was 140" and overall length of the automobile was 16 feet. Editor Forbes commented that, "It was an impressive sight."

Mr. Forbes kept the villagers well informed of world and local events, and in the earlier years of the decade the *Gazette* did the same. In 1901 the *Gazette* noted that, "The Pavilion at Duluth

burned on Tuesday morning and the incline [cable] car went down the hill in 7 seconds. No one was injured." When Orville Wright made the first powered flight in a heavier than air machine on December 17, 1903, from Kitty Hawk reactions in the village were mixed. The younger male population was especially mesmerized with the new "aeroplanes" while older members of the village termed it a "passing fancy". Anti-saloon feelings had been brewing in Barnum since the turn of the century and when, in 1904, the Prohibition Party was formalized and nominated Dr. Silas C. Swallow for the Presidency of the United States many villagers threw their support behind the party. The devastating San Francisco earthquake of 1906 shocked the small village.

Villagers were also concerned with more immediate problems, such as their health. Diet and Health, a faithfully read column in the *Herald* written by Dr. J.T. Allen, warned citizens of excessive eating, "known as the habit of making eating the chief object of thought". Dr. Allen set Mr. Squeers, a faculty member of the Dath Boys Hall, as an example of coupling careful eating habits with a moral philosophy that he passed on to his young wards, "Control you appetites, boys, and you will learn to control your passions."

In 1909 a Scarlet Fever epidemic hit the entire area, affecting Barnum as well as other small villages. The town was literally shut down for four weeks. No gatherings of any kind, including church services, were held.

Maintaining civic pride and the running the local government was an overwhelming task. G.L. Goodell wrote to the *Herald*:

Let us not say it is impossible for us to cooperate when everybody else does that has any degree of success. Let us profit by their example with our dairying, poultry and market gardening. We can make Barnum in fact as well as name the "Garden Spot of the Earth".

The *Herald* editor noted another concern:

No, honestly, doesn't it seem that Barnum is too good a town to be satisfied with these dinky kerosene lamps for street lighting? The editor is new to the area and doesn't want to rush anything, but couldn't the Village Council invest in a waterpower plant on the Moose Horn River? It would enable the town to have an electric light plant. Electricity would be a promotion for the village--a drawing card.

The Council ignored the editor's gentle prompt and it would not be until 1911 when electric power was installed in the village.

Other village needs were not ignored, such as the problem presented by fire fighting. In 1909 the Council voted to purchase a Number 8, 40 gallon Champion Chemical Fire Engine and eight 3 gallon fire extinguishers from the American LaFrance Fire Engine Co. at a total price of \$373. George Gragon, the agent who sold the equipment to the village, gave an impressive demonstration of the equipment's power. A pile of boxes was stacked near the Trading Company Store and set on fire. When the flames were "under good headway" the engine was "turned loose, subduing the flames in short order".

The Carlton County Fair had built itself into an institution in the Barnum area by the 1910s. Early in the decade it was a very local affair, nearly all who attended came from within a radius of 15 miles. A few came longer distances by train or by horse and wagon, but they were the exception rather than the rule. If Mother Nature refused to cooperate and it rained before noon, no one from outside the village ventured to the Fairground and the Fair itself was closed for the day. Those attending the event for a day were obligated to start the return journey home immediately after supper.



Spectators gathered around the horse track at the Carlton County Fair.

By 1909 improved rail service enabled crowds of people from outlying areas to attend the Fair. The Northwest Pacific brought three coaches crammed with nearly 600 people on one day alone.

During Fair time the hotels and boarding homes in Barnum were full to overflowing. That year a "Free For All" automobile race with a 5-mile course and a purse of \$150 was scheduled. Fair officials had believed the race would be the main attraction at the Fair, but only two automobiles entered. The Plummers' Drum and Bugle Corps of Duluth entertaining on the Fairgrounds that year proved to be so inspiring that the, "old soldiers attending formed in line and marched about the grounds".

As the Barnum community had grown and prospered, so had the agricultural community. Professor Thomas Shaw wrote in the *Duluth Daily Star*:

Near Barnum I saw a few days since, half a quarter section of land over which the fire had run in the dry summer of 1894. This section was simply scattered amid the unconsumed logs and rubbish that cumbered the land. Today, over all this area is a magnificent stand of clover, growing up amid the second growth of young trees that have come up since the fire.

On that clover-filled land were pastured Guernsey cattle that were all producing high quality butterfat.

The Creamery continued to update its equipment in order to handle the large supply of cream. In 1909 the Creamery installed a new ice-cream maker which had the capacity of turning out 40



H.C. Hanson purchased the Creamery for \$400 and turned it into a thriving business.

gallons of the frozen treat per hour. Barnum Creamery products were being shipped out of state. Refrigeration for the plant was handled by an icehouse. During the frigid winter months 10 inch thick blocks of ice were cut from Cub, Hanging Horn, Bear and other local lakes.

White Leghorn eggs that bore the Creamery stamp had jumped to forty cents a dozen for the farmers. Cream checks had enlarged from \$15 to \$25 or more every two weeks.

The Farmer, a St. Paul based magazine, devoted a full page to Barnum and the immediate area in 1909. The article was embellished with a portrait of H.C. Hanson, a view of the Barnum Creamery and a shot of A. Sjostom's farm. The article's journalist wrote:

Barnum's methods are the model. The egg buying methods of H.C. Hanson and the cooperative spirit of the farmers are highly approved.

A farmer from Indiana, owner of a large poultry operation, apparently concurred with the opinions expressed in the article, for he wrote to H.C. Hanson regarding Barnum's egg production. He stated that the Barnum farmers were 150 years ahead of anyone else and that he desired to adopt the "Barnum way of handling eggs."

Farming institutes had evolved in the area between 1907 and 1909. During one meeting, where those involved in the agricultural business crowded into the Trading Co. Hall, the Misters Sweet and Gibbs lectured on clover and potato production. In 1909 the "biggest farmers' institute ever" was held at the Hall. N.P. Chapman, "The Chicken Man", was the evenings' featured speaker. Mrs. Bayington of Duluth addressed the women on planning their workday and illustrated easier methods of handling household tasks. At that meeting the first Association of Barnum Farmers was organized. G.G. Beck was elected president.

As the decade drew to a close optimism ran high among villagers. What may well have been the decade of death for the village had been turned into ten years of hope and increasing prosperity.

In November of 1909 President Taft presented a proclamation making Thanksgiving a national holiday, a fitting decision for the villagers who had much to give thanks for. The proclamation was reprinted in the *Herald*:

I appoint Thursday, the 25th of November, as a day of general Thanksgiving and I call upon the people on that day, laying aside their usual vocations, to repair to their churches and unite in appropriate service of praise and thanks to Almighty God.

The overall expansive mood of the village was well expressed in an editorial, written by Mr. Forbes, in the *Herald*, December 28, 1909:

Christmas in Barnum was a most joyous one. Not from the standpoint of those who enjoy loud and boisterous fun, public pageants and celebrations, but from the standpoint of those who love the day for its real significance--for the peace on earth, good will to men which is the true spirit. We do not believe there is a person so old nor a child so young in our village that he or she was not affected by the influence of the day or was not made to feel that the good old Saint, Santa Claus, is a reality. That love reigns in all hearts at Christmas.

With that sentiment, the village slipped into the 1910s.



Bridge over Moose Horn River, how it looked until 1910.
Viewed looking East of town.



Machinery Day in 1901



Main Street looking West in 1905.