The following index lists the major topics in the audio recording and the approximate point when they occur in the recording according to an analog cassette recorder’s tape counter. This tape counter index (TCI) has not been edited for accuracy by Archives and Special Collections.
The rush of gold seekers to Montana in 1964 was responsible for the economic and social structure of the state. However, the ghost towns are now crumbling. Although many people enjoy the ghost towns, nothing is being done to preserve them. The purpose of this project is to bring a few interesting facts out about the ghost towns of Montana. The three towns for this part of the program are Elkhorn, Granite and Marysville. Elkhorn is located in an area with 33 types of ore deposits.

Elkhorn had a peak population of about 2,000 and a population of about 20 today. Elkhorn has a deputy sheriff to protect the buildings. Elkhorn has been partially restored and does not have the air of seclusion since 20 people live there. Elkhorn is located 19 miles east of Boulder on a well marked road. The principle building of interest is the fraternity hall and is of architectural interest because of its false front. The mining of many minerals has occurred around Elkhorn. Gold, silver, lead, copper, and small amounts of zinc were the major minerals mined for. The town was named for the large numbers of elk that once roamed the area.

A man named Peter Weiss, from Switzerland, originally discovered silver in Elkhorn in 1870. A monument to Weiss is located in the old Elkhorn cemetery. A. M. Holter developed the mining operation for a time but in 1889 the mining company was sold to an English development company. The camp was important enough to have a branch line of the Northern Pacific Railroad built to it in 1887. Elkhorn housed the miners and as many as 500 wood cutting men. The town had four side streets. There were boarding houses near the mine and as many as 14 saloons. Elkhorn also had telephone and telegraph services, both of which came into the town about the time of the railroad. The railroad was taken out in 1918 and the last telephone operated in 1928. The cemetery is of interest because it is one of two in the area on Forest Service land. The other is located at Phillipsburg. There was an epidemic from 1888-1891 that took the lives of almost all of the children.

Elkhorn had the first labor riot in Montana. It had two diphtheria epidemics. The houses had imported French wall paper, root cellars and they were almost
all multi-room structures depicting the great wealth of the community. Also of interest near the entrance to Elkhorn is the remains of a 24 horse wagon.

181-250 Granite is a true ghost town for it has no residents. It has survived two boom times and some think it could boom again. It was in 1873 that silver was discovered on Granite Mountain by James Hill and Eli Holland. Granite is located at the top of a mountain. To get there you drive up the road 4 miles east of Phillipsburg. In 1886 Granite had a population of about 3,000 people. Many of the people who worked in Granite lived in the town of Rumsey, a few miles to the west. Granite produced more than $45 million in silver between 1882 and 1893. Then the town emptied in 1893 and was a ghost until 1898. From 1998-1906 Granite produced about $1 million in silver every year. The silver is still not exhausted but the water in the depths of the mines have posed problems. The town of Granite is falling apart except for two buildings.

251-300 One of these two buildings still standing is the miners union hall which was dedicated in January, 1891. It was built almost entirely of granite. At the dedication the organizer spoke of the wages at that time which were $3.50 a day. The hall was used for dances and was considered to have one of the best dance floors in the entire northwest. Top entertainers came to perform in the hall. The miner superintendent's house is in excellent condition at this time.

301-350 Charles McClure developed the area after the silver strike was made. However, he had trouble with his creditors. The mine was to be shut down but then a large strike was made that extended the life of the mine. The mine then paid out $100,000 a month for about 11 years.

351-400 From Helena drive 14 miles northwest and you will find Marysville. It is still alive today but barely so. Once the town had 3,000 people. Today there are about 50 people in the town that was the state's leading gold producer in the 1880s and 1890s. There are many fascinating stories about the town including one about the mill burning down and with it the town's fire truck.

401-450 [A personal account of a visit to the town is given]. The town is very large. Walking up the main street you find several of the houses occupied. A couple of the old stores are still in relatively good condition, although they are not restored. The glass is broken out of the windows and dust covers the interiors of the stores. You can't get to close to the buildings because you might fall through the floors because
excavations are being undertaken under some of the buildings.

451-500 There are the remains of the turntable for the railroad locomotives. The masonic lodge is still partially intact. The school is in very good shape, painted white and is being turned into a museum. Just across the street from the school is a small Catholic church. This is the story of what Marysville is like today. The story of Marysville yesterday revolves around Thomas Cruse and his mine, the Drumlummon. Cruse was born in Drumlummon, Ireland and came to the US when he was about 20 years old. Cruse worked in various areas before coming to Virginia City in 1865. After searching in the area and backtracking the placer deposits Cruse found the mother lode in 1876.

501-550 Cruse sold the mine to the Montana Company Ltd. for $1.5 million and one third of the mines stock. He also developed the Bald Mountain mine which produced millions of dollars in ore. Cruse then was able to go into the banking business in Helena. There were several mills built in the town. There was a smaller stamp mill and then working on up into two large mills powered by steam turbine. One of the mills was converted to the cyanide process to keep material from being lost in the tailings. About 1890 the mines began to produce less and less ore. Finally the mine was sold and for a time worked by the St. Louis Mining and Milling Co. later sold to the Montana Rainbow Co.. The last operation was in 1940. The town was named after Mrs. Mary Ralston, the first women to arrive there. In 1876 the town came to life and by 1890 there was $1 million coming out of the area each year.

550-600 There were five large hotels in town. There were several restaurants and two doctors offices in town. There were butcher shops, blacksmith shops, Chinese launderies, liver stables, candy stores, a bakery, opera house, a bank, a jail, three churches and four newspapers. There were also 27 saloons. The school in Marysville, at one time, included eight rooms and six teachers. Today there are only six students. Both railroads wanted to get into Marysville in 1887. The Northern Pacific put trestle across the gulch at the lower end of town. The Great Northern built a station in the gulch below the town. The Northern Pacific had the best position in town, had more business and stayed longer.

601-620 Fire has been a problem in Marysville since it started. Much of the town still remains, however, and is a popular spot for tourists to visit.

621-675 [Credits for the program are given]. [END OF TAPE]