

From The Pioneer dated May 25, 1916

Lewistown Bunch Visit Big Timber

Meeting Held at Auditorium Late In The Evening

Visit Hunters Springs

Roads Between This City and Lewistown in Good Shape Except North of Melville.

The Lewistown boosters, accompanied by the Harlowton band, and several good roads boosters from that city, arrived in Big Timber at 4:30 Tuesday evening. Contrary to expectations, the road between Harlowton and Melville was free from mud, all the cars, and there were some showy ones in the bunch, showing no signs of mud.

Shortly after their arrival a street, concert was given by the Harlowton and Big Timber bands combined, Owing to the temporary absence of Chairman Parker of the board of county commissioners from the city, the meeting at the Auditorium was not called until 6 p. in. At that time the chairman had returned, and as Commissioner Clark had been in town since morning it was decided to hold the meeting prior to the departure of the guests for Hunters Springs to spend the night.

Elmer J, Mo presided and introduced as the first speaker Commissioner Alien who made an interesting address on the park-to park highway and the need of a better connecting link b 2tween Melville and Harlowton, the only weak spot on the route.

One of the best heart-to-heart talks was made by Rudolph Von Tobel, one of the oldest practicing attorneys of Lewistown. It was along the line of better road B, presaged on practical experience.

Mr. Von Tobel said that he had a camp out 31 miles from Lewistown and in traveling it once and twice a week he had learned the necessity of an improvement in all country roads. Thousands of dollars have been expended in Montana, wasted, although expended at the time in the best of spirit, on county roads. This is due to the fact that where roads have been laid out and money expended for their construction and improvement, settlers have come in later and taken up homes, built fences, and destroyed the roads. When he came to Lewistown 31 years ago there were no railways in that section, and in many instances the people of Lewistown and vicinity came to Big Timber to take a railway train, it being about the most convenient point. Then it was almost impossible to follow the road, and today the same condition exists between Melville and Harlowton. He ventured to say that people who had traveled that road a year ago could not make the trip at night right now without running into fences.

The speaker said the only way the county commissioners could solve the road problem would be to lay out the roads in the proper places, construct and improve them, then seek the aid of the law to prevent settlers from fencing and destroying them, thereby making them a permanent highway.