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.
Terrence McGlynn and several colleagues tell the story of Montana ghost towns. There are over 200 hundred known ghost towns in Montana and probably many unknown ones. This tape will review some of ghost towns not mentioned in part one of the series which dealt with the more famous easily accessible towns. Black Pine is gone. At least the buildings are. However, there is still mining activity going on there. The old mining camp had no cemetery, no saloon and no water. Water was hauled from Willow Creek and cost $1 a gallon. The mine was discovered in 1882 but waited until 1885 to be developed. Black Pine produced more than $1 million in ore. At its height Black Pine had 1200 people living in the area, this until the boom times which lasted until 1997.

Although Black Pine is no longer there it was 12 miles northwest of Phillipsburg. Inspiration Consolidated Copper Co. in mining in the area today.

Another town that has completely disappeared, except for the outline of a mill, is Rumsey, named after Louis Rumsey who was President of Granite Mountain Mining Co. in the late 1800s. The mill was six hundred and some feet long and was a 100 stamp affair built near Fred Burr Creek. More than 500 people lived at Rumsey and today there are a few houses left in the area. Another town in the area is Tower.

Tower has just recently become a ghost town, as late as 1973. It is east of Phillipsburg a ways and was named after a Philadelphia capitalist who helped in its development. Tower was originally a silver camp but then became a manganese camp later on when manganese was in demand for the first world war. Today Tower still has a few interesting frame buildings.

Turning to the Deer Lodge area and going east 10 miles we find Emery. Of significance here is that there is a lost mine somewhere in the area. It was in the late 1800s that the main discoveries were made at Emery. The discovery was by Renault and staked out by Emery. The Emery mine produced about $1 million in ore. As late as 1923 power was provided for a flotation mill of 75 ton capacity. In 1945 a 100 ton flotation mill was built. The 100 ton mill was able to get out $225,000 of ore in only three years. The main operation at Emery stopped in 1948.

Travelling 15 miles southeast of Deer Lodge we find
Champion. Champion is located at the summit of the main range of the Rockies. The town of Champion had more than 80 buildings in 1890 and the area was active until 1935.

161-200 We now move from the Deer Lodge area to the Ophir gulch area and the ghost town of Blackfoot City. Blackfoot City is about 7 miles from Avon and dates back to the spring of 1865. By 1967 it was a town with more than 100 buildings. All of the gulch around the town was mined. As many as 500 Chinese miners lived in the area. The railroad reached there in 1882. The town may have had as many as 2000 people at one time. [Recollection of the festivities on July 4, 1876]. 4,000 people from all around the area turned out to celebrate. The town had two blacksmiths, two doctors, a Chinese laundry and several liquor dealers. One story about the city is that they used a $12,000 gold nugget to play baseball with. Another story dwells around a miner who shot a camel and was forced to pay all that he had, including his mining claim. The miner thought that the camel was a moose. The camel was there as a part of the Congress' famed camel project for the Western US.

251-300 We turn to the town of Princetown, north of Phillipsburg. During its boom time, during the 1880s, it had as many as 100 people living there. Today there are two permanent residences with 11 of the original buildings still left. There were many important mines in the area. Many of the records for Princetown were burned in a fire in the court house at Phillipsburg. Princetown had a school, a store and a saloon. [A couple of stories are told about accidental shootings in Princetown].

301-400 Mining has always been important in the Princetown area and the Princetown Mining Co. still exists today to decide the fate of any possible mining operations. [Lists of taxes and expenses from 1893 are read]. Princetown was a man's mining town. Of the children over 6 years of age there were 21 males and only 5 females. The school was originally set up to operate at about $25 put within four months they had over $700 to work with, most of it gotten from special taxes. At around 1893 the textbooks etc. for the school were very cheap costing on about $0.27 a piece. By 1900 the school was having trouble financing itself and dances and other socials were held to raise money for the school. By 1908 the population at the school had dropped to 12. The records for the Princetown school end in 1916.

401-450 The town of Coolidge is in the Wise River area south of Anaconda. The camp has remained in a good state of
preservation even today because it is so remote. There may yet be some development in the area. The major name of significance for this area is that of William R. Allen, former Lt. Governor of Montana. Allen invested $474,000 in the claims in the area in 1911. A wagon trail was constructed from the camp to Wise River in 1914. Allen knew Calvin Coolidge since both were presidents of their respective state Senates in 1915. A mill costing about $1 million was built near Coolidge in 1919. A power line about 35 miles long, and costing $200,000, was built to the mill. At that time there was extensive mining in the area with some 40,000 feet of tunnels.

451-475 As late as 1920, Coolidge had some 20 children from 30 families going to school there. However, by the time Coolidge became President in 1923, his town was in trouble. The mill and buildings were boarded up in 1930 and by 1940 the railroad was removed.

476-550 Another mining town located farther east than many is that of Independence. To get to Independence you go to Big Timber then 30 miles to McCleod then thirty some miles up the Boulder River to the Box Canyon Ranger station. This is where one can see the remains of several cabins and especially the outhouses. In 1875 the Crow Indians were not very friendly in this area for this was there hunting ground. As early as 1866 placers had been worked in the area and abandoned. In 1892 a sawmill and 10 stamp mill was set up in the town of Independence, some four miles from the main mine. There were about 500 people in the area at that time.

551-600 In 1892 the town consisted of one main street and four blocks of lots. There were two general stores, a restaurant, hotel, saloon, blacksmith shop and a feed stable. Almost all of the houses were of log construction. A Post Office later materialized but the planned bank did not. There was no thought given to either a church or school. In 1893 electricity from a power plant they had brought up from Big Timber was working well. When the silver market crashed in 1893 the mill and most of the mines shut down and the telephones were taken out as people started to move away.

601-715 In 1897 there was resurgence of activity in the area. By 1899 it was necessary to open a Post Office but by 1900 the mining operation was again sold. There were a lot of small mining operations in the area but no one really knows how much money was taken out of the area. After 1904 everyone gave up in Independence. A story is told of two miners who threatened each other and one of the miners turned up missing but because it was turning into winter weather the investigation was put
off and the suspect left the area in the early spring. Later that year the sheriff found the other miner's body but the other guy was gone by that time.

716-822 Mountaineer City was located in French Gulch directly south of Anaconda near the Continental Divide. The area went through two booms, the first in the placer era of 1864 through the 1870s. From the late 1870s through the end of the century the area was neglected but then W. R. Allen made some discoveries there. By the use of hydraulic mining he extracted ore that ran as high as $36 per ton. The area was later dredged. This area may again be a producer if someone finds more ore there. McGlynn notes that there are many more towns to be considered but time has run out for this series.

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