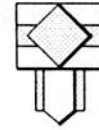


# LIVINGSTON DOWNTOWN

Nov. 1993



Vol. 1 No. 2

## The Murray

By Lin Lee

**A** woman with a tremendous amount of determination and good sense, Josephine Kline, turned capital of \$25.00 into this successful business venture. After leaving Big Timber, where she had invested in a four-stool eating house, she moved to Livingston in 1905. Contrary to advice given her by business friends, she built a hotel on Park Street opposite the west end of the depot, naming it the Elite, (pronounced the E' light)

In 1919, Mrs. Kline bought the corner building at Second and Main, which had been occupied by the Enterprise. With financing furnished by Mr. James Murray of Butte, she enlarged the Elite into a fine hotel, now called the Kline Hotel.

In May of 1921, her financial backer, Sen. Murray, died. Sen. Murray's heirs forced Mrs. Kline to forfeit her claim. By August of 1925, Mrs. Kline had been evicted by the Murrays. In protest, she and her sister made a trip on foot to Washington, D.C., to plead with President Roosevelt for help in restoring her claim, but the journey was to no avail.

The hotel was renamed the Murray after her eviction and bears that name today. It has had numerous owners since Mrs. Kline was forced to give up her claim. The current owners are Dan and Kathleen Kaul, who have been kept busy over the last two years restoring the rooms, and continuing the efforts of recent owners Patty and Cliff Miller and Clayton Olson.



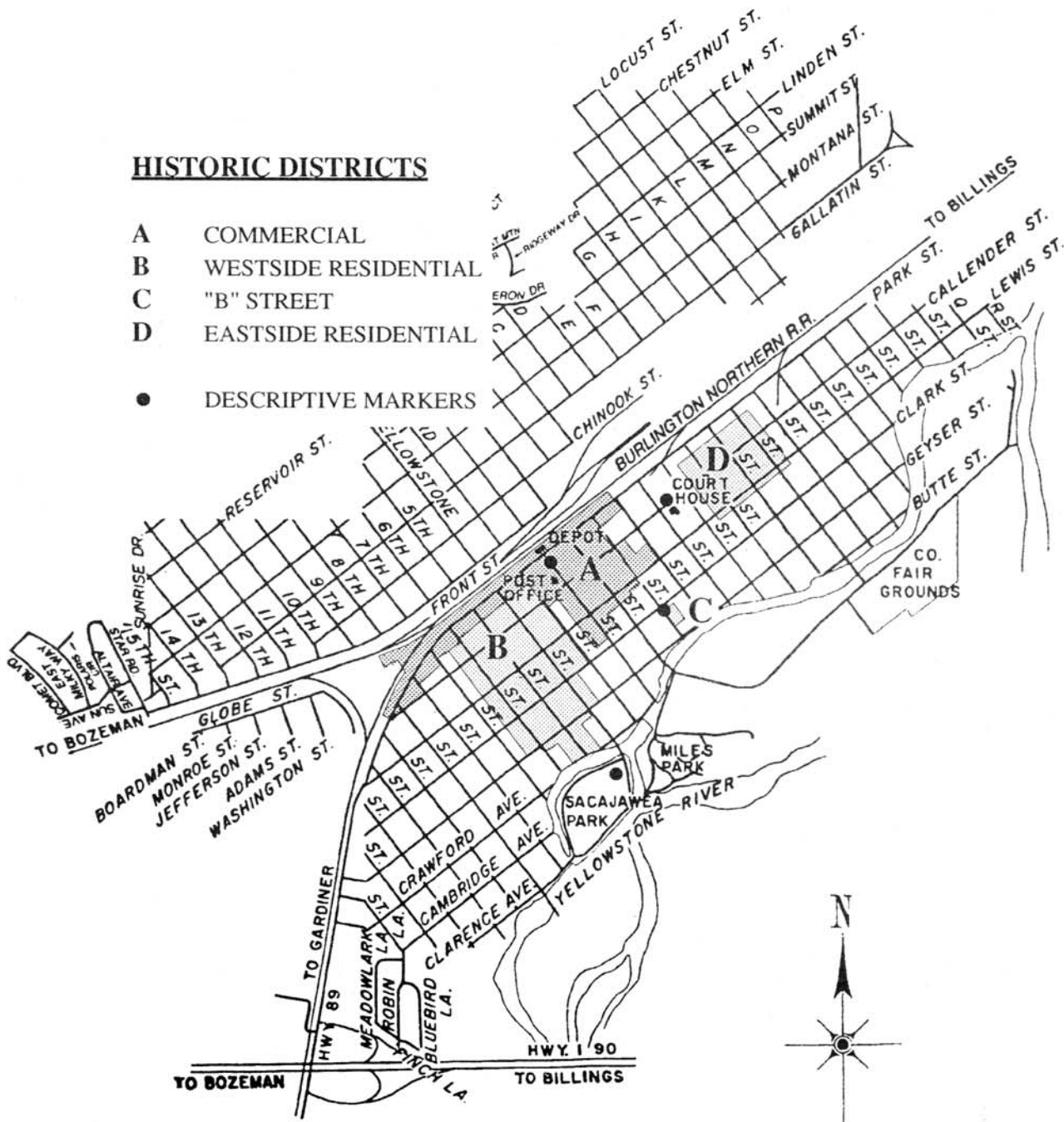
# Livingston's Westside Residential District

Livingston was inextricably tied to the railroad, but its business community also influenced the town's character. After 1900, professionals and entrepreneurs built new homes on the Westside residential neighborhoods. The homes of Livingston's lawyers, merchants, doctors and businessmen comprise the majority of the Westside, but the district also includes Livingston's most architecturally significant residences. These were home to important figures such as Charles Garnier, founder of the exclusive "Montana Sport" cigar factory whose Livingston payroll was second only to the Northern Pacific. Garnier built a resi-

dence here in 1902 at 313 S. Yellowstone. The 1903 mansion of Livingston mayor and bank president Edward Talcott sprawls over six city lots on "Banker's Row", at the corner of Lewis and Yellowstone. Wealthy rancher J.H. Harvat moved to town, building at 229 S. Yellowstone so that his children could attend school. Telephone company franchise owner Joseph Swindlehurst, banker J.C. Vilas, and renowned criminal lawyer Hugh J. Miller were other wealthy residents who built within this area. Among the larger homes, examples of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Shingle and Prairie styles reveal an astute awareness of national architectural trends of the early twentieth century. After the 1920's, more modest homes were added to the district. The wide, inviting tree-lined streets, churches and schools make this Livingston's preferred residential area even today.

## HISTORIC DISTRICTS

- A COMMERCIAL
- B WESTSIDE RESIDENTIAL
- C "B" STREET
- D EASTSIDE RESIDENTIAL
- DESCRIPTIVE MARKERS



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## Our Historic Significance

*Historic Resources of Livingston  
National Register Nomination 1979*

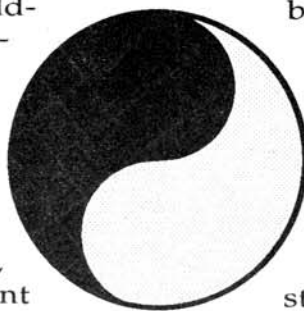
**L**ivingston, Montana is a relatively well-preserved western railroad town situated in an area of rich agricultural, scenic, and mineral value. The significance of its architectural resources is derived from the sense of distinct neighborhoods or districts they create together. These public, commercial, residential, and agricultural structures merit recognition as records of the lives of the people who settled here in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Northern Pacific Railroad Company could afford to bring in sophisticated architects and technicians. Other residents made use of local building talent and materials. The structures they created reflect their basic needs --for shelter and livelihood -- as well as their cultural and social aspirations.

The upper Yellowstone Valley in southwestern Montana was well-known to wandering Indian bands, but accommodated little permanent settlement. The first recorded exploration by whites occurred in 1806 when Captain William Clark and his party passed through the area on their return trip from the Pacific coast. Clark camped at what is now Livingston on July 15, 1806, and then continued east until his

party joined Merriwether Lewis and his men at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. After Clark's brief visit, only occasionally did fur trappers, prospectors, and traders traverse the area. In the 1860's gold strikes in the upper Yellowstone Valley, the opening of five million acres of former Crow Reservation lands, and the establishing of Yellowstone National Park prompted increased activity.

The Northern Pacific Railroad's push westward across the upper tier of the country in the 1880's brought the city of Livingston into being, and determined its character. In July, 1882, representatives of a company contracting to supply construction crews set up a tent camp on the Yellowstone northeast of the present town center, near what is now E. Clark Street. Merchandise hauled on oxen-drawn wagons arrived, and on August 1, a supply store opened. Six months later, Clark City, as the new settlement was named, boasted numerous businesses and thirty saloons to serve the needs of railroad crews. It was a tent town, with only a few frame buildings.

*to be continued in the next issue.*



### Nice Work!

Over the last several months these businesses have completed exterior improvements, of benefit to us all. Make sure they know you appreciate it.

#### **Books, Etc.**

Tim and Tammy Gable

#### **Empire Theater**

Jerry and Margaret Hancock

#### **Owl Lounge**

Dave Latsch

#### **Western Heritage Realty**

Mary Ackerman Yates

#### **Robbins Building**

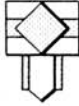
Eric and Carol Schneider

*Have you ever wondered why downtown is so special? You know it is, but can't quite put your finger on all the reasons? Try reading The Great Good Place, by Ray Oldenburg. This discussion of "Cafes, Coffee Shops, Community Centers, Beauty Parlors, General Stores, Bars, Hangouts, and How They Get You Through the Day" will give you much to think about. Suburbia will never look the same again! Available at Livingston Public Library and through downtown bookstores.*



# LIVINGSTON DOWNTOWN

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## The Christmas Season in Livingston

- Nov. 19 & 20 ..... Holiday Bazaar at the Depot Center
- Nov. 20 ..... Holiday Gallery Walk 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Holiday Gallery Reception 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 26 ..... Christmas Stroll Downtown 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Dec. 3 ..... Christmas Tree Trimming, Depot Center 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 4 ..... Christmas Fair, Park County Fairgrounds
- Dec. 5 ..... Community Choir Concert, Holbrook Church 3:00 p.m.
- Dec. 9 ..... Deadline to enter Home & Business Decorating Contest  
Chamber of Commerce
- Dec. 18 ..... Christmas Ball, Depot Center

Many Downtown Merchants will be extending their evening hours, watch for advertisements.

"Christmas Cash" is available again this year. Livingston's lending institutions are offering loans at zero interest for 10 months. Upon completing the application, the lending institution will give the borrower vouchers, which can then be used at forty-eight Livingston businesses. There is a \$25.00 processing fee, and participants can borrow from \$300 - \$1,000. See American Bank, First National Park Bank, Livingston Federal Credit Union, or Montana Bank.

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The Historic Preservation Commission is a volunteer board charged by City Ordinance with overseeing Livingston's four historic districts.

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