

1900 Montana State League, "Badlands & Bloodshed"

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"I see by the papers they have organized a state league and if that don't end in bloodshed I miss my guess."
 - Helena Independent Record

It wasn't the ending that the league wanted, but it was the ending the league deserved.

**ANGERED BY CERTAINTY OF DEFEAT,
 HELENA ROWDIES MOB BURKE**

Following a regular season dominated by continual complaining and fights by players, managers, owners and fans alike, the ending of the best of five championship series between Helena and Great Falls should not have come as a surprise when game four ends in a mob scene and a forfeit, followed by a game five that's played in sleet and snow and also ends in a forfeit.

But such is the legacy of the 1900 Montana State League.

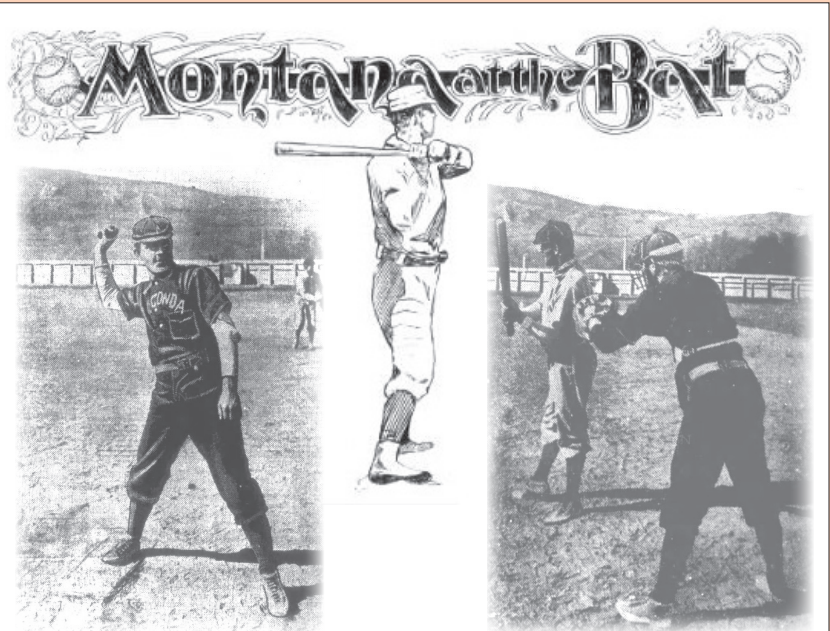
**BALL LEAGUE
 FINDS FAVOR**

The soon-to-be quarrelsome four-team league gets its legs on March 2, when baseball entrepreneur W.H. Lucas arrives in Helena and announces plans to form a baseball league in the Big Sky State.

Lasted Until Four O'Clock This Morning—Will be Admitted to National Association.

The league becomes official on April 23, following an all-night meeting in Butte, when the towns of Anaconda, Butte, Great Falls and Helena appoint Lucas as President and agree to an 80-game schedule.

Four games are scheduled for each week with many key weekend dates awarded to Butte and Anaconda. The four teams agree to split gate receipts 50/50, and the salary limit for each club, including the manager, shall not exceed \$900 per month.



1900 Montana State League - Final Standings

President: William H. Lucas

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	Manager
Great Falls Indians	39	32	.549	--	Dick Kinsella/John McCloskey
Helena Senators	38	33	.535	1.0	Carl Wood/Paddy Ryan/Jack Flannery
Anaconda Serpents	34	36	.486	4.5	Jack Grim/Dad Clarkson
Butte Smoke Eaters	30	40	.429	8.5	Jim Powell/Claire Williams/Billy Hammond

First Half	W	L	Pct.	GB	Second Half	W	L	Pct.	GB
Helena	25	11	.694	--	Great Falls	24	11	.686	--
Anaconda	17	19	.472	8.0	Anaconda	17	17	.500	6.5
Great Falls	15	21	.417	10.0	Butte	15	19	.441	8.5
Butte	15	21	.417	10.0	Helena	13	22	.371	11.0

May 22-July 22
 July 23-September 23

Playoffs:
 Great Falls defeats Helena 3 games to 2

Central Park Grounds, Helena



In the beginning, league teams pledge to employ only the most "upstanding" players and managers. On May 12, the Great Falls Tribune opines about the local team's roster, "Every one of the men signed by Great Falls comes highly recommended, not only as a ball player, but as a sober, steady, reliable gentleman."

Frank Thayer of Lowell, Massachusetts, wants to select and manage a team for Helena and says that he can get together a winning team of "sober and gentlemanly star ball players from the western, eastern and New England leagues."

Montana State League [2 of 15]:

On March 22, the *Great Falls Tribune* reports that there are "many good players" applying for positions in the Montana State League, including George Hansell of Duluth, who wants to come to Montana to play ball, but on the side open a pool room and post the league's games to bet on.

J.H. Marshall is best known for doing standing somersaults while playing third base for Billings in 1899. H.L. Kurran of Kansas City, not only want to play but feels he should be a captain. Brooklyn's N.R. Ford wants to play but might take a job as an umpire in one of the eastern leagues.

Helena gets away to an 8-0 start while Great Falls stumbles out of the gate, losing its first 11 games.

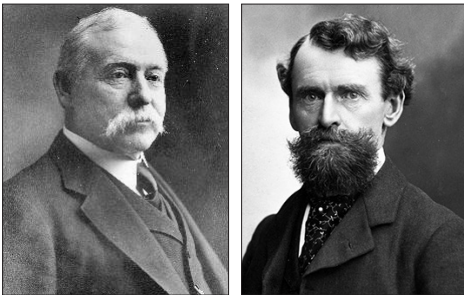
"The first month has been largely an experimental month in the Montana League. Players at the start were selected more by report than by actual knowledge of their playing abilities."
- *Anaconda Standard*, June 19

On July 22, Helena is 25-10 and a full nine games ahead of second-place Anaconda, when representatives of Butte, Great Falls and Anaconda convince a doubtful Helena management that it would be best for all concerned if the league would split the season into two halves. Surprisingly, Helena agrees and when the first half comes to an end on July 23, the Senators are the only team sporting a winning record.

1920 Great Falls Indians



Copper Kings of Montana



Three Montana industrialists - Marcus Daly (left), William A. Clark (right) and F. Augustus Heinze (no photo) - are known as the "Copper Kings." In 1894, Daly leads a unsuccessful campaign to have Anaconda named as the state capital of Montana, losing out to Helena (54 miles distant) which is supported by Clark. Both are active in state politics with Daly a Republican and Clark, a future U.S. Senator, a Democrat. Their rivalry carries over onto the baseball field, specifically the Montana State League of 1900. On June 22, Clark adjourns a democratic convention being held in Helena a few hours early and buys a few thousand yards of yellow and red ribbon (Helena colors), pinning a section thereof on each delegate. He then hires a special train and takes the entire delegation to Anaconda to root for his Helena Senators. Not to be outdone, Daly sends couriers into Anaconda to round up some youths and pays their admission into the game where they "out howled" the "Clarkites". Clark however, has the last laugh as Helena wins a 12-inning thriller 8-7.

POLITICS AND BALL.

Daly and Clark Send Rooters to Anaconda.

However, die for league supremacy is cast on June 4, when winless Great Falls replaces John Kinsella with veteran manager John McCloskey. The Indians are 0-9 when the 38-year-old McCloskey arrives from the Southern League, where he has been umpiring. Under his guidance, Great Falls is 39-23 and eventually beats a squabbling Helena nine in the championship series.

Anaconda's John McIntyre, who plays the season under the alias of John O'Brien, collects 105 hits in 54 games and captures the league batting title with a .441 average, the top mark in organized baseball for 1900. McIntyre's teammate Bert Schils leads all hitters in home runs with 13, Helena's Bill Hurley is tops in doubles with 25 and the Senators' Joe Marshall has a league-best 13 triples.

Great Falls' Max Muller leads all base stealers with 37 thefts while teammate Dave Zearfoss is tops in runs scored with 88 in 64 games played by the fleet-footed catcher. (Editor's Note: *The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* has Bert Schils with 19 home runs and Butte's Jack Flannery leading lead in steals with 34).

Led by Helena's Solly Salisbury with 18, the league features six pitchers with 11 or more wins. Salisbury's 18 wins account for 47 percent of the Senators' wins during the regular season. Great Falls' Gene Wright leads the circuit in both strikeouts (95) and winning percentage (15-7; .682).

The day after the championship game/forfeit, President Lucas confirms with the league's directors that he will not be returning to the Big Sky State next year. Under his guidance, the league finishes the season with a little more than \$1,200 in the bank.



President W.H. Lucas

Montana State League [3 of 15]:

The directors (with no objection from Helena) also formally vote to recognize Great Falls as the official league champion,

”Resolved. That the Great Falls baseball club of Great Falls, Montana, having won the greatest percentage of games in the championship series of 1900, is hereby awarded the baseball championship of the state of Montana.”

And with that, the Montana State League slides into the annals of history.

NEWS & NOTES

1900 Montana State League Individual Statistical Leaders

Batting Average*

John McIntyre, Anaconda	.441
Ben Shelton, Great Falls	.397
Charlie Swindells, Anaconda	.383

Base Hits*

Dave Zearfoss, Great Falls	106
John McIntyre, Anaconda	105
Jack Flannery, Helena	102

Doubles+

Bill Hurley, Helena	25
Joe Marshall, Helena/Great Falls	22
John McIntyre, Anaconda	20
Dave Zearfoss, Great Falls	20

Triples+

Joe Marshall, Helena/Great Falls	13
Dick Knox, Anaconda	11
Max Muller, Great Falls	10

Home Runs+

Bert Schils, Anaconda	13
Joe Marshall, Helena/Great Falls	7
George Hurlburt, Great Falls	6

Runs Scored*

Dave Zearfoss, Great Falls	88
Jack Flannery, Helena	87
Bert Schils, Anaconda	79

Stolen Bases*

Max Muller, Great Falls	37
Billy Hammond, Butte	31
Jack Flannery, Helena	29

Victories*

Solly Salisbury, Helena	18
Gene Wright, Great Falls	15
Bill Davis, Great Falls	13

Strikeouts*

Gene Wright, Great Falls	95
Solly Salisbury, Helena	86
Bill Davis, Great Falls	76

Games Pitched *

Solly Salisbury, Helena	28
Bill Davis, Great Falls	26
Charles Carter, Anaconda	25

*Denotes The Sporting News

*Denotes The Anaconda Standard (Dec. 2)

Rosters

There are 106 officially-recorded players on team rosters during the season, with several switching two or three teams during the campaign. Great Falls leads the way with 37 players, followed by Butte (30), Anaconda (29) and Great Falls (25). Helena is the only team to play the first half of the season with its' original 11 players.

Major Leaguers

Talent abounds in the Big Sky State as the league features 24 players who had already made their major league debuts (11) or will in the future (13). Included among those destined to make it to the majors is future Hall of Famer Joe Tinker who hits .322 as a 19-year-old infielder, splits time between Great Falls and Helena.

Deserters

As punishment for jumping their contracts to play in the more lucrative Montana State League, California League officials blacklist seven players for five years - Ben Beville (Butte), Bill Dunleavy (Butte), Eddie Hammond (Butte), Joe McCarthy (Helena), Russ Pace (Anaconda), Claude Schmeer (Butte) and Mike Steffani (Butte) ... the California League had refused to renew its alliance to the National Agreement, leaving it open to raids by several minor leagues.

Sign of Things to Come

The season's opening games are still two weeks away, but a pretense of things to come occurs on May 6, when Butte lodges a complaint against Anaconda for stealing several players, including two from the Butte area.

Batting Leader Alias

Anaconda's John McIntyre, the Montana State League batting champion, plays the entire season under the alias of John O'Brien. In the off-season, team manager John Grim enters into an agreement with Dick Knox and John O'Brien to come play for the Serpents. At the last moment, the real O'Brien refuses to come to Big Sky Country, so Knox persuades McIntyre to go in O'Brien's place. Eventually the switch is discovered and McIntyre ends up playing for Helena in the playoffs with Great Falls and leading the league in hitting with a .441 average.

Managers

The first of six managerial changes takes place on June 4, when following an 0-9 start, Great Falls relieves Jim Kinsella of his duties replaces him with John McCloskey. Kinsella remains the team's starting first baseman for one more game before leaving with a team-best .300 (12-for-40) batting average.

1900 Montana State League Team Statistical Leaders

Batting Average

Helena	.305
Great Falls	.303
Butte	.300
Anaconda	.291
League Average	.307

Home Runs

Anaconda	41
Great Falls	25
Helena	18
Butte	7
League Totals	(0.3 pg) 91

Stolen Bases

Great Falls	212
Helena	140
Butte	135
Anaconda	121
League Totals	(6.5 pg) 608

Runs Per Game

Great Falls	8.6
Helena	8.0
Anaconda	7.7
Butte	7.6
League Totals	(6.5 pg) 608

Fielding Percentage

Anaconda	.893
Helena	.887
Great Falls	.879
Butte	.873
League Pct.	(5.1 errors pg) .880

Montana State League [4 of 15]:

Nostradamus

In the fifth inning of an 18-11 loss to Butte on August 2, Great Falls catcher Dave Zearfoss retires to the dugout as he "see no chance of winning."

ELOPED WITH PITCHER BEVILLE.

Saloon Man Deserted for the
Star Twirler of
Oakland.

What a Guy

The son of a Confederate soldier and a Spanish War veteran, pitcher Ben Beville jumps his contract with the Oakland Oaks to play with Butte. *The Oakland Tribune* reports that the Oaks' star pitcher has not only jumped his contract, but has taken

Floretta Holton Humberg, the wife of a Oakland salon owner, with him. She later asks her husband to forgive her and take her back. On August 19, 1924, Beville is arrested for impersonating a Federal officer and "confiscating" 34 cases of liquor from the house of "Happy" Sanders. He is given a six-month prison in the San Francisco County jail. The star-crossed hurler passes away on January 5, 1937, from alcoholic poisoning.

BEN BEVILLE
GIVEN JAIL
SENTENCE

Hall of Fame Trade

On August 3, Helena's Joe Marshall is traded, along with \$200 (\$6,100 today), to Great Falls for Joe Tinker, a future Hall of Famer and a noted member of the Chicago Cubs' Tinker to Evers to Chance infield.

"Tinker is too independent and not steady. He has made many brilliant plays, but he has made stupid ones that have been very costly, and by not obeying orders, has interfered with team work, in which the Great Falls club has excelled."

- Great Falls Tribune, August 4, 1900

A talented player in his own right, Marshall hits .365 while leading the league in triples (13) and finishing second in doubles (22) and home runs (7). Marshall's season comes to an end on September 5, when he hospitalized with typhoid fever.

Typhoid Fever

Typhoid fever seeps the ranks of the league as Great Falls' Joe Marshall, Anaconda's Charlie Swindells, Butte's Bill Dunleavy and Claude Schmeer and Helena's Philip Neals are forced off the field and into the hospital with the fever.

Rowdysim in Montana.

The Montana State League was conducted in a way to bring base ball into disrepute. Gambling on the games was tolerated with the inevitable result that the honesty of the players and gamblers was brought under suspicion. The National Board should investigate the charges against the integrity of players and umpires, and if the conditions were as bad as they are reported to have been, the parties responsible for dragging down the good name of base ball should be declared ineligible to control or play with a club under the national agreement. A Pacific coast exchange thus summarizes the deplorable state of affairs in that state:

"Altogether the season in Montana has been a dismal failure. The statement made by Pace is about the most severe arraignment that has ever been made against a base ball organization. Politics and factional fights have taken the place of genuine interest in the sport, and the conduct of the affair has been thoroughly disgraceful."

Cold Weather & Pitching Up-Hill

After being sweep in a three-game series (August 24-26), where Anaconda allows 33 steals, were outscored 61-26 and out hit 66-40, Serpents' manager Dad Clarkston blames the weather, "One thing that had a great deal to do with our defeats was the extreme cold. It froze up our arms and none of our team could manage to throw. One thing that was against our pitchers was the fact that they had to pitch up hill to the plate."

1900 MONTANA STATE LEAGUE CHRONOLOGY

April 9

The Montana State League is assured for the 1900 season as Anaconda becomes the fourth member, joining Butte, Great Falls and Helena ... Billings, Missoula and Spokane were contacted but failed to deliver the need backing ... William H. Lucas is named as President and will be the only league officer to draw a salary.

April 23

The Montana State League is official ... at a meeting that lasts through-out the night in Butte, a league schedule with four games scheduled each week and many key weekend dates awarded to Butte and Anaconda, is presented to the membership by President Lucas ... teams are to split gate receipts 50/50 and the salary limit for each club, including the manager, shall not exceed \$900 per month.

"Lost in the Badlands"

August 20
Pitcher Norwood Gibson, recently signed by the struggling Helena Senators, is nowhere to found and, according to the *Anaconda Standard*, is believed "to be lost in the badlands."



A 1900 graduate of Notre Dame University, Gibson signs right out of college with the Indianapolis Hoosiers on June 7, 1900. The Hoosiers then trade their much-in-demand right-hander on June 22, to the Cincinnati Reds for outfielder Phil Geier. After pitching in one exhibition game for the Reds, Gibson is released in mid-August and wires Helena on August 16, asking for "engagement" and stating his terms. The terms are accepted by the Senators and he is asked to proceed to Helena at once. However, he fails to appear and it is feared that he was "lost in the badlands." Gibson eventually wires Helena saying that he has signed with the American League's Kansas City Blues. League president W.H. Lucas appeals to the National Commission on behalf of Helena, but loses the appeal and the Peoria, Illinois native finishes out the year with the Blues, where is 2-4 in eight appearances.

HE LIES AT DEATH'S DOOR

Catcher Charles Swindells Seriously Ill in California.

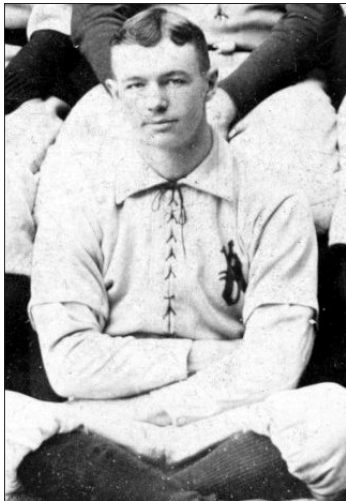
Montana State League [5 of 15]:

April 28

Great Falls leads all league team subscriptions raised ... the Indians have raised \$3,250, followed by Helena (\$3,000), Butte (\$2,750) and Anaconda (\$2,500).

April 29

Butte Vice President Charles French wagers a suit of clothes with Helena's W.E. Phillips that the Smoke Eaters' gate receipts will be \$1,000 more than the Senators' on the season.



Kid Carsey, Anaconda

On June 28, Anaconda acquires its third pitcher in as many days signing former major leaguer Kid Carsey from the American League's Kansas City Blues where he is 1-0 with a 9.00 ERA in three appearances, allowing 31 hits in only 18 innings. A two-time 20-game winner with the Philadelphia Phillies, the 27-year-old right-hander make his Montana State League debut on July 3 with a 12-7, 13-hit, complete game win over Butte. In a 10-year major league career, the New York native is 116-138 with a 4.95 ERA.

May 1

It is rumored that Ed Pabst maybe the manager of the Butte franchise.

May 6

Great Falls attempts to sign several players to improve their roster, including catcher Egan of St. Paul, who never reports to the Indians because he is unable to secure transportation.

May 11

Jim Powell, a former major leaguer with the Richmond Virginians (1884) and Philadelphia Athletics (1885), the Butte manager in 1892, and a farmer for the past eight years, is hired again by Butte to be the manager of the Smoke Eaters.

May 22

The 1900 season opens with a pair of hotly contested one-run games ... in Helena the Senators beat visiting Great Falls 7-6 in contest where only five of the 13 runs are earned and the decisions by umpire Austin seem favor the home team ... University of Vermont grad Dick Kinsella, first baseman, manager of the visiting Blues "played splendidly and won plenty of applause."

At Butte, shortstop Diesel and center fielder Lloyd each had four hits as Anaconda pounded out 19 hits in a 10-9 win with Hughes pitching an 11-hit complete game before 1,200 fans ... 40-year-old Butte manager and starting first baseman Jim Powell is 2-for-3.

Also, at Butte, the Pritchard-Harrison and Company puts up for prize a suitcase to the first Butte player to hit a home run

on the home grounds while the Keefe Brothers are offering a six months' subscription to *The Sporting News*.

May 23

Following Butte's opening day loss, starting third baseman James Schnabel informs manager Powell that he does not want to play in Butte any longer and is returning to his home in Denver ... newly-acquired Hanley will replace the homesick Schnabel, who was told that the team would not release him to play for anyone else this season.

May 24

Great Falls first baseman Dick Kinsella hits the season's first home run, just inside the left field foul pole, in a 13-2 loss at Helena.

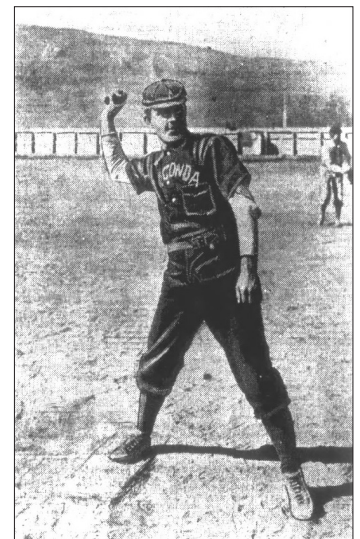
May 26

Great Falls releases shortstop Ives and third baseman "Buffalo Bill" Setley ... J.C. Trenberth signs with the Indians and starts that afternoon's game with Helena.



Ben Beville, Butte Blues

The son of a Confederate soldier, Beville begins his pro career in 1900 with the Oakland Oaks of the California League. On July 24, the *Oakland Tribune* reports that the Oaks' star pitcher has not only jumped his contract to play for Butte in the Montana State League, but has taken Floretta Holton Humberg, the wife of a Oakland salon owner, with him. Two years removed after serving with the 8th California Infantry Regiment during the Spanish American War, Beville pitches in two games for the Boston Red Sox in 1901. On August 19, 1924, Beville is arrested for impersonating a Federal officer and "confiscating" 34 cases of liquor.



Charles Carter, Anaconda

One of the winningest pitchers in the Montana State League in 1900, Carter appears on the mound 25 times for Anaconda and either in the field, or as a pinch hitter in 18 other games. Hits .243 for the Serpents with 26 hits in 107 at bats. Wins a career-high 16 games for the Virginia (C) League's Lynchburg Shoemakers in 1906. A year later, Carter is 10-7, splitting time with Lynch, Portsmouth and Richmond.

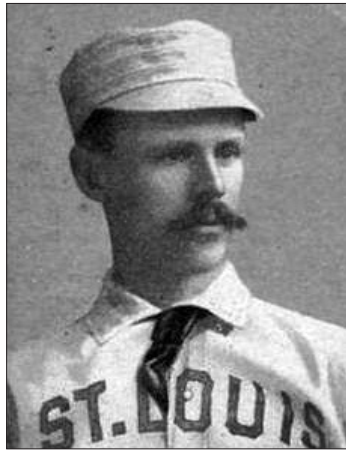
Montana State League [6 of 15]:

Most Execrable Baseball Exhibition Ever Seen in Butte.

WAS SIMPLY HORSEPLAY

May 27
"Was Simply Horseplay" reads the headline as Butte commits 14 errors, including four by center fielder Fears in a 19-6 loss to Anaconda.

May 30
Great Falls' catcher Herbert Whitney hits the season's first grand slam, but the Indians drop a 10-5 decision to visiting Helena.



Dad Clarkson, Anaconda

Three years removed from his last appearance on a diamond, Arthur "Dad" Clarkson comes to the Montana State League as an umpire and ends up being a player/manager for the Anaconda Serpents. A right-handed pitcher for six seasons with the New York Giants (1891), Boston Beaneaters (1892), St. Louis Browns (1893-1895) and Baltimore Orioles (1895-1896), the Cambridge, Massachusetts native is 39-39 with 63 complete games and a 4.90 ERA. Clarkson succeeds Jack Grim as Anaconda's manager on August 14 and installs himself as the team's starting first baseman and occasional pitcher.

A NEW MANAGER OF THE BASEBALL CLUB

J. J. McCloskey, of National Reputation, Arrives and Is at Once Given Full Charge.

June 5
Butte beats Great Falls 16-4 in McCloskey's debut ... Helena loses its first game of the season to Anaconda 7-5 in a game marred by a "row" between Senator shortstop Joe McCarty and umpire Cody ... the two later meet in town and both are arrested after a brief scuffle ... the arbiter wires President Lucas demanding that McCarty be kicked out of the league ... McCarty is fined \$50 and suspended two weeks ... Helena threatens to leave the league is McCarty is not reinstated.

June 1
Butte signs former major league stand out Eddie Burke to play centerfield ... Anaconda infielder Michael Flynn is out the game today because "his nose is out repair," after being smashed by a ground ball.

June 2
A mere 10 minutes into his Butte debut, Eddie Burke, the team's new center fielder and team captain is fined \$5 and tossed from the game after he "exhibited a degree of freshness entirely unwarranted in a player who has been released from a more pretentious league." ... Butte catcher Mike McDonough throws out four attempted base stealers ... following the game, the Anaconda team management says that a blackboard to keep the inning by score will soon be erected.

BURKE IS THROWN OUT

Butte's New Center Fielder Gets Gay With the Umpire.

League President Lucas warns the teams to adhere to the league's salary limits.

June 3
Anaconda's Nicholas Thayer pitches a five-hitter in a 2-1 win over Butte ... one day after beating Helena, Great Falls trots out newly-acquired Gregory Farr from the semipro ranks of Los Angeles to face the unbeaten Senators ... Farr fares better than Walter Coleman, allowing only 24 hits in a 24-10 setback.

June 4
Following an 0-9 start, Great Falls' manager Jim Kinsella is relieved of his duties and is replaced by John McCloskey, a former major league manager with Louisville for two years ... Kinsella will remain as the team's starting first baseman for one more game before leaving with a team-best .300 batting average.

A ROW WITH THE UMPIRE

McCarty, Helena's Shortstop, Ordered Off the Field - Later He Meets Umpire Cody on the Street and Both Are Arrested for Fighting.



Dad Clarke, Butte

It doesn't take long for Clarke to make his presence felt in Butte. On July 2, less than 24 hours following his arrival from Buffalo, the 35-year-old twirler is tossed out of a public house because "being too full for utterance." Clarke is considered "not right" and pitches just a couple of innings in one game for the Smoke Eaters before being released on August 4. A veteran of seven major league seasons, Clarke wins 44 games in his MLB career, including an 18-win season in 1895 and 17 wins in 1896. Clarke dies on June 3, 1911, at the age of 46, in Lorian, Ohio, from an attack of paralysis suffered several days earlier.



Walter Coleman, Helena

Walter Coleman's debut with Helena on June 12, 1900, is eerily similar to his major league debut with the St. Louis Browns on September 25, 1895. With the Montana State League's Senators, the side-winding lefty yields 12 runs on 15 hits and six walks in a 25-12 win over Great Falls. In his major league debut five years earlier against Cincinnati, Coleman allows the Reds 15 runs on 12 hits and seven walks in a 15-8 loss. Coleman splits the 1900 season between Helena and Anaconda before moving onto Tacoma Tigers in 1901.

Montana State League [7 of 15]:

June 6

The shake-up in Great Falls begins as manager McCloskey lets go of former manager and first baseman John Kinsella (.300) and outfielder James Grimes (.179) ... both Kinsella and Grimes have committed seven errors in nine games ... McCloskey announces he has signed infielder Tom Menefee of Chicago ... Menefee will bat .314 in 58 games for the Indians.

June 10

Dahlquist and Egan, two St. Paul players who accepted terms with Great Falls and then decided not to show up, or inform the team that they were not coming, have been suspended ... Egan writes the Indians' management asking them to lift the suspension so they can sign with a team in the New York State League ... Butte commits 14 errors in a 10-7 loss to Great Falls, as the Indians snap an 11-game losing streak to open the season.

THEY WERE SUSPENDED.
Dahlquist and Egan Must Pay the Penalty



Bill Dunleavy, Butte

Oakland Oaks' third baseman Bill Dunleavy is hitting .228 when he signs to play with Butte on June 18. Dunleavy is 2-for-4 with a double in his Butte debut on June 23 in a 15-8 win over Great Falls. In 30 games for the Smoke Eaters, the Oakland, California native hits .379 with 11 steals. With the Oakland Oaks in 1905, Dunleavy hits .256 with a career-high 203 base hits, including 47 doubles, 10 triples and six home runs. A severe arm injury curtails his career in 1906 and he attempts a career in umpiring, but returns to the field for two more years before retiring.

June 12, 1900 Helena Senators at Great Falls Indians Black Eagle Park, Great Falls, Montana

HELENA.		AB.	R.	1B.	P.O.	A.	E.
Pilcher, rf.....	6	2	4	2	0	0	0
McCarty, ss.....	5	2	1	0	6	0	0
Flannery, cf.....	7	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hammond, lf.....	5	4	3	2	0	1	
Hurley, 1b.....	6	2	3	14	1	0	
Marshall, 3b.....	7	5	3	0	5	2	
Wood, c.....	7	5	5	2	0	0	
Brown, 2b.....	6	3	5	6	3	1	
Coleman, p.....	4	2	2	0	1	0	
Total	53	25	26	27	16	4	
GREAT FALLS.		AB.	R.	1B.	P.O.	A.	E.
Muller, lf.....	4	1	2	3	0	0	
Billings, 2b.....	5	2	2	1	3	1	
Kinsella, 1b.....	6	1	2	9	0	2	
Davis, ss.....	4	2	1	0	3	2	
Whitney, c.....	6	1	2	2	1	2	
Tutt, rf.....	4	1	2	4	0	0	
Walker, 3b.....	3	2	1	5	1	2	
Grimes, cf.....	5	1	2	0	0	4	
Lowe, p.....	5	1	1	0	0	0	
Total	42	12	15	24	8	13	
Score by innings—							
Great Falls	0	2	2	4	0	4	0-12
Helena	1	5	1	4	4	4	x-25

Complete Game Mastery

A pair of left-handers, Great Falls' Frank Lowe and Helena's Walter Coleman hook up in a tightly-played pitcher's duel before 700 disgruntled fans that included 300 ladies. In a game that take only 2:25 to play, Lowe allows 25 runs on 26 hits and six walks in his eight inning route-going performance ... Coleman yields a mere 12 runs on 15 hits and six walks ... Great Falls commits an additional 13 errors, including four by center fielder James Grimes ... it is noted in the game story that there were so many errors that scorekeeper quit keeping up with them ... with the win, the Senators improve to 7-0 while Great Falls drops to 0-7 ... it is suggested that if the Indians continue to play this poorly, they should change their nickname from "Indians" to "Sheepheaders," as originally recommended prior to the start of the season.

June 11

Anaconda's new shortstop, W.H. Fuller, arrives with Jacob Deisel moving over to second ... unfortunately for the Serpents and Great Falls, with whom Fuller will later play for, the light-hitting, error-prone middle infielder will hit only .131 (5-for-38) in 10 games

June 13

The *Great Falls Tribune* announces that it will present a \$50 gold medal to the team's most popular players ... ballots will be printed in the paper and must be turned in at the newspaper's office ... the Indians, 2-11 at the time of the announcement, will go 37-21 hence forth ... catcher Dave Zearfoss later wins the gold medal.

Tom Menefee, who played with Great Falls in 1892, has been signed away from an independent team in Rocklin, California, and has arrived "in the pink of condition" ... the 40-year-old replaces Kinsella at first base and will play a major role in the Indians' reversal, hitting .314 and stealing 13 bases.

June 15

Disappointment reigns in Butte as Sacramento Senators' third baseman William Devereaux elects to remain in California rather than join the Blues ... The Dayton Veterans loan pitcher Eugene Wright to Great Falls.

June 18

The season is only a month old and the *The Anaconda Standard* opines that "all clubs save Helena soon discovered that they had a good deal of dead timber on their hands" ... Butte adds third baseman Bill Dunleavy.

June 22

Anaconda infielder W.H. Fuller asks for, and is granted his release, so that he may play for last-place Great Falls



Jack Flannery, Helena

Flannery hits .313 and finishes third in the Montana State League with 29 steals. Butte had earlier tried to hire the 30-year-old outfielder as its manager in early May, but the team would not meet his demands. In 1895, Flannery is fired from his position of Assistant Fire Chief for no other reason than he survived a powder explosion (opine by the *Anaconda Standard*) when others died. On September 16, 1906, Flannery, now the Helena Chief of Police, is shot while on a call. The 36-year-old Flannery, one year removed from his playing days, shoots and kills his assailant, T.P. Purdue of Tiff City, Missouri.

Montana State League [8 of 15]:

FIRED FOR LUSHING

TWO CATCHERS OF THE BUTTE TEAM RELEASED.

Manager Williams Called Home to Attend Meeting of Directors—New Pitcher From Buffalo

June 25
Butte manager Claire Williams is called home from Great Falls to attend a meeting of the board of directors ... Williams attributes three losses to the Indians to drinking by several of the team's "best players" ... the board instruct Williams to immediately release catchers Al Hickey and Mike McDonough ... McDonough, the team regular catcher is hitting .216, while Hickey is hitting at a .410 clip in limited play ... McDonough later says he was "greatly injured" by the accusation and that he was not intoxicated ... Great Falls releases "Cootz" Billings and Herbert Whitney ... Billings and Whitney are both hitting .279.



Bill Hurley, Helena

Nineteen-year-old Bill Hurley hits a robust .335 with 25 doubles, three triples and one home run for Helena. He scores 74 runs and steals 21 bases while playing 65 games at first base and 11 behind the plate. In 1913, Hurley is the player/manager of the Saskatoon Quakers when he and the team owner are suspended and kicked out of the league for failing to pay a fine that the league president ordered an umpire to impose following a game. The Quaker players, in first place with a 30-8 record, refuse to play another game until Hurley is reinstated, which he is four days later.

also agreed that each team could hire no more than three more players until the end of the season.

Baseball Magnates Decide Upon the Two Season Plan.

MEETING IN ANACONDA

June 25

Butte manager Claire Williams is called home from Great Falls to attend a meeting of the board of directors ... Williams attributes three losses to the Indians to drinking by several of the team's "best players" ... the board instruct Williams to immediately release catchers Al Hickey

June 26

The first triple play of the season is turned in by Butte during a 20-8 loss to first-place Helena ... the Senators' Paddy Ryan has a big day ... knocked out after being hit by a pitched ball in the neck, Ryan is revived and later homers.

July 13

At a meeting of the league directors in Butte, it is agreed to raise the monthly salary limit from \$900 to \$1,200, which is larger than most minor leagues, and that all travel expenses will be pooled together and shared equally by the four league members.

July 15

Ben Beville, a highly-regarded pitcher who had jumped his contract with the Oakland Oaks the week before, makes his Butte debut against first-place Helena ... after limiting Senators to five hits and one run through the first six innings, the Colusa, California native "loses it" in the seventh inning, walking the first five men he faces and the allowing two more hits before being relieved by Mike Steffani ... Beville, picks up the win and afterwards blames the high altitude for his problems.

July 19

Beville's second start is much like his first as he walks seven batters in a 12-9 loss at Helena ... Great Falls' shortstop Joe Tinker is a paper hanger in the off-season.

July 21

At a league meeting in Anaconda, all four teams agree to split the season in half with the first half ending with today's games ... three of the four teams have losing records ... it was

July 24

The second half of the season officially begins with Great Falls edging Helena 5-4, and Anaconda, behind Kid Carsey, beating Butte 11-7.



George Hurlburt, Great Falls

A 13-year minor league veteran, George "Spec" Hurlburt hits .312 with 22 stolen bases for Great Falls. In 1906, Hurlburt causes quite a stir in Topeka, when he secretly marries Miss Hazel Mulvane, a well-known "socialite" and 16 years his junior. No one knew that Hurlburt and Mulvane were even acquainted with one another prior to the marriage. Hurlburt is the manager of a "joint" (bar) in Topeka in his time away from the diamond. The mother of the bride is "prostrated" by the news and declines to admit visitors.



Oscar Jones, Great Falls

On August 1, 1900, Jones leaves the Oakland Oaks for Great Falls where he will be paid \$100 a month plus expenses. Jones pitches three seasons with the National League's Brooklyn Superbas, finishing 44-54 with a 3.20 ERA. In two seasons in the California League (1901-1902), Jones wins 29 and 36 games for the Los Angeles Angels. In 1906 he wins 31 games with the Seattle Siwashes and follows that up with a 29-win season in 1907 with the San Francisco Seals. In 1909 he jumps his contract with the Seals to play for Santa Cruz of the outlaw California State League. When the Sand Crabs fold, he moves to Lemoore, California to become a rancher and an "autoist." Following a lengthy diamond career, Jones retires to Fresno, California and becomes a cigar maker.

Montana State League [9 of 15]:

"His decisions," said Manager Grim, "were simply outrageous, especially at critical times. Some of them were mentioned in the Standard's report of the game this morning. Austin's rank work seemed inspired by cowardice; he feared a roasting from the grand stand if he did not give the home team the best of it. I don't believe, as a rule, in roasting an umpire after a game is over, but Austin's work was so vile and so discreditable to the whole league that I cannot refrain from expressing my opinions."

Not a Fan

Following a defeat at Great Falls, Anaconda manager Jack Grim unloads on game umpire C. Austin.

July 25

Through the first two months of the season, 86 players have been used in Montana State League games ... Great Falls has only three players left from its opening day roster, Butte four, Anaconda six, while Helena has its original 11 ... Great Falls has used 32 players to date, Butte 26, Anaconda 19 and Helena 11.

July 27

In an effort to put the "hoodoo" on Great Falls, Mister Jackson, the Helena mascot, dresses up in a yellow dog outfit and runs across the diamond in the first inning ... the "hoodoo" fails as the Indians' Ben Shelton has four hits and pitcher Ben Davis homers in a 9-2 win.

July 28

Great Falls beat Helena 9-3 before a crowd of 1,100 on Ladies Day ... Helena plays the game under protest saying that the game umpire Brennan made unfair decisions and that he was intoxicated and unfit to umpire.



Mike Lynch, Anaconda

Slugging outfielder Mike Lynch has a 15-year pro baseball career, including 14 seasons in the Pacific Northwest. Lynch hits .143 in a seven-game trial with the Chicago Cubs in 1902. In 1906, Lynch has a career year with the Tacoma Tigers in 1906, pacing the Northwestern League in batting (.355), home runs (7), doubles (26), hits (130) and runs scored (76), while leading the Tigers to the league pennant with a 54-36 record. The 24-year-old St. Paul, Minnesota native will hit .270 in 1900, and finish fourth in the Montana State League in steals with 27.

July 30

Great Falls releases outfielder Lee Tutt, who is fourth on the team in hitting with a .346 average ... after starting the second half of the season 0-4, Carl Wood resigns as Helena's manager and is replaced by Paddy Ryan ... Wood is later suspended and fined \$20 for being "too sporty." ... Anaconda's Dick Knox and John O'Brien/Flannery rub mud under their eyes, claiming it helps them when facing the sun.

August 1

After pitching five games for Great Falls, pitcher Cochrane is released on account of an illness.

August 2

In the fifth inning of an 18-11 loss to Butte, Great Falls catcher Dave Zearfoss retires to the dugout as he "see no chance of winning."

August 3

Joe Marshall can always say he was traded straight-up for a Hall of Famer ... with his team in financial difficulty, Great Falls' John McCloskey trades Tinker to Helena for third baseman Marshall and \$200 in cash.

August 4

High praise indeed as Beville picks up his second win of the season in Butte's 9-3 win over Great Falls ... Great Falls catcher Dave Zearfoss is forced to retire when he is injured after insisting to play without a chest protector.

August 5

Butte makes 13 errors in an 19-5 loss to Great Falls ... former Helena manager and now catcher Carl Wool runs into the grandstand at Anaconda and suffers a compound fracture of his right leg.



Dick Knox, Anaconda

Knox plays 19 seasons in the minor leagues, spanning three decades (1888-1906) for 23 different teams in nine leagues. Knox is hitting close to .300 for the Scranton Miners when the Atlantic League folds on July 12. The *Scranton Times-Tribune* reports on June 26 that Knox has signed to play center field for the "Antonio" Montana team. In 48 games for Anaconda, Knox will hit an even .300 with eight steals. In 1896, Knox hits a career-high .342 for Canandaigua of the New York State League. In 1897, Knox signs with Houston Buffaloes of the Texas League but misses most of the entire season with malaria.



Harry Maupin, Helena

The 5-foot-7 right-hander is in his fourth season with the semipro Paris (Texas) Maroons, when he signs with the National League's St. Louis Browns in October of 1898 for \$150 per month and expenses. After making three starts in eight days for the Maroons, Maupin is called upon to make two starts in three days for the Browns. After going 0-3 with a 12.60 ERA for the Cleveland Spiders in 1899, Maupin finishes the season with Helena. In 1894, he wins 22 of 23 decisions for an independent team in Louisiana and then follows that up a year later going 14-1 for an independent team in Paris, Texas.

BEVILLE WAS ALL RIGHT

Montana State League [10 of 15]:

August 10

Butte shortstop Claude Schmeer is sick with typhoid fever.

August 11

In a league meeting held at the Montana Hotel in Anaconda, it is decided to rescind the resolution limiting each team to three new players in the second half of the season.

August 13

Dad Clarkson takes over for Jack Grim as manager of Anaconda.

August 13

A rarity in the Montana State League - a shutout ... Great Falls Gene Wright allows only five hits, three by Joe Tinker, and strikeouts seven in a 9-0 whitewashing of Helena.

August 25, 1900

Helena Senators at Butte Smoke Eaters Athletic Park, Butte, Montana

BUTTE		AB.	R.	1B.	PO.	A.	E.
Burke, 3b & c.....	6	1	1	2	2	3	
Theilman, cf.....	4	2	1	4	0	0	
Perham, 1b.....	6	1	4	7	0	0	
Steffani, 3b.....	5	0	0	1	2	2	
McDonough, c.....	1	0	0	2	1	0	
Donohue, 2b.....	5	1	2	4	1	4	
Bissell, lf.....	5	1	1	1	0	1	
Fitch, ss.....	5	2	2	4	1	7	
Hanley, rf.....	3	2	1	1	0	1	
Beville, p.....	5	2	2	1	0	0	
Totals	45	12	14	27	7	18	
HELENA		AB.	R.	1B.	PO.	A.	E.
McCarthy, ss	8	3	4	2	6	1	
Hurley, 1b.....	8	3	2	7	0	1	
Armstrong, c.....	6	4	3	4	1	1	
Tinker, 2b.....	7	2	4	4	3	3	
Hammond, rf.....	5	4	1	1	0	0	
McGrew, 3b.....	6	3	2	1	1	0	
Flannery, cf.....	7	5	5	4	0	0	
Brown, lf.....	6	4	3	4	0	0	
Salisbury, p.....	7	5	4	0	1	0	
Totals	60	33	28	27	12	6	

Score by innings—
Helena 3 11 2 1 1 1 9 2 3-33
Butte 2 2 0 0 5 0 2 1 0-12
Summary: Sacrifice hits—Hurley. Stolen bases—Perham 2, Fitch, Beville 2, Bissell, Hurley 3, McGrew 2, Tinker 2, McCarthy, Brown 2, Armstrong, Hammond, Flannery. Two-base hits—Armstrong 2, Tinker, McCarthy, Flannery 2, Donohue, Beville. Three-base hits—Hurley, Burke. Home runs—Perham, Flannery. Double plays—Tinker to Hurley. Struck out—Beville 4, Salisbury 5. Bases on balls—Beville 6, Salisbury 4. Left on bases—Helena 6, Butte 10. Passed balls—McDonough 1. Wild pitches—Salisbury. Time of game—2:25. Attendance—200. Umpire—Grim. Weather—Rainy.

18 Errors

Helena pounds out a season-high 28 hits and takes advantage of 18 Butte errors, including seven by shortstop Frank Fitch, en route to a 33-12 win over the homestanding Smoke Eaters before 200 rain-drenched fans at the Athletic Park. Butte's Ben Beville allows all 28 hits and walks six in a lackluster complete game effort.

August 15
Anaconda's Charlie Swindells leaves to return to San Francisco, to play for the San Francisco A's and continue his studies at Stanford.

August 19

In a 16-7 win over Anaconda, Butte's Mike McDonough hits a home run over the center-field fence and when he reaches home plate he is "showered with \$40 worth of silver," by appreciative fans ... in addition, McDonough will receive a suit of clothes, a dress suit and several boxes of cigars.

August 20

Helena's new pitcher Norwood Gibson, has yet to show up and is believed "to be lost in the badlands."

"Helena should stop whining and get out of the league if it can't keep up with the procession.

-The Anaconda Standard, August 21

"It is mean of Great Falls to try and beat Butte out of the championship by feeding Butte players on water mixed with typhoid fever germs."

-The Anaconda Standard, August 21

August 21

Helena President W.E. Phillips resigns and Jack Flannery assumes the managerial reigns of the 3-10 Senators ... Anaconda signs catcher Jack Ferguson.

"Fitch is in a class by himself as a shortstop."

- Anaconda Standard, August 23
(Fitch will make 12 errors in 27 chances)



WANT LUCAS DETHRONED

Some Think They Can Get Along Without a League President—Notes of Interest to Baseball Cranks.

On August 11, the *Anaconda Standard* reports that there is "an effort is being made to remove W.H. Lucas, the head of the Montana League." The reason given is that the league isn't doing well financially and that his salary might be saved for the balance of the season." Lucas survives the recall movement and finishes the season.



John McCloskey, Great Falls

A long-time manager at both the minor and major league level, McCloskey is rumored to be in line for the Anaconda managerial position in early April by *The Helena Independent*, but elects to sign with Pittsburgh at the last minute. On June 4, with Great Falls mired in last place and winless in nine games, McCloskey arrives to take over the team, replacing John Kinsella, who "was reduced in ranks." McCloskey will direct the Indians to a 39-23 mark the remainder of the season. Born on April 4, 1862, in Louisville, Kentucky, McCloskey is considered the founder of the Texas League.



John O'Brien/McIntyre, Anaconda

The July 22 edition of the *Anaconda Standard* refers to John O'Brien as "Anaconda's wonderful third baseman." The only thing is that John O'Brien is actually John McIntyre. Earlier Anaconda manager John Grim had entered into an agreement with Dick Knox and John O'Brien to come play for the Serpents. At the last moment, O'Brien refuses to come to Big Sky Country, so Knox persuades McIntyre to go in O'Brien's place. Eventually the switch is discovered and McIntyre ends up playing for Helena in the playoffs with Great Falls a leading the league in hitting with a .441 average.

Montana State League [11 of 15]:

August 23

Butte pitcher Mike Steffani is legally deaf in both ears ... teammate Eddie Burke assists him by signaling from his third base position a strike by raising his right arm and a ball with his left arm.

August 24

Butte's Bill Dunleavy and Claude Schmeer and Helena's Philip Neals are lost for the remainder of the season with typhoid fever.

August 25, 1900 Helena Senators at Butte Smoke Eaters Athletic Park, Butte, Montana

BUTTE						
	AB.	R.	1B.	PO.	A.	E.
Burke, 3b & c.....	6	1	1	2	2	3
Theilman, cf.....	4	2	1	4	0	0
Perham, 1b.....	6	1	4	7	0	0
Steffani, 3b.....	5	0	0	1	2	2
McDonough, c.....	1	0	0	2	1	0
Donohue, 2b.....	5	1	2	4	1	4
Bissell, lf.....	5	1	1	1	0	1
Fitch, ss.....	5	2	2	4	1	7
Hanley, rf.....	3	2	1	1	0	1
Beville, p.....	5	2	2	1	0	0
Totals	45	12	14	27	7	18

HELENA						
	AB.	R.	1B.	PO.	A.	E.
McCarthy, ss	8	3	4	2	6	1
Hurley, 1b.....	8	3	2	7	0	1
Armstrong, c.....	6	4	3	4	1	1
Tinker, 2b.....	7	2	4	4	3	3
Hammond, rf.....	5	4	1	1	0	0
McGrew, 3b.....	6	3	2	1	1	0
Flannery, cf.....	7	5	5	4	0	0
Brown, lf.....	6	4	3	4	0	0
Salisbury, p.....	7	5	4	0	1	0
Totals	60	38	28	27	12	6

Score by innings—
Helena3 11 2 1 1 1 9 2 3—33
Butte2 2 0 0 5 0 2 1 0—12
Summary: Sacrifice hits—Hurley. Stolen bases—Perham 2, Fitch, Beville 2, Bissell, Hurley 3, McGrew 2, Tinker 2, McCarthy, Brown 2, Armstrong, Hammond, Flannery. Two-base hits—Armstrong 2, Tinker, McCarthy, Flannery 2, Donohue, Beville. Three-base hits—Hurley, Burke. Home runs—Perham, Flannery. Double plays—Tinker to Hurley. Struck out—Beville 4, Salisbury 5. Bases on balls—Beville 6, Salisbury 4. Left on bases—Helena 6, Butte 10. Passed balls—McDonough 1. Wild pitches—Salisbury. Time of game—2:25. Attendance—200. Umpire—Grim. Weather—Rainy.

18 Errors

Helena pounds out a season-high 28 hits and takes advantage of 18 Butte errors, including seven by shortstop Frank Fitch, en route to a 33-12 win over the homestanding Smoke Eaters before 200 rain-drenched fans at the Athletic Park. Butte's Ben Beville allows all 28 hits and walks six in a lackluster complete game effort.

SHORTSTOP FITCH LOST THE GAME

August 22

On the same day that a Montana newspaper states that he is the class of the Montana State League shortstops, recently-acquired (August 20) Butte infielder Frank Fitch commits five errors, including two in an eight-run sixth inning, as the Smoke Eaters drop a 10-3 decision to Helena. Three days later, Fitch out does himself with a seven-error effort in a 33-12 loss to Helena. In four games for Butte before being released, Fitch makes 12 errors in only 27 chances for a lowly .555 fielding percentage. In limited action at third base, Fitch commits another three errors in only 11 chances at third baseball. His hitting is not much better as he collect only five hits in 28 at bats (.178) before being released September 3.

August 25
Great Falls steals 12 bases on Anaconda's newly-ac-

quired catcher Frank Ferguson ... in a pair of tightly-played pitchers' duals, Helena beats Butte 33-12 and Great Falls tops Anaconda 24-14.

August 26

Different catcher, same result for Anaconda ... a day after 12 steals, Great Falls swipes 13 more bases against the Serpents' new catcher Tamber ... Great Falls' Joe Marshall is 6-for-6 and hits for the cycle with three singles, a double, triple and a home run.

After being sweep in a three-game series where they allowed 33 steals, were outscored 61-26 and outthit 66-40, Anaconda manager Dad Clarkston blames the weather, "One thing that had a great deal to do with our defeats was the extreme cold. It froze up our arms and none of our team could manage to throw. On thing that was against our pitchers was the fact that they had to pitch up hill to the plate."

September 3

An enthusiastic Butte fans offers Smoke Eater starting pitcher Mike Steffani \$25 (\$763 in today's world) if he can strike out five batters in the first two innings ... Steffani strikes out three and yields three first inning runs in an 11-5 win ... Helena suspends shortstop Joe McCarthy ... Anaconda signs pitcher Walter Coleman who had been released by Helena.

September 5

Anaconda catcher Charlie Swindells is near death in at the German Hospital in San Francisco with typhoid fever that he contracted in Montana this past summer ... Butte's claim to the services of pitcher Walter Coleman is denied because of a lack of evidence that he ever signed with the Smoke Eaters.



Horace Merkle, Butte

Born on October 12, 1878, in Virginia City, Nevada, Merkle plays three years of minor league baseball, including two seasons in his adopted hometown of Butte. The utility outfielder and bench player (their words, not mine) hits an even .200 with six singles in 30 at bats for Butte in 1900. In eight games for the Blues, Merkle has two assists playing one game in left field, one game in center field and six games in right. In 1901, Merkle is employed in Butte as the town's deputy sheriff, a position he holds for at least two years. Merkle's younger brother Arthur, also plays minor league ball as a pitcher.



Max Muller, Great Falls

A native of Germany, who comes to the United States at the age of eight, Muller hits .276 in 1900 and leads the Montana State League in steals with 37. The speedy 25-year-old outfielder is also fourth among league leaders in runs scored (76) and sixth in hits (76), while playing in 75 of the team's 76 games. In 1904, playing for the Pacific National League's Salt Lake City Elders, Muller hits .296 with 26 doubles and nine triples. Muller quits baseball after the 1906 season to follow his trade as a carpenter in his hometown of San Francisco.

Montana State League [12 of 15]:

ELEVEN STRAIGHT VICTORIES OVER THE HELENA BALL CLUB

September 6

Great Falls pounds out 18 hits against Helena's W.L. Tredway as the Indians win their 11th-straight over the Senators, 14-7 ... in the fifth inning, while the umpire is not looking, Max Muller takes the ball from Senators' first baseman Bill Hurley and throws it into the stands allowing three Great Falls runners to score

September 8

Helena signs four new players, including several from the

September 9, 1900

Butte Smoke Eaters at Anaconda Serpents
Mountain View Park, Anaconda Montana

ANACONDA.						
	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Ferguson, 3b.....	6	0	1	2	1	1
Schils, rf.....	6	1	1	1	1	0
Pace, c.....	5	2	1	3	3	0
O'Brien, 2b.....	6	2	4	4	3	3
Knox, cf.....	5	1	3	1	1	0
Lynch, 1b.....	5	2	1	10	0	1
Diesel, ss.....	4	3	1	3	5	1
McHale, lf.....	6	2	4	3	0	0
Carter, p.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Coleman, p.....	2	0	0	0	3	1
Totals	47	13	16	27	17	7

BUTTE.						
	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Burke, cf.....	5	1	2	0	0	3
Theilman, p.....	4	1	0	1	3	0
Hammond, 3b.....	5	1	2	0	0	0
Perham, rf.....	5	0	2	1	0	0
O'Connor, 1b.....	5	2	1	12	0	1
Lockhead, ss.....	4	0	1	2	4	2
Anderson, 2b.....	5	0	0	1	3	2
McDonough, c.....	4	1	2	10	3	2
Bissell, lf.....	4	2	3	0	0	0
Totals	41	8	13	27	13	10

Score by innings—
Anaconda1 1 3 0 0 1 0 1 1 5—13
Butte0 0 6 0 0 1 1 0 0 x—8

Summary: Earned runs—Anaconda 4, Butte 1. Sacrifice hits—Theilman. Stolen bases—Ferguson, Knox, Diesel, McHale. Two-base hits—O'Brien 2, Knox 2, Bissell. Three-base hits—Lockhead. Home runs—Pace, Schils, Bissell. Struck out—By Carter 1, by Theilman 13. Bases on balls—Off Coleman 1, off Theilman 4. Left on bases—Anaconda 11, Butte 7. Double plays—Lockhead-O'Connor. Passed balls—McDonough 3. Wild pitches—Carter 1. Hit by pitcher—Theilman 2. Time of game—3:30. Attendance—1,100. Umpire—Grim. Weather—Warm.

Forfeit

In the top of the 10th inning, umpire Jack Grim declares the game forfeited to Anaconda because of the "dilatatory" tactics of the Butte team. On four occasions in the 10th inning, while the Serpents were scoring five runs and the sun was quickly setting, Grim pulls out his watch and put the stalling Smoke Eaters on notice and four times Butte players throw the ball either to a unoccupied base or into the outfield.

CARSEY ASSAULTS MANAGER CLARKSON

A Street Fight in Which the Little
Pitcher Wades Into His Former
Chief With Both Hands.

September 8

Recently-released Anaconda pitcher Kid Carsey assaults manager Dad Clarkson on the corner of Main Street and Park Avenue downtown Anaconda. Taking issue to way he was released with the signing of Walter Coleman, Carsey strikes the manager in the mouth, breaking two of his teeth and staggering him. Carsey follows a stumbling Clarkson across the street where he regains his balance and "lands" a right hook on Carsey's jaw. After friends break up the fight, it's discovered that Carsey had severed a tendon in his right hand and he is required to go to St. Ann's Hospital where he will be required to stay a couple of days. While in his hospital room, he is charged with third degree assault. Carsey's excuse is that Clarkson induced him to come to Montana, but has been "knocking" him before finally dismissing him from the Serpents.

and out-fielder Mattie McVicker ... Great Falls signs shortstop and future major leaguer Fred Raymer from Pueblo of the Western League ... Great Falls will be without the services of slugger Joe Marshall, who has typhoid fever, for the remainder of the season ... Harry Lochhead makes his Butte debut while Thomas Donahue is released.

September 10

Helena has protested three of its four losses to Great Falls ... *The Anaconda Standard* opines that the constantly-aggrieved Senators have protested all but two or three of its losses on the season ... Anaconda releases first baseman Mike Lynch following a fight with teammate Jack O'Brien, where Lynch injures his hand, requiring medical attention.

September 11

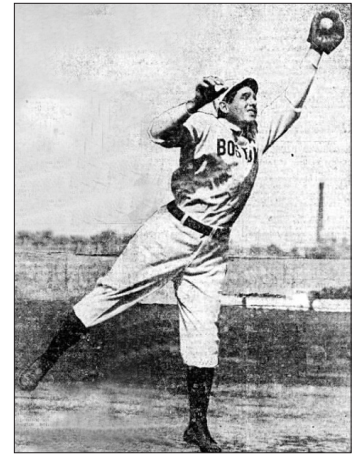
Ex-Anaconda first baseman Mike Lynch signs with Great Falls and starts against his former teammates, going 1-for-4, in an 12-4 Great Falls win.

September 12

Helena releases Paddy Ryan, who hit .395 in 33 games, but has been injured for several weeks.

September 16

At a league meeting in Helena, where all protested games are discussed, only one protest was sustained - Great Falls' 14-7 win over Helena on September 6 ... two games between Butte and Anaconda, were ruled illegal because Harry Lochhead had played with the Smoke Eaters before being released by Detroit ... the games are ordered to replayed on September 25 and 26.



Fred Raymer, Great Falls

Great Falls is the fourth and final stop during the summer of 1900 for the 24-year-old Leavenworth, Kansas, infielder, having played for the Milwaukee Brewers, Sioux City (Iowa) Cornhuskers and the Pueblo Indians. In 10 games for Great Falls, Raymer hits .404 and pilfers 10 stolen bases. In each of his three major league seasons with the Chicago Orphans (1901) and the Boston Beaneaters (1904-1905), the eccentric Raymer has 450-or-more plate appearances. Raymer will finish with 301 hits, including 40 doubles, one home run and a .218 career batting average.



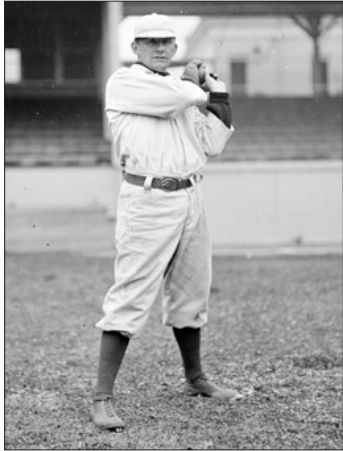
Bert Schils, Anaconda

Twenty-year-old Bert Schils is the team manager and third baseman of the semipro Sheboygan team when he signs with the Interstate League's Toledo Mud Hens in March of 1900. Schils is recommended to the Mud Hens by H. Lewis, a traveling salesman who saw him play two years earlier. On May 16, Schils is leading Toledo in hitting (.404) and home runs (3) when manager Charlie Strobel releases him, citing "weakness" in the field. He joins Anaconda on May 22, and is promptly installed as the starting third baseman. Schils responds by hitting .292 and leading the league in home runs with 13.

Montana State League [13 of 15]:

September 19

Great Falls, behind Oscar Jones' seven-hit complete game beats Butte 6-4 and wins the second half championship, earning the right to play Helena, the first half champion, for the league title ... the Indians receive some bad news when pitcher Gene Wright informs manager John McCloskey that he has been offered employment back East for the winter and he will need to leave prior to the championship series ... Helena beats Anaconda 8-3 in front of 53 people in Mountain View Park



Jimmy St. Vrain, Butte

One of the more talented pitchers in the Montana State League in 1900, Jimmy St. Vrain makes it to the majors two years later with the Chicago Orphans. The 31-year-old lefty has 10 complete games in 11 starts in the Windy City, striking out 51 and walking 25 in 95 innings, and despite a 4-6 record, his ERA is 2.08. In 1901, St. Vrain is responsible for 27 of the Tacoma Tigers' 57 victories and leads the Pacific Northwest League in strikeouts with 299, despite missing four weeks at the beginning of the season with smallpox. St. Vrain settles in Butte and it is there that he dies on June 12, 1937 after suffering a stroke.

September 20

Anaconda beats 7-0 on Walter Coleman has a four-hit shut-out in front of 54 people at Mountain View Park.

September 22

The end of the 1900 season is only two days hence and still another forfeit takes place in Great Falls when Butte manager Jimmy Hammond refuses to pay \$30 in fines assessed to six of his players from the day before ... game umpire Jack Brennan gives Hammond a "limited time" to pay the fine, but the Smoke Eaters manager refuses and the game is forfeited to the Indians.

Jack Flannery is 5-for-6 with a double, triple and three singles as Helena takes the measure of Anaconda 20-5 ... the Serpents' Jack Schils commits five of the team's 10 errors.

September 23

With its 19-6 win over Butte, Great Falls clinches having the best overall record for the season ... with a 24-11 mark in the second half, the Indians finish the season 39-32 ... Helena, the first half champion, stands at 37-33 overall, with one game left to play.

September 24

Helena beats visiting Butte 10-3 in the final game of the regular season played in a snow storm ... Jack Brennan, who is scheduled to umpire the game, is too drunk to find the ball park ... following the game, Helena wires President Lucas to protest the use of Brennan in the championship series.

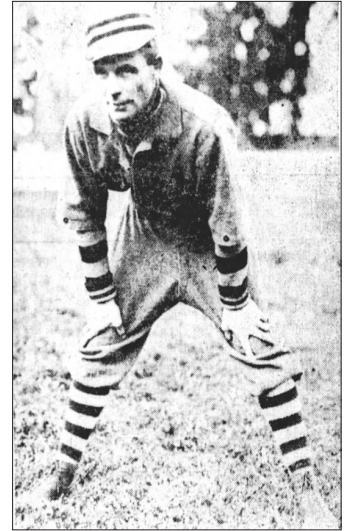
Great Falls loses two key players, star pitcher Gene Wright and Ben Shelton ... Wright leads the league in strikeouts (95) and is second in wins with 15 ... despite *The Great Falls Tribune* describing Shelton's play as "he has never done such work that his absence will cripple the Great Falls club," he is hitting .397 with nine steals and leads all third basemen in fielding percentage (.870).

PITCHER WRIGHT AN INGRATE FALSE TO HIS BEST FRIENDS

September 25

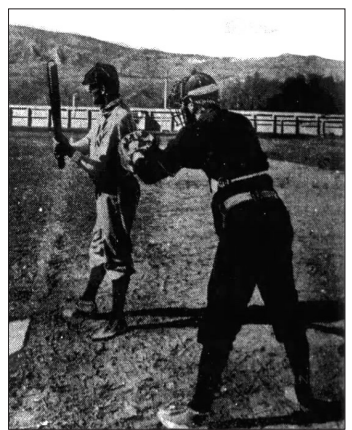
It is determined that Helena, the champion of the first half, will play Great Falls, the second half champion, in a best of five format ... the first two games will be contested in Great Falls while games three and four will be held in Helena ... if a game five is needed, it will be played in Butte.

League President W.H. Lucas elects to have Eddie Burke umpire the championship series after relieves Jack Brennan on his duties ... Burke, an eight-year major league veteran and noted "rabble-rouser," hit .291 in 59 games with Butte during the regular season.



Claude Schmeer, Butte

Signed by Butte on May 23, Schmeer is reportedly batting an astonishing .800 for the Oakland Oaks of the California League. Considered a "good hit, no field" shortstop by the media, the 20-year-old Portland, Oregon collects 20 hits in his final 23 at bats (.870) with the Oaks before leaving the team. In 36 games for the Blues, Schmeer hits a solid .321 but finishes last among regular shortstops in fielding with 41 errors and a .817 fielding percentage.



Charlie Swindells, Anaconda

Charles Swindells was a star baseball player at Stanford in 1898-1899, and a 1901 graduate of the University. He was also the head coach of the Stanford nine for two seasons (1902-1903), compiling a 13-20 mark, which occurs during his eight-year minor league career (1899-1907). In 1904, while playing for the Butte Miners of the Pacific National League, his contract is purchased by the St. Louis Cardinals, where in three games he collects one hit in eight at bats (.125). Following his baseball career, Swindells became a lawyer and serves as secretary and attorney for the PCL's Portland Beavers.

Montana State League [14 of 15]:

September 26

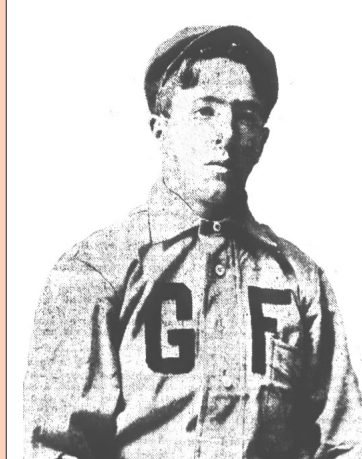
Great Falls informs league President W.H. Lucas that they will not play Helena in the championship series unless the Senators agree not to play Russ Pace and John O'Brien, both acquired from Anaconda "at the last moment." ... true to their word, Great Falls' players refuse to show up at Black Eagle Park for that afternoon's game with Helena.

**NO BALL GAMES UNLESS HELENA
BARS OUT PACE AND O'BRIEN**



Jake Thielman, Butte

Manhattan College product Jake Thielman makes his organized baseball debut with Butte of the Montana State League in 1900. Signed as a pitcher, Thielman is such a good hitter that manager Billy Hammond makes him the team's regular right fielder. The St. Cloud, Minnesota native hits .327 in 51 games, including 16 as a pitcher. Thielman makes his major league debut in 1905 winning 15 games with the St. Louis Cardinals. In four major league seasons with the Cardinals (1905-1906), Cleveland Naps (1906-1907) and the Boston Red Sox (1908), Thielman is 30-28 with a 3.16 ERA.



Joe Tinker, Great Falls & Helena

After playing for a semipro team in Parsons, Kansas, Tinker begins his pro career with Denver in 1920. After hitting only .219 in 32 games for the Bears, the future Hall of Famer is "farmed out" to Great Falls, where he makes his Montana State League debut on June 24. On August 3, with his team in financial difficulty, John McCloskey trades Tinker to Helena for third baseman Joe Marshall and \$200 in cash. *The Great Falls Tribune* opines, "Tinker is too independent and not steady and by disobeying orders, has interfered with team work." In 57 games with Great Falls and Helena, Tinker hits .322 and steals 12 bases.

September 27

The championship series is back on as Great Falls decides to allow Pace and O'Brien to play for Helena. After calling Helena's actions both "unprofessional and unsportsmanlike," Great Falls' manager John McCloskey's only stipulation is that the gate receipts be placed on deposit until the championship is decided.

September 28

An angry Great Falls team, crippled by the "mysterious defecation" of pitcher Gene Wright and third baseman Ben Shelton, pounds recently-acquired Helena slabster Harry Maupin for 14 runs on 18 hits and eight errors by the Senators, en route to a 14-5 win before 700 fans ... Max Muller is 3-for-5 with a home run for the Indians.

September 29

Solly Salisbury allows only seven hits as Helena evens the series at one game apiece with a convincing 10-1 win before 600 hardy fans on a very cold and windy afternoon ... Mattie McVicker and Byron McKibben homer for the Senators.

October 1

The "Anaconda-St. Joseph-Helena" combination team takes a 2-1 lead with a 6-4 decision before 600 fans at Central Park Grounds ... the Indians play without star catcher Dave Zearfoss, who has an injured hand ... Harry Maupin rebounds from a lackluster start in game one, allowing the visitors only eight hits.

October 2 & 3

Several inches of snow post-pones game four until suitable weather occurs. If game four is not able to be played, Great Falls management will let the players leave for a three-game series in Spokane, where they can make several hundred dollars.

October 4

Great Falls is leading 7-1 in the third inning when Helena's Joe Tinker and manager Jack Flannery join with the Senators' fans to assault home plate umpire Eddie Lucas ... after being slugged from behind by Flannery, Lucas runs towards the bat rack while being chased by several Helena players and an angry crowd estimated between 300 to 400 ... Lucas is pummeled by players and fans alike until rescued ... following the game, the unfortunate Lucas is jailed for carrying a knife and a crowd of Helena fans follow the Great Falls team to the train station, but back off when the players grab their bats to defend themselves.

**ANGERED BY CERTAINTY OF DEFEAT,
HELENA ROWDIES MOB BURKE**

October 5

Great Falls captures the Montana State League pennant when umpire Miley McDonough forfeits the game to the Indians 9-0. At the time of the forfeit, Great Falls is

**GREAT FALLS THE CHAMPION
OF THE BASEBALL SEASON**

leading 9-7 in the eighth inning when the Senators' Russ Pace throws the ball over the left field fence, causing



SYRUP OF FIGS

Montana State League [15 of 15]:

PACE THROWS AWAY THE BALL AND THE PENNANT

Helena Catcher, Formerly of California, Misbehaves in Final Game of the Montana Season.

BUTTE (Mont.), October 5.—The Montana League baseball season wound up today with the final championship game between Helena and Great Falls. During the eighth inning Pace, catcher for Helena, threw the ball over the fence and the umpire gave the game and pennant to Great Falls, score 9 to 0. At that time the game stood 9 to 7, in favor of Great Falls. The game was played in a blinding storm, making the ground very sloppy.

Summary

Not one of the four teams makes a profit during the past season ... Anaconda comes out better financially than the other teams, Butte probably the worst ... the *Anaconda Standard* opines that there are simply not enough fans in Montana to support the high salaries and travel expenses for a four-team league ... Great Falls finishes the season without one player from its' opening day roster ... Great Falls management feels that chances for a league next year are slim as the salaries are too high and its losses (\$1,125) too significant.

Addressing the rowdiness of its fans, league directors understand that the rules of baseball prohibit betting on the ground, "but Montana people have to bet," causing sore losers to berate both the players and umpires.

WAITING FOR THE SCORES

President Lucas Has Not Yet Received Official Scores of All Great Falls Games

October 16

The season is a little more than a week in the rear view mirror when league president W.H. Lucas apologizes to the teams and the fans alike for not publishing the league's final statistics before he leaves for Portland. Lucas tells the Great Falls Tribune, "I have the averages all ready with the exception of the sheets from the Great Falls scorer."

In reply, Great Falls scorer Cary says that he has sent all of the team's scores except the last series and that President Lucas knows why those scores have not been sent and that he has very good reasons for not sending them.

The following afternoon, Cary tells the *Great Falls Tribune* the reason for him not sending the scores into the league office is that the Great Falls management still owes him \$15, and until he is paid, the scores will not be sent.

McDonough to call the contest ... in a game where it is sleeting and raining, John McCloskey, Great Falls' 38-eight-year-old manager/first baseman, walks four times, was hit by a pitch twice and steals five bases.

December 18

Detroit Tigers' manager George Stallings signs Butte pitcher Ben Beville, who after 15 starts during the regular season, has two starts in a recent post-season series against Spokane, allowing 18 runs on 19 hits ... Beville claims that the climate of the Montana State League was hard on all of the pitcher's arms.



Gene Wright, Great Falls

One of the more prolific contract jumpers of his time, Wright is 3-2 with the Dayton Veterans in 1900, when in early June, he makes his way to Montana, where he become the star pitcher for Great Falls. Despite being "treated like a Prince," Wright leaves the team under the cover of darkness on September 24, just prior to the league's championship series with Helena. Returning to Dayton for the 1901 season, Wright is 13-3 with two no-hitters when his contract is sold to Brooklyn. In four major league seasons, Wright is 14-26 with 31 complete games, including two shutouts, and a 4.50 ERA.

The Losers Do the Baby Act and File a Protest of the Game.

After the completion of the season, umpire Jack Brennan is forced to file an affidavit with league president W.H. Lucas saying that on the morning of July 28, Helena president W.E. Phillips, a noted gambler, tells Brennan that he has \$250 bet on that afternoon's game with Great Falls. Brennan says that Phillips offers him \$100 to see that Helena wins.

At the end of the eighth inning with Great Falls leading 9-3, Phillips "begs" Brennan to announce to the crowd that all bets are off. The arbiter tells Phillips that he had nothing to with any bets. After the game, Helena in an effort to void the result, despite entreaties by friends of the Helena management not to, files a protest saying that Brennan was drunk



Dave Zearfoss, Great Falls

A relative latecomer to professional baseball, Zearfoss is discovered playing for a semipro team in Dover, Delaware when he signs with the New York Giants in February 1896 at the age of 27. A graduate of Washington College in Chesterton, Maryland, Zearfoss is the Giants' Opening Day starter at catcher in 1896. In five major league seasons with the Giants (1896-1898) and the St. Louis Cardinals (1904-1905), the light-hitting Zearfoss hits .208 with 17 RBIs, three doubles and three triples. In 64 games with Great Falls in 1900, Zearfoss finishes third among league regulars in hitting with a .365 average.